

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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Employment

Seeking Qualified Applicants



NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

In Nome:

Accounting: Accountant I/II/III \$36.65 + DOE; Accounts Payable Technician I/II/III \$27.41 + DOE; Payroll Manager \$48.13 + DOE
Audiology: Administrative Specialist I Relief \$26.41 + DOE
Behavioral Health: Administrative Specialist I & Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Clinical Associate – Day Shelter \$27.41 + DOE; Recovery Coach – Day Shelter \$27.41 + DOE
Corporate Housing: Property Associate \$27.41 + DOE
Emergency Department: Certified Nursing Assistant \$34.25 + DOE
Environmental Services: Environmental Service Worker I & Relief \$25.00 + DOE; Laundry Worker I \$25.00 + DOE
Eye Care: Optician Uncertified \$26.41 + DOE
Health Information Systems: Coder I \$31.73 + DOE; Health Information Technician I \$26.41 + DOE
Human Resources: Student Intern \$27.00; AHEC Intern \$27.00
In-Home Support Program: Personal Care Attendant I \$25.00 + DOE
Laboratory: Supervisor Medical Laboratory Assistant \$39.20 + DOE; Laboratory Administrative Specialist II \$27.41 + DOE; Informatics Specialist \$34.25 + DOE; Phlebotomist \$31.73 + DOE
Materials Management: Warehouseman Relief \$27.41 + DOE; Patient Driver I Relief \$30.02 + DOE; Material Support Lead \$31.73 + DOE
Nutrition Services: Food Service Worker & Relief \$25.00 + DOE; Cook I/II/III Relief \$30.02 + DOE
Patient Financial Services: Patient Accounts Representative I \$30.02 + DOE; Patient Benefits Specialist I/II Temp \$30.02 + DOE
Patient Hostel: Patient Hostel Supervisor I/II \$30.02 + DOE; Patient Hostel Attendant Relief \$25.00 + DOE
Pharmacy: Pharmacy Technician I Relief \$27.41 + DOE
Plant Operations: Fleet Maintenance Technician & Relief \$36.65 + DOE; Heavy Equipment Operator \$36.65 + DOE; Maintenance Technician I & Relief \$31.73 + DOE
Primary Care: Certified Medical Assistant \$34.25 + DOE; Care Coordinator Assistant \$34.25 + DOE
Quyanna Care: Certified Nursing Assistant \$34.25 + DOE; Activities Coordinator CNA \$36.65 + DOE; Senior Support CNA \$36.65 + DOE
Radiology: Administrative Specialist I \$26.41 + DOE
Sanitation: Remote Maintenance Worker I Relief 36.65 + DOE
Security: Security Officer Trainee & Relief \$25.00 + DOE; Security Officer Supervisor \$34.25 + DOE
Social Services: Elder Advocate \$34.25 + DOE
WIC: WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Relief \$20.00

In Our Village Communities:

Brevig Mission: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Maintenance Worker & Relief \$34.25 + DOE; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Diomed: Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE; EVS Maintenance Worker I \$31.73 + DOE; Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist \$26.41 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Elim: Direct Care Attendant Relief \$25.00 + DOE; Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Gambell: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Maintenance Worker \$34.25 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Golovin: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE; Environmental Service Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Koyuk: Environmental Services Worker & Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Maintenance Worker Relief \$34.25 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
St Michael: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Savoonga: Clinic Travel Specialist \$26.41 + DOE; Maintenance Worker \$34.25 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Shaktolik: Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Shishmaref: Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE; Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist \$26.41 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Stebbins: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Direct Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE; Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Teller: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE; Environmental Services Worker Relief 26.41 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist \$26.41 + DOE; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Unalakleet: Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Administrative Assistant I \$25.00 + DOE; Assistant Care Coordinator \$34.25 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
Wales: Personal Care Attendant & Relief \$25.00 + DOE; Village Based Counselor Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist & Relief \$26.51 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00
White Mountain: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE; Student Support Specialist U-18 \$25.00; Wellness Advocate Temp \$27.00

For more information or an up-to-date vacancy list, go to www.NortonSoundHealth.org or contact Human Resources at (907) 443-4573. NSHC is a drug-free workplace and will apply Alaska Native/American Indian preference for hire (under PL 93-638 and Veteran Preferences). NSHC will also initiate a criminal history/background check for all positions.



