# **Tribal Courier**

December 2014–February 2015

# Elders project on track

Planning and design work has started on a new Tyotkas Elders Center in Old Town Kenai after services were moved from the original building to a temporary space last spring following a natural gas leak.

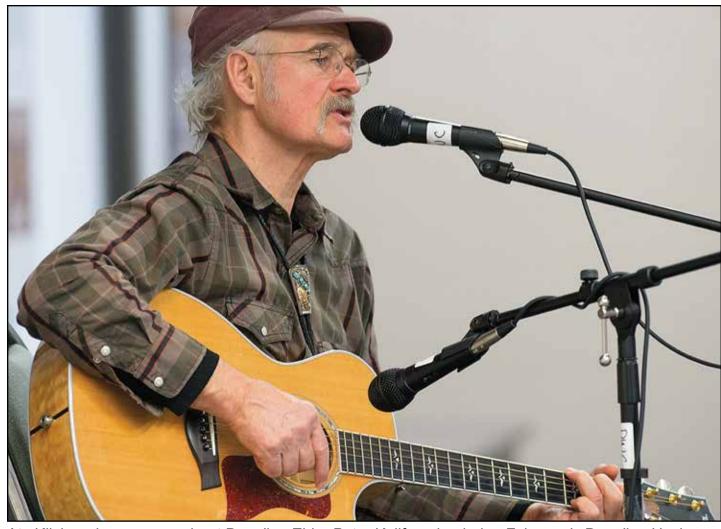
With the permitting process underway, the Elders Commission and Tyotkas staff is working with Kenaitze-owned Kahtnuht'ana Development Corporation and its operating See ELDERS, p. 7



Gov. Bill Walker wears a chief's necklace the tribe gifted to him.

# Inaugural ball features tribal greeting

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE NEWSLETTER



Atz Kilcher sings a song about Dena'ina Elder Peter Kalifornsky during February's Dena'ina Heyi.

# Heyi celebrates past and present

Sasha Lindgren is already looking forward to having another celebration of the past.

"This reminds us that we need to continue to celebrate who we are," said Lindgren, Director of Tribal Government Affairs and Kenaitze Indian Tribe Elder.

"We need to get together and celebrate good times with song and dance."

The tribe hosted a Heyi – a traditional winter celebration – Feb. 6 at the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center to honor the traveling version of "Dena'inaq Huch'ulyeshi: The Dena'ina Way of Living," the Anchorage Museum's landmark

like this," said Clint Lageson, tribal member and master of ceremonies. "We should do this more often."

After debuting at the Anchorage Museum in 2013, a traveling version of the display was put up last summer at the Pratt Museum in Homer. It recently moved to Kenai, where it will remain until May. The exhibit features videos, maps, artifacts and more.

Aaron Leggett, one of the exhibit curators, said it was an honor to participate in the project.

"This has been a labor of love," said Leggett, who is an Alaskan Native.

"Ten or 15 years ago, it's something I \_\_\_\_\_ could only dream of."



Clare Swan, foreground, and

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe welcomed Alaska's new governor and lieutenant governor with music, gifts and encouraging words at the Kenai Peninsula Inaugural Ball, which drew about 400 people to the Old Carrs Mall in Kenai on Jan. 30.

Tribal Elder Clare Swan delivered a traditional Dena'ina welcome and blessing to Gov. Bill Walker and Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott, and Executive Council Chairperson Rosalie Tepp spoke of the tribe's desire to work with the state government to help solve problems affecting everyone across the state.

See BALL, p. 2

exhibit representing the history and traditions of Dena'ina people. The afternoon included traditional storytelling, singing and dancing as more than 100 people enjoyed fry bread, salmon spread, jams and jellies.

One by one, Elders, tribal members, friends and employees of the tribe took turns on stage Alexandra "Sasha" honoring the traditions Lindgren tells a story of Dena'ina people. Some sang songs, others

told stories. Some read from notes, others improvised.

And no matter what, they were applauded.

"It's nice to see everyone together



change that," Leggett said.

Atz Kilcher, a lifelong Homer resident, also has been inspired by the

Dena'ina way of life.

during the Heyi.

He played guitar and sang a song he wrote called, "Dena'ina Indian."

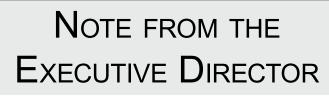
Kilcher wrote the song about Peter Kalifornsky and to honor Dena'ina

Patti Wallace applaud for one of the performers.

people. He remembered singing in front of the Tribal Council before the song was released, hoping to receive the Council's blessing. He closed his eyes the entire time he sang before the Council because he was nervous about the reaction.

"When I opened them, there were tears in the room," Kilcher said. Also performing during the Heyi were Maggie Jones, Council member Mary Ann Mills, Clare Swan, Bunny Swan Gease, and Haley Trefon. The celebration lasted more than two hours before the crowd began filing out.

"It just feels really good," Lindgren said.



#### Yaghali du?

I hope all is well with you as this mild winter comes to a close and we start anticipating the May 1 opening of the Net and other spring activities.

On the front page of this Tribal Courier, we share that the tribe was in attendance at the Kenai Peninsula Inaugural Ball. Executive Council Chairperson Rosalie Tepp expressed to Gov. Bill Walker and Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott that the tribe is committed to

working with the state government to help solve issues that affect us all.

We followed the offer to help with action.

