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March 5th - 11th 2006

ULU NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 2006 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES WWW.AWG2006.ORG ISSUE NO. 1 / MARCH 5, 2006

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Inuit Games

Kenai Ice Rink

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Hockey

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Gymnastics

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Snowshoe Biathlon

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Soldotna High School

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Soldotna Middle School

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Soldotna Air Field

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Dog Mushing

Soldotna Sports Center

538 Arena Ave off Kalifornski Beach Rd

Figure Skating

Hockey

Speedskating

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486 W. Redoubt St

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Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

1 Skii Road

(Frontage Rd. in front of Spenards, Soldotna)

Snowshoeing

Cook Inlet Academy

40610 Kalifornski Beach Rd.

Basketball

Weather Forecast



Mainly cloudy with snow showers
32/19



Photo By Lee Johnson

Arctic Winter Games athletes arrive at Kenai International Airport

Arctic Winter Games begin with athletes' arrival on Kenai Peninsula

By BRIAN KEITH
Ulu News

The Arctic Winter Games literally landed at Kenai early Saturday morning as the first in a long line of jumbo jets set down at Kenai Municipal—now International—Airport at 12:01 a.m. with the first arrivals from Alberta North. Every out-of-state athlete, coach and interpreter landed in Kenai with the exception of the Sámi contingents, who were bused from Anchorage.

The size of aircraft and volume of traffic portrayed the size of the event itself. Athletes arrived in an array of airplanes, with the majority on Boeing 737s, while the Greenland contingent arrived in a Boeing 757, and the Russia/Yamal athletes landed in smaller chartered aircraft.

The size of the plane was not an indication of the distance traversed by these athletes: the Russia/Yamal team traveled long and hard to reach Alaska. Their itinerary started in Salekhard, Russia, which then took them to Moscow, New York, Seattle, Anchorage and finally Kenai. The Northwest Territories arrived on three separate three and one-half hour

flights out of Yellow Knife, their capital city.

"Everybody here has just been out of their minds helping us," said Doug Rentmeister of the Northwest Territories. Rentmeister arrived early Saturday as part of the administration team for his delegation and has been overseeing the arrival of participants and athletes ever since.

"We have a lot of different kids every year, but we usually hold a strong rivalry with Yukon and Alberta in hockey. Alaska and Nunavut are usually very good competitors as well," said Rentmeister.

The seven different participating regions arrived in 19 different groups. Upon arrival, guests were taken through the Kenai Operations Center adjacent to the airport. The building, which normally operates as a maintenance center for the airport, was reconfigured as a customs processing area, and was the arriving athletes' first step onto the Kenai Peninsula.

After clearing customs, the guests walked into the large hanger decorated with the word "Welcome" written

in each delegate's native language. The room was decorated by Sears Elementary children, under supervision of the Welcome/Send off committee.

"When you walk in you're amazed that this big thing is made possible by everyone in the community, including the children," said committee chairperson Nicole Popp.

Besides the welcoming decorations and a cheery smile from volunteers, guests were treated to free popcorn, soda and snacks. There was also a small booth where postcards and global phone cards could be purchased to contact friends and family back home. After everyone had disembarked and been accounted for, team members were handed a sports bag filled with give-aways from the community. Each sports bag contained a sleeping bag, a 30-minute long distance phone card, as well as many other gifts, including handmade "spirit bears" that had been sewn by volunteers, each one individual from the rest. As soon as the participants were handed their sports bag they boarded one of six buses commissioned to drive the athletes to their des-

ignated "village."

"Each village is organized by event, rather than team. So the kids from different teams that share a sport will get to meet each other," said Gary Stroh, who was helping organize the athletes onto their buses. "This gives them a chance to make friends within their sport."

The activity taking place over the weekend led to practice and warm up for some teams early Sunday. The opening ceremonies will take at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, at the Soldotna Sports Center, and events will commence as early as 8 a.m., Monday.

