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Fisheries harvest
worth \$885 million
in 1986

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UFOs: It all began
on June 24, 1947

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Forces gather for Brim Frost

by Holly Reimer
Tundra Times writer

Military forces from Alaska and the Lower 48 will be "playing war" in various military sites in the state during this month and February in Brim Frost '87.

Although the exercise provides a
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Wapiti: Patto People's Heritage — Deni Nene Hanaah: Our Land Speaks — Unangut Tunuklaug: The Aleuts Speak — Uli Kakh neek: Inuiting and Reporting — Yagut Kanaulit: The Way Eskimos Talk

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Nurse Mary Fontaine checks on one of her little patients who is in an isolette.

photo by Norris Klesman

Baby boom

Hospital to expand maternity unit

by Jill McGuire
for the Tundra Times

Due to an unexpected baby boom among the Native population, officials at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage have announced plans for the expansion and renovation of its maternity and nursery units.

According to Dr. Richard Monsanger, the center's director, renovation of the Native hospital's obstetrics unit is scheduled to begin in March. Completion is expected by June at a

cost of \$425,000.

The plans call for the addition of four patient areas, along with the expansion of the nursery. The maternity unit currently has a 12-bed capacity.

While construction is taking place, obstetrics patients and the nursery will be temporarily housed on the third floor of the medical center.

"As it stands now, we frequently have to send our maternity patients across town to the two other hospitals," said Monsanger.

"The expansion and renovation will enable us to handle the anticipated

volume of obstetrics patients from the Bush and the Anchorage Service area."

The plans for expanding the maternity unit come at a time of an increasing birthrate among the Native population.

The Anchorage Service Unit recorded 83 births in the month of October, marking one of the highest monthly birth counts in recent years, according to Pauline Phillips, public affairs officer for the Alaska Area Native Health Service.

Venetie to get emergency assistance

Gov. Steve Cowper authorized the Alaska Division of Emergency Services recently to assist the village of Venetie in a disaster declaration prompted by a fire in the Interior village that destroyed its snow removal equipment and the village power generator.

As a result of the loss of the snow removal equipment, the village is

unable to keep its airport runway clear. The loss of the use of the runway is judged to be a threat to the health, safety and well being of the residents of Venetie.

The village has declared a disaster situation which is beyond their ability to provide relief to the residents. A local disaster declaration is necessary

before the state can issue a disaster declaration.

The most immediate result of the state's declaration is authorization for airlifting a bulldozer to Venetie, which will be used to plow the village runway. The cost of the airlift is about \$16,000. An assessment of the total fire damage is underway.

Economist: Fiscal crisis to hurt Bush

by A.J. McClanahan
Tundra Times publisher

Rural Alaska could be hit hard in the state's current budget crisis, and state officials need to remember that any cuts will be of particular concern to villages, according to a University of Alaska economist.

Gunnar Knapp, associate professor of economics at UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research, said in an interview last week he has some serious concerns about the effect of budget cuts on rural people.

"Nobody has studied everything that ought to be studied, and there are many areas that ought to be looked at in greater detail," he said. "I'd say rural Alaska definitely faces a lot of problems as a result of the budget crunch."

Knapp said there currently is not enough data available on rural economies to really get a clear picture of the overall level of problems.

And he stressed that it will be critical for as much documentation as possible to be gathered so that both state and federal governments can avert serious problems.

"It's obvious that state spending is a major factor in the cash coming in to rural communities throughout the state," he said.

Among the most obvious ways that

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Cowper seeks board nominees

Gov. Steve Cowper has asked nearly 250 fisheries gear groups, user groups and Native and environmental organizations for suggestions to fill six current and upcoming vacancies on the state Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game.

In a letter to groups affected by board decisions, Cowper asked for "people who are able to rise above parochial interests" and who can "make decisions which are based on scientific opinion and the fair interpretation of data provided to the board."

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