

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

ULU NEWS



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GAME ON

“The ceremonies are over and the preparations are complete. Now it’s time for the Arctic Winter Games to begin. ...”

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Fairbanks athletes Aelin Allegood and Liam Ortega carried the torch during the open ceremony of the Arctic Winter Games on Sunday. TROY BOUFFARD/ULU NEWS

FAIRBANKS
Daily News-Miner

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WELCOME LETTER FROM GERRY THICK

As president of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, I am extremely pleased to find myself once again in Fairbanks, Alaska, for this celebration of sport and culture. This is the third time Fairbanks has hosted the Arctic Winter Games, the last time being in 1988. I have seen many exciting changes from the Games I attended in 1988. As a member of our circumpolar family I am proud of the friendships forged over the years and continue to be inspired by the commitment of the people of our circumpolar communities in their efforts to unite and provide our youths with this unique opportunity.

On behalf of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, I am pleased to extend best wishes to all athletes, cultural performers, coaches and mission staff and to congratulate each one of you on being selected to represent your teams at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

To all our supporters and especially those who have traveled great distances to cheer on our athletes and cultural performers, welcome to the 23rd Arctic Winter Games. Thank you for your support of Arctic Winter Games.

The 2014 Arctic Winter Games Host Society volunteers and staff have been diligent and dedicated in their preparations. Partici-

pants, spectators, volunteers, family, and friends are certain to enjoy these Games as we all share the privilege of meeting new people and greeting old friends from around the circumpolar world in the grand and welcoming setting of Fairbanks, Alaska.

It is certain to be a week of Great Spirit and Northern Dreams!



Gerry Thick
 PRESIDENT,
 ARCTIC WINTER
 GAMES INTERNATIONAL
 COMMITTEE

Arctic Winter Games schedule: Monday-Tuesday

MONDAY

ARCTIC SPORTS—Lathrop High School, Kneel Jump, Open Female and Open Male, 9:45 a.m.; Junior Female and Junior Male, 1 p.m.; One Hand Reach, Open Male, 3:30 p.m.
BADMINTON—North Pole High School, Juvenile Female and Male Singles, Junior Female and Male Singles, Junior Female and Junior Male Douglas, Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male Doubles, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
BASKETBALL—UAF Patty Center, Junior Female, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; Junior Male, 10 a.m., noon, 6 p.m., 8 p.m.
BIATHLON SKI—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male 5K, 2:30 p.m.; Junior Female and Junior Male 7.5K, 2:30 p.m.
BIATHLON SNOWSHOE—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male 2.5K, Junior Female and Junior Male, 4K, 11:30 a.m.
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Interval Start Freestyle 5K, Junior Female and Male, Juvenile Female and Male, Midget Female and Male, 10 a.m.
CURLING—Fairbanks Curling Club, Junior Female and Junior Male, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
DENE GAMES—Ryan Middle School, Stick Pull, Junior Male, and Juvenile Female, 10 a.m., Junior Female and Open Male, 2 p.m.
DOG MUSHING—Jeff Studdert Racegrounds, Juvenile Coed Four-dog 7.5K Race, 11 a.m.; Junior

Coed Six-Dog 10K Race, 12:30 p.m.
ICE HOCKEY—Big Dipper Ice Arena, Bantam Male, 8 a.m., 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m.; Midget Male, 2:45 p.m.; Junior Female, 10:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; UAF Patty Center, Midget Male, 10:15 a.m.; Junior Female, 7:15 p.m.
INDOOR SOCCER—UAF Student Recreation Center, Intermediate Female, 8 a.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.; Junior Female, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.; Junior Male, 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Juvenile Female, 9 a.m., noon, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Juvenile Male, 10 a.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m.
SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING—Carlson Center, Juvenile Female, 777M, 3 p.m.; Juvenile Male, 777M, 3:08 p.m.; Junior Female, 1000M, 3:30 p.m.; Junior Male, 1000M, 3:50 p.m.
SNOWBOARDING—Birch Hill on Fort Wainwright, Slalom, Junior Female and Junior Male, 11 a.m.; Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male, 11 a.m.
SNOWSHOEING—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Female 2.5K, 4 p.m.; Juvenile Male 2.5K, 4:30 p.m.; Junior Female 5K, 5 p.m.; Junior Male 5K, 5:45 p.m.
TABLE TENNIS—Hutchison High School, Junior Female and Male Singles, 9 a.m.; Juvenile Female and Male Singles, 2 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL—West Valley High School, Junior Female, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m.; Randy Smith Middle School, Junior Male, 8 a.m., 9:30

a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m.; 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
WRESTLING—North Pole Middle School, Junior Mixed, Team Competition, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., Noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.
CULTURAL EVENTS—Pioneer Park, AWG Museum Exhibit, Folk Art Fest and Expo, Pin Sales and Pin Trading, Museums and Train Rides, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Film Festival 2-8:30 p.m.; Morris Thompson Cultural Center, Dene Drummer Demonstration, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Noel Wien Library, Lunch Performance, Noon-2 p.m.; Grange Hall, North Pole, Yamal in the Children's Eyes, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

TUESDAY

ALPINE SKIING—Mt. Aurora Skiland, Giant Slalom, Juvenile and Junior and Open Female and Male, First Run 11:30 a.m., Second Run 2 p.m.
ARCTIC SPORTS—Lathrop High School, Two Foot High Kick, Junior Female and Male, 9 a.m.; Arm Pull, Junior Female and Male and Open Female, 2:30 p.m.; Head Pull, Open Male, 5:30 p.m.
BADMINTON—North Pole High School, Juvenile Female and Male Singles, Junior Female and Male Singles, Junior Female and Male Doubles, Juvenile Female and Male Doubles, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
BASKETBALL—UAF Patty Center, Junior Female, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Junior Male, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 4 p.m.
BIATHLON SKI—Birch Hill

Recreation Area, Juvenile Female and Male 4K Sprint, 2:30 p.m.; Junior Female and Male 6K Sprint, 2:30 p.m.
BIATHLON SNOWSHOE—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Female and Male 2K Sprint, Junior Female and Male, 3K Sprint, 11:30 a.m.
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Classic Sprints, Juvenile Male and Female, 750 meters, Junior male and Female 750 meters Midget Female and Male, 600 meters, Qualifying starts at 10 a.m., Heats begin at 12:30 p.m.
CURLING—Fairbanks Curling Club, Junior Female and Male, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
DENE GAMES—Randy Smith Middle School, Snow Snake, Junior Male and Juvenile Female, 10 a.m., Junior Female and Open Male 12:30 p.m.
DOG MUSHING—Jeff Studdert Racegrounds, Juvenile Coed Five-dog 10K Race, 10 a.m.; Junior Coed Seven-Dog 13K Race, 11:30 a.m.
FIGURE SKATING—Carlson Center, Short Program, Junior Female, Ladies 1, 8 a.m., Ladies 2, 8:50 a.m.; Ladies 3, 9:40 a.m.; Ladies 4, 10:30 a.m.
GYMNASTICS—Gymnastics Inc., Junior Female, Team Competition, 10:45 a.m.
ICE HOCKEY—Big Dipper Ice Arena, Bantam Male, 9 a.m., 3:45 p.m.; Midget Male, 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m.; Junior Female, 11:15 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Junior Female, 7 p.m.; UAF Patty Center, Junior Female,

8:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
INDOOR SOCCER—UAF Student Recreation Center, Intermediate Female, 2 p.m., 3 p.m.; Junior Female, 1 p.m.; Junior Male, 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.; Juvenile Female, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.; Juvenile Male, 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m.
SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING—Carlson Center, Juvenile Female, 500M, 3:45 p.m.; Juvenile Male, 500M, 3:54 p.m.; Junior Female, 500M, 4:06 p.m.; Junior Male, 500M, 4:15 p.m.
SNOWBOARDING—UAF Hulbert Nanook Terrain Park, Rail Jam, Junior Female and Junior Male, 11 a.m.; Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male, 11 a.m.
VOLLEYBALL—Randy Smith Middle School, Junior Female, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m.; West Valley High School, Junior Male, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m.; 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
WRESTLING—North Pole Middle School, Junior Mixed, Team Competition, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., Noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.
CULTURAL EVENTS—Pioneer Park, AWG Museum Exhibit, Folk Art Fest and Expo, Pin Sales and Pin Trading, Museums and Train Rides, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Film Festival 2-8:30 p.m.; Co-Op Plaza and Bentley Mall, Lunch Performance, Noon-2 p.m.; Grange Hall, North Pole, Yamal in the Children's Eyes, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; To be determined, Fireworks Extravaganza, 7 p.m.

Winter Games kicking into high gear today

By Bob Eley
ULU NEWS

The ceremonies are over and the preparations are complete. Now it's time for the Arctic Winter Games to begin.

While there were a few matches in curling, indoor soccer and volleyball on Sunday, the schedule reaches a feverish pitch today with competition in 17 of the 20 sports being contested

during the weeklong competition featuring nearly 2,000 athletes, coaches and cultural delegates from across the circumpolar north.

Participants hail from Alaska, Alberta North, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Nunavik-Quebec, Nunavut, Sapmi (Northern Scandinavia), Yamal (Russia) and the Yukon will be trying their best to earn gold, silver and bronze ulus as a reward

for their efforts.

Today's schedule calls for competition in arctic sports, badminton, basketball, biathlon ski, biathlon snowshoe, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene Games, dog mushing, ice hockey, indoor soccer, short track speed skating, snowboarding, snowshoeing, table tennis, volleyball and wrestling.

The only sports not on the schedule today are alpine skiing,

figure skating and gymnastics.

In addition to the sports events numerous cultural activities ranging from pin trading to cultural performances to a film festival are all part of the schedule.

Birch Hill Recreation will be the busiest of all the venues today, with four events on the docket.

The venue north of Fairbanks off the Steese Highway

at Farmers Loop will feature cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, biathlon ski and biathlon snowshoe. On the other side of the mountain on Fort Wainwright, the snowboarding competition will get under way with the slalom event.

The cross-country skiers will get things started at Birch Hill when they head out onto the Jim

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**Welcome
Arctic Winter Games
Competitors and Fans!**



Members of team Greenland arrive at Fairbanks International Airport on Friday. GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS



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Greenland athletes among first to arrive in Fairbanks

By Jonni Roos
ULU NEWS

Arctic Winter Games teams arriving in Fairbanks were greeted with a warm golden heart welcome at Fairbanks International Airport by the Arctic Winter Games Welcoming Committee.

The first international flights arrived on Friday afternoon and teams were welcomed at the arrivals gate with live music, a crowd of cheering volunteers dressed in yellow, signs and flags of their country and a welcome gift: the Alaska version of a traditional welcome lei — the ubiquitous winter scarf emblazoned with the AWG logo.

More than 270 people arrived on Friday, including 130 athletes comprising Team Green-

land and 33 athletes with Team Sapmi, along with coaches, chaperones, sports officials and team representatives.

Volunteers cheered loudly for each team member, some sang and danced, while other volunteers assisted team members with transportation and locating officials.

Raavee the Raven, the 2014 Arctic Winter Games mascot, posed for pictures with arriving visitors.

The first contingents to arrive, Greenland and Sapmi, landed Friday afternoon after an eight-hour flight from Greenland, tired but enthusiastic to be in Fairbanks for the Games.

"We are so excited," said Trine Krogholm, a chaperone and interpreter for Team Greenland. "It's been a long way to

travel, but we are glad to be here."

Travelers passed the time on the plane renewing old friendships, talking, laughing and helping each other complete their customs paperwork.

A local Fairbanks band, the Swingdogs, provided a lively background tempo to the festivities.

"This is all so wonderful," one athlete remarked as she and her friends danced while waiting for their other team members.

Teams from Greenland, Sapmi, Yamal and Northwest Territories arrived on Friday. Teams from Nunavut, Yukon, Alberta and Nunavik-Quebec arrived on Saturday.

Greeters were on hand to meet all flights regardless of the hour. Some flights arrived as late as 11:50 p.m. Friday.



©AWG2014/Greg Martin

Members of team Greenland arrive at Fairbanks International Airport on Friday. GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS

Fairbanks expects economic impact of about \$13 million from Arctic Winter Games

By Julie Herrmann
ULU NEWS

Hosting the Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks is expected to have an impact of \$13 million on the local economy, according to Arctic Winter Games general manager Karen Lane.

Economic impact studies are done after every Arctic Winter Games. The most recent one available is from the 2010 games in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

According to the study, approximately \$7.65 million was invested into the Grande Prairie economy because of visitor spending and event operations.

The study showed \$2.7 million in tax revenue was generated, as well as 400,000 hours of employment.

Although a report for the 2012 Whitehorse Games has not yet been published, the economic impact has been studied.

"(\$13 million) is actually a little bit more than the economic impact there," Lane said. "We are anticipating more people coming to Fairbanks then went to Whitehorse."

The \$13 million impact is expected to come from a combination of visitor spending and event operations, according to information in a state of Alaska budget request. Nearly 2,000 athletes, coaches and cultural delegates are here for the Games, as well as tourists and spectators.

Fairbanks Economic Develop-



It's certainly going to be good for the community. It's going to be bigger than (Alaska Federation of Natives), and that was a substantial impact."

Jim Dodson, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation president

ment Corporation President Jim Dodson expects the economic impact to be significant.

"It's certainly going to be good for the community," Dodson said. "It's going to be bigger than (Alaska Federation of Natives), and that was a substantial impact."

