

# Kawerak Newsletter

"Qaniqta" meaning "Let's Talk" in the Inupiaq dialect

KAWERAK, INC., UAF NORTHWEST CAMPUS, AND OTHERS WITH NEWS FROM THE BERING STRAIT REGION

SUMMER 2015

## 32nd Annual Rural Providers Conference

By Barb Nickels, Conference Coordinator

The Kawerak Regional and Rural Providers conference on Jun 1-4 offered workshops, meetings, and talking circles addressing a host of triumphs and challenges in western Alaska. Each day began with a keynote speaker, whose message was aired on KNOM each morning.

To hear excerpts, go to : <http://www.knom.org/wp/blog/2015/06/08/in-their-own-words-keynote-speakers-from-the-kawerak-regional-and-rural-providers->



Keynote speakers from the 2015 Kawerak Rural Providers' Conference, from left to right: Donna Lee Ann Barr, Andrea Irrigoo, Lucy Apatiki, & Darlene Trigg.

Photos: Nome Chamber of Commerce. See more regional conference photos on page 5.



## Lemonade Day 2015

By Alice Bioff Business Planning Specialist and Trisha Walters, E-commerce Specialist

The purpose of Lemonade day is teaching business skills through experiential learning. "Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember;

involve me and I'll understand," a Chinese proverb. Over 325 youth at approximately 170 stands across the Bering Strait Region opened up for business on Lemonade Day,

June 13. One might think teaching business skills to youth K-12 would be difficult, but thanks to the national program called Lemonade Day, it can be done in a way that is

fun and exciting for the entire community. After visiting a few stands and receiving feedback from parents, we find that

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Kawerak Newsletter  
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Kawerak Newsletter (formerly named Uqaqtuq News) is an informational newsletter produced by Kawerak with contributions from UAF Northwest Campus and other partner agencies. Articles and photos can be sent to [planner2@kawerak.org](mailto:planner2@kawerak.org) or call (907)443-4345.

Ublaakun suli translated in the Inupiaq language means: Tomorrow again! Quyanna! Visit our website at [www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org).



**Most Creative Product Award:** Cedar Busk, Ourea Busk, Violet Jack, Ezra Jack, and Turi Busk won in Unalakleet with the stand Tundra Treats! They will each receive a \$20 gift card and a children's size Lemonade Day apron. Thank you everyone who took the time to vote!

"Our lemonade stand was named "Tundra Treats". We built our stand out of recycled wood pallets and scrap wood. We also themed our stand after the tundra and used a variety of berries in all our treats. We had blueberry lemonade, blueberry cinnamon rolls, salmonberry vanilla cupcakes, and cranberry-orange bread, all made from tundra berries."

## An Ocean Way of Life, *By Katya Wassille, Eskimo Walrus Commission & Melissa Poe, University of Washington, reprinted by permission of Earthzine, April 24, 2015.*

Life in Alaska Native coastal communities revolves around the ocean and all that it provides. For thousands of years, Iñupiaq, Central Yup'ik, Cup'ik, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, and Aleut communities along Alaska's Bering and Chukchi seas have depended on marine resources to meet their physical, nutritional, spiritual, and cultural needs. This dependence is the foundation of a reciprocal relationship between the people and the ocean that has been maintained since time immemorial.

*"Walrus will always be part of our lives. It always has been part of our lives... The food, the way we talk about our stories, how we interact with people, how we respect people for doing this and doing that. That is basically how I think all the subsistence hunting does for us ... it bonds us together and that is why we live here in this community ... we are subsistence hunters. It will always be strong in the community." - John Sinnok - Shishmaref.*

Now, however, Alaska Native hunting and fishing communities face cumulative pressures from ocean changes. Sea ice is diminishing and becoming increasingly unpredictable, fisheries are declining, and culturally important species such as the Pacific walrus are under threat. These changes upset travel routes and subsistence strategies of hunters, make the seas less safe, impact animal migrations, and undermine food security.

From Barrow to Bristol Bay, Alaska Native communities depend on the Pacific walrus as an important source of food, as well as materials for skin boats and ivory to support practical and artistic traditions of carving that



*A family's walrus meat rack is full during a normal harvest season in Gambell, in the spring of 2012. The same meat rack is nearly empty during the walrus harvest disaster in the spring of 2013.*

*Image Credits: Martin Robards, Wildlife Conservation Society*

also provide small amounts of money in an otherwise cash-limited environment. Pacific walrus are integral to the way of life, cultural identity, and community health of the indigenous people of the Bering and Chukchi seas.

### Impacts to Walrus

The impact of deteriorating sea ice, which walrus depend on for resting, calving, nursing, and other uses, is becoming more widely recognized. Now a new sea change threatens the walrus, and Alaska Natives. The main food source for walrus - clams and other benthic calcifying organisms - is vulnerable to ocean acidification. Lower pH levels in ocean waters can impede shell formation, weakening and killing clams and other seafloor invertebrates. The same factor that is causing the sea ice to shrink (carbon dioxide emissions) also is driving down pH in the Bering and Chukchi seas, whose cold waters are already particularly vulnerable to acidification.

Alaska Native subsistence hunters view ocean ecosystems as interconnected and recognize that negative impacts on a prey species reverberate up the food

chain. People are part of this food chain. There is considerable uncertainty about how various species will fare under more acidic sea water conditions, and if walrus will be able to find alternative prey, particularly if diminishing ice forces walrus to rely on coastal haul-outs, constraining their foraging to smaller areas. Cumulative threats to walrus and clams are expected, however, presenting cause for concern for Alaska Native subsistence communities and their cultural continuity.

*Our walrus hunting is from a very long time ago ... For the future, neqekaghput panineng (it is still our food). One hundred years from now I'd like to see our community still hunting walrus. More than ever we need to help each other, let us work together. - Jason Papuuki Nowpakahok - Gambell*

### Impacts to Communities

Respect, reciprocity, and avoiding waste are traditional ecological principles of ocean stewardship for Alaska Native communities of the Bering and Chukchi seas. Communities limit their harvests and take only what they need each year. Respect and thanks are given to the walrus through song and dance and other gestures of a spiritual nature to ensure balance. Food sharing and gifts to elders and families in need strengthen community cohesion and well-being. Walrus hunting is one of the ways through which older family members impart ocean knowledge, subsistence skills, and stewardship principles to younger generations, beginning with family hunting trips in childhood.

If practicing stewardship and minimizing the waste of ocean resources were purely local actions, Alaska Native communities might exert greater influence

through their traditional institutions and co-management roles. But the vast majority of ocean resource consumption is global, and the pollution from fossil-fuel burning thousands of miles away is already manifesting in climate and ocean changes that affect small-scale subsistence communities along the Bering and Chukchi seas.

The Bering Sea communities most dependent on Pacific walrus, Gambell and Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island and Little Diomed in the middle of the Bering Strait, have suffered severe food shortages in the past two years. Unusual sea ice and weather conditions have blocked their hunters' access to the walrus, causing record low harvests and forcing them to declare walrus harvest disasters in order to obtain food aid.

For now, the Pacific walrus population remains healthy despite rapid habitat change. The communities of Gambell, Savoonga, and Diomed are hopeful that favorable hunting conditions will return in coming seasons, but their experience gives a taste of the perils looming as carbon dioxide emissions rise. These changes threaten not only food resources and community resilience, but cultural survival and physical and psychological well-being. Subsistence cannot be separated from culture, and the possibility of unavailable marine resources hangs heavy on the hearts and minds of Alaska Natives.

### The Future for Walrus and Walrus-Reliant Communities

Alaska Native rights to marine mammal subsistence harvests are recognized specifically in the Marine Mammal Protection Act

*continued on page 3*



*Group of walrus hauled out on an ice floe at Cape Seniavin. Image Credit: Joel Garlich-Miller, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.*

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## Walk for Life, *By Panganga Pungowiyi, Wellness Director*

The 7th Annual Walk for Life was held as a state-wide event on May 9 to demonstrate the strength of our communities by celebrating our own healing and showing support for those in need. The Nome Native Youth Leadership Organization hosted the Walk for Life in Nome. Participants met at Old St. Joes Church. Seaside residents made flowers, and residents carried banners, signs, and showed support by walking together, along with other communities across our region and throughout the State.



"Dance for Life" at the Diomed School.

Suicide, addiction, violence, and sexual abuse affects everyone. Whether it's our life or someone else's, we all can make a difference. Special thanks to all that joined Kawerak, NSHC, NPS,

Leaders of Life and Nome Native Youth Leadership Organization as we showed support for the community.



White Mountain Walk for Life had 100 participants.

## An Ocean Way of Life

*Continued from page 2*

and more broadly in other patterns of federal law. The Eskimo Walrus Commission sees this type of management strategy as one that neglects the larger and more dangerous threats: carbon dioxide emissions, increased Arctic shipping, and other industrial pressures. If subsistence harvesting is not the issue, can harvest reductions be an effective solution? Hunting restrictions will not improve the condition of the sea ice or the pH of the ocean, so the threats to the walrus population will continue to exist whether subsistence harvests are reduced or not. Furthermore, under this harvest reduction scenario, Alaska Native subsistence hunters would be left to bear the burden for the consumption behavior of people thousands of miles away. If an Endan-

gered Species Act listing doesn't protect walrus from loss of habitat and prey species, how might ecosystem approaches to management better protect these marine mammals for both biological and cultural well-being?

### Going Forward

Protecting the Pacific walrus from the future impacts of climate change and ocean acidification is a top priority for the Eskimo Walrus Commission. In December 2014, the Commission issued a resolution urging the U.S. government and state of Alaska to reduce carbon dioxide emissions; invest in ocean acidification research to better anticipate and mitigate its impact on marine ecosystems, including people; and invest in renewable energy. These actions appeal to the governments' responsibilities to protect the well-being of citizens, fulfill trust responsibilities to Native American tribes, and to protect Alaska Native subsistence

needs. These management actions also take an ecosystem approach that focuses on integrated and dynamic environment and human interactions at multiple scales. This includes strategies that are preventative in nature, focusing on understanding and addressing system threats, rather than only reacting to single species concerns.

Walrus play a significant part in Alaska Native coastal communities' connections with their environment. An entire way of life, together with cultural identity, food and economic security, self-determination, social cohesion, traditional knowledge, and community health, depend on these connections. Anthropogenic ocean acidification could mark a turning point for the food web of clams-walrus-people in the near future. Alaska Native hunters face these concerns every day, but for people living elsewhere, or living in the same part of the

world but with different lifestyles, these issues are not so apparent or pressing. The Eskimo Walrus Commission will continue advocating for reductions in carbon dioxide emissions to protect the Pacific walrus population that Alaska Native people depend on. The scale of the challenge will make progress, let alone success, difficult, but too much is at stake to let this effort fail.

