

# NATIVE VILLAGE OF KANATAK

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## News from the Kanatak Tribal Council

A number of decisions were made by the tribal council at the July 15 and August 12 meetings:

Some of the tribal council and a couple of tribal members did tribal subsistence fishing on the Kenai in July. Around 400 lbs. of salmon was harvested by the group; see photos of project participants on page 12.

Nicole Brenneman, Chris Forshey and Kathy Hansen were selected as members of the 2012 election committee, with Nicole Brenneman designated chairman. A meeting stipend was also approved for the group. At this writing the Election Committee is working on obtaining accurate, current addresses for our members. If you have moved, or are planning a move in the near future, please contact the office to update your information! Call 907-357-5991. Also the council nomination forms were mailed recently. These are also on the Kanatak website.

The Kanatak newsletter contract for Jeanette Shanigan was extended for an additional 6 months.

Gus and Toni Yovino's request that the tribe donate socks to their ongoing soup-kitchen project was approved.

Final planning details for the BIA roads project to Kanatak in early August were also discussed. At this writing, the trip had to be re-scheduled due to scheduling conflicts; the new focus for this year's project was GPS, equipment and wilderness training, which happened in the Seward area, in preparation for a future trip to Kanatak.

The Emergency Assistance Program has exceeded the maximum budget for FY2012 and is now closed for the remainder of the year. The council plans to assess and perhaps re-work the application and grant process.

The next pre-scheduled monthly council meeting is scheduled for the second Sunday in September, at 2:00 pm AKDT / 6:00 pm ESDT. Please attend. Your thoughts and comments are valued. If you wish to attend via telephone, here's the info: Call-in number = 1-866-895-5510 Passcode = 868521# Should there be a change in the schedule, Tess McGowan will e-mail an update.

Additional details regarding council meetings can always be found on the Kanatak website (<http://www.kanatak.com>) under NEWS in the meeting minutes for the various dates. Previous newsletters and program applications are there, too. Check it out!

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Terrence Jason Shanigan, secretary-treasurer of the Kanatak Tribal Council, submitted the following story from the *Anchorage Daily News*, saying "This is a story our members should read. Perhaps in an upcoming issue of the newsletter? We should be thinking like this."

KODIAK -- A tribe on Kodiak Island has unveiled a plan to take over surplus Coast Guard land in a move that tribal members say would allow for economic opportunities and a return to traditional food gathering.

The Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak unveiled its long-term plan this week. Board member Iver Malutin told The Kodiak Daily Mirror that the proposed land transfer would be a way to restore things to the way they were before the 1940s and the arrival of the military on Kodiak Island.

"We've never owned land," Malutin said, "and we have to protect (the land, air and sea) in order to have a future."

The plan starts with obtaining an agreement with the Coast Guard that allows negotiations to begin. The two groups could then decide which parts of the 23,000-acre Coast Guard complex are surplus and could be transferred to the tribe.

Sun'aq CEO Robert Polasky, natural resources director Rick Rowland, consultant Tim Richardson and board member Iver Malutin said the plan is a way to restore traditional food-gathering land -- where members can hunt and gather berries -- and open opportunities for economic development.

As part of the 1973 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Natives living on Kodiak asked for land formerly occupied by the U.S. military as part of its claim. That land later was designated an EPA Superfund site because it was so heavily contaminated by chemicals and waste left by the military.

If the surplus lands the tribe now is seeking are contaminated, they will need to be cleaned up. It's possible that the tribe could co-manage any transferred land with the Coast Guard after or during cleanup, officials said.



