

Igiugig News and Notes



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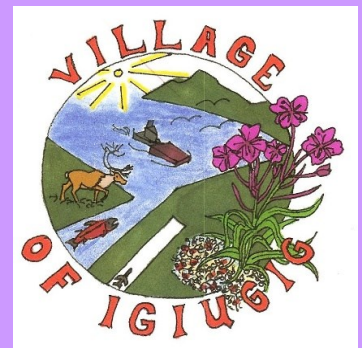
Mary Ann Gregory Olympic 11-21-1931 to 4-14-2015



Mary Ann Gregory Olympic (Mayuu-Mayuu) was born to Alexi and Marsha (Wassillie) Gregory at the Kukaklek Reindeer Station located on the shores of Kukaklek Lake on November 21, 1931. They moved to Igiugig in 1947 and she thereafter married John Olympic. They had seven children. In her adventurous lifetime she herded reindeer, hunted, trapped, served as the school cook, postmaster, led the St. Nicholas Church Sisterhood, helped to establish Igiugig School, Igiugig Village Council and Igiugig Native Corporation. She could drown a caribou, kill a brown

bear with one shot, split a thousand salmon, chop cords of wood, race dogs, weave grass baskets, clothe and feed her family. Fluent in Yup'ik and raised on the land, Mary was revered for her cultural knowledge, her devotion to the Russian Orthodox Church, and her strong advocacy for living healthy subsistence lifestyles. Her advice for people today is to never forget your past. "If we don't keep alive the traditions of yesterday, there won't be any tradition for tomorrow."

Continued on page 2



Upcoming Birthdays:

MAY:

5th - Tate Gooden
12th - Tanya Salmon
14th - Renae Zackar
15th - Leif Richards
17th - Tia Hobson

JUNE:

5th - Christina Salmon
15th - Kevin Olympic

Mary Ann Gregory Olympic

11-21-1931 to 4-14-2015

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, many brothers and sisters, daughters Anna, Anecia Elena, Anecia Ann, son Michael, many friends and relatives. She is survived by sister Dallia Andrew, daughters Julia Salmon, Lydia Olympic, Martha Crow; grandsons Kevin Olympic, Jonathan and Jeremy Salmon, Leif Richards; granddaughters: Christina, AlexAnna and Tanya Salmon, and Katlian Gregory; great grandchildren: Dolly Ann and Fewnia Zharoff, Aiden, Keilan and Dannika Wassillie, Avery Salmon, Erika and Mavrik Salmon-Anelon and God child Ona Wassillie.



471 IN THE 533

By AlexAnna Salmon

A Vegas Vacation. Two Easter Celebrations. A visit to the dentist. A funeral. A meeting in Anchorage, Iliamna, Ugashik, King Salmon. A camp out at Goose Camp. A wedding. A steady stream of visitors: to install a new generator, to fix two vertical wind turbines, to install the horizontal wind turbine, a videographer, to erect the emergency building, to connect power to three buildings, to insulate, to fix our fleet of broken vehicles, to view site conditions for an upcoming project, to update the Library... And during most of this, I've had a rambunctious nine month old on my back, on my hip, crawling on the ground, and a three year old chattering constantly. This last month has been an emotional rollercoaster, a circus of events, and an embodiment of the statement, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." I've learned to not punish myself if I've missed a deadline, forget what I'm saying mid sentence, can't recognize a face when I see it, or need a good long cry over everything that has happened. And the highlight of it all: seeing everyone come together to grieve, to celebrate, to keep our village activities going, and to keep us smiling through the tears.



Mavrik John's first campout, he was a super happy camper!

Wow Igiugig, you really are an incredible community! We are embarking on summer, and have some exciting things happening in the 5-3-3. The water treatment upgrade has begun, and will be completed by late fall. Our emergency building should be operational by the end of May. The Director of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum will arrive May 15th – as you may already know, Igiugig Village has requested the repatriation of our ancestral remains taken from our village sites downriver. Senator Murkowski may visit on July 1st. Our scrap metal backhaul project is over 50% complete, and is going fantastically thanks to the IGAP department and crew. Ocean Renewable Power Company will deploy the RivGen® unit in the river by late July, and remove it in the fall. The electric company had one larger generator (100kw) installed, and removed one of the 65kw units. By fall the scrap backhaul project will be complete, and a new recycling center constructed at the landfill. If permitting allows, a retaining wall by the bulk fuel farm will also be constructed. By winter, we can put the village on autopilot and retreat to New Zealand!!!

