Showing Our Strength & Our Pride for Our Culture

Summer 2023 will forever be remembered as a time of renewal and celebration for Ketchikan Indian Community’s Tribal citizens. On a rainy day in June, members proudly gathered together with the Ketchikan community to awaken and launch KIC’s new X’oos Kuye’lk (Brown Bear Spirit) canoe. The Awakening Celebration marked a significant milestone in the revival KIC’s role as part of the Pacific Northwest’s canoe culture and was a testament to the late Marvin Oliver’s legacy. 
Oliver, a master carver and celebrated Native artist and educator, designed and crafted KIC’s new ocean-going canoe. Marvin's wife Brigette Ellis, sister Marylin Bard, and children Brian, Isadora, and Sampson, were there to celebrate the awakening and launch of the canoe he crafted for KIC.
Brigette’s reflection highlighted the significance of canoes to our culture, noting their capacity to engage future leaders and inspire them to embrace their heritage. Marvin's design featured running salmon, symbolizing the eternal importance of the salmon to our culture.

Ahl’l’kaaw Gitnick’angeak followed with a prayer of blessing in Sm’algyax (Tsimshian language), thanking the red cedar—our tree of life—for giving us our beautiful sea canoes. She thanked our new canoe for joining our village and remembered its relatives, the people of the Coast Salish and Quinault nation, and its brother, Marvin Oliver.

Johon Atkinson, cultural leader from Metlakatla, expressed his enthusiasm for the way canoes are bringing our islands’ tribes together. Together with Harley Holter and others, Johon had been training our Tribal youth to become paddlers—to rely on each other as they "pull together" to propel their canoe through the water.
The Haida Descendants sang the Good Morning song, composed by Vernan Williams, to reflect on the canoe’s new beginning. To their singing and drumming, young people ceremonially cleaned the canoe with cedar bows and placed a cedar ring on its bow.
In a spirit of solidarity, dozens of people rallied their strength to lift and carry the 18 foot X’oos Kuye’lk across Tongass Avenue to Bar Harbor. As it was placed it in the water, a celebratory cry arose from the crowd and, symbolically, the rain suddenly stopped!

With Willard Jackson as skipper and Clint Schultz steering, a crew of 12 paddlers embarked on X’oos Kuye’lk’s inaugural journey, paddling out around the breakwater.

With X’oos Kuye’lk awake, on July 1 KIC was ready to greet our Polynesian Voyaging Society friends as the Hōkūle‘a sailed into Ketchikan on the second stop of their 43,000 mile Moananui‘akea Voyage. Using traditional wayfinding, they will be circumnavigating the Pacific Ocean, visiting 36 countries, 100 Indigenous territories, and more than 300 ports with a

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A MESSAGE FROM

Norm Skan
President

Yåk'ëé yagiye! What a busy summer it's been for KIC. Together we've launched our new X'oo's Kuye'lik canoe, hosted the Polynesian Voyaging Society crew, held Youth Culture Camp, highlighted our new canoe in the 4th of July parade, surveyed our community at the Blueberry Festival and much, much more! It was so great seeing our Tribal members, leaders, employees, and volunteers pulling together to make it all happen.

Those highly visual events are only a few of the things that have been happening at KIC as a result of the team's hard work. Every Tribal Council meeting, we receive progress reports from KIC's directors sharing what they're doing to achieve the strategic priorities we've set for KIC. I'm pleased to report that our team is making good progress, which allows Council to stay focused on our primary responsibility of governing our sovereign nation. We're busy representing the Tribe at various gatherings, preparing for annual elections, and about to review our financial audit, just to name a few.

Keep reading to get the full scoop on KIC's happenings. Gunačhësh, N'toyaxsa, Háwa'al!

WE'RE EDUCATING OUR OWN

KIC Education's director Sonya Skan continues to work with the State of Alaska to develop the Tribal Education Compact Agreement. The five tribes selected for this program recently completed their second meeting with the State to review the working draft of the compact agreement, which lays out the terms including the Tribal School's roles and responsibilities.

KIC's Tribal Scholars program and After School program are set to get underway as the 2023-24 school year. Students in grade 9-12 who are interested in joining Tribal Scholars can visit www.kictribe.info/TSapp to download the application form. Tribal youth, grades 6-12 interested in participating in our After School Program, please contact S. aani, Christeen Jackson at (907) 228-9572 or chriseej@kictribe.org.

WE ARE A TRIBAL FAMILY

In case you missed it, please know that as a tribal family, we may be different, but we are one. It's important to remember that diversity is our strength. Our differences and similarities make us unique and strong.

CAREERS & RETIREMENT UPDATE

Have you ever considered working for the Tribe? We currently have a number of open positions and we hire with a Native preference. Also, our minimum starting wage is 20 dollars an hour for all positions, many start higher based on your experience and education. Visit www.kictribe.org/careers and follow the Current Job Openings link. If you're looking for a new career, be sure to check out the Behavioral Health Aide position where you'll receive training, support, and a cash stipend through ANTHC depending on the level of certification program you decide to complete.

