

# The Dutch Harbor Fisherman

The Aleutians and the Pribilofs



## The line on fees

Cost of disposal harms environment

Page 4

Vol. 16, No. 21

Unalaska, Alaska

www.thedutchharborfisherman.com

\$1.00

April 24, 2008

## Powerhouse brings city fuel-saving technology

'Etorus FE' expected to save millions

VICTORIA BARBER  
vbarber@alaskanewspapers.com

Unalaskans may not see it, but there is a quiet revolution taking place in the Unalaska City powerhouse, the result of the new piece of equipment called the Etorus FE.

It's a small, fuel-saving device that city officials initially greeted with caution and doubt. They now say they expect it to save Unalaska millions of dollars and thousands of pounds of emissions.

"We're really skeptical about stuff that sounds like hocus-pocus snake oil," said Jim Fitch, Unalaska powerhouse supervisor. Fitch said that the powerhouse tried a similar device 10 years ago but "it was just a big thing sitting in the back room and it didn't work at all."

Then one day last November, Fitch was on the Internet and came across a company called Etorus, which claimed to have developed fuel catalyst technology that was environment friendly and cost effective. After doing some research, Fitch decided to give the fuel catalyst another shot.

Fitch brokered a deal with Etorus for the city to rent two Etorus FE units for a test drive. He said that the proof was immediate.

"We saw the changes in the first day, we started off with over 6 percent savings in fuel," Fitch said. "We were so excited when we first saw the results that we kept checking every hour to see how much more fuel we had saved."

Six percent may not sound like much, but in a city that uses two million gallons of diesel a year, it adds up fast. Fitch said that, at

See Page 13, Power

## END OF THE RAINBOW



Courtesy photo/Tracy Miller

Tracy Miller snapped this photo from the top of Mt. Ballyhoo last July. He said he never made it down to check the boat for treasure.

## King Cove 'optimistic' about land swap for road easement

Hearing before Congress an emotional event

VICTORIA BARBER  
vbarber@alaskanewspapers.com

King Cove community and tribal leaders are cautiously optimistic after a hearing on Senate Bill 1680 on Tuesday, April 15, before the U.S. Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"I feel that we had the more compelling arguments. Some of the questions were tough, but I feel that we came across as clarifying them very well," said Della Trumble,

president of the King Cove Corp., who testified in Washington D.C., on behalf of the Agdaagux Tribe.

"It was very more emotional than anything else, when I considered what people have through," Trumble said.

The Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuge and Wilderness Enhancement Act of 2007 would increase the size of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge by more than 61,000 acres in exchange for a 206-acre easement for a single-lane gravel road running through seven miles of the park to connect King Cove to the airstrip of Cold Bay, 25 miles away.

At present, King Cove residents must trav-

el by plane, boat or ferry to Cold Bay, a dangerous trip in gale-force winds and heavy fog.

Trumble said that 11 people have died flying between King Cove and Cold Bay since 1979, and that pregnant woman must relocate to Anchorage six to nine weeks before their due date for fear of premature labor or complications during unpredictable weather.

"My niece was born at sea on the galley table of a fishing vessel," said Trumble in her testimony at the hearing. "Her mother's premature labor forced her to endure a dangerous, three-hour ocean voyage because of high winds and blizzard conditions."

See Page 13, Road

## 'Natural Helpers' host retreat focusing on teen issues

Program teaches teens to help one another

VICTORIA BARBER  
vbarber@alaskanewspapers.com

Ice cream, burgers, swimming, movies and even a dance were on the schedule for 57 Unalaska junior high and high school students who attended a Natural Helpers retreat on Friday, April 11.

The topic of the retreat, however was, serious.

Family violence, bullying, drug use and accidental pregnancy are just some of the issues that touch many teenagers' lives at a time when they are going through the already big challenge of growing up.

These issues are not new, but the

Natural Helpers program has developed an innovative approach to helping teenagers: It teaches them to help each other.