Businesses around Fairbanks have prepared for the Games and are experiencing the results.

Fairbanks hotels have seen an increase in bookings.

"We're the host for the game

officials," said Regency Hotel operations manager Tony Phillips. "The majority of our rooms went to them during that time."

The Regency Hotel is fully booked for part of the week, and only has a couple rooms available on a few nights.

Because of the BP World Ice Art Championships and Japanese tourism, the Regency is usually busy during the month of March, but Phillips said it is slightly more than usual this year.

If Only ... A Fine Store in downtown Fairbanks has expanded its hours just for the Games. The store is not usually open on Sundays in March, but it will be open on March 16 and 23.

"We've made sure we have a good selection of Made in Alaska and a really good selection of jewelry," said Rebecca Moresse, one of the owners.

Twigs, a gift shop inside security in the Fairbanks International Airport, is expecting increased passenger travel during this week.

"We think it'll be a good thing for the airport itself and for Twigs," office manager Michael Poulsen said several weeks before the games. "We've ordered extra inventory and are making sure we're prepared to service the extra traffic."

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TODAY'S PINS

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TEAM: ALASKA
SPORTS: BADMINTON, BASKETBALL, TABLE TENNIS AND VOLLEYBALL






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Doyon is a proud sponsor of the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. Good luck to all the athletes.



Fort Wainwright supports the Games

By Angela Moore
ULU NEWS

For the soldiers and families stationed at Fort Wainwright, the Interior provides them with once in a lifetime opportunities that can not be replicated at any other Army post in the world.

Not only are America's Arctic Warriors already blessed with all the natural beauty and outdoor adventures that come with living in the Interior, they are also fortunate to be part of a community recognized for its phenomenal support to the military.

It means that for the first, and likely only, time in their careers they will have an opportunity to experience the Arctic Winter Games.

"The one thing I hope we have done well is stress to soldiers and their families that this is a once in a lifetime experience," said Felicia Jackson, the Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security at Fort Wainwright and ex-officio member of the Arctic Winter Games Host Society Board of

THE ARMY PITCHES IN

» The Fort Wainwright ice rink is being used for team hockey practices.

» Birch Hill ski and snowboard area is the home of snowboarding slalom practices and competition, as well as parts of the biathlon competition.

Directors. "They will never get this at any of their other duty stations.

"I hope they take advantage of the military discount and go to the opening and closing ceremonies," Jackson said.

Jackson also helped ensure that the entire Fort Wainwright community knew about the many ways they could volunteer to get a behind the scenes perspective of the games and what it takes to put them together.

Because of her and the many efforts of the Arctic Winter Games Host Society, more than 350 soldiers and Army civilians, along with a number of family members,

are volunteering throughout the week. From security to administrative support, escorts to ceremonies, someone from Fort Wainwright will be involved in every aspect of the Games.

Fort Wainwright and the host society have enjoyed a partnership dating back to August 2012. This partnership went beyond finding volunteers and included integrating the Fort Wainwright ice rink and Birch Hill ski and snowboard area into the Games.

According to Jackson, Fort Wainwright and America's Arctic Warriors are proud to be part of the Arctic Winter Games team and show their support to the community, the sports and all the athletes.

Fort Wainwright was able to respond to a last minute request for more cots, helping to ensure that nearly 200 athletes would be sleeping a bit more comfortable during their stay in the Golden Heart City.

Perhaps this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the athletes to experience a part of the life of America's Arctic Warriors.

Dignitaries will enjoy the Games

By Libbie Martin
ULU NEWS

There will be a huge influx of people for this week's 23rd edition of the Arctic Winter Games in the Golden Heart City.

The Games will host nearly 2,000 athletes, coaches, cultural delegates as well as thousands of spectators and family members of the participants. There will be plenty of dignitaries among those in attendance.

Team Alaska will host Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell at a family appreciation breakfast on the first day of the Games. They will also welcome Gov. Sean Parnell and U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski as guests during the Games.

Team Alberta North

will welcome three representatives from the Alberta Sport Connection: John Short, Chair; Alf Fisher, board member; and Scott Fraser, Director of High Performance Sport.

To cheer on Team Yamal, Aleksander Mazharov, who is the Deputy Governor of the Yamal-Nenets and Director of the Yamal-Nents Department for International Relations will attend the Games.

Team Nunavik-Quebec will be joined by a number of important people: Maggie Emudluk,

President, Kativik Regional Government; Johnnie Kasudluak, President, Kativik School Board; Isabelle

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Wendell Shiffler, vice president of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, declared the Games open, alongside AWG 2014 mascot Raavee.

TROY BOUFFARD/ULU NEWS

Winter Games open with music and dancing

By Libbie Martin
ULU NEWS

A near sold-out crowd on Sunday evening at the Carlson Center cheered as the 2014 Arctic Winter Games were officially opened Sunday.

Close to 2,000 athletes, cultural participants, coaches, mission staff and officials filled the center floor, waving contingent flags and shouting their readiness to compete in this 23rd Games.

After a taped welcome from U.S. Senator Mark Begich, the show really started when Pamyua (pronounced “Bum-you-uh”) took the stage.

Their foot-tapping song — sort of a tribal funk sound — had

CONTINGENT NUMBERS

Alaska: 359
Alberta North: 241
Greenland: 146
Northwest Territories: 347
Nunavik-Quebec: 88
Nunavut: 278
Sapmi: 45
Yamal: 102
Yukon: 305

the crowd rhythmically clapping and swaying to the music. With traditional skin drums accompanied by a steel-string guitar and a singer with a guttural, belly-rumbling voice, the group sang their signature Inuit songs.

According to the band’s web-

site, they bring “Inuit music to the world,” with Inuit drum-songs from Greenland and Alaska.

Pamyua is an Inuit word meaning to request an encore of a drumsong or dance or the tail of an animal, object or idea. The band is composed of people who grew up in Alaska, including brothers Phil and Steve Blanchett of Bethel, who took the emcee role for the night.

“They’re super bubbly,” Cultural and Ceremony Coordinator Tori Middelstadt said, “with a lot of energy.”

They filled the Carlson Center with enthusiasm and laughter, introducing 2014 mascot Raavee to cheers from the crowd. Their words — and everyone

else’s — were repeated by a sign-language interpreter.

The spectators filling the seats were more than ready when the Blanchett Brothers segued into the meat of the ceremony — the introduction of the nine contingents who will spend the next week competing in 20 sports, showing sportsmanship and fair play, and bringing home gold, silver and bronze ulus as evidence of their athletic prowess.

They could be heard long before they were seen — one of the Blanchetts remarked, “Sounds like a herd of reindeer!”

They came up a ramp and onto the stage — 1,935 athletes and cultural participants, 150 officials and many mission and coaching staff. They flowed onto

the Carlson Center floor, filling it wall to wall before a throng of cheering family, friends, supporters, VIPs and the community.

