



# Yuut Elitnaurviat

PEOPLES LEARNING CENTER

*Promote high wage jobs for local workers through vocational training and educational opportunities*

Volume 2, Issue 1—February 22, 2010

## About the Bethel Regional ABE Program By Kathy Hanson

The long-standing Bethel Regional Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program is up and running at Yuut Elitnaurviat. Books, faculty, students and our well known plant jungle made the move to the new facility in the fall of 2009. Happily, it didn't take long for people to find us, and already this year students have put in hundreds of hours studying and testing.

We offer an accredited high school diploma by examination through the General Educational Development (GED) Testing Service. The GED tests include: Writing, Reading, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics. GED preparation and instruction are available Monday- Friday from September to May. Classes are offered in reading, writing and math. Tutoring is provided in all subjects. The Bethel Regional ABE Program is an Official GED Testing Center. Thirty-nine students have graduated so far this school year.

Our first graduation ceremony will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Yuut Elitnaurviat and all are welcome to attend.

The ABE program has served the YK Delta for 37 years and we look forward to many more.

In addition to the GED Program, we offer:

- 1) Basic Academic Skill Building in Math, Reading, and Writing for the purpose of earning a GED, getting or keeping a job or entering college or training; and,
- 2) Assessment testing, using the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE).

All ABE services are free!



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## **Jason Martin Checks his 8000+ OTJ Hours By Judy Wasierski**



When asked during an interview in March 2005 where he saw himself in ten to fifteen years, 19-year old Jason Martin said a journeyman electrician. Six years later, now 24-year-old Martin has completed the required 8000 on-the-job (OJT) hours and related training instruction. All he needs to do to be a journeyman is to pass the state licensing exam.

Everywhere Jason goes people are impressed and comment on how focused he is. After graduating from Mt. Edgecumbe in 2003, Jason completed the Alaska Job Corps Electrical A Level Program. He said early on he thought of other careers, but electrical came along and his goal was to become a journeyman electrician from the beginning. After completing Job Corps, Jason interviewed and was ranked #1 for an electrical apprenticeship with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Apprenticeship Program. He first worked for Elec-T-Serve, but finished his apprenticeship hours with YKHC Construction.

Jason's advice for others is, "you have to keep your mind set to your goals." His new goal now is to pass his test. He will be taking the state exam as soon as a date is set. His dreams now are to have a good family and support them. His hobbies include subsistence hunting and fishing and playing and watching sports. All of Jason's hard work and dedication to becoming a journeyman is paying off.

**"You have to keep your mind set to your goals."**

**—Jason Martin**

**Everyone at Yuut Elitnaurviat – The People's Learning Center congratulates Jason**

## **YK Delta Career Guide By Jackie Johnson**

Yuut Elitnaurviat became grantee of Youth First grant funds supporting the YK Delta Career Guide program as of Summer 2009. Jackie Johnson, Yuut Elitnaurviat Program Coordinator accepted this position Fall 2009 and has since implemented services to in-school and out-of-school youth, community members and agencies in Bethel and surrounding villages. This position moved from the YK Delta Job Center where it had been in place since 2005.

Since December 2009, Jackie has provided services to 232 youth, community members, school and agency staff in Bethel and the villages of Aniak, Kalskag, Crooked Creek, Sleetmute, Chuathbulak, Stony River, Alakanuk, Scammon Bay and Russian Mission. A visit to Emmonak will take place this month.

Services are free and individuals can make an appointment to meet with Jackie. Some services provided include assistance in registering and using the Alaska Labor Exchange System, (ALEXsys), Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS), interest, skills, and values assessments, job search, financial aid information, and locating appropriate training programs.

Call 543-0993 for more information or to make an appointment.



**Emmonak Career Guidance with Jackie Johnson. Picture left to right: Melissa Mike, Lanny Moore, Willie Augustine, Bertha Murphy, Clarence Hootch, Karl Kelly, Rod Kozenikoff and Bridget Moore in front of computer.**

## Driver's Education By Linda Fife

Do you have a need for a Driver License? Here at Yuut Elitnaurviat we have established a Program that will help you go from just needing a license to obtaining your license. At least once a month there is a Permit Class where students become familiar with the DMV Manual, have questions answered and prepare for the written Permit Test.

Once you have your Permit then you are ready to take the Driving Academy, eight hours of important, informative, and fun activities concerning driving on today's highways. The Driving Academy is usually offered in two four hour sessions on consecutive days, also at least once a month. You will be given a "Certificate of Completion", that if your insurance accepts, you may receive a discount on your insurance.

Now you are ready to get Behind the Wheel with one on one driving instructions with our instructor. There is up to eight hours of driving instruction basics with you doing the driving and we provide the vehicle. You will be prepared to take and pass your Road Test by the conclusion of the course.

Since the beginning of our Driver Education Program last year there have been over 200 people that have taken advantage of our program in one way or another. We offer Permit Classes, Driving Academy, Behind the Wheel and Road Tests.

In the future of our Driver Education Program we are looking at presenting Defensive Driving Classes, Point Recovery and Classes for the Mature Operator. If you have an interest in any of these classes be sure to give us a call and express your interest, maybe we can speed up the process by offering the class sooner.

*Drive Safely out there!*



Michael Daniel celebrates getting his Driver's License and also earning his GED all in the same day at YE.

*Congratulations Michael!*



Aaron Morgan (Left) and Stanley Morgan (Right)



### *Driver's Ed Classes Offered*

Permit Class  
Driving Academy  
Road Testing

*Call Linda at 543-0994 or 545-1804  
for more information or schedule your  
driver's education appointment today.*

## **DHAT Clinic By Erik J. Linduska**

Having the opportunity to become a Dental Therapist is a once in a lifetime opportunity. For me personally I find it amazing how far I have grown both individually and professionally throughout my training. I am proud. Eventually I will have a chance to provide the services defined under the scope of practice of a Dental Therapist to a region that is in need.

