



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 51 No. 7 • July 2026



Alaska Native Leaders Call for Collective Action to Protect Salmon at National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Convention

Alaska Native leaders used the national stage at the National Congress of American Indians (NCIA) Mid-Year Convention to call on Tribal Nations across the country to stand with Alaska in protecting salmon, subsistence rights, and Indigenous ways of life.

Representatives from Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida In-

dian Tribes of Alaska, and the Alaska Federation of Natives came together to deliver the presentation, **"One People, One Voice: Standing Up for Alaska's Salmon and Our Way of Life."** The presentation was intended to elevate the challenges facing Alaska Native communities and build national support for efforts to protect one of Alaska's most precious resources.

Leaders said they felt it was critical

to bring Alaska's message to Tribal Nations across the country because the ongoing decline of salmon populations and the barriers Tribes face in advocating for subsistence priorities have become too significant for Alaska Native communities to confront alone.

Throughout the presentation, Sharon Hildebrand, Chief/Chairman of Tanana Chiefs Conference; Clinton E.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.



INTERIOR NATIVE
VOTE

Candidate Mixers

MEET YOUR 2026 HOUSE & SENATE CANDIDATES!

July 20th • 11am - 1:30pm • Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall

Meet the individuals running for local offices, hear directly from them, and ask questions that matter most to you.

SEE YOU AGAIN ON AUGUST 8TH FOR THE GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE MIXER!

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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

Executive Board

Trimble Gilbert, Arctic Village
1st Traditional Chief

Andrew Jimmie, Minto
2nd Traditional Chief

Sharon Hildebrand, Nulato
Chief/Chairman

Rhonda Pitka, Beaver
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,

As summer moves across our region, many of us are spending time on the land, at camp, gathering with family, and reconnecting with the traditions that have sustained our people for generations. We are reminded by our elders that it is so important for us to continue these practices and remain grounded by our traditions.

Last month, TCC joined leaders from the Association of Village Council Presidents, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and the Alaska Federation of Natives at the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Convention to share an important message with Tribal Nations from across Indian Country: protecting Alaska's salmon requires collective action.

Salmon are far more than a resource to our people, they are woven into our cultures, identities, and way of life. We are deeply grateful to the Tribal leaders and members who stood alongside us on the stage as we asked Tribal Nations across the country to stand with Alaska in protecting this precious resource. The presentation was effective and helped to raise awareness and garner support across the country. What impacts one tribe ultimately impacts us all. You can learn more on the cover story of this newsletter.

We also had the privilege of hosting our annual Partners Trip in the Upper Kuskokwim Subregion. Representatives from federal and state agencies, and other partners traveled with us to visit communities and hear directly from Tribal leaders and community members. These visits are always meaningful. It is essential that decision-makers experience our communities firsthand and hear directly from the people who live there. Those experiences build understanding and strengthen the partnerships needed to move our priorities forward.

We were also honored to attend the Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference in Fort Yukon. This gathering is especially important because our Elders and youth are at the heart of our communities. Our Elders carry the teachings and wisdom of those who came before us, while our youth carry the future of our people. Hearing the stories and guidance shared by our Elders, reminds me of the teachings of my grandparents in Nulato and I loved to see our young people build strong connections throughout the region. We look forward to next years Elders and Youth Conference to be held in Nulato. Congratulations to Peter Demoski on his re-election as Elder Advisor to the TCC Executive Board. We are grateful for his continued leadership and service.

As TCC continues to grow and evolve, we have been taking a thoughtful look at how we are organized and where additional support is needed. By looking at our work in new ways, we can ensure that we are operating at our very best so that Tribal members continue to receive the critical services they need and deserve.

With this in mind, we are excited to welcome several leaders into new roles within TCC, including Joy Huntington as Government Affairs Director, Doreen Joseph as Tribal Priorities Advancement Director, Marilyn Andon as Director of Clinical Health Services, and Jacoline Bergstrom as Director of Health Administrative Services. We look forward to their leadership and I know that they will continue to support our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

Ana Masee',
Sharon Hildebrand
Chief/Chairman
Tanana Chiefs Conference



TCC Unveils the Andy & Barbara Jimmie Cancer Care & Infusion Center

Family, Tribal leaders, community members, and staff gathered at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center on May 28 to celebrate the unveiling of the Andy & Barbara Jimmie Cancer Care & Infusion Center — a space dedicated to healing, compassion, and care for the people of Interior Alaska.

The event honored the lifelong service and leadership of Second Traditional Chief Andy Jimmie and the late Barbara Jimmie, whose advocacy, humility, faith, and commitment to their people have touched generations across the region.

The evening included prayers, reflections from Tribal leaders and family members, a special performance by the Minto Dance Group, and the unveiling of the center alongside Andy Jimmie and his family.

Chief Sharon Hildebrand opened the evening by recognizing the significance of the moment and thanking the Native Village of Tanana for bringing forward the resolution to name the center in honor of Andy and Barbara, as well as the TCC Executive Board for supporting the effort.

“Cancer has touched many of our families across our region,” Hildebrand said. “Naming this center in their honor is deeply meaningful because it reflects the compassion, strength, and care they have shown throughout their lives. Their legacy will continue on through every person who receives care, comfort, and support within these walls.”

For decades, Chief Andy Jimmie has been a leader and advocate for Alaska Native people at the regional, statewide, and national levels. As Chairman of the TCC Regional Health Board for more than 30 years, he played a key role in strengthening the Alaska Tribal Health System and expanding access to healthcare for rural communities.

