Aa’ yaghali, aa’ yaghali!

Dena’ina Wellness Center to open in April

Celebration planned for June 12

Two years of construction and decades of work will bring a new era of healthcare to the central Kenai Peninsula as the Kenaitze Indian Tribe opens the doors to dental and wellness customers at the Dena’ina Wellness Center on April 14.

One week later, on April 21, medical and behavioral health customers will have their first appointments in the beautiful new Dena’ina Wellness Center, pictured in early March, is complete. Contractors and Kenaitze Indian Tribe healthcare workers are preparing the building for service that will begin in mid-April.

Yaghanen camp dates announced

Yaghanen Youth Programs are preparing for summer camps. Łuq’a Nagh Ghilghuzht, the tribe’s fish camp, has been established to teach and preserve the cultural and traditional subsistence way of life that was established by the early Dena’ina.

Traditionally this way of life was handed down to children from tribal Elders. In the fish camps, Elders and youth work together to harvest fish at the tribe’s Waterfront Fishery and other traditional sites.

Dates for youth grades 6 through 8 are July 7-11. Dates for youth grades 9 through 12 are July 21-25.

Both camps take place at the Waterfront Fishery and Spirit Lake.

Dates for the tribe’s Susten archaeology camp are still being coordinated between the tribe.

Tribal Fishery to open May 1

This year marks the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s 25th consecutive year of conducting an educational fishery for its tribal members. The tribe will gather for a potluck on May 1 to mark the opening of the net.

Fishing will begin at 3 p.m. at Waterfront Beach near the end of Cannery Road in Kenai. A potluck is planned from 4 to 8 p.m. Please bring a salad, a dessert or a side dish.

The tribal fishery preserves the cultural and traditional way of life established by the early Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina. The net weaves together people of all ages and helps create a sense of unity, ensuring cultural and traditional values thrive for future generations.

The tribal fishery is administered by the Tribal Hunting, Fishing and Gathering Committee. Last year, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game put into place restrictions to protect king salmon. Restrictions affected the tribal fishery and other user groups. Fish and Game said earlier this year similar restrictions are likely this summer.

Tribal fishery workers will make every effort to keep tribal members informed of restrictions that may affect this year’s fishery. For more information about the fishery or the opening celebration, contact David Segura or Kynde Bishop at (907)335-7226.

Jabila’ina dancers perform last May at the annual celebration marking the opening of the net.
While it seems like the focus of attention strengthened prosperity, health and culture. you may achieve the King.

Working side-by-side, building a strong relationship to help form a respectful, safe and healthy environment that you and your healthcare needs guide.

Note from the Council Chairperson

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe is moving forward in a good way. There is much excitement around the opening of our new Den$a’ina Wellness Center. We are thankful for the hard work of all of our loved ones in the past and present. We would like to acknowledge all of our staff, Council members and former Council members who have worked hard to make this dream a reality. Each of you are truly appreciated and valued. The Kenaitze Indian Tribal Council is a hard working council, one that is dedicated and working toward the best interest of our people. Please look below at the names of all of the hard working people we have serving on committees of the tribe.

The time and efforts they put into their committees are enormous. If anyone is interested in attending these meetings, you are welcome and encouraged to contact the Chairs for further information.

The Council is dedicated in renewing the unifying of our people and in redefining our traditional Den$a’ina values. The Council is learning our Den$a’ina songs in an effort to breathe life back into the spirit of who we are and bring back our language. We are working toward food security (subsistence) so we can be culturally and physically healthy. We are moving toward establishing a tribal school so our youth can learn our language, learn the truth, and have skills and knowledge to be competent in all walks of life.

Again, we are thankful for all the hard work that has made our tribe a success.

— Mary Ann Mills
Tribal Chairperson, Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Committee Appointments Announced

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s Executive Council met last fall and appointed committee members.

In an effort to involve more tribal members, there were changes made to the committee membership.

The Council acknowledged the time and efforts that previous prior members have made toward furthering the tribe’s mission and vision.

The Election Board and Enrollment Committee operate independent of the Executive Council and the administration in accordance to the Constitution and Ordinances.

Committee members are:

- Art and Interior Committee
  - Jennifer Yeoman, Chair
  - Jon Ross
  - Liisia Blizzard
  - Mary Lou Botterf

- Audit and Finance Committee
  - Andre Gifford, Chair
  - Mary Ann Mills
  - James Segura
  - Jennifer Yeoman
  - Liisia Blizzard
  - Rosalie Tepp
  - Susan Wells

- Enrollment Committee
  - Katheryn Rodgers, Chair
  - Bernice Candall
  - Linda Ross

- Estate Commission
  - Phyllis Bookey, Chair
  - Betty Porter
  - James Shoalwater
  - Mary Lou Botterf
  - Rita Smagge
  - James Segura
  - Fieda Wilson, Honorary
  - Robert Fulton, Honorary

- Health Committee
  - Jennifer Yeoman, Chair
  - Allan Baldwin
  - Jon Ross

- Land Committee
  - Susie Bell, Chair
  - James Shoalwater
  - Jennifer Yeoman
  - Kaarlo Wik
  - Liisia Blizzard
  - Mary Ann Mills

