

EKLUTNA VILLAGE NEWS



Winter 2024

Presidents' Message

Yagheli Da,

This past quarter has been a whirlwind of activity for the Native Village of Eklutna; as I am sure most have seen in the paper and on the news, the Native Village of Eklutna is fighting incredibly hard to restore the Eklutna River. This has been an ongoing process over the past several years and, frankly, has been quite challenging as we realize that the utilities have not heard our concerns, and their "mitigation" falls woefully short of what we believe needs to be done on the river. We are fortunate to have great partners who are just as committed to this project as we are, including the Conservation Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and perhaps most importantly, the Anchorage Assembly. The Native Village of Eklutna held its Biannual meeting with the Assembly, and the river restoration was a large component of that meeting.

Another major and exciting project we have been working towards is finally getting the design to figure out what it will cost to build our new tribal gathering center. We met with Stantec before the holidays to finalize our proposed design, and we look forward to sitting down with Eklutna, Inc. to negotiate a location for the building.

The tribe is also working closely with ROSSIA to restore the Saint Nicholas Church, and we also requested the records of the Eklutna Vocational School so that we have a deeper understanding of its history and impact on our village.

I continue to represent the tribe at various Dena'ina welcomes, and when I am not available, I try to delegate to other council members to represent us.

Another exciting project I am involved with is a National Endowment for the Humanities Endangered Language Grant to gather all the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina stories that have been recorded over the past 45 years and finally get them published so that our younger people can learn from the wisdom of elders who are no longer with us. Hopefully, this will strengthen our Dena'ina qenaga (language).

I also want to take a minute to thank our staff for all their hard work, and I also want to thank all the volunteers who helped with our Christmas Lunch. I was so happy to gather with so many of you before the holidays, share a meal, and reconnect after the past couple of years of craziness.

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 strengthen 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.



TA Notes

From Brenda Hewitt



Wow, so much has happened and continues to happen at Eklutna! I had to look at the last newsletter to see where I left off.

The draft proposal for how the Eklutna Hydroelectric Dam intends to meet the 1991 agreement to mitigate the impacts of the dam on fish and wildlife was released. Sadly, they proposed installing a \$57 million portal that would put water down 11 of the 12 miles of the Eklutna River. It would not solve the problem. Sockeye cannot reach their rearing grounds or the miles of upper tributaries to spawn. I ask, "How can that be a solution?" I'm sure this newsletter will not reach you before the public meetings, as they start today. The McMillen group will be giving six public presentations. They will continue to take public comments through their website, eklutnahydro.com, until Feb. 19, 2024. Please take a few minutes of your time and promote the Community Alternative to remove the dam completely at no cost to the ratepayers. They don't have to do it for ten years, giving them plenty of time to replace it with other renewable energy.

On a more positive note, we had the biggest turnout for the Christmas Banquet in years. It was great to see so many of our members celebrating the season, and a special shout out to Gina Ondola, who celebrated her 80th birthday with us. I know another article will be in the newsletter, so I won't add much more

We have a new logo for the Eklutna Community Clinic and have made some new brochures, too. Health Chair Tia Hale is preparing for another great health fair this spring. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27th.



Beading classes with Eleanor Wilde have begun, and our second one is coming up on January 22 at noon. We are trying to do them at least monthly. If you are interested in joining the group, give us a call for the next date.

Speaking of beading, Eleanor Wilde and her daughter designed and made a couple of awards for the upcoming Arctic Winter Games (AWG). The AWG is being hosted in MatSu this year, and it is a special event I hope many of you can attend. We have tickets for elders and youth and will offer transportation to the games. Tia Hale and her son, Anthony, will be featured in the passing of the torch. Thanks to the MatSu Health Foundation for providing Eklutna with a Healthy Families grant to provide us with this awesome opportunity. March 10-16th. More news on our Facebook page as it unfolds.



Arctic Winter Games

*Above: New Logo for the Community Clinic
Right: Arctic Winter Games Award beaded by Eleanor Wilde*



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 or needs to update or complete an application packet, please have them contact 907-688-6020 or email 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 at **1pm and closes at 4pm**. We are asking recipients to call the main office Tuesday or Wednesday morning before noon to place an order for a food box. The food bank is located beside the main office.

If a food box is needed outside of Food Bank Hours, please contact the office to arrange a pickup.