The Games will run today through Saturday across the peninsula, bringing together competitors from Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Scandinavia and Russia. Athletes will compete in twenty different sports and cultural events are slated for each day. The Games have been held every two years since 1970, with the 2004 games in Alberta, Canada. They've been in Alaska four times, most recently in Eagle River in 1996. Organizers say the games are not likely to come back to the peninsula for another thirty years.



Photo By Robert Bell

Medical volunteers prepare for the arrival of Arctic Winter Game Athletes

Medical volunteers provide 24/7 care across the Peninsula

By ROBERT BELL
Ulu News

Arctic Winter Games athletes can rest comfortably knowing that a team of well-trained medical professionals will be on-hand around the clock in case they fall victim to an accident or illness.

"Starting yesterday, we've had a group of volunteers around the clock 24 hours a day," said Rebecca Byerley, Medical Committee Co-Chair. "That means we have to have someone available at any time, any hour during the day, and all night," said Byerley. A registered or licensed medical professional will assess ill or injured athletes.

In addition to basic First-Aid, athletes will receive physical therapy. "Any taping of joints will be handled by

coaches," said Byerley.

At the venues, EMTs or paramedics will attend to any athlete who gets injured; from there they will be transported to their accommodations, the Polyclinic at Soldotna High School or the hospital. There will be at least two medical personnel at each venue assisted by security personnel. The venues will be staffed not only during competition, but during practices as well. Equipment on hand will include fifty-four gallon totes containing supplies, as well as an AED for every venue, including the Polyclinic.

The initial contact for athletes visiting the Polyclinic is Michelle Gage who is in charge of the Data Entry volunteers at the Polyclinic. Once signed in,

athletes will be attended to by a nurse, therapist or physician. The majority of the Polyclinic patients are expected after an event has ended and muscles begin to ache.

"Individuals who are coming in for specific screening tests, muscle problems, aches, pains, sprains, and strains can be treated there, said Byerley. "Hopefully treatment can end at the Polyclinic."

The Arctic Winter Games medical volunteers gathered at Soldotna Middle School March 3 for their security badges, deployment instructions and schedules during the week of the games. Schedules and contact information is posted at the venues and in athlete accommodations.

Team Alaska gets a special welcoming surprise

By KATIE WELLS
Ulu News


Hours of time, donations from organizations across the state, and volunteer effort went into preparing 400 "goodie bags" for Team Alaska's at Kenai Peninsula College.

The boxes of items were brought to Kenai Peninsula College last Friday by members of the Arctic Winter Games staff. Some of the items included: a pre-paid AT&T phone card, an Arctic Winter Games coloring book, souvenirs from the Alaska Sea Life Center and much more.


KPC's Student Services division volunteered to prepare the bags, according to Bill Howell, Student

Services director. The group, and four members of the local community, spent about two hours stuffing the gym bags.

"We were happy to help with the games and this gave us the opportunity to include a few KPC items in them," said Howell. The college donated KPC pens, lip balm, jar openers, carabineers, and highlighters, along with the 2006 Spring schedule for classes at the Kenai River Campus. When the athletes arrived at the college, they consumed 93 pizzas and cases of soda and water. After the feed they were given their bags of goodies and reloaded onto the buses, and made their way toward in processing at the Kenai Airport.



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Photo By Katherine Wells

Kenai Peninsula College students tested the internet connectivity at the local University of Alaska Anchorage campus

Kenai Peninsula College has opened its doors to Arctic Winter Games visitors who want to access their email accounts or surf the Internet during the Games.

"With 6,000 visitors expected, Internet connectivity will be very much in demand," said Gary J. Turner, college director, and AWG Communications Committee member. "While many with laptops will have access to the web at their hotels there will be many that won't have that luxury. We can help satisfy that demand," he said.

The college will have 57 computer stations available to the public and wireless access for those that have wireless-enabled laptops...at no charge.

