

# EKLUTNA VILLAGE NEWS



**Fall 2023**

## President's Message

It has been another busy quarter for the Native Village of Eklutna. Land Acknowledgements, Government-to-Government meetings with the Anchorage Assembly and State Delegation, and a visit from EPA Administrator Michael Regan have all been chances to showcase Eklutna and tell our story.

As I write this, we are awaiting the October 27th release by the utilities and project owners of the Eklutna Dam on how they plan to mitigate the dam's impact on our salmon. We hope they will provide options allowing salmon, particularly sockeye, back to Eklutna Lake and the Eklutna River. It will be important for each tribal member to show up and provide feedback on the draft report in January.



- On October 27, they will release the Draft Program to the parties to the 1991 Agreement and NVE and post it on our public website: [www.eklutnahydro.com](http://www.eklutnahydro.com)
- NVE and the parties to the I 991 Agreement will have 30 days to provide comments. In December, they plan to meet with NVE and the parties to the 1991 Agreement to resolve differences.
- After the initial 1991 Agreement comment process is complete, they will hold public meetings (one in Anchorage and one in the Matanuska Susitna Valley) in January 2024 to review the Draft Program and provide an opportunity for broader public comment submission.
- After reviewing, incorporating feedback, and again working to resolve differences, the utilities will submit the updated Final Proposed Program to the Governor in April of 2024.
- The parties will then have a 60-day period to provide additional comments directly to the Governor.

# **Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Council Members**

Aaron Leggett, President  
Shirley Craig, Vice-President  
Kim Zello, Treasurer  
Dorothy Cook, Secretary  
Tresia Coleman, Trustee  
Dustin Lorah, Trustee  
Angeleen Waskey, Trustee

## **Mission Statement**

To empower Idlughet Qayaht'ana (Eklutna Village People) and stenghten our Nation.



**This publication is funded in full or in part through grants, compacts, or contracts obtained by Native Village of Eklutna, a federally recognized Tribal Government.**

If you have access to a computer, check out the new YouTube videos (Coming Home by Trout Unlimited - YouTube or (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNwfHz91yTI>) that Trout Unlimited did to showcase the Eklutna River and the collective desire to have our fish come back home. I hope you get a chance to see the new pavilion in Eklutna; it is there for families to use for picnics or outdoor gatherings. It is an honor and pleasure to serve as your President. As we go into the holiday season, I hope to get more chances to see you and hear about your families.

Aaron Leggett  
President



## JBER Cache gets repairs

It came to our attention earlier this summer that the cache on JBER needed some repairs. Thank you to the 773rd Civil Engineer Squadron for helping with the needed repairs to keep the cache standing!

*"I am happy to share the attached photos and news that the Dene cache has been repaired!  
The 773rd Civil Engineer Squadron Operations Team lead this effort. They harvested spruce trees affected by bark beetles, peeled and sealed them to reconstruct the support structure. They returned the upper cache and it is standing proud again!"  
-Joy Boston, JBER*





# TA Notes

From Brenda Hewitt



While at AFN, a longtime friend of mine hugged me and said, "What are you doing now?" I replied, "I'm the new tribal administrator for Eklutna." She exclaimed, "Eklutna! That is a very important tribe." It made me smile and acknowledge that, yes, Eklutna is an important tribe, and I'm excited to be working for you all.



I'm very happy with the team at Eklutna. Marc Lamoreaux recently took me out along with an EPA grants administrator, and we found a dozen or more pit houses. I was giddy as a little girl, finding one after another as we walked along the trail and neared the inlet. Carrie Brophil and Kyle Robillard, also in the Land and Environment office, have been so busy this summer with fish surveys, growing gardens, and building a new pavilion while juggling all the other programs we have.

Faith Rukovishnikoff is organizing the Thanksgiving and Christmas events, and we hope to see you all there. Tonya is busy preparing all the fiscal year-end grant documents and financial statements, preparing them for our annual audit.

Sharron Munson, our stalwart office manager, aids Dorothy Cook with enrollment and manages our accounts receivable and payable. Whitney Waskey has taken on the receptionist job and at the food bank with enthusiasm as she serves her tribe. Walter Ondola builds and fixes things with such competence that we consider giving him a wizard hat. Lewis Stephan has been providing safe, reliable travel for tribal members to get to their medical appointments and cleaning up after us.

Dawn Harris and Pepsi Jacobson keep our families together by meeting various needs. I am so proud of our staff, and I hope you know how lucky we are to have such reliable, competent staff. We are here to serve you, and we take that job seriously.

The Arctic Winter Games is coming to the Mat-Su in March, and they want to include us and our sister tribes of Knik and Chickaloon in the cultural events. Look for more information soon on how you can be involved and visit with indigenous tribal members from around the circumpolar north.

At this moment, we are advertising for a youth director for an after-school program recently funded by the Anchorage Assembly. I am excited about introducing a culturally relevant program to our youth in the village and hope we can lure some students in the MatSu and Anchorage area to join in during school breaks.

It always hurts to lose tribal members. Recently, two members were buried: Eric Thomas and Lois Munson. Please keep them and their family in your hearts as we honor their memory.