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

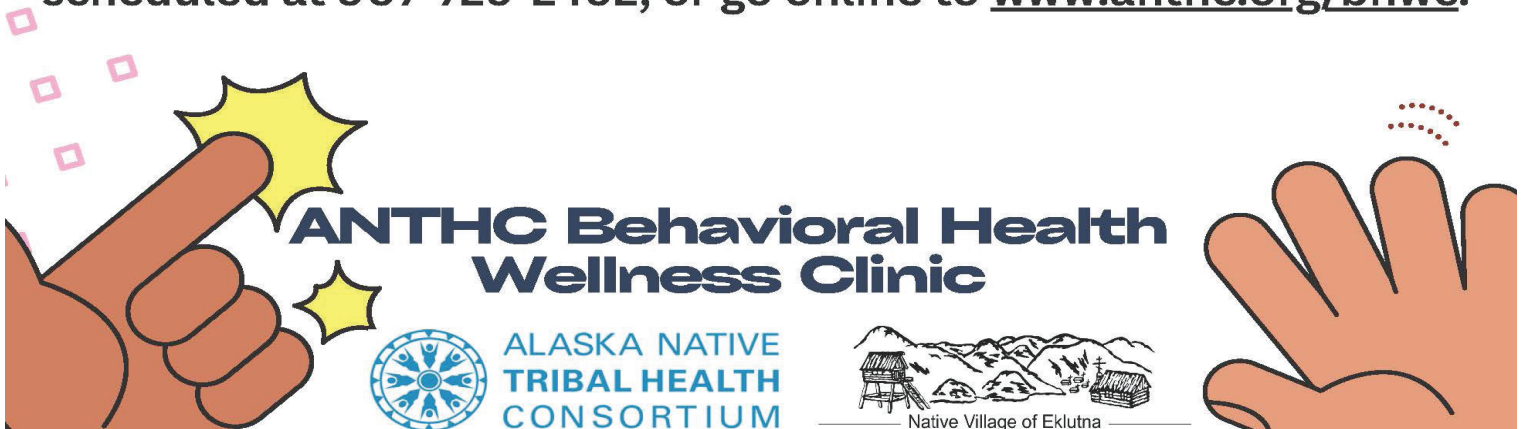
www.eklutna-nsn.gov





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.



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

- **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 mid-January 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 was just increased by the Tribal Council to \$1,500.

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 for existing homeowners to improve substandard living conditions for low-income family homes. Up to \$5,000 is available to assist in improving the substandard living conditions 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.



NVE ANNUAL TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION

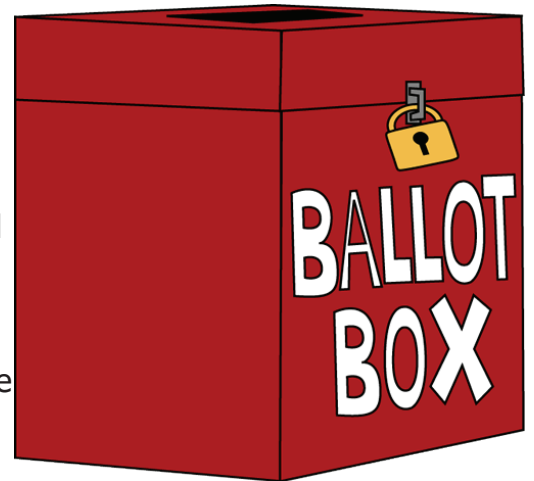
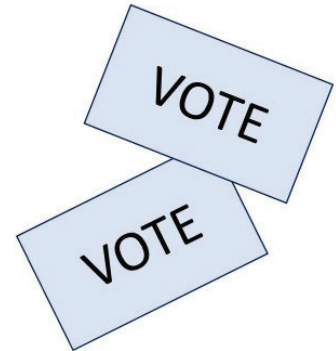
The 2024 NVE Annual Tribal Membership Meeting and Election will be held on April 6th at the Nuka Learning Institute in Anchorage from 1- 4 pm. A lunch style meal will be available at noon.

This year, there are Three (3) Tribal Council Positions up for election: President, Secretary, and a Trustee position. These positions are currently held by Aaron Leggett, Dorothy Cook, and Tresia Coleman. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please fill out a Request for Candidacy form. The 2024 forms will be available on the website mid-February.