RECRUITMENT BULLETIN

Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority is recruiting for the following positions:

- FT Receptionist
- Housing Occupancy Specialist
- TEMP Maintenance Compliance Inspector

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY: Application and full job description can be downloaded from the website www.bsrha.org, picked up at the BSRHA Office: 1008 East Front Street, Nome, Alaska, or by emailing HR@bsrha.org. Applications may be turned in, mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to BSRHA.



NOME JOINT UTILITY SYSTEM

NOTICE OF JOB OPENINGS

- Summer temp workers for the Water/Wastewater department and our Line Crew department.
- We are also looking for an journeyman line crew or someone that wants to join our apprenticeship program for the same.

Nome Joint Utility System - A Component Unit of City of Nome
 P.O. Box 70, Nome, AK 99762
www.njus.org - Email: thomas@njus.org
 Office: (907) 443-6307 - Cellphone: (907) 304-4211



NSEDC Job Opportunities

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation offers an attractive compensation and benefits package including competitive pay, 401K retirement program and comprehensive healthcare options.

Administrative Assistant (Nome):

The Administrative Assistant provides administrative support to staff in the Nome office to promote a productive and efficient workplace. This position assists with coordination and completion of general clerical activities for all NSEDC offices.

Fleet & Facility Technician (Nome):

The Fleet & Facility Technician performs highly skilled and complex repairs including inspecting, repairing, fabricating, rebuilding, and maintaining NSEDC's vessels, vehicles, equipment, machinery and facilities associated with NSEDC's operations in the Norton Sound region. The primary focus of the position during the summer operational season will be on the repair and maintenance of infrastructure and equipment related to Norton Sound Seafood Products and tender vessels.

For an application or a complete job description, visit www.nsedc.com or contact NSEDC Human Resources via phone, (907) 274-2248 (Anchorage) or 1-(800)-650-2248 (toll-free), or via email: hr@nsedc.com.

Seawall

Nome Police Department Weekly press releases Activities reported between 3/30/2026 – 4/5/2026

During this period there were 141 calls for service received at the Nome Police Communications Center; 83 (59%) of these calls involved alcohol. The Nome Police Department dispatched 67 ambulance calls to NSHC. The Nome Volunteer Fire Department responded to 0 fire calls during this period. NPD responded to 5 calls reporting intoxicated persons needing assistance; three remained at the hospital for medical evaluation/treatment.

Arrests

A total of 5 arrests were made, with 5 (100%) alcohol related

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Charge: Probation Violation. Name: Anthony Kalerak. Location: W. Front St.

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Charge: Warrant Arrest. Name: Kevin Ozenna. Location: E. N St.

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Charge: Criminal trespass in the second degree. Name: Aaron Oseuk. Location: W. 2nd Ave. Charges: Assault in the fourth degree, Disorderly Conduct. Location: Edward Evan.

Location: Nathan Barron Alley.

Saturday, April 4, 2026

Charges: Assault in the third degree; two counts Violating Conditions of Release. Name: Elias Norris. Location: E. Kings Pl.

Traffic

NPD made 1 traffic stops, with 0 citation and 1 warnings issued. NPD responded to 1 report of motor vehicle accidents.

This is a record of activity. The issuance of citations or the act of arrest does not assign guilt to any identified party. Officers refer all cases to the DA for action

Court

Week ending 4/3/2026

Civil

Rachel Dawn Stiles, Old Name; Rachel Dawn Cordeiro, New Name; Change of Name - Adult
 Not Published v. Nickolas Bloodgood; Stalking: Long-Term

Small Claims

Dylan Sackett v. Garrett Oozevaseuk; Small Claim \$2,500 or less

Criminal

State of Alaska v. David Stickel (2/10/93); Judgment and Order of Commitment/Probation; CTN 001: Attempt MICS3-Mfr/Deliver Any IIA Or IIIA; Class C Felony; Offense Date: 3/5/24; The following charges were dismissed: CTN 002: Violate Condition of Release for Felony; Offense Date: 3/5/24; Dismissed by Prosecution; Sentencing date: 3/27/26 with counsel,

