

Eyak Echo

ECHOES OF OUR ANCESTORS

Native Village of Eyak | 3rd Quarter, 2019



Preserving land

NVE uses drone technology
to help complete Marine Debris
Survey of Middleton Island

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but the field crews persisted
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dAXunhyuga'

Remembering legacy of elders
and linguist who worked to
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National Unity Conference

NVE sent seven Tribal Youth
Council members to Florida for
the National Unity Conference

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Employee List

TRIBAL COUNCIL

Darrel Olsen	Tribal Council Chairman
Tom Andersen.....	Tribal Council Vice Chairman
Pam Smith	Tribal Council Secretary-Treasurer
Jack Hopkins	Tribal Council Member
Raven Madison	Tribal Council Member

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

Bertrand Adams	Executive Director
Jim Gittleston	Finance Director
Steve Bambakidis.....	IT Director
Kari Collins	Health and Wellness Director
Katie Goodale	Tribal Family Services Director
John Whissel	Environmental Director
Sarah Kathrein	Tribal Judicial Systems Administrator
Denna Francischetti	Human Resources Manager
Aniessa Hodges	Human Resources Assistant
Reyna Newirth	Executive Administrative Assistant/Office Manager
Rebecca Calfina	Administrative Assistant
Joe Cook	Maintenance
Jackie Ladd	Elder Services Coordinator
Cheryl Eleshansky	ICWA Coordinator
Jessica Weaver.....	Family Program Coordinator
Linda Powell.....	Tribal Family Service Resource Coordinator
Laura Blackadar	Staff Accountant
Celeste Gasmen	Accounting Technician
Sean O'Brien	Capital Projects Director
Myra Eleshansky	Tribal Public Works Assistant
Matt Piche	Natural Resources Coordinator
James Paley	DENR Engineer
Ivy Patton	Environmental Coordinator
Duke Anderson.....	Heavy Equipment Technician
Andy Pfeiffer	IT Coordinator
Lennette Ronnegard	Enrollment Clerk

ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Cindy Bradford	Operations Manager
Kristel Rush	Physician/Medical Director
Florelyn Adajar	Certified Nursing Assistant
Audrey Cunningham	Medical Office Assistant/Outreach Advocate
MaryCris Carino	Medical Assistant
Cindy Frohnapfel	Office Systems Coordinator
Altana Hamilton	Patient Advocate
Brian Iutzi	Physician
Victoria Peterson	Case Manager
Nicole Piche	Nursing Coordinator
Matthew Rush	Behavioral Health Coordinator
Susan Powell	Behavioral Health Clinician
John Yakanak	Behavioral Health Specialist
Berna Quemado.....	Certified Nursing Assistant/Patient Services
Karin Siebenmorgen	Registered Nurse
Brittany Whitley	Administrative Assistant

ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER

Brooke Johnson	Cultural Director
Teal Hansen	Cultural Center Coordinator

TRIBAL ENTERPRISES

Scott Aiken	Boat Captain/Maintenance
Bob Ladd	Prince William Marina Manager

THE CORDOVA TIMES

Annette Potter	Managing Editor
Vivian Kennedy	Administrative Assistant
Zachary Smith	Staff Reporter/Photographer

New leadership

Bertrand Adams appointed executive director for NVE

Adams brings wealth of Tribal government experience to his new role

Native Village of Eyak appointed Bertrand Adams as Executive Director for Native Village of Eyak on July 22. Adams had been acting as interim executive director since March this year.

In his early months as executive director Adams has held several planning and training sessions for NVE's various department managers and has begun a strategic planning process to help the tribe define goals for the next few years. Adams says NVE is growing, and when talking to him, it's easy to tell he is excited about NVE's future.

Adams has over 20 years of tribal leadership experience, including project management, strategic planning, and negotiating Tribal government budgets with Indian Health Service and the Department of the Interior.

Prior to his appointment as Interim Executive Director, Adams was the Tribal Public Works director for Native Village of Eyak. Major accomplishments with NVE include organizing strategic planning for a housing development; and overseeing permitting and project management for the Shepard Point oil spill response facility. He also served as project manager for the Sand Trail parking lot project, and lead NVE to be awarded seven projects from ANTHC.

Prior to joining NVE and relocating to Cordova in 2015, Adams served as General Manager for Yakutat Tlingit Tribe for 11 years. Other hats he wore at Yakutat Tlingit Tribe include Tribal Environmental Director and Education and JOM Director.

In Yakutat, Adams oversaw creation and installation of a Rasmuson Foundation commemorative totem pole from start to finish. This was the second totem pole raising in that community in over 50 years. It was the first totem pole project completely run by the tribe from beginning to the raising ceremony.

Adams also contracted with Holland America Lines to provide a successful and profitable cultural interpretive program aboard visiting cruise ships in Yakutat. In 2013, he oversaw construction and grand opening of the Yakutat Senior Center, a 6,200 square foot facility.

When not at work, Adams can usually be found on the basketball court. He volunteers at a year-round open gym for Cordova Jr./Sr. High School and coaches the Wolverine's basketball team. Adams has a daughter and three sons.

Adams can be reached at bert.adams@nsn-eyak.gov. ■

Tribal and Community members are invited to a
MEET & GREET
 with Executive Director Bert Adams

Tuesday, November 5, 2019 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 at the Ilanka Cultural Center.





ENROLLMENT AND SERVICES

Return to Alaganik Picnic



On Friday, Aug. 23, tribal members, their families and NVE staff gathered at the old village site at 22-mile for the annual Return to Alaganik Picnic. The afternoon was full of sun, fun, food, and great company.

Wedding announcement

Madison-Cunningham

Tribal Members Raven Madison and Jerry Cunningham are pleased to announce their wedding October 12, 2019 in Cordova, Alaska. The wedding ceremony was officiated by Raven's Uppa Herb Jensen and took place on their new 32' Reynolds bowpicker, the F/V Illusions out on the waters near North Island. Raven is the daughter of Alicia Long and Scott Madison, Jerry Cunningham is the son of Gloria and Robert Cunningham Sr. Both Raven and Jerry have grown up in Cordova and the commercial fishing industry. ■



Elder Services

HARVEST BASKETS AND PIE SOCIAL:

We invite our Tribal Elders age 55 and over to come down to the NVE lobby on Nov. 21 and receive your Elder Thanksgiving Harvest Basket. This will take place of the Nov. Mug-up. Baskets include a turkey and fresh produce from the CHS music fundraiser. There will also be a pie social at the same time in the NVE boardroom. A brief survey for the Title VI grant for Elder Service funding will be available to fill out before you receive your Harvest Baskets.



