

DOE Increases Access to Grid Resiliency Funding for Tribes



The Department of Energy (DOE) recently provided an update on the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants authorized under Section 40101(d) of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that would allow more Tribes access to these funds.

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) has been advocating for DOE to administer the 40101d program in a way that recognizes the sovereign rights of Tribes

and fulfills the US government's goal of self-governance. Increasing access to these essential funds has been a top priority for TCC, and for over a year, TCC leadership has been meeting with high-level officials within DOE to emphasize the need to ease grant restrictions. In addition to these meetings, TCC successfully submitted resolutions to both the Alaska Federation of Natives and the National Congress of American

Indians encouraging action from our federal delegation and appointees at the highest level within the DOE.

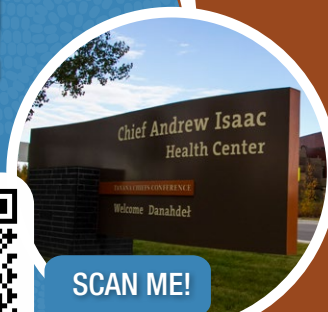
After TCC leadership met with Senator Lisa Murkowski, she wrote a letter asking DOE to: (1) accept grant applications from Tribal consortia; (2) reduce reporting requirements for small Tribes; and (3) provide flexibility in Tribal cost matching requirements.

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Follow Us On Facebook!

The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center has a new Facebook page

- Important Announcements
- Meet Our Staff
- Information about Services
- Health & Wellness Tips
- So Much More!



SCAN ME!

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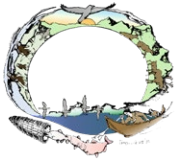
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Mission

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

TCC Executive Board Members

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village
1st Traditional Chief

Andy Jimmie/Minto
2nd Traditional Chief

Brian Ridley/Eagle
Chief/Chairman

Sharon Hildebrand/Nulato
Vice President

Charlie Wright/Rampart
Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit/Tanacross
Upper Tanana

Claude 'Joe' Petruska/Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James/Gwichyaa Zhee
Yukon Flats

Eugene Paul/Holy Cross
Lower Yukon

Lori Baker/Minto
Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green/Louden
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski/Nulato
Elder Advisor

Alex Hanna/Minto
Youth Advisor

Chief's Report

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

I hope that everyone has been able to spend time outdoors alongside family and friends this summer. Last month, my family and I were able to visit my home village of Eagle for their annual Fourth of July celebrations. I always enjoy being in the village, surrounded by community members and admiring this beautiful land that we call home.

Last month, I along with other TCC leadership and key representatives from the Department of Fish and Game, Senator Murkowski's Office, Senator Sullivan's Office, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Division of Public Health, Department of Justice, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and others travelled throughout the Lower Yukon Subregion. This was an amazing opportunity to visit with leadership in Grayling, Holy Cross, Anvik and Shageluk, to learn about the issues their communities are facing and educate our representatives on the realities of living in rural Alaska. Our hope is to continue these annual trips through our subregions each year in an ongoing education effort to inform high-level decision and policy makers on the priorities of our Tribes.

As many of you already know, the salmon returns on the Yukon River have once again been dismal. You can see salmon counts posted on our Facebook page every Monday for more information. I want you to know that TCC continues to prioritize the protection of our way of life. As you can see on page 3 of this newsletter, there is an upcoming advocacy opportunity in October with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting taking place in Anchorage. We encourage subsistence fishermen to attend meetings like these to ensure that we have a voice at the table. Remember, you can always contact our Tribal Resource Stewardship Program staff for more information at 907-452-8251 ext. 3109.

Another priority of TCC is improving our Patient Travel and Housing process. We have been hosting listening sessions and taking active steps to improve internal processes to ensure smooth service delivery. We have heard your concerns. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these changes and encourage you to reach out to our Patient Experience team if you experience any issues at 907-451-6682 ext. 1918. More information on our improvement plan can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

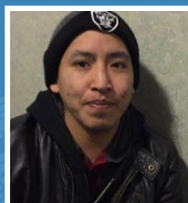
Mahsi' Choo,
Brian Ridley
Chief/Chairman



MISSING PERSONS



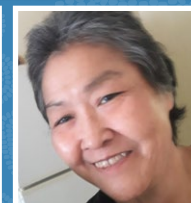
Lorraine Ginnis



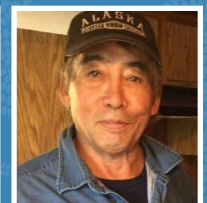
Willis Derendoff



Doren Sanford



Debbie Nictune



Frank Minano

**SUBMIT TIPS
ANONYMOUSLY:**
Text AKTIPS followed by your
tip to 84711 or visit [https://
dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips](https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips)



Call the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100,
Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500
or TCC Public Safety at 907-452-8251 ext.3269.
Visit www.tananachiefs.org/missing for more
information.