Meeting/Election material should arrive to your address on file late February/early March. If you do not receive the mailing, please contact the main office to update your address. Addresses can only be updated through the Address Update Form. This form can be found online under the forms tab (www.eklutna-nsn.gov/forms) or by contacting the main office.

This year's election board includes Maria Coleman, Susan Olson, and Angeleen Waskey. The election committee includes Sharron Munson, Walter Ondola, and Brian Carberry from BDO.

For any questions or concerns, please contact the election committee at nveelections@nve.org or 907-688-6020



*Awards beaded
by Eleanor Wilde
for the 2024 Artic
Winter Games.*



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. We would like to keep addresses, emails, and phone numbers up-to date.

The Address Change form can be found under the forms tab on the NVE website (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 **FWWILC120** 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>Na Tia Sukan: Recovery Support 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 https://bit.ly/3wXcBli</p> <p>Anger: A New Outlook (Open) 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 https://bit.ly/3piz5288</p> | <p>Community and Connection 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 https://bit.ly/3f5q1Qc</p> <p>Generational Healing 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 https://bit.ly/3ijCzRE</p> <p>Anger: A New Outlook (Closed) 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>Na Tia Sukan: Recovery Support 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 https://bit.ly/3wXcBli</p> <p>Soldier's Heart (in-person) 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 https://bit.ly/2UKYnwF</p> | <p>Community and Connection 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 https://bit.ly/3f5q1Qc</p> <p>Life Skills 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 https://bit.ly/3pjCiBL</p> <p>Grief and Loss (in-person) 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 https://bit.ly/3PlsQQj</p> <p>Family is Sacred 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 https://bit.ly/3pYFaCK</p> | <p>Na Tia Sukan: Recovery Support 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 https://bit.ly/3wXcBli</p> |

COMMUNITY NEWS



Congratulations Tia Hale!

Tia Hale, the Eklutna Tribal Health Board Chair, was selected in December 2023 to sit on the Alaska Native Health Board's (ANHB) Board of Directors!



Congratulation Dr. Eric Bryant!

Dr. Eric Bryant finished the highest formal degree in his field on November 8, 2023 - Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Dr.

Bryant is the first in the Alex and Bryant families to achieve a professional doctorate degree. He had previously earned a master's degree in Educational Administration and another master's degree in Mathematics. He lives in Florida with his wife Kim and their four children. He trains future K-12 teachers serving as Chair of Education at Pensacola Christian College. His parents are Dan and Loretta Bryant from Tennessee. He is the first great-grandson of Chief Mike Alex and Daria Nellie Alex. His grandparents are Lige and Jewell Bryant and Herbert and Elizabeth Alex. Congratulations to Dr. Eric Bryant for this achievement.





Happy 80th Birthday Gina!

Gina Ondola celebrated her 80th birthday in December 2023.



Congratulations Aiden!

Aiden Leggett (age 9) participated in a Hockey Tournament recently and his team won 3 out of the 5 games! Family from Kenai and Soldotna were able to be there to cheer him on!

New Registered Dietitian at the Eklutna Community Clinic

Mallory Reeves, registered dietitian, was born and raised in Anchorage and has lived in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough since 2015. She enjoys snowmachining, downhill skiing, snowboarding, hiking, wake surfing, and dirt biking. Mallory has two dogs, one cat, and loves to travel. She is looking forward to working with community members at C'eyiits' Hwnax Life House Community Health Center.

She will start providing services to the Eklutna Community Clinic every other month on the third Thursday. If anyone has dietary concerns, please make an appointment and utilize this great new added resource.



TA Notes (con't)

The Annual meeting is scheduled for April 16th at Nuka Center, and we are busy preparing for the election. Anyone interested in running for one of the three seats that are open, (President, Secretary and one Trustee) please contact us for a candidate application.

Our next Tribal Council meeting is set for Feb. 23 & 24—our annual joint meeting with Eklutna Inc. is February 27, 2024 at the Community Clinic.



NVE Job Postings can always be found online at www.eklutna-nsn.gov/jobs/

There are no open job positions at this time.



Upcoming events will be posted to both the Native Village of Eklutna's and the Tribal Members only facebook page. If you would like to get on our email list for events, please reach out to Kyle at krobillard@eklutna.org

Beading classes will be held the second friday of each month at noon. These are held in the Eklutna Community Clinic Conference room. All ages welcomed to attend.