Rose; Vice Chairperson Jennifer Showalter Yeoman; Council Member Audre Gifford; Dr. John Molina. Director of Health Systems; and Analisa Selden,



Director of Human Services, joined me in Juneau shortly after Kenai's ball. We met with members of the legislature and the governor's staff to express our concerns on a wide range of issues, especially the Medicaid expansion, and to highlight our potential for working together with the state.

We are committed to working with the state and other government and non-government entities to fulfill our tribe's Mission: To assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever. Our presence gives us the opportunity to make sure the state knows what we value, and gives us the opportunity to work together to promote those values.

Working with others is so important our leadership incorporated the task in our 2025 Vision: We are to work "toward united effort with Native organizations" and other governments that impact our people."

Tribal practices are making a difference, too. The state court system is collaborating more closely with tribal court. Dana Fabe, Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, stressed to the legislature the importance of working with tribal courts during her third State of the Judiciary address earlier this month. Fabe singled out our Tribal Youth Circle as an example of a successful solution to a complex problem.

Gov. Walker has said, "When we pull together, we do not dilute our ideals, we do not set aside our values - we come together for the greater good, and together, we are strong."

We are committed to pull together – and we are doing a lot of good – at the Dena'ina Wellness Center. Dr. John Molina has been leading this effort since August. He has been working diligently to integrate care and to recruit medical staff to increase access and bridge services tribal-wide in partnership with Human Services Director Analisa Selden.

Dr. John Molina is Pascua Yaqui and San Carlos Apache. Previously, he was the Medical Director for Native Health, a community health center in Phoenix. He is also the former Chief Executive Officer of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center and the Assistant Director and Medical Director for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. He was founder of Las Fuentes Health Clinic of Guadalupe, a community medical clinic in his hometown of Guadalupe, Ariz.

Please meet your primary care providers on page 6. We will introduce you to some of our other providers in future issues.

Lastly, I would like to invite you to please attend the Constitution meeting on March 14. Save the date of May 1 for the annual opening of the Net! More fishery details will be mailed to tribal members soon.

Have a wonderful spring!

— Jaylene Peterson-Nyren Executive Director, Kenaitze Indian Tribe

# Do you know these people? Help us update their address

Please help find correct addresses for the following people. Update one of these addresses and you will be entered to win an Apple iPad. Call 907-335-7202 or email Elsie Maillelle at emaillelle@kenaitze.org. Thanks for the help and good luck! Winner will be announced in the next issue of the Tribal Courier.

Grothe, Cameron

Albright-Pohlen, Dawn Ashton, Lori Wilson Batt III, Raymond W. Boling, Sharon Boulette, Brittany J. Boulette, Camryn E. Brown, Edward J. Burnham, Hillary C. Burnham, Heather R. Carlough, Michael Carlough, William Chaffin, Kenneth Chaffin, Tina M. Chulin, Wayne Constanios, Hazel N. Coveyou, Anthony Coveyou, Rachel Coveyou, Sarah Cross, James J. Cross Jr., James J. Davis, Julia L. Davis, Jr., Rufino Davis, III, Rufino Davis-Coilton, Angela P. Deitz, Tracey W. Demidoff, Emelie M. Dolchok, Mack Dolchok, Clifford L. Edelman, Drasanna Edelman, Erika Edelman, Jay Edwards, Jamie England, Patricia P. Forstner, Ashley J. Forstner V, Louis G. Frost, Ashley R. Frost, Gabrielle Frostad, Katheryn A. Frostad, Brian D. Gibson-Rehder, Amee Gregorie, Mathew

BALL, from p. 1

all of the state's population.

mailings from the tribe.

P.O. Box 988

907-335-7202

Kenai, AK 99611

Send updates to:

Tepp echoed the unity theme Gov. Walker and

Lt. Gov. Mallott spoke of during the cam-

paign, pointing out that the challenges faced

Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren

Moving soon?

Please keep in touch

Please keep your contact information

current so you don't miss important

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Attn: Elsie Maillelle

emaillelle@kenaitze.org

Grothe, Garrett Hallstead, Steven Harker, Nelson F. Harker, Solari T. Haskell, Gregory Hembroff, Curtis R. Huf, Jessica J. Huf, Natasha Huf, Taylor E. Johnson, Antanett M. Johnson, Austin Jones, Casey R. Juliussen, Michael Ray Kairaiuak, Kakfalria Kidder, Marshall Kidder, Travis Kilgore, Seth Kirschner, Suzanne Kooly, Corbin Kooly, Zachary Lageson, Doris Latender, Alexis Lecceardone, Henry LeMaire. Martha Lewis, III, Alec Lorenzo, Anthony Mack, Calvin Mahle, Jr., Gerald Mahle, Sr., Gerald Maupin, Nadine Mehring, David Mehring, Kristina Mesa, Bernadette Mesa, George Miller, Mikayla Miller, Natasha Morey, Christy Munson, Joni Munson, Karina Murray, Nicole Ollestad, Nathan

Ortega, Casie L. Jones Norbert Michael Page, Jared Petterson, Delores Pomeroy, Jenna Randall, Roger Richardson, Miles Richardson-Card, Autumn Rifredi, Nicolya Rodrigues, Steven Rosner, Marietta Rouse, III, James Sacaloff, Jon Sanders, James Sanders, Larry Sandoval, Alvaro Sandoval, Veronica Scaggs, James Scott, Susan Seibert, Carol Seibert, Michael Sloan, Lori K. Smith, Alyssa M. Smith, Erica A. Smyth, Winston Stanford, Jr., Lonnie Stanford, Sr., Lonnie Stroman, David Stroman, Robert Swan, Jonathon Talvi, Lisa K. Taylor, Jeffery A. Tilley, Chrystal M. Wallers, Carl Wallers, Freda Wallers, Mary Wheeler, Norma Wik, Ralph R. Wilcoxson, Virginia Woods, Norman

#### nor chief's necklaces.

Bunny Swan Gease performed throughout the evening. Her song, "We Are All One" was featured during the opening ceremony. The governor has appointed a new tribal

relations advisor and has expressed an interest gifted both the governor and lieutenant gover- in working together with tribes.

