

# The Counting Cord

## Nitnuqeyishi



April–July 2015

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE NEWSLETTER

## Breaking more ground in Old Town

### Construction begins on new Tyotka's Elder Center

A groundbreaking ceremony in June marked the official start of construction on the new Tyotka's Elder Center in Old Town Kenai.

With about 50 people in attendance, project and tribal leaders turned dirt at the construction site on Mission Avenue, where the original center stood before it was demolished this past spring.

"It's a really good thing," said Bonnie Juliussen, a tribal Elder. "The tribe is very proud to have a new facility."

At approximately 6,500 square feet, the building will include a community gathering space, crafts area, kitchen and stone fireplace, among  
See **TYOTKA'S**, p. 6



Terry Berger of G and S Construction works on the foundation for the new Tyotka's Elder Center on July 7. The new building will face south, toward the mouth of the Kenai River.

### Honoring Nations honors Kenaitze

The tribe's CASA program and Kenaitze Tribal Court is respected across Alaska's legal community.

Now they are gaining national respect.

CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates – has been selected as a finalist for a 2015 Honoring Nations award under the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. The Harvard Project identifies, celebrates and shares outstanding examples of tribal governance.

"We were honored to even be nominated to apply," said Joy Petrie, CASA program coordinator. "To make it to this final round, it just feels really exciting. It's an honor."

Honoring Nations, based at Harvard University, selected six finalists from a pool of 70 applicants. Applicants for 2015 awards were required  
See **AWARD**, p. 6



A newly purchased building, located across the parking lot from the Dena'ina Wellness Center, will soon house Na'ini Social Services. The building is next to the Tyotka's Elder Center site.

### Tribe purchases commercial building in Old Town Kenai

With its staff growing and programs expanding, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe has acquired additional space for offices and equipment.

In May, Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren signed paperwork completing the purchase of a two-story commercial building in Old Town Kenai.

The structure is located at 510 Upland St., between the Dena'ina Wellness Center and the future site of the new Tyotka's Elder Center, which is under construction.

The building will provide space

for Na'ini Social Services as well as Information Technology staff and equipment.

Work is underway to prepare the facility for occupancy, and employees are expected to move in this summer.

The tribe recently opened a new tribal courthouse in Old Town as well.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to offer the services our tribal members and other customers need from one centrally located campus," Peterson-Nyren said.

### DWC health programs win prestigious accreditation

After months of work, two programs at the Dena'ina Wellness Center have become nationally accredited.

In May, the Behavioral Health Program earned a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). In June, the center's Laboratory earned a two-year accreditation from the Commission on Office Laboratory Accreditation (COLA).

"These accreditations show our Un'ina (those who come to us) that we care about providing the best level of service possible," said Dr. John Molina, Director of Health Systems. "To other tribal health organizations the accreditation displays our ability to provide quality services by national standards."

The CARF accreditation came after months of planning and was based on the results of an onsite assessment made in April. Surveyors spent two days interviewing staff and customers, and reviewing programs, policies and procedures,  
See **CARF**, p. 6

# NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Idahdi.* Hello, friend.

I hope you have been enjoying this beautiful summer. Much has happened in the three months since our last quarterly newsletter.

We have purchased a new building, right next to the Dena'ina Wellness Center in Old Town Kenai. It will give us needed space for our Na'ini Social Services and make it even easier for you receive support for the many factors that affect your wellness.

In the last three months, the old Tyotka's Elder Center has been torn down, the land cleared, and now construction is well under-way for the new building. The center will open next winter.

The behavioral health services and laboratory services at the Dena'ina Wellness Center have earned accreditation by national organizations. I am thankful for all the planning and preparation that went into this milestone. It involved work from every department in the tribe.

We are continuing to add even more staff and services at the Dena'ina Wellness Center as we move past the one year anniversary of our Grand Opening.

We have moved our court into a beautifully remodeled building, and the court and its CASA program have won national recognition as an outstanding example of tribal governance.

Of course, we have the Net back in the water and the fish are returning to us once again!

You can read about all of these accomplishments — and more — in this newsletter.

In less than three more months, we will meet again for the Annual General Membership Meeting on Oct. 3. I am sure that we will have even more progress and good news to report.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!



