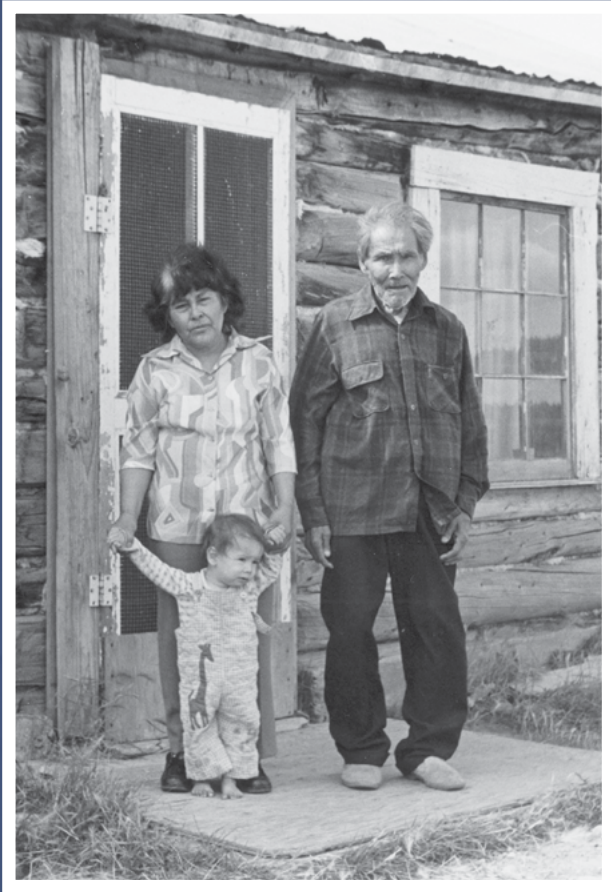


# Ahtna Kanas

FALL 2020



**COPPER RIVER FOUR:  
THE AHTNA CONFRONT THE STATE OF  
ALASKA OVER SALMON: P. 8**

**WALTER CHARLEY MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS HIGHLIGHT:  
PROVIDING COMPASSION AND CARE  
DURING COVID-19: P. 12**





8

Copper River Four:  
The Ahtna Confront  
the State of Alaska  
Over Salmon



12

Walter Charley  
Memorial Scholarship  
Recipients Highlight:  
Providing Compassion  
and Care During  
COVID-19



6

HAZWOPER  
Training in  
Glennallen



14

Meet the 2020  
Ahtna Special  
Forces



19

Ahtna launches  
new website

- 1 President's Message
- 3 CEO's Message
- 4 US Army Corps of Engineers Tulsa District & Red River Watersheds
- 5 Ahtna major sponsor of the NAWIC 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament in Anchorage
- 5 STAR Awards
- 6 AGSC in its 13th Year of Outstanding OSH Contribution to Ahtna's SHEP Culture

- 7 2020-2021 Ahtna Tene Nene' Community Subsistence Hunt for Caribou
- 10 Ahtna Plants: Berries
- 11 Shareholder Employee Announcements
- 11 Shareholder-owned Businesses
- 16 Shareholder Services: Shareholder Records & Shareholder Enrichment
- 17 Don't forget to apply: Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship Program

- 17 Congratulations to Our Ahtna Graduates
- 18 Get Out the Native Vote Becomes CITC Affiliate
- 19 Ahtna launches new website
- 19 Stories from Our Elders
- 20 Meet The Board: John Dye
- 21 MyAhtna Portal: Shareholder Submission
- 21 Condolences
- 21 Calendar of Events

### Ahtna, Inc. and Ahtna Netiyē' Senior Management Team



**Michelle Anderson**  
President, AI



**Kathryn Martin**  
Senior VP, AI



**Tom Maloney**  
CEO, AN



**Roy J. Tansy Jr.**  
COO, AN



**Matt Tisher**  
CFO & VP of Finance, AI



**Joe Bovee**  
VP of Land and  
Resources, AI



**Douglas Miller**  
VP of Human  
Resources, AI



**Nicholas Ostrovsky**  
Managing Counsel, AI



**Eric McLaurin**  
VP of Business  
Development, AN

### Ahtna Subsidiary Presidents



**Craig O'Rourke**  
President, AGSC, ADB &  
AMCC



**Brenda Rebne**  
President, AFSI, APSI,  
AIMI, AISL, AKHI & ATSI



**Vicky Dunlap**  
President, ASTS & ALL



**Tim Finnigan**  
President, AGL, AEI & AITL



**Timothy F. Gould, PE**  
President, AES & ASL



**David O'Donnell**  
President, AC&PPC &  
AAA Valley Gravel

Shareholders are invited to submit articles for the next issue of the Kanas. The submission deadline is Nov. 13, 2020.

For questions or more information about the Kanas, please contact the media and communications office at [news@ahtna.net](mailto:news@ahtna.net)





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## HONOR THE PAST BY BEING COUNTED FOR THE FUTURE

Dear fellow shareholders,

I am pleased to announce the launch of our redesigned [www.ahtna.com](http://www.ahtna.com) website. It was designed with our shareholders in mind and makes it easier to locate the information you need most. Our digital version of the Kanas has also been refreshed and you can view and subscribe to the quarterly e-newsletter at [www.ahtna.com/kanas](http://www.ahtna.com/kanas).

This year, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment when American women won the right to vote, the USA TODAY Network named 10 women from every state as "Women of the Century." The late Katie John, beloved Ahtna Elder and tribal fishing rights advocate, was one of two women unanimously selected for Alaska. Katie fought tirelessly for the fishing rights of the Ahtna people and she won! The precedent set in the court case not only protects the rights of Ahtna people, it protects the fishing rights of all Alaska Natives. You can learn more about all the inspiring women of the century at [www.usatoday.com/womenofthecentury](http://www.usatoday.com/womenofthecentury).

Native Americans and Alaska Natives faced enormous challenges before obtaining U.S. citizenship and legal protection of their voting rights. It was not until 1965 that the passage of the Voting Rights Act eliminated literacy tests and other barriers to voting experienced by Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Please do not let the coronavirus deter you from voting in this year's election. Check the voting options in your state as there are many alternatives available. Your vote is critical!

I hope everyone reading this message took the time to go online or respond by other means to the US Census. This count occurs every 10 years and sets the federal funding amounts that support many of our vital health, safety, infrastructure and social services. Not responding negatively impacts us as individuals as well as our tribes, community and state. For those that did respond, thank you!

I had the opportunity to give a presentation to the Copper River Native Association (CRNA) youth program this summer. Staff from Ahtna's legal and shareholder enrichment teams also joined and gave their own perspectives which made for a well-rounded presentation. We talked about things that are important to concentrate on in terms of education and healthy choices. We also discussed the many career opportunities available at Ahtna, and encouraged participants to stay in touch with us and apply for the Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship for assistance with continued education.



In July we hosted a visit from Congressman Don Young at the Klutina Culture Camp. He was accompanied by his wife Ann, and state director Daniel George. We were able to share the experiences of the Ahtna people in this last year and how we're working with our villages and regional nonprofits to manage pandemic preparations and response.

We continue to touch base on a bi-weekly basis with our tribes, tribal health organizations in the region, housing authority, and Chitina Native Corporation (CNC). We check in to see how everyone is doing with their pandemic preparations and response and work collaboratively to troubleshoot any issues that have come up. It is amazing to see how our region has pulled together to help our people. Village leaders moved quickly to protect their tribal members and think about what their needs might be as the state has hunkered down, reopened, and is now dealing with

(Continued on page 2)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued from page 1

increasing positive virus test results statewide. We have been focused on preparations for the fall. Mentasta now has a village store which has been a creative and much-needed service.

Like many events this year, the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention and Elders and Youth Conference will be held virtually. That also means there will be no AFN Ahtna reception this year. We look forward to these events each fall. While we will miss connecting with you in person, the health and safety of our Elders and those most vulnerable to the coronavirus must come first.

This summer, the Ahtna Land Department and Shareholder Enrichment staff constructed two recreational/subsistence cabins for shareholder use. The Middle Lake Cabin is located approximately 7 miles west of Sourdough and 2 miles north of Ewan Lake and is accessible either by float plane or ATV. This area was historically used by the Gulkana people for trapping and hunting. The Klawasi River Cabin has been named in honor of Roy S. Ewan and is located 20 miles northeast of Copper Center. It is accessible by either small fixed-wing aircraft or ATV on a trail constructed last year by the Native Village of Kluti-Kaah.

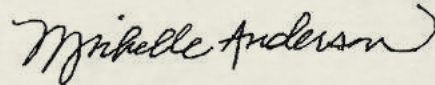


The Klawasi River Cabin has been named in honor of Roy S. Ewan and is located 20-miles northeast of Copper Center. The location was a favorite hunting area of Roy's.

The Middle Lake and Roy S. Ewan (Klawasi River) cabins are 12X16 and outfitted with sleeping bunks, propane cook stoves, lantern, pots and pans and various tools. Users will need to provide their own sleeping bags, food and propane fuel. Shareholders interested in using the cabins can contact the Ahtna Land Department to make a reservation: (907) 822-3467 or [ahtnaland@ahtna.net](mailto:ahtnaland@ahtna.net).

On page 12, two of our Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship recipients shed light on what it's like to work in the medical field during a pandemic. We appreciate them taking the time out of their extremely busy schedules to share their experiences with us. We have so much gratitude for all the workers out there who have made sacrifices to support their families and provide essential services.