Kanatak's own Biggest Loser last "optional" weigh-in is due in August. If you would like to share your current weight loss with other KoBL participants who have also shared theirs, please email Tess at tessmcgowan@gmail.com with your update. ALL FINAL WEIGH-INS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 11, 2012! \*\*Final Weigh-in must be confirmed by your medical provider. Participants will receive a final weigh-in report via email.\*\*

**1st prize = \$3,000**

**2nd prize = \$1,500**

**3rd prize = \$500**



Everyone has heard the expression *Christmas in July*, but what if I coin a new one—*Fur Rondy in August*??? This is just a notice to remind all tribal members that once again, the tribe will have a table at the Fur Rondy Native Arts & Craft Show in Anchorage, Alaska in late February 2013, where tribal members may sell their hand-crafted, handmade items. Certainly, it's not too early to begin making that inventory of items for sale, folks! A little extra income is always useful.



Nominations forms for open seats on the Kanatak Tribal Council have been mailed; please consider nominating yourself or someone else and take an ACTIVE role in tribal affairs!

## Kanatak, Historically Speaking...

In an interview in 1996, Nick Shanigan verified that he had been orphaned at an early age. He left Kanatak at about age 14 to attend the Eklutna Vocational School, just outside of Anchorage; there he completed his high school education. A tour of duty in the US Army followed with his discharge coming in 1947. Nick returned to Bristol Bay where he fished commercially for Alaska Packer's and trapped at Ugashik Lakes. There he met Mary Hendrickson. The couple was married on September 3, 1948 in Naknek, Alaska.



Nick Shanigan with basketball team at Eklutna Vocational School near Anchorage.



Remains of the Kanatak store in the 1970's.

Following the purchase of the store building, which had originally been owned by Hilmer Evans, Nick Shanigan moved his family, consisting of wife Mary and children Frieda, Marlane and James back to Kanatak about 1952. Two of their children, Nikki in 1953 and Gordon in 1954, were born in Kanatak, both delivered by "Doctor" Nick. In fact, Gordon Shanigan was probably the last tribal member born in Kanatak and it was not an easy

birth! Due to stormy weather, the Coast Guard could not get into Kanatak for a medical emergency, so his father Nick Shanigan stepped in and delivered Gordon on September 6, 1954. Older sister Frieda Shanigan Byars remembers: *"Remember that day clearly. Gordon entered the world fighting all the way. Dad radioed the Coast Guard to help with the birth, as mom was having difficulties. Before they arrived, Gordon arrived, although he was having difficulty breathing and was blue at birth. Dad put him in a large dresser drawer (makeshift bassinette) and elevated the drawer in a warm spot near the stove, to keep him alive. The Coast Guard eventually arrived and made sure all was okay. Dad did a great job in the delivery, although Mom took a while to recover."* Apparently, the Coast Guard arrived while Dad Nick was showing off the new baby to his siblings!

Two years later the family rode their horses via the Kanatak Trail across the mountain pass to Egegik, because the school-age children in the family needed to attend school. According to Shanigan family history, the family lived in Kanatak until 1956 when they were the last family to leave. They never intended to leave permanently, as many valuable, significant items were left behind, but they could only take what could be carried on their persons/horseback. Despite his young age, Gordon always said he remembered riding in a gas-box across from sister Nikki on a horse, while leaving Kanatak.



Shanigan family in Egegik.



## Alaska Native History or How Did We Get Here?

**Prohibition in Alaska** In 1915, the Alaska Legislature decided to ask Alaskans whether they wanted to ban the sale and manufacture of liquor. The campaign against "Demon Rum" reflected many of the same opinions gathering strength throughout the country. The United States was moving toward approving the 18th Amendment, which started the prohibition era. "The prohibition cause seems to be gaining rapidly in Alaska and it is my opinion that prohibition will be carried as soon as we can get a fair expression of the voice of the people of this territory," Gov. John Strong wrote in 1915.

He believed that granting women the right to vote in 1913 had been critical in the campaign against alcohol. "To the votes of the women of Alaska may be ascribed the crystallization of public sentiment against the liquor traffic in the territory," the Governor said. The advisory vote in Alaska won in 1916, by more than a two-to-one margin. The only places that didn't vote to go dry were Eagle, St. Michael and the nearly abandoned town of Chena, near Fairbanks.

