

Region Mourns the Passing of *First TCC President Al Ketzler Sr.*



Last month, the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) region mourned the loss of respected elder, Alaska Native advocate and TCC's first President, Alfred "Al" Ketzler Sr. of Nenana.

Born on April 16, 1933, in Nenana, Alaska, Al Ketzler Sr. was a devoted advocate and a humble servant of his people who left an indelible mark on the Alaska Native community.

Al Ketzler Sr. served as President of TCC several times throughout his lifetime: from 1962 to 1964, 1968 to 1972, and again from 1976 to 1978. He was an unwavering advocate and a distinguished leader in the fight for Alaska Native land rights. In June 1962, Al Ketzler Sr. played a pivotal role in orchestrating the historic gathering in Tanana that brought together representatives from 32 Native villages,

ultimately leading to the formation of TCC.

One of Al Ketzler's most remarkable achievements during his tenure was his successful campaign to halt the state's land selections in 1966. Through unrelenting advocacy and collaboration with other Alaska Native leaders, he convinced Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, to suspend these selections until the Native land claims could

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TCC Annual Christmas Bazaar

- Thursday, November 2, 2023, 8:00am-5:00pm
- Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks - Northern Latitudes (by the lobby)
- If you are an artist interested in reserving a table at the bazaar, please contact Felicia Alexie at 907-452-8251 ext. 3145 or at Felicia.Alexie@tananachiefs.org



NOTE: This event is subject to closure if there are dangerous levels of respiratory illness. IF the bazaar is closed, the event will be postponed.

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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



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 this letter finds you well, and that you and your families had a successful hunting season. As the leaves change colors and the air grows colder, I trust that you were able to gather what you needed before the long winter ahead.

In August, I had the privilege of meeting with U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and Senator Lisa Murkowski, along with other Tribal Leaders. We discussed the urgent need for improved public safety in Rural Alaska, where many communities lack essential services.

I'm pleased to share that U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced nearly \$70 million in grant funding from the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime to support American Indian and Alaska Native victims of crime. This is a significant step to address our community's challenges.

Last month I also had the opportunity to meet with Secretary Marcia Fudge of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). During this meeting, I strongly advocated for larger increases in HUD funding for rural communities. While I genuinely appreciate the increases that have occurred over the past few years, we must ensure that these increments are sufficient to cover the cost of inflation.

Furthermore, it's essential to recognize that the cost to build a home in rural Alaska significantly differs from the cost in other parts of the U.S. Additionally, the regulations and requirements imposed by HUD on the construction of homes contributes to escalating costs. Our tribal communities have consistently identified housing as their number one need, and addressing this issue is critical.

Secretary Fudge has agreed to establish a committee dedicated to discussing and identifying solutions to these housing challenges. This is a significant step forward, and we are committed to working collaboratively to find cost-effective solutions that will benefit our communities.

October promises to be a very busy month for TCC and our Tribes. There are several meetings taking place this month in Anchorage including the TCC Executive Board of Directors Meeting, the Alaska Tribal Unity Gathering, the Lower Yukon Subregional Meeting, and the Yukon Flats Subregional Meeting. These meetings are scheduled to take place between October 16-21. These gatherings provide opportunities for us to strengthen connections, share knowledge, and collaborate on issues of significance to our region.

The community of Galena will host an Economic Summit this month, a testament to our Tribes ongoing efforts to promote economic development within their communities. We believe in the potential of our people and are committed to creating opportunities for growth and prosperity.

Behind the scenes, our dedicated TCC staff is hard at work preparing for our Special Full Board of Directors Meeting, scheduled to take place from November 1st to 3rd in Fairbanks. This meeting promises to be an important time for us to come together and make decisions that will shape our path forward and we continue to strive towards our vision of *Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes*.

Mahsi' Choo,
Brian Ridley, Chief/Chairman
Tanana Chiefs Conference



**Do You Have Your
Alaska Real ID Card?**
Deadline extended to May 7, 2025

For more information on REAL ID,
visit www.dhs.gov/real-id



**Early Voting
Starts Sept. 18th!**

Check Your Voter Registration Now!



Learn More Here!



October 3rd is Election Day

Get Out the Native Vote!

Local policies affect your daily life and the lives of those you love. Voting in local elections helps determine the quality and content of your kids' education, as well as how you live, drive, work, and recreate in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). Make sure you are registered so that you can take part in this essential process!

Elected officials work for the citizens who elect them, yet only 22% of eligible FNSB residents actually vote. Let's hold elected officials accountable and be a part of the reason that voter turnout in our community increases this year!

Here are a few examples of how these policies influence your daily experiences:

Emergency Services

- Fire Response/Prevention
- Emergency Medical Response
- Disaster Relief Response

School Curricula

Policymakers on the School Board decide what students learn and don't learn - from reading, writing, and math to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Education Funding

The Borough Assembly ultimately determines whether teachers and educational programs will be cut.

School Schedules

The School Board decides what time school starts and ends, as well as what extracurricular activities are funded each academic year.

Public Use Spaces

Funding for libraries, parks, pools, trails, recreation, arts, and theaters is all controlled by the Borough Assembly.

Administrative Hiring

The School Board ultimately decides which candidates will become your next school principals and superintendents.

**See You At
The Polls!**

Region Mourns the Passing of TCC's First President, Al Ketzler Sr.