Throughout the evening, speaker after speaker reflected not only on Andy’s leadership, but also on the strength and support of Barbara Jimmie, who passed away in 2024.

Barbara, who was raised in Old

Minto, was remembered as a woman of deep faith, compassion, resilience, and generosity. Family and friends shared stories of her constant encouragement, her prayers for others, and the daily phone calls she made to check in on loved ones and community members.

Chief Julie Roberts-Hyslop of the Native Village of Tanana spoke about the importance of honoring both Andy and Barbara through the naming of the center.

“This big compound was built for us. It’s not for anybody else. It’s for us,” Roberts-Hyslop said. “And it was an honor to stand before the convention and have this resolution passed, and to have the honor of having Andy and Barbara’s name on this center.”

Victor Joseph, Executive Director of Tanana, reflected on Andy’s decades of advocacy and the sacrifices made by both Andy and Barbara along the way.

“He worked with congressmen, senators, secretaries, and the president of the United States to help get what we have today,” Joseph said. “We are lucky to be standing here today because of what he has done so we can have this benefit.”

Joseph also spoke about Barbara’s support throughout Andy’s years of leadership and advocacy.

“That promise he made to his mom — he never wavered from it,” Joseph said. “But behind all of that was Barbara and the family supporting him every step of the way.”

Family members shared emotional reflections about Barbara’s kindness, strength, and the love she showed to

everyone around her. Her daughter, Andrea, spoke about Barbara’s habit of calling family and friends each morning simply to check on them.

“That was her gift,” Andrea said. “Her gift was to reach out and see how you were doing.”

When Andy Jimmie addressed the crowd, he spoke humbly about his life, his family, and the many people who helped guide him throughout the years. Fighting back emotion at times, he reflected on Barbara’s role in his life and leadership.

“It’s an honor to have my name put in there,” Chief Jimmie said. “But it means more to me to have her name in the same place with me, because she’s the one that pushed me.”

He also spoke about the values taught to him by his parents and grandparents — lessons about listening, learning, honoring tradition, and always working for the good of the people.

“You have to do what’s best for the people, not for you,” he said.

The unveiling of the Andy & Barbara Jimmie Cancer Care & Infusion Center marked more than the naming of a building. For many in attendance, it was a reflection of the care, advocacy, and love that Andy and Barbara devoted to their communities throughout their lives.

As guests toured the center following the ceremony, the evening carried a strong sense of gratitude, remembrance, and hope for future generations who will receive care within its walls.

“This center represents more than healthcare,” Hildebrand said. “It represents hope. It represents healing. And it represents our commitment to ensuring our people receive care that is compassionate, culturally grounded, and centered in community.”



Alaska Native Leaders Call for Collective Action to Protect Salmon at NCAI Mid-Year Convention

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

Cook, President, Craig Tribal Association; Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Village Council Presidents; and Angela Totemoff, Vice President of Community and Shareholder Relations and Chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives Subsistence Committee, shared the impacts declining salmon returns have had on rural communities throughout Alaska, highlighted the ongoing challenges Tribes face in advocating for salmon and subsistence priorities, and emphasized that protecting salmon will require collective action.

"For Alaska Native people, salmon are much more than a resource—they are woven into the foundation of who we are," said Sharon Hildebrand, Chief/Chairman of Tanana Chiefs Conference.

The leaders described how declining salmon returns have affected food security, cultural practices, and the transmission of traditional knowledge across generations. They also outlined the barriers Alaska Tribes have encountered in advocating for salmon through state and federal management systems that often fail to ade-

quately recognize Tribal sovereignty, stewardship responsibilities, and subsistence priorities.

"For Alaska Native people, salmon are much more than a resource—they are woven into the foundation of who we are."

-Chief Hildebrand

"This is not only a fisheries issue; it is a food security crisis, a cultural crisis, and an equity issue," said Angela Totemoff, Vice President of Community and Shareholder Relations and Chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives Subsistence Committee.

Alaska Native Tribes and organizations have repeatedly raised these concerns before NCAI, submitting several resolutions seeking support for issues related to salmon stewardship, subsistence rights, Tribal co-management, and Indigenous food sovereignty.

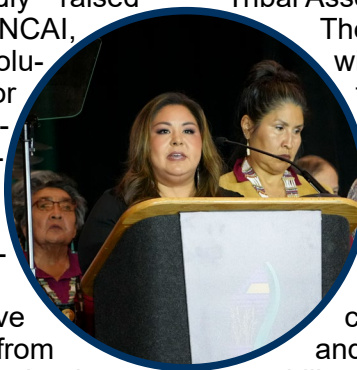
"Alaska Tribes have largely been excluded from co-management frameworks despite our inherent sovereignty, stewardship responsibilities, and deep cultural and subsistence reliance on salmon," said Vivian Korthuis, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Village Council Presidents.

As Tribal leaders and subsistence users stood together on stage in a visible demonstration of unity, they called on Tribal Nations across the country to recognize that protecting salmon is not solely an Alaska issue, but one that speaks to the shared responsibility Indigenous peoples have to protect the lands, waters, and resources that sustain their communities.

"When one Tribe's ability to sustain its way of life is challenged, it is a warning to us all. We must come together, as one collective voice, to protect Indigenous rights everywhere," said Clinton E. Cook, President, Craig Tribal Association.

