



Gov. Bill Sheffield is expected back to work this week.

Sheffield surgery successful

Tundra Times Staff

Gov. Bill Sheffield's scheduled surgery went off without a stitch on Friday, October 11 at the Providence Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. A spokesman for the Governor's Office said that Sheffield was in good spirits and was expected to return to work this week.

Sheffield experienced chest pains while jogging Wednesday morning in Anchorage caused by arterial blockage to the heart. The blockage was due to cholesterol less than one-half inch long and one-tenth of an inch wide. The blockage was located in the right ventricle near the bottom of the

heart where it crosses over to the left ventricle branching out to smaller arteries.

Angioplasty, the new procedure undergone by Sheffield, involves the insertion of a catheter into a major artery, often through the patient's groin. The catheter is passed through the artery until it reaches the stenosis, or narrowing causing the problem. A small balloon is then passed through the catheter, which, when inflated, enlarges the partially blocked artery. The procedure does not involve the opening of the chest cavity. Dr. Milton English performed the operation.

Dr. Leo Bustad, the Anchorage cardiologist, diagnosed Sheffield's illness and said, "I think that this is the simplest, the least invasive method to get Sheffield to his feet, jogging and to resume all normal activities in the shortest period of time." Bustad added, "I expect Sheffield to be in his office next week."

About 85 percent blockage in the right coronary artery led to about one week and a half of discomfort while Governor Sheffield was jogging. If the symptoms were left untreated, Sheffield could have experienced a heart attack.