...Continued From Front Page

be equitably addressed. Following a historic struggle and negotiations during which Ketzler and numerous other Alaska Natives resided in Washington D.C. for weeks, Congress authorized the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), a settlement encompassing over 44 million acres and nearly \$1 billion for Alaska Natives, structured through a corporate framework.

"Al Ketzler's advocacy efforts laid the foundation and established the principles of integrity, determination, and humility—values that form the essence of TCC's present-day mission, vision, and advocacy endeavors," expressed Chief/Chairman of TCC, Brian Ridley. "He devoted a lifetime to serving and working on behalf of the Alaska Native People. We are eternally grateful for his leadership and service, and our

deepest condolences go out to his family and community."

Al Ketzler's contributions extend beyond TCC, as he played an instrumental role in founding other organizations such as the Fairbanks Native Association (FNA), Doyon, and the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN). He also dedicated his time to numerous boards and committees, including FNA, AFN, Tundra Times, Toghothle Corporation, the Inter-Tribal Timber Council, and the Association on American Indian Affairs board, where he served an astounding 53 years!

To honor the life and contributions of Al Ketzler Sr., a funeral service and potlatch were held on September 14th at the Mitch Demientieff Tribal Hall in Nenana. The event saw a gathering of many to pay their respects and celebrate the life of this remarkable

leader. Many Native leaders including TCC Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley and past TCC Presidents Victor Joseph, Will Mayo, Tim Wallis, and Spud Williams, came forward to share their stories and reflect on Al Ketzler's enduring legacy.

Former TCC President Will Mayo remarked, "If you ever wonder what you are here for—it's about how we impact people and their life. People aren't the only thing that we should be concerned about—how can you be an impact in people's lives? I can tell you that Al was a positive impact. He was a gentle heart and we needed that. That's what I was so grateful for."

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for his guidance, leadership, and service throughout the years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and the community of Nenana during this difficult time.



TCC Awarded \$35 Million Grant to Bring Broadband to Rural Alaskan Villages

Last Month, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) was awarded a \$35 million grant to install affordable, reliable high-speed broadband in three underserved TCC communities. The 100% fiber-based network will be installed in the villages of Venetie, Chalkyitsik and Circle.

The project is part of the Alaska FiberOptic Project, which is a larger collaboration between Calista Corporation; Doyon, Limited; Gana-A 'Yoo Limited; Tanana Chiefs Conference; and Alaska Communications to connect more than 20 communities in the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions, beginning in Fairbanks and extending to the Bering Sea Coast. The terrestrial fiber network will begin in Fort Yukon and extend to Venetie. Submarine fiber cable will be placed in the Yukon River to connect Fort Yukon and Circle. Residents and businesses will receive Gigabit speeds through a fiber-to-the-home connection.

"The lack of reliable connectivity perpetuates disparities in education, healthcare, economic opportunities and social well-being for our people," said Brian Ridley, Chief and Chairman, Tanana Chiefs Conference. "We're working diligently with our Native Corporation partners, the Alaska Delegation, government entities and Alaska Communications to remedy market conditions that have left our Alaska Native Villages on the wrong side of the digital divide. Mahsi' Choo, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Biden-Harris Administration for

this profound opportunity."

The five companies recognize that access to high-speed internet puts access to resources in the hands of rural Alaskans. The Alaska Fiber-Optic Project will bridge the digital divide for many rural communities, providing access to virtual meetings, online classes, telehealth and online jobs without having to compromise their village way of life.

"Keeping the people of rural America connected with reliable, high-speed internet, brings new and innovative ideas to the rest of our country," said USDA Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary Farah Ahmad. "Thanks to President Biden's Investing in America agenda, we're making sure that people in rural communities across Alaska have access to high-speed internet so they can connect with their loved ones and tap into economic opportunities. As this Administration grows the economy from the bottom up and middle out, we're delivering historic funding to ensure rural America remains a great place to live, work and raise a family."

The collaborative work of Tribes, Tribal nonprofit organizations, government and telecommunications entities can be credited for the pending upgrade in access to digital communications in these communities.

"USDA Rural Development works alongside Tribes, municipalities, and

telecommunication companies to connect remote and rural communities to high-speed internet," said USDA Rural Development State Director for Alaska Julia Hnilicka. "I am deeply proud of the partnerships created through USDA's ReConnect program and humbled by the passion Alaskans have for working together toward a common goal. Alaskans deserve affordable, reliable high-speed internet, not only for students to learn and thrive, but also for patients to access medical care. This investment is just one example of how the Biden-Harris Administration's unprecedented push for equity is providing rural Alaskans with opportunities."

Connecting all communities across the United States to high-speed internet is a central part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda to rebuild the economy by rebuilding our nation's infrastructure. This agenda is driving more than \$500 billion in private-sector manufacturing investments, rebuilding America's infrastructure, lowering costs and creating good-paying jobs.

Alaska Communications will build, operate, and maintain the network and service.

"We're honored to expand our work with Tanana Chiefs Conference to provide the technical expertise and experience building, operating and maintaining critical broadband infrastructure," said Kathleen Redmond, Vice President Strategy and Operations, Alaska Communications. "It's exciting to think about the opportunities ahead for the residents of Venetie, Chalkyitsik and Circle."



We're delivering historic funding to ensure rural America remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

USDA Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary Farah Ahmad



TCC to Hold 2023 Special Full Board of Directors Meeting

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is set to convene its Special Full Board of Directors Meeting from November 1-3, 2023, at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks. This gathering will address an array of pressing topics that have been identified as priorities by the delegates representing the 42 member Tribes.