- Traditional Healing Committee
  - Audre Gifford, Chair
  - Bobby Osolokoff
  - Jennifer Yeoman
  - Jon Ross, Consultant
  - Linda Ross
  - Mary Lou Botterf
  - Nancy Knapp
  - Winnie Wong

- Education Committee
  - Sue Wells, Chair
  - Alana Boraas
  - Ashley Segura
  - Charmaine Lundy
  - Jasmine Koster
  - Jennifer Yeoman
  - Janette Wilson
  - Michael Bernard
  - Nadia Walluck
  - Raven Williams
  - Rita Smagge
  - Sandy Wilson
  - Sondra Stuart
  - Wanda Beans

- Elders Commission
  - Phyllis Bookey, Chair
  - Betty Porter
  - James Shoalwater
  - Mary Lou Botterf
  - Rita Smagge
  - James Segura
  - Fieda Wilson, Honorary
  - Robert Fulton, Honorary

- Election Board
  - Phyllis Bookey, Chair
  - Bernice Candall
  - Katheryn Rodgers
  - Kyosite Bishop
  - Linda Ross

- Enrollment Committee
  - Katheryn Rodgers, Chair
  - Bernice Candall
  - Linda Ross

- Community and Regional Affairs
  - The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
  - Rasmuson Foundation
  - M J Murdock Charitable Trust
  - Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
  - Rasmuson Foundation

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- The Kenaitze Indian Tribe gives special thanks to our major sponsors and many, many community supporters as we prepare to open the Den$a’ina Wellness Center.

The doors are opening because you cared.

State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's Community and Regional Affairs

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

M J Murdock Charitable Trust

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Rasmuson Foundation

Moving soon?
Please keep in touch

Send updates to:
Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Attn: Elsie Maielle
P.O. Box 983
Kenai, AK 99611
email@ki@kenaitze.org (907)335-7202
Visitors to the new Dena’ina Wellness Center will see a concrete monument with the facility’s name. The Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s seal, cast in bronze, is inset in the sign. Wood beams spanning the front of the building are inspired by traditional Dena’ina fish drying racks.

Each room in the Dena’ina Wellness Center has been given both an English and a Dena’ina name in an effort to help promote usage of the language.
Shazam! Time to train

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s Council Approved Special Advocates program will be holding a Superhero 5-kilometer run/walk on Saturday, Aug. 16. Start training now so you will be in your best superhero shape!

The run will help raise awareness about the important program, which uses volunteers to advocate for children in tribal and state court. Funds will help pay for training volunteers.

Last year was the first year the CASA program conducted the run and it was a huge success, with 69 people participating. Many wore costumes. Publicity from last year’s event should help make this year’s event an even bigger success.

Look for race information on the tribe’s Facebook page later this summer or contact Tyler Nichols at 335-7229 or at tnschultz@kenaitze.org. We hope to see you there.

Participants in a Susten camp survey a site last fall in the Kenai Mountains near Cooper Landing.

CAMS, p. 1 and several partners, but there will be two one-week sessions available to youth grades 9 through 12.

Camper work with an archaeologist as they learn about methods of archaeology, and have a lot of fun in the process. Susten will provide cultural lessons with educational presentations and exposure to job opportunities within state and federal agencies that manage ancestral lands.

For questions or to enroll a youngster, contact Michael Bernard at 335-7296.

The Janteh Science Camp features environmental education with hikes, games, traditional knowledge and a night at Spirit Lake.

Dates are July 17-19 for grades 2 through 6. Contact Brenda Trefon at 398-7933 for more information.

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Volunteers and photos needed

Many opportunities are available for people interested in helping with the Dena’ina Wellness Center’s Grand Opening in June.

Volunteers are needed to help make special gifts, to help with parking and transportation, to greet visitors at the airport, to cook, entertain, set up and take down, and organize activities.

We are also looking for photos of tribal members past and present that can be displayed on monitors in the center during the Grand Opening. Please email photos to Alexandra Lindgren at alindgren@kenaitze.org. We are happy to scan prints if you want to bring them to the tribe’s administration building in Kenai.

Watch our Facebook page for additional opportunities to help!

Save the dates for NCAI

The National Congress for American Indians will hold its 2014 Mid-Year Conference from June 8-11 in Anchorage. This year’s theme is “Claiming Our Rights and Strengthening Our Governance.”

Leaders from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe are in charge of organizing this year’s events.

For more information about the conference and related events, and to register, visit NCAI’s website at www.ncai.org/conferences.

Eggciting Easter party planned

The annual Easter party for children 2- to 12-years-old will be from 3 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, at Kenai Middle School.

There will be an Easter egg hunt following lunch, and bicycles will be given away.

Don’t miss this fun family event!
The Big Picture

Kenaitze’s Shane Fortune shows two faces of success as he competes in the finals of the seniors one-foot high kick event during the Native Youth Olympics Invitational. More, P. 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 by:

• working toward united effort with Native organizations and other governments that impact our people.
• developing and implementing a tribal education system.
• living our traditional values and practices.
• empowering our sovereignty.
• continuing to demonstrate resiliency.
• striving for excellence in all of our programs.
• elevating the wellness of our people.
• using our talents and resources to ensure we are able to take care of ourselves and share with others.