In-person services resume at Dena’ina Wellness Center

The Dena’ina Wellness Center resumed in-person visits in January, and un’ina, those who come to the Tribe for services, are getting their first looks at recent improvements. Beginning last fall, changes were made throughout the building to improve and expand services while protecting the health of un’ina and employees.

**Optometry**

One of the first things un’ina at the Dena’ina Wellness Center will notice is the new Optometry suite, located just off the gathering space, or waiting area. Un’ina will also notice a new line of eyeglass frames on display, and now available to un’ina and their families.

The new Optometry suite includes four exams rooms, which provide space for a second Optometrist. Dr. Megan Lincoln was recently hired to join the Optometry staff.

Optometry Director Dr. William Phillips said that new state-of-the-art equipment will help diagnose many conditions treated by Optometry staff. The new technology allows un’ina to actually see what is going on in their eyes, instead of

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**Emergency rental assistance available**

The Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity has a program for qualified Tribal Members and other Alaska Native and American Indian people who have suffered from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide emergency rental assistance for the payment of rent, utilities, and arrearages.

The maximum request for assistance can be up to 12 months per qualified applicant and is limited to the head of household in the TDHE’s service area. The TDHE’s service area is from Cooper Landing to the north side of the Kasilof River and includes the communities of Sterling, Soldotna, Kenai, Salamatof, Cohoe and Nikiski.

For full details and an application, visit https://www.kenaitze.org/rental-assistance-available/, or call the department at 907-335-7231.

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**Tribal Court to expand**

Plan adds larger courtrooms, more office space

The Kenaitze Indian Tribal Court is a place for people to come together to resolve difficult problems. A planned expansion of the building will provide a more inviting space to do that.

“Just being able to have people come in and be comfortable ... in an atmosphere that puts people at ease,” Chief Judge Evelyn Huf said of the potential benefits of the building expansion project.

The Kenaitze Tribal Court, Huf said, is not like a state court, where attorneys for each side argue over a verdict.

Instead, participants sit together at a table to try to resolve an issue and work toward the best possible outcome. Lawyers are not involved.

“We have honest conversations with those who come in. We’re able to interact, and make a decision based on those conversations,” Huf said.

The current building is at Kahtnuht’ana Qayeh, the new name for the Dena’ina Wellness Center campus in Kenai. The courthouse is about 1,480 square feet, and the single, 300-square-foot courtroom is cramped.

The expansion project will add more than 3,200 square feet to the building, for a total of 4,748 square feet. The expansion will have

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See **OPEN**, p. 7

See **COURT**, p. 5
Hello everyone,

After a long winter, it’s nice to see the snow melting quite rapidly, letting us know that summer is just around the corner. Hopefully, we have another beautiful summer to enjoy all of the outdoor activities we love. If you had told me over a year ago when COVID-19 first came around that our lives would be what they are today, I would never have believed it. After wrestling with so many changes and obstacles in the past year, it’s encouraging to see how resilient we are and how much we can overcome when we work together as a people.

Throughout the pandemic, we have learned to adapt the way we do things. As a result, many of our services and facilities have actually expanded. We have found that if you aren’t able to come to us for services and support, we can bring those services to you. Over the past year, that’s meant delivering hot meals and food boxes to Elders, processing and packaging salmon for families who had signed up to fish the net, and even using available technology to bring you health care, wellness and education programs.

Now that we have learned different methods to keep us safe from COVID-19, the Tribe is opening up for more in-person services. I am excited to go check out the new equipment in the Denaina Wellness Center gym and see all of the upgrades we have made in the clinic as well. We’re also making plans for the educational fisheries which is expected to open June 1. I know our Elders are eager to return to the expanded Tyotkas. Good progress is being made on the new education campus, if you haven’t had a chance to drive by I recommend checking it out when you can. Plans are also in the works to expand the Tribal Court building.

I am very proud of our medical center with their vaccine rollout, leading the charts in efficiency in comparison to so many other programs throughout the world. While we have availability for full access to ages 16 and up to receive the vaccine (including individuals that live with beneficiaries), many states have counties that are still only providing vaccines to high priority patients with a waitlist.

