

Council tours Dena'ina Wellness Center

Additional tours planned for Elders and employees

The visit was brief but emotional, long anticipated and the first of many as the Kenaitze Indian Tribal Council toured the Dena'ina Wellness Center building on March 15.

Work continues on the structure but the construction has progressed enough that contractors have been able to host several tours, including the Council's short walk-through.

"We have worked 40 years to see this," Chairperson Rosalie Tepp said after wiping away tears. She was overcome with emotion shortly after walking into the building's skeletal structure with the rest of the Council and Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren.

See **TOUR**, p. 6



Tribal Council Chairperson Rosalie Tepp, facing camera at center, gathers the rest of the Council and Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren, at left, in a hug during the Council's first tour of the Dena'ina Wellness Center in March. The tour was an emotional moment for the group.

Customer service the theme at first all staff training day

Employees from every Tribal workplace attended a first-ever all staff training day in February at Kalifornsky Christian Center to hone skills in customer service.

Author and motivational speaker Petra Marcourt delivered a key note speech to all employees and then worked with program directors and managers during an afternoon session.

Marcourt, author of the book, "The Power of Service," was described later as both a comedienne and an educator.

She told the Tribe's staff, "Good customer service is not what the customer feels about you. It's how they feel about themselves in your presence."

She reminded the audience that communication goes far beyond what is said.

"Seven percent of communication is words," Marcourt said. Much more is communicated with tone and body language.



Wellness Manager Deb Nyquist laughs during a customer service exercise she participated in during February's training.

Tribal Council Chairperson Rosalie Tepp delivered a similar message as she introduced Marcourt.

"Smile from the eyes," Tepp told the audience. "Feed your people with kindness."

Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren made the day's purpose clear in her own opening remarks.

"Provide the best care to the people we serve," she said.

The day took several months of
See **TRAINING**, p. 4

Ancestral remains returned to Tribe

Eight sets of partial human remains were repatriated to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe earlier this month from the state's Office of History and Archeology in Anchorage.

The remains were delivered in person by the state's archeologist, Dave McMahan.

"We will treat these remains with dignity and respect until they can be reburied in the future," KIT's Director of Tribal Government Affairs Alexandra "Sasha" Lindgren said.

The remains were discovered during the 1980s and 90s and were originally turned in to law enforcement agencies to determine if they were associated with recent or more historical deaths.

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NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Yaghali du!
I hope this finds you happy, healthy and ready for spring!

As the Kenaitze Indian Tribe continues its path of providing opportunities for health, education, social and justice services for our Tribal members, Alaska Native and American Indian individuals and others we serve, I am reminded again of how grateful I am to contribute to our Mission, Values and Vision. Together, they form an important guide to help us make the decisions that affect us today and far into the future. I encourage everyone to reflect on these important statements, printed again on the back page, and in all future publications from the Tribe.

I can't think of a better example of our guiding values coming together at one time, and in one place, than at the annual opening of the Tribal net. At the opening of the net, we honor our past, present and future while showing respect for Yaghanen, the good land, and its resources. We acknowledge a higher power, and pass down important knowledge of our people and our traditions. Please join us as the net goes into the water on May 1!

With the construction of the new Dena'ina Wellness Center well underway and a grand opening planned for early next year, we reflect on what the center means for the Tribe. It was an emotional moment for our Tribal Council as they stepped inside the center for the first time last month. The new facility represents past, current and future leadership who have helped and will continue to help us strengthen our prosperity, our health and our culture. The Council has formed a new Art and Interiors Committee to work with the architects to complete the selection of colors and materials that will complement and reflect Dena'ina values and culture. Our Health Committee meets regularly and hears updates on services and activities and provides much needed feedback. Our health division staff continue to work diligently on the integration of Nakenu Family Center, Dena'ina Dental and Dena'ina Clinic programs into the space and on a new working relationship with each other. I applaud everyone's efforts – it will continue to take a lot of diverse talent and skill to complete all of the work ahead!

Our Tribal Council has and continues to provide a stable, supportive and strong force behind the strategic planning and fundraising efforts for our programs and services over the years. Other organizations who contribute financially to the center have often pointed out that they appreciate the Tribe's stability and willingness to invest in its future as a main reason for supporting our efforts now. The construction of the Dena'ina Wellness Center will be a lasting tribute to the Tribe's deliberate and stable leadership.

You may have noticed that the current edition of The Counting Cord is presented in a new format, with new graphics and content. This is the work of our new Director of Communications, M. Scott Moon, formerly a longtime photojournalist with the Peninsula Clarion. We are pleased to announce Scott's employment at the Tribe and welcome your questions and comments on all of our publications. Scott can be reached at smoon@kenaitze.org or at 335-7237.