After a blessing by the Reverend Anna Frank, the North Pole Choir sang the national anthem of each contingent.

Vice President of the International Committee Wendell Schiffler gave the official welcome, saying, “The eyes of the circumpolar north will focus on you.” Welcomes were offered by U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell, Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins, Host Society President Jeff Jacobson

Gov. Sean Parnell speaks at the Arctic Winter Games opening ceremony Sunday.

GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS



©AWG2014/Greg Martin

OPENING

Continued from U8

and sponsor Conoco Phillips' Scott Jensen.

Pamyua sang their latest hit — “Bubble Gum,” a song in Yupik about chewing gum — followed by hip-hop impresarios Illaska Assassins, whose catchy beat, synchronized dancing and enthusiasm had the crowd dancing along with them.

Athlete Ambassadors Liam Ortega and Aelin Allegood ran the torch through the mass occupying the floor, taking it outside to light the cauldron in front of the Carlson Center, the first permanent cauldron in AWG history.

Then, the moment everyone waited for — Schiffler returned to the stage to officially declare the Games begun.

“Athletes, performers ... I declare by the lighting of the flame the opening of the 23rd Arctic Winter Games. Now let the Games begin!”

The opening ceremony should have a lot of energy and be a lot of fun, Middelstadt said before the event. “A great kick-off to this great week.”

Middelstadt started working on the ceremony plans and logistics at 63 days

out. The Board of Directors selected the talent, but Middelstadt had to book the cultural teams and plan the ceremony itself.

Middelstadt also coordinated the 200-plus volunteers who did everything from riding the buses with the participants to staging them into lines to keeping the flow moving.

“There’s a 15-minute window for the participants to get from the buses to their spot on the floor, Middelstadt said. “The volunteers are making it happen.”

“We’re hoping for a successful event that the kids will remember the rest of their lives,” she said.

The Carlson Center seats 4,500 people; with 860 seats reserved for VIPs, the press and children younger than 2, organizers hoped for 3,600 spectators.

Tickets went on sale in late 2013, according to Kristin Baysinger, AWG ticketing chair and Carlson Center box office manager. “It’s picked up every week; an upward trend.”

Sunday’s ticket sales were “insane,” Baysinger said.

The line at the box office was 30 people deep just after noon.

“It’s great to see the people coming out to support the Games,” Baysinger said.



“We’re hoping for a successful event that the kids will remember the rest of their lives.”



©AWG2014/Greg Martin

Team Nunavut cheers at the opening ceremony. GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS

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GREAT SPIRITS: 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Tora Henry an ambassador for her new home

By Allen Shaw
ULU NEWS

Tora Henry came to Alaska seven months ago when she accepted a new position as the Equal Employment Opportunity Manager at Fort Wainwright.

"We have been captivated by Alaska's beauty and we're ready to delve into what this state is all about," she said.

Henry said she and her husband signed up to help out with the Games in September at an Arctic Winter Games booth during Military Appreciation Day at Pioneer Park.

With a bachelor's degree in social psychology from Park University and a master's in counseling and development from George Mason, her 18-year career of federal service experience includes five years with the EEO office.

Before Henry's civilian work, she served in the United States Marine Corps for eight years. Her husband, Cledis Henry Jr., also a former Marine, served for 25 years.

They celebrated their 19th wedding

anniversary in November. Since they are recent empty-nesters, both are excited about this new adventure in Alaska and are willing to try new experiences together.

"I am new to Alaska and feel that I am in for the adventure of a lifetime," she said. "In a diverse world in which we live, I find that we are more similar than different.

"It's a challenge and definitely a mission of mine to bring people together for a common goal in an effort to create more harmony, love and respect for our differences," Henry said.

Henry will work as an ambassador of good will as visitors from the nine circumpolar regions descend on Fairbanks. She is on the Volunteer and Volleyball committees.

She said, "I assist with all aspects of volunteering, such as orientation, volunteer comfort and support venues, as well as volunteer appreciation day, March 30," Henry said.

Henry will also be a line judge for the volleyball games.

Henry is fitness-oriented and knows

her way around the volleyball court. She received a two-year scholarship to Armstrong University before turning it down to join the Marines.

"I keep kneepads in my gym bag just in case the opportunity arises to play a game," she said.

Otherwise she just "loves working out at the gym, testing out new recipes, (of course) playing volleyball and mentoring as a Big Sister.

"It is so important to get involved and try to make a difference in the world," Henry said. "I want to leave a lasting impression on this world and that when I die I would have left a legacy for my children and my children's children."

Henry said she is thrilled to be an Arctic Winter Games volunteer.

"Being new to the city," it is important to get involved and be a part of something bigger than you," Henry said. It is an honor to volunteer for the AWG this year.

"As long as we are here, my husband and I will make the most of this Alaskan adventure and create memories that we will cherish for a lifetime."



Tora Henry ALLEN SHAW/ULU NEWS

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GREAT SPIRITS: 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Elva and Larry Evers embracing AWG spirit

By Allen Shaw
ULU NEWS

After spending most of their adult lives in Iowa, Elva and Larry Evers decided it was time for an adventure.

The couple packed their bags and headed north to spend a year in Fairbanks. They just wanted to experience life in a completely different environment than they were used to.

“We are fortunate to have come this particular year with the 2014 Arctic Winter Games and various other cultural events happening that don’t always occur in Interior Alaska,” Elva Evers said.

Larry Evers is a retired teacher and pastor, while Elva Evers has had a variety of part-time jobs, as well as being a housewife.

“So I can never retire,” she said.

The Evers have three grown



Larry and Elva Evers ALLEN SHAW/ULU NEWS

children and eight grandchildren.

The Evers started volunteering for the Games last fall and they have been helping with

merchandise inventory.

“There is a seemingly endless supply of memorabilia, especially pins,” said Elva Evers.

During the AWG, “Pin Cen-

tral” is located in the Blue Room of the Centennial Center of the Arts at Pioneer Park.

Mike Bork, director of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department and the Host Society committee member in charge of the pin trading, said, “There are professional pin traders and casual traders. There is also an AWG merchandise table that will be releasing specific pins on designated dates. There are a limited number of certain pins, so serious traders will have to be on their toes.”

Pin Central is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

When the Evers aren’t volunteering or slinging Arctic Winter Game swag, they enjoy church activities and taking in as much of Alaska and Fairbanks as possible.

“Then we rest,” Elva Evers said.

But there will be little rest this week.

They believe everyone should enjoy the world God has given them.

“Enjoy the people you know well and also enjoy the ones you don’t know so well,” Elva Evers said. “There are many good things going on here (in Fairbanks), take advantage of them all.”

The Evers have embraced the spirit of the Arctic Winter Games and have been working hard to make it a success.

“We appreciate our opportunities and working with the staff and volunteers at AWG has been enjoyable,” Elva said. “Everyone has been helpful and very agreeable to work with.”