My grandmother all too often remarked: "My grandkids take over for me." Her pride in the work we did is now what keeps us going. We grieve the immense loss of our matriarch, and we are grateful to have known her as Gram. Our family is humbled by and thankful for the outpouring of love and support from the region as we laid her to rest. May she Rest in Peace, and may her values, work ethic, and wisdom be our guiding light. Qu yana Gram for everything, Ken Kamken!

Q u y a n a

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen!

By Martha Crow

My Momma Mary Ann Gregory Olympic rejoices with all her relatives that went ahead of us. Leaving me feeling a little bereft and a drift. In my heart I know she no longer suffers in pain from RA and dementia.

She raised my Sisters and I as a single parent. She was strict, stern and firm at the same time very loving. She taught us right from wrong. And She had such faith I thought I would share a prayer by Father Nektarios Serfes " If when you become so ill that the pain is unbearable remember to lift them up in loving humble prayer with your whole mind, heart and soul to our Lord God who is with you! Your illness will greatly be comforted by our God and the grace of the Holy Spirit is with you, as well as your Guardian Angel, your patron saint, and the Mother of God. Then again ask others to pray for you as of course also your beloved priest and the monks and nuns of our church. Knowing others are praying for you gives you strength and endurance. May our Lord God look down from heaven and lift you up from your illness. Peace to your soul! Peace to you and Peace to your soul +Archimandrite Nekarios (Serfes)"...I thought this was appropriate as Momma's body began to heal even before she departed from this world. Julie Salmon (Allaq) my Sister thought it was from potent antibiotics. Momma's hands and knees were not hurting anymore. Lydia Olympic my other Sister said the day Momma died it was the happiest day she had in a long time and she was coherent the whole day. Momma had such faith that she died on Bright Tuesday right after Pascha and to top it off on her Names Day! With that I have a long list of people who I'd like to thank...

Thank you Igiugig Native Corporation, Igiugig Tribal Council, Father David for conducting the services. Jiles for putting her slide show together. Josh for flying Leif and Momma home, he even flew her over Kukaklek which she still called home and wanted to be buried there. Kim Williams for going out of her way to go to Juneau to pick up my Boy Leif. Christina for arranging flights for Kim and Leif. Tanya for going to Anchorage to shop for the feast, AlexAnna for working on her memorial page. Phil Richards for letting Leif come up from Juneau. Laurie Lujan for sending the biggest ham I've ever seen. The dancers from New Stuyahok. All the people of Igiugig for showing your love and support. Renae Zackar for cooking non stop. My God Brother Greg Zackar who took leave from work to be here. Olga Chukwak and all her kids from Levelock. Anecia Rael going out of her way to attend from health aiding in North Slope somewhere....She had to drive to Dead Horse to catch the plane as all the flights were booked from Barrow. There's so many people to thank please do not be offended if I don't mention your name. Lastly I am extremely thankful for my Dearest Friend Jocko who supports me and keeps me grounded. Jocko took Leif back to Juneau when it was time for Leif to go back as I was laid up in the hospital with GI infection in the lower tract of my intestines. Lydia and I can laugh about it now, at the time it was scary. I told Sis "Aww Momma is trying to take me with her" Katia keeps me from being too sad, one day she made me very sad as she wanted her Gwamm after talking to her Nonni. It broke my heart to hear her yelling for Gwamm....And lastly a big Thank you to Lydia Anna Olympic for taking care of Momma. Andrew Crow said 'Lydia took good care of Mary O's Mental health'

Thank you Randy for making Momma's beautiful casket. Thank you Andrew Crow, Don Perrin, Jeff Bringhurst, Dave Hostetter, Randy Alvarez and Terek Anelon for carrying Momma to her final resting ground.

Rest well Momma I will see you one day but not yet, not yet.