I hope you'll take time to read about other Tribal happenings and remember to visit our website as well!



Sun shines on the opening of the Net in 2010.

Fishery opening planned

A potluck dinner and gathering will mark the annual opening of the Net at the waterfront fishery from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1.

Grilled salmon, hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share. For those needing directions, take Cannery Road off Kalifornsky Beach Road and look for the beach public access sign on the left.

If you would like to fish the net, please be aware that the calendar is filling up fast.

If you would like to sign up for a tide you can still call Dave Segura at 335-7226 or Elsie Kanayurak at 335-7202 for assistance.

Once you have been signed up you will be given a confirmation card for your tide.

There are a few items to be aware of in order to stay in compliance with the rules set forth in our Tribal permit. Please note that you must be a Kenaitze or Salamatof Tribal member to hold the permit and you must reside on the Kenai Peninsula. If you do not live on the Peninsula, you can still sign up for the net but the staff will need to hold the permit for you.

We would also like to remind everyone of the camps that are put on by Yaghanen Youth Programs. The camps include fish camp for youths 10 to 18-years-old.

Apply for the camps online at <http://kenaitze.org/index.php/fisheries/forms> or stop by any of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe offices.

Meeting planned for Northwest Tribal members in early May

The Tribal Council is hosting a meeting Saturday, May 4, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lynnwood Convention Center in Lynnwood, Wash., following the CIRI shareholder information meeting the same day at Shoreline Community College.

Dinner will be served and door prizes will be offered.

The meeting will feature information about the Tribe's draft Constitution and election ordinance. Information on Tribal membership and enrollment will also be offered.

Share your own health care story

We need your family stories about health care on the Kenai Peninsula, from the distant past to your hopes for the future.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center will feature a time-line of national, statewide, and local events that determined what health care services were available.

The stories we receive will help to place the

events on a personal and Tribal level, and will demonstrate how our lives were impacted and changed.

Submit your stories by email to M. Scott Moon, Public Relations Specialist, at smoon@kenaitze.org or by mail to:

Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Attn: M. Scott Moon
P.O. Box 988
Kenai, AK 99611

Health program hours cut May 29

The Dena'ina Health Clinic, Dena'ina Dental Clinic and Nakenu Family Center will be closed between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on May 29 so that staff can participate in a joint training activity.

Only those hours will be affected by the activity.

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Once law enforcement analysis was complete, the remains were passed to the Office of History and Archeology for review.

McMahan’s office considered physical characteristics and where remains were found to determine whether they were Alaska Native or whether they were associated with known grave sites.

None of the remains, which included bones and bone fragments, were complete.

Five of the remains were from the Kenai Keys area. One was found near Bing’s Landing. Another was found near Erik Hansen Scout Park in Kenai. One set of remains came from Chinulna Point near the waterfront fishery in Kenai.

“When the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act was passed 1990, we interviewed more than 20 Elders,” Lindgren said.

“The Act gave us rights but it also gave us responsibilities.”

At that time, the Elders approved testing and study, providing it was conducted in a respectful manner and if the results were shared with the Tribe.

Lindgren said the Tribe had a physical anthropologist explain at that time what could be learned from historical human remains. Much more can be learned now with a significantly smaller sample size.

The remains that were returned



Above, Director of Tribal Government Affairs Alexandra “Sasha” Lindgren and Dave McMahan, of the state’s Office of History and Archeology in Anchorage look at documentation that came with eight sets of remains McMahan delivered to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in April. Below, McMahan unpacks one of the boxes containing remains while cataloging them with Lindgren.

this month will be tested to acquire a DNA sample and to determine the diet of the individuals.

“We’re going to take small, minimally invasive samples with the hope that we might be able to tie these remains to their living relatives and to help us document the diets of our ancestors,” Lindgren said.

“Understanding the diets of our ancestors helps build our case for continued access to our present day resources,” Lindgren said.



Project Green Village bears fruit for the Environmental Program; more classes planned

Environmental Program Coordinator Brenda Trefon met with several families in February and March for Project Green Village, a family-focused project to teach and encourage sustainable and environmentally safe living.

The ongoing classes strive to encourage Dena’ina values for self-sufficiency, are focused on the modern Dena’ina homestead, and include medicinal plant gardening.

The next classes will include lessons on how to make skin salve with cottonwood medicine, how to raise backyard chickens, and how to grow homestead potatoes in a bucket.

Backyard Chickens and Chicken Petting Zoo

What to expect when that cute baby chick comes home from the feed store.