Virginia Dale receiving a turkey in 2017.

ELDER MUG-UPS:

Elder mug-ups began again on Sept. 26. They are regularly scheduled for the last Thursday of the month, but are subject to change. Remember it is a potluck, so bring your favorite dish to share with friends and NVE will provide the main dish. There will be a robo-call reminder on the Monday of Mug-up week.

SOBRIETY CELEBRATION:

There will be an Elders Hospitality room in the Mayor's conference room at the Cordova Center during this year's Sobriety Celebration. The space is created for Elders to have a quiet spot anytime during the day during the celebration. From 2-3 p.m. it will be hosted by the Elders program with special treats.

FIREWOOD:

NVE has a firewood program under Sean O'Brien's Tribal Public Works department. If a Tribal Elder has a fireplace or wood-burning stove in their home and is in need of firewood, call me and I will add their name to the firewood list. ■

Any questions call me:

Jackie Ladd
Elder Services Coordinator
(907) 424-7738
jackie@eyak-nsn.gov



DENR



2019 Season

Fall Fisheries Report

NVE's Department of the Environment and Natural Resources began its 19th year of the Copper River chinook salmon escapement monitoring program in May. Our Baird Canyon Camp began fishwheel operations on May 12 and the upriver Canyon Creek Camp (near Wood Canyon) began on May 18. Snow was less than 1 meter upon arrival to Baird Camp, no snow was on the ground at Canyon Creek camp, and the river was ice-free (except Miles Lake).

The Copper River threw us some curveballs, reaching its fourth-highest annual discharge (since recording began in 1988) but the field crews persisted under difficult river conditions and collected an excellent dataset. A total of 4,946 Chinook salmon were tagged and released in Baird Canyon. A total of 2,727 Chinook salmon were examined for tags, of which 296 had tags. This data is being analyzed now to estimate the "inriver abundance," or the number of adult Chinook salmon migrating past Baird Canyon. This data will then be combined with ADFG and National Park Service harvest estimates



to produce total returning run size and system-wide spawning escapement of Copper River Chinook salmon.

The data that NVE-DENR collects through this long-term monitoring program is the foundation of Copper River Chinook salmon management. This data is used by ADFG to determine if the annual sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 or more Chinook salmon has been met, how the escapement goal

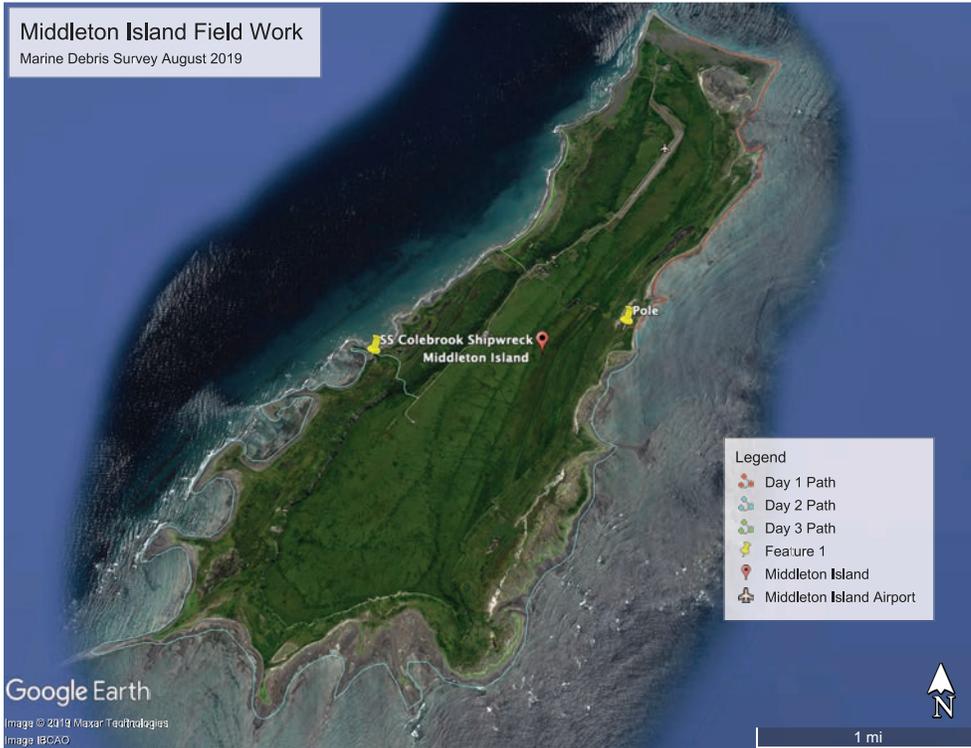
is performing, provides the data needed for run forecasts to be predicted, and is used to determine the overall population status and health of Copper River Chinook salmon. Our final 2019 results will be published in the next newsletter, so keep an eye out.

In addition to the Chinook salmon inriver abundance estimate, we are also conducting a joint study with ADFG Division of Sport Fish to radio-tag and track a subsample of our tagged Chinook salmon throughout the watershed using fixed antennas at the mouths of major tributaries and flights over the spawning grounds and more remote areas. This data will provide stock specific run timing, travel time, and distribution throughout the entire watershed. For example, this study should tell us when specific stock of Chinook salmon passed through Baird Canyon, how long it took them to travel to their tributary, where spawning occurred in the tributary system, and what percentage of the total population returned to that tributary. This study will then look at changes in proportions of Chinook salmon returning to each tributary and use of spawning areas compared to the last time the study was conducted in 2003-2004. ■

Matt Piche
DENR



DENR



ITEM	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	TOTAL
aerosol cans	12	9	2	23
aluminum cans	16	7	0	23
banana floats	20	47	4	71
Boueys	164	259	10	433
clothing/footwear	17	32	5	54
fishing lines	168	126	32	326
Gas cans/petroleum product	20	40	2	62
glass bottles	47	103	0	150
glass fragments	0	17	0	17
lightbulbs	0	33	2	35
Lumber	131	212	39	382
Metal	13	38	4	55
nets	9	34	0	43
plastic bags	10	23	0	33
plastic bnaning	8	0	0	8
plastic bottles	730	1064	230	2024
plastic fragments	665	1272	215	2152
styrofoam	67	137	12	216
tires	5	0	0	5

Map and total tally from three days of counting trash on Middleton Island. Data will come in handy when NVE has the opportunity to apply for funding for future trash removal.