The presentation concluded with a call for Tribal Nations to stand with Alaska in advocating for meaningful Tribal participation in fisheries management, increased investment in Tribal co-management, and policies that prioritize conservation, subsistence, and the long-term sustainability of salmon populations.

"Protecting salmon will require collective action," Cook said. "We ask you to stand with us, not just in words, but in action, because the future of our salmon, our cultures, and our communities depends on it."



Flagging Class Leads to Tribal Hires This Summer

By Sean Rice, TCC Employment & Training Coordinator

On April 21st and April 22nd, Employment and Training hosted a flagging class that was put on by Northern Dame Construction. During the training, Tribal members learned how to perform flagging duties and received a 4-year certificate that allows them to work as flaggers in the state of Alaska.

Through this training, participants learned that communication is key in stopping traffic and knowing when to release traffic to drive slowly through the road construction zones. They also learned how to maintain safety for themselves, the construction crew, and the people traveling through the road construction site. Receiving this Flagging Certificate ensures that participants are put in the American



Traffic Safety Service Association's (ATSSA) database so that construction outfits know who is certified within road construction and can reach out to call on the Certified Flaggers when needed.

Northern Dame Construction has hired 10 of the Tribal members who completed these classes to work during the road construction season, which started in May. Employment and Training would like to thank all the participants, as well as Northern Dame Construction for putting on the class and hiring our Tribal members to work with them this summer.

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the Flagging course and those who went on to find employment through the classes!

Become a Trainer!

Employment and Training is looking for Trainers in various fields who are insured, bonded, and licensed. We are seeking vendors/individuals who can teach our Tribal members different skills in small engine repair, carpentry, mechanics, home boiler/TOYO stove maintenance and repair, plumbing, and other skills. We are looking for those who are willing to travel out to our villages, host training locally, and create hands-on classes for real life knowledge. Please let us know if Tribal members will be able to attain a certificate or license through the training.

Contractors or individuals who are interested, please contact Sean Rice, TCC's Employment and Training Coordinator at sean.rice@tananachiefs.org or call 907-452-8251 Ext. 5907.

Garden of Roses

Tanana Chiefs Conference and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium are providing a weekend camp for Alaska Native Girls, ages 10-17, who are survivors of sexual assault.

This camp is held on a weekend, Friday evening to Sunday evening.

This is an opportunity for young girls to heal from the trauma they have experienced.

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 29, 2026, or until filled.

Travel scholarships will be filled as registration requests are received. Please contact us early if you are interested.

Garden of Roses is a safe place to share their feelings and be supported. Girls are accompanied by an adult parent or guardian who will participate in their own healing circles throughout the weekend.

**July 24-26, 2026
Fairbanks, AK**

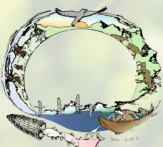
To Register or Learn More, Contact:

Debbie, Demientieff, ANTHC
dvprevention@anthc.org
907-729-3795

Roxanne Frank, Trauma & Grief Specialist
roxanne.frank@tananachiefs.org
907-451-6682 ext. 3581



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM



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Elders and Youth Conference Brings Generations Together

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) extends its gratitude to Gwichyaa Zhee for its warm hospitality and to Denakkanaaga for hosting another successful Elders and Youth Conference.

The annual gathering brought together Elders and youth from across the region to share knowledge, stories, culture, and experiences while strengthening connections between generations. Participants took part in activities, presentations, and discussions that celebrated culture, leadership, and community.

TCC would also like to congratulate Peter Demoski on his re-election as the TCC Board Elder Advisor. We appreciate his continued service and dedication to the region's Elders and communities.

Thank you to the Elders, youth, presenters, volunteers, and community members who helped make this year's conference such a meaningful success. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year in Nulato.



We Are Hiring!

Community Planning Specialist

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Facilitate public meetings
- Administer surveys
- Conduct research
- Assist with developing or updating a community's five-year plan

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Reside in the village where they will work
- May not serve on the Tribal Council during the contract period

Grant Development Specialist*

**Only in communities with an updated community plan*

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Develop grant proposals
- Host public meetings
- Gather community feedback
- Research local needs

QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school diploma or GED
- Must reside in the village applying for the contract
- May not serve on the Tribal Council during the contract period

WAGES: \$22.50/hour

DURATION: Up to 400 hours between October 1, 2026 - January 31, 2027

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 28, 2026

QUESTIONS/APPLY: Contact Millena Jordan at (907) 452-8251 ext. 3099

Joy Huntington Named Government Affairs Director



Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is pleased to welcome Joy Huntington as the organization's new Government Affairs Director.

Joy (Shockley) Huntington is Caribou Clan and has deep roots in the TCC region. She is the daughter of Dorothy (Woods) Shockley of Manley Hot Springs and the late Barry Shockley of Kansas City, Missouri, and the granddaughter of the late Judy (Starr) Woods of Tanana and the late Walter Woods of Rampart. She earned bachelor's degrees in Native American Studies and Environmental Studies from Dartmouth College.

Joy brings more than 24 years of experience in government relations, strategic communications, stakeholder engagement, and advocacy. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with Tribes and Tribal organizations across Alaska and previously served as TCC's state lobbyist, leading advocacy efforts on behalf of member Tribes and the organization.

