

# Kaniqsirugut News

kang•ik•see•roo•koot (Iñupiaq): we understand

October 2005

The Newsletter of Norton Sound Health Corporation • Kawerak, Inc. • Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority

No. 58

## Cladouhos steps down as CEO of corporation

In a statement forwarded to Norton Sound Health Corporation staff by NSHC Chairperson Emily Hughes on Sept. 19, it was announced that the board of directors had accepted the resignation of Joe Cladouhos, president and chief executive officer, as of the close of business on Sept. 16.

Hughes indicated that the resignation came during the course of the board's scheduled review of Cladouhos' contract renewal. The board publicly thanked Cladouhos for fulfilling his five-year contractual agreement with NSHC and for his service to the residents of the Bering Strait region.



Helen Pootoogooluk

The board named Helen Pootoogooluk, current chief operations officer (COO), as acting president/CEO until the vacancy created by Cladouhos' resignation can be filled. Pootoogooluk, originally from Shishmaref, has been with NSHC since



Joe Cladouhos

1996 and was promoted in May to COO, under direct supervision of Cladouhos.

In a follow-up written statement to the staff of NSHC, Pootoogooluk stated, "I am appreciative of Joe's efforts these past few years to advance the overall mission of NSHC. It is my intent ... to build on the successes realized under Joe's leadership and to facilitate moving NSHC to the next level under its new leadership." Pootoogooluk also

See **BOARD** on Page 2

## Architects unveil designs for new hospital

The architects' concepts were awe-inspiring: four breathtaking structures that would make the new Norton Sound Regional Hospital a true reflection of Alaska—big, really big—and its people, friendly and welcoming.

Residents of the region got a glimpse of what the hospital could look like in early August when architects unveiled four conceptual designs during a series of meetings with Norton Sound Health Corporation employees, members of the NSHC Board of Directors and the

See **NEW** on Page 11

## A Show of Support



NSHC audiologist Phil Hofstetter stands in front of his kayak while taking a break during a 700-mile rowing effort to help raise awareness of leukemia. Hofstetter completed most of a rowing trip to Barrow in August by reaching Icy Cape. He will return next year to finish the trip.

## NSHC audiologist rows 700 miles to raise funds for leukemia research

If you're looking for a hero with a big red "S" on his chest, Phil Hofstetter says he isn't the one you should seek out. He's just a normal guy who likes to paddle his kayak along the coastline.

Need a hero? Try his friend Nora Nagaruk, he says. The Unalakleet woman fights a life-or-death battle every day with leukemia.

Her courage inspired Hofstetter, a Norton Sound Health Corporation audiologist, to set out to row more than 800 miles from Nome to Barrow this summer—and to hang in there long after headwinds and high seas turned the extreme adventure into a humbling struggle.

Though Hofstetter did not reach Barrow this summer, his effort raised more than \$12,000 for leukemia



Nora Nagaruk

**"I felt such support the whole way. People really came out to show their support for Nathan, Nora and the whole trip. Everyone was so giving and helpful."**

research. He plans to row the remaining 150 miles next summer.

"A lot of the time when I was going through the difficulties of facing high winds or waves, I thought about Nora and what she was going through," Hofstetter said.

"It helped me immensely just knowing that, as hard as what I was going through was, it paled in comparison to

See **ROWING** on Page 22

Aurora Johnson works on an "ossim head" during her training in New Zealand to become a dental therapist. Johnson is one of four area women in the program.



## Dental therapists can help dentists fight 'cycle of decay'

Make no mistake about it, there's really only one thing behind the American Dental Association's war against introducing dental health aide therapists into rural Alaska: Fear ... of change, and of an impact on dentists' pocketbooks.

But Norton Sound Health Corporation dentist Dr. Mark Kelso is not afraid

of the dental health aide therapist program.

In fact, he embraces it as an excellent way to break the "cycle of decay" and meet the dental needs of rural Alaska.

"I really feel this is a step in the right direction," said Kelso, who is backing

See **DENTAL** on Page 23

## Kaniqsirugut News

Norton Sound Health Corporation  
P.O. Box 966  
Nome, AK 99762

**ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 630  
Anchorage, AK**