

# What's Your Story?

news for & from alaska's middle schoolers vo1.7 no.2

Spring 2011

## PUBLIC SAFETY



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## EARTH SCIENCES



Page 2

## TECHNOLOGY



Page 4

## ANIMAL SCIENCE



Page 1

8th Grade, Hopson MS, Barrow

**RALPH PELIA**

I want to be a police officer.

8th Grade, Mears MS, Anchorage

**EMILY CAREY**

I want to be an architect.

8th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage

**BRADLEY MORTON**

I want to be a computer programmer.

7th Grade, Ryan MS, Fairbanks

**ABIGAIL ANAGAIK**

I want to work with animals.

8th Grade, Effie Kokrine Charter, Fairbanks

**KYE BURROWS**

I want to be a doctor, basketball player or join the air force.

8th Grade, Dzantiki Heeni MS, Juneau

**MANON PAUL**

I want to be a food critic.

8th Grade, Mears MS, Anchorage

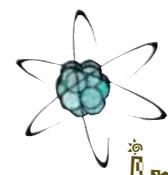
**JOSHUA AN**

I want to be a chemical engineer.

8th Grade, Seward MS, Seward

**OLIVIA BECKHAM**

I want to be a marine biologist, fictional novel author, marine veterinarian, or professional swimmer.



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Mears middle school students in the news **BACK COVER**

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[AKadvantage.alaska.gov](http://AKadvantage.alaska.gov)



PRSRST STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ANCHORAGE AK  
PERMIT #69

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education  
800 East Diamond Blvd., Ste. 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

# I want a job in the earth sciences...



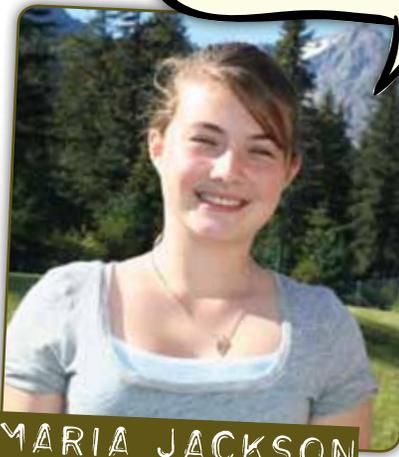
I want to be a forensic anthropologist or travel writer.



8th Grade, Seward MS, Seward

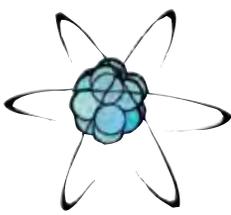
ROBIN MCKNIGHT

I want to be a marine biologist, archeologist, or astronomer.



8th Grade, Seward MS, Seward

MARIA JACKSON



“I love the outdoors.”

**High School Graduated:**  
West Anchorage HS, Anchorage, AK

**College Graduated:**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks: B.S. Geography & Environmental Studies

**Current College:**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Major:**  
Chemical Oceanography

## KRISTEN SHAKE

“I grew up in Anchorage and Girdwood along with my two younger brothers and sister. I was a pretty rambunctious kid and didn’t really enjoy being at school up until the 3rd grade. I had an excellent 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Hager. I was full of energy all the time, but she was able to spark my interest in learning. I will always be grateful for her guidance because I don’t think I would be as successful as I have been thus far in my educational career if it weren’t for her.”

### What do you currently study?

“I am a Chemical Oceanography graduate student with the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at UAF. I really enjoy the fact that I was able to get such a great education relatively near my hometown of Anchorage. My family has been incredibly supportive and without their guidance and help, I don’t think I’d be where I am today.”

### Do you have any advice for students?

“I think students need to ask themselves where they feel happiest. If they feel happy in the classroom, learning about the world around them, then they should pursue that interest. If they feel happy with their dad in the garage fixing up an old car, then they should learn more about fixing cars. Whatever students decide to do, it is important that they incorporate higher learning into their plans. Broadening one’s horizons is a key step in becoming an adult.”



MARTIN SCHUSTER

“A little bit of enthusiasm and curiosity goes a long, long way.”

“My childhood was split between growing up in Anchorage and spending time with my family in a small farming town in Austria where I spent most of my time outdoors. In high school, I took my first biology class and loved it. I think even then I realized that there were endless possibilities for travel and adventure for someone interested in biology.

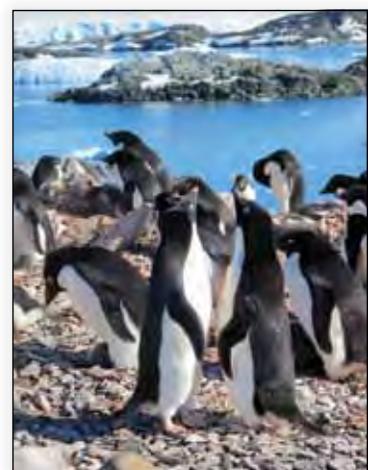
After taking a scientific diving class through the marine science program at UAF, I was hooked on marine biology. Swimming through kelp forests and seeing firsthand how much life we have in our waters was one of the most amazing experiences in my life to that point. Since then, I have photographed leopard seals and penguins in the Antarctic, trawled the Chukchi Sea for benthic invertebrates, and cruised the Bering Sea in a U.S. Coast Guard Icebreaker. My next goal is to travel to the Antarctic again and dive under the massive ice sheets that extend from the glaciers over the ocean.”

