

**Inside:** ANHB adds staff for new programs aimed at AIDS

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photo by Barbara Crane



Ellen Hays of Sitka admires one of the many fur dolls offered for sale at the Seventh Annual Native People's Bazaar earlier this month at the Alaska Native Medical Center. More than 50 volunteers assisted in the event, sponsored by the Alaska Native Medical Center Auxiliary.

## Call-in show raises issues about suicide

What should be included by media?

by Geoff Kennedy  
for the Tundra Times

BETHEL — On a recent rural call-in radio program, representatives of social service agencies showed more consensus on how to report suicides than did representatives of the news media.

The media should avoid "glamorizing" suicides, said David Baum of the Maniilaq Association, the Kotzebue-based regional non-profit corporation.

"What message are we giving to other people, particularly the youth who may be suicidal out there?" he asked.

Baum expressed concern about basketball tournaments and races named after persons who have committed suicide.

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## It's official: Hickel is now governor

by Holly F. Reimer  
Tundra Times reporter

Gov. elect Walter J. Hickel officially became Alaska's eighth governor during his swearing in ceremony at Centennial Hall in Juneau Dec. 3.

Dr. Ted Mala, who was appointed by Hickel to be the commissioner for the Department of Health and Social Services, said the room was full at the swearing in. He said nearly 1,500 people were there to witness the ceremony.

"We really like Hickel. We think the world of him so the moment was very moving," Mala said from his Juneau office.

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## John wins titles — in triplicate

by Aldolf Lewis and Geoff Kennedy  
for the Tundra Times

BETHEL — Question: What do Miss Kuskokwim, Miss World Eskimo-Indian Olympics and the queen of the National Congress of American Indians have in common?

Answer: University of Alaska Fairbanks student Jolene John.

The Tooksook Bay woman took her first title during the Fourth of July pageant in Bethel. That propelled her to the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics

in Fairbanks. Another trip, another title.

Next stop was the National Congress of American Indians pageant in November and title number three.

Along with the title came several scholarships to enable her to fulfill her ambition to teach high school.

The experience also enabled her to learn about Lower 48 Native cultures and to teach Natives from around the country about Yup'ik culture, she said.

"I believe it's a very important role

of playing a representer to other people to tell them of the great knowledge you received from your ancestors," she said. "It's a very important value that you need to survive in the culture in the future."

Her advice to other young Yup'iks? Be proud of your identity. Take advantage of competitions such as Miss Kuskokwim, set your goals and get after them.

"It's a wonderful experience that I have had," she said. "I'm sure I will cherish it for many years."

## Sealaska authorizes payment of \$20 per share

SEATTLE — Approval of a Sealaska Corp. distribution for shareholders, including a special one-time payment, was among actions taken in Seattle Wednesday at a regular board meeting.

At the same time, however, a group of shareholders is sharply criticizing the corporation and has demanded the firing of its chief executive officer.

Unanimously approved by the board was a distribution of \$20 per share to be mailed to all shareholders Dec. 18. For those with 100 shares, the individual distributions will total \$2,000.

Also discussed at the Sealaska meeting were the company's long-range strategic planning, timber operations, minerals and mining opportunities, NOLs, ANCSA 7(i) provi-

sions and officer evaluations. A two-day corporate investment seminar was scheduled to follow.

Board Chairman Marlene Johnson said the largest part of the Dec. 18 distribution to shareholders will be derived from the \$14.6 million gain on Sealaska's recent sale of Ocean Beauty Seafoods Inc.

Johnson said the \$20 per share will

replace a \$100 Christmas advance dividend and a special one-time payment of \$2,000 to elders over the age of 65, both previously announced.

"The board of directors believe that this distribution, which will total \$31 million, is the maximum amount it can responsibly distribute," Johnson said.

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