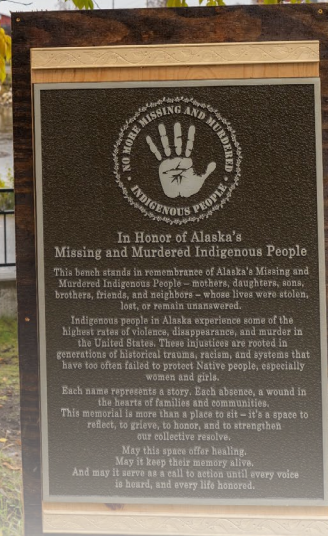


Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 50 No. 10 • October 2025



TCC Dedicates MMIP Memorial in Fairbanks

Last month, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) hosted a powerful and emotional dedication ceremony honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) in our region. The new memorial, located beside the Chena Bingo Hall in Fairbanks, features a plaque and benches that now serve as a lasting space of reflection, remembrance, and healing for families and community members.

TCC Chief/Chairman Chairman Brian Ridley shared the significance of the project, describing the memorial as a “permanent symbol of remembrance, love, and resilience.” He reminded the crowd that the site

is meant to provide strength to those who come to reflect. “This dedication is a commitment to never forget those we have lost and those who are still missing, he said. “Each name, each story, each life matters.”

The dedication brought together families, Tribal leaders, and community members. Attendees shared a meal and listened to the voices of those most directly impacted by the MMIP crisis. Their words underscored the importance of creating safe, supportive spaces to grieve, pray, and find strength together.

Melissa Charlie, Executive Director of the Fairbanks Native Associ-

ation, praised TCC for making this vision a reality. “Sometimes we just need to find space to remember, pray and grieve,” she said. Charlie then thanked TCC for providing a space built for these means.

One of the most moving moments came from Gladys Derendoff, whose son, Willis, has been missing for five years. She spoke with deep gratitude for the community’s continued support during her family’s search. “I didn’t expect to see so many people out there, and I’m just happy about that because we know that someone knows some-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.

Risking it all for the perfect photo?
Don't risk missing the deadline!

Deadline to submit photos is Friday, October 24th, 2025
Submit at www.tananachiefs.org/2026calendar/



IN THIS ISSUE...

- PAGE 3:** 2025 Election Information
- PAGE 4:** Indigenous Peoples Day
- PAGE 5:** House Vote Threatens CYRMP
- PAGE 6:** Clean Your Chimney
- PAGE 7:** Education Update

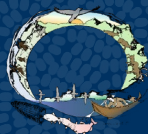


Mission

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

Executive Board

Trimble Gilbert, Arctic Village
1st Traditional Chief

Andrew 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

Ivan Demientieff, Grayling
Lower Yukon

Lori Baker, Minto
Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green, Galena
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski, Nulato
Elder Advisor

Mackenzie Englishoe, Gwichyaa Zhee
Youth Advisor



Letter from the Chief

Dear Tribal Leaders and Tribal Members,

October will be a busy month for Tanana Chiefs Conference. On October 14th, we will hold our Executive Board Meeting in Anchorage, followed by the Tribal Unity Gathering on the 15th. With our recent return to the Alaska Federation of Natives as directed by Full Board Resolution 2025-31, we will also be attending the annual convention beginning October 16th. These gatherings are important opportunities to bring Native leadership together from across the state to work toward common goals, and I look forward to seeing many of you during this time.



As many of you know, in September the U.S. House of Representatives voted to rescind the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (CYRMP) through House Joint Resolution 106. The decision has now moved to the Senate, which has not yet taken action as of writing this letter. I was very disappointed by the House's decision, as it undermines the voices of Alaska Native communities and places our lands, animals, and waterways at risk. TCC will continue to oppose decisions like this and will keep advocating on behalf of our Tribal communities.

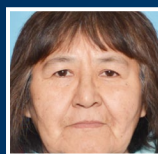
In late August, I also met with EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator Wes Brooks during his visit to Alaska. Our discussions focused on how federal water definitions apply to permafrost wetlands, which is critical for permitting, development, and subsistence protections. We also raised concerns about aging water and sewer infrastructure and the importance of maintaining Tribal consultation requirements. This visit reflected increased federal attention on Alaska's unique conditions and provided an opportunity to elevate Tribal concerns and recommendations.

Additionally, I met with Senator Sullivan's office regarding the recent termination of several energy grants, including the Huslia grant and Solar for All. TCC is filing a motion for reconsideration on the denial of our Huslia appeal to the EPA, as well as an appeal of the Solar for All termination decision. These grants are vital for advancing energy security and resilience in our communities, and we will continue to fight for them.

