

# The Nome Static

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## Dear Friend,

On the seventh Sunday after Easter, which is also fifty days after Easter, we celebrate Pentecost. The Church's birthday! On this day God's coming was a spectacle, with howling winds, rattling walls, untamable fire, instant fluency in foreign languages!

But when we look at this event more closely, God's coming had one purpose. God hurled the disciples out into the streets where, filled with the Holy Spirit, they were to proclaim the Gospel. In short, God comes to tell us to GO!

God speaks gently to us, "Go give her a hand." God lectures, "Go and say you are sorry." God roars, "Go and do something about that!" God shakes up our lives, all to get us to go, love, listen, and pray. Go because I am with you always!

KNOM Radio Mission is always on the GO! KNOM is always with Western Alaska on the air thanks to your GO! KNOM deeply values your generosity.

## Nome Birdwatching Takes Flight

There is no doubt that with Alaska's beautiful scenery and diverse habitats, Nome is high on a birdwatcher's wishlist. As the temperature rises and ice breaks up, migratory birds will flock to Nome. Many of Nome's best birdwatching locations are accessible by the three main road systems: Safety Sound Lagoon, Kougarok Road, and Wooley Lagoon. At these locations, you can find a variety of waterfowl, falcons, eagles, and shorebirds. Since Alaska is close to Siberia, there is even a chance to see rare and hard-to-find species.

In addition to Nome, St. Lawrence Island is also a great location to see birds. On a clear day, you can see the mountains of the Russian



Above: Photo of a bluethroat. Photo courtesy of Brian Zwiebel and Sabrewing Nature Tours, used with permission.

Far East from the island's gravelly shores.

If you are new to birdwatching and would like to go on a budget, there are options other than a guided tour with a major birding organization. As large birding groups will book months ahead of time, be sure to reserve lodging well in advance. Also, consider finding a local tour guide. They may be able to locate the best sightseeing places and introduce you to other experienced birdwatchers. Another option is signing up for a birding field trip with the Northwest Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The Nome Visitors Center will have some birding information and a "birding board" of what species have been recently seen.

In summary, Nome offers a birdwatching experience like no other, thanks to its stunning landscapes and rich array of habitats. Whether you're a seasoned birdwatcher or a novice looking to explore on a budget, Nome provides options for everyone, from guided tours to local field trips. So pack your binoculars and embark on an unforgettable adventure in the heart of Alaska's wilderness. Happy birding!

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**KNOM: Faith, Inspiration, News and Information for Western Alaska**

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Above: Scotland's Mark Hines finished in 29 days, 7 hours and 39 minutes for his first successful ITI 1000. Photo courtesy of Iditarod Trail Invitational, used with permission.

## The Other Iditarod Trail Race

While the world's attention is focused on mushers and their dog teams blazing down the Iditarod Trail, another crop of athletes races from Anchorage to Nome to much less fanfare.

Since its inauguration in 2000, the Iditarod Trail Invitational has gathered competitors from around the world to race across the Alaskan wilderness on skis, on bicycles, or on their own two feet. Racers can choose either the shorter 350-mile course or the full 1000-mile Iditarod Trail. From the starting line on Knik Lake, just north of Anchorage, racers have 30 days to reach the burlled arch in Nome. For their whole time on the trail, they must face the harsh Alaskan winter solo, with only the survival gear they can pull in a sled.

This year's race gathered competitors from 11 different countries: USA, Canada, Australia, all across Europe, and even Indonesia. 103 athletes started the race, with 61 finishing. The first bikers crossed under Nome's burlled arch after just 16 days, while the running and skiing champions reached Nome after 24 days on the trail.

The final racers crossed the finish line on day 29 of the race.

## Sharing the Word in Western Alaska

*Today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, when the Church receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. But the Gospel reading today is an Easter story. In John's Gospel, Jesus' gift of his Spirit happens at the same time as Jesus' victory over sin and death.*

*The disciples are hiding in fear in a locked room when Jesus appears and gives them his peace. The Jewish word for "peace" is shalom, which means full health, strength, and well-being. The disciples were like dead people in the tomb, and the risen Lord comes to restore their life and their faith. The word "spirit" comes from a word that also means breath, so when Jesus breathes on them he is giving them his own breath, the Holy Spirit. We might think of a first responder giving CPR to someone who desperately needs a new breath in order to be revived.*

*Just as God first breathed life into Adam, so Jesus now breathes new life into his disciples. This community of disciples, filled with Jesus' breath, is the new creation called the Church, and after receiving this new holy breath the disciples are sent by the risen Lord to go out and continue his mission of proclaiming God's love and forgiveness to the world.*

*How are you allowing Jesus' breath, his Holy Spirit, to give you new life and strength? And how will you share the word this week?*

— Patrick Tam, Pentecost Sunday, May 19 2024



Above: With 5 seconds left on the clock, Nome's Orson Hoogedorn made a winning shot. Photo courtesy of Janice Homekingkeo, KNOM.