"The Pentium computers we have will allow visitors to get on the Internet at broadband speeds, plus each computer has Windows XP installed," said Mark Jensen, KPC Information Technology supervisor. Due to limited printers and costs, printing will not be available at the college; however, people will be able to plug in their "jump" or "flash" drives and take their work with them when they leave.

Due to the expected heavy usage, visitors will need to sign in at Room 106A

in the Ward Building when they arrive, and can use a computer for one hour. If they need more time, they will need to vacate their computer for other users and sign up again.

Wireless Internet access is available in the KPC Student Commons and the Brockel Building lobby. The college's wireless capability

is somewhat limited and can accommodate about 20 people at a time. If more than 20 are online, the service slows to a crawl, said Jensen. Visitors will not need to sign up for this service, but their laptops will need an installed wireless card. Wireless access will be available at the same times as the computer labs.

The KPC computer labs will be open the following hours:

Sunday, March 5—4-9 pm

Monday, March 6—8 am-7 pm

Tuesday, March 7—8 am-7 pm

Wednesday, March 8—8 am-7 pm

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Friday, March 10—Noon-7 pm

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PENINSULA CLARION

Printed by the Peninsula Clarion on behalf of the Arctic Winter Games.



Photo By Lee Johnson

Security at the Arctic Winter Games has involved various government agencies including the FBI, Office of Homeland Security, and local Police Departments

Games security a top priority

By KELLIE MASSA
Ulu News

Security for the 2006 Arctic Winter Games has been two years in the making, involving the FBI, Homeland Security and local law enforcement. "The plan has been set in motion and we're ready," said John Lucking, Jr., Soldotna chief of police and Games security co-chair.

The FBI and Homeland Security did a threat assessment, which looks at any inherent threat to an event such as the Games, from a local threat to an international threat, Lucking said. Patrols are being increased with the help of extra troopers from Anchorage.

"There will be approximately 150 law enforcement and 100 non-law enforcement volunteers for security during the Games," said Lucking. Security personnel and video surveillance will be on-site 24 hours day at all venues and housing locations for the athletes, Lucking said.

The Peninsula State

Troopers will work 12-hour shifts with no days off during the Games. Five troopers out of Anchorage, plus a trooper helicopter will be on the Peninsula during the games, according to the Soldotna State Trooper Dispatch.

Athletes began arriving at Kenai Airport on Friday at midnight where a customs area was setup and interviews were conducted. Proper identification such as passports and visas were required for all entering the U.S. at this temporary point-of-entry.

Once the games begin, "should something occur that the security of the games needs to be increased, the public can expect the security chairs, myself and Chief Lucking, will clearly and safely explain as best we can that there has been a threat increase," said Chuck Kopp, Kenai chief of police and Games security co-chair.

"I am hoping for non-eventful event, where security is concerned," said Kopp.

Officials report no problems with international arrivals

By ROBERT BELL
Ulu News

Security officials agreed Saturday morning there had been no real problems with the arrival of international flights at Kenai Municipal Airport

"It's been a very, very smooth operation," said Mike Mitchell, supervisor for Customs and Border Patrol from Anchorage. "All the athletes have been very cooperative."

Around midnight Friday, March 3, the first international

flights began arriving at what is now Kenai International Airport. The flights were scheduled to continue until around 5 a.m., Sunday.

"No bad surprises, I think we were well prepared. We have a great working relationship with all the different agencies that are here and good preplanning has paid off," said Mitchell. "We've got the equipment we need, we have the personnel we need, and actually things are going very, very well."

Problems that were

expected had not surfaced by mid-morning, resulting in good attitudes by those involved. "I was expecting a few little hiccups here and there, little problems, and I haven't seen anything yet," said Kim Wannamaker, operations security chief from Kenai. "It's been great."

These sentiments were echoed by arriving passengers. "It was good; like normal customs I guess," said Yellowknife snowboarder Bryn Livingstone. "It was pretty average. It was well-organized."

