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Minnie McCarty

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VOLUME XXIII Number Two For the week of January 6, 1986 ISSN 0049-4801 USPS 644-040 Anchorage, Alaska

Gov. proposes \$5.2 million for Bethel projects



Governor Bill Sheffield burns the midnight oil to prepare the FY 87 budget. The budget was over two months in the making, and meetings with budget analysts often lasted into the night as the deadline approached.

JUNEAU--Governor Bill Sheffield has recommended \$5.2 million in public improvements for the Bethel area in his proposed state budget for next year. The largest project would channel another \$4 million to bank stabilization in the City of Bethel.

"Although revenues have declined, forcing us to cut most areas of the budget, I am very pleased to be able to recommend to the Legislature a budget that addresses the basic needs of the people," Sheffield said.

Besides the bank stabilization money, the Governor proposed earmarking \$1 million for improvements to the Bethel airport, and \$170,000 for the Department of Fish and Game to acquire land in the area.

The \$8 million in total projects for Election District 25 included funding for improvements in Akiachak, Atmautluak, Kasigluk, Kipnuk, Kwethluk, Napakiak, Newtok, Toksook Bay, and Tununak.

Sheffield proposed a basic state operating budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1986, of \$1.976 billion in general funds, a reduction of 1.3 percent over the current budget of \$2.03 billion. Major savings were

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Funds cleared for Mekoryuk project

Work on a new breakwater project for Mekoryuk, Alaska would begin in March 1986, and would be completed in about five months, the Army Corps of Engineers informed Sen. Ted Stevens today.

Funds for construction of Mekoryuk's small boat harbor on the north shore of Nunivak Island were included in the 1986 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

Following Stevens request, \$1.2 million was earmarked for this project by the Conference Committee for this appropriations bill.

"We were fortunate in being able to fund this project in a time of serious fiscal restraint," Stevens said. "I look forward to the successful completion of this harbor."

Kusko Ice Classic hopes to raise funds for non-profits, rival Nenana

by Steve Kakaruk
Tundra Times

Tripod days are coming for the city of Bethel. The Kuskokwim River Ice Classic is opening soon, with organizers hoping to sell enough of the \$2 tickets to pay the lucky winner(s) an estimated \$20,000 in prize money.

The famed Nenana River Ice Classic has been around for about 70 years and Kuskokwim River Ice Classic promoter Kathy Collins said, "there has been a small pool going on here for a number of years now."

KYUK radio first set up the pool as a community service; the guesses were free and the winners received donated gifts.

Today six non-profit organizations have grouped together to raise promotional fees for the event. Collins said, "a number of us (non-profits) went to the Legislature with this idea." She also said that Sen. John Sackett helped them get the proposal through the

process.

The Nenana River Ice Classic paid out \$187,000.00 last year. The Kuskokwim River Ice Classic's estimated \$20,000 will come from a pool of funds generated from the ice classic, with the amount to be paid determined once all the tickets are sold.

The rest of the money generated from the classic will be divided equally among the six non-profit organizations. It will be used to pay for services the state and federal agencies have cut from their operational budgets.

The list of the non-profit organizations includes: Bethel Community Services, Tundra Women's Coalition, Nunam Kitlutsisti (Yupik for 'Protectors of the Land'), Bethel Receiving Home, Pre-Maternal Home and the Association of Village Council Presidents.

Collins said, "a number of the non-profits have been suffering financial-

ly and this will enable them to continue with the quality of services the people need at today's cost of living standards."

Tickets will be available from February 15 to April 12. Over 200 ticket sales outlets from Juneau to Unalakleet will be open for those that wish to take a chance at the guessing game. Nenana Ice Classic promoter Jim Ekstedt will set up ticket sales in the Anchorage area.

Presently the Kuskokwim River ice is holding at about 14 inches thick. The tripod will not be erected until the first days of March.



OOOPS!—On the cover of our Christmas issue, we incorrectly identified Daisy Demientieff as Mrs. Carl Toshavik. We sincerely regret the error.