*[Signature]*

— Jaylene Peterson-Nyren  
Executive Director, Kenaitze Indian Tribe

carfINTERNATIONAL

A Three-Year Accreditation is awarded to

**Kenaitze Indian Tribe**

for the following programs:

Outpatient Treatment: Integrated: AOD/MH (Adults)

Outpatient Treatment: Integrated: AOD/MH (Children and Adolescents)

This accreditation is valid through

**April 2018**

The accreditation seals in place below signify that the organization has met annual conformance requirements for quality standards that enhance the lives of persons served.

This accreditation certificate is granted by authority of:

Herb Zentley, Ph.D.  
Chair

Brian J. Boon, Ph.D.  
President/CEO

CARF International Board of Directors

CARF International

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

Please help find correct addresses for the following people so that we can deliver important news and information to their mailbox. Update one of these addresses and you will be entered to win an Apple iPad. Clayton Nevitt is the winner of the last address contest. Call 907-335-7202 or email Sasha Jackson at [sjackson@kenaitze.org](mailto:sjackson@kenaitze.org) with info. Thanks for the help, congratulations to Clayton and good luck!

Albright-Pohlen, Dawn	Hallstead, Steven	Richardson, Miles
Ashton, Lori Wilson	Harker, Nelson F.	Richardson-Card, Autumn
Batt III, Raymond W.	Harker, Solari T.	Rodrigues, Steven
Bliss, Amanda	Haskell, Gregory	Rouse, III, James
Boling, Sharon	Huf, Jessica J.	Sacaloff, Jon
Boulette, Brittany J.	Huf, Natasha	Sanders, James
Boulette, Camryn E.	Huf, Taylor E.	Sandoval, Alvaro
Burnham, Hillary C.	Johnson, Austin	Sandoval, Veronica
Burnham, Heather R.	Jones, Casey R.	Scaggs, James
Carlough, Michael	Juliussen, Michael Ray	Scott, Sarah
Carlough, William	Kairaiuak, Kakfalia	Seibert, Carol
Chaffin, Kenneth	Kidder, Marshall	Seibert, Michael
Chaffin, Tina M.	Kidder, Travis	Sloan, Lori K.
Costanios, Hazel N.	Kilgore, Seth	Smith, Alyssa M.
Coveyou, Anthony	Kirschner, Suzanne	Smith, Erica A.
Coveyou, Katie	Kooly, Corbin	Smyth, Winston
Coveyou, Rachel	Kooly, Darrell	Stroman, David
Coveyou, Sarah	Kooly, Jakob	Swan, Jonathon
Cross, James J.	Kooly, Zachary	Szymanski, Cecelia
Cross Jr., James J.	Lageson, Doris	Taylor, Jeffery A.
Darien, Edward	Letender, Alexis	Tilley, Chrystal M.
Darien-Hileman, Chantilly	Lecceardone, Henry	Waller, Carl
Darien-Hileman, Lisa	LeMaire, Martha	Waller, Freda
Davis, Julia L.	Lewis, III, Alec	Waller, Mary
Davis, Rebecca	Lorenzo, Anthony	Wheeler, Norma
Davis-Coilton, Angela P.	Mahle, Jr., Gerald	Wik, Ralph R.
Deitz, Tracey W.	Mahle, Sr., Gerald	Woods, Norman
Demidoff, Emelie M.	Maupin, Nadine	Mesa, George
Dolchok, Mack	Miller, Mikayla	Busane, Manual
Dolchok, Clifford L.	Miller, Natasha	Mesa, Anthony
Edelman, Drasanna	Mills, Brittney	Campos, Frank Jr.
Edelman, Erika	Moeglein, Kyser	Gaines, Vivian
Edelman, Jay	Moeglein, Taryn	Holzwarth, David
Edelman, Norman	Morey, Christy	Edelman-Azzara, Rene
Edwards, Jamie	Mueller, Richard	Fleenor, Rose
England, Patricia P.	Munson, Joni	Swan, Jeffrey
Forstner, Ashley J.	Munson, Karina	Smith, Elisha
Forstner V, Louis G.	Murray, Nicole	Smith, Erin
Frost, Ashley R.	Ollestad, Nathan	Ivanoff, Raymond
Frost, Gabrielle	Ortega, Casie L. Jones	Webb, Megan
Frostad, Kathryn A.	Norbert, Michael	Monfor, Christopher Jr
Frostad, Brian D.	Page, Jared	Lageson, Alexis
Gibson-Rehder, Amee	Petterson, Delores	Coveyou, Kathryn
Graham, Justin	Poage, Denali	Monfor, Christopher
Gregorie, Mathew	Pomeroy, Jenna	Azzara, Anthony
Grothe, Cameron	Randall, Roger	Crump, Jessica
Grothe, Garrett	Remmy, Sunny	