Improving TCC's Patient Travel and Housing Experience

Over the past year, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) has heard many concerns from our patients regarding the patient travel and housing process. We wanted to share some information on what we have been doing to improve these experiences.

Closing the Willow House

Recently, TCC made the decision to close the Willow House, our patient hotel. This decision was not taken lightly and a lot of time and consideration went into it. Since the opening of the Willow House in 2012 – we have struggled to bring the hotel to a place where it was operating at its full capacity. On average – the Willow House only had 10 rooms utilized each night despite having 37 rooms available.

The Willow House was never fully utilized since its opening – meaning that all 37 rooms were never fully booked at any time over the past 11 years. Many people did not want to utilize the Willow House for various reasons – but more specifically location – being on South Cushman and far away from amenities and conveniences.

The TCC Housing First Program,

which provides safe housing for our vulnerable homeless population, has had a large waitlist for many years – with only 39 rooms available. The closure of the Willow House increased room availability to 76.

Current Patient Housing Options

TCC has agreements in place with local hotels to ensure that we have rooms blocked for patients through our Patient Travel Division. This means that if the Bertha Moses Patient Hostel (BMPH) is unable to house all patients – we will have alternative options available. The reserved hotel rooms combined with current lodging available at the BMPH will provide more than triple the amount of rooms normally utilized



at the Willow House. If you have questions, please contact Patient Travel at 907-451-6682.

Patient Housing and Travel Improvement Processes

TCC has been listening to the concerns of our patients and are taking active steps toward improving the patient travel and housing experience. TCC is discussing long-term options to better meet the need for patient

housing in Fairbanks and is hiring a Patient Travel and Lodging Manager to ensure continuity and coordination between our Patient Travel and Patient Housing efforts.

Recently, TCC hosted two patient listening sessions where patients, family members and escorts could provide feedback, share their stories and discuss solutions. This input will be utilized in an improvement plan moving forward.

We have several small work groups targeting specific improvements to streamline our internal travel authorization request processes. We are collecting data to inform leadership on areas that require more advocacy to change policies with Medicaid and the local Medicaid hotels to better meet the needs travelers in our region. Vacant positions within Travel and Housing programs are being filled currently, which will increase our capacity to better manage the volume of travel requests. We are also evaluating all of the information regarding the travel process that is being provided to staff and to patients so that everyone involved is better informed and understand the system well. Our goal is to make travel and housing the least of anyone's worries when they need to travel away from their home community for health care needs. Please let us know if you have suggestions for improvement.



Do you have solutions or ideas? Share them!

As we move forward with improvement plans for our patient travel and housing process, we invite anyone who has solutions or recommendations to share them with us! Visit our website at www.tinyurl.com/TCCPatientfeedback to submit your comments.

Yukon River Salmon Update

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) announced the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in regard to Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) bound chum salmon bycatch of the Pollock fishery. The EIS intends to ensure the council fully understands the issue and that the public is notified and given the opportunity to provide comment. The analysis will examine the feasibility of management actions to reduce AYK chum salmon bycatch. People will be

able to provide comments in mid-September through their eAgenda, which should be published by the end of July.

NPFMC will be holding their next meeting in Anchorage at the Downtown Hilton on October 2nd through October 11th and there will be an option to attend remotely and testify. More information and meeting materials can be found on their website. We also recommend people sign up for their emailing list. More info on chum

salmon bycatch can be found at <https://www.npfmc.org/april-2023-newsletter/#Salmon-Bycatch>.

Keep in mind that there are still weekly Yukon River In-Season Salmon Management Teleconferences through August, every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. 1-800-315-6338 access code YUKON# (98566#). Managers and fishers throughout the Yukon River Drainage discuss management strategies, fishing conditions, and track the salmon run.



TCC Public Safety Officers Honored By The State of Alaska

On June 21st, two Tanana Chiefs Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) and one Tribal Peace Officer (TPO) received statewide awards from the Department of Public Safety Commissioner's Office. VPSO Sergeant Haglin was awarded for working with the Alaska State Troopers in Nenana to keep his community safe. He was

noted as an invaluable asset to Public Safety in Nenana and the TCC Region, because his work allows Troopers to focus on longer-term investigations.. VPSO Henry Martinez and TPO Lara Martinez, "the amazing Martinez duo" of Tanana, were honored for answering the call of duty even in a time of extreme danger to their safety. "TCC owes them

a debt of gratitude, and these awards reflect how much the Commissioner's office and TCC appreciate their service," said Darrell Hildebrand, TCC's Public Safety Manager. Please join us in thanking and honoring Mark, Henry, and Lara for their work in protecting and serving our communities!

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Continued From Front Page

The efforts of TCC and Senator Murkowski proved successful, as the DOE recently announced the following decisions:

- DOE will now accept Tribal consortium applications. For consortia, DOE will designate a lead Tribe to receive the grant, and the Tribe would then transfer the award to the consortium.
- DOE will reduce and streamline reporting requirements for Tribes that receive less than \$500,000 in grid resilience grants.
- DOE has identified several grant programs that Tribes can utilize to cover their portion of the cost matching requirements.
- DOE will provide flexibility in allowing Tribes to incorporate existing generation sources into their grant application for certain purposes, including operations & management(?),

training, and parts, subject to certain limitations including the megawatt hours cap contained in statute.

