

# The Nome Static

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Visit us at [knom.org](http://knom.org)



Above: Nicolas Petit races toward Nome during the 2017 Iditarod. Photo courtesy of KNOM archives.

## Dear Friend,

This month we will celebrate the most sacred days of the year. As we contemplate Christ's Passion during Holy Week, for many of us, our attention will gravitate toward Mary as she accompanies her Son on his arduous climb to Golgotha.

Mary's presence throughout the events of Holy Week offers a unique perspective on the profound mysteries of faith, love, and sacrifice. She stood by him with unwavering devotion throughout his earthly life, and now she assured that he would not suffer alone under the weight of the world's sins.

As we confront the hardships of life, it is an immense comfort simply to know that we are not alone, that friends will support us in time of need. This is why KNOM strives to be a friend and companion to the people of Western Alaska. For more than fifty years, it has been ever present in their lives with a unique blend of news, weather, entertainment, and spiritual programming.

Similarly, KNOM is blessed every day by your kindness, generosity, and most importantly your friendship. Thank you for your steadfast support! We would love to hear from you, and we keep you in our prayers.

## Iditarod Schedule of Events

Along with all of Western Alaska, KNOM stirs into a frenzy of activity in March. As Iditarod mushers bear down on Nome, KNOM staff goes on 24-hour watch for their arrival. This month, thanks to your generosity, we are finally able to launch our livestream so you can share the excitement! You can listen on [www.knom.org](http://www.knom.org).

- Friday, March 1: Follow the Iditarod updates at [www.knom.org](http://www.knom.org)
- Saturday, March 2: Live Iditarod Ceremonial Start, 10:00 a.m. AKST
- Sunday, March 3: Official Restart of Iditarod 52, 2:00 p.m. AKST
- Sunday, March 17: Iditarod Finisher's Banquet, 5:00 p.m. AKST

### *For the new martyrs*

*We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.*

**Pope Francis' prayer intention for March 2024**

**KNOM: Faith, Inspiration, News and Information for Western Alaska**



Above: Howard Farley (right) pictured with fellow Iditarod founder, Joe Redington Sr. Photo courtesy of Jeff Schultz photography.

## Iditarod Founder Passes

2024 will mark the first time in 50 years that mushers reach the Iditarod finish line without Howard Farley waiting for them.

Originally from Detroit, Farley also lived in Florida and Seattle before he enlisted in the US Coast Guard in 1950. When his Coast Guard service brought him to Nome, he fell in love with the community and knew that this was where he wanted to lay down roots. Once he returned to civilian life, he settled in Nome and met a King Island Inupiaq woman named Julie. Howard and Julie were married for 56 years until she passed in October 2023, and were blessed with ten children.

Over the years, Farley proved himself to be a beloved pillar of the Nome community. Most notably, he helped found the Iditarod, even running the first Great Race himself in 1973. For decades afterward, he managed the Nome end of the race, and every single year he was waiting at the finish line to welcome mushers to Nome.

Farley passed peacefully at home at age 91. His funeral was held at St Joseph Catholic Church in Nome, and KNOM broadcast it live to Western Alaska.

## Sharing the Word in Western Alaska

*Mark 11:1-10, 14:1-15:47*

*This Sunday, the start of Holy Week, is known by two names. It is called Palm Sunday, because we hear the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem and being welcomed by the people with palms and shouts of praise. But today is also called the Sunday of the Lord's Passion, because we will also hear the story of Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross.*

*Mark's Gospel will ask each of us, where are you in this Passion story? Are you with Jesus or not? There is so much going on in today's reading of the Passion. There is betrayal by Judas and Peter, preparation, Last Supper, Jesus praying in the garden, Jesus arrested, Pilate's response, Jesus' death, Jesus' burial, and so many different people and characters: Jesus, Judas, Peter, Pilate, the Roman soldiers, Joseph of Arimathea, and an unnamed follower.*

*Perhaps that is who we are, an unnamed follower, one that wants to be with Jesus, but also is afraid of what Jesus will ask of us. Will Jesus ask of us to give our life? To walk with him in today's world as he would walk among the poor, the sick, the weak, the lonely, the ones that make us uncomfortable? If we walk the journey described in today's Gospel, what do we need to do during this Holy Week? How will we give our lives this week?*

*How will you share the Word this week?*

— Patrick Tam, Palm Sunday,  
March 24, 2024



## Local Bird gets Raven Reviews

Since last summer, a lone white raven has entertained scores of birdwatchers, photographers, and the Alaskan public, not to mention his 25,000 Facebook followers. He enjoys playing tricks with his fans and is often seen dumpster diving for munchies.