# **Native Village of Eklutna**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Need Help with Applications and Resources?**

**Family Health Resources** are available through Southcentral Clinics (SCF). The team can screen and assist community members and beneficiaries to apply for additional insurance coverage and resources over the phone that may be available to them including:

**Medicaid/ Medicare, Social Security, Veterans Health Benefits, TSHIP, food stamps and other assistance programs.**

For assistance please call, Inga Moe 907-631-7352 at Valley Native Primary Care Center or Call the direct number at Alaska Native Medical Center 907-729-4470 and ask to speak to a Health Benefits Specialist.

### **Enrollment Drive Ongoing**

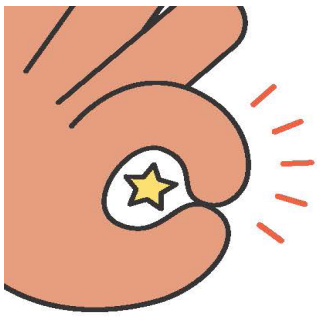
NVE Enrollment office is conducting an Enrollment Drive. If you know of someone who has not got their enrollment paperwork submitted, please have them contact 907-688-6020 or email [enrollment@eklutna.org](mailto:enrollment@eklutna.org). Enrollment applications can be found on the NVE website under the Forms tab.

### **NVE Food Bank**

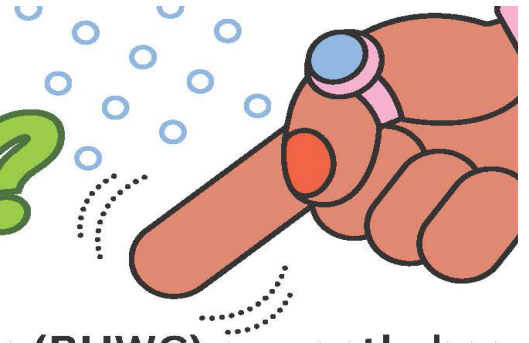
The NVE Food is open on Wednesdays. We are asking recipients to call the main office Tuesday or Wednesday morning before noon to order a food box. Food boxes are pre-made when ordered and will be available for contact-less pickup on the stairs of the food bank. Hours for pick-up is 1pm-4pm. The food bank is located beside the main office.

For more information or to order a food box, call  
907-688-6020





# NEED HELP?



The ANTHC Behavioral Health Wellness Clinic (BHWC) currently has no waitlist and is available to complete same-week mental health and substance use assessments for adult tribal beneficiaries.

If you or another tribal member want an assessment and can attend telehealth appointments, you may contact the BHWC to get scheduled at 907-729-2492, or go online to [www.anthc.org/bhwc](http://www.anthc.org/bhwc).



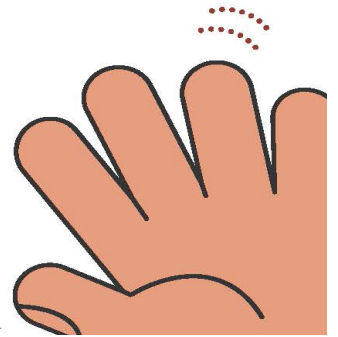
## ANTHC Behavioral Health Wellness Clinic



ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM



Native Village of Eklutna



## NVE Assistance Programs

Below is a list of assistance programs Native Village of Eklutna offers. Assistance programs are offered to enrolled tribal members only. We have staff that will assist in filling out forms. If you would like more information on the programs listed below, or need assistance in filling out forms, please contact the main office at 907-688-6020 during business hours. Most forms can also be found on our website under the forms tab. [www.eklutna-nsn.gov](http://www.eklutna-nsn.gov)

- **Funeral** - Assistance with funding for funerals \$1500 limit
- **Housing Assistance Fund** - Assistance with mortgages, utilities, etc. Excludes phones. \$5000 limit
- **Housing Emergency** - Assistance with utilities, rent, etc. Excludes Phones
- **Food Bank** - Weekly service for those who need it. For emergency boxes call the main office.
- **Home Rehabilitation Assistance** - for exisiting homeowners for emergency repairs, \$5000 limit.
- **Social Services Department** - They connect, strengthen, and maintain healthy family relationships. For any assistance involving family, youth, or elders.

# Tribal Member Assistance Update

The bulk of NVE's pandemic related tribal member assistance funds have been depleted, however NVE still has some funds left in the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF). As of the end of October there was approximately \$5,500 left in this fund. Tribal members who own their own homes and are experiencing mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, or loss of utilities or other home energy services can apply for these funds if they are low-income per the HUD guidelines. These HAF funds could be used for mortgage payment assistance, utility payment assistance (electric, gas, heating oil, and water), homeowner or condo association fees/liens, and home repairs to prevent homeowner displacement. Max of up to 2 months payment and/or not to exceed \$4k if unemployed and have less than \$2k in liquid assets.

In addition to these pandemic related funds, NVE continues to have HUD funds available to low income enrolled tribal members, Alaska Natives, or American Indians within NVE's tribal jurisdiction who are experiencing a housing emergency. This assistance can be used for rent or utility payments or other situations where a family may become homeless. Families are eligible only once every 3 years for these funds and the maximum amount is currently \$1,000.

NVE's HUD program offers two more forms of assistance: (1) Down payment/closing cost assistance to encourage home ownership for tribal members who are first time home buyers. Eligible tribal members could receive up to \$5,000 in closing cost or down payment assistance with this program; and (2) Rehabilitation assistance to existing homeowners for energy related repairs and upgrades on low-income family homes. Up to \$5,000 is available to assist in improving the energy efficiency of the homes of eligible families.