Steven M. Wells and the DA present; CTN 001: 24 months, 20 months suspended; Unsuspended 4 months shall be served by remanded to Nome Court on 6/29/26 at 1:30 p.m.; Fined \$35,000 with \$0 suspended; Unsuspended \$35,000 shall be paid by 3/27/29; Surcharges due; Submit DNA; Probation for 3 years (Effective Date: 3/27/26); General and Special Conditions of Probation set, as stated in judgment; Other special conditions of probation: Agreed upon probation conditions are attached to Judgment; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated when the defendant reports as ordered to jail to serve the sentence.

State of Alaska v. Donald Thomas Johnson (6/11/88); CTN 001: Assault 4-Cause Fear Of Injury; DV; DOV: 7/11/25; Found and adjudged: guilty and convicted of Criminal Mischief 5; CTNs Dismissed: 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007; DVs; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; Fined \$250 with \$250 sus-

pending; Ordered to complete an anger management course, with a minimum 8 hours; Complete within 3 months from today (Effective Date: 3/31/26); Surcharges due; Complete 25 hours of CWS by end of probation; Pay CWS fee; Submit proof of CWS to the court within 20 days after the deadline for completing CWS; If proof is not submitted on time, unfinished hours will be converted to a fine equal to the number of unfinished hours multiplied by \$13.00 and will be reduced to a judgment by the court clerk without further notice; Probation for 6 months; Comply with all direct court orders listed above by the deadlines stated; Obey all state, federal, and local laws, specifically no jailable offenses.

State of Alaska v. Theodora Minnie Tuzroyluk (3/13/89); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 114061212; Petition to Revoke Probation filed on 1/24/26; Violated conditions of probation by: admitting to the allegations in the petition; The following jail term must now be served: one (1) year;

Any bond in this case not previously forfeited is exonerated; All other terms and conditions in the original order remain in effect; Cost of Appointed Counsel: \$250 (PTRP) plus interest; Apply for APFD every year, if eligible, until paid in full; Interest accrues on judgment at the annual statutory rate from date of judgment until paid; This judgment has the same force and effect as a judgment in a civil action.

State of Alaska v. Wesley D. Mercurief (10/29/89); Petition to Revoke Probation filed on 2/16/25; Violated conditions of probation by: admission; The following jail term must now be served: 12 months; Ordered to serve time in jail in connection with this revocation, must pay previously suspended \$100 jail surcharge; Any bond in this case not previously forfeited is exonerated; All other terms and conditions in the original order remain in effect; Cost of Appointed Counsel: \$250 (PTRP) plus interest; Apply for APFD every year, if eligible, until paid in full; Interest accrues on judgment at the annual statutory rate from date of judgment until paid; This judgment has the same force and effect as a judgment in a civil action.

State of Alaska v. Larrisha Johnson (11/5/98); 2NO-24-31CR Dismissal; Count I: Driving While License Canceled, Suspended, or Revoked; Filed by the DAs Office 4/1/26.

State of Alaska v. Larrisha Rae Johnson (11/5/98); 2NO-25-402CR CTN 001: DUI-Operate Under Influence Alcohol/Drug; Any outstanding appearance or performance bond is exonerated; CTNs Dismissed: 002, 003, 004; 360 days, 300 days suspended;

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Classifieds

WANTED – Mark Knapp at The Cutting Edge in Fairbanks is buying legal ancient walrus ivory, musk ox horn, mammoth ivory and teeth.

Very good prices. 907-452-7477. Knapp's Cutting Edge 1971 Fox Ave Fairbanks AK 99701. knappscuttingedge@gmail.com

Legals

Request for Bid (RFB)

Project Name: Bonanza Fuel Tank Farm Stabilization

Owner: Bonanza Fuel, LLC

Project Location: Nome, Alaska

Scope of Work: This project includes releveling and stabilizing existing dike walls, new earthen berm dike walls, horizontal directional drilling at a slope underneath tanks, installation of 80' + retrofit' thermosyphons, new insulation, new fuel liner and active cooling.