"Who sees the problems with their classmates? Who sees the bullies? Who sees the drug use? It's the kids, and they're going to their friends," said Claire Musgrove, who teaches health and physical education at Unalaska School and coordinated the Natural Helpers program.

"Natural Helpers gives them the tools to help and lets them know who they can refer their friends to."

The program is based on the premise that when high school students have problems they will usually turn to a friend first rather than to an adult or a professional.

See Page 10, Youth



Meta Mendenhall aids Reynold Okitkun, Natural Helper trainer, with a trust-building exercise.

Courtesy photo/ Darcel Williams

DH 04-24-08



54159 00002



# Power ...

From page 1

today's fuel prices, a 5 percent saving translates to 20 cents per gallon less that the city pays for fuel – that amounts to about \$2 million over five years.

That's big results from a small contraption. The Etorus FE is a copper-colored cylinder a foot long that hooks into the fuel line of a diesel engine.

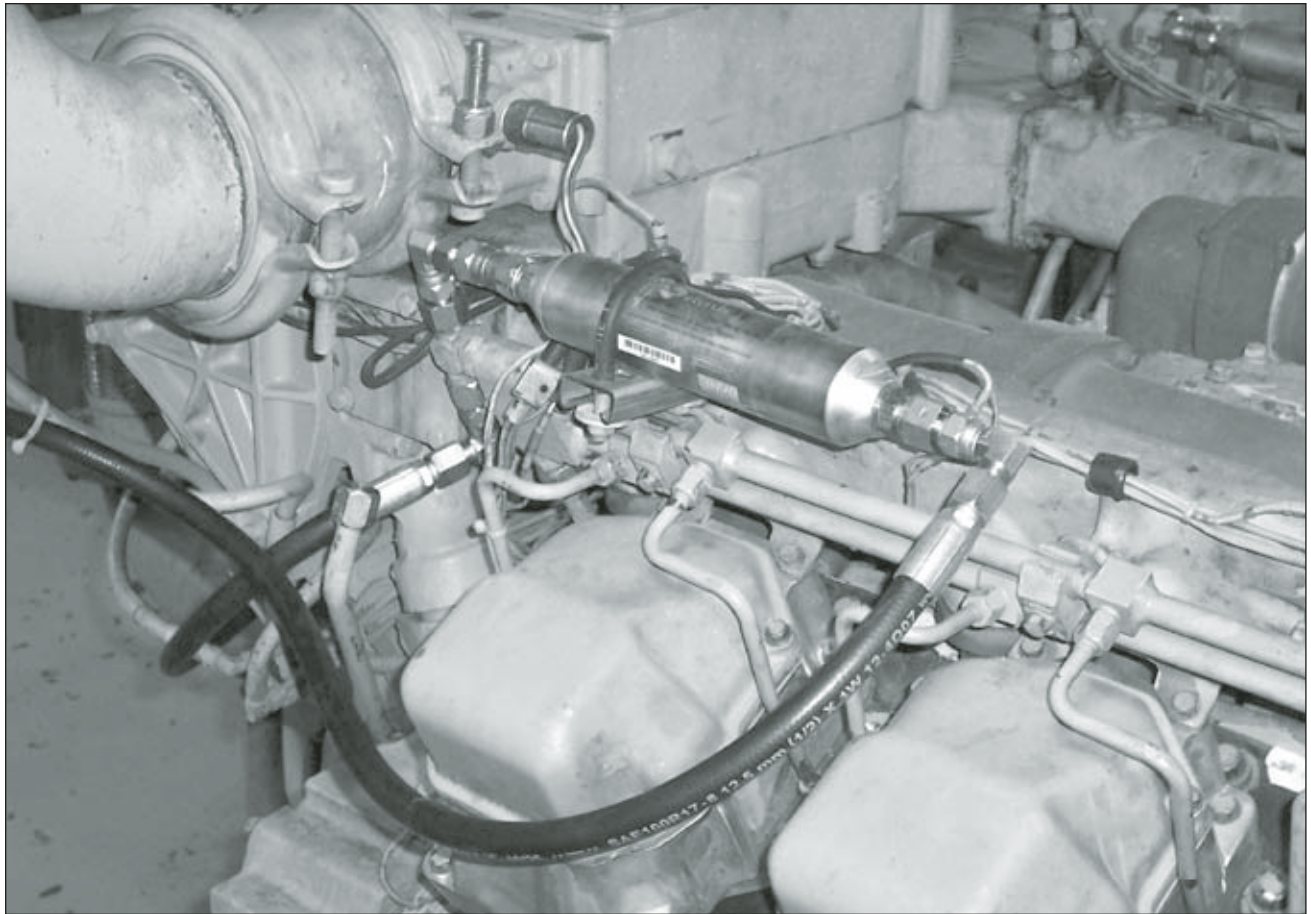
Prior to combustion, diesel flows through the Etorus FE and reacts to different minerals and elements in the cylinder. These reactions separate the clustered fuel molecules so that a greater surface area is exposed to oxygen, making the diesel burn more efficiently.

