Leonora “Le” Florendo has decided to take the great leap into retirement. Le is a member of the Raven moiety, L’ukaax.ádi clan of the Shaka Hit from Alsek River and Chookaneidi yadi of the X’oots Hit of Hoonah, Alaska. During her 33 year tenure at Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council), Le encountered and ushered in many changes, including the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and Welfare Reform.

Le began her work at Central Council in 1983 as the Executive Secretary to then-Executive Director Gus Adams. While working in that office, Le coordinated the move from the Sealaska Corporation’s building to the third floor of the Andrew Hope Building. Le recalled, “We had to move a table into the third floor, but it wouldn’t fit through the door. We hoisted it up, but it wouldn’t fit through the window either. So someone just took the whole frame off.”

Before coming to Central Council, Le traveled across the continent to Cambridge, where she answered the call to adventure from Rosita Worl. Le packed up her two sons (her daughter Amelia had yet to be born) and drove to Massachusetts. After working at the Harvard School of Education, she decided to enroll as a student. In school with two kids and pregnant with a third, Le graduated in 1980 with a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology. She returned home to Juneau after getting married and finishing school.

After a year with the Tribe, Le found her permanent work home in the Human Services department, which would later become Social Services and then Tribal Family and Youth Services (TFYS).
Juneau Homeless Connect Event

Central Council was pleased to participate in the Juneau Homeless Connect event held on January 25th. The event was a great opportunity for the Tribe to share information on its programs and services and network with other community resources.

Approximately 170 attendees stopped by to receive information and applications from the Tribe, and staff distributed over 100 sleeping bags, along with wool blankets, gloves, hats, hand warmers, and socks to our local homeless community.

Central Council is a proud member of the Juneau Homeless Coalition that serves Juneau’s most vulnerable residents – the homeless and those most affected by limited and high cost housing.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to the following departments and programs for representing Central Council at this event:

- Employment & Training
- Navigators
- Second Chance Reentry
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Tribal Child Support Unit
- Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation

Native Groups Rally Against Homelessness Ordinance

Central Council along with other Native groups publicly expressed its opposition of Ordinance 2016-44, a proposed City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) ordinance that would criminalize homeless citizens in an effort to prevent them from sleeping in retail doorways and other spaces. Juneau’s homeless population is the most impoverished residents and many suffer with physical, mental, and social illnesses.

A letter submitted January 19th petitioned the CBJ Assembly to reject the proposed ordinance and instead consider a recommendation to Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to dedicate proceeds from their pending sale of trust lands to fund a camping site for those not eligible to utilize existing shelters. Unfortunately, the controversial ordinance passed with a 5-4 vote Monday, February 13th, banning homeless people from sleeping near downtown businesses.

TCSU Staff Participate in Martin Luther King Day Free Legal Clinic

Submitted By: TCSU

Tribal Child Support Unit (TCSU) Manager Jessie Archibald and Attorney Justin Facey volunteered their time to participate in the Martin Luther King Day Free Legal Clinic. Justin, who is a new member of the Alaska Bar Association, and Jessie Archibald, who holds licenses to practice law in both Alaska and Washington, joined over 20 other volunteer attorneys in Juneau to provide free legal assistance. Questions were also answered regarding Medicare, Medicaid, estate planning & probate, child custody, support, divorce, dissolution, rental properties, and social security.

The free legal clinic is a statewide public service project of the Alaska Bar Association, Alaska Legal Services (ALS) Corporation, Alaska Public Media, and the Juneau Bar Association and is held each year on Martin Luther King Day. This year’s Juneau clinics were held at the ALS office in the Jordan Creek Mall and at the Juneau Courthouse, and helped dozens of clients with a wide range of legal issues.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to Jessie and Justin for volunteering their time and giving back to our community!
Central Council’s annual Spring King Salmon Derby has been cancelled following a king salmon sport fishing emergency order issued by the State of Alaska’s Department of Fish & Game for the Juneau area. The emergency moratorium, which will run April 15 through June 14, 2017, was made based on the 2017 preseason forecast for the total terminal run that indicated the lower end of the escapement goal is unlikely to be achieved.

