

Tundra Times



Inupiat People's Heritage
In Kakt Nook Informing and Reporting

Den Nuna Hehah Olu Land Speak
Umgung Tunking the Alutic Speak

Yupik Kallamaithe Way Yup'ik Talk

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Howard Rock Editor and Publisher
October, 1962 to April, 1976

Editorial

Congratulations to Ahmaogak

We like to congratulate George N. Ahmaogak for his decisive victory in the North Slope Borough mayor's race. Although the final count is not yet in, it appears that Ahmaogak was re-elected with at least 66 percent of the vote.

Being mayor of the North Slope Borough is one of the toughest challenges anyone could face. The borough is huge, and the geography alone could be overwhelming to someone. Questions about borough contracts and other financial problems also might seem crushing.

Ahmaogak, however, is weathering the challenges. And his margin of victory shows that the people are solidly behind him.

We wish Mayor Ahmaogak well and hope that he is successful in his second term in meeting his goals.

ALCOHOL VOTES IN KOTZEBUE, SHUNGNAC

Ballot measures calling for stricter controls on alcohol in Kotzebue and Shungnak passed last week by close margins in both communities.

We find this vote particularly significant in light of the construction and eventual startup of the Red Dog Mine in the NANA region. In Kotzebue the vote was 427 to 403 in favor of banning the sale of alcohol in the community. This means that alcohol can still be brought in, but not sold. Stricter controls are called for in Shungnak, where the vote was 46 to 44 in favor of banning the sale of alcohol, as well as its importation.

Alcohol and drug abuse are devastating in rural Alaska. They are serious problems in the state as a whole, but it is almost impossible to exaggerate how serious the situation is in rural, isolated villages.

Although we can't say that banning alcohol sales or importation is the one, perfect answer, we can applaud the people of both Kotzebue and Shungnak for taking the strong stands they have taken to fight alcoholism at the local level.

THE TUNDRA TIMES BANQUET

Tables for the *Tundra Times* Banquet, Oct. 24, are selling fast. Anyone who wants to attend this event, which is particularly exciting this year because we're celebrating our 25th anniversary, needs to contact Mary L. Lekanof at 274-2512 as soon as possible. Tickets are \$50 each. A table includes 10 people and sells for \$500.

To mark our 25th year, we'll also be selling cups for \$5 each and commemorative booklets for \$5 each. As part of our drive to greatly increase subscriptions, we'll be selling cups for \$1.50 with each \$20 one-year subscription.

The Tundra Times is 25 Years Old