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It out in The Battalion Classified

## Coalition of 19 Eskimo villages fighting for tribal sovereignty

lie Kasayulie was 13 when he had to leave this Eskimo fishing village. It had no high school, and bright kids boarding schools.

Far from family and home, he polished his English, learned to deal with ignorance about his culture and realized the depth of his love for the land and his people.
At 37, Willie Kasayulie is back

home, putting the lessons of his teen-age years to use. As chief of the Yupiit Nation, he leads a coalition of 19 Yupik Eskimo villages in a battle with state and federal officials over control of the villages' destiny.

When Congress settled Alaska natives' land claims in 1971, it tried to trol over education, law enforceavoid the social ills endured by American Indians in the lower 48 and other governmental functions. states. Instead of reservations run by tribal councils, it set up corporations run by native shareholders. But now tive villages themselves: Kasayulie and other native leaders, disappointed by the corporations' performance, say the tribal way looks better all the time.

Their efforts to assert tribal sovereignty are opposed by state and federal officials, who fear that recognition of distinct tribes in Alaska could hodgepodge of independent en-

people might think it unusual that a dal.

75-year-old man would take a con-

gressional internship simply to learn

more about the government.

But Jerzy Patejak, of Wampum,

Pa., who is serving an internship this summer with Rep. Joe Kolter, D-Pa.,

thinks the unusual people are those of any age who do not take an active

"How could you not be involved in politics?" asked Patejak, a retired

what is going on? After all, every day

affects you. Our freedom, our very

existence depends on the govern-

Patejak's interest in politics dates back to his youth in Poland.

He studied engineering at War-

saw Technical Institute and law at

Warsaw University, and fought

against an invading Germany in 1939.

Patejak spent the next six years in German prisoner-of-war and labor

He was liberated by Allied armies

in 1945, but instead of returning to Poland, which had been liberated by

Russia, he traveled to England to

continue his engineering studies.
In 1951, he moved to the United

He has written more than a dozen

County Courier Times on topics Kolter is currently ranging from the steel industry to fourth term in the House.

"Sound-Off" columns for the Bucks

somebody makes a decision which

interest in politics.

design engineer.

75-year-old takes

job with congress

LEVITTOWN, Pa. (AP) - Some education to the Iran-Contra scan-

the inside.

sistant of Kolter.

How could you be unaware of nship first came to Patejak a year ago

status is denying a culture its right to tention to tax the operators of the govern itself by its traditions.

They're trying to take away my cultural rights," said Kasayulie. "I don't want to forget who I am or where my roots are. We've got our language, our history, and those are as important as the history of the United States.'

Akiachak, population 470, on the muddy Kuskokwim River in southwestern Alaska, can be reached only by boat or airplane in summer, by dog team or snowmobile in winter.

Despite its isolation, Akiachak is at the center of a movement among rural Alaska natives to assert tribal conment, taxation, game regulations

Akiachak residents voted in 1983 to replace their municipal government with a tribal council. The council now runs the village's water treatment plant, pays the salaries of three police officers and levies a 2 percent sales tax. A panel of elders metes out fines for minor crimes in split the state into an unmanageable the village. But the state recognizes neither council nor panel as legiti-mate governing bodies.

The internship with Kolter is an opportunity for Patejak to actively

pursue his interest in politics and see

"All of the information I've ever

been from the press or from the pol-

iticians themselves." he said. "This is

my chance to see how it works from

while having a discussion with an as-

When the assistant saw that Pate-jak was genuinely interested in the

He didn't think that his age

should be a factor in whether he was

given the internship position or not.

Patejak sees his purpose as being an independent observer of Kolter,

who serves on the aviation subcom-

mittee of the House Committee on

Kolter is currently seeking

Public Works and Transportation.

The idea of taking on the inter-

the government from a fresh per-

spective at the same time, he said.

But Kasayulie, also a commercial fisherman, says that denying tribal of Copper Center announced its inoriginal land claims. trans-Alaska oil pipeline, which der control of 12 regional corpor passes through traditional hunting tions and 200 village corporation grounds near the village. The case is pending in federal district court.

