

# NATIVE TRIBE OF KANATAK



Volume 17, Issue 3

March 2012

## News from the Kanatak Tribal Council

It's been a very productive month for the Kanatak Tribal Council. A number of improvements have been made at the tribal office: a security system with 2 cameras, a new, more efficient copy machine, and walling-in the door shared with the adjoining rental. Henry Forshey and Shawn Shanigan installed a dishwasher, microwave/range-vent and shelving in the little house rental unit. A real estate agent previewed the little house and informed Henry Forshey that one room could not be considered a bedroom without a closet, so a local contractor was hired to install a closet. In addition, a contract for renovation of the rental unit that shares a wall with the tribal office was arranged with the aforementioned local contractor; that renovation should be finished by mid-April. It is anticipated that a real-estate agency will ultimately be hired to manage and rent the two rental properties for the tribe.

At the March 10 council meeting there was much discussion regarding Kanatak election ordinances. The council plans to continue its review of both the ordinances and constitution and hopes to have work completed on both within the next 2 months. At the BIA Roads meeting on the same date, two interested tribal members, namely Frieda Byars and Darion McGowan, were accepted as co-leaders of the pending Kanatak Bicycle Safety Program and asked to work together to create and submit a program proposal to the council by April 1, 2012.

Participants (and possible winners of BIG money and weight-loss) continue to be accepted into Kanatak's own *Biggest Loser* wellness program. The official start was March 14, though tribal members can join at any time; remember the more time, the more weight-loss and subsequent winning potential. Contact Tess McGowan for rules and entry forms (see last page for contact info).

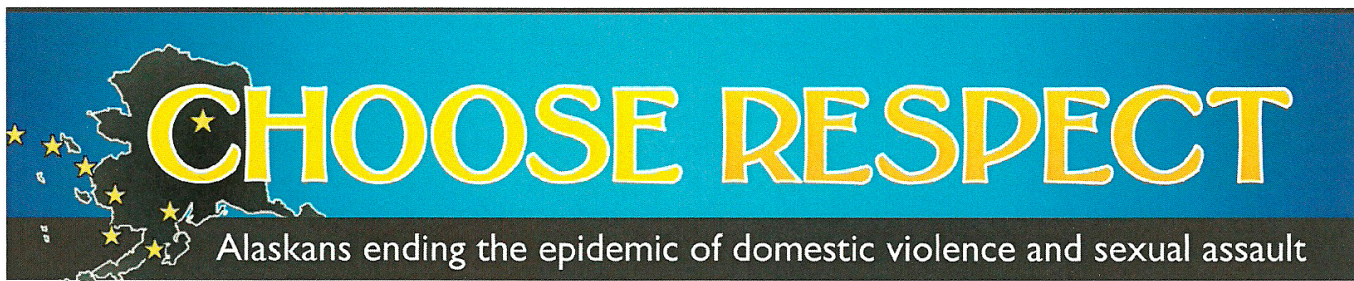
The next council meeting is scheduled for the second Sunday in April, at 2:00 pm AKDT / 6:00 pm ESDT. Please attend. Your thoughts and comments are valued. If you wish to attend via telephone, here's the info: Call-in number = 1-866-895-5510 Passcode = 868521#

Additional details regarding council meetings can always be found on the Kanatak website (<http://www.kanatak.com>) under NEWS in the meeting minutes for the various dates. Previous newsletters and program applications are there, too. Check it out!

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Alaska is a great land of hope and opportunity. However, some of our fellow Alaskans have been scarred by domestic violence and sexual assault. Let's show our support for these Alaskan survivors! It's time for Alaskans to make a difference in our state - it's time to *Choose Respect*.

Join us for the Wasilla march

**THURSDAY, MARCH 29 | NOON**

**Then stop by the Kanatak office for a bowl of "Choose-Respect" chowder.**

If you can't be there in person, **YOU** can be there in spirit by choosing to serve "choose-respect" chowder for your family's evening meal. [See page 8 for the recipe.](#) Let's show victims and survivors that we support them and don't tolerate violence & assault.

Governor and First Lady Parnell challenge Alaskans to step up – and take a stand against domestic violence and sexual assault in our state. Together, we can make a difference.