During the summer, TCC conducted a survey among Tribal delegates to gauge their perspectives on the most critical issues they face. Their feedback highlighted several key areas of concern, which will take center stage during the upcoming meeting.

Among the top priorities are discussions around food sovereignty and the protection of traditional ways of life,

patient travel and housing, and the provision of essential substance abuse services to Tribal communities. These topics underscore TCC's commitment to improving the overall well-being and quality of life for its member Tribes.

In addition to these discussions, the Full Board of Directors will be reviewing a proposed naming policy for TCC buildings and spaces. This policy is aimed at ensuring a unified and culturally respectful approach is taken to designating various facilities within the organization.

Furthermore, the Board will consider a proposal to purchase a patient hotel in Fairbanks. All land and building purchases are required to be approved by

the Full Board per TCC's bylaws.

The Special Full Board of Directors Meeting serves as a significant platform for Tribal leaders and delegates to collaborate, exchange ideas, and make informed decisions that will directly impact the well-being of their communities. By addressing these pressing concerns and exploring innovative solutions, TCC remains committed to fostering a brighter and more sustainable future for its member Tribes.

For more information about the Tanana Chiefs Conference and updates on the upcoming meeting, please visit the TCC website at www.tananachiefs.org



Small Business Training Opportunity!

TCC Rural Economic Development and Anchorage Community Land Trust are partnering to bring Indigenous Peoples Set Up Shop to the TCC Region!

All Tribal Members Welcome!

Apply by Monday, October 16th to receive entrepreneur training! Topics will include marketing, finances, operations, real estate, and more!

Classes begin November 16th, 2023!



Scan to Apply Today!

**Questions?
Contact:**

Rural Economic Development
ruraleconomicdevelopment@tananachiefs.org
(907) 452-8251, ext. 3743



Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program 28 Years Helping People with Disabilities Re-Enter the Workforce!

By Amanda Race, MA, CRC, Coordinator/Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

Our Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) Program has been federally funded for 28 years. You may not have heard of us because we maintain strict confidentiality on who we provide services to in the region.

We are in the fourth year of a five year grant ending in September 2024 from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) within the Department of Education. **We will be submitting a 5-year grant for 2024-2029, due in March/April 2024.** The program is one of 11 Tribal programs in Alaska and part of the larger family of 93 American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation (AIVR) Programs nationwide from Alaska to Georgia serving over 6,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people with disabilities. We coordinate with other Tanana Chief Conference (TCC) programs such as Employment & Training, Education, Rural Economic Development Services (REDS), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance, the State of Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Alaska Independent Living Centers (such as Access AK in Fairbanks), and Veteran's Affairs to provide culturally appropriate vocational rehabilitation services to *eligible Tribal Members living in the TCC service area.*

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES?

Anyone enrolled in an Alaska Native Village, Corporation or Native American Indian Tribe from the Lower 48 with a documented permanent physical or mental disability that interferes with their ability to get or keep a job or to fully participate in a subsistence lifestyle may be eligible based on application review and eligibility determination by one of our counselors. This review usually takes up to 60 days of when the application

was submitted. Tribal members must live in the TCC service area. Providing current Medical documentation of your permanent disability with your application will help us determine eligibility faster. *There are no income restrictions, and this is a voluntary program.*

WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE?

The overall purpose of TVR is to help people go to work, which could be competitive employment, self-employment, or Subsistence (*wild resource and harvest lifestyle*) activities. The program counselors work one-on-one with each person to begin the process by identifying a goal for the future. Services are coordinated to help individuals to reach their goals. Examples of services provided during the process include vocational counseling and guidance; referral to other agencies and service providers; vocational educational training; purchase of books, tools, equipment, supplies, and materials. If eligible, we can assist with medical and mental health services, such as collaboration for therapeutic treatment; purchase of eyeglasses, hearing aids, and prosthetics not already covered by medical benefits; and job-related services that include job search referrals, on-the-job training, and follow-along services. The type of assistance the program provides is based on individual needs; no two Individualized Plans for Employment (IPE) are identical. *ALL information is confidential, and no one is given any information without having written & signed consent from the applicant.*

THANK YOU TO ALL THE TRIBES FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

TCC was awarded this grant on behalf of the Tribes within the TCC service

area for the past 28 years. Thank you to the Executive Board for signing Resolution 2019-09 and those Tribal Offices who supported TVR by sending us your 'letters of designation' to apply for these federal grant funds on your behalf! We will need a new resolution and new letters of support, so please be on the look for those requests in the next few months. We look forward to another 5-year grant award FY2024-2029. We'll keep you posted!

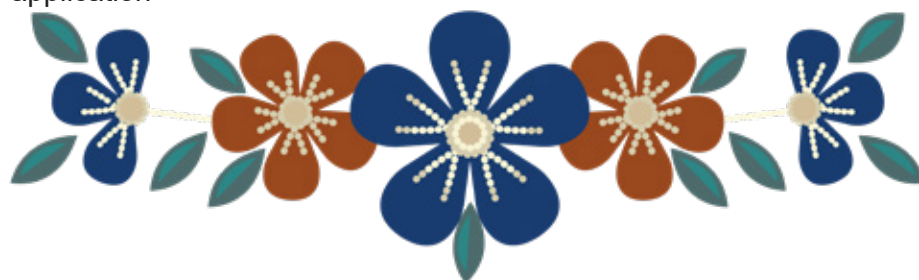
HOW TO REACH US:

Please call us toll-free 800-478-6822 or locally at (907) 452-8251, extension 3232. We are part of the **Workforce Development Department**, including Employment & Training and Rural Economic Development in the Family Services & Supports Division on the 5th floor at the Chief Peter John Tribal Building. Our fax number is (907) 459-3883.

