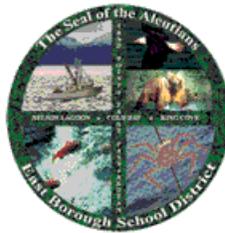
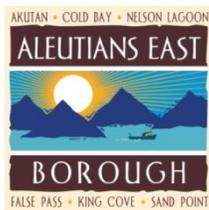


In the Loop



Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

Sixteen Medevacs Follow One-Year Anniversary of Interior Secretary's Rejection of King Cove's Life-Saving Road



The Coast Guard medevaced a 58 year-old fisherman after he severely injured his eye while aboard a Seattle-based processor on March 31, 2014. High winds prevented travel by plane. Photo by Chris Babcock.

One year ago today, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell shattered the dreams of the remote Alaska town of King Cove when she rejected a massive land exchange that would have granted them access to a small life-saving road corridor connecting them to the nearby all-weather Cold Bay Airport. Since that time, it has been business as usual for Secretary Jewell in Washington, D.C.,

however, it has been anything but that for the mostly Aleut people of King Cove. Sixteen people in the isolated coastal town needing urgent medical care were medevaced to Anchorage hospitals during the past year.

“Secretary Jewell probably hasn’t given it a second thought when she decided that protecting the lives of birds in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge was more important than defending the lives of human beings needing emergency care,” said Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the King Cove Corporation. “However, we continue to live in fear every day that one of our sick elders, our children or a neighbor suffering from a life-threatening injury may not

make it because they’re unable to access emergency medical care in time.”

Of the sixteen medevacs that occurred this year, six were conducted by the Coast Guard

because harsh weather prevented travel between King Cove and Cold Bay’s all-weather airport. The latest Coast Guard medevac involved an 84 year-old man on October 16th who was very ill while suffering from sepsis.



The Coast Guard conducted two separate medevacs during blizzard conditions on March 11, 2014. One involved fisherman Walter Wilson, Jr., 33, who dislocated both hips and fractured his pelvis after a 600-lb. cod pot fell on him. The second medevac involved Wilson’s infant son, who was later diagnosed with RSV. Photo by Katie Eby.

“We are fortunate that our brave Coast Guard personnel are willing to risk their lives to save



On March 11, 2014, the Coast Guard transported two patients to Cold Bay. Guardian Flight then flew the patients to an Anchorage hospital for treatment.

those who need urgent care,” said King Cove Mayor Henry Mack. “However, those of us who live here know there have been times when even the Coast Guard was delayed several hours because of dangerous weather, including hurricane-force winds. We have to have another way to get to the Cold Bay Airport that won’t put so many lives at risk.”

During 2014, several patients had to wait overnight at the King Cove Clinic, up to 14 hours, until the weather improved and allowed travel by plane. One man, suffering from an apparent heart attack last

spring, was medevaced aboard a Coastal freight boat from King Cove to Cold Bay. No other planes or boats were traveling because of high winds and stormy seas.

“No one should have to wait several hours to be medevaced or endure a long, uncomfortable boat ride while struggling with serious health care issues that could claim a life at any moment,” said Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack. “We only ask that Secretary Jewell find it in her heart to have some compassion for the people of King Cove and reconsider her decision. The 16 people who were medevaced were fortunate to survive. Our greatest fear is that soon, despite doing everything we can to get medical attention, we might not be so lucky.”

Related article: [King Cove Still Waits for a Road to Save Lives](#)

Akutan Projects Moving Full Steam Ahead this Summer

By Mary Tesche, Akutan Assistant City Administrator



The first of two geothermal energy exploration wells in Akutan has produced water in excess of 360 degrees Fahrenheit. Photo by David Griggs.

demonstration project for well-site based generation technology, and as a solution for harnessing stranded geothermal resources. The City will host a crew this summer to continue this exploration. The City has allocated \$175,000 of local funding in FY15 at this stage of development.

The City of Akutan is gearing up for a busy summer construction season. Many ongoing projects will continue, with help from local funding contributions that have made a big impact on community development.

