

Yu'pik dancers to gather in St. Marys

Yup'ik dancers from eight villages will be in St. Mary for a three-day dance festival on Oct. 8, 9 and 10.

The YUPIIT Yuraryarait festival is sponsored by the city of St. Mary which has received a grant

from the Alaska State Council on the Arts to sponsor the event.

Dancers are expected from Pilot Station, Emmonak, Kotlik, Stebbins, Chevak, Toksook Bay, Tununak and St. Mary.

The event will provide a rare

opportunity for dance groups from the scattered villages of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to gather in one place to perform exchange songs and dances.

The dance likely will be the largest gathering of Yup'ik dan-

cers in modern times, according to Tim Troll, city manager.

Dancing will start nightly at 7:30 p.m. in the community hall. A potluck dinner will be held at 5 p.m. Oct. 9 at the public school.

The event is sponsored by the

city of St. Mary's and the St. Mary's Community Education Program, supported in part by a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.