

Eyak Echo

ECHOES OF OUR ANCESTORS

Native Village of Eyak | 25th Annual Sobriety Celebration & Memorial Potlatch, 2018



25 years!

**Storyteller and keynote speaker
Gene Tagaban delivers
message of perseverance**

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

New treatment program

Ilanka Community Health Clinic launches medicated assisted treatment for opioid addiction.

PAGE 4

First ever Kick-Off Concert

Musicians Bobby Walker and Danny O'Keefe perform during Sobriety Kick-Off Concert

PAGE 11

Nutrition assistance

New Food Distribution Program now available through FDPIR – learn how to apply!

PAGE 14



Employee List

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Darrel Olsen..... Chairman
 Mark Hoover Vice Chairman
 Pam Smith.....Secretary-Treasurer
 Tom Andersen..... Council Member
 Jack HopkinsCouncil Member

ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Cindy Bradford Deputy Health Director
 Kristel Rush..... Physician/Medical Director
 Florelyn Adajar Certified Nursing Assistant
 Tiffany Beedle Outreach Enrollment Specialist
 MaryCris Cariño Medical Assistant
 Cindy Frohnapfel..... Office Systems Coordinator
 Altana Hamilton..... Patient Advocate
 Brian Iutzi Physician
 Marleen Moffitt.....Child Welfare Coordinator
 Victoria Peterson..... Care Coordinator
 Nicole Piche..... Registered Nurse
 Susan Powell..... Behavioral Health Clinician
 Berna Quemado..... Certified Nursing Assistant/
 Patient Services
 Matthew Rush..... Behavioral Health Clinician
 Karin Siebenmorgen..... Registered Nurse
 Jessica Weaver..... Family Program Coordinator

ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER

Brooke Johnson Cultural Director
 Audrey Cunningham Gift Shop Manager

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

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 Jim Gittleson..... Finance Director
 Steve Bambakidis..... IT Director
 Katie Goodale..... Tribal Family Services Director
 Bert Adams..... Tribal Public Works Director
 John Whissel..... Environmental Director
 Sarah Kathrein..... Tribal Judicial Systems Administrator
 Denna Francischetti..... Human Resources Manager
 Reyna Newirth Executive Administrative Assistant/
 Office Manager
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 Rebecca Calfina Administrative Assistant
 Belen Cook Wellbeing Coordinator
 Joe Cook Maintenance
 Cheryl Eleshansky..... ICWA Coordinator
 Celeste GasmenAccounting Technician
 Jackie Ladd Elder Services Coordinator
 Sean O'Brien Tribal Public Works Project Manager
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 Ivy Patton..... Environmental Coordinator
 Clark Pearson..... Environmental Remediation Coordinator
 Andy PfeifferIT Coordinator
 Matt Piche Natural Resources Coordinator
 Lennette Ronnegard Enrollment Clerk
 Kaaren Rowland Senior Accountant

TRIBAL ENTERPRISES

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 Scott Aiken Boat Captain/Maintenance
 Bob Ladd Prince William Marina Manager

THE CORDOVA TIMES

Annette Potter..... Managing Editor
 Vivian Kennedy.....Administrative Assistant
 Emily Messner..... Staff Reporter/Photographer



25th Annual Sobriety Celebration & Memorial Potlatch Committee

Sobriety Chairman: Mark Hoover

Event Coordinator: Belen Cook

Joe Cook	Brian Iutzi
Kerin Kramer	Andy Pfeiffer
Shirley Cain	Robert Cunningham
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Olga Morris	Katie Goodale
Reyna Newirth	Denna Francischetti
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Jimmy Paley	Kari Collins



Congratulations Sean O'Brien



25th Annual Sobriety Celebration Logo Contest Winner

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FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT Jessica Weaver at 424-2245

ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER



Open Craft Nights
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Ikumat Dance Practice
Littles Mondays at 6 p.m.
Dancers Thursdays at 6 p.m.

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ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER
110 NICHOLOFF WAY
CORDOVA, AK
907-424-7903
WWW.NVEYAK.COM



ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Ilanka launches new opioid treatment program

BY EMILY MESNER

The Cordova Times

The Ilanka Community Health Center is now offering medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction.

The health center's behavioral health coordinator Matt Rush spoke about new treatment options and the nation's ongoing opioid epidemic on Nov. 10 during NVE's 25th Annual Sobriety Celebration.