Congressional Delegate James Wickersham said the anti-liquor sentiment was due to dissatisfaction with the way saloons were being run - they were regarded as a "menace to many people."

The results of the advisory vote were sent along to the U.S. Congress, which still had the right to make laws about liquor for Alaska. It approved the so-called "Bone Dry Law," which went into effect at the start of 1918.



*Destroying bottles of alcohol in Nome  
during Prohibition*

Two years later the 18th Amendment went into effect and alcohol was banned throughout the United States. Thirteen years after that, because the nation had changed its mind about banning drinking, the 21st Amendment repealed the 18th and alcohol became legal again.

**You can help with recounting the Kanatak history!**

**If you have information, stories, memories, photos, or family history  
about Kanatak, please share them with the entire tribe!**

**Send them to [jshanigan@hotmail.com](mailto:jshanigan@hotmail.com) for the newsletter.**

**Thanks so much!**

## The Alutiiq Use of Charcoal

Charcoal, wood that has been reduced by a fire, is a widely used resource. In the Alutiiq world, charcoal is important for cooking. Pits filled with burning coals were once used for slow roasting foods. Elders report cooking fish wrapped in beach loveage and aluminum foil in hot coals; at late prehistoric archaeological sites, large charcoal and rock-filled pits are a common find in house floors. Elders suggest that these features were used for roasting meat. They recall digging pits in the beach, filling these pits with hot coals and heated rock, then covering the pit with gravel to bake the food slowly.



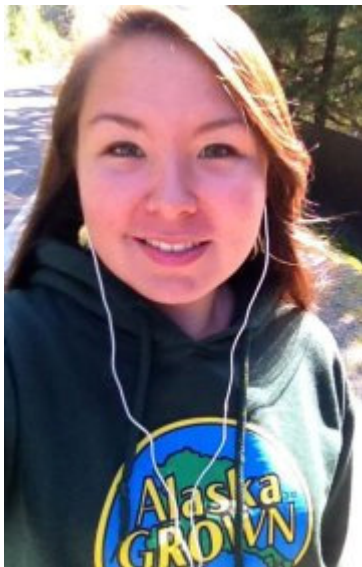
Charcoal is also recognized for its medicinal qualities. Alutiiq healers use *kianiq* scraped from burned devil's-club root to create a fine powder. When mixed with milk this powder can be used as a poultice for treating eye inflammations. And in the past, ground charcoal was mixed with oil or blood to make black paint. Charcoal was also used in creating tattoos. (See February 2011, page 5 for more details.)

Today, charcoal has another important use; it can help archaeologist date ancient Alutiiq settlements. As all organic matter contains an even amount of the radioactive isotope carbon 14, and as carbon 14 begins to decay with the death of an organism, scientists can measure the amount of the carbon 14 remaining in an object to determine its age at death. Carbon dates, however, are not equivalent to calendar dates. As the amount of atmospheric carbon varies over time, carbon dates must be calibrated to reflect these changes and determine their correspondence with the modern calendar.

The Alutiiq word for charcoal is *kianit*.



## Keeping Body and Soul Together, the Native Way



Recently I inherited a large sum of money—something that was very uncommon and different for me. This, of course, has impacted my life greatly. It has changed me from a person who was careful and tight with her money, who had hardly eaten enough nutritional food—living happily on top ramen, box macaroni, and Kool-Aid. I was grateful when I had any extra money. I was never comfortable asking for help when needed. I always felt worried and guilty to ask my grandmother for help. I was ashamed to tell my family I was in need of help. I felt ashamed I couldn't buy my niece, brother, or grandmother something nice. But this money has changed me in many ways. Today I am fed, but I am also spoilt. I find myself spending frivolously on things I don't need, but want. Then I feel guilty about it afterwards.