"This is good news for many of our Tribes who struggle with high energy costs," says Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, "I applaud the Department of Energy and Senator Murkowski for listening to our Tribes and making these adjustments so that our rural communities are able to access this critical funding source."

Previously the grant had a very small number of applicants due to its burdensome requirements, which made the grant inaccessible to hundreds of Tribes and Native entities in areas experiencing some of the nation's highest energy resiliency issues. These changes will allow fewer barriers for Tribes in accessing this essential funding source.

TCC Claims Good Neighbor Award

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) was awarded the Good Neighbor Award from the American Red Cross for our disaster response efforts during the 2023 spring flooding. The award was given to TCC to recognize the incredibly generous assistance and support of the American Red Cross of Alaska during the spring flooding disaster responses in May and June of 2023.



Kyle Wright, Environmental Health Director, Brian Ridley, Chief/Chairman and Jacoline Bergstrom, Executive Director of Health Services,

Federal Land Management by the Bureau of Land Management in the TCC Region

By Bob Sattler, Archaeologist/Environmental Quality Analyst, Realty Program

Currently, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has three projects that are of interest to TCC communities that have implications to cause harm to rural village sustainability. The most immediate project is an environmental impact statement study on whether to retain ANCSA D-1 lands public land orders. These are large tracts of land throughout the interior where the BLM placed restrictions on land uses in the 1970s that gave preference to Alaska Native corporations and the State of Alaska to complete land selections. The environmental study is expected to be completed in the next year and some TCC Tribes have already weighed in recommending that the land restrictions be retained for conservation of intact landscapes that support wild food and subsistence economies of rural Alaska.

A second project that is also under scrutiny of an environmental impact statement is a new procedure proposed by BLM to include resources conservation as an equal management decision that is sympathetic to the concept of sustained yield. TCC submitted comments in favor of this rule that also includes a directive to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into BLM decisions

while entering into co-management of public land resources with affected Tribes.

The third BLM project that has been in the works for several years is whether or not to conclude the compilation of the Central Yukon resource management plan. Also guided by an environmental impact statement process, the plan will be a guidebook on how the BLM will manage lands and resources in the central estate of the TCC region over the next 25 years. Some TCC Tribes have become cooperating agencies in this process through a coalition of Tribes that has formed over BLM land planning during the past decade. This coalition was formed during the establishment of the Bering Sea Western Interior resource management plan, which oversees the western part of the TCC region. The coalition adopted the name Bering Sea Interior Tribal Commission and has developed a seat at the table to BLM leadership to influence the decision-making process.

Large areas of the TCC region are under land management jurisdiction by the Bureau of Land Management in three resource management planning areas:

1. Eastern Interior (Yukon Flats area),
2. Central Yukon (Yukon Tanana and Yukon Koyukuk areas) and the
3. Bering Sea Western Interior (Lower Yukon, Yukon-Koyukuk and Upper Kuskokwim).

Intervening areas under federal management include National Park Service lands and the US Fish and Wildlife Service conservation areas.

BLM stands out in their management mission to make decisions on lands under the themes of multiple use and sustained yield. Multiple use allows for the public to use lands for different purposes and some used such as road construction, mining activities, sport hunting and recreation often pose immediate user conflicts with subsistence uses by rural village residents. The other theme of sustained yield refers to managing for renewable resources into the future and is generally in agreement with values of rural villages.

For more information on these issues, contact Bob Sattler (3343) or Suzanne Little with the Pew Charitable Trusts that support the Tribal Commission at 907-244-2417 or slittle@pewtrusts.org.

Galena Solar Array

Local Construction of the 50 kW Pilot Solar Array is nearing completion and will be commissioned in Galena, Alaska, this summer. This pilot project is intended to pave the way for a more significant 1.2 MW solar array and 1 MWh battery system, with many key infrastructure pieces being installed during this initial pilot project. The 50 kW solar array will directly feed into the Galena Electric Utility grid and generate local labor through the construction and, ultimately, the operation and maintenance of the facility.



TCC Resumes Operations of Adolescent Residential Program

Tanana Chiefs Conference Behavioral Health is resuming operations of the Graf Rheeneerhaanjii Residential Program effective October 1, 2023. Graf Rheeneerhaanjii is a 3.5 ASAM level substance use treatment facility for youth between ages 12-17.

Established in 1989, Graf provides coed residential drug & alcohol rehabilitation services to American Indian/Alaska Native adolescents. Our mission is to provide Healing & Education for American Indian/Alaska Native youth with substance abuse issues and to promote wellness and growth, empowering youth to reach their

potential. TCC has contributed \$1.2M annually to the operations of Graf while under Fairbanks Native Association for several years through a Memorandum of Agreement. TCC Behavioral Health has grown significantly in our provision of services to youth with the development of a Child and Family Outpatient Treatment Program and psychiatry services specializing in children and adolescent care.

