On November 6th, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) held a dedication and open house for the new Sobering Center in Fairbanks. TCC’s Health Director Jacoline Bergstrom, Housing First Director Shirley Lee, City of Fairbanks Mayor Jim Matherly, President of Fairbanks Hospital Foundation Jeff Cook, and Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees Mary Jane Michael expressed their thoughts and gratitude towards the Sobering Center. Afterward, Sobering Center staff lead tours around the new facility and described how each room will be set up and used.

The Sobering Center will provide a temporary, safe shelter for intoxicated individuals, and will offer basic medical screening and close monitoring of clients from experienced staff.

See page 3 for more.
MISSION STATEMENT
Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

VISION
Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE • THE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,
I hope that you all had a great Thanksgiving holiday surrounded by friends and family. As the year is quickly coming to an end and the New Year is right around the corner, I wanted to share with you a few highlights and updates from 2017.

We are proud to announce that TCC was able to provide a $1,500 relief payment to our rural employees. On November 20th, the relief payments were distributed to all regular full-time or part-time village based TCC employees. These payments are subject to available funding every year, and TCC was excited to distribute these payments during the holiday season to assist with the high cost of living in our villages.

TCC is also excited to announce that we have officially opened the doors to our new Sobering Center in Fairbanks. As part of the Reclaiming Our People initiative, the Center will provide a temporary and safe shelter for intoxicated individuals. The Center will also offer basic medical screening and monitoring of its clients. Our hope is that this new facility will ensure the safety of those who need temporary shelter, medical care, and reduce the loss of life, especially during the cold winter months.

On November 20-21, TCC hosted a retreat for the Executive Board and several senior managers. During the retreat, the participants reviewed and updated TCC’s 2015-2020 Strategic Plan and set goals for TCC’s future. We examined TCC’s mission statement to ensure TCC’s goals remain in alignment with our Tribes. The retreat provided the senior managers the opportunity to hear from our Executive Board, and discuss the concerns of their respective subregions. The Executive Board and senior managers participated in several work sessions and prioritized topics to be integrated into the Strategic Plan. The highest priority issues include out-migration, public safety, drugs and alcohol, fire services and elder services. As always, with the direction of the Executive Board, the staff continue to strive towards our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

On November 27, I attended the 2nd Annual Tribal Unity gathering held in Anchorage. Tribal Unity is a meeting of 57 tribes and tribal organizations who come together to discuss the importance of uniting the voice of Alaska’s 229 tribes. One of the most important topics discussed during the meeting was the need to improve public safety in rural Alaska. Lt. Governor Byron Mallott supported the call to action, speaking passionately about the risks to our rural communities and promising to carry the message to the Governor and his Commissioners.

Lastly, TCC is excited to announce that Health Services will officially transition to AthenaHealth for our Electronic Health Record System in February 2018. AthenaHealth will assist TCC to improve the quality of care of patients as well as address continuity of care issues. The new EHR system will also be user friendly for our medical providers and allow our patients easier access to health care information.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am very excited about the New Year as there are many exciting developments and plans for TCC in 2018! Please have a safe and warm holiday season!

Ana Bassee,
Victor Joseph
Chief/Chairman
TCC received a grant award from the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) earlier this year to develop and operate a sobering center. This shelter is modeled after the sobering center in Bethel. The Sobering Center has the ability to hold twelve clients at any given time. The cot layout can easily be arranged to accommodate varying numbers of male and female guests. Guests can shower and do laundry as needed. Guests are admitted to the Sobering Center for a twelve hour sleep off in a warm and safe environment. There will be 24 hour staffing consisting of two staff members at all times to allow the facility to remain open 24/7. All staff members will be ETT or EMT certified.

Sobered guests will be offered an SBIRT screening (Screening, Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment) to assess alcohol and drug use. These screenings can lead to case management, treatment, and other resources that may help break the cycle. Guests will be referred to appropriate services to address their substance use disorder.

This facility is a non-smoking facility and will have 24 hour camera monitoring the exterior and client areas of the building.

TCC, DHHS, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, the City of Fairbanks, the Fairbanks Police Department, Fairbanks Native Association and numerous other supporting partners made this program possible.
The 2017 Anvik Spirit Culture and Wellness Camp was held August 27th-31st at an established spirit camp on the Bonzilla River.

67 people attended the camp including: kids as young as two years old, teenagers, families, and Elders from Anvik, Fairbanks, Holy Cross, and Anchorage.

