

## Land and assets ordinance approved

### Special Meeting clarifies Council's authority to finance purchases

Members of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe voted 22-17 to approve Ordinance 2014-1 on Saturday, May 17, during a special meeting called by the Tribal Council to address the management of newly acquired tribal lands and assets.

The purpose of the ordinance is to give authorization to the Tribal Council to encumber newly acquired Tribal lands and assets when it is necessary to finance a new purchase.

The ordinance does not allow the Tribal Council to encumber assets the Tribe already owns.

An apartment complex across the street from the Dena'ina Wellness Center that the Tribe is interested in purchasing was used as an example.

If the Tribe were to take out a  
See **MEETING**, p. 2



Tribal Council members Mary Ann Mills, Liisia Blizzard, Jennifer Showalter Yeoman, Rosalie Tepp, James O. Segura (obscured) and Susan Wells listen with Parliamentarian Patrick Anderson (in maroon shirt), Housing Representative Shayna Franke, Housing Director Rusty Swan and Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren as tribal members offer comment during the Special Meeting.

## We are listening

### Customer service program sees growth

It has always been the tribe's goal to provide friendly, supportive and caring service to our customers. Recent changes to how comments are received, along with a newly created staff position and training, are helping with that goal.

Earlier this year, the tribe started using a computer database to enter customer comments. Having a record of the comment helps the tribe's leadership to make sure that concerns are addressed in a timely manner. It also helps leaders identify areas that are going well and areas that may need additional attention.

See **CUSTOMER**, p. 2



Youngsters pull in the tribal net during the May 1 opening.

## Net opens with sun and song

A beautiful, unseasonably warm day set the stage for the annual Opening of the Net celebration and potluck at the waterfront fishery on Cook Inlet on May 1.

The Tribal Council joined youth from the Jabila'ina dance group to sing in Dena'ina Peter Kalifornsky's song, "Potlatch Song for a Lonely Man."

George Holly; George Holly, Sr; and Paul Gray of the Trickle Down Creek Band also performed, including a spirited version of "Happy Birthday" for Elder Betty Porter.

Father Thomas Andrew of the Holy Assumption of the Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Church offered a blessing before food was served.

While several flounder came to the net, it was still early for salmon.

See more about the tribal fishery on pages 4 and 5.



## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Yaghalí du!

We hope this edition of the Tribal Courier finds you in good health and enjoying the beautiful spring and soon to be summer days.

We have had an extremely busy year to date and are currently preparing for the long awaited Grand Opening Ceremony for the Dena'ina Wellness Center. We are planning for three days of celebration to honor those who have contributed to making this dream a reality.

Please look to Page 7 for more information on our funders and for the schedule of events. We are grateful for their support.

We have recently hired a Quality Systems Manager to help the Tribe create a system for quality improvement. Michael Cruz is also helping us grow our customer service program. Read more about his valuable role in the story that begins on Page 1.



Michael Cruz

We continue to hire new positions for our health systems as part of the growth made possible by the Dena'ina Wellness Center. Please look to our website to learn more about the many employment opportunities that are available here at the Tribe.

This coming year will mark new opportunities for the Tribe as we plan for meeting the educational, training, health and wellness needs, and other basic needs of our tribal families and youth.

I look forward to hearing from you with any comments and questions you may have on the programs and services offered by the Tribe.

It is a time for change and growth not only for programs and services but also with the state and federal laws that impact us as a people.

We recently received notice for comment in response to a federal proposal to allow lands to be placed into trust for Alaska Native people and tribes in the state of Alaska.

This proposed law may seem straight forward at first glance, but there are many underlying issues and concerns that it may raise for us as Native people.

At the June 20 Tribal Council meeting, there will be time set aside for Council to hear questions and comments on this and other important issues.

Chiqinik. I look forward to seeing you at the long awaited celebration on June 12, 13 and 14!

— Jaylene Peterson-Nyren  
Executive Director, Kenaitze Indian Tribe

### CUSTOMER, from p. 1

The program that the tribe is using is called the Strategic Quality Support System. It was developed for use in hospitals and clinics. It is a good fit for the Dena'ina Wellness Center, as well as the tribe's other services.

