Two tribes in Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon reached an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) after years of hard work from tribal leaders.

It has been important to our tribes to conserve the land and protect the rivers and resources located in the Fortymile area. The BLM land-use plan will cover approximately 6.5 million acres of that land including areas around the White Mountains National Recreation Area, and the Draanjik watershed.

Protecting areas such as the Black River have proven to be essential to the subsistence lifestyle and leaders from the Gwichy’aa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Council gathered to celebrate the agreement that took years to work out.

The meeting was held in both Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon where the BLM team that reportedly worked on the project flew to listen to community member’s perspective on the agreement. TCC Staff also attended.

Public comment was taken and many spoke about the traditional significance that the land holds and how important it is to protect tribal lands for our culture.

This agreement was one great step forward for the tribes.

2017 TCC ANNUAL CONVENTION

Tanana Chiefs Conference is in full preparation for our 2017 Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting. We are happy to announce this year’s theme will be “Preserving our Way of Life.”
Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

Our 2017 TCC Annual Convention is quickly approaching and will be an exciting one! Our theme this year is Preserving Our Way of Life, which will emphasize the importance of upholding our history, cultural traditions, and way of life for future generations. This year we will be promoting increased conversation amongst tribal leaders and attendees with more round table discussions.

I also want to update everyone on both national and local legislation that could affect our communities. Last month, Senator Murkowski introduced S.49, a bill that would establish an oil and gas leasing program with in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It is very likely that this bill will receive a hearing soon and we will continue to monitoring this closely. Alaska State Representatives Westlake (North Slope) and Talerico (Interior) have introduced separate but similar Joint Resolutions to the Alaska House of Representatives that urge our U.S. delegation and U.S. Congress to allow for the opening of the Coastal Plain to Oil & Gas exploration.

After reviewing Gov. Walker’s proposed FY18 budget, programs operated by TCC and our Tribes are not recommended for any major cuts. In fact, the grant amounts within the Dept. of Health and Social Services remained largely the same as last year (with a few exceptions) as did the VPSO grant.

However, there were other cuts that will affect the travel budget for Alaska State Troopers and other public safety entities. Gov. Walker also did not fund the Community Revenue Share program, a fund established to provide unincorporated communities with basic public services. Rural legislators expressed immediate concern over this item and it is likely to be amended. The Governor’s budget, while cutting an additional 10% from last year, is very much a work in progress and will likely see many changes as it makes its way through the Legislature.

The Governor submitted legislation to cap the PFD to $1,000 and restructure the way the PFD is funded. Last session, similar legislation made it through the Senate and this year is expected to gain support in the House. Both the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House have acknowledged that some changes to the PFD are a certainty. Unlike last year, the Governor did not propose legislation that would generate revenue, with the exception of the Motor Fuels Tax bill. This bill would increase the amount of tax a consumer pays at the pump from 8 cents a gallon to 16 cents this year and would increase to 24 cents next year. I know that such a tax, if implemented, will be disproportionately felt by our rural villages and have already asked our interior Representatives to minimize the impact on our communities. You can help by calling your legislator.

Finally, I would like to congratulate First Chief of Beaver Rhonda Pitka who was recently appointed to the Federal Subsistence Board. Chief Pitka is a strong advocate for our people and I hope to see more people like her advocate for our people. I would also like to congratulate the Anvik tribe for being the first tribe to enter into the Civil Diversion Agreement with the State of Alaska. Anvik’s tribal court now has the ability to hear and sentence offenders charged with certain misdemeanor criminal cases.

Ana Bassee’,
Victor Joseph
Chief/Chairman
**The Dangers of Binge Drinking**

**What is Binge Drinking?**
Binge drinking is the most common pattern of excessive alcohol use in the United States. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines binge drinking as a pattern of drinking that brings a person’s blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 grams percent or above. This typically happens when men consume 5 or more drinks, and when women consume 4 or more drinks, in about 2 hours.

**National Surveys Indicate:**
One in six U.S. adults binge drinks about four times a month, consuming about eight drinks per binge.

- While binge drinking is more common among young adults aged 18–34 years, binge drinkers aged 65 years and older report binge drinking more often—an average of five to six times a month.
- Binge drinking is more common among those with household incomes of $75,000 or more than among those with lower incomes.
- Approximately 92% of U.S. adults who drink excessively report binge drinking in the past 30 days.
- Although college students commonly binge drink, 70% of binge drinking episodes involve adults age 26 years and older.
- The prevalence of binge drinking among men is twice the prevalence among women.
- Binge drinkers are 14 times more likely to report alcohol-impaired driving than non-binge drinkers. I think all you can do is make a report if she threatens. Remember, we can’t force her to do anything. Drinkers.
- About 90% of the alcohol consumed by youth under the age of 21 in the United States is in the form of binge drinks.