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Local College Welcomes Team Alaska with Pizza Feed

By **ROBERT BELL**
Ulu News

Nine buses loaded with Team Alaska athletes descended on Kenai Peninsula College Friday night for pizza and drinks. Sponsored by the college and University of Alaska Anchorage, the pizza was furnished by Pizza Boys and the drinks were donated by Coca-Cola.

"Three hundred and eighty one participants and coaches, and about 75 family members crowded the UAA campus beginning at 8 p.m.," said Tim Dillon, general manager for the Arctic Winter Games.

Athletes from northern Alaska started from Fairbanks at 8 a.m. in four

buses and were joined by five more buses in Anchorage carrying athletes from Southeast Alaska. Then traveling together to Soldotna they got to feast on five different kinds of pizza, and stretch their legs before continuing to the Kenai Airport for registration.

Upon entering the college many headed straight to the lines waiting to use restrooms, while others went directly for the food. For many, this was the first chance they had to meet other teammates they will be competing with.

After finishing their pizza the athletes received a gym bag stuffed with goodies from the Games and the college then boarded the buses again to head for the

Kenai Airport to receive their credentials.

College officials had ordered 120 pizzas and for awhile feared that would not be enough; however, many of the athletes—like normal teenagers—ate their way down the highway.

"We had 27 pizzas left over and certainly didn't want them to go to waste," said Gary J. Turner, college director. After numerous calls, the assistant director of the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank was located and graciously accepted the large donation. "The pizzas donated by the university not only fed Team Alaska athletes, but also will feed the hungry on the Peninsula; it couldn't have worked out better," said Turner.



Photo By Charlotte Nicolet

Soldotna Sports Center Skaters practice for the performance that will occur at the end of the Arctic Winter Games

Soldotna Sports Center Skaters

By **CHARLOTTE NICOLET**
Ulu News

The Arctic Winter Games brings not only athletes from the circumpolar north, but also performers of all ages. One of the youngest is 5-year old Reva Lovett of the Soldotna Sports Center Skaters. Lovett will be performing as one of the go-go dancers in an Austin Powers

production number scheduled for March 9 at the close of the figure skating in the Games. Lovett enjoys spirals and has dreams of the Olympics. When asked for advice for aspiring skaters: "Practice, practice, practice," she said.

"Don't skate so fast," said 7-year old fellow skater Savanna Stephens, who also

likes spirals. Siblings Shania and Isaac Johnson, six- and four-years old, have dreams of Olympics and hockey.

The skaters—about 30 girls and a few boys—will return from weekend competition at the Wasilla Brett Memorial Ice Arena in time for the Opening Ceremonies of the Games.

Following their March 9 performance, the group's next competition, "River Skate" takes place April 1-2 at the Soldotna Sports Center. They will each have their own individual areas of expertise for competition as well as team work.

"I think it's wonderful the kids have an opportunity at the Arctic Winter Games. It's all about the kids having fun," said Sheila Lovett, Reva's mom.

Visitors Center Hosts Cultural Events

By **COURTNEY PROCTER**
Ulu News

The Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center is hosting a variety of free events and activities this week, celebrating the Arctic Winter Games and life in the North.

Events include films, lectures, storytelling, performers, and a magic show. In addition, the exhibit, presented by the Alaska State Museum and curated by George Smith, is open throughout the month. It represents a comprehensive history of the Games, said Natasha Ala, administrative specialist for the Visitors Center.

According to Dana

Woodard, the Museum Services Manager at the Visitors Center, the activities mostly target families. "We want to include things kids can do, not just for adults." However, she is hoping that "the athletes will drop by on their off-days and enjoy some cultural activities." Also, daily performances from noon-1 p.m. coincide with lunch breaks so people can come in and watch the Chugiak Swing Choir, or the Minot Dancers, or one of the other shows.