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s constitution and we are currently making plans to see if we can make this a COVID-safe celebration. If not, I hope that we all can understand our safety is priority, but I truly hope we can make something happen. Once again, our resilience is inspiring and I am truly honored to be chair of such an amazing Tribe. If we can achieve what we have this past year in the midst of a global pandemic, I truly imagine how far we will take our Tribe in the next year.

Sincerely,
W. Wilson Jr. Tribal Council Chair

Home repair assistance available to Tribal Elders, disabled Tribal Members

Assistance is available for Kenaitze Tribal Elders and disabled Tribal Members in need of urgent minor repairs or maintenance around their homes. This Tribally funded service is available for Tribal Elders and disabled Tribal Members whose permanent residence is in the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s service area between Point Possession and Kasluk, including Cooper Landing. Kenai, Nikiski, Soldotna and Sterling.

The service will cover minor repairs or maintenance, not to exceed $750 in parts or materials. If a subcontractor is needed, the limit is $1,000.

The funding limit covers a rolling 12-month period. Once Tribal Member Services is notified of the need for work, a member of the Tribe’s maintenance staff will take a look at the problem. Maintenance staff will perform the work, or make arrangements with a subcontractor, if needed.

Tribal Member Services staff will also check to see if other funding sources might be available.

To apply for urgent minor home repairs or maintenance, contact Tribal Member Services at 907-335-7200 or use the contact form at www.kenaitze.org/tribal-member-services/

From the Editor’s Desk

The Counting Cord is a publication for members of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and the people served by the Tribe.

Find more information on the Tribe’s website at kenaitze.org or 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 ssmon@kenaitze.org.

Khahtnuht’aana values

Khahtnuht’aana culture is rooted in the 16 values on the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s Traditional Values Wheel. Recognizing that a higher power is at the core of those values, this past winter, the Tribal Council added to the Traditional Values Wheel.

“The values wheel listed all of our values, but not where they radiated from,” said Bernadine Atchison, Tribal Council Vice Chair. “As human beings, we have within us all our core values. But what helps to guide us in following them is the values wheel. It’s listing all of our values, but not where they came from and where we go to return to them. We felt it was important as we open up our new education campus, Khahtnuht’aana Duuhddelth, that we had the Traditional Values Wheel completed.”

The Den’a word Naq’eltani, and the English translation “Great Spirit, Creator, Pure Love, Pure Truth” were placed at the center of the wheel, from which all of the Tribe’s other values radiate.

‘Naq’eltani’ centers Kahtnuht’aana values

The 16 traditional values are:
- T’sits’atna – “ancestors”;
- Yinikshugeltani – “one’s spirit”;
- Qiz’unch’ – “the right way, the truth”;
- Ada – “care, concern, tenderness”;
- Nadesnaqa – “our Elders”;
- Nagn’ut dal’ti’ina – “our neighbors”;
- fa’akunina – “children”;
- Nauntisi – “our history, before our time”;
- Nakenagh – “background, lineage”;
- Henu – “work, job, task”;
- Nudlelahi ch’aququq – “plants and animals”;
- Dagegyi – “fellowship”;
- Ey’uh qats’alts’iyi – “subsistence, living upon the outdoors”;
- Na’ini – “strength, courage, sobriety, humility”;
- Naghul’a – “our honesty”; and
- Chiqunik – “thank you.”

Have you loved a loved one?

For information about services and support provided by the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, please contact Tribal Programs Director Chelsea Hendriks at 907-335-7200 or chendriks@kenaitze.org.
Bequsilna, ‘those who are gone’

Harriet Marie Seibert

Longtime Kenai resident Harriet Marie Seibert, age 78, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Dec. 30, 2020, at the Providence Hospital in Anchorage as a result of complications brought on by the COVID-19 virus.

Beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Harriet was born in Kenai, into the family of Harry James Mann and Ju- lia (Eskolkoff) Mann, on Jan. 29, 1942. She was the oldest of five daugh- ters, and grew up attending Kenai Territorial School from 1948-1956. She graduated from Kenai High School in 1961.


Harriet’s three joys and passions in life were her family, her church, and her relationship with Jesus Christ her Savior. Always faithful to her Lord and Savior and never looking back, even after the death of her husband in October 1973, she was a member and regular attendee of Kenai Bi- ble Church. Whenever the church was open for services, be it Sunday morning, evening, or Wednesday prayer and Bible study, Harriet would always be there. She loved her Bible, the Hymns of the Church, and gos- pel songs. A recent song she heard and liked was titled “Stumbling Over Heaven with You.”