The City’s geothermal development project will continue with drilling wells this summer, focusing on a more accessible location with moderate impacts on the environment. The Hot Springs site, or TG-2, is comparable to many moderate sized resources scattered across Alaska and will provide a significant value as a



The City of Akutan and Alaska’s DOT&PF have signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the design and construction of improvements to the City-owned dock. Photo by James Botz.



This photo shows the fender portion of a piling that is severed from the dock. Photo by James Botz, Mead & Hunt, Inc.

The ADOT&PF has contracted Turnagain Marine Construction to complete the improvements on the Akutan City Dock during July and August 2015. The ADOT&PF requested a local matching fund from the City in order for this project to advance to the contracting phase. In FY15, the City plans to contribute \$335,646 in local funds for this project, with funds being used for engineering, design, construction and installation.

Akutan's water system is getting some significant upgrades in 2015. ANTHC will replace Akutan's main water impoundment dam with a sheet pile driven structure to provide a sustainable water source to the community. The existing timber impoundment structure is more than 35 years old, has multiple ongoing leaks, and risks catastrophic failure due to frequent seismic activity. For FY15, the City has committed \$206,000 in local funds to help complete this project.

New ADF&G Acting Commissioner Sam Cotten Hits the Ground Running

Governor Bill Walker appointed former Aleutians East Borough Fisheries Analyst Sam Cotten as Acting Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game on December 1st, just hours after being sworn in as Alaska's Governor.



Governor Walker appointed Sam Cotten as Acting Commissioner of ADF&G

This December has been a busy month for the new acting commissioner. One of Cotten's first steps as head of ADF&G was to sit in on the December 3 - 8 meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries in Cordova. According to Alaska Statute, the Commissioner is not a member of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game, 'but shall be ex officio secretary' of each board. Following close on the heels of the Cordova meeting, Cotten attended the

North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Anchorage, December 9 - 15. The ADF&G Commissioner is a voting member of the Council. Cotten's first major Council motion as Acting Commissioner, agenda item C-2 Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch, passed 10-0. Cotten also requested the Council not take up GOA trawl bycatch management until October, to give the Department a chance to review the progress on the current proposal and to consider other alternatives.

In a press release from the Governor's office, Governor Walker said he chose Cotten to serve as Acting Commissioner because of his impressive background.

"Cotten has a long history of public service in Alaska. I'm confident his strong fisheries background and legislative experience will guide us through this critical transition period," Governor Walker said.

"It was an honor to be asked to serve as Acting Commissioner, and I'm pleased to respond to the governor's request to take on these responsibilities," Cotten said.

"I think Governor Walker has picked the exact right person for the job of Acting ADF&G Commissioner," said Ernie Weiss, Aleutians East Borough Director of Natural Resources. "Sam is a good person who has the right experience. He will be a great steward of our fish & game resources to the benefit of all Alaskans."

Cotten's experience includes serving in both chambers of the Alaska Legislature for 16 years (1975 - 1991). He served 2 years in the Senate and 14 years in the House. He was Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives from 1989 - 1990. Cotten also chaired committees on resources, finance, community & regional affairs and oil & gas during his tenure. He has also served on a number of boards, including the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agricultural Bank, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute committees, International Pacific Fisheries Commission Advisor and the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.



"It was an honor to be asked to serve as Acting Commissioner, and I'm pleased to respond to the governor's request to take on these responsibilities," Cotten said.

"Alaska has a tradition of outstanding fish management practices, and I hope to continue that tradition as Acting Commissioner of Alaska's Department of Fish and Game," Cotten said.

Cotten commercially fished for salmon in Kachemak Bay for 21 years. He is a U.S. Navy veteran who served two tours in Vietnam. Cotten is a lifelong Alaskan, was born in Juneau and currently lives in Eagle River.

Congratulations to Acting Commissioner Cotten!

Tustumena Replacement Design Study Report Available for Review



Tustumena replacement conceptual drawing – starboard bow.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) Alaska Marine Highway System recently announced that the Tustumena Replacement Vessel Design Study Report is now available online at

dot.state.ak.us/amhs/tusty_replace.

