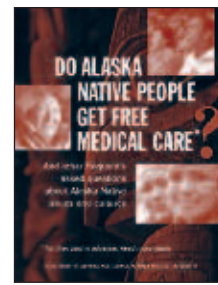


The Dutch Harbor Fisherman

The Aleutians and the Pribilofs



The book on Natives

Project addresses Native stereotypes

Page 12

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Field peril is tamed during its salad days

Putchki plant, aka cow parsnip, displays multiple personalities

VICTORIA BARBER
vbarber@alaskanewspapers.com

Every year, the tall, slender shoots of *Heraclium maximum* are an early harbinger that spring has arrived, shooting up in thick clusters along the roadsides, with a signature crown of small white flowers and big, luxuriant leaves festooning the fields.

It's a plant that's as showy as it is commonplace, and it's easy to take for granted — that is, until you have a run-in with it on a sunny day.

"Where the problems occur is when people are chopping it back because it grows so thick and profusely," said Charlotte Gisvold, community wellness advocate with the Oonalaska Wellness Center. "And that's when they learn about the juice."

The plant is called putchki (pronounced "pooch-kie") in Unalaska. The sap of the putchki contains chemicals called furanocoumarins, which unite with the DNA in skin cells to make photosensitive compounds. When a person's skin get juiced from a putchki plant and exposed to sunlight, the furanocoumarins burn the skin, causing it to blister or break out in a red rash.

Gisvold grew up in Unalaska and says that it seems like more people around town are getting burned.

"We have people all over the world working in the canneries, and when the canneries are down they're walking around exploring," Gisvold said.

The most severe run-in with putchki she's seen happened last summer, when one 8-year-old boy came in with burns so severe he had to be flown to Anchorage for treatment.

"They were playing pirates and slashing

See Page 10, Plant

TALLYHO TO BALLYHOO



Racers set off at the base of 1,500-foot Ballyhoo Mountain for the annual Ballyhoo Run on Saturday, July 19. The race is just under a mile long and requires runners to run to the peak of the mountain. For more photos and story, see Page 7.

Monica Southworth/
The Dutch Harbor
Fisherman

In world of thinning ice, Arctic scientists view life and death

Japanese crew recalls attack by orcas during 5-week cruise

MONICA SOUTHWORTH
fisherman@alaskanewspapers.com

A gray whale getting bludgeoned to death by orcas. Sea ice receding. The Arctic Ocean sucking up Pacific waters.

The seas off Alaska are an eventful place, found scientists from a Japanese oceanographic research vessel who recounted their research season at the Museum of the Aleutians on July 17.

During a five-week cruise through the

Chukchi Sea, the scientists noted significant decline in sea ice coverage, collected algae and viewed a killer whale attack.

The scientists from Hokkaido University stopped on their way home to Japan to give a talk about their research on July 17 at the Museum of the Aleutians.

During its cruise, the Oshoro Maru traveled north to the Chukchi Sea, undertaking several projects. Four researchers presented their research and results from the 2007 cruise.

The first focused on sea ice and organisms, such as algae, that grow on the ice. The researchers took samples of plankton, benthos (organisms such as crab and sea urchins)

and other items gathered from the bottom of the sea as the ship traveled north.

A second project, performed by Kohei Mizobata and K. Shimada from the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, focused on Arctic sea ice reduction and warm Pacific water.

"The summer Pacific water triggers a sea ice reduction in the Arctic," Mizobata said. "In August 2007, we had the highest water temperature off the Alaska coast."

Mizobata said that scientists need better measures for heat in the Bering Sea. Currently researchers use satellite image and

See Page 12, Ice

Alaska entrepreneurs, start your imaginations

Marketplace competition enters third year of spreading seed money for rural inventions

VICTORIA BARBER
vbarber@alaskanewspapers.com

The Alaska Federation of Natives announced the launch of the 2008 Alaska Marketplace competition. It's the third year for the event, where would-be entrepreneurs compete for a share of award money by pitching their rural-business ideas.

The aim of the project is to give seed money to the ventures that seem most likely to benefit rural Alaskans. It also offers business mentorship to help guide regular — that is, non-MBA-holding — people through the process of becoming an entrepreneur.

The Marketplace will culminate at the Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention in October, when finalists will fill a hall with display booths and deliver their best sales pitch to a panel of judges.

Julie Kitka, president of AFN, said that it is an exciting, inspiring event.