## 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: Sasha Jackson  
P.O. Box 988  
Kenai, AK 99611

[sjackson@kenaitze.org](mailto:sjackson@kenaitze.org)  
907-335-7202

## From the editor's desk

The Counting Cord is a publication for members of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and its 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://facebook.com/kenaitze).

For story suggestions or to submit questions concerning content, contact editor M. Scott Moon at 907-335-7237 or by email at [smoon@kenaitze.org](mailto:smoon@kenaitze.org).

# NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Hello,

It was good to see you at the quarterly tribal member meeting last month. Your Council appreciates it when you take time to show up to meetings to hear what we have been doing and to tell us what you think.

This is a hard-working Council. We are representing you everywhere and we need to make sure your voices are heard. We have accomplished a lot, but we have much to do still.

This month you are going to get election information in the mail. I hope you will take the time to be informed. We need your participation at the Annual General Membership



Meeting on Oct. 3 to vote for four Council seats and to hear updates on the current and future vision for the tribe.

We also want to see more people at our committee meetings. We have streamlined the meeting schedule and want you to attend. The schedules are posted on the Calendar of Events page on the website.

Thank you for being active in your tribe. Together we can get a lot done.

*Rosalie A. Tepp*

— Rosalie A. Tepp  
Tribal Chairperson, Kenaitze Indian Tribe

# Tribe hosts quarterly meeting

Youth Council, facilities and the constitution revision process highlighted a quarterly tribal member meeting June 13 in the Dena’ina Wellness Center.

Kami Wright announced that the tribe’s Youth Council, Gganilchit Dena’ina – “stand up Dena’ina” – was invited to tour the White House in Washington D.C. as part of the Generation Indigenous Native Youth Challenge launched by the Obama Administration in February.

Under the initiative, participants were challenged to make positive contributions in their community and document the efforts for a chance to visit the White House.

The Youth Council completed three projects under the initiative: it spearheaded a challenge encouraging tribal members and employees to bring healthy, locally grown foods to the opening of the Net in May; made care packages for children in the tribe’s CASA program; and picked up trash across the community.

“What’s impressive is they didn’t just pick one project – they picked three,” Wright said. “I’m really proud of them.”

In a facilities update, Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren announced the tribe’s purchase of a commercial building in Old Town

Kenai next to the Dena’ina Wellness Center.

Peterson-Nyren said the space will house Na’ini Social Services as well as an office for Information Technology staff and equipment. Employees are scheduled to move into the new space later this year. (See story, p. 1)

Also in Old Town, the tribe recently opened a new courthouse and is building a new Tyotka’s Elder Center.

“This moves us closer to our hope of having a large campus here in Old Town,” Peterson-Nyren said.

It also was announced that tribal members will soon receive a survey requesting input on the tribe’s constitution.

After reviewing the transcript from a March 14 meeting in which tribal members offered feedback on proposed changes to the constitution, the Constitution Committee recommended that voting members be surveyed as the next step in the process.

The proposed revisions address areas of the current constitution that do not align with current government-to-government processes and clarify roles and responsibilities for tribal operations.

The constitution and proposed revisions are both available at [kenaitze.org](http://kenaitze.org) under the Tribal Commissions and Committees tab.



Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart teaching last fall.

# Dena’ina language course planned

An introductory Dena’ina language course will be offered at Kenai Peninsula Community College beginning in August.

Students will develop basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, and learn history about Alaska Native languages and culture. Instructors are Helen Dick and Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart.

Classes will be from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Aug. 24 through Dec. 10. Registration is now open. For additional information, call 907-262-0330.

# KDC seeks member for Board of Directors

Kahtnuht’ana Development Corp., a wholly owned economic development corporation of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, has one vacant seat on its five-member Board of Directors and is seeking applications from tribal members interested in serving a 3-year term. The Board of Directors meets at least quarterly.

Financial compensation includes a stipend for each meeting attended, plus reimbursement of travel expenses.

