

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

August 2011

"The story as it's told."

Volume 13 • Number 8

Storm Causes Extensive Damage in Lake Lena



Photo courtesy of Sid Lucas

Straight-line winds damaged trees in Lake Lena on July 1. The Mille Lacs Band will develop a re-seeding plan to help replace the trees damaged by the storm.

Around 7:30 p.m. on July 1, severe winds hit Lake Lena in District III at an estimated 111-135 miles per hour. Straight-line winds and a potential EF2 tornado caused extensive damage, leaving people without power, water, land line or cell phone service, and a way out of the destruction.

"It was an absolute disaster," said Diane Gibbs, District III Representative, describing the downed trees and power lines that blocked roadways and invaded some houses. "We are grateful that we had no Band member deaths or serious injuries."

Following the storm, local Band members, the Band's Department of Natural Resources and Department of Community Development, and local authorities came together to respond. In some instances the help did not come quickly enough, as some people with health issues were out of power when they needed oxygen, or trapped at home when they needed medications or dialysis. Others needed baby formula and

edible food, since refrigerators and stoves were not working.

"Three trees were down in my yard after the storm, and more were still snapping over. There were even power lines holding up trees," said Lake Lena resident Bonnie Matrious.

Another resident, David Taylor, was at the home of his grandmother, Beatrice Taylor, when the storm hit. He, Bonnie and others went to check on neighbors when the storm ended. "It felt good to see everyone come together," David said. "People care, and you know you have good neighbors when things like this happen."

Response and challenges

"People in the immediate area pulled together very quickly," Diane said. "They worked side by side and didn't wait for direction. But it really helped when other responders arrived with equipment and resources."

There were understandable and unanticipated challenges that led to some of the issues with the

response. For instance, the Pine County Sheriff's Department was hampered when its main radio tower lost power and the generator stopped; the tower was down until midnight. In the meantime, the department took 117 fire and medical calls that evening, according to Sheriff Robin Cole during a July 7 interview on WCMP in Pine City. "It was an emergency response nightmare," he later told the *Pine City Pioneer* (July 13).

The Pine County Sheriff's Department also had to tread carefully to ensure emergency responders' safety.

Brad Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band, had members of his forestry crew ready to respond at 9 p.m. on July 1. He was asked to wait until local officials could make sure that there were no live power lines to endanger the rescuers. This delayed the DNR's forestry and land maintenance staff until the early morning of July 2.

Sid Lucas, the Band's director of public safety, lives in Lake Lena. "I immediately got my chain saw to assist others in clearing a path into the community," he said. "The most important job was to gain access to everyone, so that we could make sure they were safe."

Blocked roads made it as difficult for residents to get out as it did for responders to get into Lake Lena. That left many people stranded without electricity for several days, which meant they could not keep food refrigerated or frozen and could not cook very easily. Bathing and flushing toilets were also difficult.

Yet many people never complained. "One woman caring for her small grandchildren stayed patient and never even called for help," said Diane. "She got resourceful in finding water to flush toilets, and cooked what she could on her grill to feed them."

Other people who got out sooner were put up in hotel rooms 30 miles away at Grand

(Continued on page 2)



Photo courtesy of Sid Lucas

Severe weather damaged trees at the home of Sid Lucas, director of public safety and a District III resident. The storm caused extensive damage throughout Lake Lena.



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

www.millelacsband.com



Printed on 100% recycled paper

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRAINERD, MN
PERMIT NO. 472

Storm Causes Extensive Damage in Lake Lena



Toya Stewart Downey

Lake Lena resident Bonnie Matrious (right) checked on Alvina Aubele (left) and other Band Elders after the storm to make sure everyone was safe.

(Continued from page 1)

Casino Hinckley, to the extent possible. Since the storm hit during the Fourth of July weekend, not many rooms were available. Furthermore, the Red Cross disaster centers that were set up after the storm were located in Markville and Cloverdale, Minnesota – both too far from Lake Lena to be of much assistance.

FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assessed the storm damage in Lake Lena on July 15. The final assessment will help determine how the federal government may help cover the repair and replacement costs that exceed the Band's insurance coverage.

Sheriff Cole told the *Pine City Pioneer* that state disaster aid is doubtful, as \$6 million in damages is the assumed threshold for a disaster declaration. Tree losses do not count toward that amount, and property damages will likely fall under the threshold. About 12 homes were damaged, as well as property at the Pine Grove Leadership Academy.

Next steps

"We need to do a better job of responding to incidents like this," Diane said after the emergency subsided in Lake Lena. "Emergency response is never easy, but I know that we can be more efficient and effective. Band members depend on us."

As a result, Band officials are in the process of reviewing and improving the Band's emergency response plan. Sid says the Band is also making sure it is technically ready for another incident like this: "We had a large generator that wasn't connected to the well head at the community center. If it had worked, we would have at least had well water available."

The Band is still working on cleanup efforts and is moving into the longer-term repair/replace phase. Trees and brush are being hauled to the local baseball field and community wood piles. Some of the material will be used for firewood, while the remainder will be burned later this year to prevent it from becoming a fire hazard. A re-seeding plan will need to be developed to help replace the hundreds of acres of trees that were lost in the storm.

In addition to the Band improving its plan before the next incident occurs, Monte Fronk, the Band's emergency management coordinator, encourages individuals to be ready. "We should all keep flashlights and batteries at our homes. We should have non-perishable foods, bottled water, and a family safety plan. Get an inexpensive weather radio, so even if you don't hear sirens, you will know severe weather is approaching," he suggested at the District III community meeting in July.