Description: This Request for Bid (RFB) package is comprised of three (3) PDF documents: one RFB, one Construction Drawing Set, and one Project Manual (Technical Specifications), which is available on The Plans Room and AGC Online Plans or may be obtained directly by emailing Justin Wetzel, justin.wetzel@arcadis.com

Bid Period: 3/6/26 – 4/9/26

Deadline: Sealed bids must be received by 3:00 p.m. on April 9th, 2026

Submission Method: One hard copy OR one PDF on flash drive in a sealed envelope clearly marked with "Do Not Open Until 4/9/2026"

Mail or Deliver Responses To:

- Sitnasuak Native Corporation Building
- Bonanza Fuel, LLC. – Office Lobby
- 214 Front Street, 2nd Floor
- Nome, AK 99762

Evaluation Criteria: Lowest Responsible Bidder

**SOLICITATION NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Pilgrim Hot Springs Cemetery Project:
Art Installation Design & Construction**

Kawerak, Inc. (Kawerak), a tribal consortium and non-profit corporation, in Nome, AK is seeking proposals on behalf of Unaatuq, LLC, from local or regional artist contractors for a project to develop and install an art piece (or series of pieces), including a monument(s) and individual grave markers, to honor those buried at Pilgrim Hot Springs.

Deadline for proposals: May 1, 2026 at 5pm AKDT

For questions or additional information, contact:

Kelsey Galleher, Pilgrim Hot Springs General Manager
Email: kgalleher@kawerak.org • Phone: (907) 443-4277



View the full RFP:
www.kawerak.org/rfp10

**Adopt
your best friend!**

Email pawsofnome@gmail.com to start the application process.
Support Animal Rescue & Rehoming - make your donation today!

Make animal control-related reports to Nome Police Dispatch at 443-5262.



Employment

**NSEDC
SEASONAL IN-REGION
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES
JOIN OUR TEAM**

**\$500
SIGNING BONUS**
after meeting eligibility requirements



NSEDC offers a \$500 signing bonus, competitive wages, and fulfilling summer work in our member communities! Positions are available at our seafood plants, on our tender vessels, and at our enumeration and research project sites.

Fisheries Technician (White Mountain, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Nome & Unalakleet): Assists in project implementation, logistics, field work and established scientific methods. The position will be stationed in a remote field camp with one to two other technicians for extended periods of time.

Clean Waters Crew Member (Stebbins & St. Michael): Assists in project implementation, logistics and field work for cleanup projects in area beaches, rivers and sloughs.

Seafood Processor (Nome, Unalakleet & Savoonga): Responsible for the proper processing of salmon, crab, halibut and other seafood. Work to provide a high-quality product in a sanitary environment.

Fish Buyer (Nome, Unalakleet, Golovin, Elim, Koyuk & Shaktoolik): Assists fishermen at the dock, loads and unloads tender and fishing vessels, issues fish tickets, produces ice, operates a forklift and crane, maintains a clean work environment and transports seafood products to the airport.

Quality Control Coordinator (Nome & Unalakleet): Responsible for supervising quality production and packaging of salmon, crab, halibut, and other seafood. Work to assure a high-quality product in a sanitary environment.

Refrigeration Technician (Nome): Responsible for the proper operation of facilities and equipment in seafood plants and buying stations. Applicant must be certified in basic electrical operations.

Cook (Nome & Unalakleet): Responsible for daily meal planning and preparation, cleaning and maintaining kitchen area, and grocery shopping as needed.

Security Guard (Nome & Unalakleet): Responsible for monitoring the assigned plant for NSEDC and ensuring the security of the premises.

Bunkhouse Supervisor (Nome & Unalakleet): Responsible for monitoring the NSSP bunkhouse, ensuring security for property and residents, performing various custodial duties and maintaining inventory levels.

**Regional residents from outside of Unalakleet and Nome who work in NSSP operations in those two communities may be eligible for housing and travel support.*

For an application or a complete job description, visit www.nsedc.com or contact NSEDC Human Resources at (907) 274-2248 (Anchorage), 1-800-650-2248 (toll-free) or hr@nsedc.com.