- February 23 & 24 – NVE 1st Quarter Council Meeting. Eklutna Community Clinic Conference Room or online via Zoom
- February 27 – Annual Joint EI/NVE meeting. Eklutna Community Clinic
- March 9 – 16 – Arctic Winter Games/Spring Break for Anchorage and Mat Su School Districts
See Arctic Winter Games schedule <https://www.arcticwintergames.org/>
- April 6 – NVE Annual Meeting, South Central Foundations Nuka Learning Institute, Anchorage Noon – 4 pm
- April 27 – Eklutna Health Fair, Eklutna Community Clinic
- April 28 - May 4 – NVE Community Clean-up Week/Municipality of Anchorage Community Clean-up Week
- July 29- August 2 – NVE Culture Camp Week
- August 3-4 - NVE Pow Wow



HEALTHY EATING

Soup is a well known winter dish and chicken noodle soup is known for making us feel better when we have the sniffles. It does not have to take all day to make a pot of soup and shelf stable or frozen ingredients can be used.

Frozen vegetables can be substituted for the fresh ones and leftover chicken can also be added. Remember to use low sodium broth for lower salt intake.

Happy Eating!



CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

PREP TIME
5 mins

COOK TIME
15 minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 8 cups cartons chicken broth
- 1 (13 ounce) can chicken breast
- 2 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 cup whole grain noodles (of any variety)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Melt the butter in a large pot over medium high heat. Add onions, carrots and celery and sauté for 5-6 minutes, or until onions are translucent.
2. Add chicken broth, chicken, basil and oregano and bring to a boil. Add noodles and cook for 6 minutes or until noodles are soft.
3. Taste the broth and add salt and pepper as needed.

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 or snail mail at 26339 Eklutna Village Rd., Chugiak, AK 99567.



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.

Administration

Brenda Hewitt,
Tribal Administrator
bhewitt@eklutna.org
907-688-6020

Faith Rukovishnikoff
faithr@eklutna.org
907-688-1801

Sharron Munson
smunson@eklutna.org
907-688-6020

Whitney Waskey
wwaskey@eklutna.org
907-688-6020

Lauren Astor
907-688-6020

Social Serives

Dawn Harris
dharris@eklutna.org
907-688-1803

Molly (Pepsi) Jacobson
mjacobson@eklutna.org
907-688-1809

Enrollment

Dorothy Cook
907-688-6020

Maintenance/Roads Dept.

Walter Ondola
wondola@eklutna.org
907-688-1805

Lewis Stephan
908-688-6020

Food Bank

Whitney Waskey
wwaskey@eklutna.org
907-688-6020

Land and Environment

Marc Lamoreaux
marcl@eklutna.org
907-242-6967

Carrie Ann Brophil
cbrophil@eklutna.org
907-691-4843

Kyle Robillard
krobillard@eklutna.org
907-390-9003

Office 907-688-8522

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

ENROLLMENT



Is your enrollment information up to date?
Do you have a family member that needs
to be enrolled?

Enrollment applications can be found on the NVE webpage or they can be obtained from the main office. The NVE Enrollment Application has been recently updated to include your email address and phone number. This will make it easier for the Enrollment office to follow-up with any questions or if additional documentation is needed. We are asking that you keep your contact information up-to-date.

The enrollment application consists of the application paperwork and supporting documents. All supporting documentation needed is listed in checklist format on the first page of the application. Once the complete application is received by the enrollment office, it then goes to the Tribal Council to review and approve. If documentation is missing, the application will wait until the following meeting after final documentation received.

Completed application packets can be sent to enrollment@eklutna.org or mailed to the office at 26339 Eklutna Village Rd. Chugiak, AK 99567

*Native Village of Eklutna
Tribal Council reviews and
approves complete applications
only at NVE Council Meet-
ings. These meetings are only
held four times a year.*

Please make sure enrollment application packet includes:

- 1. A complete Tribal Enrollment Application signed and dated for each applicant.**
 - 2. Required documents include readable copies of a Social Security Card, Birth Certificate and BIA Certificate Degree of Indian Blood for each applicant.**
 - 3. Please make sure your Family Tree is complete with Name, Tribe and degree of Indian blood claimed.**
- If you need copies of your Birth Certificate, contact the Office of Vital Statistics for the state in which you were born.*
 - If you need copies of your Social Security Card, contact your nearest Social Security Office.*
 - If you need a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood, we can include the form with your application. Mail it and all the required documents to:*