Several days ago my mother and I read from a book that states something similar to "You cannot live a meaningful and happy life while you only focus on yourself. You will only be happy for so long while you only care for yourself. In order to be happy, you must show compassion to others." In some way I saw a way I could help. A popular Native group on Facebook

was asking help for a young man who was in need of money for a plane ticket; this being the start to his acting career. He needed \$500 to go. I believed, I could help by donating about \$100, and he was then able to go. This led me to purchase his ticket from Bellingham, WA to Albuquerque, NM. These are places I have never walked—places that today even I cannot imagine what they look like or what the people from there may be like. I could not imagine what led me to do this, but a voice in myself told me it was to be done. It may have been my money speaking, or Our Creator helping me fulfill some little tasks of my purpose here on earth.

My family sees this as frivolous spending. My mother is upset about it. But inside me, it's different. It reminded me of myself—wishing that I had the ability to do such things when I was younger. I wasn't a person that didn't have anything; I was very blessed to have the family and the eternally loving grandmother that I have. She has always made sure I made it home to Barrow for important events, or home to Anchorage for loving visits. For her, I am more grateful than anyone else. There is no person in the world that I love more than her, and there never will be. This is what people should do more often. We, as people, shouldn't focus on ourselves all the time—on what we need and want. It is healthier to help others, even though they may be someone you have never known, or someone you have loved all of your life. These acts of kindness can be as large as buying a plane ticket, or paying for a lunch. A few years back, I was at a community picnic in Anchorage, where a lunch was \$1, and I had only a \$5. I bought my lunch and told the server, "I would like to pay for the 4 people after me". Doing such things can make you happy, and feel as if your soul is smiling. They enrich your soul and help make you become a better person.

Money is not the reason for life. We were created to love and be loved—to care for each other and help each other. These acts are not only revolved around money. You can help an elder load their groceries or tell someone you are grateful for them—whether they are your grandmother, your boss, or someone who is checking your items at the store. If we people always followed this action, our world would be a better place. We could be more connected and caring. We could be less greedy and more respectful. One day, our world will be this way. I believe that, and I can never let this belief go.

*Brittany Arey*



## Tribal Happenings *Celebrating those special moments in our lives....*



Happy birthday to tribal members who are celebrating birthdays in **August:**

August 3: Danesa Johnson (34)  
 August 4: Mathew Wagner (10)  
 August 5: Crystle Ketchum (31)  
 August 14: Jessica Pitchford (23)  
 August 16: Daniel Finn Shanigan (2)  
 August 17: Alexis Allen (2)  
 August 17: Natalie Rane (10)  
 August 18: Joseph Baehm (16)  
 August 19: Katie Domas (23)  
 August 21: Noel Lukitsch (4)  
 August 22: James Rane (47)  
 August 22: Martha Willis (58)  
 August 22: Alyssa Jabs (5)  
 August 24: Devon Sizer (18)  
 August 26: Ronald Lind (51)  
 August 28: Joshua Baehm (11)  
 August 28: Jared Forshey (12)  
 August 28: Anthony Yovino (31)  
 August 30: Riley Mosquito (4)

\*\*\*Bryant (Buddy) Shanigan used the following photo to tell the cyber-world that he's going to be a daddy!



\*\*\*Adena Shanigan Benn shared a couple of photos of herself and her two boys, Mack and Lincoln, from earlier this month in Fairbanks. She said, "Mack is starting second grade this fall and playing his first year of tackle football this summer. Linc is almost two and he keeps us busy!" She also included a photo of Kathy Lakoduk and Linc Benn at the zoo in Anchorage.



\*\*\*James Stavros Perdicaris Shanigan, born December 31, 2011, and big sister Xevera Shanigan enjoying summer together!