A Kenaitze Indian Tribal member, Bonnie dedicated nearly 25 years to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina Health Board; Behavioral Health Com- mittee, and Elders Committee. Diligence and dedication were always her focus in life.

Harriet’s interests included sewing, knitting, quilting, attending many concerts and sporting events at Kenai Central High School, and walking on the beach looking for agates and shells. She always enjoyed the fishing season, often watching from the bluff as her brothers-in-law and “drifters” came into the Kenai River. She was also personally involved in catching and processing the fish.

Anyone who ever visited in her Kenai homes, the most recent on Can- nery Road, would have felt so welcomed by one of the most hospitable people you would meet. She adored her four daughters, Naomi Jackinsky of Houston, Texas, Debbi Nevitt of Wasilla, and Heather Goecke (Patrick) of Wasilla; grandsons Ryan of Kenai, Josh of Houston, Richard (Lilly) of Bellingham, Washington, Robin (Lauren) of Fernanda- l, Washington, and Andrew of Wasilla; granddaughter Hannah of Wasilla; and great-grandchildren Malachi, Kasey, and Skyler, all of Washington State.

With her many family and friends, the greater Kenai area experiences a huge loss. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Her family would like to thank the many people, here in Alaska and other places, who supported and prayed for Harriet’s healing. God, in His infinite wisdom, healed her by taking her home to be reunited with her husband and children.

Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, a Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

Jimmie and Mary Ellen Gibson


Mary Ellen was born Nov. 15, 1947, in Seward, and was raised in Kenai. She married Jimmie on Sept. 30, 1966. Mary Ellen worked as the secretary in Cow Church in the Nazarene Church. The Gibsons’ greatest joy was their family and their love for Hawaii. Mary Ellen and Jimmie were married for 54 years.

Jimmie also is survived by his brothers, Sam Gibson, Jerry Gibson, and Gary Gibson.

Jimmie also is survived by his second wife, Mary Ellen, and sons, Bryan Johannes (Debbie), Lisa Blodgett (William), Mark Johannes (Marlene), Cathy Kildnar (Robert Graham), and Holly Johnson.

A Celebration of Life barbecue will be held Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Farnsworth Park, 148 S. Birch Lane, Soldotna.

Bonnie Helen Julussen-Gibbs

Bonnie Helen Julussen-Gibbs, loving wife, moth- er, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away Friday, Feb. 2, 2021, at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage at the age of 71.

Bonnie was born Feb. 3, 1950, to parents Ralph and Helen Julussen in Anchorage in the Kenai Peninsula. She was the oldest of five girls. Bonnie and Eugene were married for 46 years until Eugene’s passing in 2015.

At the age of 18, Bonnie met and married Eugene Julussen Sr. and together they raised three sons, and supported five granddaughters and great-grandchildren. Bonnie and Eugene were married for 46 years until Eugene’s passing in 2015. The Kenaitze Indian Tribal member, Bonnie dedicated nearly 25 years of service to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s Kahtnuht’ana Dena’ina Health Board; Behavioral Health Com- mittee, and Elders Committee. Diligence and dedication were always her focus in life.

Bonnie’s hobbies included sewing, knitting, quilting, attending many concerts and sporting events at Kenai Central High School, and walking on the beach looking for agates and shells. She always enjoyed the fishing season, often watching from the bluff as her brothers-in-law and “drifters” came into the Kenai River. She was also personally involved in catching and processing the fish.

Anyone who ever visited in her Kenai homes, the most recent on Can- nery Road, would have felt so welcomed by one of the most hospitable people you would meet. She adored her four daughters, Naomi Jackinsky of Houston, Texas, Debbi Nevitt of Wasilla, and Heather Goecke (Patrick) of Wasilla; grandsons Ryan of Kenai, Josh of Houston, Richard (Lilly) of Bellingham, Washington, Robin (Lauren) of Fernanda- l, Washington, and Andrew of Wasilla; granddaughter Hannah of Wasilla; and great-grandchildren Malachi, Kasey, and Skyler, all of Washington State.