We look forward to continuing to grow with the addition of this treatment service.

If you would like more information on our programs, please contact us at 907-451-6682 ext. 3800.

August Head Start News

August is here and it's time for school again! All of our teachers will attend a week-long pre-service in mid-August in Fairbanks to refresh their trainings as well as learn new skills to enhance your children's experience in the classroom. This will be followed by a week of parent/teacher meetings and classroom preparations and school will start on August 28!

We are currently enrolling children for our 23-24 school year. If you have a child under the age of 5 that you'd like to be enrolled please contact Waverly Neal at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3998 for more information.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Every month enrolled children from the ages of birth to 5 will get a free age appropriate book! Reading together is a wonderful way to build a lifelong love for reading with children and promote family time.

If you do not have a local Head Start educator, please call Waverly. She's

happy to assist. Please contact Waverly Neal at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3998 for ways to sign up.

Head Start has positions open in the following villages:

In Allakaket, Grayling, Holy Cross, Huslia and Tok we have Family Visitor positions available. In Nulato we have a Preschool Lead Teacher position available. In Nenana, Northway, Tok and Tanacross we have Preschool Assistant Teacher positions available. In Nenana we have Infant/Toddler Teacher positions as well as an Early Head Start Cook position available. In Nenana, Nulato and Tok we have Substitute Teacher positions available. In Fairbanks we have an ERSEA position available.

Please visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/careers to see what's open in your area or call Kristi Walmsley at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822, ext. 3015.

Measurable Impact

Better Engagement

Head Start children are able to pay better attention in school and engage in learning, as well as have more positive relationships with their parents, teachers, and peers.

Life-Long Skills

Head Start children perform better in cognitive and language development and have better executive function skills.

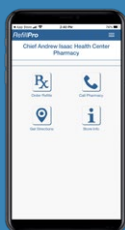
Literacy

Head Start children have better pre-reading, pre-writing, and vocabulary skills.

Have Your Medication Mailed to You!

Download the Refill Pro App or call the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Pharmacy at 907-451-6682.

RefillPro App Directions



Step 1 - Select the Pharmacy

Once downloaded, select the pharmacy by entering the phone Number: 907-459-3807

It will take you to the Refill pro Tanana Chiefs Conference home page.

To order refills select "order refills" button.



Step 2 - Enter the Prescription

Enter the prescription number which is located on the medication bottle highlighted in yellow. Ignore any letters in the RX number.

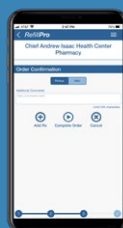
You can also scan the prescription bottle label barcode as shown.



Step 3 - Prescription Status

There will be a green checkmark if the prescription is refillable.

If the prescription is not active it will indicate that with a red X and give you details on why the prescription is not refillable.



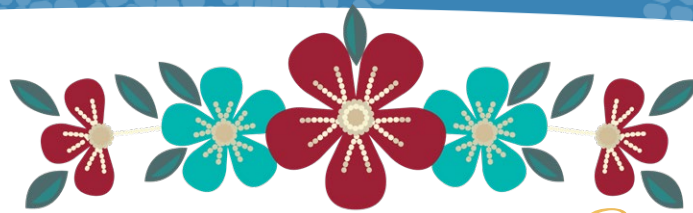
Step 4 - Set Delivery Method

Be sure to indicate whether you would like the prescription mailed or picked up. You can do so by leaving a comment on the order.

Find the complete guide by scanning QR code



If you have any questions, please call the pharmacy at (907) 451-6682 ext. 3620



Community Health Aide *Spotlight* Susan Dayton - Koyukuk Health Aide

By Linden Staciokas

Discovering a calling can be as simple as looking through a course catalog from the University of Alaska. So it was for Susan Dayton, who was working as a Walmart greeter and cashier back in 2010. Restless, longing for a job that made her feel more excited about working, Susan told her mother she wanted to take some college classes so that she could find a career where she was useful to people.

Susan began taking the coursework to become a Certified Medical Assistant, not entirely sure what that involved but working in a medical setting sounded like it would be interesting. To her surprise, she said, "It turned out I really liked the health care field. When I finished the two-year degree, I started working at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center in Fairbanks, where I stayed for six years." Susan was responsible for paperwork, helping people check in for appointments, and performing tasks such as taking blood pressure and temperatures before the doctor arrived.

In 2008, Susan, her partner, and their two young children moved to Koyukuk. This village of about one hundred people, located on the Yukon River 290 air miles west of Fairbanks, was familiar territory to Susan. She was born in Fairbanks but raised in Koyukuk, so she was returning home. In the next two years, Susan gave birth to two more children. Many people would have found tending to four youngsters enough, but Susan had always been a

person of high energy with a need for a lot of stimulation. When she saw an advertisement for training to become a health aide, she signed on and started working November 2021.