DENR – Environmental

Marine debris survey at Middleton Island

August 19-21 • Made possible by Brownfield funds

NVE conducted a marine debris survey at Middleton Island from Aug. 19-21. Ivy Patton, Brooke Johnson, Jimmy Paley, Matt Piche and Duke Anderson led the survey. They attempted to walk around the entire island outer beach to count trash (the island is bigger than they thought!). Drone technology was used to take imagery of some of the shorelines in order to estimate how much marine debris was present. NVE hopes to use this data to secure future grant funding to go back to Middleton Island for debris removal.

“During the marine debris survey at Middleton Island, the crew began experimenting with the use of a drone to capture aerial footage of beach debris,” said Paley. “Using drones to map and estimate marine debris has the potential to survey large areas for a fraction of the cost of manual surveys. On the Middleton Island trip, we collected both aerial pictures and manual ground surveys for comparison and calibration. More data needs to be collected in order to verify this new method but we’re excited to be experimenting and putting the drone to work.” ■

Ivy Patton
 Environmental Coordinator
 (907)424-7738



DENR



Duke Anderson in the excavator, Lloyd Belgarde in the loader and Gary Hansen recording data.

NALEMP

Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program

The Native Village of Eyak's Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) has reached a major milestone in completing a soil mitigation project at the former powerhouse station at 14-Mile in-house, with only minimum (and required) participation from outside entities. It accomplished this goal with nearly 100 percent Tribal member hire.

The 14-Mile site sits on Eyak Corporation land, and through an agreement with NVE, the Tribe is performing environmental remediation work there. The area is a wetland, but in its former use stored large amounts of fuel and hosted large generators and heavy equipment to support their maintenance. As was standard for the military at the time, waste was disposed of on-site. This resulted in an abundance of soil contaminated with lead, oil and metal waste of every kind from bottle caps to bulldozers. While there is still work to be done, NVE removed 773.5 tons of contaminated soil which was backhauled for proper disposal. The area was then backfilled with clean gravel. NVE also removed and

backhauled 65 cubic yards of metal debris that were encountered during excavation.

Recently, Tribal member Ivy Patton assumed leadership of the NALEMP program, and, rather than contract the work out, as is the standard and had been NVE's practice until now, Ivy led a team in the independent completion of the work, on-time and under budget. Duke Anderson had recently completed a Tribal scholarship program where he received support from NVE to earn a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and training in operating heavy equipment with a subsequent employment opportunity. Duke was an excellent leader but had to leave Cordova temporarily for personal business before the work was completed. Duke left us in good shape, and along with Tribal members Lloyd Belgarde, Jason Barnes, Davey Totemoff and Gary Hansen, Ivy was able to wrap the work up and is preparing to demolish the former power house (a.k.a., the pink building) next summer with new funding from the Department of Defense (DOD).

We have been working toward this for a long

time. Built off of the great success of Clark Pearson who managed the NALEMP program for over a decade before Ivy took over, NVE was put in the position to achieve this milestone. We truly owe reaching this achievement to the work that Clark, his crews, and his contractors were able to complete over many years to develop the trust of the DOD and build NVE's reputation. NVE was willing to take a risk by working independently and the DOD was willing to take a risk by funding us to do so when we previously had not.

By completing our own work, we build the capacity to begin to compete for environmental remediation work elsewhere. There are opportunities with the DOD, supporting the NALEMP programs of other tribes, and we could begin bidding for private and government contracts.

Moreover, we now have a proven model to follow: anticipate future employment needs, provide training opportunities in advance with the assurance of employment and NVE will increasingly be able to meet its own needs, build capacity to do important, meaningful work that has a real impact, and provide employment opportunities for Tribal members that allow them to make positive contributions to our community. ■

John Whissel

DENR • john.whissel@eyak-nsn.gov



IT DEPARTMENT

Tech Tips

Have you ever visited Amazon's website only to see some product you were looking for already being promoted at the top? Do you receive emails from advertisers that seem to be selling the exact items you were searching for on Google? This is because most web browsers store information from all your web traffic when you are browsing and share them with other websites you are visiting.

Although private information such as Credit Cards or Social Security Numbers wouldn't be stored in your browser normally, other items such as your search history and visited web sites ARE stored on your computer.

The good news is that there is a feature called Private Browsing mode which won't store items, and also deletes your history after you close it out.

To use Private Mode in the major web browsers:

Internet Explorer:

To access its private browsing mode, called InPrivate Browsing, click the gear icon in the upper-right corner then Safety > InPrivate Browsing, or simply press Ctrl+Shift+P on your keyboard.

Microsoft Edge:

To open a new InPrivate window, use the menu from the upper-right corner or press Ctrl+Shift+P on your keyboard.

Apple Safari:

The Private Window option is accessible from the File menu or by pressing Shift+Command+N on your keyboard.

Google Chrome:

You can spawn an incognito window by clicking the special menu in the top-right corner of the browser window. On Windows, it will be three lines and on macOS, it will be three dots. Then, choose "New Incognito

Window". (You can also access this option from the File menu on a Mac.) Alternatively, press the keyboard shortcut Control+Shift+N on Windows or Command+Shift+N on a Mac.

iPhone:

If you're using an iPhone or iPad and surfing with Safari, then you can use private mode on it as well. To do so, first tap the new tab icon in the lower-right corner of the new tab screen. Now, tap "Private" in the lower-left corner.

Firefox:

Firefox simply calls their mode "Private Browsing". Like Chrome, it can be accessed from the menu in the upper-right corner. Just click "New Private Window". (You can also access this option from the File menu on a Mac.)

Alternatively, press the keyboard shortcut Control+Shift+N on Windows or Command+Shift+N on a Mac." ■

ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



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CALL **907-424-3622**
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PERSONALIZED QUALITY
HEALTH CARE FOR THE
ENTIRE COMMUNITY



CULTURAL CENTER CLASSES



July 28 to Aug 1

Katuwaq Healthy Family Retreat

A grant was awarded to NVE's Tribal Family Services which allowed NVE tribal members and family members to attend a special retreat and campout at the Nucciq Spirit Camp facility.

With 40 people in attendance ranging from newborns to elders, activities included: deer hunting, hiking, fish skin tanning*, beading, steam baths, halibut fishing, seal hunting, boating, tide-pooling, berry picking, whale watching and campfire fun.