Tsin'aen and please stay safe & healthy,



Michelle Anderson, President  
Ahtna, Incorporated



Ahtna Shareholder Edgar Miller inspects the wall framing of the Middle Lake Cabin after squaring and leveling. (June 18, 2020 photo by Bruce Cain)



Ahtna shareholders (l to r) Bob Neeley, Ray Craig and Edgar Miller install side sheeting on the Middle Lake Cabin." (June 18, 2020 photo by Bruce Cain)





# CEO'S MESSAGE

## MAINTAINING OUR BASE WHILE LOOKING TO GROW

Greetings shareholders,

It has been over six months since Ahtna's Crisis Management Team (CMT) was called into action in early March in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Immediate action was taken to reduce COVID-19 impacts on employees and operations. This included the implementation of a business travel restriction, requiring all "non-essential" employees to work from home, surveying employees on their wellbeing, tailoring our COVID response to our geographic regions, and utilizing all available COVID-19 relief programs. The Ahtna CMT meets regularly to address changing COVID impacts on our operations and employees.

Ahtna's business continues to be solid with a strong backlog, and heavy business development efforts are underway. We are focused on expanding our work with existing customers and teaming partners during this time, and we are continuing to look at business and real estate acquisition opportunities. Our subsidiaries are continuing to maintain their baseline contracts as projected in their 2020 budgets, and no Ahtna employees have been furloughed due to the coronavirus or impacts to our work.



Shareholder carpenter Jacob Ginn and carpenter Caleb Warren smile while installing new flashing during a rare break from the rain in Ketchikan while working on AGL's NOAA OLE Roof Replacement. Photo taken via drone by Mitch Webber.

In 2019, the mentor-protégé Joint-Venture (JV) between CDM Constructors Inc. and Ahtna Design-Build was selected for a 5-year multiple award task order contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Omaha District to provide rapid infrastructure design-build services in the event of disasters across the nation. When COVID-19 hit, our JV team was there and prepared to assist. In just 19 days, our team helped the USACE convert a vacant floor of Montana Children's Hospital into an alternate care facility to increase capacity during the coronavirus pandemic. The project was delivered under budget by more than 10 percent. A robust health and safety plan resulted in zero team members testing positive for COVID-19 and zero recordable incidents over the project lifecycle. Montana Governor Steve Bullock toured the new facility in May and remarked, "It's something that, hopefully, we can marvel at and never use, but we know that if something comes up, we're ready for it."



I made a trip out to the Region with Ahtna Construction and Primary Products Company (ACPPC) President Dave O'Donnell to visit with our Glennallen Response Base and Alyeska project teams in the field. It was great to visit with our employees and meet some of our new shareholder employees working for ACPPC. We are monitoring the oil industry cutbacks in Alaska, but our work for Alyeska has remained consistent. The work our employees are performing on the 2,600-foot-high slopes of Thompson Pass near Valdez is exhilarating to witness. Ahtna crews continue to take on the most challenging projects along the pipeline.

Ahtna Netiye's Chief Operating Officer, Roy Tansy Jr., recently traveled to Fairbanks to visit with our employees in the ACPPC and Ahtna Engineering Services (AES) offices. The AES Fairbanks office, under Andrew Weller's leadership, has consistently grown over the last six years. Andrew's team works closely with the AES Anchorage office to support each other on several small projects in Interior Alaska, along with water monitoring and environmental projects at Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base. They outgrew their existing office location and have moved to a new downtown location with better visibility and room to expand. Ahtna Construction continues to own their office/shop facility in South Cushman where they support projects for Alyeska.

Our Anchorage warehouse facility has gone through an impressive transformation since we bought it a year ago. Our staff have done an incredible job rehabilitating the shop, warehouse and parking

areas and making upgrades to lighting and other key features. Ahtna's subsidiaries stage their field operations from this property and equipment, vehicles and mobile units retrofitted to go out on projects are stored at the location. The mobile units



Shareholders Jason Trantham, Jonathan Miller, and Aaron Miller with Warehouse Manager Denny Nelson (black shirt), taking a brief break after staging equipment in front of Ahtna's new expanded warehouse facility

(Continued on page 4)



Warehouse staff showcasing the new facility during an August 2020 Open House.

an investment that has raised employee morale, improved our subsidiary efficiency and safety, and provided training to shareholders who are working hard to support our field operations.

include bunkhouses with showers and a separate unit that contains washers/dryers. Shareholders Jason Trantham and Jonathan Miller have been heavily involved with fixing up the property and maintaining the field equipment. This is

We fully expect to have a great financial year in 2020, with record revenues. Our subsidiary companies and Ahtna, Inc. personnel are really performing and are truly committed to "One Team, One Ahtna." This is the team that delivers.

It is a pleasure to be part of Ahtna.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Maloney".

Tom Maloney, Chief Executive Officer  
Ahtna Netiye'

## SUBSIDIARY NEWS

### US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TULSA DISTRICT & RED RIVER WATERSHEDS

Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Company, LLC (ACPPC) has been awarded an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ), Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC), for Civil Works Construction Projects in Support of Various Military and Civil Works Projects Within the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Tulsa District. The USACE Tulsa District includes all of Oklahoma and portions of Texas and Kansas. The MATOC will be for five years, consisting of a 3-year base plus two one-year options. Under the MATOC, ACPPC will compete for a total of \$49,500,000 in task orders.

The MATOC will support a wide range of Design-Bid-Build (DBB) requirements, including projects for new utilities; relocation of existing utilities; maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of roads and other paved surfaces; small inhabitable structures; revetment and shoreline protection; small concrete outlet work and control structures; foundation drainage systems; and other ancillary features that support flood control and navigation infrastructure. Disciplines and related work requirements may include:

1. Civil Construction and Related Activities. Construction surveying, grading and earthwork, dredging, surface and subsurface storm drainage and drainage control structures, storm water management, erosion and sediment control, shoreline protection, clearing and grubbing, paving and surfacing for roads, parking areas, and sidewalks, parking layout, pavement markings, traffic control and signage, gates and fencing, curbs and gutters, railroads, dewatering, landscaping, seeding, sprigging, and sodding, riprap and stone protection, retaining walls, buried structures, slope stabilization, foundations, borings, trenching, berms, and utility relocation.
2. Structural Construction and Related Activities. Rehabilitation or replacement of concrete structures associated with flood control or navigation infrastructures.

3. Utilities. Sanitary sewers, lighting, and installation or relocation of other utilities as required for road repair and rebuilding or other site work.

Five MATOCs were awarded through a One-Step Best Value "Trade Off" Source Selection. Under this selection model, all non-cost factors when combined are significantly more important than price. The Government was concerned with achieving the most advantageous balance between technical merit (quality) and price.

A seed project was part of the MATOC which gave the government a way to evaluate both the technical and cost merits of each proposer. ACPPC was also awarded the seed task order! The Fry Creek Project consisted of executing required flood damage repairs to the Fry Creek channel south of 121 St. in Bixby, Oklahoma. The project consists of bypassing Fry Creek around the work zone, removing existing riprap identified to be replaced, and hauling it off site. The stream bed and banks will also be graded for uniformity and new riprap protection placed and graded.

"This is an important award for ACPPC," states Dave O'Donnell, ACPPC President. "It is the first USACE term contract for the company, and importantly the MATOC is in an area of the US that has a tremendous amount of opportunity, and complements the company's ongoing success in the nearby Texas Fort Worth District. ACPPC won this MATOC on its own – no JV, teaming partner or mentor, just ACPPC on its own resume!"

At a time when Alaska's construction industry is down, this award allows ACPPC to venture out and diversify its revenue stream.





# AHTNA MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE NAWIC 19TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT IN ANCHORAGE

BY LORI KROPIDLOWSKI, AHTNA ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

On a beautiful sunny August day, the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) held its 19th annual golf tournament to raise funds for scholarships for Alaskan students pursuing a degree in the construction industry. Over the years, the Alaska Chapter of NAWIC has provided over \$65,000 in scholarships. Ahtna Environmental, Inc. was a Presenting Sponsor for the event, and we fielded two teams comprised of Vivian Tokar, Matt Flynn, Greg Jarrell, and Morgan Bruno as well as Morgan Miller, Rachel Thompson, Russell James, and Michael Selhay. Fun was had by all, especially at the "Funky Club Challenge" where players had to donate to the scholarship to NOT have to tee-off with a funky club (either a hockey stick, baseball bat, or shovel). I was part of the organizing committee that planned the event, and our Ahtna Special Forces participant, Angel Edwin, volunteered her time to help make the event happen.



## STAR AWARDS



### Recent STAR Level 1 Award recipient:



#### Josh Bartholomew, AC&PPC

Josh Bartholomew, Field Site Supervisor for Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Company, LLC (AC&PPC), has received a Level I STAR Award in recognition of his commitment and contributions to workplace safety. Josh maintains a team culture that recognizes safety as a core value. He keeps the health, safety and welfare of his crew as his foremost consideration while accomplishing the work efficiently and in compliance.

Josh fully understands his supervisory duties, responsibilities and accountabilities, and continually performs them in an exemplary manner, all while fully focused on the core value of safety. In the absence of a full-time field Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) representative, Josh's crew meets or exceeds all safety metrics expected by HSE and Operations. Josh's commitment to the safety and health of his crew is demonstrated by his leadership of daily safety and preparation meetings, safety and health reporting, use of Loss Prevention System tools, review of Job Hazard Analysis and communicating his expectations to his crew.

Josh has received the praise of our client for his performance as well.