Mii gwech

"Mii gwech to all of the community members and responders who came together, helped each other, and continue to help get this community back to normal," Diane said.

Special thanks goes to everyone who helped cut and remove trees from roadways after the storm, including Percy Benjamin, Tim Benjamin, Sid Lucas, Richard Martin Sr., Jay Martin, Lionel Richey, Roy Shabaiash Jr., Tom Snyder, and Wally St. John. Thanks also to Katie Draper and Shelly Peer at the community center, Band DNR and Community Development Department staff, Steve Hoburg, the District III tribal police office, and the American Red Cross.

Toya Stewart Downey contributed to the reporting of this article.

Mille Lacs Youth Make United Showing at Tribal Conference



Photo courtesy of Justin Beaulieu

Chief Executive Marge Anderson and 15 Mille Lacs Band youth took part in the United National Indian Tribal Youth conference in July.

More than 1,000 American Indian youth, including 15 from the Mille Lacs Reservation, attended the 2011 UNITY conference in Minneapolis. UNITY, which stands for United National Indian Tribal Youth, is a nationwide organization designed to empower tribal youth by fostering their mental, physical, social, cultural and spiritual growth.

"The Mille Lacs Band had one of the largest representations of youth at the conference," said Justin Beaulieu, director of the Band's Boys and Girls Clubs. "We're very proud to have so many kids who are thinking ahead to bettering themselves and their tribe through great opportunities like this."

UNITY conference participants discussed the major issues affecting tribes today, including health, families, culture, education, economic development, the environment, and tribal governments. They attended an education and career fair, and heard from government and economic leaders.

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson and Red Lake Nation Chairman Buck Jourdain were among the speakers. Buck referred to Marge as a mentor, and told the audience that the Mille Lacs youth were lucky to have her support and guidance.

Marge quoted President John F. Kennedy in her address, telling the youth, "To those whom much is given, much is expected."

"He was talking to me," Marge said. "And he also was talking to you, our next generation of American Indian leaders. You have been given a rich tribal heritage – rich enough to endure generations of hardship. UNITY, the organization that you have helped build, exists to help you

gain the knowledge and skills to live up to what is expected of you."

Message from President Obama

A video message from President Obama was also played at the UNITY conference. He challenged the youth to take the Native American Youth Challenge.

Youth who have sought to improve their communities are encouraged to submit their stories in any of the following areas:

- Education, mentorship and afterschool programs;
- Sports, nutrition and fitness;
- Health and wellness, including youth suicide prevention;
- Substance abuse prevention;
- Healthy relationships;
- Anti-bullying and personal empowerment;
- Language and culture preservation;
- Arts and crafts;
- Emerging leadership in government service; and
- Economic and community development.

"The Boys and Girls Clubs in each district are brainstorming projects and stories to submit to the Native American Youth Challenge," Justin said.

The submitted stories will be considered to feature on the White House website, and one outstanding group of Native youth will be invited to the White House this fall during Native American Heritage Month.

Submissions are due on September 30, 2011. To get more information or submit an idea, contact Justin at Justin.Beaulieu@millelacsband.com or 320-532-7586.

Band Member Completes D.C. Internship



Photo courtesy of Carla Big Bear

Mille Lacs Band member Carla Big Bear with the U.S. Capitol in the background.

Carla Big Bear, a student at St. Cloud State University, recently completed her internship and course work in Washington, D.C. She was one of 16 American Indians from across the country who participated in the Semester in Washington Politics Native American Political Leadership Program.

"I decided to apply so I could learn more about the relationship between the tribal and federal governments, and

to see if I was suited for a career in law," Carla said.

During her semester in Washington, she took classes on electoral and legislative processes and a practicum on political management. Her internship was at Holland & Knight, a law firm that represents the Mille Lacs Band at the federal level. Her responsibilities as an intern included making phone calls to Congressional members' offices, running errands to the Capitol, doing research, and input on issues related to the Band.

Carla also built on her understanding of other tribal cultures.

"Even though every tribe is different, just like every state is different, building a diverse tribal network is invaluable," she said.

Carla is currently working toward a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and also works for the Band's grant department.

Safety Concerns Prompt Parking Rule Enforcement

By Todd Matha, Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe cares about the safety of its members, especially our young children. Unfortunately, what may seem like a petty parking rule in front of Grand Market could have serious consequences if violated.

Parking is not allowed in front of Grand Market at the section of the curb that is painted red. This area is clearly marked with "No Parking" signs. When

visibility is blocked by illegally parked cars in that area, children may not be seen by drivers.

To avert a potential tragedy before it happens, the Mille Lacs Tribal Police will be strictly enforcing the "No Parking" zone starting in August. Violators will be fined \$20.

Thank you in advance for helping create a safe and welcoming environment at Grand Market.

Heating, Water, and Home-Related Maintenance Problems

If you live in a Mille Lacs Band housing maintained home, please call our customer service representative for maintenance service in your district during regular business hours at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please call 866-822-8538. Press 1, 2 or 3 for your respective district.

Back To School

Nay Ah Shing

As the 2011-2012 school year is about to begin, the Band's Nay Ah Shing Schools are gearing up to welcome back students on August 25. It is also family orientation day on August 25. Parents or guardian can stop by Nay Ah Shing High School's front office to register and verify the student's address or call 320-532-4695.

You must bring along a copy of the student's birth certificate and social security card to register at any of the schools.

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy's new school year will start on August 8. The charter school, which holds classes throughout the year, is still accepting enrollments. To enroll, call Noah Johnson at 218-768-3477.