ADOT&PF will be accepting public comments regarding the Tustumena Replacement Vessel Design Study Report

through Jan. 9, 2015. Comments may be submitted via email to dot.amhs.tustumenareplacement@alaska.gov.

The Design Study Report provides the concept design for the Tustumena Replacement Vessel including profile and deck drawings. The report details vessel characteristics such as length, capacity, layout, vehicle configuration and passenger amenities. The report also outlines estimates for vessel construction and projected annual operating costs.

The Tustumena replacement preliminary design proposes a 330-foot vessel capable of transporting 250 passengers and 52 vehicles.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities oversees 254 airports, 11 ferries serving 35 communities, 5,619 miles of highway and 720 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to **Keep Alaska Moving** through service and infrastructure.



2014 Aleutian Marketplace Contest

Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association and the Aleut Corporation

media@apicda.com

Fax: (907) 929-5275

www.apicda.com/aleutian-marketplace

Aleutian Marketplace Competition Winners Announced



Aleutian Marketplace business idea competition award winners pictured with Larry Cotter (APICDA), Anne Morris and teammate Eileen Dushkin (2nd place), Kristjan Laxfoss (1st place), Blaine Shaishnikoff (3rd place), Chris Lace (Aleut Corporation) and Tim Pearson (one of three independent competition judges).

fish hot dog made out of pollock in St. George.

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) and the Aleut Corporation (TAC) are pleased to announce the inaugural Aleutian Marketplace Business Idea Competition winners.

Kristjan Laxfoss of Unalaska, Alaska won \$1,000 for his pollock fish hotdog idea. Kristjan's idea is to manufacture a healthy and tasty

Anne Morris of Sand Point, Alaska won \$650 for her Aleutian burger concept. Anne's idea is to produce and market a burger product from a new and original secret recipe using two types of seafood from fisheries in the region.

Blaine Shaishnikoff of Unalaska, Alaska won \$350 for his hydroponic greenhouse submission. Blaine believes that the region needs a hydroponic greenhouse large enough to supply the Aleutians with fresh inexpensive produce.

Award winners presented their ideas to the APICDA Board and TAC staff on Dec. 5, 2014 in Anchorage.

Judges Casey Campbell, Tim Pearson and Allan Johnston selected the three award winners out of 12 submissions for the first phase of the project that wrapped up Oct. 31, 2014. The structure of the Marketplace is two-tiered; the first tier has two business idea competition phases and the second tier is a business plan competition. The second idea phase starts on Jan. 15, 2015.

“The Aleutian Marketplace is a pilot project to generate a variety of innovative business concepts and provide start-up funds for viable businesses that will operate in the Aleutian region. We were pleased that 12 competitive ideas were submitted,” said Larry Cotter, APICDA CEO.

Thomas Mack, President of the Aleut Corporation added “There is great innovation and talent in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands region and we thank all those who participated in the first phase of the competition.”



Blaine Shaishnikoff presents to the APICDA board on his winning Aleutian Marketplace idea to build a hydroponic greenhouse in Unalaska.

Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation incorporated in the state of Alaska. APICDA is one of six Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Corporations established in 1992. The CDQ program allocates a percentage of all Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands quotas for ground fish, halibut and crab to eligible CDQ Groups. APICDA and its subsidiary companies generate proceeds through the management of the quotas and uses proceeds to achieve its charitable purpose which is to develop stable local economies in our member communities of Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski and St. George.

The Aleut Corporation is one of the 12 Regional Alaska Native Corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Based in Anchorage, Alaska, the corporation represents 3,900 shareholders living in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands region, the Pacific Northwest and the rest of the United States. Operating as a for-profit corporation, the Aleut family of companies offers product and service capabilities including environmental remediation, base operations support, mechanical contracting, oil field services, real estate management and water testing to a wide range of customers and government agencies throughout the United States.