The Anvik Spirit Camp’s cultural focus was on moose hunting, cutting and processing meat, Tribes throughout the region catching, cutting, and smoking fish, continue to host Culture and native language and culture, and listening to stories told by Elders.

The wellness portion of the camp concentrated on Athabascan values, bullying, suicide prevention, substance abuse, and making good life choices.

Tribes throughout the region continue to host Culture and Wellness Camps funded through Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Administration for Native Americans. Two camps will be hosted in each subregion for the next five years.

For more information on upcoming camps, visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/culture-and-wellness-camps
2017 TCC Culture & Wellness Camps:

**YUKON TANANA**
- June 26th-July 2nd in Tanana
- July 23rd-28th in Minto

**YUKON FLATS**
- July 17th - 24th in Fort Yukon
- August 16th-20th in Arctic Village

**LOWER YUKON**
- August 27th-31st in Anvik
- September 12-14th in Holy Cross

**UPPER KUSKOKWIM**
- Takotna - Date TBD
- Nikolai - Moved to 2018

**YUKON KOYUKUK**
- December 9th-11th in Nulato
- Kaltag - Date TBD

**UPPER TANANA**
- Tanacross - Date TBD
- TBD
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE • THE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Frank Miller, Takotna

This month’s Legacy elder is Frank Miller of Takotna, who was featured in Volume Three of the Legacy of Our Elders series. Frank was born in 1947 to Fred W. Miller and Helen J. Miller. His parents focused teaching him the importance of hard-work. “I was six and a half years old and my Dad had taught me how to drive” he continues, “My sister put a ‘Taxi’ sign on this car I had and I started giving G.I.s rides.” By the age of eleven, he saved up enough money from working around the village and bought himself his first vehicle. “I saved up my money from cutting wood for my customers” he says, “And then I used this truck to transport the wood.”

After becoming the First Chief at nineteen years old after his father retired, Miller began traveling and lobbying for his community. It was Miller who lobbied to get a water plant in Takotna. Miller later landed a job at Tanana Chiefs Conference working for then-President Spud Williams. In that position, he helped secure jobs for other Alaska Natives as heavy equipment operators as well. In 1974 Miller ran, and was elected, to the Tanana Chiefs Conference Executive Board. Being a hard-worker followed Frank throughout his adulthood. He left TCC to work up north after being approach saying they need work done with a scraper. In his later years, Frank worked as the hotel manager for the hotel in McGrath and running their heavy equipment when needed.

On a cold, snowy day in November Frank was laid to rest. He will be deeply missed and remembered as a leader. What he has done for his community will not be forgotten.

To hear Frank’s full story, visit www.tananachiefs.org

Compilation of Denaakk’e geographic place-names available

The TCC Natural and Cultural Resources Division is pleased to announce the circulation of a 398-page manuscript titled The Geographical Research of Jules Jetté, Version 2.2. The Jesuit scholar Fr. Jules Jetté (1864-1927) arrived in Nulato in 1898, and he immediately began more than a dozen ethnology and linguistics projects. His most complete collection of Denaakk’e names was a 1910 manuscript “On the Geographical Names of the Ten’a.”

During 2015-2017 our working group, with funding from the BIAANCSA, has been consolidating all of the Koyukon and other Dene place names that Jetté documented for a book. Our group consists of the BIA ANCSA historical places and cemetery sites program, the Jesuit Oregon Province Archives at Gonzaga University Archives, Dr. James Kari of the Alaska Native Language Center, and TCC Natural and Cultural Resources program. As of October we have compiled the preliminary draft with 2,004 entries for Koyukon, Lower Tanana and other Dene language place names. The names are presented in four regional sections along the Yukon and Tanana rivers. This Version 2.2 has the more prominent and well-known place names along the Central Yukon River of Alaska. This is the first nearly complete presentation of the place names Jetté recorded during his 29-year career in Alaska.

As a component of this work, we held a special session on the project at the spring 2016 Alaska Anthropological Association meeting featuring Dr. Eliza Jones of Koyukon and her work on the Koyukon Athabaskan Dictionary, initially issued by the Alaska Native Language Center in 2000. Additionally, we’ve communicated with other interested parties including Paul Mountain of Nulato and Susan Paskvan of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District and others. The manuscript will soon be available to download on the TCC website for review by the TCC villages and by Denaakk’e speakers. Will Putman at TCC is also working on a webmap to display and to refine the locations of these place names.

