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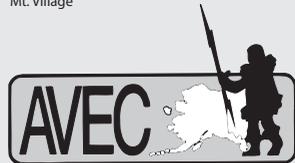
Robert L. Beans Sr.,  
Mountain Village

Peter Demoski, Nulato

Fred Sagoonick, Shaktoolik

**Communities Served**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alakanuk       | New Stuyahok    |
| Ambler         | Nightmute       |
| Andreafsky     | Noatak          |
| Anvik          | Noorvik         |
| Brevig Mission | Nulato          |
| Chevak         | Nunapitchuk     |
| Eek            | Old Harbor      |
| Ekwok          | Pilot Station   |
| Elim           | Pitkas Point    |
| Emmonak        | Quinhagak       |
| Gambell        | Russian Mission |
| Goodnews Bay   | St. Mary's      |
| Grayling       | St. Michael     |
| Holy Cross     | Savoonga        |
| Hooper Bay     | Scammon Bay     |
| Huslia         | Selawik         |
| Kaltag         | Shageluk        |
| Kasigluk       | Shaktoolik      |
| Kiana          | Shishmaref      |
| Kivalina       | Shungnak        |
| Kobuk          | Stebbins        |
| Kotlik         | Teller          |
| Koyuk          | Togiak          |
| Lower Kalskag  | Toksook Bay     |
| Marshall       | Tununak         |
| Mekoryuk       | Upper Kalskag   |
| Minto          | Wales           |
| Mt. Village    |                 |



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AK-105

## When Kids Run Wild

There was an unfortunate incident in one of our AVEC communities last month. A group of unruly older teenagers literally terrorized their community. They were stealing four-wheelers, harassing children and adults, damaging public and private property, and physically threatening community members and visiting workers.

AVEC had a small construction crew in the village finishing up a community tank farm project in preparation for receiving the first delivery of fuel. The local hooligans, not satisfied with disturbing the workers all night long by throwing rocks at their sleeping quarters, broke into the fenced yard, hot-wired and stole a four-wheeler, then threatened a worker to the extent that he had to lock himself in the cab of a loader and call for assistance.

The crew left the village the next day. Shortly after, we met with community leaders by teleconference and it quickly became clear that even the local leaders felt threatened by this small group of wayward teenagers. Several state agencies participated in the subsequent process and, as a result, the two primary instigators were arrested and removed from the community.

This could be your community.

Youth does not justify antisocial behavior, especially when it progresses to the wanton destruction of public and private property and to residents fearing for their personal safety. Communities do not have to tolerate this behavior but, unfortunately, frequently do not have the resources or support system to deal with the challenge.

It takes everyone working together to address the problem. The first recourse should be the immediate family of the youth. Parents and/or guardians should be held accountable for the actions of their children. If that is not possible, the community needs to reach out for help. Numerous state agencies stepped up to the plate in this instance. Of course, they only do so when the community is truly in distress. And it was.

My heart goes out to this community. It struggled to come to grips with the reality that these young people were not just "mischievous." They were malicious. Every time they got away with their shenanigans, it emboldened them to bigger, uglier and more unpleasant acts. These youths do not represent their community and we do not judge the community by them.

If your community sees a similar problem developing with "youth run wild," please reach out for help before someone is seriously hurt. Tough love is sometimes the only answer.

Until next time,

**Meera Kohler, President and CEO**