



# GIKENDAM CHIWIKWEGAMAG



**All You Need To Know About The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
Gashkadino Giizis - Freezing Moon - November 2009 Issue 65**

## KBIC HOLDS CHELSEY LAFERNIER MEMORIAL WALK



Newsletter editor photo.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the KBIC held their first annual memorial walk in honor of Chelsey LaFernier, who was brutally murdered earlier this year on the Keweenaw Bay Indian reservation.

Over 400 Community members participated in the event which began with a pipe ceremony on the corner of McGillan and Lyons Street near the home where Chelsey LaFernier had resided. A procession of walkers stretched over a quarter mile as the participants walked the 1.8 mile stretch to the Niiwin Akeaa Center where songs by the Four Thunders Drum and Singers began the program. President Warren (Chris) Swartz, Jr., was asked by co-hosts, Carole LaPointe, Health Director, and Wanda Seppanen, VOCA Worker, to present gifts to the family of Chelsey LaFernier. Harry LaFernier and Roberta Sheldon (Chelsey's parents) were both presented with a Pendleton blanket, and Chelsey's daughter, Alexus (and son DaVohn who was not present) also received gifts from the Community.

President Swartz then presented the KBIC Tribal Police Department with a plaque of appreciation for outstanding professionalism and service recognizing Officer Miranda (Voakes) Forcia, Captain William (Chill) Seppanen, Sr., Sgt. Duane Misegan, and Officer Anthony Loonsfoot for the invaluable assistance to our Community stemming from the January 22, 2009, tragedy which forever changed the lives of our members and residents. These four law enforcement officers were each presented with a certificate of appreciation for outstanding professionalism and service.

Certifications of appreciation for professionalism and service were also awarded to Michigan State Police Troopers Robert Carter and Patricia Butler, Baraga Village Police Officers Matthew Gagnier and Chad Soli, Baraga Village Police Chief Harry Miron, and to agents Leslie Hahn, Clinton Morris and Jay Johnson, and to the Michigan Crime Lab, for their invaluable assistance to our Community.

Lights were dimmed and candles were raised



Newsletter editor photo.

(left to right) Carole LaPointe, Health Director, Harry LaFernier and Roberta Sheldon (Chelsey's parents), Wanda Seppanen, VOCA Worker, and (front) Alexus DeCota (Chelsey's daughter).



Newsletter editor photo.

(left to right) Officer Miranda (Voakes) Forcia, Sgt. Duane Misegan, Officer Anthony Loonsfoot, President Warren (Chris) Swartz, Jr. Missing for photo, Captain William (Chill) Seppanen, Sr.

as Sally Brunk, a member of the community, read a poem she authored against domestic abuse entitled, "What Price?"

Carole LaPointe, Health Director, announced "KBIC has just received word that we have been

### Tribal Council Members:

- Warren C. Swartz, Jr., President
- Susan J. LaFernier, Vice-President
- Toni Minton, Secretary
- William E. Emery, Asst. Secretary
- Jennifer Misegan, Treasurer
- Elizabeth D. Mayo
- Michael F. LaFernier, Sr.
- Elizabeth (Chiz) Matthews
- Jerry Lee Curtis
- Frederick Dakota
- Gary F. Loonsfoot, Sr.
- Isabelle H. Welsh



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- October 3, 2009, Tribal Council meeting
- Even Start Open House
- OCC Achieves Candidacy Status
- KBIC Receives Weed & Seed Grant Funding
- KBIC Harvest Feast
- DHHS Superior Spirit Award
- KBIC DHHS Selected To Test National Accreditation Program
- American Diabetes Month
- KBIC Leads The Way Again, Receives Title IV-E Plan Grant
- Deepest Sympathy



Newsletter editor photo.

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community extends this plaque of appreciation for outstanding professionalism and service to the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Police Department and especially to Officer Miranda Forcia, Captain William Seppanen, Sr., Sergeant Duane Misegan, and Officer Anthony Loonsfoot for the invaluable assistance to our community stemming from the January 22, 2009 tragedy which forever changed the lives for our members and residents.

Given this 9th day of October, 2009, at the Niiwin Akeaa Community Building in Baraga, Michigan.

Warren "Chris" Swartz, Tribal President

The Tribal Council held their regularly scheduled Saturday Tribal Council meeting on October 3, 2009, at the Marquette (Harvey) Community Center. Warren (Chris) Swartz, Jr., presided over the meeting with Susan LaFernier, Toni Minton, William E. Emery, Jennifer Misegan, Jerry Lee Curtis, Fred Dakota, Michael F. LaFernier, Sr., Gary F. Loonsfoot, Sr., Elizabeth (Chiz) Matthews, Elizabeth D. Mayo, and Isabelle Helene Welsh present. President Swartz shared numerous *Thank You* and *For Your Information* items addressed to Council. Reports were given for September 2009, by President Swartz (see page three), Vice President Susan LaFernier (see page four), Secretary Toni Minton (see page five), Treasurer Jennifer Misegan (see page four), and CEO Larry Denomie (see page eight). Council passed Department Head Reports for August 2009.

Pat Brown addressed the council under open business regarding three matters. First, Ms. Brown requested financial assistance for the Marquette Seniors' Christmas Party in the same amount received last year plus the \$328 that she refunded after last year's party. Plans are being made to hold their party on December 5, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. Council took the request under advisement and will take action on a later date. Second, Ms. Brown inquired why there was no summer youth employed in the Marquette area. After some discussion the reason became apparent that there was no available staff to supervise the youth in Marquette. Pat Brown graciously offered her assistance to supervise youth in the Marquette area for this coming year. Council will forward the offer to the Summer Youth Coordinator. Thirdly, Ms. Brown requested a raise in this year's Christmas gift checks. Although an amount was not given, Council did state that because of the increased profit from cigarette sales sold by the Tribe, members will definitely see an increase in this year's Christmas gift checks.

Debbie Parrish, Ojibwa Community College President, gave an update on OCC's accreditation review committee's visit from a meeting she attended in Chicago on September 14, 2009. Fantastic news was received as the review committee has recommended OCC for candidacy status for accreditation. OCC received the official letter/notification on October 5, 2009, and will begin to move forward with their plan for additional funding which includes: BIA money, HUD/Tribal College University Program funds, and they will seek the assistance of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium for the Dept. of Ed and other funding. Candidacy status will allow OCC to gain full membership into AIHEC and become eligible to receive funding from the American Indian College Fund for various types of funding including operating funds (\$100,000), restricted funds from donors (\$50,000), and student scholarships. President Parrish plans to attend the AIHEC meeting in two weeks being held in New Hampshire, where she will make a request for OCC to become a full member of AIHEC. OCC will also be applying for the TEACH program from the Michigan 4C Association. Those employees of Head Start will be eligible for tuition assistance from that program to attend the college once OCC is approved by the Teach Fund Program. President Parrish has notified local universities and will be updating the transfer credit agreements with Northern Michigan University, Finlandia University, and Michigan Tech, and will continue to work on the video conferencing system with NMU which will be in place later this year for interactive video classes. Parrish stated she had been notified yesterday by Senator Levin's office that they will be providing a letter of support for OCC's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program proposal, a

1.9 million dollar expansion to the college. Parrish stated of their future plans, "OCC plans on bringing back a Business Degree, Two-year Native American Studies Degree, and an Informational Systems Degree. In addition, OCC is working with the Tribal Historical Preservation Office on the mapping for the Pinery Cemetery. Tribal Construction will be providing OCC with information for OCC's Woodshop Technology class held in the Industrial Park who will be rebuilding some of the spirit houses at the Pinery Cemetery. They will also work on rebuilding some of the crosses at the Assinins Cemetery." Council thanked President Parrish, OCC staff and faculty, and the OCC Board, for obtaining candidacy status and the hard work they have done to do so. The candidacy status is for four years and there will be another comprehensive visit in two years to prepare for full accreditation. President Parrish thanked all of the Council for their continued support as this has been a long endeavor and appreciates their understanding of what the process entailed.