**\*\*DISCLAIMER:** *The scientific results and conclusions, as well as any views or opinions expressed herein, are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or the Department of Commerce.*

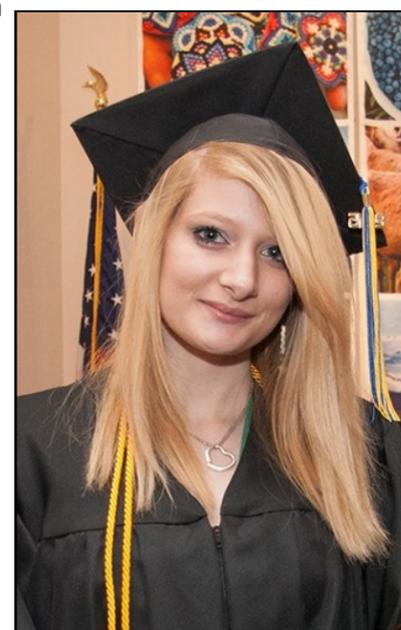
**\*\*For full references and information about the authors see the full article at:** <http://earthzine.org/2015/04/24/pacific-walrus-and-coastal-alaska-native-subsistence-hunting-considering-vulnerabilities-from-ocean-acidification/>

## 2015 GED Graduates

*By Ron Huffman, Community Education Program Director*

Kawerak's Adult Basic Education (ABE) and General Educational Development (GED) program is proud to recognize three GED graduates this year. Hannah Farris, of Nome, attended University of Alaska Fairbanks, Northwest Campus 39th Annual Commencement Ceremony at Old Saint Joe's on May 7. Two other GED graduates, Phyllos Strickling and Taylor Overpeck, were not able to attend. Hannah was awarded a gold rope, for her significant accomplishment in achieving "honors status" based on her high test scores which ranked her among the top 6% of high school seniors nationally.

Congratulations to all our graduates for earning their high school diploma through the GED examination. Best wishes as they pursue post secondary educational and/or Vocational Training opportunities in the future. Kawerak's ABE/GED program provides educational services to adults throughout the Bering Strait region. For information and/or assistance please call 443-4470 or our toll free number 1-800-478-7574.



Hannah Farris, 2015 GED graduate.

**KAWERAK'S VISION:** *"Building on the inherent strength of our cultural values, we shall assist our tribes and residents to create a positive future."*

In keeping with this Vision Statement, Kawerak has increased our training and technical assistance services to tribes in the following communities:

**BREVIG MISSION  
COUNCIL  
DIOMEDE  
ELIM  
GAMBELL**

**GOLOVIN  
KING ISLAND  
KOYUK  
MARY'S IGLOO  
NOME**

**SAVOONGA  
SHAKTOOLIK  
SHISHMAREF  
SOLOMON  
STEBBINS**

**ST. MICHAEL  
TELLER  
UNALAKLEET  
WALES  
WHITE MOUNTAIN**

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## Planning Museum Exhibits

By Amy Russell-Jamgochian, Cultural Center Project Director

**T**his past April, Cultural Advisors appointed by their tribes throughout our region met with the Cultural Center's staff and exhibit designers in Nome to plan the first exhibits to be installed in the new cultural center, which is scheduled to open in late 2016.



Pictured from Left to Right, Back to Front are Cultural Advisors Luisa Machuca (Council), Morris Nassuk (Koyuk), Robert Keith (Elim), Edwin Weyiouanna (Shishmaref); Teresa Sockpealuk Perry (Shaktoolik), Jenny Lee (Teller); Paul Rookook Sr (Savoonga), Peter Buck (White Mountain), Martin Aukongak (Golovin); Albert Oquilluk (Mary's Igloo), Helen Olanna (Brevig), Merlin Koonooka (Kawerak Elders Advisory Council), Vincent Pikonganna (Nome elder), Moriah Sallaffie (staff); Amy Russell-Jamgochian (staff), Thomas Kirk (Stebbins), Alfred Sahlin (Nome Eskimo Community) and Charlie Fitka (St. Michael). Not pictured but also vital contributors to these meetings were Lorena Paniptchuk (Unalakleet), and John Pullock (King Island).

## Honorary Employee

By Cathie Straub, CPA, CFP®, Director, APCM Wealth Management for Individuals

**W**hen I got into the business of financial planning and managing money in 1992, the second client to sign up with me was Kawerak. When I moved over to Alaska Permanent Capital Management (APCM) in 2009, Kawerak moved with me. APCM, as a fiduciary investment manager, is ideally suited for managing pooled retirement plans, such as Kawerak. I have been traveling to Nome twice each year for many years to present to the Trustees and to the Kawerak employees, as participants in the Plan. At my most recent trip in May, I was truly surprised and extremely honored to be recognized by the Trustees in front of all of the employees. I have been in this business for 23 years now. So for those of you wondering if you can have a successful retirement plan for 23+ years, the answer is yes. To be recognized for such gratifying work is an honor. Thank you to Kawerak for the recognition and for giving me permission to share this honor.



Cathie Straub in her Kawerak logo jacket at May All-Employees Meeting.

## Tribal Coordinator Training

By Tribal Affairs Staff



**K**awerak held its annual Tribal Coordinator Training in Nome on April 6 - 9. Tribal Affairs welcomed nearly

all of the villages of the Bering Straits Region including Donna Katchatag (Golovin), Laverne Kimoktoak (Koyuk), Jacinta Martin

(Stebbins), Emily Kobuk (St. Michael), Velma Johnson Unalakleet, Dorothy Barr (White Mountain), Walter Seetot (Brevig-Mission), Janice Knowlton (King Island), Cora Ablowaluk (Mary's Igloo), Cerene Seppilu (Savoonga), Elizabeth Johnson (Solomon), and Charlene Isabel (Teller).

The training this year included a variety of topics and guest speakers. Laurie Johnston from Analytical Solutions trained staff regarding accounting with a special emphasis on budgets; how to create and maintain. Other speakers included Barb Fagerstrom (Human Resources), Will Gemar (Accounting), and Carol Piscoya (Community Service Division Vice President. Program presentations were given by: Denise Michels (Transportation), Summer Larsen (IT Dept.), Sara Lizak (Vocational Rehabilita-

tion.), Alice Bioff (Business Planning Specialist), Anahma Shannon (Environmental Coordinator), and Jessica Farley (Child Care Director).

A variety of topics were covered during the 3 days of training with the Tribal Affairs Staff of Cheri McConnell (Program Director), Arlene Charles (Accounting Specialist Southern), and Joleen Oleson (Accounting Specialist Northern). Tribal Coordinators worked on quarterly "To-Do" lists, goal setting and the new Super Circular 2015 OMB changes.

The Tribal Coordinators included Kawerak staff as well as other guests who came in for the Cultural Advisors Committee meeting to their annual potluck (pictured below) that included muktuk, greens, fry bread, berries, smoked salmon and other delicious foods.



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# 32nd Annual Rural Providers Conference, June 1-4, 2015.

Photos by Al Burgo, Conference Entertainment Assistant

Aerialist, Crystal Worl, from Juneau (left).



State Legislative Memoriam of Helen Pootoogookuk (above), and Shishmaref dance group (below).



Pt. Hope dancer's mukluks (above left), and Delia Stone, Pt. Hope dancer (above right).



Tikigaq Point Hope dancers (above).



King Island dancer, Sylvester Ayek (above).



Dance groups met & continued on Middle Beach each night (left), Children & Family Services staff at the conference (above) and Greenland performer Simon Lyng (above).



## New Social Science Team, By Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Science Program Director

**K**awerak's Social Science Program recently hired two new staff. Cindy Conwell-Wieler is the a Research Assistant and Dominique Hall is a summer intern. They will both be working closely with me on Kawerak's new project about region residents' *Knowledge, Beliefs and Experiences of the Supernatural Environment*. We're excited to be working with them!

"I was born and raised in Kotzebue, the youngest of nine children. As with many families in rural Alaska subsistence was a very important, and we all worked together as a family. I am married to Jay and we have four wonderful children: Iris, Derek, Erica and Landon. My interests first and foremost are; my family, camping, fishing, berry picking, sewing and flying. Jay and I find it ironic and figure it must have been destiny with our families historical friend-



Cindy Conwell-Wieler.

ship many years ago as young Eskimo women in the predominately Caucasian mining settlement of Candle, his Great Grandmother (Susie from the Fish River Tribe) and my Grandmother (Mamie from the Mackenzie River Delta) were friends. Their friendship was special as they shared a

similar family culture and although a different dialect, the Eskimo language. As told to us by Jay's Gram, Ella Tanner, her siblings and my aunts/uncles were childhood playmates and spent many hours enjoying each other's company. With the abundance of food from our land and sea, my family and I are looking forward to spending time together gathering these resources. Many blessings to you and your families as you spend time together during the summer and fall gathering seasons." ~ **Cindy (Tuttugaraq) Conwell-Wieler**

"I am from Nome, Alaska and part of the Yup'ik Eskimo tribe of Stebbins. I am a student of Northwest Indian College which is near the Canadian Border down in Bellingham, Washington to receive my General Direct Transfer Degree. After I receive my two year degree, I plan on transferring

over to a four year school to receive my Bachelor's. I've lived in Nome for the majority of my life which I am proud to say because I have had the opportunity to stay around traditional values and Native culture. After I finish school, I am planning on giving back to the community. I'm currently working for Kawerak as a Social Science Intern which is a great opportunity as it allows me to learn more about traditional knowledge and culture. ~ **Dominique Hall**



Dominique Hall.

# Local Economic Development Plans Help Our Communities Reach Goals

By Simon Strickling, Planning Development Specialist

Local Economic Development Plans (LEDPs) help our communities reach goals because of agreement in identifying issues and collaborative planning. Updating the LEDP priority projects lists annually also plays a role in setting local goals. LEDPs document how the community members met to plan for their common good and came to agreements about their vision and priority projects, the roadblocks standing between them and their vision, ways of dealing with the roadblocks, and the next steps to move their strategy forward.

This year, the communities of King Island and Golovin have adopted new LEDPs that will guide their development for the next five years. Their visions show how they want their communities to be in five years with goals in all areas of life including education, community involvement, language/culture, infrastructure, and employment. They recognized roadblocks to their progress like challenges with communication, funding, available staff and turnover, and job qualifications. Then they listed all the innovative practical actions they could take to deal with the roadblocks and move toward their visions over the next five years, the first year, and the first 90 days. Along with what actions to take the first 90 days, they included who, when, where, why, and how, for each priority.

There are multiple benefits to LEDPs. Perhaps most important,

the process of creating an LEDP brings community members together in a team effort that all have interest in, and each participant's views are contributed equally. All the participants understand the vision they are moving towards and the work they must do to make it reality. LEDPs give new employees and council/board members an overview of what the community is working on, why and how they are doing it. Outside agencies can clearly see that the community has put careful consideration into their plans. Knowing the community is in agreement about what to do, gives outsiders confidence in working with them, providing technical assistance, and more opportunities for funding projects.

Most of the communities in our region have current LEDPs. Kawerak congratulates King Island and Golovin on the completion of their new plans. A lot of effort goes into making them and even more work is necessary for them to continue being as useful as possible.

To develop projects efficiently and as quickly as possible, each community is encouraged to review their top priority projects list at least once a year and revise them as needed. When a project is complete, it is good to remove it and replace it with other projects that the community has identified so new projects can qualify for outside funding and other resources. The process of reviewing and revising lists can be easily

completed by a community's governing entities at a single joint meeting and helps build and maintain momentum for the most critical local projects. All of our region's LEDPs can be viewed at <http://www.kawerak.org/cpd.html>

or at [www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org) on each community's page. Feel free to call or email if I can help with any questions. Contact Simon Strickling, Planning and Development Specialist at 907-434-1063 or email [cpd.pds@kawerak.org](mailto:cpd.pds@kawerak.org)



## King Island Priority Projects

1. Community Hall
2. King Island Grant Writer
3. More Housing and Housing Improvements
4. Continue Road Project
5. Elders and Youth Services
6. Strengthen Cultural Activities
7. Encourage Technical and Trade Schools
8. General Assistance
9. Relocate Cape Wooley Camps
10. Transportation Services for Community Members

# Volunteer Making a Difference

By Katie Bourdon Workforce Development Director

Heather Penayah, in Savoonga, has been a great volunteer in her community! She has provided volunteer work activities for the City of Savoonga, the Presbyterian Church, Savoonga Head Start, Kukulget, Inc. and more recently for the tribe doing Elder Care. She has a positive attitude, a willingness to help others, and a love for her family. Heather's Elder Care activities include doing errands, providing transportation and helping with local shopping, preparing and cooking food, house cleaning, and assisting with clinic appointments. She is very happy with her placement. Not only does Heather

provide a service to her community, but she also earns her assistance benefit. Thank you to Heather for her service and to the Savoonga IRA for collaborating with Native Employment Work Services!