It just goes to show, you don’t have to be a life-long member of the community to embrace the meaning of representing the Golden Heart City.

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Curlers play a match Sunday morning. GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS

Curling, indoor soccer, volleyball have 1st matches

By Bob Eley
ULU NEWS

Curling, indoor soccer and volleyball got a jump on the other sports in the 2014 Arctic Winter Games on Sunday, playing their first games hours before the opening ceremonies.

All three sports had light schedules on the opening day of the Games, but things will be much more hectic today now that the Games are in full swing.

Curling

In the Junior female division, teams from the Yukon and Alberta North got the best of their opponents.

Yukon posted an 11-6 triumph against Nunavut, while Alberta North edged Northwest Territories 6-4.

Team Alaska drew a bye on the opening day of play.

The Junior male division featured a couple of lopsided scores

with Nunavut taking out Alaska by a 12-4 score and Alberta North claiming a 9-2 victory against Northwest Territories.

Team Yukon had a bye on Sunday.

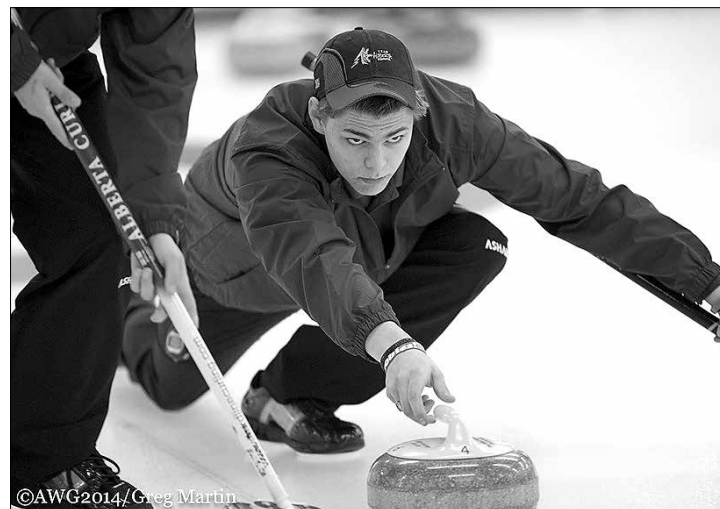
Qualifying for the medals round continues through Tuesday, with playoffs set for Wednesday and ulu-round games on Thursday. A mixed tournament takes place Friday and Saturday.

Games are scheduled to take place at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. today and Tuesday. Playoffs are at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Wednesday and the bronze-ulu match is at 9 a.m. Thursday and the gold-ulu game is at 2:30 p.m. Thursday.

Volleyball

The girls took the court at Randy Smith Middle School and all three of the best-of-three matches were decided in two games.

Alaska opened the day with



©AWG2014/Greg Martin

Curlers play a match Sunday morning. GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS

a 25-12, 25-18 win against the Northwest Territories, Yanal (Russia) downed Alberta North 25-22, 27-25 and Yukon pulled out a 26-24, 25-22 win against Nunavut.

Today's girls games will be at West Valley High School with qualifying competition running

from 8 a.m. through 8 p.m.

Sunday's boys games were played at West Valley High School.

Northwest Territories opened the day with a solid 25-22, 25-12 win against Alaska, Yukon topped Greenland 25-16, 25-17 and Alberta North upended

Nunavut 25-17, 25-13.

The boys head over to Randy Smith Middle School today where they will continue to play qualifying round games from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Indoor soccer

There were two female indoor soccer games on the schedule Sunday at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Student Recreation Center

Sapmi (Northern Scandinavia) had its game going in high gear, racing to a 15-1 win against Alaska in the Intermediate division.

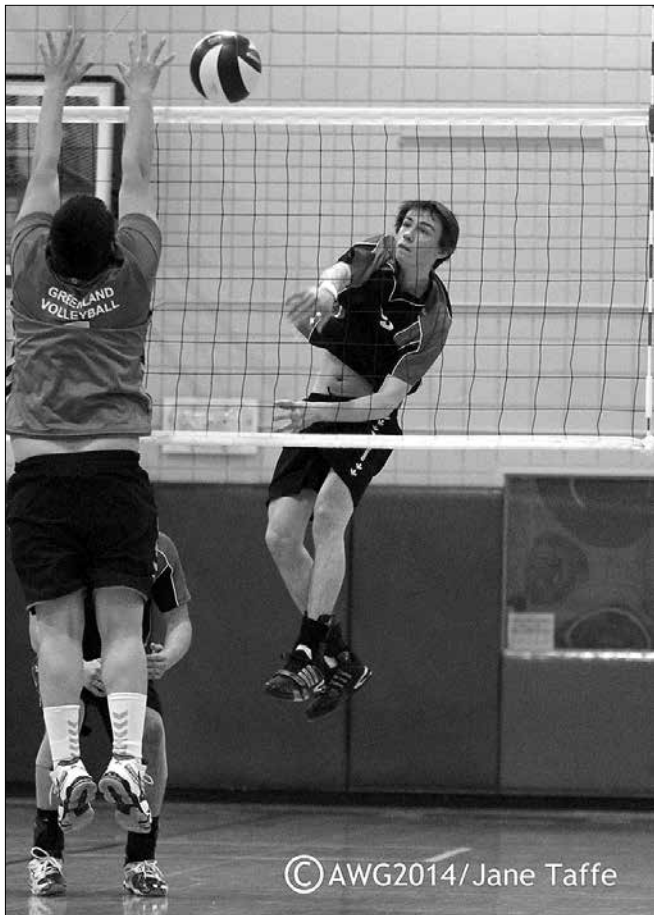
The Juvenile division game was much closer as Northwest Territories earned a hard-fought 2-1 win against Greenland.

Games in all five divisions — Intermediate, Juvenile and Junior girls and Juvenile and Junior boys — are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today at the UAF SRC.