Pine Grove Leadership Academy

Classes will begin on August 29 for Pine Grove Leadership Academy's 2011-2012 school year. To enroll in Pine Grove, contact Melanie Benjamin at 320-384-7598.

Head Start for three- to five-year-olds

If you are looking for a fun, educational environment for your three- to five-year-old child, please contact the Head Start Program in your district for more information.

- District I: 320-532-4690
- District II: 218-768-3311
- District III: 320-384-7162

Please note that your child must be age three by September 1, 2011, in order to register for Head Start. The first day of Head Start begins on September 6.

Schedule your child's physical exam

Each child in Early Head Start/Head Start needs to have a physical with immunization updates and a dental exam before starting school. When making the appointment, you will need to state that the exam is for Early Head Start/Head Start to ensure that all requirements are met. A parent or guardian must accompany each child to these exams.

Please note, Mille Lacs Early Education's routine vision, hearing, heights and weights are scheduled for September 21 and 22. The program will also do lead and hemoglobin tests during this time.

For more information, contact one of the clinics listed below, or call Gaylene Spolarich or Berd Przybilla at 320-532-4690 for assistance.

- Ne-la-Shing Clinic: 320-532-4163
- East Lake Clinic/Community Center: 218-768-3311
- Aazhoomog Clinic: 320-384-0149
- Mille Lacs Health System: 320-532-3154

Immunizations required

The following immunizations are needed to start school this fall in all Minnesota schools.

Kindergartners must have:

- Five diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) immunizations
- Four polio immunizations
- Two measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunizations
- Three-dose Hepatitis B series
- Varicella immunization
- Four doses of HiB vaccine, which protects against HiB disease that can cause meningitis, throat swelling, and infections (recommended, but not required)

Seventh graders:

- Two measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunizations
- Updated diphtheria and tetanus (DT) immunizations
- Three-dose Hepatitis B series
- Varicella immunization

Parents: Please note that the varicella immunization, also known as the chickenpox vaccine, is not required for students who have already had chickenpox. If your child has had chickenpox, please send the school nurses an approximate date of when your child had it. Also, please contact your clinic to schedule Hepatitis B shots for any child who has not yet had them. If your child has started but not finished the series of shots, your clinic can simply finish the series.

All students must have their immunizations up to date and on record with their school.

Band Elder Natalie Weyaus Shares Culture and Preserves History



Toya Stewart Downey

By Toya Stewart Downey

Though she's had a few different careers, Band Elder Natalie Weyaus believes she is now doing what she was always meant to do as the director of the Band's Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

"I know how important this job is to our people," said Natalie, 64. "We are preserving our history and our lands. We're making sure that our history isn't lost. We make sure that our burial grounds are safe and that our gathering areas are protected."

Natalie, who has been in her role as a tribal preservation officer for 11 years, knows how significant it is that the Band established such an office. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office was created in 1996 and is within the Department of Natural Resources.

"The Mille Lacs Band and the Leech Lake Band were two of the first 12 tribes to establish these

offices in the United States," she said. "The Band developed its own statutes to regulate our nation and help protect our way of life."

Natalie believes she was offered the job because she had a strong knowledge of tribal laws from her time as an associate magistrate and as Chief Justice for the Band. She also brought her own lifetime of knowledge and experience.

Natalie grew up on the reservation and lived in a house behind where Grand Casino Mille Lacs now sits.

"Our house was where the playground is, and we walked to our school, Vineland Elementary, which was where the government center is," she recalled.

After graduating from Onamia High School, Natalie moved to the Twin Cities, where she worked for a dry cleaning business. Two years later, Natalie returned to the reservation and eventually married Robert Weyaus. The couple had five children together.

Tragically, Robert was killed in a car accident in 1979, when the couple's youngest child was just four months old. Natalie's role as a homemaker for her young children became her primary focus until they began school.

She then went to work as a teacher's aide in the public school system. After a while, Natalie decided to pursue her bachelor's

degree in elementary education. She graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1989.

"I thought I'd get back into teaching, but then I was asked to be an associate judge for the Band, so I agreed to that," she said.

Natalie served in that role for about four years. While serving as an associate judge, Natalie also taught high school math and science. From there she moved into her role as Chief Justice. She later worked with the Band's Department of Health and Human Services and dealt blackjack for the casino off and on over the years.

"I did all of this as a single mom," she said. "I would send the kids to school, and then I'd go to school and be home by suppertime."

When the position of tribal historic preservation officer opened up, Natalie applied. It's a decision she's never regretted.

"I brought my own knowledge to the job, but since that time I have learned so much from others. We all learn from each other, and we share our cultures and traditions. That's one of the parts I like the most," said Natalie, referring to her interactions with other tribes.

Some of the things her office does include:

- Monitoring undertaking of federal agencies within the boundaries of the reservation

- Preserving the language, collections, culture, and traditional places of the Band
- Consulting with neighboring tribes on cultural places within the tribal lands
- Writing grants to support cultural preservation efforts
- Corresponding with federal agencies to request tribal review and consultation
- Overseeing a compliance officer and contracted archaeologist

One of her recent passions has been converting old footage from the Sherman Holbert collection to DVDs in an effort to preserve the 1950s footage that shows Band members dancing at the old powwow grounds and participating in activities such as gathering rice. She would like to use that same footage to create a documentary on gathering and harvesting rice.

Natalie answers Band members' questions about cultural practices, but adds, "I refer them to the Elders who know these things better than I do. I try to help when I can, but I don't consider myself to be an expert."