If you would like to apply for these funds please call the office (907-688-6020) and Whitney can assist you in finding the correct form. The forms are also available on the NVE website under the Forms tab and then the Member Services Forms section.

If you need help of any kind, please reach out to NVE Staff. Collectively we are a wealth of information and may have directions to get assistance.



## Resources for Tribal Enrollment:

Our goal is to support you and your loved ones in securing citizenship (tribal membership) with the Native Village of Eklutna. If you need help navigating this process, please call 907-688-6020 during normal business hours or email [enrollment@eklutna.org](mailto:enrollment@eklutna.org).

Below are links to our applications and supporting documents that are required with a Tribal enrolment application.

### **Native Village of Eklutna Enrollment application:**

- 1) [Microsoft Word - 2016 NVE Type-able Enrollment Application.docx \(eklutna-nsn.gov\)](#)
- 2) Enrollment update form: (for current members) [2023-NVE-Address-Update-Form.pdf \(eklutna-nsn.gov\)](#)

**Completed** enrollment applications are considered at the Tribal Council quarterly meetings. Please reference our website for the upcoming council meeting schedule.

Links for other agencies to secure supporting documentation for your tribal enrollment application:

#### **1) Birth Certificate**

- a. In Alaska: [https://health.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats/Documents/birth/birth\\_form.pdf](https://health.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats/Documents/birth/birth_form.pdf)
- b. If you are not in Alaska, please contact your state vital statistics office.

#### **2) Social Security Card (nationwide):**

- a. main page for social security card [Social Security number & card | SSA](#)
- b. Paper application: [Application for Social Security Card \(ssa.gov\)](#)
- Or
- c. Apply online at : [Replacement Card \(ssa.gov\)](#)

#### **3) Certificate of Indian Blood:**

- a. **Alaska Office:** Bureau of Indian affairs : local is 3601 C Street, Suite 1200 Anchorage, AK (located in the frontier building on 36<sup>th</sup> and C street)
- b. **Nationwide:** Here is a link to the BIA regional offices for those not in Alaska that need to locate the local office (if available): [Regional Offices | Indian Affairs \(bia.gov\)](#)

The form is used nationwide:

- c. [CERTIFICATE OF OF INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE BLOOD Expiration on Nov 30 2024 OMB Control No. 1076-0153 \(bia.gov\)](#)



# Has your contact information changed recently?

Please take a few minutes to make sure your current contact information is available to the Enrollment office. This is where all mailing lists come from for sending out newsletters, important information, and information for the annual meeting and elections.

The Address Change form can be found under the forms tab on the NVE website ([www.eklutna-nsn.gov/forms/](http://www.eklutna-nsn.gov/forms/)) or contact the main office and a form can be emailed or mailed to you.



Family Wellness Warriors

## Learning Circles Schedule

**Most learning circles are still virtual on Zoom, unless marked as in-person.** On Zoom, if you are prompted for a password, it is **FWWILC!20** for all learning circles. If you are calling in by phone, you will need to enter the phone password below the Zoom Meeting ID. If marked as **in-person** and you would like to attend, proceed to the Nuka Learning and Wellness Center front desk to find your meeting room, 4085 Tudor Centre Dr, Anchorage, AK 99508.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Na Tia Sukan: Recovery Support</b> Na Tia Sukan, Athabascan for: "Our Strength Tomorrow" is a recovery focused learning circle that provides support, encourages self-development, and promotes healthy lifestyle skills. 1-2 p.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 929 1269 8799 Phone Password: 416577977 <a href="https://bit.ly/3wXcBli">https://bit.ly/3wXcBli</a></p> <p><b>Anger: A New Outlook (Open)</b> This learning circle explores the anger cycle and the proper steps to take when we get angry. Court approved. 2:30-3:45 p.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 973 3118 2229 Phone Password: 470571656 <a href="https://bit.ly/3piz5288">https://bit.ly/3piz5288</a></p>	<p><b>Community and Connection</b> Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while building community and staying connected. 8:30-9:30 a.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 928 7414 7782 Phone Password: 564128173 <a href="https://bit.ly/3f5q1Qc">https://bit.ly/3f5q1Qc</a></p> <p><b>Generational Healing</b> This learning circle explores our healing journey with an understanding of the generational influences that contributed to the harm we have known. 1-2 p.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 999 5333 0639 Phone Password: 754239687 <a href="https://bit.ly/3ijCzRE">https://bit.ly/3ijCzRE</a></p> <p><b>Anger: A New Outlook (Closed)</b> This learning circle explores the anger cycle and the proper steps to take when we get angry. Court approved. <i>Registration required, call (907) 729-5440.</i> 2:30-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Na Tia Sukan: Recovery Support</b> Na Tia Sukan, Athabascan for: "Our Strength Tomorrow" is a recovery focused learning circle that provides support, encourages self-development, and promotes healthy lifestyle skills. 1-2 p.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 929 1269 8799 Phone Password: 416577977 <a href="https://bit.ly/3wXcBli">https://bit.ly/3wXcBli</a></p> <p><b>Soldier's Heart (in-person)</b> This learning circle assists combat veterans and first responders understand and address the effects of post-traumatic stress. To attend in person, call (907) 729-5440 6-7:30 p.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 930 5006 5557 Phone Password: 616732753 <a href="https://bit.ly/2UKYnwF">https://bit.ly/2UKYnwF</a></p>	<p><b>Community and Connection</b> Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while building community and staying connected. 8:30-9:30 a.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 928 7414 7782 Phone Password: 564128173 <a href="https://bit.ly/3f5q1Qc">https://bit.ly/3f5q1Qc</a></p> <p><b>Life Skills</b> Develop new life skills, continue your recovery, and build relationship with others. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 868 3171 7891 Phone Password: 57550158 <a href="https://bit.ly/3pjCiBL">https://bit.ly/3pjCiBL</a></p> <p><b>Grief and Loss (in-person)</b> Connect and express your thoughts and feelings with those who have an understanding of loss in this peer supported learning circle. 1-2 p.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 975 6171 4680 <a href="https://bit.ly/3PlsQQj">https://bit.ly/3PlsQQj</a></p> <p><b>Family is Sacred</b> This learning circle provides tools for families raising children to promote positive changes in the home and community. 2:30-4:30 p.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 956 0660 4833 Phone Password: 832431756 <a href="https://bit.ly/3pYFaCK">https://bit.ly/3pYFaCK</a></p>	<p><b>Na Tia Sukan: Recovery Support</b> Na Tia Sukan, Athabascan for: "Our Strength Tomorrow" is a recovery focused learning circle that provides support, encourages self-development, and promotes healthy lifestyle skills. 1-2 p.m. By Phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Zoom Meeting ID: 929 1269 8799 Phone Password: 416577977 <a href="https://bit.ly/3wXcBli">https://bit.ly/3wXcBli</a></p>

