



# Yuut Elitnaurviat

P E O P L E ' S L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

**VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3**

**MARCH 31, 2011**

## Our Partners

- ◆ Alaska National Guard
- ◆ Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)
- ◆ AVCP Regional Housing Authority
- ◆ Bethel Community Services Foundation
- ◆ Calista Corporation
- ◆ City of Bethel
- ◆ Orutsararmuit Native Council
- ◆ Lower Kuskokwim School District
- ◆ University of Alaska Fairbanks - Kuskokwim Campus
- ◆ Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

## Driving Academy Scholarships make learning to drive affordable

To date, two students have qualified for the Driving Academy Scholarships given out by a partnership of the Bethel Community Services Foundation, Yuut Elitnaurviat, and the Yuut Driving Academy. The scholarships are given to applicants who are willing to have a free meeting with one of the Yuut Career Guides, and meet one of the following criteria: the applicant has to either be looking for a job that requires a Driver License, have been offered a job if they get their Driver License, need a Driver License to maintain employment, or need a Driver License to earn a promotion.

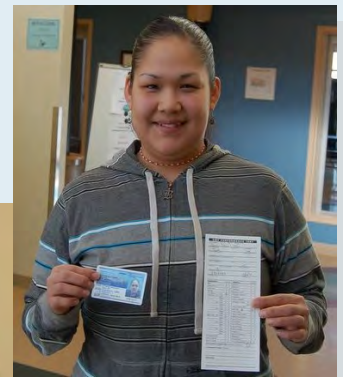
Nikki Worm, who passed her Road Test, and received her Alaska Driver License on March 4, 2011, found employment and is working at the Tundra Women's Coalition. Kristy Ayagabria, who passed her Road Test, and received her Alaska Driver License on March 10, 2011, has been employed

through the HUD grant, and works at the Kuskokwim Art Guild in Bethel.

The scholarships bring the cost of the Driving Academy down to \$125, which is less than a third of the price one would pay in the Anchorage area for a similar program. The Driving Academy includes up to eight one-on-one lessons behind the wheel with a certified Yuut Driving Academy instructor, a classroom based Defensive Driving Course, winter driving instruction during the winter months, and a state approved Road Test. The fee can be paid by the applicant, a native organization,

or a similar entity. More scholarships are available, and interested parties are encouraged to apply. For those who do not meet the scholarship requirements, but still want to learn how to drive, the regular cost of the program is \$425, which is still half the price one would pay in Anchorage for a similar program.

- Jeremy Osborne



Left: Nikki Worm  
Right: Kristy Ayagabria

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## The Career Corner *(continues on page 4)*



Jackie Johnson (left) and Janet Johnson (right), a teacher at Kotlik School in the computer lab where Janet's middle school class registered in AKCIS and took the Interest Profile.

The career guides have been busy this winter, traveling to villages, and serving people here in Bethel, but they are excited for spring, and warmer weather to come when they're out and about!

Career Guide Jackie Johnson spent a week traveling around the Kuspuk School District with their student services coordinator, Erich Kuball. They went to the villages of Aniak, Kalskag, Chuathbaluk, and Crooked Creek working one on one with high school seniors on their career plans after graduation. Career Guide Elia Larson mastered career guiding on the ice road, visiting Napakiak, Napaskiak, Oscarville and Kwethluk a few times each to work



### Residential Carpentry Students in Action

*(Clockwise from top left):*

1- Clarence Cutter Jr.;  
2- (left to right) James Martz  
and Dennis Dishion;

3- Neva Ulak;  
4- (left to right) Clarisse  
Jensen, George Mark, John  
Paul, Ryan Samson, and  
Michael Nicholas;

5- (left to right) Clarence  
Cutter Jr., James Martz, and  
Max Kohl;

6- (left to right) Clarisse  
Jensen and Kyle Jones;  
and 7- Darren Alexie.



### *Yuut Elitnaurviat welcomes new DHAT students*

Every year the Dental Health Aide Therapy training program admits new students into its two-year intensive training. In January, four students, who successfully completed their first year in Anchorage, moved to Bethel to receive more training and clinical experience at Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic. The program is highly competitive and selected individuals must be committed and driven to complete the program successfully.

Kate Kohl, 24 years old, was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska. She loves to laugh and make jokes, so she en-

tered the Dental Health Aide Therapy training program to help her people have nice smiles.

Shannon Hardy is from Fort Yukon, Alaska. She is much honored to serve the people of the YK Delta. Shannon is amazed at the number of people in this region who speak the native language.

Trisha Patton is originally from Napakiak, Alaska, but resides in Bethel, Alaska, where her family currently lives. She is pleased to be serving the people of her culture and plans to continue serving the people of the wonderful YK Delta



after she graduates in December 2011.

Jana Schuerch is from Kiana, Alaska. Jana enjoys living in

**LEFT TO RIGHT: JANA SCHUERCH, TRISHA PATTON, SHANNON HARDY,**

### *News from the Bethel ABE Center*

Students have logged hundreds of study hours this year at the Bethel Regional Adult Basic Education Program which is located at the beautiful Yuut Elitnaurviat facility.