To apply: Submit your resume, plus a cover letter explaining reasons for applying. Applicants must be tribal members at least 18 years old. Prior business experience is preferred.

Send applications by mail to the address below or by e-mail to [hr@kahtnu.com](mailto:hr@kahtnu.com) by July 31, 2015.

James Segura, Board Chairman  
Kahtnuht’ana Development Corp.  
P.O. Box 370  
Kenai, AK 99611

# TRIBAL COUNCIL

Rosalie Tepp  
Chairperson  
[rtepp@kenaitze.org](mailto:rtepp@kenaitze.org)



Jennifer Yeoman  
Vice-Chairperson  
[jyeoman@kenaitze.org](mailto:jyeoman@kenaitze.org)



Liisia Blizzard  
Secretary  
[lblizzard@kenaitze.org](mailto:lblizzard@kenaitze.org)



Audre Gifford  
Treasurer  
[agifford@kenaitze.org](mailto:agifford@kenaitze.org)



Mary Ann Mills  
Council member  
[mmills@kenaitze.org](mailto:mmills@kenaitze.org)



James O. Segura  
Council member  
[jsegura@kenaitze.org](mailto:jsegura@kenaitze.org)



Susan Wells  
Council member  
[swells@kenaitze.org](mailto:swells@kenaitze.org)



# Connecting past and present

Project uses DNA to better understand Dena'ina history and may help improve health for future generations

Wearing latex gloves, Dr. Ripan Malhi opened the cardboard box and peered inside.

There was the human skull, brown, yellow and worn from years in the soil, yet largely intact.

"We could try to extract a tooth, carefully," Malhi said, looking up.

Malhi, an anthropology professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign who specializes in tribal DNA studies, visited the tribe in May to collect DNA samples from ancient human remains discovered in the Kenai area.

With assistance from Kenai Peninsula College professor Dr. Alan Boraas and former state archaeolo-

gist Dave McMahan, Malhi collected multiple samples as part of a twofold effort: To attempt to make a connection between Dena'ina people and the first occupations of Alaska, and to show what the Dena'ina genome looks like.

"Perhaps the DNA will show that, indeed, that Dena'ina people have been here for thousands of years," Boraas said.

In addition to collecting samples from the remains, Malhi also collected samples from living tribal members. The samples will be compared for similarities.

During a presentation to tribal members at the Dena'ina Wellness Center, Malhi presented information



Kenai Peninsula College professor Dr. Alan Boraas and Dr. Ripan Malhi examine ancient human remains in an office at the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in May. Former state archaeologist Dave McMahan stands at right.

and findings about DNA and explained his previous work with tribes.

With about 25 people in attendance, tribal members asked about confidentiality, the likelihood of the DNA samples being strong enough

to use, and more.

Tribal Elder and former Director of Tribal Government Affairs Alexandra "Sasha" Lindgren, who observed Malhi collect the samples from the human remains, expressed support

for the project.

"Why do we have high rates of diabetes? Why do we have high rates of arthritis? We believe a scientific study could help explain some of that," she said.

## 'It's just a good time' at Opening of the Net



Above, Billy Segura, at right, laughs as his brother, Council member James Segura, recognizes his 17 years of service working the Net.

At right, Yaghanen's Del Dumi youth drum group performs during the Opening of the Net gathering on May 1.



First there was the wait. Then there was the celebration. Now it's time to fish.

On a sun-drenched evening along the shores of Cook Inlet, the tribe celebrated a much-anticipated May 1 Opening of the Net with song and dance, a potluck dinner and conversations around the fire. More than 250 people attended.

"The main thing is the fish, but we have fun down here," said George Showalter, Tribal Fishery Coordinator. "We cook soup, hang out, people are always coming and going – it's just a good time."

The fishery crew spent about a month working to prepare the Net for its 27th season in the water. It will be available for tribal use

through September into October based on the salmon run.

Showalter, who estimates he's attended between 15 and 20 opening celebrations, said he looks forward to the season and seeing the tribal fishery continue to grow.

"I remember when there wasn't much down here," Showalter said. "Now we've got people coming and going, there's always something going on, which makes it fun."

For all the familiar hands who attended the opener, there also were newcomers – such as Jim Bartl.