### Who helped you along the way?

“My father influenced me the most, teaching me to work hard and not complain. This has served me well in my field work experiences because when you are out on an expensive and time-limited project, you either work hard or you don’t get asked to come out again.”

### Advice about career training?

“Don’t be intimidated by college. Find someone, either a student or a professor, in a field you might be interested in and ask them questions about their work.”



**High School Graduated:**  
Robert Service HS, Anchorage, AK

**College Graduated:**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks: B.S. in Biology

**Current College:**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Major:**  
Marine Biology

I want to be a geologist.



7th Grade, Central MS, Anchorage

**GABRIELLE JONES**

I want to be a marine scientist or PE teacher.

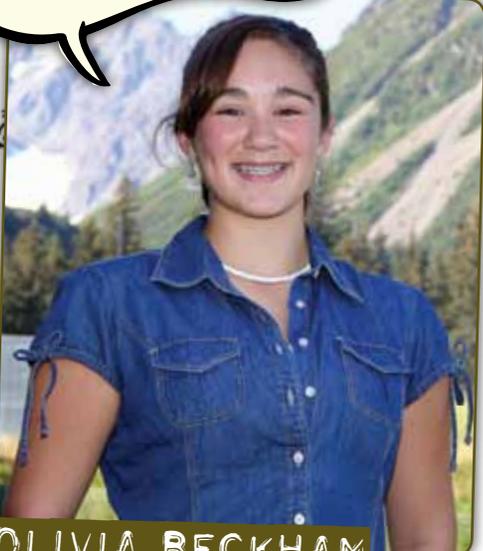


8th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage

**ALISA AIST**



I want to be a marine biologist, fictional novel author, marine veterinarian, or professional swimmer.



8th Grade, Seward MS, Seward

**OLIVIA BECKHAM**




“The decisions you make add up to your life.”



**CHAD HULTS**

“I work as a geologist with the US Geological Survey at the Alaska Science Center. My main duty is to compile a geologic map of Alaska. This effort has been underway for over a decade so the complexity is mind-blowing.”

**What schooling did you take to enter your career?**

“To become a geologist I had to obtain a Bachelor of Science in geology. To become a well-paid geologist I also got a Master of Science in geology. These degrees required many advanced math, physics, and chemistry courses.”

**What do you like best about your career?**

“I have many opportunities to shape my career because the topics available to study are endless. I have freedom to use my imagination to figure out the geology of Alaska. To do my research, I get to hike in the mountains, boat in the ocean, and fly in a helicopter around the state. The office work is intellectually stimulating--literature research, computer analysis, and laboratory work.”

**Words of wisdom for those about to enter high school?**

“Although getting excited about math or English while in middle school or high school is hard to do, these are the tools you will use in any career you choose.

A great man said to me, ‘The decisions you make add up to your life.’ The decisions you make, whether large or small (when to wake up in the morning, what to wear, whether or not to do your homework), shape your life. If you take control of your decisions you will have control of your quality of life.”

**Colleges Graduated:**

Shoreline Community College, Seattle, WA: Associate of Art and Sciences

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA: B.S. and M.S. in Geology

**Current Career:**

Geologist for US Geological Survey, Anchorage

*Photo: East of Paxson along the Denali Fault, Chad is standing on the rupture caused by the November 3, 2002 7.9 magnitude earthquake. This is the line where the edge of North America meets with “exotic” rocks to the south. The fault moved rocks 8 feet horizontally.*



# Science

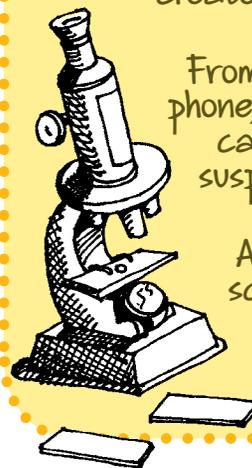
Answers to the “why” and “how” of life!

Science is about asking questions and finding out the answers through research and testing, as well as trial and error.

Scientists discover truths about the world around us that inspire them to create new technologies and new ways of doing things.

From the invention of the cell phone, to the discovery that DNA can be used to identify crime suspects, science is changing the way we live every day.

Also, three to four years of science in high school will help you qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship! (See page 6.)



# I want a career in computer technology...



**JOSH CHRISTIE**

"I was born in Alaska and attended middle and high school in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley where I developed an interest in computers and decided to attend AVTEC."

### What did you want to be when you were young?

"When I was younger, I thought I wanted to be a crime scene investigator (CSI). That changed when I got into high school. My aunt, Stephanie, inspired me to pursue a career in computers."

### Advice for students?

"If you are not quite sure of what you want to do, go to college and you'll get to experience a little bit of everything. If you know what you want to do, try going to a career school."

### High School Graduated:

Colony HS, Palmer, AK

### Current College:

AVTEC - Alaska Institute of Technology, Seward

### Major:

IT - Network Technician

I want to be a computer programmer.



**BRADLEY MORTON**

8th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage



**JONATHAN GREENE**

8th Grade, Mears MS, Anchorage

I want to work in IT, maybe in game software development.



“Education & training after high school is very important!”



## Sudoku

3			6				2	
	9	7		4		8		6
	2		5		9	1		7
9	8		1		6			5
			4	2			1	9
4				7		3		2
	1		2		3		4	
				5		7		3
	3	5					9	

**How to play:** Fill in the blank spaces with the numbers 1 - 9. Every row, column and 3 x 3 box must contain all nine digits with no number repeated.