By Bob Sattler, Realty Specialist, TCC
Coping with Grief during the Holidays

Holidays can be a happy time spent with family and friends, gathering together and the sharing of traditions with our love ones. Holidays can also be a sad time due to a loss of a family member. For many people, holidays can be difficult; especially the first Holiday cycle after the passing of a loved one.

Whatever your age, young or old, and whatever the cause of death, the absence of a Loved One means that normal routines have ended or are never repeated the same way. The routines that used to be used to be fun may now feel empty or sad. The routine with your loved one is no longer there and you will need to make adjustments in your life without the person.

Ways to Cope during the Holidays:

• Do be gentle with yourself and take care of yourself.
• Don’t do more than you want; if you usually decorate the whole house and now you just want to decorate only the tree, well that’s okay.
• Do allow time for feelings. Don’t deny what you’re feeling.
• Do talk with someone to let your feelings be known. This will help process your feelings.
• Don’t keep your feelings bottled up. If you have 1,000 tears to cry don’t stop at 500
• Allow others to help. We all need help at certain times in our lives.
• When in grief please pay extra attention to the children. Children are too often forgotten grieverers. They are grieving the loss right along with you.

As Friends there are ways to support the person or family who is grieving:

• Don’t ask if you can help or should help a friend in grief. Just help! Find ways; invite them to group events or just out for coffee.
• Help by preparing and mailing holiday cards.
• Offer to help decorate for the holidays.
• Offer to help with baking, cooking or cleaning.
• Be supportive of the way the person chooses to handle the holidays. Some may follow traditions and others may choose not to. Remember, there is no right way or wrong way to handle the holidays. Just be there for the person.
• If the person wants to talk about the love one they lost, just LISTEN! This is important! Listening will help him or her heal.

As a friend, the best way to help those who are grieving during the holidays is to let them know you care. This also helps them to know you remembered and honor their loved one.

There are a number of ways to include your loved one and your loss into the holidays:

• Share a favorite story about your loved one; everyone will have a story about him or her.
• You can say a prayer before the Holiday dinner, about your loved one.
• Donate a gift or money in memory of the Loved One.
• Light a candle for your loved one.

It is important how you remember your loved one, and you honor them by the fact that you remember. May this Holiday Season bring you hope, good memories, and most importantly, that you feel the Love from each other, during this time of grief for you and your family and the whole community.

More information on grief or loss, or if you need assistance during the Holidays, please contact Tanana Chiefs Conference Behavioral Health at 1-800-478-7822, ext. 3800 or 907-459-3800.
Crucial time to make your voice known on the Ambler Road

By Bob Sattler, Realty Specialist, TCC

The Ambler Road project is currently in a phase of taking comments on the potential impacts the road poses to the TCC region and Alaska. The lead federal agency, Bureau of Land Management, will convene village meetings in Allakaket, Alatna and Evansville/Bettles during November, but the agency will accept comments on the project until January 31, 2018.

This is a crucial phase of the project to make your voice known. You can submit comments: 1) by mail to Ambler Road Scoping Comments, 222 West 7th Ave., Stop #13, Anchorage, AK 99513, 2) by phone to Craig McCaa at 474-2231, or 3) by email on the BLM website www.blm.gov.AmblerRoadEIS. The BLM will prepare an environmental impact statement on the road and the scoping period is the most important time to submit your comments to the project research team. To express your concerns about the project, contact Tim LamArr at the Bureau of Land Management (907) 474-2356.

TCC has participated in several meetings and provided comments in previous phases of the project. We are also tracking progress and recording the outcome of numerous meetings to document the concerns of tribal members. A working group among different departments has participated in village meetings, regional discussions, communication with BLM project personnel and has provided technical assistance to Tribal leadership on ways to strengthen their level of participation.

At the same time, the National Park Service is accepting comments on their Environmental and Economic Analysis (an entirely different impact study related to the BLM work) on the issues over an Ambler Road right-of-way across 20 miles of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. There are two alternative routes proposed to cross park service lands. Information on the park service impact analysis can be found at: 1) https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Ambler, 2) e-mail at yuga_ambler_road@nps.gov, or call the National Park Service offices in Bettles (907) 692-5494 or in Fairbanks (907) 457-5752.

Staff at TCC will continue their work to gather information and consolidate interests, views and sentiments on the road project and prepared comments by the deadline.

For further information or to share your view, contact Marna Sanford at TCC 800-478-6822, ext. 3317, or e-mail at Marna.Sanford@tananachiefs.org.

There is a Man...