Mary and her youngest granddaughter
Katlian Gregory, aka Katia.

Losing a Loved One...

By Lydia Olympic

How do I begin? One is never prepared to lose a loved one. At first I was in a total shock in losing Momma. It was because her last two days on Earth she was incredibly happy, pain free, fully coherent, and our old Momma once again. Silly me, I thought she was getting better and put the credit to the penicillin/antibiotics that they had running through her veins. She insisted that I leave her that evening and enjoy my time with Andria at the movies. Her face was so bright and happy. So when I got the news that she had passed peacefully with a smile on her face I was in a tailspin.



Mary and Lydia, showcasing a fur doll Mary made.

With this I would like to thank the community of Bristol Bay—everyone stepped up and offered help in so many ways. Allanah Hurley of UTBB, Kim Williams of Nunamta, and Apayo Moore gathered soul food from Dillingham residents for the potluck feast. Kim also flew up Mom's grandson from Juneau. Josh Jacko of Dena'ina Air Taxi offered to fly her body and family home to our village. Josh, she lovingly called her adopted grandson. Mom was born and raised in Kukaklek Lake, her "really home" she always called it. Josh did a flyover of Kukaklek Lake for the family and his Grandma. Randy Alvarez

made the most beautiful coffin. Terry Wassillie and Willy Nickoli made the cross. The people of home who prepared all of the food to bring to the house while she rested one last night in her home, and the people who cleaned and prepared the church. Karl Hill, did an awesome job in getting her relatives from Kokhanok and bringing them to Igiugig.

The New Stuyahok dancers came over, too, and performed some Native Dancing for us. They did the song about kayaking to get some salmon which she composed a few years ago, which brought tears to my eyes. New Stuyahok also brought some of their church choir to help us with our singing. My family really appreciated this kind gesture.

We've got to give a huge quyana to our cousin Andria Agli. While I was so numb and not thinking clearly she helped me with the Legacy Funeral Home in getting Mom's body prepared to go home. We had a very nice helpful man who was a bit absent minded that day. He gave me a form to sign to release the body. As I was about to sign Andria noticed the name was all wrong on the form. I was about to sign for a lady named Arlene. Can you imagine the disbelief once we got home that I brought home someone else? Aling. She too helped out in so many ways at home. Coffee and hot tea along with clean dishes was always available to all of the guests who came to pay their respects.

We are especially thankful to Father David Askoak for the beautiful church service. Igiugig School provided the potluck facility; Igiugig Native Corporation, Igiugig Village Council, Bristol Bay Native Association, and Bristol Bay Native Corporation for financial donations. Lake Clark Air sent food and flowers too. Relatives like Henry Olympic sent food and utensils, and Annie Wilson had her doors open for guests and table full of food. I know that I am forgetting quite a few people. I do apologize so if I did leave anyone out, quyana caknek.

Momma lived such a full and adventurous life. She was a jack of all trades from baking bread, teaching our language, carpenter work, mechanic, basket weaving, and the list does go on and on. She learned her English from Sesame Street. As a young lady she would hitch up her five dogs to mush from Branch River to Levelock for a dance. She would willingly drop everything to help anyone out. For this our family was helped out tenfold for her funeral service. Thank you all.

Momma you are onto another adventure and may you rest in peace.

Healthy Village Challenge

By Renee Grounds & Jiles Pourier

The Healthy Village Challenge is now in full swing with 12 Igiugig Fitness Teams in progress. The fitness room renovations have breathed new life into the space and inspired locals of all ages to exercise regularly. The old non-functioning equipment was replaced with a new treadmill, elliptical, and upright cycle. Many other items were also added, such as a flat screen television, DVD player, water cooler, punching bag, weights, and various small equipment. The fresh paint covered the old wood paneling and helped to make the room more inviting, along with mirrors and foam flooring. The room's windows overlook the Kvichak River for an incredible view. BBAHC has



Before renovations



After renovations

donated a recumbent cycle, which will arrive soon.