Anyone receiving services from the tribe is welcome to offer a complement, concern or a suggestion into the system by talking with any staff member. "Chiqinik" thank-you cards are also available at any of the tribe's locations. They are used to jot down a quick "thanks" for exceptional service.

Michael Cruz was hired at the beginning of the year to serve as the tribe's new Quality Systems Manager.

"I am a welcoming person and open to good, honest communication," Cruz said. "I need to hear from our customers and want to do my part to improve our services."

In addition to leading the tribe's customer service program, Cruz will also be responsible for helping the tribe meet future accreditation standards at the Dena'ina

Wellness Center. (See related story, Page 7)

Earlier this year, customer service specialist Petra Marquart offered two days of training to Kenaitze employees.

Marquart, author of the book, "The Power of Service," used a mix of humor, role playing and focused lectures to drive home the importance of exceptional customer service.

The tribe cares about those it serves and strives to build trusting relationships, understand individual needs and meet expectations.

Of the fourteen traditional values encompassed in the tribe's Traditional Values Circle, employees are taught that five values should be exhibited as part of providing exceptional customer service:

- Henu (Work, Job, Task) Cooperation, Helpfulness, Willingness to Work
- Ada (Care, Concern, Tenderness) Love, Sharing, Humility
- Qiz'unch' (The Right Way, The Truth) Forgiveness, Openness, Honesty, Trust
- Yinihugheltani (One's Spirit) Respect for Yourself
- Nagh'utdalt's'ina (Our Neighbors) Respect our Neighbors and Others

Please take the time to give feedback on your next visit to a tribal office.



Danielle DeHoyas helps first-time voter Raven Williams register at the special meeting.

### MEETING, from p. 1

loan to purchase the property, the Ordinance will authorize the Tribal Council to allow a lender to encumber the apartments until the Tribe has paid off the loan.

It was explained that the Ordinance would

not authorize the Council to offer existing property the tribe already owns as collateral.

The meeting was held at Tyotkas Elder Center.

Copies of the ordinance were mailed with the meeting notice. They are also available at the Tribe's administration office or by mail.

## From the editor's desk

The Tribal Courier is a publication for members of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. A similar publication, The Counting Cord, is distributed to tribal members and Kenaitze Indian Tribe customers.

Find more information on the tribe's website at [kenaitze.org](http://kenaitze.org) and like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/kenaitze](https://www.facebook.com/kenaitze).

For story suggestions or questions about content, contact editor M. Scott Moon at 335-7237 or by email at [smoon@kenaitze.org](mailto:smoon@kenaitze.org).



## NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

On May 17, the Tribal Council held a Special Meeting to take comments both for and against Ordinance 2014-1 "Management of Tribal Lands and Assets."

Following discussion, the membership voted in favor of the ordinance. It authorizes the Council to encumber property it may wish to purchase in the future.

We have listed out questions and concerns that were brought up during discussion before the vote, and will take these items up at the next Council meeting.

On June 20, the Council will set aside time for public comments on upcoming position papers the Council will be working on, including a response to



the lands-into-trust issue. More details on the comment period will be published on the Calendar of Events on the Tribe's website.

At the Council meeting on May 16, the Council restructured. The following are the results of the restructuring: I am the Council Chairperson.

Rosalie Tepp is Vice Chairperson. Liisia Blizzard is Secretary.

Audre Gifford is Treasurer.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Mary Ann Mills and Susan Wells for their recent service in the roles of Chairperson and Secretary.

— Jennifer Showalter Yeoman  
Tribal Chairperson  
Kenaitze Indian Tribe



### New volunteers sworn in

At left, Tribal Court Judge Rusty Swan administers an oath to four new volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates during a joint ceremony between the Kenaitze and state courts. CASA volunteers advocate for children in state and tribal court. State Superior Court Judge Charles Huguelet, right, administered the oath for the state. Above, Tribal Council member Liisia Blizzard, CASA Program Coordinator Joy Petri, volunteer Melinda Cox, Superior Court Judge Charles Huguelet, volunteer Tuckerman Babcock, volunteer Sharon Tyone, volunteer Shelli Elliott, Tribal Court Judge Rusty Swan and CASA Assistant Tyler Nichols pose for a group photo following the joint ceremony in Kenai Superior Court.