She admits that it was tough. "Not so much the training. That was hard, but I knew some of the information because of my years at Chief Andrew Isaac, and I had already had several years of college, so I knew how to study. The difficult part

was that I now had a one-year-old and a two-year-old, and I had to travel to Fairbanks for months at a time for the classes. They were too young to be left behind, so I brought my two youngest into town with me. I don't mean they went to the classes, but I was able to take care of them when I wasn't in class."

It now has been over a year and a half, and it is clear the position is a perfect fit for Susan. "I love helping people, being busy. I love what I do and so it doesn't feel like work. The hardest part right now is that the second health aide position for this village is empty. As a result, I am on call 24/7, which can mean that some nights I have minimal sleep because I have been called out for an emergency. The strains of being on call all the time was a surprise to me."

Asked how she handles knowing so much personal information about her friends and neighbors, Susan said, "I don't find it hard, really. Everyone, everywhere is going through stuff, whether you know it or not. I don't judge.

It is an honor that people trust me...I also own the grocery store in Koyukuk and so when I see people in places like the store, it is easy to focus on that part. What goes on at the clinic, stays at the clinic; what goes on at the grocery store, stays at the grocery store."

Susan credits her supervisor and colleagues in the health aide program and at Tanana Chiefs for helping her adapt and settle into the job. "The amount of information you must learn, the protocols, the documenting of everything...I would have been overwhelmed and long gone if not for the 100% supportive program. I have places to turn for help and support, 24 hours a day."

Being happy in her job has turned Susan into a recruiter for the health aide program. She says with a laugh, "I am always trying to recruit, saying to people, 'Have you thought about being a health aide? It is a great job.'" She is convinced that if more people knew about the satisfactions in the job, they would be eager to apply.

When not busy being "a mom, a health aide, a grocery store owner and, more recently, taking college classes part time," Susan enjoys watching movies. "I especially love the scary ones and the romances." Speaking of romance, Susan wants to make sure her partner of 16 years, Kenneth, receives recognition for how much support he has given her. Whether she is off training, called out at all hours, or involved in a particularly time consuming case, he has always been encouraging---both verbally and in taking on chores that she does not have time for due to work.



Bump Up Your Strawberry Production

By Heidi Rader, Associate Professor of Extension at UAF

There are never enough strawberries in our patch — I think my kids and my neighbor's kids would agree!

I am not the only one who is figuring out how to grow strawberries successfully in Alaska. One of the top posts on my blog, It Grows in Alaska, is "Untangling the Mysteries of Growing Strawberries in Alaska." (<https://itgrowsinalaska.community.uaf.edu/2020/04/06/untangling-the-mysteries-of-growing-strawberries/>) To figure what I can do to bump up my strawberry production, I interviewed Andy Harper, a local strawberry farmer (Highlands of Alaska Farms) as well as University of Minnesota researchers who have studied annual strawberry production using a low tunnel system.

Andy has a half acre of strawberries in production this year. Some of those plants are research plants. He said he started the farm because, "I love berries, I lived in the UK and Scotland, they love black currants, I love those. I met Papa [Meunier] and he had everything. All different types of berries. I just loved berries. So I decided I wanted to do berry farming. Strawberries are the only ones I can make money on the first year."

(Papa "Larry" Meunier was a legendary berry grower and cultivator in Interior Alaska and a longtime Tanana Valley Farmers Market vendor.)

When Andy buys his own farm, he plans to expand production to many other types of berries. Most berries take a few years to get established.

One of the biggest considerations when planting strawberries in Fairbanks is the variety. I wrote about that in detail in my blog. Two particularly important aspects of the variety are their response to day length (or lack thereof) and whether or not they can survive our harsh winters. This is a moving target since our winters are getting less harsh alarmingly fast.

Also important is taste (of course!), texture, and productivity. Andy primarily grows the day-neutral variety, Albion. He also grows the June bearer, Cabot,

usually as an annual, but it could survive in a non-raised bed growing system. June bearers often are more productive in subsequent years rather than in their first year of growth.

I am growing Fort Laramie strawberries, which are everbearers. They are what was available at two local nurseries this year. I was told that they are both productive and hardy and will come back next year. I was also told that if I were to overwinter them, I should pinch the blossoms and runners. Instead, I'm going for instant gratification and hope to maximize production this year.

After these interviews, I realized I had not been paying enough attention to how I planted the bare root strawberries. I learned that you have to take special care that the strawberry roots do not make a "J" when you plant them. They must go straight down into the soil. Andy uses a dandelion weeder to shove the plants into the soil, then clips the ends of the roots with the tool with an extra push at the end.