Diana Chaudier, Election Board Chairperson, presented the Council with a list of individuals who have submitted their names for the primary election to be held on October 31, 2009. In the Baraga District for Tribal Council—Robin Chosa, Jerry Lee Curtis, (incumbent), John Davis, Gary A. Mayo (a/k/a Gary Magnant), Debbie Parrish, Sandra L. Pittsley, Donny Shalfoe, Sr., Warren (Chris) Swartz, Jr. (incumbent), and Debi Williamson. In the L'Anse District for Tribal Council—Colleen DeRoche, Joe A. Dowd, Eddy Michael Edwards, Monica Emery Kohn, Susan J. LaFernier (incumbent), Jennifer Misegan (incumbent), Rose (Missy) Picard, JoAnne Racette, Evelyn Ravindran, and James Welsh. Chief Judge seat—Bradley T. Dakota (incumbent) and Paul Smith. There will be no primary election held for the Chief Judge seat since there is only two candidates. The Election Board met and recommended approval for all nominations for candidacy with the exception of John Davis in the Baraga District. Mr. Davis did not physically reside in the Baraga District for at least one year immediately preceding the primary election. **Motion by Gary F. Loonsfoot, Sr., to approve the list of candidates as presented with the exception of John Davis for the primary election, supported by William E. Emery, eight supported (Minton, Emery, Dakota, M. LaFernier, Loonsfoot, Matthews, Mayo, Welsh), 0 opposed, three abstained (S. LaFernier, Curtis, Misegan), motion carried.** **Motion by William E. Emery to approve the voters list as presented for the 2009 election, supported by Elizabeth (Chiz) Matthews, eight supported (Minton, Emery, Dakota, M. LaFernier, Loonsfoot, Matthews, Mayo, Welsh), 0 opposed, three abstained (S. LaFernier, Curtis, Misegan), motion carried.**

Jerry Lee Curtis requested on behalf of the NASA 9th Annual First Nations Food Taster four deer tags which NMU student, a KBIC member, Mitch Bolo has agreed to hunt on their behalf; two deer for the Food Taster (held in November) and two deer for the NMU Powwow (held in March). **Motion by Jennifer Misegan to approve four deer tags, supported by Elizabeth (Chiz) Matthews, eleven supported (S, LaFernier, M. LaFernier, Minton, Emery, Misegan, Curtis, Dakota, Loonsfoot, Matthews, Mayo, Welsh), 0 opposed, 0 abstained, motion carried.**

**Motion by Jennifer Misegan to introduce the 1st Reading Introduction for Amendments to Gaming Commission Proposed Ordinance 2009-04 and the 1st Reading Introduction for Amendments to Gaming regulatory Proposed Ordinance 2009-05**

**and to waive the first reading for both, supported by Toni Minton, ten supported (S, LaFernier, Minton, Emery, Misegan, Curtis, Dakota, Loonsfoot, Matthews, Mayo, Welsh), one opposed (M. LaFernier), 0 abstained, motion carried.** The second reading will be scheduled within 30 days and an informal review will be held with the Gaming Commission prior to the second reading.

Jennifer Misegan presented a request by Lori Muhlig, Michigan Tech Native American Outreach Coordinator for financial assistance in the amount of \$8,000 for MTU's 14th Annual Spirit of the Harvest Powwow and Speakers' Forum to be held October 23-24. **Motion by Jennifer Misegan to donate \$8,000 for MTU's 14th Annual Spirit of the Harvest Powwow and Speakers' Forum, supported by Michael LaFernier, Sr., eleven supported (S, LaFernier, M. LaFernier, Minton, Emery, Misegan, Curtis, Dakota, Loonsfoot, Matthews, Mayo, Welsh), 0 opposed, 0 abstained, motion carried.**

President Swartz informed the Council that he had approved emergency funding in the amount of \$550 to have a tree removed from tribally owned property which was an immediate threat to the residents at the Cheryl Bogda home.

Jennifer Misegan brought forth a suggestion for the Council to meet with the Ojibwa Housing Authority Board to clearly define roles and responsibilities, and address other problems. Misegan stated, "It may be helpful to have a mediator present. If this continues, it will only hurt the members. I'm not willing to ignore this problem. It needs to be corrected because it needs to stop being about who is getting credit and start being about what is better for the Tribe." **Motion by Gary Loonsfoot, Sr., to table this meeting until he can meet with the Housing Board, supported by William E. Emery, five supported (Welsh, M. LaFernier, Emery, Loonsfoot, Misegan), six opposed (Dakota, S. LaFernier, Minton, Curtis, Matthews, Mayo), 0 abstained, motion defeated.** **Motion by Jennifer Misegan to set a date to meet with the Housing Board to discuss the problems that we are currently having and to define our roles and responsibilities, and the authorities of each body, supported by Fred Dakota, eleven supported, (S, LaFernier, M. LaFernier, Minton, Emery, Misegan, Curtis, Dakota, Loonsfoot, Matthews, Mayo, Welsh), 0 opposed, 0 abstained, motion carried.** President Swartz will schedule this meeting date.

President Swartz presented a request of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian for a KBIC Flag to display. **Motion by Gary Loonsfoot, Sr., to give the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian a KBIC Flag to display, supported by Susan LaFernier, eleven supported (S. LaFernier, M. LaFernier, Minton, Emery, Misegan, Curtis, Dakota, Loonsfoot, Matthews, Mayo, Welsh), 0 opposed, 0 abstained, motion carried.**

Council moved into closed session with Jerry Lee Curtis, CEO Larry Denomie, and President Swartz on the agenda.

~ submitted by newsletter editor

Chelsey LaFernier Memorial Walk continued:

awarded two Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) grants totaling \$878,000. One project goal entitled, *Dancing in the Rain Violence against Women's Project* is to reduce the number of domestic violence crimes and discourage sexual assault committed against Indian women on our reservation.

We intend to accomplish this goal by enhancing and increasing services available to provide to the family and children, holding offenders accountable for their actions and providing appropriate and confidential advocacy and support.” LaPointe added, “In 2008, KBIC’s VOCA Worker had a case load of 329 survivors, 252 of these women were unduplicated. This is tremendous as there are only 365 days in a year. We had 252 unduplicated calls for help because of domestic violence! Some of these grant dollars will create three new positions in Youth and Family Services - a therapist, a second VOCA Worker, and an Administrative Assistant. Some of these grant dollars will go to try to change the rules on the reservation, so we can look at abuse in a different manner and that it is not acceptable. We have to say no to violence, any form of violence, be it domestic abuse, child sexual assault/abuse, or elder abuse, to name a few. The KBIC Dancing in the Rain Project will significantly improve our ability to provide a curriculum and risk reduction activity for the ability to assist all Tribal members in improving their overall life. Beginning today, we are all going to work towards change, and I hope that you are all there to join us.”

Ruth Oja, Hannahville’s VOCA, was the evening’s guest speaker. “What an amazing sight,” Oja began her speech. “The idea that so many of you came together to walk and to remember the life of one of our warriors is just amazing. I know that every single one of you did not do that walk and is not sitting here be-



Ruth Oja, Hannahville VOCA, shown above with the shirt she brings out every October during Domestic Abuse Month.

cause you don't care, and it is amazing that you are here in the numbers that you are. This is probably the biggest first event that I have ever attended. Your community, like any community, is technically going to have the level of violence that its citizens are willing to tolerate. Domestic violence is not going to end because the judge sends somebody to jail. Domestic violence is not going to end because you have a dedicated police force. Domestic violence will end in your community when we will not allow a perpetrator of domestic violence to live amongst us in our homes. When a perpetrator of domestic violence is allowed to live in a community that has values different than them, they don't understand that they're not supposed to harm people. If you can remember and hold Chelsey in your heart and make that pledge tonight for this program which now has awesome funding coming in, you can make a difference in this community, and perpetrators will not want to live here. Perpetrators want to stay in and function well in communities that don't care. If you make it hard to be a perpetrator in this community, you're going to put the biggest end to domestic

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2009.

Activities Reported by the President, Warren (Chris) Swartz, Jr., for the last few months.

- Signed a letter on behalf of the Community to Senator Levin's office asking him to seriously consider a Native American from the State of Michigan for an appointment to the U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan or the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, stating, "Given the importance of Federal Indian Law and a Federal Judgeship, the Community would like you to consider Matthew L.M. Fletcher for an appointment to the Federal judiciary."
- I signed a letter of support for improvements to the Baraga Marina at the request of Baraga Village Manager, Roy Kempainen.
- Continued working with OCC President with the efforts to obtain candidacy status from the Higher Learning Commission.
- We received notice that we were awarded a grant by the Office On Women Against Violence from the Department of Justice.
- I attended a Swine Flu Conference in Lansing, Michigan, with Heath Director, Carole LaPointe. We attended this conference to try and understand how other jurisdictions are dealing with this pandemic. We want to be proactive.
- At the conference, I was informed by Health Director of the Healthy Nations Community Initiative. This is designed to empower grassroots level people to participate in discussions on health and wellness issues and then teach the Community and work to resolve issues of concern. There are four leadership retreats available per year.
- I participated in a listening session in Washington D.C. Two of President Obama's key campaign commitments to Indian Country were that he would meet with Tribal leaders on an annual basis and that his Administration would respect the Nation-to-Nation relationship with Indian Tribal governments.
  - o Recently, the White House Domestic Policy Council sent an invitation to Tribal leaders for two listening sessions on August 31, 2009, in Washington D.C. The purpose of the sessions is to bring together Tribal leaders and White House staff, led by Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs, Kimberly Teehee, to engage in an informal dialogue on the process of Tribal consultation. These meetings are intended to prepare the Obama Administration to address Tribal Consultation and the Nation-to-Nation relationship.
  - o Recommendations on Tribal Consultation and Government-to-Government Coordination.
- o Executive Order 13175 — Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, was issued by President Clinton on November 9, 2000. The Executive Order was required by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, and is the companion to E.O. 13132—Federalism—which applies to state governments. Although E.O. 13175 was created during the Clinton Administration, it is rooted in the longstanding relationship found in the U.S. Constitution, the Indian treaties, and the federal trust relationship.
- o Although there has been a great deal of discussion, Tribal concerns can be boiled down to two points. 1) The E.O. is viewed by federal agencies as merely a procedural requirement with no focus on the substantive goals of Tribal self-government and fulfillment of the federal trust responsibility. Tribal leaders spend a great deal of time and resources engaging with a federal agency and receive little response directed toward Tribal recommendations. 2) On some occasions, federal agencies will ignore or refuse to carry out their responsibilities under the Executive Order, and there are no mechanisms for accountability. Although these are serious concerns about the consultation process, Tribal leaders also generally acknowledge that the E.O. is a useful tool for informing federal officials about the Federal-Tribal relationship, and that some consultation processes work well and have positive results.
  - o Recommendation #1—Refocus the Executive Order on Tribal sovereignty, the trust responsibility and the goal of building consensus between nations.
  - o Recommendation #2—Develop new accountability provisions.
  - o Recommendation #3—Create opportunities for both formal consultation on developed proposals and early informal scoping on Tribal issues.
- We continue to work together on drafting a resolution regarding the exercise of off reservation treaty rights in our home territory.
- I submitted the AARA IRR Maintenance Work Plan that Jason Ayres developed based on the most recent observations of needs required to maintain Tribally owned roads. This work plan must be submitted prior to execution of our AARA Maintenance Contract.