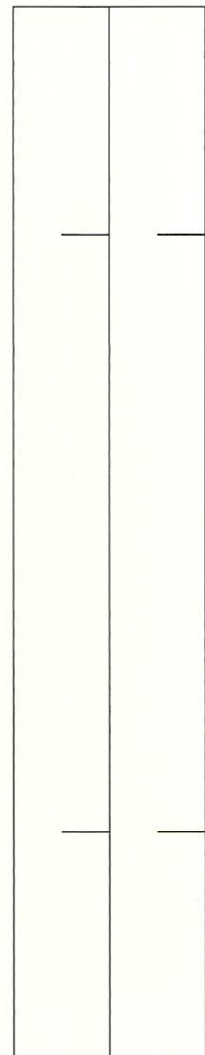
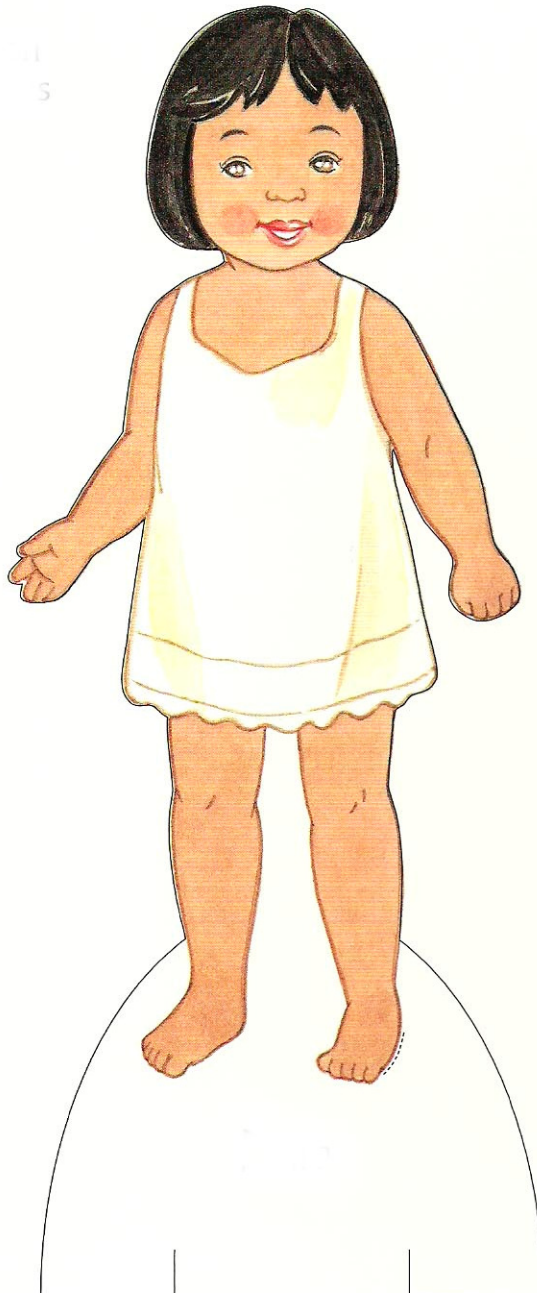
## Kanatak Kids

Dolls are a common find in prehistoric Alutiiq village sites and were typically carved from wood, ivory, and bone. Most Alutiiq dolls have carefully crafted faces, torsos and legs, but lack arms. The doll's clothing may have represented the arms. At one well-preserved Alutiiq village, archaeologists have identified at least three types of human figurines. Male and female dolls appear to be children's toys, as do tiny model hunters designed to sit in the hatch of toy kayaks. A third type of doll was probably used by shamans. Shamans were believed to put spirits into human carving - which could be help people or cause great harm. Some of these dolls have human hair and may represent ancestors, as hair was believed to be a resting place for the human soul. The Alutiiq word for doll is *suaruaq*.



Here's a paper doll to cut out.

Next month will feature the traditional clothing for the doll.





## Heather's Photographic Journey



Many tribal members routinely enjoy the unique beauty of Alaska through Heather Kalmakoff's photos, as she often posts them on Facebook; in addition a series of her photos were already published in the Kanatak newsletter, but this article features the words that explain her interest in photography.