**RAMI TOTEMOFF**

### High School Graduated:

Tatitlek Community School, Tatitlek, AK

### Current College:

AVTEC - Alaska Institute of Technology, Seward

### Major:

IT - Network Technician



"I grew up in the small secluded village of Tatitlek in the Prince William Sound, where I graduated with a class of five."

### What are you studying?

"I am attending the Information Technology training at AVTEC in Seward. The training is eight hours a day, focusing on what I want and need to learn."

### How did you end up there?

"I always knew I was going to continue my education after high school, but I did not know what I wanted to do. I attended the University of Alaska Anchorage for three years and took a break by working as an intern at the Chenega Corporation in Anchorage, in the Information Technology Department. One of the employees encouraged me to enhance my training and education at AVTEC."

### Do you have any advice for students?

"Just do it! Education and training after high school is very important!"

# WORD FIND

F C O T I A S K P A D  
 G A M E S V Y E A C A  
 I R L C E G E L L O C  
 F E I H C P G T M M E  
 S E L N A T E I E P K  
 C R M O T P E T R T D  
 H E A L A S K A E E C  
 O A U O D A P T G R O  
 O R N G L P U R S U E  
 L T R Y K L E A R N Y  
 T D R A W E S R I W A

Find these words in any direction:

data  
 games  
 career  
 college  
 school  
 seward  
 tatitlek  
 degree  
 palmer  
 alaska  
 geek  
 pursue  
 chief  
 learn  
 any  
 technology

## CHECK OUT AVTEC!

AVTEC (Alaska's Institute of Technology), located in Seward (south of Anchorage on the Kenai Peninsula), is a component of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. To learn more about this school and its many programs, visit AVTEC's Web site at [www.avtec.edu](http://www.avtec.edu).



## DAVID Q. BRAND

“Carpe diem! Seize the day!”

**High School Graduated:**  
 Chugiak HS, Anchorage, AK

**College Graduated:**  
 University of Alaska  
 Anchorage and American  
 InterContinental University:  
 B.S. in Computer Science

**Current Career:**  
 CISSP, Chief Information  
 Officer for US Air Force  
 673 Civil Engineer Group,  
 Anchorage



## MARIA HERNANDEZ

“During my middle and high school years, I was interested in a lot of different things, like photography and traveling, but I was already a computer geek. While I was in school, I worked for a hospital doing data entry and analysis for a study on children born to drug-addicted mothers. That’s when I realized I wanted to learn more about how databases can help analyze information that will impact peoples’ lives.

I have a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a minor in Computer Information Systems. For me, these two degrees combined my interest in working with people with my secret love for computers.”

### What do you do in your job?

“I am an IT Applications Training Supervisor. My team helps school district staff use computer systems and applications. We also work with the technical staff to make sure that the databases and programs we have are accurate, useful, and are accomplishing their business purpose.”

“Technology grows and develops so quickly.”

### What do you like best about your career?

“Technology grows and develops so quickly--it’s exciting that we get to be the first to try out new things and help determine if they would be of benefit to the school district.”



### Colleges Graduated:

University of Miami, FL:  
 B.A. in Psychology, Minors in  
 Computer Information Systems  
 and Photography  
 University of Pennsylvania, PA:  
 Master of Social Work

### Current Career:

Information Technology (IT)  
 Training Supervisor, Anchorage  
 School District



“I grew up in Anchorage and Eagle River and went to Gruening Middle School and Chugiak High School. I loved all sorts of games, from board games to computer games.

When I was 13, I wanted a computer, so my uncle showed me how to build one. While working for my neighbor’s company, I built a computer from the ground up all by myself. I was very proud of that accomplishment. When I started formal training I was the star of the class because I had already gotten my feet wet and wasn’t afraid of computers.

Now, I am a Chief Information Officer for the US Air Force, working on Elmendorf Air Force Base. My team can accomplish almost anything. We help users when they have problems, manage how data travels, and are in charge of the large servers that help my organization get its work done. The most difficult thing in my job is explaining to people why we have different levels of security, and that you need to take precautions to keep information safe.”

### What education and training do you have in IT?

“I have a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science. I am also a Certified Information Systems Security Professional, which is one of the hardest certifications to get in the IT world.”

### Any advice for Alaska’s middle school students?

“Carpe diem! Seize the day! But be responsible in doing it, for every action has a reaction.”

# Alaska Performance SCHOLARSHIP



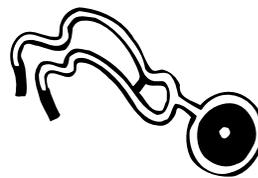
Did you know there's a new scholarship for college or career training in the state that any Alaskan can earn by taking challenging classes in high school, earning good grades and test scores?

## HOW DO YOU GET IT?

Get started off in high school on the right foot! Plan to follow one of these two pathways to success:

- ★ **Math and Sciences** - Four years of math, four years of English, four years of science, and four years of social studies (one of which can be a world language, fine arts, or cultural heritage).
- ★ **Social Sciences and Language** - Three years of math, four years of English, three years of science, four years of social studies, and two years of the same world language.

Make sure you study hard and earn the highest grade point average (GPA) and test scores you can--the better your results, the larger your scholarship! To learn more about the Alaska Performance Scholarship, go to [APS.alaska.gov](http://APS.alaska.gov).



I want to work in sports medicine, as a doctor or surgeon.