AC&PPC General and Civil Superintendent Chris Vaden presents Field Site Supervisor Josh "Pockets" Bartholomew with a Level 1 STAR award.



# HAZWOPER TRAINING IN GLENNALLEN

BY ANDY POSTISHEK, HSE MANAGER / CORP. SHEP MANAGER

Ahtna's Corporate Safety, Health and Environmental Programs (SHEP) Director Drew Laughlin delivered a 24-hour HAZWOPER class at the Ahtna Corporate Office in Glennallen. In attendance were John Fillman, ADC Facility and Safety Manager; Albert Craig, ADC Maintenance Assistant; and ACPPC Baseline Oil Spill Responders Joe Alexander and Bjorn Beeter.

Drew developed and delivered this training on short notice to accommodate Alexander and Beeter being placed on the Incident Response Team for ACPPC's client, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. The 24-hour HAZWOPER training is intended for those who may be working at HAZWOPER sites for short durations and will not face an exposure that is at or over a Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL).

The training covered a variety of topics including:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including why it's needed and how to wear and remove it
- How to observe safety regulations
- Examination of site control
- Types of hazardous substances and their labeling requirements and standards
- Decontamination guidelines and methods
- Proper handling of various types of hazardous waste containers

The training was excellent, as demonstrated by the team's exemplary performance in the final exercise. KUDOS to all involved.

## AGSC IN ITS 13<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF OUTSTANDING OSH CONTRIBUTION TO AHTNA'S SHEP CULTURE

BY PETE RICE, DIRECTOR - SAFETY, INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (ADB/AGSC/AMCC)

AGSC has quietly surpassed 1,100,000 work hours without a "lost time/days lost" Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recordable incident. In fact, the last "lost time/days lost" OSHA recordable incident was over 12 years ago in 2008. Additionally, AGSC has never had an OSHA violation or other regulatory notice of violation. This is truly a remarkable milestone, considering the number and types of projects AGSC has been engaged in, including heavy civil construction, hazardous waste remediation and abatement, operations, and maintenance. AGSC's clients include government, military and private industry, and

projects have been completed at multiple locations in the US and abroad, many under difficult and demanding conditions.

**Ahtna**  
Government Services Corporation

OSH success starts with leadership and management commitment. AGSC President Craig O'Rourke attributes the company's success to David Frenzel, Brian Gough, Randy Rogers, Chris Smith (former AGSC President), Michala Iverson, Ashley Gaskell, Brett Larson, Archie Rabasto, Andrew Guest, and many others over the years. All AGSC employees, supervisors and managers should be very proud. Although the number of workdays without a days-lost incident was never the goal, exceeding 1.1 million work hours is truly incredible. Hard work, a commitment to safety excellence, developing and implementing a culture of safety – all have led to AGSC's safety success and, in many ways, the success of the entire Ahtna organization. Nice work, AGSC Team!



# LANDS SPOTLIGHT



## 2020-2021 AHTNA TENE NENE' COMMUNITY SUBSISTENCE HUNT FOR CARIBOU

### **SALVAGE REQUIREMENT FOR 2020-2021 CSH CARIBOU**

- CSH Hunters must salvage caribou heart, liver, kidneys, and fat, as well as all edible meat from the forequarters, hindquarters, ribs, neck, and backbone meat of the forequarters, hindquarters, ribs, brisket, neck, and back bone.
- Caribou meat of the forequarters, hindquarters, ribs, brisket, neck, and back bone must remain naturally attached to the bone until delivered to the place where it is processed for human consumption.

### **PERMITS FOR 2020-2021 CSH CARIBOU**

- If community members who are age 18+ years did not provide a hunting license on their CSH caribou application, they will have to pick up caribou permits at Glennallen or Palmer Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Office.
- Please call ADF&G Office in Glennallen, AK at (907) 822-3461 or ADF&G Office in Palmer, AK at (907) 746-3600 with questions concerning caribou permits.

### **2020-2021 CSH CARIBOU GUIDELINES**

- Please call the ADF&G hotline at (907) 822-6789 to get an update on the quota for the 2020-2021 CSH Caribou hunt.
- CSH caribou harvest permits must be carried in the field while hunting, and must be validated immediately upon killing an animal and before leaving the kill site, and must remain in the hunter's possession until the animal has been delivered to the location of processing for human consumption.
- An Ahtna Tene Nene' community member can be on the Failure to Report (FTR) List and still be counted as a community member, but he or she will not be allowed to participate in hunting activities.
- No Ahtna Tene Nene' community member in the 2020-2021 CSH Caribou hunt can hold any state drawing permits, Tier I, Tier II, Registration caribou hunts, general season caribou harvest tickets, or federal caribou permits outside of the CSH hunt area.
- No Ahtna Tene Nene' community member of the CSH Participant household participating in the CSH caribou hunt can hold any state or federal drawing/Tier I/Tier II/registration moose permits outside the CSH hunt area.
- Unit 13 Bull Nelchina Caribou quota is up to 400. Caribou season dates are from August 10th to September 20th.
- If ADF&G does not call for an Emergency Order Closure in Game Management Unit 13, caribou winter hunt will be open from October 21st to March 31st.
- ADF&G will issue one Copper Basin Unit 13 CSH Nelchina caribou permit to each household member.
- GMU 13 Nelchina Caribou bag limit is only 1 caribou per household.
- Successful hunters must report within 3 days of harvesting a caribou. You may report online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov), by calling (907) 822-3461, or by mailing in a 2020-2021 caribou permit to the ADF&G.

- If community members are unsuccessful in harvesting a caribou, caribou permits must be filled out and returned to ADF&G within 15 days after caribou hunting season ends.
- Caribou meat, organs, moose hide, and moose stomach, may be dropped off at the Ahtna, Inc. Glennallen Office during business hours of Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Ahtna Tene Nene' community members may have a Designated Hunter, however, the CSH Permittee is still responsible for returning the caribou harvest report to ADF&G Office.
- Both Ahtna Tene Nene' community member and Designated Hunter must be signed up in the Ahtna Tene Nene' Community Subsistence Hunt Harvest Permit Program.
- Ahtna Tene Nene' Hunters must abide by all applicable state hunting regulations and requirements, including licensing, hunter education, CSH eligibility, reporting, and hunt conditions.

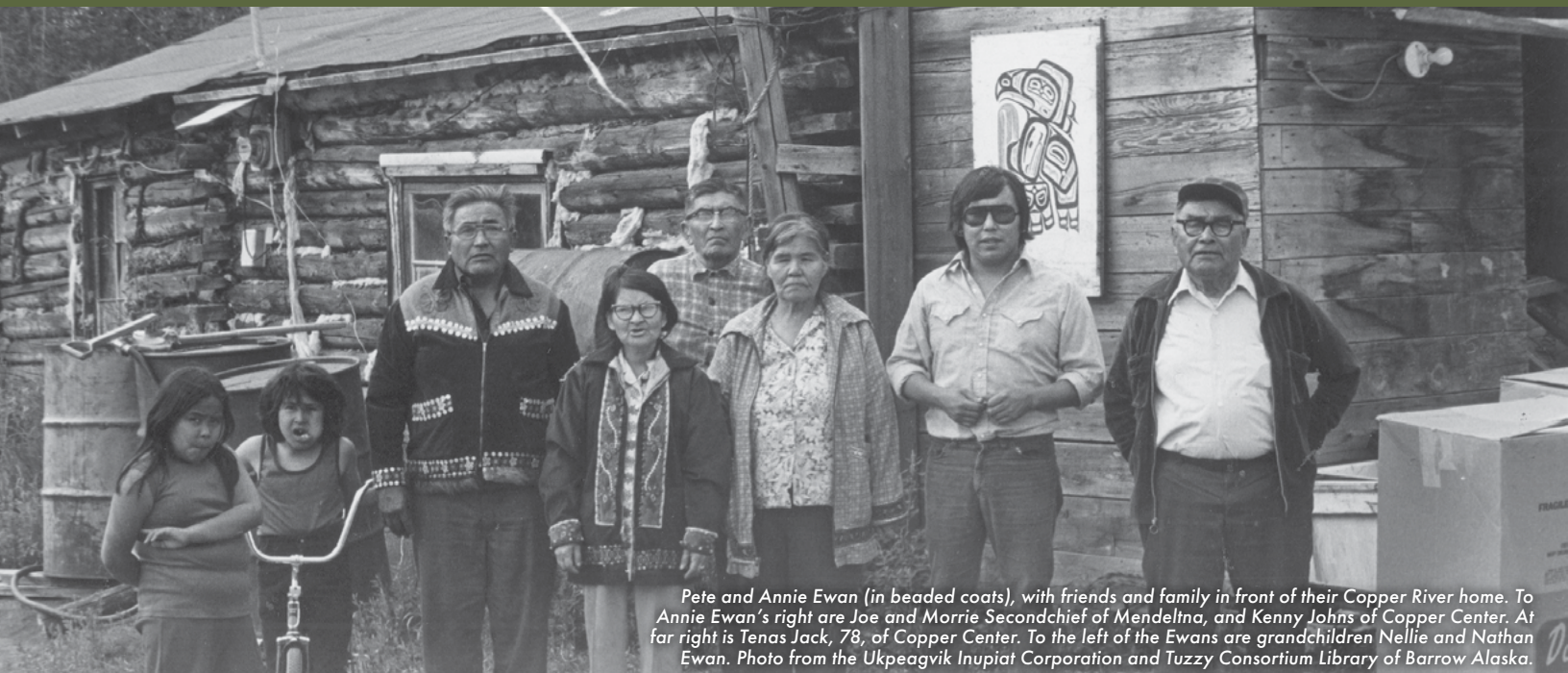
### **2020-2021 CSH MOOSE AND CARIBOU HOUSEHOLD REPORT**