SALMON SKIN TANNING

YOUR TRADITIONAL TANNING KIT

- Salmon Skins
- 1-2 gallons of clean urine per skin
- 1-2 gallons of water
- Dedicated urine soaking container
- Metal spoon
- Latex gloves
- Dish soap
- Clean plywood
- Staples or thumbtacks

Preparing the urine

We only want the best and cleanest urine so drink lots of water. Use a gallon glass jar to collect your urine and put plastic wrap over it because you want to trap the ammonia in the solution. (Later you will mix this with equal parts water)

It will take a week or two for the ammonia to begin forming in the urine.

Preparing the skins

Cut the salmon skin off a fresh salmon. Try to cut as close to the skin as possible without cutting through the skin. If you are not using

the skins right away freeze in a freezer bag. Next take a metal spoon and scrape the flesh off the skin.

Mixing the solution

Mix equal parts urine and water in an airtight container. You should have enough solution for the skin to float freely. You could use a rubber made tote or large Tupperware container.

Cleaning the skins

The skins should change from being soft and gooey to rubberier as they sit in the solutions. Stir every day. The skins will take 10-30 days to cure. Once finished it should feel like a rubber glove. Take out of solution and wash it with dish soap several times, scented soap will help cut out the smell. (Traditionally, it was just with water.) Once it dries the smell will go away.

Drying the skins

Lay the fish skin on a piece of clean scrap plywood and staple or tack it down.

YOUR NON-TRADITIONAL TANNING KIT

- Salmon Skins
- Water
- Two large metal or glass bowls
- Quart mason jar with lid
- Liquid vegetable glycerin
- 99% rubbing alcohol
- Metal spoon
- Dish soap
- Clean plywood
- Staples or thumbtacks

Preparing the skins

Cut the salmon skin off a fresh salmon. Try to cut as close to the skin as possible without cutting through the skin. If you are not using the skins right away freeze in a freezer bag. Next take a metal spoon and scrape the flesh off the skin.

Tanning Process

Rinse skins in cold water. After let soak in soapy water for the whole day. Take a quart mason jar and fill $\frac{1}{4}$ liquid vegetable glycerin and $\frac{1}{4}$ 99% rubbing alcohol. Stick fish skins in there (make sure they are covered) for 48 hours.

Drying the skins

Rinse with cold water, ring skin out. Put dime size amount of soap on flesh side of skin and stretch out, hold with staples or tacks, leave for one day. Flip skin over and let dry completely. ■

Credit to June (Simeonoff) Pardue, an Alutiiq artist. June was born in Old Harbor, Kodiak Island and has been practicing traditional Alaska Native art since an early age. It took her 5 years to develop a tanning solution before she could design and hand sew salmon skin, bags, and slippers. A jacket trimmed with sea otter fur can be viewed at the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak, Alaska. June has taught a variety of Alutiiq crafts in over 20 locations in Alaska and has been carrying on Alutiiq traditional beadwork, skin sewing and grass weaving since 1964.



An update from your Ilanka Cultural Center:

ICC Committee

If you would like to serve on this committee, please submit your letters of interest to Brooke or by email to brooke@eyak-nsn.gov by December 5th.

Current NVE Scholarship Awardees

Chandelle Erbey, Misa Webber, Cassi-Mae Septien, Madeline Ladd, Micah Ladd, Alicia Long, William Bailey IV, Hannah Rodolph, Wesley Ladd, Scott Aiken and Rebecca Calina who will be graduating this fall.

Learn our language

Sugcestun (Alutiiq) and Eyak Language Classes started being held weekly at the Masonic Lodge. For more information, contact Brooke Johnson.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is an Eyak talking dictionary online where you can look up several hundred words. Visit eyakpeople.com/dictionary to try it out!

Subsistence Program

Our Subsistence Program held its annual Planning and Review Meeting in August and was successful in securing funding for another year! NVE is currently advertising for a Subsistence Boat Captain and Subsistence Program Coordinator. For more information, visit <https://nveyak.com/subsistence-boat-captain/> or contact our HR department at 907-424-7739.

Ikumat Dance

Practice is held at the Masonic Lodge from 4:45-6:30 p.m. Mondays and 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays. Fundraising will begin soon so dancers can attend the Juneau Celebration in 2020. ■

Brooke Johnson

Cultural Director
Ilanka Cultural Center
907-424-7903
www.ilankaculturalcenter.com



TRIBAL MEMBERS

ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER



Shop our current selection of fine arts, featuring works from local artists:

- Teal Hansen
- Altana Hamilton
- Gloria Cunningham
- Raven Madison
- Marina Madison
- Ivy Patton
- Brittany Banks
- Christine Belgarde
- Angela Butler
- and more...

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Caribou Tufting Class

Taught by Emma Hildebrand September 6-8 at the Ilanka Cultural Center. Quwanakcuk/Awa ah'dah/thank you Emma Hildebrand for passing on your craft and knowledge.



Dive Certification Class

Dive Alaska held a certification class Sept. 18-22 at Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool.



Kuspuk Class

Jackie Ladd and Gloria Cunningham taught a kuspuk making class September 19 – 21. Katella Hansen is all smiles in her new kuspuk.



TRIBAL FAMILY SERVICES

Higher education

Jen Rose Smith becomes 99th Alaska Native to receive PhD

BY JANE SPENCER

For The Cordova Times

Born and raised in Cordova, Jen Smith always loved school, specifically reading and writing. However, she admits she didn't do well on the SATs and she "wasn't a shiny star" of the school. She was good at basketball and wanted to play in college, but, beyond that she didn't know what her career path would be. This past spring, she became the 99th Alaska Native to receive a PhD. It's a remarkably low number, and a result of structural inequality that keeps many Native people and people of color out of academia.

"So much of my experience has been luck," she said. "If the right professors didn't come into my life at the right times. Or if, randomly, I hadn't learned about some funding resource and applied to it. There's such little structural support for Native people that want to go into higher education, and people of color more broadly. It wasn't until my last year of college that one of my professors was like 'You should apply to graduate school' and I was like, 'What's that?'"

During the summers, she spends time in Cordova with her family. She and her mom, Pam Smith, are busy with many projects that include processing fish, smoking salmon, harvesting wild berries, making tinctures and salves, and cooking up many meals to-



gether.

"Some of the things I'm most proud of happening in Cordova is my mom's genealogy project, and the Eyak place names mapping project with the Eyak Cultural Foundation and the Eyak culture camps," Smith said.

It was leaving Cordova, in addition to having the resources, skills and the time to be able to pour herself into her studies, that led Smith to researching many of the questions she had about being an Alaska Native.