All of NEWS(Native Employment Work Services) clients are referred from the Division of Public Assistance. Not all clients on TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) are referred to NEWS. Currently, we have clients in Elim, Gambell, Savoonga, and Stebbins. Clients' skills and interests are assessed to determine a positive volunteer work activity placement for them. During the summer

months, clients are heavily involved in subsistence activities, but continue to volunteer time to earn their assistance benefit. If your village organization does not have a current Site Agreement with KNEWS, please contact us for more information at 1-855-443-4275 or check us out on the web at [www.Kawerak.org](http://www.Kawerak.org) under Education, Employment and Training. The Site Agreement allows for TANF clients to volunteer at your organization to learn valuable work habits and skills, and earn their assistance benefit.



Heather Penayah.

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# President Obama Is Coming to Alaska in August

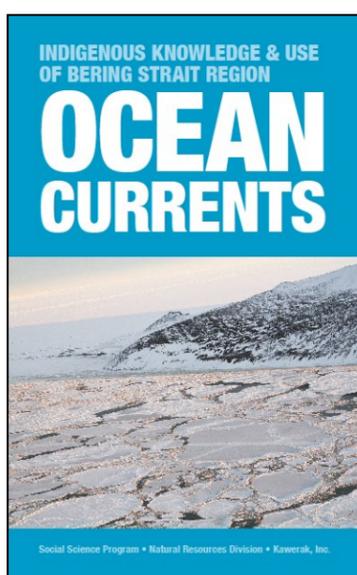
*By Melanie Bahnke, Kawerak President*

**B**eth Kertulla, the Ocean Policy Director for the White House, has confirmed that President Barack Obama will travel to Alaska sometime in late August, and will most likely also visit rural Alaska.

# New Social Science Resources Available

*By Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Science Program Director*

**K**awerak's Social Science Program now has available a wide variety of books, posters, reports and other information for region residents. Visit the Social Science Program webpage at [www.kawerak.org/socialsci.html](http://www.kawerak.org/socialsci.html) to view, download or print books on traditional knowledge of ice seals and walrus, a poster on ocean currents, a glossary of Diomedea dialect words and phrases, a non-salmon fish cookbook, and many others. These documents are products from many of Kawerak's ongoing and completed traditional knowledge and social science projects.



# Food for the Soul - Bering Strait Non-Salmon Fish Preparation and Recipes

## Macaroni Fish Salad — Katherine Mike, Stebbins

Boil fish (any kind) and then refrigerate for 1 day  
 Boil ½ box of macaroni  
 Boil 8 eggs  
 ¾ cup of relish  
 ½ green pepper, chopped  
 ¾ chopped onion  
 One 6 ounce can of olives  
 Add mayonnaise until salad is not dry  
 Add all together and garnish with parsley and curry powder



Children holding a salmon in Stebbins

From: Kawerak Social Science Program (2013)  
 Food for the Soul: Bering Strait Non-Salmon Fish Preparation and Recipes  
 Compiled by Meghan Topkok & Julie Raymond-Yakoubian. Kawerak, Inc.  
 Find the whole recipe book at [www.kawerak.org/socialsci.html](http://www.kawerak.org/socialsci.html).



## Orphaned Wildlife

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Nome reminds the community no one except ADF&G and the Alaska State Troopers are authorized to take orphaned wildlife into possession. Here are steps to take when coming upon orphaned wildlife during spring travel.



### Do Not

- Do Not touch, handle, or pick up any animal or bird.
- Do Not approach muskox groups. Newborn muskox calves are easily trampled and killed when groups run.
- Do Not approach cow moose and new calves. Cow moose can be aggressive and dangerous.

### Do

- Report the location, type, and behavior of animal that appears orphaned to wildlife officials.
- Avoid approaching or touching animals or birds that appear orphaned. It is illegal and may result in a fine up to \$10,000 & one year in jail.

### Help protect wildlife and yourself!

Report an orphaned animal to the following Nome offices:

Alaska Dept. Fish & Game  
443-2271

Alaska State Troopers  
443-2835



Native Village of Brevig Mission Annual Meeting—Saturday, March 28, 20015.

Photo by Pearl Mikulski.

### INUPIAQ VALUES:

Knowledge of Language | Knowledge of Family Tree | Sharing | Humility | Respect for Elders | Love for Children | Cooperation | Hard Work | Respect for Others | Respect for Nature | Avoid Conflict | Family Roles | Humor | Spirituality | Domestic Skills | Hunter Success & Responsibility to Tribe.

Kawerak, Inc.



# Living and Celebrating Our Native Culture

By Corporal Marcus Barr, Brevig Mission VPSO

Retired Kawerak President, Loretta Bullard (left), about to enjoy fresh crab, harvested by her husband, Roy Ashenfelter, and personally delivered to her while she was traveling in Mesa, Arizona. Kawerak appreciates Loretta's continued support of regional efforts.

May 29 was our walrus hunting trip 15-20 miles north of Wales, one of our main traditions during the spring. During that time, meat is harvested, given away and fermented. June, 10 at my camp, Mizzak, was my first net set of the 2015 fishing season.



My brothers, (right) Marc Barr, Edward Barr Sr., and Paul Kakoona Jr. butchering walrus near Wales, and my two nephews, Ronald Adam and Damien Barr, and my mom Mary Barr (far right), fishing at Mizzak.



# Higher Education Graduates

By Brian James, Workforce Development Specialist

In May, 8 students graduated, 2 with a Master's Degree, 5 with a Bachelor's Degree and 1 with a Certificate.



Stephanie Emery.

Amber Cunningham, of the Native Village of Unalakleet, earned a Master's Degree in Teaching & Learning from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Stephanie Emery, of the Native Village of Shishmaref, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environment Science from the University of Washington Bothell. Sarah Katongan, of the Native Village of Unalakleet, earned a Bachelor's

Degree in Psychology from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Malorie Johnson, of the Native Village of Unalakleet, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Rural Development

from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Janelle Murray, of the Native Village of Elim, earned a Certificate in Rural Human Services from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Lauren Reimers, of the Native Village of Shishmaref, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from East



Sarah Katongan.

Central University in Ada, Oregon. Trisha Walters, of the Native Village of Council, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast.

Kirsten Kaiuktoruk Timbers earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast. Kirsten is the daughter of the late Bryan and RoseAnn Timbers. She grew up in Nome and is a tribal member of the Village of Solomon. Kirsten graduated from Nome



Kirsten Timbers, and her family.

Beltz in 2000, and went on to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Human Services from Fort Lewis College in 2005.

Since that time, she has lived and worked in Nome serving on her tribal council, the Kawerak Board of Directors, and Native Corporation Board and other positions. Kirsten currently works as the Manager for King Island Native Corporation. She began her degree in 2012, and with support and encouragement from her wife, Heather; niece, Brittney; and daughters, Layna and Tessa.

# Lemonade Day

Continued from page 1.

participants are learning how to work with money, greet potential customers and negotiate with partners. These are just few of the life skills learned participating in the annual event.

On Lemonade Day, youth were not limited to just selling lemonade. The young entrepreneurs sold a variety of items such as frybread, bratwurst, rhubarb, and toys. To inspire youth to get creative, Kawerak organized a Most Creative Product contest with funding from the Bering Sea Lions Club. The contest winners were Cedar, Ourea and Turi Busk and Violet and Ezra Jack at the stand "Tundra Treats" in Unalakleet. Their products were themed with local, tundra berries. They sold blueberry lemonade with

tundra blueberries, blueberry cinnamon rolls, salmonberry vanilla cupcakes, and cranberry-orange bread. In addition, they built their stand out of recycled wood pallets and scrap wood. Congratulations to the Busk and Jack children!

Special thanks to the following organizations that provided financial and other support to bring Lemonade Day to the entire Bering Strait Region: Bering Sea Lions Club, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Sitnasuak Native Corporation, Bering Air, and Kawerak, Inc. Kawerak, Inc. Community Planning and Development Department staff look forward to planning the event again in 2016. If your organization would like to



Wassaq Nanouk Jones (above) of Unalakleet.



JoJo and Leanna Ryan (above) of Unalakleet.



Lily Lausten Katongan (above) of Unalakleet.



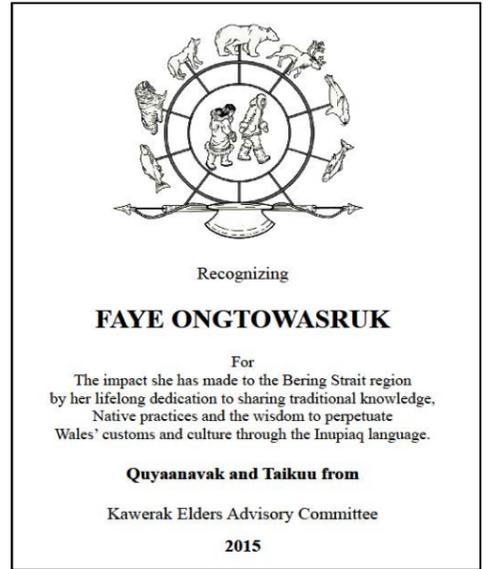
Jeremiah Aukongak and Harriett Henry (left) of Golovin, and Ashley and Jason Olanna (right) of Brevig Mission.



David Brown (left) of Golovin, and Kaden Eningowuk (right) of Shishmaref.



# Kawerak Elders Advisory Committee Honors Faye Ongtawasruk of Wales, *By Yaayuk, Alvanna Stimpfle, Eskimo Heritage Program Director*



**D**uring the week of the Kawerak Regional/Rural Providers Conference, Faye Ongtawasruk of Wales, Alaska wasn't able to attend the Elders General Assembly to receive a plaque and a resolution from Kawerak in appreciation for her service to Kawerak Elders Advisory Committee. Family members shared the news with the Quyaana Care Center (QCS) staff and they

provided a time for her to be honored and recognized on June 11 at QCC.

The Natural Resources staff members: Rose Fosdick, NR VP; Clarissa Eide, NR Assistant; Lena Danner, Reindeer Herders Association Specialist joined Eskimo Heritage Program staff: Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle, Director, and Marjorie Tahbone, Cultural Materials Development Specialist to

attend the recognition of Faye Ongtawasruk. She served from 2006 – 2013 as a KEAC member.

During her time, she participated in a Smithsonian Institute Arctic Studies Inupiaq language project. She was part of a team of elders from the Inupiaq speaking region of Alaska. They described the items and spoke in Inupiaq. Faye was recorded speaking of a traditional high kick ball from Wales,

which is now included in Inupiaq language lessons. Faye was very active in her community in teaching the Inupiaq traditional ways and cultural activities.