*Bureau of Indian Affairs
3601 C Street, Suite 1100 Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone# (800) 645-8465 Fax# (907) 271-1349*



Land and Environment News

Winter is the slow time of year for the Land and Environment office. By slow, we mean little field work on top of the normal office work that goes on. This winter we have been focused the river restoration and public meetings being held by the Utilities on the Draft Fish and Wildlife Plan to determine what will go on with Eklutna River. The Draft plan was released at the end of October for public review. Everyone involved in this process is asking that you read through the plan and leave comments. We at the Land and Environment office feel that the plan presented does not meet any restoration needs or ecological needs of the river. NVE's official response is listed online at both www.eklutnariver.org and www.eklutnahydro.net. The comment period will be open until February 17th and comments can be sent to info@eklutnahydro.net. If you would like to see the draft plan, it can be found in its entirety at www.eklutnahydro.net/documents.

We have also been busy planning events for this spring and summer. Field work ramps up again as the snow melts and we will be continuing work in the river. The Culture Camp will be held the first week of August. It will be in the same format as previous years. If you would like to volunteer to help plan the 2024 Culture Camp, please email cbrophil@eklutna.org.

Events will be posted on the NVE Facebook page and they can be emailed out to anyone wishing to be on our email list. To get on our email list, please contact Kyle with your email. (krobillard@eklutna.org).



*Firey December Mid-afternoon
Sunset in the village.*

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



Tribal Response Program

Contaminant Spotlight: Petroleum



Contaminants are defined as any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, water, or soil. Petroleum is the most commonly found contaminant in Alaska. Petroleum can be broken down into two main categories: Gasoline and aviation fuel, and Diesel fuels and heavier petroleum products. It can enter the environment through leaky pipes, storage tanks, containers, and equipment, by vehicle/equipment accidents, and by improper handling and disposal.

Depending on the type of petroleum and how it is released into the environment, it can affect air, soil, groundwater, and/or surface water. Once in the environment they can take a long time to break down, especially in Alaska's cold temperatures. Lighter petroleum products like gasoline and aviation fuel tend to break down quicker but are also more harmful, containing numerous cancer-causing compounds. Heavier petroleum products like diesel take longer to break down and are less harmful but are still harmful to human health and should be avoided when possible.

Exposure to petroleum can cause numerous negative health outcomes, including cancer, nerve disorders, and negative effects on the blood, immune system, lungs, skin, and eyes. Exposure can happen by ingesting contaminated soils or water, living in an area near a spill or leak, touching contaminated soil, and even by breathing air at or near gas stations. Everyone is exposed to petroleum in some way, but it is important to minimize exposure whenever possible. Oil and petroleum releases are hazardous to human health and to the environment and should be reported and cleaned up as soon as possible to minimize its impact. The following information will help you know when and where to report spills:

- **Release to the water:** Any release needs to be reported as soon as you have knowledge of it.
- **Release on land:** Any release of more than 55 gallons needs to be reported as soon as you have knowledge of the release. A release between 10 and 55 gallons needs to be reported within 48 hours.

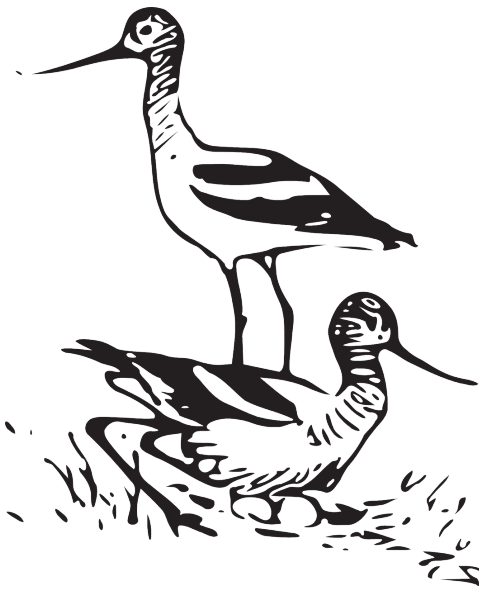
How to Report:

