

[Facility Showcase]



Palmer, Alaska

by Michael Curran & Angela Pettaway

When Matsu Regional came through as an upcoming contract everyone beamed with excitement.

Not only was it a new partner but it came along with the opportunity to go to Alaska and experience in all its glory of natural beauty.

As we booked travel the reality sunk in that we were going to Alaska in the winter and getting there was not quite as easy as we thought. As preparations began to get underway we strategized

on what to pack, mode of travel, which hotel to stay in and daily commute to hospital with weather. Needless to say, additional winter clothing and a 4x4 rental car was needed. We planned the trip for an additional day for travel just in case the weather caused delays.

As we boarded our flights and arrived in Alaska the reality of the beauty of the state sunk in. It was a balmy 4 degrees upon arrival with a fair amount of snowfall on the ground. We were happy we were dressed in several layers of clothing. As we drove to our accommodations we got to see the majestic mountains along the way and stopped for food at a local establishment. We enjoyed reindeer stew, fresh seafood and local craft beer.

TIPS



Several layers of clothing help maintain core body heat.



4x4 rental car is essential for Alaska winters

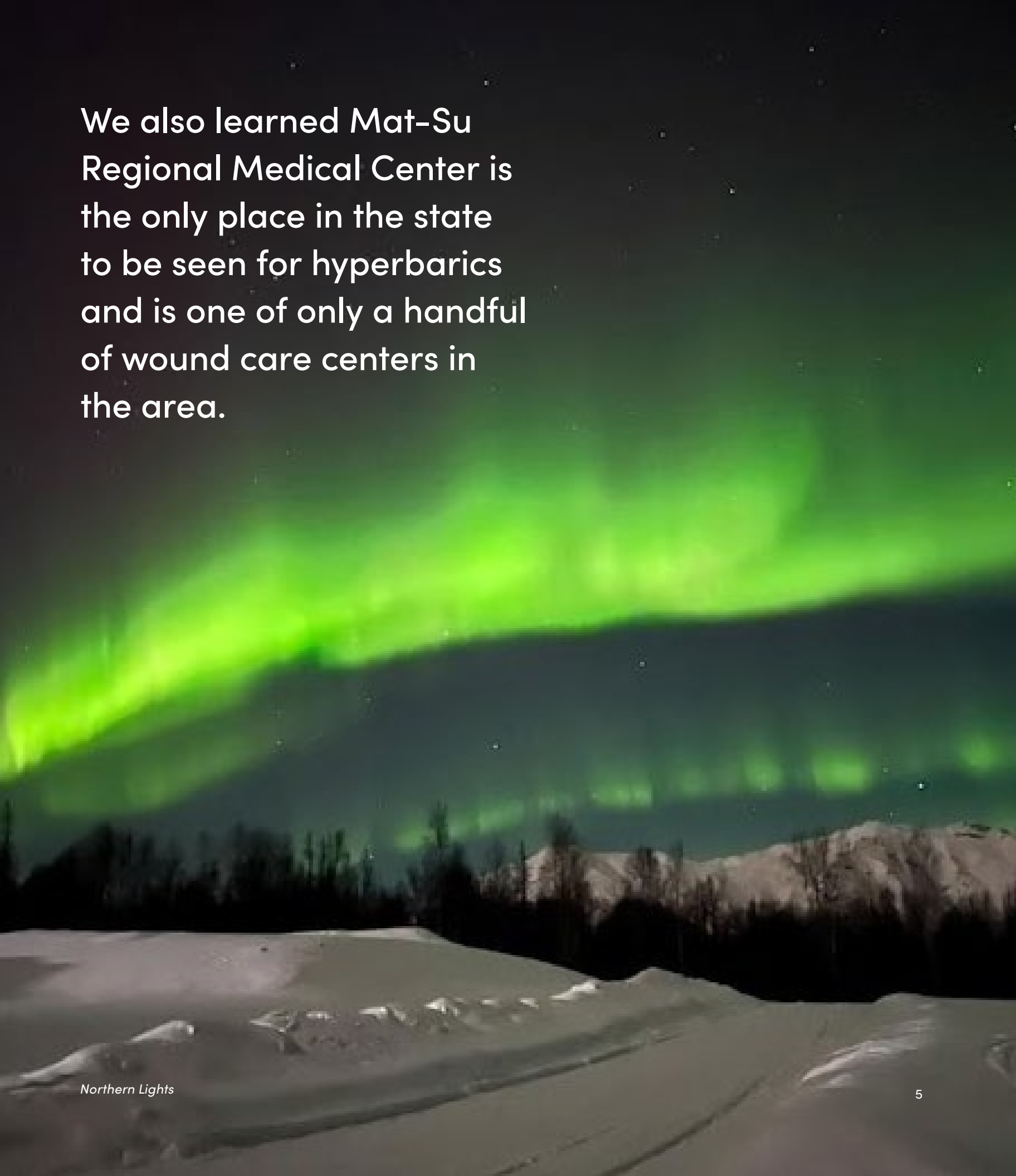
Gearing up for the next day of work, we settled in and prepared to meet the team in person. On the first day we arrived in the clinic, we were warmly welcomed by the staff and the CEO, Dave Wallace. As we got to know the staff we were overwhelmed by the sense of purpose Alaska brought to everyone who lived and worked there. I cannot say this about anywhere else but every individual there was exactly where they wanted to be and that place was "Alaska." The first day of training was well received.

The team was very engaged and passionate about wound care. We were quickly exposed to the day to day operations of the clinic and began prioritizing tasks as the hospital was pending a visit from The Joint Commission. We also learned Mat-Su Regional Medical Center is the only place in the state to be seen for hyperbarics and is one of only a handful of wound care centers in the area. During our 12 days in Alaska we were privileged to work with a very dedicated and knowledgeable team. Everyone we encountered was professional, friendly and committed to making the Outpatient Wound Care Center a fully functioning hospital department.

As the week passed, we went through a cycle of shoveling the walkway, digging out the car from the snow, driving cautiously to the hospital, working each day and enjoying the food the area had to offer. We were honored to experience the beauty the state had to offer and onboard a new partner to our WCA family. We look forward to visiting in the spring after the snow melts and we continue working and training with the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center team.



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Northern Lights