Kawerak is saddened by the passing of Faye Ongtawasruk, one week after her recognition, on June 18. Her funeral service took place in Wales and a memorial take place on July 12 at the Lutheran Church in Nome.

# Caleb Pungowiyi Scholars, *By Kristine McRae, Caleb Pungowiyi Scholarship Specialist*

**T**he Caleb Lumen Pungowiyi Scholars Program is excited to announce the recent graduation of three scholars. In May, Stefanie Armstrong (Native Village of Kotzebue) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, Malorie Johnson (Native Village of Unalakleet) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Rural Development, and Denali Whiting (Native Village of Kotzebue) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Alaska Native Studies.

These young leaders represent the future of conservation, subsis-

tence, Alaska Native culture, and education as they follow Caleb's example of balance and tradition. Caleb Lumen Pungowiyi was a champion for the Arctic marine environment, and the Caleb Scholars Program honors his memory with an academic scholarship to support future leaders as they work to cultivate thriving Alaska Native environments.

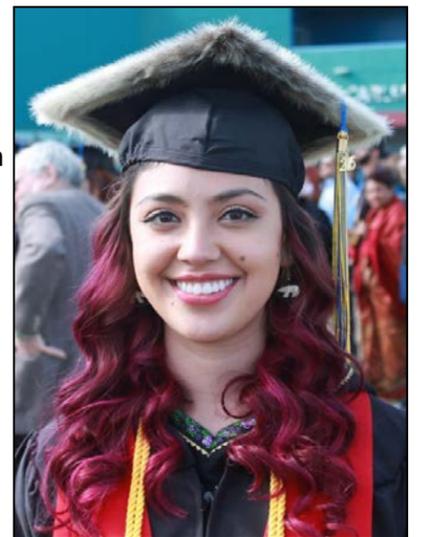
The \$5,000 per semester scholarship is open to students from the Arctic Slope, Northwest Arctic and Bering Strait regions who have com-

pleted at least 36 credits toward a preferred degree program.

To see a list of the preferred degrees, to learn more about the scholarship program, or to obtain an application, please visit [www.calebscholars.org](http://www.calebscholars.org) or call (907) 443-4361. The deadline to apply for the fall 2015 semester is July 31.

**Congratulations Stefanie, Malorie, and Denali!**

*Denali Whiting of Kotzebue (right).*



# New Early Head Start Partnership with Childcare Center, *By Jessica Farley, Childcare Director*

**K**awerak's Early Head Start program is administered by the Children and Family Services Division and began several years ago as a pilot project in Nome, Brevig Mission and Elim. The childcare center in Nome is administered by the Education, Employment and Training Division and is privately funded through tuition fees and other grant funds.

Recently, Kawerak was awarded the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership grant as part of President Obama's Early

Learning Initiative. This new funding will bring Early Head Start's comprehensive curriculum into Kawerak's existing childcare center, Uiviilat Play and Learn Center, and extend existing Early Head Start services in Nome and Brevig Mission, to provide comprehensive, full-day, high-quality child care and education services for children aged 0-3.

For more information call 907-443-9073 or email: [childcare.dir@kawerak.org](mailto:childcare.dir@kawerak.org).



*Childcare Teacher Ursula Lyon, with students: Ilayna Mokiyuk, Jackson Fast, Kaidynce Farrell, Chloe Cross, and Denali Walrath. Photo by RahShaunDa Farrell.*

Kawerak, Inc.

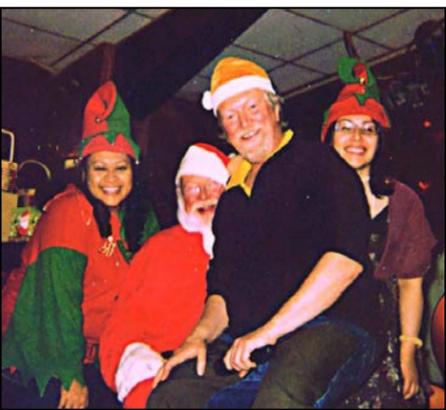
## Retirement, *By Lew Tobin, Regional Training Specialist*

**I** retired from Kawerak on June 26. Kawerak has been very good to me over the last 15 plus years which I have worked at this current position. More than that, Kawerak has always been a great place to work since my first position in 1976 when Bob Madden hired me for the Adult Basic Education program under Mary Alexander's supervision. Back then, all of Kawerak was housed in two floors of the Old Federal Building on Front Street. I estimate that I have worked almost 25 years for Kawerak in 4 different positions. Including that first job, I've enjoyed each position and each task. Collectively, I have worked for Kawerak more than half of my working life. I know that Kawerak has gained as much as I have through our various partnerships.



Lew Tobin.

I have enjoyed my coworkers, and the all friendships I have gained. I have also enjoyed knowing that I was making a difference by what I contributed to this region through Kawerak. Every task was an adventure and a learning experience. I hope everyone else has as much satisfaction and experiences as much support with what they are doing as I did while working through Kawerak. I will be staying in Nome after I retire, but I think I am may be sleeping in



Lew Tobin with Santa at the Kawerak Christmas party.

later than the rest of you who are still working, so I may not see you as often. I wish all of you, and Kawerak, the best of everything in the years to come.

# Congratulations!

to the following employees who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the mission of Kawerak and the region. Please join us in recognizing their performance for 2015!

## Employees of the Month



February - Louise Simon, Family Advocate, White Mountain (left).



April - Olga Downey, Accounts Payable Specialist, Nome (right).

## 25 Years of Service



Mary Long

**I** have had a wonderful 25 working years with Kawerak in the area of working with families and young children. I will continue in this field for as long as I can. - Mary Long, Program Specialist South, St. Michael Head Start.



Velma Johnson and her beloved family.

**I** could not have worked 25 years at Kawerak without my family's love and support. They are the spice of life. Thanks for the opportunity to serve my community and Kawerak. - Velma Johnson, Unalakleet Tribal Coordinator.

**Other Anniversaries Include:** 25 years - Flora Matthias and Rose Fosdick. 15 years - Melanie Bahnke, Richard Stasenکو, and Emily Kobuk; and 10 years - Fanny Kuzuguk.

## Best Wishes to a Wellness Warrior

*By Panganga Pungowiyi, Wellness Director*

**K**awerak Wellness has been highlighted for its achievements over the last 5 years. Bridie Trainor has been the driving force behind the Wellness efforts, bringing a unique creative energy balanced with the ability to bring diverse team members with dynamic strength to the table. Bridie has been heavily involved in the creation and maintenance of many wellness initia-

tives for the Bering Straits Region including Camp Igaliq, Walk for Life, Bering Strait Region Youth Leaders, Safety Patrol, and Regional Wellness Forum. When Bridie speaks about her resignation she maintains that she is not leaving Wellness, but is instead reshaping how she is involved. Bridie will remain as Co-Chair of the Regional Wellness Forum for the remainder of her term. She is also

currently promoting wellness in our region by working with the Nome Emergency Shelter Team (NEST). Bridie completed her last days in the office with a bang by ensuring relevant wellness-focused topics were available at the Rural Provider's Conference, for both adults and youth. We are excited to see how she will help shape the wellness of our region through her new role.



Bridie Trainor.

# D.A.R.E. *By VPSO Corporals, Deborah Kaningok Apatiki and Barret Eningowuk*



Above: 2015 D.A.R.E. participants in Gambell.

*choose to lead lives free from violence, substance abuse, and other dangerous behaviors."*

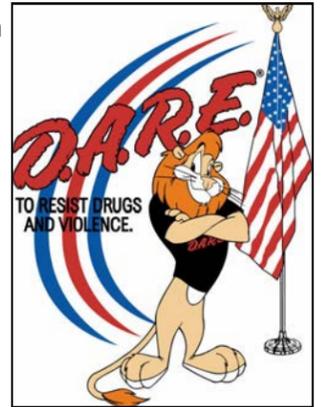
Debra is happy to serve as a local resource and was privileged to work with 6th grade teacher Marcus Yonce's class at the Hugo Apatiki Memorial Elementary School in Gambell in April and May.

all very bright and eager to learn, were taught how to resist peer pressure and refrain from drug use, violence, and other high-risk behaviors.

Barret taught the DARE class to two 5th grade classes in Shishmaref, including ten lessons about making safe and responsible choices in their everyday lives. Each student wrote a DARE report, and each received a t-shirt, as well as other prizes for the best report and most respectful student. This

year was a great success, and Barret thanks staff for inviting him to their classrooms.

Both Debra and Barret look forward to teaching again DARE in the next school year.



Below: 2015 D.A.R.E. participants in Shishmaref.

**T**he D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program mission is "Teaching students good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives." D.A.R.E. is a successful program, the first of its kind anywhere in the world. The vision of the program is, "A world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and

Students Hunter Tungiyon, Hugo Apatiki, Ila James, Hilary Ungott, Lucy Aningayou, Kayla James, and Jasmine Aningayou,



# E-waste Event May 28-29

*By Anahma Shannon, Environmental Coordinator*



**T**hanks to all the volunteers (pictured above) and everyone in the community that helped make the E-waste Event a success. Recycling keeps our environment healthier and cleaner for future generations.

**Special Thanks to Our Sponsors for Supporting Recycling Efforts in the Bering Strait Region!**

- Alaska Logistics**
- Bering Air**
- City of Nome**
- Everts Air Cargo**
- Northern Air Cargo**
- Native Village of Council**
- Nome Eskimo Community**
- Q Trucking**

# President Awarded at 2015 Leadership Summit,

*By Kawerak Vice Presidents*

**O**ver 500 people attended the Annual Leadership Summit on April 20-21 where Melanie Bahnke, Kawerak President, was one of 10 award recipients of the Alaska Community Foundation's (ACF) inaugural 2015 Rural Leader Getaway Program (RLGP) award. The ACF, Rasmuson Foundation and The Foraker Group are invested in strong leaders across the state, but they acknowledge the unique challenges of leading in rural communities. They designed the award to recognize our rural leaders and provide them with the opportunity to step away from their jobs, rejuvenate, and refresh so they can more effectively lead;

so each of the awardees received a round trip airplane ticket, generously donated by Alaska Airlines.

Janis Ivanoff, CEO of Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) and Dan Harrelson proposed nominating Melanie and wrote a letter supporting her nomination. Kawerak Vice Presidents: Rose Fosdick, Luisa Machuca, and Carol Piscoya jointly nominated Melanie on behalf of Kawerak. They nominated Melanie because they believe that she surpassed the criteria for the award. They said Melanie is a strong Alaska Native leader who is doing very important work for the benefit of the Alaska Native people of this region as the

President of Kawerak, and state-wide through her participation on such Boards as the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), the Alaska Children's Trust and other regional, state, and national advocacy efforts. They noted that Melanie's leadership is making a difference, and that her stated goal is to create an environment in which children thrive and have opportunities to be productive, while remaining rooted in the strength of our culture. They also noted that Melanie herself remains rooted in her own culture as a tribal member of the Native Village of Savoonga.

Melanie responded to the award by saying, "I really appreciate the

great teamwork that we have here at Kawerak, and you have humbled me so much with this award!" The award comes with sincere congratulations from all her peers around the state, her co-workers at Kawerak, the Kawerak board of directors, her friends, family, and Kawerak's collaborative partners.



Melanie Bahnke, President.