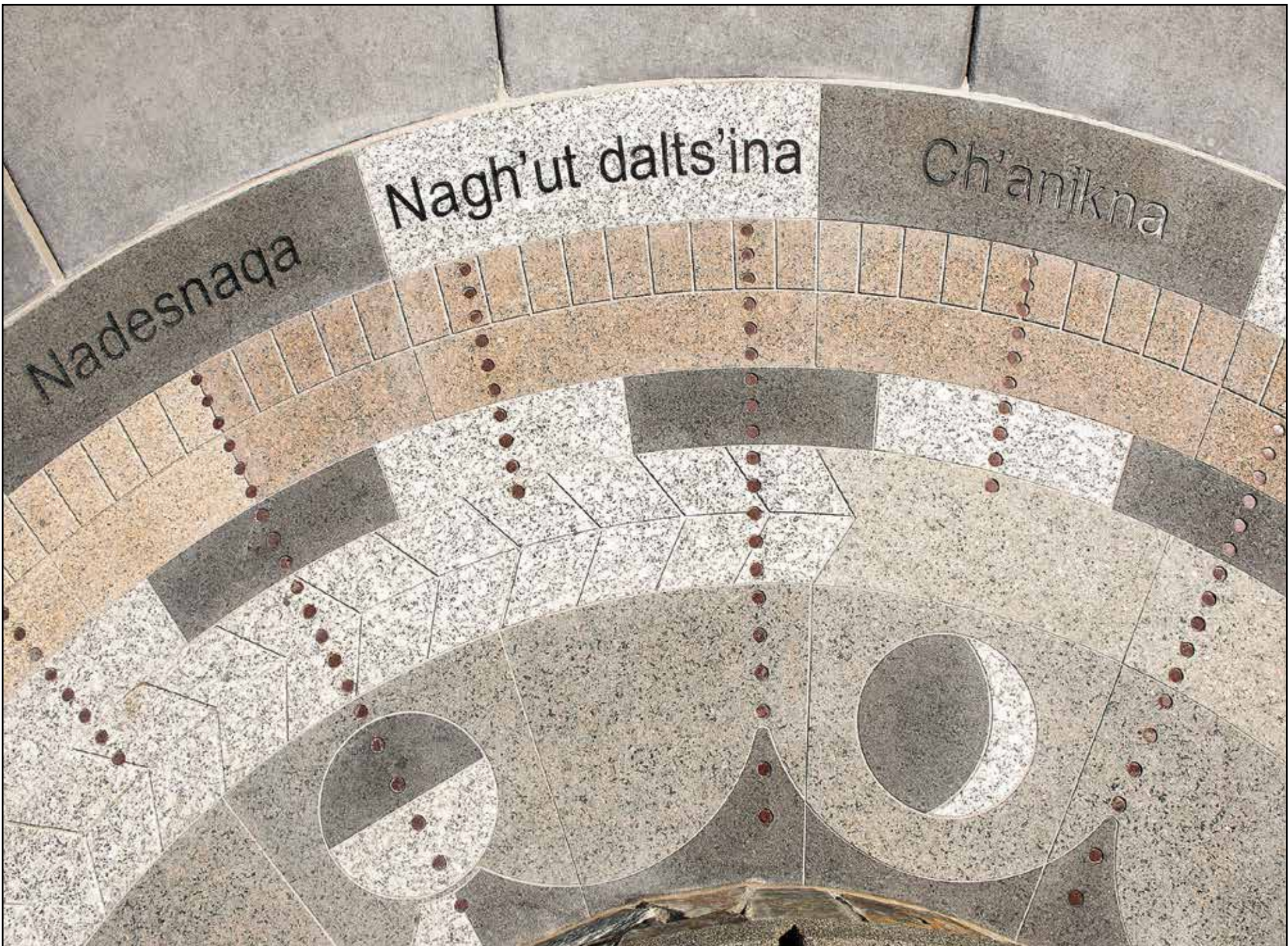
Married to a tribal member, Bartl recently moved to Soldotna from Minnesota and will fish the Net for the first time this summer.

"I'm here to learn a little more and see how it works," Bartl said. "It's been fun. Everyone is here, together, having a good time."

During an opening ceremony, tribal member Wanda Reams offered a prayer before Council Secretary Liisia Blizzard recounted the history of the Net.