Woodard said mornings will be filled with interpretive lectures, such as "The Liquid Natural Gas Magic Show" put on by Conoco-

Philips, or storytelling, language, and songs with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. Then, from noon-1 p.m. will be performers, and at 1 p.m. the Kenai International Film Festival begins.

The films celebrate many aspects of Arctic life, according to Woodard. Among the films is To Play the Games, a look at the tradition and competition of Alaska Native Games, as well as several films examining Native life in the North. Times of activities and events vary from day to day, so for information about activities at the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center, call 283-1991, or visit www.visitkenai.com.



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Photo provided by Pamyua

Native American Music Award-Winning Group, "Pamyua," Performs at Local College

By SUZIE KENDRICK

Kenai Peninsula College hosted the musical group, Pamyua, as a Showcase event in celebration of the Arctic Winter Games on Saturday. This was the group's first performance on the Peninsula.

At the 45th Annual Grammy Awards in March of 2003 the group was chosen to represent Native American music while their third album, "Caught in the Act," won Record of the Year at the 2003 Native American Music Awards.

Pamyua, which means "encore" in Yup'ik, creates music that is a mix of Inuit and African rhythms. The group was founded in Alaska

10 years ago by brothers Stephen and Phillip Blanchett, who are of Yup'ik Inuit and African American descent, as a way to share the stories of their ancient cultures. Together with Ossie Kairaiuak, an Alaska Native who grew up in Chefornak performing in a traditional Native dance troupe, the group formed as a trio. Kararina Moller, a Greenlandic Inuit singer, joined the group in 1996. The quartet has since performed across the United States and in Europe, Asia and South America as ambassadors of modern Yup'ik culture.

Their latest CD, "Drums of the North," was released in 2005.

Tsalteshi trails await athletes



Photo By Allan Rudisill

Ex-borough mayor Dale Bagley (right) and current borough mayor John Williams (second from right) and other local designees cut ribbon to open biathlon at Skyview High School.

By ROBERT BELL
Ulu News

Groomed and in good condition is how the expected 60 Arctic Winter Games athletes for cross-country skiing, the ski biathlon and the snowshoe biathlon will find the course.

The Tsalteshi trails, where the three events will take place, are located about 100 meters from the Skyview High School parking lot and have ample space for parking and spectators.

On Friday, the trails were open to the public. Many local residents tested the trail and range and found them to their liking.

"It's perfect right now,"

said Taylor Karnikis of Kasilof.

Karnikis, who is part of Team Alaska and is participating in the ski biathlon, said he does not expect the conditions to change.

The trails consist of five interconnected loops that total 15 kilometers in length and share a common start and finish.

The biathlon shooting range has 20 shooting stations with metal drop-down targets, a lead collection system to minimize environmental impact and a 150-meter penalty loop.

"It's better or as good as any range I've been through," said Karnikis, who has competed in the Games

before. For biathlon events, the area next to the firing range will hold coaches and spectators.

Training will be held Sunday for cross-country skiing and snowshoe biathlon, with training on Monday evening for ski biathlon, according to the Arctic Winter Games schedule. Competition begins on Monday for cross country skiing and snowshoe biathlon, and Tuesday for ski biathlon.

The Tsalteshi Trail Association is a volunteer association that maintains and grooms the trails year-round.

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Photo By Merrill Sikorski

Packing sleeping bags that arrived late was just one task of thousands that Arctic Winter Games volunteers performed

Behind-the-scenes unity and spirit motivate Games organizers

By JANICE HIGH
Ulu News

Preparation for the Arctic Winter Games took on new urgency last week, as organizers worked to meet the last-minute needs of athletes, guests, volunteers, and media. The staff at the Games headquarters expected those challenges and took them in stride.

"We all like working together," said Terri Nettles, Games executive assistant, "so it's fun. We just won't be getting much sleep."

Some of the challenges were unexpected, such as the news that the 2000 sleeping bags and backpacks ordered from China would be arriving—but not until April.