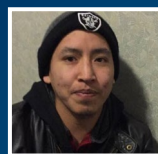
Finally, with election season approaching, I want to remind everyone of the importance of voting. It is essential to educate yourself on the candidates and to choose leaders who align with your values and priorities. You can follow Interior Native Vote on social media to stay updated on upcoming elections and resources.

Mahsi' Choo,
Chief Brian Ridley
Tanana Chiefs Conference

MISSING



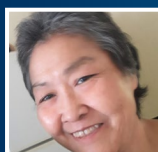
Lorraine
Ginnis



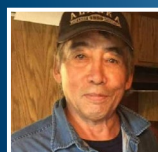
Willis
Derendoff



Doren
Sanford



Debbie
Nictune



Frank
Minano



Craig
Albert

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.

2025 Municipal and REAA Elections Make Your Voice Heard!

The October 7, 2025 Municipal and Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) elections are quickly approaching. These elections determine who represents us on school boards, city and borough councils, and as Mayor. Local office-holders like Borough Assembly Members, City Council Members, and School Board members are responsible for shaping local policies and budgets. Assemblies govern borough-wide services and taxation, Councils manage city ordinances and municipal operations, and School Boards oversee district education policy, curriculum, and administration.

Alaska Native voices are needed now more than ever, so make yours heard by voting on or before October 7th!

There's still time to register to vote before the upcoming elections! Visit <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/> to learn more about voter registration.

Regional Educational Attendance (REAA) Elections

REAA Elections are conducted in unorganized boroughs of the state and administered by the Division of Elections. There are REAA school board elections happening across our region this year, including Holy Cross, Lake Minchumina, Shageluk, Ruby, Koyukuk, Minto, Arctic Village, Fort Yukon, Northway, and Tok.

You can see a sample ballot for your local REAA election here: <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/sample-ballots/ballot/24reaa2/>

Absentee by-mail and in-person voting is open now, and you can find your mail-in ballot or your in-person early voting polling location here: <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/reaa/reaa-avo/>

For a list of candidates running for school board seats in your REAA district, check here:

<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/reaa/reaa-candidates/>

Municipal Elections

This year's Municipal elections will include the City of Fairbanks Mayoral seat, as well as City Council member seats in Fairbanks and North Pole. At the Borough level, we are electing Borough Assembly and School Board members.

Municipal Elections Pamphlet – For elections in Fairbanks, North Pole, and the North Star Borough - <https://www.fnsb.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22917/Election-Information-Pamphlet-PDF>

Early and absentee in-person voting in the Municipal Elections is happening right now!

- **Early Voting Polling Days:** Monday, September 22 – Thursday, October 2
- **Early Voting Polling Hours:** 10:00am – 7:00pm Monday – Saturday | 11:00 am – 6:00 pm Sunday (September 28)
 - *No absentee voting will be available on Sunday, September 28. Only early voting will be available that day.
- **Early Voting Location:** Bentley Mall (Michael's End) – 32 College Rd., Fairbanks
 - You can also early vote at the City Clerk's Offices located at 800 Cushman St in Fairbanks, and at 125 Snowman Lane in North Pole, between 8:00am and 5:00pm on Monday – Friday beginning September 26th and ending on October 6th.
- **Electronic Absentee Ballot Application Deadline** – Monday, October 6 at 12:00pm
- **By-Mail Absentee Ballot Application Deadline** – Tuesday, September 30 and 5:00pm

You can get more information on voter registration or update your voter registration here: <https://myvoterportal.alaska.gov/>

Borough Assembly Candidates	Seat	More Information	Fairbanks City Council Candidates	Seat	More Information
Jeanne Olson	C	https://www.facebook.com/Jeanne4House/	Mindy O'Neall	Mayor	https://www.themindy campaign.com/
Garrett Armstrong		https://armstrongfor assembly.org/	David Pruhs		https://www.reelectdavid pruhs.com/about
Patrick Roach	I	https://www.patrickroachfor assembly.com/	Hannah Ekaloov	C	Hannahekalook4citycouncil@gmail.com
Barbara Haney		https://haney4fnsb.com/	Sue Sprinkle		suesprinkle@alaska.net
Borough School Board Candidates	Seat	More Information	Crystal Tidwell	D	https://www.facebook.com/Crystal4Fbks2025/
Chemetria (Sam) Spencer	C	https://samspencerforschool board.com/	North Pole City Council Candidates		
Audra Hull		https://hullforstudents.com/	David Skipps	davidskipps@yahoo.com	
Naomi Hewitt	D	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577765681604#	Jordan Schuster	jordan@aicsak.com	
Melissa Burnett		https://melissaburnettfor schoolboard.com/	Sandra Rolfe	Sandrakay20@gmail.com	
			David Brandt	Nailbender99@hotmail.com	

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

thing about his missing,” she said.

