



APRIL 2010

# THE NEWSLETTER

## Fairbanks Native Association

Open water will soon be here; when boating this season, let's work and play safe

### Annual Meeting draws crowd, People eager to participate

Rhonda Joseph-Baker, president of the board, brought the meeting to order, welcoming members and introducing the agenda. A prayer by Don Thibedeau asked all to remember the words of Katherine Peter, an elder who praised education. "Vote, young, educated people."



People signing in to vote received ballots for three seats and one alternate. With a slate of just under 10 people, voters had clear options and exercised them. (Election results, Page 3.)



Steve Ginnis announced that financial goals had been met. FNA's audit shows positive revenue positions. For the first time in five years, FNA has regained financial footings.

### Over 100 children served, fans pleased with clean and fast play JOM AK Native Youth BB Tournament gets raves



The 10th annual tournament was a high point in many child's spring break. For this group of bright-eyed middle schoolers at the award ceremony, the event produced positive memories and new relationships. (More photos on Page 4.)

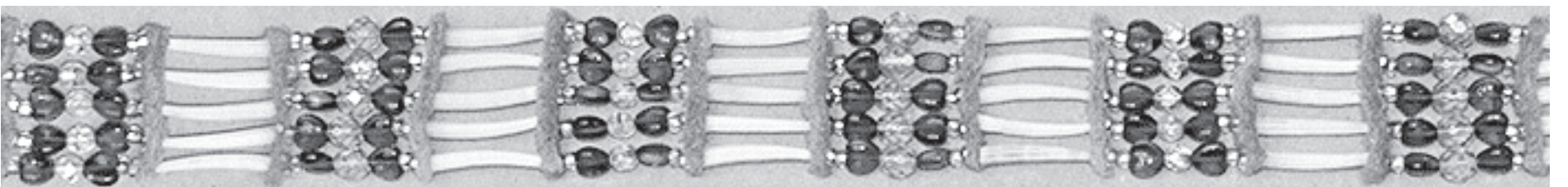
The court action took place March 8-10 at the Tanana Middle School's double gymnasium. For three days, basketball was on everyone's mind, from grade 3 to 12.

"Volunteers make it happen", Linda Woods, JOM's director, reminds anyone with an interest. Coaches, timers, the concession stand, cleanup and other chores rely on volunteers to create and sustain the event.

For fans who follow this family-themed activity, a 24-page program was produced to track the teams and players. For the players,

along with their trophies and memories of fun, it's a keepsake many will treasure.

Funds to support what volunteers can't do are covered by generous sponsors. Please thank and support: IRHA, Essentials Hair Salon, TCC, Tozitna, Ltd., Interior Labor Council, AK Peace Officer's Assoc., Laborer's Local 942, Bob's Service & Towing, Teamster's Local 942, Toghotthele Corp., Denakkanaaga, IBEW 1547, Wright Air, Fairbanks Youth Sports, Youth Sports Bingo of Fairbanks, FNA administration, Doyon, Ltd., and many more. Thank you.



## A culturally directed focus on recovery Behavioral Health Services rebounds with new vision and vitality

Fairbanks Native Association Behavioral Health Services is under new management, guided by a culturally directed vision and operating principles.

Steve Ginnis, FNA's executive director has put in place a strong team to guide the future efforts of our behavioral health programs.

These programs are now accredited through October 2010 by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Perry Ahsogeak (Inupiat) is the program director, with 25 years of administrative experience including V.P. level behavioral health oversight as well as program director level oversight.

Perry will be assisted over the next year by three staff/consultants with extensive behavioral health experience and knowledge.

Shannon Sommer, BSW (Athabascan) is our clinical director with 12 years clinical and 10 years behavioral health services management and health administrative experience.

Valerie Naquin, M.A., has 20 years V.P. level and behavioral health administration experience; 10 years in a clinical setting.

Dana Burgan, MSW, (Cherokee), has 11 years clinical experience at director and consultant levels.

Suzanne Price has seven years of director level experience.

All of these staff and consultants have extensive experience in the behavioral health field coupled with experience in the Northern Region.

### Programmatic Changes

FNA has revamped the entire division to integrate the latest evidence of effectiveness in the behavioral health field, integrating evidencebased and culturally responsive practices in all treatment units.

Our efforts over the next year are guided by a strong strategic plan to assure the division has all the necessary systems in place to sup-

port client recovery.

