

# Seniors forum helped elderly

To the Editor:

The Municipal Department of Social Services, Senior Citizens Program is very grateful for your participation in the minority Elders Forum held Monday, June 8, at Central Jr. High School. Over 120 persons attended the forum, the very first of its kind ever to be held in Anchorage. This was an encouraging reward for the outreach project the Department initiated to involve more minority elders in the development of the new Anchorage Multipurpose Senior Center, (AMPSC).

The new center is being developed to address the inter-related needs of the total senior individual; assembling nutrition, health, physical fitness, recreational, counseling, employment, and educational components in one central facility. It is the responsibility of the Department, the Senior Center Management Board, and all interested citizens to insure the AMPSC opens these services and programs to all the older residents of Anchorage.

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Last week's forum and the outreach efforts that preceded it were important steps toward this very goal. However, we cannot and do not expect these two single efforts to create the desired result. Indeed, our efforts to date only reaffirm the abundance of work yet to be accomplished - and the importance of doing it!

As our outreach project and the forum illustrated, there are many seniors who are not only unaware of the new MPSC underway, but of the existing services and programs available to them. Other seniors, because of their language and/or cultural traditions that differ from the majority population and the barriers such differences create, are obstructed from services they need and want.

A multipurpose senior center, one that serves as the community-wide focal point on aging, is mandated to overcome these and other obstacles that intervene between seniors and

benefits they are entitled to. Toward this end, the Department plans to continue the outreach project, assessments of individual minority Seniors' needs, and encouragement of the total older adult community to become involved in the Center's planning, operation, and growth. It is vital for a community-wide center to meet the challenge of designing policies and availing programs that will maximize the benefit to minority elders.

We are hopeful we can continue to count on your participation and support in this endeavor. You will be informed of other community meetings as they are scheduled. Please, in the meantime, call us if we can be of assistance. Thank you again for your interest.

Jewel Jones, Director

Norma Lundy, Manager  
Senior Citizens Program

Marion Butcher  
Senior Citizens Program

# Stories threaten food source

To the Editor:

It has been my pleasure reading the paper since the early publications, back when the publisher-founder Mr. Howard Rock, was in full swing. I have not yet quit reading it, but one particular item that seems to tickle my "craw", is that every spring and fall whaling begins, you seem to portray, in bold letters and on the front the catch identifying the captain and his crew. You know, as well as I do, that this has been the issue brought up by the bureaucrats out of state. Could you, in the future, change the subject to something not delving

into our food source? What it does to me is that it bothers the "table I eat upon." I'm not a whaling captain, but if I had the equipment and a chance to capture one by all means I would do it.

I don't have to be reminded of "freedom of press", but when articles pertaining to our source of food derives from, somehow it heats up the adrenalin when the issue (our food source) becomes a political football in front of the screen and over the radio.

I'm surprised at the members of the board of the paper who are natives and never have an input on the editorial...Well, I'd

better close before the postage changes...

Whittier Williams, Jr.  
Kotzebue

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