



photo courtesy of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

INUVIK STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Amy Amos, left, executive director of the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, stands with Jim Edwards Sittichinli Scholarship recipients Jeremy Hansen, Matthew Lavoie, Davonna Kasook, Jordan Norman-Goose, Angel Simon, and Jessi Pascal, far right. Six Inuvik students, received the 2018 Jim Edwards Sittichinli scholarship Monday, Feb. 19. The scholarship was created in honor of the late Reverend Jim Edwards Sittichinli, a well-respected elder who committed much of his life to the land and wildlife. The award is given to students who are committed to a career in renewable resources or related studies.

NEIGHBOURLY News

Samantha McKay is editor of the Inuvik Drum. Send your ideas to inuvikdrum@nnsi.com

New Horizons funding for Tuktoyaktuk elders' committee

Tuktoyaktuk

The Tuktoyaktuk Elder's Committee received funding from New Horizons senior program in order to provide monthly programs to strengthen the intergenerational connection between elders and youth.

According to Jocelyn Noksana, who works on the Tuktoyaktuk Elder's Committee, the programs will be coordinated by Ada Cockney and will include activities such as sewing, land skill development, painting, gardening and more.

Noksana said the first program will be a traditional clothing project that will be completed over two days. She added the committee is currently looking for two instructors to lead the workshop.

"I think it's important because the elders in our community are very, very well-respected by everybody. The elders have lived a long, hard life compared to what children go through now," said Noksana.

"Through hearing their stories and building a relationship with the elders, that could give them a totally different insight on life altogether."

Noksana said the program will also build mentor relationships between youth and elders.

"Sometimes kids might not feel comfortable going to

anyone, and I believe it would be really good for these young people to connect with the elders for support or advice or whatever it might be," Noksana said. "They are very, very knowledgeable people."

The programs will be run monthly through the end of 2018.

Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway re-opened

Mackenzie Delta

After being closed for several days due to drifting snow and poor weather conditions, the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway is open and in "fair winter driving condition," the Department of Infrastructure stated in a news release.

The department also noted that winter access to Tsiigehtchic is now open to traffic up to a load limit of 60,000 kilograms, but the temporary Tsiigehtchic winter access below the church on the Fort McPherson side is officially closed for the season.

The release also states that due to a closure on the Yukon side, the Dempster Highway is closed between Fort McPherson and Eagles Plains, according to the release.

"Please drive according to all road conditions, watch for workers and equipment working, and expect rough, slippery and narrow sections throughout the entire highway," stated the release. "Remember to use your headlights and seatbelts at all times."

Tuk woman continues fight for dog bylaw change

Tuktoyaktuk

Tuktoyaktuk's Chukita Gruben is now working with the Tuktoyaktuk senior administrative officer after submitting a letter voicing her concerns about the dog bylaw.

The 1996 bylaw allows bylaw officers to destroy dogs running at large.

Gruben alleges the bylaw officer unnecessarily destroyed her dog, Steel, on Jan. 26. This is the second dog Gruben has lost to the bylaw in one year.

Council discussed Gruben's letter at its Feb. 7 meeting. She said it is up to her to continue to put in the work to get the bylaw changed.

"It's still in process, but I'm going to keep fighting this," Gruben said. "It's mostly a budget issue."

Gruben said she hopes to look at what other communities do to manage loose dogs.

"McPherson does a really good job," Gruben said. "It's doable, it's just a little extra work."

Gruben added the NWT SPCA reached out to her to offer their support in her efforts to change the bylaw.

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