From the Client Development Group at Tanana Chiefs Conference

There is a man we’d like to thank, a man who can’t be here; He and Reva are with his mom who just turned 96 years. This man is special in so many ways, and humble through and through; He loved his job so very much, as he loved working for you. He earned respect from far and wide, and always spread good vibes; And truly cared and gave his all for each and every Tribe. A generous man, and smart, and kind, and patient in every way; Which made his staff want to be like him, and still do to this day. This man had vision, and his writing skills were hard to match, bar none; So over the years the grants kept coming, one after one after one. So many people came to him for He gave them food and shelter too, and helped them to succeed. No matter how much work he had, or how busy his day had been; He always put his pencil down, and invited everyone in. No matter if there was upset staff, or a person with a grudge; This man knew how to calm them all, with smiles and a gentle nudge. There is a man we’d like to thank, a master of 5th floor; He worked for Tribes for many years, some 34 or more. So now that he and his true love are free to travel abroad; We wish them adventures and wonderful sights of which they will be awed. From time to time please think of us, as we will think of you; With appreciation in our hearts, and thanks to Reva too

So thank you Don, for all you’ve done, more numerous to vision; We’ll do our best to serve the Tribes and honor TCC’s Mission.

There is a...
Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) held a Special Full Board of Director’s meeting at the David Salmon Tribal Hall October 26th through October 27th with the theme “Building Workforce Opportunities.” Chiefs and Tribal member came together to discuss Full Board Resolution 2017-12 “Jobs in the Lower Yukon Subregion” along with other important topics such as Wildland Fire changes and options, the utilization of Federal 477 funds to achieve Tribal self-sufficiency, how will it support TCC’s strategic plan, resolutions, and initiatives.

Natasha Singh, General Counsel, spoke on proposed TCC By Law changes and the Full Board Resolution process proposed changes. Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, Director of Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission covered the Yukon River fisheries opportunities panel with Will Mayo, PJ Simon, and Charlie Wright. They covered the research, data collection, field technician positions, expanding current and new commercial fishing opportunities.

Our leaders discussed Chena Bingo, and heard from Kailey Erickson, Wellness & Prevention Director, on reconfirming Reclaiming Our People and its importance. Princess Daazhraii Johnson, Representative for Gwich’in Steering Committee gave an update regarding ANWR.
Advocates Testify to Protect Way of Life

The TCC Hunting and Fishing Task Force partnered with the UAF Tribal Management program to organize Tribal leaders and advocates, who attended and testified at the Board of Game (BOG) statewide meeting in Anchorage on November 9th, 10th, and 11th 2017. Over 20 advocates participated in the training, with 17 submitting oral or written testimony to statewide regulatory proposals effecting their traditional ways of life. Leaders and advocates shared their stories and their way of life with Board of Game members, who appreciated their time away from home to discuss issues critical to their families and communities.

During the training Tribal leaders and advocates were able to hear directly from Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) Subsistence Division Director Hazel Nelson. This was a unique opportunity for advocates to hear directly from Department leadership, learning specific tools and methods to preparing and providing effective testimony. They also dug deep on the issues with the Director, using their time effectively to ask critical questions related to the operations and functions of the BOG. Leaders and advocates were also able to share their concerns one on one, building relationships, with BOG members and Department Commissioner Sam Cotton during breaks and recesses. Leaders and advocates recognized early in the process, that building strong and positive relationships was important to having their voices and concerns heard by both the Department leadership and staff, as well as the BOG Chair and members.

Tribal advocate comments were again critical to this proposal failing. This protects important traditional and cultural practices, and ensures further regulations are not put on religious ceremonial hunts.

Tribal Advocates also repetitively mentioned that BOG should follow their own Tribal Consultation Policy passed in 2002. (BOG Policy 2002-136-BOG)

BOG members placed it on record that the Tribal Management students made a difference, and that they made a huge statement, with their testimony. They further noted that the testimony demonstrated that people, including the BOG, should be very careful when considering proposals dealing with culturally sensitive issues. Their voices were powerful and were heard.

The Hunting and Fishing Task Force greatly thanks the Tribal leaders and advocates for their time, commitment, and dedication to the protection of their traditional way of life. Leaving our families to speak publically on behalf of our people is a hard job. Basee’

The Hunting and Fishing Task Force also thanks those who make this work possible, including generous support from: Alaska Community Foundation’s Social Justice Fund, Alaska Conservation Foundation’s Alaska Native Fund, Doyon Limited, Tanana Chiefs Conference Executive Board, and donating Tribal Governments. Thank you to the UAF Tribal Management program for their partnership. Thank you to Jim Simon for sharing your knowledge, know how, and expertise. Basee’ for your support in making our voices heard.