Annie Wilson helped name the fitness room "Aquvik" in Yup'ik, which means 'a place to be active.' A key focus of the Healthy Village Challenge is to help us pay more attention to our diet and exercise. Everyday we should ask ourselves questions like "Am I drinking enough water? Have I eaten enough (or any) vegetables today? Have I exercised?" To maintain health and prevent diabetes and other complications, our bodies need 150 minutes of aerobic exercise per week. This may sound like a lot but it's about the same length as a movie-- for example, The Hobbit, The Dark Knight, and The Godfather are at least 2.5 hours long. Try breaking up your exercise into 30 minutes per day for 5 days a week.

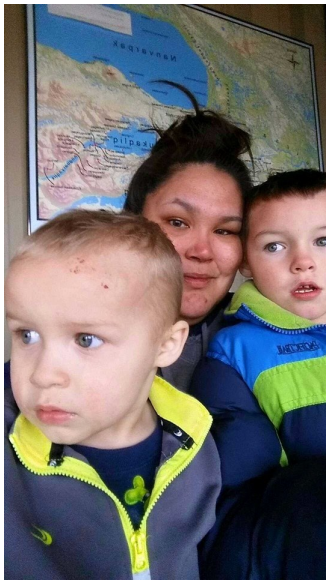


Lois Schumacher and Ester Udechukwu of BBAHC Diabetes Prevention and Lifestyle Change program visited for three days and gave a series of educational presentations. They led the group in fun games, such as nutrition bingo with fresh vegetables as prizes. One of their key messages was to "fill half of your plate with fruits and vegetables." They also taught us how to use resistance bands, make humus, wild rice, and other healthy foods. They provided blood sugar and cholesterol screenings and gave away Nalgene water bottles, jump ropes, and balls.

The community is invited to attend the culminating Healthy Village Challenge awards ceremony on Friday, May 29th.

April Snow showers brought May Flowers

By Ida Nelson



Rio, Caillou and I
watching airplanes at
the airport

April has come and gone and the April snow showers have brought in May flowers. After all the Easter eggs were found and those whom were fasting are able to eat meats again, it is that time to get ready for the summer. School is soon to be out, the teachers will be free, and parents call dibs on baby sitters. As mid-April approached my little family grew by two. I am fostering two little boys until an unknown amount of time. So my hands and my plate has been full for the last month. After readjusting my life, I feel back to normal once again, many thanks to my family and friends whom helped me find my balance again.

What's new in Igiugig? Well if you haven't been here for a while and heard about the healthy village challenge in last months news letter; you can see the up dates on the New Aquivik center at the rec-hall. If you have noticed there have been a few big freight planes coming in and out of Igiugig and so far have left with a large amount of scrap metal from our land fill. You can read more about it in Stacy's IGAP up date. A big congratulations to Annette (AKA Bunn) and Pete Caruso for their Russian Orthodox wedding here in Igiugig.

Lastly I give my condolences to the Olympic family for the loss of our elder Mary Olympic. She was an example of a leader in our community. Her knowledge, wisdom, and stories will be cherished for ever in our hearts as we

laid her to rest. You can also check out your favorite people and read the announcements.

Congratulations!



On May 3rd at 2PM at the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Pete Caruso and Annette Wilson had their marriage blessed in church. Father David boated down from Newhalen to perform the ceremony. This was a very special day since it is also her parent's anniversary of getting their marriage blessed in church; they have been married for 48 years, and it is the anniversary of her sister Georgette's, who celebrates 12 years of marriage.

For a Russian Orthodox Church ceremony, it was surprisingly succinct and sweet. During the service, the priest leads the couple to the center of the church where the bride and groom profess that they are marrying of their own free will. Rings are blessed by the priest and exchanged. Then crowns are placed on the heads of the bride and groom, and they share a "common cup" of wine before proceeding three times

around the church. After the wedding blessing, and family photos, church bells rang joyously as villagers gathered outside to toss rice to the newlyweds. The feast was hosted by Mother-of-the-Bride Annie Wilson at their cozy home. It was announced that the newlyweds generously donated the wedding crowns to the church, for the next Igiugig matrimony! It was a beautiful day, and the people of Igiugig were excited to partake in the joyous occasion. Congratulations and best wishes!