- ADF&G will email a 2020-2021 CSH household moose and caribou report form to community member households.
- You may also fill out 2020-2021 CSH household Moose and Caribou report online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=huntlicense.cultural](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=huntlicense.cultural).
- 2020-2021 CSH household moose and caribou report is voluntary.
- Ahtna Tene Nene' community members are encouraged to fill out the caribou and moose report. This information will help the Alaska Board of Game make decisions on subsistence hunts, C&T determinations, amounts necessary for subsistence, and rural and non-rural determinations.
- Ahtna Tene Nene' coordinator is required to return 2020-2021 CSH moose and caribou household reports to ADF&G office.
- Please return 2020-2021 CSH household reports for moose and caribou to Ms. Stickwan at:

Ahtna Inc.  
P.O. Box 649  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
or

Email Household moose and caribou report to:  
[cshmoose@ahтна.net](mailto:cshmoose@ahтна.net)  
[cshcaribou@ahтна.net](mailto:cshcaribou@ahтна.net)





Pete and Annie Ewan (in beaded coats), with friends and family in front of their Copper River home. To Annie Ewan's right are Joe and Morrie Secondchief of Mendeltna, and Kenny Johns of Copper Center. At far right is Tenas Jack, 78, of Copper Center. To the left of the Ewans are grandchildren Nellie and Nathan Ewan. Photo from the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Barrow Alaska.

## COPPER RIVER FOUR: THE AHTNA CONFRONT THE STATE OF ALASKA OVER SALMON

Since the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, the Ahtna have had to compete for the food that has sustained them for over a millennium. After World War II, this competition intensified. In 1946, 9,000 resident hunting licenses were sold; in 1955/56 the number was 31,500. Highways built during World War II provided easy access to the Copper River Basin, so that between 1960 and 1970, the number of salmon fishing permits issued for the upper Copper River subsistence fishery increased 96 percent.

Faced with such unprecedented growth, state managers imposed restrictions on salmon fishing in the upper Copper River. In 1964, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) closed all tributaries of the Copper River and the main channel of the river above the Slana River to subsistence fishing, thus eliminating traditional Ahtna fishing sites on the Tonsina, Klutina and Slana Rivers. This was all done without consulting the Ahtna.

In June of 1964, Markle Ewan, Sr. told Ralph Pirtle, the state management biologist, that he did not agree with the regulations that placed seasonal limits on subsistence harvests. Markle wrote:

*The majority of our Indian people don't have deep freezers, therefore our main dependable storage food is dried, smoked, salted and canned fish. Believe it or not - one person can eat as much as two fish a day whether fresh or otherwise. So please permit us to get as much fish as we need.*

*As you know, we don't take or waste any fish or game like so many sport fishermen and hunters do. We are God abiding citizen people. I don't believe the whole Copper River tribe will get as much fish in a whole season in the Copper River area as the commercial fishermen would get in one day.*

(Markle Ewan, Sr., 1964 ADF&G Glennallen)

To control further growth of the fishery, state managers, in the summer of 1966, ordered that the Ahtna upriver subsistence fishery open on June 15th instead of June 1st. The Ahtna rejected the state's assessment of the problem and the method by which the new restriction was imposed.

The Ahtna appealed for statewide support, declaring that they will fish on June 1st "as they have done for centuries" and threatening that "if necessary, each Indian will catch a fish and turn it into the Department of Fish and Game, demanding to be arrested." Facing organized protest, the state retreated and opened the subsistence fishery on June 1st.

In an article covering the story, the Tundra Times compared the Ahtna's action to the mass civil disobedience of Barrow people who opposed the ban on spring waterfowl hunting by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These actions by Inupiat and Ahtna were part of the larger fabric of Native protest that led to the signing of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in December 1971.

Following the passage of ANCSA the U.S. Congress directed the state and federal governments to provide for Alaska Native subsistence rights. The state, responding to the increased pressures on wildlife resources brought about by the oil boom, began to recognize the special claims of subsistence users. In 1978, the Alaska State legislature passed the first comprehensive subsistence law, which gave priority to subsistence, but it did not address the issue of who was a subsistence user.

That same year the Ahtna and ADF&G again clashed over closures to the salmon fishery. To protect the salmon runs, ADF&G closed the upper Copper River subsistence fishery during the week and allowed fishing only on weekends. ADF&G reasoned that more fish were caught during the week (on Tuesdays and Thursdays) than on weekends, and it was better for the fishery if the closure occurred during the week.

The Copper River Native Association (CRNA) objected to the weekday closures, saying it favored non-basin residents over basin residents. At a meeting of the fish and game local advisory committee, 92 people attended including three staff members of the ADF&G who expressed the view it was important to limit the number of fish harvested and the Alaska State Constitution guaranteed equal access.



Nancy and Bacille George, of Copper Center, tend the stove used to cure their dried fish at the fish camp on the Copper River. Photo from the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Barrow Alaska.





Pete Ewan. Photo from the Ukeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Barrow Alaska.

It had been a long, cold winter in the Ahtna region and jobs were scarce. Ahtna Elders Annie Ewan, Martha Jackson, Nancy George and Mary Jackson, known as the "Copper River Four," were stopped from fishing that summer when state officials padlocked their fishwheels. The Elders were cited by state protection officers for allegedly defying an emergency closure by attempting to fish during the week and they were threatened with prosecution.



Tony and Mary Jackson. Photo from the Ukeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Barrow Alaska.

It had been two weeks since the closure and the late Ahtna Elder Annie Ewan (Udzisyu - Caribou clan), had enough and wasn't going to stand for it. When the ADF&G Commissioner and a State Trooper put a padlock on her fishwheel and told her she would have to stop fishing, she grabbed her bear hunting rifle, a .30-06. She was a petite woman at only 4 feet 10 inches tall, but used her sharpshooting skills to shoot the padlock right off her fishwheel.

Annie's husband, Pete Ewan, served as the spokesperson for the Elder defendants when they went to court. Pete wholeheartedly believed in complete sovereignty for all Ahtna Athabascans. Ahtna people traveled from all over, like Cantwell and Fairbanks, to show their support. The case against the Elders ended up being dismissed.

Annie and Pete's daughter, Faye Ewan, was in her mid-twenties during this time and says she remembers it well. She recalls that the Ahtna people had lost thirteen people in the three months leading up to the fishwheels being chained and locked in July. Being cut off from fishing during the peak of the salmon run was upsetting to her parents. They were concerned that they wouldn't be able to get enough fish in for the winter and for the potlatches. Faye said her parents always said, "It's our land. We don't claim it because it belongs to everyone."

Robert Marshall, president of CRNA, speaking for the majority of Ahtna, said that he did not like the way the new closures were implemented. Ahtna Elders ranging in age from 79 to 94 years had their fish wheels locked up. He further noted that,

*Indians need fish to survive, the older people cannot survive without fish through the winter! Indian people did not come right out and say but they are actually begging to be able to catch fish.*

*(Robert Marshall, ADF&G 1978, minutes of the Copper River Advisory Committee, ADF&G Glennallen)*

Pete Ewan was interviewed by the Tundra Times the summer following the fishwheels being padlocked. "We know our river fish from our history, long ago in the old days," he said. He explained that state managers of the resource ignore the Elders' local knowledge of salmon, and that Athabaskan Elders can contribute much to the management of fish. "Every river fish, we know where they go. Down below, when they start monkeying around, the fish don't come any more."

Bacille Jackson presented a paper in which he outlined a history of the situation from the Ahtna perspective. In one lifetime, Jackson wrote, the Ahtna had gone from owning all of the land and resources to having to ask permission to hunt and fish in their own homeland.

The Ahtna, he said, had always shared their food and their land, but they had not given up their right to hunt and fish for their livelihood. In fact, he said, they would be stupid to "give up the lifeline of our people throughout history."

*When our fathers and grandfathers met the first White people to come up the Copper River, there was no question in anyone's mind that they owned all the land and resources in the area. This included the big game in the hills as well as the fish in the river.*

*History shows that we were are not greedy with our resources, but shared them first with the Russians, later with the gold miners of 1898, and until this day with the White people who are our neighbors. Furs, big game, timber, minerals, and fish that originally belonged to us have been taken continuously by others with seldom a complaint on our part.*

*Today we all know times have changed, statehood and the Native land claims bill [ANCSA] seem to bear this out that much of the land doesn't belong to us anymore. In the few short years since the turn of the century (which many of our old folks can remember) we have come from complete ownership of land and all its riches to what often seems to us at most as trespassers on another's (sic) land. Now we are told much of the land belongs to others, we are told when to hunt, where to hunt, where to mine, where to cut timbers, when to fish, where to fish, when to trap, where to trap, and on and on and on.*

*At no time since our fathers completely owned this land have they or we given up our right to live a subsistence lifestyle. We have not traded off the right to catch fish for our families from our river. We are not about to give this right to the State of Alaska or the federal government today or at any future time at any price.*

*Today we are here to protest what we believe is a great injustice (sic) to our people. We are being told that the fish of the Copper River no longer belong to us and, that we no longer have the right to take them when and how we want for our own needs.*

*Great emphasis seems to be given to the use of the fish by the commercial fishermen in the Cordova area and by the dipnetters from the Fairbanks and Anchorage areas. We seem to be the last people whose need and desires are being met.*

*A history of our people show that when fish runs are good, our fathers did well, when fish runs were poor, our people starved. Truly the fish of the Copper River have been the basic necessity for the existence of our people throughout time.*

*Many of us here today grew up in the 1920s and 1930s when a subsistence lifestyle was necessary. We still hang on to some of that lifestyle. Certainly we would not be too intelligent to give up our right to the lifeline of our people throughout history, on the chance that Alaska and America will never again face depression or wars, and we won't ever again have to depend on the salmon of the Copper River for our livelihood.*

*We believe that the State of Alaska doesn't have the right to lock up our fish wheels or our people for fishing. We further believe the state does not have the right to keep our people from subsistence fishing!*

*(Bacille Jackson, ADF&G 1978, minutes of the Copper River Advisory Committee, ADF&G Glennallen)*

Over forty years have passed since the Copper River Four were issued citations, but the Ahtna people's fight for the right to fish and hunt on our lands continues to this day.