*Sponsored By Native Tribe of Kanatak*

For more information, please contact Jeanette Shanigan

907-982-9103 | [jshanigan@hotmail.com](mailto:jshanigan@hotmail.com) | [ChooseRespect.Alaska.gov](http://ChooseRespect.Alaska.gov)

For more event information: Facebook: "Alaska Governor Sean Parnell" | Twitter: @AKGovParnell

**Be courageous: Prevent, Protect, Enforce and Heal.** [ChooseRespect.Alaska.gov](http://ChooseRespect.Alaska.gov)

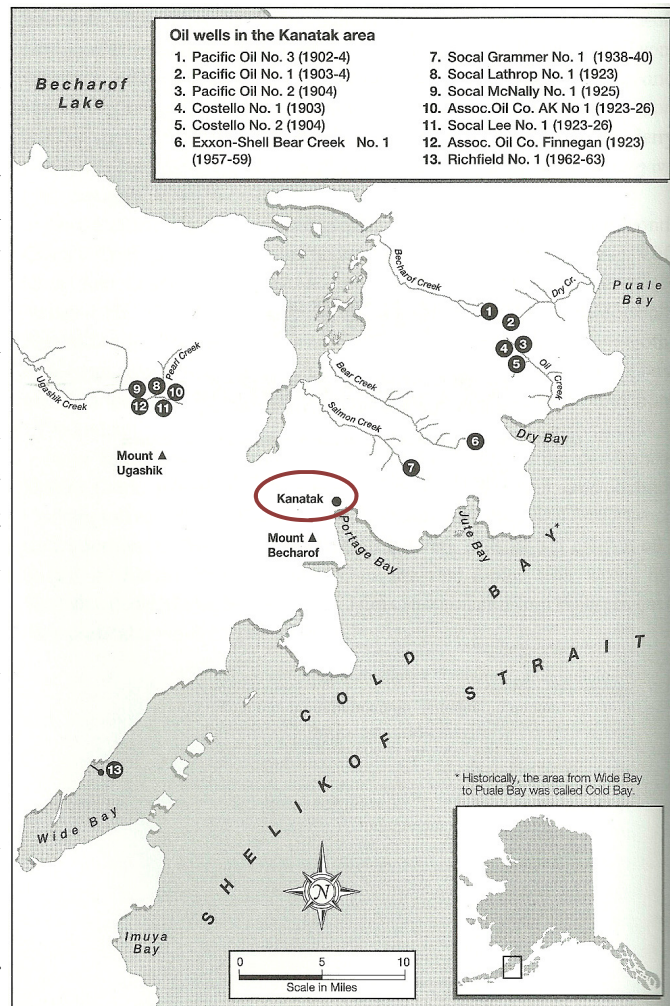
## Kanatak, Historically Speaking...

Though interest in oil exploration in the Kanatak area had dwindled in the 1940's, it did not officially end until the latter part of the 1950's. Shell Oil Company looked at the North Slope and other sedimentary basins, but decided to concentrate most of its efforts on Bear Creek and Wide Bay in the Kanatak area. After all, it was hard to dismiss the many oil seeps that seemed to be everywhere in the Cold Bay or Kanatak area. (Historically, the area from Wide Bay to Puala Bay was called Cold Bay—see map.)

Shell Oil Company acquired most of its oil leases at a 1954 federal lease drawing for land at Wide Bay that the US Navy restored to the public domain. Shell Oil Company looked for a partner for their drilling efforts at Cold Bay and found one in Humble Oil & Refining Company (now Exxon). Due to Shell's thorough geologic data and Exxon's desire to find an oil reserve in this vast, as yet unproven province, it seemed success was inevitable. By 1957, Shell had drilling units at Bear Creek, Ugashik and Wide Bay; Exxon had promised to drill a 12,000-foot well at Bear Creek. In exchange Shell would assign half-interest in the drilling units to Exxon.

Exxon built a first-class port and a 5-mile road to the drill site, then floated an entire "city" to Jute Bay. By late September 1957, drilling began on the Bear Creek #1 well. But it was another deep disappointment. Exxon abandoned the well at 14,000 feet on March 1, 1959, two months after Alaska became a state. The drilling had cost Exxon over \$7 million dollars—by far the costliest well drilled in Alaska before the

Prudhoe Bay discovery, and more than the United States paid Russia for **ALL** of Alaska! Most importantly, it marked the end of interest in oil exploration in the Cold Bay or Kanatak area.