Respectfully submitted,  
Warren (Chris) Swartz, Jr., President

violence on this reservation that you can. If you see domestic violence, if you hear about it, as a responsible citizen you should report it. Because if you're not reporting it, the next victim may be your niece, your sister, your grandchild. Perpetrators of domestic violence don't stop because they don't have to. We all have to learn what is the power inside of us to make that difference.” Oja, wore a t-shirt bearing a picture of a domestic violence victim from her reservation, a woman named Loretta, who was killed in June of 2007. Oja brought with her another shirt that she states, “I bring out every October, because in the 23 years that I have been saved, this is the number of people who

have been murdered whom I have known, talked to on the phone, or been friendly with. This is what we're trying to stop. It's each one of you who has to say we are not going to tolerate it anymore. The violence has got to stop.”

A feast and giveaway concluded the Chelsey LaFerner Memorial Walk Program which was sponsored by: VOCA, Weed and Seed, the Office of Violence Against Women, and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. The event was planned by the KBIC Women's Survivor Group “niimi gimiwang” with assistance from KBIC DHHS OVA Grant, IHS Public Nurse Grant, KBIC VOCA, KBIC Dept. of Health &

## SEPTEMBER 2009 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Council met and reviewed ten donation requests for the month of September. The following were approved:

- American Red Cross (water safety program)—\$100.
- National American Indian Court Judges Association (sponsorship of annual conference)—\$200.
- L'Anse Township (replacement of fencing on softball field)—\$5,000.
- Native American Student Association (9th Annual First Nations Food Taster)—\$500.
- Keweenaw Land Trust (grant match for purchase of two parcels on the Lake Superior Shoreline)—\$1,000.

Much of our time in the month of September was spent in budget review meetings. We continued to hold these reviews in closed session, but open to Tribal members. To date we have not approved a budget for fiscal year 2010. With the weak economy and the desire to provide excellent programs and services for our members, this has been an extremely difficult budget process. We will be meeting on Monday, rolling up our sleeves and continuing to work on balancing it before approval.

As far as I know we have not received a settled agreement for the ATM's back from the Superior National Bank. Once we do, I assume our attorney will bring it forward for Council's approval.

Next week I will be traveling to St. Ignace along with President Swartz, Councilman Dakota and John Baker to meet with representatives from the State of Michigan Treasury Department as well as the Governor's office to discuss our Sales and Use tax issues, pending refund claims and 8% offsets. Our stance has always been that Tribal members are exempt and should not be required to pay sales and uses taxes on the reservation. We will be making a full report of the meeting to the membership.

We will be sending out care packages to five Tribal members who are active duty service members presently deployed overseas on Monday. Council members – please remember to bring in your items.

As always if there are any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to give me a call, e-mail or stop by.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Misegan, Treasurer

## OCC ACHIEVES CANDIDACY STATUS

On October 5, 2009, OCC President Debbie Parrish received official notification from North Central Accreditation-Higher Learning Commission for the granting of initial candidacy status for accreditation.

In April, a four member review team visited Ojibwa Community College to conduct an on-site accreditation review for initial candidacy. The team met with students, faculty, staff, Tribal Council, Board of Regents, and community members. In their Report of a Visit, the team recommended candidacy status. The process then included a meeting with a six member Review Committee of the Higher Learning Commission which was held in Chicago on September 14. This meeting was attended by President Parrish and Treneice Marshall, Assessment/Accreditation Coordinator, to answer questions regarding the College's response and the team's report. The Review Team concurred with the visiting team's recommendation for candidacy status. The final step in the process was formal ap-

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2009.

Activities Reported by the Vice President, Susan LaFernier, for the month of September 2009.

We all need to commit to do our part to make a difference to protect our environment and change the world. I hope that you have been learning how to save and conserve energy to protect our Earth if you are able. I will continue to emphasize that every month is "Energy Awareness Month" and our theme for the year will be a "Commit to Conserve" Campaign. There are simple, everyday conservation measures we can all easily commit to. There are also everyday measures we can do to reduce air pollution, conserve water, reduce/reuse/recycle/re-buy materials, and prevent pollution in general. All of this information is available on the EPA.gov and energy.gov websites.

Thank you to everyone who cares and protects our earth and water everyday. "It is our responsibility: Tribe's, residents, municipalities, businesses and visitors to protect and restore the quality of Lake Superior's (and all of our lakes) water, land, and wildlife. The lakes have always been and always will be important to the quality of our lives."

On September 1, 2009, I attended a round table discussion facilitated by Vicki Dompier/Eddy Edwards at the Ojibwa Housing meeting room with our various services providers (13 invites/10 attended) to begin working on the what/where/who/when in regards to the supportive housing concept. Thank you to Vicki for her work and care in regard to the needs and welfare of our people. Thank you also to Larry Denomie, Debbie Picciano, Carole LaPointe, and Jean Jokinen for their work, and watch for developments with this new concept.

The paraprofessional training session through our THPO department was held on September 21-24, and included the mapping process for the Pinery Cemetery. We are now hoping to begin the actual process in October and will be inviting interested persons to come and help. They also received information about the importance of historic properties and the types of historic properties found on the reservation and trust lands of KBIC. We are asking if anyone has information regarding forgotten graves and information on graves that do not have any identification to please call me or Summer Cohen. The changes there have already been amazing with the new vegetation and growth after the May 20, 2009 fire.

We are now having monthly meetings with our employee wellness group and our Blue Cross representative. Thank you to this new group; they have been enthusiastic and have many great ideas that employees will be seeing in the near future, such as healthy cooking recipes, weight management and stress re-

proval and validation by the NCA Board of Trustees which was done October 1, 2009.

President Parrish stated, "Candidacy status gives credibility to the College and will ease the transfer of credits for our students with MTU, Finlandia, NMU and other institutions. It also opens the door for accessing other funds including federal financial aid, operations, student services, and facility construction."

Currently, we are working on the application with the Department of Education to participate in the federal student financial aid program. We will be submitting our feasibility study to the Bureau of Indian Education for funding under the Tribally Controlled and Community College Act. Federal financial aid should be available with the Fall 2010 semester."

Parrish said, "OCC will also be eligible for funding from the American Indian College

duction programs, fitness memberships/discounts and healthy options in our vending machines. We are also having a wellness program naming contest in the next few weeks. It is never too late to encourage positive lifestyle changes that will help us live longer, healthier, happier lives.

I participated in an interview with the Detroit News on September 10, 2009, regarding Kennecott's proposed mine. As we know, we have been informed of a decision on August 18, 2009, from the administrative law Judge Patterson in our contested case hearing regarding the Kennecott's mining permit and groundwater permit for the Yellow Dog Plains. That decision was 178 pages long and the process of preparing our written exceptions/comments regarding these decisions were sent yesterday, October 2, 2009, and were 379 pages for the Part 631 mining permit. They were sent directly to Steven Chester, DEQ Director, who will now consider our comments and then make his final determination and order. Please continue to call/write your elected officials and tell them that the short term benefits are not worth the harmful long term effects on our health, rivers, Great Lakes, and wild places because of the great potential for acid mine drainage. Please call me or write if you would like to review the National Wildlife Federation's DVD "Mining Madness, Water Wars: The Great Lakes In The Balance."

I walked in the Parade of Nations with the Michigan Tech AISES group and our youth group on Saturday, September 19, 2009, in Hancock/Houghton. Chiz's daughter, Lori Muhlig, does a terrific job helping to organize this event each year. It was another great parade.

The Council has been very busy the past few weeks reviewing the 2010 budgets and meeting with department heads. We hope to finalize and approve the budgets next week. It certainly has been and will be a challenge in these difficult economic times to prepare for the coming year.