Fellow Council member James Segura presented his brother, Billy Segura, with a jacket recognizing Billy Segura for 17 years of commitment to the tribe's fishery.

The evening also included drum and dance performances by Heart-beat of Mother Earth, the Jabila'ina Dancers and Del Dumi Drummers, as well as the Sleeping Lady Drummers of Anchorage.



Above, Dena'ina words from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Traditional Values Wheel, including “our Elders,” our neighbors” and “children” are pictured, along with lines representing the solar and lunar year, days, weeks, months, tides, seasons and phases of the moon in a new artwork installation outside the Dena'ina Wellness Center. Below, Aaron Johnson of Alaska Stone and Tile works to complete the project in early June.

# Art installation comes full circle

## Dedication planned in August

On a blustery afternoon outside the Dena'ina Wellness Center in Old Town Kenai, Jon Ross opened a manila folder.

“This is the drawing I started with,” he said.

Ross thumbed through a stack of sketches, the pages flapping in the wind, revealing a world of colors, lines, shapes and dates.

Two years of work, two years of planning, went into the contents of the portfolio.

Finally, Raven Plaza outside the Dena'ina Wellness Center is finished.

“I’m pleased with how it turned out,” said Ross, a tribal member and Dena'ina language advocate. “I think it’s a good opportunity to teach our cosmology.

The plaza is located in front of the main entrance of the Dena'ina Wellness Center, spanning about 40 feet. The central element is an artistic and symbolic representation of Dena'ina cosmology called Nak’eljay, meaning “we have the light.”

Nak’eljay is a circular, granite display etched into the ground, featuring a fire pit in the center. The fire

pit, a place to gather, is surrounded by a design that incorporates the solar and lunar year, days, weeks, months, tides, seasons and phases of the moon. The perimeter of the circle includes the 16 Dena'ina values found in the traditional Dena'ina values wheel.

Concrete bench seating runs along the edge of the plaza, etched with representations of Mount Illiamna, Redoubt and Spurr.

Ross said he designed the plaza to tie together Dena'ina history and culture with the land, directions, values and more.

“It’s not just for connecting intellectually, but also connecting in our hearts – with the land, with the Heavenly Father, with the seasonal cycle, with how and when we do things,” Ross said. “It can be used for planning. It can be used for reflection.”

Raven Plaza will be discussed and dedicated during a gathering on Aug. 7.

Details will be announced soon. Please check the Calendar of Events tab on the tribe’s website for updated information.



Jon Ross worked two years on the Raven Plaza.

CARF, from p. 1

before issuing a decision.

The three-year accreditation was the best result for which the tribe could have hoped; CARF accreditation is awarded in one and three-year intervals, though organizations can also be denied altogether.

“It’s an assurance to the organization that we are operating at standards recognized by an accrediting organization and that we’re doing the right things,” said Michael Cruz, Quality System Manager. “It’s big. It was a big team effort.”

Cruz said the entire organization should be proud of the accomplishment.

“Are we doing things safely? Are we utilizing folks who are qualified? Are we delivering services effectively?” Cruz said. “This accreditation confirms that, yes, we are doing all that.”

The Laboratory, meanwhile, scored 100% during an inspection by a COLA analyst to earn its accreditation. It also landed COLA’s Mark of Excellence Award.

“The COLA standard helps ensure that the Dena’ina Wellness Center Laboratory continues to provide the highest quality of laboratory services to our patients,” said Tony Garcia, Laboratory Manager.

A nonprofit, physician-directed organization, COLA promotes quality and excellence in medicine and patient care through education, achievement and accreditation.

AWARD, from p. 1

to submit a letter, essay and other content outlining their program and services. Nineteen semifinalists were selected before the field was ultimately narrowed to six.

Honoring Nations representatives will make a site visit in August as part of a final evaluation.

“I love talking about the CASA program and the court, so I am just excited to share with the committee what we’re doing,” Petrie said.

The site visit will include tours of the tribe’s facilities, interviews with leadership, presentations about CASA, and more.

The CASA program was founded in 2005 under the Kenaitze Tribal Court. The program works to ensure vulnerable children receive attention and advocacy during the court process.

In 2011, the tribe signed a partnership with the Office of Public Advocacy making it possible for any child in the tribe’s territory to receive a CASA volunteer.

