

Inside: Gen. John Schaeffer suggests
a New Year of sobriety for all

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photo by Chris Cushman



Northern Air Cargo was one of the few air carriers in Alaska not slowed by the recent eruptions of Redoubt Volcano. Wilson Hughes, Northern Air Cargo president, said NAC was able to continue service in part because the company's DC-6s fly more slowly than jets, giving pilots more time to react to and avoid dust clouds, and because the aircraft have piston-driven engines. During the holiday rush, however, extra flights were added.

Supreme Court rejects priority for subsistence Law unconstitutional

by Warren Jarvis
for the Tundra Times

In the latest installment in the long and turbulent saga of the Alaska struggle with subsistence, the Alaska Supreme Court last month threw out as unconstitutional the state's current subsistence law.

The law, enacted in 1986, was a response to a previous legal challenge and a threat by the federal government to take over fish and game management of the 60 percent of Alaska that is federal land.

Key events

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Steve Behnke, director of the Division of Subsistence for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said it was too early to tell what changes the court ruling might bring about.

He said, however, that the state subsistence regulations will remain in force, "until there is time to go back to court and get clarification."

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Chugach, CIRI cooperate on timber venture

by Holly F. Hallam
Tundra Times reporter

Two Alaska Native regional corporations will be working together to hire shareholders this fall when a major logging operation gets under way on the Kenai Peninsula.

Chugach Alaska Corp. is buying 200 million board feet of timber rights from Cook Inlet Region Inc. for timber located on the Kenai Peninsula

near Ninilchik.

Michael Chittick, Chugach president, said to put the agreement into perspective — Chugach bought enough timber resources to run its sawmill for 10 years.

Chittick said this would consist of eight-hour-a-day shifts for a 10 year span.

In 1988 Chugach built a lumber mill in Seward. The mill is expected to start

Michael Chittick, Chugach president, said to put the agreement into perspective — Chugach bought enough timber resources to run its sawmill for 10 years.

up next month.

This new timber operation is going to create a lot of new jobs both for

Chugach and CIRI shareholders. Chittick said there will be several hundred

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State policy would promote Native languages

by David Olivera
for the Tundra Times

A new policy under consideration by the State Board of Education would offer children the opportunity to learn and be taught in their Alaska Native language.

But the policy would give local school districts the option of deciding

how much or how little stress to place on the teaching.

The proposal calls for formally putting Alaska Native languages into school curriculums, including offering language courses to Alaska Native children who do not speak their languages.

The proposal, currently in draft form, may be considered for approval

by the board Jan. 29-30 at the board's meeting to be held in Juneau.

"If this policy is approved, it will be the first time that the state will have socially and educationally recognized Alaska Native languages," said William G. Demmert, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Education.

The proposed policy came from

recommendations made after a two-year study by the department.

In September 1987, the department and the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks co-sponsored a workshop in Anchorage. The participants included a variety of educational professionals and people from throughout the state.

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