14th Mid-Winter Traditional Powwow Held

At the opening event for the 14th Annual Mid-Winter Powwow, the Community’s Cultural Committee expressed a Chi miigwech to Tribal Council presenting them with Pendleton Blankets for their time and dedication. Their hard work does not go unnoticed and they are all truly warriors in our eyes. The event was held at the Niwin Akeaa Community Center in Baraga, Michigan, on Saturday, January 27, 2018.

KBIC Tribal Council are pictured above after being presented with Pendleton blankets by the Cultural Committee. (Seated) L to R: Treasurer Doreen Blaker, Assistant Secretary Toni J. Minton, Secretary Susan J. LaFernier, Vice President Jennifer Misegan, (standing) Council Member Rodney Loonsfoot, Council Member Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., President Warren “Chris” Swartz, Jr., Council Member Robert “RD” Curtis, Jr. and Council Member Randall R. Haataja. Missing from photo were: Council Members: Fred Dakota, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., and Elizabeth D. Mayo.

Mavis Mantila was this year’s speaker at the recognition. Mavis is the daughter of John Edward Mantila and Barbara Spruce Mantila. She graduated from the L’Anse Area Schools and attended Flandreau Indian School. She received an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts from Haskell University, a Bachelor’s of Science in Political Science from the University of Michigan, and a Master’s in Education from the University of Minnesota. Mavis has been employed as a Middle School Coordinator, Social Studies Teacher, Ojibwa Language Teacher, and an Indigenous Film Festival Curator for the Minneapolis Public Schools. She is a member of the University of Michigan Alumni Association, Education Minnesota, Minnesota (DFL) Democratic Party, and the Native American Caucus. She also is a Standing Rock Water Protector. Last spring Mavis was honored when invited by the Finnish Consulate to give the speech welcoming the President of Finland to the USA. It was an amazing experience for her. A couple of months later, the President of Finland quoted her in a speech to the Americans regarding the Finnish Centennial. At today’s speech, she spoke of growing up as a FinIndian living on the reservation or nearby Pelkie, Michigan. Mavis shared a number of experiences when she visited Finland recently.

Grand Entries were held at 1 pm and 6 pm with Wes Martin, Head Veteran Dancer, leading the KBIC Wikwedong Ogichidaa Society (KBIC Veteran Honor Guard) into the arena.

Joe Awonohopay served as Master of Ceremonies, George Gauthier as Arena Director, Darrell Kingbird as Assistant Arena Director, and Todd Smith as Traditional Advisor. Woodland Singers were this year’s Host

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- February 3, 2018 Tribal Council Meeting
- 14th Mid-Winter Traditional Powwow Held
- 26th Annual Healthy Heart Fair Held
- Ojibwa Library News
- Criminal Report
- New Employees
- Deepest Sympathy
The Regular Monthly Tribal Council Meeting was held on Saturday, February 3, 2018, at the Big Bucks Bingo Hall in Baraga, Michigan. The meeting was called to order by President Warren Swartz, Jr. The meeting was adjourned with Jennifer Misegan, Susan J. LaFernier, Toni Minton, Doreen Loonsfoot, Fred Dakota, Randall Haataja, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Gary F. Loonsfoot, Jr., Rodney Loonsfoot, and Elizabeth D. Mayo present. Robert R.D. Curtis, Jr. was absent.

President Swartz shared numerous Thank You and For Your Information items addressed to Council.

President Warren "Chris" Swartz, Jr. gave the President's Report (page two). Secretary Susan J. LaFernier gave the Secretary's Report (page three). Treasurer Doreen Blaker presented the February 2018 donations requests. Motion by Rodney Loonsfoot to approve February 2018 donations as: $500.00 for the Baraga Senior Class of 2018 Lock-in; $500.00 for the Marquette County Youth Football's new equipment; $1,000.00 for Deena Misegan, NMU student's request to attend Interdisciplinary Study in Global Health Care in Central America; and direct the United Three Fires Against Violence donation request for membership to the OVW Program for funding. Donations for a total of $2,000.00, supported by Toni Minton. Nine supported (R. LaFernier, T. Minton, D. Loonsfoot, F. Dakota, R. Blaker, Haataja, M. LaFernier, G. Loonsfoot, R. Loonsfoot, Mayo), 0 opposed, one abstained (Misegan), one absent (Curtis), motion carried.

Tobacco Ordinance 2018 brought to Council's attention the poor condition of the Campground/Marina's Mobile Home where the park attendant resides. Council's consensus is to work on its condition or replace it.

Council adjourned with no further business on the agenda.

~ Submitted by Lauri Denomie, Newsletter Editor

(2) Niizh

President’s Report for the Month of January 2018

The following is a summary of activities that occurred in the Office of the President for the month of January 2018.

- We approved the renewable employment agreement with Jody Jinkerson. Some of her duties include providing diagnosis treatment follow-up for acute and chronic conditions, and long-term health care: implementation of a Diabetic Clinic and Women's Health Clinic weekly or bi-weekly.

- The current continuing resolution that funds the government run programs is set to expire on February 8, 2018. The current bill on the table includes the years of funding for Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

- I participated in a webinar about the 2018 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill is one of the largest pieces of domestic legislation in the United States. Enacted by Congress, every five years, it addresses everything from nutrition programs to agricultural policies, food production, natural resource conservation, rural development, and insurance programs.

- The new Title 12 Title is significant to Indian Country. Nutrition takes up about 80% of the approximate $449 billion dollars in that program. Some opportunities in the nutrition portion of farm bill include tribal administration of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), eliminate the match and to be able to include traditional foods in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (Commodity Foods). It is important that Indian Country continue to advocate for SNAP authority in the 2018 Farm Bill.

- I attended the Midwest Region Tribal Interior Budget Committee (TIBC) FY2020 budget formulation meeting in Bloomington, MN. The purpose is to provide a forum and process whereby tribes and the federal government to work policy and budgets that provide the Department of Interior to fulfill its Trust responsibilities and Treaty Obligations and to strengthen Tribal governmental capacity to serve its citizens.

- I submitted the Assistant CEO’s name for our Point of Contact (POC) for survey submissions. All of our program directors should submit their shortfalls underfunded obligations, and other needs of their respective departments. The purpose is to continually show a need for our programs and how they are underfunded. A couple of surveys were submitted regarding the preferred programs and unfunded obligations the Community has. The Community chose ten preferred programs for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

- Requested the Department hold a Secretarial Election to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (Judicial Amendment). The Constitution Committee is meeting to review and to consider comments from the Department for consideration in regards to the 2015 resolution. Those comments were received on January 12, 2018.