Amanda Race, the Program Coordinator/Counselor, can be contacted by email at amanda.race@tananachiefs.org. We currently have two vacancies for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. Interested persons may apply for those positions at www.tananachiefs.org/careers

Please check us out at online at www.tananachiefs.org/services/family-services/tribal-vocational-rehabilitation-program/ or we can mail or fax you a short **Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Application & Brochure** at your request.

Please feel free to stop by the office or stop by when we travel to your village. Please look for our travel fliers posted in your local Tribal Offices. We travel late March through October and bring the services to you!



TCC Leadership Meets With Attorney General

In August, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) leadership and Tribal Leaders had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland. The Attorney General and Senator Lisa Murkowski traveled to Galena to tour the community and sit down with Tribal Leaders and community members to learn about the public safety challenges faced in rural Alaska.

Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, Vice-President Sharon Hildebrand, First Chief of Galena Charlie Green, First Chief of Huslia Carl Burgett, First Chief of Minto Lori Baker, and Tanana Council Member Lois Huntington were among those in attendance. These leaders have a shared commitment to addressing the unique public safety challenges experienced by Alaska Native communities.

The focus of the meeting centered on the dire need for enhanced public safety measures in rural Alaska. Indigenous communities in the state have long

grappled with high crime rates, limited access to law enforcement resources, and a lack of support services for crime victims.

Following these discussions, Attorney General Garland made a significant announcement regarding federal support for American Indian and Alaska Native victims of crime. The Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime pledged to allocate nearly \$70 million in grant funding to bolster services for crime victims in more than 200 Tribal communities. A substantial portion of these funds, nearly \$22 million, will be directed toward 67 Tribal communities in Alaska, providing much-needed resources to address the complex public safety challenges they face.

TCC would like to thank Attorney General Garland and Senator Murkowski for taking the time to have meaningful discussions with Tribal Leaders and for prioritizing public safety in rural Alaska.

Mahsi' Choo.



Did You Know *The Council* is Going Digital?



Watch for information
about how to sign up in
next month's Council!

Meet Our Team: Angela Clark, Nurse Practitioner on Team Deneege

We're delighted to shine the spotlight on Angela Clark, a valued Nurse Practitioner who is an integral part of Team Deneege at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. Angela's journey began in Utah and took her on an adventurous path as she accompanied her active-duty soldier spouse on their journey across the nation over the past 15 years. Angela's academic achievements include graduating from George Washington University in Washington, DC, and she has been a dedicated

practitioner in various family medicine clinics for over 11 years. When she's not tending to patients, Angela finds joy in the bustling activities of her four boys, who keep her thoroughly engaged. Her family shares a deep love for outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, skiing, and rock climbing. Angela's dedication to her work at TCC is exemplified by her commitment to traveling to remote villages, allowing her to forge meaningful connections with the community members she serves.



Emerging Leader Spotlight: Kristen Law

Tribal governing runs in Emerging Leader Kristen Law-Sunnyboy's family. At the age of 21, Kristen has watched her parents and grandparents work for their Tribes since childhood. Kristen is from Nenana and has two brothers, one of whom acted in the role of Emerging Leader before her. Kristen's mother, Christina Sunnyboy, is a past Chairman of Toghoththele Corporation. Her grandparents are the late Mitch Demientieff, former Tanana Chiefs Conference President and Chairman of Toghoththele Corporation, and the late Kathleen Demientieff of Nenana. Kristen is the great grandniece of the late Dr. Al Ketzler Sr., first President of TCC and his wife, Betty Ketzler.



like to learn how to not only govern, how to lead my Tribe and village or regional Corporations in the future," she says, "I want to help teach the future generations our culture and virtues."

Kristen encourages the youth to be present and show up for their elders and to carry on traditions and culture. "Attend your local gatherings, learn from our elders before we lose any more pertinent information, our cultures, our traditions, and our values," she urges. She encourages elders to be open and receptive to allowing youth involvement in activities surrounding the preservation of the Native way of life. "The youth helping lead the way into the future together in unity is how we will continue our way of life for future generations."

TCC is grateful to have Kristen on our Emerging Leaders Committee, and for her dedication to protecting and continuing traditional culture and values!

Given Kristen's family history, it is no surprise that she joined the Emerging Leaders to learn how to follow in her family's footsteps and to learn from all of the respected leaders and elders from throughout the TCC Region. "I'd

Doyon Foundation Scholarship Donation

In August, the TCC Executive Board of Directors made the decision to allocate \$125,000 towards the Doyon Foundation Health Scholarship fund. This donation underscores TCC's belief in fostering educational growth and creating pathways for Alaska Natives to excel in healthcare.

We want to acknowledge and thank the Doyon Foundation for giving many Native People the opportunity to further their education and hope this contribution will be able to help them achieve their dream careers within the healthcare field. Mahsi' Choo for all you do!



Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, Jenna Sommer, Doyon Foundation Scholarship Program Manager, and Elizabeth Green, Scholarship/Outreach Assistant

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

The Differences Between Fish Farms & Hatcheries

By Gale K Vick, Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee Member

In the fight to save our salmon, Tribal members have asked many questions about the differences between hatcheries and fish farms and how those options would impact Wild Salmon in the long run. Definitions matter but when it comes to describing terms in fisheries those definitions can be confusing and sometimes overlapping. In Alaska's discussion on hatcheries and its historical involvement with them, it is crucial to differentiate between hatcheries and fish farms. While there may be some technical similarities, it's essential to recognize that one is currently legal under Alaskan law (hatcheries), while the other is not (fish farms).

Surprising to many Alaskans, the world salmon market is predominantly (over 70%) non-captured fish.¹ This means that much of the world's salmon do not migrate between fresh and salt water and are not harvested by conventional methods. Instead, they are raised on "fish farms" in ocean pens or in freshwater ponds on land and contained their entire lives to be harvested from these containments.



This is part of the world's growing **marine aquaculture industry**. Marine aquaculture is a broad category that refers to the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of aquatic plants and animals. It can take place in the ocean, or on land in tanks and ponds. And it covers many varieties of fish species.

Salmon hatchery fish fall into the general category of "marine aquaculture" because they begin their life in artificial breeding. Some hatchery fish are raised in hatcheries for release into small streams or lakes and intended for sports fishing, known as "stocking." Some hatchery fish are raised in

small systems and released into the wild as a *mitigation* measure but not meant for harvest. But most hatchery fish are raised in massive production systems meant to produce harvestable surpluses. They are put into pens for growing (fish farms) or released into the wild.



Hatchery salmon released into the wild are **anadromous**. Anadromous hatchery salmon are considered the same as wild salmon in the world market because they go out to sea for growing and are then harvested by commercial, sports and subsistence users before they reach their "terminal harvest area" in proximity to the hatchery they were released from. Anadromous hatchery fish mix with wild salmon stocks for most of their adult life and are captured with wild stocks.

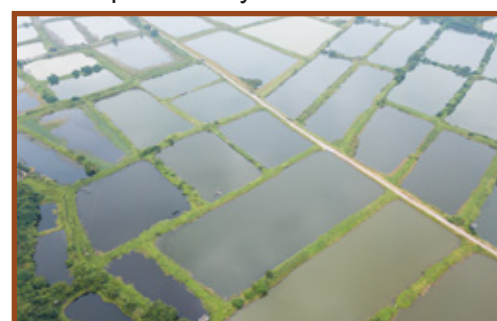
Finfish farms, on the other hand, are completely different. While technically anadromous, salmon grown in finfish farms are kept their entire lives in containment areas, whether marine off-shore pens or land-locked containment areas. Fish are harvested from these pens. Except for periodic escapements, marine-farmed fish stay within the net pens in which they are raised.



Salmon finfish farms typically grow Atlantic salmon because they grow so much faster than Pacific species under cultivation. However, Atlantic salmon that have escaped from Canadian and

Washington fish farms are an invasive species in the North Pacific and pose a threat to wild Pacific salmon. In addition, salmon farms have massive environmental issues that can impact wild salmon.

There is a growing industry in recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) as a land-locked aquaculture. However, this is a relatively new industry that is currently prohibitively expensive with a host of problems yet to be worked out.



Finfish farms are illegal in Alaska, but only within state waters.² In 1990, the Alaska Legislature established AS.40.199, banning finfish farms, mainly to protect fishermen's livelihood.³ Ironically, one of the premises of the act was to also protect wild salmon. But banning fish farming and allowing hatchery salmon may have been a worse choice for wild stocks. There is a growing school of thought that fish farms can take the pressure off wild stocks in a way that hatcheries cannot. But there is also a huge body of literature that indicates fish farms are just as threatening. Both of these arguments have many variables to consider. There have been numerous attempts to establish off-shore finfish net pens in the federal waters of Alaska. As recently as 2018, the Department of Commerce created a 2018-2022 Strategic Aquaculture Plan⁴ that would allow finfish farms in federal waters. The Alaska Delegation continually fights against these plans, for good reason, to save our salmon.

² <https://law.justia.com/codes/alaska/1993/title-16/chapter-16-40/section-16-40-210/>

³ Retrospective: Eliason's fight for the fish farming ban <https://www.kcaw.org/2011/04/05/retrospective-eliason039s-fight-for-the-fish-farming-ban/>

⁴ Alaska wary of federal push for marine aquaculture, KTOO news, September 5, 2018 by Jacob Resneck, Coast-Alaska <https://www.ktoo.org/2018/09/05/alaska-wary-of-federal-push-for-marine-aquaculture/>

¹ <https://www.statista.com/topics/7411/salmon-industry/#:~:text=Since%20it%20started%20in%20the,salmon%20produced%20worldwide%20is%20farmed>

Take Action NOW to Protect Our Salmon!

In September, the Alaska Board of Fish collected public comment on commercial fishing practices that are contributing to the Salmon Crisis, including chum chucking, lack of law enforcement and the need to readdress the Shumigan Islands June Salmon Management Plan. These comments will be used at the October 12th and 13th Work Session to inform policies and regulations. The Hatchery Committee is also meeting on October 14th to consider public comment collected about Alaska's Private-Non-Profit Hatchery System. TCC is asking interested people who are able to attend in person to show up and use your voice to change this system.