The questions don't have simple answers, but simply learning about her own history, the history of where she comes from, and the history of Alaska Natives propel her forward.

"Even though my ideas and the trajectory

of my project has changed – and changed multiple times over the six years I've been there, at the center of it, the question that I came in with, kind of remained the guiding direction," she said. "Being an Alaska Native person, everything is so confusing and not being able to have easily accessible information that teaches you, as a Native person, what your histories are, what the land claims mean, why are they so different from reservations, and what a treaty is... and all of these really basic things that are so different in Alaska. Alaska Native people have had really divergent experiences of colonization while there are of course similarities and overlaps, the experiences of Alaska Natives have been really different. And that remained at the center of 'why have all those experiences been so different than the Lower 48 and Continental U.S.,' and so having that at the center of my research, made archival work really kind of fun, as troubling and traumatizing as it was, as it can be, trying to unearth all these violent histories. It's also empowering to start answering those questions that you grow up thinking but often don't even know how to articulate the question itself. So, in that way, doing research for me is extremely empowering. And knowing one's history."

This past spring, she earned her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley Department of Ethnic Studies. In the fall she will be taking a one-year position as a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California Davis. Next fall, she will be an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Department of Geography and American Indian Studies Program. ■



Wedding announcement

Olsen-Eleshansky

Denise Ann Olsen and Kenneth William Eleshansky, both of Cordova, were united in marriage before their family and friends on Sunday, Sept. 29 at Saint Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in Cordova, Alaska.

Their ceremony was officiated by Father Christopher Stanton and the reception followed at the Pioneer Igloo.

Miss Olsen graduated from Cordova Jr. Sr. High School and is currently an administrative assistant. Denise is the daughter of Arleen Olsen of Cordova.

Mr. Eleshansky is the son of Cheryl Eleshansky of Cordova and Douglas Buck of Wilsonville, Oregon and works as a laborer. The newlyweds live in Anchorage, Alaska. ■



LANGUAGE LEGACY

dAXunhyuuga'

Eyak Elders and linguist built Eyak language archive together

BY JEN ROSE SMITH

For *The Cordova Times*

I have always been on the hunt for stories about my great-grandma Lena Saska Nacktan. My family has told me Lena was born on July 4, 1902 in Eyak territory.

By this time, the Northwestern Railroad had already been built through Cordova, and epidemics had devastated the Eyak villages at Alaganik and on the edge of Eyak lake. My great-grandma Lena survived tuberculosis, and she spent the majority of her life in a log cabin house in Old Town Cordova.

Lena brought eight children into the world. One of her daughters, Sophie, is buried at the Nirvana Park Cemetery/Eyak burial ground. Lena passed on in 1971, the same year the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was signed into legislation by President Richard Nixon.

Lena spoke Eyak, or dAXunhyuuga' (meaning the words of the people), and spoke often with another Eyak woman, Minnie Stevens in our language. The two of them would visit, and as my Uncle Joe Cook relays, when he was a child they spoke and giggled in Eyak together as if it was their own little secret.

By the 1960s, speakers of dAXunhyuuga' were small in numbers and linguist Michael Krauss made his way to Cordova and Yakutat to attempt to document our language. Among other Eyaks such as Anna Nelson Harry, Marie Smith Jones, Sophie Borodkin, Mike Sewak and George Johnson, my great-grandma Lena helped Michael to learn the words of our people.

Michael, a linguist, professor and longtime head of the Alaska Native Language Center worked to preserve all 20 of Alaska's Native languages. He was a special advocate of documenting Eyak.

In my search to learn more about my great-grandma Lena, I wanted to ask Michael questions about her, as he had spent much time with her in the later decades of her life. I wanted to know what kind of a woman she was. Was she kind, generous? Or had she been hardened by the difficult life she lived and the many deaths she witnessed?

As a graduate student, thinking about last- ing forms of colonization and the processes of knowledge production, I wanted to know:



Photo courtesy Jen Rose Smith

Lena Saska Nacktan was one of the last fluent speakers of dAXunhyuuga', or Eyak language. She played a pivotal role in helping linguist Michael Krauss learn and document the language for generations to come.



Photo from *The Cordova Times* archives

Professor Michael Krauss presents a history of Eyak Language documentation and study to participants in an August 2016 Eyak language workshop in Cordova.

What did she think about a linguist documenting her language? Was she resistant? Perhaps a little annoyed by his persistent presence and pressing questions while she labored – taking care of her grandchildren, hauling water, putting up fish and berries? Or did she welcome the strange visitor who was intensely interested in her language, one she was only able to speak with a few others?

At an annual Eyak Culture Camp in 2015,

I sought out Michael to ask him these questions. He described my great-grandma Lena as an intellectual, as a grammarian. He told me that she was incredibly thorough, careful and rigorous as she taught him dAXunhyuuga'. Not only was she precise and incisive, she was also sharp and held high expectations.

Michael told me that Lena liked to tease him. After months of working together, when he would become fatigued and slow after a full day of lessons in dAXunhyuuga', Lena would chidingly insist that he was slow, perhaps dim-witted and, really, by now he should know the answers to the questions he was asking.

Michael told me that he would ask Lena to double- and triple-check his work to make sure that it was correct. My great-grandma was both his teacher and his editor. I am grateful to him for these stories that he told me.

In addition to learning our language, the Elders Michael worked with also told him stories about dAXunhyuu (the Eyak people). My great-grandma Lena and other Eyak Elders told him our stories, asked that he write down our place-names, our histories, and important information about our culture – details we now can use to learn about ourselves, our people and our language.

When Michael passed in August 2019, he left behind an immense and crucial archive of dAXunhyuuga' at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, both digitized and in hardcopy. And he took with him a direct link to dAXunhyuu, to first-hand stories about Elders that had survived a colonial era of rapid and violent transformation to their homelands and communities.

The Eyak community will miss him, as well as the substantive connections he had made with our people and Elders.

He left with us the work that he and Lena, Sophie, Marie, Anna, Mike and George built together.

Thanks to their collaborative labors many decades ago, we now learn our language at our culture camps and language workshops. We can learn and map the place-names where dAXunhyuu lived, picked berries, gathered plants, dug clams, caught fish and were buried.

AwA'ahdah, great-grandma Lena, expert grammarian, and Michael – may you be speaking the words of the people together on the other side. ■

Jen Rose Smith (Eyak) grew up in Cordova. She has a PhD in ethnic studies from University of California Berkeley, and is a post-doctoral fellow at UC Davis.