### 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 and like us on Facebook at facebook.com/kenaitze.

For story suggestions or questions about content, contact editor M. Scott Moon at 907-335-7237 or by email at smoon@kenaitze.org.



Hello,

- of our Nation.

have vacancies.

Art and Interior C Jennifer S. Yeoman Liisia Blizzard Mary Lou Bottorff Vacant Vacant

#### Danielle Dehoyos ( support) **Education Comm**

Susan Wells, Chair Sondra Stuart Ben Baldwin Bernadine Atchison Raven Williams Rita Smagge Connie Wirz Heather Daniels (St

#### **Audit and Finance**

Committee Audre Gifford - Ch James Segura Rosalie Tepp Paxton Oder Clinton Lageson Kami Wright (Staff

**Court Code Revisi** Committee Susan Wells, Chair Mary Ann Mills Kimberly Sweet Rusty Swan Annalisa Selden Liisia Blizzard Audrey Strickland (Staff support)

Coveyou, Katie

## NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Your Council has been busy. Last fall, I told you that we were dedicated to developing ourselves as leaders, to supporting our committee members and the hard work they do, and to each of you tribal members. That is what we have done. Earlier this month, we adopted a Council Code of Conduct,

an Oath of Office and separated Council powers from Tribal Court powers.

The Code of Conduct says Council members: • shall honor their positions by acting with integrity and fairness;

shall support and uphold the final decisions of the Council;

will respect and honor the confidentiality of Executive Session;

shall abstain from real or perceived conflicts of interest; and

shall preserve and protect the sovereignty

The Oath of Office says, "I solemnly swear and affirm I will support and defend the

Constitution of the Sovereign Nation of the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina; that I will show respect for my fellow tribal citizens while fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of my position in alignment with the traditional values of the Kahtnuht'ana Nation; bearing allegiance to the vision of our Elders and ancestors to ensure that the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever."

The separation of powers ensures that the Council can serve as a fair and impartial appellate court for our Tribal Court when it is required to.

We have also been working hard to prepare for the March 14 quarterly tribal meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the Constitution. Information has been mailed to tribal members to have before the meeting, which is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

This is an important meeting and I hope to see you there.

— Rosalie Tepp Tribal Chairperson, Kenaitze Indian Tribe

# TRIBAL COUNCIL

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Jennifer Yeoman Vice-Chairperson jyeoman@kenaitze.org





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Mary Ann Mills Council member mmills@kenaitze.org



James O. Segura Council member jsegura@kenaitze.org



Susan Wells Council member swells@kenaitze.org



### Committee members sought at the tribe's administration office at 150 N.

The following is a list of tribal committees and their members. Some committees currently

Tribal members interested in serving on a committee should send a letter addressed to the committee chairperson, care of Elsie Maillelle,

Committee	<b>Constitution Review</b>
n, Chair	Committee
, ,	Liisia Blizzard, Chair
f	James Segura
	Mary Ann Mills
	Rita Smagge
(Staff	Allan Baldwin
`	Susan Wells
	Elsie Maillelle (Staff support)
ittee	
r	Elders Commission
	Phyllis Bookey, Chair
	James Showalter
n	Rita Smagge
	Mary Lou Bottorff
	Mary Ann Mills
	Betty Porter
taff support)	Connie Wirz (Staff support)
e	<b>Election Board</b>
	Phyllis Bookey, Chair
nair	Kathy Rodgers
	Bernice Crandall
	Linda Ross
	Kynde Bishop
	Elsie Maillelle (Staff support)
f support)	
	Health Committee
sion	Jennifer Yeoman, Chair
	Clare Swan
r	Rita Smagge

Kita Smagge Diane Zirul Audre' Gifford Vacant Vacant Norma Nashalook (Staff support)

Willow St., Kenai, AK 99611. For a schedule of committee meeting times, refer to the Calendar of Events page on the tribe's website at www.kenaitze.org.

> Hunting, Fishing and **Gathering Committee** James Segura, Chair Clare Swan Mary Ann Mills Liisia Blizzard James Showalter Kaarlo Wik Elsie Maillelle Vacant Sasha Lindgren (Staff support)

Land Committee James Segura, Chair Mary Ann Mills Liisia Blizzard Jennifer Yeoman James Showalter Kaarlo Wik Elsie Maillelle (Staff support)

**Traditional Healing Planning** Team Audre' Gifford, Chair

Mary Lou Bottorff Jon Ross Bobbie Oskolkoff Linda Ross Elsie Maillelle (Staff support

**Enrollment Committee** 

Katheryn Rodgers, Chair Rene' Azzara Liisia Blizzard Bernice Crandall Linda Ross Elsie Maillelle (Staff support)



# Sportsmanship trumps results at NYO Students busy at Early Childhood Center

Julianne Wilson was proud to win. She was even prouder to root on those who didn't win.

