



81st Annual Tribal Assembly Adjourns *"Prosperity through Sovereignty"*



Executive Council L-R: Edward K. (Sam) Thomas Jr., Marvin Adams, Jacqueline Pata, Ralph Wolfe, Richard Peterson, Rob Sanderson Jr., William Micklin, and Micians Hutcherson

Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) held its 81st Annual Tribal Assembly April 20-22, 2016 in the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall. Over 100 Delegates from Alaska, Washington, and California gathered in Juneau to conduct tribal business and elect new officers.

The opening day of Tribal Assembly included a special welcome from Governor Bill Walker and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott which reaffirmed the state is committed to strengthening its relationship with tribes. Governor Walker also announced the appointment of President Richard J. Peterson to his 11 member tribal advisory council.

The commencement day also included a State of the Tribe Address by President Peterson followed by a series of reports covering tribal operations, financials, and the Tribe's business enterprise. In line with this year's theme, Prosperity through Sovereignty, the State of the Tribe Address covered the governmental activities of the Executive Council, significant accomplishments of the Tribe, and top administrative priorities.

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Tribe Receives \$50K in Federal Highway Safety Funds

Submitted By: Tribal Transportation

Central Council was recently awarded \$50,000 in Tribal Transportation Safety Funds from the United States Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The safety funds will be used to complete two projects—Public Service Announcements on Pedestrian Safety Education (\$15,000) and Road Safety Audit on Riverside Drive and other planning activities (\$35,000).

Each year the FHWA Tribal Transportation Program sets aside 2% of its available national funding allocation to address safety issues. This funding is available to federally recognized Indian tribes through a competitive, discretionary program. Projects are awarded based on outcomes that address the prevention and reduction of death or serious injuries in transportation related crashes.

Central Council's Tribal Transportation department's next step will be to create a Road Safety Team made up of multi-disciplinary partners that will identify safety concerns as well as resolutions. If you live in Juneau and are interested in serving on the Road Safety Team, please contact Tribal Transportation at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7763, 907.463.7763, or via email at jhawkins@ccthita-nsn.gov.

President Peterson Appointed to Governor's Tribal Advisory Council



*Governor Walker announces newly appointed GTAC members
Photo courtesy of State of Alaska, Office of the Governor*

On May 5, 2016 Governor Bill Walker and Lt. Governor Byron Mallott announced the newly appointed members of the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council (GTAC). President Peterson has been appointed to represent Alaska tribes on Economic Development and joins 10 other tribal leaders on the advisory council.

The GTAC was established by Administrative Order 227 and was signed by Governor Walker last year. Alaska tribes nominated candidates and members were appointed by Governor Walker based on the unique skill set and experiences of the candidates that would benefit the administration in addressing important issues to Alaska's tribes.

The 11 member advisory council is tasked with providing input and assisting the State's administration in finding opportunities for the State and tribes to work collaboratively in the areas of wildlife and fisheries, transportation, housing, subsistence, public safety, justice, language and culture, economic development, energy and natural resources, healthcare, and education. The first meeting between GTAC members, Governor Walker, and Lt. Governor Mallott focused on establishing goals and priorities for the group moving forward. To read the full press release, please visit: gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/category/press-releases/.

Governor's Tribal Advisory Council Members:

Chester Ballot - Wildlife & Fisheries
Gerry Hope - Transportation
Guy Adams - Housing
Harry Brower - Subsistence
Jody Juneby Potts - Public Safety
Melanie Bahnke - Justice
Melissa Borton - Language & Culture
Richard Peterson - Economic Development
Ralph Anderson - Energy & Natural Resources
Victor Joseph - Healthcare
Tiffany Jackson - Education

20th Annual Spring King Salmon Derby Wraps-up

Congratulations to this year's Spring King Salmon Derby winner, David Turner Jr., who took first place with a 29.25 pound king salmon! David earned over \$11,600 in cash and over \$600 in prizes.



Derby Winner David Turner Jr.

This year was special as it marked the 20th year for our derby. President Emeritus Edward K. Thomas and former Higher Education Manager Archie Cavanaugh launched the Spring King Salmon Derby as a way for Central Council to raise additional funds to support our Higher Education students.

Approximately 750 tickets were sold bringing in around \$23,000 for the 2016-2017 Alumni Scholarship Assistance program. All proceeds from ticket sales are directed to Alumni scholarships for tribally enrolled students.