DEC Response Team: 1-800-478-9300

Report Online: ReportSpills.alaska.gov

If you have any questions regarding this information or anything else related to environmental contamination and Brownfields, please contact the NVE Tribal Response Program at (907)688-8522 or email at krobillard@eklutna.org

Birds of Ekluntna



The Village of Eklutna is situated on an important migratory bird flyway. Dozens of species of birds pass through every year, moving from their wintering grounds in the south to their food-rich summer nesting areas across Alaska. Being situated on the Cook Inlet, next to the Eklutna River and its wetlands, and adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flats, Eklutna provides productive nesting grounds for dozens of species of birds and is an important stopover for many more migrants.

Staff in the LE Department began participating in ADFG's Birds N Bogs program in 2022, with the goal of integrating the program into the Department's environmental education offerings in 2023. Birds N Bogs is a long-term Citizen Science program that involves participants monitoring their assigned wetland during breeding season for at least 1 hour, for 1 day, in each of the study's 4 periods. Participants make note of birds that are seen during these times, with special attention paid to 13 target species, which are species of concern in the state.

Of the 13 target species, we observed 7 of them in the wetlands around the Eklutna River. In addition to these 7 species, 46 other were observed along the Eklutna River throughout the spring and summer, for a total of 53 identified species.

The Birds N Bogs survey runs from early May through early June, prime breeding time for the target species. The LE Department would like to invite anyone interested to join us on these surveys. This is a great way to get outside, learn more about the amazing birds in our area, and participate in a long-term citizen science project. The data collected is compiled and used to assess population trends for these threatened species. The site for this season is the Eklutna Tailrace, which hosts an abundance of birds throughout the season.

There will be learning opportunities and materials available for those that are interested in participating. If you or anyone you know are interested, please contact the LE Department at (907)688-8522 or email at krobillard@eklutna.org. Dates and times will be decided upon soon, hopefully with input from anyone interested in participating

Targeted Species

Common Loon
Pacific Loon
Red-Throated Loon
Red-Necked Grebe
Horned Grebe*
Lesser Yellowlegs*
Greater Yellowlegs*
Solitary Sandpiper
Rusty Blackbird*
Olive-sided Flycatcher*
Tree Swallow*
Violet-Green Swallow*

*Observed in 2022-2023
near Eklutna



NVE Pow Wow Grounds

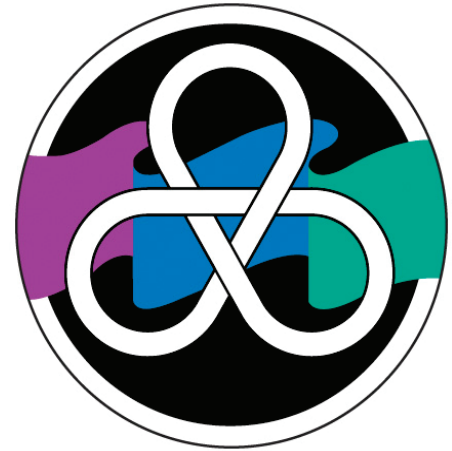
The NVE Pow Wow grounds are in need of a bit of work. Snow load in the spring of 2023 took down the pavilion, the rock pile behind the pavilion is dangerous, and ideas of how to reuse the old community hall has got everyone talking about looking at the grounds and what improvements can be made for both the Pow Wow and for cultural activities such as the culture camp.

NVE tribal member Jessica Ross was able to coordinate with UAA Professor Condon and his Architect students to visit in December and take a look at the site. They will be providing some ideas that take acoustics and safety into account. As the new spring semester starts, we are excited to see what ideas the students come up with. Some things they were looking at were the location of the pavilion, location of the stage, where a good place for port-a-potties is, etc. They are also looking at general flow and safety. There were some ideas about electricity or a water well at the site as well. Stay tuned for updates as this project develops.



The Arctic Winter Games is coming to MatSu

March 10-16, 2024 (Spring Break), will bring 2,000 athletes and 2,000 volunteers from around the circumpolar north. The games include a strong cultural aspect, and Eklutna, Knik, and Chickaloon play a big role. The MatSu Health Foundation provided a Healthy Family Grant to NVE so that we could take youth and elders to the games. We have limited tickets to the following 4 events: *(please call the office at (907) 688-6020 to reserve your tickets)*. We ask you to choose one favorite event to serve the most tribal members.