More than half of the alcohol consumed by adults in the United States is in the form of binge drinks.

Binge drinking is associated with many health problems, including—

- Unintentional injuries (e.g., car crashes, falls, burns, drowning)
- Intentional injuries (e.g., firearm injuries, sexual assault, domestic violence)
- Alcohol poisoning
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Unintended pregnancy
- Children born with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
- High blood pressure, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases
- Liver disease
- Neurological damage
- Sexual dysfunction, and
- Poor control of diabetes.

**Are you struggling with binge drinking, problem drinking or alcoholism?**
Did you know that there is not a waitlist to go to inpatient treatment at TCC? Are you living in one of TCC’s communities and would like to participate in outpatient treatment? For more information, please contact: 907-452 – 8251 extension 3800 or 1-800-478-4741.

Alcohol has had decades of negative effects on our people since it was first introduced by the gold miners. Upon the direction of 2nd Traditional Chief Trimble Gilbert, the TCC Executive Board and Health Boards have made it a final priority to increase the physical health and overall wellness throughout our region and among our people.

We encourage you to take the information shared and sit down with your family or friends to have your own discussions about what you can do to be a part of the solution. We are all in this together.

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**SUSTAINING INDIGENOUS LIVELIHOODS**
Alaska Native Studies Conference
April 7-9, 2017

**Call for Papers**
Extended Deadline: February 1, 2017

**Questions?**
Contact: cstopkok2alaska.edu
Anvik Civil Diversion Agreement
A step forward in Tribal Government

In a landmark agreement [last week], the Anvik tribal government took on the authority to hand down sentences for low-level crimes committed in the western Interior village.

The agreement between the state and the Anvik Village Tribe was signed at an Anchorage news conference [Tuesday] and is described as a blueprint for tribes throughout Alaska to take active roles in criminal justice in rural Alaska.

Under the measure, law enforcement must offer offenders — whether tribal members or nontribal members — in certain cases the option of diverting from the state’s court system and into the tribal court. Whether the tribes takes on a case is ultimately up to the offender and tribe to decide, and both can decline if either feels the tribal court is not the right venue.

The crimes covered include most low-level drug offenses, underage drinking, violations of local alcohol control measures, certain class B misdemeanors and misdemeanor assault, including cases in which domestic violence is a factor.

Anvik is a member of the Tanana Chiefs Conference and is located near Holy Cross. It has a population of about 85 people.

Nick Gasca, deputy general counsel for Tanana Chiefs Conference, worked on the agreement. He said there’s significant interest from other tribes not only within TCC but also across the state.

“Our general feeling is that we’re going to see this across our region,” he said. “They’re going to see the good work that Anvik is able to do, and they’re going to want to enter into this diversion agreement.”

Gasca said the ultimate forms of tribal courts will depend on each tribe. Some could set up more formal panels, while others might employ the sentencing circle method of inviting community members to talk directly with offenders and determine tailored penalties.

He also stressed the existing criminal justice system, with its focus on one-size-fits-all sentencing, has failed rural Alaska. He said jail time for the offenses covered in the agreement does little to change offenders’ attitudes or make communities safer.

“People in rural villages are facing serious threats out there. They’ve lost confidence somewhat in the criminal justice system to protect them and protect victims,” he said. “This is a way to hold their own accountable in a way that’s more responsive, more culturally appropriate, more attuned to local concerns than the state court system. ... And quite frankly, the system that’s in place now hasn’t been working for rural Alaska.”

[Article Source: Matt Buxton; Fairbanks Daily News-Miner]
BROWNFIELDS: What are they?

A brownfield is an abandoned or underused property, with real or perceived contamination, that could be cleaned up and reused. There are many brownfields in rural Alaska; some examples include old tank farms, abandoned buildings with asbestos, lead or other hazardous materials, fuel spills, mine-scarred lands, and illegal dumping sites.

Brownfields may leave lands ruined for many generations to come. Assessing and cleaning up these sites protects human health and the environment and helps to preserve the land for future generations. An important difference between brownfields and other contaminated sites is that brownfields have an intended reuse.

There are numerous contaminated sites throughout Alaska, and many of them pose hazards to human health. However, if there is no redevelopment or reuse potential then they are not a good fit for the brownfield program. In addition to brownfields guidance, the TCC Tribal Response Program (TRP) also provides technical assistance to tribes interested in learning more about generic contaminated sites, the laws around them, and resources for mitigating hazards associated with them. One resource we’d like to highlight is the DEC Contaminated Sites Database.