Thank you to our derby sponsors and prize donors who generously contributed over \$41,847 in cash, prizes, and sponsor donations. In addition to the top 20 prizes for the largest fish weighed in, there were specialty prizes and ticket drawings. Thank you to Western Auto Marine (WAM) and Jerry's Meats & Seafoods for their continued support and donations. Carla at WAM and Scott at Jerry's Meats have been huge supporters of this derby, we are very grateful for their assistance—patronizing these two local stores is appreciated. For a complete list of winners, donors, and sponsors, visit: www.springkingderby.org.

A special *Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa* to our top sponsors!

Killer Whale (\$1,000+)

Sealaska
Edward K. & Catherine V. Thomas
President Richard Peterson
Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority
Goldbelt, Inc.
National Capital, LLC

Sockeye (\$100-\$499)

Tina Deasis-Wright, Damon Matthew Wright & Brittany Wright (with gratitude as former scholarship recipients), ANS Glacier Valley Camp 70, Filipino Community Inc., Kris Ahlen, Karen Taug, Kyle Sage, Laird & Francine Eddy Jones, Ron Taug, and Rudy G. Isturis Sr.

Thank you to all who participated in and supported the derby!

Enrollment Committee Meets



Enrollment Committee L-R: LaVerne Wise, Bertha Karras, Stephanie Rainwater, Ella Bennett, and Judy Helgesen (Frank Wright not pictured)

The Enrollment Committee met May 24-26, 2016 in Juneau, Alaska. The committee reviewed and approved 322 tribal enrollment applications, processed eight blood quantum corrections and six relinquishments bringing the Tribe's total enrollment to 30,369.

The Enrollment Committee is comprised of six Delegates that are appointed by the President – Ella Bennett, Chair (Juneau); LaVerne Wise, Vice Chair (Seattle); Stephanie Rainwater, Secretary (Seattle); Bertha Karras (Sitka); Judy Helgesen (Ketchikan); and Frank Wright (Hoonah). The committee is responsible for ensuring that any person applying for tribal citizenship is eligible for enrollment by reviewing all documentation relative to the application and certifying eligibility.

For more information, please contact Program Compliance at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7359 or 907.463.7359.

Southeast Alaska Native Veterans Memorial Day Snap Shots



Central Council Secures “ccthita-nsn.gov” Domain Name



Central Council has received notice from the Department of Interior that its application for a Native Sovereign Nation (NSN) domain (www.ccthita-nsn.gov) was approved and activated by the General Services Administration (GSA). The NSN domain is available to federally-recognized tribes through a Memorandum of Understanding between GSA, the Department of Interior, and Indian Affairs. The “-nsn.gov” domain provides tribes with sovereign and official government website identifications, along with adding their sites to www.usa.gov — a search engine for government information and services. In the coming weeks, Central Council will transition its site to www.ccthita-nsn.gov and staff email addresses from @ccthita.org to @ccthita-nsn.gov.

News from Tlingit & Haida Head Start

Submitted By: Head Start

Happy Retirement to Hoonah Lead Teacher Edna Skaflestad



With the close of the school year, Head Start said goodbye to Edna Skaflestad, an outstanding teacher who retired after 20 years of service.

Her journey with the Hoonah Head Start program began in 1993 as a parent volunteer in the classroom. Soon Edna became a volunteer bus monitor and then was elected to serve as the Head Start Policy Council representative. By 1995 Edna joined Head Start's team as a bus driver/teacher aide. Cornelia Koenig was the lead teacher at the time and mentored Edna to excel as an early childhood teacher. Edna eventually moved into the cook/teacher aide position and was then promoted to lead teacher following Cornelia Koenig's retirement after 20 years of dedicated service.

Edna believed in expanding play and learning beyond books. She believed in going out and enjoying nature because "it is an effective way to learn". The children spent a lot of time on the beaches studying the wonders of nature and the joy of hands-on learning. Edna created a great beach curriculum with these experiences. On one beach trip the children had the opportunity to dig for clams and cockles their parents had dug up and re-buried in shallow spots earlier that day. The clams were brought back to the class, prepared, and given to the Elders at the senior center. During the winter season, the children would make ice decorations to decorate the trees. As the weather warmed the children observed the changes as their decorations melted away.