Eider Air Service LLC Starts up New Air Taxi/Charter Service Based out of King Cove

Guy and Wanda Pere are pleased to announce the opening of their new air taxi/charter -- Eider Air Service LLC. The air taxi/charter service is based in King Cove. While the majority of Eider Air's flights are to Cold Bay and Sand Point, the company also offers charters throughout the Peninsula.



Pilot/Owner Guy Pere of Eider Air Service LLC is based in King Cove.

Guy Pere has more than 35 years of accident-free Alaska flying experience. Guy grew up in a flying family and first flew out of King Salmon in 1980. He has worked throughout the state, most recently based at Cold Bay, where he and his wife, Wanda, fell in love with the Lower Alaska Peninsula. Guy and Wanda make their home in King Cove.



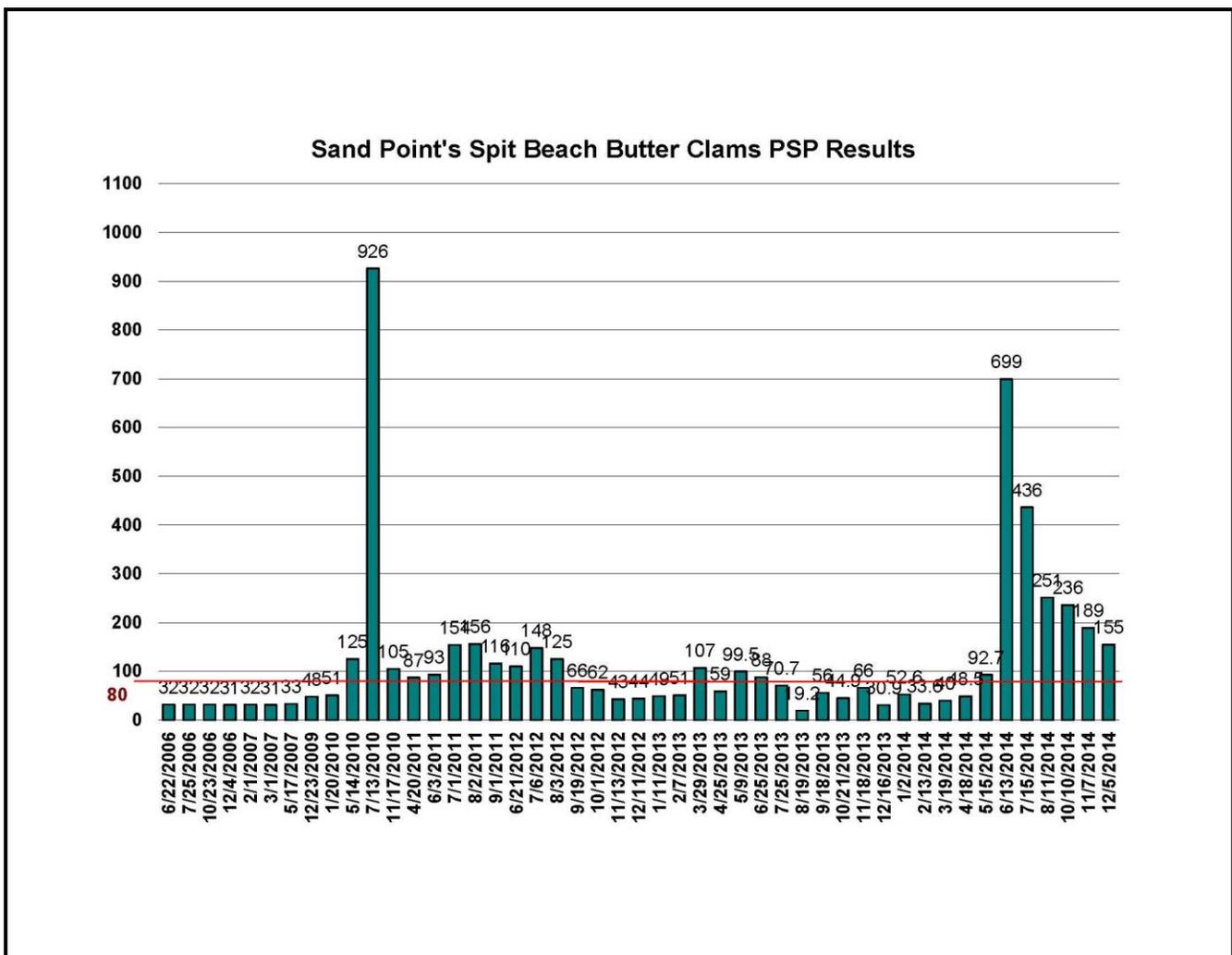
The majority of Eider Air's flights are to Cold Bay and Sand Point. However, the company also offers charters throughout the Peninsula.