Opioids, a class of drug used to reduce pain by blocking pain message centers in the brain, include OxyContin, Vicodin, morphine, fentanyl and heroin.

Misuse of these drugs can be deadly.

The clinic began offering medication assisted treatment with opioid blockers Suboxone and Vivitrol on Nov. 7, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies.

Suboxone partially blocks opioid receptors in the brain, while Vivitrol acts as a full blocker, preventing any high from alcohol or opioids.

"It's clear that traditional treatment is not working with opioid use disorder," Matt said, given the 91 percent relapse rate for people seeking traditional treatment with opioid use disorders.

Traditional treatment might include short and long-term treatment, intensive outpatient treatment and treatment based on the 12-step program.

All traditional treatment is built on complete absence of drugs and alcohol, with no medication or medical help, Rush said. "That's not to say that there's not effective things with traditional treatment, there certainly are, but with this addiction, it needs help and we need to find some help and we believe we've found it."

Rural Alaska residents with opioid use disorder have added challenges, he said.

Prior to Ilanka clinic's new program, patients would have to travel to Anchorage, paying roughly \$300 in air fare, to receive a Suboxone prescription, with no accountability and support, he said.

Add to that the challenges of small-town



“It's clear that traditional treatment is not working with opioid use disorder”

Alaska, where “everybody knows everybody” potentially creating barriers for the patient seeking treatment. The clinic's program

hopes to remove all the barriers, Matt said.

To schedule a consultation or for more information, call the clinic at 907-424-3622.



WORDS OF INSPIRATION



Sobriety Celebration keynote speaker Gene Tagaban speaks to audience members during NVE's Sobriety Celebration at the Cordova Jr./Sr. High School gym on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018. Photo by Emily Mesner/The Cordova Times

“ I try to think about my ancestors that walked that trail. You see, I believe that they did everything they could ... to live, to make it, to survive, for me ... you see, your ancestors did everything in their existence to live and to survive for you. And I owe it to them.”

Tagaban delivers keynote address

Gene Tagaban, “One Crazy Raven” is an influential storyteller, speaker, mentor, performer and counselor of the spirit.

Gene is of the Takdeintaan clan, the Raven, Freshwater Sockeye clan from Hoonah, AK. He is the Child of the Wooshkeetaan, the Eagle, Shark clan from Juneau, AK. He is of the wolf clan from his Cherokee heritage and his last name Tagaban comes from his Filipino heritage.

Gene's passion is working with the people

teaching performing, presenting, and facilitating workshops on prevention, empowerment, leadership, relationship, communication, self-awareness, spirit, honor and healing.

Gene is a teller of stories that teach, entertain and heal. He has been a featured teller at storytelling festivals nationally and internationally sharing traditional Native stories as well as stories from his personal experience, family and historical events.

Gene was honored to perform with the Dalai Lama at the “Seeds of Compassion” gath-

ering in Seattle, WA and the Nature Conservancy's 50th anniversary with Jane Goodall.

Gene is a board member of the Native Wellness Institute and Seattle's Native youth theater company “Red Eagle Soaring.” He is a trainer of COMPASS, a men's mentorship program with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Gene works with the Nisqually tribe as a Case Worker and Community Outreach. He is also a specialty instructor and honorary uncle with the Wilderness Awareness School.



DANCE PERFORMANCES





Thank you dance groups!