Edna's love of children gave them opportunities to learn and grow through socializing, play, and using their imaginations.

Thank you to Edna for her years of service to Head Start's children & families in Hoonah!



2015-2016 School Year Wraps Up

Another school year has come and gone for Tlingit & Haida Head Start! Graduation ceremonies were held in each community to celebrate the great leap forward Head Start children will make from preschool to Kindergarten next year. Thank you to the wonderful work of our teachers, administrative staff, parents, and volunteers for another successful school year!



Alumni Scholarships

Submitted By: Higher Education

Mark your calendars! The Higher Education program will be accepting Alumni Scholarship Assistance applications starting July 1, 2016.

The Alumni Scholarship Assistance program provides annual scholarship awards to tribally enrolled citizens regardless of service area, community affiliation, origination, residence, tribal compact or signatory status. Award amounts are based on how much funding is raised annually through memorial donations, private donations, vendor/associate solicitations, and the annual Spring King Salmon Derby.

The Higher Education program promotes and fosters higher education by providing financial aid, education information, guidance, academic planning, counseling, and assistance to eligible tribal citizens who attend an accredited college or university.

For more information or to apply for an Alumni scholarship, please contact our Higher Education staff toll free at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7133 or ext. 7329, or visit www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/education/higher.



2016 Higher Education Graduates

Submitted By: Higher Education



Please join Central Council in congratulating our 2016 Higher Education graduates; we are very proud of their accomplishments!

To view photos of recent graduates, please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ccthita. If you have a graduation photo you'd like us to share on Facebook, please email to communications@ccthita-nsn.gov along with the name of the student and their degree.

Craig:

Bear Yates, BS Health & Physical Education
Donavin Hannon, BS Community Health Sciences

Juneau:

Alesa Abbott, AA General Program
Elizabeth Bullion, BS Nursing
Kaela Burke, BS Health Sciences
Mallory McGeehan, BS Accounting
Stephanie Tripp, BLA Alaska Native Studies & BA English Literature
Emilie Indrayani Barker, BA Philosophy & Psychology
Kyle Lorenz, BA Business Administration
Crystal Johnson, BA Psychology
Dabney Meachum, BA Political Science
Hunter Meachum, BA Sociology
Ishmael Hope, BLA English & History
Kyle Lorenz, BBA
Melanie Rodriguez, BBA
Samuel Kerr, MA Accounting
Sabrina Boone, BA Public Health/Psychology
Elizabeth Thomas, BA Environmental Studies-Policy Option
Dominique Brinson, BA Accounting
Kevin Mann, MA Mechanical Engineering

Petersburg:

Sarah Bingisser, RN

Saxman:

Lisa Dewitt-Narino, BLA
Vanessa James, BA Law, Societies, & Justice

Wrangell:

Vena Stough, BA Social Sciences
Loni Bunes, BA Public Health
Leonard Vazquez, AA
Jacqualyn Gillen, MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Students noted above are listed by community of origin.

President Emeritus Edward K. Thomas Receives Honorary Doctorate

Congratulations to President Emeritus Edward K. Thomas who received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS). The Chancellor's Honorary Degree Committee recommended Thomas based on his many years of service as an Alaska Native leader who has made significant and enduring contributions to educational efforts, governmental relations, business development, and civic organizations on regional, statewide, and national levels. Thomas accepted the degree at UAS' commencement ceremony on May 1, 2016 where he also delivered the commencement address to the graduating class.



Edward K. Thomas
President Emeritus
Photo courtesy of Joe Nelson

“Ed Thomas’ role as Central Council’s past president has made a positive, long-lasting impact not only on the Tlingit and Haida people of Southeast Alaska, but throughout the state,” said President Richard Peterson. “He has been a tireless advocate for Native self-determination and self-governance. He is a true warrior for our people and it has been a great personal privilege to work with him over the past 15 years.”

Thomas was born and raised in Craig, Alaska and is a Raven of the Tlingit tribe, *Sukteeneidí* (Dog Salmon) Clan. His Tlingit names are *T’sa Xoo* and *Shaans Kadake* and his Haida name is *Skil’ Quidaunce*. He received his high school diploma from Craig High School, Associate of Science from Sheldon Jackson College (1963), Bachelor of Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (1973), and a Master of Arts in Education Administration from Pennsylvania State University (1977). After a traditional Southeast occupation as a seine boat crew member and skipper for 25 years, his professional career began in the field of education working as a classroom teacher and counselor in Klawock, Craig, and Sitka (1969-1975) before becoming the Director of Indian Education for the Ketchikan School District (1975-1984). He also served on UAS’ Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska Schools (PITAAS) program advisory board.