Historical information for this article was taken from the Ahtna History Book, Ahtna: The People and Their History ([www.ahna.com/book](http://www.ahna.com/book))



Caknea Ewan, four year-old grandson of Pete Ewan and son of Faye Ewan of Copper Center. Photo from the Ukeagvik Inupiat Corporation and Tuzzy Consortium Library of Barrow Alaska.



# AHTNA PLANTS: BERRIES



## Tsanttsaey, Highbush Cranberry

- Gather in late summer/early fall time
- Eat raw, or store in birch bark baskets in underground caches
- Used for sore throats, colds, cuts, scrapes, stomach trouble
- Infusion/decoction: boil the fruit mixed with sugar and use as a cough syrup (make gummy)
- Can make jelly
- A favorite way to prepare is to make cooked berries, or c'encaes: simmer berries with sugar and a thickener (like flour or cornstarch). Seeds are not removed from berries but can be with some labor.

## Xay gige', Lowbush Cranberry

- Gather after first frost in the fall
- Eat with salmon oil poured over them
- Store in birch bark baskets in cache for winter if not eating fresh
- Make k'uun' c'encaes with other berries using fish eggs, flour, and sugar mixed and simmered together
- Raw berries eaten as medicine for sore throats and colds, kidney trouble, measles, tonsillitis, headache, infections/inflammation
- Makes many recipes and can be used the same as store-bought cranberries
- Used to assist with tuberculosis



## TsGigi gheli, Blueberry or Huckleberry

- Gather early to late summer
- Jams, syrup, sauce, juice, muffins, pancakes and c'encaes are favorite uses
- Can be used as a dye for linen and wool
- Can be used as medicine for sore throats and colds
- Can be dried, preserved in oil, or made into various recipes
- Leaves and bark can be used in teas and tinctures - harvest early spring

## Dahts'ene'egge', Raspberry

- Gather shoots in spring, leaves in summer, roots in spring and fall, fruit in the summer
- Jams, syrup, sauce, juice and muffins are favorite uses
- High in Vitamins B and C and minerals
- Tea made with leaves was used to ease pregnancy morning sickness and labor pains
- Tea is good for relaxing in the evening and for children's upset stomach





# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

## SHAREHOLDER EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **Gloria Stickwan, Ahtna, Incorporated**

Gloria Stickwan is the Customary & Traditional Coordinator for the Ahtna, Inc. Land Department and is based in Ahtna's Glennallen corporate office. In her leadership role as President of the Tazlina Village Council, Gloria has taken on a big project for the Village: raising money to purchase the Village of Tazlina's traditional homelands.

The area has a long history, with house pits along the Tazlina River dated by the National Park Service to 300 – 700 years old and documented for subsistence use. From 1954 – 1971, the lands were occupied by a Catholic boarding school for students coming from all over the state.

Under the leadership of Johnny Goodlataw, in 2011 village members participated in creating a shared vision for the land, a place where the Ahtna can continue to live our way of life and keep the Ahtna culture intact. The Village of Tazlina is working to restore the area to its role as a place of education and tradition by establishing a

tribal college, new village meeting hall, culture camp, and a conservation easement to preserve fish wheel sites on the property in perpetuity.

All of Ahtna lands are important and culturally significant, but this effort has special significance to Gloria because her family moved to Tazlina from Dry Creek in the 1940s: "My father had to take apart our family cabin and pack the logs down to Tazlina when the Army took over the Dry Creek village site [6 miles north of Glennallen]," recalls Gloria. "Alaska Natives have been dispossessed of their original village lands so many times. This project is about repatriation, about returning traditional homelands to our villages, and about Tazlina Tribal homelands coming full circle back to the village for cultural preservation and protection of subsistence fish wheel sites on the river."

## SHAREHOLDER-OWNED BUSINESSES

We encourage support of Ahtna shareholder-owned businesses by highlighting their products and services in the Kanas and on the Ahtna website. Shareholders can take advantage of this free promotion for their business by completing a short online form at [www.ahna.com/shareholders/shareholder-businesses](http://www.ahna.com/shareholders/shareholder-businesses).

### **CLI Construction Inc.**

CLI Construction Inc. is a locally owned and operated General Contractor in Cantwell, Alaska. Services they offer include excavation, roads and foundation site prep, septic systems, river revetment, sand & gravel, and rip rap sales. CLI Construction has been in business for 19 years and are a Native American/Alaskan Native company, woman owned, HUBZone certified, and State of Alaska Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certified. They work with federal, state, and local governments, as well as commercial and residential customers.

**Owners:** Rachel and Gordon Carlson

**Website:** [www.cliconstruction.com](http://www.cliconstruction.com)

**Phone:** (907) 768-2008

**Email:** [manager@cliconstruction.com](mailto:manager@cliconstruction.com)

**Address:** PO Box 191, Cantwell  
Alaska 99729





# SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

## WALTER CHARLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS HIGHLIGHT: PROVIDING COMPASSION AND CARE DURING COVID-19



Health care workers are dealing with the exhaustion we are all feeling from the unknowns of COVID, but it's compounded by stressful workdays, protective gear, the fear of getting COVID or infecting patients, and learning how to work in a totally new context while adapting to ever-changing policies and protocols. Ahtna shareholders Daryl Nicki Jordan and Avery Tucker share their experience working in the medical field during the pandemic.

Nicki is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Washington School of Medicine, where she's training to become a physician. She did her first two years of medical school in Anchorage, but now travels all over the Western United States for six-week stints. In just the last few months she's lived in Seattle, Great Falls, Wenatchee and Boise. Nicki says she is grateful for the amazing support from her family amid all the change. "My mom and sister have provided constant social support, as well as my aunts and cousins. My dad is the sweetest man alive. Several times he has flown down to whatever city I am in to help me pack up my things and drive my car across the country."

When Nicki was asked why she chose the medical field she replied, "I wanted to be able to have a career where I am able to provide an important service to the community and help others through my work. I found medicine to be an incredibly fascinating field where I could be intellectually challenged and be helpful."

Nicki has an important message for Native people, especially Native women. "We can be doctors (and lawyers, and politicians, and even presidents). We can be successful, smart, and hold positions of power. I want to role model that these careers are

absolutely achievable for our people and also make sure there are Native voices at the table. Healthcare is so important, and we need more Native people to lead the discussions that affect our health and the health of our communities."

Nicki's training and school was put on hold for three months because of the pandemic. Students are allowed back in the hospital now, but like everyone they are adjusting to new measures and protocols. Every day is a little bit different from the last. Nicki's university has a policy that medical students cannot knowingly see COVID-19 positive patients to help lessen their exposure during training.

Avery is an Osteopathic Physician in her second year of a three-year residency for family medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis. Avery sees a variety of patients and medical conditions, as osteopathic medicine emphasizes the interrelated unity of all systems in the body. On a typical day she could be treating hypertension and diabetes, managing depression and anxiety, providing prenatal care, recommending lifestyle changes, and screening for diseases. She also gets to deliver babies, suture wounds in the ER, learn how to manage critical care patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), work with cardiologists, and perform procedures such as joint injections and skin biopsies. Avery says she loves the variety and continuity that family medicine provides. "It gives me a unique opportunity to grow and build relationships with patients over the course of their lifetime. I am very passionate about preventative care. I am eager to keep patients healthy and prevent diseases rather than having to react when they get sick. Additionally, I like providing a holistic approach to medicine that encompasses the social, cultural and spiritual needs of a patient, not just their medical needs."

Avery is put at an increased risk of COVID-19 exposure in her position, which means she has had to make personal sacrifices like limiting her time with family and friends. She says her family has been very appreciative of the difficult work she does and provides her with home-cooked meals and love, which gets her through the long, stressful workdays.



A typical day in the hospital is very different now. Some consultants do not see patients in person and instead provide recommendations virtually. Avery spent time working in the ICU when visitors were not allowed. "It was heartbreaking to see sick and dying patients without their loved ones by their side. Luckily, the hospital has just started allowing visitors again."

Nicki and Avery's advice to shareholders for protecting themselves is to take care of each other. They say you can do this by wearing a mask, staying six feet away from people not in your household, avoiding large gatherings, and washing your hands often.