## Committee positions now available

The Executive Council is accepting letters of interest from people interested in serving on the Finance and Audit Committees.

Address letters to:  
Kenaitze Indian Tribe  
Attn: Tribal Council Chairperson  
P.O. Box 988  
Kenai, AK 99611

## Member comment period planned

The Executive Council will set aside time at its June 20 meeting to take comments on upcoming position papers the Council will be working on, including a response to the lands-into-trust issue.

More details on the comment period will be published on the tribe's Calendar of Events page on the tribe's website.

## TRIBAL COUNCIL

Jennifer Showalter  
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Below, people serve themselves from a vast variety of food at the potluck during the Opening of the Net. At bottom, George Holly; George Holly, Sr; and Paul Gray perform a spirited version of “Happy Birthday” for Kenaitze Elder Betty Porter. Porter, born in Ninilchik, marks her birthday on May 1, the same day as the opening of the tribal net.



Louis Forstner V, Doug Gates and other members of the Jabila'ina dancers perform at the start of the Opening of the Net celebration on May 1.

# Net has long history

**Tribal Council Secretary Aliisia Blizzard presented a history of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's fishery during opening remarks on May 1. The following is a transcript of her comments:**

For thousands of years the Kenai Dena'ina have depended on the Cook Inlet and its tributaries for food: salmon, shellfish, herring, halibut, candlefish, bullheads, and trout, tom cod.

The most common way to catch fish at that time was with a weir, and they also used a drag-net and fish spears. The harvest was then divided up among the families.

European and Russian contact began in the late 1700s, and Alaska was purchased by the United States in 1867. A small-pox epidemic and influenza killed many of our people and Native culture began to decline at that time.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state. Statehood brought heavy regulations on fishing and hunting. Our way of life changed dramatically and our people became an invisible tribe.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe became federally recognized in 1971 and our people began to come home. Now our numbers are growing. We have over 1400 tribal members, to date.

So now I'm going to talk about the years of court cases and turmoil and hard work that started in 1978. The State of Alaska

passed its first subsistence law designed to protect the lifestyle of hunting and fishing for rural residents.

Then ANILCA was passed in 1980 and the state was mandated to maintain subsistence hunting and fishing preference for rural residents.

In 1982, there was a statewide effort to repeal that subsistence law.

In 1985, the Alaska Supreme Court struck down the subsistence law in the Madison decision, ruling that all Alaskans are entitled to participate in subsistence. Only in times of extreme shortages of fish and wildlife should there be discrimination between Alaskans on an individual-by-individual basis.

In 1986, the Alaska legislature enacted a new law with criteria to determine who qualified for subsistence. All urban residents were denied subsistence. The Kenaitze Indian Tribe then filed a suit in federal court to protest the classification of the Kenai Peninsula as an urban area.

Then in 1987, a federal judge ruled against the Kenaitze.

In 1988, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco reversed the Kenaitze decision and

criticized the state's definition of rural. State officials were afraid the ruling would lead to all Kenai residents getting subsistence status.

So then, in 1989, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals mandated that the State of Alaska should grant the Tribe a preliminary injunction for one year. So we had one single net for one year.

Then the following year, we got a second consent preliminary injunction and now, we're in our 25th year of fishing and it has never really been settled.

So now the Kenaitze Indian Tribe is working toward getting us a permanent fishery.

We have operated this fishery very successfully and it has become the core of our Tribal government. It has brought our people together. It has given us fish to eat. We feed our families from this net.

But it has given us a lot more than just food. We have regained our culture. We are learning our language and we are no longer invisible.

The Kenaitze people today are survivors. We are a very resilient people.

We are the Kahtnuht'ana. Thank you.



Members of the Jabila'ina Dancers perform for the opening of the net celebration.

“We have operated this fishery very successfully and it has become the core of our Tribal government. It has brought our people together. It has given us fish to eat. ... But it has given us a lot more than just food. We have regained our culture. We are learning our language and we are no longer invisible.”