## Kawerak Full Board of Director's Meeting held Apr. 1-2, 2015 in Nome, Alaska.

### *Below are the Village Reports from each representative*

**Native Village of Brevig Mission**-The US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), Alaska District, is publishing an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the proposed Alaska Deep Draft Arctic Port System. Previously, USACE considered several sites for this study, but at this time, the Nome causeway is the only site carried forward. The locations being proposed include the Nome causeway, Port Clarence, and Cape Riley. Our tribe, Teller Traditional Council, and Native Village of Mary's Igloo have been working with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources on the APMA application for dredging in Grantley Harbor, located within Port Clarence Bay because of the significant impacts the local native community would experience from the activity. BSRHA will start this summer in building 5 new units of housing, and renovating 2 other unoccupied home, with a total of 7 units that will be available to homeowners that have applied for a new home. As of now, we must have a total of 10 applicants that applied.

ANTHC personnel were here to do a study on the waste heat from the AVEC generators, to be hooked up to the water plant and washeteria. Hopefully this project will be running this summer. The heating systems were finally completed, and the touch up work that needs to be worked on is the water/sewer system. Funding is still needed for the start up to run the Teen Center/Café. We held our Annual Tribal Membership meeting in March, and 7 Tribal Council seats were up for re-election, with staggered terms of 3, 2, and 1 year terms. Our community would like to say a big thank you to NSEDC for the energy subsidy of \$575.00 to homeowners this year, along with the other NSEDC communities that receive the subsidy. Things like this can be a big help, for those who are experiencing high energy cost in this region. A 55 gallons of heating fuel is at \$318.00 per drum from our local store. NWC with NSEDC Community based training grant funds hosted a boiler troubleshooting and burner repair course scheduled in March at the school, a total of 20 applicants signed up. Other trainings are slotted at a later date. BSNC interviewing applicants and drug testing for the 40 Protected Species Observers that they will be hiring this summer from the villages. Applicants selected will be making \$25.00 an hour at 5 days a week, plus overtime.

**Native Village of Council**-In February we hired Susan Gray as the new full-time Environmental Coordinator to manage our IGAP grant and Barb Gray as the new Transportation Office Administrator. We held a membership gathering in Anchorage on October 4, 2014. This event seems to be very successful for us in getting members to come. NVC had lunch for the members, gave them a report of all the highlights of NVC. We were available to enroll new members and make Tribal ID cards. NVC Transportation did a road maintenance project during the fall. We partnered with BSNC & the State of Alaska Municipal Land Trustee for gravel to resurface approximately 5,000 feet of the main road in Council. The project turned out great. NVC has welcomed 3 new members since September. We held our Annual Meeting on February 7, 2015 in Nome. NVC welcomed a new board member and two board members were re-appointed.

**Native Village of Diomedes**-Our Annual Meeting is rescheduled in April where annual Tribal Elections for three seats will be filled. All representatives give a written or oral reports. Michael Sookiayak, Sr., our grant writer, resigned in February. He had been seeking funding to match a \$2.5 million project, which we anticipate next year. He has done a lot of work for our community, but this could set us back to secure funding. We have posted notice to hire a grant writer in hopes to pick up where he left off. In January the tribe signed to lease the St. Jude's Catholic Church. We need to find renovation and insurance funds before July 2015. We would like to see the church used for Kawerak Head Start Program and or a Child Day Care. This will be announced during our annual meeting.

We are announcing our annual State/Funding Priorities for 2015 through Norton Sound Health Corporation and Kawerak. These priorities have not changed since 2012: 1) Portable generator to each home due to many power outages during the cold winter. 2) Transportation Ser-

vices also includes local input to assist in approving Essential Air Service with Erickson Helicopters. They need to reduce rates, because we are currently paying \$400 one way to Nome since 2013. We humbly asked for be-reavement airfares and long term EAS contract instead of annual request. We experienced limited transportation services since fall due to bad weather and helicopter maintenance. Erickson Helicopters needs to focus on a better back up plan when all else fails. We are ever so grateful that Kawerak staff is working hard to have us on the Essential Air Service permanently. 3) Solid Waste and how we handle improper disposal directly into the Bering Sea. We have waited a long time with ANTHC to assist us with the ongoing issue. The city has an open burn box for our trash and it has made a tremendous amount of changes with reduced dumping into the Bering Sea. Our tribe has just closed out our 2014 IGAP and submitted a 2016 IGAP proposal. Having this program helped us send e-waste and recyclable like pop cans, batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs out instead of dumping them into the sea. Our honey buckets are still dumped directly into the sea or put on the ice during the winter time. We do want changes and willing to focus on solutions to our forever ongoing solid waste problem. 4) Our community still suffers from the use of synthetic drug. It's now been well over four years here and we see more people struggling to live and living here in Diomedes is already harder than most places. No programs open to help quit this addictive drug and not often the Alaska State Troopers get involved to put an end to shipping to Diomedes. Some people has quit or struggling to quit with family support. Opening a rehab with volunteers may be the best answer. 5) Small Boat Harbor. We need continued support, because this will be one of the best changes with our transportation, stabilizing, and protecting our beach from fall storms. Now more vessels passing through Diomedes a harbor will be needed. 6) Loosen large boulders above the village. Funding to stabilize or moving them to a safer area. We can work with any funding agency that deals with eminent threat. 7) Our burial site upgrade would be a historical project. Not only replacing broken and weather worn crosses and boxes, and document artifacts and produce a map. 8) Our clinic needs some equipment and supply upgrade. NSHC, Village Health Services are responsible for all the medical equipment and supplies. 9) We still live without local law enforcement. It would be nice to have a VPSO or even the Alaska State Troopers visit Diomedes more often. 10) Diomedes Native Store needs a good renovation or even a new building. It was built in 1974 by a few volunteers. We do not know where to seek funding for this as there are always needs. We cannot achieve it all on our own.

A food shortage started mid November. The store had problems placing orders due to long distance outage and transportation issues. We felt it hard in January and February. There were babies without milk and bare shelves at the Diomedes Native Store. Fall hunt was not good due to ice conditions and weather. Men out hunting for seals were unsuccessful. Only one person caught a seal this year. We have now received our food order for canned and dry goods. In February, for a week our school opened the lunch and dinner program from the community. About 70 community members enjoyed the foods they served. We felt blessed that our school helped out and they even distributed dry milk to babies. Was nice to see the community working together to make ends meet. We were flooded with concerned calls and Kawerak set up a network to get the message out about how we are dealing with our community in need. A community teleconference was set up with Kawerak to see if we needed Emergency Service to intervene especially when our transportation was down and out for the longest time. This challenge has taught us the important of transportation and to think ahead. The mid-March winter storm hit hard, ground storms making difficult to get around. The Tribe was concerned with live wire which could be reached due to high snow drifts. Some homes were buried more than five times and locals had to work together to dig them out. We were concerned with some houses and buildings having too much weight on them. It would be nice to have IRR funds available to maintain

our walkways. When the snow starts to melt it will be dangerous, we are already on a slope making it harder to get around. Long distance and internet issues resolved last week. We have waited for TelAlaska and AT & T to come out since January to fix a number of power issues, some of the equipment was burnt out. Our tribal office has had the hardest time with internet since October.

During our meeting our Tribe stressed the importance of keeping our traditional Eskimo songs alive. They were passed down for generations and we feel more of our songs are being used throughout Alaska. Need to find a way to have our songs patent not only to preserve to protect them from being used in other communities. Not often we get our dance group to travel to entertain events. We feel we are taken advantage of without permission to use. We understand the traditional gift of giving songs happened in the past, but now we see more communities using them without acknowledging where most of the songs were from here. We have fewer Elders here now. All our traditional values are at stake. Realizing that our elders in the past have been the best part of living here makes us homesick for the past. They were the ones that ran our community and they were the ones to teach us to survive, support, and love. We will continue to raise and respect the future Elders but it will not be the same.

Health Aides coverage since NSHC took over compact has been hard to have an Itinerate Health Aide here. Suppose to have a two week rotation schedule but there are times we are without for a couple of weeks. We continue to support locals to apply for the health aide position. Diomedes would like to participate in the training/workshop for the vessel activities. Not certain when this is going to happen. We believe the location of Diomedes will play an important part with vessel activities. Our school is getting ready to leave to the Little Dribblers in Golovin next month. This is the first school trip we had since last year. It will be good for the kids that are going. We wish them well. Norton Sound Dental arrived in March for a week or so. In April Eye Care and hopefully a field doctor will come. Tribal President Robert F. Soolook Jr. will attend ANICA Annual Meeting March 31 - April 1. AEWK Commissioner Henry Soolook will attend the meeting in Fairbanks in July. Our NSHC Representative Cassandra Ahkvaluk did not attend the meeting in Vegas March 16-20. We are super thankful for all the Kawerak staff that works with Diomedes. Our Kawerak Representative, Andrea Okpealuk, has worked hard for our community. We appreciate all efforts, time, and consideration by all entities.

**Native Village of Elim**-In our Annual meeting held in January the tribal members re-elected include: Frederick Murray and Tyler Ivanoff for three-year terms. Also elected to the Council for a three-year term was Mary Christine Amaktoolik, who replaced long time board member Sheldon Nagaruk. New IRA council members are: Tyler Ivanoff- President, Robert Keith- Vice President, Mary Amaktoolik-Treasurer, Darla Jemewouk-Secretary, and members Russell Saccheus, Morris Nakarak, and Frederick Murray. On January 8<sup>th</sup> Tribal Member Eliza Kotongan celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We supported the Elim Eagles Boys basketball team that attended the state 1A basketball tournament. The Elim Eagles boys won the Bering Sea Conference title. On March 24-28 Elim hosted the Annual Evangelical Covenant Church Conference. In collaboration with the city, the tribe received a grant for Meter Box Replacement through the NSEDC Community Energy Fund. We continue to gather In-stream Flow Analysis data on the Tubuktulik River. By gathering this data we plan to apply for an in-stream flow rights with the State of Alaska. This is possible by a BIA Watershed Grant. The tribe was awarded a grant to take the Strengthening Families Approach. There was a Potluck that was held on March 28 to talk about how the village can work together to strengthen, help, and protect our families. Starting in April the NSHC will enter into a lease with the tribe for the Elim Clinic. This will tremendously help because of the high cost of energy and maintenance.

Work components for this year are: to Protect Subsistence Resources, Solid Waste Management, and build-

*Continued on page 13*

## Kawerak Village Reports (continued from page 12).

Continued from page 12

ing capacities to manage environmental office. Meetings that staff attended were the ACTEM in October, Alaska Forum on the Environment, and recently the NSHC Environmental Conference in Nome. Recently hired this year was AmeriCorps worker, Martin Murray, to help with recycling. The tribe was awarded through the NSEDC Community Benefit Share, \$13,333 for an Audit. Having an audit will help us secure larger grants, in which we can employ, more Tribal Members. The Tumet bonding paperwork was signed and updated. We need to seek funding to house a VPSO and Physicians Assistant. Both of these positions are currently vacant and greatly needed. We continue to work with Army Corps of Engineers to secure funding to build a Small Boat Harbor. We need to continue geothermal studies on the Elim Hot Springs.

**Native Village of Gambell**-The tribal members are busy working. There are meetings scheduled with the IRA and the city. There was a successful Mangtak Basketball contest for youth recently. All entities have scheduled events ahead of time so everyone can prepare to go hunting. We are working to declare another disaster as the hunting has been dismal.