With her many family and friends, the greater Kenai area experiences a huge loss. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Her family would like to thank the many people, here in Alaska and other places, who supported and prayed for Harriet’s healing. God, in His infinite wisdom, healed her by taking her home to be reunited with her husband and children.

Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, a Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

Employees recognized for years of service

Suzie Metteer, Teresa Smith and Diane Bernard pose with their years of service awards. Each wear fur mittens awarded at 15 years of service. Teresa wears a fur hat she received for 20 years of service. She has worn fur mittens for at least 15 years since her first day working with preschoolers.

“I remember it like it was yester- day,” Smith said. “And those kids are now grown up and have their babies of their own.”

Tribe Indian Tribe Years of Service Awards

– 30 years: – 25 years: – 20 years: – 17 years: – 15 years: Suzie Metteer, Diane Bernard 5 years: Kaylann Whittom, Sasha Jackson, Tia Hodes, Elizabeth Latz, Carrie Brown, Jessica Customer Service Jillian Leaman, Alene Petty, Lauralee Smart, Brandi Baltz, Cherie Armstrong, 4 years: Matthew Trammell, Natalie Villegas, Rocko Villegas, Jr., Colleen Robertson, Raeylayne Murphy, Shelley Zimmer 3 years: – Carrie Elias, Sarah 15 years – Suzie Metteer, Diane 10 years – Teresa Smith, Karen 5 years – Kaylann Whittom, Sasha Jackson, Tia Hodes, Elizabeth Latz, Carrie Brown, Jessica Customer Service Jillian Leaman, 20 years: – Suzie Metteer, Teresa Smith and Diane Bernard pose with their years of service awards. Each wear fur mittens awarded at 15 years of service. Teresa wears a fur hat she received for 20 years. She has worn fur mittens for at least 15 years since her first day working with preschoolers. Employees recognized for years of service
Health Board celebrates re-openings

Spring is upon us! While the snow is melting quickly, we can only hope that it will be gone by July!

The Tribal Council and Kaahmt'ina De-na’ina Health Board are pleased to announce the re-opening of the De-na’ina Wellness Center and Ch’q’iya Qenq’a (Birch Tree House) including all of the renovations and new services. Many hours have been spent by the Tribal Council, Health Board, Administration and the staff who worked collaboratively to ensure that the COVID funds were used in a manner to promote and ensure the health and general welfare of all of the un’ina and staff.

The availability of in-person visits has been increasing and the staff will continue to offer telehealth visits for those who are not able to come onsite for services. While we are not able to hold an open house this time due to the pandemic, we know that all un’ina will appreciate the improvements that the renovations have provided to all of the services offered at the De-na’ina Wellness Center and Ch’q’iya Qenq’a.

New hours, gear in the Wellness gym

For all those ready to resume a fitness routine, or those ready to start one, the gym at the De-na’ina Wellness Center has reopened. All those who receive services at the De-na’ina Wellness Center, the Tribe’s employees, and gym users’ workout buddies are now able to hop on the facility’s cardio machines or get in some reps on the strength training equipment.

The gym is open to un’ina and their children ages 12 and up when accompanied by a parent. Fitness classes are open to un’ina, their children ages 12 and up, and their spouses. A brief orientation must be completed before using exercise equipment or participating in a fitness class.

The gym had just reopened for remote orthodontic treatment. The facility’s new intraoral scanners, which have been equipped with new ultrasonic cleaners and dental suction systems that remove droplets and aerosols from the air, further reducing the risk of infection.

Dental

Recently completed expansion of the Dental clinic includes three additional large, enclosed dental exam rooms. New equipment is in place to ensure the safety and comfort of un’ina and staff. Each exam room is equipped with HEPA filters that clean, purify, and re-energize the air. Additionally, each hygiene room has been equipped with new ultrasonic cleaners and dental suction systems that remove droplets and aerosols from the air, further reducing the risk of infection.

Physical Therapy

Physical Therapy staff began seeing un’ina in person in January in the new treatment space. New Therapist Collin Atkinson joins Physical Therapist Twila Hart and Physical Therapist Assistant Sabrina Royster. The new space, located in Primary Care, includes individual rooms for evaluation and treatment of un’ina, and a large, dedicated gym area for other physical therapy activities.