Although public comment for these meetings is currently closed, we encourage our Tribal members to listen to these meetings, attend when possible, and give comment during open windows. Let's keep the Indigenous voice strong in the fight to save our salmon!

Visit our website for more information about upcoming calls for testimony, meeting information, and more ways to get involved!



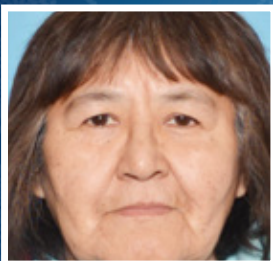
SCAN ME!

October Meetings*

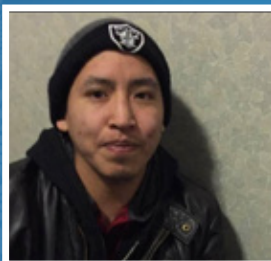
*Check each group's website for requirements and deadlines for public comment and live testimony

Date(s)	Meeting Title
Oct. 2	North Pacific Fishery Management Council/ Bycatch
Oct. 2-11	North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting
Oct. 2-3	Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association Board Meeting
Oct. 5-10	North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting
Oct. 12-13	Alaska Board of Fish Work Session
Oct. 15-16	Comment Deadline: Alaska Board of Fisheries
Oct. 31	North Pacific Fisheries Management Council - Comment Deadline for Tiennial Review

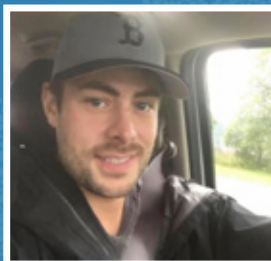
MISSING PERSONS



Lorraine Ginnis



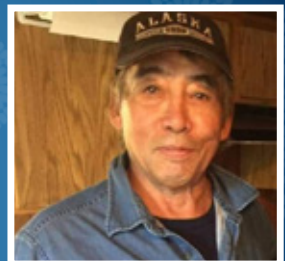
Willis Derendoff



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>



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.



Community Health Aide *Spotlight*

Tori Stein - Itinerant Health Aide

By Linden Staciokas

Interested in a career where you help others? Want a job where you never quite know what will happen that day? Need a lot of flexibility because of family responsibilities? Tori Stein wanted all these things and found them when she became a TCC health aide.

Tori was born in Fairbanks but was raised in Ruby, a village of about 180 people located on the south bank of the Yukon River, about 50 air miles east of Galena and 230 air miles west of Fairbanks. She was introduced to the idea of being a health aide when her mother became one; hearing about and watching her mother do her job only fueled Tori's interests in health, science and helping people. When she graduated from high school, Tori completed the University of Alaska program to become a Certified Nursing Assistant in Fairbanks.

About two years later, Tori's mother called to let her know that there was a health aide position open in Ruby. Before she could be admitted to the program, Tori had to have the approval of the Ruby Tribal Council. It was only with their consent that she was enrolled in the TCC health aide training program.

The training, which takes place in Fairbanks, is known for being intense. Tori had an advantage in that her nursing assistant job had exposed her to a lot of medical terms and practices, but it still required plenty of hours of studying and dedication. She knows the idea of so much academic work might cause some people to hesitate, but she says that the amount of support the instructors offer "is amazing." As long as a student has the desire and makes the effort, the staff will keep

working alongside the student until he or she passes.

Tori has been a health aide for seven years, although she no longer works in Ruby but is now an itinerant health aide. At the time Tori finished her training she was married to a soldier based in Fairbanks, so she moved to Ruby alone in August of 2016, and he visited her as he could. In January of 2018, Ruby transferred to the job she currently holds.

Being an itinerant gives Tori the flexibility to accept assignments when she wants, which allows her to work around her family's needs (Itinerants can usually pick their schedules, as long as the stay is for a minimum of 10 days). She is still married to her high school sweetheart, and they now have a four-year-old son. She still gets back to work in Ruby sometimes, but also goes to other villages.

Tori has no plans to leave her career, still finding it interesting after all these years. "I love not doing the same thing every day. Of course, there is structure, like having set clinic hours. But you never know what is going to walk through the doors." The variety in the day, as well as the constant changes as she moves from village to village, would be difficult to find in another job.

One surprise, something she did not really anticipate while in training, was "how much we have to keep learning. There is always new information about illnesses, new medications, new procedures. And there are technological changes, like new software programs. It keeps things interesting."

Being a health aide can be incredibly stressful. The volume of work, not

always being able to help a patient because an illness is too far advanced, and, worst of all, losing a patient takes a toll on mental and sometimes physical health. Working in small villages is not like practicing in a large town because you get to know people as more than patients. You see them every day in the store, playing with their children and grandchildren, just chatting to each other in the street. When someone dies, it impacts the entire community, but especially the health aide who has been caring for the most intimate needs of the person. To deal with the stress, Tori plays sports, including softball and basketball. She also enjoys spending time with her family, hunting, and fishing. In quieter times, she beads.

Asked if there is anyone she especially wants to thank for helping her in her career, Tori mentioned her previous supervisor, Keith Lund, and her current supervisor, Jo Miller. They have given her constructive feedback, sustained her in times of stress, and have administered pep talks when Tori wondered if she was up to handling a task. She also named Leda Cruger, who, among other things, is the person who arranges all of the traveling health aides do. However, as Tori said, "That's not all she does, she wears many hats. On top of being very busy, she takes the time to lend an ear and help problem solve when needed." While she finds all of her colleagues and the management of TCC supportive, these three individuals stand out in her mind.