**Chinik Eskimo Community (Golovin)**-We will host the next quarterly joint meeting in March. Jerry Ivanoff, NSEDC Education, Employment and Training Director as well as Shane Morris, BSRHA Construction Manager and William Kost, BSRHA Vice President/Director of Operations were invited and are planning to be there as our guest speakers for the meeting. At last year's meeting we passed a No Smoking on tribal property. Signs were posted with a beautiful summer photo of Golovin that read: "Tobacco is not a part of our Inupiat Ititqusiak. Please do not smoke or chew tobacco products on our CEC property. Help protect the air out of respect for Elders, and love for our children and nature. Quyanara for your cooperation." Two seats are up for the upcoming elections and Annual Tribal membership in March. We are thankful to announce the Development Coordinator funds will automatically go to the tribes, formally called Grant Writer funds. We will have a Strengthening Families Breakfast in March. Kawerak Tribal Transportation, Bristol Study, ANTHC, Army Corp of Engineers will also be here to go over the harbor project, detour route for summer projects, flood protection project, possibly paving roads and small boat harbor. The new Water Storage and Treatment Plant up hill are completed and the crew will prepare the homes located in the upper part of town and lay pipe this summer. We hope to have running water very soon up hill. We are happy for the late snow fall for the hunters to bring home caribou. Art Nelson, Manager for the Northern Bering Sea Regional Aquaculture Association, came to Golovin to discuss the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Comprehensive Salmon Plan: Phase II. The previous version of the plan was completed in 1996 and needed an update. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and NSEDC were also present.

Modern Day Kaspeq Sewing with Michelle Konig through UAF Northwest Campus Sign-up deadline was in March. Janise Wilson, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Recruiter Assistant traveled to Golovin this month to recruit for Protected Species Observers (PSO) for the approaching 2015 drilling season. Kirstie Lone, CEC Tribal Family Coordinator along with 5 students and their families have been busy raising funds to send the students to NBC camp this summer in Anchorage. They are currently selling raffle tickets for AK Airlines Round Trip, Bering Air Round Trip, 2-250 lbs. Freight on Ryan Air, a Sewing Machine with Sewing Basket, Sewing Fabric, 2-XL Sheared Icelandic Sheepskin from H.E. Goldberg and 2-16 skeins of yarn with crochet teacher kit. Any donations are welcome. See Eva Johnson, Peter Olson, Autumn Bring, Harriett Henry, Cameron Olson or Kirstie Lone for tickets, drawing will be held on May 15, 2015. The grant money is still pending for the New Playground Equipment our TFC is working on.

Kirstie has also registered Golovin for the Summer Meal Program and currently we have an After School Program where the free snack box is served. Head Start Class parents have also been fund raising for their class

proceeds to go towards class projects, family potlucks and graduation celebration in the spring. The 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, we have Family Fun Night with TFC Kirstie Lone. Sewing Circle is every Tuesday and Thursday evening with sewing coordinator, Virginia Aukongak. The Golovin Covenant Church Pastor, Brad Olson holds a Men's Bible Study every Thursday night, Sunday morning Service. His wife, Julie Olson holds Sunday School for the children during the morning service at the Fire Hall. She also has a Youth Group Bible Study on Sunday evenings, Women's Bible Study every Wednesday and they both do the Game Night at the Fire Hall every Saturday. Kerilee Ivanoff, NSEDC Development Coordinator came to Golovin to get each house hold signed up for the 2015 NSEDC Energy Subsidy Program to apply a credit to our electric utility accounts. Our very own CEC TFC, Kirstie Lone was awarded the 2014 Matthew Iya Employee of the Year Award, we are very proud of her!

**King Island Native Community**-In December we held our annual meeting and re-elected to the IRA council: Ruth Ojanen, Frances Contreras, and Leona Mayac. New Council Members are: Benjamin Payenna, Chief (2) - year term 2015, Ruth Ojanen, Vice -Chief -Term 2016, Heather Payenna, Secretary -Term 2015, Frances Contreras, Treasurer - Term 2016, Carmelita Nattanguk - Term 2015, Leona Mayac - Term 2016, and Charlene Saclamana - Term 2015. Our Transportation Program is finishing the last phase of the road maintenance this spring on our road at Cape Woolley. The King Island Dance Group was invited to perform in Savoonga in January and at 2015 Kivgiq up in Barrow, Alaska. The Nome tribal membership had a potluck and Eskimo dancing gathering recently. King Island Native Community was able to secure grant funding through NSEDC to help with our building expansion project.

**Native Village of Koyuk**-We held our Annual Meeting in December with a change of 2 new officers. The new officers are President, Lola Hannon and Secretary, Travis Dewey. A Tribal Coordinator applicant is pending approval from the IRA Council and Kawerak. The IGAP Staff, Rebecca Anasogak and Beverly Leonard-Taxac, attended the Alaska Forum on the Environment in February. The students of Bering Straits School District were on Spring Break March 16-22. With the excitement of 2015 Iditarod most of the students greeted the mushers that came through Koyuk. In March we passed a resolution to support the Tumet Industries, LLC for continued growth and prosperity within our region to bid on State and/or Government projects. We also supported a resolution to support the Bering Straits Regional Energy Plan and our Local Energy Priorities, in hopes to reduce energy costs by lessening the use of fossil fuels, reducing our carbon footprint, improving the health and well-being of our environment and building a self-sustainable community. Last December the Koyuk Covenant Church sustained fire damage. No one was at the church when the fire broke out, but a number of Volunteer Firefighters arrived quickly which limited the damage. The building was not destroyed, but a hole was burned in the floor and the sanctuary sustained extensive smoke damage. The fire forced the church, the only one in the village, to cancel Christmas services. The congregation is now meeting at the IRA Building. The cost of the damage has yet to be determined.

The Koyuk Transportation Program will allow our Tribal Members to apply for short term employment this coming spring to clean and repair ditches and culverts, patch and repair potholes, minor re-gravelling of roads, work on roadside vegetation clearing, noxious weed control and trimming, repairing traffic control devices and other features necessary to control traffic to protect the road and the travelling public. Thanks to Kawerak for funding for Small & Needy Tribes as the IRA Council has advertised a Janitor position and a short-term full-time office assistant. The funds also have enabled the Tribe to advertise for a Development Coordinator.

**Native Village of Mary's Igloo**-We have continued to support the community of Teller and all our members. We donated to the Teller Aklaq basketball teams which did very well in the Regional tournament in Unalakleet. Both the Teller Aklaqs and the Lady Aklaqs

took home second place and sportsmanship awards. All 23 basketball players will be attending the State basketball tournament in Anchorage during March Madness. Thanks to all the organizations who donated funds and the parents for volunteering their time to fundraise to make sure all 23 ball players made it to regionals and state. Teller is proud of our AKLAQS! Teller finally got some snow in the last week or two. People will be making their annual spring fishing trips up the river to get some pike soon. Spring hunting will be taking place also. Our tribe is strongly opposing the proposed gold dredging in the Grantley Harbor this summer and any support is greatly appreciated. The AU Grabber wants to come to Teller this summer and bring a total of 10 gold dredges to mine 24/7 in our subsistence waters. Teller, Brevig, & Mary's Igloo have been working together to try and stop this from happening since it will greatly have an impact on our fishing, hunting and gathering all summer long.

**Nome Eskimo Community**-In October, the Tribal Council attended the AFN Convention, and Janice Doherty and Shane Smithhisler attended the 2014 Annual National Congress of American Indians Convention in Atlanta, GA. Janice and Al were invited to a personal breakfast social with Lt. General Russell Handy, Head Commander and Dr. Jerome Montague, Native Affairs and Natural Resources Advisor for Joint Base Elmendorf/Fort Richardson. They had the opportunity to share intriguing stories about events that occurred when the military was an active presence in our region. In December, Janice Doherty attended the Tribal Leaders Summit with President Obama in Washington, DC and recently attended a Tribal Leaders Gathering at JBER in Anchorage, once again meeting with General Handy and Dr. Jerome Montague.

The 2014 annual membership meeting was held in November, and Janice Doherty was re-elected to her seat and Jason Omedalina was elected as a new member. The departure of Mary Carter created a vacancy so we solicited letters of interest from the membership in December. The Tribal Council selected Mathew Michels to fill the seat. Officer elections were held and Janice Doherty was re-elected President, Tiffany Martinson, Vice-President, and Shane Smithhisler, Secretary/Treasurer. Strategic planning was held in January and in February. The 2015-2019 Strategic Plan was adopted as a guiding tool for the Tribe. Janice Doherty and Alfred Sahlin were re-appointed NEC representatives to the NSHC Board of Directors with Sharon Sparks and Shane Smithhisler as alternates. Sharon Sparks was appointed NEC representative for the Kawerak Board with Mary Carter as alternate. Tribal Council orientation and financial training will be held in March. In our April meeting we will discuss a summer picnic for our membership. In October, staff attended the AFN Elders and Youth Conference and Sitnasuak Shareholders reception in Anchorage to provide enrollment services (i.e. tribal ID's, update member records, and applications) for members that reside out of Nome. These events are the perfect opportunity to touch bases with members and provide services to those that do not live in our community. So long as funding permits, staff will continue to attend these functions.

Under the Office of Juvenile Justice Tribal Justice Grant, we implemented justice systems for alcohol and substance abuse and a national media campaign entitled "MyChoiceMyFuture." In October, a commercial featuring local youth and advocating good lifestyle choices was presented and very well received at a "kick-off" rally at the Nome Beltz Jr/Sr High School and the AFN Elders and Youth Conference. This commercial was aired on ESPN, TNT, CNN, History, and Discovery Channels across Alaska and the US and was aired during the month of Iditarod on KTUU Channel 2 within Alaska. A radio version also aired on KICY and KNOM. We continue to work with NPS' to implement good choice activities in the classroom. We're very proud of the success of this media campaign that has touched many youth!

Our many popular activities are full of participants. Tutoring/homework assistance is underway at NPS and two Lego Robotics sessions were held during the fall

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## Kawerak Village Reports (continued from page 13).

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semester, the third beginning in April. Forty one students enrolled in the fall session of the Alaska Native Education Program, and we had thirty students in the credit recovery program that had a 70% completion rate after the first session. All students successfully completed the first course but some did not complete the second and we continue to work with these youth. Under the BIA Tribal Youth Initiative a grant was created "Subsistence Science Explorer Clubs" which are designed to expand science exploration activities (started under the Alaska Native Education grant) and encourage kids to consider careers in the Natural Resources field. Seventeen youth participated in the "Reindeer Club" with Anne and Bruce Davis at the Midnight Sun Reindeer Ranch. We then worked with the high school to incorporate water quality testing as part of the fisheries class that was offered in the fall. We participated in the Jr. High Science Fair and are working with the High School Career Fair to promote Natural Resources Careers. We're also working on a poster project highlighting Alaska Native/NEC members in Natural Resource professions. During the fall term, we offered waffle ball, volleyball, and floor hockey for after school activities through an MOA with the City of Nome and our partnership with the Nome Library to sponsor reading programs and educational activities is on-going. The annual Iditarod Basketball Camp will be held in March and was open to all youth who are in Nome during the Iditarod festivities.

With the increase in meetings pertaining to subsistence, opening of the arctic waters, mining and the environment, we recognized the need for another position in the Tribal Resource Program. In addition to fulfilling responsibilities required by the IGAP grant, Mike Sloan attends many meetings to advocate on our behalf and ensure that we're a voice at the table. He's doing an outstanding job representing our interests, but with increased demands for our presence, the need for another position is crucial. Rather than waiting on grant funds the Tribal Council allocated "seed" funds for the position which is currently being advertised. Although we've been granted seed funds, we'll continue to actively seek resources to fund and expand the program. We rated very highly but did not receive the BIA Climate Adaptation Grant. Based on feedback, we're revising and re-submitting a grant for 2015.