Chief Judge Kim Sweet said it’s an honor to be nominated for the Honoring Nations award, and that it’s a testament to the strength and resiliency of the Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina people.

“As our ancestors and Elders who walked before us, we will continue to promote value-based self-governance with equity and fairness to ensure that the Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina thrive forever,” Sweet said.

Those interested in becoming a CASA volunteer are encouraged to contact Joy Petrie at 907-335-7219.



Tribal leaders break ground June 8 for the new Tyotka’s Elder Center during a ceremony at the future home of the building. Pictured, from left: Council Chairperson Rosalie A. Tepp; Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren; Elders Committee members Betty Porter and Phyllis Bookey; Council Member James Segura; Elders Committee members James Showalter, Rita Smagge and Mary Lou Bottoroff; and Elders Committee Chair Audre Gifford. Construction on the building began shortly before the ceremony.

TYOTKA’S, from p. 1

other features.

It will be designed with views facing south toward Cook Inlet and the mouth of the Kenai River.

But what’s the best part of the project?

“The whole thing,” said James Showalter, a member of the Elders Committee.

The project is being managed by Kenaitze-owned Kahtnuht’ana Development Corp. and its operating subsidiary Kahtnu LLC, which worked with the Elders Committee on the design.

“I’m very happy for the Kenaitze Indian Tribe,” said Stan Mishin,

Kahtnuht’ana Development Corp. President. “It’s going to be a beautiful facility.”

By July 10, crews had placed the foundation and started laying underground piping and conduit. The facility is scheduled to open this winter.

Currently, services are offered in the Fort Kenay building in Old Town.

# Super race for a super cause

Put down the kryptonite – Superman is coming to Kenai.

And he’s bringing a bunch of superhero friends, too.

The third annual Superhero 5K Run/Walk to support the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s CASA program – Court Appointed Special Advocates – is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 15.

“It’s a family-fun event,” said Joy Petrie, CASA Program Coordinator. “We encourage anyone to come out and participate and have a good time for a good cause.”



Lance and Jennifer Joanis and their kids Jacob and Gabriel strike a pose during last year’s race.

All superheroes are welcome, and encouraged, though costumes are not required to participate.

Past races have drawn the likes of Aqua Man, Captain Underpants and The Incredibles. Don’t be surprised to see Batman or Spiderman, or perhaps Wonder Woman.

“There are lots of great, fun costume ideas,” Petrie said.

Hot dogs will be served after the race, and there also will be a superhero photo booth, children’s bounce house and costume contest.

The costume contest will feature children, teen, adult, couples and team categories, with prizes going to

## Superhero 5K Run/Walk

When: 11 a.m. on Aug. 15  
Where: Kenai Park Strip  
Cost: Adult (13+) \$25 in advance, \$30 on race day. Children, \$15 in advance, \$20 on race day.  
To register, visit [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) and search “superhero.”

the winners.

The event drew 65 participants in 2013 and 98 in 2014, and organizers are hopeful for an even larger number this year.

“We are really encouraging the whole team thing this year,” Petrie said. “We hope everyone gets together and comes out.”

One-hundred percent of the proceeds will go toward CASA, which pairs trained, adult volunteers with vulnerable children going through the court system. The volunteers speak on behalf of the child during the court process, ensuring the child’s best interests are represented.

The CASA program is currently seeking volunteers, Petrie said, and hosts informational meetings throughout the year.

Those interested can contact Petrie at 907-335-7219 or [jpetrie@kenaitze.org](mailto:jpetrie@kenaitze.org).



McKenzie Spence has her hands full juggling a bike and a certificate she earned in the Early Childhood Center’s 100 Books for a Bike challenge.

# Early Childhood Center students ride into summer

Tell a child it’s the last day of school, and you’ll make their day. Tell a child it’s the last day of school, take them to the beach and give them a new bike, and you’ll really make their day. That’s how the Early Childhood Center wrapped up the 2014-15 school year in mid-May, hosting a hot dog lunch at the tribal fishery for preschoolers and later the same day giving away bikes to after-school students who finished 100 or more books at their reading level. Not a bad way to start summer. “It was a very good year, and it went by fast,” said Teresa Smith, Early Childhood Manager. “We had a lot of parent participation and we saw really good results with our child outcomes, with growth in all developmental areas.” Preschool students, staff and parents enjoyed hot dogs, chips and watermelon at a beach gathering, with the Na’ini Social Services division contributing the food. Later that afternoon, more than 20 students enrolled in the center’s af-