The memorial is more than a physical space; it is a call to action. By ensuring that the stories of those who are missing or murdered are not forgotten, TCC and its partners reaffirm their commitment to raising awareness and supporting families across Interior Alaska.

This new MMIP memorial stands as a reminder of the resilience of our people and the importance of standing together in love and remembrance. Families and community members are welcome to visit the site to honor those we have lost and to continue the healing journey.



Honoring Indigenous Peoples Day

Each year on the second Monday of October, we recognize Indigenous Peoples Day—a time to honor the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of the first peoples of this land. For Alaska Native communities, this day is more than a celebration; it is an affirmation of our identity, resilience, and sovereignty.

Indigenous Peoples Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the strength of our ancestors and the ways they sustained our communities through knowledge of the land, languages, and cultural traditions. It is also a chance to acknowledge the challenges our people have faced and continue to face, while uplifting the stories of survival, leadership, and innovation that continue to shape our future.

Here in Interior Alaska, we celebrate the beauty of our many Tribes, languages, and cultures. From traditional knowledge shared across generations to the continued practice of subsistence that sustains our families and communities, our ways of life remain vital and strong.

Tanana Chiefs Conference stands united with Tribes, Elders, youth, and families as we continue to protect our sovereignty, honor our traditions, and look forward with hope. On Indigenous Peoples Day, we celebrate who we are—and the generations yet to come.





House Vote Threatens Central Yukon Resource Management Plan

In early September, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to rescind the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (CYRMP)—a plan more than a decade in the making, rooted in compromise, science, and Indigenous knowledge. The resolution, known as House Joint Resolution 106, passed the House on September 3 and was received in the U.S. Senate the following day, September 4. Under the Congressional Review Act, the Senate has 60 session days to take action.

The CYRMP covers over 13 million acres of public land, an area larger than the state of Oregon. It was designed to safeguard wildlife and ecosystems essential to Alaska Native communities, including 3.6 million acres of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and critical salmon spawning grounds. The plan protects moose, caribou, and fish that make up as much as 80% of the diet in TCC's roadless Tribal communities.

By voting to overturn the CYRMP, the House has not only placed these lands and resources at risk—it has also shown blatant disregard for Tribal consultation and the voices of Alaska Native communities.

"This vote prioritizes corporate interests over Alaska Native food security, sovereignty, and the future of our children," said TCC Chairman Chief Brian Ridley.

The stakes are high. If the Senate follows the House in overturning the CYRMP, protections would be stripped from 22 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, including the Tozitna River, Nulato Hills, Kateel River, Unalakleet River, Galbraith Lake, Snowden Mountain, and many others. These lands are not just places on a map—they are the heart of Alaska Native food systems, culture, and way of life.

TCC emphasizes that the CYRMP is not about "locking up" Alaska's resources. It is about careful stewardship, ensuring that lands remain intact and ecosystems remain resilient in the face of the climate crisis. Our people have lived on these lands since time immemorial, and we have a right to continue our traditional subsistence and cultural practices.

As the Senate prepares to act on H.J. Res. 106 in the coming weeks, TCC urges Tribal leaders, members, and all Alaskans to contact Senators Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski. Let them know that Alaska Native communities stand united in calling for the Senate to reject this harmful resolution and uphold the protections established under the Central Yukon Plan.

Together, we can defend the lands, waters, and wildlife that sustain our people—and protect them for generations to come.

Take Action Now!

The U.S. Senate received H.J. Res. 106 on September 4, 2025 and has 60 session days to act.

If passed, the resolution would overturn the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan and strip protections from 22 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Contact Alaska's Senators today and urge them to reject H.J. Res. 106:

Senator Dan Sullivan

(907) 456-0261

sullivan.senate.gov/contact

Senator Lisa Murkowski

(907) 456-0233

murkowski.senate.gov/contact

Take Action During Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to not only raise awareness but also take meaningful steps to protect your health and support others. Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers, but early detection saves lives.

This month, make your health a priority by scheduling a mammogram or clinical breast exam. If you're not sure when you should begin screenings, talk with your healthcare provider about your personal and family history. Regular self-checks are also important—learn how to recognize changes in your body and follow up right away if something doesn't feel right.