Court

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Report by 4:30 p.m. on 7/1/26 to AMCC in person to remand/serve sentence or to schedule a remand or EM (Electronic Monitoring) through Pioneer Peak (at DOC discretion) date for no later than 90 days; Fine: \$4,000, due 4/1/30; Surcharges due; Cost of Imprisonment: Cost will be vacated if time served by EM; File proof of payment with court clerk by due date: 7/1/26; Restitution to be determined per Cr. R.32.6; Complete Treatment, contact ASAP 264-0735; Complete screening, evaluation, and recommended treatment; Submit proof of completion to court by 4/1/30; Program may include residential treatment up to 90 days plus required aftercare in addition to any jail time above; Pay all costs; Obey Driver's License Directives, your driver's license is revoked for 90 days; After you regain privilege to drive, us an IID as direct in the IID Information Sheet for 18 months; Costs of IID will be credited against fine imposed if you give proof of payment to court clerk before the fine due date; Probation for 4 years (Effective Date: 4/1/26); Obey all direct court orders above by the deadlines stated; Obey all state, federal, and local laws and ordinances; Do not consume of

possess alcohol; Do not enter a place where alcohol is the primary item for sale; Your driver's license or state ID is subject to cancellation under cited AS; Any new license or ID must list the cited AS buying restriction until the restriction expires.
State of Alaska v. Nathan Augustus Blandford (1/1/94); Dismissal; CTN 001: Assault 4; Count II, III: Assault When Child Present; Count IV, V: Criminal Mischief 5; Filed by the DAs Office 4/1/26.
State of Alaska v. Lily Victoria Huntsman (3/19/91); Dismissal; CTN 001: Assault 4; Filed by the DAs Office 4/1/26.
State of Alaska v. Jacob Harold Bloodgood (10/22/92); 2NO-25-468CR CTN 001: DUI-Operate Under Influence Alcohol/Drug; Any outstanding appearance or performance bond is exonerated; CTNs Dismissed: 002, 003; 30 days, 27 days suspended; Report by 4:30 p.m. on 4/30/26 to AMCC in person to remand/serve sentence Fine: \$1,500, due 4/1/27; Surcharges due; Cost of Imprisonment: 1st Offense: \$330 due 4/1/27; Complete Treatment, contact ASAP 264-0735; Submit proof of completion to court by 4/1/27; Obey Driver's License Directives, your driver's license is revoked for 90 days; Concurrent with DMV action; After you regain privilege to drive, us an IID as direct

in the IID Information Sheet for 6 months; Costs of IID will be credited against fine imposed if you give proof of payment to court clerk before the fine due date; Probation for 1 year (Effective Date: 4/1/26); Obey all direct court orders above by the deadlines stated; Obey all state, federal, and local laws, specifically no jailable offenses; Do not consume of possess alcohol; Do not enter a place where alcohol is the primary item for sale; Your driver's license or state ID is subject to cancellation under cited AS; Any new license or ID must list the cited AS buying restriction until the restriction expires.
State of Alaska v. Anthony William Kal-erak (10/16/68); Order to Modify or Revoke Probation; ATN: 119333664; Violated conditions of probation; The following jail term must now be served: 15 days, with a delayed remand; Defendant is ordered to be released on his own recognizance and to shall report to AMCC or to the DOC by 4:30 p.m. on 5/2/26; Release or bail conditions remain in effect until defendant reports to serve sentence; All other terms and conditions of probation in the original order remain in effect.

Advertise in
The Nome Nugget newspaper

Call us at (907) 443-5235 or send an email to ads@nomenugget.com



Frank Henry Wasmer
June 22, 1940 – March 28, 2026

Obituaries

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Frank Henry Wasmer of Skagway, Alaska on March 28, 2026 at the age of 85. He will be missed so much!

Frank was born to Thomas and Freida (Bishop) Wasmer on June 22, 1940 in Terre Haute, Indiana, the second of three children. He grew up hunting and fishing, often with his best friend Jack Ridge. He spent many summers with his grandma Wasmer on the family farm.

