

Eyak Echo

ECHOES OF OUR ANCESTORS

Native Village of Eyak | 26th Annual Sobriety Celebration & Memorial Potlatch, 2019



LAUGHTER IS MEDICINE

Tatanka Means: I talk about comedy and how it's healing and it's medicine. So is dancing, so is singing. **PAGE 4**

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Cordova NYO athletes demonstrate events such as stick pull and two-foot kicks.

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Employee List

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THE CORDOVA TIMES

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 Zachary Snowdon Smith..... Staff Reporter/Photographer



Photo by Annette Potter/The Cordova Times

Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council Chairman Darrel Olsen addresses the audience in North Star Theatre at the start of NVE's 26th Annual Sobriety Celebration.

THANK YOU!

TO EVERYONE THAT MADE SOBRIETY CELEBRATION POSSIBLE

Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, vendors, Dancers, Guest Speakers and participants for a successful Sobriety Celebration. The Celebration is open to the public.

We appreciate all the contributors to make the event happen. We thank Alaska Airlines for the donation of the roundtrip tickets and congratulate winner Belen Cook. Faith Barnes winner of the Alutiiq Earrings and Marie Sjostedt winner of the Sea Otter Teddy bear. ANGS Alaska Native General Services for their generous donation and all donors.

We realize alcohol and drugs are a struggle and we hope by discussions, testimonies and education we can help prevent the struggles.

Once Again Thank you.

—Darrel Olsen
 Chairman, NVE Tribal Council

SCIENTIFIC + NATIVE ICONOGRAPHY

SOBRIETY LOGO CONTEST WINNER TEAL HANSEN

BY ZACHARY SNOWDON SMITH

zsmith@thecordovaitimes.com

For the 26th annual Sobriety Celebration, Teal Hansen created a symbolically dense logo combining scientific diagrams with Native iconography.

Hansen set out to illustrate the theme of “Alaska, land of the midnight sun” with

symbols representing the sun and the Earth, as well as the passage of time. At the center of the design is an hourglass, a technical instrument that has, over time, also acquired strong cultural connotations.

The logo combines three-dimensional elements with a flatter art style characteristic of Tlingit art. ■





COMEDIAN TATANKA MEANS BRINGS CLEAN LAUGHS

BY ZACHARY SNOWDON SMITH

zsmith@thecordovatimes.com

Stand-up comics have rarely been known for promoting sober living. Nonetheless, when comedian and actor Tatanka Means first took to the stage, he also made a commitment not to consume alcohol or recreational drugs. Throughout his career, Means has mixed stand-up with motivational speaking promoting sobriety.

The 34-year-old performer's résumé has grown to include a sprawling assortment of credits, from National Geographic Channel docudramas to films like "A Million Ways to Die in the West" and "Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials." Onstage, Means, who is of Dine, Lakota and Omaha descent, combines observational comedy about modern Native life with reflections on the value of sobriety.

Means participated in Native Village of Eyak's 26th annual Sobriety Celebration, performing at the North Star Theatre on Nov. 15-16.

"Don't have high expectations!" Means joked. "Let's just have some fun. I just wanna come in and bring some laughs and some inspiration ... One of my platforms as a comedian and a motivational speaker is spreading the message of sobriety and leading a clean and healthy lifestyle. That attracted me to this event, and I'm hoping I could share my message with everybody in attendance."

Means's Sobriety Celebration performances came in the midst of several other projects, including shooting for an upcoming film, "Black Feather." Other ongoing projects include "The Liberator," an animated war drama produced by Netflix, and "I Know This Much is True," an HBO-produced miniseries. Keeping on the road and away from family for months at a time is a particular challenge, Means said. Means finds that stand-up shows can help introduce a little levity into a dense work schedule.