> Tyonek's tribal council sued the village. A federal district court upheld village's sovereign immunity against such suits; an appeal is pen-

Congress thought it was heading off such conflicts when it passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971. Hailed as the most generous settlement ever struck with native Americans, the act granted Alaska's natives \$963 million and 44 million coholism and suicide.

The land and money were put u

"Congress said in ANCSA, Look the days of reservations are over. V • A non-native family expelled by yonek's tribal council sued the vilge. A federal district court upheld want you to be good businessme and be part of the American conomic mainstream," said Thomas Morehouse, a researcher at the University of the Council of the American conomic mainstream, and the Council of the Council versity of Alaska's Institute for Social and Economic Research.

The law's boosters said the porations would make money for Alaska's 70,000 Eskimos, Aleutsan Indians, help develop the state's sources and assimilate natives in 11314900modern society, while a dressing social problems such as a

## Children compete in Deaf Olympics

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The Mini Deaf Olympics has done more for 16-year-old Michael Coomer of Louisville than simply give him a chance to compete in athletic events.

'He's very excited about it every year," his mother, Norma said. "You can see a change in him when he comes back from this . . . It seems like he's more satisfied with the rest

Olympic organizer Timothy "Timo" Owens would probably be happy with that result. It's one of the things he wanted to achieve when he sat down with six others in 1983 and tried to figure out how to give deaf and hearing-impaired children something to do in the summertime.

"Summer is the most boring season for the deaf," said Owens, 32, who is deaf. "I know because I went through this myself.' Carolyn Clark, co-director of pubreceived about the government has\*

licity for the sixth annual Olympics. held in July at the Kentucky School for the Blind, agrees.

"In the summer, there's really nothing. They feel isolated. They have no one to play with in the neighborhoods," Clark said.

Öwens said this year's event had 112 participants from five states — Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina, Michigan and Tennessee.

workings of the government, he suggested a congressional internship. Some of the youths, who ranged "I didn't know and probably a lot in age from 7-18, were completely of people don't know that such deaf. Others were hearing-impaired. things exist, but I thought I would Some could read lips and speak give it a try," he said.

Patejak called Kolter's office and clearly, some used a phonetic approach to speech, some used a combination of lip-reading, speech and asked for an interview to discuss the possibility of an internship. sign language.

But each year, Owens said, the participants come away with the same message — that the Deaf Kolter agreed that his age should rate from the hearing world. It's something they can call their own.

> The youths spent four days playing volleyball, basketball, table tennis, badminton and participating in track-and-field events. They also swam, bowled and roller-skated.

Awards were given each day and working," she said.

gold medals awarded on the find day of competition.
"It's a lot of fun," said Michael

Hesse, 17, a senior-to-be at Louisville Trinity High School. "Youge to compete, and you actually get ugo for the gold medal," he said with a laugh. The Olympics, however, isn't jus

daytime sports competition. It's also nighttime social activities. This year, the youths went on

Belle of Louisville evening cruix, danced the night away at a dress-u teen disco, got in the mud for doubted are and slid down an artificial seter slide. Owens said some youths want to

return each year for the social evens alone, but all have to participate is the athletic activities.

The youths' athletic ability is less

than-average, he said, but the never think about it."

The sports competition "cha lenges them to explore their possible ities. . . It also helps them to know doesn't hurt to try," Owens said.
Clark said deaf and hearing in paired children do not have mucho

an opportunity to participate sports in school, especially at the va

Getting the chance to join sporting events teaches the youth leadership and teamwork, she said adding that these are skills hearing children learn every day. Owens said this year's Olympic

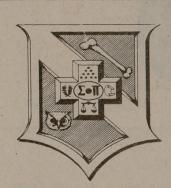
budget was \$12,000, but he expedent the total cost to run about \$2,000. over that amount. Participants paid \$25, which included their food and

lodging.

Clark said, organizers would like Louisville to be the site of a national control of the said of the sai Deaf Olympics, culminating a serie of mini-events in all 50 states.

To reach that goal, Owens has qu savings, he said. Work, he said, pr vented him from being able to see grants and sponsorships. Clark said, "We don't have the

time to go and talk to people durin the day." All the money is given of



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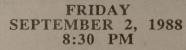
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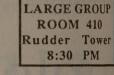


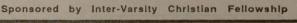
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