## Kanatak Connection through Memories

**Sophia Kalmakoff Rane recalls:** *“Digging for clams on the beach was one of my favorite things as a small kid. Mom had taught me how to look for that little bubble in the sand, where I would dig and find the most delicious clams. They were large razor clams, which we ate raw or cooked.”*

## Alaska Native History or How Did We Get Here?

**Changes after the Gold Rush** Prospectors headed north by the tens of thousands after gold was discovered in the Klondike in 1896. They spilled over into Alaska, joining the gold-seekers who had come earlier to the Forty Mile and Circle gold strikes, and those who would come later to Nome and Fairbanks.

Alaska's population doubled between 1890 and 1900, reaching 63,592. The increase led to more pressure to expand the government system in Alaska which had been inadequate since its adoption in 1884.

In the 1890s, the traditional "miners' meeting" was the only form of local government many of the gold rush towns knew. The miners would gather in a group and adopt rules and regulations by a majority vote. This practice from the American West was the only form of local government in Interior Alaska until 1900.

In the midst of the gold rush publicity that put Alaska in the national spotlight, Congress tried to correct some of the problems in the laws about Alaska. It adopted a new civil code that allowed any community of 300 or more to incorporate with seven-member city councils and three-member school boards. The major towns took steps to organize under the provisions of this law and elect local officials. Congress also set up new judicial districts, important for filing legal papers. It adopted a code specifying what activities were illegal and the punishment for violations. Much to Sheldon Jackson's dismay, the prohibition on alcohol was repealed.

The civil code of 1900 was fine as far as it went, the governor of Alaska told Congress in 1906, but "I think it would be wise to provide some means by which the Alaskan code of laws could be revised." In 1905, Congress moved the capital to Juneau, which had grown because of mining, while Sitka had become less important since the Russian era.

One element in the new laws allowed for territorial taxation, in the form of business license taxes. This led to complaints of "taxation without representation," a contradiction that helped spur the campaign to give Alaska a voice in Congress. In 1903, a Senate subcommittee reported that "the universal opinion among all classes in Alaska is that the District should be represented by a delegate in Congress."



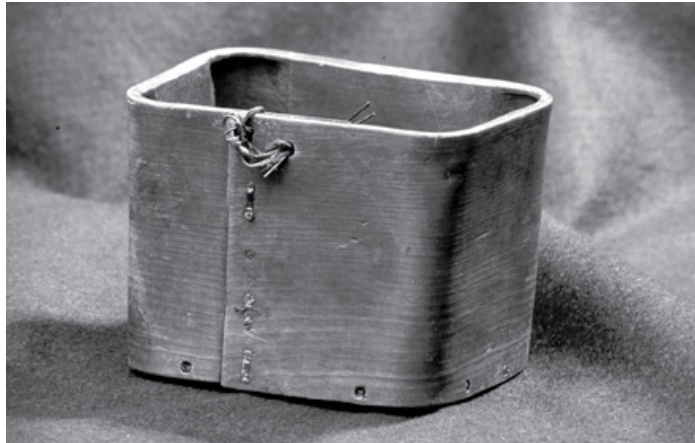
*Governor's mansion in the capital—Juneau, Alaska.*

Repeated attempts by Alaskans and sympathetic members of Congress to get a delegate failed to get out of committee during the latter years of the 19th century. Many people believed that even a representative without a vote would be better than no representative at all. Alaskans wanted someone who could lend balance to the political situation in Washington D.C. where the unelected lobbyists of mining and shipping companies and the canned salmon industry made sure that their interests were protected. Historian Jeannette Paddock Nichols wrote in 1924 that the corporations preferred this "self-appointed delegate" system.

Frustrated at the lack of progress, citizens of Valdez sent a telegram to President Theodore Roosevelt on the day of his inauguration: "On behalf of 60,000 American citizens who are denied the right of representation in any form, we demand, in mass meeting assembled, that Alaska be annexed to Canada."