Frank graduated from Gerstmeier Technical High School in 1958 and joined the U.S. Air Force in 1960. Part of his service was with Strategic Air Command, the 82nd Airborne Division, and the 101st Airborne Division. He also was assigned to the 507th Support Squadron and travelled all over the world as a trainer. Frank served his country faithfully for 20 years before retiring and becoming a bush pilot in Galena and then Nome.

He moved to southeast Alaska and then settled in Skagway where he worked for the City of Skagway Department of Public Works until retiring at the age of 70. He loved to bake for family and friends and

helped many with his skills in carpentry and technology.

Frank leaves behind his dearly beloved wife Wei; children Bill Wasmer (Jamie), Melanie Johnson (Wallace), Tena Wright (Timothy), and JinXin Li (Alex); grandchildren Katherine Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Shannon Fishel (Brett), Aaron Johnson, Bethany Johnson (Mike), Larissa Johnson, Danean Tavi, Emily Soper (William), Franklin "Frank" Thibault, Calvin Thibault (Cheyenne LaMarche), Monica Thibault, Katherine "Kate" Thibault, and Chris Xu (the apple of his eye), as well as 3 great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife of 30 years Nancy Schave; daughter Jennifer "Jenny" Sinka and his best friend Jack Ridge.

Burial will be at Fort Richardson National Cemetery on April 10, 2026 at 1 p.m. with an opportunity for viewing before, starting at 11 a.m. at Legacy Funeral Home.

There will be a Memorial Service in Skagway at a later date.

•Jens William Noet

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son, Jens Roger Clayton Noet, was born near Phillips, Wisconsin.

The family moved to Nome, Alaska looking for opportunity and adventure where their second son, Jeremy Fred Noet was born. Jens had jobs in large scale gold mining and police work as a dispatcher and then a police officer for fifteen years. He retired in 2006.

Jens was a partner in a hunting guide business with his police chief. He hunted with individuals from all over the U.S. for grizzly bears, moose, and caribou and fished the rivers (Nome and Pilgrim) for pink and red salmon, great northern, and grayling. During this time, Jens divorced and then married Shirley Kacena, making the family larger with her children, Jennifer, Bobby and Joelene. They lived happily sharing their love of hunting and fishing in the Alas-

kan wilderness until Shirley's death in 2005.

Jens moved to Twin Falls, Idaho after retirement. He purchased an RV and traveled all over the U.S. with pals Seneca and Lexi, his two German Shepards. He purchased 40 acres south of Twin Falls overlooking the Magic Valley. He almost single-handedly built a four-bedroom house, using his skill as a carpenter to make it a rustic and comfortable home where he entertained many family and friends.

He recently married Brenda Felkey having met her through his church. She was only given the gift of Jens in her life as a mate for eight months, but she learned much about him. He loved adventures. He was always ready to go somewhere new and see what was around the corner or over the hill. He was fun and funny and loved to spoil the people he loved. Everyone loved him instantly as he made you feel special, loved and cared about.

He never forgot a name once he knew it - even years

later. He had a terrific memory and a fascinating mind. He loved to joke and laugh. He had gained a new side to him as he came to know the Lord more deeply. He loved to talk about the Word and God. Conversations were often about God and how good He is. His favorite scripture was Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." His heart was open and teachable to God's Word.

Jens is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, a great granddaughter, sister, brother, aunts, uncle, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at the Jerome Calvary Chapel (900 N Lincoln Ave., Jerome) on April 18 at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to the Valley House Homeless Shelter located at 507 Addison Ave. W, Twin Falls, (valley-house.org), or to a charity of your choosing.

Alaska school district officials

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address the dire vacancy rates and the need for in-person educators and support personnel across Alaskan schools," Nogg said.

Researchers estimated the average cost of teacher turnover was \$27,000 per teacher, and approximately \$75,000 per principal.

"Only one out of every four principals are in the same building after five years," he said. "This high turnover rate of building principals is costly in dollars, time, relationships and most importantly, the impact on student learning."

Nogg said his list of responsibilities has grown from managing students, staff and facilities to include additional duties like standing in as school nurse, an experience shared by principals across the state. He said many teachers and school leaders are stretched so thin they're leaving the state.