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Tribal member Adam Leggett recently graduated from the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute, the preeminent legislative energy policy institute for legislators, policymakers and emerging leaders in North America. Those selected for the program commit to two intensive three and a half day sessions which took place in Richland, WA and Washington D.C. Class sessions are taught by industry experts and increase their knowledge of complex energy issues associated with the entire energy ecosystem including electricity, natural gas, renewables, oil, transmission, etc.; policy and regulation governing this infrastructure; and the interdependencies of the energy system.



*Picture: Alaskans- Adam Leggett, Rep. Maxine Dibert, Sen. James Kaufman*

Through Adam's role on a workgroup for the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy, he became the first Tribal representative to be selected and graduate from this program. He was awarded an energy policy planning certificate by the University of Idaho and looks forward to helping the Native Village of Eklutna and other Tribes access funds and participate in the energy transition.



**Congratulations to Isabella Jimenez.**  
Class of 2023  
Betty Davis East High School

Good Luck in your future endeavours!

One of our tribal members, Joseph Potter, would like to share his news and journey with everyone. He is seeking support from fellow tribal members for his spiritual journey. Copies of his newsletters can be found at the main NVE Office. Copies can be mailed upon request.

### Joseph Potter And The AIM Journey

AUGUST 2023



Sister, So far I really enjoy them and I hope to move in a full moment when we finally become great friends and I hope to see you in what I do and where I do it. We sing before class and every lesson so I am glad that I am here. We are doing it, please, love, and perspective, and every opportunity I have seen before.

Thank you for taking the time to read my first newsletter, it means a lot to me. This month has been very busy but I have also been a blessing and I have learned so much. I arrived in Lakshook, July 18th and stayed with a friend. Even after a week, I got to meet all of my classmates and move into the apartments, and it was nice to see a lot of the same people from other adventures back in Alaska. After we finished with registration and moved into the apartment, we had a welcome dinner to get to know one another and meet some of the teachers and staff. We had a few calls days before class started on August 18th. Time has gone so fast since I have started here, on one chance on the 20th and doing something whether it be at school or out in the community during summer high, it's easy to think that I have been in Alaska for a week already and we both very close with the first team. God is so good, and I am seeing that more and more with each day here.

I'm in the 4th week, and I have loved it so far. I have loved it so far because we are the only one in our apartment. We are going to be here for the night. We have been for the "Welcome Dinner" - A lot of singing and I got to meet and welcome people. We sang in which I learned it is very encouraging and fun.



"Dress up as an elf" because of a class here so far, and have learned to connect and lead from all the work we are going to have. All the (Hoping you grow as a disciple of Christ, (Please do be here, soon, and be with who we want to follow and know God, great here, but I have had a few days of the best, and am very thankful to my side helping me through it. God is so good, and I am seeing that more and more with each day here.

I am thankful for the ability to spend every day staying with God's love and spend time with him, and have each day focused on him and be surrounded by his people.

Thank you again for reading my newsletter, I really appreciate all that you do for me. Please pray for me and my time here, to be a worker for God and to make the most of every opportunity. I hope you have an amazing day, and an amazing September.

#### To my dear family and friends

My name is Joseph Potter, I am a member of the Valley Church of Christ in Wauka, Alaska. I am looking for more support to enter the Adventure in Missionary program at Lakshook, Texas which is part of the Advent International Bible Institute. After a 2-year program that begins with 6 months of intense study and Bible training, followed by a 14 to 22 month internship as an apprentice missionary. As an AIM student, I will be sent with a team to a church across the world to work with and teach in a new location. While in Lakshook, the last 6 months will focus on preparing me for the position that I go to.