*"When you do these things, you're showing you care about others as well as the nurses and doctors helping. When I put on a mask, I am making you safer. When you put on a mask, you are making me safer. It's a circle of helping each other. And remember, everyone can get this virus, but especially Elders and those with medical conditions. Offer to go to the store and run errands for them so they don't have to, and drop things at their doorstep. If we work together, we can beat this virus," says Nicki.*

Nicki is having to work extra hard on a very tight schedule in order to still be able to apply for residency on time for graduation. The experience has affected her career path in many ways, but one of the most profound is her rethinking what specialty of medicine she wants to go into. She wants to be able to help people, and finding the specialty that does that in the event this happens again is something she will pay a lot of attention to going forward.

Avery shared, "This pandemic has reminded me of why I wanted to be a doctor in the first place – to care for others. It has shown me the tough side of medicine that I don't always get to witness, and



has kept me humble throughout the process. I hope to keep this experience in the forefront of my mind and future career."

Despite the many challenges, both Nicki and Avery say that there have been bright moments. Avery has noticed a new sense of community developing among her coworkers as they navigate the same difficult situation together, and she says seeing patients recover from COVID has been remarkable and inspiring. Nicki recognized that

the pandemic has forced us to slow down and think about what we need and what makes us happiest. "We are examining our impact on the earth, on each other and how we can change that for the better. We are having more time with our families and our culture around work is changing to a healthier balance. We are grateful for our health and those people who are meaningful in our lives," says Nicki.

We are grateful for the heart, courage and strength Avery and Nicki are bringing each day to their professions. Thank you to the many shareholder health care heroes braving the front lines of COVID-19 to keep us all healthy and safe!



### About Daryl Nicki Jordan

Nicki's parents are Darryl and Cherie Jordan. She is a member of the Dik'aagiyu (Fireweed) Clan. Her paternal grandmothers are the late Joyce Ewan and Leslie Jordan and her paternal grandfather is Frank Jordan. Her maternal grandmother and grandfather are the late Lillian and Robert Cottrill. Nicki grew up spending the winters in Anchorage and the summers and falls running the banks of the Copper River and playing in the dirt with her many amazing cousins. She received her undergraduate degree in Biological Anthropology with a minor in Native American & Indigenous Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara.



### About Avery Tucker

Avery's parents are Dorene Fier-Tucker and Michael Tucker. She is a member of the Dik'aagiyu (Fireweed) Clan. Her maternal grandparents are Anne Song and Harold Fier and her paternal grandparents are Nita and Dennis Tucker. Avery grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota and currently lives in Minneapolis. She went to Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa where she obtained a bachelor's degree in Biology and Neuroscience. She then attended medical school at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) in Erie, Pennsylvania and received her Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine. She did her hospital rotations in Elmira, New York.



# MEET THE 2020 AHTNA SPECIAL FORCES



**Angel Edwin**  
Ahtna Global

Angel Edwin is an Ahtna Special Forces participant with Ahtna Global's Business Development department. Her parents are Douglas and Jessica Rock. Her grandparents are Clarence and Katherine McConkey. She grew up spending time between Anchorage and Copper Center, Alaska and is currently living in Anchorage while attending the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). She is pursuing a BBA in Economics. She is a member of the Taltsiine (Water) clan. Ahtna Global's Business Development department was so impressed with Angel Edwin's outstanding contributions and work ethic, that they are having her continue to work for the department part-time while attending school.

## **Why did you choose your major?**

I had a teacher that really liked economics, and we spent time having lengthy conversations about it. I loved my high school economics class.

## **What made you want to join the Ahtna Special Forces and what excites you about the program?**

I wanted to join the program because I know Ahtna is very invested in shareholder enrichment and I knew they were going to do everything they could to make this a valuable experience. I am excited about the knowledge and experience I'm going to gain throughout this program.

## **What knowledge or skills do you hope to gain through the program?**

I would like to learn more about the inner workings of the Ahtna family of companies and I would like to hone my professional communication, business, and teamwork skills.

## **How do you see the program preparing you for your future career goals?**

I see the program providing me with the connections, experience, and knowledge I am going to need when pursuing my goals.

## **In what ways would you like to create value as an Ahtna Special Forces participant?**

I want to be as useful as I can to the people I am or will be working with and complete the tasks that will free up management's time to focus on more important things.

## **What role has Ahtna played in your educational and/or career pursuits?**

Ahtna has supported me in my educational goals through scholarships. Ahtna has also inspired me to work toward a career focused in business as I have seen the for-profit business side and how my family and community benefit from Ahtna's success.

## **Who has been an inspiration to you in your educational and/or career pursuits and why?**

My mother, Jessica Rock, is an inspiration to me. She went to college and worked with two kids at home and I really admire her determination. I think it's because she raised my brother and me to hold education in very high esteem that I am going to college. She fostered a desire in my brother and me to learn and grow. I think that I am where I am today because of this.

## **What are your goals after graduation?**

After completing my undergraduate degree, I would like to go to law school.

## **What have been defining moments in your educational/career path and what have you learned along the way?**

I think that starting my college career has been very defining. I went into the year with doubts about if I was going to be successful. Because I was able to complete my first year of college, I believe in myself now more than I did. My first year of college improved my time management and ability to prioritize tasks. I have more confidence in myself and my abilities.

## **What motivates you?**

Working towards a better future for myself, my family, and the Ahtna community.

## **Do you have any volunteer or community service experience that you would like to share?**

I enjoyed being the secretary of the Native Student Council at UAA this past semester. I liked going to the events we volunteered at, attending the meetings, and keeping a record of them.

## **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

I enjoy reading, listening to music, going for long drives, and visiting with my family.







## **Clarence Edwin** Ahtna, Inc.

Clarence Edwin is an Ahtna Special Forces participant with Ahtna's finance department. His parents are Stanley Edwin and Jessica Rock. His grandparents are Clarence and Katherine McConkey. He grew up spending time between Anchorage and Copper Center, Alaska and is currently living in Anchorage while attending the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). He is in his first year of college and is studying Construction Management. He is a member of the Taltisiine (Water) clan. Because of Clarence Edwin's exceptional work, he will continue to do special projects for Ahtna Global's Business Development department.

### **Why did you choose your major?**

After high school I worked for Ahtna Construction for a few years as a laborer in the laborer's union. I enjoyed the construction field and talked with many of the higher-ups, like the site supervisors and construction managers, about their jobs. This inspired me to go to school so that I could have a career like theirs.

### **What made you want to join the Ahtna Special Forces and what excites you about the program?**

I wanted to join the ASF because I needed experience in the office. I have previously only worked construction, so learning about the way things work in an office environment is exciting.

### **What knowledge or skills do you hope to gain through the program?**

I hope to gain a lot of general knowledge about the processes and systems in an office environment. I also hope to learn about the culture of working at Ahtna.

### **How do you see the program preparing you for your future career goals?**

I see the program preparing me to have a larger sense of what is expected in an office job, and generally getting an idea of what having a professional career is like. I believe Ahtna will also provide me with networking that could prove valuable in the future.

### **In what ways would you like to create value as an Ahtna Special Forces participant?**

I think having a new perspective on things can be beneficial, and I hope to use my experience to bring a distinct point of view. While I was working in the field, I was not afraid to ask questions about even the most common things, which caused people who were very used to the way things always happen to think about it in a different kind of way.

### **What role has Ahtna played in your educational and/or career pursuits?**

Ahtna has played a huge role in my self-sufficiency. Ahtna Construction gave me my first real job after high school. Ahtna has also given me scholarships so that I can attain a higher level of education, and now Ahtna has given me a position as an ASF so that I can continue to support myself while attending school.

### **Who has been an inspiration to you in your educational and/or career pursuits and why?**

Members of my family have given me a ton of inspiration and motivation to chase my educational goals. My mother most of all, who graduated with a BBA and MBA both focusing in management. Her drive and will to better herself and her communities were a huge factor in me seeking a higher education.

### **What are your goals after graduation?**

After graduation I plan to work for a Native company, preferably Ahtna, so that my future time and effort will go towards Ahtna and our people.

### **What advice do you have for Ahtna youth?**

My advice would be to work hard, work smart, pay attention in school, and never be afraid to ask questions. Learn as much as you can when you are young.

### **What have been defining moments in your educational/career path and what have you learned along the way?**

There was a defining moment in my career, when I worked my last hitch as a laborer for Ahtna Construction. I came to the sudden realization that I did not want to spend the rest of my life doing manual labor, which pushed me to pursue a higher education. While studying for exams and working on projects in my first semester, I have learned that working in an office setting is mentally taxing, and can be just as exhausting as working manual labor, which gave me more respect for those who have chosen professional career paths.

### **What motivates you?**

Looking to the future is a large motivator for me. I want to ensure that the Ahtna people are knowledgeable in our culture, respectful of our land, and that they are prosperous.

### **Do you have any volunteer or community service experience that you would like to share?**

When I was younger, and going to school in Anchorage, my mother would bring us to Copper Center so that we could volunteer for the clean-up day. I think it is important that people are respectful of the land we have and take good care of it for the future generations.

### **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

In my free time, I enjoy building things. In high school I took a carpentry class, which helped me as a laborer, but has also helped me to help my family whenever they needed a new shed or smokehouse.



# SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICES:

## SHAREHOLDER RECORDS & SHAREHOLDER ENRICHMENT – TWO VERY DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS WITH DIFFERENT MISSIONS BUT BOTH WORKING FOR AHTNA SHAREHOLDERS!