The Etorus FE Website compares this process to the way that charcoal burns when left on a furnace for 30 seconds. When charcoal burns in a lump, oxygen surrounds the outside of it but cannot penetrate to the center, allowing only the outer part to burn.

However, if the same piece of charcoal were crushed into a powder and spread out into the furnace for 30 seconds, more of the surface of the charcoal would be exposed to oxygen and a larger percentage of the charcoal would be burned.

Etorus says that the Etorus FE makes molecules of diesel burn in a similar way to the crushed charcoal. Since the fuel burns more efficiently, it doesn't take as much to produce the same amount of energy. Since more of the diesel is used, there is less unburned fuel to be blown out of the exhaust as emissions.

Dan Winters, director of public utilities, said that after trying the Etorus FE for a cou-



This copper cylinder is the Etorus FE, a fuel-saving device that hooks into the fuel line of this Caterpillar 3512 diesel generator at the city of Unalaska powerhouse.

Courtesy photo/ Jim Fitch

ple months, the city was impressed enough with the results to purchase 14 of the units for seven of the powerhouse's nine engines.

At \$4,000 a pop, the Etorus FE does not come cheap. However, Winters said he expects to recover the \$56,000 expense within six months.

So when can Unalaskans expect to see a drop in their energy bills? Not so fast, Winters said. While the Etorus and other

fuel-efficiency products can help save costs and the environment, it won't be enough to counteract the rising price of diesel.

"Because the cost of fuel keeps rising, the consumer wouldn't see it ... unless they do some fancy math," Winters said. "Also, the consumer wouldn't see the savings of 100,000 pounds of emissions in the air per year."

Winters said that while the Etorus FE will relieve some of the pressure of rising diesel

costs and higher emissions standards, the long-term solution would need to be more radical.

"It's time to move on geothermal," Winters said. "Geothermal will happen. It's just a matter of finding geothermal liquids in the valley."

Victoria Barber can be reached at (907) 348-2424 or toll free at (800) 770-9830, ext. 424.

# Road ...

From page 1

The King Cove Corp. is calling the land exchange "a commonsense solution" to the King Cove access problem and an excellent deal for the federal government as well.

However, Stanley Senner, executive director of Audubon Alaska, said that no amount of acreage could compensate for the damage that a road would do to what he called "the ecological heart of the refuge."

"From the standpoint of migratory birds, especially, this relatively small area is unquestionably of global significance," said Senner in his testimony.

Senner said that while the site of the proposed road is small, it drives straight through the most critical and sensitive area of the refuge.

Waterfowl such as the brant, emperor goose and Steller's eider are dependant on the eelgrass beds of the Izembek and Kinzaroff lagoons, which are close to the proposed route.