Time: 1:00 p.m.
Date: Saturday, April 27
Location: Yaghanen Youth Center

(K-B Drive, next to Alyeska Tire)

Cottonwood Medicinal Salve

Time: Estimated 1:00 p.m.
Date: Estimated Saturday, May 18
Location: Date and location to be announced to email group, depending on time of plant bloom. Call Brenda at 398-7933 for more information or to be added to the contact list.

Homestead Potatoes in a Bucket

Action day for growing your own food. Bring a bucket or a container to start potatoes for front porch gardening.
Time: To be announced
Date: Saturday, May 25
Location: Yaghanen Youth Center (K-B Drive, next to Alyeska Tire)

Call Brenda at 398-7933 for more information or to be added to the contact list.

Major Dena’ina exhibit planned

Anchorage Museum to host show in fall that will feature items collected locally

Save the date: Sept. 15 will be the opening night for a “ground-breaking” exhibition that will be on display at the Anchorage Museum downtown across from the Federal Courthouse.

“Dena’inaq’ Huch’ulyeshi: The Dena’ina Way of Living” will be on view from Sept. 15 through January 2014.

According to the Anchorage Museum’s web site, the exhibition “will feature about 200 objects, including important early pieces from European museums—sinew-backed bows, arrows fletched with hawk feathers, caribou skin clothing adorned with woven quill work, antler war clubs, beaded bags, birch baskets and many others.”

The history and culture of the Dena’ina people “will come to life through re-created settings, hands-on activity stations and iconic scenes of subsistence activities.”

“Visitors will also learn what it means to be Dena’ina in the 21st century,” according to the web site.

Materials from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe will be on display and many from the Tribe are expected to attend the opening night festivities.

Look for more information on the display and KIT involvement in future issues of The Counting Cord.



KIT employees listen as keynote speaker Petra Marcourt talks about customer service during the Tribe’s all-staff training day in March. Marcourt, author of the book, “The Power of Service,” spoke for about two hours on how to give customers the experience they deserve.

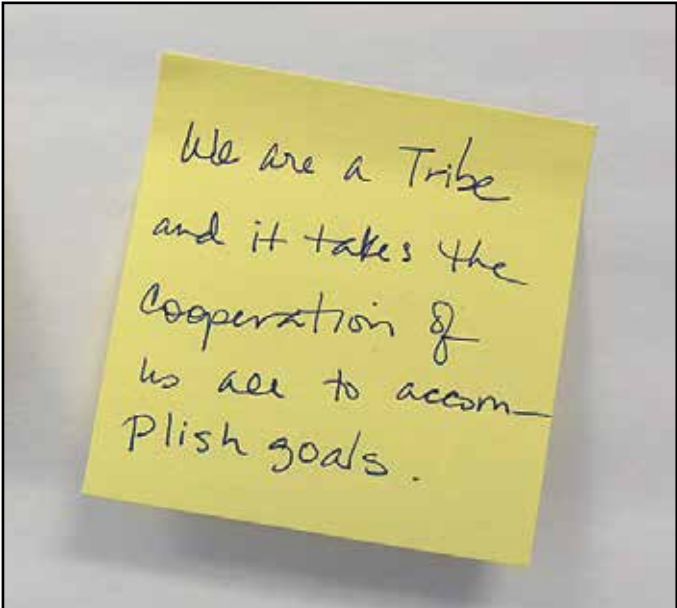


“ The only thing you can do with your product is *experience* it. You can never recall service. ”

– Petra Marquart

“ Science is to curing as service is to healing. ”

– Petra Marquart



At top, Tribal Council Chairperson Rosalie Tepp gives opening remarks at the Tribe’s first all-staff training day.

Above, a sticky note from a participant in an afternoon breakout session calls attention to the importance of cooperation.

At right, Dr. Tim Scheffel talks about a customer service experience during one of the sessions.



TRAINING, from p. 1
planning to minimize the amount of disruption to Tribal customers.
After returning to her home state of Minnesota, Marcourt said that she felt like she had learned a lot, as well, and said she had never presented to a group that was focused on issues like the goals spelled out in the Tribe’s Mission, Values and Vision statements (see page 8).
She did a lot of research on the Tribe before leaving for Alaska and conducted interviews with Tribal leaders to get a good understanding of the Tribe’s customers.
She said she hoped she had made a difference for the Tribe’s employees.

“There are people whose presence you walk into, and there is light,” she said.