Remember to continue to pray for and honor all of our veterans, service men and women, and their families. Also remember those who are ill, have lost loved ones (there have been many in the last year) and for our economic struggles. Let us be thankful for our beautiful area and the warm fall days as we prepare for winter. We also continue to recognize the richness of Native American contributions to the political, cultural, and economic life of Michigan and the United States.

Remember the Drug Tip Line number is 353-DRUG or 353-3784.

Miigwetch,  
Susan LaFernier, Vice President

Fund for student scholarships and new programs for first year freshmen, professional development opportunities, academic assessment training, and general operating funds. OCC will also be eligible to apply for facility funds under the Housing and Urban Development program for Tribal Colleges and Universities. With the aide of the Tribal Council and Senator Levin's office, the College will also be seeking Land Grant status under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow have also sent letters of support for OCC's efforts in obtaining Recovery Act funds for construction of a public computer center adjacent to the College."

Parrish said, "The hard work our faculty, staff, and Board of Regents invested in this process has now been recognized." A ceremony will be held in November (Native American Heritage Month) to celebrate this major

## SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2009.

In September 2009, the Tribal Council had one Regular Tribal Council Meeting, four Special Council Meetings, and seven Finance Budget Meetings. The Regular Council Meeting was held on September 12, 2009, and is covered in the October 2009 Tribal Newsletter.

At the council meeting held September 3, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Approved the meeting minutes of May 14, 21, 28, and June 4, 2009;
- Approved a liquor license for the Softball Tournament and waived the fee;
- Approved the Tubcraft Facility Lease between the KBIC and the Ojibwa Community College;
- Approved Resolution KB1708-2009 Ojibwa Housing Authority Commercial Lease;
- Approved slot participation games removals and installations in the Baraga and Marquette Casinos;
- Agreed to move forward with the Michigan Cancer Registry Project;
- Approved a donation of \$2,000 to the Baraga Flag Football Program;
- Reviewed the Services Agreement with Stephanie Pinnow for data collection and analysis training at the Health Department.

At the council meeting held September 4, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Approved the Funny Business Agency Contract for the Eagle Radio Comedy Shows;
- Established the following criteria for children to be served at the KBIC Pre-primary and Head Start:
  1. Enrolled KBIC children or children under one year of age who are eligible to be enrolled;
  2. Direct descendants (children of KBIC members);
  3. Other KBIC descendants;
  4. Members of other Tribes;
- Directed the CEO office to notify the Head Start Policy Council and ITC Board of our criteria and to have the President, the Grant Department and the CEO apply for the Head Start funding to come directly to the Tribe;
- Agreed to allow Negaunee Township to use \$4,000 of 2% funds for an easement for a waterline;
- Agreed to use the USDA Rural Development Water Project excess contingency funds in the amount of \$100,000 on four projects in Baraga and seven projects in Zeba.

At the council meeting held September 8, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Reviewed the Budgets of the Ojibwa Casino Resort in Baraga and the Ojibwa Casino in Marquette.

At the council meeting held September 10,

2009, following actions were taken:

- Approved the meeting minutes of June 6, 2009;
- Approved an Easement request from the Village of Baraga;
- Approved Resolution KB1709-2009 IRR 2009 Cooperative Agreement for Road Projects;
- Approved Resolution KB1710-2009 Charlie Gauthier Recreational Lease;
- Approved Resolution KB1711-2009 Conner/Miller Residential Lease Sale;
- Continued review of the Casino and Enterprise Budgets;
- Approved the Services Agreement with Kevin Birchfield to paint the tower in Houghton;
- Approved the Services Agreement with Harlan Downwind for Traditional Teachings and Healing;
- Approved the WUPPDR CEDS list.

At the council meeting held September 11, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Denied the business licenses of Superior Pizza, J&K Pawn and Superior Water Sales;
- Began budget review with department and Committee Heads;
- Approved the Consultant Agreement with Cynthia Stiles for archaeological consulting services.

At the council meeting held September 14, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Budget review continued with various department heads and committees;
- Council approved the contract between the Ojibwa Casino and the Men of Playgirl Revue;
- Amended the Emergency Fund Policy to include septic tank cleaning.

At the council meeting held September 15, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Council continued budget review with department heads.

At the council meeting held September 17, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Approved Resolution KB1712-2009 Kathy Malmgren Residential Lease;
- Approved the Services Agreements with Barbara Nolan and Rose Trudeau for the Language Program;
- Approved the Consultant Agreement with John B. Anderton for a Field Survey of Prehistoric and Historic Properties;
- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the KBIC and Bay Mills Community College for the Immersion Program;
- Appointed Stacey Koski, Interim Child Support Services Director;
- Continued budget review with department heads;

- Cancelled the 2nd Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2009-03 Amendment to Ordinance 2004-001 KBIC Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, and Gathering Code.

At the council meeting held September 18, 2009, following actions were taken:

- A phone poll was conducted and the Council agreed to donate \$300 each to Jean Rolof, Keith Rolof, and Robin Roe for medical travel.

At the council meeting held September 24, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Amended the motion to reimburse members for taxes on motorcycle purchases the same as on cars if the member's name is on the title effective January 1, 2000;
- Agreed to issue each KBIC Veteran one Veteran plate at no cost;
- Agreed that the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act is not applicable on the Reservation and to place this statement on our job applications and in our Personnel Policies;
- Approved the bid of Ojibwa Builders in the amount of \$6,375.36 for the Even Start basement remodeling project;
- Approved September donations totaling \$6,800;
- Approved the Memorandum of Agreement with IHS for a solid waste transfer station;
- Approved the WIC Agreement;
- Approved the Service Agreement with Larson Well and Pump for the abandoned wells;
- Accepted the USDA Lease on a month to month basis;
- Agreed that the annex in Zeba can be used by the Child Care Center;
- Agreed to discuss the Tribal Licensed purchases of beer, wine and liquor from wholesalers with the Michigan Liquor Commission.

At the council meeting held September 28, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Continued budget review.

At the council meeting held September 29, 2009, following actions were taken:

- Continued budget reviews;
- Agreed to donate \$600 for snuff and postage for the Council Care Packages to the Troops;
- Approved a donation of \$3,000 for the Chelsey LaFernier Memorial Walk;
- Approved the First Amendment to the Services Agreement with Kevin Birchfield for painting the tower in Houghton;
- Approved the Professional Services Agreement with Lynn Ketola for evaluation services for Even Start.

Chi Miigwetch!  
Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Minton, Secretary

## KBIC RECEIVES WEED & SEED CONTINUATION GRANT FUNDING

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community received a \$142,000 continuation grant for year three of the Weed & Seed Initiative. KBIC Weed & Seed started year three on October 1, 2009, and that budget will continue through September 30, 2009. Chris Gerard, Coordinator of the Weed & Seed Program, reports, "The scheduled amount of funding for year three was originally set at \$275,000 for each Weed & Seed site; however, due to significant budget cuts over the past two years, that number has dropped to \$142,000. Each of the nearly 350 Weed & Seed sites receive the same amount of funding, and we are one of the smallest sites, if not the smallest site in the country, so we are able to function without too

many drastic changes. KBIC also received a one year extension on their year two budget. The year two budget was due to expire on September 30, 2009. This will allow KBIC to continue spending any funding that was not used up by the expiration date. Again, we are a small site and have had some trouble spending out all of the supportive funding. The Weed & Seed grant rules are very specific and detailed which means we cannot spend money on anything we want. We received an extension on the year one grant as well, so everything has been a little behind right from the get go. The year two budget extension is great news because we are going to be able to fund a few upcoming activities that we would not

have been able to without utilizing the year three grant money."

Gerard met with Norm McKindles and Ray Pasquali, Baraga and L'Anse Area Schools Superintendents to introduce a new law enforcement officer school liaison program that KBIC would like to implement during the 2009 school year. Gerard states, "Both Norm and Ray thought this program would be beneficial for their students and staff and agreed to allow the new program in the schools." The Teaching Educating And Mentoring (T.E.A.M.) school liaison program was started by the Michigan State Police and offers a seven lesson elementary curriculum that will be taught to fourth and fifth grade students in Baraga

**NOVEMBER  
AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH  
KBIC OFFERS A VARIETY  
OF SERVICES FOR  
THEIR PATIENTS**

The KBIC Diabetes Program is located in the Donald A. LaPointe Medical Facility and offers a variety of programs to assist Community members who are pre-diabetic or have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Heather Wood, Health Promotion Educator, offers physical activity opportunities throughout the year which are open to program participants and community members. Heather is a certified group exercise instructor and personal trainer. She offers one on one consultation, as well as a variety of group exercise classes that have included: aquasize (water aerobics), yoga, resistant training, and soon will be adding stability ball classes and aerobic classes.

Walking promotions are offered in a variety of locations, dependant on the season. Summer months brings hikes utilizing numerous trails in Baraga County, and winter brings indoor walking at the KBOCC gym and snowshoeing.

Kathy Mayo, oversees the Diabetes Program for KBIC, and as the Certified Diabetes Educator, she actively meets with patients one-on-one and in group settings, educating them on how to prevent or treat diabetes. Kathy also holds a monthly foot clinic where diabetic people can get their toe nails trimmed and receive their yearly foot exam. She is constantly trying to improve the health care and services offered to the Community.