### Our Guiding Principles:

- Continuum of care is culturally resonant. Culture informs practice.
- Strength based: Build upon client strengths.
- Outcomes based: Outcomes are basis for practice.
- Client-directed: Clients direct their treatment.
- Recovery oriented: Recovery principles guide practice.
- Evidence-based: Care informed by evidence that is culturally based.

### Treatment Practice: System of Care

The System of Care provides allied support services during treatment to maintain long-term recovery. Supports include physical and mental health, child welfare, legal and social services.

### Evidence-Based Practices:

All programs are integrating Motivational Interviewing, Case Management, Contingency Management, and Illness Management. Each program is guided by strong cultural responsive practices.

This year's new initiatives: Development of Recovery Support services, enhancement of services for Women and Children, Adolescents, and Homeless (as grants become available).

### Continuum of Care includes:

- ◆ Enhanced Detox, alcohol and drug detoxification, m/f, 16-bed capacity.
- ◆ Ralph Perdue Residential Services adult, m/f, 12-bed capacity.
- ◆ Women and Children's Center for Inner Healing, women and their children; Early Head Start on-site, 10-bed capacity.
- ◆ Graf Rheeneerhaanji, adolescent (11-18) treatment, co-ed, 12-bed capacity.
- ◆ Outpatient Services, m/f, treatment capacity: 40 adults.

### Fairbanks Native Association

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### FNA's Mission

We provide our membership and the greater Fairbanks community quality services in a professional manner. These services are provided through special and innovative programs, which preserve the membership's unique lifestyle and culture, while improving the quality of life for the community.

Steve Ginnis, Executive Director  
Doreen Deaton, Deputy Director  
Duane Hoskins, Director of Finance  
Rhonda Howard, Director of Human Resources  
Perry Ahsogeak, BHS Director  
Carrie Lucas, WCCIH Program Director  
Suzanne Christenson, Graf Program Director  
Mary Willey, Head Start Program Director  
Angela Foster-Snow, Early Head Start Program Dir.  
Shirley Williams, PAT Program Director  
Freda Williams, Community Services Program Dir.  
Louise Glynn, FASAP Program Director  
Linda Woods, Johnson O'Malley Program Director

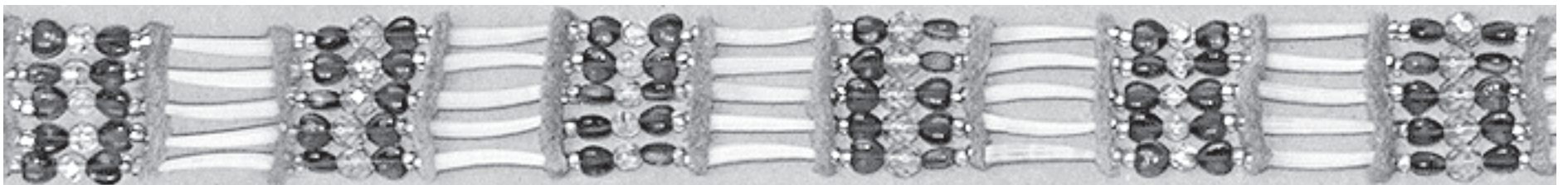
### Interior Democrats support FNA's health awareness program



Steve Ginnis accepts a \$500 donation from Angelee Lloyd, a representative of the Interior Democrats. Each year, the political group uses a portion of its proceeds from gaming funds to support the work of area non-profit organizations. FNA, the Food Bank and KSUA, the student-run radio station at UAF, were among six recipients of the funds. Democratic Party groups in other parts of the state make local contributions from gaming funds in a similar fashion. According to Ginnis, the money will be used to support an upcoming Community Wellness Gathering.

It is not flesh and blood but the heart which makes us fathers and sons.

— Johann Schiller



## 47th Annual Potlatch draws big crowd, smiling faces all around

On March 20, we held the annual potlatch at the tribal hall. For hours before the event, cooks and helpers tended moose soup over open fires. Victor Joseph, TCC's health director, took the lead in assuring the food was well prepared.

Food, however, was only one of the attractions that drew several hundred people to the event. Entertainment was provided by the scheduled activities: the Baby Pageant, the Princess Pageant, and the Miss FNA Pageant.