8th Grade, Mears MS, Anchorage



RACHEL BRADY

I want to be a chemical engineer.

8th Grade, Mears MS, Anchorage



JOSHUA AN

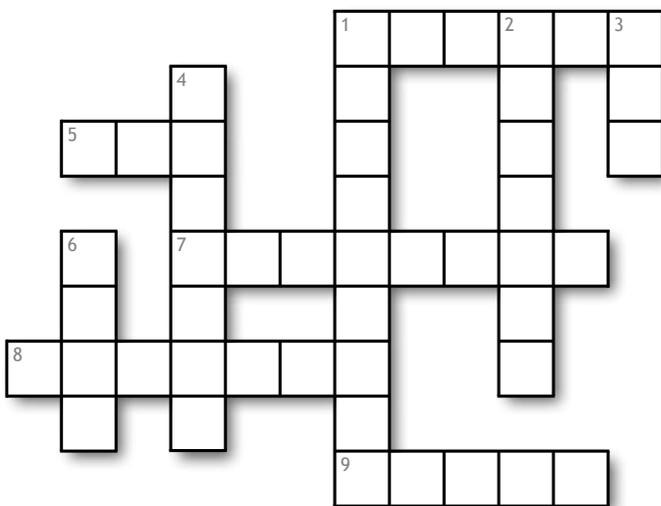
I want to be a graphic designer.

8th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage



JENNICA LENAMOND

## Crossword Puzzle



### Across:

- 49th state
- Grade Point Average (abbr.)
- Joshua wants to be a chemical \_\_\_\_.
- College takes a little \_\_\_\_ and determination.
- Joseph wants to \_\_\_\_ Tae Kwon Do to blind kids.

### Down:

- Emily wants to be an \_\_\_\_.
- Rachel wants to work in sports medicine as a doctor or \_\_\_\_.
- Alaska Pacific University (abbr.)
- AKCIS is where you can learn about different \_\_\_\_.
- Manon wants to be a \_\_\_\_ critic.

## DO YOU KNOW which Alaska college campus this is?

Can you picture yourself here?

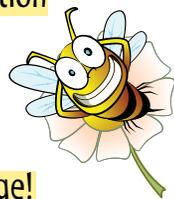


Answer: Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage.



*Be the first person in your family to go to college!*

Even if no one in your family ever went to college, that doesn't mean that you can't. It takes just one person in a family to **act upon that dream** and be the example for others to follow. It may seem scary at first, but all it takes is a little **courage and determination**. **Talk** to your teachers, counselor or principal about what college is and how to prepare. **Ask questions!** Find out what you can do now to get ready. Take high school classes that will help **prepare** you. Did you know there's a new scholarship that rewards taking challenging classes? (See above.) Find out about mentoring or enrichment programs to help you **succeed in education** during and after high school. Seek role models. **Surround yourself** with other people who have succeeded and ask how they did it. You may find someone else who was also the first to **go to college!**



I want to be an architect.

8th Grade, Mears MS, Anchorage



EMILY CAREY

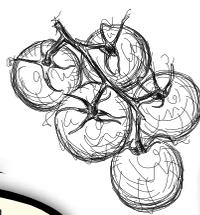


I want to be an optometrist.

8th Grade, Mears MS, Anchorage

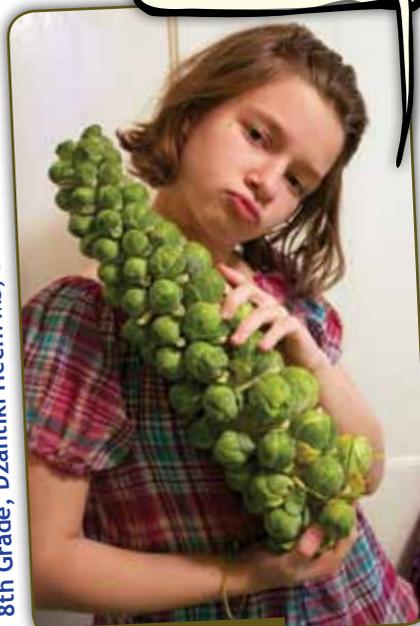


GRANT JURASEK



I want to be a food critic.

8th Grade, Dzantiki Heeni MS, Juneau



MANON PAUL

I want to be a doctor, basketball player or join the air force.

8th Grade, Effie Kokrine Charter, Fairbanks



KYE BURROWS

I want to be a lawyer or chef.

8th Grade, Clark MS, Anchorage



SHEYANNE HUNTER

I want to be an actress or singer.

7th Grade, Barnette Magnet, Fairbanks



SYLVIA-LEI ARENAS



I want to teach Tae Kwon Do to blind Kids.