Natalie still lives on the reservation. She enjoys spending time with her 10 grandchildren, golfing, sewing, walking, reading, storytelling, learning Ojibwe, visiting with Elders, and researching her family history.

Know Your Child Support Rights

The Mille Lacs Band's new Tribal Child Support Enforcement Program assists Band members through the legal process of child support, including helping determine child support obligations and enforcing those obligations. The program opened this summer.

The Child Support Enforcement Program differs from county programs in several ways. The program reviews child support cases annually to determine increases in living costs, while the state and counties do this biannually. The program also offers on-site paternity testing.

The Band's program counts per capita payments as income to calculate the child support owed. Because county

programs do not calculate this figure, you might not be getting the full amount of child support you are owed.

While county programs charge several application and collection fees, the Band's Child Support Program does not charge these fees.

The Child Support Enforcement Program office is located in the lower level of the government center. The office is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information, contact the Child Support Enforcement Program at 320-532-7755 or visit the Band's website (www.millelacsband.com) and click on "programs and services."

Mille Lacs Band Hosts National Night Out

With everything from inflatable games to karaoke, National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2, will be a night of family fun for all ages. The festivities will begin at 7 p.m. at the government center.

The night will include a barbecue, karaoke provided by John and Sara Clemons, and hayrides courtesy of Dan's Catering Service. There will also be inflatable games, including a climbing wall, boulder dash, wrecking ball, carousel bouncer, and screamer slide.

During the evening, the Mille Lacs Band firefighters will face off against the Garrison firefighters in a waterball fight. Spectators of the waterball fight could get caught in the crossfire.

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police, Onamia ambulance crew, and the Garrison fire department will display their emergency vehicles for kids to explore.

If you plan to attend, bring your own lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. One beverage will be provided per person, but you may also want to bring additional beverages to stay hydrated throughout the night.

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department is hosting National Night Out, with assistance from Bugs Haskin, Nay Ah Shing athletic/activities director.

For more information, contact Officer Josh Kimball at 320-532-4181.

The Boys & Girls Club Enjoy Fun Summer Activities



Photo courtesy of Justin Beaulieu

Members of the Boys & Girls Club played lacrosse in District II East Lake.



Photo courtesy of Justin Beaulieu

The District II East Lake Boys & Girls Club visit a local nature center.



Photo courtesy of Erik Parsons

Donald Acuna, Ross Beaulieu, and Nici Fronk ride The Wave at Valleyfair with the District IIa Isle Boys & Girls Club. Thanks to Darlene Day and the Parent Advisory Committee for sponsoring the event.



Photo courtesy of Erik Parsons

Noah Sablan, Valerie Mitchell, and Quincey Sam played mini golf in Brainerd with the District IIa Isle Boys & Girls Club.



Photo courtesy of Weylin Davis

The District III Boys & Girls Club held a family barbeque in July. One of the activities students took part in were the balloon races.



Photo courtesy of Weylin Davis

District III Boys & Girls Club workers also take part in the family barbeque activities.



Photo courtesy of Weylin Davis

Band member Cedric LaFave participated in the District III Boys & Girls Club youth dance competition. The next dance competition will include Boys & Girls Clubs from each district on August 11 at 5 p.m. at the Lake Lena Community Center.



Photo courtesy of Erik Parsons

District IIa Boys & Girls Club members wait in line for the Wild Thing at Valleyfair.

Assistance Program Caters To Unique Needs of American Indians

By Toya Stewart Downey

American Indian families who live in the Twin Cities and are seeking assistance in becoming self sufficient have a strong resource in the Mille Lacs Band department of labor program.

The department of labor combines Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Native Employment Works, and other job placement and training program funds to create a comprehensive set of employment services and supports.

Established in the urban area in 2005, the program serves Mille Lacs Band members as well as other Minnesota Chippewa Tribe members – Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, and White Earth.

Though the programming has only been offered in the Twin Cities for the past six years, the Band's program has existed since 1999.

Low income tribal members who live in Hennepin, Ramsey and Anoka counties are eligible for training and education support services and medical, food, and cash assistance services offered at the urban location.

Currently the department of labor program in the urban area serves 125 clients. In the past year it has served about 240 people.

Alberta Loso, office manager for the department of labor in the urban area, knows that more American Indian families could be served if they knew about the program and all it has to offer.

One of the greatest strengths of the Band's program is that it caters to the unique needs of American Indians, said Brenda Beaulieu, a former job developer for the urban office who now works in District I.

"Native people know what the needs are of other Native people, and we know the cultural needs," said Brenda. "We're able to provide a more personal touch and a personal atmosphere."

Prior to having access to the program's resources, families relied on their respective counties when seeking public assistance. Their cultural beliefs were never a factor in

the conversations with case workers.

That is one of the key discussions that the staff at the urban office has with its clientele, Brenda said.

"We're not replacing the state program, but we're here to help Native families succeed," Brenda said.

The 11-person staff is also pushing their own agenda to help program participants achieve success and self-sufficiency. One way they do that is by promoting education and post-secondary education, Alberta said.

"We figure out what we can do to help," said Alberta. "We encourage them, and we try to get our clients to learn new skills."

That's because after an individual has received public assistance for five years, they're no longer eligible.

Those enrolled in the program are responsible for being active participants by conducting job searches and getting an education or some other type of training. They can receive assistance from the staff as often as needed.

"We like to see them monthly, but some we see more often," Alberta said. "Here our clients aren't just numbers, they're people and they matter to us, so we want to keep up with them."