Tatitlek Dancers – Tatitlek

Cordova Ikumat Native Dancers – Cordova

Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers – Kodiak

Yees Ku Oo Dance Group – Juneau

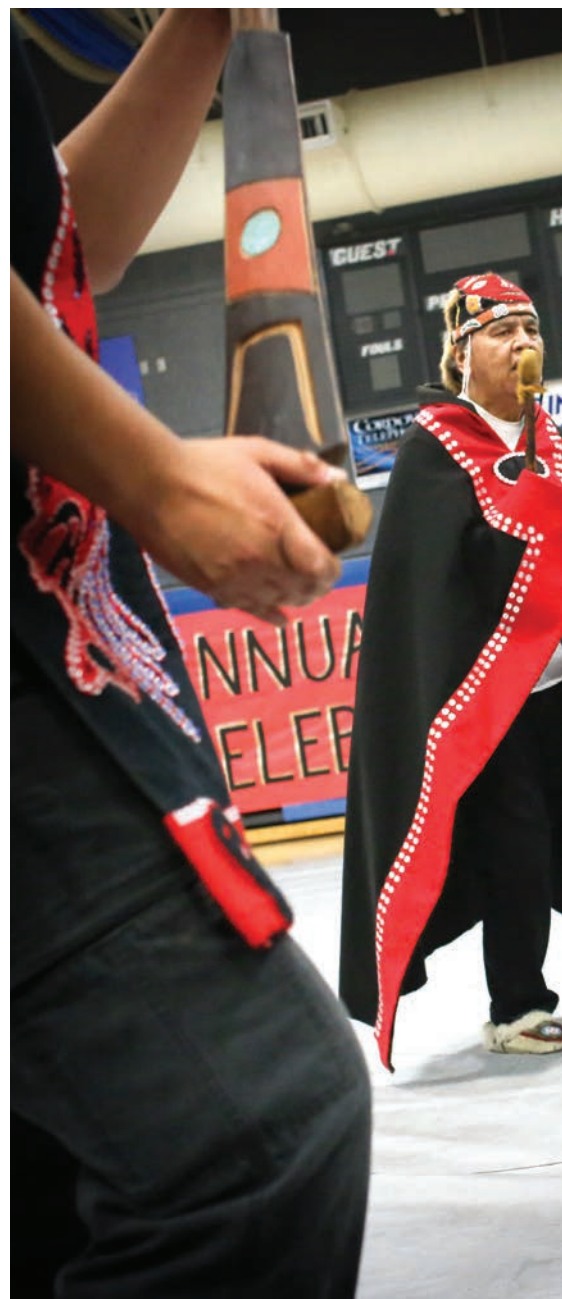
Mt. St. Elias Dancers – Yakutat

Ke ex' Kwaan Dancers – Kake





WELLNESS



25th annual Sobriety Celebration

BY EMILY MESNER

The Cordova Times

Dance groups from Kake, Juneau, Yakutat, Tatitlek, Cordova and Kodiak performed during the weekend of Nov. 8-11, while speakers delivered messages of strength, sobriety and Native pride.

“It’s gotten a lot bigger,” Belen Cook said of the event. “We have more dance groups ... more speakers ... more participation, but especially this year, it seemed like it had a very special energy or touch to it.”

Jewelry, blankets and paintings were sold during the arts and crafts and food fair at the high school on Nov. 10.

Belen, the event coordinator for the past 15 years, starts preparing for it in January.

“My favorite part is seeing people come together and celebrate sobriety, support the people that are in sobriety and the group effort ...,” she said.

About 25 NVE staff helped at the event along numerous community volunteers.

The traditional subsistence potlatch featured a variety of seafood, including Dungeness and king crab, Sitka spot shrimp and razor and steamer clams, purchased by NVE. Moose was also offered at the potlatch, catered by Chris Belgarde, thanks to a subsis-



tence permit for the village.

Guest speaker Brandon Johnson, of the Raven Clan, and four years sober, spoke passionately about how unity helped him throughout his sobriety.

“We are all tied together,” he said. “I say we are all weavers. This is what we do. This is how we live. This is how we survive. This is why I can say I’m proud to be Tlingit. This is why I can say I am proud to be from Yakutat, but most of all, I’m proud to be from Alaska.”

Johnson, currently a Juneau resident, met with elders, performed and also spoke about

issues facing Alaska Natives during the weekend.

Keynote speaker Gene Tagaban, who is Tlingit, Cherokee and Filipino, spoke of the power of ancestors.

During the Trail of Tears in 1838, the United States government forced the relocation of thousands of Native Americans in the southeast U.S. from their ancestral homelands, and 4,000 Cherokee people died.

“I try to think about my ancestors that walked that trail,” he said. “You see, I believe that they did everything they could ... to live, to make it, to survive, for me ... you see, your ancestors did everything in their existence to



live and to survive for you. And I owe it to them.”

Numerous speakers approached the podium, sharing stories and moments of triumph in their journey of sobriety.

A sobriety countdown, beginning at 50 years, ended the night.

Off to the side, Walter Alexander Soboleff Jr. anxiously rocked side-to-side, getting the young dancers who lined the wall next to him excited.

When his turn came, Soboleff threw both hands into the air and made his way to the podium to receive his sobriety token for being clean and sober for 33 years.







Kick-Off Concert

Musicians Bobby Walker and Danny O'Keefe perform during the first night of NVE's Sobriety Celebration at the Cordova Jr./Sr. High School gym on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018.