See Page 15, Marketplace



Courtesy photo/Walter Russell

Walter Russell's Winter Taxi Sledcoach — a heated, enclosed sled that can be towed behind a snow machine — was one of the past winners of the Alaska Marketplace, a competition for rural business ideas.

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Marketplace ...

From Page 1

"It's kind of like a science fair, where all these energetic people are pitching ideas, totally jazzed and convinced that their idea is the best thing since sliced bread," Kitka said. "It's breaking up the idea that you have to be dependant on someone else and encourages the idea that you can rely on yourself and go for it."

Applicants to the Marketplace must relate their idea to a topic or "theme" chosen by Marketplace organizers. This year's theme is "innovations for thriving communities," which breaks down to five categories: affordable energy, practical uses of new technology, innovative ideas to reduce the cost of living, investing in people and rural housing of the future.

Kitka said that the innovation theme and categories of the 2008 Marketplace are a response to what organizers saw as the most pressing issues affecting rural residents.

"With innovation, the message is that we are not going to be discouraged by the negative things about our communities, including the high price of oil," Kitka said. "We are going to be smart and come up with ideas to

solve problems and do it with partnerships."

Kitka said that the Marketplace theme will help drive grassroots efforts to address problems within rural towns and villages, giving resources and opportunity to the people most familiar with the challenges facing their communities.

"(Rural residents) want to take action themselves and not wait for someone else to come up with the ideas," Kitka said. "We're giving people the seed money to do work on this and get a jump start on it."

Walter Russell won over judges at the 2007 Alaska Marketplace with his idea for the Winter Taxi Sledcoach, a heated, enclosed sled that can be towed behind a snowmachine. The Sledcoach can shuttle multiple passengers between villages where a snowmachine is currently the only wintertime transport.

Russell said he came up with the idea for the Sledcoach while he was in high school.

"I traveled from Kotzebue to Noorvik and almost froze my legs, and I saw a lot of people freezing their feet," said Russell.

Russell felt confident that his idea was solid, but it wasn't until he heard about the Alaska Marketplace that he put it down on paper in the form of a business proposal. He said that, while the competition is open to Natives and non-Natives, the fact that it was held by the Alaska Federation of Natives encouraged him to enter.

"They focus on Natives and I thought, they know how we travel and how we do stuff and they would understand," said Russell. "A lot of people can't imagine or see what I'm talking about."

Russell won \$35,000 at the Marketplace to start his business. It was one of the bigger slices of the awards pie that year, but only just enough to buy the tools and materials to manufacture one Sledcoach. Nevertheless, Russell said that the Marketplace experience was worth it.

"Finally I could do something to get that dream closer," said Russell, who already has people interested in buying or leasing a Sledcoach and is now looking for new partnerships to help him expand his business.

"I think the Alaska Marketplace is something that is really important for the real Alaskans," Russell said. "When you're up here you have to build and make things to survive and make things better, and that is what I like to do: improve life and living for people, and especially young people."

Cultivating these kinds of homegrown innovations is what Kitka said the event is all about. AFN and its Alaska Marketplace partner, the Denali Commission, were recently awarded a 2008 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations, a group that recognizes organizations for providing "regional solutions"

to local government, business and community needs.

"Our interest is to encourage hope and optimism and to have our people be really proud of their ability to come with ideas that solve problems and create opportunities," Kitka said. "It's a very effective way to stimulate ideas and provide seed money to people who are interested in doing things."

Kitka said that AFN, along with event partners, have raised about \$500,000 so far in award money to be split amongst Marketplace winners. This, however, may change as the Marketplace moves closer to the final awards announcement.

In the Marketplace's first year, for example, BP made a last-minute contribution that more than doubled the pot, from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

The application deadline for the 2008 Alaska Marketplace is Sept. 1. The competition is open to all Alaska residents — Native and non-Native, rural and urban — who have an idea for a business that would benefit rural Alaska.

For more information about the Alaska Marketplace, or to apply, visit www.alaskamarketplace.org or call (907) 274-3611.

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

MOR ...

