



Birch Creek Tribal Council Newsletter

DENDUJ Gwichin TRIBE

SEPTEMBER 2016

Tribal News



New logo drawn by Shawnen Adams-Mitchell!

Washeteria and Clinic Project

The assessment and planning phase is scheduled to begin on the project to convert a part of the tribal building into a washing facility with shower stalls and washer and dryers, as well as convert the old gym area into the new clinic and use the existing clinic for lodging quarters for providers. Staff from ANTHC travelled to Birch Creek on August 18th to assess the building. The need for a washing facility in the community is great and we are hoping that this project can get funded and become a reality. The tribe will be gathering community support for this project through meetings, comment periods, letters and testimonies in the near future. We are hoping that this project can get funded and become a reality.

2016 Annual Elections Results

Congratulations to the newly re-elected Tribal Council members for the term 2016-2018. Elections were held in Birch Creek on August 23rd at the Tribal Building. The results are as follows:

- Seat A 1st Chief: Jacqueline Baalam
- Seat C Member: Lawrence James
- Seat D Member: Mary Christina James



1st Chief Jacqueline Baalam

BCTC HELPS SCHOOL CHILDREN BUY SUPPLIES
For the upcoming 2016-2017 school year, the Birch Creek Tribal Council decided to assist enrolled school children with purchasing school supplies and new school clothes. The tribe was able to help out six families with their back to school needs. Mahsi' Choo to the Birch Creek Tribal Council for supporting children and education!

Birch Creek Awarded Tribal Hazardous Waste Grant

The BCTC was recently awarded a grant to help the community deal with the stock piles of used oil. The grant award is for up to \$50,000 or more and will be used to test used oil for suitability to burn in our new used oil burner.

Events

- Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management
Anchorage, AK
October 24-28, 2016
- AFN Annual Convention,
Fairbanks, AK
October 21-22, 2016
- Annual BIA Tribal Provider Conference Dec. 2nd
Anchorage, AK

DEC to Travel to Birch Creek

Trisha Bower from the Alaska Department of Conservation will be traveling to Birch Creek on September 14th- 15th to inspect the landfill. She will also be doing some community outreach and helping us start our Solid Waste Management Plan.

TCC Pet Vaccinations

Rachael Lee with the Tanana Chiefs Conference is planning a trip to Birch Creek to vaccinate dogs and cats. More information to come.

New Water Plant Operator

Walter Williams has been working with Vincent to learn how to operate the water system and will be eventually taking over. This is an important position and we want to give Walter a warm welcome.

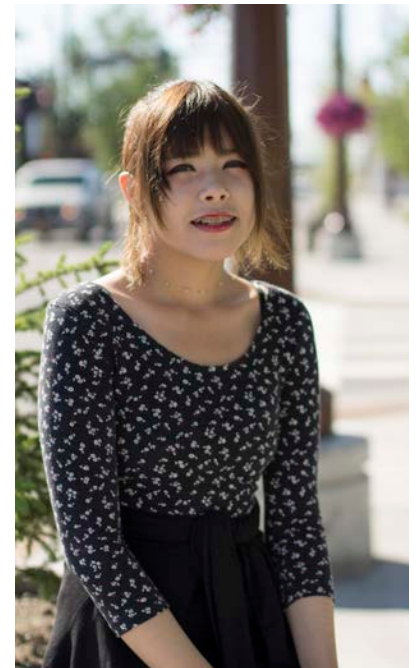
Sage James, Summer Youth Employee

Hi, this is Sage James writing from Fairbanks, AK. I've been hired as a Youth Tribal Office Assistant at the Denduu Gwich'in Tribal office. I'm going to help out and answer incoming phone calls here at the office and learn more about administration. I found this job with help from TCC's youth program and have been selected for this position for the summer. I've been raised here in Fairbanks and Birch Creek most of my life and have a younger sister Lizabelle and a little brother on the way. I attend high school through a program with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD) called BEST, I'm going to be a Junior next semester at Lathrop High School and will be graduating next year. After I graduate I plan to attend the UAF for engineering and I'll probably take an art class. When I'm done with college I would like to become a photographer and work in Seattle.

The 4-H Club is a national organization that brings people of all ages to work in their communities, whether it being community all around, agriculture, or leadership skills. I still to do projects with the 4-H here in Fairbanks through my school. Our 4-H Club is a really small group with some of my close friends and other students involved. In 4-H we do community service, traveling and helping out people in the community. I believe 4-H helped prepare me for this job because we focus a lot on media and office work.

