

Two new people to help slow down alcoholism in Arctic

By Joe Boehly

Out-Patient Manager

IS THE MONSTER OF ALCOHOLISM LURKING IN YOUR LIFE?

Having been born and raised in Alaska, I have seen what it means to be rated the state highest in alcohol consumption per capita in the U.S. Not only the individuals involved, but the communities in which they live, must live with its consequences — deaths, crime, child abuse, wife abuse, violence, divorces, shattered dreams, ruined childhoods, etc. etc. Job performance, marital and social problems are some of the areas that must be dealt with.

An alcoholic has to decide to stop drinking before anything can be done to help him. But a counselor can help him reach a point where he can see that drinking is the real problem and not an escape from imagined problems. A person can be helped to understand that it's alcohol and not the wife, cop, judge, boss, or set of circumstances that has led to a lifestyle built around drinking.

When the case warrants, we will use a residential treatment approach aimed at trying to change the lifestyle a person builds around alcohol.

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Hi, I am Steve Rasic. I have been hired as substance abuse counselor for SATS since August.

I worked for the Veterans' Service office for 4½ years as

a drug/alcohol counselor and find this field to be challenging. I am enthused about working here on the North Slope and will continue to provide the best service possible.

(Continued on Page Nine)



Poplowski manages half-way house

(Continued from Page Five)

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Hi, I am Frank J. Poplowski. I arrived in Barrow to manage the new halfway-house. I have lived in Alaska a little more than 12 years, and worked in addictions for 10 years.

I started and operated an al-

coholism and recreation center in Unalaska for six years, and later worked in domestic violence in Nome, where I started a men's program for the Bering Sea women's group. I am looking forward to working here and hopeful that I can be a viable member of the North Slope family.