

The Nome Static

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Transmission 718: End-of-Year 2023

Visit us at knom.org

Dear Friend,

This holiday season, many of us had family members and loved ones visit from out of town. We have all quivered with anticipation as we waited in the airport terminal, and we have all relished that explosion of joy when we finally see and hug them.

Especially in Western Alaska, flying home is an exercise in faith and flexibility. Travelers, luggage, and vital groceries move at the mercy of the elements, which simply means that when a flight finally arrives after a week-long storm, that joy is all the greater.

As we wait for the new year to arrive, we are comforted to know that God will hold us close as his dear, loved children no matter what. Just as the Holy One awaits our arrival in 2024, KNOM welcomes all in our listening and reading audience into our hearts with joy, warmth, and kindness.

We are deeply grateful to you. You make an invaluable impact in Western Alaska with your friendship and generosity. If you have any prayer intentions or simply want to connect with us, we would love to hear from you. You are vital to KNOM's mission!

Miss Alaska Visits Nome

Miss Alaska 2023, Hannah Utic, visited Nome to engage with the community and share her journey of becoming Miss Alaska. Miss Alaska is the state preliminary to the Miss America competition; the Miss America Organization is the world's largest scholarship program for women.

Utic hails from the Anchorage suburb of Girdwood, where she won Miss Girdwood 2022 and then competed for Miss Alaska 2022. Even though she did not win that year, she received "quite a bit" of scholarship



Above: Miss Alaska 2023, Hannah Utic, joined Scotty Campbell on the morning show during her visit to Nome. Utic hopes to one day see a 'Miss Nome'. Photo by Scotty Campbell, KNOM, used with permission.

money. She returned this year and claimed the Miss Alaska title.

Utic said each competitor is required to undergo an interview, perform a talent, and have a "platform," or a community service initiative. Her focus was on civic involvement with an emphasis on informed voting. She said she was inspired after seeing that only 30% of registered voters in Anchorage participated in the last local election. She hopes to educate youth on the importance of voting and getting involved in local government issues.

"Because we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave, we've been given so much. Therefore, I believe it's our responsibility that we give much in return," Utic said.

86 percent of Alaska's communities are inaccessible by road and can only be reached by sea or by air. This was Utic's first visit to a community off the road system.

In an Instagram post after her visit to Nome, Utic wrote, "The welcome I received was so incredibly warm by everyone, especially the kiddos."



2023 at KNOM: The Year in Review

January: Bethel musher Pete Kaiser wins his seventh Kuskokwim 300 title, outpacing a field of top mushers on the notoriously unpredictable Kuskokwim River trail. Pete Kaiser arrives at the Bethel finish line at 12:26 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 29, with his team of 11 dogs to meet a crowd of friends and family ready to celebrate at the finish line. Kaiser wins \$25,000 for the victory and further chips away at the all-time win record.



February: Tyler Aklestad and Nick Olstad win the 2023 Iron Dog Snowmachine Race, securing their second victory of this event. This race is the world’s longest, toughest snowmobile race and covers 2500 miles as it traverses the Alaskan backcountry. Their recorded course time is 52 hours, 58 minutes and 32 seconds. Nome serves as the halfway point in the race.



March: Ryan Redington triumphs in the 2023 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, clocking in his first win after 16 attempts. Raised in the mushing tradition, Redington, fulfills a lifelong dream, thanking supporters and family for their unwavering encouragement. Ryan is the grandson of Joe Redington, Sr, who is known as the Father of the Iditarod. Ryan becomes the first Redington to win the race that his grandfather founded.

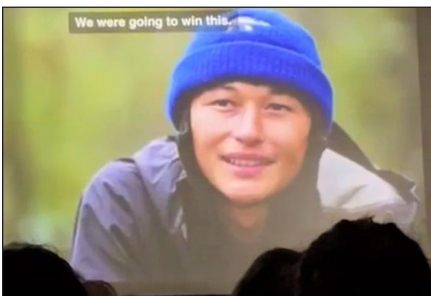
April: Denali Walrath, a fifth-grader, wins the Cub Division with her “Animal Alert” app, earning \$500 cash and \$2,000 for her college savings. Inspired while berry picking, her app notifies users about dangerous animals in specific areas, born from concerns after attacks near Nome Elementary. With help from university students, she plans to patent, code, and launch the app. Second-grader Bradley Rowe earns an honorable mention for his snow cone machine, aiming to make snow days fun statewide.



May: Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone, an artist, educator, and advocate from Nome, receives the 2023 Governor’s Arts and Humanities Award. With a rich background in Inupiaq culture, she champions cultural education, aiming to counteract negative stereotypes and highlight positive Indigenous role models. Kunaq directs the Katirvik Cultural Center, promoting traditions and languages of local indigenous communities. She has spearheaded the first Inupiaq immersion program in Nome and serves on multiple boards.



June: Nome’s Oliver and Wilson Hoogendorn, known as the “AK Boys” on USA Network’s “Race to Survive: Alaska”, clinched the championship, celebrated at a hometown watch party in front of over 100 locals. Their grueling 50-day survival journey earns them a \$500,000 prize. The brothers highlight enduring hunger as the toughest part. The series showcases eight teams navigating 100 miles of Alaska’s wilderness, with the Hoogendorns emerging as the inaugural victors. They credit each other for the win, relying on their wilderness skills and teamwork.