7th Grade, Clark MS, Anchorage



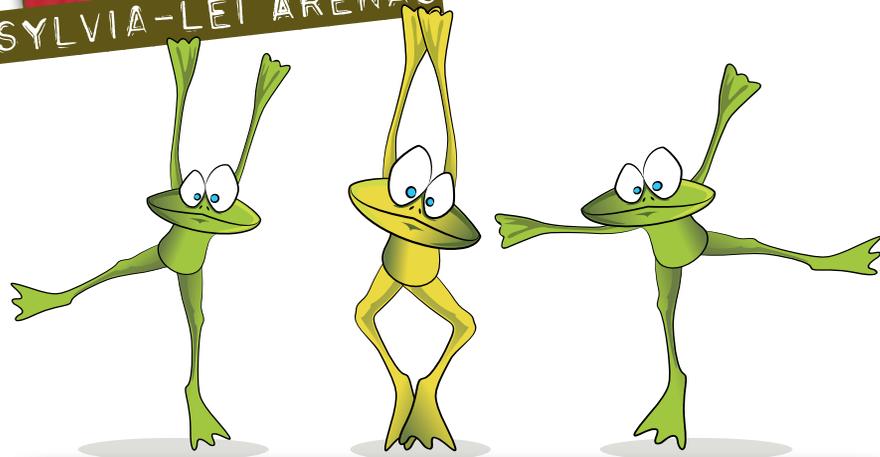
JOSEPH ARZATE

I want to join the army.

8th Grade, Hopson MS, Barrow



SAMUEL AHSOAK



MUSICIAN DOCTOR  
 CARPENTER  
 DESIGNER

**AKCIS**

PLUMBER  
 ACCOUNTANT  
 PROFESSOR

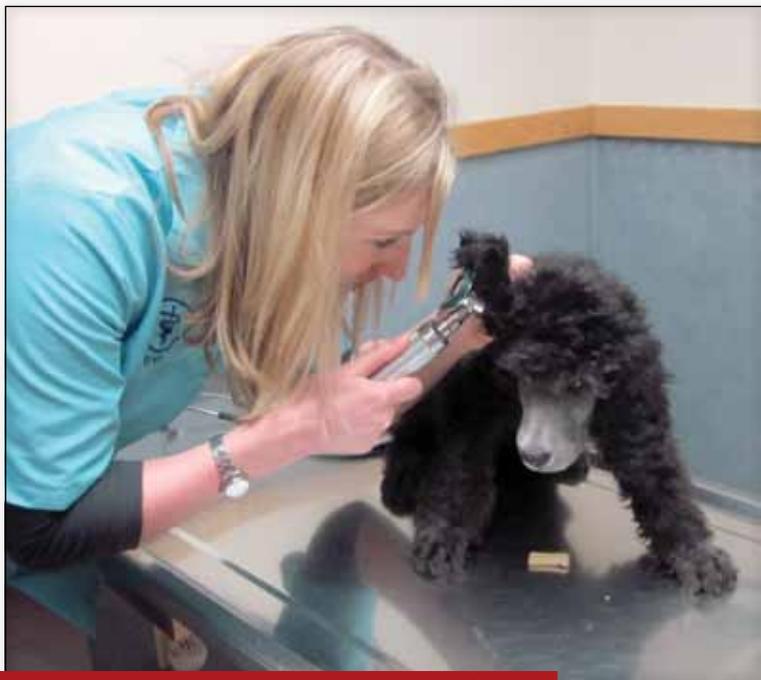
### Careers, Careers, Careers....

A great place to learn all about hundreds of different careers. Ask your teacher or counselor if your school has an active Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) account. AKCIS is free to all Alaska schools! If your teacher or principal needs more information, tell them they can call the AKCIS Helpline (877) 269-7974 or in Anchorage at 269-6929, or by email at [akcis@alaska.gov](mailto:akcis@alaska.gov).

[akcis.org](http://akcis.org)



# I want a career working with animals...



**High School Graduated:**  
Monroe Catholic High School, Fairbanks, AK

**Colleges Graduated:**  
Montana State University: B.S. in Animal Science  
Washington State University: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

**Current Career:**  
Veterinarian, Alaska Veterinary Clinic, Anchorage

**LINDSAY WINGERTER, DVM**

"I was always interested in animals. My first word was 'dog'! I mushed dogs since kindergarten and I raised sheep and goats for 4-H."

**What postsecondary education did you take?**

"After completing four years of undergraduate study to get a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, I had four years of intense veterinary medical school."

**Tell us about your job.**

"I love it when I can diagnose, treat and cure diseases--especially since my patients can't talk! And puppy breath is one of my favorite smells."

A big part of my job is teaching and communicating with owners. I love it when I can let people know how best to care for their pets. To be a vet, you need to take lots of science classes, but also develop your people skills. This job is mostly about animal health, but I've never seen a German Shepherd drive himself to the clinic."



8-week-old Louis gets an exam from Dr. Wingerton.

**"I love it when I can diagnose, treat and cure diseases."**

## WORD FIND

B L X B H V S C U R E  
 A E S U Y E X T V E I  
 R A T E N T R U S T S  
 R R A I M E D I C A L  
 O N O U C R O T I L A  
 W R G Y O I A I E A M  
 P H C P C N E O N S I  
 L L L P E A R N C K N  
 E O U U E R R H E A A  
 H C B P V I D E R L T  
 A R S I O A Y O U T H  
 E X C H A N G E G Y O

**Find these words in any direction:**

- medical tuition
- science alaska
- dog youth
- animals recycle
- care senior
- clubs help
- barrow puppy
- exchange goats
- cure learn
- veterinarian

I want to be a dog rehabilitator or author.



6th Grade, Flyod Dryden MS, Juneau

**JOYCE WENDLING**

I want to be a veterinarian.



8th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage

**JESSICA ADLER**

I want to be a veterinarian. Animals are an important part of community life and need to be healthy at all times.



8th Grade, Hopson MS, Barrow

**BERNICE PIKOK**

I want to be a veterinarian or nurse.