Hoppy A Happy Easter



There were lots of smiles as more than 300 people – 185 of them 12-years-old or younger – had a good time at this year’s Easter party at Kenai Middle School. A big, heartfelt ‘thank you’ to all that donated money, time, bikes, candy and toys to this annual event. More than \$260 in cash, over 300 door prizes and 35 bikes and skateboards were given out. This is all due to your generosity. Another special ‘thank you’ to the vendors that supported this and other events. For the food we want to thank IGA Country Foods, Peterkin Distributors, Food Service of America and Coca-Cola. Other special partners contributed, as well. Salamatof Native Association donated 12 bikes and the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s Child Care Program donated most of the baskets and chocolate door prizes. ‘Thank you’ to the Dena’ina Health Clinic for the donation of a helmet for every bike and skate board.

Counter-clockwise, from left:

Joleen Moonin holds a stuffed bunny she won.

Abigail Semaken and Maria Kratsas chase bubbles that came with their Easter baskets.

Families select eggs containing candy and prize numbers.

Justyce Stockman is all smiles as her mother Kali O’Sullivan helps her with the bike she won.

Older children slog through the snow looking for eggs the volunteers hid before the party.



At left, Council members and Jaylene Peterson-Nyren tour the Dena'ina Wellness facility with Grant Leader of ARCADIS.

Below, Council Secretary James Segura snaps a photo.

At bottom, Council Chairperson Rosalie Tepp and Treasurer Mary Lou Bottorff share a laugh at the conclusion of the tour.



TOUR, from p. 1

Council Secretary James Segura made photos with a portable camera as others visited around him.

Scheduling tours has been difficult because of safety concerns. The few that have occurred have taken place during the lunch hour when few laborers are working.

The Council had time to talk to some of the contractors, who were eating pizza off to the side of the building during the tour. Council members told the workers how important their efforts are to the Tribe.

Efforts are underway to schedule visits for Elders and employees of

the Tribe's health operations.

For now, tour sizes have to be kept small as there are still numerous safety hazards for people to navigate.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center will offer medical, dental, behavioral health, chemical dependency, physical therapy, pharmacy support and traditional healing services all in one location – enhancing both convenience and continuity of care for customers.

The grand opening is planned in the early months of 2014.

See weekly construction updates on the web at <http://kenaitze.org/index.php/dena-ina-wellness-center>.



Agates sought for new center

The Traditional Healing Planning Team is encouraging people to donate agates.

The group will be using the stones to make a Medicine Wheel for each of the entries into the new Dena'ina Wellness Center as part of the Entryway Blessing Ceremony planned for this summer.

The agate is a sacred stone to the Dena'ina people and is believed to have a power of



protection.

The stones can be collected along the Cook Inlet shoreline and are more common along the beach at Captain Cook State Park north of Nikiski.

Please bring your precious agates to the receptionist's desk at the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Administration Building.

Thank you in advance for your donation.

Art policies defined

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe seeks to enhance the experience of visitors to the Dena'ina Wellness Center through the acquisition and display of works of art.

Acquisition activity is a major responsibility of the Art and Interiors Committee. Accepted works of art will reflect the theme of Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina people throughout time with an emphasis on healing, healthcare, and wellness.

The Art and Interiors Committee has the authority to approve acquisitions valued at or under \$10,000 on behalf of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe.

The Tribe's Council will be informed of all such decisions. Acquisitions above \$10,000 require Council approval, following the recommendation of the Art and Interior Committee.

Each acquisition will be documented and entered into the inventory of Tribal assets. Documentation will include a basic description

of the work, photo, date created, materials, seller/donor. When appropriate the documentation will include all available provenance information.

The Tribe will not accept restrictions or conditions on purchases. Gifts and bequests will not be accepted if they are subject to restrictions or conditions and will be accompanied by a deed of gift.

The Tribe will attempt to obtain the broadest possible rights, including copyright where applicable. If copyright is retained by the artist or donor, the Tribe will seek permission for appropriate uses.

Gifts and bequests may be accepted by the Tribe and sold without being accessioned if they are not appropriate for the collection. Such objects will be identified as "sold by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe for the benefit of the Dena'ina Wellness Center Art Collection" and funds received will be restricted to the purchase of works of art.

INSIDER’S VIEW:

Dena’ina Wellness Center interior materials ordered

While construction laborers are working on erecting the building, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s Arts and Interiors Committee is already hard at work on the building’s living spaces.

Calls for art are going out and policies and procedures have been formulated. (See related items on page 7 and below.)

Earlier this month, some of the facility’s interior design materials were ordered.

The photos at right depict a sampling of some of the textures and colors visitors to the center will experience.

Moving from the building’s front doors into the interior will mimic the experience of moving from the ocean shore through forest and into the mountains.