"We ended up having to find existing stock down in the lower 48," said Bill Popp, Games revenue development director. The bags were ordered from merchants in Utah and Kansas and got here in less than five days. "On top of that, they were able to put logos on the backpacks in less than 48 hours."

It's the spirit of cooperation and determination that keep the Game's operation on track, said Popp. Lynden Transport took charge of loading and delivering the bags, with the help of Games volunteers.

Another example of unity, said Popp, was the recent visit to the Games headquarters by Alaska mayors Mark Begich of

Anchorage and Tim Anderson of the Matanuska-Susitna borough.

"Their visit shows the regional nature of the event in term of the support we have from the three major municipalities in the area, which represents 60 percent of the state's population," said Popp.

Both Anderson and Begich will attend various Games' events throughout the week. Begich has special interest in alpine skiing and snow boarding, since those events will take place near Anchorage, at the Alyeska resort in Girdwood

"We're just hoping the weather holds. Skiing in Girdwood with the sun out and temperatures at about 17-25 degrees is awesome!"

Adam and Eve in Kenai



Photo By Lee Johnson

The play Adam & Eve will be performed by the Kenai Performers during the week of the Arctic Winter Games

By RAMON CARREON
Ulu News

Adam and Eve have arrived on the Kenai Peninsula for the Arctic Winter Games.

As part of the entertainment events, the Kenai Performers new production of "Adam and Eve Through the Ages" will play throughout the week at the Kenai Performers Playhouse located behind the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center.

"The play will run at 7 p.m., March 7, 8, 9, with an additional performance scheduled at 3 p.m. today. This matinee performance affords people the opportunity to attend the play and also take in the Games' opening ceremonies at 6:30 p.m. the same evening.


"Adam and Eve Through the

Ages" is all about love and fun. Andrew Essex plays the lead role of Adam, and the lead female role of Eve is played by Sarah Glaves. Robert Peterson plays Herbert and Cliff Brouhard and Mary Bailly will perform the song "No Two People Have Ever Been so in Love" with Maria Allison as the accompanist.

Director Carol Ford noted, "The Tim Sturm Band will host a concert and dance right after the opening ceremonies at the Kenai Performers' Playhouse. This will be a great opportunity for people from the games to have fun, dance, and meet people," said Ford.

Buy your tickets in advance at the door, at River City Books in Soldotna, or at Charlotte's restaurant in Kenai and remember, "seating is limited."

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Welcome to All & Good Luck to the Athletes!

Local Organizations Make Arctic Melted Ice Sculptures Winter Games Green

By STAR MCGLASSON
Ulu News

Four organizations and companies with a "green" attitude are working together to ensure the Arctic Winter Games trash does not wind up in the borough landfill.

Green Star, ReGroup, Alaska Waste, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough have joined forces in the fight against waste so these Games are Earth-friendly.

The mission of both Green Star and Regroup is to reduce waste not only on the peninsula but also at the Games, said Barbara Maynard, Green Star coordinator.

"With an event as large as the Arctic Winter Games, we knew there would be a lot of recyclable waste generated and we wanted to do our part to reduce the burden on the local landfill and to steer valuable resources toward a second useful life," said Maynard.

Both Green Star and ReGroup, local non-profit organizations, have provided recycling containers and coordinated volunteers to handle the recyclables during the Games, said Cathy Mayer, director of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Solid Waste. Mayer is actively involved with Green Star and



Photo By Star McGlasson

Kenai Peninsula Borough SW Director Cathy Mayer recycles a PET #1 drink container

ReGroup and is chair of recyclables for the Games. Alaska Waste has donated the use of cardboard containers and all recycling hauling services, according to Mayer.

The borough is an important part of all of it, said Mayer. They have donated the use of compartmented roll-off containers and borough landfill employees will properly segregate recyclables, she said. "All items will be recycled, saving space in our landfill," added Mayer.

Additionally, members of ReGroup and students at the Alaska Christian College are

volunteering to empty the containers of recyclables every day at eight different venues, said Maynard.