In her new role, Joy will lead TCC's government relations and advocacy efforts, helping advance Tribal priorities and strengthen partnerships at the state and federal levels. Her extensive experience and commitment to Tribal communities will be a valuable asset as TCC continues working toward its vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

Please join us in welcoming Joy to the TCC team

Doreen Joseph Named Director of Tribal Priorities Advancement



Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is pleased to welcome Doreen Joseph as the new Director of Tribal Priorities Advancement.

A Tribal member of Beaver, Doreen brings more than 30 years of experience serving Tribal communities and organizations throughout Interior Alaska. During her career, she has held leadership and administrative roles with organizations including the Fairbanks Native Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Beaver Kwit'chin Corporation.

Through her work with Tribes, Tribal organizations, and community programs across the region, Doreen has developed a strong understanding of the priorities, opportunities, and challenges facing Alaska Native communities. Her experience in Tribal governance, community engagement, and organizational operations will help support TCC's efforts to advance the priorities of its member Tribes.

In her new role, Doreen will work closely with Tribal leaders, communities, and TCC programs to strengthen Tribal initiatives, support strategic priorities, and advance opportunities that benefit the region. She will transition into the position full-time on August 3, 2026.

Please join us in welcoming Doreen back to TCC as we continue working toward our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

TCC Strengthens Health Services Leadership Team

To support the continued growth of Health Services and meet the evolving healthcare needs of the region, Tanana Chiefs Conference is implementing a new leadership structure within Health Services.

Over the past several years, Health Services has experienced significant growth and increasing complexity. To better support strategic priorities, strengthen operational leadership, and continue advancing quality patient care, TCC has established two executive director positions.

Jacoline Bergstrom has been appointed Executive Director of Health Administrative Services. In this role, she will focus on healthcare advocacy,



cy, administrative leadership, strategic partnerships, and health finance strategy. Jacoline is widely recognized for her leadership and expertise in Tribal healthcare and has been a strong advocate for Tribal health organizations and the patients they serve.

Marilyn Andon has been appointed Executive Director of Clinical Health Services. Marilyn has played a key role in Health Services operations for many years and most recently served as Acting Director of Clinical Services. In her new role, she will lead daily Health Services



operations and support ongoing improvements in patient care and service delivery.

Both positions will report directly to the Chief Administrative Officer. TCC will also recruit two new deputy directors to help strengthen leadership capacity and support the continued growth of Health Services.

This realignment reflects TCC's commitment to building a sustainable leadership structure that supports staff, patients, and communities while advancing the organization's vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

Please join us in congratulating Jacoline and Marilyn on their new leadership roles.



Emerging Leaders Youth Summit Brings Together Future Tribal Leaders

In June, youth from across the TCC region gathered at Nankat Liberation and Wellness Center outside of Fairbanks for the Emerging Leaders Youth Summit. The four-day summit combined leadership development, cultural learning, wellness activities, and advocacy training. Participants camped on-site and took part in a variety of hands-on workshops and discussions designed to strengthen their connection to culture, community, and one another.

Youth received CPR and Naloxone training, participated in gun safety education, and joined talking circles with Elders and leaders focused on values, leadership, and community responsibility. Cultural activities included moose hide tanning, fish net making, beadwork, canvas boot making, vest making, plant identification and salve making, fiddle dancing, and traditional dancing.

The summit also provided opportunities for youth to learn about advocacy and civic engagement through sessions focused on hunting and fishing

advocacy, Tribal leadership, and Native voting initiatives.

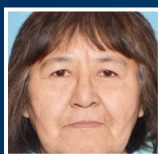
The event culminated in a youth-led discussion where participants identified priorities for the Emerging Leaders program's advocacy efforts in the coming year. Among the priorities established at the Summit are drug and alcohol abuse, gun safety, language revitalization, suicide prevention, mental health and protecting our land and waters.

By sharing their perspectives, concerns, and ideas, youth helped shape future initiatives and ensured their voices remain at the center of conversations affecting their communities.

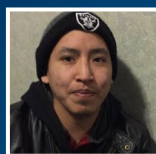
TCC extends its gratitude to Native Movement for sharing their beautiful facility with us, and to the presenters, Elders, volunteers, and staff who helped make the summit possible. Most importantly, thank you to the youth participants whose leadership, enthusiasm, and commitment to their communities continue to inspire hope for the future.



MISSING



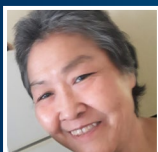
Lorraine Ginnis



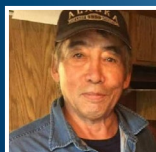
Willis Derendoff



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.

Saskatoon berries are easy to grow and fun to pick (but not as tasty as Alaska blueberries)

By Heidi Rader, Professor of Extension at University of Alaska Fairbanks.

I grew up picking Alaska blueberries and learned from a young age to patiently and painstakingly pick about a gallon an hour on a good day. Compared to that, it's incredibly satisfying to pick a gallon of saskatoons in 10 minutes.

That's what I love most about saskatoons — how large and prolific they are, and that they are a fruit and are easy to grow. That said, if you've been following my articles on berries (although technically saskatoons are a pome not a berry), I mentioned that I'm writing them in order of my personal preference. Saskatoons are downright near the bottom of the list.

I don't want to denigrate them, because I like any/all local berries and fruit, but they are a bit fibrous and dry. Maybe what I also don't like about them is that they remind me a bit of cultivated blueberries from the Lower 48. As an Alaskan, I turn my nose up at those store-bought blueberries in favor of Alaska blueberries.



Loaded saskatoon bush about 25 feet high at the Georgeson Botanical Garden in Fairbanks. Photo by Heidi Rader.

