



Shoonaq' Tribe of Kodiak

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Shoonaq' Tribal Council

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John Reft, Vice Chairperson

Heather Parker, Secretary/Treasurer

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Pat Heitman, Member

Selma McKee, Member

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M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust grants Tribe \$150,000

Tribal Officials were thrilled to learn on May 20th that the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust awarded the Tribe \$150,000 for renovations of the tribal center. To date, the Tribe has secured \$616,000 in commitments for the building makeover and, according to Tribal Administrator, Bob Polasky, sufficient funds are at hand to move forward with the project. "There are a few minor details to work out, including finding funds for final construction plans and specifications, but for the most part we're there as far as actual construction funding. Our fundraising efforts have been highly successful". Polasky attributed much of the success of fundraising efforts to

the diligence of several Council members who went to bat pitching the project over and over when potential funding sources visited. That left a big impression on them, and they've told me that", he said.

Other funding sources include a \$220,000 grant from the Rasmussen Foundation, and an anticipated \$50,000 grant and \$120,000 loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program. The Tribe itself is contributing \$76,000 cash to the project.

Work on the next stage, producing final specs for construction and submitting bid packages to potential contractors, will begin soon. Polasky

indicated that construction is not expected to start for some time because the bid process is lengthy and contractors generally have work lined up for the summer months. Fall or winter is more likely when work will begin he said.

Renovations will include new lighting and electrical systems throughout the building, 14 enclosed offices and a conference room upstairs, new carpeting upstairs, and office windows. A kitchen and new flooring are also planned for the downstairs tribal hall. Once renovations are completed indoors then attention will be turned to the exterior appearance of the building.

Shoonaq' Receives EPA IGAP Grant

The Shoonaq' Tribe has been chosen to receive a \$220,000 GAP grant through the US Environmental Protection Agency!

This grant project is for two years slated to begin

on October 1, 2005. The grant's main objective is to build the Tribe's capacity to develop an environmental program. The Tribe will be hiring a full time environmental coordinator who

will be located at the Tribal Offices. A part-time environmental assistant position will be added for the second year of the grant.

Administrator's Message

Robert Polasky

"Shoonaq' Will Turn Attention to Economic Development Initiatives"

As many of you may be aware we have implemented a new 'training and employment' program this year under what's called a '477' program. '477' is an act of Congress that allows tribes to 'pool' most of their programs into one training and employment program that allows us to work with tribal members who are looking for support to improve their lives by developing a plan that will lead them to employment.

That program is up and running, and running well. We've funded trainings for several tribal members in recent months, trainings that have lead to meaningful employment. (Our funding support includes other needs such as child care, travel, clothing, to help member's complete training).

Now we are prepared to enter a new phase of development. As you know, our non-profit corporation successfully operates a gaming permit, thanks to the sound management of Bingo Manager Gary Watson. Proceeds from gaming have been invaluable to the Tribe, providing funds to support youth groups, building improvements and donations to worthy causes. But we need to diversify our ability to earn discretionary income so as not to be totally dependent on gaming. In addition we want to seek ways to support tribal members who are in business, or wishing to start one.

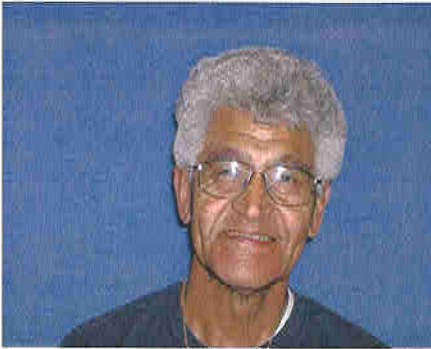
Recently the Tribal Council approved earmarking funds to address economic development initiatives. I'm really excited about this next phase of tribal growth. Initially we envision hiring an economic development specialist on contract to research and seek economic funding from various federal, state sources. We will be seeking funds to provide for an economic development program that can develop business ideas for the tribe and for its entrepreneurial tribal members.

One of the tribe's key resources is the building you now own. Now that we have reached our fundraising goals, we will be renovating the building, including about 15 interior offices upstairs. I hope, once those renovations are complete, we will have available space to develop a business incubator, to support tribal business men and women, in addition to possible tribal enterprises.

We don't know what the future holds, but we're poised to venture out there and develop opportunities. Let me know what you think, what ideas you have, because we believe you are our greatest asset.

Congratulations to all Graduates

The Shoonaq Tribe of Kodiak would like to recognize everyone that graduated from Head Start, Junior High School, High School, Vocational School, and College. We understand that much hard work and sacrifice goes into education. Thank you to all of you for making us proud of you and thank you to the families that supported your efforts.



Shoonaq' Honors Reft as Culture Bearer

John Reft was selected as the Shoonaq' Culture Bearer and honored at the 2005 Esgarlluku Taquka'aq Gathering held on Sunday, May 8th. John has spent his life as a commercial fisherman, but has always had a love and respect for our land. When he was not commercial fishing he could be found sport fishing or hunting for enjoyment and sharing that traditional use of our land with others.

John is an active member of the Shoonaq' Tribal Council and gives much of his time to volunteer in any capacity needed to assure the needs of the Tribe are being met. He has volunteered countless hours painting the new Tribal Center and hanging Christmas lights to assure that we can be proud of our place in the Main Street Kodiak area. It was due in large part to John's determination that made the Tribes' move to the downtown area and the eventual purchase of the 'Old Wodlinger Building' a reality. He has promoted our culture and helped to gain respect among the non-native community for who we are as a people, sharing the rich culture of the Alutiiq community with others. John has tirelessly represented us to assure that subsistence/traditional use of our land is preserved in the face of many proposed State and Federal regulation changes. His experience and commitment has affected those who enjoy and rely on the land now, as well as preserving these rights for future generations. He continues to work hard to preserve our rights of self-determination and assure increased opportunities for our young people. It was a great pleasure to honor John as Culture Bearer.

Shoonaq' Honors Youth at Taguka'aq Celebration



Candace Branson and Kelvin Mahle were honored at the 2005 Esgarlluku Taquka'aq Gathering held on Sunday, May 8th. They were selected as the Youth Honorees for their leadership involvement and activities. Both Candace and Kelvin have attended the AFN Youth & Elders Conference as Shoonaq' youth representatives. After the 2004 AFN gathering, they came back and started a native youth group at the High School called "Together As One". This group is meeting weekly and is working toward raising funds to attend next years AFN Elders and Youth Leadership Conference in Fairbanks. The group is also interested in learning more about the art and history of their native culture, and how to keep it alive.

Madelyn Brown Volunteers as KWRCC's First Native Advocate

The Shoonaq' Tribe, the Kodiak Area Native Association and the Native Women's Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women sponsored the first collaborative advocacy training with the Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center (KWRCC). Eight Native women completed the 40 hour five-week training and are now qualified to staff the KWRCC's crisis line and provide advocacy services.

Approximately 25% of the clientele at the KWRCC are Native women, though until now there have been no Native women volunteers or advocates. Madelyn Brown is the first Native woman to utilize her training for the benefit of Native women and the community as a whole by volunteering on KWRCC's Crisis Hotline.

"We are proud to have Madelyn representing us and providing such a vital service for the community," says Tonya Heitman, Shoonaq's STOP Violence Against Native Women Program Manager. Janet Theis, Supervisor of KWRCC's Shelter, agrees. "Anyone who volunteers on the crisis line takes on a big responsibility. You have to be ready for anything and everything. God bless her. You have to be a people person, and she definitely is, and is very committed to this work. Having her on the crisis line, as a female and a Native woman, makes clients feel very comfortable."



If you are interested in advocacy —

training or volunteering you can contact Tonya Heitman at Shoonaq' or the KWRCC directly. States Madelyn Brown, "I would love to see more Native women volunteer at the KWRCC—this will help Native women be more open and more willing to call if they are in need. It is very important."

STOP Violence Against Native Women

If you are experiencing relationship violence, sexual assault or stalking there is help. Please contact the Shoonaq' Tribal Advocate at 486-4449 for confidential services.

Tribal Donations to Local Community

The Shoonaq Tribal Council is committed to supporting the local community as well as its members. The Tribal Council has donated funds to many local and community causes such as the Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository, KMXT Radio Station, Kodiak Search and Rescue fund raiser,

Alaska Police Officers Assn., St. Mary's Basketball Program, The Living Room, Brother Francis Shelter, Alaska Shriners, Taquka'aq, Kodiak Rodeo and State Fair, Alutiiq

Week and many others. The Tribal Council believes that putting money into local causes and organizations benefits the membership as well as the whole community.

"Putting money into local causes benefits the whole community"

Shoonaq' Sponsors Awakening Bear Raffle

The Kodiak Tribal Council sponsored a raffle for The Awakening Bear celebration, held at the Golden Anchor on May 6th. The Shoonaq' Tribe also donated 10 Shoonaq' Bingo Gift Certificates as prizes. All of the proceeds were donated to The Awakening Bear celebration. The lucky winners were. . .

\$5,000 Grace Harrod
\$ 500 Ken Nelson, Sr.
\$ 350 Mike Anderson
\$ 250 Craig Opheim
\$ 200 Geri Harris Watson
\$ 150 Virginia Ward

Shoonaq' Bingo Gift Certificates: Craig Opheim, Dana Hayward, Melanie Nelson, Guy and Anna Malutin, Mike O'Connor, Andrea Deveau and Priscilla Johnson, Mindy Pruitt, Judy Cameron, Andy Christofferson, & Mindy Pruitt

Women's Celebration Dinner A Success

The winter series of seminars for teenage girls, designed to educate them about building healthy relationships, culminated in the Women's Celebration Dinner, sponsored by The Shoonaq' Tribe, Kodiak Area Native Association and The Native Women's Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women.

75 teenage girls, mothers and grandmothers attended the catered dinner at the Best Western Kodiak Inn. Guest speakers Florence Pestrikoff, Julie Knagin and Rebecca Shields spoke inspirationally on moving from childhood to adulthood and the Alutiiq Dancers provided a special performance.

Attendee Nikita Holmes, 13, said, "I liked the seminars because we talked about problems girls could have in relationships and we ate. It was fun. The Women's Celebration Dinner was so nice. It was very fancy. The guest speakers were brave to go up there and say what they had to say. I was surprised and I liked it." Attendee Linda Ross commented, "I think it is really needed for our women here, encouraging them to reach out to the younger generation. I think in the past there was more interaction between the generations and the older generation has so much wisdom to offer. It was wonderful and all the women I've talked

to thought it was too. We should do more of it." Attendee Madelyn Brown agreed, "It was absolutely wonderful. We should make it an annual event."



Tribes Celebrate Healthy Families

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month but was celebrated by the local tribes as Healthy Family Month.

On April 16th, the Shoonaq' Tribe of Kodiak hosted a free cocoa afternoon at the Cama'i Café. There was hot chocolate, games and door prizes. A fun time was had by all attendees.



On April 23rd, the Shoonaq' Tribe of Kodiak, along with the Native Village of Afognak and the Woody Island Tribe hosted a free spaghetti feed. This event was held to show appreciation to our families. Many handouts, camp sign-up sheets, program information and door prizes were given out.

Indian Child Welfare

I am happy to report that Kodiak now has four Native homes licensed to provide foster care! This is a tremendous step forward from the zero homes we had a year or so ago, and we want to thank everyone who has expressed a desire to help, and has gone through the licensing process. Since there are still more Native children in care than there are Native foster homes the Tribe contin-

ues to seek Native families willing to provide foster care for Native children who have been taken into state custody.

There are different options to providing foster care. If you are not able to provide long-term care you can limit placements to "emergency" placements, which can be anywhere from an overnight stay to several

weeks while a longer term home is found. If you are able to provide care for a child on a longer term basis please consider going through the licensing process now because it can take several months and when we need to place a child, we usually need to place them immediately.

Rebecca Skinner, ICWA Director

Shoonaq' Tribal Court

Robbina Shinner, Tribal Court Administrator

Mission: The Shoonaq' Tribal Court will promote healthy families and safe children by providing a culturally appropriate system of justice utilizing traditional models of youth discipline and traditional support systems for tribal families, allowing our youth and families to thrive by building self-confidence in themselves and pride in their culture.

During the initial two year start-up phase of the court operation will focus exclusively on children's cases, including child protection cases and juvenile delinquency cases. Juvenile cases will focus on early intervention for at-risk tribal youth, as identified through the Kodiak Island Borough School District and tribal families and the tribal court

will only accept cases of juvenile that have not yet entered the state juvenile justice system.

Traditionally, youth discipline and child rearing were activities shared by extended family and the community. In modern time, in response to influence of the dominant culture, our families function in a more insular manner. Today, two, or one, parent rears a child alone, without the extended support system historically available to families. The tribal court seeks to fill this gap by being a resource to families and children. Rather than a system of punishment, the tribal court will offer youth opportunities to engage in "diversionary" activities, which will include culturally appropriate

activities, allowing youth to spend their free time in a supervised setting learning about their culture.

As the court becomes more established the tribe may consider accepting more serious juvenile cases, probate family law, and offer mediation services in order to expand culturally consistent justice alternatives for tribal members.

We encourage interested tribal members to become involved with tribal court by volunteering to sit on advisory committees, mentor families and youth and act as tribal court judges. Prior experience with tribal courts is not necessary and training will be provided.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention

One issue that is prevalent in Alaska is drugs and alcohol abuse. As a parent I have always worried about my children becoming addicted to any substance, as many other parents do also. There are a few things parents can do to help their children become productive and successful citizens.

There have been studies done to identify any particular situation or issue that may lead to drug and/or alcohol abuse. The results were that there are risk factors in a number of domains, community, family, school, individual and peer that indicate a child may experience drug or/and alcohol abuse issues. Following are the risk factors in each of the domains.

Community Risk Factors

- Availability of Drugs
- Availability of Firearms
- Community Laws & Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms, and Crime

- Media Portrayal of Violence
 - Transitions and Mobility
 - Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganizations
- Extreme Economic & Social Deprivation

School Risk Factors

Early & Persistent Anti-Social Behavior

Academic Failure

Lack of Commitment to School

Family Domain

Family History of High Risk Behavior

Family Management Problems

Family Conflict

Favorable Parental Attitudes & Involvement w/ Problem Behaviors

Individual/Peer Domain

Alienation and Rebelliousness

Friends Who Engage in the Problem Behavior

Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior

There are protective factors that keep our youth safe and assist them to make the right decisions. The definition of Protective Factor is: Conditions that buffer young people from the negative consequences of exposure to risk by either reducing the impact of the risk or changing the way a person responds to the risk. The protective factors are:

- Individual characteristic
- Bonding
- Healthy and Clear Standards

Ideally the individual, family, school, and community can reduce the risk factors while enhancing the protective factors.

Kippy Robbins, Program Services

Council Travels

Olga Malutin, as a Tribal Council member, is actively involved in state and national politics. She attends many meetings of native importance on behalf of the Tribe and its membership. She is one of a handful of people that attend national level conferences as a leader in Tribal affairs for Alaska. Shoonaq' is one tribe that is active on the state level as well as national level as it is important

to keep up on happenings and developments which could affect tribes.

Olga traveled to Washington, D.C. with a delegation from AI-TC (Alaska Inter-Tribal Council) this last February. She attended scheduled meetings with Congressional leaders and department heads. The delegation also attended meetings with AFN (Alaska Federation of Natives) representatives dur-

ing that week. AI-TC is busy restructuring and is working hard to get to different areas in Alaska to do outreach regarding Tribal issues.

*Note: Ivan Lukin is the AI-TC Kodiak Executive Council Member. Margaret Roberts is the Kodiak delegate and Nancy Nelson is her alternate. They can also be contacted for current updates on AI-TC issues

NCAI Winter

Olga Malutin and Gary Watson traveled to Washington D.C. February 28th to March 2nd for the NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) Winter Session. While there they received Congressional updates on pending Legislation affecting

Indian Country. They met with the Alaskan Congressional delegation and voiced concerns regarding reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the \$30 million in planned cuts to water and sewer funding, and transportation issues in

Alaska. Olga and Gary worked specifically hard for additional funding for the Tribal Center's renovation and remodel project. They were also able to attend a news briefing at the White House.

NCAI Mid-Year

Olga Malutin recently (June 12-15) traveled to Green Bay, Wisconsin with Tribal Administrator, Bob Polasky, to attend the NCAI Mid-Year Session. The theme of this conference is "Stronger Economies, Healthier Communities". Given Kodiak's fishing economy changes, the Council and

administration have been researching economic development opportunities for our members. At this conference, the delegates will be working on structure and policies for the Alaska Caucus in preparation for the Annual Convention. This is an election year for NCAI and so policy and proce-

dures need to be in place. Delegates will also be working on education and solicitation materials for distribution to other Alaskan tribes. Alaska has the largest number of Tribes in the nation which means more voting delegates and more Alaskan power.

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*Proudly representing the
members of the Shoonaq'
Tribe of Kodiak*

**We're now on the web:
www.sunaqtribe.org**

Attention all High School Seniors

If you are interested in attending college in the fall of "2006" you need to get your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) done as early as you can in "2006". It is great if a person already knows exactly what major they would like to pursue, but even if you have not decided you should start the process of preparing for attending college. If you have any questions please call Kippy at 486-4449

Benefits of a College Education

Some people ask why earn a college degree? There are many reasons why a person would want to attain a college education. Following are a few reasons:

- To expand your knowledge and skill
- Grasp concepts and theories
- Express your thoughts clearly in speech and in writing
- Increase your understanding of the world around you
- Earn more money- According to the US Census a person with a

Bachelor Degree earns \$51,206.00 and the person who earns a High School diploma earns \$27,915.00 annually.

- More job opportunities- More and more jobs are requiring college degrees. The world and technology are changing more rapidly now than in the past. A person with a college degree will have more jobs to choose from. Even if you decide to pursue a career other than your degree, you have provided yourself with more options. In addition, there is more flexibility in the work you choose and where you can live.