For more information, contact Krista Pittsch at 907-933-7666 or kpittsch@kenaitze.org.

Daggeyi internships available

The Tribe’s Daggeyi Internship Program is open to people ages 14-24. Daggeyi interns build job skills and explore career paths while also learning about goal setting and the importance of education. Summer internships with Education Day Camps and rotating internships with the Tribe are available. Internships are up to 20 hours per week during the school year, and up to 40 hours per week during the summer. For more information, contact Krista Pittsch at 907-335-7666 or kpittsch@kenaitze.org.

Open, from P. 1 of the provider’s explanation.

Primary Care

With Behavioral Health services moving to Ch’q’iya Qenq’a (Birch Tree House), Primary Care staff have more space in which to work.

The new suite with six exam rooms and a negative pressure air handling system is ready for use. The rooms in the pandemic suite can be sealed off from the rest of the building to prevent the spread of airborne disease. The area can be accessed from a separate side entrance, when needed.

In addition to new space for Physical Therapy, remodeling in the Primary Care area of the Dena’ina Wellness Center also includes a reconfiguration of the Native medicine area. Tribal employees and their families can receive traditional healing. Further, this area includes a dedicated room for complementary medicine, including massage therapy, Roling, and traditional herbal treatments.

Dr. Laina Cafego joined the Primary Care staff in February.

Wellness

The Wellness gym is open, and many other programs have resumed. Arts and crafts sessions from 1-4 p.m. Mondays and weekly tea time from 3-5 p.m. Wednesdays will be held in the Wellness group room, which is located next to the Wellness Activity reception desk. The Freedom from Tobacco support group meets at 2 p.m. Tuesdays.

Dena’ina Wellness Center Gym

Open hours for all those ready to take in some spring greenery. The Tribe’s new facility is fully staffed. More in-person services are available. Internships are up to 20 hours per week. For more information, contact Krista Pittsch at 907-933-7666 or kpittsch@kenaitze.org.

Laboratory and Imaging

More space in the lab area provides room for new state-of-the-art equipment. The new X-ray machine is also fully installed.

For more information on Wellness programs, call 907-335-7588.

COVID-19 Vaccines Now Available

Opportunities are open to young ages 5-17. Activities include walking field trips, indoor and outdoor play for ages 5-7; exploring the Kenai Peninsula for ages 8-14; and Kenaitze Susten Archeology Field School for ages 14-18. Sessions run June 7-July 2 and July 12-Aug. 13.

For more information, contact Krista Pittsch at 907-335-7666 or kpittsch@kenaitze.org.

Explore Dena’ina culture

Yaghanen Summer 2021 learning opportunities are open to youth ages 14-17. Activities include walking field trips, indoor and outdoor play for ages 5-7; exploring the Kenai Peninsula for ages 8-14; and Kenaitze Susten Archeology Field School for ages 14-18. Sessions run June 7-July 2 and July 12-Aug. 13.

For more information, contact Krista Pittsch at 907-335-7666 or email education@kenaitze.org.

Open to all Alaska Native and American Indian people 16 and older. Call the Dena’ina Wellness Center to learn more. 907-335-7500
Feeling the rhythm

Drum making class inspires creativity, connections

A drum beat has a way of bringing people together. So, when COVID-19 restrictions kept many people at home, an online drum making class provided an important connection.

“It was therapeutic,” said Anna Eason, a Youth Advocate in the Tribe’s Education program. “It was stress relieving, and it was nice to be able to interact with other families, to talk about our drums and learn about cultures of different indigenous people.”

Eason said she had some experience with drum making, but for her kids, who also participated in the class, it was their first time.

The class was launched over the winter as part of the Tribe’s Dena’ina Yinuhugheltani Project, which supports Alaska Native and American Indian youth, up to age 24. Yinuhugheltani is the Dena’ina word for “one’s spirit,” and is one of the Tribe’s traditional values. The Yinuhugheltani Project is funded by a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Native Connections grant.

Ken Hoyt, the Yinihugheltani Project Coordinator, said the classes started as a pilot program to try to reach people during safer-at-home mandates. The classes are geared toward young people and those who regularly work with young people.

Hoyt said the online sessions started with about eight households participating.