“The cancellation of the derby is unfortunate, but we fully support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s decision to close the Juneau king salmon sport fisheries,” said President Richard Peterson. “As stewards of the land and sea, it’s vital we protect our traditional and customary resources to ensure sustainability so future Taku River king salmon runs return stronger.”

For the past 20 years, the annual Spring King Salmon Derby has not only been a healthy, fun, family-friendly community event, it is also Central Council’s largest fundraising effort that supports the Alumni Scholarship Assistance program. To date, the program has provided over $475,000 in supplementary scholarships to over 1,500 students.

“Although we hope the derby can return next year, alternative fundraising activities are underway that will allow us to continue providing Alumni scholarships to our higher education students this coming academic year,” said Laird Jones, Higher Education Manager. “Thank you to all participants and businesses for their tremendous support over the past two decades.”

If you would like to support Central Council’s Alumni Scholarship Assistance program, please contact the Higher Education program at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7133, 907.463.7133, or hied@ccthita-nsn.gov.

To view the State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game release, visit: bit.ly/2n2qS2Y.

On January 19, 2017, a meeting took place between tribal leaders and the Canadian Consul General to discuss tribal concerns related to transboundary mining development. The Canadian Consul is based in Seattle, Washington and is responsible for intergovernmental affairs for the northwest states and Alaska. The Canadian Consul was invited by Second Vice President Will Micklin to meet with Central Council and Douglas Indian Association in Juneau, Alaska. They also met with other tribal leaders in Ketchikan on January 20th. Tribal leaders advocated for the protection of tribal interests by pushing full tribal consultation and encouraging the use of best practices and collaboration on baseline environmental data collection. Some of the issues brought up in the Juneau meeting included shortcomings of the British Columbia (BC) government when it comes to permit enforcement and financial assurances, such as the 2014 Mt. Polley Mine tailings disaster and the ongoing acid mine drainage from the Tulsequah Chief Mine in the Taku watershed. There was also discussion about creating a mechanism for agreement between State/Provincial, Federal, and Tribal/First Nation governments.

Alaska’s Lt. Governor Byron Mallott attended the Juneau meeting and discussed the Statement of Cooperation (SOC) between Alaska and BC. Canadian officials believe the SOC was a huge milestone and provides a better structure to address transboundary concerns than federal intervention. President Peterson stated that the SOC, while a good starting point, is not the final answer. Central Council continues to advocate on behalf of the Tribe to ensure that our way of life is protected.
One of the priorities of Alaska Governor Bill Walker and Lt. Governor Byron Mallott is to seek to improve the health and safety outcomes for Alaskans. Alaska Department of Health & Social Services Commissioner Valerie Davidson has identified child welfare as a top priority and voiced her desire for better outcomes for those served, particularly for Alaska Native children who are disproportionately represented in the total foster care population.

On January 24-25, 2017, key tribal child welfare directors representing the five regions of Alaska joined the State of Alaska’s Office of Children’s Services (OCS) executive team along with representatives from Casey Family Programs and First Alaskans Institute to review the State’s 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. This face to face meeting took place in Anchorage and was financially supported by Casey Family Programs.

The purpose of the meeting was to fine tune a five year strategic plan that has been a work in progress for the past year. The plan seeks to make transformative changes to child welfare in an expedited fashion in order to affect the greatest degree of change during Governor Walker’s term so that changes will be well embedded during this administration.

With this strategic plan, members of the planning group are excited and hopeful about the future of Alaska’s child welfare system. The plan reflects a paradigm shift in the approach to child welfare as it relates to Alaska Native children and is based on the understanding that “Tribes know what is best for their children and have for centuries.” This philosophy will be evident throughout the objectives and action items of the plan, and will respect the inherent authority and sovereignty of tribal governments for the welfare of Alaska Native children.

The priority areas for this plan are as follows:

1. Continuum of Culturally Specific Services
2. Community Engagement
4. Embrace and Implement the Spirit of ICWA
5. Self-Governance
6. State Agency Alignment

This is an exciting time for Tribal Child Welfare!
Second Chance Client Earns High School Diploma

The Second Chance Reentry program (Second Chance) is proud to announce the graduation of Jared Cheatham from the Penn Foster High School program. Jared is Choctaw from Oklahoma and has been in Alaska since he was two years old. He is eligible for services as an American Indian outside of his service area. Jared had an error in judgment when he was 17 that resulted in him being tried as an adult, so he was unable to complete high school. Since his release from incarceration, Jared has wanted to complete his high school diploma and was given that opportunity by his 477 Caseworker LaTroy Burras and the Second Chance program.