Thomas skillfully carried out multiple leadership positions within Alaska Native organizations on regional, statewide, and national levels. His most enduring commitment has been to the Tribe where he served as President for 27 years. Under his leadership, Central Council was the first tribal government in Alaska to enter into a self-governance compact with the federal government which played a foundational role in establishing legally binding compacts between Alaska Native tribes and the federal government.

On a statewide level, he has been a member of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), serving as keynote speaker during AFN’s annual convention in 1995 and Chair of AFN’s Convention, Human Resources, and Tribal Relations committees. On a national level, Thomas has performed services for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) as Secretary, Alaska Area Vice President, and board member. In collaboration with official federal organizations, he has been a board member of the Department of the Interior’s Office of the Special Trustee for Indian Affairs and the Juneau Alaska Area Representative on the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Fair-Shares and Reorganization Task Forces.

Thomas currently serves as Central Council’s President Emeritus and Parliamentarian. He is also a member on Sealaska Corporation’s Board of Directors (since 1993), Chair of Sealaska Timber Corporation, and Director of Managed Business Solutions, LLC and Haa Aani, LLC.

Congratulations Thomas!

80th Annual Tribal Assembly Election Results

Richard J. Peterson

President

Robert Sanderson Jr.

1st Vice President

William Micklin

2nd Vice President

Ralph Wolfe

3rd Vice President

Jacqueline Pata

4th Vice President

Marvin L. Adams

5th Vice President

Edward K. (Sam) Thomas Jr.

6th Vice President

Michelle Demmert

Chief Justice

Seattle Delegate

Lisa Lang

Tribal Court Judge

Hydaburg Delegate

James Jack Sr.

Delegate/Citizen of the Year

Juneau Delegate

Miciana Hutcherson

2016 Emerging Leader

Tribal Assembly Adjourns

Cont. from cover

Priorities identified include tribal court expansion, land into trust, language preservation, improving and expanding program services, and economic development through strategic business acquisitions and continued exploration of alternative sources of revenue.

A report from Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation (THTBC) CEO Richard Rinehart and Business & Economic Development Manager Myrna Gardner provided an update on THTBC's subsidiary and limited liability company T&H Services, the development of the Tribe's cultural immersion park, and the upcoming acquisition of an accomplished and profitable government contracting company that will generate unrestricted revenue for the Tribe.

"This is going to change the face of the Tribe and we expect to see returns as early as next year," said President Peterson. "The board has done its due diligence and thoroughly vetted out the government contracting company which we expect to close on next month."

On Thursday, tribal elections resulted in the unanimous reelection of incumbent President Peterson who ran unopposed. Delegates also seated 1st Vice President (VP) Robert Sanderson Jr. of Ketchikan, 2nd VP William Micklin of San Francisco, 3rd VP Ralph Wolfe of Yakutat, 4th VP Jacqueline Pata of Juneau, 5th VP Marvin Adams of Anchorage, and 6th VP Edward (Sam) K. Thomas Jr. of Craig; Chief Justice Michelle Demmert of Washington and Tribal Court Judge Lisa Lang of Hydaburg; Delegate Citizen of the Year James Jack Sr. of Juneau; and Emerging Leader Miciana Hutcherson of Washington.

On the final day of Tribal Assembly, reports covering National Congress of American Indians, transboundary rivers and mining, language preservation, herring population, US Forest Service, and the Department of Education were heard. Following a moving presentation provided by former Juneau Delegate Lance (*Xh'unei*) Twitchell on recent language preservation efforts and subsequent funding challenges, Delegates responded and approved a \$250K budget from the Tribe's expected Ramah class action lawsuit settlement.

"I am confident 50 years from now we will have speakers of our languages," said Twitchell. "We are not there yet, but we will get there."

Delegates also considered a number of resolutions that ranged in topic from the US Fish & Wildlife's blood quantum definition for hunting sea otter, establishing a Southeast Alaska Native Youth Summit for leadership development, and advocating for the restoration of ferry service to Southeast Alaska. A total of 32 resolutions were introduced—27 were adopted, three were deferred to the Executive Council, and two were tabled. A full list of resolutions can be found at: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/government/assembly/resolutions/2016resolutionlog.html.