We wish you luck along your journey, Joseph.

Please address all checks to the Valley Church of Christ. We are looking for 2023-2024 AIM students. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Potter. Thank you for your financial help.

My contact information: Email: jpotter@valleychurch.org Phone number: (907) 263-2010 My references: Robert Knapp (907) 334-3031 Mike Lukan (907) 551-1128 Jesse Gaudin (907) 922-0033



# Picnic Pavilion Up

If you drive out to the village, you will see a new pavilion up between the Land and Environment Office and the Community Garden. This pavilion was built as part of an educational grant, and will be used for educational programs, elder lunches (in warmer weather), and other events. It is also available for anyone to use for picnics or family gatherings. Although the pavilion is up, a little finishing work is scheduled to be completed this spring, along with grounds work.



A huge thank you to the maintenance department, ETCD Staff, and our awesome volunteers who all made it possible to get this up before snowfall.





NVE Job Postings can always be found online at [www.eklutna-nsn.gov/jobs/](http://www.eklutna-nsn.gov/jobs/)

There are no open job positions at this time.



**EVENTS**

Thanksgiving Basket Distribution – November 15th -21st

NVE Food Bank

1-4pm daily

Christmas Potluck Community Dinner – December 16th

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chugiak

Noon – 4pm

Arctic Winter Games – March 10th -16th

[Awg2024.org](http://Awg2024.org)

Annual Meeting and Elections – April 16th

Nuka Center Anchorage

### Upcoming Office Closures:

Thanksgiving Holiday – November 23rd and 24th

Staff Appreciation Dinner – December 19th afternoon only

Christmas Holiday – December 25th

New Years Holiday – January 1st

Future events will be posted on the NVE website and Facebook as they are created. If you would like to join an email mailing list for NVE Events, please email [cbrophil@eklutna.org](mailto:cbrophil@eklutna.org) or call 907-688-8522

An event calendar is now online! Check out the calendar at [www.eklutna-nsn.gov](http://www.eklutna-nsn.gov).



# HEALTHY EATING

## Moose Heart

- 1 moose heart
- garlic salt
- pepper to taste
- flour to dredge the heart
- fat for frying
- water



Dice up the heart and flour the pieces. Fry in hot fat until brown. Use a frying pan with a good fitting lid. Cover heart with water, season with the garlic salt and pepper to taste. Simmer until the heart is real tender. Serve with rice or noodles.

This would pair well with oven roasted broccoli, pickled fireweed shoots, or roasted beets.



**We would love to post some local or traditional foods!**

If you have a recipe that you would like to share with everyone please submit it to NVE via email at [nve@eklunta.org](mailto:nve@eklunta.org) or snail mail at 26339 Eklutna Village Rd., Chugiak, AK 99567.



# November

## Special Services Calendar

### Behavioral Health

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 1-5 p.m.

Evelyn “Evie” Mujica-Larson

- Mental and emotional health
- Healthy mind, body, and spirit

### Dental

Nov. 3, 15

## Eklutna Community Clinic

Eklutna Community Clinic provides medical services to all community members. Services are billed on a sliding-fee scale, depending on household size, income, and ability to pay. Eklutna Community Clinic accepts all insurance types including private, Medicaid, Medicare, and Veteran’s Benefits . Alaska Native and American Indian customer-owners receive services with no out-of-pocket expense.

Please call the clinic at (907) 688-6031 to schedule an appointment for all services.

Follow us on Facebook and check our events page for more details.



Eklutna Community Clinic  
(907) 688-6031  
southcentralfoundation.com





# NVE Directory

NVE has updated the phones and staff members now have direct lines. The department direct lines and emails are listed below. For general information contact the main office at 907-688-6020 or [nve@eklutna.org](mailto:nve@eklutna.org).

## **Administration**

Brenda Hewitt,  
Tribal Administrator  
[bhewitt@eklutna.org](mailto:bhewitt@eklutna.org)  
907-688-6020

Faith Rukovishnikoff  
[faithr@eklutna.org](mailto:faithr@eklutna.org)  
907-688-1801

Sharron Munson  
[smunson@eklutna.org](mailto:smunson@eklutna.org)  
907-688-6020

Whitney Waskey  
[wwaskey@eklutna.org](mailto:wwaskey@eklutna.org)  
907-688-6020

Lauren Astor  
907-688-6020

## **Social Serives**

Dawn Harris  
[dharris@eklutna.org](mailto:dharris@eklutna.org)  
907-688-1803

Molly (Pepsi) Jacobson  
[mjacobson@eklutna.org](mailto:mjacobson@eklutna.org)  
907-688-1809

## **Enrollment**

Dorothy Cook  
907-688-6020

## **Maintenance/Roads Dept.**

Walter Ondola  
[wondola@eklutna.org](mailto:wondola@eklutna.org)  
907-688-1805

Lewis Stephan  
908-688-6020

## **Food Bank**

Whitney Waskey  
[wwaskey@eklutna.org](mailto:wwaskey@eklutna.org)  
907-688-6020