ATTENTION PAST KIC EMPLOYEES

If you have not received a letter from KIC regarding your retirement account, please contact our HR team with your current address at hr@kictribe.org. We have important information for you!
Logo Created for Our KIC Veterans

Tribal Council and the KIC Veterans are pleased to announce they have selected a logo designed by artist MiIlgm Ts’amtii Michael Jasson Milne as the new logo for our Tribe’s Veterans. The design depicts the Raven and Eagle sharing the wealth of our culture together, the copper shield. Within the shield, is the representation of the United States and its stripes. In the wings, Spirit faces represent man and woman. The tail features the helmeted face of a warrior. In place of the classic olive branches and arrows, MiIlgm incorporated the cedar branches used by our people during ceremonies, representing the peace our Veterans fought for. Congratulations and thanks to MiIlgm for his meaningful design.

MiIlgm Ts’amtii (lightning that dances) Michael Jasson Milne

is a Ketchikan-born artist and locally raised through Tlingit traditions of the surrounding islands. He is Ts’msyen Guunheda of the Gitlaan, Metlakatla and Haida from Kasaan. MiIlgm is primarily a Southeast Alaska Native Formline Artist, carver, and storyteller. He is inspired by the beauty of the Ts’msyen, Haida, and Tlingit culture that his children Michael Jaykob and Greyson Noah Parker thrive in.

Honoring Joel Azure’s Legacy

Recently the Tribal Council unanimously passed a resolution honoring Tribal member Joel Azure, renaming the housing development ‘Lot 7’ to ‘Azure Summit.’ President Norm Skan highlighted Joel’s instrumental role while working for the Tribe in obtaining and developing the property for the benefit of our Tribal citizens those efforts continue to positively impact our community today.

After receiving a Master’s degree in Business Administration in 2004, Joel served our Tribe for over a decade holding several leadership positions including Housing Operations Manager and Director, Chief Operating Officer, and Interim Tribal Administrator. His contributions are remarkable and include securing funds and developing various projects such as the 12-unit Elders apartment complex, the 7-unit affordable rental project, four Brown Deer duplex, and low-income rental units. Particularly noteworthy was his efforts to complete KIC’s road inventory for the ‘IRR’ (Indian Reservation Roads) program in 2012, now known as the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP). Joel is a great example of higher education preparing our youth to become Tribal leaders in the future.

We’re pleased to introduce Richard Harney, Tribal Planner

Richard brings a wealth of experience in planning and community development as well as a valuable perspective to our organization. His dedication and commitment to serving our community align perfectly with our Traditional Tribal Values. He and his wife Sarah, a Tribal member, have five children and strive to reflect the values that guide our community in their family—love, support, and unity.

As the Tribal Planner, Richard will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our Tribe, preserving its rich cultural heritage, and fostering a healthy Tribe. His vision, creativity, and ability to connect with stakeholders will undoubtedly drive positive change and support opportunities for progress. Please join us in welcoming him to KIC!
KIC continues working for improved fishing and hunting access for Ketchikan's residents. At our Blueberry Festival booth, 380 residents completed our Fishing & Hunting Survey. Their responses reinforced KIC's Rural Status Proposal, highlighting their need for increased access, which will further strengthen our report to the Federal Subsistence Board prior to making a final decision on KIC's proposal in January 2025.

Where do you get fish & game now?
- 70% Friends/Family Share
- 94% Buy from Grocery Store
- 94% Buy from Commercial Supplier

Why don’t you have enough?
- 51% High Purchase Prices
- 46% High Cost to Fish/Hunt
- 32% Current Bag Limits
- 32% Distance to Grounds

Help us build our case for Rural Status visit www.kictribe.info/RuralStatus to take our important survey today!

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES — Apply now for TRIBAL SCHOLARS for grades 9-12 at kictribe.info/Tsapp. September 5 our AFTER SCHOOL program for grades 6-12 begins call (907) 228-9572.

COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY — Let us know the best ways to get KICs information to you. Please complete our survey at www.kictribe.info/CommsSurvey.

REGULAR TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETINGS
- September 18
- October 23
- November 20

STOMP THE STIGMA — Sat., Sept. 8, join Behavioral Health to support those affected by mental health or substance use disorders. Info at kictribe.info/STS2023.

ELDERS’ DINNERS — Third Thursday of each month in the Elders’ Cafe at 5pm for members & spouses 55+.

DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM — Starts in September to support those diagnosed with pre-diabetes. Call (907) 228-9428 today to sign up.

SPECIALTY DENTAL CARE AVAILABLE
- Orthodontics — Sept. 11-15 | Oct. 23-27 | Dec. 4-8

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES
- Oct. 17 — Candidate Information Packets Available
- Nov. 18 — Declaration of Candidacy

2023 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN — Available now online at www.kictribe.info/2023HP.

KIC EVENT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM — Sign up now to get text alerts at www.kictribe.info/KICeverbridge.

Are you in crisis, depressed or suicidal?
Crisis walk-in services are available M-F, 8-5 at KIC Behavioral Health @ 201 Deermount
for after-hours crisis support call 9-8-8

Mental Health Emergency? Call 9-8-8