

GCI introduces new service to Togiak, Twin Hills

Long-distance telephone company GCI is hosting a community celebration to announce the inauguration of its new service to Togiak and Twin Hills. The celebration took place on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Togiak School gym.

Joining GCI was North Country News television anchor Sharon McConnell and several members of the performance

group Goodnews Bay Dancers. All Togiak and Twin Hill residents were invited to come and enjoy the entertainment and refreshments. Door prizes were also given away.

"This is GCI's way of introducing itself and its representatives to the Togiak and Twin Hills communities," said Greg Jones, GCI vice president of Rural Services. "We want everyone to come out, have fun and

allow us the chance to introduce ourselves."

McConnell, one of rural Alaska's best-known Native journalists, grew up in Evansville in the Brooks Range. She is director and anchor of North Country News, a TV news magazine that airs throughout Alaska. She anchors television coverage of the Alaska Federation of Natives convention and produces and hosts the Friday edition of the national radio show Native America Calling.

The Goodnews Bay Dancers, a 14-member dance performance group, were formed in 1991. Six members of the group will be in Togiak to perform a variety of traditional Yup'ik Eskimo dances.

GCI recently completed construction of its new satellite earth station in Togiak. This earth station also will serve Twin Hills. GCI is offering a full slate of telecommunications service over the new facilities.

During the third week in November, United Utilities, the local telephone company for Togiak and Twin Hills, sent equal access ballots to its customers asking them to choose which long-distance carrier they prefer.

GCI has launched an information campaign aimed at introducing the company and its service to the communities it will service with new facilities.