Most students are working towards an accredited high school diploma by examination through the General Educational Development (GED) Testing Service. As of late March, there are 42 GED graduates from Bethel and 15 villages. More will complete in time for graduation and before the program closes for the summer. Graduation is set for May 3, 2011 at the YP Cultural Center in Bethel. Everyone is invited to this always happy event.

Other students come to the Bethel ABE for academic

assessment (TABE testing) and/or basic academic skill building in reading, writing and math for employment or training needs.

Staff and students give high marks to a distance-delivered math class offered through the Bethel ABE Center. It's taught by Arva Carlson from Nine Star in Anchorage.

Betsy Taguchi, Bethel instructor, facilitates the hour long session two times a week, in addition to teaching other math classes. Betsy says "Our students have had great attendance at these classes.

The material and the pace of the class are very good. It's fun being connected to 8 other sites around the state from Juneau to Kotzebue! Arva is a master teacher and students leave every class with a smile and a big "thank you, Arva!"

In addition, the distance math class was successfully delivered to Tuntutuliak. Dave Whiteman, an ABE



**LEFT TO RIGHT: ALLISON BEAVER, CHRISTINE BEAVER, WESLEY HERMAN, RYAN HAGLUND, KARL KELLY, BERNADETTE LINCOLN, DEBBIE RUSHING, DAMIAN ANDREWS, AND LEO AYULUK**



## The Career Corner *(continued)*



Bethy Whalen working with the community at St. Mary's City Hall.

with students in the schools as *(Contd. Pg. 4) (From Pg. 1)* well as the community. Focusing on the villages close to Bethel while the river was frozen allowed us to make multiple trips without the cost of airfare adding up. Career Guide Bethy Whalen spent time on the Yukon River visiting St. Mary's and Kotlik, and offered services in Toksook Bay on Nelson Island. Career guides also traveled to the villages of Newtok, Hooper Bay, Chefornak, and Tuntutuliak, and are continually on the road, so look out for them in your village!

The career guides also have been working one-on-one with students from Kuskokwim Campus' Adult Basic Education center, where students are working hard at getting their GEDs. Every Monday, career guides meet with students to help them register into ALEXsys, search for jobs, create resumes, and talk about career plans after they receive their GED. It's a great opportunity to connect with students that are already working in our building!

- Bethy Whalen

### *Construction Training Schedule for Spring & Summer 2011*

*Our mission is to prepare local people for local high wage jobs.*

Dates	Construction Training Programs
March 14 – May 2, 2011	ABUS 154 – Human Relations
April 10 - 20, 2011	CTT 170 – Residential Electrical Level 1, Part 1
April 21 - May 2, 2011	CTT 110 – Residential Carpentry Level 1, Part 2
May 2 – 12, 2011	CTT 150 – Residential Plumbing Level 1
May 16 - 26, 2011	CTT 170 – Residential Electrical Level 1, Part 2
June 27- July 8, 2011	CTT 115 – Residential Carpentry Level 2, Part 1
June 27- July 29, 2011	DEVS 104 – University Communications
June 27- June 30, 2011	HLTH 122 – First Aid & CPR
July 18 – July 29, 2011	CTT 115 – Carpentry II: Part 2

**YUUT  
ELITNAURVIAT -  
THE PEOPLE'S  
LEARNING CENTER**

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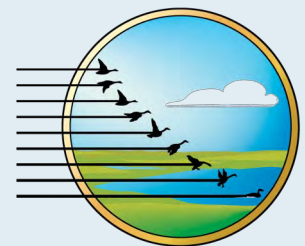
## Residential Carpentry Class in Action *(continued)*

Under Instructor Dennis Dishion's direction and supervision, the students in the Residential Carpentry Level I Class began a construction project for the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) in early March. The project is to build a house for LKSD staff. After completing the house's base and exterior walls, the students will have the opportunity to assemble a plumbing system for the building. The training, which will end in July, intends to help the Construction students gain knowledge and experience in all three trades: carpentry,

electrical, and plumbing.

Once the students successfully complete the semester long curriculum, they will be awarded a Yuut Construction Building and Maintenance Certificate. Since there has always been a great need for building maintenance in the YK Delta region, the completers will have a better chance to obtain employment. "The opportunities are endless in this field of work. I plan to utilize what I have learned from this and take it to where people are going to need my skills", said student Clarisse Jensen.

The selection process for this Carpentry class was highly competitive. Since the program is intensive and time demanding, Yuut looks for people who are committed and willing to go the extra mile to finish challenging assignments. Individuals selected for this program must be able to attend a 15-day class, six 10-day classes, and two 45-hour evening classes. The cohort of twelve students is currently working toward completing this certificate program. At the end of the training, not only will they have advanced their construction skills, the stu-



Yuut Elitnaurviat is a 501(c)(3) Corporation dedicated to providing training and education opportunities for the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. Yuut offers culturally relevant and regionally responsive training programs, in response to the suffering regional economy and high unemployment rate.

Building programs that combine intensive academics and on-the-job training, Yuut is the first regional vocational center to grace the tundra of Western Alaska.