Dr. Dale Schmiesser, RD is the Diabetes Program's nutritionist. Patients are offered appointments with "Dr. Dale" to increase better eating habits. From time to time, Dr. Dale offers group education sessions, which usually involves a great tasting healthy food choice.

Relatively new additions to the Diabetes Program is the Public Health Nurse, Mary Linden, Public Health Nurse Secretary Kim Klopstein, and Epidemiologist Stephanie Pinnow. This sector offers Diabetes case management, services that include coordinating referrals for eye, foot and dental care.

The Diabetes Advantages Program is an incentive program for the participants of the KBIC Diabetes program. Participants receive an Advantages card and are able to earn stamps/punches for an array of diabetes related actions, such as having a session with the dietitian or the Certified Diabetes Educator, completing diabetic labs, and yearly foot and/or eye exams, a diabetes education program, or participating in offered exercise programs. They can then cash their filled Advantages card in for a number of incentives; to mention a few, exercise materials and pharmacy gift certificates.

~ submitted by newsletter editor

**KNOWLEDGE + FITNESS = A HEALTHIER YOU**



Photo provided by DHHS Staff.

The KBIC Diabetes Program has teamed up with the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community Library to promote *Knowledge + Fitness = a Healthier You*. The Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community Library will be holding a drawing to give away a pair of snowshoes for the months of November, December and January. Every time you utilize a library service during these months you will be entered in the drawing. If you sign up for a library card you will be entered twice. Drawings will be held at the end of each month for snowshoes. The KBIC Diabetes program has recently donated materials to help update and expand the Library's health section that includes cooking books and DVD workouts.

Pictured above (left) Librarian, Mary (Cubby) Bergerson and (right) Health Promotion Educator, Heather Wood.

~ submitted by newsletter editor

**KNOWLEDGE + FITNESS = A HEALTHY YOU**

**Snowshoe Giveaway**

**Ojibwa Community Library**

The Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community Library will be holding a drawing to give away a pair of snowshoes for the months of November, December, and January.

Every time you utilize a library service during these months you will be entered. Sign up for a library card and you will be entered twice. Drawing will be held at the end of each month.

The library is located on Superior Ave. in Baraga next to the American Legion Post 444.

**For more information contact:**  
Mary Bergerson, Library Director  
Phone 353-8163  
E-mail kboclib@up.net

This promotion is sponsored by KBIC Diabetes Program, KBIC Ojibwa Community Library & ITC/IHS-HPDP

**The DHHS Superior Spirit Award Winner for October 2009**

Photo provided by DHHS Staff.



Kim Klopstein is the DHHS Superior Spirit Award Winner for October 2009. Kim was nominated by a fellow employee who stated, "Kim is always friendly and willing to help others."

Kim received a beaded lanyard for her name badge, and is able to park in the spot specifically designated for the Employee of the Month. Congratulations Kim!

**2009 Marquette Youth and Teenage Christmas Parties**

Planning and development takes people, time, and planning. Please join in the effort to make the 2009 Christmas Youth and Teenage Parties a great success. Meetings will take place at the Marquette Ojibwa Housing Community Building located behind the Ojibwa Casino II on Sunday, November 8, 15, 22, 2009, and Sunday, December 6, and 13, 2009, 12 pm to 2 pm. Any of your time is appreciated. If you are not able to make any of the meetings, your input can be heard by calling Carrie Ashbrook (906) 250-1018 or e-mail me at: [carriashbrook@yahoo.com](mailto:carriashbrook@yahoo.com).

**KBIC HARVEST FEAST HELD AT BIG BUCKS BINGO HALL**

KBIC hosted their Annual Harvest Feast on Saturday, October 17, 2009, at the Big Buck Bingo Hall. Ginnyann Jermac coordinated this years event; delegating different tasks to community volunteers. The KBIC Youth baked numerous delicious apple pies under the supervision of Alice Brunk, and community members assisted in the making of various dishes of cultural foods. President Swartz welcomed the community, and Paul Halverson gave the blessing. Four Thunders Drum provided the music for the event.

~ submitted by newsletter editor



Newsletter editor photo.



**Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
Employment Opportunities**



**On Call positions:**

- \* Community Service Supervisor
- \* LPN
- \* RN
- \* Unit Manager
- \* Account Executive/Sales
- \* Cashier
- \* Family Aide
- \* Receptionist/Clerical Worker
- \* Pre-Primary Teaching Assistant
- \* Youth Program & Facility Attendant

For current job listings, complete job announcements, applications and closing dates contact: KBIC Personnel Department, 16429 Bear Town Road, Baraga, MI 49908-9210 or 906-353-6623, ext 4176 or 4140 or visit: [www.ojibwa.com](http://www.ojibwa.com).

**NOTICE**

To all Tribal Seniors 55-years of age and older, and permanently physically handicapped persons:

**SNOW PLOWING REQUIREMENTS**

1. Keweenaw Bay Tribal member;
2. Head of household;
3. Reside on reservation (Baraga Co.);
4. Address and phone number;
5. Proof of age and/or PERMANENT physical disability;
6. Sign up at the front desk at the Tribal Center with proof of each item listed above or mail information to: Tribal Maintenance Department, 16429 Bear Town Road, Baraga, MI 49908.

**LOST AND FOUND**

Around October 1, found at the medical clinic, a woman's gold ring, call Elvera Lantz at 353-4537 and describe details to claim.

**OJIBWEMOWIN**  
Gashkadino Giizis —  
Freezing Moon—November

**Word list**



**Across:**

1. Rabbit
2. Turkey
3. Bear
4. Hunt

**Down:**

1. Deer
2. Buffalo
3. Goose
4. Raccoon

**Fill-in blanks**

Bear - m \_ \_ w \_  
Raccoon - \_ \_ \_ b a n  
Deer - w \_ \_ w \_ \_ s h \_ \_ \_ h i  
Turkey - m \_ \_ \_ se  
Buffalo - b \_ \_ \_ \_ k \_  
Hunt - \_ \_ \_ w o s \_  
Rabbit - \_ \_ \_ b o \_  
Goose - n \_ \_ a



The language page was designed from reference of "A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe" by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm, and from the Freelang Ojibwe/English on-line dictionary.  
~ Designed by newsletter editor

**KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY  
OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**



427 N. Superior Ave. • Baraga, MI 49908  
In Tribal Court Building  
Phone: 906-353-4566 • Fax: 906-353-8132  
• Email: [ocss@kbic-nsn.gov](mailto:ocss@kbic-nsn.gov)

**"Your Children...Our Priority"**

We provide the following services:

- Establishment, Enforcement and Modification of Child Support Orders
- Location of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents
- Paternity Establishment
- Community Education

[tp://www.kbic-nsn.gov/html/ocss.htm](http://www.kbic-nsn.gov/html/ocss.htm)

**Chelsey LaFernier Memorial Walk continued:**

Human Services, KBIC Tribal Council, KBIC Weed and Seed Program, KBIC Personnel Office, KBIC Pre-Primary, Pines Convenience Center, Ojibwa BP, Ojibwa Gift Shop, Eagle Radio, KBIC Tribal Police, KBIC Tribal Court, KBIC Youth Programs, KBIC Veterans, Homestead Graphics, Unique Images/Joan and Jerry Bugni, Giikendaam Chiwiikengamag, and the L'Anse Sentinel.

~ submitted by newsletter editor



**OJIBWA**

**OJIBWA BUILDERS**  
Residential Building Specialists  
353-7127

**OJIBWA BUILDING SUPPLY**  
For all your building supplies  
353-8850

**OJIBWA PLUMBING & HEATING**  
For all your maintenance needs.  
353-6967

*New Business*

**OJIBWA Ojibwa Car Wash & Laundromat**

**FEATURING**  
Ultrasonic Touchless Automatic Car Wash  
Your car will sparkle and shine like NEW!

**Open 24 Hours a Day  
7 Days a Week**  
Ojibwa Car Wash & Laundromat  
US 41, Baraga

Owned & Operated by Ojibwa Housing Authority; all proceeds go to Affordable Housing Activities.



**Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Housing Authority**

"Owned and operated by the Ojibwa Housing Authority.  
All proceeds go to affordable housing activities in our community."

**OJIBWA Ojibwa BP & Deli**

**353-BP4U (2748)!**

ATM, Sporting Goods  
Tribal Gas Discounts Honored Inside  
Pay-at-Pump features for your convenience

**Daily Lunch Specials**  
Business Deliveries Available  
(call for details)

Owned & Operated by Ojibwa Housing Authority; all proceeds go to Affordable Housing Activities.