ULU NEWS

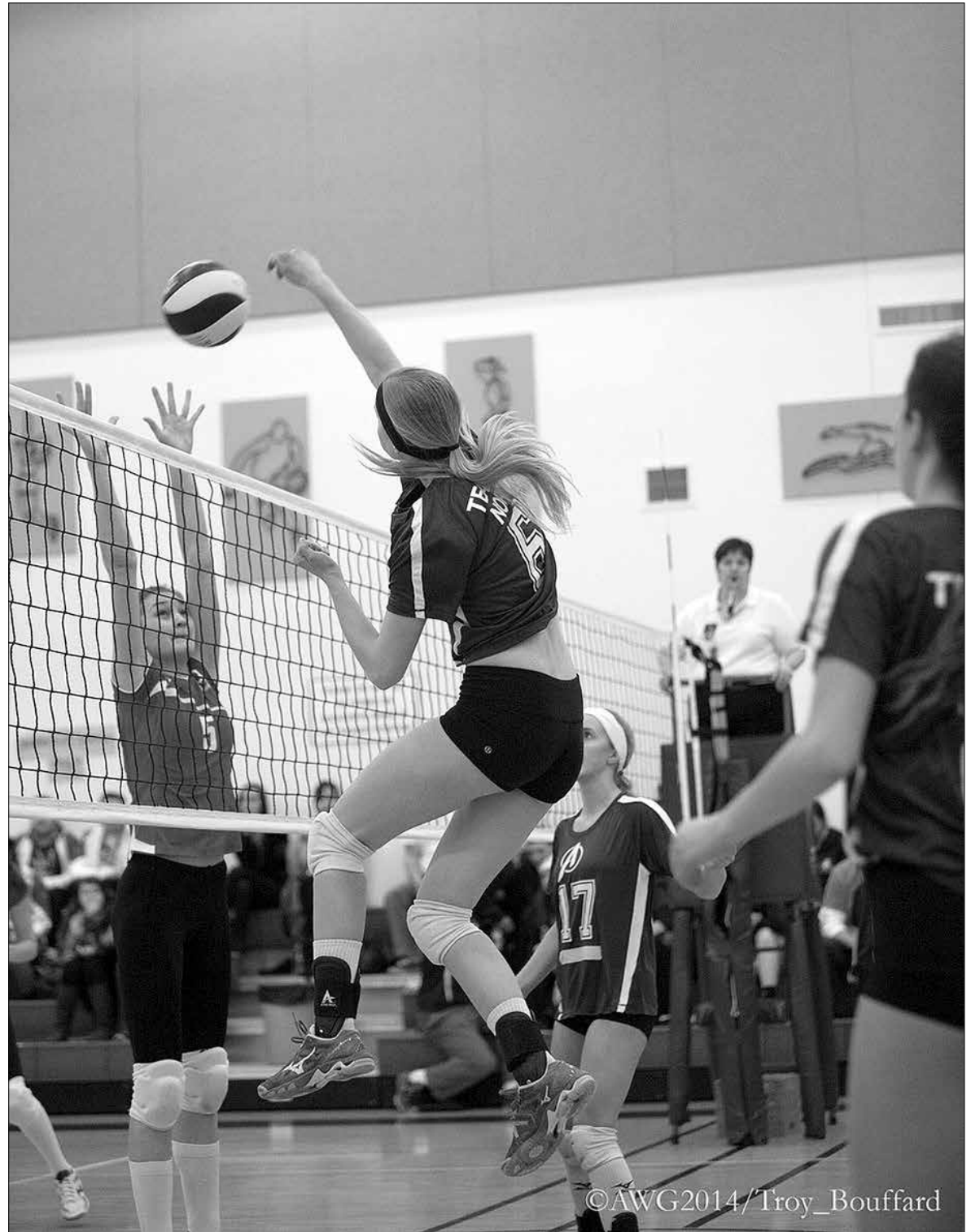


Team Alaska battles it out with Team Sapmi on Sunday during a Junior Female indoor soccer game at the Student Recreation Center. JR ANCHETA/FOR THE NEWS-MINER



© AWG2014/Jane Taffe

Above: Boys' volleyball teams played matches Sunday morning. JANE TAFFE/ULU NEWS
Right: Girls play a match. TROY BOUFFARD/ULU NEWS



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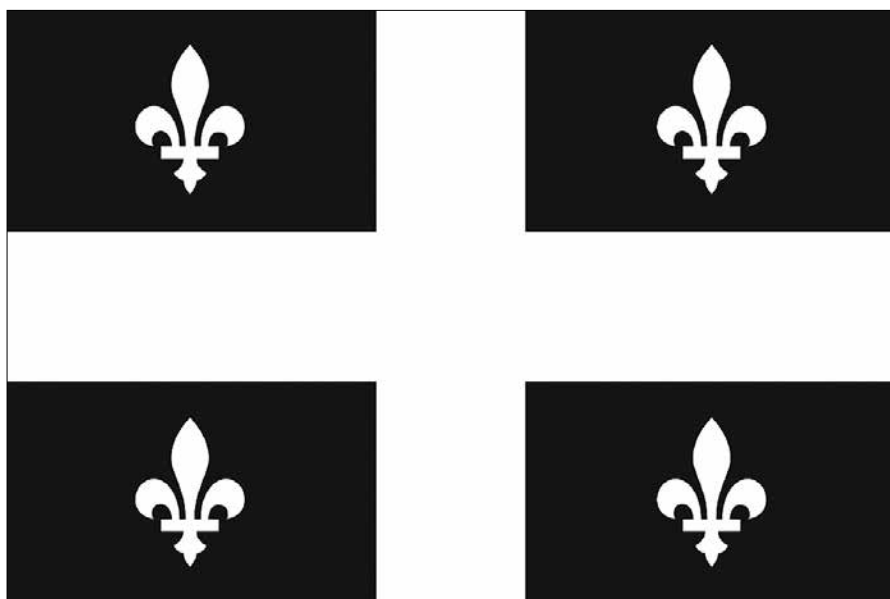
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CONTINGENCY PROFILES



Quebec flag ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Team Nunavik-Quebec represents generations

By Libbie Martin
ULU NEWS

Though small, the Nunavik-Quebec contingent is eager to show off its prowess in arctic sports, Dene Games, badminton, table tennis, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

The 62 athletes participating in the 2014 Arctic Winter Games will be accompanied by 12 coaches, two officials, a cultural chaperone, and six cultural participants.

The athletes have been preparing since October 2012, with the first round of tryouts held by individual communities by January 2013.

During the Ungava and Hudson Coastal trials, held in April and July, the second cut was made. The final team was decided at Regional trials in Kuujuuaq in November.

Actually, preparations began the minute the 2012 Games ended, according to Jean-Philippe Dubois, Communication Agent for the Kaktivik Regional Government.

"Many tryouts were held to help find the coaching staff find the athletes that would best represent Team Nunavik-Quebec in the 2014 AWG," He said.

The cultural group, the Kangiqsujuaq Brazilian Drummers, have been playing as a group since 2010; they incorporate theater depicting traditional seal hunting and ice fishing into their performance, Dubois said.

Attending their first Arctic Winter

Games are the entire girls cross-country ski team and six of the coaches.

Team Nunavik-Quebec has many examples of multi-generational participation in these games, Dubois said.

Suzy Koneak and her three daughters will compete in the Dene Games and cross-country skiing. Coach Aftad Kahn gets to cheer his daughter Sarah in snowshoeing. Two sets of brothers and sisters will compete in Arctic Sports: Deseray and Jamessie Cumberbatch and Allison May and Aqujak Snowball.

The Nunavik team excels at Arctic Sports and Dene Games, Dubois said, and the contingent hopes to "reiterate the great performance of 2012."