Chinan.

Opening Ceremonies

March 10 @ 4 pm

The Opening Ceremony includes a parade of nations, the final leg of the torch relay, an artistic program, and an athlete oath. After lighting the Games cauldron, Alaska's Lieutenant Governor declares the Games open. Doors open at 2.45 pm! Please be advised that bag checks will take place at the door. No weapons of any kind will be allowed.

Indigenous Fashion Show & Pamyua Concert

March 14 @ 7pm

AWG 2024 will proudly welcome Pamyua to the stage of the Glenn Massay Theater. Pamyua is Alaska's premier Inuit musical group, showcasing their culture through music and dance performance. Their shows include a unique lineup of Indigenous Alaskan and Danish performers. They celebrate and share Indigenous knowledge and history, using traditional melodies reinterpreted with contemporary vocalization and instrumentation. Prior to the concert, AWG will present an Indigenous Fashion Show. Featuring Indigenous designers of traditional and contemporary fashion, winter wear, jewelry, and more, it will thrill locals and visitors alike!

Cultural Gala

March 15 @ 3 & 7 pm (choose one)

The Arctic Winter Games Cultural Gala is a showcase of diverse youth talent from across the circumpolar north. Participants have been known to showcase yoiking, a traditional song form of the Sami peoples, Inuit throat singing, regional styles of traditional drumming and dancing, as well as modern expressions of regional heritage. Local artists, directors, choreographers, and cultural teachers will share the week with the youth, teaching and guiding them and creating an unforgettable evening for the audience. Doors open at 2 pm for the 3 pm show and 6:00 pm for the 7 pm show.

Closing Ceremonies

March 16 @ 3 pm

With lights, music, and visual art, the closing ceremony is one of joy and unity. A parade of nations is replaced with youth who have traded their uniforms with other participants from around the globe. The artistic program is brief as we celebrate each delegation's wins, pass the torch, and award the Hodgson Trophy. The trophy is given to the team who exemplifies the shared northern values of cooperation and resource sharing. As the week's second-best attended/viewed event, the Closing Ceremony is a wonderful, meaningful opportunity for anyone wishing to support the Games. Doors open at 1:45 pm. Please be advised that bag checks will take place at the door. No weapons of any kind will be allowed. Please be in your seats by 2:50 pm. *Attendees arriving late may need to wait until after the processional.*



The games are held in locations all over the Mat-Su valley and are at varying times throughout the week. To see the full schedule and all the events, check out the official event website

<https://www.articwintergames.org>



**Arctic
Winter
Games**



The 2023 Christmas dinner was one of our most attended dinners! There was a huge turnout! Thank you to everyone who stepped in to help things run smoothly!





ETCD Garden NEWS

Happy New Year

Eklutna Garden has been working with Alaska Resilience Farms <https://www.alaskaresiliencefarms.org/> to bring education for climate resilient gardening to our neighbors in Chitna, Quinhagak, Rampart and the Iliamna Lake Clark Region. We are holding educational events at these locations and inviting them to come visit our site and learn what we are doing.

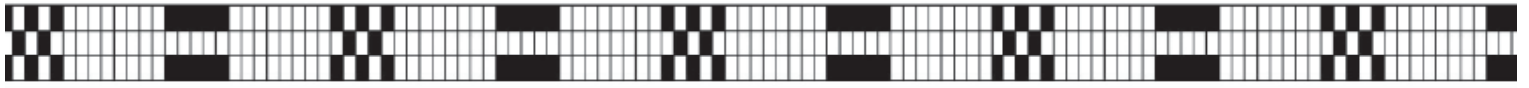


Your Garden Team needs your help in deciding what to grow next season. Please fill out our What do you want us to grow doc to help us decide on the produce you want to have this season. See Link

We also will be doing food demonstrations on harvest days. I think it'll be Wednesday to make fresh meals from our weekly harvest this season. We would welcome any recipes we could use that are traditional that we could add a new item to.

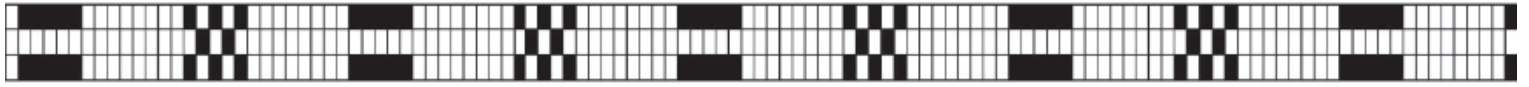
We are open & will also be holding some classes on gardening during the winter. If you want to learn something let us know we are available for a group or even one on one consultation anytime. Please contact us at Eklutnagarden@gmail.com.

We will put out an educational & events calendar to let folks know what's happening with the garden and how you can help us succeed.



Łiq'a nagh qinqtudet

We are hopeful the salmon will return to us



WWW.EKLUTNARIVER.ORG



Dena'ina words for the season

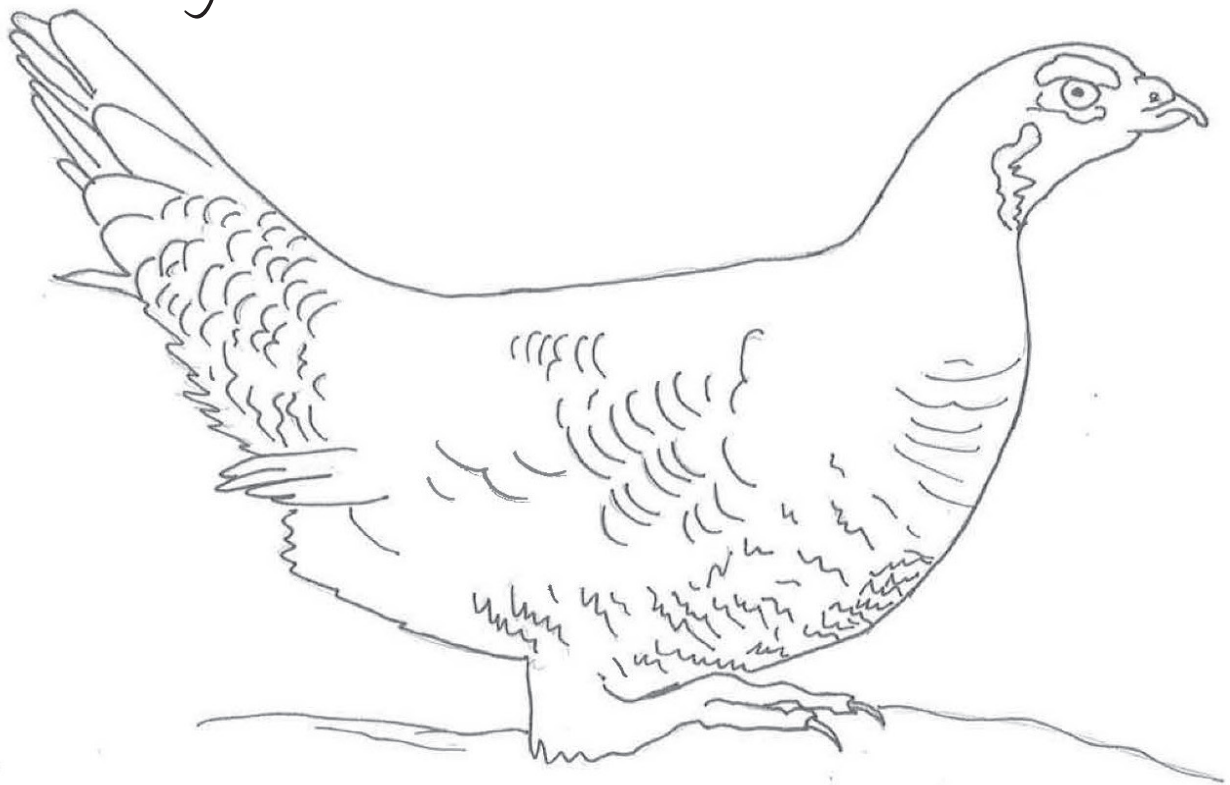
Winter - hey
How are you? - yagheli ilan du?
Dripping water - tudelgit
Laughter - dleq'
Song - k'eliga
It is cold - Edli qilan

Elyuni or Spruce Grouse

Did you know:

Spruce grouse change colors? they are brown in the summer and white in the winter. Do you know of another common animal that does the same?

Color the grouse below.





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

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