Retired University of Minnesota researcher Dr. Steve Poppe wraps the root around a dull 12-inch plant stake so that the root goes straight down into the ground. Loose soil with good tilth is also key for successful planting and good strawberry growth. Compact clay soil will make planting the strawberries the right way difficult. This video explains how to plant strawberries in depth: <https://youtu.be/7O-j6OI0m6RU>. This photo shows the planting technique with a stake: <https://extension.umn.edu/strawberry-farming/planting-new-strawberry-field#planting-day-neutral-strawberries-2855612>.

Andy spaces his plants 12 inches apart, two rows in a bed. I planted three rows per bed, which worked out well since quite a few of my berries didn't make it, possibly because of my poor planting technique.

To maximize productivity when growing strawberries as annuals, you'll want

to use at least a plastic mulch to block the weeds. A low tunnel, caterpillar tunnel, high tunnel, or greenhouse also works well.

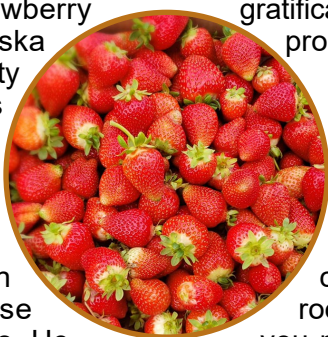
Strawberries prefer 60-80 degrees Fahrenheit, so overheating can be a concern. Having the ability to remove the tunnel or move the high tunnel is important. This video from the University of Minnesota shows how to grow strawberries using a low tunnel system: <https://youtu.be/tQ4TBhjmMO0>.

Growing in containers or a hanging basket can also be a way to provide the heat needed to get the berries going in the spring or extend the season in the fall if you can bring them into a warm place. Containers or hanging baskets heat up more than growing plants in the soil. Originally, Andy used a reflective mulch similar to tin foil and found it burned the plants. Now he's using a white mulch, which can aid in cooling the soil.

Andy strategically fertilizes based on a sap analysis he sends to Advancing Eco Agriculture (<https://www.advancingecoag.com/plant-sap-analysis>) once or twice a season. Although he relied solely on organic fertilizers at the beginning, he's now incorporating some conventional fertilizers, usually through fertigation (incorporating the fertilizer into the water) once a week. He uses 9-45-15. He said that he should be able to get a half-pound of strawberries per plant but he's only getting about a fifth of a pound.

Although I have gardened organically for many years, this year, I chose to use conventional and organic fertilizer. I stay away from pesticides and herbicides. Strawberries (and squash and corn, for example) are heavy feeders. Many organic fertilizers are not immediately available to plants especially with the cooler springs we've been having. We're both hoping to bump our production with the addition of some conventional fertilizers.

Organic fertilizers are better for the environment, but they're also heavy. Shipping heavy organic fertilizers long





distances adds to your carbon footprint. Your pocketbook also takes a hit. As with everything, there are pros and cons to consider.

Andy removes runners and daughter plants immediately when he sees them. Since these strawberries are grown as annuals, there is no reason to let those grow. If you were hoping to overwinter your plants, you would let them proliferate. Andy does not remove flowers.

When asked if he would do anything differently when he started his farm, Andy said that he would have used conventional fertilizer sooner. His biggest advice for aspiring strawberry farmers is to find other strawberry farmers and others in the strawberry industry, particularly at national association conferences, who can mentor you.

He said, "Getting that knowledge sooner gets you further ahead (and) helps you so you don't make those mistakes." He also advises persistence and to experiment to find out what you and your customer like. In The Lean Farm, Ben Hartman reiterates this and says that early on in farming you should be doing a lot of experimenting. Once you find what works after your second or third year of farming, you should try to keep your experiments and creativity to 15 percent, otherwise it gets to be too costly.

Put simply, Andy's inspiration to farm is that, "I just like people enjoying food. If there are no farmers, nobody eats. I play a part in helping people eat. Farming is relaxing."

You can buy Andy's strawberries at Roaming Root or pick them for

yourself at the farm for about \$12/pound. They should be available from mid-July to mid-September. For more information, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Highlands-of-Alaska-Farms-100057493627640/>

For more information on growing strawberries as annuals in Alaska, go to: https://cespubs.uaf.edu/index.php/download_file/1501/

For any aspiring strawberry farmers, the University of Minnesota produced a series of videos (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcXxBuLJhm-42F5MbBLuaSqHGGRrW0ePzN>) as well as detailed budget spreadsheets. The budget spreadsheets are not posted online but you can email Emily Tepe with the University of Minnesota Extension if you are interested (etepe@umn.edu).

Heidi Rader is an associate professor of Extension in partnership with Tanana Chiefs Conference. This work is supported by the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program Project 2022-41580-37957. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Now Seeking Nominations For NPFMC Advisory Panel

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is now seeking nominations for its Advisory Panel.

The Advisory Panel (AP) members represent major segments of the fishing industry; catching and processing, subsistence and commercial fishermen, observers, consumers, environmental/conservation, and sport fishermen.

The AP currently consists of 19 members, usually serving three-year staggered terms (January 1 through December 31).

These members may be reappointed or replaced by the Council annually at their December Council meeting.