"Comedy is subjective," Means said. "It's like music — everybody likes a different type, so I try to bring something for everybody... Sometimes we don't laugh for days or weeks, and I just want to elevate everybody's mood and bring some smiles. I want people to go away in a different emotion than when they came in." ■



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

“ ONE OF MY PLATFORMS AS A COMEDIAN AND A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER IS SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF SOBRIETY AND LEADING A CLEAN AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE. ”

City of Cordova, Alaska PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation by the Mayor of the City of Cordova, Alaska Recognizing the Native Village Of Eyak's 26th Annual Sobriety Celebration & Memorial Potlatch, "Land Of The Midnight Sun"

WHEREAS, alcohol and drug abuse are serious health and social concerns that negatively impact individuals, their family members and often entire communities; and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Eyak promotes sobriety through social gatherings and education; and

WHEREAS, the Sobriety Celebration's mission is to bring awareness of alcoholism and drug abuse to the community, and to use cultural healing to aid those suffering from dependency; and

WHEREAS, "Land of the Midnight Sun" is the theme of the Native Village of Eyak's 26th Annual Sobriety Celebration & Memorial Potlatch to be held at the Cordova Center on November 15, 16 and 17; and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Eyak invites everyone to celebrate the progress that has been made in promoting and achieving sobriety through the sharing of traditional foods, an arts and crafts fair, educational workshops and inspirational speakers; and

WHEREAS, the weekend Celebration will also include the sobriety countdown, Alaskan Native dancing, 12-step meetings and an event honoring Elders, youth and Veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT I, Mayor Clay Koplín, on behalf of the City Council and the community of Cordova, Alaska, do hereby declare that the Native Village of Eyak's 26th Annual Sobriety Celebration & Memorial

Potlatch is an inspiration of community commitment that addresses alcohol and drug abuse using cultural connections and shared heritage. ■



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times
Mayor Clay Koplín gives a proclamation address.

Awa'ahdah SPECIAL GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

Sobriety Coordinator
Mary Babic

Eyak Welcome
Pam Smith

Sobriety Logo Contest Winner
Teal Hansen

Keynote speaker
Sarjus Moonin

Comedy & Motivational Speech
Tatanka Means

Invocation
Pastor Steve Leppert

Proclamation
Mayor Clay Koplín

Posting of Colors
US Coast Guard

Star-Spangled Banner
Annalee Ladd

Veterans Ceremony
Taylor Kimbarow

Quilts of Valor Presentation
Kay Adams

Special Guest Speakers
Jeremy Rankin
Rep. Louise Stutes
Andres Morales
Christina Love
Matt Rush
John Yakanak
Alex Russin
Pam Smith
Mary Babic

Sobriety Countdown
Dr. Brian Iutzi
Pam Smith

NVE Executive Director
Bert Adams

Welcoming & Closing
Tribal Council Chair Darrel Olsen

Emcee
Raven Madison

NYO Demonstration
Nick Tiedeman and Cordova
Native Youth Olympics Team



Photo by Annette Potter/The Cordova Times
Native Village of Eyak Executive Director Bert Adams addresses the audience on the first night of Sobriety Celebration.



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times
Keynote speaker Sarjus Moonin.



Photo by Annette Potter/The Cordova Times
Belen Cook accepts recognition for her 15 years of organizing NVE's Sobriety Celebration.



COMBATING ADDICTION & CELEBRATING CULTURE

BY ZACHARY SNOWDON SMITH

zsmith@thecordovaitimes.com

The U.S. drug epidemic, which has disproportionately affected Alaska Native people, seems to offer little room for levity. But the 26th annual Sobriety Celebration, providing both harrowing accounts of addiction and performances by Native dance groups and a stand-up comic, sought a balance between tragedy and comedy.

Two stand-up performances by Native American comedian and actor Tatanka Means offered a lighter take, emphasizing the importance of motivation and self-discipline in overcoming life's challenges. Means has abstained from alcohol and recreational drugs since first taking to the stage.

"I talk about comedy and how it's healing and it's medicine," Means said during his Nov. 16 performance. "So is dancing, so is singing. Everything that we do is medicine, and it's healing for us."