I enjoy photography club where we Photoshop our pictures and mainly focus on photo-realism, but we do a lot of small projects with Photoshop too. I also play badminton in my spare time and drawing focusing more on realistic art.

In addition, I hope you're all doing well in Birch Creek and I hope I might be able to visit this summer. I'm very appreciative I was chosen for this job. ~Sage James







Environmental News

Solid Waste Management in Birch Creek

The Birch Creek Tribal Council has a lot of plans for next year to address the community's solid waste and hazardous waste concerns. These plans include a burn box for the landfill, waste separation program for each household, a used oil burner, hazardous waste collection sites, and a community backhaul of solid waste. In addition, the tribe is going to begin planning for a new landfill and a close out of the old landfill. Birch Creek is such a small community and we have great control over what comes in the community and how we dispose of it. If we worked together as a community, we can greatly reduce our solid waste generated and improve the health and environment of our community and our people. Educational outreach events and training on these subjects will take place over the course of the year so that we will be ready to implement these programs. Remember, the health of your community and environment depends on YOU.

Why is it Bad to Burn Trash? Read More to Find Out Why

Chemicals From Solid Waste Burning And Associated Health Effects

Waste	What to look for	What it contains	Why it is bad	What to do
 <p>PVC</p>	#3 bottles and jugs, Children's toys, vinyl tubing, flooring and siding materials, drainpipe, a variety of food, household, pharmacy and cosmetic products, Vinyl furniture	Polyvinyl chloride forms dioxins when burned and hydrochloric acid . It may contribute to dioxin formation from other wastes because it has so much chlorine. The more chlorine a dioxin, furan, or PCB has, the more toxic its effects.	Hydrochloric acid can irritate and burn your lungs and cause fluid build up and possible ulceration of your respiratory tract. It also will shorten the life and reduce function of your burnbox. Dioxin can cause cancer, immune dysfunction, IQ deficit, reproductive effects, and much more.	Don't burn it, encourage stores to stock glass bottles when available, or only #1 and #2 plastic containers. Reuse toys and tubing. Bale plastics to landfill or use as insulation, wind barrier, etc.
 <p>Polystyrene and styrenes</p>	Foam cups, bait containers, meat trays, egg cartons, some packaging "peanuts", yogurt and deli containers, clear plastic cookie trays, plastic forks and spoons, photographic film,	Polystyrene (Styrofoam) releases styrene and benzene , a carcinogen. When burned, dioxins and chlorinated furans are formed, which are also carcinogenic.	Styrene gas is very readily absorbed through the skin, respiratory system and gastrointestinal tract. High doses can cause deep unconsciousness and death. The vapor can damage the eyes and mucous membranes. It accumulates in the body throughout your life.	Don't use Styrofoam or plastic utensils. Switch to alternative products. See www.ciwm.ca.gov/FoodWaste/Compost/Biodegrade.htm for a list of companies. Have the Store order only products in #1 and #2 plastics (or glass).
	Bleached paper products White packaging materials and paperboards such as frozen food, bakery and pizza boxes, any light-weight white cardboard	Burning these materials releases halogenated hydrocarbons (carbon compounds with chlorine and fluorine). These materials can also release dioxins and furans when burned.	These compounds have been associated with blood abnormalities, low white cells and leukemia as well as liver damage from continued exposure to high doses.	Buy unbleached products. Look for chlorine-free bleach process on the label. Work with the Store to offer non-bleached products - especially those that are used often - like coffee filters and paper towels.
	Slick colored papers and cardboards, magazines	Synthetic inks contain heavy metals , like lead & cadmium. These metals get carried along with the rest of the smoke, and eventually settle onto plants, water, and soil.	The absorption of heavy metals by humans has been linked to birth defects, interference with red blood cell production, liver and kidney deterioration and loss of coordination.	Soy-based inks and lead-free inked materials are available, although not widely used. Stop junk mail in your community. Go to http://www.stopjunk.com , or read the previous page of this handout if available.

**REMEMBER, NO ONE BUT PROVIDERS
AND THEIR PATIENTS ARE ALLOWED
TO BE IN THE CLINIC!**

CATG Health Fair!

October 5th in Birch Creek

5-7 pm

Doyon Shareholder of the Year Nominations Due September 16th!

- The Hannah Paul Solomon Elder of the year award
- The Chief Andrew Isaac Leadership award
- The Daaga' community service award
- The Doyon citizen of the year award
- The Richard Frank military award

Contact Doyon, Ltd. If you would like to make a nomination



www.birchcreektribe.org

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