Eyak language

A linguist who fought for the languages he studied

Krauss helped pull the Eyak language back from the brink of extinction

BY ZACHARY SNOWDON SMITH

zsmith@thecordovaitimes.com

Is it the task of a linguist to record a language's decline and extinction, or to take steps to prevent it? Prof. Michael E. Krauss believed that, just as life scientists had intervened to preserve endangered species, it was up to linguists to preserve endangered languages.

"If God created anything equal, it is languages," Krauss told the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in 2000. "All human languages are at exactly the same level of intellectual complexity. There is no such thing as a primitive language. There is no such thing as an inferior language. If a language is spoken by fewer people, and has less economic and military power, it is not because of the quality of its verbs or its vowels, but entirely due to external circumstances."

Krauss, who passed away on Aug. 11 at age 84, founded the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Fairbanks and organized the revival of the Eyak language in Cordova. Krauss was first introduced to Eyak in the 1960s, while heading the new Department of Linguistics and Foreign Languages at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. By 1963, Krauss had identified Eyak as the most threatened Alaska Native language.

Although Eyak had, for 200 years, been documented by a variety of European and Russian explorers, merchants and anthropologists, Krauss was first to build a centralized Eyak archive. He also compiled the first Eyak dictionary, containing over 7,000 words, or approximately 90 percent of the Eyak lexicon remaining in living memory, according to a 2013 Cordova Times article. Thanks to Krauss's efforts, Eyak quickly became one of the better recorded indigenous North American languages.

The 2008 death of Marie Smith Jones, the last full-blooded Eyak person, left Krauss as the only remaining fluent Eyak speaker. With his protégé, linguist Guillaume Leduey, Krauss helped develop a series of language



The Cordova Times, file 2015

From left: Guillaume Leduey, Michael Krauss, Gary Holton and Vincent Bonnay.

workshops that grew to include a variety of games and activities designed to make learning Eyak as easy and as enjoyable as possible.

Filmmaker Vincent Bonnay met Krauss in Cordova in 2013. During the six years he spent shooting the Eyak language documentary "On the Tip of the Tongue," Bonnay compiled hours of recordings of Krauss speaking, working and teaching.

"It was a part of his voice that is still available to everybody," Bonnay said.

"On the Tip of the Tongue" shows Krauss departing Cordova and saying goodbye to a small child, who responds in Eyak. For Bonnay, this was the film's most emotional moment.

"I don't think he wanted to be a part of history," Bonnay said. "I think this was not his purpose... But when he saw a language that was dying, I think he had to have this spark in his mind, saying he should do something. I don't think there are that many people like Michael, who have that spark."

In his incendiary 1992 essay, "The world's languages in crisis," Krauss compared the endangerment of languages to the endangerment of biological species. At the time, it was estimated that 7.4 percent of mammal species and 2.7 percent of bird species were endangered or threatened, whereas 80

percent of Native North American languages were endangered, Krauss calculated. If life scientists were expected to advocate for the protection of threatened species, Krauss asked, why shouldn't linguists advocate for the protection of threatened languages?

"Why is there so much more concern over this relatively mild threat to the world's biological diversity than over the far worse threat to its linguistic diversity, and why are we linguists so much quieter about it than biologists?" Krauss wrote. "Surely, just as the extinction of any animal species diminishes our world, so does the extinction of any language. Surely we linguists know, and the general public can sense, that any language is a supreme achievement of a uniquely human collective genius, as divine and endless a mystery as a living organism. Should we mourn the loss of Eyak or Ubykh any less than the loss of the panda or California condor?"

Krauss was less interested in the number of fully extinct languages than in the number of "moribund" languages still spoken but no longer being taught to children. While an extinct biological species would presumably remain gone forever, it is possible to revive a moribund language to its full strength. Hebrew furnishes the most visible example: a language once unheard outside of sacred ceremonies, now spoken by 9.3 million people thanks to the efforts of revivalists. As Krauss observed, state support can also be a significant force to preserve and popularize a language.

To bring an endangered language back from the precipice, Krauss prescribed developing teaching materials as well as finding ways to use that language in literature, television and other media. If 86 percent of Danes speak English, Krauss observed, it's not merely because they take hour-long English classes in high school — Danish TV is also saturated with English-language programs. This allows the language to live as a part of the everyday, rather than as an academic or liturgical relic.

Although Krauss specialized in the Eyak and Athabaskan languages, he performed significant work with all 20 Alaska Native languages, according to a release by the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Throughout his life, Krauss worked to focus the attention of linguists, and of the public at large, on the problem of endangered languages.

"What we need to do now stares us in the face," Krauss wrote. "If we do not act, we should be cursed by future generations for Neronically fiddling while Rome burned." ■



ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

ICHC Update

Ilanka Clinic provides integrated care that to the entire community. We are focused on treating the entire person. We have recently received a quality award for Patient Centered Medical Home. Ilanka clinic accepts all major insurance and is free tribal members.

Did you know?

All three Behavioral Health clinicians are now co-located upstairs in the main clinic space. This has greatly improved our staff ability to communicate and provide increased integrated care.

Recent events:

childbirth Education

The clinic held a childbirth education class Sept. 18 where a small group discussed topics such as process of labor and birth, relaxation, birth interventions, breastfeeding, and postpartum and newborn care. Ilanka currently provides this service 1 to 2 times per year with the potential for more classes depending on community needs. This class is beneficial to expecting or new parents in the community.

Medicare 101

A class took place Sept. 18 to assist patients with Medicare enrollment and answer questions.

Eye Guys

Need an eye exam, glasses or contacts? Their next visit is scheduled for November. Contact the Ilanka clinic to schedule an appointment.

Community Forum

A Community Forum was held Sept. 25 to discuss medical related needs within the community. A light meal was provided, and local businesses donated door prizes.

Ongoing Items

- Wellness Recovery Circle weekly every Tuesday 7-9 p.m. in the Wellness Center. (Old DMV space across from Episcopal church)
- Medication Assisted Treatment program available at Ilanka to assist in opioid addiction recovery.
- As always, we have free Narcan Kits
- Medication disposal bags are available at the clinic.
- We are always offering free and confidential STD testing.

Welcome new employees!

Audrey Cunningham: Medical Office Receptionist and Outreach and Enrollment Specialist

Brittany Whitley: Administrative Assistant

Interested in attending future classes or have questions about your health care?

Contact Ilanka Health Center at **907-424-3622**.