Phase 1 of the East End Road project that was scheduled for late August/September was postponed due to scheduling conflicts with project partners. We purchased all the materials and gravel to complete drainage work and surface rehabilitation on N Street and are regrouping to complete the project early summer. We actively participated in the planning and inaugural festivities for newly elected Governor Bill Walker and Lt. Governor Byron Mallot. The City of Nome, NSHC, BSNC, and NEC did a wonderful job working together to roll out the red carpet to showcase the diversity and togetherness of our community. The NEC Tribal Transportation Safety Plan that was adopted by the Tribal Council in February. With the adoption of this community plan, we can now pursue resources to address safety issues identified in the plan. We applied for Tribal Transportation Safety Funds to address issues identified in the Safe Routes to School safety plan and are waiting grant announcements that will be issued the end of February. The spring 2015 edition of the NEC newsletter was sent to the printer and will soon be available for distribution. The newsletter is posted on our web-site: [www.necalaska.com](http://www.necalaska.com).

Of concern is our new Congress and the funding future. Both the House and Senate are controlled by a party that has long vowed major funding reductions. In late 2013, all programs were mandated budget cuts through sequestration. We weathered 2014 but face additional reductions in 2015; that exact amount is unknown at this time and we won't realize the full impact until several months into the fiscal year. NEC remains sound but we'll closely monitor revenue and expenses to cautiously safeguard programs and resources.

**Native Village of St. Michael**-The last quarter was very busy for the community. Our tribe held its first Slavic Basketball tournament. There were very good positive comments both from the both Stebbins and St. Michael

residents about this tournament. There was a community feast hosted by the city for the Christmas holidays and fireworks on New Year's Eve. Thanks goes to NSEDC for the donation for the events and for donations for the Tribe's annual meeting. There was a local meeting held with Bering Straits Regional Energy Plan and Outreach at the local school. There was a team from Kawerak, AEA, WH Pacific, and Bering Straits Development Company to host the meeting. Also another community meeting about seals, the satellite tracking and TEK with Mark Nelson and Henry Huntington was held on February 4, 2015 at 6pm. The last community meeting was held with the NS/BSRAA on the Comprehensive Salmon Plan; PHASE II DRAFT on fish in our area. BSNC is hiring for Protected Species Observers in the region. A Representative came to St. Michael to take in applications for those interested in positions. There was very good turn out from the community for BSNC.

Our IGAP program submitted a grant application to NSEDC Outside Entity in December to help with the recycling program. Funding should be announced soon after the next NSEDC Board of Director's meeting. Our annual elections and meeting was in January. We would like to sincerely thank NSHC for donation for the meeting. The new IRA Council officers after reorganization are: Theresa Kobuk, President; Alice Fitka, Vice President; Elsie Cheemuk, Secretary; Thomas Cheemuk, Sr., Treasurer; Charlie Fitka, Jr., Member; John Lockwood, member and Pius Washington, member. The city held the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentines Basketball Tournament in February with 16 teams competing. Also, the village of Stebbins held a Potlatch Basketball Tournament with the village of Kotlik in March just before the annual potlatch. We received program the NALEMP/DoD funding from the Army Corp of Engineers for 2015 year (October 2014 – September 2015) with 14 tasks to complete.

**Native Village of Savoonga**-Our community organizations gave away turkeys for each household for Thanksgiving and had another successful New Year's Event. Our community building survived a power surge back in November, but managed well. We had a visit from Santa who gave away goody bags for each child in the community. Elections and Annual Meetings went well, despite all the rescheduling due to the weather. We have a new council member: we are proud to welcome, Jeremy Eischens, a young man from Savoonga, father of 3 and whose father is running the Iditarod this year. Savoonga has had another successful 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mangtak Eater's Basketball Tournament. The gym was packed full of people, mostly from Gambell, and some from St. Michael, Stebbins, and Shaktoolik. The children had tons of fun! We give big thanks to coaches John and Arlene Waghiyi, Joel Kingeekuk and supporters from several different organizations local and non-local. The tribe also has a newly formed committee, the Reindeer Committee, which is being run by 6 members of the community. University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus is currently assisting them with the reindeer meat production classes, business plans, mobile slaughter/ processing vans, etc. for a possible future economic resource for our community.

**Native Village of Shaktoolik**-We held the Annual Tribal Membership Meeting in March. Guest speakers included: Mary David, Kawerak Executive Vice President; Angie Gorn, NSHC CEO; Matt Lone, BSRHA; Ashley Westbrook, VHS Director; and Jeannie Yuman, Patient Advocate. BSNC advertised and took applications for a local Protected Species Observer position. NSEDC provided an opportunity for residents to apply for their Energy Subsidy Program, and someone from the Bering Sea Fisherman's Association provided an opportunity for residents to comment on their Comprehensive Salmon Plan. Our grant writer, Michael Sookiayak Sr., with help from Sally Cox from DCRA, obtained a grant for Shaktoolik IRA's strategic management plan under the Coastal Impact Program; it provides a position in the village for 18 months to develop a plan for Shaktoolik which will be similar to what was put together for the Newtok Community. Other community events in March: Annual Election, Tri-organization meeting to develop a local energy plan, and Edna Savetilik will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Clarence E. Savetilik Memorial Basketball Tour-

namment. Other happenings include a school renaming ceremony in April, it will change to Paul F. Asicksik Sr. School. We started fundraising by having cakewalks and/or mini carnivals for tribal members needing money during their medical trips away from the village. We also help tribal members with some travel when a loved one has deceased and provide spending money to youth who are taking educational trips. Our IGAP Department is the only village program to have shipped out 120K pounds of scrap metal and is active in recycling lead acid batteries, fluorescent lights, pop cans and e-waste. They are in the process of doing their Electronic Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP) and are currently working towards water quality testing subsistence use areas. The city tests our drinking water. Our berm is mostly completed but still needs some work; the city took the lead but worked jointly with the IRA and corporation to request outside funding to help complete the project this summer. In closing, we express our gratitude towards Lydia Jackson; former health aid for taking critical care of Axel Jackson's hand which was instrumental in him being able to keep it.

**Native Village of Shishmaref**-The Annual Meeting was held in January. We welcome our new Council Members Reuben Weyiouanna, President, Morris Kiyutelluk, Vice President, Esther Iyatunguk, Secretary, and Andrew Kaakoon, Member. A reorganization was voted and our current members stayed at their seats. The Council includes Frieda J. Eningowuk, Secretary, and members: Tommy Obruk and Ernest J. Weyiouanna. We have donated to the Inupiaq Days events at the school for traditional activities for the students. Our high school girls' basketball team is returning for their fourth year to the State Championships, and we are all very proud of our girls. We were granted an After School Activity Grant through Kawerak which provides daily activities for children ages 3-13 at our Friendship Center building. We also applied for the 2015 BSRHA Elder's and Youth Grant. The Environmental Program (IGAP) was granted an extended funding for 2016. Our Clinic was renovated this past summer and the Norton Sound Health Corporation CEO Angie Gorn and staff attended the grand opening. We had Eskimo Dancing at the Community Hall for this event. Operation Santa had come to Shishmaref on December 6, at our school. Our school is also going to have a new shop building and will be making additions to the school this coming summer. We had a successful Special Tribal Membership Meeting on that took place in December with our guest present, John Bioff – Kawerak General Counsel.

**Village of Solomon**-We held our annual meeting in Nome in September at the XYZ Senior Center. Dinner was provided along with door prizes for those that attended. The tribal council reorganized its officers as follows: Kirsten Timbers, President, Brian James, Vice President, Benny Piscocoy, Secretary, Elizabeth Johnson, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer, and Katie Stettinger, Elder Representative. Cameron Piscocoy was appointed to fill the vacant tribal Council Seat "D" that was vacated by Deilah Johnson, who moved out of Nome. The Village of Solomon held a tribal membership meeting in Anchorage prior to the FAI elders and youth conference in October. We had a small group of 15 attending this year where the tribe had pizza and provided their input on our village priorities. Input from tribal members was tallied as follows: 1) More Solomon Gatherings and Involvement, 2) Driveway Improvements to Campsites, 3) Community Potable Water, 4) Emergency Communication, 5) Assess Effects of Climate Change, 6) Salmon Enhancement, 7) Full Operation of B&B/Community Center, 8) Waste Management, 9) Airstrip Improvement, 10) Community Power, and 11) Boat Harbor. This is our fifth year of the LEDP so plans are underway to hold a celebration of our accomplishments these past five years and talk about where we want to go from here.

Deilah Johnson, our environmental coordinator was reduced to part time status to manage our IGAP administratively working remotely with our field expert that will be hired and trained in May and work throughout the summer months in Solomon. She will also work as our grant writer. This will be an easy transition as she has

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## Kawerak Village Reports (continued from page 14).

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worked in this position before for almost two years prior to accepting our environmental coordinator position. We hired Rosemary Tootkaylok as our part time ICWA coordinator, who also works remotely. This position was not easy to fill; the past six months our President Kirsten Timbers has filled this position as needed. Both will be attending the annual NICWA conference along with another Council member. The Council scheduled their annual elections and youth in August, their annual meeting in Nome in September and a tribal membership gathering in Anchorage in October during FAI's elders and youth conference. The B&B is scheduled to open for business on June 1 and close September 15. We are pleased to welcome new tribal members Tessa, a baby girl born to Kirsten Timbers and baby boy Ethan who was born to Cameron Piscoya, both born in December.

**Stebbins Community Association**-We did not experience any flood or high sea water during the fall windy season last year. Majority of the households got their subsistence catches of bearded seals, edible migrating birds, berries, edible greens, fresh water/saltwater fish to store or hang in their fish racks, fall silver and chum salmon before the winter season approached. During the fall season, the Stebbins IRA, Katcheak Herd, and the St. Michael's IRA-Tri-Party Reindeer Herd owners worked with Andre, Russian exchange student, and the Native Village of Port Heiden IRA on the transfer sale of 64 live reindeer. We have cancelled the transfer sale of the live reindeer recently mainly because of the female reindeer being pregnant. We have come into consensus, the Tri-Party and the Native Village of Port Heiden, that the transferring and sale of the 64 reindeer will be rescheduled to the end of May 2015 or the first week of June 2015.

We rescheduled the 2014 Annual meeting to May 2. We gifted each household with 2 reindeer because of the high growth rate of the Tri-Party. So far, majority of the estimated 125 households have gotten both their reindeer. Those that haven't received their 2 live reindeer will be given after the birth and after round up. In December, Bryant Hammond from the Kawerak, Inc. Community Planning Development Department attended the Stebbins Energy Meeting with representatives from the Federal and State agencies. The main objective of this community energy meeting was to plan on how and what to do with the \$1,000,000.00 community energy fund. There will be an energy meeting in the future in the tribe, city, and corporation. Earlier this fall the new AVEC Power Plant was in full operation. AVEC started working on the electric tie down going to St. Michael early in January. The new AVEC power plant will supply the neighboring village with electric power. In January the tribe and Stebbins Housing Authority received funding from HUD to build 8 Dome Homes. The Stebbins Housing Authority will start the Dome Home Housing Project in June when the first barge comes. Our thanks goes to Keith Tryck, Consultant for the Stebbins Housing Department.

