

Publisher's Notes

A SALUTE TO WEIO: 25 YEARS OF SUCCESS

If you're not planning to be in Fairbanks on July 31, you'll be missing one of Alaska's most spectacular events. The World Eskimo-Indian Olympics will be celebrating its silver anniversary this year, and the volunteers who annually put this great celebration of Native culture together are expecting at least 10,000 spectators and participants.

Between the Race of the Torch, which opens the games and Grand Finale on Saturday, literally dozens of Alaska Native skilled athletes, dancers, and craftsmen will compete for recognition of their abilities. Some of the games may be new while others like the high kick, the ear weight, and the knuckle hop are inbedded in Native history. No where in the world can a person witness the flavor of Alaska Native cultures as they are passed down from generation to generation.

According to the archives of the Tundra Times, the Olypics began in June of 1961, under the sponsorship of Wien Airlines. Bud Hagberg and Frank Whaley were coordinating the event then. In 1975, the Olympics took on a "worldwide" perspective, and it has grown steadily in popularity since that time.

WEIO, its present sponsors and coordinators, past and present, have much to be proud of in this its 25th year of continuing success. Many of our young people grew up with the Olympics, gaining not only a keener appreciation of our Native cultures, but also a fine sense of sportsmanship. Helping young people to gain such qualities is perhaps the greatest success of all.

LKSD SCHOOL BOARD OUSTERS AND THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

There was much more than rising rivers and the threat of floods in the Southwest town of Bethel this past week. Several school board members were recalled by the voters. And the political turmoil will continue as the absentee votes are counted, then a special election held to replace those who were ousted.

Kicking school board members out is not an uncommon practice in Alaska, but it should be. Alaska has 52 school districts, and the politics in each at different times can be described as rough and tumble for various reasons. You would think, however, that the REAA's (and LKSD is one of them) being the "new kids on the block" would have learned something from the other school districts. The REAA's are a mere ten years old, and some of them have not yet settled down to paying attention to the quality of education.

Developing a program that will ensure the best education for its students is still the most important task that any school board is faced with. Hopefully, a new school board at LKSD will be mindful of that.

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