Among the babies presented to the audience by their parents or grandparents, Julianne Kaitlin Arkell was a standout and voted the winner. She's the 21-month old daughter of



Mallory Wilson and Dale Arkell, Jr. and connected to the Kaltag Tribe. She wore a

Mitza'hoolaanh made with rabbit, moose, fox and beaver, created by members of her family and friends. Julianne is the granddaughter of Margaret and Tom Wilson.



The program also included a fashion show of garments designed and modeled by members of the Carlo family. Kim Carlo, pictured here, gained everyone's appreciation for her stylish presentation and the parka's best use of color, applique,

wolf ruff and matching mittens.

Chelsea Semaken was crowned Miss FNA 2010. The judges determined she has the quali-



fications to represent FNA as a model for youth throughout our community.

Chelsea's Athabascan name is Nilaatogha, 'I work good with my hands'. She's the 18-year-old daughter of Diana and George Yaska and connected to the Kaltag Tribe. In a personal essay she wrote, "I love kids; I want to create more activities to get children away from drugs, alcohol and bad influences."

Chelsea is employed as a secretary at FNA.

## FNA election results (the board is a nine-person panel, elected on staggered three year terms) Membership votes to retain one board member while electing two newcomers to the policy making panel; Carlo welcomes new members



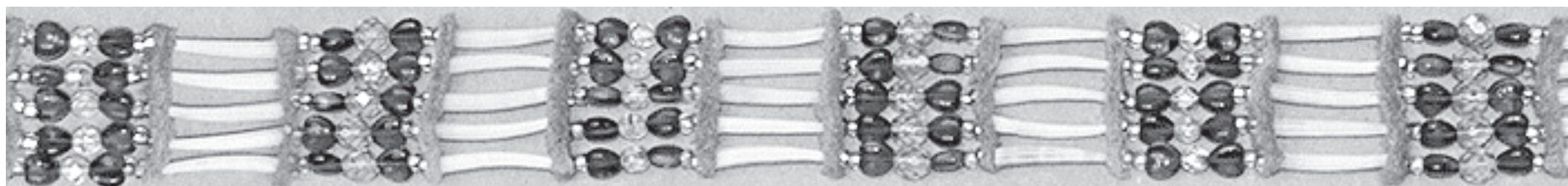
Audrey Jones



Glenn Carlo



Ray Dewilde



## FNA Princesses in review at Annual Potlatch



Completing the royal family, FNA's princesses and their escorts found words of encouragement and nodding smiles from elders and parents in attendance at the tribal hall event. From L-R: Shyanne Frerichs, Kalila Matheson and Tessa Wallis. These young women support and assist Miss FNA in her duties and responsibilities.

## Eye-catching winter fashions get focus at potlatch



Poldine Carlo serves as an FNA board member; she's a valued figure in our community. Her family wardrobe has the advantage of years of experimentation in what works and why. The featured garments fulfill the needs of functionality while also being easy on the eye. As demonstrated by Seeyaa' Charpentier, Poldine's granddaughter, and Stephanie Sweet, a pretty parka is more than skin sewing. The audience had access to a small catalog of garments owned by Poldine and created by Helen Opealuk and Agnes Ostlund. Titled *The Carlo Collection*, the catalog is a series of photographs of Poldine and members of her family wearing traditional clothing, summer and winter. The sampling left many viewers curious and eager for more.

## Johnson-O'Malley Basketball Tournament highlights



The level of skill and practice at this year's event was impressive. The physical activity, nurtured and encouraged by volunteers coaches, serves these youngsters well. Working for the team, exceeding expectations; individuals build strength, confidence and determination. Want a better world? Teach basketball.

This year's JOM tournament was dedicated to the memory of Curtis Demoski. Curtis was the 11-year-old boy who died tragically on the Chena River the evening FNA was holding its Annual Meeting a short distance away.

Curtis played basketball and had participated in earlier JOM tournaments. We chose to honor him, and all little children who leave home too soon. Tournament shirts, worn by all players, displayed his name in tribute.

Much thanks goes to the staff and volunteers who create the event each year. Niki Guthrie, Martha White and Linda Woods plan for contingencies and run an inclusive program. The roster of players draws from nearby villages, many from Fairbanks, and others from as far south as Anchorage.

To learn more about JOM basketball, and its other family programs, contact the staff: 3100 S. Cushman St., Fairbanks; Ph: 452-1648.

