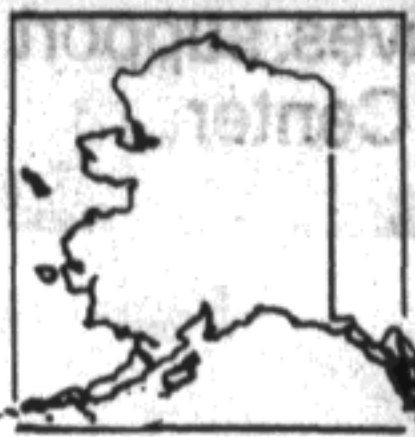


# Editorial



## Sobriety starts at village level

*Tundra Times* Reporter Holly Reimer, in her continuing effort to track village alcohol regulations, has written a front-page story this week about Allakaket.

We'd like to extend our congratulations to the Interior Alaska village residents who recently decided to tighten their liquor restrictions.

As a result of their action, alcohol sale and importation, as well as possession, will be banned in the village.

People in Allakaket weren't going to take any chances. They were worried about suicide and violence, so they put two separate questions on the ballot, figuring that even if they succeeded in getting only one passed they would be ahead.

It's inspiring to see that both issues were passed by the voters.

At the same time, the Alaska State Troopers have initiated a new program of rewards for tips that lead to the enforcement of alcohol regulations, especially the apprehension of bootleggers. In fact, Noorvik, in the NANA region, has put in a hotline for people to call.

Trooper Capt. Glenn Godfrey says that if the Noorvik hotline works, other communities may decide to use the same system.

We believe that when it comes to the alcohol problem in Alaska, people at the grassroots level — people who face the tragedy that alcohol causes in so many lives — are ahead of state policymakers.

There is a sobriety movement in Alaska, and a few very far-sighted state-level leaders are making themselves a part of this movement. Mostly, however, the leaders in this very vital and important movement are people at the village level who don't have the time or the patience to wait for answers to come from outside their home.

The villagers who are active in the sobriety movement are tired of the violence, the abuse, the pain and the tragedy alcohol causes, and in village after village they're looking for their own solutions that work for them.

We applaud Allakaket and all the other villages who are working so hard to keep their homes and their families intact. We believe the strength of this sobriety movement lies in the very fact that it is being led by people at the village level who know what must be done because they are on the front lines of the battle.

