



Birthdays

September

- 1st - A J Gooden
- 6th - Jon Alvarez
- 10th - Sandy Alvarez
- 20th - Olga Zackar
- 23rd - Karl Hill

October

- 23rd - Loretta Peterson
- 27th - Dallia Andrew
- 31st - Yako Nickoli



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Aug-tember

By Ida Nelson

Life in the village of Igiugig has been going non-stop from dusk of early mornings until the stars start shining late at night—we have been busy with all kinds of activities. From going hunting for berries, traveling across tundra in search of the biggest blueberries and black berries to packaging meat caught by local generous providers while float planes are flying almost non-stop and everywhere you turn there is a man/woman in waders wanting to catch fish on the mighty Kvichak.

With so much that has been going on I do personally apologize for not having a newsletter article for you all for August, hopefully this one will make up for it. First off we have the Repatriation of Igiugig Ancestors Day, written by Sandy Alvarez, of the bones of 24 bodies that have been returned from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History where they were since 1930. Following her article is Jeff's article on the Local Foods and you can read about his love for September. After you read what Christina might let him buy in his article you can read our Student Articles submission from page 4 to 6. Alicia attended Circle training and you can read what she learned. Below you can find more photos of the Repatriation of Igiugig Ancestors Day, next you will find pictures of your favorite people and announcements.

The days are coming to single digits now as most of the lodges are on their last leg for the season and we will have our quiet skies and rivers again except for those few whom brave the cold still looking for their 30-incher trout. October we welcome you with open arms as the bugs slowly die, and the leaves begin to fall, I wish you all a happy safe fall!

Repatriation of Igiugig Ancestors Day

By Sandy Alvarez

Despite the threatening rain clouds it was a celebratory atmosphere of sorts today--Thursday September 14, 2017--in our little corner of western Alaska as we participated in the repatriation of twenty-four of the local ancestors whose remains were just this fall returned from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History where they had been since the early 1930's.

The Museum Director, Kirk Johnson and Repatriation Program Manager, Bill Billeck were in attendance providing presentations during festivities on the evening prior to the ceremony and fully involved in the proceedings of the day right down to the shoveling of soil onto the grave site.

Nearly everyone from the village along with at least 11 visitors from the surrounding region and D.C., boated down river in nine skiffs, past scenery that is well known and loved by us and probably was even more so to those being returned home, since they would have paddled past it ever so slowly in their bidarkis (aka kayaks). The ancestors were laid to rest in the site of the old village on the Kvichak River near the confluence with Kaskanak Creek. They received a service performed by the Russian Orthodox priest from the neighboring village of Newhalen as well as a blessing song in the native tradition by our local Igiugig Yup'ik dance group.

It was a fun day full of retrospection as we walked among houses that are now merely depressions in the ground and overlooked scenery that has been appreciated for its beauty and wildness for generations immemorial.



Upper Left: Listening to the presentation given by Kirk Johnson, Director of the Smithsonian

Lower Left: The bones of the 24 ancestors being repatriated.

Right: Father David Askoak, of Newhalen, placing a prayer sheet into the coffins of our ancestors.



More photos on page 7

Local Foods

By Jeff Bringhurst



Ahhh September. You are my favorite month of the year. You bring me blueberries and cranberries, you bring me the harvest of crops I've been waiting for all summer, you bring me moose (although not this year you bugger), and you bring the cool weather and all the beautiful colors.

One thing that this September has also brought is the Native Foods Challenge, ...or is it the Local Foods Challenge, ...or the Whole Foods Challenge? Take your pick - any one you choose will definitely test your resolve. The challenge, in case you're not aware, is to eat only foods that were grown or harvested locally for six weeks. The only additions were to be salt and oats. However, as the reality of such a restricted diet began to set in, the Initiator, as he shall be known, opened the door to other items grown or harvested in Alaska.

While the loosened restrictions have certainly made for a more varied diet (we are having halibut tonight), at least in my case, it hasn't eased the transition that is happening in my body. As I write this, we are on Day 6, and I feel that some major work is happening on the cellular level for me to feel this tired and sluggish. While I've never been a real junky eater, I've never been very mindful about it either. And I feel that this challenge is making me much more acutely aware of what is happening in my body and what it needs to function more naturally.