You can also take action by reminding your friends, family, and coworkers to schedule their own screenings. Share resources, encourage conversations, and help spread awareness in your community. Supporting local and national breast cancer organizations through donations or volunteering is another powerful way to make a difference.

At Tanana Chiefs Conference, we encourage everyone to use Breast Cancer Awareness Month as a reminder to take charge of their health and to lift up those around them. Together, by taking action, we can save lives, support survivors, and work toward a future free from breast cancer.





Circle of Protection: The Public Safety Dispatch

Keep Your Home Safe: The Importance of Cleaning Your Chimney

By David Atteberry, TCC Public Safety Manager

In many rural Interior Alaska villages, wood stoves are a vital source of heat throughout the long, cold winters. While they keep our homes warm and cozy, it's important to remember that regular chimney cleaning is essential to keeping our families and homes safe.

Over time, wood smoke creates a buildup of creosote, a sticky, flammable substance that lines the inside of chimneys and stovepipes. If not cleaned out regularly, creosote can catch fire, leading to dangerous chimney fires that may spread to the rest of the house. These fires often happen fast and without warning.

Many chimney fires in Alaska happen during the colder months when stoves are burning hot around the clock. They are often preventable with regular maintenance and awareness. Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned at least once a year, ideally

before the winter heating season begins. If your stove gets heavy use, mid-winter cleaning might be necessary too.

Signs that your chimney needs cleaning include reduced draft, smoke backing up into the house, or a strong, sooty odor. If you hear a loud roaring sound in the stovepipe or notice flakes of creosote falling, shut down your stove immediately and seek help.

Whether you do it yourself or ask someone with experience, cleaning your chimney could prevent a tragedy. TCC and many village councils may have resources or know someone trained to help.

Remember: a clean chimney doesn't just improve efficiency, it protects your home, your loved ones, and your community.

Stay warm, stay safe—clean your chimney!



Missing Person: Craig Albert, Tanana

Craig Albert of Tanana was last seen walking on Front Street in Tanana on August 2nd, 2025. He is 6'2" tall and weighs about 185 pounds. Craig was last seen wearing the blue sleeveless shirt pictured above, blue shorts and tennis shoes.

If you have any information about Craig's whereabouts, please **call the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100 and reference incident number AK25078259**. Your tip may be the key in bringing Craig home to his family.

Our thoughts are with Craig's family and with the community of Tanana during this time.

Mental Illness Awareness Week October 5-11, 2025

- 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness each year.
- You are not alone and support is available.
- Talking about mental health helps break the stigma.

Take Action:

- Check in with yourself and your loved ones.
- Learn the signs and symptoms.
- Seek help early. Healing is possible!

Together we can build understanding, compassion, and hope.

**Tanana Chiefs Conference
Standing for Mental Wellness**

NOW STREAMING *New Episodes Every Week*



NEW EPISODES

Tune in every Monday at
9:30AM on KRFF 89.1 or
listen on Spotify and YouTube.

Your weekly update from Tanana Chiefs Conference - featuring news, upcoming events, highlights, and more! TCC Weekly is a short-form podcast produced by TCC to keep our communities, partners, and employees informed about what's happening across the region!

Visit www.tananachiefs.org/tcc-weekly
to listen and learn more!

SCAN TO LISTEN
ON SPOTIFY



Education Update

By Isaac Bettis, TCC Youth Services Coordinator

FAFSA 2026–2027 Opens October 1st!

Students, don't wait! Submit your FAFSA as soon as it opens on October 1, 2025 at studentaid.gov. Applying early gives you the best chance at securing financial aid, scholarships, and work-study opportunities before funds run low. Completing your FAFSA is a key step in planning for college and making education more affordable.

TCC GO seniors: Any student who successfully completes their FAFSA application will be eligible for a **\$50 stipend**! Contact your **TCC GO Student Support Coordinator** for more information.

If you have any questions or need help with the process, reach out to **TCC GO** at tccgo@tananachiefs.org.