Saskatoons (aka serviceberries or Juneberries) are a pome and are in the Rosacea family, same as apples. There are native saskatoons in Alaska (*Amelanchier alnifolia* Nutt.) The word saskatoon comes from the Cree word "*misâskwatômina*". Saskatoon, Canada, is named for the berry, which grows in the region, and speaks to the importance of the berry as a food source for Indigenous peoples. Among other things, they were used in pemmican, which is an ideal use for them. I've made jam with the berries, and the jam is VERY firm, almost too firm to spread.

Martin and Smoky are the varieties recommended by the University of Alaska Fairbanks for Interior Alaska (www.uaf.edu/ces/publications/database/

gardening/recommended-variety.php). They are grown at the Georgeson Botanical Garden in Fairbanks (<https://www.uaf.edu/afes/places/gbg/>). They're incredibly prolific and have also reached heights where picking the berries requires a ladder. Many other varieties are available, but they have not necessarily been trialed in Alaska, or Interior Alaska specifically, and they vary in their cold hardiness. Here are some other descriptions of common Saskatoon varieties (gardening.usask.ca/gardening-advice/gardenline-nested-pages/food-plant-pages/fruit/saskatoon.php).

In addition to Martin and Smoky, Alaska Fruit Trees (sites.google.com/site/alaskafruittrees/home/saskatoons) also recommends Honeywood, Northline, Regent and Thiessen. Owners Steve and Sarah Masterman, have conducted extensive fruit and berry variety trials at their orchard.

Saskatoons should be planted 3 to 5 feet apart and eventually form a hedgerow. They grow 3 to 26 feet high and 10 to 20 feet wide, depending on how they are pruned, according to the University of Saskatchewan (gardening.usask.ca/gardening-advice/gardenline-nested-pages/food-plant-pages/fruit/saskatoon.php#Saskatoons). The ideal pH is between 6 and 7, according to the University of Idaho (www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIdaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/publications/bul/bul0866.pdf?la=en). They benefit from compost; fertilizer should be limited.

Ideally, you should prune them every year when the plant is dormant and keep the height from getting to the point where you need a ladder. You can also prune to let more light in by pruning branches from the base. Saskatoons may be productive for 30 to 50 years, so carefully choose your location. Old plants can be chopped down and allowed to re-grow.

Alex Wenninger, entomologist with University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service says the sawfly (*Dineura militaris*) is the most common pest she sees. Joey Slowik, a technician with UAF Extension Integrated Pest Management Program, notes birds, moose, and bears are a big issue. Bird netting can be used to protect the berries from birds or animals. Or you may find you have enough to share.



Dineura militaris on *Amelanchier* berry in Fairbanks. Photo by Alex Wenninger.

If they aren't pruned correctly, powdery mildew can also be an issue. If you have questions about pests and diseases affecting your plants and how to reduce the damage, you can submit your questions to the Integrated Pest Management Program: [plw.man.mybluehost.me/](mailto:plw.man.mybluehost.me)

You can find recipes and other information about Saskatoons here: www.uaf.edu/ces/publications/database/food/serviceberries.php I think this is one of the only jam recipes for berries that I've seen where you need to add water to the recipe.

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) offers a wealth of information on planting, growing, pruning, propagating, harvesting, cooking, preserving, and eating saskatoons, as well as information on the varietal characteristics: gardening.usask.ca/gardening-advice/gardenline-nested-pages/food-plant-pages/fruit/saskatoon.php#Saskatoons.

If you want an easy-to-grow shrub with edible berries that are highly productive, give saskatoons a try.

The annual Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District tree and shrub sale is May 22-23. You can find more information at trees.fairbankssoilwater.org/.

Questions about gardening or the Tribes Extension Program? Visit www.uaf.edu/ces/tribes Contact Heidi at hbrader@alaska.edu or (907) 474-6620. For more articles like this, go to: itgrowsinalaska.community.uaf.edu/

Heidi Rader is a professor of Extension and project director for the Alaska Tribes Extension Program. This work is supported by the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program Project 2022-41580-37957. It is a partnership with TCC. 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.

Congratulations 2026 Graduates

Alexis Dillard • 18



Northway
Walter Northway School
High School Diploma

Alissa Lynn Healy Perez • 26



Healy Lake
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Occupational Endorsement Certificate in
Ethnobotany

Alyssa Sanders • 17



Venetie
North Pole High School
High School Diploma

Amelia Clark • 18



Minto
Sterlington High School
High School Diploma

AnaLisa Mayo-Ramos • 25



Stevens Village
University of Texas at San Antonio
Master's of Science in Physics