Most people do not love the idea of being interviewed for an article, and Tori was no exception. But she hopes that reading about her experiences will help others consider entering the field. The need for more health aides is great, but so are the personal and professional opportunities given to those who enter the field.



October Head Start News

It's October and school is in full swing! In August our teachers traveled to Fairbanks for a week-long pre-service training. The week was spent working on our skills and knowledge to bring your children and families the best education and environment we can.

September has been busy getting our kids into the swing of attending school and establishing their routines, as well as working with families to establish their family goals and ensuring that their needs are met.

There are still spots available in the classrooms! If you have a child under the age of 4 that you'd like to enroll please contact **Waverly Neal at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3998** for more information.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

TCC Head Start has teamed up with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library! Every month, enrolled children from the ages of birth to 5 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. Please contact your local Head Start teacher or **Waverly Neal at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3998** for ways to sign up.

Head Start Has Open Positions in the Following Communities:

- Family Visitor positions are available in Allakaket, Holy Cross, Huslia and Tok.
- In Nenana and Northway, we have Preschool Assistant Teacher positions available.
- We have Infant/Toddler Teacher positions available in Nenana. 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.**



Head Start staff working with Katie Stone, Education Coordinator.

Head Start Success Metrics

Improved Educational Outcomes

Head Start children have a higher likelihood of graduating high school, attending college, and receiving a post-secondary degree, license, or certification.

Increased Kindergarten Readiness

Head Start children have better social skills, impulse control, and approaches to learning. Head Start children also decrease their problem behaviors, such as aggression and hyperactivity.

Quality Learning Opportunities for Parents

Head Start parents offer more stimulating home environments, read more with children, use less physical punishment and have higher levels of self-sufficiency.

Have you used TCC's Patient Travel and Housing Services?

We Want Your Feedback!

We want to hear from patients, family members and escorts about their experiences with TCC's Patient Travel & Lodging process. We want to hear your concerns, stories, comments and solutions!

Scan to submit your comments!



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](tel:907-451-6682) ext. 3100



October is Breast Cancer Prevention Month

By Kameron Reitan, Prevention Coordinator

Did you know that breast cancer is the second most common type of cancer? In fact, 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. This disease is caused by the growth of abnormal cells that can spread to the rest of your body. October is dedicated to increasing awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer, and all of us at Tanana Chiefs Conference want to provide you with information that could save your life!

Early Detection

Early detection is the best way to increase the chances of survival. The 5-year relative survival rate is 99% when abnormal cells remain localized! The most effective method for early detection is getting regular mammograms. A mammogram is an x-ray of the breast and can detect breast cancer three years before an individual can feel the symptoms! At TCC, we follow the American Cancer Society breast cancer screening guidelines:

- If you are a woman age 45-54, talk with your doctor about getting a mammogram every year.
- If you are a woman age 55 and older, talk with your doctor about every other year.
- Women may choose to start screening annually at 40, especially if there is a family history or other risk factors.

You can also detect breast cancer by getting clinical and self-breast exams to detect lumps or changes in your breast. While these methods help detect breast cancer, they have not been proven to lower the risk of dying from breast cancer.

Know the Symptoms

Symptoms are different from person to person; some don't have symptoms at all! Warning signs of breast cancer can include:

- Change in the size or shape of the breast
- Pain in any area of the breast
- Nipple discharge other than breast milk (including blood)
- A new lump in the breast or underarm
- Redness or flaky skin in the nipple area or the breast
- Irritation or dimpling of breast skin

These symptoms could happen without cancer. If you are experiencing any of these, talk to your local healthcare provider right away.

Who Is At Risk

- Women 50+ years old
- Women with a personal history of non-cancerous breast diseases
- Family history of breast or ovarian cancer
- Previous treatment using radiation therapy
- Exposure to the drug diethylstilbestrol (DES) – a medication given to women from 1940-1971 to prevent miscarriages
- Having dense breasts
- Genetic mutations
- Starting menstrual periods before age 12 and starting menopause after 55, which exposes women to hormones longer and raises the risk of developing breast cancer

Reducing the Risk

- Keep a healthy weight
- Engage in regular physical activity
- Limit alcohol to one drink per day or cease all alcohol consumption



For more information visit <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/>

Looking for More Ways to Use Rhubarb? Try These!

By Heidi Rader, Professor of Extension, Alaska Tribes Extension Program Director

Rhubarb has been a staple in my life as a Fairbanksan. I grew up making rhubarb pie and rhubarb crisp, which are perfectly delicious ways to use rhubarb. Incidentally, one nickname for rhubarb is “pie plant.” Once established, rhubarb generally thrives with little attention in many Alaska locations. It is even thriving and volunteering on the edge of the trees in my yard with absolutely no care.

Not only is it prolific, the harvest period is also quite lengthy. As I've said before, I like to grow things that I can harvest all summer long: <https://itgrowsinalaska.community.uaf.edu/2021/01/07/when-your-dreams-outsize-your-garden-space-choose-your-crops-wisely-heres-how/>. Although I certainly will not argue with rhubarb pie or crisp, let's face it, there is a bit of a mush factor that accompanies these dishes. As my rhubarb plant has grown in productivity in the past few years, I've discovered a few new favorite ways to use rhubarb.