7th Grade, Polaris K-12, Anchorage

**MADDIE FLORES**



## What is the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies?

CACS has been learning and teaching about the marine and coastal ecosystems of beautiful Kachemak Bay, on the Kenai Peninsula, since 1982. The Center holds Junior Naturalist Summer Camp, Alaska Whale Camp, and EcoAdventure Camp each summer.

Learn more about the Center and these summer opportunities for students at [www.akcoastalstudies.org](http://www.akcoastalstudies.org).

7th Grade, Ryan MS, Fairbanks



ABIGAIL  
ANAGAIK

I want to work with animals.

8th Grade, Hopson MS, Barrow



ADAMARIE  
AHNGASUK

I want to be a veterinarian.

8th Grade, IDEA Homeschool, Fairbanks



LINDY HOZA

I want to work with horses.

7th Grade, Barnette Magnet, Fairbanks



KAITLYN MARTIN

I want to be an animal caretaker or physical therapist.

## How long does it take to become a veterinarian?

Veterinary school usually takes four years beyond the bachelor's degree. The fourth year is usually spent in a veterinary clinic, helping to treat animals. There are currently 28 veterinary schools in the United States accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).



Do you like to help others?

Would you like to learn about another culture?

Want to learn a new skill?

## The Alaska 4-H Youth Development Program

4H is a nationwide program where you can work on projects that interest you. Not only can you learn, make new friends and have a lot of fun with 4-H, but 4-H high school seniors are eligible to apply for a scholarship to the University of Alaska which could cover one whole year of tuition!

Through 4-H, you will find special projects, activities, clubs, and even camping opportunities. 4-H gives you the opportunity to meet new friends who share your interests, become more confident through problem solving and overcoming challenges. You can give back to the community through service projects, and gain independence and leadership by making important decisions on your own.

4-H in Alaska currently has programs in Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks/Tanana, Kenai Peninsula, and Mat-Su/Copper River areas. If there isn't yet a program near you, or if you want to learn something that isn't currently offered, 4-H can help you start your own project or club. Now is a great time to learn project development and leadership skills that will help you be successful in life.

Current 4-H projects and activities include: training your dog, raising livestock, cooking, sewing, crafts, health & nutrition, gardening, leadership development & public speaking, recycling & sustainability, babysitting & childcare development, civics & governance, career awareness & exploration. 4-H even has a foreign exchange program, and more!



Learn more about Alaska's 4-H: [www.alaska4h.org](http://www.alaska4h.org)

## Alaska SeaLife Center

The Alaska SeaLife Center, located on the shores of Resurrection Bay in Seward, is Alaska's only public aquarium

and ocean wildlife rescue center. Visitors to this "window on the sea" have close encounters with puffins, octopuses, sea lions and other sealife while peeking over the shoulders of ocean scientists studying Alaska's rich seas and diverse sealife.

Research projects help scientists discover reasons for declining marine animal populations and environmental changes. In the picture above, researcher Jo-Ann Mellish from the Alaska SeaLife Center releases a Steller sea lion after fitting it with high tech tracking devices.

Marine mammal research conducted under NMFS permit no. 881-1668.



Photo courtesy of the Alaska SeaLife Center

# I want to work in public safety...



Jason Whetsell in SWAT Gear and Alex

Alex (a one-and-a-half-year-old Belgian Malinois) just recently finished both his patrol training and drug training. He is Jason's third dog. Jason's previous dogs, Bosco and Dutch, are retired and live with Jason and his family, along with Alex.

Jason and his dogs have visited many classrooms, talking about what they do and answering students' questions. If you would like Jason and Alex to visit your classroom, have your teacher contact Jason at: [JWhetsell@muni.org](mailto:JWhetsell@muni.org).

More about APD's canine unit at: [dollarsfordogs.org](http://dollarsfordogs.org).

**High School Graduated:**  
Cordova High School, Cordova, AK

**Colleges Graduated:**  
University of Alaska Anchorage,  
Wayland Baptist University, Anchorage

**Current Career:**  
Police K-9 Officer, Municipality of Anchorage

## JASON WHETSELL

"I grew up in Cordova, Alaska. I was always interested in firefighting and I enjoyed playing basketball. My postsecondary education was focused on being a firefighter/medic. Once I chose to get into law enforcement, I applied to and attended the police academy."

**"This is the best job in the world."**

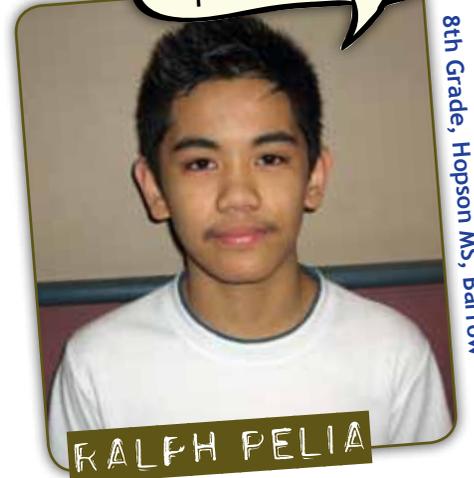
### What do you do?

"I am a police officer who handles a canine. I train the dogs and am also on the SWAT team and work as the tactical K-9. We assist other units in the police department in catching bad guys. I feel this is the best job in the world and I wouldn't want to do anything else."

### Words of wisdom for those about to enter high school?

"Work hard at everything you do. I became a police officer to get into the K-9 unit. I set that goal for myself, worked hard, and took pride in what I did. That approach made things fun and I had a great time while I worked to get where I am."