Besides helping clients find jobs, the program in the urban area wants to help clients keep their jobs. Participants can also seek job referrals or additional training if needed, Brenda said.

"What we like to do is help clients succeed and transition off of the system," said Brenda. "This program isn't one that will fork over the dollars, but we do want our clients to use our program and meet their goals."

"With the state you have to fight for the right for benefits," Brenda said. "We understand the generational poverty and the cycle of hopelessness that happened with tribal members. We'll assist in ending that cycle of poverty and welfare."

For more information about the application process or to ask questions, call the department of labor office in Minneapolis at 612-746-4800.

TRIO Student Support Services available at Central Lakes College

Central Lakes College offers TRIO Student Support Services to help students easily transition into college life, achieve academic success, complete associate degrees, and smoothly transfer to a four-year institution.

Support services available include academic and financial advising as well as access to technology, career information, campus visits, and transfer plans to four-year institutions.

To participate in these services, you must be a legal

U.S. citizen or resident enrolled in Central Lakes College as a first-generation college student, low-income student, or a student with a documented disability.

For more information, contact Megan Olson, TRIO Student Support Services advisor for the Mille Lacs Tribal College campus, at 218-855-8045 or molson@clcmn.edu. Megan will also be at Mille Lacs Tribal College for Central Lakes College EZ Enrollment on August 3.

Dorothy Sam Receives Human Rights Award



Photo courtesy of the Mille Lacs Messenger

Mille Lacs Band Elder Dorothy Sam was recognized in July for her commitment to the Band as a lifelong advocate for American Indian rights. The Mille Lacs Area Human Rights Commission presented Dorothy with its Human Rights Award, honoring her dedication to helping others and preserving the Ojibwe language and culture.

Dorothy was a long-time Band employee, serving as Chief Justice for many years and working to help those who struggle with chemical dependency. "Dorothy inspires the community with her constant compassion for all ages, races, and any other status," said Amanda Nickaboine, a human rights commission member who presented her with the award.

The Mille Lacs Area Human Rights Commission, established in 2005, works within the Mille Lacs area communities to promote civil and human rights; eliminate hate, prejudice and discrimination; and create a community that embraces diversity. Each year the commission recognizes individuals who strive to make this mission part of their daily lives.

Band Member Shoots A Hole in One



Photo courtesy of Black Bear Casino

Mille Lacs Band member Arlene Weous shot her first career hole in one during the Black Bear Annual Golf Tournament on July 16. She was rewarded with a 2011 F150 Ford pickup truck for her ace. The Black Bear Annual Golf Tournament is one of the largest Native American tournaments in the Midwest. This year, the tournament hosted 41 women's and 116 men's teams.

Internship Program Opens Doors for Band Youth

The Mille Lacs Band's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is providing 63 young American Indians with hands-on job experience this summer. The students have been placed in positions in the Band's tribal government departments, Band-owned businesses, and other local businesses.

Olivia Killspotted, who is 21 years old, is working at the District II early education program as a part of SYEP.

"I like being a role model for the kids in the Head Start program," said Olivia. "It's exciting watching them grow even in such a short time."

Olivia, who is in her sixth year of the program, is interested in studying early education at Fond du Lac Community College.

"Working with kids in the early education program has given me more insight into what it takes to be an early education teacher," she said. "These kids help keep me focused."

Waylon Moose, who will be a senior at Hinckley-Finlayson High School, is spending time this summer as an outdoor maintenance worker at the Ojibwe Language and Culture Center in Rutledge.

"This job and SYEP have been a great learning experience for me," said Waylon, who is planning to go to college after he graduates from high school.

A recent graduate of Mora High School, Adam Graham-Hansen is now working at Grand Auto & RV Care as a part of SYEP. Adam helps change the oil and check tire pressure of vehicles brought into the shop.

"This program has provided me work experience that I can put on my resume," said Adam, who plans to start at Fond du Lac Community College in the fall.

In addition to gaining hands-on job experience, the students learn leadership skills and can receive help with resumes from the Band's department of labor.

"SYEP is an important opportunity for American Indian youth to receive hands-on experience in the workplace," said Candace Shaugobay, SYEP facilitator. "Our youth are going to be the leaders of the future, and we need to help them develop the teamwork and skills that it takes to serve the community in a good way."

Fitness Programs Encourage Band Members to Stay Active



Photo courtesy of Jim Ingle

Two participants in the Mid-Summer Fun Run/Walk took a break after completing the race.

The Mille Lacs Band Fitness Program Mid-Summer Fun Run/Walk in June helped Band members and employees stay active and enjoy the gorgeous summer weather.

A total of 75 people from all districts ran or walked the three-mile course. The Tribal Police Department helped keep the course safe for the participants. Nearly 60 people also participated in the fitness program's conditioning/wellness program for a month before the race.

One of the run/walk participants was Ginger Weyaus, executive director of the Health and Human Services Department. In the spring, Ginger and some of her coworkers decided to become more active.

"Before we started training for the run/walk, we weren't very active," said Ginger. "But the weather was starting to get nice, so we decided that we should be active outside."

At the beginning, Ginger could only walk one mile at a time. Now she is walking three miles at least five times a week. Ginger also does Zumba, a dance program on the Wii, three to four times a week.

"Once I started walking, I started feeling a lot healthier. I had more energy and wasn't quite as tired after I got home from work," said Ginger.

Ginger encouraged her family to walk with her. "Walking became a part of our nightly routine," she said. "We would walk two miles each night after dinner."

Now that the fun walk is over, Ginger plans to keep exercising with the help of Jim Ingle, fitness coordinator. Each week she checks in with Jim, who gives her exercise tips and helps motivate her.