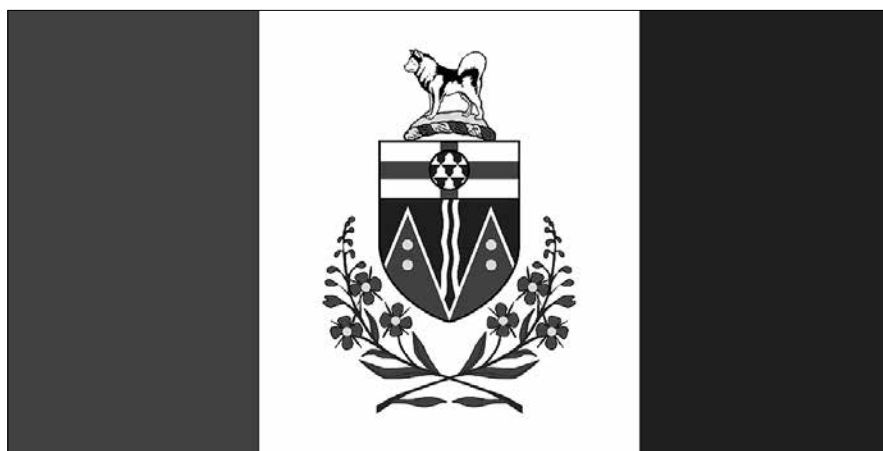
This is the largest contingent Nunavik has sent to the Arctic winter Games, so Dubois says they are hoping for more ulus this time around.

"On a personal level," Dubois said, "we hope our athletes will surpass themselves and learn what it takes to excel at what they do while showing an excellent fair play attitude."

Although Team Nunavik-Quebec has participated in fewer games than some contingents, Dubois sees the Games as an important event in the lives of the youth.

"The Arctic Winter Games competition is a great opportunity for our youth to adopt healthy habits as well as to promote traditional games and cultural elements important to northern people," he said.

The contingent will be accompanied by three elders and a parent.



Yukon flag ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Team Yukon: Games are a 'rite of passage'

By Libbie Martin
ULU NEWS

Fairbanks will welcome 285 members of Team Yukon to the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

Broken out, that means 237 athletes, 41 coaches, six cultural participants and one manager for the cultural group.

According to Tracey Bilsky, of Team Yukon, roughly half the young athletes are competing in their first Arctic Winter Games.

They are "very excited kids," she said. Team Yukon begins its athlete selection process months before the games, looking for youth with skill, dedication to training and an ability to be a positive role model. Members of Team Yukon range in age from 10 to 31.

Coaches, chosen by the governing body of the individual sport, have experience coaching the sport to the particular age group.

"We have a fantastic set of leaders who can inspire youth and help them develop in their sport of choice," Bilsky said.

Team Yukon excels at no particular sport, Bilsky said.

"To tell you the truth, it varies every Games."

Team Yukon stresses grass root development of all sports, so their hope is to do well in all the events in the weeklong sports and cultural extravaganza.

As with the athletes, about half the coaches are at the Games for the first

time.

Doronn Fox, who coaches the Dene Games, and the two badminton coaches are former AWG athletes.

Speed skating coach Phil Hoffman will watch his son Shae compete in short track speed skating continuing a Games tradition of involving multiple generations of the same family in the event.

Bilsky says the Games are important because they are a "rite of passage" for Yukon athletes.

"They look forward to them even when they are small children," she said. "They give a consistent two-year training to sports and coaches, and we send our largest team to these Games."

They are there to develop and inspire people. We treasure the AWGs."

Besides the large team, approximately 175 families and supporters will come to cheer the team on, Bilsky estimates.

"Fairbanks is close enough to drive to, so we have families coming down," she said.

Team Yukon will honor its supporters at a Parent Breakfast Tuesday morning at Pike's Waterfront morning.

Bilsky hopes the Yukon contingent doesn't just bring in ulus, she's looking at the Hodgson Trophy, the symbol of fair play and sportsmanship awarded to one contingent at the end of the Games.

Team Yukon won the award in 1998, and it is ready to bring it home again.

"I've been hoping for that trophy for a long time," Bilsky said.



They give a consistent two-year training to sports and coaches, and we send our largest team to these Games." Tracey Bilsky, Team Yukon

Presidential Scholarship winners coming Wednesday

By Mercedes Anderson
ULU NEWS

As a 27-year educator, Jeff Jacobson knows the value of pursuing high education.

In his role as chief of staff for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins, Jacobson is a huge proponent of the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

Wanting to partner participation in the Games with future

opportunities, Jacobson created the Presidential Scholarships program.

Nine Presidential Scholarships — one for each contingent participating in the 2014 Arctic Winter Games — will be awarded to applicants in grades 11-12 (at the time of application). Winners will be announced on Wednesday.

Applicants were required to write an essay related to the of

the 2014 Arctic Winter Games — “Great Spirit, Northern Dreams.”

Winning essays will be published during the Games.

“The goal of the 2014 Arctic Winter Games Presidential Scholarships is to encourage our youth to build upon their Arctic Winter Games experience by pursuing higher education,” said Jacobson, who also serves as the Host Society president.

The inaugural Presidential Scholarships are matching scholarships with participating educational institutions in the University of the Arctic, a consortium of 140 colleges and universities across the Arctic.

Funding for the Presidential Scholarships program came from private donations and the sale of trolls.

The Presidential Trolls sport a unique Host Society President

Games pin.

More than \$2,500 of the \$4,500 goal has been raised. Jacobson anticipates more troll sales will be generated this week, providing the maximum matched scholarship of \$1,000 for each of the nine successful applicants.

“We hope the Presidential Scholarship will become one of the lasting traditions of the Arctic Winter Games,” Jacobson said.



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A LOOK BACK AT THE 1988 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES



Above: Team Alaska's Helen Amaktoulik, from Golovan, and Andrew Tierney, of Anchorage, hold their torches after lighting the flame to open the 1988 Arctic Winter Games at the Big Dipper Ice Arena in Fairbanks. NEWS-MINER FILE PHOTO

Right: Former NFL coaching legend George Allen sets out on the trail for his first sled dog ride at the home of Harvey Drake and Linda Leonard on March 17, 1988, in Salcha. Allen was in Fairbanks as part of the Arctic Winter Games being held throughout the Fairbanks North Star Borough. CAL WHITE/ULU NEWS FILE PHOTO



Northwest Territories' Trudy Kolit stretches to kick the fur ball in the Junior women's high kick event on March 17, 1988, at the Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks. Kolit, from Coral Harbour, earned the gold ulu at 5 feet, 8 inches. MIKE BELROSE/ULU NEWS FILE PHOTO

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GAMES

Continued from U3

Whisenant Ski Trails at 10 a.m. for interval start freestyle races. The first snowshoe biathlon starts at 11:30 a.m., with the ski biathlon beginning at 2:30 p.m. and the snowshoe races start at 4:30 p.m.