Wilson earned seven medals at the 2015 Peninsula Winter Games Native Youth Olympics Jan. 23 to 25 at Kenai Middle School, but walked away appreciating the significance of the annual event – and those who competed - more than her own accomplishments.

"Even if you don't do your best, everyone will cheer you on and support you," said Wilson, who competed for the Kenaitze Indian Tribe. "This represents our culture and our ancestors, so it means a lot."

The weekend-long event featured food, live music and special guests as more than 100 athletes from the central Kenai Peninsula and beyond competed in traditional Alaska Native games.

Competitors in first through 12th grades, boys and girls, tested their mettle in games such as the seal hop, stick pull and wrist carry.

Some broke personal records, others limped off with injuries, but they all shook hands after each event.

"We try to teach the kids that sportsmanship is more important than taking home a medal," said Michael Bernard, Yaghanen Youth Program coordinator.

"We encourage them to help each other out and help other teams."

Wilson, a sophomore and eightyear NYO participant, won four events - the one-foot high kick, onehand reach, kneel jump and seal hop - while placing second in the wrist carry and third in the Alaskan high kick and Eskimo stick pull.

Her favorite event? The one-foot high kick.

"It's just really fun because everyone is out there with me," she said.

Friend and competitor Misty Agoff, who competed on the Ya Ne Dah Ah team from Chickaloon. agreed the one-foot high kick is the most fun.

And after making her sixth consecutive appearance at NYO, she was already looking ahead to 2016 with a simple goal.

"Get personal bests," Agoff said. High school senior Zachary

Martin, a five-year NYO competitor from Seward, had no issue capturing personal bests.

Martin earned nine medals – five golds – and notched a personal high 103-inch kick in the one-foot high kick.

Like Wilson, Martin said sportsmanship and the support of fellow competitors meant as much as winning.

"We come from different teams and different areas, but when it comes to the games everyone is



ABOVE, Kenaitze's Julianne Wilson accepts a hug before getting on the podium to accept one of her seven medals during the Kenaitze Indian Tribe Native Youth Olympics Invitational at Kenai Middle School in January. AT TOP RIGHT, Kenaitze's Adelynn DeHoyos and Seward's Fallon Hughes compete in the stick pull.

there for each other and helps each other out," Martin said. "I'm very happy and very proud to be here." Courtney Agnes also was proud to

be there. Agnes, a Tanana resident and star

on Discovery Channel's television show "Yukon Men," delivered a speech to competitors about pursuing their dreams, working hard and achieving happiness.

She said it was impressive to witness NYO.

"We don't have anything like this back home," she said. "I'm excited to be here and be learning about the culture. I like learning about other places in Alaska."

Also highlighting the weekend was a concert by the band Pamyua, who played tribal funk and world music in a concert at Kenai Central High School.

Bernard said it took a tribe-wide effort and support from the community to make NYO a success.

"The whole atmosphere was great - the teamwork we had from all our volunteers and staff, the tribe pulling together, the support we had from our partners in the community," he said. "I think everyone had a good time."



Kenaitze's Megan Whittom high-fives teammates after competing.



One-foot high kicl unior girls . Trillium Kell, Ya Ne I Seward, 62 inches: 3. inches; 4. Robin Cronin Wilson, Kenaitze, 52 in lunior boys I. Tommy Cronin, Seward, 74 inches; 2. Kaden Hoover, Kenaitze, 56 inches Seward, 66 inches

Kenaitze, 86 inches One-hand reach

Senior girls 1. Julianne Wilson, Kenaitze, 38 inches; 2.Masha Hart, Seward, 34 inches; 3. Misty May Agoff, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 4 inches Senior boys . Utug Moto, Tebughna, 58 inches; 2, Zachary Martin Seward, 43 inches; 3. Judah Eason, Ninilchik, 42 inches; 4. James Hickel, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 42 inches; 5. Luke Riley, Ninilchik, 38 inches

Two-foot high kick Junior girls 1. Trillium Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 48 inches; 2. Layla Alexie, Seward, 46 inches; 3. Leila Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 42 inches 4. Jade Robuck, Ninilchik, 36 inches; 5. Fallon Hughes, Seward, 32 inches. Junior boys 1. Kaden Hoover, Ninilchik, 56 inches; 2.Tommy Cronin, Seward, 53 inches; 3. Ransom Hayes, Kenaitze, 42 inches; 4. Aiden Perea, Seward, 42 inches; 5. Ceiony Allen, Ninilchik, 42 inches Senior girls 1. Haley Boor, Seward, 60 inches; 2. Diana German, Seward, 58 inches; 3. Misty May Agoff, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 50 inches; 4. Masha Hart, Seward, 50 inches. Senior bovs . Zachary Martin, Seward, 84 inches; 2. Utuq Moto

Alaskan high kick

Junior girls 1. Trillium Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 55 inches; 2. Leila Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 50 inches; 3. Layla Alexie, Seward, 44 inches; 4. Jade Robuck, Ninilchik, 44 inches; 5. Robin Cronin, Seward, 36 inches. Junior boys 1. Tommy Cronin, Seward, 54 inches; 2. Kaden Hoover, Ninilchik, 53 inches; 3. Tristin Segura, Kenaitze, 46 inch-es; 4. Aiden Perea, Seward, 42 inches; 5. Joseph Whitton, Kenaitze, 42 inches Senior girls 1. Mistly May Agoff, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 60 inches; 2. Haley inches; 4. Diana German, Seward, 53 inches; 5. Masha Hart, Seward, 53 inches,

1. Zachary Martin, Seward, 74 inches; 2. Utuq Moto, Te- bughna, 66 inches; 3. Judah Eason, Ninilchik, 62 inches;
James Hickel, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 58 inches; 5. Tony Riley, Ninilchik, 58 inches,

Arm pull . Taylor Huett, Kenaitze Junior boys Tristin Segura, Kenaitze.