Heather credits her mom Nikki Shanigan with inspiring her original interest in photography, as she remembers her mom intentionally waking up early to photograph sunrises.

Since that early memory, Heather has honed her photographic skills. In her sen-

ior year of high school and first semester of college, she took photography classes and learned a lot about digital and film photography. Heather says she definitely wants to continue taking more classes and learn more and more about photography. In 2011, she worked as a professional photographer's assistant in Anchorage at Farrar Photography, where the work was primarily portraits. During the summer job, Heather was taught how to edit, organize and take care of photographs in business.

Heather believes her favorite aspect of photography is capturing a specific moment in time, and then having the ability to share that moment with the world.

Heather says she has always loved National Geographic Magazine. Her biggest dream is to become a professional photographer and to work for them. But for now, she just wants to continue with photography as a hobby, and get back into college by spring semester 2013. She says she has an idea of what she wants to do if becoming a photographer doesn't work out for her—namely, to become a teacher of Alaska Studies. Heather believes photography will always be her passion and plans to keep working hard to achieve her dreams.

A recent, new development in Heather's photographic journey is a new camera. Heather's mom and dad bought her the most amazing birthday gift ever—a Canon Rebel T4i camera! Heather says it's a dream camera and she loves it. She relates that she has been taking photos like crazy, really good photos.

For tribal members who might also be interested in also pursuing a career in photography, Heather offers the following tips:

Take photographs every day,

Experiment with the objects you photograph, including the angles and lighting,

Research photographers and their work, even a little bit of research can change your ideas and your own style, and

Never give up on your dreams—don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something!

## Right-Clicked

*Photos of tribal members*



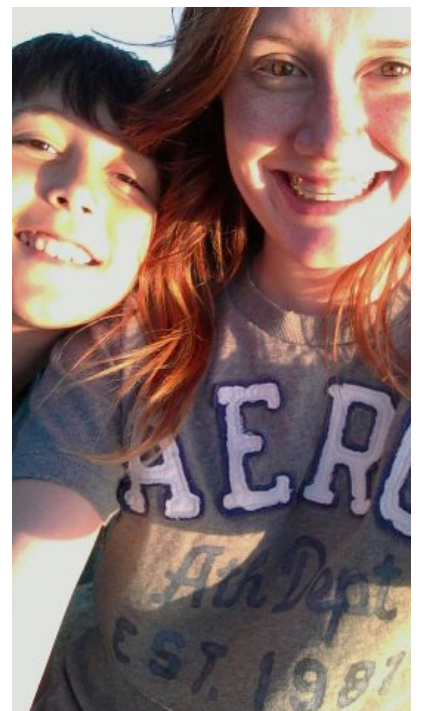
Adena Shanigan Benn and son Linc.



Jeremy and Don McGowan place in the top third in this race.



Above: Breanna Kalmakoff and children



Right: Nathan and Nichole Shanigan



## Programs Available through Kanatak



### Do you need help with housing?

If you are a member in good standing with the Native Tribe of Kanatak and meet certain income requirements, you may be eligible for assistance from the Bristol Bay Housing Authority. The income requirements are established by HUD and vary depending on the place of residence and the number of family members. For example, to meet the income eligibility standards in the Mat-Su borough, where Wasilla is located, the yearly income for a family of three can be no more than \$54,450; yet, if that same family of three resided in the Anchorage area, that maximum would be \$58,000.

Through BBHA, there are currently programs for rental assistance, utility vouchers, home repairs, down-payment assistance for home purchase and crime prevention/youth or cultural activities. There is also the option for the Kanatak tribal council to assess the memberships' housing needs and create other programs in the future, subject to federal guidelines and BBHA approval.

To apply, you **must** fill out an 18-page application which includes supplying proof of income, such as yearly income tax forms. The application is available at the BBHA website: <http://www.bbha.org/apply.htm> Phone numbers for contact with either the King Salmon or Dillingham offices are also available at the above-listed website.