Tribal Council message

Native Village of Eyak and city assess Cordova's healthcare needs

Leaders are developing a team to research options and feasibility

BY DARREL OLSEN

NVE Tribal Council Chairman

Many Cordova residents are wondering what is happening with respect to the Cordova Hospital. We wanted to outline for the community as much information as we can at this point, with the intention of keeping you all informed in the coming months.

At this time, the city has indicated its interest in having the Native Village of Eyak take over operation of the hospital. This issue has been the subject of speculation for some time, and we'd like to address some of the timing and other points surrounding this.

In the coming weeks and months, NVE and the Cordova Community Medical Center Health Board will be developing an assessment team to look at health care options for Cordova, including the feasibility of operating the hospital.

It is important that the entire community be aware that nothing has been proposed, signed or approved with respect to future operations, as NVE must undertake its due diligence first, before we can move forward with a solid plan.

We are working with the city and the health board, which initiated this process to determine a feasible path for the hospital. We're hopeful as we gather relevant information and delve into the hospital's operations, we can reach an agreement that will maintain quality, affordable healthcare in Cordova.

There are many concerns and questions in the community, and we take all these seriously. These are many of the same questions we had when we were asked to participate in this process.

We know the employees and community are concerned about staff retention and retirement benefits. This is certainly an area we will be reviewing as we undertake our review and assessment.

We know there is some skepticism in the community that if the city of Cordova could not make the hospital a break-even operation, why would it be different under new management?

Others have questions about the timeframe for NVE's assessment and potential management proposal.

As we move forward with this process, NVE and the city will ask all of the critical questions and work closely together to determine the best way to provide Cordova residents with a quality hospital and healthcare.

In the coming weeks we will be providing ongoing updates. Information will be coming through the NVE office as our assessment team begins its work. We appreciate the community's patience and support as we undertake our due diligence. ■



Fire Safety Checklist for Homeowners and Renters

If there is a fire, you may have less than 3 minutes to get out of your home. Talk about what you should do to be safe. Make sure everyone in your home knows what to do if there is a fire.

Put a check in front of each statement that is true for your home.

Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.



Test your alarm regularly.
Your smoke alarm is working if it makes a noise when you press the "test" button.

Cooking Safety

- The cooking area has no items that can burn.
- People stay in the kitchen when they are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- Pot handles are always turned toward the back of the stove.

Escape Plan

- There is a fire escape plan that shows 2 ways out of every room.
- Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- Everyone living in the house practices the escape plan 2 times a year.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

Electrical and Appliance Safety

- All electrical cords are in good condition and not broken or cut.
- People clean the dryer of lint after every use.
- All plug outlets are safe and do not feel warm when you touch them. (If they are warm, call the landlord or an electrician.)

Candle Safety

- Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- Adults blow out all candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Candles are kept out of reach from children and pets.



Children are sometimes curious about fire.

If you have children in your home, lock up any items that can start a fire (matches, lighters, cigarettes, etc.) and make sure children cannot reach candles.



FAMILY SERVICES



Food Distribution Program

on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

WHAT IS FDPIR AND HOW DO ALASKA TRIBES APPLY?

The FDPIR is a federal program that provides a month's supply of supplemental nutritious foods to income eligible Alaska Native, American Indian, and non-Indian households residing on a reservation or in a federally recognized (Alaska Native) tribal community, or in approved near-areas containing at least one tribal enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe.

Federally recognized tribes in Alaska are all eligible to administer FDPIR provided they can to follow USDA regulations to guarantee food safety, protect client privacy, and meet on-time reporting requirements.

HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY

A household application for FDPIR is available in a few select Alaska tribal communities. Households can apply and be deemed income eligible on the same day they contact a tribal agency that administers the FDPIR program. To view a current list of active federally recognized tribes administering the FDPIR program in Alaska visit:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdpir/fdpir-contacts>

WHAT FOODS DOES THE PROGRAM OFFER?

Each month income eligible households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participants may select from over 70 products including, but not limited to:

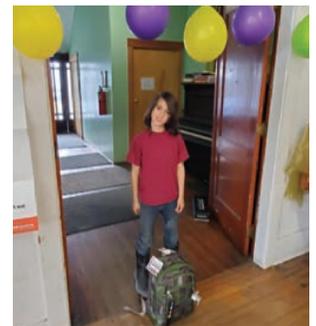
- Fresh Produce
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned meats, poultry, and fish
- Canned soups and spaghetti sauce
- Macaroni and cheese; pastas; cereals; rice; and other grains
- Cheese; egg mix; and nonfat dry and evaporated milk
- Flour; cornmeal; bakery mix; and reduced sodium crackers
- Low-fat refried beans; dried beans; and dehydrated potatoes
- Canned juices and dried fruit
- Peanuts and peanut butter
- Low fat buttery spread, butter & vegetable oil.

Find out more. Contact:

Jessica Weaver

907-424-7738

E-mail: jessica.weaver@eyak-nsn.gov



Tribal Family Services

Backpack Bash

This year's Back to School Backpack Bash was attended by 56 tribal youth students. Some students picked up backpacks and supplies after the event. ■

Nuuciq Spirit Camp

Plant Dyeing

Tribal Council Member Raven Madison attended this year's Nuuciq Spirit Camp where she taught a plant dyeing class. ■





YOUTH SERVICES



Tribal Youth Council

National Unity Conference

Native Village of Eyak sent seven Tribal Youth Council members to Florida for the National Unity Conference. At the conference youth participated in workshops, one being the importance of food sovereignty in indigenous communities. The tribal youth also listened to keynote speakers, participated in area caucuses meetings and learned about other cultures in our Nation. ■

What did we love the most about our trip?

"My favorite thing about the conference were the keynote speakers and how they all had back stories of either getting bullied or trauma because of being Native. Especially, Martin Sensmeier who is a Yakutat local who fought through all of the trauma with his village; and all that stuff with basketball, which really spoke to me because I really like basketball.

—Kaiden Graves

"When people started talking about how much addiction is going on in different places in the nation, and we need to do something about it"

—Harley Klix

"Meeting new people from different tribes"

—Alice Graves

"My favorite thing about the conference is being around all the other Natives and learning about their cultures and their back stories and what they had to go through and what we had to go through and how different they were from us. I mean we're kind of similar but very different from our backgrounds."