Rhubarb Pistachio Picnic Bars

This recipe comes from Smitten Kitchen and is a delicious way to use rhubarb in a dessert: <https://smittenkitchen.com/2016/05/almond-rhubarb-picnic-bars/>. I think this recipe brings out the best of rhubarb, maintaining its beauty, taste and texture. It is one of those recipes that, after trying it, all of my friends and family ask me for. You can kiss the rhubarb mush goodbye in this recipe. Instead of almonds in this recipe, I used pistachios as I'm not a huge fan of almonds.

Rhubarb Banana Smoothie

Although I poo-pooed mushy rhubarb in a pie, it is not a problem in a smoothie. My kids love frozen fruit and smoothies. And who doesn't want a smoothie on these incredibly hot days we've been having? I found this recipe for strawberry rhubarb smoothies: <https://foodhero.org/recipes/strawberry-rhubarb-smoothie>, which has a plethora of easy, healthy recipes to make

with or for kids. Instead of strawberries, I used frozen bananas. I cooked the rhubarb in apple juice concentrate with water, froze it, then blended it with the bananas. Delicious.

We also tried a banana, rhubarb and blueberry (wild Alaska blueberries, of course) version but preferred just rhubarb and bananas, which is saying a lot because I LOVE Alaska blueberries. I froze a bunch more rhubarb cooked with apple juice and plan to continue making these smoothies this winter and maybe even save a bundle on frozen fruit.

Rhubarb Chutney

Skip the ketchup and slather this on instead. This recipe goes deliciously with another Alaska summer classic: salmon burgers. It's also excellent on hamburgers or hot dogs. It could work as a Thanksgiving substitute for cranberry sauce. Here is a recipe for the salmon burgers and chutney: <https://ediblealaska.ediblecommunities.com/recipes/wild-alaska-salmon-burgers-rhubarb-chutney>

Another version I like combines the following ingredients:

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons coconut oil
- 1 teaspoon black mustard seeds (I used regular)
- 1 teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped ginger
- 1 large, 3-inch stick of cinnamon, broken
- 1 red onion, finely diced
- 2 cups of chopped rhubarb
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 3/4 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup dried cherries

The directions are to first heat the oil in a skillet, then add the spices and saute for a couple of minutes. Next, add the onion and ginger

and saute for a few minutes more. Then add the rhubarb, red pepper flakes and finally the brown sugar and water and simmer for another 25 to 30 minutes. Add the dried cherries after removing the chutney from the heat. I would include the weblink for this recipe, but it no longer works, and a quick Google search did not turn up this recipe.

Rhubarb Raspberry Scones

These scones were delicious with rhubarb: <https://smittenkitchen.com/2006/11/dream-a-little-dream-of-scone/>. Instead of currants, I used half raspberries and half rhubarb and put a full cup in instead of the 1/2 cup listed in the recipe. I sprinkled the rhubarb with sugar the night before and put it in the fridge overnight. The rhubarb was a bit tart, but I think chopping the rhubarb more finely than I did would fix the problem.

If you don't have rhubarb growing in your yard, spring or fall is a great time to plant one. Ask a neighbor to split one of theirs or purchase a plant from a local greenhouse or nursery. Rhubarb is also widely available in farmers markets as well. I have been harvesting rhubarb from June until now (early August). This long harvest period is another great thing about rhubarb.

At the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service, we have two thorough and excellent publications on rhubarb. One on how to grow it: https://cespubs.uaf.edu/index.php/download_file/1379/ and one on what to make with it: https://cespubs.uaf.edu/index.php/download_file/1517/.

Questions about gardening or the Tribes Extension Program? Visit www.uaf.edu/ces/TCC. Contact Heidi at hbrader@alaska.edu or 474-6620. For more articles like this, go to: <https://itgrowsinalaska.community.uaf.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.

The Council Newsletter

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New Vacancies

Fairbanks	Clinical RN
Fairbanks	Self Governance Program Assistant
Fairbanks	Patient Travel and Lodging
Fairbanks	Environmental Services Technician I
Fairbanks	Specialty Services Medical Director
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Administrative Assistant
Fairbanks	HIMs Manager
Fairbanks	Lead Residential Care Coordinator - Graf
Fairbanks	Clinical Supervisor - Graf Rheeneerhaanjii
Fairbanks	Regional Tribal Peace Officer (TPO) and Canine Handler
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Clinical Support Manager
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Scheduler and Prior Authorization
Fairbanks	Education & Outreach
Region-Wide	Travel Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCT
16-17**

TCC Executive Board Meeting

October 16-17, 2023 • Anchorage, AK
All board meetings are open to tribal members except during times of executive session.

**OCT
18**

Alaska Tribal Unity Gathering

October 18, 2023 • Egan Center • Anchorage, AK

**OCT
19-20**

Lower Yukon Subregional Meeting

October 19-20, 2023 • Anchorage, AK

**OCT
21**

Yukon Flats Subregional Meeting

October 21, 2023 • Anchorage, AK

**OCT
24-25**

Economic Summit

October 24-25, 2023 • Galena, AK
Questions? Contact elizabeth.carrozzino@tananachiefs.org

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE 2024 TCC CALENDAR!



Scan Me to
Submit Your
Photos!

Deadline to Submit is October 13, 2023
Fill out the form, upload pictures, give a caption
and you're done!

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF September 13, 2023