Walk Around Mille Lacs

If you are interested in exercising and staying in shape, the fitness program is currently sponsoring the tenth annual Walk Around Mille Lacs challenge.

During the months of July and August, participants are walking a total of 120 miles during the program – an average of two miles per day. This is approximately equal to two laps around Mille Lacs Lake.

For more information about Walk Around Mille Lacs and other fitness opportunities, contact Jim Ingle at 320-532-7547.

State Budget Passed Without Gaming Expansion

By Jamie Edwards, director of government affairs

After months of budget negotiations and a record-breaking 20-day government shutdown, the Minnesota Legislature and Governor Dayton compromised on a new budget. The final budget does not include gaming expansion.

The Mille Lacs Band is very pleased that we successfully defended our businesses against gaming expansion this session. Mii gwech to all of the Band members who signed up to help the Band oppose gaming expansion this year. Hundreds of our supporters contacted state legislators and wrote letters to the editor. These efforts helped spread the message to state leaders that gaming

expansion would hurt our region and not result in a net financial gain for the state.

Despite our success during the 2011 regular and special legislative sessions, the issue of gaming expansion will continue to confront us in the months and years ahead.

If you have not yet signed up to support the Band and Grand Casinos in our opposition to gaming expansion, please sign up now by going to www.millelacsband.com and clicking on "Action Center." After you sign up, you will receive important updates about gaming expansion discussions and may be asked to voice your opinions to state legislators at key times.

District III Forms Softball Teams

By Katie Draper, District III administrative assistant

After winning the Band's softball tournament last fall, District III community members decided to put together two softball teams.

The men's team plays weekly games in the Siren Ball Park League in Siren, Wisconsin. The 12-person team has a 2-8 record and is eagerly anticipating the playoffs in September.

Tony Benjamin is the team's captain. He said that he is proud to bring community members together to play softball. More than half of the

team is younger than 18 years old.

The women's team plays weekly in the East Central Softball League in Pine City. Thirteen women play on the team. The team, which has a record of 6-10, is hoping to make it to the state championship tournament in August in Fosston, Minnesota.

To pay for uniforms and league fees, the teams did some fundraising. District III Representative Diane Gibbs matched the teams' fundraising efforts. Chi mii gwech to Diane for believing in us.

Protect Your Home From Fire

By Richard Hill, housing department general manager

A house fire can strike at any time, especially when more people are at home during the summer. Below are some simple ways that you can help protect your home and your family from a fire.

Smoke alarm audit

Test your smoke alarms to make sure that they work and can be heard throughout the house. Replace alarms that are more than 10 years old.

Make extinguishers handy

Place a UL-listed fire extinguisher in an easily accessible location. Replace or recharge the gauge located on the extinguisher if necessary. Read the directions and familiarize yourself with how to use your fire extinguisher, so that you're ready in case of an emergency.

Talk to your kids

Talk to your kids about how they can prevent fires. Instruct them to not play with matches, lighters, candles, or electrical cords. Teach them how to stop, drop and roll if their clothes catch on fire. Look at your home from your child's perspective to see if there are any potential fire hazards.

Avoid overloading sockets

Check your electrical outlets to check if they are over-loaded with cords. Hire a professional to install extra outlets if yours are overloaded.

Remember to always carry some type of fire insurance for your belongings whether you own or are renting. This will help replace any personal belongings that may be lost in a fire.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

	June 2011		
	Approved budget for FY 2011	Actual expenditures through 6/30/11	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	12,512,723	7,895,944	63.1%
Workforce*	14,866,610	3,405,087	22.9%
Judicial	674,669	447,518	66.3%
Law enforcement*	5,285,989	3,515,783	66.5%
Education*	15,904,714	11,224,681	70.6%
Health and human services*	29,852,292	19,463,182	65.2%
Natural resources*	5,066,261	3,147,642	62.1%
Community development*	41,506,345	10,621,681	25.6%
Gaming authority	4,844,746	3,296,192	68.0%
Bonus distribution	37,039,940	34,795,915	93.9%
Economic stimulus	2,910,000	2,908,000	99.9%
Total expenditures	\$170,464,289	\$100,721,625	59.1%

Financial notes:

- (1) Administration includes Chief Executive, administration, finance, Solicitor General, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- (2) The amounts above do not include casino operations. However, they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
- (3) The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has its financial statements audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center.
- (4) Economic development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997. As of October 1, 1997, the Band has separate accounting functions for the Corporate Commission and the tribal government.

* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2010 fiscal year.

Veterans Shelter Expands Services

The Gladys Ray Shelter, named after a Mille Lacs Band member, has expanded its services for homeless veterans through a partnership with the Veterans Affairs Health Care System. In May, the shelter, located in Fargo, opened a veterans drop-in center to better meet veterans' immediate needs.

The center provides showers, food, laundry, mail, job search programs, and other services for veterans. The center will also work to fight homelessness by centralizing services and programs available for veterans.

The late Gladys (Shingobe) Ray served in the U.S. Army Women's Medical Corps and worked at the Veterans Affairs Regional Medical Center in Fargo. Gladys helped develop Indian education programs for the Fargo Public Schools, the F-M Indian Center, Nokomis Child Care Center, and many other organizations.

Upcoming Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

51st birthday celebration

Come and visit the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and help celebrate the historic site's 51st birthday on Saturday, August 6, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Kids craft workshop

Children can decorate a shoulder bag while learning the art and culture of the Ojibwe. Please allow an hour to make the ring. This project is recommended for children six years or older.