- At the beginning of this year, the BIA informed us that they may have funds remaining (left over money) that were appropriated for the totaled amount due to the left over funds, the Department requested from tribes one-time proposals that would be considered for funding. We submitted a couple of proposals related to controlling invasive species here on the reservation - $35,000, and the Walleye rearing facility.

- On behalf of the Community, I called upon our Congressional Representative, Jack Bergman, and informed him that the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) was NOT included in the House Continuing Resolution proposed by the House. The program is invaluable, and it has proven itself highly effective in reducing deaths, amputations, other symptoms of diabetes, and related issues. The SDPI is life saving.

The current continuing resolution that funds the government run programs is set to expire on February 8, 2018. The final report continues to:

- We concluded that the mining company would be in and out of here in a matter of less than ten years. We’re opposed to this activity and feel it’s not right to gamble the environmental and health sustainability of any of our natural resources, including the Middle Branch of the Escanaba River, on model predictions.

- Late in December of last year, I submitted joint comments on the Risk and Social Dynamics Final Alternatives Analysis in regards to Line 5 that traveled through Mackinaw City. Those comments set forth in detail a number of concerns with the draft that are of great importance to us, and we hoped would be addressed by Dynamic Risk in its revised report. To our disappointment, the Final Report addressed none of our concerns and is, in all material respects, a reproduction of the deeply flawed Draft Report. The final report continues to:

- Obscure the risk of rupture in the straits. The odds of a rupture in the next 35 years are about one in sixty.

- Obscure the fact that operation of the straits pipelines cannot be justified by Michigan-based needs. We noted Michigan’s portion of Line 5 is largely a thoroughfare for the transportation of product to the benefit of out-of-state commercial, governmental, and consumer interests.

- Prioritize out-of-state commercial needs over the needs of the people, businesses, and governments within the State of Michigan.

- The final report fails to account for Tribal interests. We set forth in detail a number of interests, including treaty rights attaching to lands and waters at and around the Straits guaranteed by the United States and affirmed by the Federal Courts. The final report addresses none of this other than it may affect implicit tribal-reserved treaty rights.

- Underestimate the costs of a spill.

- The final report continues its unexplained focus on the tunneling alternative. In our comments, we asserted that the reported undue emphasis on the tunneling alternative, failed to properly account for the vast state and state government’s interest that tunneling would cause, and failed to explain how Michigan’s interest justified this option as opposed to the commercial needs of Enbridge.

- The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community will continue to engage in further consultation with the state throughout the future of the Straits pipelines. We trust and hope that such consultation will be meaningful, and the state and the tribes will work...
together towards a common goal of decommissioning the Straits Pipelines. We deserve nothing less.

I was made aware of a bill introduced in the House by Noem in the past week (co-sponsored by Gowdy). It is HR 4864 and can be found at https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr4864/BILLS-115hr4864en.pdf. There has been no consultation with tribal nations on this bill, and it has far reaching negative consequences for tribes and will disrupt Tribal/Federal and Tribal/State relations. The bill will allow U.S. Marshals to arrest Tribal Members at their home reservations with state warrants without having to comply with any Tribal/State MOU or Tribal extradition process. This flies in the face of tribal sovereignty, will disrupt Tribal/State relations where MOUs and procedures have already been established, and will disrupt Tribal/Federal relations when Federal officers arrest on state warrants without following the laws of the tribal nation. We may have to amend section 2.402 of the KBIC Tribal Code regarding the extradition process by requiring law enforcement officers of another jurisdiction to seek judicial review by our Court.

I signed amendment two of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for the purposes of providing additional funds to purchase all subsites related to construction of 1.5 miles of the non-motorized trail that will run from Sandpoint Lighthouse to the Baraga Municipal Marina. The MEDC wished to extend the term of the agreement to allow for the completion of phase two of the project and to provide $300,000.00 additional funding. The proposed trail routes numerous areas of interest together and provides a designated safer route.

There is a vacancy in the Aanikoosing, Inc. Board of Directors for a Council Member.

The Community supported the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017 (TLSA). The TLSA would respect and promote tribal sovereignty by affirming the rights of tribal governments to determine our own regulations where MOUs and procedures have already been established, and will disrupt Tribal/Federal relations when Federal officers arrest on state warrants without following the laws of the tribal nation. We may have to amend section 2.402 of the KBIC Tribal Code regarding the extradition process by requiring law enforcement officers of another jurisdiction to seek judicial review by our Court.

On behalf of the Community, we submitted commentsvoicing our opposition to the HB4 soybean receiving non-regulated status. The threat posed by the release of genetically modified organisms into our environment is a concern in our Community.

I had the opportunity to talk to Jennifer Kurland. She is a candidate in her place to fulfill the remaining term as an employee representative to the Board.

We submitted comments regarding the Baraga Lakeside Inn’s Subemerged Lands permit application request to dredge the channel to their marina, remediate docks, and placement of rip-rap along the shoreline. We believe it is in the best interest of the Tribe and neighboring residents to protect the land and waters of the Upper Peninsula. The Community’s water supply has an intake value about 1000 feet or less where the proposed dredging is to take place. We’re concerned about sediment cleanup and the quality of water supplies in control of the Gilbert Commons. We also wonder if a laboratory analysis on the proposed dredged material has been done, and its influence on water treatment.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren C. Swartz

Notifying the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the following CCHS programs are available to assist you with your pet care needs:

Low cost vaccination Clinic—May 27, 2018.
Low cost microchips for pet identification — each Monday at CCHS animal shelter and also will be available during the vaccination clinic in May.
Spay/Neuter assistance program.

Tribal Council Secretary’s Report for the Month of January 2018 to the Council/Community

ANI! We honor the greatness in you. Remember, “Indian Country Counts” “Our People, Our Nations, Our Future”

We continue to recognize the richness of Native American contributions, accomplishments, and sacrifices to the political, cultural, and economic life of Michigan and the United States.

Mino-Bimaadizi “Live Well”

During January, the Tribal Council held one Regular meeting on January 6, 2018, one Work Session on January 22, 2018, and one Special Session and meetings on January 12, 18, and 25, 2018. Following are the unapproved minutes. This report will be published in the KBIC “Wilkwedong Dazhi-Ojibwe” newsletter, and the approved minutes may also be found on the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Website.

