

## 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

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 Capps 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



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 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 honoring the traditions 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

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."

Leggett traveled across the world looking for artifacts to include in the exhibit, and was inspired after seeing Tribal Elder Clare Swan quoted in a newspaper saying the Dena'ina people had become invisible in the community and to each other.

"I wanted to help change that," Leggett said.

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

Dena'ina way of life.

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



Clare Swan, foreground, and 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.



Alexandra "Sasha" Lindgren tells a story during the Heyi.

# NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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.

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, Katie  
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, Ameer  
Gregorie, Mathew

Grothe, Cameron  
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.  
Juliusen, Michael Ray  
Kairaiuak, Kakfalia  
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  
Swan, Jonathon  
Talvi, Lisa K.  
Taylor, Jeffery A.  
Tilley, Chrystal M.  
Walters, Carl  
Walters, Freda  
Walters, Mary  
Wheeler, Norma  
Wik, Ralph R.  
Wilcoxson, Virginia  
Woods, Norman

**BALL**, from p. 1  
Tepp echoed the unity theme Gov. Walker and Lt. Gov. Mallott spoke of during the campaign, pointing out that the challenges faced all of the state's population.  
Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren gifted both the governor and lieutenant gover-

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 in working together with tribes.

### Moving soon? Please keep in touch

Please keep your contact information current so you don't miss important mailings from the tribe.  
Send updates to:  
  
Kenaitze Indian Tribe  
Attn: Elsie Maillelle  
P.O. Box 988  
Kenai, AK 99611  
  
emaillelle@kenaitze.org  
907-335-7202

### 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.



# NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Hello,  
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.



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."

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 of our Nation.

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

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

# Committee members sought

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

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

at the tribe's administration office at 150 N. 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.

**Art and Interior Committee**  
Jennifer S. Yeoman, Chair  
Liisia Blizzard  
Mary Lou Bottorff  
Vacant  
Vacant  
Danielle Dehoyos (Staff support)

**Constitution Review Committee**  
Liisia Blizzard, Chair  
James Segura  
Mary Ann Mills  
Mary Ann Mills  
Rita Smagge  
Allan Baldwin  
Susan Wells  
Elsie Maillelle (Staff support)

**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)

**Education Committee**  
Susan Wells, Chair  
Sondra Stuart  
Ben Baldwin  
Bernadine Atchison  
Raven Williams  
Rita Smagge  
Connie Wirz  
Heather Daniels (Staff support)

**Elders Commission**  
Phyllis Bookey, Chair  
James Showalter  
Rita Smagge  
Mary Lou Bottorff  
Mary Ann Mills  
Betty Porter  
Connie Wirz (Staff support)

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

**Audit and Finance Committee**  
Audre Gifford - Chair  
James Segura  
Rosalie Tepp  
Paxton Oder  
Clinton Lageson  
Kami Wright (Staff support)

**Election Board**  
Phyllis Bookey, Chair  
Kathy Rodgers  
Bernice Crandall  
Linda Ross  
Kynde Bishop  
Elsie Maillelle (Staff support)

**Traditional Healing Planning Team**  
Audre' Gifford, Chair  
Mary Lou Bottorff  
Jon Ross  
Bobbie Oskolkoff  
Linda Ross  
Elsie Maillelle (Staff support)

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

**Health Committee**  
Jennifer Yeoman, Chair  
Clare Swan  
Rita Smagge  
Diane Zirul  
Audre' Gifford  
Vacant  
Vacant  
Norma Nashalook (Staff support)

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

# TRIBAL COUNCIL

Rosalie Tepp  
Chairperson  
rtepp@kenaitze.org



Jennifer Yeoman  
Vice-Chairperson  
jyeoman@kenaitze.org



Liisia Blizzard  
Secretary  
lblizzard@kenaitze.org



Audre Gifford  
Treasurer  
agifford@kenaitze.org



Mary Ann Mills  
Council member  
mmills@kenaitze.org



James O. Segura  
Council member  
jsegura@kenaitze.org



Susan Wells  
Council member  
swells@kenaitze.org





## Income tax exemption available for Alaska Native, American Indian people

Taxpayers failing to meet 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 additional cost.

The exemption applies to members of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporation shareholders (regional or village), and those who are eligible for services through the Indian Health Service.

To claim the exemption, taxpayers must complete and attach Form 8965 – titled, “Health Care Exemptions” – to their federal income tax return. Detailed instructions are provided with the form.

Under the Affordable Care Act, taxpayers must pay a fee when filing a federal income tax return if they or any of their dependents did not carry health insurance the entire year, unless the taxpayer is exempt under qualifying conditions.

The amount of the fee varies based on an individual taxpayer’s income, dependents, marital status and more, which is explained in greater detail in IRS Publication 5187.

Anyone with questions is encouraged to seek advice from a professional tax consultant.

The tax filing deadline is April 15.

## Federal tax preparation help offered

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe is again offering free tax preparation services by IRS-certified volunteers to eligible Alaska Native and American Indian people through April 13.

Those interested must have an annual income below \$53,000.

Consultations are by appointment only and will be held at the tribe’s administration building.

For more information about the service and the types of returns 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.

### Dena’ina Wellness Center

## Meet Your Primary Care Providers



**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.



**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.



**Jeff Lanfear**  
Nurse Practitioner

Raised in northwest Montana, Jeff 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. Jeff 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.



**Kasie Scheer**  
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.



**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.



**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.

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

### ELDERS, from p. 1

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

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

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 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.

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 activities this winter.

## Kenai house for sale



The Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribal Designated Housing Entity has a single-family, 4-bedroom, 1-1/2 bath home for sale in Kenai.

The home includes a spacious living area with a fenced-in backyard. It has been fully remodeled 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 requirements:

- Kenaitze/Salamatof tribal member or other Alaska Native or American Indian people
  - Meet the following annual income limits:
- | Household 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      | Sq. Ft.: 1,554     |
| Baths: 1 1/2 | Lot Sq. Ft.: 9,583 |
| Carport: 1   | Acreage: 0.22      |
| Shed: 1      | Year Built: 1972   |
| Patio: 1     | Remodeled: 2014    |

## 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 Government and Affairs:

James Showalter’s actions long ago reflect the value of “Ada – care, concern, tenderness, love, sharing, and humility.”

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

home for the Net, which became a tribal gathering place, and started a return to our ancestral land.

The tribe purchased Waterfront with a loan and we had monthly payments to make. At that time our budget was smaller and we had very limited tribal resources.

Council members received a stipend of \$50 per meeting. Tribal

Elder James Showalter served on the Council.

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 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.

## 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-

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 reports.

## 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.

# The Big Picture



Photo by M. SCOTT MOON

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

### 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

907-335-7600

### 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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