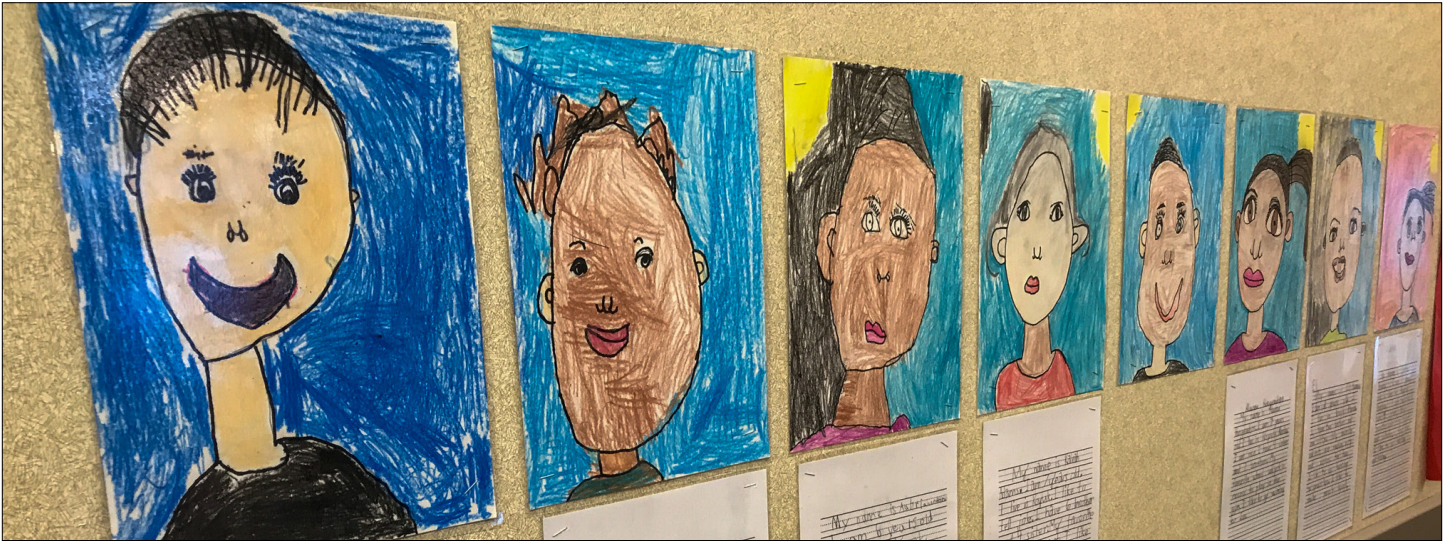


The Nome Static

KNOM Radio Mission
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Transmission 708: March 2023

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Self portraits, made by Koyuk's 1st and 2nd grade class, line the school's walls. Photo by Scotty Campbell.

Dear Friend,

In the small communities of Western Alaska, individual effort means a great deal. For example, one person can make the difference between someone learning a new skill or participating in a sport and not having that opportunity.

Western Alaskans are experts at saying, 'Welcome'. Hospitality is a deep cultural value in the region and a way of life in communities with high turnover. As KNOM works to recruit and train new staff members, our prayer is we would be people worthy of the community's welcome: people who do not shy away from difficulty but rather use our gifts and talents for the good of others.

Thank you for standing with us, shoulder to shoulder!

In Koyuk, kindness is king

"It only takes one person to change a life. And you may not know you've made that difference," [Koyuk](#) Malimiut School Principal Jim Thomas said.

Thomas spoke of the history teacher who inspired the course of his career. In turn, he leads Koyuk's school. Preparing for retirement after 50 years in education, Thomas has learned a lot about leadership.

"I think the biggest takeaway is that it helps to be a good listener. If you listen to people, they always have something to say. And sometimes what they have to say can make a difference in a person's life," Thomas said.

The local school is central to the community of Koyuk. Like many village schools, it brings people together for sporting games, lunch and community activities.

"It's a very warm, welcoming community," Heather Swanson, 1st and 2nd grade teacher, said.

After deciding to uproot herself and move to the village, she arrived to find her boxes of clothes, food and bedding were delayed. Molly, the school cook, sprang into action, and soon Heather had everything she needed — along with an invitation to church and a game of Scrabble afterward.



Davis Hovey and Givay Kochanowski discuss arctic energy projects. Photo by KJ McElwee.