Following the adjournment of Tribal Assembly, a closing banquet was held to honor recipients of the President's Lifetime Achievement Award and President's Everyday Hero Awards. Some additional highlights included a grand entrance performance by the newly formed dance group *Has Du Eteéex' X'aakeidix Haa Sitee* led by Mary Folletti; introduction of Tribal Host Harold Martin of Juneau and Tribal Hostess Lavina Boe of Seattle; and a word of the day in Tlingit, Haida, and *Sm'algyax*.

"It is truly amazing to witness our Delegates come together and tend to the business of the Tribe through dialogue, debate, and the resolution and budget process," said President Peterson. "Seeing the President's Lifetime Achievement and newly minted Everyday Hero awardees being honored at our closing banquet was inspiring, their words were humbling—one of the best experiences of my life."



Marlene Johnson
President's Lifetime Achievement
Award Recipient

President's Awards

Marlene Johnson

President's Lifetime Achievement Award
Juneau, AK

President's Everyday Heroes Awards

Doug Chilton

Brother's Keeper
Juneau, AK

Marti & Jessie Fred

Holding Each Other Up
Juneau, AK

Ruth Demmert

Culture Bearer
Kake, AK

Jonathan Rowan

Inspiring Educator
Klawock, AK

Devlin Anderstrom

Emerging Leader
Yakutat, AK

Linda Schrack

Language Warrior
Ketchikan, AK



L-R: President Peterson, Linda Schrack, Jonathan Rowan, Marti Fred, Jessie Fred, Devlin Anderstrom, Ruth Demmert, Doug Chilton

Tribal Host & Tribal Hostess



Lavina Boe and Harold Martin

Thank you to this year's Tribal Hostess Lavina Boe of Seattle and Tribal Host Harold Martin of Juneau for their many contributions to the Tlingit and Haida people. Their accomplishments and years of dedicated service to our people have not gone unnoticed.

Community Councils of the Year

San Francisco

Small Community Council
of the Year

Kasaan

Small Community Council
of the Year - 1st Runner Up

Seattle

Large Community Council
of the Year

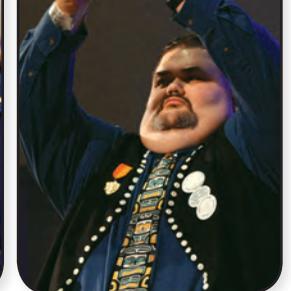
Juneau

Large Community Council
of the Year - 1st Runner Up

Sitka

Large Community Council
of the Year - 2nd Runner Up

Tribal Assembly Snap Shots



Tribal Assembly Snap Shots



Tribal Child Support Unit News

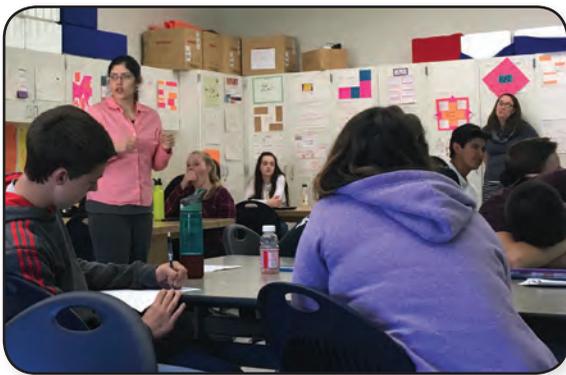
State of Alaska Child Support Services Division Closing Juneau Office

The State's Child Support Services Division (CSSD) recently announced it will be closing its Juneau office permanently on June 29, 2016. Central Council's Tribal Child Support Unit (TCSU) would like to assure parents, guardians, and potential parents of tribal children that the office closure will not impact tribal child support services. TCSU will remain open and available for parties to apply for services.

TCSU is a federally authorized child support enforcement agency, just like Alaska's CSSD, and establishes paternity; establishes, modifies and enforces child support orders; locates non-custodial parents and their assets; and reviews cases. As a IV-D agency, any parent, potential parent, or person caring for a child not their own, regardless of tribal citizenship, is eligible to apply for services. TCSU establishes all orders through Tribal Court and may coordinate with other IV-D agencies to serve families.