**Good Luck Hunters!**

## Our Deepest Sympathy

### Edward D. Holzman

March 23, 1929—September 24, 2009

Edward D. Holzman, age 80, of Baraga, MI, passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2009, at the Omega House in Houghton following a lengthy illness. He was born in Assinins, MI, on March 23, 1929, the son of the late Frank and Emma (Mizegan) Holzman. Ed attended school in Houghton. He worked in Milwaukee, WI, as a commercial baker for the Pork Pie Baking Company and retired in 1975, from the Heinemann Bakery. Ed married the former Elizabeth "Betty" Haataja in Baraga on May 27, 2005. He was a member of Holy Name of Jesus Church, Assinins, MI, and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Ed was an avid Green Bay Packer, Tigers, and Red Wings fan. He enjoyed camping and attending Pow-Wows.

Mr. Holzman is survived by his loving wife Betty, step-son James (Norma) Kokko of Baraga, step-daughters Rose Ann (Bob) Coen of Aura, Doris (John) Mayo of L'Anse, and Pauline (Frank) Peters of Ellaville, GA., seven step grandchildren, 11 step great grandchildren, and cousin John (Carol) Jacker of Baraga. He was preceded in death by his first wife Delores in 2002, one brother and one sister.

Visitation and a memorial service for Mr. Holzman was held on Monday, September 28, 2009, at the Ojibwa Senior Citizens Ceremonial Funeral Room with Father John Longbucco officiating. The Reid Funeral Home of L'Anse assisted the family.

### Joan Marie Bemis

July 18, 1930—October 16, 2009

Joan Marie Bemis, age 79, of Assinins, MI, died on Friday, October 16, 2009, at Baraga County Memorial Hospital. She was born on July 18, 1930, in Assinins, MI, to Lawrence and Leone (Lacoste) Denomie. Joan grew up in Assinins and graduated from Baraga High School and received a degree from Michigan Technological University. She married George Bemis in Davenport, Iowa. She worked for the MESC as an interviewer for about 20 years, retiring in 1990. Joan served on the Commission of Indian Affairs for several years and the KBIC Tribal Council for 16 years. Joan enjoyed goose hunting, fishing, and was an avid Packer Fan. Joan is a member of Holy Name of Jesus Church, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and the Ojibwa Seniors.

Surviving are her son Ralph Bemis of Assinins; brothers Robert (Marilyn) Denomie and Lawrence (Ann) Denomie both of Assinins; sisters, Deloris Eberl and Betty (Gordon) Villwock both of Milwaukee, Carlota (Joe) Beauprey of Assinins; four grandchildren, David Bemis of L'Anse, Nicole (Conrad) LaPlante of Baraga, Ralph (Joanna) Bemis of L'Anse, and James Bemis of Gwinn; six great granddaughters; and several nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were her parents; husband George Bemis in 1992; and sister Patricia Imig.

Visitation and a funeral mass was held on Monday, October 19, 2009, at the Most Holy Name of Jesus Church in Assinins with Fr. Janusz Romanek officiating. The Jacobson Funeral Home of L'Anse assisted the family.

## CEO'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2009.

Activities Reported by the CEO Larry Denomie for the month of September 2009.

Fiscal year 2010 budget planning and review meetings continued throughout the month. Council has met, reviewed, adjusted and is near balancing the budget. Although we have passed October 1, which is the beginning of the new fiscal year, it is anticipated that final approval will occur the week of October 5.

The Wellness Task Force continues to work on the development of a calendar for the upcoming months. The task force has met twice this month and is being aided by our benefits provider staff member, Bonnie Nelson. Jim Nardi, Human Resource Director, Susan LaFernier, and I also met with Blue Cross Blue Shield representatives to obtain more information and to see what they have to offer KBIC in the development of our plan. I would like to share one of the statistics we learned during our meeting.

One of the main costs associated with the premiums the Tribe pays for its health care plan relates directly to the dollars spent on chronic health conditions. Out of the approximate 800 individuals covered by the plans, nearly 250 suffer from chronic health conditions. That equates to 31% of those covered. The national percentage for all plans sold by our provider is 9.2%. As you can see, the health of our employees and their families is alarming. This just goes to show how important it is to work as hard as we can to change those statistics. The task force is committed to developing a plan that will work toward that goal.

Part of the solution is going to require a commitment by Council to not only realize the importance of a Wellness program, and you have, but to also commit funding a program that will work toward improving the health of our Community and in turn the financial well being of the Tribe. We are working as quickly as we can to propose a budget for this cause and will submit one for consideration in the next 30 days.

On September 1, I attended a KBIC Services Providers Roundtable meeting sponsored by the Ojibwa Housing Authority. Vicki Dompier who works for the Housing Authority and also sits on the Tribe's Weed and Seed Committee and Drug Task Force began looking into a program that has been titled Sustainable Housing well over a year ago. The roundtable was well attended by staff throughout the Tribe who currently offer programs and services to community members.

Sustainable Housing Programs are currently offered out of our area. Staff from the Tribe and Housing traveled to Minnesota this past spring to tour facilities to gain insight on what the concept could mean for KBIC. Vicki Dompier of Housing coordinated the trip and is commended for bringing the concept to KBIC for consideration.

On October 1, Council was given a presentation by Debbie Picciano, Community Assistance Programs Director, which could be the first step in realizing the goal of having a facility located on our reservation which would serve individuals and families who are in dire need of services relating to domes-

tic violence, skills building job opportunities, drug court placement, and homelessness.

Two grants have been awarded to the Tribe totaling nearly \$1M for Domestic Violence which would be used to renovate an existing building to accommodate up to five women and their families who want to exit an abusive home. The grants also provide for the hiring of an additional VOCA worker, counselor, clerical person, and related expenses.

Existing programs, along with newly granted programs through the Community Assistance Programs office, would provide funding and potential housing for individuals and possible families experiencing difficulties due loss of job, lack of skills to acquire a job or just need help getting on their feet or out on their own. Many members have been identified as being in a situation where they are dependant on family and friends to meet their most critical needs such as a roof over their heads. Many of the programs offered through the Tribe are income based and due to the fact that household income has to be used, they don't always qualify. Having a facility to place them in will aid them in qualifying for the many programs offered by KBIC.

The Tribal Court is also in the development stages of putting together what is deemed as Drug Court. The system that has been started to some degree works closely with those suffering from drug related offenses by offering close monitoring and using other avenues to help the individuals clean up their life instead of immediately placing them into jail. This system has proven to work in other areas and is hoped to work here also.

Project HOPE which stands for Helping Our People Envision would provide for the needs of many who just can't seem to get on their feet and may have lost hope. Individuals who are in the Drug Court System will also be afforded the opportunity to take part in the programs described earlier.

Council has approved moving forward with the project, and a meeting with all of the areas providing needed services to our members will be scheduled as soon as possible to better communicate and collaborate our efforts in putting together a successful plan. We will provide a follow up report next month.

The Head Start and Early Head Start programs will be expanding the number of slots available to serve the appropriate age groups. Terri Denomie, Director of the programs, informed me that the Inter Tribal Council of MI received notice the end of September. They are still waiting to hear if the grant which will upgrade the HVAC systems at the facility in Zeba will be approved. With the approved funding notice for the expansion, we can put together a report for Council to consider locating the wrap around program which will include the Head Start programs as well as the Pre-primary program in either Zeba or Baraga as originally proposed.

As always if anyone has questions, concerns or issues the CEO's office can assist with, please don't hesitate to stop by, e-mail or call.

Miigwetch,  
Larry J. Denomie III, CEO

## KEWEENAW BAY Indian Community Dept. of Health & Human Services Selected to Test National Accreditation Program *Test Will Help to Shape the Future of Public Health*

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), Department of Health and Human Services announced it was selected by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) to participate in a test of the new national voluntary public health accreditation program. As one of 30 public health agencies selected from more than 145 applicants, KBIC DHHS will work through the accreditation process and will provide valuable feedback that will inform the voluntary accreditation program's national launch in 2011. KBIC Department of Health & Human Services will receive technical assistance for accreditation and quality improvement, funding to support quality improvement projects, and funding to cover the costs of providing detailed feedback to PHAB. The beta test will begin in the fall of 2009, and conclude at the end of 2010. The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) will provide technical assistance to the KBIC Tribal Health Department.

"We are pleased to be part of this ground breaking program," said Carole LaPointe, RN, Health

Administrator. "We recognize that this is a unique opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of our services and also showcase the high quality programs and services provided by the KBIC Health Department. We are proud to have a hand in shaping the national accreditation program and advancing the quality of public health."

"The National Indian Health Board is pleased and extremely excited to work in partnership with the Public Health Accreditation Board to raise awareness and relevance of voluntary public health accreditation in Indian Country," said Stacy Bohlen, Executive Director of the National Indian Health Board. "Through this partnership, NIHB was able to assist with the inclusion of three Native American health facilities to participation in the BETA testing initiative. As health care delivery in the Native American/Alaska Native population is wholly focused on the community, we are extremely pleased that the sites selected will be strengthening the delivery of services through the work they

will undergo during the accreditation process. We look forward to seeing the sites achieve their accreditation and set the bar for public health care delivery in Indian Country."

In addition to NIHB, several other leading national public health organizations have partnered with PHAB to support the test, including the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Association of Local Board of Health (NALBOH), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

In order to ensure that they represent a broad cross-section of the U.S. population, the health departments selected to be part of the test vary in size, structure, population served, governance, geographic region, and degree of preparedness for accreditation. For a complete listing of the 30 test sites, please visit <http://www.phaboard.org>.