PSP Results for Sand Point Exceed FDA Limit

According to QTT Tribe of Sand Point, the paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) results for Airport Beach, Sand Point, Alaska (butter clams collected 12/5/2014) had PSP toxin levels of 155 micrograms/100 grams. See the data on the attached graph or the web page <http://environmentalaska.us/paralytic-shellfish-poisoning-in-alaska.html>. These levels are above the FDA limit for PSP which is 80 micrograms/100 grams, the red line on the attached graph. Since samples have been regularly collected we can see the gradual decline of PSP in butter clams and can make a prediction just based on our knowledge of PSP in butter clams and the trending data. The data clearly indicates a downward trend following the July 13, 2014 PSP

event. Usually, a slow decline in PSP is common for butter clams in the winter, but remember, butter clams tend to maintain high PSP levels longer than other clams and mussels, and winter PSP events have occurred in Alaska usually following warm winter rain events and stream flooding.

During the summer of 2014, several sand lance samples were collected and three had elevated PSP levels (a sample of dead sand lance from Cook Inlet, another from Deering and live sand lance collected in the Haines area). There were many observations of dead sand lance on beaches in Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet and the Aleutian Islands, but samples were not collected. Scientists are unable to determine the extent of PSP in sand lance without having samples for testing. With high PSP levels, sand lance may become toxic with PSP and may be found dead on beaches or the seabed of sandy beaches. Please note dead small schooling fish (forage fish) found on beaches, freeze a gallon bag of the fish and contact Bruce Wright with APIA. The attached flyer explains the possible significance.



(PLEASE POST) **WANTED: DEAD**



Sand Lance AKA Needle Fish AKA Sand Eels

Sand lance can become contaminated with paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and become sick or die. Sea lions, seals, sea otters, marine birds and salmon that eat these toxic sandlance can die too.

If you find dead or dying sand lance: collect 5, put in a Ziplock, label with your name, location collected and date, freeze and contact: Bruce Wright at 907-222-4260 or brucew@apiai.org for shipping instructions.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes December 2014

Service

- EAT Dental Department
 - Cold Bay: December 15-19th (Dr. Costa)
- SCF Dental Department
 - Sand Point: January 1 – February 6th (Dr. Popescu)
- SCF Village Doctors
 - Sand Point: April 4 -10th (Dr. Hartman)
- Upcoming Emergency Management Services Classes
 - ETT – EMT1 Bridge – Sand Point: February
- Executive Director:
 - Whittier – January 21-23rd
 - Community Listening Potluck on Thursday, January 22nd at 5:00pm
 - False Pass – February 23 – 27th
 - Community Listening Potluck on Thursday, February 26th at 6:00pm
 - King Cove/Cold Bay – March 16-20th (tentative)



People

- Welcome our New Hires:
 - **Rachel Yatchmeneff**, Intern, Anchorage (first day December 12th)
 - **Katy Nissen**, Behavioral Health Clinician, Sand Point (first day December 15th)
 - **Leann Mack**, Accounts Payable Technician, Anchorage (first day January 5th)
 - **Robin Medina**, Special Projects Manager, Anchorage (first day January 5th)
 - **Honey Lou Wilson**, Dental Assistant/DHAT in training (first day January 5th)
- Open Positions:
 - **Behavioral Health Aides*** – Akutan and Nelson Lagoon
 - **Community Health Aides*** – Akutan, Cold Bay, and Nelson Lagoon
 - **Medical Director/Physician** – 50% in Anchorage and 50% at all clinic sites

- **Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant**
– Continuous Recruitment for itinerants and full-time in Sand Point

*Note: No experience necessary. Training will be provided.