TCSU believes that the vision for the future should be a world in which children can count on their parents for the financial, medical, and emotional support they need to be healthy and successful. TCSU pursues these ends through processes that reflect and support tribal values, customs, and traditions.

Think About It!



TCSU staff presented a program entitled, "Think About It," which is an interactive discussion to encourage high school students to think about the life choices they make now and the potential child support issues they may encounter in the future based on their decisions. The program was presented to two Juneau Douglas High School health classes on May 4th and to three Thunder Mountain High School health classes on May 19th. Approximately 150 students participated in these presentations. The program is a combination of engaging presentations, interactive student activities, and real life scenarios with a focus on child support.

Kevin (*Ti-qwa*) Myers

Kevin (*Ti-qwa*) Myers is a great example of an emerging leader and we can't wait to see what he'll accomplish as he seeks a future in public service!

While in high school, Kevin was involved with drama, student government (class vice president on the student council), debate, Model United Nations, and served as student representative on the Juneau School District board. He testified during the legislative session on Native language immersion charter schools and the student base allocation. He also spoke to Governor Bill Walker on the importance of the Alaska ferry system for student activities and served as guest page for both Senator Dennis Egan and Representative Cathy Muñoz. Other accomplishments of his include serving as Honorary Mayor of Juneau and being chosen as a Student of Recognition for the month of February by the Juneau Rotary.



Kevin Myers

Central Council provided educational assistance to Kevin for a three-week internship this summer with US Senator Lisa Murkowski (beginning in June) where he will be housed at George Washington University.

Kevin is Tlingit and Athabascan. He is *T'aaku Kwaan* (Geese Flood Upriver tribe), *Yanyeidi* from the Big House (Eagle/Wolf). His mother is Dyann Myers and his grandmother is former Juneau Delegate Evelyn Myers.

Legislative Update

Submitted By: Grace Singh

Central Council was very active at the State Capitol this year. The Alaska Regional Coalition (ARC), which is comprised of Central Council and four other tribal service providers representing more than 100 rural communities statewide, worked together to lobby legislators, testify in committees, and meet with the

Governor on important issues concerning Alaska tribes. Central Council had the advantage of local access to the Capitol, and was often called upon by AFN and the coalition to represent tribal communities across the state. Along with expertise from Tribal Family & Youth Services, Child Support, Public Safety, and Tribal Court, Central Council was able to provide well-rounded verbal and written testimony. The Tribe also provided template letters to local village tribes and the ANB/ANS to encourage a unified message for the region on important issues to Southeast Alaska Natives. Major accomplishments of the 2016 legislature was the passage of the foster care reform HB 200 and criminal justice reform SB 91.

HB 200 was proposed by Governor Walker and Office of Children's Services in order for the state to become compliant with the Indian Child Welfare Act after the Department of Law dropped the State's appeal to the 2013 Tununak II Alaska Supreme Court case last year. This made it easier for rural families and tribal governments to submit intent to adopt family and tribal members currently in State custody. It streamlined the process so only one court, one judge, and one attorney would handle a child custody case to provide continuity to an already unstable situation. HB 200 was supported by legislators on both sides of the aisle, who were interested in how to better serve the most vulnerable of Alaska's youth.

SB 91 also had overwhelming bi-partisan support. The Criminal Justice Reform package was a large bill that completely restructured the way Alaska rehabilitates criminals, which spearheads a national trend to produce realistic sentencing in order to reduce recidivism and promote public safety. Alaska Natives make up a disproportionate amount of the incarcerated population in the State, which made this legislation a priority for Central Council and Native entities around the state.

Although Central Council, the ARC, and AFN had many accomplishments this year, the Alaska State Legislature failed to provide a workable budget for Alaska's future. It is clear the fiscal crisis will affect all Alaskans, especially those in rural areas. AFN and ARC have made it a priority to educate Alaskan voters on the budget crisis, using data and presentations from the Rasmuson foundation to provide unbiased information for community meetings. Central Council hopes to host a Juneau community meeting with Rasmuson in early fall before the November election. Please stay tuned for more Get Out The Native Vote (GOTNV) information.