**Sand Point—An Outdoor Classroom For Area Students**

Sand Point offers the perfect opportunity to enjoy and revel in the beauty of nature. The Sand Point area is visited throughout the year by campers, fisher-kids and their families during the annual Fishing Derby, ice fishing enthusiasts, various organizations for company picnics, and many family celebrations. There have been other visitors this year as well, including three school tours guided by Wildlife Biologist, Pam Nankervis of the KBIC Natural Resource Department.

**CJ Sullivan Elementary School**

A group of 60 second grade students from CJ Sullivan Elementary School visited in May for a wetland tour and learned about different types of wetlands and special adaptations of wetland plants and animals. They learned how to identify various types of plants, animals and birds and completed a checklist of things they saw along the way.



Half the second-grade students from CJ Sullivan wait with Pam Nankervis for the others to return from their walk on the nature trail at Sand Point.



A group of CJ Sullivan second graders pose for a photo for their teacher Ms. Caroen while on a nature walk at Sand Point in May, 2009.

**Michigan Technological University and Keweenaw Bay Indian Ojibwa Community College**

A group of 28 teachers attending a Forest Ecology Teacher Institute at Michigan Technological University took a tour in June learning to identify birds and ways to monitor habitat change through bird surveys. They were fortunate enough to hear two sora rail calling, sandhill cranes and various warblers. Several students from a class at KBOCC also joined the tour.



Teachers are the students during a Michigan Tech Teacher's Workshop in June, 2009. They learned to identify birds while on a tour of Sand Point wetlands.

**Stanton Township Schools**

On October 1, a group of 30 sixth and seventh graders from Stanton Township Schools toured Sand Point as a way to see first hand what a wildlife biologist does. They were spending most of the week exploring different careers in Natural Resources and really enjoyed learning about wildlife management survey techniques such as track and sign, remote camera survey, waterfowl and frog

surveys, as well as duck box placement strategies. They learned about the basic components of prime wildlife habitat first-hand while walking along the nature trail.

~ submitted by Todd Warner, KBNRD



Sixth and seventh grade students from Stanton Township Public Schools that learned about careers in Natural Resources while exploring Sand Point in October, 2009.

**Hazardous Waste Collection  
Event a Success**



KBIC Natural Resources Department conducted a household hazardous waste collection event on Saturday August 15, 2009, in Baraga and Harvey. Over two thousand pounds of hazardous waste was collected by WRR Environmental for proper disposal or recycling. Improper handling, storage and disposal of hazardous products has the potential to threaten human health and the environment.

Many products found in your home are potentially hazardous because of the chemical characteristics of the substance. These hazardous substances can poison people or animals, corrode containers, react with other stored materials creating additional hazards, explode, or ignite easily when mishandled or stored improperly. Household hazardous waste is the term for common household chemicals and substances for which the owner no longer has a use. Examples of household hazardous waste includes drain cleaners, oil based paint, motor oil, antifreeze, fuel, poisons, pesticides, herbicides, fluorescent lamps, lamp ballasts, old thermostats and other old electronic switches, smoke detectors, medical waste, cleaning chemicals, and consumer electronics. Some hazardous liquids such as antifreeze, which can cause death if ingested, are particularly dangerous due to their slightly sweet taste that animals and small children find attractive. Used hazardous liquids like vehicle lubricants and oil can contain other toxins, like lead or other heavy metals absorbed during use.

To be safe from potential hazards in the future, simply not using hazardous products in the home is the ideal situation. This can be done in many instances just by choosing non-toxic products. Before buying a product, read the label. Signal words can help you decide which purchases to make. With pesticides, DANGER means highly toxic, WARNING means moderately toxic, and CAUTION means slightly toxic. With household products, POISON means highly toxic, DANGER means extremely flammable or corrosive or highly toxic, WARNING or CAUTION means less toxic.

Never leave household hazardous products or wastes within reach of children or pets. When possible, buy products with less harmful ingredients (read the labels). When using a product, read and follow the label directions, never mix it with other products, and use it up entirely. Do not dispose of household hazardous wastes in the trash, on the ground, or in storm or sewer drains. Do not dispose of hazardous products into a drain connected to a septic system. Whatever is released into a septic tank is eventually released by the septic tank into

the drain field and into the surrounding environment. Hazardous substances released to the environment will contaminate the water we drink, and affect the fish and wildlife that depend upon these waters. Hazardous substances in the soil can poison the land, and the plants that grow there. Do not remove product labels, and do not remove products from their original containers.

For more information about proper disposal of hazardous waste contact the Natural Resources Department at 524-5757.

~ submitted by Katie Kruse, KBNRD

These books have been added to the library's collection: *Retrieving Michigan's Buried Past: The Archaeology of the Great Lakes State*, *Wonderful Power The Story of Ancient Copper Working in the Lake Superior Basin*, and *Strength of The Earth* (The Classic guide To Ojibwe Uses of Native Plants).

The Diabetes Program has donated the following DVD's to the library: *Chair Dancing*, *The Biggest Loser* ( the Workout), *No More Trouble Zones*, and *Walking Down Your Blood Sugar*. They also donated the following cookbooks: *Diabetes & Heart Healthy Meals for Two*, *The Complete Quick & Hearty Diabetic Cookbook*, and *Fix-It and Enjoy-It! Diabetic Cookbook*.

The Ojibwa Community Library hosted the Michigan Tribal Librarians Consortium on Friday, October 9, 2009. Librarians came from Bay Mills, Hannahville, and Little Traverse Bay. Currently, there are nine tribes in this consortium. The group meets two times a year to exchange ideas and problem solve. Sally Brunk treated the group to readings of her published poetry, Lynn Aho explained the DESTINY program and Suzanne Dees of UPRLC (Upper Peninsula Regional Library Cooperation) gave an overview of what is available to libraries who subscribe to their services. Our next meeting will be in Hannahville this coming June.

Every time you visit the library, remember to put your name in for the drawing for a chance to win a pair of snowshoes. The library and the Diabetes Program are working together to provide you this opportunity.

~ submitted by Mary Bergerson, Librarian

**ANA LANGUAGE PROGRAMS  
DINNER AND ANNUAL UPDATE**



Gary Loonsfoot, Jr., ANA Language Coordinator, held an informational dinner for the two sectors involved in KBIC's attempt to restore and revitalize our Native language. Immersion instructors and students, along with the Apprentices and their mentors, gathered with the ANA Language Coordinator and Tribal Council members for an update on the current ANA grant. The meeting was held on Friday, October 16, 2009, at the Ojibwa Resort Conference Room with buffet served by the Migizi Wadiswan staff.

~ submitted by newsletter editor

**KBIC DHHS Selected to Test National Accreditation Program continues:**

PHAB is dedicated to raising the standard for public health. With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, PHAB is working with leading public health experts from the field to develop a voluntary national accreditation program that will help public health departments assess their current capacity and guide them to become even better providers of quality service, thus promoting a healthier public.

~ submitted by Carole LaPointe



**Mission:** To provide affordable and attractive housing opportunities in a safe and healthy environment to qualifying tribal members of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, encourage self-improvement of the community's low income families, and provide employment opportunities.

**Programs and Services provided by the KBOHA:**

- Low income rental homes and apartments
  1. 158 Homes/apartments in Baraga
  2. 50 Homes in Zeba
  3. 40 Homes in Marquette/Harvey;
- Supportive housing/transitional housing to help address family issues;
- New, custom built, super-insulated homes for homeownership on Bear Town Road;
- Home buyer training to prepare members for home ownership;
- Financial literacy training to improve members' financial skills;
- Home maintenance training to improve members' ability to maintain homes;
- Home rehabilitation program to improve the condition of member-owned homes;
- Home emergency assistance program to remedy negative conditions in the home;
- Individual development account program – a 4:1 matched savings program for member goals that include:
  1. Down payment assistance for home purchase;
  2. College tuition and expenses for residents;
  3. Business expansion/start-up expenses;
  4. Home repair for member-owned homes;
  5. Credit repair for homeownership;
  6. Vehicle purchase for work/school.
- Low cost home improvement loan program for qualifying Tribal members;
- Low cost tax preparation program for residents and Tribal members;
- Surplus FEMA mobile home program for Tribal members;
- Stipend program covering mileage and child care expenses for residents attending college;
- Affordable curbside trash service for residents and members;
- Prescription subsidy program to reimburse Tribal elders and disabled households for prescriptions purchased;
- Ojibwa Building Supply Do It Best—providing Tribal employment, quality affordable building supplies and profits for housing programs;
- Ojibwa Builders Construction Company—providing Tribal employment, quality affordable construction, and profits for housing programs;
- Market rate rentals—five rental properties in Baraga and one in Negaunee- providing profits for housing programs.
- Ojibwa BP, Car Wash and Laundry- providing Tribal employment, superior products and service, and profits for housing programs.