January 6, 2018 Regular Council Meeting (unapproved):

• Approved the Vice President’s (Jennifer Misegan) December 2017 Report.
• Approved the Secretary’s (Susan J. LaFernier) December 2017 Report.
• Approved the CEO’s (Larry Denomie III) November and December 2017 Reports.
• Approved the November 22 and 30, 2017 Tribal Council Meeting Minutes.
• Approved Resolution KB 001-2018 Clara L. Corbett Recreational Lease and sale of the leasehold interest and improvements on the Herman Road in L’Anse, Michigan, and cancels lease to Betsey C. Robillard Ross.
• Approved the January 2018 Donations: $5,000.00 to Wounded Warriors Family Support Program; $1,000.00 donation to protect and enhance the Gilbert Crone Reserve; $1,000.00 Visionary Supporter for Ken Summers for State Representative and (4) $20.00 tickets for the fundraiser event on January 26, 2018, in Houghton; $1,500.00 for Tim Lotquist/Jesse Ekdahl for mother’s pool tournament benefit; and travel expenses for Kelly Shellford from L’Anse, WI using the GAP guidelines to visit her uncle in Marquette General Hospital.
• Approved the certification of the KBIC General Election held on December 16, 2017. Doreen Blaker and Robert “RD” Curtis from the Baraga District and Randy Hasajeta and Toni J. Minton from the L’Anse District were sworn in.
• Ballot Vote for President: Warren J. Swartz, Jr. - 10, R.D. Curtis – 2.
• Ballot Vote for Vice President: Jennifer Misegan – 7, Elizabeth Mayo – 5.
• Susan J. LaFernier: Secretary.
• Toni J. Minton: Assistant Secretary.
• Doreen Blaker: Treasurer.
• Approved Superior National Bank and Wells Fargo as the Depositary.
• Approved all of the Tribal Council members as check signers with two signatures required on documents.
• Approved the check signers for the Tribal Court as the Council, Chief Judge, Associate Judge, and Chief Court Clerk with two signatures on document for the Child Support Office as the Council, Chief Judge, Associate Judge, Chief Court Clerk, Child Support Director, and Child Support Specialist with two signatures required on documents.

January 12, 2018 Special Council Meeting (unapproved):

• Approved the November 2017 Reports.
• Approved the December 2 and 7, 2017 Tribal Council Meeting Minutes.
• Approved the amended and Restated Operating Agreement for KBIC Tobacco Company, LLC.
• Approved the Management Agreement between KBIC Tobacco Company, LLC and Allegany Capital Enterprises, LLC for the federally licensed tobacco products manufacturing business.
• Approved the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Services Program January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020.
• Approved the renewal for the Red Stop License to Purchase and Sell Tobacco Products January 21, 2018 – January 20, 2019.
• Approved the Lease/Rental agreement with IGT and the two orders for 14 machines for the Marquette Casino.
• Approved the four orders for machines and table games for the Marquette and Baraga Ojibwa Casinos from Bally Gaming, Inc.
• Approved the 16 games device order with Aristocrat Technologies, Inc. for the Marquette Casino.
• Approved the Amendment to Program Contract for the FY 2018 “Bemidji Area Leaders Acting for Change” (BALAC). Grant Program with Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. to change the end date from March 2018 to September 29, 2018.
• Approved the renewal with Marketon Broadcast Solutions

Continued on page four. (3) Niiswi
Secretary Report continues:

- Approved Klas Robinson Hospitality Consulting to provide an updated feasibility study and trade market analysis regarding the two planned casino developments (three bids).
- Approved the Greenway Health LLC outbound immunizations implementation service for the Department of Health and Human Service for $3,500.00.
- Approved the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Memorandum of Understanding regarding use of American Indian/Alaskan Native Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Data to be used for health planning and supersedes the prior agreement approved on June 6, 2017.
- Approved the budget balance for the Marquette Casino Sanitary Force Main design proposal with Gundlach Champion.

January 16, 2018 Special Council Meeting (unapproved):

- Approved the December 14 and 19, 2017 Tribal Council meeting minutes.
- Approved the Product Sales Agreement with American Welding & Gas Inc. for five years and the Beverage Agreement with the Ojibwa Casinos and Pressbox Sports Bar and Grill.
- Approved the Cultural Committee budget modification increase request for $13,000.00.
- Approved Resolution KB 002-2018 National Indian Gaming Association membership renewal for $7,500.00 based on the Tribe’s gross annual revenue and to include the entire Tribal Council as delegate/alternate delegates.
- Approved the formation of the Assemia Wholesale and Distribution company (cigarette sales to retail outlets) and establish a checking account.
- Approved Options A and B proposal from Northwest Petroleum Service, Inc. for the Pines Conference Center installation of card readers $39,580.00 and media connect modules for the checking account.

January 22, 2018 Work Session:

- Government Personnel Policy Review – Closure of the Tribal Center; Inclement Weather Policy; Other policies.
- Reviewed the proposed Administrative Office Organizational Structure.
- Established a list of priorities for 2018 for review.
- Approved Resolution KB 003-2018 request to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Business Council to assist financially in any amount to improve the Baraga Ojibwa Casino facility.

January 25, 2018 Special Council Meeting (unapproved):

- Approved the KBIC Housing Department “Home Ownership Program Lease to Own” Policy.
- Approved the Tier III Services Agreement with MJ& Healthcare Consulting (Michael J. Popp) to provide the Community Information Technology (IT) Services by way of, but not limited to, Electronic Medical Records Management, Project Management, and HIPAA Support and Consulting Services, July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018, and renegotiate the travel time cost for the new agreement.
- Approved the Trademark/Service Mark Application, Principal Register TEAS Plus Application for the two versions of the new Ojibwa Casino logo.
- Approved the Request for Proposal one for the Terrestrial Invasive Species Management Plan Development from Mary Hindelang, PhD, Ecology and Education Consultant for the Natural Resources Department.
- Approved the Amendment to Tier IV Services Agreement with Henley Boat Manufacturing for additional services of $8,333.50 to build and deliver a boat to the Natural Resources Department.
- Approved the Amendment to Tier III Services Agreement with Dave Whitman Construction that the term of the agreement will end on June 30, 2018, instead of December 31, 2017, to construct a slab and roof over the outdoor fish tanks building at the Hatchery.
- Approved the bid for a 2018 Chevrolet 3500 Crew Cab with flat bed for $37,117.00 from Keweenaw Chevrolet for the Natural Resources Department for a fish stocking vehicle.
- Approved the purchase of two snowmobiles for $10,250.00 each from Timberline Sports in Bengland, MI, for the Ojibwa Casinos January 2018 Snowmobile Program.
- Approved the Director of Fire and Emergency Management job description with the changes.
- Approved the KBIC Seniors Tax Preparation Reimbursement Program for the 2017 tax returns. Seniors will be reimbursed $100.00 if they use a tax preparer who has been issued a pre-pared tax identification number by the Internal Revenue Service. The KB OHCDC has been excluded.
- Tabled the proposed Administrative Office Organizational Structure until the finance meeting with the Casino staff.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan J. LaFerriere

New Employees - Who’s Who and Who’s New!