## Alutiiq Use of Bentwood

Archaeological finds from western Alaska illustrate that the art of bending wood is at least 2,000 years old. Some think that creating objects from flexible materials – leather, baleen, and bark – led Alaskans to experiment with bending wood. Whatever its origins, wood bending is practiced by all of Alaska's Native societies. Among Alutiiq people, the tradition is at least 800 years old. For example, at a well-preserved village site, archaeologists recovered hundreds of bentwood box fragments around the remains of Alutiiq sod houses.



The variety of bentwood objects used by Alutiiq people is remarkable. In classical Alutiiq society, hunters wore elaborately decorated hats made of bentwood, paddled kayaks whose circular cockpits were fitted with a rim of bentwood, and kept themselves dry by fastening cuffs of bentwood around the sleeves of their gutskin rain shirts. Women collected berries and plant foods in bentwood buckets, cooked meals by dropping hot rocks into bentwood containers, and stored water and urine for household tasks in vats made of bentwood. In addition, at winter festivals, revelers beat skin drums, shook puffin beak rattles, and wore spiritually powerful masks all made with hoops of bentwood. Bentwood objects were common in Alutiiq communities. This widespread use of bentwood objects illustrates both the importance of bending as a manufacturing technique and the skill of craftsmen.

Bending wood is not very difficult, but it takes time. A carver must pick his material carefully, work it with precision and patience, and know how the wood bends. If the process is rushed, the piece may break. But when a thin piece of wood is successfully bent, beautiful objects can be made. From a single plank, artists create strong, useful, and exceptionally beautiful objects.

### The Process

To create bentwood objects, carvers worked with planks of wood, using stone adzes to shape the plank and hand-held carving tools to thin it. For oval forms, they thinned the inner edge of the plank in areas they intended to curve. For square forms they cut kerfs – small notches in planned corners to allow the wood to bend and compress.

Like all plant fibers wood is elastic. It can be manipulated with pressure, heat, and moisture to change its shape. How did Alutiiqs bend wood hundreds of years ago? They may have used steam, or they may have soaked a shaped piece of wood in a slow running stream for several months to make it pliable.



Working with heat or moisture, an artist bent the rim of a container into shape. Artists may have tied a cord around the rim to help it hold its shape while drying. When the bent rim was dry, the next step was to fasten its ends together. Craftsmen did this by drilling small holes through the rim and lacing them together with spruce root, baleen, or sinew, or using small wooden pegs. The final step was to add a base by pegging and gluing a flat piece of wood to the rim. The result was a strong, watertight container.

## Keeping Body and Soul Together, the Native Way



On March 29, 2012, Alaskans from around the state will gather to send a strong message to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The gatherings honor these victims and send messages of hope and healing to those who have suffered domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse. Victims and survivors, you are not alone, nor are you to blame!

As communities, we gather to give victims and survivors the courage to seek safety. Our communities care about their health, well-being and safety. It takes courage for victims to leave violent relationships. It takes support from family, friends, and the community for victims to seek safety. It also takes courage as a community to take a stand for safe homes and strong families.

### **Choose Respect means getting involved:**

- ◆ Ask your friends if they are okay and be ready to listen.
- ◆ Ask the women and teens in your life if they are safe in their relationships and be ready to listen.
- ◆ Be willing to tell someone who is being abused that it is not their fault and they are not to blame. Be ready to walk with them to a shelter or for help.
- ◆ Children listen, and children learn. We can make sure they know domestic violence is not our community norm.
- ◆ With a single choice at one moment in time, you can make your community safer and positively alter the course of a child's life.
- ◆ Educate yourself and know your local and regional resources.
- ◆ Don't look the other way. Silence guarantees future suffering!
- ◆ Report abuse when you see or hear about it.
- ◆ Encourage your school district to adopt curriculum that teaches healthy relationships.
- ◆ Be a role model.