Arctic advocate visits

"I see that a lot of our role is to make the DC policies actually apply and work in Alaska, because the worlds are so different," [Arctic Energy Office Advisor](#) Givay Kochanowski said.

Western Alaska is a long way from Washington D.C., and residents are easily forgotten in federal decisions that impact them. Kochanowski said his department, which he nicknamed the "mobile office," visits villages to engage with local residents and hear what issues they are facing. Kochanowski, who took to the airwaves while in Nome, said he and his colleagues advocate for the Arctic concerning matters of energy, science and national security.

In the Bering Straits region, there are several important projects on the 'mobile office' agenda. As Nome's Arctic Deep Draft Port project progresses, with increased federal funding, Kochanowski and his colleagues can offer support to the local team in Nome. The Arctic Energy Office is also developing alternative energy in the region, such as at Pilgrim Hot Springs, where geothermal energy is being harnessed. In the village of Shungnak, a solar energy project they spearheaded saves \$10,000 a month. The office also keeps an eye on local input about balancing the economic and environmental impacts of a major mining project in discussion.



It's a full house in Studio A on Wednesday mornings. Danielle Slingsby hosts guests from Norton Sound Health Corporation on the show Suwat. Left to right are Reba Lean, Nicole Mertz and Tracy Gregg. Photo by KJ McElwee.

Partnerships radiate health

A group of energetic Kawerak and NSHC staff members joined forces to bring [fitness to the airwaves](#). Suwat host Danielle Slingsby and her guests, Tracy Gregg, Nicole Mertz and Reba Lean, shared their love for '80s music and high-intensity workouts. The CAMP department fitness schedule has something for everyone.

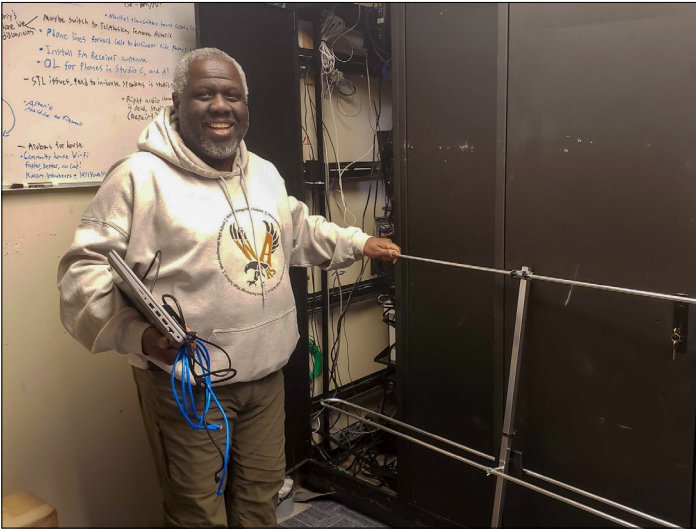
In addition to fitness classes, CAMP offers tobacco prevention, injury prevention, lactation support, and much more.

"The mission really is to meet people where they're at, including cultural access to things that are going to improve the lives of people. So whether that's through food, activities or different programs that we offer," Gregg said.

It seems the effort helped: the CAMP department's class later that evening was full of beginners who, sure enough, heard about it on the radio.



The University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest, located in Nome, teaches specialized skills such as snow machine repair and indoor plumbing. With maintenance services on multiple-month-long wait lists, if available at all, practical skills are in high demand in communities across Western Alaska. Fun classes offered this semester include subarctic gardening, introduction to Iñupiaq, and ceramics. Many courses are available in person and remotely. UAF's Laura Davis Collins, a former KNOMer, and professor Stephen Lezak recently visited to tell listeners about an upcoming environmental science course. Photo by KJ McElwee.



Engineer Van Craft prepares to test an antenna for the FM tower. The project is one of several that late engineer Les Brown was working on before he passed. In recent months, KNOM has cleared out a number of bugs in its technical infrastructure, including bringing on an external company to help with IT services. The support alleviates major strain on staff. Photo by Davis Hovey.



In the annual Kuskokwim 300, dog teams raced along the river from Bethel to Aniak and back. Pete Kaiser of Bethel won his seventh K300 sled dog race. Photo courtesy of Katie Basile with Kuskokwim 300, used with permission.



Children gather around as third finisher Eddie Burke Jr. gives his dogs a hug. Photo courtesy of Kuskokwim 300, used with permission.

"We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering."

— Pope Francis' prayer intention for March 2023