Andria Moses • 17



Allakaket
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Aspen Moses • 5



Northway Head Start
Pre-K Promotion

Barrett Whitaker • 18



Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
High School Diploma

Brandi Jimmie • 18



Northway
Walter Northway School
High School Diploma

Brayden Cruger • 18



Nulato
Monroe Catholic High School
High School Diploma

Bryson Sam • 14



Northway
Walter Northway School
9th Grade Promotion

Cassidy Martinson • 17



Beaver
Nome Beltz High School
High School Diploma

Cedric Deadon • 20



Grayling
UAA

Bachelors in Mathematics

Chaniya Walker • 18



Anvik

Galena Interior Learning Academy
High School Diploma

Cruz Isaacson • 18



Nulato

Raven Homeschool
High School Diploma

Damian Hamilton • 18



Grayling

Nenana City High School
High School Diploma

Daniel Bettis II • 18



Nenana

Kenai Central High School
High School Diploma

David Sam • 18



Huslia

Jimmy Huntington School
High School Diploma

Daylen Malamute • 18



Tanana

West Valley High School
High School Diploma

Dean • 18



Lake Minchumina

Monte Vista High School
High School Diploma

Demarcus Brodie • 17



Northway

Walter Northway School
High School Diploma

Dennis Silas • 17



Minto

Minto School
High School Diploma

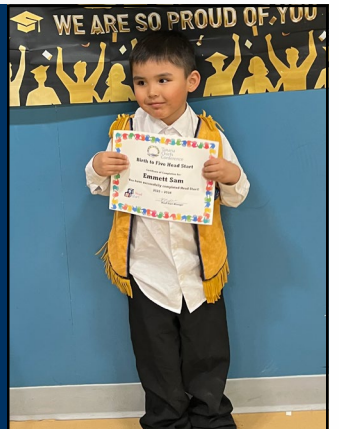
Destyn Floyd Huntington • 5



Anvik

Blackwell School
Pre-K Promotion

Emmett Sam • 5



Huslia

Huslia Head Start
Pre-K Promotion

Ermelina Gonzalez • 22



Huslia

University of Alaska Anchorage
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

Evan Huntington • 18



Koyukuk

Ella B. Vernetti School
High School Diploma

Evan Lee Walton • 18



Galena

Sidney Huntington School
High School Diploma

Gabriella Lucy Renee McCarty • 18



Ruby

GILA
High School Diploma

Giana Nicholas • 14



Kaltag
Effie Kokrine Charter School
8th Grade Promotion

Greyson Kangas • 6



Ruby
North Pole Elementary
Kindergarten Promotion

Hunter & Bronson Cleary • 6



Tanacross
Kasuun Elementary
Kindergarten Promotion

Ida Wilson • 5



Northway & Tetlin
Walter Northway School
Pre-K Promotion

Jeffery Frank • 18



Minto
Minto School
High School Diploma

Jennafer Smith • 17



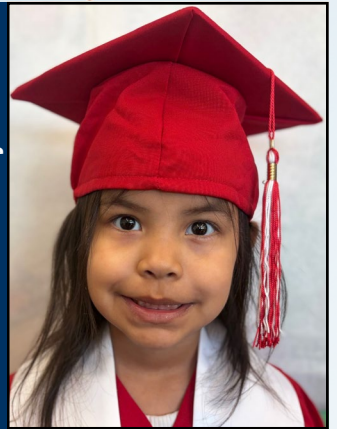
Minto
Minto High School
High School Diploma

Jeremiah • 18



Dot Lake
Bradwell Institute
High School Diploma

Jeslynn Sam • 5



Northway Head Start
Pre-K Promotion

Jesslyn Celene Hildebrand • 18



Nulato
West Valley High School
High School Diploma

Jewel Alexander • 18



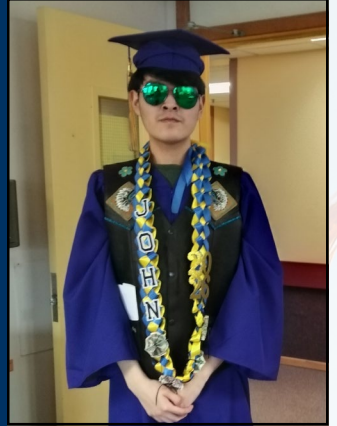
Minto
Minto School
High School Diploma

Jodi L. Ambrose •



Nulato
University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Associate of Arts degree

John Williams II • 18



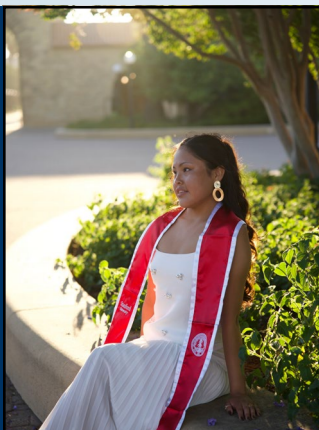
Koyukuk
Ella B. Verneti School
High School Diploma

Jonathan David • 18



Minto
Minto School
High School Diploma

Jordan David • 22



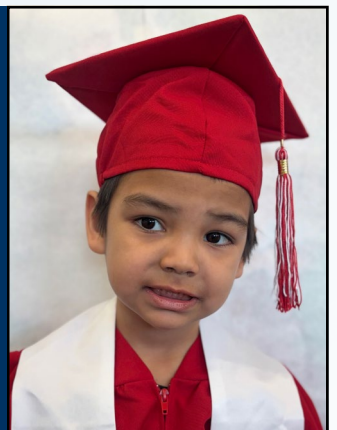
Huslia
Stanford University
Bachelor of Science in Earth Systems - Oceans,
Atmosphere, and Climate

Joshua Oli • 18



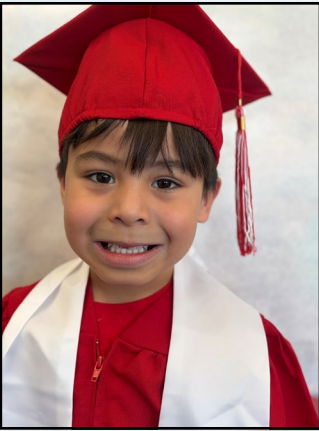
Huslia
Jimmy Huntington School
High School Diploma