Meet Diane McMahon the new Ojibwa Seniors Director.

"My name is Rachel Sutherland, and I am an enrolled Tribal Member of the KBIC. I began working with Tribal Social Services as a Social Services Specialist in February of 2018, transferring from the Office of Child Support Services. I recently graduated from Grand Valley State University with my Bachelor’s Degree in Legal Studies. I live in Baraga and enjoy spending my free time with my fiancé usually outdoors or with friends and family. I’m glad to be back in my hometown to support and help our community in any way I can."


"Hello! My name is Nick Gehring. I work as a Social Services Specialist for Tribal Social Services. I recently moved here from Wisconsin. I previously worked as a Social Worker in Milwaukee County for several years. In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends and family, hiking, and being an active member of the community. I am excited to be here and am thankful for the opportunity to serve the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community."

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Employment Opportunities

(Churchill: 03/09/18): Personnel Director; (Open-Until-Filled): Niiwin Akeaa Programs Assistant; Registered Nurse; Community Health Nurse; Health Administrator; Accounting Clerk; Physician; Youth Plant Technician (part-time); Youth Fisheries Technician (part-time).


Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Employment Opportunities

(Churchill: 03/09/18): Personnel Director; (Open-Until-Filled): Niiwin Akeaa Programs Assistant; Registered Nurse; Community Health Nurse; Health Administrator; Accounting Clerk; Physician; Youth Plant Technician (part-time); Youth Fisheries Technician (part-time).

On-going recruitment (open continuous): Account Manager, Event Manager (weekdays) (on-call positions): Boat Operator, Cashier/Deli Worker, Cleaning Person, Facility Attendant, Licensed Practi- cal Nurse, Natural Resource Technician, Nurse Practitioner, Beautician, Pharmacy Technician, Registered Nurse, Volunteer, Account Executive/Sales, Cashier/Deli Worker, Internal Sales Specialist, Event Manager (weekdays)."

Baraga location: Count Team, Casino Bartender, Surveillance Monitor, Guest Service Clerk, Security Officer, Slot Operator, Games Dealer, Cage Cashier, Casino Snack Bar Cook, Lanes Bartender Cook, Maintenance Worker, Casino Housekeeper, Casino Bar Waitstaff, Motel Front Desk, Room Attendant, Shuttle Driver.

Marquette location: Casino Bartender, Cage Cashier, Security Officer, Games Dealer, Slot Attendant, Guest Services Clerk, Waistband, Snack Bar Cook, Casino Housekeeper, Maintenance Worker.
On January 9, Push, Inc., a subcontractor hired by our General Contractor Gundlach Champion, began to bore and install a new water service line for the Baraga Casino and Hotel. Near the end of the boring process, it was discovered that Push accidentally ruptured the active waterline near the east side entrance to the casino. The break was first noticed just after noon. In order to repair the break, the entire resort had to be closed and the initial estimated reopening was scheduled for around 5 p.m. That day, once the repair was complete and pressure restored to the line, water was still not present within areas of the facilities. After researching and exploring several options, it was determined that sand had entered the water system and caused blockage of valves. Gundlach called in local plumbers to assist with repairing the issues, but the process went late into the evening and additional parts needed weren’t readily available. This caused the casino to remain closed throughout the night. The crew returned in the early morning hours on January 10th and by approximately 2 p.m., the casino was reopened for business, although some of the restrooms remained closed due to additional parts needing to be ordered. All repairs were completed, reports were written by all parties involved, and our insurance carrier was contacted.

We are continuing our work on moving the casino projects forward. The updated market study, required by our financing partners due to the significant changes in the scope of the projects, is underway. Erik, 1st VP, and I met with Klan and Robinson of Klas Robinson this week to provide the details they require to perform their work on the study. They estimate they will have a draft report to us within a few weeks with the final report expected within two to four weeks following. After we have the final study, the next steps will include meeting with our financing partners, finalization of the Guaranteed Maximum Price proposal by Gundlach Champion, and final review and consideration by Council to approve the GMO. A final note on other topics, our request for grant funding from the Shakyhope Tribe of MN was denied. The request was intended to provide funds toward the Baraga project in hopes of bringing more elements back into the project that had to be removed to keep the Marquette project scope intact.

Our office was directed to acquire cost proposals to have a review of the Tribe’s compensation structure performed. The companies who prepared proposals last year have been contacted and asked to update them. Hannah Beesley, Personnel Director, has also contacted two other companies to submit proposals of which companies who prepared proposals last year have been contacted and once it closes, the selection committee will meet and review that applicant pool.

I continue to assist with the development of the tobacco manufacturing project. The license to manufacture has been issued, and agreements with partners have been approved. One final approval is needed by our partners on the agreements which is expected very soon. The sales of the product to our retail outlets will be handled by the newly created Asemma Wholesale and Distribution Company. This company will be a business of the Tribe and managed through the CEO’s office.

Tribal Council held a work session on January 22. The session will aid the CEO’s office and departments in setting up priorities for the year. It also included review of the employee policy manual which requires updating. That process is underway and additional work sessions. The session also included review of the current and proposed change to the organizational structure of the CEO’s office to better align the workload that has developed due to growth across the Tribe.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Denomie III, CEO

KBIC SENIORS - TAX REIMBURSEMENT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Eligible Seniors: Enrolled KBIC Members 55 years of age and older residing in Baraga County or on the Marquette Trust.

How the Program Works: Eligible seniors will receive reimbursement up to $100 for their 2017 tax return preparation. This year’s program also provides reimbursement up to $25 for completion of your 2017 Home Heating Credit return.

To qualify for reimbursement, eligible seniors must use a tax preparer who has been issued a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Housing Community Development Corporation and Sally Snyder are excluded from the program due to a litigation matter involving the Tribe.

To receive your reimbursement, please turn in your original receipt to Kim Klopstein, Administrative Asst., in the CEO’s Office. Please allow up to 10 business days for payment processing. (Reimbursement for personal returns only, business returns are not covered.)

KBIC SENIORS

Eliason Law Office is taking appointments for phone conferences for: Tribal Elder Wills and General Durable Powers of Attorney/Health Care Powers of Attorney. Please call Geneva Brennan at the Tribal Attorney’s office at 906-353-4107 to schedule a conference and pick up intake worksheets. There is no charge for this service.

BIA SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for a BIA Scholarship for the 2018-19 academic year is May 1, 2018.