In the month of February our IGAP staff and one council member attended the US EPA Region X Alaska Forum on the environment. They worked with the US EPA Region X staff on the Native Village of Stebbins Emergency Evacuation Plan. The tribe is working with the corporation and the city on the Emergency Evacuation Plan to finalize, add, and make the best possible suggestions before the three local governments approve and submit it to the US EPA Region X office. In March majority of the tribal membership went to Kotlik, for a potluck. This year Kotlik was first to host the annual potluck between both villages. Later on, going to the next week, the Native Village of Stebbins, Alaska hosted the potluck with Kotlik, Alaska. Our tribe lost our oldest male elder, Francis Rivers, Sr. who was so instrumental on the passage of our old Eskimo dances and songs. The Native Village of Stebbins Dancers and Singers dedicated this year's potluck to Frances Rivers, Sr. The city is working very hard to get a new public laundry and possibly expanding the existing Clinic. Just recently the city endorsed and approved of the NSEDC's Outside Entity Funding (OEF). We are pleased to report that the tribe has been approved 3 out of the 4 requests for grant

proposals to NSEDC OEF.

**Native Village of Teller**-Our tribe continues to work with Mary's Igloo IGAP on recycling and educating community and youth. They are working on setting up a Community Environmental Committee, and they do school visits to work with classrooms. Staff attended the following: 1) Northwest Water Rights Conference: Anchorage, AK October 9-10. 2) Alaska Rural Water Association: Anchorage, AK October 27-30, 3) Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM): Anchorage, AK, October 27-31, 4) Alaska Forum on the Environment: Anchorage, AK February 9-14, and 5) Regional Environmental Conference, Four attended the conference in Nome, AK March 2-6, 2015. We held our annual elections in October. New council Members are: President Jenny M. Lee, Vice President Blanche Okbaok -Garnie, Secretary Tanya Ablowaluk, Treasurer Wesley G. Okbaok, Members: Dolly R. Kugzruk, Jolene Okleasik and Norman Menadelook Sr. We had three Council members, the Tribal Coordinator, and the Tribal Family Service Coordinator attend the BIA Tribal Provider Conference in December. IGAP also had two staff attend the conference. We are continuing to work with Western Mining Action Network (WMAN) on our opposition of mining in our area. We are networking with Clean Water Act, Center of Water Advocacy, Mary's Igloo and Brevig Mission Tribes. We have been working with NSHC on turning over our Clinic Lease to them. We continue to provide transportation for patients to and from New Site, Airport, and Nome when needed or authorized by a Doctor. Teller Traditional Council continues to support community events. Donations were made for the Community Thanksgiving Feast, Community Christmas Feast, Community Christmas Games and the Community New Year's Firework show. Also, funds were donated to the Teller High School Basketball teams. Both our boys and girls teams went to State! The Teller Lady Aklaqs came in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place during State!

**Native Village of Unalakleet**-Tribal staff include: General Manager/Elder Services Director Tracy Cooper, Housing Director/Consultant Myrna Johnston (ANC), Housing Associate/Assistant Patti Huhta, Grant Writer Joan Domnick-Johnson (ANC), Book Keeper Janine Iknokinok, Tribal Enrollment Officer Velma Johnson, NALEMP/Grants Administrator Victoria Kotongan, IGAP Coordinator John Henry Jr., Pulltabs/Bingo Manager Isabelle Ryan, and Head Cook Ruth Blatchford. Employed through Kawerak are: Transportation Planner Steve Ivanoff; Tribal Family Coordinator Marie Ivanoff, VPSOs Timothy Pehle and Jon Shivel, and Tribal Coordinator Velma Johnson. Seated on the Tribal Council are President Jacob Ivanoff, Vice President Merlin Johnson Sr., Secretary Charles Degnan, Treasurer Deahl Doug Katchatag, Council Members Mary Freytag, Reuben Mixsooke, and Waylon Koutchak. NVU is very dependent on grant funding and the ever-shrinking availability of State and Federal dollars is a huge concern. One NVU Housing Program goal is to provide safe, decent, affordable housing for the Tribe. They are now looking to subcontract out the work to licensed and bonded carpenters, plumbers, and electricians, and currently have two Title VI home renovations scheduled for this summer. The Staff's planning and administration hard work has paid off putting things back in order, mainly the paperwork.

The Assisted Living Facility for Elders project has been a goal/objective of the Tribal Council for well over fifteen years and has experienced occasional setbacks but always remains an extremely high priority for NVU and the sub region, especially with QCC's long waiting list and so many elders with unmet needs. This project also speaks to the great need of a properly educated, well-trained work force and all these projects can help focus the education of our youth. Elders Nutrition Program hopes again to provide hot lunches all summer and NVU is grateful for the NSEDC OEF grant. The Elders Policies and Procedures Manual was finally completed and adopted and the Elders should elect a new advisory committee soon.

The NALEMP Project/White Alice Site feasibility study/remediation plan allowed for the removal of the extra large eyesore of a fuel tank and a site cleanup is planned

for this summer. We sold all of our equipment to local contractor West Coast Construction/Aviation. We amended Ordinance 89-02 Tribal Membership and Enrollment, please contact the TEO if you have any questions or need more information. Our TFC deals mainly with ICWA cases, but is also focusing attention on strengthening family ties by providing opportunity for positive family-oriented activities throughout the year. Book Keeper-Ms. Iknokinok is doing well learning the ropes of this important position. Our Pulltabs/Bingo department has flourished under our current manager and brings financial support to the whole of NVU, the community, and especially to those who lose loved ones. Thanks to all PT/B players. We thank and encourage Tim Pehle and Jon Shivel for their work in Public Safety. We are working on an energy grant and more services for Elders. We are thankful the Alzheimer's Association for the help provided to Elders and their caregivers. The Water Transmission Line from Powers Creek is currently located in the flood/erosion zone and funding for a new water source and/or transmission line will remain an extremely high priority to all of Unalakleet, also remaining a high priority is a new public safety building, and providing infrastructure to the new hillside subdivision. We give many thanks to the companies that are employing NVU Tribal Members. Qu yana!

**Native Village of Wales**-In October, Anna Oxereok, Shawna Keyes and Sherrie Crisci attended Alaska Federation of Natives Convention and Cecelia Tingook, Joanne Keyes, Victoria Ongtowsruk and Wesley Komonaseak attended Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) in Anchorage. The Alaskan Command leadership toured and visited Wales for a few hours. IRA President Anna Oxereok met with Lt. Gen. Russ Handy, Alaskan Command commander, Col. Patrick Miller, 11<sup>th</sup> Air Force vice commander, Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Moore, 11<sup>th</sup> Air Force command chief and Dr. Jerome Montague, Alaskan Command Native Affairs and Natural Resource advisor. Representatives from the Air Force, Corps of Engineers and the Navy would like to do a site visit here in Wales to look at the beach area of concern this summer. The corporation hosted a Thanksgiving feast at the Wales Kingikmiut School for the community. Every year the tribe, corporation, and city take turns hosting holiday events in the community. Anna Oxereok, Debra Seetook and Michele Ongtowsruk attended BIA Provider's Conference in December in Anchorage. The tribe hosted Christmas games and the Christmas Feast at the Wales Kingikmiut School. We held indoor races for cash prizes. Cecelia Tingook and Joanne Keyes attended Alaska Forum on Environment in February in Anchorage. Cecelia also attended the Bering Strait Norton Sound Regional Environmental Conference March in Nome. She gave a presentation of our IGAP's Summer Clean up success story. The Wales Kingikmiut Dance Group is invited to participate at the Qatnut-Kotzebue's Qikiqtagrak Trade Fair event June 30 -July 2. Roxie Quick, the Wales School Principal retired early in February. Vice Principal is Kevin Theonnes is serving as Acting Principal until May.

**Native Village of White Mountain**-Our new 2015 tribal council is as follows: Peter G. Buck, President, Rita Buck, Vice President, Enid J. Lincoln, Secretary, Amos Brown Sr., Treasurer, Members: Carl Brown, Colin Lincoln, and Willa Ashenfelter. Elder Rep. is Phillip Brown. We would like to thank Willa Ashenfelter past President and Kawerak Board of Director. We continue to gather data for our in-stream flow reservation. Yvonne Gregg, past coordinator has moved to the City of White Mountain Utilities department after the sudden death of an asset to our community, Esther Lincoln. Since then, Adrian Barr Sr. is now the Ichupak Coordinator. We are still working on obtaining our water rights from the State of Alaska. Dorothy Barr, Tribal Coordinator has started honoring our elder potlucks. Last month we honored our eldest elder, Howard Lincoln. She is planning on a potluck for Karl Ashenfelter in March. Our school is hosting annual BSSD ski/biathlon races on March 12-14 and the Western Interior Ski Association (WISA) at the end of March. We have two meetings a month; one to get updates on grants and the other is the regular meeting.



Norton Rock's hunting crew in front of Wales on June 19 (above).  
Photo taken by Marcus Barr.



Camp Igaliq 2014 (above) and the Regional Wellness Forum (right)



**Camp Igaliq will be at Salmon Lake on August 3-7, 2015. It is an opportunity for youth, ages 15 -18, to get together for fun cultural activities and individual development.**

**Contact Panganga Pungowiyi at 907-443-4393 for more information.**



Cultural Center Project Director, Amy Russell-Jamgochian, and Senior Planner, Donna James, outside the Richard Foster Building.

## Cultural Center Update

By Moriah Sallaffie, Cultural Center Development Coordinator

Construction continues on the new Richard Foster Building which will house the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, the Kegoayah Kozga Library and the Kawerak Cultural Center. The steel frame was finished in December 2014 and this spring construction resumed. The project is set to be completed by the end of 2015 and the grand opening will be in late December 2016. The Cultural Center team is working on

many tasks to be ready for the grand opening, including exhibit design, collections management and fund-raising.

If you or your organization is interested in making a donation to Kawerak's Cultural Center you can send a check or money order to Kawerak, Inc. at PO Box 948 Nome, AK 99762 or use PayPal at: [www.kawerak.org/bccs.html](http://www.kawerak.org/bccs.html)

Kawerak is a 501(c)3 and your donation is tax deductible.

**We will be posting a donor wall in our new space, and donors who wish to be recognized will be placed on the donor wall at the following levels:**

- Bowhead Whale \$500,000**
- Beluga Whale \$400,000**
- Walrus \$300,000**
- Bearded Seal \$200,000**
- Halibut \$100,000**
- King Salmon \$75,000**
- Red Salmon \$50,000**
- Silver Salmon \$25,000**
- Chum Salmon \$15,000**
- Pink Salmon \$10,000**
- Trout \$5,000**
- Arctic Char \$1,000**
- Tom Cod \$500**
- Herring \$100**



Amy Russell-Jamgochian & Kendall Gee, Senior Project Manager with DOWL Engineers, reviewing floor plans in the space where the Cultural Center will be.

Kawerak would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who has contributed to Kawerak's Cultural Center. In 2015 the Cultural Center has thus far received donations from the following people and organizations.

Bering Straits Native Corporation / Norton Sound Health Corporation / Kawerak, Inc. Board of Directors / DOWL / Northern Air Cargo / Elizabeth Perry / Rasmuson Foundation / Shaktoolik Native Corporation / Alaska Permanent Capital Management / Ed & Gail Schubert / Donna James / Melanie Bahnke / Loretta Bullard / Denise Michels / Donna Ray

**A big thank you to you all!**