2025 Fall Mid-Term Classes

Whitefish Set Gillnet	Sep. 30 - Dec. 4	4:30pm - 6:00pm Tue/Wed/ Thu	Online
Boiler Troubleshooting and Burner Repair	Oct. 6-11	8:00am - 12:30pm Mon-Sat	UAF CTC (Fairbanks)
Residential Heating Controls	Oct. 6-11	1:30pm - 6:30pm Mon-Sat	UAF CTC (Fairbanks)
Cabinet Installation with Countertops	Oct. 23-25 (Long Weekend)	4:00pm - 5:00pm Thu 8:00am - 5:00pm Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm Sat/Sun	UAF CTC (Fairbanks)
Flooring Installation	Oct. 10-23	1:00pm - 5:00pm Mon/Tue/Wed 1:00pm - 4:00pm Thu 8:00am - 9:00am Fri	UAF/CTC (Fairbanks)
Interior Repairs	Oct. 10-23	8:00am - 12:00pm Mon-Thu	UAF CTC (Fairbanks)
Appliance Trouble-Shooting and Repair	Nov. 17-22	8:00am - 12:30pm Mon-Sat	UAF CTC (Fairbanks)



Register now for mid-term classes at UAF Community and Technical College

Space is still available! For more information, contact **CTC Student Services** at **907-455-2800** or uaf-ctc@alaska.edu.

We Stand with Survivors In October & Always

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the 2025 theme, "With Survivors, Always," highlights the importance of partnership, safety, and solidarity with those affected by domestic violence. This theme serves as both a love letter and a call to action for advocates committed to supporting survivors' rights and needs.

Survivors Deserve Safety

Safety includes physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial well-being. Survivors have the right to live in homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and institutions free from violence.

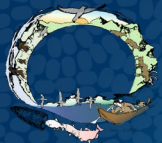
Survivors Deserve Support

Healing from trauma is a lifelong journey. Survivors need ongoing care and support as they navigate past experiences and new challenges that may resurface trauma.

Survivors Deserve Solidarity

No one should face hardship alone. Community connectedness is key—showing up for survivors in meaningful ways strengthens advocacy and fosters resilience.

This month, we stand with survivors, always, honoring their strength and reaffirming our commitment to a safer, supportive, and unified community.



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council Newsletter

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424
communications_dept@tananachiefs.org
www.tananachiefs.org

Communications Division
122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



Sign-Up to receive
our E-Newsletter!
Get important
updates straight
to your inbox.



FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Urgent Care
Fairbanks	Nurse Practitioner - Urgent Care
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant Intern
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant I
Fairbanks	RN Clinical Educator
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Clinical Associate I
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Clinical Associate Lead
Fairbanks	Medical Director
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Float
Fairbanks	Nurse Practitioner - Float
Fairbanks	Lead Pediatric Dental Assistant
Fairbanks	Physician - Primary Care
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant I - Alternate Resource
Fairbanks	Registration & Admissions Specialist
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II - Human Resources
Fairbanks	Credentialing Coordinator
Fairbanks	Prevention Specialist
Fairbanks	Registered Nurse II - Telephonic Triage
Fairbanks	Registered Nurse III - Telephonic Triage
Fairbanks	Residential Care Coordinator I
Fairbanks	Diagnostic Ultrasound Technologist - PRN
Fairbanks	Certified Medical Assistant
Fairbanks	Licensed Optician
Fairbanks	Certified Nurse Assistant
Fairbanks	ICWA Advocate
Galena	Dental Assistant Intern
Nenana	Operations Technician - MCDHC
Tok	Staff RN



Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

Visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/careers to see a full list of open positions and learn more about the benefits available through Tanana Chiefs Conference.

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP 29-
OCT 8

**North Pacific Fisheries
Management Council Meeting**
Egan Civic & Convention Center | Anchorage, AK
<https://www.npfmc.org/three-meeting-outlook/>

OCT
3

**Netr'edax (We Are Standing): A
Gathering to Celebrate Recovery**
6:00pm | Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall | Fairbanks, AK
RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/SobrietyPotlatch25>

OCT
3-5

Garden of Roses Camp
Fairbanks, AK
<https://www.tananachiefs.org/events/garden-of-roses-camp/>

OCT
7

Election Day
Municipal and REAA Elections

OCT
13

TCC Offices Closed
Indigenous Peoples Day

OCT
14

Executive Board Meeting
8:30am | Downtown Marriott | Anchorage, AK

OCT
15

**8th Annual Alaska
Tribal Unity Gathering**
Captain Cook Hotel | Anchorage, AK
Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/Fcxl7MZJd>

OCT
16-18

2025 Annual AFN Convention
Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center | Anchorage, AK
<https://nativefederation.org/convention/>

OCT
27-31

HAZWOPER Training & Refresher
8:00am-5:00pm | Fairbanks, AK

NOTICE:

This year, TCC will not be hosting a Special Convention in the Fall. We look forward to seeing you at our annual convention in March.