

# TRIBAL NEWS



Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska  
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Spring 2001

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## “LEGISLATURE PASSES VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER PACKAGE OF LAWS”

This session of the legislature passed a package of Village Public Safety Officer laws that have a significant impact on the VPSO program.

Village Public Safety Officers were granted the authority to work with the Department of Corrections to provide probation and parole services to communities in which VPSOs are assigned. The purpose of granting this authority was to provide parole/probation supervision to convicted offenders in their home communities, where they have family, support, and in many cases the ability to make a living. VPSOs will report to parole/probations officers who are responsible for supervision of the parolee/probationer. With this additional duty comes additional pay. Each VPSO will receive a pay increase of approximately \$400 per month.

The legislature also established four Regional Village Public Safety Officer positions that will be located in larger “hub” communities. Each Regional VPSO will provide assistance, training, and supervision to a number of VPSOs in their region. Regional VPSOs will be employed by the State of Alaska, Department of

Public Safety, and will be fully certified police officers. Unlike VPSOs, they will be armed, and have the authority to do all the same things as a state trooper. It is the intent of the legislature that existing VPSOs be given preference in recruitment and hiring to fill the Regional VPSO positions.

Also included in this package of VPSO legislation was the inclusion of VPSOs in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Existing and future VPSOs may have the opportunity to choose between the PERS and the retirement system offered by the non-profit they are employed by. Although the bill passed and was signed by the Governor, there is a question of whether it is legal under the Internal Revenue Service regulations. The question has been asked of the IRS, and the state is awaiting an answer. If the IRS determines it is not legal, the legislature may try to modify the law so that it will be legal during the next session. If it is legal, a VPSO will have to make a choice of which retirement system they will be under within 90 days of either the law going into effect, or their date of hire.

## 2001 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS



Edward Thomas  
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William Martin  
1st Vice President

Judith George  
2nd Vice President

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4th Vice President

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5th Vice President

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Student Representative

## “SUMMARY OF ANGOON’S ECONOMIC INITIATIVES TOWN MEETING”

An Economics Initiatives Town Meeting was held in Angoon, Monday, May 7th through Wednesday the 9th, 2001. The meetings were organized by the newly-formed Admiralty Island Alliance, which is committed to working together for the economic well-being of the community of Angoon. The membership of the Alliance includes the City of Angoon, the Angoon Community Association, and Kootznoowoo Corporation. The meeting was coordinated by the Central Council’s Business and Economic Development Department.



The meeting was well attended, with over 45 representatives from government agencies, lending institutions, and regional organizations, which were joined by a similar number of local residents and leaders to discuss economic opportunities for Angoon.

Discussions focused on funding Angoon’s priority projects, as well as projects that had area-wide impact. Subjects discussed included a review of the economic planning Angoon has done to date, the results of a community survey completed for the meeting, what employment and training services are available to the Angoon community, trends in tourism, financing resources, fisheries economic opportunities, mining, the Admiralty Island Monument Management, the new SEARHC clinic and more.

Angoon chose the following priority projects:

- Health Clinic
- Hydroelectric Project
- Landfill Restoration
- Cold Storage Fish Buying Station
- Flood Protection (Front Street Rip Rap)
- Boat Launch Ramp
- Museum Renovation
- Multi-Purpose Community Service Building
- Airport
- Road to Hood Bay
- Bottled Water Facility



These priorities were selected initially through the Angoon’s economic planning, refined through the Central Council’s Denali Commission summit process, and finally included in the Southeast Alaska Community Economic Development Strategy. Details on these projects can be found on the Central Council’s website at: [www.ccthita.org](http://www.ccthita.org).

## “YOUTH PROGRAM WINDS DOWN”

The “**Model Project to Combat Underage Drinking in Native American and Alaska Native Communities**,” funded by Native American Connections, Inc and the U.S. Department of Justice is winding the eight month project. Geri Mata, Youth Coordinator for the Tribal Family & Youth Services presented the results of the program at the Native American Connections, Inc. Underage Drinking conference in Phoenix, Arizona on June 24-25, 2000. Sara Martin, youth from Wrangell attended the conference to give her input on what youth want. Sara’s travel was sponsored by Employment & Training’s Summer Youth Employment Program.

*“We will continue to pursue funding for more youth programs.”*

“We built upon the strength of Healthy Nations networking circle in the communities.” The results of the youth survey during the “Tribal Circles Youth Project,” Southeast Alaska Youth Conference, #1 response was that the youth wanted more programs such as youth conferences where they can be a part of the planning, presenting at conferences and more counseling services.

“This is the foundations for building our youth component program for Tribal Family & Youth Services Department. We will continue to pursue funding for more youth programs.” Francine Eddy Jones, Manager.

## “SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM UNDERWAY”

The Summer Youth Employment Training Program, through the Employment & Training Department hired 6-8 youth workers for the Summer 2001. Placed in various positions throughout the Central Council Offices, and the VTRC building, it is the program’s goal that by participating in SYETP the youth will develop good work habits and learn new skills that will increase their abilities to compete for future employment opportunities. The program requirements are: that you be 14-21 years old; you must be a Southeast resident; a tribally-enrolled member as an Alaskan Native or American Indian, and must meet wage requirements. Congratulations youth!

## IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT: “Kate Kokotovich”

The Finance department is pleased to announce that Kate Kokotovich has been hired as the Property/Procurement Administrator. Kate is currently working on implementing the electronic purchase order system. Kate’s other responsibilities include property control and inventory. Welcome to the team, Kate!

Other Finance team members are:

- Dave Bell - Responsible for processing accounts payable checks
- Georgia Finau - Responsible for budgets and cash receipts
- Cliff Johnson - Handles invoices, travel and reconciliation’s of accounts
- Leona Meredith - Processes payroll and handles benefits
- Irene Tupou - Systems Support for American Fundware and backup for payroll
- Vivian Kokotovich - Supervises the daily operations of Finance
- Rich Edenso - Controller- Manages the Finance department

## “SE ALASKA CEDS APPROVED”

Central Council is pleased to announce that the Southeast Alaska Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) has been approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)!

This important document will guide economic development in Southeast Alaska. The identified priority projects in our geographic area are covered by and consistent with the CEDS and are eligible for EDA financial support, and will also receive stronger consideration for financial support from other funding agencies. The CEDS priority project list will be updated on an annual basis. We encourage the Tribes to utilize the CEDS information and reference the goals and objectives in preparing and strengthening grant applications. It will also be very important for Tribes to provide suggestions and information for the next revision.

This strategy was worked on jointly by Central Council and the Southeast Conference as agreed in the Memorandum of Agreement

(MOU) signed in May 2000. The document will remain current until April 30, 2002, at which time an updated CEDS will be submitted for further approval; both organizations have committed to the development of the revised document.

EDA was very pleased with the collaborative efforts of Central Council, the Southeast Tribes, and the ANSCA corporations to further economic development in Southeast Alaska. They stated that, “the document is one of the most comprehensive and well organized CEDS we have received”! EDA has been using our CEDS as an example in their workshops at the State and national level.

It is essential that Central Council, the Tribes and the ANSCA corporations continue to work collaboratively on economic development and determining the priorities for Southeast Alaska! For more information, please call Carrie Sykes at 800-344-1432, #7180.

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## HEALTH PROMOTION: “The Chair Fitness Group”



A new class, “The Chair Fitness Group”, is held every Thursday from 11 am to 12:30 pm at the Cropley House next to the ANB Hall. The class is open to people with limited body movement and elders.

Certified Fitness Instructor, Andrea Ebona-Michel (Tlingit-Kiksadi Clan), from SEARHC Health Promotion program leads the class using Big Band music; dyna-stretch bands; soft soccer balls and 1-pound weights for gentle stretch and tone exercises. The class

ends with relaxation music and a light, nutritious lunch prepared by Gloria Millett, during which historical stories and pictures are shared giving class members an excellent time to share and socialize together. A wonderful addition to the class is Clessnan Napiha’a, a Native Hawaiian who volunteers his time to sing Hawaiian songs on his guitar with Eunice, both of whom have beautiful voices, and is enjoyed by everyone.

The Chair Fitness class is sponsored by SEARHC Health Promotion Department, and Tlingit and Haida Central Council’s Family Services Program. For more information contact Andrea at 463-5850 or Gloria Millett at 463-7168.

## “PETERSON CREEK SALMONID HABITAT STUDY”

The Native Lands & Resources Department (NL&R) has received a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to perform a study of the seasonal use of various habitats by salmonids in a productive fish stream on the Juneau Road System. Peterson Creek, located at the end of North Douglas Hwy, contains healthy populations of Coho, Pink, and Chum salmon, as well as Cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout. The stream will be surveyed to collect morphological data (gradient, large woody debris, pool size, substrate type) and GPS data will be collected in order to produce a useful and informative GIS map. Non-destructive fish sampling will be performed to determine presence and use by specific salmonid species. Baseline data for water quality and quantity will be collected at sample sites throughout the watershed.



Planning and research for this study began at the beginning of 2001, fieldwork started in early March, and a report of the findings will be completed by March 31, 2002. This study should contribute useful information towards a better understanding of the importance of certain habitats during the life history of salmonids. The City & Borough of Juneau has approved the development and construction of a world-class golf course to be built along the upland tributaries of Peterson Creek. Central Council Tlingit & Haida hopes that the findings of this study will help planners and developers in environmentally responsible development of the Peterson Creek watershed.

A partnership agreement was established with the US Geological Survey (USGS) to assist in collecting water quality and quantity data. Water flow measurements were taken in March to determine how much and how fast water is draining from the watershed in the spring, and additional measurements will be taken each season. Water chemistry is being tested every other month to determine current temperature regimes and levels of dissolved oxygen and pH, which are important for healthy fish populations.

The USGS will also test for background levels of all potential pollutants, to establish the current overall quality of water in Peterson Creek, in case the creek is negatively impacted from future development.