**While this event happens just once a year, action and intervention are needed every single day! Please keep the conversations going and get involved!**

## Tribal Happenings *Celebrating those special moments in our lives...*



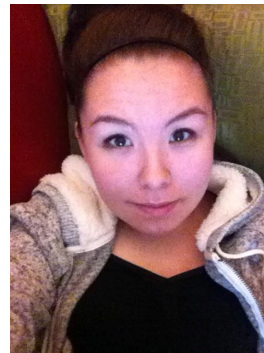
\*\*\*The Native Tribe of Kanatak recently sponsored a table for tribal members to sell their wares at the Charlotte Jensen Native Arts Market at the Dimond Center on February 29-March 4. Several members chose to successfully sell at the event; certainly, the most successful was Gus Yovino who sold a couple of his paintings (see page 11, November 2011 issue of the Kanatak newsletter), though Nichole & Savannah Shanigan, who were featured in the recent February newsletter, also sold a good deal of their crayon art, duct-tape items and jewelry. Hopefully, additional tribal members will join next year; watch the upcoming newsletters for details. Tribal member Patrick Lind chose to purchase his own tables at the show (see page 10, December 2011 issue of the Kanatak newsletter.) This is a great way to earn a bit of extra income AND connect with Native people and culture.



\*\*\*Frieda Shanigan Byars commented: " I would just like to thank the council and all who were supportive and gave assistance when Aiden Byars had his surgery. It was much needed and appreciated."



\*\*\*Brittany Arey wrote: "Thanks Kanatak for giving me the chance to extend my internship with the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. I am so grateful for that!"



*Happy birthday* to these tribal members who are celebrating **March** birthdays:

- March 1: Dakota Yovino (4)
- March 2: Nathan Shanigan (12)
- March 4: Anthony Forshey III (35)
- March 5: Faith Ramirez (18)
- March 6: Danielle Rane (23)
- March 8: Larry Hickey Sr. (47)
- March 9: Jeremy McGowan (19)
- March 14: Doris Lind (92)
- March 15: Isaac Specht (6)
- March 16: Alex Giacometti (70)
- March 23: Michelle Carbone (12)





## Kanatak Kids



# Choose-Respect Chowder

Join us on March 29 and show your support of the *Choose Respect* campaign against domestic violence and sexual assault by serving this chowder for your family's evening meal. How about taking a photo of your family at dinner and sharing it with others in the Kanatak tribe through the newsletter? Also please consider including your children or grandchildren in the preparation of this chowder. Parents, grandparents, and children cooking together in the kitchen, sharing family recipes and secrets passed from one generation to the next, is a lost art in many households. These days, it's hard for busy parents even to take time out to teach their kids basic cooking techniques. It's true that including the kids in cooking meals requires time, patience, and some extra clean-up, especially when the children are younger—but many experts think it is well worth the effort. Some long-term benefits of cooking with children include: 1) learning to cook is a skill children can use for the rest of their lives, 2) kids who learn to eat well may be more likely to eat healthfully as adults, 3) positive cooking experiences can help build self-confidence, 4) kids learn useful real-world skills, such following directions, sequencing, cause-effect, working co-operatively, and 5) kids spend quality time with adult role models, such as parents/grandparents. Based on your family's food preferences, choose one of the following chowder versions:

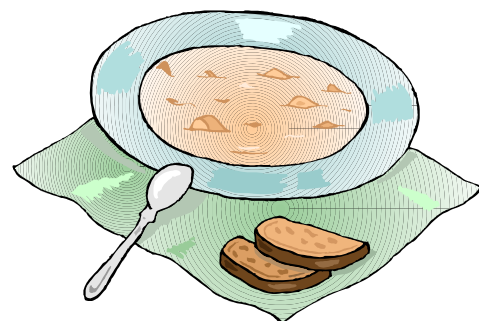
FISH	MEAT	VEGETARIAN
3 tablespoons butter	3 tablespoons butter	3 tablespoons butter
¾ cup chopped onion	¾ cup chopped onion	¾ cup chopped onion
½ cup chopped celery	½ cup chopped celery	½ cup chopped celery
1 clove garlic, chopped	1 clove garlic, chopped	1 clove garlic, chopped
2 cups diced potatoes	2 cups diced potatoes	2 cups diced potatoes
2 carrots, diced	2 carrots, diced	2 carrots, diced
2 cups chicken broth	2 cups chicken broth	2 cups vegetable broth
1 teaspoon seasoning salt	1 teaspoon seasoning salt	1 teaspoon seasoning salt
1 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning	1 teaspoon poultry seasoning	½ cup chopped red bell pepper
1 teaspoon ground black pepper	1 teaspoon ground black pepper	1 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 teaspoon dried dill weed	1 teaspoon thyme	1 teaspoon thyme
2 (7-oz) cans salmon	2 cups cooked, diced chicken	
1 (12-oz) can of evaporated milk	1 (12-oz) can of evaporated milk	1 (12-oz) can of evaporated milk
1 cup frozen corn	1 cup frozen corn	1 cup frozen corn
1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded	1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded	1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded

Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Sauté onion, celery and garlic until onions are tender. Stir in all vegetables (except corn), salt, pepper and seasonings. Bring to boil, then reduce heat. Cover and simmer about 20 minutes.