Submit a Nomination



Nominations, letters of interest, and a resume should be submitted to the Executive Director through the NPFMC website by Tuesday, October 31 at 5:00pm.

Tanana Elders Assisted Living Facility

The Tanana Elders assisted living facility located in Tanana is currently ready for more residents. The facility can assist up to six elders; two spots have already been taken.

The facility offers 24 hour health care as needed, nutritional meals, individual rooms with shower and qualified and caring staff.

For more information contact 907-366-7213 or email elders@tananatribes.org

Gardening In Ruby, Alaska

By Heidi Rader, Associate Professor of Extension at UAF



Evelyn Sarten and her late husband Ed (Dwight) have gardened in Ruby, Alaska, for a quarter of a century. Evelyn, who was raised on the land on a Native American reservation in Taos, New Mexico, estimates she grows about 30% of her food.

She was taught to live with the land, and she's always grown her own food. Their garden in Ruby is characterized by innovation and making do with what is available. For instance, their chicken coop fence was constructed from an old couch frame, old bed frames, and leftover fencing from the school. Now her one remaining chicken lives in her arctic entryway.

In addition to growing her own large garden, she works for the Native Village of Ruby as the Natural Resources and Agriculture Program Director, helping others in Ruby garden. With Evelyn, the Tribes Extension Program (www.uaf.edu/ces/tribes) and I sent out vegetable and flower seeds and organized gardening and plant foraging workshops at the school. We also purchased and built a raised bed garden for the school.

Evelyn starts most of her own transplants inside as early as March, but this year, she started everything on May 7. She has a dedicated plant starting room. Conveniently, she has a window that opens up into a simple, homemade

lean-to greenhouse, which she builds every year. Her high tunnel is just steps away.

She plants carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, turnips, peas, pole beans, onions, garlic, a variety of herbs, and really "anything that grows." In the high tunnel, she grows zucchini, corn, tomatoes, pumpkins, cabbage, herbs and spaghetti squash. The Sartens were able to get a high tunnel through the Natural Resource Conservation Service, but due to their hilly property, they had to it into two pieces. One year, they did not clear the snow in time, and one of the high tunnels collapsed.

Evelyn also raises bees and has had dozens of chickens and turkeys over the years. In addition to eating the eggs, the composted manure allows her to grow vegetables organically.

She likes to experiment even if it's not always successful. She had fun growing bananas and avocados indoors, even though they never bore fruit.

One of the biggest challenges for Evelyn is watering her garden. She has to carry water up a sizable hill either from the river or the watering station, then often water the garden by hand.

Evelyn said she sometimes has problems with voles, but her cat is doing a good job of taking care of them. Protecting her chickens from animals, such as marten, is one of her biggest challenges in raising poultry.

Growing up, Evelyn dried much of her vegetables and meat. She found that in Ruby, though, people prefer to can and freeze, so she also does that.

To new gardeners, she says, "Don't be afraid, just start. Try your luck. That's all you can do is start seeds and see what happens. A seed is like a baby. You just take care of it and watch it grow and give it water when it needs it and give it sunlight and aeration when it needs it. It'll pretty much tell you how it wants to be taken care of. That's how I do it."



Art Invoking Action Homeless Memorial Shelf Housed at TCC Facility

Fairbanks' first annual Homeless Persons Memorial, hosted in collaboration between local non-profits, Bread Line, Inc., the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC), and Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), honored the lives of Alaska's overlooked population – unhoused individuals. Taking place at the Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall on winter solstice, the event also unveiled a thought-provoking piece of functional art created by Ryan Tinsley and Stacey Fritz from CCHRC.



By day, Fritz works as a Research Anthropologist at CCHRC, and Tinsley is a Building Facilitator for the organization. The duo has extended their work into finding ways to call public attention to the issue of homelessness in Alaska, so their collaboration with Hannah Hill, Executive Director of Bread Line, Inc., is a natural evolution. Bread Line has supported life affirming care for Fairbanks' houseless population for the last 40 years.

Tinsley and Fritz's creation sparks essential conversations about the fate of Alaska's houseless population and the urgent need for comprehensive interventions to save lives.

The Homeless Persons Memorial

shelf, now permanently housed in TCC's Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall, showcases personal belongings of those who lost their lives in Fairbanks due to the harsh conditions. During the Homeless Persons Memorial, loved ones of the departed placed items on the shelf, creating a poignant display. Hill recalls the tender moments of people remembering their lost loved ones, with items ranging from delicate rocks and copies of meaningful books like *Wheels on Ice* to photographs, poems, raven feathers, carefully folded fabric, shells, and a wood carving. "It was incredible to see," says Hill, "A lot of love and a little healing."