Rates of drug abuse and overdose deaths are higher among Alaska Natives than in the general population, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Creating strong support networks in the Native community is key to reversing these trends, Means said.

Audiences also heard from keynote speaker Sarjus Moonin, who delivered a personal account of his recovery from alcoholism.

Native dance performances were given by the Cordova Ikumat Dancers, the Yeas Ku Oo Dancers, the Mt. St. Elias Dancers, the Tatitlek Alutiiq Dancers, the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers and the Anchorage Unangax Dancers. The Anchorage Unangax Dancers were a new addition this year, Sobriety Celebration coordinator Mary Babic said.

An opening ceremony included addresses



Photos by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

Local Cordova fisherman Jeremy Rankin shares his personal journey.

“ I HOPE THAT THE CELEBRATION TOUCHED ONE PERSON’S LIFE WHO MAY BE STRUGGLING. IF WE CAN SHARE OUR STORIES AND REACH OUT TO EVEN ONE PERSON IN THIS COMMUNITY, THEN WE’RE DOING WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO.”



The US Coast Guard presents the colors and Annalee Ladd sings the Star-Spangled Banner in North Star Theatre.

by Rep. Louise Stutes, R-Kodiak, Mayor Clay Koplín, Pastor Steve Leppert and Eyak genealogist Pam Smith, who delivered an address in the Eyak language. Following a posting of colors by the U.S. Coast Guard, resident Taylor Kimbarow led a ceremony recognizing Cordova's veterans. Local veterans were presented with handmade quilts crafted by local members of the Northwind Quilters Guild in recognition of their military service through the Quilts of Valor national program.

In previous years, Sobriety Celebration was held at the Cordova Jr./Sr. High School gym. This year, Babic oversaw its relocation to the Cordova Center, although the closing potlatch dinner was still held at the high school.

Dance groups enjoyed performing at the more distraction-free environment of the North Star Theatre, Babic said. Attending photographers also preferred the dramatic atmosphere of the theatre to that of the fluorescent-lit gym, she said.

Sobriety Celebration marries an anti-sub-



Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council Treasurer Pam Smith welcomes everyone to the 26th Annual Sobriety Celebration and Memorial Potlatch in Eyak.

Photo by Annette Potter/
The Cordova Times

stance-abuse message with a revived pride in Native culture — two ideas that should reinforce one another, Babic said.

"I hope that the celebration touched one

person's life who may be struggling," Babic said. "If we can share our stories and reach out to even one person in this community, then we're doing what we came here to do." ■



Cordova Ikumat Dancers perform during the 26th Annual Sobriety Celebration.



Native dancers and musicians performed at the North Star Theatre during Native Village of Eyak's 26th annual Sobriety Celebration.

QUYANA

DANCE GROUPS

Cordova Ikumat Dancers – CORDOVA

Yees Ku Oo Dancers – JUNEAU

Mt. St. Elias Dancers – YAKUTAT

Tatitlek Alutiiq Dancers – TATITLEK

Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers – KODIAK

Anchorage Unangax Dancers – ANCHORAGE

PHOTOS BY ZACHARY SNOWDON SMITH

(Unless otherwise noted below photo.)



Lydia Henry (center) performs with the Mt. St. Elias Dancers.

“ I TALK ABOUT COMEDY AND HOW IT’S HEALING AND IT’S MEDICINE. SO IS DANCING, SO IS SINGING. EVERYTHING THAT WE DO IS MEDICINE, AND IT’S HEALING FOR US.” – TATANKA MEANS



The Anchorage Unangax Dancers perform.





Ezra Sholl (center) performs with the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers.



Yees Ku Oo Dancer.



Lloyd Brown performs at Native Village of Eyak's 26th annual Sobriety Celebration.



From left, Katie Price, Joel Price, Thea Duncan, Alayna Duncan, Nancy Barnes perform with the Yees Ku Oo Dancers.