You can research sites in your village to gain more knowledge about what contamination has occurred. If you have a property that fits the EPA definition of a brownfield, there are a handful of resources available to support your vision for reusing the land.

Know that brownfield projects are a multi-step (and sometimes multi-year) process. Successful projects require a lot of community support and rely on partnerships with other stakeholders. There are federal and state opportunities for site assessment and cleanup services. Some grant opportunities are also available to eligible entities. The TCC TRP can explain a detailed process and provide more specific information to assist you in your efforts to get these properties cleaned up. Think of “brownfields” as a land recycling program.

Cleaning up brownfields yields the same environmental, social and economic rewards as cleaning up generic contaminated sites, but with the added bonus of creating a new use for the land that benefits the whole community!

CONTACT trp@tananachiefs.org FOR MORE INFO

Congratulations!

Rhonda Pitka Appointed to Federal Subsistence Board

We would like to congratulate First Chief of Beaver, Rhonda Pitka, who was appointed to the Federal Subsistence Board by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel.

The Federal Subsistence Board is composed of the Alaska directors of the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureaus of Indian Affairs, the USDA Forest Service, and a Chair and two Public Members appointed by the Secretary of Interior.

NEW! Healthy Food Policy

Exciting News! Tanana Chiefs Conference has passed a New Healthy Food Policy!

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

TCC wants to lead the charge in promoting healthy food choices for its beneficiaries and staff.

The TCC Healthy Food Policy was created to support a healthy environment by promoting healthy food options at TCC facilities and functions. This policy applies to all TCC Cafés, meetings, events and vending machines.

QUESTIONS?

Jennifer Probert
907-452-8251 ext.3093
jennifer.probert@tananachiefs.org
**Subregional Advisory Board Elections**

**TCC Executive Board of Directors**

**Subregional Positions:**
- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion: Leo Lohnitz, Koyukuk (2017-2020)
- Yukon Tanana Subregion: Phyllis Erhart, Tanana (2017-2020)

**Eligibility Criteria:**
- Must be a current village director, as authorized by tribal/village resolution (Article 7, Section 4)
- Must be residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Members of member villages of the corporation (Article 4, Section 1)
- Employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as Directors or officers of the corporation with the exception of the President and temporary or seasonal E-Board Members and Full Board Members (Article 4, Section 2)

**TCC Advisory Boards**

The three TCC Advisory Boards make recommendations to the TCC executive board and President. The President has the authority to appoint all individuals to the advisory boards (Article 7, Section 3), but the President currently allows the subregions to democratically select representatives to each advisory board. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

**TCC Regional Health Board**

Yukon Flats Subregion: Christine Riefredi, Fort Yukon (2017-2020)

**TCC Education Council**

Lower Yukon Subregion: Nathan Elswick, Anvik (2017-2020)
Yukon Tanana Subregion: Sharon Gurtler-Strick, McGrath (2017-2020)

**Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees**

Seat B - Upper Kuskokwim Subregion: Sharon Gurtler-Strick, McGrath (2017-2020)
Seat C - Upper Tanana Subregion: Gerald Albert, Northway (2017-2020)

**Full Board of Directors Elections**

**AFN Village Representative**

1 Seat (2017-2018)

Currently Julie Roberts-Hyslop, Tanana

* The AFN Village Representative seat is not affected by the TCC Bylaws; however, we notify villages of AFN candidates who declare their written intent as a candidate, for informational purposes.

**IRHA Board of Commissioners**

Seat E (2017-2020)

Currently Marvin Deacon, Grayling

* Must be eligible to serve on TCC Board of Directors
  - Employees of TCC or IRHA are not eligible to serve as IRHA Commissioners (Article 7, Section 7)
* The election of the IRHA seat is not affected by the TCC Bylaws pertaining to the declaration of candidacy requirements; however, we notify villages of IRHA candidates who declare their written intent as a candidate for informational purposes.

**TCC President Candidates Forum**

**Question and Answer Session**

Monday Afternoon March 13, 2017
Background Checks and the 2017 TCC Presidential Elections

ICPA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION:
The Indian Child Protection Act (ICPA), requires TCC employees to pass a federal background check, and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act requires TCC employees to pass a state background check.

TCC leadership has made the commitment to both comply with current law and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC presidential candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints by February 10th. This allows enough time for the check to be completed. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be eligible to continue as official candidates for the March 16, 2017 election. This process was mandated in the 2014 Presidential Election as well.