According to a survey by the Alaska Council of School Administrators of teachers on their reasons for leaving in Alaska, the No. 1 reason cited was the lack of a defined benefit retirement plan, followed by better job opportunities in other states, high cost of living in Alaska and uncertainty of education funding.

The group said legislative action to establish and fund a public pension system, with competitive salary and benefits for educators would help retain teachers.

In the meantime, the Alaska Council of School Administrators has created several programs to help districts, teachers and staff with training, professional development and mentorship throughout the state, including the Alaska Staff Development Network and the Alaska School Leadership Academy.

The Alaska Educator Recruitment and Retention Center, also a division of the Alaska Council of School Administrators, is continuing efforts to support hiring and retention of teachers, said director Jennifer Schmitz, like hosting in-person and virtual job fairs, and marketing campaigns. But there are serious challenges.

"Those are big turnover numbers that we're looking at," Schmitz said. "We had 345 positions that were not filled on the first day of school this year."

There are nearly 600 international teachers working across Alaska districts this year. But with a steep visa fee for the H-1B visa program levied by the Trump administration this year, as well as new restrictions on J-1 visa placements, many districts can't hire more international teachers, Schmitz said. "So that's really out of reach for us right now, so we're working through that with our immigration attorney and helping support districts and even finding international teachers who are already in the country, and trying to get them to Alaska."

Schmitz noted that many international teachers are hired for their

expertise in special education.

A 'vacancy tax' for special education

The number of students in need of special education services is growing, and school districts are struggling to meet the demand, lawmakers heard.

Melissa Matthews, director of student services for the Bering Strait School District and president of Alaska Council of Administrators of Special Education, said districts are hiring contract staff for special education services, at higher costs, which she called a "vacancy tax."

"We are spending more on workarounds, travel, contracted itinerant staff and temporary staffing than we would on a stable, permanent workforce across Alaska. Districts are doing everything they can to uphold the civil rights of students with disabilities, but we are stretched thin," she said.

"We need the tools to move forward from simply surviving to truly educating, because an Alaskan student's civil rights should never depend on whether a district can find a teacher or budget constraints," she said.

There are nearly 200 vacant special education positions across the state, according to Alaska Council of School Administrators data, Matthews said.

"These are not optional roles. They are federally required," she said. "Within the state, we are starting to see schools without a resident special education teacher at all, rely-

ing on itinerant staff who fly or commute between sites to supervise and train paraprofessionals who will be providing the specialized services to the student. This increases costs and stretches staff to their limits."

"It is not a model designed for student success. It is a survival strategy," she added.

Matthews said since 2021, in the years since the COVID-19 pandemic, Alaska Council of School Administrators data shows Alaska has seen a 14 percent increase in the number of students with disabilities, requiring special education services.

She said that districts have to shoulder the legal obligation to meet those students' needs, which can require increased staff because certain students' needs require one-on-one settings.

Matthews said districts are also seeing an increase in students entering kindergarten with developmental delays and urged the state to invest in infant learning programs and early education services to help address those delays and reduce the intensity of special education services required in later years.

Lawmakers passed increased funding for infant learning programs last year, but it was vetoed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

'Budget slasher in chief'

Randy Trani is the superintendent of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District, which is facing a projected \$23 million budget deficit and planning to close three elemen-

tary schools this year. He emphasized the state's obligation under the Alaska Constitution to fund public education and said districts need predictable funding so educators can focus on student achievement.

He urged lawmakers to increase funding for the BSA and for deferred maintenance of school facilities, where the current statewide backlog is estimated at \$535 million.

He said managing turnover and dwindling budgets is taking a toll on superintendents — where they would be focused on academics and school improvements, he said they're now focused on budget cuts.

"Instead of being the academic leader in chief, we're now the budget slasher in chief," he said.

Trani showed lawmakers a slide of Alaska superintendents' responses to the question of what keeps them up at night. The top three responses were budgets, school facilities, staff capacity, and "wrapping up my current job and preparing for the next job."

"What's on our mind, collectively, is budget and money, and you don't see anything here about academic achievement, and that crushes people. It crushes our leaders," he said.

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