I have also become much more aware of how far I fall short in providing a substantial portion of our food in the village. Obviously sales have been way up, but we're only a week into the challenge and our greenhouse will be out of everything but salad mix in another week or two. From a food sovereignty standpoint, we have a long ways to go with this operation to make it something that can sustain us when we want it or need it to. I'm doing my homework, and getting new ideas for next year. I only hope this food challenge deepens people's relationship with healthy food, so their appetite for it can grow along with our operation.

I have to say the chances are good - the greenhouse has never been so popular. It's open several nights a week for anyone struggling to put their evening meal on the table. It's also open if you're just struggling in general. We've had a few grazers come over and munch around for different flavors. There's sweet, there's salty, there's peppery, and there's spicy!.. I taste-tested a habanero the other day, and as I spit and sputtered and the tears came down my face, I have to believe they were in part for the glass of milk that I could not have. ...I wonder if Christina would let me get goats next year... I behhhht she would!



Native Foods Challenge

Ella Gooden

Smoked fish, dry meat, greenhouse
greens,
Empty bellies, caffeine withdrawals, and
still the candy calls
Pop and pizza are no more
We're all thinking we're so hardcore

Moose steak, zucchini fritters, cranberry
juice
We're telling our sugar addictions to
vamoose
You dream of pancakes and bacon,
But the goal is naturalization

Stomachs growling, taste-buds
demanding
Where's the crunchy crackers
And the soft bread for my soup
You think it's time to fly the coop

Mashed potatoes, blueberries, turnips
No more D&D pickups
We all have to scavenge
Welcome to the Food Challenge



Luke helping prep for the Native
food challenge



Our Ancestors at home at the burial site

Ancestors Coming Home
A Repatriation Poem by The Larval
NoSeeUms

We started at the church
With prayers and singing—lots of
singing,
(and really good bread)

Being really quiet
And sad for the Ancestors
Because they died
And got taken far away.

A sad gray sky,
A bridge over deep water,
And One big hole—brown and orange
and gold.

We danced for the Ancestors
By three white crosses
On a rainbow hill.

SICH Project Summary

Who: Each student is doing their own project or collaborating with others.

What: SICH = Subsistence, Identity, Community, and Health. A project that potentially fills a community need. These projects provide the opportunity for self-invention.

When: Throughout the school year.

Where: Make a plan at school and then go out and DO IT!

Why: To make a difference in our world.

What is SICH?

by Kaylee Hill

This year the Igiugig high school and middle school class are working on SICH projects. The word SICH stands for Subsistence, Identity, Community, and Health. These interest-based projects provide the opportunity for students to accomplish LPSD standards while doing things they enjoy. We all picked out a project that will benefit the community and ourselves. Another student and I are working together on a re-beautification of the graves at the church. It will take a little time but I'm sure in the end the community will be very pleased. Students will be required to report on their projects to our Local School Advisory Committee. Stay tuned for updates on other SICH projects.

Battle of the Books

By Walt Gooden

Battle of the books approaches! With the shortened school year, teams have already begun training for the event. The High School Battle team is Sim, Fewnia, Teya, and Taty, coached by Alicia Zackar. Stacy Hill is coaching the Middle Schoolers: Kiara, Kaylee, Ella, and Aiden. The 5th and 6th Grade team is Keilan and I, coached by Christina Salmon-Bringhurst. The 3rd & 4th Grade team is Shea, Danni, and Jon, coached by Jeff Bringhurst. Avery and Jem make up the 2nd Grade team, coached by Tate Gooden. And last but not least, Alex and AJ will be coaching the 1st Grade team, Mackenzie and Erika. We hope we can pull through and win that trophy we rightly deserve and have come so close to winning in past years. Good luck to all the Battlers!

Building a Qasgiq By Kiara Nelson

This year Mr. Gooden is having the Igiugig students do a year- round personal project to fulfill a community need. The student will take on responsibility of the project. SICH means Subsistence, Identity, Community, and Health.