Sierra Guerrero-Flores performs with the Yees Ku Oo Dancers of Juneau.



Bayley Rowland with the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers.



Cordova Ikumat Dancer Aaliyah Tiedeman.



A member of the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers.



The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers perform



Ezra Sholl appears onstage.



A member of the Anchorage Unangax Dancers.

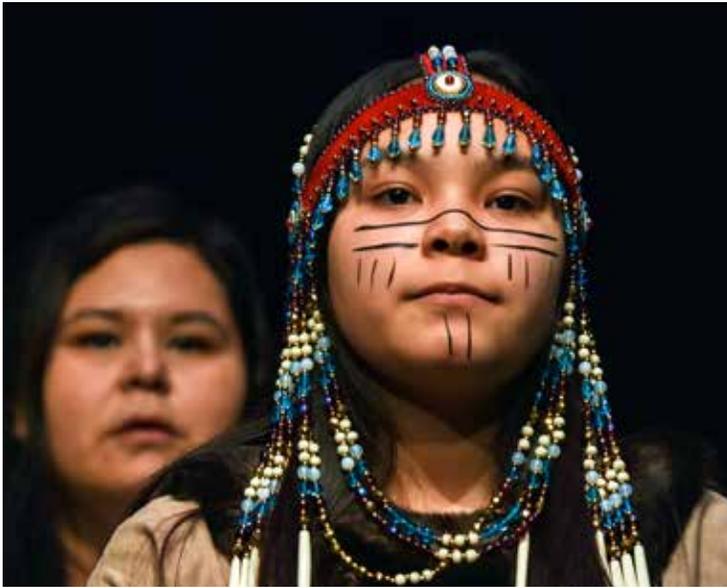


Photo courtesy of Mark Hoover

The Tatitlek Alutiiq Dancers perform.



The Anchorage Unangax Dancers perform at Native Village of Eyak's 26th annual



Shane Brown performs.



A Kodiak Alutiiq Dancer.



Anchorage Unangax Dancers perform.



The Yees Ku Oo Dancers of Juneau perform in the North Star Theatre.



Alutiiq Sobriety Celebration.



David Tucker performs with the Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers.



Cordova Ikumat Dancers perform.



The Anchorage Unangax Dancers perform.



James Hoff performs with the Yees Ku Oo Dancers of Juneau.



Shane Brown performs at Native Village of Eyak's 26th annual Sobriety Celebration.



Mt. St. Elias Dancers.



Jazlyn West of the Cordova Ikumat Dancers.



The Yees Ku Oo Dancers appear onstage at the North Star Theatre.



The Anchorage Unangax Dancers perform at Native Village of Eyak's Sobriety Celebration.



From left: Gravina Hansen and Teague Webber on stage at the North Star Theatre.



Photo by Annette Potter/The Cordova Times

The Tatitlek Alutiiq Dancers perform during Native Village of Eyak's 26th Annual Sobriety Celebration.



Photo courtesy of Mark Hoover

A member of Tatitlek Alutiiq Dancers performs.



The Anchorage Unangax Dancers perform at Native Village of Eyak's 26th annual Sobriety Celebration.



A Juneau Yees Ku Oo Dancer.



Reagan Ladd of Cordova.

QUILTS OF VALOR PRESENTATION

RECOGNIZING VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

Local veterans Kelly Weaverling, Don Bailey, Jim Johnson, and Don Roemhildt are presented their Quilts of Valor during the Honoring Our Veteran's Ceremony.