Eskimo stick pull Junior girls 1. Tatihana DeHoyos, Kenaitze; 2. Jade Robuck, Ninilchik; 3. Savanna Wilson, Kenaitze: 4. Trillium Kell. Ya Ne Dah Ah; 5. Rachel Pitsch, Kenaitze Junior boys Ash Chappell, Ninilchik; 2. Nathaniel Tanape, Kenaitze;
Joseph Whitton, Kenaitze; 4. Samiel Wilson, Kenaitze; 5. Seth Strange, Government Hill. Senior girls 1. Masha Hart, Seward; 2. Miyah Eason, Ninilchik; 3. Julianne Wilson; Kenaitze; 4. McKinlee Hickel, Ya Ne Dah Ah; 5. Kya Ahlers, Kenaitze. Senior bovs . Zachary Martin, Seward; 2. Greg Smith, Homer; 3. Judah Eason, Ninilchik; 4. Charlie Mack, Seward; 5. Steven Riley, Ninilchik.

Indian stick pull Junior girls

#### 2015 Native Youth Olympic Results

ah Ah, 64 inches; 2. Layla Alexie,
Siobhan Dempsey, Kenaitze, 54
n, Seward, 54 inches; 5. Savanna
ches.

Ninilchik 68 inches 3 William Wilson Kenaitze 62 inch es; 4. Aiden Perea, Seward, 58 inches; 5. Tristin Segura,

Senior girls 1. Julianne Wilson, Kenaitze, 86 inches; 2. Masha Hart, Seward, 76 inches; 3. Misty May Agoff, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 66 inches; 4. Kya Ahlers, Kenaitze, 66 inches; 5. Haley Boor,

Senior boys 1. Zachary Martin, Seward, 103 inches; 2. Utuq Moto, Tebughna, 95 inches: 3. Rvan Glenzel, Wolf Pack, 92 nches; 4. Greg Smith, Homer, 90 inches; 5. Mekhai Rich

Tebughna, 80 inches; 3. James Hickel, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 50 inches; 4. Judah Eason, Ninilchik, 50 inches.

Junior girls 1. Jade Robuck, Ninilchik; 2.Tatihana DeHoyos, Kenaitze; . Trillium Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah; 4. Fallon Hughes, Seward

1. Samiel Wilson, Kenaitze; 2. Gage Moto, Ninilchik; 3. Joe Whitton, Kenaitze; 4. Tommy Cronin, Seward; 5.

1. Layla Alexie, Seward; 2. Fallon Hughes, Seward; 3. Savanna Wilson, Kenaitze; 4. Ryker Bradford, Seward; 5 Taylor Rickard, Ninilchik. Junior boys Nathaniel Tanape, Kenaitze, 2.Tristin Segura, Kenaitze Gage Moto, Ninilchik; 4. Kaden Hoover, Ninilchik, 5 Gage Bradford, Seward. enior girls 1 McKinlee Hickel Ya Ne Dah Ah<sup>.</sup> 2 Hanna Wilson Ke naitze; 3. Misty May Agoff, Ya Ne Dah Ah; 4. Kya Ahlers, Kenaitze; 5. Makala, Kenaitze Indian Tribe. Senior boys 1. Charlie Mack, Seward; 2. Utuq Moto, Tebughna; 3. Zachary Martin, Seward: 4, James Hickel, Ya Ne Dah Ah 5. Greg Smith, Home Kneel jump Junior girls 1 Lavla Alexie Seward 27 ½ inches: 2 Robin Cronin Seward, 25 ½ inches; 3. Leila Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah 24 ½ inches; 4.Trillium Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 24 ¼ inches; 5 lenna Yeoman, Kenaitze, 22 ½ inches Junior boys 1. Tommy Cronin, Seward, 33 ¾ inches: 2. William Wilso Kenaitze, 24 ¼ inches; 3. Aiden Perea, Seward, 21 ¾

inches; 4. Seth Strange, Government Hill, 19 inches; 5. Ceiony Allen, Ninilchik, 18 ½ inches. Senior girls 1. Julianne Wilson, Kenaitze, 42 inches/41 inches: 2.

