

Peninsula Clarion

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# ISPOCAL

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Locality/Ads Plus Other Inserts

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## Stepping up to the plate



**Left:**  
Umpire  
Bob Bird  
discusses  
a call with  
Kenai Fire  
Marshal  
Tommy  
Carver.

**Below:**  
The softball  
game of  
the century  
Nikiski pit-  
ted law en-  
forcement  
against  
firefighters.



### First responders take the field for Nikiski charity softball game

There were paramedics and state troopers all over Oilers Field Aug. 17, but it was no emergen-

cy. Public safety personnel from around the Kenai Peninsula came together to play a charity softball game to raise money for the Nikiski Children's Fund, the idea of Nikiski High School junior

Carlee Rizzo.

"The Nikiski Children's Fund is something I started last year as a sophomore to supply needs for local children with funds I raised promoting local concerts, bake sales, raffles and now a first responders softball game," said Rizzo.

"I was really grateful it stopped raining. The sun even came out and I think

everyone had a good time." According to Carlee, the fund is designed to get things that kids in Nikiski need as soon as they need it. It has a small board of directors made up of teachers at both Nikiski Middle High and North Star Elementary. Rizzo is the fundraising engine that keeps the charity running.

"This was my first time ever putting on a sporting event but it worked really well," she said.

If a community member or another teacher notices a child needs a helping hand, the funds make it possible for a board member to get them what they need. The Nikiski Children's Fund has

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The agents here are well known think the market is continuing

According to Louvier while when the market

## ... Plate

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supplied shoes and coats, paid electric bills and even paid for a student's driving instruction so they could get their license before they graduated from high school.

"It's very immediate," says Rizzo, "The board all has debit cards to the account and can buy what is needed right away."

Rizzo said when a fire broke out at 2:00 a.m. in a Nikiski home last year, a student lost all their possessions. By eight that morning, the Nikiski Chil-

dren's Fund had already purchased clothes for the student so they could attend school that day. Last year, Rizzo says she raised over \$3,500.

The spirit of the fund abounded as fans cheered on their players, knowing that these are the guys who are there for them 24/7 when needed. The six-inning competition ended with the police departments winning in a lopsided contest with a final score of 17-7.

Although there was a little good-natured rivalry on the field, the players all had a great time.

"Public safety members, we don't get together enough un-

less we're in an emergency so this gives us a chance to have fun together," said James Baisden, the fire chief in Nikiski. "We'll get 'em next year!"

All and all, 25 players took the field and raised over \$600 for the Nikiski Children's Fund.

Being played at the Oilers Field, the contest had all the trappings of a real ball game. Matt Wilson and Coach Dan Gensel from KSRM radio group announced the game and Bob Bird, no stranger to the Oiler Field, officiated. There was even the smell of hot dogs in the air grilled up by Senator Peter Micciche. All those details made it a real treat for all

the players, almost like being professional ball players for an evening.

"It made it feel like a real game. You can tell there was a competitive game being played here," said Baisden.

For those who missed the big game?

"If everyone wants to come out again and the Oilers will loan us their field again, you bet!" said Rizzo as she gathered up the bats and balls.

"It was so fun to watch and I feel the best thing I can do while I'm in high school is learning skills that I can do with the Nikiski Children's Fund. I'm learning how to recognize

and supply needs for others, learn how to raise money," said Rizzo.

Carlee's next event to raise funds will be Sept. 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Triumvirate Theatre, when the nationally famous women's rock group called "No Small Children" comes to Nikiski for a one night stand. These ladies are elementary school teachers by day and rockin' women by night. "No Small Children" recently recorded the soundtrack for the new Ghostbusters movie.

For advance tickets and see videos of the band go to Triumvirate Theatre's Facebook page.



Carlee Rizzo, Nikiski sophomore and founder of the Nikiski Children's Fund.

## ... Yoga

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help prevent injuries. Yoga is a slow process and will advance the individual as you get to know your body and its ability," she said.

Another reason that Chelsea has come to Alaska was because the love of her life and husband of just a year got an opportunity to work with Andeavor, formerly Tesoro, in Nikiski.

"That brought us here just a few weeks ago and we are celebrating our first anniversary shortly so we are experiencing a lot of firsts in our life and it's really exciting for us to come all the way up north together and embark on this new adventure with a fantastic company and great community," said Caffey.

Chelsea will be combining her professional dance experi-

class that will soon be offered at YogaSol.

"Please be watching of my upcoming class, Yoga/Dance Fusion, which is currently in the creation process! Keep an eye out for this upcoming workout combining the foundational movement of yoga with the creative execution, and class structure of dance. It's coming soon! And in the meantime I look forward to meeting and sharing yoga at my regular YogaSol classes Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m."

You'll find the complete YogaSol schedule and class descriptions along with teacher bios, rates and contact information at [www.yogasolalaska.com](http://www.yogasolalaska.com). YogaSol also carries everything you need to start your first yoga class. Manduka mats, YogiToes towels, yoga props (wheels, bolsters, blocks), Little Moon Essentials products, Young Living essential oils,