Report on Events:

On Wednesday, November 19, 2014, the **Nelson Lagoon Clinic** hosted a community listening potluck. The room was packed with community

members and staff members. Here are the



community members' responses to our questions:

What do you like about the Nelson Lagoon Clinic?

- Katie Johnson, CHR
- “Working very good”
- Staff members
- Knowledge of staff members

If we had more resources, what could the clinic do to help us be the healthiest people in the nation?

1. Exercise equipment
2. Re-establish general store
3. Fresh Produce (Full Circle)

Rank of the following potential new or expanded services/programs:

1. Chiropractor
2. Provide respite care for family members taking care of Elders
3. Provide safety items for Elders (ramps, handles, etc.)
4. Provide financial assistance for substance abuse residential treatment
5. Increase number and length of these specialty visits:
 - a. Dentist/DHAT
 - b. Behavioral Health Clinician
6. Increased prevention/education on these topics:
 - a. Tobacco Cessation
 - b. Exercising
 - c. Nutrition
7. Annual visits from Ob/Gyn



Paul Martin Gundersen Memorial Clinic in Nelson Lagoon.

What is your dream/long-term goal(s) for Eastern Aleutian Tribes?

1. Permanent Community Health Aides (CHA), maybe with kids, need locals to apply for positions

2. Bigger clinic
3. Four-wheeler
4. Shelter for ambulance

False Pass Christmas Play Exemplifies the Creative, Holiday Spirit

False Pass school students are making sure their town is getting into the spirit of Christmas this year. The students performed a play last week that was written by one of the students. The plot surrounds an elf who made a special toy and wanted to show Santa it was worthy of being in his bag. Santa had his doubts. So to prove it, the elf



traveled all over the world to find out what people thought of his gift.

Cast members and those behind the scenes included: Larrisa Chitty (the director), Spencer Salsman and Alex

Dulian, high school students (Santa), Hazel Yatchmeneff and Ellie Hoblet played the two little girl elves. John Murphy was the little boy elf. Strydr Stickney was the reindeer wrangler elf. Calum Hoblet was Alaska Boy, wearing the fur mulakai. Dayton Hoblet is the main character, Jimmy.



Photos by Stephen Kennedy

Miles Walker Wins King Cove's Jingle Bell Rock Contest

Miles Walker of King Cove is the winner of the Jingle Bell Rock contest. He found it at 3:38 p.m. on Thursday, December 18, 2014 on Tom Manos's vacant property. The rock was hidden between a pallet that holds all the sand bags. Thank you, King Cove, for participating in the City's Annual Jingle Bell Rock Search! Happy Holidays!



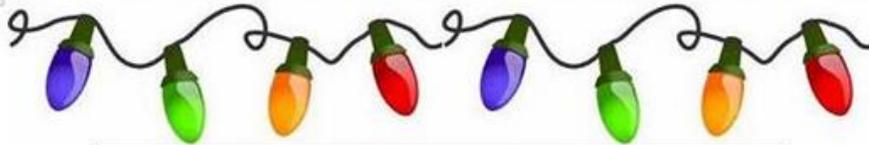
Miles Walker is the winner of King Cove's Jingle Bell Rock

Young Artists Cast A Cheerful Hue on King Cove's Holiday Spirit



Here are the winners from the City's Annual Holiday Kid's Coloring Contest! Great Job to all of the kindergarten - 6th grade participants! For more details and to see the larger versions, visit this [link](#).

THE WINNER IS...



CONGRATULATIONS CHRIS & BONITA BABCOCK!

Your house WON the City's 2014 "Deck the House" Light Contest!

You won FREE December electric, \$75.00 Cash, and \$75.00 Gift Card to Gould's Store!

Thank you King Cove for participating in the light contest! It sure looks like King Cove is in the Holiday Spirit!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Got News?

If you have news you'd like to share, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call AEB Communications Manager Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.



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