Masha Hart, Seward, 42 inches/ 40 ½ inches; 3. Diana German, Seward, 38 ¼ inches; 4. Haley Boor, Seward, 36 ¼ inches; 5. Kya Ahlers, Kenaitze, 30 ½ inches Senior boys 1. Zachary Martin, Seward, 40 inches; 2. Utug Moto, Te

bughna, 38 ¼ inches; 3.Tony Riley, Ninilchik, 38 ½ inches 4. Steven Riley, Ninilchik, 35 ¼ inches; 5. Ryan Glenzel, Wolf Pack, 32 ¼ inches

#### Scissor Broad Jump

Junior girls 1. Trillium Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 20 feet, 5 ½ inches; 2. Layla Alexie, Seward, 20 feet, 1 inch; 3. Jade Robuck, Ninilchik, 16 feet, 7 ¾ inches; 4. Fallon Hughes, Seward 15 feet, 9 1/2 inches: 5. Leila Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 15 feet Junior boys

1. Tommy Cronin, Seward; 23 feet, 4 ½ inches; 2. Kaden Hoover, Ninilchik, 20 feet, 2 ¾ inches; 3. Ceiony Allen, Ninilchik, 19 feet, 6 3/4 inches; 4, Joseph Whitton, Kenai , 17 feet, 9 inches; 5. Seth Strange, Government Hill 17 feet, 8 1/4 inches

#### Seal hop

Junior girls 1. Leila Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 98 feet, ¾ inch; 2. Trillium Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 72 feet; 3. Emilee Wilson, Kenaitze, 48 feet; 4. Fallon Hughes, Seward; 43 feet, 9 inches; 5. Jalyn Yeoman, Kenaitze, 35 feet, 8 inches. Junior boys

1. Kaden Hoover, Ninilchik, 53 feet, 6 inches; 2. Tommy Cronin, Seward, 52 feet, 5 ¼ inches; 3. Timothy Hedrick, Kenaitze, 45 feet, 9 ¾ inches; 4. Joseph Whitton, Kenai tze, 38 feet, ¼ inch; 5. Tristin Segura, Kenaitze, 32 feet, 9 inches ior girls

1. Julianne Wilson, Kenaitze,109 feet, 11 1/2 inches; 2. Masha Hart, Seward, 60 feet, 6 ½ inches; 3. Diana Gern Seward, 50 feet, 2 inches; 4. Kya Ahlers, Kenaitze, 4 feet, 10 1/2 inches; 5. Misty May Agoff, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 37 eet, 5 1/4 inches.

Senior boys 1. Utuq Moto, Tebughna, 45 feet, 9 1/2 inches; 2. Zachary Martin, Seward, 36 feet, 1/4 inch; 3. Henry Guillemette, Ke naitze, 26 feet, 4 ¼ inches; 4, Mekhai Rich, Kenaitze, 20 feet, 9 inches; 5. Greg Smith, Homer, 17 feet, 10 inches.

#### Senior girls

1. Haley Boor, Seward, 37 inches Senior boys 1. James Hickel, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 48 inches.

#### Wrist carry

Junior girls (in seconds) . Leila Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 22.50; 2. Emilee Wilson Kenaitze, 14.06; 3. Taylor Whitton, Kenaitze, 12.56; 4. lenna Yeoman, Kenaitze, 10.42; 5.Trillian Kell, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 9.57. Junior boys (in seconds)

1. William Wilson, Kenaitze, 19.81; 2. Olin Liljemark, Seward, 9.90; 3. Elliot White, Ninilchik, 6.28; 4. Tommy Cronin, Seward, 5.10; 5. Seth Strange, Government Hil 3.91. Senior airls

1. Diana German, Seward, 86 feet, 6 inches; 2. Julianne Wilson, Kenaitze, 25 feet, 5 1/4 inches; 3. Misty May Agoff, Ya Ne Dah Ah, 23 feet, 5 1/4 inches; 4. Masha Hart, Seward, 10 feet; 5. Toni Zacher, Seward, 1 foot, 6 3/4 inches. enior boys

1. Utuq Moto, Tebughna, 293 feet, 4 1/2 inches; 2. Andrew Wilson, Kenaitze, 215 feet, 11 ½ inches; 3. Luke Riley, Ninilchik, 119 feet, 4 ¼] inches; 4. Mekhai Rich, Kenaitze 40 feet, 11 ¼ inches; 5. Zachary Martin, Seward, 25 feet, 7 1/2 inches

With summer a few months away, preschoolers at the Early Childhood Center continue to learn social skills and problem-solving techniques as they prepare to transition into kindergarten.

Over the final months of the school year, students will focus on asking and agreeing to share before reviewing skills they learned earlier in the year – listening; using a friendly voice; using brave talk; following directions; asking for help; waiting your turn; and not interrupting.

To begin the transition process for students entering kindergarten next year, families recently received a list of local schools and signed transition releases allowing ECC to share information with students' future schools.

This helps ensure a smooth transition. In April, a "Transition Night Dinner" will be hosted to provide kindergarten-bound families an opportunity to meet area teachers and principals.

Teachers and aides also will complete their second home-visit the last week of April to follow up on family partnership agreements and share an end-of-year summary of each child's progress.

#### **After-School Program**

After-school students continue to arrive each day excited to finish their homework so they can relax and read. After eating a nutritious snack

and visiting with friends from other

schools, students brush their teeth and join in traditional Dena'ina song and dance. Their favorite songs are the "Raven Song" and "Mosquito Song." Students also are learning to keep the beat with drums and rhythm sticks.

In the "100 Books for a Bike" program, many students have read more than 50 books at their reading level, and several students have surpassed 100 books. Any child who reads 100 books at their reading level receives a new bike in May.

#### Summer Program

As a continuation of the Alaska Native Education program, there will be an all-day summer camp June 1 through July 10, with a preschool classroom, a kindergarten/ first-grade classroom and a second-grade/third-grade classroom. Slots fill up fast and are first come, first served.