2017 TCC ELECTIONS: ELECTION RULES

RULE 10. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED
To be elected to a position, nominees are required to receive a majority vote from the votes cast by the TCC Board. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot provided by these Election Rules until a nominee receives a majority vote.

RULE 11. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY
1. In the event of a tie occurring for a Subregional seat, a coin toss will occur to determine the outcome of the election.

2. Ballots where there are four (4) nominees or more. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot the following rules will apply with the intent to eliminate candidates to achieve a majority:

   The Election Committee will eliminate all nominees except for the three (3) nominees receiving the highest number of votes and conduct a subsequent ballot.

   If there are three (3) or more candidates that receive the second highest number of votes, all those with the second highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot including the candidate with the most votes. The remaining candidates will be eliminated.

   If there is a tie for candidates with the third highest vote and there are two (2) or more candidates that receive the first and/or second highest number of votes, only the two (2) or more candidates that receive the highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

   If there are more than three (3) candidates tied for first highest vote, all of those receiving the first highest will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

   If all but one candidate ties for second, the Election Committee will distribute an “elimination ballot” that includes only the nominees who tied for second. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the “elimination ballot” and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

3. Ballots where there are three (3) nominees. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot having three (3) nominees, the Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes, and conduct a subsequent ballot. If all three (3) nominees tie for the votes cast, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot including all nominees. If two nominees tie for the fewest votes cast, the Committee will distribute an “elimination ballot” that includes only the two nominees who tied for the fewest votes cast on the prior ballot. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the “elimination ballot” and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

4. Ballots with two (2) nominees. The nominee receiving a majority vote shall be elected. If neither nominee receives a majority vote, the Election Committee will prepare another ballot without elimination of the nominee receiving the fewer votes. This Election Committee will repeat this process as necessary until one nominee receives a majority vote.

*Majority is based on the number of Directors present for the 2017 Full Board of Director’s roll call.

LETTER OF INTENT

DATE (Must be between 8:00am February 2nd, 2017 and 5:00pm March 3rd, 2017)

I, ________________________________________________ of ___________________________ declare my intent to run for the Tanana Chiefs Conference position of ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

(Insert seat you intend to run as a candidate for. Example: Chief/President, Subregional Executive Board, TCC Health Board, TCC Education Council or IATC)

(Nam e) ___________________________ (Village/Enrolled to) ________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature ____________________________________________ City, State, Zip Code ____________________________

Print Name ____________________________ Phone Number ____________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, 25 USC sec. 3207 provides that each tribal organization that receives funds under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act shall not employ individuals that have committed certain crimes when the position involves regular or foreseeable contact with Indian children. The TCC executive board has reviewed and passed procedures to implement the ICPA background checks and will require all TCC employees to pass ICPA background checks, including the TCC Chief/ President.

Presidential candidates must fill-out the same background check application that TCC employees must fill out which includes fingerprinting. The background check application can be obtained from Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director at ext. 3095 and is due by February 10th because it takes 21 days for the results. Only those individuals that pass the background check will be official candidates for the 2017 TCC Presidential election.

*We recommend that you confirm the receipt of your letter of intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to 5:00 P.M. March 3rd, 2017; TCC may not know of your submission of your letter of intent, but we can confirm that it was received.
Letters to the Editor, other written contributions and photo submissions are welcome. However, space is limited and program-oriented news has priority. We reserve the right to edit or reject material. Letters and opinions are not necessarily the opinions of Tanana Chiefs Conference. Material submitted anonymously will not be printed.

JOIN THE TCC FAMILY
APPLY ONLINE

www.tananachiefs.org

Village Vacancies
- Behavioral Health Aide (Chalkyitsik, Rampart)
- Behavioral Health Clinician (Galena)
- Clinical Support Staff/Medical Assistant (Tok)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Kaltag, Nenana)
- On Call Janitor (Tok)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (Allakaket)
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist (Dot Lake)
- Village Public Safety Officer (McGrath, Huslia, Tanacross, Tok, Allakaket, Teltin, Eagle, Tanana, Holy Cross)
- VPSO-Regional Rover (Fort Yukon)

Region Wide
- Village Public Safety Officer

Fairbanks Vacancies
- Acupuncturist
- Barista Supervisor
- Behavioral Health Assessment Clinician
- Coordinator/Instructor Mid-Level Practitioner
- Dental Assistant I
- Desktop Support Technician
- Fire Administrative Assistant
- Health IT Manager
- Help Desk Technician
- Infection Control & Employee Health Program Coordinator
- Instructor-CHAP Training Center
- Lead RN
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or ANP)
- Pediatric Medical Provider
- Rural Energy Specialist
- Social Worker

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF JANUARY 19, 2016