Biologists say the white raven is truly an uncommon creature. It's not albino, but leucistic, as evidenced by its sky-blue eyes and white feathers.

Some view the white raven as a harbinger of a significant winter ahead. As record snowfall and deep cold weather followed his arrival, some attributed Alaska's challenging winter conditions to his presence.

Many Alaska Native cultures regard the white raven as a mystical being, a guardian or messenger, or imbue it with meaning like spirituality and transformation, harmony and balance, connection to ancestral wisdom, renewal and hope. Its symbolism reflects the deep connection between humans and the natural world, inviting contemplation and reflection on the mysteries of life.



Above: Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone pictured with Jodie Foster on set of HBO series True Detective: Night Country. Photo courtesy of Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone, used with permission.



Above: Anchorage's iconic white raven seen in Anchorage. Photo courtesy of Tim Doner Photography, used with permission.

## True Detective

The HBO series "True Detective: Night Country" is set in the fictional town of Ennis, Alaska. While most of the filming was done in Iceland, some scenes were shot around Nome. Producers have been in touch with locals to get insights and feedback for the show.

Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone is one of five people on the Iñupiaq Advisory Council, the team working with the show. The producers' goal was to "make the show about a place like Nome." Tahbone said the board reviewed the scripts for all six episodes featuring Ennis, and shared their concerns with writers about scenes and lines that seemed inaccurate or questionable.

Tahbone was glad to be part of the advisory council and to help ensure the content was as accurate and respectful as possible. She said she hopes it can pave the way for more Indigenous people to work in the film industry.

*Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important you are than the birds!*

-Luke 12:24

## KNOM Staff Endure a Chilling Situation

Our little station recently took a one-two punch from the harsh Nome weather. In the dead of winter, the heating system at the station burned out and left the staff freezing and huddled around space heaters. As if that were not enough, a recent winter storm blasted the door open at our AM tower site and left the control shed full of blown-in snow, and equipment exposed to the elements. Fortunately, the tower remains operational, but examination revealed rot in the door frame, so another storm could easily damage the site again. (This door was previously damaged by Typhoon Merbok).

KNOM is fundraising to replace the heating system and the door at the AM tower site! (\$35,000 and \$5,000 respectively)

Will you prayerfully consider helping KNOM keep warm and dry? To support this effort, please send your donation marked to either the heating system or door fund. Another option is to visit [www.knom.org](http://www.knom.org) and click "Give Now." Thank you in advance for keeping KNOM Radio Mission in working order!



*Above: Trudging through the snow to get to the AM signal site. Photo courtesy of Miranda B. Musich, KNOM.*



*Above: Diomedede School hosts a spaghetti dinner to celebrate the opening of their school. Photo courtesy of Diomedede School, used with permission.*

## Rural School Reopens after Building Collapses

In a happy update to a story from a prior Static, students on Little Diomedede have returned to school. In November, the administration building for the City of Diomedede partially collapsed and fell against the school building.

Diomedede is a city of fewer than 100 people located on Little Diomedede Island in the Bering Strait. The entire town is nestled on the western side of the island, right where the hillside meets the water. Since the land is so steep, buildings must be built on stilts in order to have a level foundation. It was these supports that gave way under the city offices and caused the building to fall against the school. Fortunately, no one was injured.

In response to the situation, the Bering Strait School District put students in Diomedede on remote learning until further notice. Additionally, the teachers were moved from school housing on the island to school housing on the mainland.

In late January, Diomedede's school building was declared safe for students to return to class. School staff invited the community to share a spaghetti dinner at the school building to celebrate the school reopening.

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