For my project, I want to build a qasgiq. A qasgiq is a semi-underground sod house made of driftwood. I am hoping that building a qasgiq will help revive Yup'ik culture by making it as traditional as possible. The traditional purpose of the qasgiq was a community center for dances and potlucks, and a men's house.

We will be giving monthly reports on our SICH project every LSAC starting in October. Currently, we are working on four objectives: explaining the community need we want to fill, our potential resources, possible mentors and advisors, and developing a plan. I am currently looking at cultural education grants and other opportunities to get the supplies and money we need.

A-Hunting We Will Go By Simeon Zackar

One time Terek, Aiden, and I went out hunting at the Bluffs. We went till the trail kind of ended, then Aid and I split up from Terek and went a different way. We could see Terek in the distance, and when we finally made it to the place we were going to meet up, he kept on going. So Aid and I waited around for a bit and ate some berries. But Terek still kept going so we ventured after him. On the way we saw a caribou. We thought that Terek saw it but I guess he didn't. Aid and I kept on watching the caribou walk down the hill, and as soon as it got down I shot it. It was probably hit, but I kept shooting. It only had one shot in the neck--it just took a while to die. While we were waiting for Terek, we started cutting up the caribou. First we took off two of the legs, then we took the guts out, and then Terek arrived. I didn't really know what to take out from the guts so he finished it and we got it all prepared and put the legs in the tarp. Half of the ribs went to Terek. When we got back, my mom said she didn't have much room in her freezers so we just gave the rest to Terek. It was a fun hunt. At least I had fun.

Circle Training

By Alicia Zackar, ICWA

In August, I attended circle training in Anchorage. Circle training was about forming a circle, which is like a talking circle, or healing circle. We would sit in a circle and have a talking piece and are able to talk openly when they have it, and don't when they don't have it. We mostly focused on the benefits this would have for a tribal setting, like if a kid did something wrong, for example we used stealing a boat from a neighbor. The kid, neighbor, parents, trooper, and facilitator sat down and formed a circle. They made a talking piece and discussed the guidelines for their circle, pretty much everyone talked it out and we were able to come to a conclusion, instead of the kid getting charged with theft and it going on their record. It was pretty cool, I also sat in on some healing circle types, which are supposed to help teens stop thinking about suicide, which just got them to talk and talk, we figured out what to do that would help the kid, like hunting, fishing, trapping, kayaking, talking to elders, mostly cultural things like that! The circle activity was extremely cool to learn, and I'm sure it'll help at some point!

Photos: Repatriation of Igiugig Ancestors Day



Upper left: A bead that was discovered with one of the bodies and was reburied with it.



Upper right: Greg, Aiden and Keil holding their crosses during services



Lower Left: Dancing the Blessing Song after the burial.



Lower Right: Everyone who could make it the reburial.



AlexAnna and Addi at the Myers farm in Bethel. (Addi just having fun)



Avery and MacKenzie are Igiugig's beautiful Princesses



Sheryl and Tanya going fishing down river



Waiting for an airplane to see Doll off to college:
Fewnia, Addi, Erika, AlexAnna, Luke, Doll, and Mav



MOOSE: Kevin with his fall hunt harvest.
Congratulations!



First day of school: Danni, Aiden and Keilan



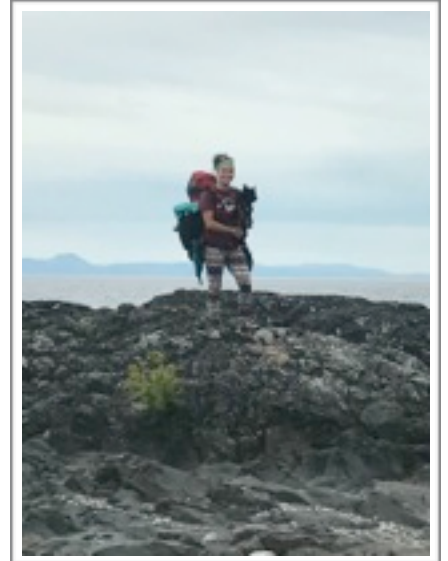
Randy, Sandy and Jon at Sandy's birthday party



Dallia and Alice having lunch.