### Shareholder Records

Ahtna's Shareholder Records department maintains stock records. It is each shareholder's responsibility to ensure accurate and complete shareholder records by promptly advising Ahtna of mailing address, phone, email and name changes. The easiest way to check and update your records is by registering for the MyAhtna portal. By keeping your records up to date, you'll receive Ahtna mailings in a timely manner. If Ahtna mail is returned as undeliverable, dividend distributions are held. Ahtna's stock records also determine who is entitled to vote at shareholder meetings. An accurate record means you won't miss out on important company materials from Ahtna, such as annual reports, proxies, surveys, and Kanas newsletters. A list of shareholders Ahtna has received returned mail for can be viewed at [www.ahtna.com/shareholders/missing-address-list](http://www.ahtna.com/shareholders/missing-address-list).

Shareholder Records staff cannot assist family members reaching out on behalf of shareholders who are not minors. Shareholders over the age of 18 must contact Shareholder Records directly for assistance.

### Shareholder Enrichment

The primary goal of Shareholder Enrichment is to maximize shareholder potential by developing and engaging shareholders as they pursue meaningful career and life goals. The staff works diligently with Ahtna subsidiaries and management to provide opportunities for shareholders, increase shareholder hire, and develop programs to advance shareholders in their careers. The Shareholder Enrichment team works closely and effectively with shareholders in assisting and counseling them to become better prepared and qualified for career opportunities. They also provide support services to shareholder descendants and spouses.

Have questions on any of the services or programs below? Please reach out to the Shareholder Services staff members listed, or visit [www.ahtna.com](http://www.ahtna.com) for more details.

	Shareholder Records	Shareholder Enrichment
<b>Services &amp; Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ahtna Board of Directors and Successor Village Organization (SVO) elections</li> <li>Direct deposit</li> <li>Enrollment – Class L*</li> <li>Memorial Fund</li> <li>Memorial/funeral program support</li> <li>MyAhtna portal registration and assistance</li> <li>Philanthropy and Giving requests</li> <li>Shareholder dividends</li> <li>Shareholder contact updates</li> <li>Testamentary Dispositions</li> <li>Stock inheritance</li> <li>Stock gifts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ahtna Son' University online professional development training</li> <li>Ahtna Special Forces Program</li> <li>Apprenticeship/Union Support</li> <li>Career Assistance Program funding</li> <li>Career Development Assistance</li> <li>Graduate gifts and recognition</li> <li>Resume assistance, interview skills and job/life skills training</li> <li>Scholarship funding – college and vocational</li> </ul>
<b>Contact</b>	<p><b>Eileen Ewan, Shareholder Services Manager</b>  MP 115 Richardson Hwy  PO Box 649  Glennallen, AK 99588  Phone: (907) 822-3476  Fax: (907) 822-3495  E-mail: <a href="mailto:shservices@ahtna.net">shservices@ahtna.net</a></p> <p><b>Leandra Martin, Shareholder Records Assistant</b>  MP 115 Richardson Hwy  PO Box 649  Glennallen, AK 99588  Phone: (907) 822-3476  Fax: (907) 822-3495  E-mail: <a href="mailto:shservices@ahtna.net">shservices@ahtna.net</a></p>	<p><b>ANCHORAGE</b>  <b>Tracy Parent, Shareholder Advocate</b>  110 West 38th Avenue, Suite 100  Anchorage, AK 99503  Phone: (907) 868-8250  Fax: (907) 868-8285  Email: <a href="mailto:shenrichment@ahtna.net">shenrichment@ahtna.net</a></p> <p><b>GLENNALLEN</b>  <b>M. Starr Knighten, Shareholder Advocate</b>  MP 115 Richardson Hwy  PO Box 649  Glennallen, Alaska 99588  Phone: (907) 822-3476  Fax: (907) 822-3495  Email: <a href="mailto:shenrichment@ahtna.net">shenrichment@ahtna.net</a></p>

\*Note: If you are a Class L shareholder who was enrolled as a minor and received only 30 Class L shares, you do not need to submit a new application to receive your remaining 70 shares. If you are over 18 years old and have received your high school diploma, GED or equivalent, send proof of your graduation/completion (such as a copy of your diploma) to Shareholder Records so they can issue your remaining shares to you. Class L stock is managed under a separate program from Graduate Gift requests and requires its own proof of graduation for shares to be issued.



# DON'T FORGET TO APPLY: **November 15-December 15** **WALTER CHARLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship program assists Ahtna shareholders with meeting their educational goals by funding full and part-time students.

Applications will be accepted online for the Spring 2021 semester from **November 15-December 15** at: [www.ahtna.com/scholarship](http://www.ahtna.com/scholarship).

Supplemental documents will be due by January 5.

Check the website for the latest information. Any questions can be directed to Tracy Parent, Shareholder Enrichment Coordinator, at (907) 868-8250 or [scholarship@ahtna.net](mailto:scholarship@ahtna.net).

## **Scholarship Award per Application Period: \***

Undergraduate		Graduate	
Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time
Up to \$2,000	Up to \$4,000	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$6,000

\*All awards are subject to available funding and the number of eligible applicants at each deadline.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AHTNA GRADUATES**



**Keith Johns**

Son of Brad Beal and the late Angie Johns  
Mt. Edgumbe high school



**Amanda Talyat**

Daughter of Rocky Hayner Jr. and Ruth Shinn  
Western Governors University, Bachelor of Science,  
Business- Human Resources Management



**Dastzeni Tibbits**

Son of Erica Nicklie and Clifton Tibbits Jr.







# GET OUT THE NATIVE VOTE BECOMES CITC AFFILIATE

**NEW AFFILIATION WILL EMPOWER ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE, BE CIVICALLY ENGAGED, AND PURSUE LEADERSHIP ROLES**

This year, all 40 seats in the Alaska State House of Representatives and ten seats in the Alaska Senate are up for election. There has arguably never been a more important time for Alaska Native voters to make their voices heard. And Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) is encouraging Alaska Native people to do just that, through a new partnership with Get Out the Native Vote (GOTNV).

"This is an important time for Alaska Native people to expand civic engagement and have real impact through voting," said Gloria O'Neill, CITC President and CEO. "It's an exciting opportunity to foster leadership and to create lasting change within the systems that affect people's lives every day."

This June, CITC acquired GOTNV as an affiliate nonprofit in an effort to bolster GOTNV's sustainability and to expand impact for both organizations.

"With the work we do at CITC and the reach we have in our community, our affiliation with GOTNV is a natural fit," said Tabettha Toloff, CITC Chief Administrative Officer.

Through its partnership with GOTNV, CITC aims to increase voter registration efforts; educate Alaska Native people about civic engagement opportunities; and encourage Alaska Native participation in local, state, and federal government.

## Creating the Future

CITC's connection to its people makes it a natural vehicle through which Get Out the Native Vote can reach potential voters.

As an affiliate of CITC, GOTNV will be able to tap into CITC's existing relationship with Alaska Native people in the Cook Inlet region and build upon previous successful statewide efforts.

"We're able to make connections with people through the programs we have, as well as with the statewide stakeholders already engaged with and supporting GOTNV," said Nikki Graham, Director of Alaska's People at CITC. "That's a valuable voting base that can create real change in our state when their voices are united."

In a year when COVID-19 threatens to disrupt voting, CITC is already considering becoming an easily accessible polling place this election cycle. GOTNV will allow the organization to support Alaska Native voting and civic participation in other ways, too.

GOTNV's goals — including raising civic participation among Alaska Native people and continuing voter registration efforts — align with CITC's "ThriveAbility" plan, which envisions a world in which Alaska Native people are self-determined and create their own future. There is no greater tool, perhaps, in helping create the future than by being civically active.

## A Fight for Equality

Alaska Native people still face significant obstacles when it comes to exercising their right to vote.

While there are other organizations supporting outreach under the GOTNV identity, this iteration of GOTNV is a nonpartisan campaign that was initiated by the ANCSA Regional Association in 1999. Among its several

voting-related goals, the organization fought to ensure that every qualified voter across the state would have the opportunity to cast a ballot on Election Day.

Access to easy voting, the right to make one's voice heard: These seem like struggles from an earlier era, challenges chronicled in history books. But as recently as 2019, battles were being fought to ensure that all Alaskans, including Alaska Native people living in rural areas, have easy access to polling places and to materials in their Native languages.

"Alaska has a long history of problems ensuring the rights of Alaska Natives to vote," stated a 2019 report on Alaska Native voting rights authored by the Alaska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 1915, Alaska Native people who wished to vote in state and federal elections were required to provide "endorsements" from at least five white citizens before they could do so. As the report relates, "This posed the difficult question of choosing between participating in the democracy or retaining one's identity and cultural ties."

In 1924, the Indian Citizenship Act was passed, granting citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States. The Alaska Legislature swiftly responded by enacting a law that required an English literacy test as a prerequisite to voting — essentially a form of educational discrimination against Alaska Native people, many of whom either had limited English proficiency or exclusively communicated in their Native language.

Voting rights acts passed in 1945 and 1965 helped lessen discrimination against Alaska Native voters, but over the last three decades Alaska Native people have continued to fight for voting access. Alaska's geography, language diversity, and transportation challenges have all continued to present barriers to voting for Alaska Native people.

## Empowering Our People

"For Our People, there's a lot of history of inequality around voting rights," said Nikki Graham. "The message of GOTNV is that voting is not for the privileged — it's for everyone."

GOTNV aims not only to ensure that all Alaska Native voters are able and encouraged to vote, but to empower Alaska Native people to express a strong voice on statewide issues, to become more civically engaged — and to run for office themselves.

"Too often, local, state and federal governments make decisions that affect every citizen, often without Native people at the table," said Gloria O'Neill. "It's important that we exercise our rights, make our voices heard, and continue the fight for equality that so many Alaska Native leaders have pushed forward. We can do this by promoting civic engagement and Alaska Native leadership at all levels of government."