Youngster free a flounder from the net after pulling it from Cook Inlet during the annual opening on May 1.

## Council takes stand on king salmon issue

**The Tribal Council responded recently to a media request for comment concerning the issue of declining numbers of king salmon with the following statement:**

It is with grave concern that we watch the falling numbers of king salmon returning to our ancestral rivers. For us, the fish do not represent something to put a price tag on, or something to pose with for a photo. For us, the fish are at the very heart of our culture. We believe that our existence as a people relies on healthy returns of salmon to the rivers of our homeland.

We have fought hard in the past to safeguard our access to the fish; food security remains one of our highest priorities. This summer marks the 25th year that we have fished collectively in an educational fishery as a tribe after winning a legal challenge to a law that attempted to ban our way of life. Once again, our Elders are teaching our youth how to fully utilize each species of salmon with care and respect. Nothing goes to waste. The fish that return to us are shared with our Elders and with those whom are no longer able to fish.

The tribe's educational net is a gathering place – our town square – where stories are shared and relationships rekindled alongside an open camp fire. The annual Opening of the Net ceremony on May 1 is one of our most important days. It takes place at a time our people once called Luq'a ni'u – salmon month.

The tribe catches few kings in its net – last year 19 came to us – but restrictions intended to protect the kings are threatening our food security. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has restricted in the past the locations, the hours and the gear we may use to fish.

Restrictions are already in place this year, as well. The

tribe was told in April that it will be allowed to fish only one of its two nets for the months of May and June. Additionally, the king salmon quota has been reduced to a harvest limit of 50 king salmon per year from both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers combined. Emergency orders issued May 1 ban the taking of king salmon altogether. (In 2013, the tribe caught 19 king salmon. In 2012, the tribe caught 14 king salmon.)

We believe that there are many factors that may be affecting the drop in king salmon numbers. We are particularly concerned about two factors that may not be getting enough attention. One is climate change and the other is the unforgivable waste that is taking place far out at sea.

In March 2013, the Council endorsed Senate Resolution No. 5 requesting that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council take action to reduce the quantity of chinook salmon by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea trawl fisheries by setting new limits in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries, and by lowering the existing limits in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea pollock fisheries to at least half of the current limits.

As Dena'ina people, we are raised to respect the plants and animals and to be good stewards of the land, its resources and all creation. We call this place Yaghanen, the good land. We call ourselves Kahtnuht'ana, people of the Kenai River. For generations, the salmon have returned to us. As a tribe, our mission is to thrive forever. We need to ensure that our salmon stocks thrive forever, as well.





Beaded woman's belt, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, 1883

## Exhibit travels to Homer

The Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center's monumental display, "Dena'inaq' Huch'ulyeshi: The Dena'ina Way of Living," is now down the road instead of up the road from Kenai.

The Pratt Museum in Homer is the first to host the traveling version of the show, which features Dena'ina artifacts, art and informational displays.

The show runs through Sept. 1.

## Early Childhood Center now taking applications

The tribe's Early Childhood Center is accepting applications for the 2014—2015 school year.

The center serves families from many different backgrounds. Native and non-Native, low income or not, and children with disabilities are all welcome. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1,

2014, to be age eligible.

The No-Fee program operates Monday-Thursday, 8:00—12:30 or 8:30—1:00 depending on the class.

For more information or to schedule a school tour, call the center's main line at 335-7260 or call Sasha Fallon, Community Partnership Coordinator, at 335-7259.

## Enroll now for youth camps

Time is running out to register for one of Kenaitze's popular summer camps for youth.

Luq'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 June 23—26 with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and July 28—Aug. 1 with the U. S. Forest Service. Susten camps are for youth grades 9 through 12.

Campers work with an archaeologist as they learn about methods of archaeology, and have a lot of fun

in the process.

Susten campers get cultural lessons with educational presentations and exposure to job opportunities within state and federal agencies that manage ancestral lands.

Harvest camp for girls grades 9 through 12 will be Aug. 7—9.

For questions or to enroll a youngster, contact Michael Bernard at 335-7290.

