

Lund to be deputy director for division of subsistence

JUNEAU — Ethel Lund, president of the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corp., has announced she will leave SEARHC to accept a position as deputy director of subsistence with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Lund has headed the organization for nearly 13 years. She was one of the original incorporators of SEARHC in 1975 and was appointed in 1977 as its first president.

"She was responsible for bringing the 19 communities of Southeast together to form the corporation, said Niles Cesar, executive vice president of SEARHC.

SEARHC is a Native-administered nonprofit corporation that provides health services to the Native people of Southeast Alaska under contract with the Indian Health Service. SEARHC operates the Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital in Sitka and the Native medical clinic in Juneau, as well as a variety of field programs in rural villages throughout Southeast.

Starting out 13 years ago with a budget of \$23,000, Lund has overseen the growth of the corporation into the largest Native-administered health organization in the nation. Today, SEARHC has a staff of more than 350 and an annual budget of \$17 million.

Lund, who is the granddaughter of renowned Tlingit carver Thomas Ukas, was born and raised in Wrangell. Her involvement with Mt. Edgecumbe goes back to 1949 when the federal hospital served primarily as a Native tuberculosis facility. Lund got her first job there as a nurse's aide.