Cabinets near the front of the building will be grass colored, with other surfaces reminiscent of the beach.

Weathered wood acquired from the Libby’s cannery building will be treated and incorporated into the design.

Walls will be off-white but tile and other textures will provide color and design elements.

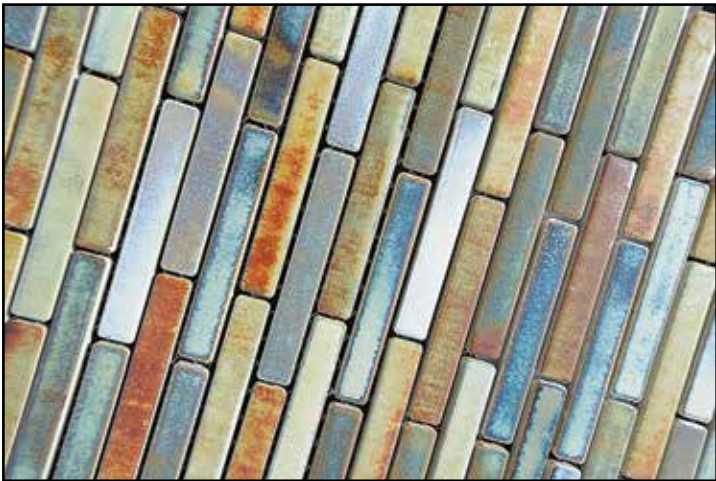
Small, lightly colored tiles will be inset among larger tiles, representing the designs seen in Dena’ina bead work.

Exam and procedure rooms will be lighter and designed to make cleaning easy.

Carpeting will be installed by tiles for easy repair, with a mix of blue and gray colors near the entrance, transitioning into browns and other earth tones and shapes reminiscent of stones deeper into the building.

The main gathering space will feature polished concrete that will look similar to granite as it ages.

Healthcare workers have been evaluating the workstations they will have to choose from when the time comes to place that order.



Call for Dena’ina Wellness Center art announced

The Dena’ina Wellness Center Arts and Interiors Committee is requesting proposals from artists for artwork that illustrates the theme of Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina people throughout time.

This work will be hung from the Oculus Center Support in the Dena’ina Wellness Center on an eye bolt capable of supporting

up to 500 pounds.

The Oculus is at the heart of the 52,000-square-foot Center’s gathering space, the first interior space visitors will experience once the facility opens.

For more information or to submit a proposal, contact Timothy Butler, Procurement Specialist, by email at tbutler@kenaitze.org or by telephone at (907)335-7319.

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The Big Picture



Sharon Isaak helps her grandson Tungsten look for eggs during this year’s Easter party at Kenai Middle School. About 300 children participated in the annual event, with about three dozen of them going home with new bikes. Read more on page 5.

Our Mission

To assure Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina thrive forever.

Our Values

These are the beliefs and principles that define our people and will assure our future as a Tribe:
Family: honoring and sustaining health and happiness of family as a first responsibility
Stewardship: respectful use of land, resources and all creations
Spiritual Beliefs: acknowledging the existence of a higher power and respecting spiritual beliefs
Education: passing down cultural knowledge and traditions and supporting formal education

Our Vision

By 2025, the Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina have enhanced and strengthened the prosperity, health and culture of their people and Tribe.
- We will work toward united effort with Native organizations and other governments that impact our people.
- We will develop and implement a Tribal education system.
- We will live our traditional values and practices.
- We will empower our sovereignty.
- We will achieve having enough to take care of ourselves, share with others and be resilient.
- We will strive for excellence in all of our programs.
- We will elevate the wellness of our people.

Addresses and phone numbers

Administration Building

150 N. Willow St., Kenai
(907)335-7200

Early Childhood Center

130 N. Willow St., Kenai
(907)335-7260

Tyotkas Elders Center

1000 Mission Ave., Kenai
(907)335-7280

Yaghanen Youth Programs

35105 K-B Dr., Soldotna
(907)335-7290

Environmental Program

35105 K-B Dr., Soldotna
(907)335-7287

Dena’ina Health Clinic

416 Frontage Rd., Kenai
(907)335-7300

Dena’ina Dental Clinic

412 Frontage Rd., Kenai
(907)335-7350

Nakenu Family Center

110 N. Willow St., Kenai
(907)335-7370

Na’ini Social Services

150 N. Willow St., Kenai
(907)335-7250

Tribal Court

150 N. Willow St., Kenai
(907)335-7217

On the Web: <http://kenaitze.org>

PRESORTED STANDARD
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