## **Land and Environment**

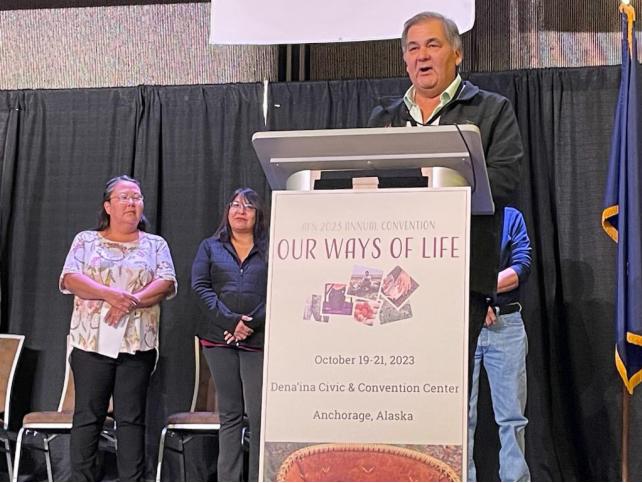
Marc Lamoreaux  
[marcl@eklutna.org](mailto:marcl@eklutna.org)  
907-242-6967

Carrie Ann Brophil  
[cbrophil@eklutna.org](mailto:cbrophil@eklutna.org)  
907-691-4843

Kyle Robillard  
[krobillard@eklutna.org](mailto:krobillard@eklutna.org)  
907-390-9003

Office 907-688-8522

**Offices are open from 9am - 5pm  
Monday - Friday**



# AFN 2023

Many tribal council, staff, and tribal members attended events, floating in and out during the days. Delegate and Vice President Shirley Craig was there daily, along with Alternate Angeleen Waskey. It was great to see the human interactions throughout the conference. People embraced each other their culture and were living out the theme "Protecting Our Ways of Life."

While it was good to hear the reports from congressional leaders, applaud those who had significant accomplishments, and honor veterans and those who have left us, a very useful aspect of the conference is being able to visit with the agencies and congressional staff who had tables on the first floor.

Ana Hoffman and Joe Nelson were the co-chairs for the annual conference. It started at 8:30 on Thursday, Oct 19, with the usual pomp and circumstance. Eklutna Inc. (Mike Curry) and NVE leaders (Angeleen) were on stage to welcome attendees to our land. Sophie Minich provided the keynote address along with Ryan Redington on the first day—Julie Kitka's president's report followed by a panel discussion on the transformation in Education. There was a powerful video covering tribal education in Alaska throughout history, and with Deb Haaland's visit, there was much discussion on the effect of boarding schools on the native tribes.

The other key theme throughout the conference was subsistence and fish. When the resolutions came forward, all passed except for the ones that were introduced last that hadn't gone through the process.

The 2024 AFN Conference will also be in Anchorage.

A recorded version of the 2023 conference can be found here:

<https://www.nativefederation.org/watch-convention/>







# Land and Environment News

It takes a village.... This saying has rung true for the Land and Environment Department this over these past few months. We have been very busy with the usual field work associated with our grants – from spawning surveys to building pavilions. Progress is being made in leaps and bounds, despite some of our minor setback. This summer all of our staff got some well needed time off, we applied for some huge grants, and we all got to get our hands dirty in the field. Some pretty impressive dignitaries made it out to Eklutna to learn about our river issue and had one of our best culture camps yet!

Our fight for the river has also been amped up this summer. We have been meeting with our partners and fighting for the return of water – none of us are backing down. It's a lot of work for a small department, but everyone has been helping. This year we have had help on all fronts from other employees, our new TA, and the council. We would like to especially thank all the tribal members, elders, and members of the local community who have gone out of their way to make this summer successful.



**Look what we found!** A sockeye was observed this summer in the Eklutna River. We were able to collect some genetic samples to see if it is one of the Kokanee that got washed down during the water release in 2021 returning to spawn or if its just a stray from Knik Arm.

Scan the QR code to go to  
the NVE L&E Webpage.



# 2023 Spawning Survey

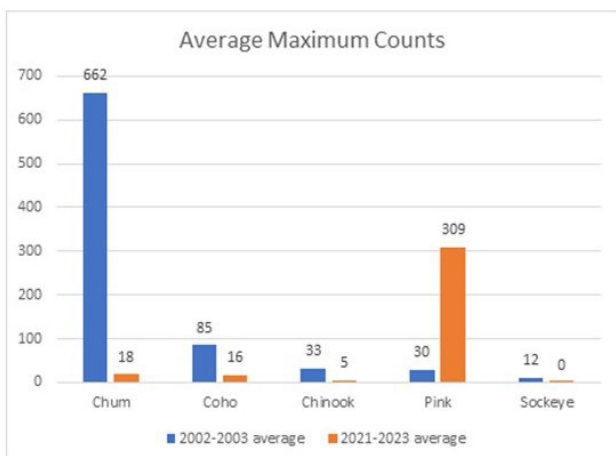
2023 was the 3rd consecutive year of weekly spawning surveys performed by the NVE Land and Environment staff. These surveys were conducted throughout the spawning season and are being used to monitor the status of the salmon populations that remain in the Eklutna system. The last time systematic counts were performed in the river was in 2002-2003. These were also performed by NVE.

When compared to the number of fish counted in 2002-3, there has been a striking decline in king, silver, red, and dog salmon. Meanwhile, pink salmon have shown a large increase. The dwindling numbers of kings, silvers, and reds are concerning, and show the need for increased water flows in the river and fish passage to the lake and its tributaries. NVE is continuing to negotiate with the power companies and federal, state, and local agencies for fish passage to the majority of their spawning habitat and to ensure enough water is returned to the river to allow for population recovery. However, the power companies recently released a draft plan for only minimal flow releases below the lake dam, leaving a dry riverbed for a mile below the dam, and no fish passage.