Applicants must be enrolled KBIC members, legal residents of Michigan attending a two-year or four-year accredited Michigan college. In pursuit of a two or four year degree and must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Applications are available from the Education Office, Keweenaw Bay Tribal Center, 16429 Beartown Rd. Baraga MI 49908.

For more information, please contact Amy St. Arnold, Education Director at 906-353-4117 or amy@KBIC-nsn.gov.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Is your charitable organization planning on holding a raffle or selling raffle tickets on the L’Anse Indian Reservation? Federal law, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, grants Tribes exclusive right to regulate gambling activity on Indian lands. Even if you or the members of your organization are not tribal members, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community has the authority to regulate your raffle. It is unlawful to sell a raffle ticket without a license!

Please contact the KBIC Gaming Commission Office at (906) 353-4222 or stop by the office located at the Tribal Center for an application and a copy of the rules and regulations.

Application deadline for submission of ALL Class I Drawings is 30 days and Class II Raffles is due by 5 p.m. prior to your event. License Fee will be waived when the application is received within this timeline.
To place an ad, submit an article, or relate information, ideas, or possible articles contact: Lauri Denomie at (906) 201-0263, or e-mail: newsletter@kbic-bsn.gov.

14th Mid-Winter Powwow continued:

Drum. Invited drums were: Eagle Clan Singers, Four Thunders, and Wiikwedong Ojibidaa Society. Also honored were Jaycie Forcia, Miss Keweenaw Bay; Starr Dunleavy, Miss Junior Keweenaw Bay; and Tribal Elders: Elizabeth "Chiz" Matthews and Albert W. Matthews. A Pink Shawl Honor Dance was held honoring Rosemary Haataja, Laurie Irwin, and Amanda Bloxton-Kippola. Participants honored the memories of fallen Beartown Firefighters: James “Jimmy” Shelifoe, Jr. and Alan J. "AJ" Swartz with a memorial dance. A grand feast was held between grand entries.

Honored Elders:

Elizabeth "Chiz" Charlotte Matthews was born in Zeba, Michigan. Her Indian name is Nesewin Ikwe which means Breath of Earth Woman. Her parents were Charlotte Baker and George Matthews. She is the mother of five children: Michael, Mark, Lori Ann, Loring, and Elizabeth. She has 16 grandchildren: Eddie, Mark, Matthew, Michael, Nathon, Tanya, Jacob, Kirsten, Breanna, Charlotte, Ethan, Abbey, Aiden, Keagan, Alisha, and Grayson. She has three sisters: Sarah, Myrtle, and Dorothy. She has six brothers: Amos, Donald, Ted, Matt, Glenn, and Albert.

After graduation, she worked at the Detroit Glass Car in Pontiac, Michigan; Ted’s Drive-In, Old Colony Laundry, and Home Health in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In the 70’s, she began her employment with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community as a receptionist for 18 years. "I had the Tribe at my fingertips," was a quote from the Daily Mining Gazette when she was interviewed.

She was a member of the Michigan Child Welfare Committee, KBIC Education Committee, and the North American Indian Women’s Association, and she is currently a member of the KBIC Cultural Committee. Chiz attends the Nishaabe-mowin Pane Immersion Program at the Baraga Campus where classes are held once a month for three days.

She loves the Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers. She enjoys playing Wheel of Fortune on-line, reading books, and spending time with family. Most important are her children, grandkids, nieces, and nephews. She is retired and lives a great life. There are a few projects she is involved with through the Tribe which keeps her busy. She has a bird feeder outside her kitchen window and has a cat, Tigger, who wants her attention most of the time.

Her future plans include selling her house and moving to Superior View Senior complex in Baraga. She hates to leave Zeba, but she knows she needs to downsize.

Albert W. Matthews whose Ojibwa name means Bad Uncle, is married to Elsie Loonsfoot. They have five children: Julie, Mary, Scott, Dan, and Jon; seven grandchildren: T.J., Jade, Adam, Patrick, Bobby, Jeremy, and Marie; and nine great grandchildren. Albert has four sisters: Myrtle Tolonen, Sarah Shelifoe, Elizabeth Matthews, and Dorothy Belmore; and five brothers: Glen, Amox, Don, Ted, and Matt.

Albert worked 12 years in the Meat Department as the manager of Sureway Stores in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He was sales manager at an IGA Food Distribution Center serving IGA Grocery Stores in the Eastern part of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He was the owner and operator of IGA Food Stores retiring in 2003. Albert likes to golf, go musky fishing (he caught a 51” musky in Canada) and hunt the four-legged. His freezer is always full of venison and rainbows from the Zeba Ravine and Silver River. He doesn’t spear them anymore, but he does go each spring and watches the fish jump the falls at the Silver River.

Albert “Bad Uncle” expresses his love for his brothers and sisters. “I spent my life away from the rez, but I always come back each year to be with my people. I love who I am, and I love each and every one of you.”

~ submitted by Lauri Denomie, Newsletter Editor

(6) Ningodwaaswi
March is Nutrition Month

The American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics celebrates National Nutrition Month® in March of each year. This year’s theme, “GO FURTHER WITH FOOD,” is a good reminder that eating well is going to help you achieve all those things you want to accomplish this spring.

Do you want to have more strength through the day? Eating healthy protein foods can give you sustained strength through the day. We think of protein as important for building muscles, but lean proteins are important to using those muscles and having more energy for everything from housework to ice fishing to repainting the bathroom.

Interested in avoiding a cold or sinus infection? Eating plenty of fruits and vegetables provide the combination of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants you need to tune up the immune system. A well-functioning immune system helps fight off viruses and bacteria that cause colds, flu, and sinus infections.

How about a mood lift? Too much sugar can be hard on your mood; it can lift your spirits temporarily but lead to the blues over the long term. Cutting back on sugary beverages (empty calories) and making sure that you get plenty of vitamin D and some omega-3 fats (for example, fish and flax) have been shown to help people handle mild depression.

It’s not just about weight! Too often people think that eating well is all about weight management. We can feel better and ‘go further’ in achieving any of our goals when we make small changes toward a healthier lifestyle.

National Nutrition Month® is a nutrition education and information campaign created annually in March by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. In addition, National Nutrition Month® promotes the Academy and its members to the public and the media as the most valuable and credible source of timely, scientifically-based food and nutrition information.

Submitted by Dale Schmeisser, PhD RDN, KBIC Dietitian/Nutritionist

Colorectal Cancer Awareness

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the United States and the second leading cause of death from cancer. Colorectal cancer affects all racial and ethnic groups and is most often found in people aged 50 and older.

The best way to prevent colorectal cancer is to get screened regularly starting at age 50. There are often no signs or symptoms of colorectal cancer – that’s why it’s so important to get screened.