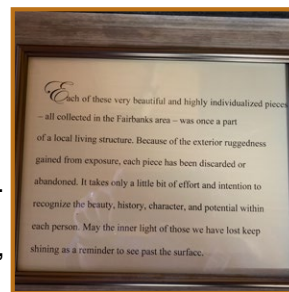
Tinsley, supported by a materials cost donation from Bread Line, constructed the shelf using locally sourced and repurposed materials. Recognizing the emotional significance of belongings, Tinsley emphasized the importance of using materials that hold meaning for the families and friends of the departed. "People establish an emotional connection with their surroundings," he says, "and it was my goal to imbue the work with a

sense of quality, reverence, and dignity." The nature of the Homeless Persons Memorial Shelf symbolizes the empathy, humanity, and holistic approach needed within our communities to genuinely address this issue.

Fritz succinctly captures the art's objective: "We are the Golden Heart City, and no one should be exempt from catching the light." The trio behind the memorial, aiming to establish it as an annual event, urge residents to recognize that housing solutions go beyond mere shelter.

Hill emphasizes that removing houseless individuals from the streets alone is not the solution. "Simply shuffling unhoused people from street to street in our community perpetuates the cyclical nature of the housing issue that continues to cost lives and money," says Hill. "To create solutions that will last, we have to meet people where they're at and house them in a way that affirms their lives."

Tanana Chiefs extends our gratitude to Ryan, Hannah, and Stacey for their ongoing efforts to honor the sanctity of life for Alaska's unhoused and most vulnerable, as well as for creating art that serves as a call to action for Fairbanks.



TCC Communications Wins Victims Services Media Award

In April, the TCC Communications Division was awarded the 2023 Victims Services Media Award by Victims for Justice, an independent non-profit working to ensure Alaskans affected by violent crime get the support they need and deserve. This award recognizes a person or an organization contributing to awareness and understanding of victims in our state.



MMIP Tribal Working Group Continues Efforts to Establish Response Plan

Recently, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) kicked off meetings and listening sessions to work toward the development of a Tribal Community Response Plan, which will serve as a roadmap on the best way to respond to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) cases in the future. A tribal working group has been established that consists of tribal leaders, personnel from public safety, behavioral health, medical, social services, media, and elders and local stakeholders.



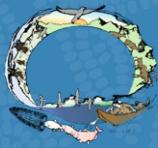
In June, the group held a work session with local providers and law enforcement. The group had the opportunity to hear about the resources available through victim/social service organizations, law enforcement entities, and local media.

The group plans to meet again to continue establishing a plan. Once complete, a final draft of the plan will be reviewed by the TCC Executive Board of Directors before being brought to the Full Board of Directors for final approval.

The Council Newsletter

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Tanana
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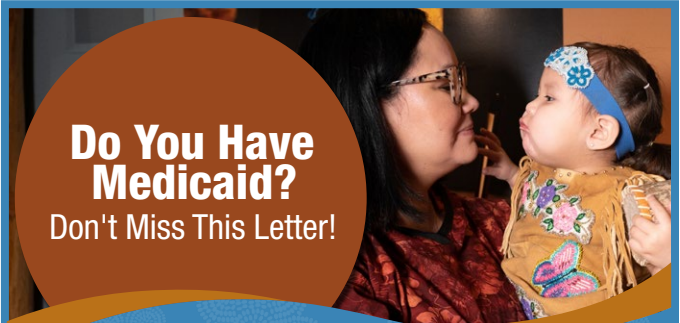
New Vacancies

Fairbanks	SPF PFS Prevention Coordinator
Fairbanks	Security Officer
Fairbanks	RN Home Care Coordinator
Fairbanks	Care Coordinator- Endoscopy
Fairbanks	Clinical Staff Office- Administrative Assistant II
Fairbanks	Certified Medical Assistant
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Primary Care
Fairbanks	Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II-WIC
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant I-WIC
Fairbanks	Certified Medical Assistant
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant I-Diabetes Program
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant
Fairbanks	Surgical Technologist
Fairbanks	Materials Technician
Fairbanks	Village Public Safety Officer-Regional Rover
Fairbanks	Service Desk Technician
Fairbanks	SOC Cultural Contracts Coordinator
Fairbanks	Physical Therapy Aide
Fairbanks	Compliance Specialist
Holy Cross	Village Public Safety Officer
Huslia	Tribal Family Youth Specialist
Region-Wide	Camp Counselor
Tok	Clinical Support Staff-Medical Laboratory Assistant

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF JULY 19, 2023

Do You Have Medicaid?

Don't Miss This Letter!



Medicaid Renewal Letters



Medicaid renewal has started the annual renewal process, and the Division of Public Assistance will be reaching out to households to verify information to renew medicaid coverage.

Questions?

Contact Alternate Resources at
907-451-6682 ext. 3100

Did you attend Old
Minto Recovery
Camp between
2016 and 2018?



We Want Your Feedback!

If so, we want to invite you to participate in a group discussion over Zoom (or phone) on either, August 10, 2023, 10am-11am or August 12, 2023, 1pm-2pm.

**Each participant will receive a
\$25 Visa Gift Card after the group!**

Please RSVP with the QR code!