REVIVING A LANGUAGE

11 iiyaaG (EYAK) WORDS TO KNOW

ANCESTOR:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

qaadALyAX yiihinuu

Usage Information:

This literally translates as "those before us"

ARTIST:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

wAXaawch'iya'

Usage Information:

Translates as "images expert"

AUTUMN:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

XAlaagLch'aad

Usage Information:

Translates as "towards winter"

BEADS:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

kAwuud

BIBLE:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

uq'Ach'ahd ida'dAXah

Usage Information:

This literally translates as "things, stories are told from on it"

BLANKET:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

Gu'L

DANCE:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

gah

STORYTELLER:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

wAXahch'iya'

Usage Information:

Translates as "story expert"

POTLATCH:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

ida'wa'ehdz

MOOSE:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

dAniigih

KING CRAB:

Eyak Word or Phrase:

qiiyii'ah

SOURCE AND MORE TO LEARN AT: EYAKPEOPLE.COM/Dictionary

Language Classes at the NVE Ilanka Boardroom Open to All: Eyak Language Wednesdays 6-7 p.m., Sugcestun Language Mondays, 6-7 p.m.



MEMORIAL POTLATCH AT CORDOVA HIGH SCHOOL



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



Sobriety Celebration participants attend a traditional potlatch dinner at the Cordova Jr./Sr. High School gym.

From left, Jimmy Paley, Nicole Piché and Donald Ladd prepare crab for a potlatch dinner on Saturday, Nov. 16.

*Photos by Zachary
Snowdon Smith/
The Cordova Times*



Photo by Jane Spencer/for The Cordova Times

Kayley DeLozier of DeLozier Designs

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

CORDOVA CENTER ATRIUM



Christine Babic of Alutiig Angels.



Melina Meyers with her jewelry.

ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER



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- Altana Hamilton
- Gloria Cunningham
- Raven Madison
- Marina Madison
- Ivy Patton
- Brittany Banks
- Christine Belgarde
- Angela Butler
- and more...

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Contact Jackie Ladd
Elder Services Coordinator

907-424-7738
for information on Elder Services, activities and events.

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EMAIL: BOB.LADD@EYAK-NSN.GOV



Photo by Zachary Snowdon Smith/The Cordova Times

Aaliyah Tiedeman demonstrates the one-hand reach Native Youth Olympics event during Sobriety Celebration in Cordova.

ATHLETES DEMONSTRATE NATIVE YOUTH OLYMPICS GAMES

BY ANNETTE POTTER
apotter@thecordovaitimes.com

The audience in North Star Theatre seems to hold its collective breath as Aaliyah Tiedeman balances her entire body on her right hand, her feet and left hand suspended in a kind of single-hand pushup. She then reaches out with her left hand to hit a ball suspended from a string. The audience erupts in cheers and applause.

Tiedeman was among the Cordova Native Youth Olympians who demonstrated their athletic skills during Native Village of Eyak's

26th annual Sobriety Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Coach Nick Tiedeman narrated the demonstration, explaining the purpose and challenge of events such as the wrist carry, stick pull, two-foot high kick, one-foot high kick and one-hand reach.

The games of strength, endurance and knowledge are based on traditional athletic contests meant to help develop skills critical for surviving Arctic winters. Many take up relatively little space, potentially allowing athletes to hone their skills indoors.

"It's a very different sport," Nick Tiede-

man said. "It's great to get it back into our culture and teach it to other kids."

The demonstration was just a sampling of events the team competes in during the Alaska Native Youth Olympics and Junior Native Youth Olympics games on a statewide level. While the games are based on Alaska Native traditions, the team is open to all.

"It's not just for Native kids," Nick Tiedeman said. "It's all about showing our culture and traditions to other people and around the state and around the country. It's a very fun event and it's nice to be a part of it." ■

“ IT'S GREAT TO GET IT BACK INTO OUR CULTURE AND TEACH IT TO OTHER KIDS. ”



Photo courtesy of Mark Hoover

Coach Nick Tiedeman, right, challenges Jimmy Reilly in the stick pull.



Photo courtesy of Mark Hoover

Jimmy Reilly, Braden Beckett and Grayson Marek prepare for the wrist carry.

From left, Aaliyah Tiedeman and Donovan Fonzi demonstrating the two-foot kick.