To increase awareness about the importance of colorectal cancer screening, KBIC Health System is proudly participating in Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

If you are 50 years or older, or have been identified as high risk, call the KBIC Health System to schedule an appointment with your Physician to get screened.

People over age 50 have the highest risk of colorectal cancer. You may also be at higher risk if you are African American, smoke, or have a family history of colorectal cancer.

Everyone can take these healthy steps to help prevent colorectal cancer:

- Get screened starting at age 50.
- Encourage your family members and friends over age 50 to get screened.
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
- Get plenty of physical activity and eat healthy.

For more information, visit https://www.cancer.org/cancer/colorectal-cancer.html

Submitted by Mindy Lantz, RN

Put Your Digital Devices to Bed Early:

Optometrists Caution Overexposure to Blue Light May Cause Health Issues

The American Optometric Association’s (AOA) 2016 American Eye-Q® survey revealed that 88 percent of Americans know that digital devices can negatively affect their vision, but the average American still spends seven or more hours per day looking at their screens. This overexposure to blue light - high-energy visible light emitted from digital devices - can lead to digital eye strain, sleep problems, blurred vision, headaches, and neck and shoulder pain, among other things. The AOA survey also indicates that the average millennial spends nine hours per day on devices such as smartphones, tablets, LED monitors, and flat-screen TVs which also emit blue light.

The AOA understands that digital devices are an important part of everyday life and encourages patients to learn about blue light and its impact on vision and health during Save Your Vision Month in March. The following tips explore ways people can protect their eyes and monitor digital screen usage while at home or work:

- Power down before you turn in: Turn your digital devices off at least one hour before bed.
- Unplug with the AOA 20-20-20 rule: When you are using any device or computer, make a conscious effort every day to take a 20-second break and look away from the screen, every 20 minutes and view something 20 feet away.
- Step back: Maintain a comfortable working distance from your digital device by using the zoom feature to see small print and details, rather than bringing the device closer to your eyes.
- Adjust your device to fit your needs: The AOA recommends reducing the glare by adjusting device settings or using a glare filter to decrease the amount of blue light reflected from the screen.
- Schedule an appointment: Visit a doctor of optometry by visiting AOA.org to schedule an appointment for a comprehensive eye exam to detect and address vision problems.

"This year, we’re challenging you to prioritize, not only your eye health, but your overall health and well-being and limit your exposure to blue light,” said Andrea Thau, O.D., President of the AOA. "It’s as easy as looking away from your screen every 20 minutes and powering down an hour before bed."

If you think you are experiencing any of these symptoms listed due to prolonged exposure to blue light, schedule an appointment with a doctor of optometry. Blue light symptoms include digital eye strain, dry eyes, eye irritation (burning and stinging), blurred vision, sleep problems, headaches, and neck and shoulder pain.

American Optometric Association Shares Tips to Reduce Prolonged Exposure to Blue Light

visit www.aoa.org

(7) Niizhwaaswi
TRIBAL COURT CRIMINAL SENTENCES

The Tribal Court has agreed to comply with the request of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community’s CEO’s office to publish criminal sentencing on a routine basis.

Daniel Morro, case #17-237, §5.15, OUIL – 1st offense

Sentencing on 01/17/2018, #17-237, §5.16:

1. Fine $500.00.
2. Forty-five (45) days jail, credit for one day jail served, 44 days jail suspended pending successful completion of all terms of probation. Defendant shall be financially responsible for the costs of lodging and any expenses incurred while incarcerated.
3. Three to six months standard alcohol and drug restricted probation with a $10 monthly fee. Defendant shall be financially responsible for the costs of drug and PBT tests, if any.
4. Defendant shall obtain a substance abuse screening within 30 days of sentencing, and is to comply with the recommendations of the screening until successfully discharged. Defendant shall sign a release of information for the Court to monitor compliance.

Daniel Morro, case #17-238, §5.61, Driver’s license restricted – 1st offense

Sentencing on 01/18/2018, #17-238, §5.61:

1. Fine $100.00.
2. Ten (10) days jail, ten days jail suspended pending successful completion of all terms of probation. Defendant shall be financially responsible for the costs of lodging and any expenses incurred while incarcerated.
3. Three to six months standard alcohol and drug restricted probation with a $10 monthly fee. Defendant shall be financially responsible for the costs of drug and PBT tests, if any.
4. Defendant shall attempt to obtain a driver's license and provide proof to the probation office.

Yancey DeCota, case #18-003, §3.904, Domestic animals – required restraints – 1st offense

Sentencing on 01/18/2018, #18-003, §3.904:

1. Fine $100.00.
2. Animal must remain restrained at all times.

KC Rantanen, case #17-216, §5.61, License restricted – 1st offense

Sentencing on 01/22/2018, #17-216, §5.61:

1. Ten days jail, credit for ten days served. Defendant shall be financially responsible for the costs of lodging and any expense incurred while incarcerated.
2. Defendant shall report within 48 hours of being released from jail if or if released on the weekend shall report on first business day to the probation office to set up a payment order. Payment probation shall be made at a minimum of one time per month or as directed by the probation office.
3. Defendant shall be financially responsible for the costs of random drug and alcohol testing, if any.

KC Rantanen, case #17-217, §16.515, Improper use of license plate – 1st offense

Sentencing on 01/22/2018, #17-217, §16.515:

1. Fine $100.00.
2. Twenty-five days jail, credit for two days jail served, twenty-three days jail to be served. Defendant shall be financially responsible for the costs of lodging and any expenses incurred while incarcerated.
3. Defendant shall report within 48 hours of being released from jail if or if released on the weekend shall report on first business day to the probation office to set up a payment order. Payment probation shall be made at a minimum of one time per month. Community service shall be pre-arranged with the probation office.

A Celebration of Life Service was held Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at the Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph, Michigan. The family was assisted by the Starks Family Funeral Home, St. Joseph, Michigan.

Eleanor Mae Seppanen

(January 12, 1925—January 27, 2018)

Eleanor Mae Seppanen, age 93, of L’Anse, Michigan, passed away away Saturday, January 27, 2018, at her home on Pikes Peak Road. She was born January 12, 1925, in L’Anse, Michigan, the daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Kipsden) Spruce. Eleanor attended L’Anse School through the sixth grade. She married Elvin Seppanen in 1946. In 1970 Eleanor went to work for WigWam Industries for two years. She then worked as a cook for 15 years at the New Day Treatment Center, retiring in 1990. Eleanor was well known for her love of family, going to the casino, playing Bingo, playing cards, working crossword puzzles, and watching television and games show on television.

