

## **North Slope celebrates Kivgiq**

The sixth annual Messenger Feast, Kivgiq will be Feb. 25-27 in Barrow.

Games, talent shows and comedy hours, gift giving, a banner contest, fireworks and dancing are among the many highlights of the celebration.

Messengers will race from the airport to the high school and the winner will assist Bertha Leavitt in lighting the Seal Oil Lamp. Kivqich, Pt. Hope, Barrow, Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuvunmiut, Anaktuvuk Pass, Pt. Lay, Wainwright, Tikigaq Traditional and Suurimmaanitchuat will take part in the procession. Dancers come from those groups, too. Even part is set aside for traditional trading and bartering and to honor the Whaling Captains.

Last celebrated in early 1900's, the animals, in particular the eagle, and their spirits have an integral role in the rituals. Guests were said to turn into wolves and foxes. The drum is the sound of the heartbeat of the mother eagle. But now, it is to renew ties and revive pride.