Alicia and Aurora at the state fair



Tanya and Kricket at rocky point



Snack time during piipiq unglu

Tangluq, Singnsiik, Ungalaq, and Qaya'atalek



First day of school: Kaylee, Kira, and Teya



Pumpkin harvest: Jeff, Danni, MacKenzie, Avery, Aiden, Jem, Erika, Keilan, Jon, and Shea.



Greg with his caribou he harvested.



Renae skinning a seal.



Avery on her first day of school.



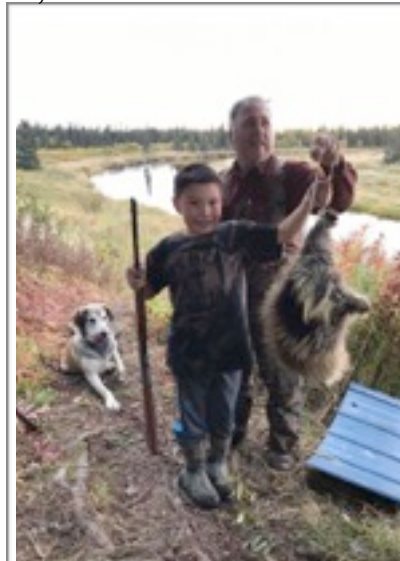
Mr. Fisher showing students how to fish print:
Danni, Mr. Fisher, Avery, MacKenzie, and Erika.



Joe Zackar, Alice, Father David, Dalia, Evelyn,
and Annie.



First day of school: Shea and
Kiara.



Jon and Randy with the
porcupine Jon caught at
moose camp



Aiden with his first harvested
caribou! Congratulations! 10 of 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember in IGIUGIG We:

- Keep Your Dogs Tied Up or on a leash.
- Turn Off Lights when leaving a public building
- Recycle: #1 to #2 plastics, aluminum, glass, tin cans. We also separate batteries and e-waste.
- Do Not Park in front of the hanger or the white trash trailer.
- We compost! Bring it to the greenhouse, please no dairy or meat products.
- Contribute to the newsletter! Send photos, news, important events to Ida @ igiugignewsletter@gmail.com
- Love our village? Join Igiugig Village Info Zone on Facebook if you haven't already.

The Store Hours!

Located behind the Boarding House in a green building: the hours of operation are from:

4:00 PM to 5:00PM

Important Dates!

SALMON FELLOWS GATHERING: 4TH TO THE 8TH

INGENIOUS PEOPLE DAY: OCTOBER 8TH

OCTOBER 5TH TO THE 8TH

BBNC ANNUAL MEETING: OCTOBER 7TH

IVC MONTHLY MEETING: OCTOBER 12TH
TENTATIVE

SCHOOL INSERVICE: OCTOBER 18TH TO THE 20TH

AFN: OCTOBER 19TH TO THE 21ST

LAST DAY OF THE FOOD CHALLENGE OCTOBER 29TH

HALLOWEEN! OCTOBER 31ST

Library Hours

Monday to Friday

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM & 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Saturday 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Clinic News

The Igiugig after-hours emergency number is **907.533.6020.**

If there is *no heath aide in the village*, please call the Nilavena Clinic at 907.571.1818 or 907.571.7111 for after-hours emergencies.

Igiugig Village Council

IVC Board & Main Staff

AlexAnna Salmon, President

Karl Hill, Vice-President

Kevin Olympic, Member

Christina Salmon, Member

Don Perrin, Village Administrator Sandy Alvarez,

Director of Accounting

& Finance

Alicia Zackar, Social Service Director/Member

Tanya Salmon, Librarian

Stacy Hill, IGAP Director

Ida Nelson, Tribal Clerk & Newsletter
Editor

Renee Grounds/Halay Turning Heart,
Grant Administrator

Loretta Peterson, Tribal Clerk

Sheryl Wassillie, Procurement Clerk

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First Class mail

Front Page Photo Credit: Lorrain Loyd: fall colors

Back Page Photo Credit: Ida Nelson: sunrise on the Kvichak River with a successful moose hunt in the lund

Igiugig Tribal Council Newsletter