Surviving are her children: Ronald (Elizabeth) Spruce, Robert Seppanen, John (Carol) Seppanen all of L’Anse, William Seppanen, Dorothy Seppanen, William Seppanen all of Baraga; sister: Rosemary Haataja of L’Anse; 12 grandchildren; and 27 great grandchildren.

Paying her in death are her parents: son: Roger Seppanen; brothers: Russell, Robert, Samuel Jr., Kenneth, and William Spruce; sisters: Evelyn Holappa, Barbara Mantilla, infants; Patricia and Stephen Spruce, and a grandson: Travis Seppanen. A graveside service will be held in the spring at the Pettle Cemetery. The Jacobson Funeral Home of L’Anse, Michigan is in charge of arrangements.

Pearl Nancy Rose Thoresen

(June 2, 1932—February 8, 2018)

Pearl Nancy Rose Thoresen, age 85, of L’Anse, Michigan, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Thursday, February 8, 2018, at Baraga County Memo-

rial Hospital, L’Anse. She was born in Zeba, Michigan on June 2, 1932, the daughter of the late John ‘Mickey’ and Clara (Knap) Haataja of L’Anse. Pearl graduated from L’Anse High School in 1950. She married Harold ‘Heille’ Thoresen on October 21, 1950, at Zeba In-

dian Mission United Methodist Church. He preceded her in death in 2003. Throughout Pearl’s career she worked as a clerk for ITC, a cook at L’Anse Area Schools, a clerk at the former NorGas Com-
munity, a secretary for Michigan Indian Tribal Education Association, Tribal Health Ser-

vices, the Department of Health and Human Services, and had retired January 5, 1998, as administrative secretary for Keweenaw Bay Tribal Community. Pearl was a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Zeba Indian Mission United Methodist Church, Baragatad Senior Citizens, and had been a member of the L’Anse Women’s Bowling League. She enjoyed reading, puzzles, being on her computer, feeding and watching the birds and deer, going to the
Obituaries continued:
Dawn lives with her husband, daughter, and son, Billy; and brothers: Wayne, Clyde Swartz, but she lived and worked in Alabama.

She is also survived by her best friend Connie Lytkainen of L’Anse. Pearl was predeceased by death in her parents; her husband; her son, Billy; and brothers: Wayne, Clyde and Jerry Swartz.

A memorial funeral service for Pearl was held on Monday, February 12, 2018, at the Zeba Indian Mission United Methodist Church in Zeba, Michigan, with Reverend Steve Rhodeas officiating.

The family received friends at the church at 11 am until the time of the service. A fellowship and luncheon immediately followed the service at the Zeba Community Hall. The Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L’Anse, MI assisted the family.

Ojibwa Community Library News and Events
By Angela Badke, Librarian
If you haven’t been to the library in awhile, it’s time to stop in and see what’s new. We have a new staff member, new hours, new events, and new books!

We are really excited to introduce our newest staff member, Dawn Browning! We hired Dawn in late January as the new library assistant. She is a newcomer to the community. She is originally from Manitoba, but she lived and worked in Alabama. Dawn lives with her husband, daughter, and two large grand-dogs on a farm in the Baraga area. Welcome, Dawn!

With extra staff onboard, the library will be able to have extended hours. Our current hours of operation are as follows:

Monday and Friday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 9:00 AM–6:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

Events happening in March at the library include the Building Adult Skills in Computing (B.A.S.I.C.) sessions with students from Michigan Tech University. You can bring in your own laptop, smartphone, or tablet, and the students will walk you through your questions. The next session is March 23rd from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM in the library.

We are also happy to announce the library coding club started the end of February. If you have a student in your home in grades 5-8 who is interested in learning more about computer programming, have them fill out a short application at our circulation desk. Sessions are Wednesday nights from 4:00 PM–5:30 PM. Space is limited.

New books are always popping up in the library! Recently added titles include:

Death at Nuremberg — W.E.B. Griffin
The Midnight Line — Lee Child
Past Perfect — Danielle Steel
A Warrior of the People — Joe Stanta
Flowers of the Killer Moon — David Grann

For more information about any of our events, hours, or books, please email oc librarianship@up.net or call 353-8163.

Delores M. Eberl
Death, June 13, 1928—February 18, 2018

Delores M. Eberl (nee Denomie) found peace and joined her husband, Joseph Frank Eberl, on February 16, 2018, at the age of 89. She was born June 13, 1928, in Baraga, Michigan, the daughter of Lawrence and Leona (LaCosse). Delores was the loving mother of the late Frank Joseph Eberl and Barbara Jo Streihlow, dear grandmother of Jenifer (Ken) Schinner and Kristen Ruegg, and beloved great-grandmother of Joseph and Rachel Schinner. She is further survived by many other family members and friends. Delores bestowed on her family a love for cooking, political activism, and public service.

Also preceding Delores in death were siblings: Lawrence Denomie Jr., Carlotta Beauprey, Joan Bemis, and Patricia Imig. She was a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

Services were held on Thursday, February 22, 2018, at the Max Sass & Sons Funeral Home in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)
FY 2018 NET MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS*
(Effective Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018)

*The net monthly income standard for each household size is the sum of the applicable Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) net monthly income standard and the applicable SNAP standard deduction.

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Each additional member + $349

Each additional member + $436

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Adverse Health Effects of Smoking
A Federal Court has ordered Altria, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, Lorillard, and Philip Morris USA to make this statement about the health effects of smoking.
• Smoking kills, on average, 1,200 Americans, every day.
• More people die every year from smoking than from murder, plane crashes, drug overdoses, automobile crashes, car crashes, and alcohol combined.
• Smoking causes heart disease, emphysema, acute myeloid leukemia, and cancer of the mouth, esophagus, larynx, lung, stomach, kidney, bladder, and pancreas.
• Smoking also causes reduced fertility, low birth weight in newborns, and cancer of the cervix.

Addictiveness of Smoking and Nicotine
A Federal Court has ordered Altria, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, Lorillard, and Philip Morris USA to make this statement about the addictiveness of smoking and nicotine.
• Smoking is highly addictive. Nicotine is the addictive drug in tobacco.
• Cigarette companies intentionally designed cigarettes with enough nicotine to create and sustain addiction.
• It’s not easy to quit.
• When you smoke, the nicotine actually changes the brain — making it more difficult to stop.

Lack of Significant Health Benefit from Smoking “Low Tar,” “Light,” “Ultra Light,” “Mild,” and “Natural” Cigarettes
A Federal Court has ordered Altria, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco, Lorillard, and Philip Morris USA to make this statement about low tar and light cigarettes being as harmful as regular cigarettes.
• Many smokers switch to low tar and light cigarettes rather than quitting because the thin low tar and light cigarettes are less harmful. They are not.