"We will collect recyclables at Kenai Central High School, Soldotna High School, Redoubt Elementary, Skyview High School and the Soldotna Sports Center," said Maynard. Cardboard will also be collected at Mountain View Elementary.

When spectators and athletes have pop bottles, aluminum cans, and programs or other mixed paper to discard, we hope they will look for the recycling containers, said Maynard. "Think before you throw."

By RHONDA LARSON
Ulu News

One lone ice sculpture stands as the sentinel over the remains of the Alaska State Championship Ice Carving Contest held during last month's Peninsula Winter Games (PWG).

Visitors approaching the Soldotna Sports Center for the Arctic Winter Games opening ceremonies and events will see blocks of ice scattered about. Like the seahorse, these were works of art that did not survive a warm, rainy spell a few weeks ago. It was hoped they would still be standing during the Games, but Mother Nature did not cooperate.

The sculptures included representations of sea life, Darth Vader, a praying mantis, and two penguins sliding on ice. The carvers came from across Alaska and as far away as Washington State. Kenai Peninsula business owners commissioned sculptures of a dog sled team, polar bear and leprechaun by local ice carver Scott Hansen and their semi-melted remains can still be seen around town.

In 2001, ice carving became an event for the PWG which is similar to the Games as they include Native Youth Olympic demonstrations, dog-weight pull, youth hockey tournament, snowboarding, junior sled dog race and figure skating. The ice sculptures were intended to do double



Photo By Rhonda Larson
Melting ice sculptures across the Kenai Peninsula are remnants of the Peninsula Winter Games

duty to share PWG with athletes and visitors for the Games.

At the Soldotna Visitors Center, next to the bridge, stand the remains of an Eskimo ice sculpture. The slowly dissolving Eskimo, carved from ice cut from a pond just a short distance from the Arctic Winter Games headquarters by Soldotna Rotary Club members, extends his welcome albeit in less majestic form. The Eskimo—hardy and proud like the people of the North he represents—has shown strength in his longevity unlike his fellow icy works of art.

Before it melts any further visitors can take advantage of having their picture taken with it as a souvenir of their Games experience in Alaska.

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Arctic Winter Games Cauldron to be lit Sunday night

By STAR MCGLASSON
ULU News

The focal point of the March 5 Opening Ceremonies for the Arctic Winter Games will be the lighting of the cauldron. Its flame will burn throughout the week, as a symbol of spirit of the Games.

"The mystery is 'who is going to light the torch,'" said Max Fjelstad, cultural and facilities manager for the Games. So far that remains a tightly guarded secret, to be revealed at the very last moment.

The stainless steel flame-capped cauldron stands

nearly nine feet tall and weighs 1,100 pounds. It has four human silhouettes as its base, with a specially perforated mounted cap on top to protect its flame from Arctic winds.

After the Opening Ceremonies, the cauldron will be on display outside the Sports Center throughout the Games.

The flame will be extinguished during the March 11 closing ceremonies. The cauldron will then be placed at the borough building, to become a permanent post-Game monument.

The initial design was created by Kenai Central

High School graduate Dustin Moore, currently a student at Washington State University. Turning the design into reality was the job of the Dowland-Bach company of Anchorage, who volunteered the materials and their fabrication

expertise as a donation to the Games and the Peninsula community.

Ten mini-cauldron replicas were also fabricated and donated by Dowland-Bach to be presented as a legacy memento to participating municipalities.