Jared was motivated by family and his girlfriend to finish his diploma, but he also wanted it for himself. With his determination and regular check in calls from the Second Chance program, he was able to stay on track.

“It feels amazing to have my high school diploma, to not be behind in life, and to accomplish something that I have always wanted to accomplish,” said Jared. “I would like to acknowledge my mother’s support, thank you for always being there and motivating me.”

Jared looks forward to checking the high school diploma box on job applications and said it means everything to him to have the support of Second Chance staff and to know they’re in his corner. He said only time will tell what he does next, but he’s taking steps to further his education by engaging in career assessments with Second Chance. He would like to learn a hands-on trade.

Jared received his high school diploma in January and graduated with a commendable 3.0 grade point average. Congratulations Jared, we look forward to seeing what you accomplish next!

Matica Technologies Features Tribe in Case Study on Tribal ID Printing

Central Council was recently featured as a case study for Matica Technologies. The Tribe purchased two Matica XID8600 retransfer printers in 2016 to increase the security of its tribal ID cards which are issued to tribal citizens to authenticate tribal citizenship.

The XID8600 is TSA approved and produces ultra-high resolution tribal ID cards with custom holograms that provide instantaneous authentication, significantly reducing risk of forgery.

In the last year, Central Council has successfully integrated the new system and rolled out newly designed tribal and employee ID cards.

To read the full case study, visit: bit.ly/2miz159.

Strengthening Families

Central Council invites all mothers and fathers to join in strengthening their families by participating in the Fatherhood Is Sacred® (FIS) and Motherhood Is Sacred™ (MIS) programs. These programs offer regular 12-week sessions that provide fun activities focused on strengthening families, the sacredness of being a parent, and the importance of Alaska Native/Native American heritage. Dinner and child care is provided and all fathers and mothers are welcome to participate. For more information or current session dates for the FIS and MIS programs, visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/events or contact Ian Petershoare 907.463.7737 (FIS) or Lexy Gallant 907.463.7167 (MIS).
Tribal Child Support Unit Update

In FY 2016, the Tribal Child Support Unit (TCSU) distributed a record high of $921,464.84 in child support payments which increased collections by 14.02% and surpassed their performance goal of boosting collections by 12%.

Although 117 cases were closed in FY 2016, the total active IV-D caseload increased to 1,291 (up 39 from FY 2015).

TCSU accepts all applications for child support services and makes appropriate referrals when necessary. The majority of TCSU cases opened are from parents or custodians who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. TCSU cases are also opened when custodians apply for other tribal services such as Employment & Training and Child Care.

Due to the 60 month limit of TANF benefits, many TANF cases are transitioned to non-assistance cases, showing a general overall trend for current support to be paid directly to custodial parents. Approximately 67% of child support is distributed directly to families and 33% to the Tribe for reimbursement of funds owed to TANF for assignment of child support rights.

For more information on child support, contact TCSU at 907.463.7132 or 1.800.344.1432.

Tribe Submits FY19 Budget Priorities to BIA and White House

Submitted By: Office of the President

Government Affairs Liaison Grace Singh recently traveled to Washington DC to meet with White House Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs William Kirkland and Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Benjamin Keel. The DC visit provided an opportunity to submit Central Council’s top five budget priorities which were developed earlier in response to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) - Alaska Region’s invitation to be a part of the FY 2019 Tribal Budget Formulation process.

Budget Priorities

- **Indian Child Welfare**
  It is of the utmost importance to Central Council that every child has a safe home to grow, prosper, and become contributing citizens to our communities. Tribal governments cannot protect the needs of our children with the funding available for child welfare. Tribes receive only $29,000 for positions that are often required to be full time, requiring tribes to allocate dollars to compensate for the program.