Furthermore, I will get to impact my community in many ways such as educating the importance of Oral Hygiene, diet and help fight against common oral infection. A lady once asked me to tell her in a few words or less what I have experienced throughout my training, I told her, "it is an adventure". Adventure is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as "an exciting or remarkable experience", and I have yet to be let down.

We have been trained by dental professionals from around the United States who have sacrificed their time to train us because they believe in the idea of Dental Therapists. Dr. Willard once mentioned that she didn't mind putting her practice on hold because her two hands were helping train. There is no higher form of flattery: to be a part of something amazing people believe in.

With this in mind I would say that my greatest success or achievement has yet to come... I would like to think that it will be practicing as a Dental Therapist... guess we will have to find out.

I have always enjoyed helping others and feel very appreciative for the opportunity to be a part of something that can help so many. I believe all healthcare systems are built on the idea of prevention, and that is my personal goal for the people I serve. I am proud!

Dental Health Aide Therapy Clinic is located at 610 Akiachak Drive, second floor room . You may contact the DHAT Clinic Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm at 907-543-0987.

*Call now to schedule an appointment!*



Mushing for  
Brushing  
Bogus Creek 150  
Dog Sled Races  
1/15/2010

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Erik Linduska  
demonstrating on a  
model how to  
prevent dental decay.

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## Family Trainings By Adriane Welch

Jaylene Fitka and Kimberly Charlie are sisters, along with these two sisters is, cousin Thomas Fitka attend training at Yuut Elitnaurviat. These three are working under the Marshall Stimulus project for House Construction.

All three participants have attended the January Construction Basics, February Oil Fired Burner, February Plumbing Orientation, and also March Electrical Academies.

Thomas heard about our program from his foreman at the Marshall Tribal Council, and wanted to use this knowledge to get where he wants to continue working and becoming a journeyman electrician or plumber through trainings at YE.

When asked what they liked about YE programs, "Convenient, close to home, cost efficient, get experience in a trade and the instructors are beneficial." Jaylene states as she laughs. Back home in Marshall, she said she wasn't going anywhere, and this training has helped open up more options for her.

Kimberly was working as a part-time Lead Housekeeper, but in order for her to finish her trainings; she gave up her part-time job to attend trainings.

After Kimberly completes her trainings, she wants to open a business with her sister Jaylene; they want to call it J&K Construction.

They would like to further their trainings by taking the Electrical Academy in March, Advanced Carpentry and Finish/Trim out Academies in May, and Plumbing Level 1 in June. Which is about 8 additional weeks of dedicated class time and hands on training.



Jaylene Fitka and Kimberly Charlie during Construction Basics Academy January 2010



**"Consider Yuut a good starting point for where you want to go in the construction industry."  
- Thomas Fitka**

| April Events                    | May Events                                     | June Events                           |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 4/12 - 4/30 Construction Basics | 5/2 - 5/21 Personal Care Attendant * TENTATIVE | 6/7 - 6/18 Plumbing Level 2           |
| 4/19 - 4/30 Electrical Level 1  | 5-May ABE Graduation                           | 6/20-6/26 Weatherization I *TENTATIVE |
|                                 | 5/3 - 5/21 Advanced Carpentry                  | 6/21 - 6/25 Finish/Trim Out           |
|                                 | 23-May Youth Mining 5-10 pm                    |                                       |
|                                 | 5/24 - 6/4 Electrical Level 2                  |                                       |

## Yuut Elitnaurviat Training Programs By Adriane Welch

Yuut Elitnaurviat (YE) is a non-profit, Bethel-based training facility that is partnered with ten organizations. The mission of YE is to promote high wage jobs for local workers through vocational training and educational opportunities. Training helps to equip youth and adults with job skills that will provide a solid career or give them the opportunity to take the next steps towards achieving their educational goals.

YE creates opportunities for training, our training programs consists of both classroom learning and hands-on-projects. Once you complete the training you will earn a certificate that can lead to more employment opportunities. Learn the skills you need to qualify and get the right job for you! Apply for any of our trainings today!

Interested in learning a trade? Yuut Elitnaurviat offers trainings for Construction Basics, which is 3 (three) weeks long with a \$75 course fee, we also have Electrical, Plumbing, Advanced Carpentry, Boiler Maintenance, and Oil Fired Burner trainings are each 2 (two) weeks long with a \$50 course fee, additionally YE offers Finish/Trim Out, HAZWOP, and HAZMAT trainings which are 1 (one) week long with a \$25 course fee.

So far this year, YE has offered 3 Construction Basics Academies each three weeks long, 1 Oil Fired Burner Academy two weeks, 1 Plumbing Academy two weeks, and 1 Electrical Academy two weeks long.

All together, YE has served **68** people with classroom instruction and hands-on-learning.

### Yuut Elitnaurviat—The People's Learning Center

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Bethel, Alaska 99559  
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**Call 543-0999**  
**to apply today!**

Visit us on the web: [www.yuut.org](http://www.yuut.org)



Construction Basics Academy 2/1/10-2/19/10. Pictured left to right Arnold Agwiak, Kristy Ayagalria, Ulric Nayamin, Ralph Waska, Andy Patrick, and Collin Smith.



**YE Partners:** Alaska National Guard, Association of Village Council Presidents, Association of Village Council Presidents Regional Housing Authority, Bethel Community Services Foundation, Calista Corporation, City of Bethel, Lower Kuskokwim School District, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Kuskokwim Campus, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation