

NEN' EL TUU

The CVTC Tribal Response Program Newsletter

Xay (Winter) 2022/23

Volume 5 | Issue 1



NTS'E BA HNIYAES?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

- **Bede Nt'aennen?** *Who is this?*
A 90-second Interview: Andrea James
- **Xanexc'udghi'il'aen:** *Watch Carefully!*
- **Nahwnilkuun':** *It is getting warmer.*
Climate Corner with Kendra
- **Kahwghilaa:** *(S)he dug out the place.*
Mining in the Mat-Su
- **Hnats'et'aen:** *We are playing.*
- **Slaaghe dela dezenda?** *Can you help?*



tsiit'

fresh snow¹

Photo Credit: Richard Chiolero

BEDE NT'AENEN? WHO IS THIS? (a 90-second interview)

1. What's your name?

Andrea James

ugheli dzaen!

2. What's your job?

Project Coordinator for Harmful Algae Blooms

3. Favorite place you've been in Alaska?

Halibut Cove in Kachemak Bay.

4. How long have you been working in your position/field?

I've been working in this field for probably 10 years.

5. What's something you wish the general public knew about your job?

I think that the biggest thing is that when I tell people that I'm a Marine Biologist, they think that I know what every single fish is in the sea. Marine biology doesn't mean you know every fish in the sea.

I'm always looking to interview other people who work with hazardous chemicals or in an environmental position. If you know someone who should be featured, please let me know! rechiolero@chickaloon-nsn.gov



Photo Credit: Stanislav Remnev

6. Most routine part of your job?

Just in general in fisheries and marine biology, probably data management.

7. Weirdest/Wildest thing you witnessed while working?

Sharks. Barracuda. Those were pretty wild. I've been really close to sharks like nurse sharks. I'm pretty sure I was near to a 6-8' long hammerhead in the Florida Keys.

8. Favorite Alaska animal?

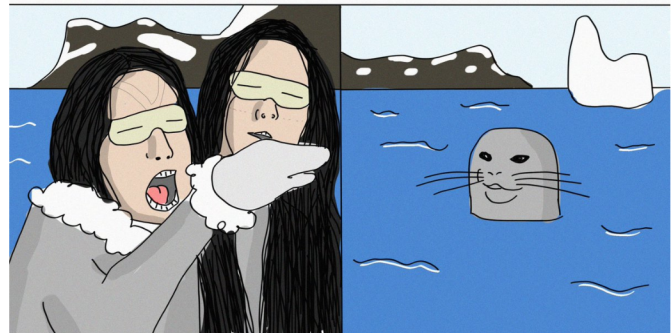
I really like otters.

9. Seasonal Question: Iditarod OR Iron Dog?

I don't even know what the Iron Dog is. I've only been here a year: I don't know yet. (So default: Iditarod.)

That was
my fish!

Was.



Meme Template: Aqqalu Berthelsen (cbc.ca)

XANEXC'UDGHI'IL'AEN: WATCH CAREFULLY!

It's the second thing a Tribal Response Program is supposed to accomplish:

ELEMENT 2:

Oversight and enforcement authorities, or other mechanisms and resources.

What does this mean?

This means that the Tribal Response Program Coordinator is making sure that cleanup actions will protect human health and the environment, and that cleanups are completed in accordance with federal and (Alaska) state law.

So TRP Coordinators have enforcement authority?

Actually, no. In Alaska, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has legal oversight and enforcement authorities under this element. However, there is still work TRP Coordinators can do!

Like what?

TRP Coordinators can research the DEC's Contaminated Sites Database and see which sites in our area have Institutional Controls. We can then go out and make sure that these sites have signs that are still upright, visible, and give appropriate warnings. There might also be fencing or other barriers to the site that need to be in good condition to keep humans and animals out of there. We can track and comment on environmental issues, such as replying to letters from the Army Corps of Engineers or the EPA, and potentially request a meeting for Tribal Consultation on the issue. We can go watch a cleanup that's taking place to make sure it's being done properly. We can monitor our area for potential spills. There's so much we can still do!

Have a look: ADEC Contaminated Sites Database - <https://dec.alaska.gov/applications/spar/publicmvc/csp/search>



Photo Credit: Darcy Lawrey, Pexels.com

NAHWNILKUUN': IT IS GETTING WARMER CLIMATE CORNER WITH KENDRA



THIS ISSUE: COMMUNITY CLIMATE FAIR

Has anyone ever asked you about your experiences around the changing climate, your observations of the landscape, your thoughts for the future? That's what we asked people to share with us at the Community Climate Fair held on February 18th. At least 58 people from throughout the Mat-Su and Anchorage came to the event to provide comments on Food, Energy, Forests & Plants, Weather, and other topics. Several organizations were on hand for people to engage in conversation, including: Chickaloon Native Village Tribal Historic Preservation Office, ANTHC's Local Environmental Observer network, Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, Natural Resource Conservation Service SNO-TEL (snow measurements), DEC state veterinarian, the state Division of Public Health, Renewable Energy Alaska Project, Solarize AK, Matanuska Electric Association, Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, and the Alaska Center.



A huge *tsin'aen siigu* to Colleen Fisk, Marlowe Scully, Rachel Christensen, Micah Hahn, Erin Larson, and Jessica Winnestaffer for planning the event. Another huge *tsin'aen siigu* to Rain Wade and Fran Seager-Boss for having a table at the event to share Chickaloon Native Village culture, and to Jessica Winnestaffer, Laura Pevan, Stephanie Freeman, and Kaylan Wade for all their help during the event.



Would you like to have your experiences and observations heard? We would be happy to talk to you by phone (907-761-3913) or email (klzamzow@chickaloon-nsn.gov), or you can provide information through a short on-line survey at: <https://tinyurl.com/MatSuClimate>

KAHWGHILAA: (S)HE DUG OUT THE PLACE MINING IN THE MAT-SU

Although non-Native fur trappers began coming to the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys in the 1800's, the coal mines constructed here during WWI are really what brought so many *c'etsiy tnaey* to this region. Mining continues all around us to the present day.

Are you curious what people are looking for? There is a website with a navigable map where you can look to see what people are mining:

<https://thediggings.com/usa/alaska/matanuska-susitna-ak170>

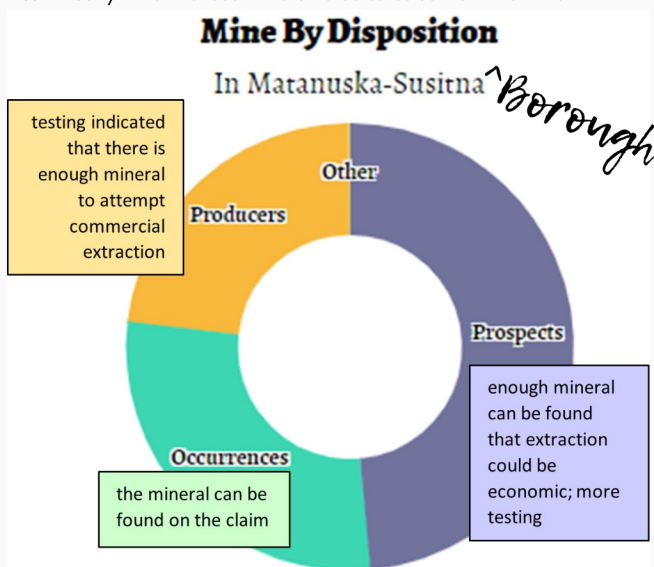
This site takes information from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and puts it into an easy-to-read format. For example: do you know what the top five commodities* are in our area? You can find it on that site, but I'll go ahead and tell you:

1. Gold (733) [Ahtna: *gol*²]
2. Copper (332) [Ahtna: *tsedi*³]
3. Silver (275)
4. Lead (108)
5. Zinc (97)

(These numbers are how many prospects, occurrences, and producers are in the MSB.)

You might be wondering why I am so interested in mines: **mine-scarred lands are considered to be brownfields!**

*commodity - the intended mineral to be collected from the mine



GAME
ON

Here's the
solution to
the puzzle
from the
Summer 2022
Newsletter:

Honor the Elders,
Honor all with whom we share the Earth:
Four-leggeds,
Two-leggeds,
Winged ones,
Swimmers,
Crawlers,
Plant and Rock People.
Walk in balance and beauty.
-Anonymous Native American Elder
Tsin'aen Nek'eltaeni
Xona
Richard Chiolero 2022

HNATS'ET'AEN: WE ARE PLAYING

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Word Search Maker

Winter 2022/23

In this puzzle, words and phrases might be forward, backwards, up, down, or diagonal. Once you have found all the words, can you find the hidden message? It is made with all the unused letters. Work from top to bottom, let to right. The first phrase is "the little robin".

Word Find List:

Andrea James
Climate Change
Commodity
Element Two
Fresh Snow
Gol
Iditarod
K'etneldzaes
Kahwghilaa
Lead
Nahwnilkuun'
Occurence
Producer
Prospect
Silver
Tsedi
Tsiit'
Zinc

T	H	E	L	I	G	O	L	T	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R	T	L
E	R	E	O	B	I	S	C	O	M	M	O	D	I	T	Y	N	G	R
I	E	G	V	E	S	W	I	H	E	N	T	H	E	S	N	O	W	I
S	O	N	N	T	H	E	G	L	R	O	U	N	D	F	O	R	T	H
E	T	A	R	E	E	S	H	A	V	V	E	N	O	A	L	F	E	D
A	V	H	E	S	A	N	D	N	O	E	K	B	E	A	R	R	A	R
O	I	C	E	S	C	A	N	B	E	'	R	F	Z	L	O	E	U	N
W	D	E	T	H	E	T	A	I	E	R	I	S	I	I	L	S	C	O
T	L	T	D	T	S	H	A	T	E	W	O	R	N	H	M	H	S	A
T	R	A	E	E	H	I	N	N	D	F	O	R	C	G	R	S	O	B
N	O	M	D	I	N	E	H	E	D	P	R	E	W	W	H	N	A	T
E	C	I	C	A	L	N	B	O	E	R	D	O	N	H	E	O	L	E
M	C	L	T	D	'	S	R	S	T	O	E	R	O	A	W	W	A	R
E	U	C	Z	O	U	A	N	D	S	S	O	A	M	K	E	C	R	U
L	R	A	M	B	T	S	O	F	B	P	R	E	J	A	D	A	N	D
E	E	T	H	I	E	N	H	E	'	E	L	L	L	A	I	V	E	T
S	N	I	D	L	L	S	N	O	W	C	I	S	D	O	M	N	E	M
O	C	I	T	'	L	T	I	I	S	T	H	E	R	G	O	E	O	S
E	E	N	A	H	W	N	I	L	K	U	U	N	'	2	0	2	S	2



k'etneldzaest⁴ - full moon



@brownfieldbear

SLAAGHE DELA DEZENDA?

CAN YOU HELP?

Curious about the Tribal Response Program? Wanna talk about brownfields or have me do a presentation? Got an idea for an article you'd like to see? I'd love to hear from you!

Richard Chiolero

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