- **Office of Tribal Justice**
  Public safety in rural Alaska has some of the most dangerous circumstances in the Nation. P.L. 280 tribes are not included in tribal court funding from BIA’s Office of Tribal Justice. Last year, Congress appropriated $10 million to the BIA to increase tribal justice support to P.L. 280 states. The one-time funding does not provide Alaska tribes with the stability to address the serious issues of rural public safety.

- **Higher Education Funding**
  Central Council is required to fundraise and allocate tribal funds to provide scholarships to its tribal citizens. As the largest tribe in Alaska, we have more than 30,000 tribal citizens and many descendants that apply for higher education assistance. To hold up our people, we must provide every educational opportunity for youth to develop their skills to contribute to our communities and local economies.

- **Welfare Assistance and 477**
  Tribal governments address the needs of rural impoverished communities throughout Alaska and the nation. Welfare and Employment/Training programs are essential to elevating people out of poverty, growing contributing members of society, and providing families with healthy stable livelihoods.
Central Council is pleased to host the 2017 Native Issues Forums. The series launched February 2nd with a full house and continue to generate great turnouts! The forums feature reports on a variety of topics that are important to our Native community such as state budget cuts, economic sustainability, education, language, public safety, rural development, and transboundary mining. All forums are open to the public and webcast live at livestream.com/accounts/507620.

For more on this year’s forums, visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/events or read the lastest coverage from KTOO (bit.ly/2n32SwR | bit.ly/2IUzXZW) or the Juneau Empire (bit.ly/2IUB3oE | bit.ly/2mUkIVW).

To view additional photos, visit: www.flickr.com/ccthita.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’åa to Sealaska Corporation for co-sponsoring this year’s Native Issues Forums!
Emerging Leader Application Period Open

Central Council is accepting applications for the 2017-2018 Emerging Leader position and encourages all Tlingit and Haida Community Councils to nominate a young leader from their community.

The Emerging Leader position on the Executive Council, formerly known as the Youth Representative position, was established in 1999 to provide young tribal adults between the age of 18 to 26 with opportunities to acquire important knowledge about Central Council, its governing and organizational structure, and valuable hands-on leadership experience.

The election of Central Council’s Emerging Leader occurs annually during Tribal Assembly.

To qualify, an applicant must:

• Be Tribally Enrolled with Central Council
• Be 18 to 26 Years of Age
• Submit a Completed Application

The deadline to submit completed applications, supporting documents, and all required letters of recommendation is April 3, 2017.

To view a list of past youth leaders, visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/government/council/youth/

Mark Your Calendars

April Events
2-5: NICWA’s 35th Annual Conference – San Diego, CA
6: Native Issues Forum – Juneau, AK
12: Juneau Reentry Coalition Alaska Native Workgroup Meeting – Juneau, AK
17-18: Executive Council Meeting – Juneau, AK
18: Constitutional Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
18: Judiciary Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
18: Finance/Audit Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
18: Resolutions Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
19-21: 82nd Annual Tribal Assembly – Juneau, AK
23-27: Tribal Self-Governance Annual Consultation Conference – Spokane, WA

May Events
2-4 Tribal/Interior Budget Council Meeting – Washington, DC
3-5 Tribal Enrollment Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
10-11 Prince of Wales Island-Wide Mining Symposium VII – Kasaan, AK
29 Memorial Day Holiday (Observed)

June Events
5-6 3rd Annual Tribal Accounting Conference – Las Vegas, NV
12 NCAI Mid Year Conference & Marketplace – Uncasville, CT
16 Central Council Annual Staff Picnic – Juneau, AK
19 Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Day (Observed)

Save-the-Date

82nd Annual Tribal Assembly
April 19-21, 2017
Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall
Juneau, Alaska

For questions regarding Tribal Assembly, contact Tribal Assembly Co-Coordinators Grace Singh (800.344.1432, 907.463.7103, or gsingh@ccthita-nsn.gov) or Helene Bennett (907.463.7306 or hbennett@ccthita-nsn.gov).
The 82nd Annual Tribal Assembly will convene April 19-21, 2017 in Juneau, Alaska and has been declared a Constitutional Convention. The announcement was first made by President Richard Peterson last year during his State of the Tribe Address. “This will be an opportunity to exercise our right to self-determination,” said President Peterson. “I hope our citizens are invigorated by this coming Assembly and the chance to shape our future governance.”

President Peterson appointed Second Vice President (VP) Will Micklin to chair the Constitutional Committee which has been tasked with reviewing the Tribe’s governing documents and proposing amendments to the Tribal Assembly — Central Council’s Constitution was last amended in 2014. “The committee will develop recommendations for the upcoming Tribal Assembly intended to meaningfully improve tribal governance and efficiency in assembly procedures,” said VP Micklin.

Adoption of proposed amendments to the Constitution must be approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Delegates present at Tribal Assembly, unless the amendments are provided in written form to the Delegates 90 days before the assembly convenes. The following Delegates have been appointed to serve on the Constitutional Committee and have been meeting regularly to consider and draft proposed amendments:

- Will Micklin, Chair (San Francisco)
- Tasha Hotch (Anchorage)
- James Hart (Haines)
- Ken Southerland (Juneau)
- Henrich Kadake (Kake)
- Marsha Ramirez (Ketchikan)
- Yodean Armour (Klawock)
- Tate London (Seattle)

For more information on the upcoming Constitutional Convention, contact Tribal Assembly Co-Coordinators Grace Singh (800.344.1432, 907.463.7103, or gsingh@ccthita-nsn.gov) or Helene Bennett (907.463.7306 or hbennett@ccthita-nsn.gov).

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**President’s Award Recipients Announced**

Congratulations to the 2017 President's Award recipients! These awards recognize just a handful of those who contribute greatly to our Tlingit and Haida people and culture. Award recipients will be recognized during the Tribal Assembly’s Welcome Banquet on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at the Juneau Arts & Culture Center (350 Whittier Street).

**President’s Lifetime Achievement Award**

Delores Churchill (Ketchikan)

**President’s Everyday Hero Awards**

*Culture Bearer:* Della Cheney (Kake)
*Emerging Leader:* James Hart (Haines)
*Hold Each Other Up:* Cindy Mills (Klawock)
*Inspiring Educator:* Heather Powell (Hoonah)
*Language:* Alfie Price (Metlakatla/Juneau)
*Tribal Ally:* Holly Handler (Juneau)
*Youth Mentor:* John Smith (Juneau)
Annual Caregivers Workshop

On January 26, 2017, Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) hosted the 2017 Annual Caregivers Workshop at the Juneau T&H Community Council Building. This event provided valuable resources to over 120 elders, family members, and caregivers, with 16 resource tables from Juneau agencies and programs.

The following presentations were provided at the workshop:

- Take Care of Your Body and It Will Take of You by Kathy Lawrence, SEARHC Health Promotion
- Alzheimer’s & Related Dementia Information & Resources by Amber Smith, Alzheimer’s Resources of Alaska
- Fall Prevention Information by Dee Shaw & Lesley Thompson, Alaska Commission on Aging
- Tribal Medical Legal Partnership Information by Heidi Peterson & Holly Handler, Alaska Legal Services
- Who Depends on You? Personal Preparedness Information by Michelle Brown, City & Borough of Juneau Emergency Programs

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to all those who provided printed and verbal information during the workshop: AARP Community Council; Alaska Commission on Aging; Alaska Legal Services; Alaska Memorial Park & Mortuary; Alzheimer’s Resources of Alaska; American Red Cross of Alaska; Catholic Community Services; Central Council’s Tribal Enrollment program; City & Borough of Juneau Emergency Programs; Compass Home Care; Cornerstone Home Care; Hospice & Home Care of Juneau; Juneau Public Libraries; SEARHC Health Promotions/Tobacco Programs; Southeast Alaska Independent Living; and Southeast Senior Services.

477 Quarterly All Staff Meeting

In December, the 477 Division (Child Care, Employment & Training, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) departments) held their final quarterly all staff meeting at the Vocational Training & Resource Center in Juneau, Alaska.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring all 477 staff (Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka) together to share information, improve team atmosphere, and strengthen customer service skills. President Richard Peterson was pleased to provide opening remarks that touched on his appreciation for the team’s dedication and the continued need for ever-improving customer service. Staff also received a presentation from Myrna Gardner, Business & Economic Development Manager, that shared information on the Cultural Immersion Park and the jobs that it will create in the retail, construction, and customer service fields.

Training that focused on improving customer service and team-building exercises were provided by William Martin, 477 Director; Alice Bagoyo, Child Care Manager; and Teresa Sarabia, TVR Manager. Prior to 477’s all staff meeting, William Martin delivered a one day case management training to TANF and TVR staff that provided guidance on expectations and important insight into case management to prepare them for separation of duties (i.e. eligibility and case management).

For more information on the services provided through the 477 Division, visit www.ccthita-nsn.gov or contact our eligibility technicians at 1.800.344.1432, 907.463.7158, or 477intake@ccthita-nsn.gov.
**Will Kronick Promoted**

Submitted By: TFYS

Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) department is pleased to announce the promotion of Will Kronick to Suicide Prevention Specialist.

Will graduated from Yale University with a Bachelor’s degree in History. He joined the TFYS team as a Preserving Native Families Caseworker in 2016. Prior to that, Will served as the **Sheet’ka Kwaan** Fellow and Interim W.K. Kellogg Family Engagement Manager for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

The new Suicide Prevention Specialist position is funded through a 5-year Native Connections grant from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that TFYS secured. The focus of the grant is to plan, design, and implement a traditional youth suicide prevention program for Alaska Native youth in Juneau and Southeast Alaska. The program intends to empower families and to collaborate with regional partners to create systems of care and policy that will tackle historical trauma and current exclusion. By working with families, youth, and elders, we hope to help create an inclusive Southeast that values every life.

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**Public Safety to Implement Local Emergency Preparedness Plans in Southeast VPSO Communities**

Submitted By: Public Safety

Through a new partnership with Alaska’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM), Central Council’s Public Safety department will be developing and implementing local emergency preparedness plans in the Southeast Alaska communities served under the State’s Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program.

“Oftentimes the focus of emergency planning is on larger communities, but it’s just as important that our rural communities have emergency plans in place for prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery,” said Public Safety Manager Jason Wilson.

The collaboration project is funded by the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The program supports the implementation of the National Preparedness System by providing federal grants to assist state, local, territorial, and tribal governments.

The partnership between the DHS&EM and Central Council is the first of its kind that creates a unique tribal jurisdiction in Southeast Alaska that will allow the Tribe to seek further emergency planning funding. Initially, the State DHS&EM will provide Central Council $80,000 in salary reimbursement through July 1, 2017 and an additional $160,000 through July 1, 2018.

VPSO Sergeant Corey Padron has been promoted to the position of Emergency Management Coordinator to help partner communities in Southeast Alaska develop their local emergency preparedness plans.

VPSO Sergeant Corey Padron

Sgt. Padron has been a VPSO with Central Council for five years and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Fire Service Administration, Associate’s degree in Criminal Justice and Emergency Management, and is a qualified Alaska Interior Firefighter I and Emergency Medical Technician II with the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department. He also instructs at the Village Police Officer Academy in Bethel and the Alaska Law Enforcement Training Academy in Sitka where he teaches law enforcement subjects as well as Emergency Trauma Technician and CPR courses.

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Will Kronick

**Will Kronick**
Central Council extends best wishes to Leslie Isturis, Higher Education Specialist, who recently retired after nearly 18 years of service to the Tribe and its higher education students.

On an annual basis, Leslie and her staff supported 200 College Student Assistance (CSA) students plus another 70 to 80 Alumni Scholarship Assistance Program (ASAP) students. Leslie strove to ensure that higher education students were always treated fairly when awarding CSA and ASAP funding. While making sure that students followed the paperwork requirements, she showed compassion and understanding to the challenges they faced away from home and in a new environment. For many students, this was the first time they were away from home.

Leslie also served as the Spring King Salmon Derby Coordinator and worked hard to build a supportive set of volunteers and staff to help with preparations for the annual event. The derby is Central Council’s major fundraiser for the Alumni Scholarship Assistance program.

“Leslie worked under a number of supervisors and as her last supervisor, it was a pleasure working with her,” said Laird Jones. “We appreciate the efforts she made to ensure the transition of her duties was smooth.”

The Navigators program continues to receive referrals and applications for youth ranging from 12-18 years of age. To date, the average age is 17, with 89% of the applicants and referrals reporting current or past drug and alcohol use, of which 67% have identified sobriety as one of their primary goals.

In an effort to meet the lack of teen drug and alcohol support groups, the Navigators program is working toward a partnering program with Juneau Youth Services, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, and the Zach Gordon Youth Center. Our collaborated efforts are being met with overwhelming enthusiasm and we anticipate having agreements signed in the very near future!

For more information, contact Juvenile Justice Coordinator Tina DeAsis-Wright at 907.463.7755 or tdeasiswright@ccthita-nsn.gov.
Tribal Court to Participate in Project to Improve Outcomes for Abused and Neglected Children

Central Council’s Tribal Court has been selected as one of six new courts to be a part of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges’ (NCJFCJ) Implementation Sites Project to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children and their families.

The project is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to provide child abuse and neglect courts with training, technical assistance, and support to guide program improvement, sustainability, and performance.

Central Council’s Tribal Court has greatly expanded its judicial services since it was established ten years ago. Currently, the Tribal Court has subject matter jurisdiction over a large range of civil and criminal issues including adoptions, child custody, child support, child welfare, divorce, domestic violence protection orders, guardianship, marriage, and paternity.

“Building the infrastructure and capacity of our Tribal Court and ICWA team to keep our children safe, out of the State’s custody, and placed with Native families has been one of my top priorities,” said President Richard Peterson. “This project will help the Tribe move in the right direction of transferring more child welfare cases from the Alaska Court System to our Tribal Court.”

To read the full press release, visit: bit.ly/2lZ29vy

Tribal Court Roundtable Sessions Held

Central Council recently hosted Tribal Court Roundtable sessions with 12 Southeast tribes in Craig and Juneau, Alaska. The sessions, which were funded in part by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), were coordinated to assess the status and needs of the region’s tribal courts and initiate discussions with local tribal government representatives on how to expand tribal courts in Southeast Alaska. President Richard Peterson, Tribal Judges, and Judiciary Committee members all participated in the roundtable sessions.

In 2016, the BIA Office of Tribal Justice allocated $10 million for tribal courts in Public Law 280 states, including Alaska. It’s anticipated the BIA will provide further funding to support the development of Alaska’s tribal courts. Increasing tribal court support to address the public safety needs of rural Alaska is a top priority of President Peterson.

Through a BIA Office of Justice funded project to develop a regional intertribal appellate court, Central Council’s Tribal Court will continue to work closely with Southeast Alaska tribes and offer technical support to those tribes interested in developing the infrastructure and capacity for a tribal court.

Tribal courts not only improve community safety in rural Alaska, it’s the sovereign right of tribes to exercise jurisdiction over their tribal citizens. All community members will benefit from better mechanisms to address rural public safety. As President Peterson said during the roundtable sessions, “healthy tribes make healthy communities.”

As a follow up to the roundtable discussions, a training session on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and how tribal courts can better protect women and children in rural communities will be coordinated soon - dates and locations to be announced.
Le Florendo Retires

Continued from Cover

Le began as a Social Worker working for then-Manager Art Holmberg. She remembers with anxiety the mountains of paperwork needed to process general and energy assistance applications. For ICWA, Le recalled, “All we could do was put the cases in a six part folder. We heard about the case and recorded it. That’s all we really could do.”

While working on the third floor, an earthquake shook the building so much that it caused the floors to ripple. Le and a coworker clung to a pole to ride out the shake. Le was thankful that the pole did not break. In retrospect, Le’s favorite part of her job has been her commitment to the Indian Child Welfare Act. She loved the civil rights and due process the law enshrined for Native families. She also loved the support it demanded for families to reunite with their children and to maintain relationships when reunification was not possible.

For the last couple of years, Le has coordinated our Elderly Services program. Every week, Le has organized a meal and exercise routine. Starting with seven participants, the program has served as many as 50 elders during one group. Thanks to Le and her sidekick Laura Cooper, our Elderly Services program provides a wonderful setting for elders to eat, exercise, and socialize.

Central Council held a special retirement party to celebrate Le and her many years of service protecting and maintaining the integrity and rights of Alaska Native children, their families, and tribes. She has been a dedicated member of the TFYS team for decades and will be missed by many! Congratulations Le!