#### **2015-16 School Year Registration**

The center is accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year and is proud to serve families from many different backgrounds. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2015, to be eligible.

The "No-Fee" program operates 8 a.m. to noon Monday to Thursday. For additional information or to schedule a school tour, please call the main line at 907-335-7260 or Sasha Fallon, Community Partnership Coordinator, at 907-335-7259.

### **Early Childhood Center Activities**

March 5: Love of Reading – Story Night

March 6: Annual assessment starts (no school for students; in-service day)

March 7: Saturday Play

March 9 to 13: Spring Break – center closed

- March 21: Saturday Play
- March 24: Family Activity

April 7: Family Activity at preschool

April 10: Staff compiles self-assessment data

April 11: Saturday Play

April 15: Spring Fluoride application

April 17: Kindergarten Transition Dinner

April 23: Story Night

April 27 to May 1: Second Home Visit

May 15: Beach Field Trip Also children's last day and last day of After-School Program

#### **TRIBAL COURIER**

# **Dena'ina Wellness Center** Meet Your Primary **Care Providers**



Income tax

exemption

American

available for

Alaska Native,

Indian people

health-coverage requirements under

the Affordable Care Act must pay a

fee when filing their federal income

tax returns, but Alaska Native and

American Indian people can claim

an exemption to avoid incurring the

The exemption applies to mem-

bers of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe,

Alaska Native Claims Settlement

Act (ANCSA) corporation share-

holders (regional or village), and

those who are eligible for ser-

vices through the Indian Health

To claim the exemption, taxpay-

ers must complete and attach Form

8965 – titled. "Health Care Exemp-

tions" - to their federal income tax

return. Detailed instructions are

Under the Affordable Care

Act, taxpayers must pay a fee

when filing a federal income

the taxpayer is exempt under

qualifying conditions.

in IRS Publication 5187.

sional tax consultant.

tax return if they or any of their

dependents did not carry health

insurance the entire year, unless

The amount of the fee varies based

on an individual taxpayer's income,

dependents, marital status and more,

Anyone with questions is encour-

The tax filing deadline is April 15.

Federal tax

preparation

help offered

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe is

again offering free tax preparation

teers to eligible Alaska Native and

services by IRS-certified volun-

American Indian people through

Those interested must have an

Consultations are by appointment

only and will be held at the tribe's

For more information about the

volunteers can help with, please see

the flier on the News and Notices

page of the tribe's website or call

DeeDee Fowler at 907-335-7622.

service and the types of returns

annual income below \$53,000.

administration building.

April 13.

aged to seek advice from a profes-

which is explained in greater detail

provided with the form.

Taxpayers failing to meet

additional cost.

Service.

Dr. Heather L. Callum Pediatrician

After graduating from the United States Air Force Academy and earning a Doctorate of Medicine from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Dr. Callum completed her Pediatric Residency training at Travis Air Force Base in California. She spent 24 years in the military, including four stationed at Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks and seven at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, before moving to Kenai. Dr. Callum is married and has two daughters, Abigail and Elizabeth, and enjoys hiking, skiing, gardening and music. She specializes in working with patients from birth to age 18.



#### Jeoff Lanfear **Nurse Practitioner**

Raised in northwest Montana, Jeoff joined the United States Coast Guard following high school before earning a Master's of Science in Nursing from Gonzaga University. He discovered his love of serving others during his stint in the Coast Guard while stationed in Juneau, where he volunteered as a firefighter as well as a dive rescue swimmer. Jeoff has been a Family Nurse Practitioner for seven years and serves as the Dena'ina Wellness Center's Urgent Care Practitioner, seeing only walk-in patients. He has been married 13 years, has two children, and enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking and backpacking.



#### Kathryn (Kelly) McNatt **Family Nurse Practitioner Certified Midwife** Kelly earned a Master's of Science in Nursing and a Master's in Public Health from Emory University. She has spent several years working in rural villages across Alaska and the world, traveling to more than 50 countries and all seven continents. When she is not serving patients at the Dena'ina Wellness Center, she enjoys reading, hiking and raising her two children.



**Dr. Gail Pokorney** Consultant

Dr. Pokorney earned her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, in June 2013. She enjoys hiking, traveling, playing the violin and reading. Dr. Pokorney's clinical interests include women's health and public health She provides internal medicine and women's health consulting to the primary care providers at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.



**Family Nurse Practitioner** Kasie graduated from Seattle University with a Master's of Science in Nursing and has been a Family Nurse Practitioner for nine years. She previously worked at the Alaska Native Medical Center and Dena'ina Health Clinic and is skilled in Quality Improvement, specializing in Team-Based Care. In her free time, Kasie enjoys spending time outdoors and with her family.

508 Upland St. • Kenai, AK 99611 907-335-7500



Shane Udelhoven Certified Physician Assistant Shane has worked at the Dena'ina Wellness Center and Dena'ina Health Clinic a combined six years as a Certified Physician Assistant in Family Medicine. He graduated from Idaho State University with a Master's of Science degree in Physician Assisting and has spent much of his career not only working with individuals, but also entire families. In his free time, Shane enjoys hunting and spending time with his family. He was raised in the area and loves Alaska.



### ELDERS, from p. 1 building.

other features.

than the old center.