Photos by Emily Mesner





ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



Medication Assisted Treatment

Treatment options for opioid addiction are now available.

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PERSONALIZED QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY



Arts & Crafts and Food Fair





MEMORIAL POTLATCH



Traditional subsistence dinner

ABOVE: From left, Todd Ladd, Bob Ladd, Matt Piche, and Jimmy Paley, prepare crab for NVE's Sobriety Celebration community traditional subsistence potlatch dinner on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018. *Photos by Emily Mesner/The Cordova Times*





Food Distribution Program

on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

WHAT IS FDPIR AND HOW DO ALASKA TRIBES APPLY?

The FDPIR is a federal program that provides a month's supply of supplemental nutritious foods to income eligible Alaska Native, American Indian, and non-Indian households residing on a reservation or in a federally recognized (Alaska Native) tribal community, or in approved near-areas containing at least one tribal enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe.

Federally recognized tribes in Alaska are all eligible to administer FDPIR provided they can to follow USDA regulations to guarantee food safety, protect client privacy, and meet on-time reporting requirements.

HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY

A household application for FDPIR is available in a few select Alaska tribal communities. Households can apply and be deemed income eligible on the same day they contact a tribal agency that administers the FDPIR program. To view a current list of active federally recognized tribes administering the FDPIR program in Alaska visit:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdpir/fdpir-contacts>

WHAT FOODS DOES THE PROGRAM OFFER?

Each month income eligible households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participants may select from over 70 products including, but not limited to:

- Fresh Produce
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned meats, poultry, and fish
- Canned soups and spaghetti sauce
- Macaroni and cheese; pastas; cereals; rice; and other grains
- Cheese; egg mix; and nonfat dry and evaporated milk
- Flour; cornmeal; bakery mix; and reduced sodium crackers
- Low-fat refried beans; dried beans; and dehydrated potatoes
- Canned juices and dried fruit
- Peanuts and peanut butter
- Low fat buttery spread, butter & vegetable oil.

Find out more. Contact:

Jessica Weaver

907-424-7738

E-mail: jessica.weaver@eyak-nsn.gov



Food Distribution Program

The Native Village of Eyak is participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

This program is open to Alaska Native, American Indian, and non-Indian households residing in a federally recognized tribal community. Income eligible households will receive nutritional foods each month.

FDPIR also offers nutritional education, recipes and preparation tips! It is important to know that household members are not permitted to participate in both the Food Stamp Program and FDPIR at the same time.

HOW TO APPLY

If you want to fill out an application contact Jessica Weaver at 907-424-7738 or email her at Jessica.weaver@eyak-nsn.gov.

She will set up an interview with you and help you fill out the application.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NVE

View current available positions at

WWW.NVEYAK.COM/JOBS

or call NVE's Human Resources Manager Denna Francischetti at

907-424-7738

Full job descriptions and applications are available at NVE's main office at 110 Nicholoff Way, online at www.nveyak.com/jobs/ and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NativeVillageofEyak/>

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Contact Jackie Ladd, Elder Services Coordinator at (907) 424-7738 for more info on Elder Services, activities, and events!



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

After School Club

Monday-Thursday
3:40-4:40 p.m. at Mt. Eccles

Junior Native Youth Olympics

Starting in December
at the Masonic Lodge, time TBA

Tribal Youth Council

Last Wednesday of each month
during Highschool lunch
New location CHS boardroom

For more info, contact Jess at 907-424-2232



Veterans honored, gifted quilts

ABOVE: From left, Dick Groff, Kay Adams, Jack Lundli, Jack Hopkins, Mark Steen, Sue Kesti, Dan Logan, Patty McGuire, Dennis McGuire, and Clyde Torgerson stand in front of the audience during the honoring veterans ceremony at NVE's Sobriety Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018. RIGHT: Veteran Jack Hopkins stands with his grandson Jack Lundli after being presented a quilt.

Photos by Wendy Ranney/for The Cordova Times

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Tribal Court Judges Needed

The Native Village of Eyak Judicial Department is looking for a tribal member interested in becoming Tribal Court judge.

Core requirements include being an NVE tribal member over the age of 21 and a successful background check.

For more information about the application process, contact Tribal Judicial Systems Administrator Sarah Kathrein

907-424-7880

sarah.kathrein@eyak-nsn.gov or courtclerk@eyak-nsn.gov





Quyana Tsai-nen Gunai'cheesh

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Native Village of Eyak

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