From Page 14

over the fact that the beef fried rice he ordered contained rice, which he cannot eat. The officer told the man that management could refuse service to him and suggested several other eateries in town. 2:03 p.m. A man requested checks of his residence while he is out of town.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9 – 4:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Services volunteers responded to a report of an unconscious, apneic patient. The patient was pronounced dead at the scene. 4:36 a.m. A man was found deceased in his room at UniSea. After an investigation and consultation with the medical examiner, the death was determined to be of natural causes. 5:36 a.m. A caller requested assistance with delivering a death notification to a local resident. 7:32 p.m. An officer observed John Foster, 44, of Unalaska, exit the Harbor View Inn. The officer knew Foster to be on conditions of release not to consume alcohol. Foster exhibited signs associated with alcohol consumption, and he was arrested and charged with violating conditions of release. 7:57 p.m. John Foster, 44, of Unalaska, was contacted regarding a separate incident and was arrested on the authority of an outstanding bench warrant for failure to appear at trial call, original charges driving under the influ-

ence and no valid operator's license. 9:06 p.m. A caller requested a walkthrough of Kelly Field because of the number of people consuming what appeared to be alcoholic beverages. Officers did not respond because another call was in progress. 9:12 p.m. Officers responded to the Grand Aleutian after receiving a report of a vehicle theft in progress, in which the stolen vehicle was last seen heading toward the hotel. Officers located two people, Tracy Mahaney, 34, of Washington, and James Rafferty, 22, of Washington, who matched the suspects' description, inside the Cape Cheerful Lounge. Keys to the stolen vehicle were on the floor beneath their table. Both men denied any involvement with the theft but were unable to provide any substantiated alibi. Mahaney was arrested and charged with vehicle theft in the first degree and driving while license suspended/revoked; Rafferty was arrested and charged with vehicle theft in the first degree. 11:45 p.m. UniSea Security requested assistance with an unconscious, intoxicated man found in an apartment building. Officers discovered the man lived in the building with his girlfriend, and they turned him over to her care for the remainder of the evening. 5:31 p.m. A caller reported children had shot holes in the Plexiglas around her outdoor garden, and she threatened to break the arms of the children responsible. An officer advised that would not be wise. Upon further investigation, an officer discovered the holes in the Plexiglas were remnants of a time when it had been screwed to something.

FRIDAY, JULY 11 – 12:56 a.m. An officer stopped

a man for driving on the wrong side of the road and learned the man did not have a driver's license. Manuel Realegeno, 31, of Unalaska, was issued a citation for driving without a valid license. 2:15 a.m. Two intoxicated men returned to their vessel and were fired for their drunkenness. The men proceeded to hassle other crewmembers as they attempted to gather their personal belongings from the boat. Officers responded and ultimately provided transport for the two to a hotel. 1:17 p.m. Officers contacted a driver regarding excessive speed and issued a citation for having no motor vehicle insurance. 1:55 p.m. Officers responded for the third time to complaints about two children and a loose dog playing in the middle of the road near Broadway and Steward. An officer again cautioned the family members about taking better care of their young.

SATURDAY, JULY 12 – 2:14 a.m. Officers responded after receiving a report of a fight between a doorman and an intoxicated patron at the Harbor View Inn. An investigation revealed the inebriate had been asked to leave the bar and subsequently began to fight when he was escorted from the premises, causing minor injury to the doorman. Officers also determined the drunken patron was underage. Brandon Davis, 18, of California, was charged with assault in the fourth degree, minor on premises and minor consuming. 2:15 a.m. An officer issued citations to an illegally parked vehicle at the Intersea Mall. 2:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Services volunteers assisted a man experiencing chest pain and numbness in

his legs. 8:59 a.m. A taxi driver reported another driver was offering discount fares. Officers contacted several passengers of the suspect driver and found nothing to substantiate the claim. 1:48 p.m. An ash fall advisory was issued in response to a local volcanic eruption. 3:07 p.m. A driver reported a commercial truck driver was going so fast around a corner that she had to stop to avoid an accident. An officer located the suspect driver and subsequently issued a citation for commercial vehicle disobedience to traffic control device. 4:39 p.m. A caller reported a speeding driver. An officer contacted the suspect driver and subsequently issued a citation for speeding.

SUNDAY, JULY 13 – 2:18 a.m. An officer issued citations to an illegally parked vehicle at the Intersea Mall. 2:46 a.m. Two men reported they had been trying to drag their unconscious, intoxicated friend up the beach, across the road and into their bunkhouse, but were unable to complete the task and requested assistance. The responding officers found an extremely drunken man with froth coming from his mouth, who could speak only incoherently and who occasionally flailed his arms about. He had minor abrasions from being dragged. An ambulance was called to provide medical care for him. 3:11 a.m. Emergency Medical Services volunteers provided medical care to an extremely intoxicated man. 4:29 a.m. An extremely intoxicated man was released from medical care at the clinic but was still unable to care for himself. He was taken into protective custody and transported to the jail.

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