I want to be a police officer.

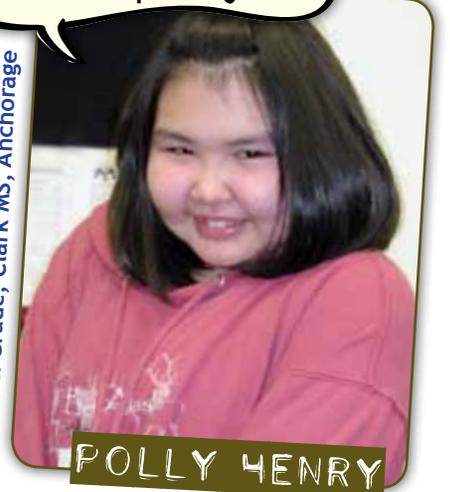


8th Grade, Hopson MS, Barrow

RALPH PELIA

I want to be a police officer, teacher, principal or animal park guide.

6th Grade, Clark MS, Anchorage



POLLY HENRY

## Working Dogs

Besides being man's best friend, dogs can play many other important roles in our lives and in some careers.

- ✓ **Service Animals:** trained dogs can help those who are not able to see or hear, or who experience other challenges that dogs can assist with.
- ✓ **Search & Rescue:** dogs can help find people after natural disasters or during emergencies.
- ✓ **Scent Detection:** with their keen sense of smell, dogs are trained to detect bombs or other suspicious substances.
- ✓ **K-9:** dogs can be useful in law enforcement by tracking or taking down suspects, as well as detecting illegal substances.





## Public Safety Training Academy



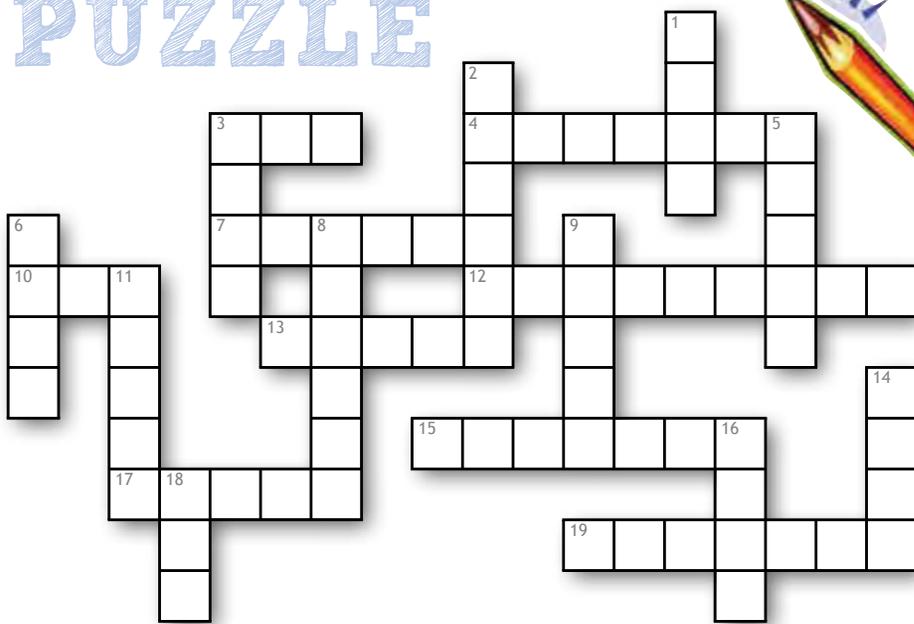
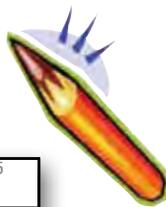
The Alaska Law Enforcement Training Program in Sitka provides specialized classes and practical training for a variety of law enforcement careers, including instruction in criminal investigation, police procedure, laws, and physical skills.

The course meets the requirements of the Alaska Police Standards Council, which certifies officers in Alaska. Students who complete the program also earn 12 credits from the University of Alaska Southeast.

[www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/academy](http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/academy)

Alaska Department of Public Safety

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Down:

- Jason is shown in SWAT \_\_\_\_.
- Joy's current \_\_\_\_ is firefighter.
- Joy works for the Fairbanks \_\_\_\_ Department.
- Working dogs have great \_\_\_\_ detection.
- Jason's current dog's name is \_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_ & rescue
- Capt. Kuiper grew up on the \_\_\_\_ Peninsula.
- Jason says: This is the best job in the \_\_\_\_.
- Dogs have a \_\_\_\_ sense of smell.
- Jason and his \_\_\_\_ have visited many classrooms.
- University of Fairbanks (abbr.)

### Across:

- Jason's approach made things \_\_\_\_.
- Working dogs include Service \_\_\_\_.
- Search & \_\_\_\_ dogs help find people.
- The Public Safety Training Academy provides training for a variety of \_\_\_\_ enforcement careers.
- Forrest's major is \_\_\_\_ Management.
- Capt. Kuiper says they have to be trained in many areas, including \_\_\_\_ rescue.
- Jason has \_\_\_\_ three dogs.
- Jason's retired dogs are Bosco and \_\_\_\_.
- Alex is a \_\_\_\_ Malinois.