Stir in remaining ingredients and cook until heated through. Enjoy!

Thanks for your participation & support!

Remember, photos greatly appreciated....



## See or Hunt the Alaska Peninsula with Ronald Lind

Do you have dreams of hunting the unique, world-class Alaskan brown bear or moose? Or do you want to catch trophy-size salmon? Or maybe you dream of sightseeing and photographing the flora and fauna of the stunning Alaska Peninsula? Well, if these scenarios describe your dreams, you need to connect with tribal member Ronald Lind.

Ronald Lind provides guiding services through his company Bearskin Creek Guiding Services. Bush pilot and registered hunting guide Ronald Lind has been leading outdoor-sporting groups or photographers, as well as maintaining his hunting cabins and boats since 1991, aided by a fleet of experienced guides and cooks who provide all the meals for hungry hunters and photographers. Where possible, he prefers to hire locals, rather than 'outsiders' for these positions, because this practice fills the pockets of the local economy. He even expressed some interest in hiring young Alaskan tribal members as packers to begin the process of becoming an Alaskan hunting guide.



*Ronald Lind, at Dimond Center (3/2012)*



*Ronald and son Taylor*

Mostly, Ronald does guiding for what would be considered big-game hunts for brown bears and moose. To round up customers, he goes to 4-5 shows in the Lower 48, primarily through Safari Club International in Michigan, California, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Texas. Because such hunts are costly, he alters the location of the shows yearly. Last year, he guided 14 hunters and all 14 got their bear. The largest bear to date measured 11' 8"!!!!

Eventually, Ronald hopes his son Taylor will take over the guiding business, as Ronald would like to open an air-taxi business. He's currently taking classes to get the proper licenses and ratings. Some years ago, Ronald completed college with the assistance of Kanatak education funding. Ronald has

served on the assembly of the Lake and Peninsula Borough; he was recently appointed a board member on the Subsistence Resource Commission by Alaska governor Sean Parnell.

Ronald is the son of William and Doris Lind. His mother Doris Kalmakoff Lind was born and raised in Kanatak. By the way, Doris is the oldest member of the tribe and probably the only one left who speaks the Alutiiq language fluently. (See page 9, September 2011 issue for additional info about Doris.)

Be sure to check out Ronald's website at <http://www.huntbearskin creek.com> for additional photos and information about his guiding services. His e-mail addresses are [bearskin-creek@yahoo.com](mailto:bearskin-creek@yahoo.com) or [clamskin.taylor@hotmail.com](mailto:clamskin.taylor@hotmail.com) if you'd like to discuss or arrange an Alaska outdoor adventure for yourself.





Siblings: Henry Forshey, Laney Hayes, Tiny Stailey, Sophia Rane.

# Right-Clicked

*Photos of tribal members*



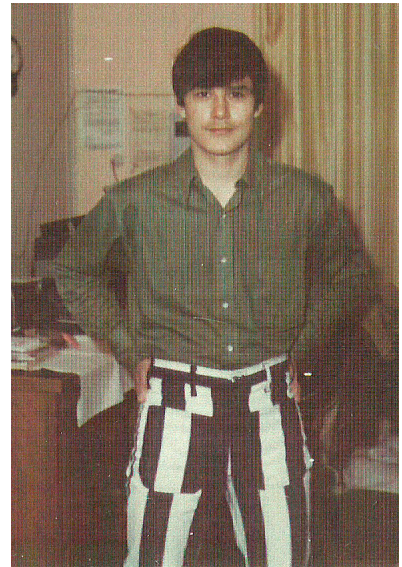
Christina Hayes and daughter Alexis painting a pumpkin.



Tony Forshey and his grandson Nathan, son of Anthony Forshey III.

