The Arctic Sounder

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THE 18th day of November, 2021 &
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THE 2nd day of December, 2021

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## THANKFUL BOUNTY

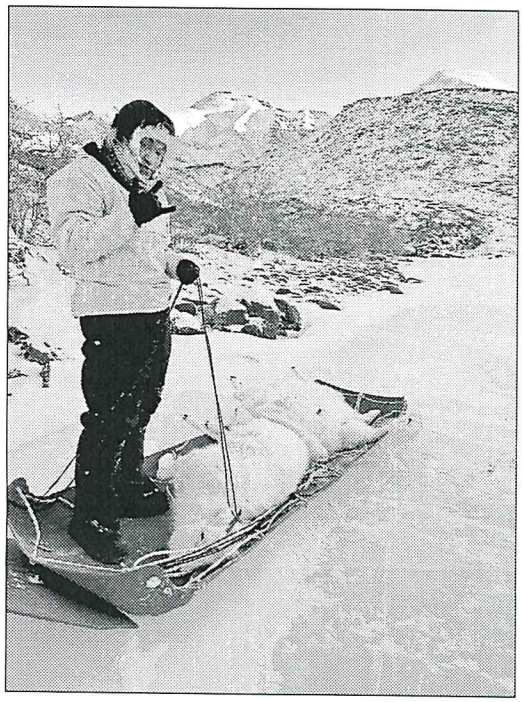

Photo provided by Donald Gordon

Above, Donald Gordon poses with a successful day's hunt 45 miles inland from Barter Island.

Photo by Jana Koenig

Right, Raymond Koenig, Jr., aka Little Mal, 6, helps his dad skin a caribou in Point Hope.

## WHALERS

FROM PAGE 1

and Christmas, said whaler Frederick Brower.

"It's just the gift of giving," Brower said.

When Brower's crew caught its whale, they let it cool off for a few days and put it in the ice cellar. Muktuk went down first, and then whalers added meat on top so that "the meat blood saturates into the blubber and gives it a delicacy taste," Brower said.

Crews who don't have ice cellars put their catch into freezers or just leave it in a box outside their house when it's cold enough, Brower added.

On a cold Thursday, every family was able to get a sack with muktuk, whale meat and whale's tail. Hunters also shared some whitefish, usually considered a delicacy that goes to Elders and people with special needs.

"This year we had an abundance. We had, like, 70 sacks of fish that were delivered to us," Brower said. "We ended up with quite a bit, so we put three or four pieces in each bag, just so everyone can get some."

The sharing started with a prayer aired by KBRW around noon. The line of cars stretched " from the site all the way up to the street — about three or four blocks," Brower said.

"It had to have been a quarter of the town," Brower said. "It went really well. We were able to distribute all of the food by around 2 p.m."

A drive-thru format is a relatively new approach for annual sharing. Traditionally, whaling crews would divide their harvest between local churches.

"For decades and decades and decades, it was always serving food in local churches," said Brower who remembers enjoying the holiday feast in a church since he was 5. "When the pandemic hit, we were trying to find an alternative for community gathering for what we do traditionally."

Following the format of drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination clinics, the whaling community put together a traffic flow plan last year to serve food to people in cars.

"It was new for everybody, but we had to adapt. We were able to pull it off and had a great response from the community," Brower said. "Everybody was able to get into their vehicles and get their share and celebrate their feast."

This year, the whaling association repeated the drive-thru model, adding lights to Simmonds Field and putting down traffic cones "to keep a little bit of order," Brower said.

Still, Pebley hopes that the pandemic will ease, and whalers will be able to share their harvest in person next year or even by Christmas.

"It's good to say hi to people and see people you haven't seen in a while," Pebley said. "And when you share so much, you can see how happy people get — people who might not be able to receive food otherwise."

Barrow's Retail, LLC doing business as Buds Below Zero, located at 4326 Nathaniel Olemaun Jr. Boulevard, Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of controlling interest in a Marijuana Retail Store 3 AAC 306.300, license #23813. The transfer involves a change in ownership percentage from Robert Kaleak 50% and Rural Retail Management, LLC 50% to Rural Retail Management, LLC 100%.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501 and Attorney Jana Weltzin, Esq. at jana@jdwcounsel.com or JDW, LLC, 901 Photo Avenue, Second Floor, Anchorage, AK 99503.

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