## CAPTAIN FORREST KUIFER

"I grew up on the Kenai Peninsula and attended Sterling Elementary, Soldotna Middle School and Skyview High School. Like many Alaskans, my interests and hobbies while growing up revolved around the outdoors. I enjoyed skiing, camping, hunting and fishing. I am the Captain of the University Fire Department on the UAF campus and am working towards a Bachelor's of Emergency Management at UAF.

The most rewarding aspect of emergency services for me is the opportunity to help the citizens of the community who are in need. The most challenging aspect is the fact that we have to be knowledgeable and skilled in so many different areas: emergency medical services, firefighting, hazardous materials, vehicle extrication, water rescue, and more."



**High School Graduated:**  
Skyview HS, Soldotna, AK

**College Graduated:**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks:  
A.A.S. in Municipal Fire Control &  
Hazardous Materials Control

**Current College:**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Major:**  
Emergency Management



JOY MOSER

**High School Graduated:**  
New Horizons High School,  
Delta Junction, AK

**College Graduated:**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks:  
A.A.S. in Municipal Fire  
Suppression and B.S. in  
Biological Sciences

**Current Career:**  
Firefighter for Fairbanks Fire  
Department

**"I plan to serve Alaskans for many years."**

"I was born in Nome and raised in Delta Junction. During my senior year in high school I worked several jobs and volunteered for the Delta Junction Fire Department. I was a UA Scholar and also received two British Petroleum scholarships because of my academic achievements."

### How did you get to the career you're in today?

"Initially, I worked for the University Police Department in a student position as a community service officer. While working towards my employment with the University Fire Department (UFD), I volunteered for the Chena-Goldstream Fire and Rescue, a volunteer fire department adjacent to the university. After being hired in 2001, I became a lead medic for the UFD. The experiences I gained prepared me for the challenges and stresses of a fire service career.

Since graduating, I've become involved as a program assistant at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and plan to continue teaching and attending college classes as a way of refreshing my skills and giving back to the community to which I owe so much. I plan to serve Alaskans locally for many years."

### What advice can you offer to students?

"Actively seek learning experiences throughout the rest of your lives."

*Want to learn firefighting or emergency services skills while going to school?*

The UAF Fire Department is open to anyone who is interested in getting into emergency services. The student firefighter program serves the UAF campus and surrounding neighborhoods. Students attend college and work for the department at the same time. The experience they get from real world emergency responses, as well as the academic studies at UAF, makes graduates of the program highly competitive in the emergency services field.



[www.uaf.edu/fire](http://www.uaf.edu/fire)



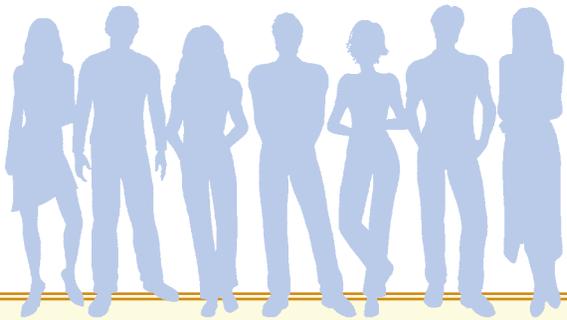
## What will your story be?

**Have you started writing your own story?**  
You can start by doing the following:

1. Set goals for your future;
2. Learn and work towards those goals; AND,
3. Ask for help from others (parents, friends, teachers, counselors, principals and anyone who you know and trust) who want to support you in reaching your goals.

Your actions and attitude can help you create a satisfying and successful life story.

**Interested in sharing your story?** Ask your teacher or parent to call 269-7980 (toll-free outside Anchorage 877-577-3367) to learn how YOU can be part of the next issue!



### Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Your State Higher Education Agency

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education--funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation--promotes access to and success in education and career training beyond high school.

This *What's your Story?* Middle School Newspaper, published twice a year, provides encouragement and resources for students about to enter high school.

[AKadvantage.alaska.gov](http://AKadvantage.alaska.gov)



## Unsure of What You Want To Be When You Grow Up ???



### ASK PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

There are many different careers in our communities. One of the best ways to learn about your options is from people who work in them. That person might be a parent, relative, teacher, or family friend. If you don't know anyone who works in the area that interests you, ask your parents or teachers for some ideas on who you could ask about the work they do.

- You can ask:**
- What do you do in your career? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What do you like most and least about your job? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What did you do to prepare for your career? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What subjects/activities help prepare for this career? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is there any other advice you can give me? \_\_\_\_\_

*Ms. Perkins' 8th grade students at Mears Middle School participate in a geocaching unit as part of a P.E. and science collaborative. This course encourages outdoor activity and investigative science. Students learn to use a GPS as they enter and read coordinates. Then, they participate in a 10-station race, competing against each other to find the most geocaches, using clues contained in one to find another. Students also spend time in the computer lab setting up investigative scenarios in which a mock wilderness crime scene is created. Students use their GPS and research skills to find out what happened, like real crime scene investigators.*



Pictured: Emily Carey, Rachel Brady, Joshua An, Grant Jurasek, Sierra McNeil, Hattie Little-Burgener

Send  
us your  
news!

### WHAT ARE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS DOING IN YOUR AREA?

Maybe there is an exciting summer program or camp in your town. There might be a community service project in which middle school students are actively involved. We'd love to include your news in the fall issue of *What's Your Story?*

Call us at 269-7980 (Anchorage area) or toll-free at (877) 577-3367 (outside the Anchorage area) and we'll tell you how to share your news and become part of *What's Your Story?*