Devolution Conference

Submitted By: Grace Singh

In May, President Peterson attended a "Devolution" discussion hosted by the Institute of the North. Devolution is an academic word for delegating federal responsibilities to the State, and State responsibilities to municipal and tribal governments. Central Council was one of two tribal governments present. There was minimal understanding of tribal governments from people working in state, municipal, and private agencies. Unfortunately, State representatives from the Department of Law and Natural Resources were not able to attend the entirety of the discussion. President Peterson explained the services of tribes and regional nonprofits, and what areas we can combine resources with State and federal agencies in order to provide better services. Most attendees left feeling educated on services tribal governments provide and the challenges facing tribes due to the State's continuous challenge of tribal recognition. Craig Fleener, the Governor's Arctic Policy Advisor, made an interesting point that permanent recognition can only be done through law because the next Governor may have a different outlook on tribes. This can be done through statutory change or statewide referendum—for these possibilities Alaska Native voters will need to become more active in both rural and urban communities.

VTRC CDL Program Certifications

The Professional Truck Driver's Institute (PTDI) recently recertified the Vocational Training & Resource Center's (VTRC) Juneau Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program compliant and provided an initial certification for its Ketchikan CDL program. Previously, the Ketchikan program was under the Juneau umbrella for over three years.

"We are excited and proud on passing the PTDI review," said VTRC Manager Laird A. Jones. "We are also very appreciative of our partnership with the Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) to make the Ketchikan program a success. These two CDL programs have been instrumental in training students from the rural communities around Ketchikan and Juneau, especially Prince of Wales Island, Sitka, Hoonah, Kake, and Angoon."

PTDI is a national non-profit organization established to develop uniform industry skills, curriculum, and certification standards for the trucking industry and to award course certification to entry-level truck driver training courses. PTDI also periodically audits and reviews training programs.

If you're interested in receiving CDL certification, please contact the VTRC at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7375 or 907.463.7375.

www.vtrc.org



Mark Your Calendars

June Events

- 1-7: 2016 Journey to Celebration – Southeast Alaska
- 2-3: Adverse Childhood Experience & Suicide Learn - Change - Prevent – Juneau, AK
- 8-9: Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Consortium Meeting – Juneau, AK
- 8-11: 2016 Celebration – Juneau, AK
- 12-25: Goldbelt Heritage High School Summer Academy – Juneau, AK
- 13-14: Executive Council Meeting – Juneau, AK
- 14-17: Sealaska Heritage Institute's (SHI) Latseen Running Camp
- 17: Central Council's Annual Staff Picnic – Juneau, AK
- 18: 4th Annual Native American Responsible Fatherhood Day Juneau Community Picnic – Juneau, AK
- 19: Central Council Day (Observed 6/20 ~ Offices Closed)
- 27-30: NCAI Mid Year Conference – Spokane, WA
- 30: Registration Day for Summer Walking Challenge (11AM – 3PM • VTRC • 3239 Hospital Drive) – Juneau, AK

July Events

- 1: Alumni Scholarship Application Period Opens
- 4: Independence Day (Offices Closed)
- 10-19: SHI Middle School Math & Culture Academy – Juneau, AK
- 11-15: Goldbelt Heritage Middle School Culture Camp – Juneau, AK
- 18-22: Goldbelt Heritage Middle School Culture Camp – Juneau, AK
- 19-20: Department of Interior SGAC/TSGAC 3rd Quarter Advisory Committee Meeting – Washington, DC
- 25-29: SHI Latseen Leadership Academy – Angoon, AK

August Events

- 1-5: SHI Baby Raven Reads: Gumboot Camp – Juneau, AK
- 4: 2017 Annual Funding Agreement Negotiations – Craig, AK
- 8-12: SHI Latseen Hoop Camp – Juneau, AK
- 13: Back to School Fair – Juneau, AK
- 22: Head Start Staff Preservice – Juneau, AK
- 22-25: Current Topics in Tribal Management: Strengthening Tribal Stewardship – Juneau, AK
- TBD: Back to School Backpack Event – Southeast AK Communities

Second Chance Program Update

Submitted By: Second Chance

The Second Chance Reentry program (Second Chance) has had an exciting quarter with increased participation with the Juneau Reentry Coalition (JREC). As a part of this larger group, Second Chance staff have participated in monthly planning meetings to address and remove community barriers to returning citizens. JREC