"The enormous productivity of eelgrass beds in Izembek Lagoon and other lagoon on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula is a key element in driving the productivity of the larger Bering Sea ecosystem," Senner said.

This is not the first time that King Cove and environmental groups have clashed before Congress. In 1998, a similar effort with less land was unsuccessfully pro-

posed. As a compromise, Congress appropriated \$37.5 million under the King Cove Health and Safety Act for improvements to the King Cove clinic, an airport and a hovercraft to transport residents between the two cities.

However, King Cove has found it difficult to attract appropriate medical personnel to man the clinic, and the cost of operating the hovercraft has proven prohibitive. Trumble said that the Aleutians East Borough is \$832,000 out of pocket due to hovercraft, and she expects to see a complete shutdown of hovercraft operations soon.

When the federal government designated the land between King Cove and Cold Bay as wilderness, the people of King Cove were not consulted or informed. City Manager Gary Hennigh says that the land access issue is "an

indigenous injustice done to the Aleuts of King Cove that needs to be addressed."

"Clearly it was a very positive day for us," Hennigh said. "Sen. (Lisa) Murkowski did a wonderful job ... and it showed that to the Audubon Society, birds and sport hunters are more important than the people who live in King Cove."

Trumble said that whatever the fate of bill 1680, the fight will continue for King Cove's road.

"It's still an uphill battle. This is never going away for us until we resolve it," Trumble said. "We've got to keep moving, there are kids that believe in this, it will never go away."

Victoria Barber can be reached at (907) 348-2424 or toll free at (800) 770-9830, ext. 424.

## UNALASKA-DUTCH HARBOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

Give a copy of your business card to every newspaper reader, every week! Advertise in the Business Directory. Send us a copy of your business card and we will get it published

### Joanna's Bookkeeping & Tax Service

Joanna Ludvick McCallum, E.A.  
P.O. Box 262, Sand Point, Alaska 99661

Tax Returns for Individuals, Partnerships & Corporations • Accounting & Reports for Non-Profits • Bookkeeping, Payroll, Settlements, Sales Tax Reports • Settle Old IRS Problems  
907.383.5400 Ph/Fax

Introducing Shaklee's GET CLEAN™, the Safe, Non-Toxic, Natural Way to Clean!



**SAFE CLEAN  
POWERFUL CLEAN  
GREEN CLEAN  
SMART CLEAN**

www.moretolife.biz  
Toll Free: 1-877-234-9212

701 W. 41st Ave. Ste. 104 Office: 907-334-9212  
Anchorage, AK 99503 Cell: 907-223-3086

"Order today & have it tomorrow"

### Aleutian Fresh Seafoods

"Fresh Seafood From Alaska"

CRAB - Snow • King • Dungeness  
FILETS - Salmon • Halibut • Cod  
• Smoked Salmon • Shrimp • Scallops

(907) 581-2112 (AIRPORT)

TOLL FREE: (877) 581-1864 • FAX: (907) 581-5681

email: mlbarber@arctic.net P.O. Box 273, Unalaska, AK 99685



WE SHIP ALL OVER THE U.S.



NOW EXPANDING!

FULL Service Grocery!  
-Produce and Meat-

OPEN: 9 a.m.-11 p.m.-7 Days!

**Boat/Bulk Orders**

e-mail: brookb@wardscope.com • 907-359-5800

Put Your Business Card Here It's Easy!

Call Carmen  
800-770-9830 x 423  
(Alaska only)

or 907-348-2423

E-mail: carmen@alaskanewspapers.com



MAC Enterprises  
Diving  
Welding &  
Boat  
Watch

VHF9  
Captain Jimmer McDonald  
P.O. Box 920452  
Dutch Harbor,  
AK 99692  
Ph: (907) 581-1386  
Fax: (907) 581-3124  
Cell: (907) 359-1386