ter-school program rode away with shiny handlebars thanks to the “100 Books for a Bike” program. The program is intended to challenge yet motivate students, encouraging them to stay committed to reading under a simple premise: Read 100 books, and ride home with a bike. “It helps the kids keep their eyes on the prize,” said Charmaine Lundy, Alaska Native Education Coordinator. “These bikes are well deserved. The kids worked really hard to achieve their goals.” In June and early July, the center also hosted its annual Alaska Native Education summer camp. Science experiments, fry bread and walking trips were just a few of the activities campers enjoyed. The camp, in its sixth year, promotes social and emotional development for children in preschool to third grade. Campers participate in a broad range of activities with an emphasis on education, health and culture. Classes resume Aug. 26.

## Sign up now for fall classes

The Early Childhood Center is accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 1. The no-fee program is open to Native and non-Native children, regardless of household income, and operates from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Applications are available at [www.kenaitze.org](http://www.kenaitze.org) under the Early Childhood Center tab and at the center, which is located at 130 N. Willow St. in Kenai. Call the center’s main line at 907-335-7260 or contact Sasha Fallon at 907-335-7259 for more information or to receive a tour of the facility.

## AROUND THE TRIBE



### Swans celebrate milestone

Clare and Van Swan celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 3. The U.S. Army brought Van to Alaska. The couple raised four children, pictured at right. Rusty, Boots, Bunny and Jeff honor their parent’s milestone.



### Congratulate these recent graduates

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Raven Willoya-Williams  
August Gaetke  
Kyle Cooper  
Dillon Jackson  
Kimberly Eide-Segura  
Brittney Mills  
Marsha Hart

Kinsley Trahan  
Beverly Schindler  
**COLLEGE**  
Roxanna LaRoque, Nursing  
Adella Williams, Bachelor’s in Health Administration  
Anthony Oder, Bachelor’s in English

# Camps in full swing

Thirteen children attended Susten Archeology Camp hosted by Yaghanen Youth Programs from June 8 to 12 at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Outdoor Education Center. The annual camp emphasizes traditional culture and practices, giving students a chance to learn archeology as it relates to the Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina people. Campers found and marked cache pits in the forest, weaving through alder (Qenq’eya), aspen (Esniggwa), birch (Chuq’eya) and spruce (Ch’wala) trees. They learned to map sites by establishing a datum and using a compass and measuring tape. They also learned to identify flora and

## Upcoming Camps

July 27-31 – Senior Fish Camp, 9th to 12th grade, space available

Aug. 10-14 – Susten Camp II, 9th to 12th grade, space available

For additional information or to register, please contact the Yaghanen office at 335-7290.

mark other prominent features with GPS systems. Yaghanen also hosted Junior Fish Camp from July 13 to 17 and will host additional summer camps in July and August. The Environmental Program hosted Janteh Science Camp at Spirit Lake from July 7 to 10. Dr. Alan Boraas, a professor at Kenai Peninsula College, spent time with campers and told stories. Campers traveled to Seward for a Resurrection Bay and Fox Island boat tour, and also spent time at the Net with Elders. The camp teaches students about science with an emphasis on Dena’ina culture and history.

# The Big Picture



James Nyren, Mariah Mills, Angel Anderson, Madison Reams and other children participating in the tribe’s Janteh Science Camp enjoy a view of Resurrection Bay during a Kenai Fjords Tours trip that concluded their camp on July 10. See related story, p. 7.

## 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

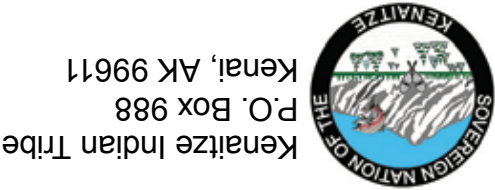
**Na’ini Social Services**  
150 N. Willow St., Kenai, AK 99611  
907-335-7600

**Tribal Court**  
507 Overland Dr., Kenai, AK 99611  
907-335-7217

**On the Web:** [kenaitze.org](http://kenaitze.org)  
**On Facebook:** [facebook.com/kenaitze](https://facebook.com/kenaitze)



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
KENAI, AK  
PERMIT NO. 16



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