The Games' cornerstone sports — Dene Games and Arctic Sports — have events scheduled today.

The Dene Games stick pull is at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ryan

Middle School, while the Arctic Sports kneel jump at 9:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Lathrop High School, followed by the one hand reach at 3:30 p.m.

Dog Mushing opens with races at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Jeff Studdert Racegrounds on Farmers Loop.

Short track speed skating makes its debut at 3:20 p.m. at the Carlson Center with races at distances of 777 and 1,000 meters.

Qualifying starts in badminton at North Pole High School, while

table tennis gets under way at Hutchison High School and wrestling starts at North Pole Middle School.

Team sports begin the qualifying rounds of their respective tournaments today. Basketball is at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, curling is at the Fairbanks Curling Club, ice hockey is at the Big Dipper Ice Arena and the UAF Patty Center, indoor soccer is at the UAF Student Recreation Center and volleyball is at Randy Smith Middle School and West Valley High School.

Today's cultural activities include several events from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Pioneer Park — Arctic Winter Games exhibits and museums, pin sales and trading and a folk art festival and expo. There will be a film festival from 2-6 p.m. in the theater at Pioneer Park.

A cultural lunch performance will take place from noon to 2 p.m. at Noel Wien Library and there will be a Denne Drummer Demonstration from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center.



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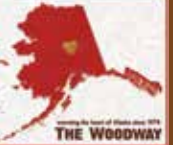
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Winter Games environmental committee expanding recycling

By Nickole Robarge
ULU NEWS

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society Environmental Committee is going beyond the mandate to recycle at the AWG venues by establishing a legacy project.

The intent of the AWG Recycling Legacy Project is to use the Games in Fairbanks as the impetus to encourage more public oriented venues to offer recycling to their clients.

Contributions from Kinross Fort Knox Mine and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Recycling Commission will facilitate the purchase of recycling bins to be permanently located at facilities owned by the Borough such as Pioneer Park, Birch Hill Recreation Area and schools.

Bins also will be located at nonprofit organizations open to the public, such as the downtown-based Project Fairbanks and the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center.

The project also will facilitate ordering and purchasing of bins by the private sector.

The Environmental Committee — with the help of Interior Alaska Green Star — plans to educate those organizations and businesses on the other costs associated with recycling such as sorting and collection, the resources available for recycling hauling/drop-off and disposal

The information will help businesses make informed decisions on recycling at their facility.

The bins will feature signage that includes a community brand

for recycling.

Deb Hickok, chair of the AWG Environmental Committee, said she hops the “green” effort at this year’s Arctic Winter Games will encourage more public-oriented sites to offer recycling to their clients.

Plastic, aluminum and course paper with bins for each item being placed at all Arctic Winter Games venues. Volunteers will be on hand to direct spectators to where the recycling bins are located.

Once the Games are over the recycling bins will remain in Fairbanks for future use.

“This is a gigantic move forward for Fairbanks,” said Judy Shiffler, a member of the North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department Citizen Advisory Commission.



ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

VIPs

Continued from U7

Parizeau, Director General, Kativik Regional Government; Mary Pilurttuut, Executive, Kativik Regional Government; and Jobie Tukkiapik, President, Makivik.

Minster Brad Cathers of the Ministry of Community Services for the Yukon Government, will attend the opening ceremony with Team Yukon and cheer athletes in several events through Tuesday.

But really, all of the spectators, families, coaches and athletes are VIPs, deserving to be given the welcome Fairbanks are known for.

It warms the heart on a winter day.

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Soccer Medal Round	\$30	\$25	5 and under free	Good for one day of medal round
All Other Medal Rounds	\$15	\$12	5 and under free	Good for one medal round sport event. Basketball, Curling, Volleyball OR Hockey
Special Events	Adult	Youth Senior Military*	Children no guaranteed seat	
Opening Ceremony	\$20	\$15	5 and under free	Sunday, March 16, 6-7pm Carlson Center
Cultural Gala	\$35	\$30	3 and under free	Thursday, March 20 OR Friday, March 21 7-8:30pm Hering Auditorium
Closing Ceremony	\$20	\$15	5 and under free	Saturday, March 22, 6-7pm Carlson Center

*Youth: Ages 6-18 • Senior: Age 55+ • Military: Active Duty & Dependents

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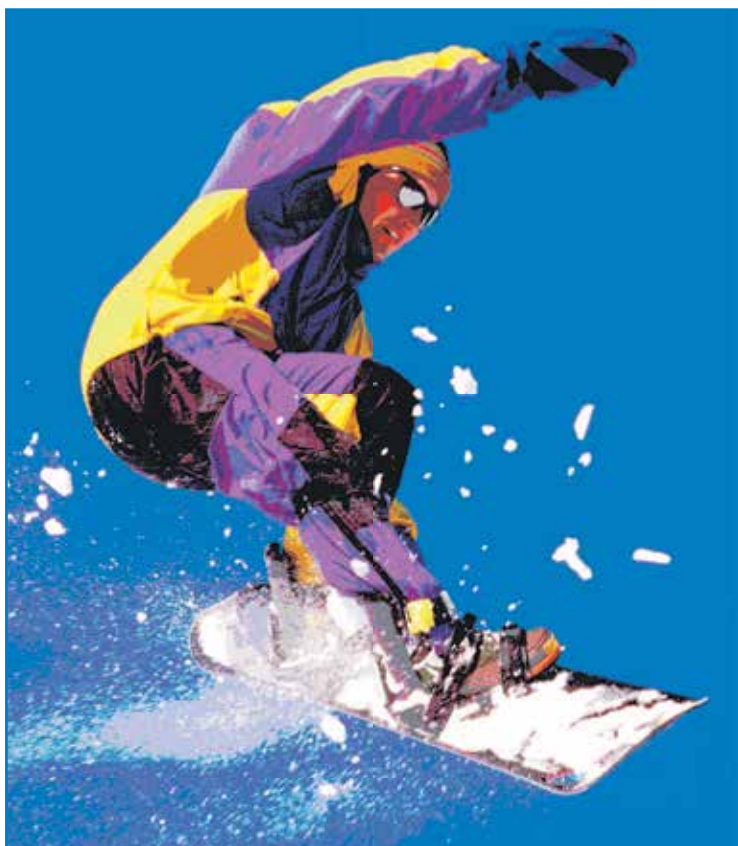
Welcome Arctic Winter Games!

Mon.-Thu. 6 p.m.-11 p.m. **2 Sessions on Friday!**
 Fri. 6-1:30 a.m. **SESSION 1 • 7:30pm-9:30pm, SESSION 2 • 10:30pm-1:30am**
 Sat.-Sun. Noon-11 p.m. Pull tabs, snack bar & nonsmoking area.




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