Kings, silvers, pinks, and chum still have spawning populations in the Eklutna River. However, only one adult red was observed from 2021-2023. Reds should be the most prolific fishery in the Eklutna system, but they need a lake to spawn and rear in. There is plenty of potential red salmon spawning habitat around Eklutna lake and a population of landlocked, malnourished, dwarf red salmon or kokanee hangs on there. Juveniles of all 5 species were observed during juvenile surveys.

Additional habitat survey work was conducted on the East Fork Eklutna River, upstream of the Lake. This survey continued work started in 2021. Approximately 5 additional miles were surveyed, and the observed habitat will be rigorously characterized for its suitability as salmon habitat, but it is apparent that good habitat abounds there, were the salmon only allowed access to it.

Average Maximum Count			
Species	2002-2003 average	2021-2023 average	Percent Change
Chum	662	18	-97.3%
Coho	85	16	-80.8%
Chinook	33	5	-85.6%
Pink	30	309	928.9%
Sockeye	12	0	-97.1%



Land and Environment staff are also working with ADFG to conduct a genetic analysis of the king and silver salmon that remain in the system. Fish are captured, a small piece of a pelvic fin is clipped, and the salmon is released. The genetic samples are dried out and stored for future analysis. This will allow a genetic characterization of the remaining population and allow for comparison with other Cook Inlet populations. A closely related population, if found, could be used as a source to supplement the Eklutna population should stocking be needed or desired in the future. However, Eklutna kings are an example of the genetic treasure that is being lost. These are the largest kings in any Upper Inlet system.

# EPA Administrator Michael Regan Visits Eklutna

During EPA Administrator Michael Regan's visit to Alaska in August, Native Village of Eklutna was selected as one of three indigenous communities to visit on his nation-wide "Journey to Justice" tour, which aimed to call attention to environmental justice concerns. The other stops were Igiugig and Utqiagvik. His visit to

Alaska was used to highlight environmental issues that native communities face- climate change, pollution, clean water, etc. The new EPA initiative to address ANCSA conveyed contaminated lands was a Journey focus. During his time at Eklutna, he and his personnel met with NVE staff, Council members and President Aaron Leggett, as well as staff from Eklutna, Inc.



They were given a tour of the Eklutna River and shown the lower river which still flows and allows for salmon spawning, the upper river, which is now dry due to the dam at the outlet of Eklutna Lake, and Eklutna Lake itself. This made an impression, and they walked down to the dry riverbed to confer. NVE staff and representatives explained the history of the river, its significance to the Eklutna People, and the impacts of the hydroelectric project on the salmon and on the Eklutna community.

The Eklutna Army Site, a contaminated site near the Village, was also discussed during his visit. The Army Site was conveyed to Eklutna Inc. through ANCSA, after the military contaminated the land. Contaminants found on the site include trichloroethylene (TCE), and lead. Through the Native American Lands Environmental

Mitigation Program (NALEMP), NVE has been able to address some of the impact of the Department of Defense activities that occurred on the site. Over 140,000 pounds of debris and 200 tons of contaminated soil have been removed, and 117 drums were excavated, tested, and disposed of. The US Army Corps of Engineers continues characterization and risk assessment work at the site. They found the groundwater is contaminated with TCE and are working on a plan to remediate it.

NVE and E.I. staff took the opportunity to discuss Brownfields opportunities with the Administrator. Brownfields are real estate sites which are underutilized due to real or perceived environmental contamination. Clean-up and redevelopment of these sites not only helps the environment, but also the local economy. The NVE Contaminated Sites Program focuses on identifying these potential sites and pursuing/advocating for their cleanup and reuse. (See <[www.eklutna-nsn.gov](http://www.eklutna-nsn.gov)>)

NVE is honored that Administrator Regan visited Eklutna and took the time to hear about the environmental concerns of our community and we appreciate his commitment to protecting the environment and addressing environmental justice issues in Alaska and across the nation.





## NALEMP Army Site Cleanup, 2023

In two weeks, under the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) we removed and disposed of about 40,000 pounds of building debris (mostly wire mesh backed mineral wool insulation) and "marston mats" that had been dumped in the woods around the old Pow Wow grounds from the Eklutna Army Site, probably around 1970.

A tribal NALEMP "Crew", NVE Land and Environment staff and Chilkat Environmental conducted the project. The removal process included: The NVE tractor loader bucket scooped up the building debris. Full buckets were held chest high while the crew pulled the debris into large "heavy sacks". The tractor bucket then lifted these onto the side-by-side ATV bed or its trailer. After clearing the old dirt road, we drove these loads about 1/3 mile and piled them at the Old Pow Wow Grounds. The Crew also



loaded heavy duty garbage bags which could be transported by the single seat ATV. The tractor loaded these piles into a dump trailer, rented from Knik Tribe, which transported debris to the Highland Landfill

The project also involved relocating the debris piles and buried marston mats. The piles could be seen, but had become camouflaged with moss and even birch trees growing up through them. Marston Mats are perforated steel planking originally developed for the rapid construction of temporary runways and landing strips, and for driving over soggy ground.