To learn more, visit [www.facebook.com/GetOutTheNativeVote](https://www.facebook.com/GetOutTheNativeVote).





# AHTNA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

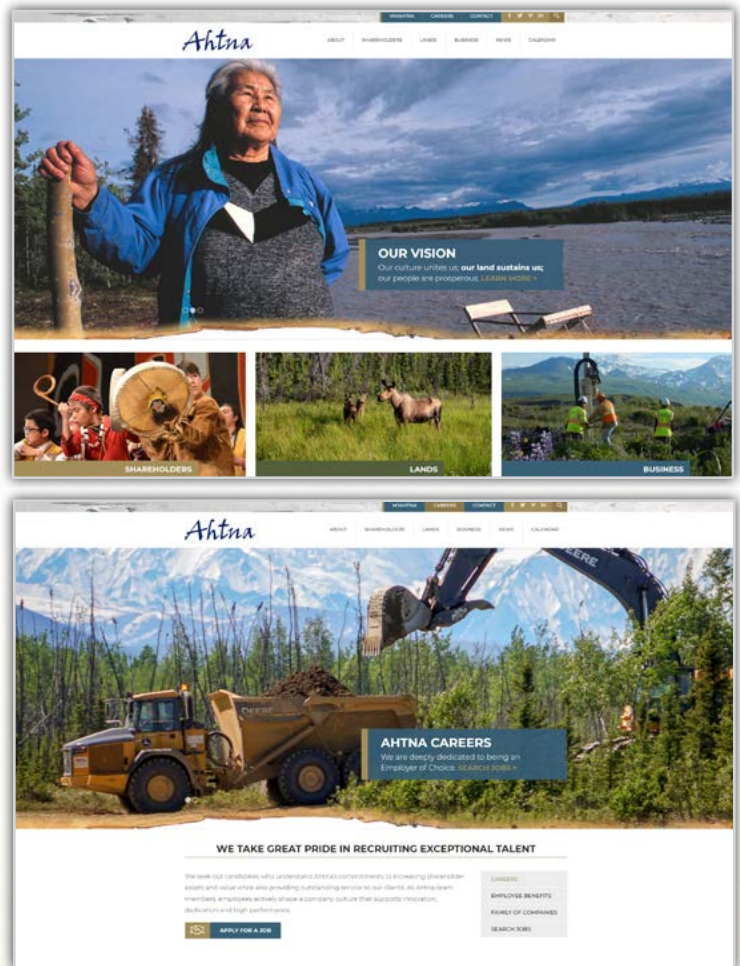
Ahtna is pleased to announce the launch of our redesigned website at [www.ahtna.com](http://www.ahtna.com).

The design and structure of the new website improves its overall usability. The website boasts a fresh new look and user-friendly navigation that will help create a better browsing experience for our shareholders, Ahtna land users, and business partners. The design also highlights images of shareholders and Ahtna land.

The new site is organized into three main sections: Shareholders, Land, and Business. The new design features a shareholder-centric layout, helping shareholders easily navigate the site and locate the information they need. The land section provides information about using Ahtna lands, on-line maps, and a portal to purchase land use permits. The business section highlights the capabilities and operations of Ahtna's subsidiaries.

Additionally, the website features a responsive design that allows the site to resize to fit different screen sizes and devices. This ensures that the site will have an optimized appearance when viewed from a phone, tablet or computer.

If you have any suggestions or feedback, let us know on social media, through the website or at [news@ahnta.net](mailto:news@ahnta.net).



## STORIES FROM OUR ELDERS

SHARED BY FRED JOHN ON FACEBOOK

Heard this story from my Elder Lemmie in Chistochina. I will be the first one to tell this story that needs to be told. Maybe we can learn and give ourselves to each other during this time we are in. I know we all have that heart in us!

This is about Elder Markle Pete whose father is Mentasta Pete originally from Mentasta Lake.

Back in the 1930s, during the Great Depression, Fred John Sr. said, "It looks and feels like the Creator has turned his back on the people!" The Country was bare of game and people were hungry who depended on the land, water and sky for their survival! Mentasta Pete saw this at that time living down Copper River way after moving and marrying into the family down that way back in the 1920s. His son Markle was pretty young when he told him to take his dog team up to his people in the upper Ahtna region and help with wood where it's needed. Markle left and went to Mentasta, Susluta, Baltzulnetas, Nabasna, Chistochina and places in between and helped out. They fed him what they had, and he stayed where he helped out. He came back to his father's place that spring.

Mentasta Pete asked him how they were doing up that way. Markle told him that some barely survive, but they were helping each other the best that they could.

Then he asked him if they thanked him for helping them. Markle said he didn't really hear anything in words. Mentasta Pete told him not to say a word about this. In hard times like this people help each other not expecting thanks or getting anything in return. Mentasta Pete said I know my people up that way...they will remember and not forget.

I got this story from one Elder that was one of many that didn't forget.

Markle Pete never mentioned what he did to help out those in the Upper Ahtna region throughout his life. But his time of help during those hard times was always in the heart of the upper Ahtna people!



# MEET THE BOARD

## JOHN DYE, GULKANA DIRECTOR



Ahtna Director John Dye is married to Coretta and has two daughters, Takeshia and Ryah, and a dog named Aspen. He is a member of the Tsisyu (Paint) clan. He has served on the Ahtna, Inc. Board for two years.

### **What are some defining/influential moments in your life?**

Getting sick really made me change the way I thought about things and how fast your life can be taken.

### **Is there anyone in particular in your life that has inspired you?**

My mom. She inspired me to work hard and to do my best at whatever I do.

### **What are you most passionate about in your life?**

I am passionate about my family. I love to spend time with them. I'm also passionate about hunting and fishing and teaching my kids about the outdoors.

### **What hobbies or activities do you enjoy?**

Hunting and fishing and being outdoors. Ever since I was a kid, I loved being outside.

### **What are your hopes for the future of Ahtna?**

To be able to manage and regulate our hunting and fishing rights on our lands. Also to be sustainable for our younger generation.

### **What is the Board's vision for Ahtna, Inc?**

To keep our Ahtna region united.

### **What made you want to join the Board?**

I wanted to join the board because I wanted to know more about Ahtna and the history. I also wanted to inspire young men to be leaders.

### **What excites you the most about the Board's work?**

Learning the history of Ahtna and our people and being part of the operation of Ahtna and seeing what they are doing to benefit our shareholders.

### **What are some key things you wanted to change/implement when you joined the Board?**

Regulating our own hunting and fishing rights.

### **What is one or a few things you would love for all shareholders to know about the Board?**

The board really cares and wants to do what is best for the Ahtna shareholders.

### **What message would you like to share with the youth of today?**

We need more men to step up and serve as a leader for our community. Go to school and learn as much as you can. A smart, polite and educated Native is a powerful person for our people. Also, having a great attitude; having a great attitude will get you a long way.

### **Can you tell me more about your work history and community involvement?**

Before I got sick, I was the Jr High Boys Basketball coach. I love working with them and hope to continue working with them. It was hard last year when I had to step down because of my health problems.



# MyAhtna Portal: Shareholder Submission

One of the many perks and benefits of registering with the MyAhtna portal is you can submit news for the Kanas. Visit [MyAhtna.com](http://MyAhtna.com).

**MyAhtna.com**

Submitted by  
Roy Shane Ewan II



## CONDOLENCES

In loving memory of our shareholders who have passed

**Mary E. Smithart**

**Frank L. Charley**

**G. Glenda Ewan**

**Christopher P. Lokanin**

**Mary A. Martin**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

📺 = video conference between Anchorage & Glennallen

Due to COVID-19, the below events are subject to change or cancellation.  
Please check the website at [www.ahtna.com/events](http://www.ahtna.com/events) for the most current information.

### NOV

**Nov 2** Audit and Finance Committee, 9 am - 📺

**Nov 2** Land Committee, 1 pm - 📺

**Nov 15** Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship Application Period Begins (Spring)

**Nov 11** Veteran's Day (Ahtna offices closed)

**Nov 26-27** Thanksgiving Holiday (Ahtna offices closed)

### DEC

**Dec 9-10** Budget Workshop, Anchorage, 8:30 am

**Dec 11-12** AI Board / AN Executive Committee Meetings, Anchorage, 9 am

**Dec 15** Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship Application Period Closes (Spring)

**Dec 25** Christmas Holiday (Ahtna offices closed)

### JAN

**Jan 1** New Year's Day Holiday (Ahtna offices closed)



110 W 38TH Avenue, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
ANCHORAGE, AK  
PERMIT NO. 358

**RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**



### Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors



**Ken Johns**  
Chair



**Margie Ewan**  
Vice Chair



**Jason Hart**  
Treasurer



**Linda Pete**  
Secretary



**Nicholas Jackson**



**Lucille Lincoln**



**John E. Craig**



**Dorothy Shinn**



**Genevieve John**



**Shawn Sanford**



**Cecil Sanford**



**Grant Rebne**



**John Dye**

**Corporate Headquarters**  
PO Box 649  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
Phone: (907) 822-3476 | Fax: (907) 822-3495  
Toll Free: 1-866-475-0420

**Anchorage Office**  
110 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Phone: (907) 868-8250 | Fax: (907) 868-8285  
Toll Free: 1-888-562-5316

**Read more in the eKanas at [ahtna.com/kanas](http://ahtna.com/kanas)**