Photo by Annette Potter/
The Cordova Times



ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



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PERSONALIZED QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY



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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FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT Jessica Weaver at 424-7738

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*Available to the entire community
Everyone is welcome*

Native Village of Eyak's Judicial Department offers:

- Conflict Resolution
- Family Mediation
- Restoration
- Juvenile Diversion
- Child Welfare (tribal members only)
- Intervention

For more information, please contact the Court Administrator Sarah Kathrein at

907-424-7880

500 Water Street, Cordova, AK (next to the courthouse)
sarah.kathrein@eyak-nsn.gov or courtclerk@eyak-nsn.gov



WHERE CAN I GET **HELP?**

LOCAL RESOURCES

Ilanka Community Health Center:

907-424-3622
705 Second St., Cordova

Sound Alternatives:

907-424-8300
602 Chase Ave., Cordova

Cordova Family Resource Center:

(907) 424-5679
509 First St.

12 Step AA Meetings

7 p.m. Fridays
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
220 Adams Ave.

AL-ANON Meetings

7 p.m. Mondays
Ilanka Wellness Center
705 Second St.

HELPLINES

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration helpline:

1-800-662-4357

The National Drug Hotline:

1-844-289-0879

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence:

1-800-622-2255

In an emergency, call: 911

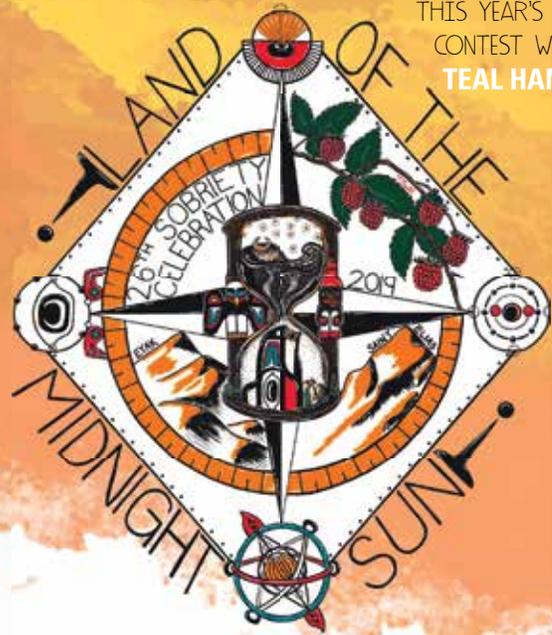
AwA'ahdah qaach'aaX IAXshA'a'ch'L

Thank you for your Generosity and Support



NOV. 15-16, 2019

AT THE CORDOVA CENTER &
CORDOVA HIGH SCHOOL GYM



THIS YEAR'S LOGO
CONTEST WINNER:
TEAL HANSEN

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Angela Butler
Annalee Ladd
Bear Country Lodge
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Chenega Corporation
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Christine Belgarde and kitchen help
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Denise Olsen
Diane Ujioka
Dr. Brian Iutzi

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Hobbs, Strauss, Dean & Walker
Jackie Ladd
Jeremy Rankin
Jessica San Filippo
John Yakanak
Kanisha Lohse
Kay Adams, Northwind Quilter's Guild
Kayley DeLozier
Ken Roemhildt Seafoods
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Kodiak Area Native Association
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Marcus Gho
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Shoreside Petroleum
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Susan Harding
Tatanka Means
Tatitlek Alutiiq Dancers
Tatitlek Corporation
Taylor Kimbarow
Teal Hansen
Todd Ladd
Toni Bocci
Trident Seafoods, Inc.
US Coast Guard
Vivian Kennedy, XOAK
Volunteer Potlatch Helpers
Yees Ku Oo Dancers



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JAN. 21
Cordova Center



*Silent Auction
Closes at 7 p.m.*

Following dinner, there will be a "meet the artist" and performance by Cordova Ikamut Dancers.