The original structure is scheduled to be demolished this spring and the new building is scheduled to open on the same grounds in November.





requirements:

subsidiary Kahtnu. LLC to identify features that can be included in the

Preliminary plans call for an improved kitchen, lounge area and a gathering space to seat more people than the current building, among

Working drawings also show the front of the new structure facing south toward Cook Inlet with mountain and water views and a building that will have more square-footage

After a natural gas leak forced

the closure of the original center last spring and a subsequent structural report revealed a slew of expensive repairs to make, the tribe decided it was more economical to build from the ground up than to renovate.

Elder services are currently being hosted at the Fort Kenay building across from the Holy Assumption of the Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Church in Old Town Kenai

Project updates will continue as they are made available.

Tyotkas Elder Services provides healthy meals, activities and traditional foods to about 150 Elders each month.

Twice-weekly sing-alongs have been one of the more popular activites this winter.

# Off the wall

When tribal Elder Rita Smagge was asked what the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's education system should be based on, she didn't hesitate to answer. "It's time to take our traditional values off the wall and start living them,"

said Smagge, a member of the tribe's Education Committee.

Smagge's reference to the traditional values posters hanging on the walls across tribal operations is the inspiration for this space, "Off the Wall." Off the Wall will celebrate people putting the tribe's traditional values into use, taking them "off the wall" and using them in their daily lives.

As told by Alexandra "Sasha" Lindgren, Director of Tribal Govern- Council. ment and Affairs:

James Showalter's actions long ago reflect the value of "Ada – care, concern, tenderness, love, sharing, and

home for the Net, which became a

tribal gathering place, and started a

The tribe purchased Waterfront

payments to make. At that time our

budget was smaller and we had very

with a loan and we had monthly

Council members received a

stipend of \$50 per meeting. Tribal

return to our ancestral land.

limited tribal resources.

humility." The purchase of Waterfront. site of the tribal fishery, was a historic and defining moment for our tribe. We established a permanent

Elder James Showalter served on the

When he received his meeting stipend he endorsed the back of the check and quietly and with little fanfare handed the check to Rita

Smagge, Executive If you would like to nominate someone for consideration in Off the Wall, please send a submission describing which traditional value(s) they took "off the wall" to editor M. Scott Moon at

Director at the time. with the instruction to allocate the payment for Waterfront He also donated any funds he received for serving on other boards as a tribal representative toward the purchase of

Waterfront.

His actions reflect Ada – sharing and humility. Showalter never spoke about the donations during any tribal meeting or gathering.

His donations, and those of many others, made a significant difference and have helped the tribe move toward its mission, that the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever.

The Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity has a single-family, 4-bedroom,  $1-\frac{1}{2}$ bath home for sale in Kenai The home includes a spacious living area with a fenced-in backvard. It has been fully remodeled Ho with new appliances, cabinets, flooring, plumbing, electrical, bathrooms and heating systems. Interested families must be pre-qualified with a bank or other lending institution before applications may be submitted to the Kenaitze/Salamatof TDHE. The home's \$160,000 price may be reduced for individuals who meet the following eligibility

Kenaitze/Salamatof tribal member or other Alaska Native or American Indian people

Meet the following annual income limits:

ousehold Size	Income
1	\$42,650
2	\$48,750
3	\$54,850
4	\$60,900
5	\$65,800
6	\$70,650
7	\$75,550

The home is located at 412 Birch St., in Kenai. For more information, contact Shayna Franke at 907-335-7230.

Address: 412 Birch St., Kenai

- Beds: 4 Baths: 1 1/2 Carport: 1 Shed: 1 Patio: 1
- Sq. Ft.: 1,554 Lot Sq. Ft.: 9,583 Acreage: 0.22 Year Built: 1972 Remodeled: 2014

# LNG project hears from tribe

Representatives from a subcontractor for the Alaska LNG Project met with members of the tribe in November to gather comments for traditional knowledge studies that are a part of the initial reports that will be given to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to document possible impacts of the project.

The proposed project will include a pipeline from the North Slope to Nikiski, where a liquefied natural gas plant would be built to prepare the gas for ships.

Concerns brought by tribal members focused on the number of out of reports.

state workers the project could bring, availability of jobs for members, impacts to fish and game, and drug and alcohol problems that could come with a transient workforce.

Many agreed with tribal member Amber Gardner when she said, "We live from the land. We learn from the land."

Others said that they needed more information about the project

The commission will hold meetings on the central peninsula in the second quarter of this year to hear the public response to the initial

# Quarterly meeting talks fish

The Tribal Council hosted its second quarterly meeting Dec. 13 at the Dena'ina Wellness Center to discuss tribal fishery procedures.

The Council also took suggestions concerning contents for the time capsule that will be installed in "Dena'ina Rising," the sculpture in the center's gathering space.

Council member Jim Segura explained that procedures for this year's fishery will be changed to address complaints that have been received the last couple of years.

Fishery information will be

mailed to tribal members in early March, along with tide books and the procedures for signing up to use the Net.

The next quarterly meeting will be March 14 to discuss proposed changes to the tribe's constitution. Information has been mailed to tribal members. Please call Alexandra "Sasha" Lindgren at 907-335-7211 if you are a tribal member and have not received a packet of information.

The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

smoon@kenaitze.org.

# The Big Picture



The aurora borealis, or northern lights, fill the sky above the Dena'ina Wellness Center early on the morning of Jan. 4.

## **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

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 907-335-7600

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

On the Web: kenaitze.org

On Facebook: facebook.com/kenaitze



Kenaitze Indian Tribe P.O. Box 988 Kenai, AK 99611

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