—Jimmy Reilly

"My favorite part of the conference was having the opportunity to meet beauty influencer Kahara Hodges from Navajo Nation"

—Kiley Burton

"My favorites thing about the conference is how similar other Native Youth Councils in the Northwest region are to us. We all shared similar traumas in all of our lives but we all still laugh about the same things now and we all do the same things in our community. What stuck out to me most was that we all are on the same pursuit to learn about our language and our region."

—Drake Reilly

"All of the different languages and the Teen Tewa Language workshop."

—Abbi Reilly

Smoked salmon head soup

BY RAVEN MADISON

Tribal Council member

After you have cut the fillets from the salmon you are left with the head, backbone, and tail. I grew up utilizing every part of the fish. I was taught to cut the head off the salmon so that the head and backbone/tail are separated. I then brine my heads and backbones in 100% brine for approximately 8 minutes. After the brine I hang my heads up in the smoke house and keep a solid smoke on them for 24 hours (this can be more or less, it depends on how much smoke you like). After the smoking is finished, I cut the backbone into smaller useable pieces (approximately 5-8 inches), and the heads in half. I cut the tail off for my dog (I will bake that in the oven for him later on). I usually smoke fish in large amounts so I will vacuum seal and freeze one head (two halves) together and individually vacuum pack and freeze the backbones.

I boil one half of the salmon head and one piece of backbone in 4 quarts (1 gallon) of water. First I let my salmon head and backbone boil in water with salt and pepper for approx. one hour, or until cooked. Once the salmon head and backbone is cooked I take it out and pick apart the head and back meat, cheek and eyeball and set that aside.

In the soup pot, I then add:

- 1 medium yellow onion chopped
- 2 heads of garlic minced
- 1 head of celery chopped
- 4 large carrots chopped
- 3 large potatoes chopped
- 1 hand of ginger grated
- 1 bunch of fresh parsley chopped
- 1 large jalapeño minced
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- Smoked paprika to taste
- Thyme to taste
- Salt and Pepper to taste

I let that cook until the potatoes are fully cooked. Once finished I will take a jar of smoked salmon and flake it into each individual bowl and add evaporated milk to serve. ■



TRIBAL PUBLIC WORKS

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

School Club at Mt. Eccles

Mondays 3:40-4:40 p.m.
Wednesdays 8:15-8:40 a.m.

Contact Jess at 907-424-7738 for more info.

NVE Tribal Youth Fire Circle

Join NVE Tribal Youth from 5-7 p.m. on Oct. 24 at Nirvana Park to discuss bullying prevention.

Interested in joining the NVE Tribal Youth Group?

Contact Jess at 907-424-7738 for more info.

Ikumat Dance at the Masonic Lodge

Mondays 4:45 to 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays 4 to 6 p.m.

Contact Brooke at 907-424-7738 for more info on Ikumat Dance and JNYO practices.



Duke Andersen puts his CDL license to work.

Capital Projects

Recent accomplishments:

- USFS projects Saddlebag community timber and road access, which produces wood for the Elder Firewood Program.
- Eagle nest, eel grass and timber surveys for Shepard Point ROW completed this year
- Sand Trail Parking Area Access Project ■

Sean O'Brien

Capital Projects Director
110 Nicholoff Way
Cordova, Alaska 99574
Main 907-424-7738
Fax 907-424-7739



Contact Jackie Ladd

Elder Services Coordinator

907-424-7738

for information on Elder Services, activities and events.

Prince William Marina

2.5 MILE WHITSHED RD. IN CORDOVA, AK

BOAT & LOCKER STORAGE

BOB LADD, MARINA MANAGER

907-253-4332

EMAIL: BOB.LADD@EYAK-NSN.GOV

Artist spotlight

HeART Show: An Imaginary Place in Prince William Sound

Brittany Banks and Rachel Hoover at the opening of their collaborative art show on Sept. 6 at the Reluctant Fisherman. Titled, "An Imaginary Place in Prince William Sound", their artworks reflects their Prince William Sound heritage. ■





Tribal Public Works

Housing Department

Oct.1 Housing grant programs will open up for Tribal members to submit for rehabilitation assistance on their homes. more details can be provided by housing assistant Myra at the NVE main office.

Three grants opening up Oct. 1 are:

- Home Rehabilitation Mini Grant – funding up to \$1999.99 for qualifying applicants
- Mold Remediation Grant – Funding up to \$20,000.00 for qualifying applicants
- College Student Housing Voucher Program Grant – up to \$1000.00 for qualifying applicants

Accomplishments

- Successfully administered 15 Mini-Grants to tribal members for housing rehab projects
- Successful application submission for grant funding through HUD (Housing and Urban Development) to look at future housing development in Cordova
- Tribal Housing Survey was completed and has added valuable information in development of a Housing Master Plan

Events

- U.S. Census 2020 preparation – dates TBD ■

For more information, contact:

Myra Eleshansky
Housing Assistant
housing@eyak-nsn.gov

Enrollment

Real ID compliance

As of Jan. 1, tribal IDs issued are valid for five years

NVE is working to make them Real ID compliant and will also now issue them for inactive tribal members. All IDs must be applied for in person and tribal members must have required documents on file. Required documents include enrollment application, ID card application, birth certificate and CIB. ■

For more information or to schedule an appointment

Lennette Ronnegard
NVE's enrollment clerk
(907) 424-7738 or lennette.ronnegard@eyak-nsn.gov



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NVE

View current available positions at

WWW.NVEYAK.COM/JOBS

or call NVE's Human Resources Manager Denna Francischetti at

907-424-7738

Full job descriptions and applications are available
at NVE's main office at 110 Nicholoff Way, online at www.nveyak.com/jobs/
and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NativeVillageofEyak/>

NVE TRIBAL COURT

*Available to the entire community
Everyone is welcome*

Native Village of Eyak's Judicial Department offers:

- Conflict Resolution
- Family Mediation
- Restoration
- Juvenile Diversion
- Child Welfare (tribal members only)
- Intervention

For more information, please contact the
Court Administrator Sarah Kathrein at

907-424-7880

500 Water Street, Cordova, AK (next to the courthouse)
sarah.kathrein@eyak-nsn.gov or courtclerk@eyak-nsn.gov





26TH ANNUAL

SOBRIETY CELEBRATION

AND MEMORIAL POTLATCH

NOV. 15-16, 2019

AT THE CORDOVA CENTER

THIS YEAR'S LOGO
CONTEST WINNER:
TEAL HANSEN



Visit us on our website eyak-nsn.gov or find us at [Facebook.com/NativeVillageofEyak](https://www.facebook.com/NativeVillageofEyak) for more information on the 26th Annual Sobriety Celebration



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