The tribe's environmental program offers Janteh Science Camp. It features environmental education with hikes, games, traditional knowledge and a night at Spirit Lake.

Dates are July 17—19 for grades 2 through 6.

The environmental program is also looking for high school students interested in participating in a climate change study and water testing on the Kenai River.

Contact Brenda Trefon at 398-7933 for more information.

The Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) at the University of Alaska Anchorage also offers summer camps.

Learn more about their camps on the Internet at [www.ansep.net](http://www.ansep.net).

## Council takes stand on Law And Order report

The Tribal Council issued the following statement in February following the release of a scathing report on the state of law in order in Native America:

It has been 25 years since the Anchorage Daily News received a Pulitzer Prize for a series of articles chronicling problems facing Alaska Native people. The series was titled, "A People in Peril."

Now, a bipartisan commission has delivered to the President and Congress a report that shows that Alaska Natives are still a people in peril and the blame, in the report's own words, is "the legacy of failed federal laws and policies" concerning public safety for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The results of this legacy — a legacy that continues unchecked today — are staggering. Here are just a few of the findings from the report:

- Alaska Native women are 47% of reported rape victims, yet Alaska Natives are only 19% of the total population.
- Police, court and related services are based in regional hubs, far from many of the communities they serve.
- At least 75 communities in Alaska do not have any law enforcement at all; in other communities, Village Public Safety Officers are not even allowed to carry guns.
- Domestic violence rates for reported crimes are up to ten times higher in Alaska than the rest of the United States.
- Alaska Native and American Indian youth suffer Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder at a rate of 22% — triple the general population and comparable to rates affecting veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Conditions in our state are so bad that Alaska received its own chapter in the report. No other state was singled out in such a shameful manner.

Of course, none of this is news here at the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. We have been working on all fronts, for decades, to improve conditions for our tribal members, other Alaska Natives and the rest of our community.

Our Na'ini social services program has been helping people in our community meet their potential and to become resilient. Services include assistance for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking; career planning, job placement, and education services; conservatorship for vulnerable adults; financial, energy, burial and funeral, and emergency assistance; a wildlife harvest program and food bank; child care assistance and a Child Protection Team.

Our Nakenu Family Services behavioral health professionals

have been helping those affected by trauma, drugs and alcohol. Soon, all of our healthcare professionals will work side by side, using our Dene' Wellness Model, to heal people in our new Dena'ina Wellness Center.

Kenaitze Tribal Court is also seen as a model of success. We hear and adjudicate matters concerning child protection; child custody; domestic violence; marriage, divorce and annulments; protection for Elders and vulnerable adults; and conservatorship and guardianship. Our Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are dually trained to work in both the tribal and state court systems to speak for vulnerable children, one of only a few programs in the country to do so.

In short, we are doing what we can to take care of our people. We can do even more if the federal and state governments will respect and reinforce the power of tribal courts, as recommended in the Indian Law and Order Commission report.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe strongly recommends repealing Section 910 of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to enable Alaska tribes to exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the state over civil and criminal matters. Alaska Native women are not currently protected by the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization. They were excluded by Section 910 Special Rule for the State of Alaska, which applies protections only to "Indian country." The term "Indian country" must be changed to reflect Alaska tribal court jurisdictions, which are based on customary and traditional use areas.

Additionally, Alaska tribes must have the ability to impose civil sanctions consistent with Alaska laws and the Indian Civil Rights Act, therefore we also strongly request a federal commitment to providing adequate and consistent funding for tribal courts in Alaska.

Tribes must be enabled to impose civil sanctions consistent with state law and the Indian Civil Rights Act, to include restorative justice, community service, and other traditional and cultural remediation.

Finally, we ask for the federal government to establish a task force to address Alaska statistics, as well as the number of unsolved cases of assault, rape and murder of Alaska Native women.

Working together, we can deliver safety and justice to all of Alaska's citizens.