REACH Receives Extra Year of Funding to Improve Native American Health
SAULT STE. MARIE — The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan’s (ITCM) Tribal and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Journey to Wellness Program was awarded a supplemental year of funding in order to build upon and sustain progress made in the first three years (September 30, 2014 – September 29, 2017). REACH Journey to Wellness is focused on cardiovascular disease prevention in Native Americans residing within six Michigan federally recognized tribes in one urban Indian Health Services Agency: The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the Nottawasaga E暄or Band of the Potawatomi, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa and Chipewa Indians, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Hannah-ville Indian Community, the Bay Mills Indian Community, and American Indian Health and Family Services in Detroit.

REACH is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and in part by the Prevention and Public Health Fund of the Affordable Care Act, and serves as the only community-based and culturally relevant program dedicated to the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities. Awardees create healthier communities by strengthening the capacity and implementing tailorormade evidence-based practices that will reach at least 75% of the selected priority population across multiple settings.

While all segments of society are affected by chronic disease, the American Indian population is disproportionately burdened and suffers higher rates of cancer, diabetes, and heart disease,” said Cathy Edgerly, Program Manager with Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.

Edgerly continues, “REACH supports our efforts to advance culturally tailored and evidence-based strategies which work to reduce chronic disease and related risk factors. In our first three years of the REACH Journey to Wellness project, outcomes included increased commercial tobacco policies, access to healthy food, and physical activity opportunities. This year’s supplemental year of funding, was reduced by 30%; however, the dedicated REACH Tribes and Agencies utilized tribal and non-tribal partnerships and resources in order to strengthen the capacity and implementing tailored evidence-based practice strategies that will reach at least 75% of the selected priority population across multiple settings.

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The REACH Journey to Wellness community action plans each include local culturally tailored strategies which address four key areas:
• Increased access to prevention, risk reduction, and chronic disease management opportunities.
• Increased access to environments with healthy food or beverage options.
• Increased access to physical activity opportunities.
• Increased access to commercial tobacco-free and smoke-free environments.

“Our REACH Journey to Wellness project is focused on strategies which will positively change the health and quality of life of Native Americans in our community,” said Elizabeth D. Mayo, REACH KBIC Coordinator.

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. is a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation duly organized under a state charter filed April 18, 1968. The agency represents all twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan. The agency is divided into several different divisions, including: headstart; early headstart; health services; behavioral health; environmental services; child, family, and education services; and administration. The agency employs approximately 160 employees. 35 of these employees are based in the agency’s central office in Sault Ste. Marie, while member tribes have offices and staff on site. Visit http://www.itcouncil.org to learn more about the agency. The REACH Journey to Wellness is funded by the CDC under grant number BUNIBD000946-03-03.
26th ANNUAL HEALTHY HEART FAIR
HELD ON VALENTINE’S DAY

What better day than Valentine’s Day to hold a Healthy Heart Fair. The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community’s Department of Health and Human Services held their 26th consecutive annual Healthy Heart Fair on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, Valentine’s Day. The event was held at the Niwin Akeaa Center and, as usual, was very well attended by the local community both tribal and non-tribal.

The event is held to ensure health screenings and education are available for the public. Participants visited a number of booths which distributed pamphlets and samples on how to live a healthier lifestyle, offered screenings, and prize drawings. Prize incentives were raffled throughout the event.

A Chi Miigwech to the following vendors who made this event a success! They were: Baraga County DHHS Licensing & IOWA, Baraga County Shelter Home, Bay Ambulance, Inc., BHK Child Development Board, Copper Country Great Start Collaborative, GLIFWC, Indian Health Service, KBIC BALAC, KBIC DHHS – Colorectal Cancer, KBIC DHHS – Tobacco Cessation, KBIC Diabetes Program, KBIC Health System Medical Clinic, KBIC Health System Pharmacy, KBIC Healthy Start - Family Spirit Programs, KBIC Natural Resources Air Quality, KBIC Nutrition Program, KBIC Office of Child Support Services, KBIC OVW, KBIC REACH, KBIC Tribal Prep, KBIC Tribal Social Services, KBIC VOCA & KBIC Health System Behavioral Health, KBIC WIC, KBOCC Children’s Literature Class, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, Keweenaw Bay Tribal Police, Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, MSU Extension, Ojibwa Community Library, New Day Treatment Center; KBIC Substance Abuse Program, Superior Family Chiropractic, UP Kids, Upper Peninsula Health Plan, and KBIC Youth (for the use of their building).

~ submitted by Lauri Denomie, Newsletter Editor

Carrie Paquette (right), visits the KBOCC Natural Resource vendor booth and obtained some seeds to start her vegetable garden this spring. Booth operators: Tim Dombrowski and Jane Kahkonen.

The event offers something for all ages. Emma Rothenberg and Damien DeCota spent the afternoon with Grandma Lynn Velmer visiting the many booths.

~ submitted by Lauri Denomie, Newsletter Editor

March 2018 Calendar

Mar. 3: Saturday Council Meeting at Big Bucks Bingo, Baraga, at 9 a.m.;

Mar. 30: Good Friday Holiday, Gov’t offices closed.
Heads Up! Another Community Survey On Its Way Soon!

I know what you’re thinking, “not another survey!” But yes, it’s another survey from the Natural Resources Department (NRD) all about wetlands! Now you’re thinking “why should I take the time to complete this survey?” Well, the bottom line is that your insights help the NRD better serve the Community as a whole. The NRD relies on contributions from Community members to provide a richer foundation for decision making into the future. The purpose of gathering this information is to explore the more holistic view of wetlands and the importance of these vital natural systems to KBIC Tribal Members.

This survey is funded by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) which is currently providing the NRD funding to conduct two years of baseline data collection within wetlands on the L’Anse Reservation. We will be gathering biological, ecological, social, and cultural information related to wetland systems in an effort to prepare for future changes that may occur as a result of shifts in weather and climatic events.

Our wetlands are presently in danger of being negatively impacted from many different sources. For example, potential impacts of climate change on wetland ecosystems include changes in seasonal weather patterns, increase in extreme weather events, changes in Lake Superior ice cover and water levels, change in abundance and distribution of coastal wetlands, loss of native plant and animal species, and increase in non-native and invasive species. The NRD has considered these potential impacts and understand that inaction may yield negative consequences for our community in the near future.

We all play an important role in protecting, defending, and healing our natural environment and the NRD intends to continue a proactive approach to resource stewardship to ensure that wetlands and their associated resources are maintained in good health for future generations.