

AFN convention opens Thursday

Theme focuses on villages, families

"Restrengthening Native Families and Communities" is the theme for the 23rd Annual Alaska Federation of Natives Convention set for Thursday-Saturday at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage.

AFN schedule

—Page Twenty-five

"We chose this theme in an effort to showcase the many positive efforts that exist among Native communities and organizations to address the challenges of drug and alcohol abuse and to begin discussing ways for individuals and families to make a difference in their communities," AFN President Janie Leask said.

continued on page four

• AFN to present awards

continued from page one

Scheduled panel discussion will include such topics as "Maintaining Values in Changing Times," "Our Families — Our Future," "Restrengthening Native Families and Communities — the Youth Perspective," and "Celebrating our Communities' Successes."

Convention delegates Saturday will adopt resolutions and elect the AFN chairman of the board and village representatives for 1989-90. Winners of the 1989 AFN President's Awards also will be announced Saturday.

Awards are for health, education and small business, as well as the Parents of the Year Award, the Della Keats "Healing Hands" Award and the Roger Lang Youth Leadership Award.

A new award has been created this year, the AFN President's Award for Public Service. The 1989 award will be entitled the Ronald Zimin Memorial

Award and will be given in memory of Ronald Zimin of South Naknek, the first Village Public Safety Officer to be killed in the line of duty.

Following the presentation of the President's Awards, AFN co-chairmen Mary Jane Fate and Henry Ivanoff will present the 1989 AFN Citizen of the Year Award. This award is presented to an Alaska Native who has devoted a large portion of his or her life to working on behalf of Alaska Natives.

The AFN Convention will adjourn Saturday afternoon to be followed by the *Tundra Times* Banquet and the Ice Bloc Dance.

The banquet will be alcohol-free for the first time ever this year.

More than 1,500 delegates representing villages, Alaska Native regional corporations and regional nonprofit associations are expected to attend the convention. All AFN Convention activities are free and open to the public.