July: Internet and cellular services in Northern and Western Alaska disappear as the fiber optic cable that provides Nome with internet service is severed until late October. The outage causes serious logistical problems for all businesses and organizations in Nome. Without internet, the radio signal becomes more important to many. For several months, KNOMers are challenged by the inability to perform basic tasks like updating the radio rotation, check e-mails, or share news stories online.

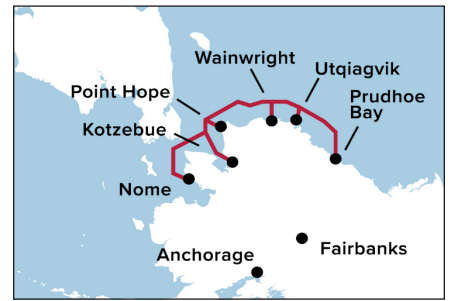
August: The mother-daughter duo of Angela and Ermelina Gonzalez, craft 'Fish Camp Barbie,' showcasing Athabascan tradition. The viral post features Barbie dressed in vibrant cultural attire, skillfully preparing a fish with an ulu. They have crafted many other scenes reflecting Alaska Native life. Angela's childhood memories at a fish camp inspired these scenes, aiming to represent and inspire younger generations. Their social media posts received overwhelming positivity, sparking inspiration for others to create their own Barbie projects.

September: American Idol scouts talent in Alaska, visiting Nome for live auditions after virtual statewide tryouts. Partnering with KNOM Radio Mission, contestants from remote villages submit auditions. Four hopefuls from western Alaska showcase their talents, discussing their musical journeys and aspirations on KNOM's show. The diverse performers, include a Yup'ik drummer and guitarists, share their passion and hopes for the competition. Their auditions, a step before LA's live rounds, leave contestants awaiting results.

October: Koyuk celebrates the opening of their only church after major damage from Typhoon Merbok. Russel Richardson, a foreman from Samaritan's Purse, arrived in May armed with materials and volunteers from all over the lower 48 to rebuild the church. Before the renovation, the church lacked running water and electricity and had structural issues that compromised safety. Pastor Don Cross aims to foster connections and a sense of home for all in the new church.

November: The Diocese of Fairbanks welcomes Bishop Steven Maekawa, OP, ordained and installed this fall. Hundreds gather at the Carlson Center for the celebration, marking the diocese's first bishop in over a year. Previously a pastor in Anchorage, Maekawa aims to understand rural Alaskan churches' needs and foster connections within and beyond the state. His focus now is on learning and understanding before implementing changes.

December: Etta Tall receives the "Della Keats 'Healing Hands'" award for her efforts as a Tribal Healer. She began serving in the medical field when she graduated high school in 1988. The award recognizes an Alaska Native who has demonstrated strong commitment, competence, and sensitivity as a tribal healer or health care provider and whose accomplishments have most directly affected Native people in their home communities.





Blessings Across Our Nation

If you have ever sent a donation to KNOM and received a paper thank you letter in return, you may have noticed the stamp on the envelope. Years ago, a long-time benefactor mailed every donation with a Christmas stamp that had an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. One day, he sent a note with his gift, explaining how much he loved the idea of the Blessed Mother criss-crossing the entire country and blessing the nation as she went.

KNOM was so inspired by his letter that we decided to follow suit and use Christmas stamps year-round for most of our correspondence. It's a small way to express our desire for God's blessings on you.



FY23 by the numbers

At the very tail end of the fiscal year, we became nearly fully staffed. Most of the staff are long-term Nome residents who grew up with KNOM and are passionate about their homegrown radio station. The downside is that more staff means a need for more funding, so we are looking at new sources of revenue and income to supplement the donations we receive. Donations have gone down this fiscal year, but the generosity of donors who provide for us with their wills meant that we actually came out slightly ahead from the previous year by 2.6%.

If you donated to KNOM in 2023, year-end tax receipts will be mailed to you in mid-January. If you do not receive one, don't need one, or prefer an electronic version, please call (907) 868-1200. Thank you for your unwavering support for KNOM and our mission.

Income

	FY 22		FY 23	
Donations	\$ 1,306,675	88%	\$ 1,040,112	69%
Wills & Bequests	\$ 120,900	8%	\$ 395,215	26%
Other sources	\$ 54,537	4%	\$ 70,215	5%
Total	\$ 1,482,112	100%	\$1,505,542	100%

Expenses

	FY 22		FY 23	
Staff	\$ 684,905	48%	\$ 704,629	50%
Mission Operations	\$ 531,709	37%	\$ 522,475	37%
Core Support (admin & development)	\$ 220,377	15%	\$ 185,888	13%
Total	\$ 1,436,991	100%	\$ 1,412,992	100%

Note: KNOM's fiscal year lasts from July 1 to June 30 the following year.

**KNOM Radio Mission is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Please consider KNOM in your estate planning.**