Once your application is complete, mail it to this address:

*Bristol Bay Housing Authority*

*PO Box 50*

*Dillingham, Alaska 99576*

**Do NOT mail your application to the Kanatak tribal office!**

**Find applications on the Kanatak website: <http://www.Kanatak.com>**

**Have you completed the tribal enrollment process for your children, too?**



### Native Village of Kanatak

The following programs are available for the membership:

**Education Program:** Funds to be awarded to eligible tribal members seeking higher education and/or specific job-skill training required for employment/certification.

**Tribal Youth Activity Program:** Funds to be awarded to eligible tribal members between the ages of 1-18 for extracurricular activities, such as school sports, boy/girl scouts, summer or sports camps, music lessons, dance lessons, etc.

**Emergency Assistance Program:** Funds for tribal members' unexpected emergencies that threaten basic quality of life, such as fire damage, leaking roof, non-functioning furnace, water heater, etc. (Low-income members should seek this assistance through BBHA.) Emergency Assistance Program has exceeded the maximum budget for FY2012 and is now closed for the remainder of the year.

**Wellness Program:** Funds for *Kanatak's Own Biggest Loser* program; also provides educational materials and promotion of healthy living, including weight-loss, suicide prevention, alcohol/drug prevention, domestic violence, and tobacco-use prevention. Promotes and supports *Choose Respect* program.

**Tribal Burial Assistance Program:** Funds to be awarded to help with final expenses of tribal members who were in good standing with the tribe at the time of passing; maximum award per deceased member = \$1,500.

**Culture Program:** Funds to promote culture and communication among tribal members, specifically the subsistence fishing trip, AFN & the Fur Rondy Craft Show.

**Bicycle Safety Program:** Program completed this year.

*These programs generally require the following:*

- *completed tribal membership/enrollment (member in good-standing)*
- *completed application for program*
- *documentation of need/amount, bids where requested, and proof/receipts of expenditures*
- *name/address of 3rd party to whom checks will be issued; as a rule, checks are not issued directly to tribal members.*

**Contact the executive director, tribal administrator or Kanatak tribal council for additional information about these programs.**



## 2012 Kanatak Subsistence Fish Camp on the Kenai



Setting up the fish camp on the Kenai: Paris Simpson & Samantha Shanigan.

Gangsta Alex *the Knife*, getting ready to slay some fish!



Bob & Mikki Miller, fish camp hosts and Samantha Shanigan's parents.



Above: Shawn Shanigan, Alex Giacometti, and Henry Forshey at the fish camp.

Right: A load of salmon ready for the cleaning/ filleting table.



Savannah Shanigan



## Contact Information

- ♦ **President Henry F. Forshey**  
ktcpresident@yahoo.com  
610-704-8112
- ♦ **Vice-President Alex Giacometti**  
ktcvicepresident@yahoo.com  
206-992-9240
- ♦ **Secretary/Treasurer Terrence Jason Shanigan**  
ktctreasurer@yahoo.com  
907-315-6184
- ♦ **Council Member Anthony Forshey Jr.**  
ktcplanning@yahoo.com  
717-752-9590
- ♦ **Council Member Shawn Shanigan**  
kanatak@mtaonline.net  
907-315-3878



### **Executive Director Tess McGowan**

tessmcgowan@ymail.com, tessmcgowan@kanatak.com  
610-217-0399

### **Tribal Administrator Shawn Shanigan**

kanatak@mtaonline.net, s.shanigan@kanatak.com  
907-357-5991

### **Newsletter Editor Jeanette Shanigan**

jshanigan@hotmail.com  
907-982-9103

### **Facebook:**

**Kanatak Tribe Members**

### **Website:**

**<http://www.kanatak.com>**

### **Mailing Address:**

Native Tribe of Kanatak  
PO Box 876822  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

### **Physical Address of Office:**

1251 Copper Creek Road  
Wasilla, Alaska