I G A P N e w s

By Stacy Hill



Before the back-haul



After back-haul

Our scrap metal back-haul program is going well. Almost 30,000 lbs of scrap metal has been back-hauled from our village. Our landfill looks amazing! When we are completely finished in the dump we will be collecting scrap metal from around town. Please let us know if there is anything you want picked up. Our village clean-up is Tuesday May 19th. We will be meeting in the gym at 9:00 am. Please lend a hand with picking up loose trash around town. We will be having a BBQ at the baseball field when we are finished with the clean-up. Please bring a side dish to share. Lukas is working on building our new flower boxes for the beautification project. Once he is done with the construction we will schedule a day for planting. Everyone is welcome to come out and help. Please double bag your trash if you think it will break open. Our interns are having many bags bust open on them. Thanks

Have a great summer and a prosperous fishing season!

Clinic News

The South Central Foundation's Doctor Norris will be arriving on May 28th to the 29th. Call the clinic and inform Jiles that you would like to be seen by the Doctor. 907-533-3207.



April 7th snow showers: Karl, Kaylee, Kaleb



Sister, Gip and Nana all being silly during a picnic



Kaylee, Kot, Tamara, Erika and MacKenzie at the church



Easter feast with the men of Igiugig at Annie's house



Keilan holding up a goose wing



Tia and Rio sitting on the beach after goose camp



Uppa Randolph with Connor and Kaleb heading to goose camp



Murder at the juice joint: Birthday Bash: Ida, Tony, Karl, Stacy, Tanya, Christy, Jeff, Alicia, Sharolynn, Jiles, and Renee



Prom 2015:
Taty, Tate, Fewnia, Dolly and Tia



Jeff and Christina



Avery Easter morning



Nana and Shea out for a ride



Aiden with his catch of the day down river

Announcements



Igiugig Kids to New Zealand!



Show your support by going to this link

GoFundMe.com/igiugigschool

Igiugig General Store
Store Hours: Monday to Saturday
4:00 PM to 5 PM

REMEMBER In Igiugig We:

- ⇒ Keep our Dogs Tied up or on a Leash.
- ⇒ Turn Off Lights when leaving a public building.
- ⇒ Recycle: #1 to #7 plastics, aluminum cans, glass, tin cans. We also separate batteries and e-waste.
- ⇒ Do Not Park in front of the hangar or the white trash trailer.
- ⇒ Do Not Litter, we confront those that do, and we pick up trash that we see.
- ⇒ We Compost! Bring it to the greenhouse, please no dairy or meat products.
- ⇒ Contribute to the Newsletter! Send photos, news, important events to Ida: nelsonida2901@gmail.com
- ⇒ Love Our Village! Join Igiugig Village Info Zone on Facebook if you haven't already.

We apologize the weather will be available in next months news letter.
 Sorry for the inconvenience.

Summer Library Hours

Monday– Friday:

3:00pm to 5:00 Pm

Saturday:

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 25th: Memorial Day

May 28th: Dr. Norris Arriving

May 29th: Healthy Village Challenge Ends

May 29th: IVC timesheets due

Summer Reading Club Starts

June 4th @ 11AM: Tentative IVC monthly meeting

June 8th: Fishing on Kvichak River opens!

June 8th @ 2PM: Kuskpuk Fashion Show and Design Meeting

June 6-13: Bristol Bay Fly Fishing Academy @ Kulik Lodge

June 21: Happy Father's Day

Igiugig Village Council

AlexAnna Salmon, President & Administrator

Randy Alvarez, Vice President

Kevin Olympic, Member

Christina Salmon, Member

Karl Hill, Member

Sandy Alvarez, Director of Accounting & Finance

Tanya Salmon, Social Services Director & Librarian

Stacy Hill, IGAP Director

Ida Nelson, Tribal Clerk & Newsletter Editor

Renee Grounds, Grant Administrator

Jiles Pourier, Tribal Clerk

Visit us on the web!
www.igiugig.com



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First Class Mail

Front Page Photo Credit: Taty Zackar: Sunset over the Kvichak River
Back Page Photo Credit: Terek Anelon: Sunset during goose hunting

Igiugig Tribal Village Council Newsletter