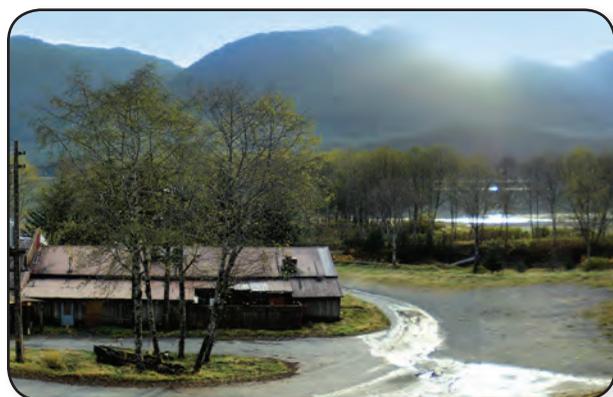
houses many workgroups to achieve these important goals including Employment, Housing, Behavioral Health, Peer Support, Community Outreach, Education, and Family Support. The Second Chance staff have also created a new workgroup under JREC, the Alaska Native Workgroup, in an effort to gather and provide culturally relevant reentry services to tribal citizens. This group had its first meeting on May 25th and focused on the upcoming Celebration 2016 and ways to make the event more participatory for the currently incarcerated at Lemon Creek Correctional Center. The group will be meeting monthly, in addition to the larger Juneau Reentry Coalition meetings, all open to the public.

In addition to local participation in reentry events, Second Chance program coordinator Talia Eames was invited to Dillingham to meet with Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) to assist with their Prisoner Reentry Project. BBNA has a planning grant that allows a 25-member Prisoner Reentry Task Force to develop recommendations to create a reentry program that addresses the parallel reentry issues that Central Council's Second Chance program currently supports. On May 18th and 19th, BBNA hosted several reentry program coordinators from around the state to provide input in developing an evidence-based program that would provide support and services to the returning citizen population. BBNA services 31 tribes in the Bristol Bay area and will have a written proposal for a program completed by September 30, 2016. Second Chance will continue to work with BBNA as requested to provide guidance and support to create a healthier community for all Alaska Native people returning from incarceration.

If you have any questions or would like more information about JREC or the Alaska Native Workgroup please contact Talia Eames at 907.463.7365 or teames@ccthita-nsn.gov.

Central Council Awarded EDA Funding

Submitted By: Business & Economic Development



Central Council's Business & Economic Development department received notice from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) that it was awarded a Technical Assistance grant in the amount of \$83,901 for a Feasibility Assessment of the Tlingit & Haida Immersion Park to be designed and developed at the property formerly known as the Thane Ore House in Juneau, Alaska. This funding will support the assessment of the building for condition and use and will provide the Tribe with professional reports – architectural, engineering, mechanical, electrical, and a business plan to assess the viability of the project, anticipated costs, and

sustainability. This is the second award Central Council has received from EDA in 2016 – the first award (\$65K) was received in April for economic development planning.



Central Council

Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

9097 Glacier Highway

Juneau, Alaska 99801

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Preserving our sovereignty, enhancing our economic and cultural resources, and promoting self-sufficiency and self-governance for our citizens through collaboration, service, and advocacy.

Southeast Alaska Students Visit Central Council

On April 29, 2016, Central Council welcomed approximately 25 middle and high school students from the Chatham School District for a tour of the Tribe's programs and services located at the Andrew Hope Building. The students traveled to Juneau with a larger group to participate in a transition program that provided them with the opportunity to visit the University of Alaska Southeast's campus, explore career and educational options, and job shadow with various businesses, organizations, and government offices. The Chatham School District serves students from Angoon, Gustavus, Klukwan, and Tenakee.



Presiding Judge Debra O'Gara speaks to visiting students

Former Seattle Delegate Richard "Jack" Strong who now resides in Klukwan was one of the chaperones and arranged the tour at Central Council so students could learn about career opportunities with the

Tribe, visit the Tribal Court and various departments and programs, and receive information on the Tribe's wide array of educational and training support services.

Central Council staff provided information on employment services and best practices for job hunting, barriers to employment, vocational training opportunities, distance education classes, and the College Student Assistance (CSA), Alumni scholarship, and Youth Employment Services programs. Staff also took the time to share personal stories and uplifting words that encouraged students to be their own advocate, plan ahead, and make good choices to ensure a healthy and happy future.

Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa to Central Council's staff for doing such a great job of holding our students up!