## Nome Beltz Nanooks Win ASAA Boys State Basketball Tournament

The Nome Nanooks Boys Basketball team clinched this year's ASAA State Basketball championship. They beat Sitka's Mt. Edgecumbe Braves in an overtime battle, 64-60. Nome's Orson Hoogedorn made the 3 point shot to take home the win.

The Braves were undefeated throughout the season and the Nanooks looked to reclaim their title after losing the championship last year. This is Nome's second championship in three years.

## Upcoming Eclipse in Nome

After the exciting news of the recent solar eclipse, our readers might be wondering where the next total eclipse will be. The answer is none other than Alaska! The expected date is March 30, 2033. Nome and Utqiagvik will be along the path of totality, and the eclipse will be visible between the hours of 8:51 AM and 10:45 AM AKDT. The eclipse is expected to last for 2 minutes and 37 seconds.

This is an extraordinary event as it will be the final eclipse of the moon's 18-year cycle. KNOM invites you to an eclipse party in Nome. We will snack on Sunchips and Moon Pies, and drink Sunkist orange soda. We recommend bringing



Above: KNOM's Development Director, Cindy, will provide the above snacks for 2033's solar eclipse. Photo courtesy of Cindy Lentine, KNOM.

your own solar eclipse glasses to avoid retinal damage. Please ensure that you book your hotel ahead of time or bring a heated tent!

Even though this is a rare event, the cold weather might deter you from visiting Nome. However, not only do you get to enjoy the eclipse, but it's also a great opportunity to view the Aurora Borealis as it will be during peak viewing season. So, don't miss out on this rare spectacle while immersing yourself in the captivating beauty of Alaska's northern lights!

*For the formation of religious and seminarians*

*We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.*

— Pope Francis' prayer intention for May 2024



Above: Anchorage resident, LaVerne Saccheus with her family at the famous Snowzilla in Anchorage. Photo courtesy of LaVerne Saccheus, used with permission.

## Alaska Sees Record Snow Fall

Alaska has been blanketed in historic levels of snow this winter, with Anchorage receiving 129.5 inches of snow. This is inching closer to the record breaking, 134 inches of snow in 2010-2011 and is looking to break that record.

After a 10 year hiatus and all the snow we've received, the iconic 25 foot snowzilla has returned to Anchorage.

## Community Garden Blooms in Unalakleet

For Cassandra Johnson, the lack of fresh produce in her hometown was the inspiration she needed to start a community garden in Unalakleet last year. Now, as the second growing season approaches, her garden is once again preparing to take root.

Unalakleet, a village located about 150 miles southeast of Nome, was once known as the "garden capital of the state." But in recent



Above: Youth picking fresh produce from the community garden. Photo courtesy of Cassandra Johnson, used with permission.

years, access to fresh fruits and vegetables has dwindled. Johnson saw an opportunity to change that.

"The soil is pretty good. I just need to add more nutrients to it," Johnson explained. "Whenever we have a storm, there is exposed clay, organic matter, sand and river mulch, and it naturally provides all of what you need to make your own soil. You just have to know what to look for."

This season, Johnson plans to grow a variety of produce, including lettuce, kale, potatoes, carrots, dill, and garlic. She advises others looking to start their own community gardens to be flexible.

"Every year is always going to be different. You just never know, especially with the weather," Johnson said.

To help support her efforts, Johnson was awarded two grants from community organizations. These funds will allow her to hire interns and host a summit in July, where 12-15 individuals from around the region will gather to learn about sustainable agriculture practices.

With the garden's second season on the horizon, Johnson is hopeful that her efforts will inspire others in the community to get involved and rediscover the joys of fresh, locally-grown produce.

Lettuce grow!

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