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Summer Youth Employment Services

Submitted By: 477 Employment & Training

The 477 Employment & Training department (E&T) is pleased to announce it’s recruiting youth to participate in the summer Youth Employment Services (YES) program. Employment positions are available in Southeast Alaska communities. If you are looking for job training and meet eligibility requirements, please consider joining the YES program.

Eligibility Requirements

- Student Age 14-21 or Non-Student Age 16-24
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Resident of Southeast Alaska
- Tribally Enrolled Alaska Native or American Indian

Required Documentation

- Completed YES Application
- Proof of Tribal Enrollment (Original)
- State Issued Identification Card
- Social Security Card or US Passport (Original - copy not accepted)
- Proof of Southeast Residency
- Proof of Family Income for Past 30 Days
- Proof of Registration with the Selective Service for Males 18-21 Years of Age
- Parent/Guardian Signature for Required for Minor Applicants

To apply, visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/employment/youth or contact Employment & Training at 1.800.344.1432, 907.463.7332 or vhoyle@ccthita-nsn.gov.
Second Chance Staff Participate in Success Inside & Out Conference

On March 4, 2017, Second Chance program staff participated in the 10th Annual Success Inside and Out Conference at the Lemon Creek Correctional Center. Over 20 other community resource organizations attended the event to provide program and support service information to aid approximately 60 inmates who are preparing to be released. During the event, Second Chance staff shared information, talked to inmates about their plans for success upon release, and distributed over 20 applications.

Statistics to Think About:

- Alaska Natives make up 37% of the adult population of the Alaska Department of Corrections despite only representing 15% of the State’s total population, which includes minors under the age 18.
- Of all the Alaska Natives released from prison, 70% were convicted of non-violent offenses. Alaska Natives are also more likely to recidivate: 75% of all released non-violent Alaskan Native felons return to incarceration compared to the state average of 63%.
- Specific to Juneau, drug and alcohol offenses make up 22% of criminal offenses; however, many property crimes, parole/probation violations, and crimes against the person can be tied to substance use disorders. When these crimes are included, well over 50% of the population returning from incarceration is represented.
- 95% of Alaska’s inmates are eventually released from prison.

Central Council is committed to providing services to tribal citizens who are reentering their communities following incarceration. Providing this support is key to helping them break the cycle of incarceration and become productive, contributing members of society for themselves and their families.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to all who participated in this year’s Success Inside and Out Conference!

Emergency Preparedness Plans

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Sgt. Padron will perform the duties of his new position while continuing to serve as the VPSO in Saxman where he lives with his wife Lorraine Richmond, a Guardian Flight Paramedic, and their three children – Autumn (12), Jack (11), and Lily (9).

“I am thrilled to be working with our partner communities on this important project,” said VPSO Sgt. Padron. “As the Emergency Management Coordinator, I plan to work directly with other VPSOs and partner communities to first review and update any existing plans, create additional plans as necessary, and ensure everyone identified in each community’s plan understands their role and has the appropriate training to perform their duties. I will also be focusing on identifying training opportunities and grants to help Southeast Alaska’s communities increase their disaster resiliency.”

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The VPSO program began in the late 1970’s as a means of providing rural Alaskan communities with needed public safety services at the local level. Central Council continues to recruit for the program. If you are a tribal citizen interested in a career in law enforcement, contact Public Safety Manager Jason Wilson at 907.463.77387 or jwilson@ctthita-nsn.gov.

VPSO Motto

“First Responders - Last Frontier”
SAVE THE DATE

Tlingit Language Lessons

Mark your calendars...Central Council’s Language program is hosting Tlingit language lessons over the lunch hour every Tuesday. The weekly sessions are open to the public and are a wonderful opportunity for language learners to get a quick lesson during the work week. Sessions will begin with a review of the Tlingit writing system and will gradually work towards learning how to discuss lineage and use conversational language. We hope to see you there! Don’t forget to bring a lunch.

What: Tlingit Language Lessons
When: Every Tuesday from 12:15 PM to 12:45 PM
Where: Vocational Training & Resource Center
3239 Hospital Drive • Juneau AK 99801

When We Know Our Language, We Know Who We Are

For more information, contact:
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