The workshop costs \$7 per kit and will be held on Saturday, August 6 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Porcupine quill jewelry workshop

Learn the techniques of working with porcupine quills. Participants will make earrings, necklaces, and hair ties out of the quills. This class will be held on Saturday, August 13, from noon-4 p.m. and Sunday, August 14, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Open house

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post will open for special hours and offer free admission on Sunday, August 21 during its open house. The museum will be open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fun run

In conjunction with the Mille Lacs Band annual powwow, the Mille Lacs Indian Museum will host a fun run on Sunday, August 21, at 9 a.m. The start of the race begins at the powwow grounds and is a free event.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy August birthday to:

Rachel Sam, 29, on August 2 with love from Kelly, Jay, Kellen, mom, June, Taya, Noah, Deek, Jen, Wesley, and Barbara Jo • **Taya Rose Sam-Sablan**, 11, on August 20 with love from Auntie Kelly, Jay, Kellen, Grandma Tracy, mom, dad, Noah, Deek, Jen, Wesley, and Barbara Jo • **Sam Burr**, on August 27 with love from Kelly, Jay, Kellen, Tracy, Rachel, June, Taya, Noah, Deek, Jen and Wesley • **Carla BigBear**, on August 27 from Kelly, Jay, Kellen, mom and Papa Scott • **Alberta**, on August 5 from Dawn • **Derek Murphy**, on August 8 from Dawn • **Jeremy Drumbeater**, on August 15 from Valerie • **George Jackson Sr.**, from Sandy, Cheryl and Thomas • **Patricia Jones**, on August 20 from Sandy, Cheryl, Thomas and grandkids • **Shayna Dakota**, from your family in Minneapolis • **Masceo Jackson**, from your family in Minneapolis • **Jack Daniel**, on August 2 with love from Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek Jr., mom, Frances, Simon, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Donny, Joey, Sheila, Jim, Bruce, Nettie, Mary, Bean, Dante, MayMay, Shawsha, Soul, and DayDay • **Papa Fronco**, on August 9, with love from DeaLayna, Stone, Derek Jr., Maysun Jr., Frances, Shawsha, Soul Son, and Daymon • **Shawsha Kay Shingobe**, 5, on August 16 with love from mom, Selena, Bean, Dante, Soul, May, grandma, DayDay, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek Jr., Frances, Rae, Joe, Simone, Donny, Joey, Sheila, Jim, Nettie, Bruce, and Jack • **Ricki Boswell Jr.**, 1, on August 8 from mom, dad, Antwaun, Laila, Baby Wax, Meatball, Grandma Francis, Franny, Snooki, Nee-Ma, Davis, Marlow, Cheyenne, Jaabaag, Leslie, Elaine, Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Eva, Jon, Faith, and everyone on Henry Davis Drive • **Justin (Wax) Mitchell Jr.**, 6, on August 28 from mom, Antwaun, Laila, Meatball, Nee-Ma, Mitzi, Ricki Jr., Jaabaag, Mick, Franny, Marlow, Cheyenne, Byron, Grandma Francis, Snooki, everyone on Henry Davis Drive, Debbie, Carmelena, Mataeo, Jade, Jessica, Sean, Brandon, and Amber • **Mahtao Nelson**, on August 15 from grandma and grandpa • **Reuben Gibbs**, on August 20 from grandma and grandpa • **Caraiah LaFave**, on August 22 from grandma and grandpa • **Cedar and Cedric LaFave**, from grandma and grandpa • **Denise Pike**, on August 31 from your family • **Laiaunna**, on August 11 from Rachel and Waylon • **Sharon**, on August 6 from Rachel, Waylon, Melodie Ra-quel, Raven, and Wallace • **Tony**, on August 6 from Rae • **Shante**, on August 23 from

Rae • **Mick**, on August 20 from Rachel and Waylon • **Dreilly**, on August 12 from Rae and Waylon • **Brad**, on August 15 from Rachel, Waylon, Raven, Melodie, Sharon, and Karen • **Jay**, on August 16 from your bros and sisters, and Rachel and Waylon • **Lils**, on August 30 from Rae and Waylon • **PJ**, on August 5 from Rae and Waylon • **Patrick**, on August 7 from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Eva, Jon, and Faith Harmonie • **Susan**, on August 9 with love from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Eva, Jon, and Faith Harmonie • **Deangelo**, on August 15 with love from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Eva, Jon, and Faith Harmonie • **Dad**, on August 11 with love from Tyson, Tiffany, Eva, Jon and Evelyn • **Grandpa**, on August 11 from Evan and Jazmyn, Maccoonz, and Faith Harmonie • **Ali Kegg**, on August 16 with love from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Eva, Jon, and Faith Harmonie • **Tierra**, on August 26 with love from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Eva, Jon, and Faith Harmonie • **Auntie Bunny**, on August 9 with love from Mary and kids, Rachel and kids, Danielle and kids, Jim, and Bruce • **Jordan Anderson-Garbow**, 14, on August 20 from daddy • **Bernadette**, on August 9 from Vera • **Robert Mitchell**, on August 1 from Carmelena, Bulla, Mataeo, Debbie, Sean, and Brandon • **Carmelena Mitchell**, 9, on August 27 with love from Grandma Deb, Papa, Mataeo, Sean, Jessica, Daddy Brandon, Amber, Peaches, Chongo, mom, Royce, Luciana, and Kiera • **Destiny Mitchell**, 9, on August 28 from Debbie, Carmelena, Mateo, Luciana, Keira, Sonya, Royce, Jade, Jessica, Sean, Brandon, and Amber • **Jade Racelo**, on August 19 from Beebahs, Peekaboo, Chongo, Peaches and Kitty • **Aubrey**, on August 16 with love from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Eva, Jon and Faith • **Dawn Habeck**, on August 3 with love from Mary, Jerome, Brenda, Rome, mom, dad, Jay, and your children • **Timmy St. Clair**, on August 5 with love from Mary, Jerome, Brent, Taryn, Brenda, Rome, Ed, Miss Veronica, Matt Hunt, Chell, Baby Cam, dad, Auntie Nan, Larry, dad, and the rest of your family • **Brenda Bedusky**, on August 9 with love from mom, dad, Lucas, Rome, Jerome, Brent, Taryn, Nancy, Larry, Ed, Tim, Miss Veronica, Chell, Baby Cam, Fran, Trista, Paris, JR, Roberta, and the rest of your family • **Kira Sianna**, on August 5 with love from mom, Wakuta, Renae, Zachary, Jerry, Ashley and kids, and Smokey • **Gram Kim & Papa Brad**, on August 15 with love from Mariah and Kevin • **Clarence (Tarz) Boyd**, from Judy, Rod, Valerie, Samantha, Sarah, and all the greats •