## Home ownership in the Beartown Development

The Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Housing Authority has been developing a home ownership plan for the Beartown development to benefit our community. The plan involves using HUD funds to subsidize the cost of construction of new, super-insulated, custom-built homes using local Tribal member workers. The plan also includes using the USDA Rural Development's rural home loan program to provide further subsidies. The USDA's program offers subsidies on the mortgage payment for those who qualify according to the USDA's income guidelines. In addition, you have to also qualify for HUD's construction subsidy using HUD's income guidelines.

These homes will be built according to the National Association of Home Builder's Green Building guidelines, and they will also be built to meet U.S. Energy Star guidelines. We have enough grant money from HUD to build ten homes. We have two Tribal members lined up already for homeownership and we are in the process of lining up more Tribal members who have been working with housing to improve their credit scores and to save for down payments. We are looking for more Tribal members to build homes for. Below you will see examples of how the construction subsidy and the USDA subsidy can apply to provide Tribal members with a custom built home for an affordable monthly mortgage payment. If you are interested in new homeownership, call the housing

authority at 353-7117 and ask for the executive director, Eddy Edwards.

**Example 1:** (family of 2)

Price of home:	\$115,000.00 (with construction discount of \$40,000)
Monthly income of family	\$1,800.00
Mortgage pmt before subsidy	650.00
Mortgage Subsidy from USDA	<u>300.00</u>
Mortgage payment	<b>\$350.00</b>

**Example 2:** (family of 3)

Price of home:	\$117,000.00 (with construction discount of \$40,000)
Monthly Income of family:	\$2,330.00
Mortgage pmt before subsidy	670.00
Mortgage subsidy from USDA	<u>250.00</u>
Mortgage payment	<b>\$450.00</b>

**Example 3:** (family of 3)

Price of home:	\$118,000.00 (with construction discount of \$40,000)
Monthly Income of family	\$1,335.00
Mortgage pmt before subsidy	680.00
Mortgage subsidy from USDA	<u>350.00</u>
House payment	<b>\$ 330.00</b>

## EVEN START HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

KBIC Even Start Family Literacy Center held an open house on Thursday afternoon, October 15, 2009. The Community was able to meet and visit with staff of the Even Start Program and toured their new "Dream Catcher" Family Activity area. Sheri Davie, a representative of Senator Stabenow's office stopped in to visit with the Community at Even Start's open house.

As one of four Tribal Even Start Programs, KBIC's Even Start is the only Tribal Even Start program in Michigan and is designed to serve up to 20 families, with those most-in-need as a priority. Their services to the KBIC Tribal community and all of Baraga County are free. Families with children under the age of eight or who are expecting a baby, with at least one parent needing to complete a GED or high school diploma may qualify.

The program is designed to help families enhance their ability to meet educational and life goals, prepare their children for school success, and strengthen parenting skills. Parents and their young children (0-8) learn, laugh, and grow



(left to right) KBIC President Warren (Chris) Swartz, Jr., Sheri Davie, Representative from Senator Stabenow's Office, William E. Emery, KBIC Council's Assistant Secretary, and Gail Juntunen, Coordinator of the KBIC Even Start Family Literacy Center.



A visitor at the Open house, October 15, 2009, Vicki Shalfoe is shown above with her two young grandchildren, Keonna and Kaden Mix.

together through events and activities designed to strengthen both adult and child literacy. Their goal is to strengthen the education of the whole family.

The Even Start Program is located at 755 Michigan Ave., Baraga, MI. Interested parties may call for enrollment procedures at 353-8161.

~ submitted by newsletter editor

## KBIC is Leading the Way Again

KBIC was one of six tribes awarded a two-year Title IV-E Plan Development grant. Title IV-E is funding for foster care and other related programs. The \$244,542 grant will assist KBIC in developing a Title IV-E Plan for submission to the Department of Health and Human Services for Title IV-E direct funding. Currently, KBIC has to Court Order "care, custody, and supervision" over to the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) to access Title IV-E (foster care) funding for its children in out-of-home placements. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, allows Tribes to apply for the Title IV-E funding directly from the Federal Government. The grant will allow KBIC to hire a Foster Care Project Coordinator to be part of the Tribal Social Services Department, as well as contracting with a Title IV-E Consultant, Jennie Weiger, who has over 30 years experience working with Title IV-E within Michigan DHS. In addition to the Title IV-E Consultant, Advance Technologies, Inc. will be contracted with for computer programming services to set up case management and data management systems for KBIC Tribal Social Services. This is a great opportunity for KBIC, like the Title IV-D (Child Support) program, we are leading the way for other tribes in their efforts to access direct funding from the Federal government for Title IV-E.

~ submitted by Judy Heath

### KBIC RECEIVES WEED & SEED CONTINUATION GRANT FUNDING continues:

and L'Anse. Officer Tyler Larson from the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Police Department attended a week long T.E.A.M. Officer training program in June at the Michigan State Police Academy in Lansing and will be the officer delivering the curriculum to area students. Gerard states, "This is a perfect situation for all of us. Tyler coached football at Baraga last year and served as the youth director at KBIC before accepting his current position. He is well known by many students in the area and has already built positive relationships with students which he will continue to build on when he enters the schools. KBIC Chief of Police, Dale Dakota is excited about the program and for his department to be involved with impacting area youth in such a positive way. The elementary T.E.A.M. curriculum teaches students basic safety rules such as bicycle and pedestrian safety, the proper use of 911, fire and gun prevention, and being safe on the internet. The T.E.A.M. program builds partnerships between schools, parents, communities and law enforcement agencies which helps promote safety for all children.

Gerard reports he has submitted a change of scope - altering programmatic activities and a budget modification for the year two budget in order to move some of the funding around to assist with a few new programs. On October 9, KBIC Weed & Seed found out the change of scope and budget modification had been approved. Gerard states, "This will allow us to provide funding assistance to the Baraga Youth Football League, L'Anse Flag Football League and the KBIC Community Walk and Talk against Domestic Violence. These programs were not specifically mentioned in our current grants, so there were a number of steps that we had to take to get them approved by the Department of Justice."

~ submitted by Chris Gerard

### OCC ACHIEVES CANDIDACY STATUS continues:

accomplishment. President Parrish stated, "I would like to thank the Board of Regents, faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work during this process. In addition, chi' Miigwetch to our students, Tribal Council, and community members who showed enormous support for the College during the team visit."

~ submitted by Debbie Parrish



## DECEMBER 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

The Language Program is producing 2010 calendars for our Community. We are requesting the Community submit their special dates for both themselves and their immediate family members (birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, etc) to be printed in this calendar. These requests can be submitted throughout the month of October and early November, until the November 14, 2009 deadline.

Also wanted - Community photos. Please submit photos you wish to have displayed on the calendar. Photos should be submitted that are relevant to the month they are to be portrayed.

Submissions should either be mailed to Gary Loonsfoot, Jr., Language Program, 16429 Bear Town Road, Baraga, MI 49908, or call (906) 353-6623, ext. 4178, or e-mail to [gloonsfoot@kbic-nsn.gov](mailto:gloonsfoot@kbic-nsn.gov). You may also stop by the Cultural Center located in the Pow-wow grounds, or drop off the information to the receptionist desk at the Tribal Center.

(ad by newsletter editor)

## NOTICE

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- \* In an effort to reduce the cost of printing and distribution, as this publication is fully funded by the Tribe, it is requested that you notify us if you wish to continue to receive a monthly newsletter by mail. If you do not notify us, you will be removed from the mailing list.
- \* You may do this by contacting the Enrollment Office at 906-353-6623, ext. 4113, or by e-mail to one of the following - [dianas@kbic-nsn.gov](mailto:dianas@kbic-nsn.gov), [jennifer@kbic-nsn.gov](mailto:jennifer@kbic-nsn.gov), or [jeanne@kbic-nsn.gov](mailto:jeanne@kbic-nsn.gov) and state that you wish to continue to receive the Tribal newsletter by mail, please spell your name and give your mailing address. **Or just clip this ad and mail it to:**



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**Baraga, MI 49908**

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(ad by newsletter editor)

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**November 2009 Calendars Events**

**Nov. 7** — Regularly scheduled Saturday Council meeting, 10 a.m.

**Nov. 11** — Veteran's Day, KBIC Gov't offices closed.

**Nov. 26** — Thanksgiving Day, KIBC Gov't offices closed.

**Nov. 27** — National Indian Heritage Day, KBIC Gov't offices closed.

~ submitted by newsletter editor

Events occurring throughout KBIC are welcome to be listed on the Calendar of Events. Contact newsletter@kbic.nsn.gov to list your events. Some events are more detailed FYI within the newsletter. For up-to-date event listings, visit www.ojibwa.com and click on calendar. For Youth events, see @ www.ojibwa.com, click on youth club, or contact 353-4643/Main Office at Youth Club, or 353-4644 for the facility attendants or the Kitchen/craft rooms.

To place an ad, submit an article, or relate information or ideas on possible articles contact: Lauri Denomie at newsletter@kbic-nsn.gov or 906-201-0263.

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(12) Ashi Niizh

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