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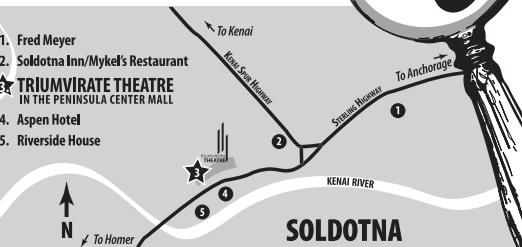
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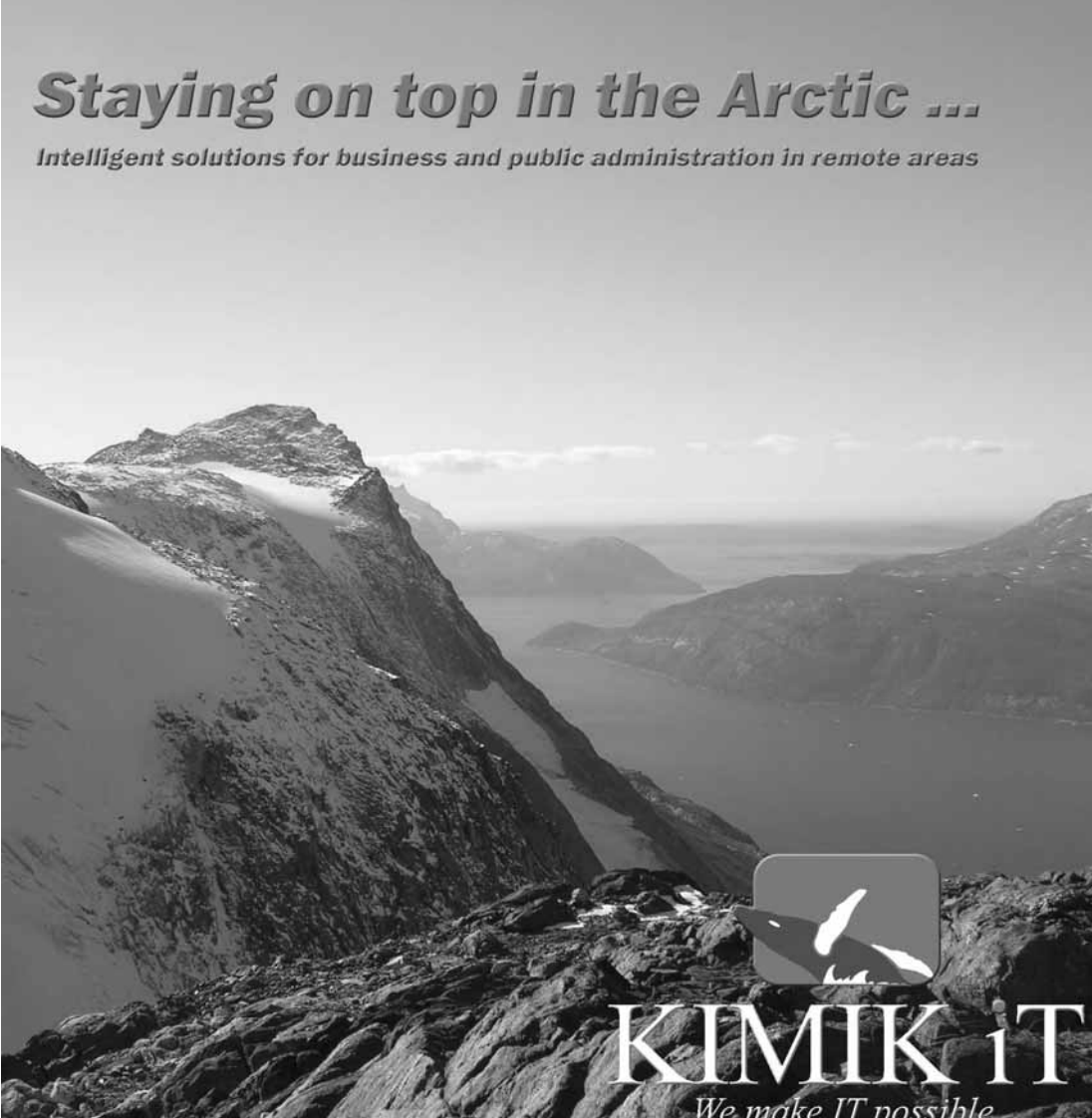
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