Kaisen Fultze • 5



Northway Head Start
Pre-K Promotion

Kaleo Arnold • 5



Northway Head Start
Pre-K Promotion

Kane Johnson • 14



Rampart
Rampart School
9th Grade Promotion

Kellian Kriska • 18



Nulato
Andrew K Demoski School
High School Diploma

Kennedi Jade Thomas • 6



Fort Yukon
Fort Yukon School
Kindergarten Promotion

Kierra Merculief • 18



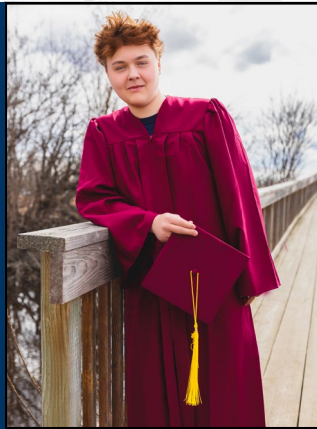
Koyukuk
East High School
High School Diploma

Kodi Avery George • 6



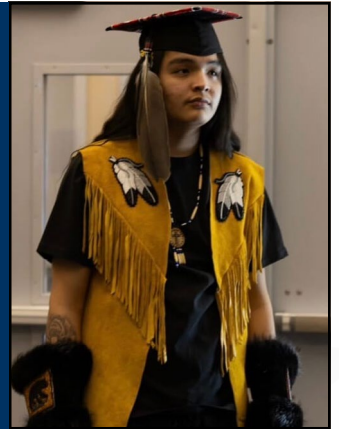
Galena
Sidney C. Huntington School
Kindergarten Promotion

Landon Paolino • 18



Tanana
Raven Homeschool
High School Diploma

Leon Pitka • 18



Ruby
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Levi Andrew Williams • 18



Ruby
Nenana City School
High School Diploma

Logan Weter • 18



Huslia
Mt. Edgecumbe High School
High School Diploma

Mackenzie Rustad • 14



Allakaket
Arctic Village School
8th Grade Promotion

Maddison Frank-Charlie • 18



Minto
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Madison Wigley • 11



Eagle
North Pole Elementary School
5th Grade Promotion

Marvin Captain • 17



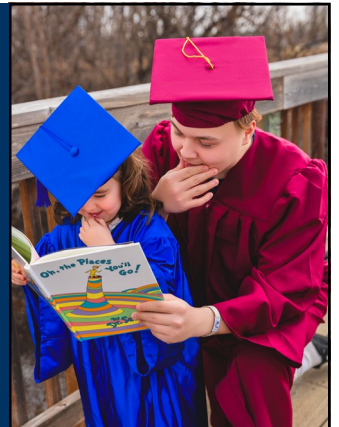
Tetlin
Tetlin High School
High School Diploma