NALEMP CREW 2023



I call them marsh mats. The Marston mats were mostly buried, and hidden by a fallen birch tree, but we finally found them with metal detectors. One mat was incorporated into a birch root ball, so we removed them together after much digging, chopping and winching. We saved the mats as they might be useful. We found, removed and disposed of everything as per the project commitments.

The weather was fine and the forest was beautiful with fall colors. We appreciated the cool working temperatures and absence of mosquitoes which have plagued us on previous NALEMP projects. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we maintained our perfect NALEMP safety record, with the exception of one eye poked by a bush, which quickly recovered with an eye wash assist.



Photos:

*Top left: cleaning up the piles.*

*Middle top: loaded atv. Top*

*right: safety Irene Sanford. Far*

*Left: loading trailer. Left: Smitty*

*Chilligan holding a marston mat.*

*Bottom left: loading the trailer for*

*the dump. Bottom right: staging*  
*pile to go to dump*





*One of the 6-plex units in Anchorage*

## The Tribe purchased 3 six-plexes last year.

As previously reported, in December of 2022 the Tribe purchased 3 six-plexes in the UMED-district using two separate federal grants - ICDBG-ARP and Treasury-ARP. The purchase was a great addition to tribal assets and will provide needed revenue and home security for some vulnerable Tribal Members transitioning into the workforce. Working with Dawn Harris in our Social Service Department, we have been able to assist Tribal Members that need housing. There are currently 5 units that house Tribal members and their family members; in total, 5 full tribal members and some 11 children of varying ages that will someday become full members themselves.

In 2023, the Tribe needed to refinance 2 of the 3 properties to return the bulk of the federal monies back to the Treasury-ARP account. By council approval, the returned money will be allocated to other purchases, ventures or projects like the Gathering Place or potentially new housing subdivisions in or near to the Village. Wanting to make sure we were going to receive the best mortgage we could get, Dustin Lorah, Trustee, Brenda Hewitt, Tribal Administrator and Tonya Gamble, Finance Director worked with two banks and their respective lending departments on this. Tonya Gamble should be noted here as she was able to get these properties listed under a non-profit designation and this reduced the prospective interest rate and now the Tribe does not have to pay property taxes on them. In the end, Northrim Bank had the most favorable terms and after Resolution 2023-12 was approved by the Council, we were able to close on the new mortgages in September.



*The inside of a unit.*

The purchase of the new rental properties and hopefully more in the future will provide our small Tribe revenue and a place for our Tribal Members to live with their families. If you are looking to rent in the UMED-district and can meet an employment and income requirement there are 2-bedroom units available now and others will be in the future. Please contact the office and ask for the NVE Housing Rental Application.

Dustin Lorah, Trustee  
Chair, Housing Commission



# ETCD Garden NEWS



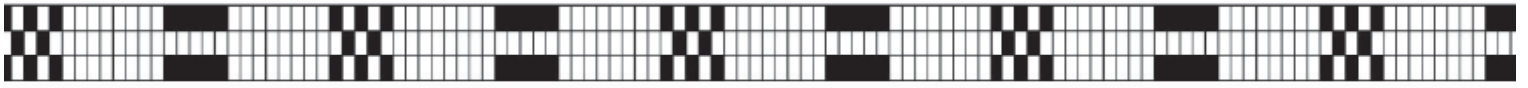
The Eklutna Community Garden had a great year! We were able to produce over 500 pounds of fresh veggies and greens to the NVE food bank, hosted a few educational events with our partners, and make our garden the talk of the town for an educational garden site!

Even though the garden was put to bed, we are planning to hold a few winter classes to prepare for next season. The classes will focus on gardening 101, container gardening, and how to use what you grow. If you have any other requests, please let us know.

The garden has been working on native plant propagation with the Anchorage and Mat-Su Soil and water districts. These plants will be used to help revegetate areas that have to be disturbed during construction – so we get away from using non-native plants.

We will be sending out a survey again this winter to ask what everyone would like to see grown in the garden. We would like to add in more native foods/plants. Please fill this survey out. It will be available in paper form at the NVE annual meeting and online.





Łiq'a nagh qinqtudet

*We are hopeful the salmon will return to us*



[WWW.EKLUTNARIVER.ORG](http://WWW.EKLUTNARIVER.ORG)



## Dena'ina words for the season

**Eklutna Lake – Idlu Bena**

**Water – bitni**

**Lake water – Ven ta'a**

**Headwaters (of a river) – k' tl' uh**

**Beaver pond area – chu qatggy**

**Ice – ten**

**Frost - shagh**





**Native Village of Eklutna**

Native Village of Eklutna  
26339 Eklutna Village Rd.  
Chugiak AK 99567

Address Service Requested

## NVE Newsletter

**Eklutna Native Village Tribal Office**  
26339 Eklutna Village Road  
Chugiak, AK 99567

**Main Office:**  
Phone: (907) 688-6020  
Fax: (907) 688-6021  
Email: [nve@eklutna.org](mailto:nve@eklutna.org)

**Land and Environment Office**  
Phone: (907) 688-8522

**Eklutna Village Clinic**  
26341 Eklutna Village Road  
Chugiak, AK 99567  
Phone: (907) 688-6031  
Fax: (907) 688-6032