By Carrie Stevens

"I am opposing this proposal because this may affect my traditional values. We believe in our rights to tribal consultation when we feel that our traditional values are at risk.”

Ivan Demientieff, First Chief of Grayling

"Eliminating a longstanding customary and traditional harvesting practice is wrong. Taking away a food source is wrong. This traditional knowledge has been passed on for generations and generations. It will be wrong to take this practice away and only leave it for stories to be told to younger generations. Our ancestors have had a very strong connection with animals and we still do to this day. We do not disrespect any animals of any kind.”

Arnold Demoski
Nulato Council Member

Proposal 14 & 15. Prohibit the taking of bears in dens./Remove the exception for taking cub bears and female bears with cubs. These proposals failed. Tribal leader and advocate comments were critical. Testimony highlighted the longstanding traditions of their people, and again emphasized respect for all life. This protects important traditional and cultural practices.

Proposal 55. Combine the regulation allowing the take of big game for religious ceremonies and ceremony potlatches (Require Permit). This proposal failed.
Ruby Opens New Tribal Office

On November 18th, 2017, the community of Ruby held an open house for their new Tribal Office. Chief Victor Joseph and other TCC staff attended the celebration, where Chief Joseph presented Ruby with a James Grant print on behalf of TCC’s Executive Board of Directors and TCC’s 42 tribes.

We would like to congratulate Ruby on the opening on their new facility!

Winter Safety Tips

Winter is upon us and with changing weather comes hazards. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind before you venture out in rural Alaska:

- **Be Prepared** - make sure you have a plan.
- **Tell someone** where you’re going and the route you plan to take.
- **Always check weather conditions**, try to bring a partner for long travel.
- **Slow down** and avoid traveling across bodies of water when uncertain of the ice thickness.
- With warmer temperatures it’s getting harder to predict the thickness and relative **safety over rivers and lakes**.
- Finally, **don’t drive impaired!** We want you to get to your destination safely.
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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

TCC CLOSED
December 25th-26th, 2017

TCC CLOSED
January 1st, 2018

Resolution Deadline
TCC’s Annual Convention resolution process has been improved to provide for more tribal notice and dialogue.

Resolutions will be due on February 16th, 2018. Please submit resolutions to Keith Rueben, Keith.Rueben@tananachiefs.org.

If you’d like assistance in writing resolutions please contact the relevant department:

Health: tenri.cadzow@tananachiefs.org, ext 3141
Tribal Client Services: Amber.Vaska@tananachiefs.org, ext 3110
Administration/other: joyce.roberts@tananachiefs.org, ext 3178

JOIN THE TCC FAMILY
APPLY ONLINE
www.tananachiefs.org

Village Vacancies
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Circle, Healy Lake, Chalkyitsik, Ruby, Stevens Village, Manley Hot Springs, Rampart, Healy Lake, Alatna)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner – Itinerant (Tetlin, Dot Lake)
- Community Health Representative (Allakaket)
- Family Visitor (Allakaket, Holy Cross)
- Itinerant Clinician – SOC (Galena)
- Mid-level Practitioner (PA or NP) (Tok)
- Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook (Kaltag, Nulato, Rampart, Shageluk, McGrath, Chalkyitsik, Nikolai)
- Tribal Administrator (Venetie, Telida)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (Koyukuk, Alatna)
- Village Public Safety Officer (Allakaket, Holy Cross, Egle, Huslia, Tanana, Venetie, Ruby, Grayling, Fort Yukon, Nulato, Circle)

Fairbanks Vacancies
- Acupuncturist
- Certified Medical Assistant II
- Coordinator/Instructor Mid Level Practitioner
- Developmental Disabilities Coordinator
- Employment and Training Administrative Assistant
- Head Start Program Manager
- Instructor-CHAP Training Center
- Lab Director
- Lead RN
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Medical Laboratory Technician

Region-Wide Vacancies
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner – Itinerant

Join the Movement Quit Tobacco

Call Alaska’s Quitline Directly 1-800-QUIT-NOW! Its 24 hours a day, and you can get started with free phone coaching sessions and nicotine replacement therapy TODAY.

You can call TCC TOBACCO PREVENTION (907) 452-8251 OR TOLL FREE 1-800-478-6822. A Tobacco Specialist will meet with you to enroll you into the quitline, and provide you with tobacco prevention education.

Everyone has the right to breathe Smoke-Free air!