Mason Sweetsir • 18



Tanana
Raven Homeschool
High School Diploma

McKenna McAbee



Tanana
Raven Homeschool
4th Grade Promotion

Melina Garcia • 18

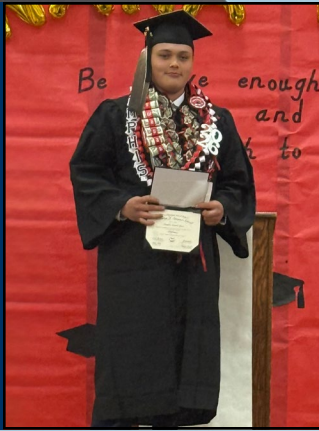


Northway

Kotzebue ANSEP Acceleration Academy & University of Alaska Anchorage

High School Diploma & Associate of Science

Memphis Moore • 18



Tanana

Maudrey J Sommer School

High School Diploma

Myrica Meierotto • 17



Allakaket

Effie Kokrine Charter School

High School Diploma

Naomi Williams • 6



Ruby

Merrelene A. Kangas School

Kindergarten Promotion

Natajae Richards • 18



Holy Cross

BEST Homeschool

High School Diploma

Nikora Silas • 14

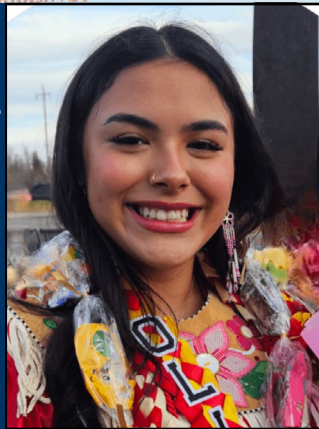


Minto

Minto School

8th Grade Promotion

Olivia Marie Boyles • 18

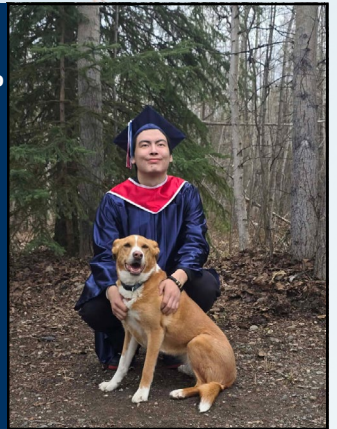


Fort Yukon

West Valley High School

High School Diploma

Patrick Kougl • 18



Kaltag

North Pole High School

High School Diploma

Ruben Constantine • 18



Tok

Mt. Edgecumbe High School

High School Diploma

Ryder Pitka • 17



Hughes

West Valley High School

High School Diploma

Savannah Torres

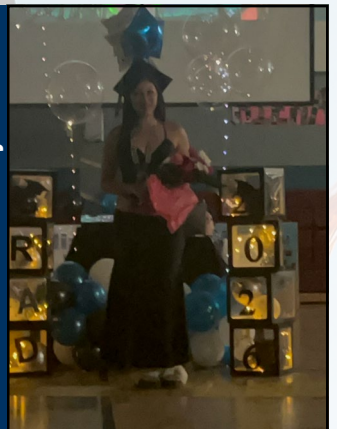


Northway

CEC High School

High School Diploma

Serenity Bifelt • 17



Huslia

Jimmy Huntington School

High School Diploma

Shania Isaac • 19



Tok

Tok School

High School Diploma

Silas • 17



Northway

Tok School

High School Diploma

Terrence Titus • 18

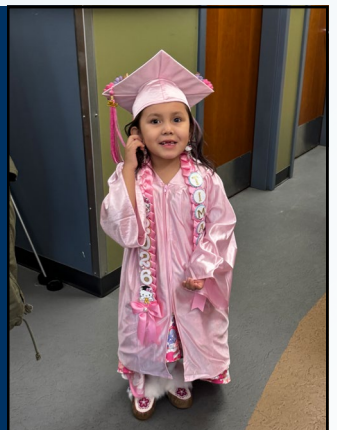


Northway

Walter Northway High School

High School Diploma

Timara Albert • 5



Kaltag

Nunamiut School

Kindergarten Promotion

Travis Hardy • 17



Fort Yukon
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Trevon Huntington • 18



Tanana
West Valley High School
High School Diploma

Trinity Hardy • 17



Fort Yukon
Effie Kokrine Charter School
High School Diploma

Vegaas Kruger • 18



Nulato
West Valley High School
High School Diploma

Verla McKinney



Huslia
East Carolina University
Master of Science in Nursing - Nurse Midwifery

Violet Finney • 14



Eagle
Ryan Middle School
8th Grade Promotion

Willow Garber



Tetlin
Tok School
8th Grade Promotion

Winter Garber



Tetlin
Tok School
High School Diploma

Call for Energy Champions: Supporting Community Energy Futures

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is partnering with Tribal communities across the Interior to help strengthen local capacity for energy planning, project development, and access to funding opportunities that support long-term community priorities.

As part of this effort, TCC is encouraging each community to identify an Energy Champion: a local point of contact who is interested in energy issues and committed to helping share information, identify community needs, and stay connected on opportunities related to energy projects, training, and technical assistance.

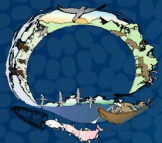
Energy Champions will support their community's goals, whether focused on lowering energy costs, improving reliability, or exploring innovative energy solutions. By helping connect communities with resources and information, Energy Champions will play an important role in supporting com-

munity-driven energy development across the region.

To further support this work, TCC will provide travel funding for selected Energy Champions to attend a two-day workshop in Fairbanks later this year, along with future opportunities for additional workshops and collaboration. These gatherings will focus on practical skill-building, knowledge sharing, and strengthening connections between communities, technical experts, and partner organizations.

Communities interested in identifying an Energy Champion or learning more about the program are encouraged to contact Jason Paskvan, Energy and Climate Planning Specialist, at (907) 452-8251 ext. 2062 or by email at jason.paskvan@tananachiefs.org.

Together, we can help advance strong, sustainable energy solutions for Interior Alaska communities.



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



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FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Join Our Team!

New Vacancies

Fairbanks	Patient Care Coordinator
Fairbanks	Registration & Admissions Specialist
Fairbanks	Staff Dentist/Staff Dental Officer - Advanced
Fairbanks	Phlebotomist
Fairbanks	Licensed Practical Nurse I - Addictions
Fairbanks	Addictions RN
Fairbanks	Medical Laboratory Technician
Fairbanks	Environmental Health Specialist I
Fairbanks	Security Officer I
Fairbanks	Referral Coordinator II
Fairbanks	Referral Coordinator III
Fairbanks	Perioperative Nurse II - ASC
Fairbanks	RN Case Manager Advanced
Fairbanks	Alternate Resource Coordinator
Fairbanks	RN Case Manager
Fairbanks	Biomedical Equipment Technician I
Fairbanks	Biomedical Equipment Technician III
Fairbanks	Addictions Counselor I
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Crisis Clinician I
Fairbanks	Residential Care Coordinator I - Graf
Fairbanks	Receptionist - OJT
Fairbanks	Wellness and Prevention Manager
Manley Hot Springs	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Old Minto	OMFRC Behavioral Health Consultant



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 JUNE 24, 2026

NEED TO
TALK?

Help is just three
digits away.

988

Connects You to Careline,
Alaska's Suicide & Crisis
Lifeline.



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUL
2-3**

TCC Offices Closed
Independence Day

**JUL
13**

Elders Day of Caring
TCC and our Partners perform acts of service for Elders for Elders throughout the Fairbanks area.

**JUL
20**

**Interior Native Vote House & Senate
Candidate Mixer**

11:00am - 1:30pm • Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1JBb9MdNgF/>

**AUG
5**

**Interior Native Vote Gubernatorial
Candidate Mixer**

11:00am - 1:30pm • Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1FzUqNZFHC/>

**AUG
18-20**

Executive Board Meeting
8:30am - 5:00pm | Fairbanks, AK

**SEP
7**

TCC Offices Closed
Labor Day