Work on this project will increase in the summer as the NL&R department is hiring two Native

college students studying Natural Resources to help with fieldwork. These interns will gain valuable experience that will make them more employable once they are out of college. Interns will learn skills in stream surveying, fish sampling, GPS and GIS technology, water sampling, and report writing. The Peterson Creek project is proving to be a great skill builder for Native Lands & Resources staff and a vehicle for gaining credibility in the natural resources, fisheries, and environmental arenas. If you have questions about this project please contact Cathy Needham @ 463-7187 or [cneedham@ccthita.org](mailto:cneedham@ccthita.org), or Cal Richert @ 463-7185 or [crichtert@ccthita.org](mailto:crichtert@ccthita.org).

## “TRIBAL MEMBERS GATHER IN JUNEAU FOR GRANT WORKSHOP”



Central Council is pleased to announce the successful completion of “Writing Winning Proposals” grant workshop that was held May 22-24, 2001. Bob Bradley, Assistant Director at the Center for Energy Studies for Louisiana State University did an outstanding job as the trainer of this workshop. Bob has presented “Writing Winning Proposals” at numerous state and national conferences, including the North Carolina Office of the Governor to aid in accessing disaster relief funds following Hurricane Floyd.

Thirty-one Tribal members gathered at Juneau’s Vocational Training and Resource Center for “Writing Winning Proposals”. Representatives from all Southeast Alaska communities were invited. Tribal members from Haines, Sitka, Wrangell, and Juneau participated for the purpose of advancing their knowledge and skills in creating hard-hitting proposals.



Southeast Alaska’s funding needs were used, as participants collaborated in developing each necessary component of a mock request for proposal focused on economic stimulation.

### Participants Comments:

- *“Very timely course, also excellent instructor; enjoyed his humor and style of presentation. Helped me address current questions on grant I’m working on”.*
- *“Very interesting and enthusiastic speaker—was able to hold attention of audience. Satisfied with course and would recommend it to others!”*
- *“I’ve attended a great many C.E. classes and workshops and am very pleased with the content and presentation. The atmosphere was very conducive to learning and comfortable for the Q’s and A’s. Thank you!”*

For more information, please contact: Central Council’s Business & Economic Development Department at (907) 463-7123 or [jwolf@cchita.org](mailto:jwolf@cchita.org).

## HEALTH PROMOTIONS: “ANDREA EBONA”

Andrea Ebona-Michel is very much a part of SEARHC Health Promotions. Her bouncing spirit and enthusiasm for life cannot be missed in any gathering; and continues to promote her projects wherever she is; be it at a meeting, workshop, community dinner or activity. When she is not working, she enjoys being a member of the Native dance groups.

Andrea instituted the “Raven vs. Eagle Walk Contest” in Juneau 3 years ago and was overwhelmed by the interest from the community members!

For the past 2 years, George F. Williams won the contest working hard to earn points and walk his way to a healthier and happier life. This year, the volunteer committee decided to do something a little different by forming teams with over 40 participating. Although this Eagle vs. Raven Walk is a contest, everybody is a winner! It is not to outdo each other but to develop healthy habits and by being part of a team. Be looking for announcements for the upcoming Awards Picnic scheduled for *August 11<sup>th</sup> at Sandy Beach*. Everyone welcome to attend. Bring a salad or dessert. Prize donations appreciated. Volunteers welcome.

Other meaningful projects that Andrea coordinates include Aerobics Classes, which are offered free at the Zach Gordon Youth Center and the new Chair Fitness Class. Chair Fitness has become one of Andrea’s favorites as the Elders who are participating have begun to share their personal stories and experiences bringing in yearbooks and photos. “Our Elders have much to share and I am proud to be a part of this class – it is exciting and yes, meaningful. I want to personally take this opportunity to offer my

appreciation to Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska for their support in making it possible to have the Chair Aerobics class, for their donations and the assistance of all the staff who continue to help promote SEARHC Health Promotions activities and projects. Another notable contributor whom cannot go unnoticed is our co-sponsor, the Alaska Native Brotherhood, Camp 2. Without their most generous and continued support, it would be extremely difficult to have the Eagle vs. Raven



Walk Contest. They make it possible to distribute wonderful prizes for the walk participants. I am very fortunate to have their endorsement. I also want to say Guna!cheesh to all my many wonderful volunteers and to all the businesses and other partners who have donated their time or made monetary donations towards the walk contest!” Andrea is also a part of the free Health

Screening process and will not hesitate to become part of other community projects incorporating healthier lifestyles and choices. She shares an ending statement of admiration and love for her brother Andrew Ebona. “Andy is the person I want to recognize. He is the person I look up to and the person who gives me strength and encouragement. By his example, I am learning the importance of our clan songs, our culture and tradition. Andy is a gracious leader for our people and I am happy to be able to make this statement to share with you.”

To find out more about SEARHC Health Promotions and her projects, please feel free to contact Andrea at 463-5850 or by email: [andrea.ebona-michel@searhc.org](mailto:andrea.ebona-michel@searhc.org). Great job Andrea! We applaud and salute your efforts!

**“...more photos from the Chair Fitness Class”**



Central Council's Official  
Website:  
[www.ccthita.org](http://www.ccthita.org)



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