Hoyt said drums are important way to connect in Alaska Native culture. While we don’t always live in traditional ways, the act of drumming can “re-erect” those traditions.

“Drumming is significant technology. It allows the context for ceremony and culture,” Hoyt said. “…When the drum comes out, it’s time to sing, and the songs lead to stories, and people learn and pass the drum and share that knowledge.”

Sharing knowledge was a key goal of the classes.

Hoyt said the classes didn’t have a formal structure, like school or work. Jonny Wilson, a longtime Youth Advocate currently the Cultural and Stewardship Administrator, shared his knowledge of drum making. Drum making materials were provided, and participants could choose to base their drums on Wilson and each other as help was needed.

“Of the goals wasn’t to produce many drums, but to produce drum makers,” Hoyt said.

Adam Segura and his daughters, Portia, age 10, and Emmy, age 5, have made nine or 10 drums together so far. Segura said he was surprised by how much his daughters have been with the process. He said he likes to envision the drums before he starts building, but appreciates seeing them come together.

Building a drum with his own hands has made him wonder about how his ancestors might have done it so long ago.

思维 about people back in the day, figuring out a way to do this … who came up with that? It definitely sparked curiosity about our ancestors, and how they would have conceived of a drum,” Segura said.

One of the benefits of the classes has been to create a drum making curriculum, including photos and footage Wilson demonstrating technique and skills.

Participants started with a small, 10-inch drum – a nice size for a young child to start learning.

“You’re born with the rhythm. Your first nine months are spent listening to a drum beat,” Hoyt said. “When we play the drum, we’re connecting with something really innate.

“If you start young and keep going, you’re going to be a very good drummer. But also, it’s never too late to start.”

Segura said the drums that his family has made are getting regular use.

“I play guitar as well. We’ll get the drums out, and I’ll play guitar, or we’ll do drum circles,” Segura said. “It’s cool having them around the house. We have a few hanging on the wall. We’re a very musical family, so it’s an everyday thing.”

Eason said that initially, she was afraid to draw and paint on the drums she had made. However, once she got over the intimidation, she found it empowering.

“I gifted the first drum I made, which is Dena’ina culture,” Eason said. “The second one, I made for myself, in honor of loved ones who have gone before me. So, when I play, I think of them.”

Segura said he sees himself and his daughters continuing to make drums, and to teach the skill to others.

“These aren’t my last drums. I’m hooked,” Segura said. “I plan to continue to make them, and pass it on to my kids, and hopefully, their kids.”

To learn more about the Dena’ina Yinuhugheltani Project, contact Ken Hoyt at khoyt@kenaitze.org.

The Eason family created these drums as part of an online drum making class. Anna Eason made the top and bottom drums. Luke Riley was inspired to put a tiger on his drum. Myah Eason designed the drum with moose tracks and wild roses.
Workers continue to make progress as they construct the Tribe’s Kahtnuht’ana Duhdeldiht Campus at the corner of the Kenai Spur Highway and South Forest Drive in Kenai. Structural steel is complete and the classroom wing is closed in. When the building is finished next year, it will house under one roof all of the education services offered by the Tribe.

At top, the classroom wing takes shape, dwarfing workers. At middle, Blazy Construction workers labor on the second floor of the education wing. At left, Michael Zimmerman of Ironworkers Local 751, welds down Nelson studs on the second floor. Above, Dan Wofley, a carpenter with Blazy Construction, works on wood beams. The multi-purpose wing towers behind him.

Kenaitze Early Childhood Center
Now accepting applications!

Programs for pregnant women and children from birth to age 5
Native and Non-Native
Parent/family involvement
Health screenings
School readiness
Family engagement
Community partnerships
Children with disabilities accepted
We work with our Elders, community, and Tribal programs to ensure the best services available.

Find more information at:
https://www.kenaitze.org/education/
or email education@kenaitze.org
130 N. Willow St., Kenai
907-335-7667
The Big Picture

A spruce tree tops the highest and final steal beam installed March 25 at the Tribe’s 65,000 square-foot Kahtnuht’ana Duhdeidiht Campus, under construction in Kenai. “Topping” a building project is an ancient practice. See more on page 10.

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

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On the Web: kenaitze.org
On Facebook: facebook.com/kenaitze