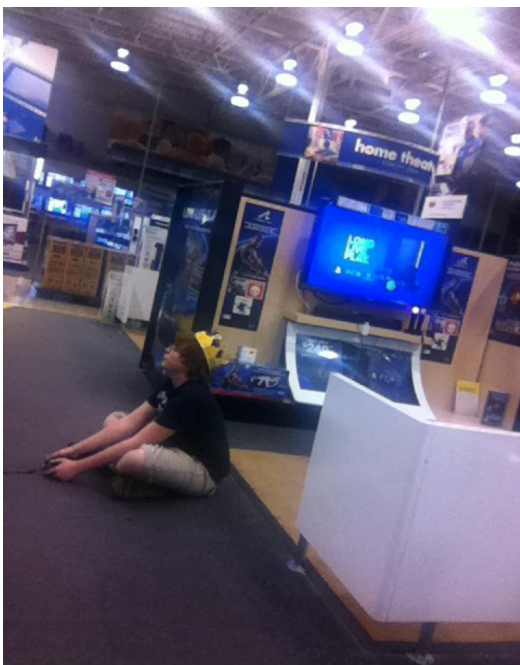


Nathan Shanigan wearing traditional snow goggles made of a caribou antler, 3/2012.



Henry Forshey

Below: Nicole Forshey Breneman, Renae Booher, Tony Forshey, Henry Forshey, Chris Forshey, Alex Giacometti: Alaska, October 2011.



Pierce McGowan, 'lost' at Best Buy



## Programs Available through Kanatak



### Do you need help with housing?

If you are a member in good standing with the Native Tribe of Kanatak and meet certain income requirements, you may be eligible for assistance from the Bristol Bay Housing Authority. The income requirements are established by HUD and vary depending on the place of residence and the number of family members. For example, to meet the income eligibility standards in the Mat-Su borough, where Wasilla is located, the yearly income for a family of three can be no more than \$54,450; yet, if that same family of three resided in the Anchorage area, that maximum would be \$58,000.

Through BBHA, there are currently programs for rental assistance, utility vouchers, home repairs, down-payment assistance for home purchase and crime prevention/youth or cultural activities. There is also the option for the Kanatak tribal council to assess the memberships' housing needs and create other programs in the future, subject to federal guidelines and BBHA approval.

To apply, you **must** fill out an 18-page application which includes supplying proof of income, such as yearly income tax forms. The application is available at the BBHA website: <http://www.bbha.org/apply.htm> Phone numbers for contact with either the King Salmon or Dillingham offices are also available at the above-listed website.

Once your application is complete, mail it to this address:

*Bristol Bay Housing Authority*

*PO Box 50*

*Dillingham, Alaska 99576*

**Do NOT mail your application to the Kanatak tribal office!**



### Native Tribe of Kanatak

The following programs, based upon the budget passed by the tribal council, are available for the membership:

**Education Program:** Funds to be awarded to eligible tribal members seeking higher education and/or specific job-skill training required for employment/certification.

**Tribal Youth Activity Program:** Funds to be awarded to eligible tribal members between the ages of 1-18 for extra-curricular activities, such as school sports, boy/girl scouts, summer or sports camps, music lessons, dance lessons, etc.

**Emergency Assistance Program:** Funds for tribal members' unexpected emergencies that threaten basic quality of life, such as fire damage, leaking roof, non-functioning furnace, water heater, etc. (Low-income members should seek this assistance through BBHA.)

**Wellness Program:** Funds for education and promotion of healthy living, including weight-loss, suicide prevention, alcohol/drug prevention and tobacco-use prevention.

**Tribal Burial Assistance Program:** Funds to be awarded to help with final expenses of tribal members who were in good standing with the tribe at the time of passing; maximum award per deceased member = \$1,500.

**Tribal Social Activity Fund:** Funds for 2 activities directors to create and organize quarterly tribal social activities in both Alaska and the Lower 48.

**Culture Program:** Funds to promote culture and communication among tribal members.

*These programs generally require the following:*

- *completed tribal membership/enrollment (member in good-standing)*
- *completed application for program*
- *documentation of need/amount, bids where requested, and proof/receipts of expenditures*
- *name/address of 3rd party to whom checks will be issued; as a rule, checks are not issued directly to tribal members.*

**Contact the executive director, tribal administrator or Kanatak tribal council for additional information about these programs.**

## Contact Information

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