

ATHABASCAN

word of the week

Crew pitches in to help villagers with cold-related problems

I thought we'd share some good news from our homes to yours. The thought behind sharing this is to give other tribes fuel for thought. It might spark an idea for another community to do the same.

— Cesa Sam, Huslia

Temperatures in Huslia have been in the 60-below range. With this freezing weather, homes have been experiencing fuel lines gelling, causing Toyostoves and furnaces to shut down. However, that's not the good news.

Huslia Tribal Council Second Chief Speedy Sam made

the decision to hire a crew — Byron Peters, Tuffboy Vent, Leon Nollner, Russell David, Vincent Henry, Benny Attla, Victor Vent, Floyd Vent Sr., William Penn, Farmer Vent, Robbie Williams and Speedy Sam — to help with heater issues.

They worked their way through the village to help residents restart their heaters, bank homes and fuel tanks with snow, shovel out/saw/split/stack wood, pump fuel and clean stove pipes.

The crew tore down the old mission and delivered the wood to people in danger of running out of wood. People

also donated wood to this cause. They also hauled and pumped fuel to homes.

Beverly Sam noticed the crew working next door. She quickly made sandwiches and hot tea. Vivian Bifelt made delicious soup for them. The men were happy for the food. Folks also prepared food and brought it to the Tribal Building for the workers.

The community is extremely thankful for the much-needed help provided by the tribe. Every person needing help was helped, whether it was at a home, an office building or teacher housing. Stay warm and cozy folks.



Photo by Cesa Sam

These guys are tearing down the old mission house to give the logs to people who need wood. This old mission house has housed a lot of people and served its purpose well.

Phrases:

Detlekts'e neetyet
kk'onhoodeneeyh:

We are all
working together

Translation:

detlekts'e:
everyone
neetyet:
together

kk'onhoodeneeyh:
we (a group) working

The Athabaskan Word of the Week appears every Saturday on page A3 of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. The words are provided by Susan "K'etsoo" Paskvan of Yukon-Koyukuk School District. She is originally from the village of Koyukuk on the Yukon River in Interior Alaska. She is Tleeyegge Hut'aane, which is Koyukon Athabaskan. She seeks stories and phrases from both Denaakk'e (Koyukon Athabaskan) and Denak'a (Lower Tanana Athabaskan), which are languages spoken in the Yukon-Koyukuk School District region. Yukon-Koyukuk School District serves the villages of Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia, Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaktovik, Ruby, Manley Hot Springs and Mirik. The Board of Education places a priority on teaching the Native languages within the district.