

KNIGHT
CUR PER
E
78
.A3
T8
v. 36
no. 5
January
1, 1997

Since 1962 **TundraTIMES**

THE VOICE OF NATIVE EXPERIENCE

\$.50

Volume XXXVI, No. 5 • Wednesday, January 1, 1997 • Anchorage, Alaska

Nanwalek goes dry with local option vote

by Mike Hinman
for the *TundraTIMES*

Nanwalek has become the first community in the Cook Inlet area to ban sale, importation and possession of alcohol under the state's 1981 Local Option Law.

According to Bob Aiken with the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Nanwalek became the 27th village to enact such a ban.

A total of 92 ballots were mailed to Nanwalek, with 60 returned and seven invalidated, according to Gail Senumiai of the Division of Elections in Juneau. Of the seven invalidated ballots, one was missing a voter signature, and six were not properly witnessed, she said.

While the village has no bars or liquor stores, liquor is shipped in from Homer or Soldotna. Several deaths have occurred over the past several years due to alcohol particularly accidental drownings, according to Nanwalek village chief Vincent Kvasnikoff.

"It's good for the village," said

Page 5, please



Serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Army 1st Lt. Wayne W. Don is responsible for establishing and monitoring of an observation point within the zone of separation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Don, who is stationed in Germany, is the son of Fred Don of Anchorage and Annie C. Don of Mekoryuk.

Photo by Michael Tolzmann

Akiachak comments on Venetie decision

Editor's Note: The following statement was faxed to TundraTIMES.

The Akiachak Native Community is appalled at our congressional delegation regarding the 9th Circuit Court decision on the Venetie case. (*Anchorage Daily News*, Friday, Dec. 20, 1996)

Like most non-Natives in Alaska, the congressional delegation does not understand or care to understand the desire of the Alaska Natives to exercise our governmental authority left to us by our ancestors. The State of Alaska and those that do not comprehend our desires are the "terrible problems."

If Senator Stevens was one of the authors of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, then he should remember that ANCSA was a land settlement bill and did not deal with the governmental authority of Alaska's tribes.

The fear of Alaska's non-Natives towards tribal governments is the myth of Balkanization of Alaska. Isn't the formation of state-chartered municipalities and boroughs a form of Balkanization? If the State and Federal governments mandate their forms of government and termina-

tion on the Alaska Natives without our consent, is it a form of democracy or dictatorial act?

It has been the desire of the Akiachak Native Community to become self-sufficient to operate the governmental services and develop economic opportunities for our members on the local level. We will be feeling the pressure to create more jobs when the Welfare Reform becomes implemented. We read the statements of Senator Stevens to mean that all federally funded programs and laws for Alaska's tribes will no longer be in effect of the 9th Circuit Court does not overturn the Venetie case.

All ANCSA corporations were created by federal law and they serve a purpose for the Alaska Native shareholders. They, not the tribes, control the majority of the traditional homelands of Alaska's indigenous peoples.

We don't think the Venetie case does not transfer corporate lands to tribal governments, but opened an avenue for the tribal governments to have governmental authority over the ANCSA lands. Both the tribal government and ANCSA corporations essentially serve the same mem-

bership.

Most eligible Alaska Natives exercise their right by casting votes to the candidates of their choice on all levels. We believe in individuals that promise us that they would represent our concerns on state and federal governments.

The congressional delegation, and the Alaska Majority party, wants to solve the Alaska Native problems by advancing their agenda without full participation of the affected residents. It seems their desire is for the Alaska Natives to remain in poverty, take away our identity by forcing state-chartered governments on villages, and to prevent tribal economies from being developed utilizing existing federal laws.

We urge our congressional delegation and the State of Alaska to refrain from creating "more problems" by opposing the desires of the 226 federally recognized tribes to exercise our governmental authority.

We seek support to preserve one of the most important identities of Alaska's first residents left to us by our ancestors.

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 313
Anchorage, AK

4/27/97

Serials Dept
Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene OR
97403