

What others say...

Inmate congratulates TCC

To the Editor:

I congratulate the Tanana Chiefs Conference for their declaration of war on alcohol abuse.

I am getting out of prison soon. Until I had been here, I was not aware of the extent that alcohol has affected the Native Alaskan people. A common trait among many of the Native people here, including myself, was our history of alcohol abuse. For many of us, alcohol was a big factor in the crimes that we are doing time for.

I have lost my family, home and job due to alcohol abuse. Despite all these losses, I have never felt the need for a sincere commitment.

I do not want to lose my Native heritage. I am proud to belong to the Athabascan Tribe. If I decide to abuse alcohol again, I would be walking over the words of our Chiefs. I would consider myself a traitor to my people.

I take it as my patriotic duty to support this declaration of war on alcohol abuse, but I don't think it is necessary for me to save the whole world.

If I can keep only myself sober, I

would be doing my duty. However, as in any war, if I get in a position where I'm able to help a fellow Native wounded by alcohol, my duty would be to help the best that I can. If I myself were wounded, I would be expected to seek help.

Over the past century, the decision-making authority of our tribal governments have been severely diminished, but recently there has been a movement to restore these powers. If we are to regain tribal government, we must show respect and support for the decisions our Chiefs make.

I urge all Natives, unless you want to be referred to merely as "shareholders," to support this declaration of war on alcohol abuse.

Thanks again to the Tanana Chiefs Conference. They have given me much hope and motivation, even with scarce jobs and a bad economy.

Michael A. Savage Sr.
Hiland Mountain
Correctional Center
Eagle River

Education council formed

To the editor:

The Alaska Native Education Council is a membership organization incorporated April 2, with the following purpose and objectives:

- To advocate for and substantially increase supplemental educational opportunities of Alaska Native and American Indian children, utilizing the best available talents and resources, including persons from any appropriate agency.

- To actively involve Native parents, educators, administrators of Native education programs and student organizations statewide in the planning, development, evaluation and monitoring of programs and services funded under the Indian Education Acts for ANEC.

- The ANEC and staff shall work with the National Indian Education Association and Resource Center III for assistance in developing programs statewide.

- Final approval for any programs funded under the ANEC proposed by the council must be given by the appropriate agency.

- The ANEC shall solicit input from local Indian Education/JOM parent committees to identify problems and establish priorities to meet the special educational needs of Alaska Native and American Indian children.

- The ANEC shall act as a hearing board for any individual group which may wish to propose additions or changes or express grievances regarding the Native education programs.

- Provided that funds are available, the ANEC shall strive to provide resources for training through workshops during the annual meetings to address the needs of children, parent committee members, educators and Native education program administrators.

- Provided that funds are available, the ANEC shall provide technical assistance to JOM/Indian education contractors in the State of Alaska.

In addition, the ANEC will not compete with any contractor for JOM and Indian education funds, but will provide assistance, provided funds or resources are available.

Membership will be open to persons who complete a membership application. Membership fees are as follows: General Voting Member — \$20, Student Voting Member — \$10 and Elder Voting Member — \$1. Associate Non-voting Member fees are as follows: Associate Member — \$20, Associate Student Member — \$10 and Associate Elder Member — \$1. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, they may write to: Alaska Native Education Council, Box 202243, Anchorage 99520.