The report, "A Roadmap For Making Native America Safer," from the Indian Law and Order Commission, may be found on the Internet in full and in summary at: [www.indianlawandordercommission.com/report/#storylink=relast](http://www.indianlawandordercommission.com/report/#storylink=relast)

**Luq'a ni'y June 12, 2014**

**SAVE THE DATE!**



The Kenaitze Indian Tribe is planning the Grand Opening Celebration for our new Dena'ina Wellness Center next summer in Kenai, Alaska. We hope to see you there!

**Chiqinik!**  
**Thank you!**

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe gives special thanks to our major sponsors and our many, many community supporters as we prepare to open the Dena'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

M J Murdock Charitable Trust



Cook Inlet Region, Inc.



Rasmuson Foundation



## Three day celebration planned

Final preparations are underway for three memorable days of music, dance, honors and thanks.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center will have a Grand Opening Ceremony to formally welcome and acknowledge the center's many community supporters and funders at 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 12.

Friday, June 13 will feature a cultural night at the center, with visiting drum and dance groups, along with Kenaitze's Del Dumi drummers and Jabila'ina dance group. A potluck is planned with salmon, hot dogs and hamburgers. Bring a salad or a desert to share if you wish. Tribal member Joel Isaac will present artwork.

There will be another potluck at the tribal net on Saturday June 14 at 3 p.m. Games, including a tug-of-war competition will be featured.

## Volunteers, art vendors needed

There are still opportunities for people interested in helping with the Grand Opening Celebration.

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.

Contact Sasha Lindgren at 335-7211 or [alindgren@kenaitze.org](mailto:alindgren@kenaitze.org) for more information or to help.

Also, tribal artists are invited to display art at a vendor tent during the festivities. Contact Clinton Lageson by phone at 342-9150 or at [clintonlageson@hotmail.com](mailto:clintonlageson@hotmail.com) soon for information.

## Accreditation process started

Employees at the Dena'ina Wellness Center have started efforts to gain accreditation under the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Accreditation is required under the tribe's behavioral health funding agreement with the State of Alaska. All community mental health facilities receiving state funds have to be accredited by July 2015.

CARF accreditation will help organize and strengthen patient safety, demonstrate the quality and safety of care to customers, and will be applied to all services offered in the Dena'ina Wellness Center.



# The Big Picture



Shovaughna Smart watches as Ayden Gilliam and his grandmother Monique Ross claim the bike Gilliam won at this year's Easter Party on April 19 at Kenai Middle School. About 400 people attended. They enjoyed a lunch, door prizes, an Easter egg hunt and an opportunity to win one of more than four dozen bicycles, a mix of skateboards, Easter baskets or candy. Sponsors included Food Service of America, IGA Country Foods Grocery, Odom Distributing, Tyotkas Elder Center, Sharon Isaak, Rita Smagge. Mary Lou Bottorff, Roberta Ivanoff, Denny and Mary Thomas, Marie Kasak, Marion Van Horne, Teresa Smith, Mable Berestoff, Sasha Lindgren, Phyllis Bookey, Joan Earsley, Salamatof Tribal Council and Kaarlo Wik. Chiqinik for the generous donations and for the hard work from the many volunteers and staff.

## 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.

## Addresses and phone numbers

**Administration Building**  
150 N. Willow St., Kenai, AK 99611  
(907)335-7200  
(907)335-7239 fax

**Early Childhood Center**  
130 N. Willow St., Kenai, AK 99611  
(907)335-7260

**Tyotkas Elders Center**  
1000 Mission Ave., Kenai, AK 99611  
(907)335-7280

**Yaghanen Youth Programs**  
35105 K-B Dr., Soldotna, AK 99669  
(907)335-7290

**Environmental Program**  
35105 K-B Dr., Soldotna, AK 99669  
(907)335-7287

**Dena'ina Wellness Center**  
508 Upland St., Kenai, AK 99611  
(907)335-7500

**Na'ini Social Services**  
150 N. Willow St., Kenai, AK 99611  
(907)335-7250

**Tribal Court**  
150 N. Willow St., Kenai, AK 99611  
(907)335-7217

**On the Web:** [kenaitze.org](http://kenaitze.org)

**On Facebook:** [facebook.com/kenaitze](https://facebook.com/kenaitze)



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Kenai, AK 99611