Dayaunna, 8, on August 3 from grandma and grandpa • **Beef Cakes**, from Slicey Boy Sam, Sonya, Keira, Luciana, Mataeo, and Carmelena • **Barbara Jo Bearheart**, on August 21 from Sami Thomas and family • **Jaylene Rose**, on August 10 from Barb • **David Shaugobay**, on August 11 from Marlys, Anthony, Richard, Rachel, Kelia, RaiLei, Jeremy, Candi, Cyrell, and Janice and family • **Daven**, on August 11 from Kelia and RaiLei • **Janis J.**, on August 15 from Marlys, Richard, Rachel, Jeremy, Kelia, RaiLei, Candi and Cyrell • **Janice Shaugobay**, on August 27 from David, Marlys, Anthony, Richard, Rachel, Candi, Cyrell, Kelia, RaiLei and Jeremy.

Happy August birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Joe Anderson Jr.
Joyce Benjamin
Viola Buck
Rose Bugg
Joseph Crown Jr.
Geraldine DeFoe
Roger Dorr
Shirley Evans
Violet Ewert
Lorena Gahbow
Joseph Garbow
Mary Garbow
Roger Garbow
Carol Hernandez
Bernida Humetewa
Donna Iverson
Kathleen Johnson
Rueben Merrill
James Mitchell
Carol Mojica
Jacqueline Moltaji
Elmer Nayquonabe
Joseph Nayquonabe
Carol Sam
Darlene Sam
Karen Sam
Janice StandingCloud
Charles Sutton
Irvin Sutton
Marty Thomas
Russell Thomas
Joanne Weyaus
Leonard Weyaus
Richard Weyaus
Bonita White
Dale Wind
Michael Wind

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Carolyn Shaw** for earning your bachelor's degree in management through the College of St. Scholastica, with love *from Bod, Chelsea, Kierra, Joseph, Samantha, Nick, Arielle, Jenai and Jayla*.
• • •
Congratulations to **Judith and Michael Shaugobay-Hirsch** who were married on June 17, 2011.

Congratulations to **Snooki and DLK** on your engagement.
• • •
Congratulations to **Molly and Scott Judkins** on your 7th wedding anniversary.
• • •



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Shaw

Congratulations to **Nicholas and Arielle Shaw** on their marriage on July 9, 2011, with love *from mom, Bod, Chelsea, Kierra, Joseph, Samantha, Jenai and Jayla*.
• • •

Congratulations to **Eva Sam** for graduating from high school, with love *from mom, Tyson, Tiffany, Jon, Faith, dad, Evelyn, Evan, Maccoonz, Jazzy, and Grandpa Lenny*.
• • •

Congratulations to **Athena Sagataw** for graduating from high school, *from Lenore, Eva, Tyson, Tiffany, Jon, and Faith*.
• • •



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Merrill

Congratulations to **Suzanne B. Merrill (Nickaboine) and Daniel J. Wise** who were married July 2, 2011 at the Mille Lacs Band Community Center in District I. Their children, Kassandra, Meghan, Alexandra, Tyler and Riley were the bridesmaids and groomsmen for the wedding. Suzanne's parents are Lawrence (Butch) (deceased) and Carol Nickaboine and Daniel's parents are Gerald and Kathi Wise.

They would like to thank their families and community members that helped before, during and after the ceremony.

(Continued on page 10)

Bikers Ride in Charity Event



Photo courtesy of Jason Long

Members of the “Mi-ah-zerts” team prepare for the MS 150 Ride, which raises money for research about multiple sclerosis. The team has been participating in the race for 14 years.

This story is a part of the “Proud Campaign” series, which is designed to highlight individual and community accomplishments. In the coming months, the Inaajimowin will feature stories that answer the question, “What have you done today to make you feel proud?”

By Toya Stewart Downey

The idea of riding a bicycle across 150 miles of Minnesota trails would be a daunting challenge to most people. Gilda Burr felt the same way.

Still, four years ago Gilda accepted the challenge to join other Band members and Band employees who spend one weekend each year riding their bikes to raise money for research about multiple sclerosis during the MS 150 Ride. Multiple sclerosis, commonly referred to as MS, is a chronic, often

disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system.

“It is a mental challenge as well as a physical one,” said Gilda, who works in the Band’s tribal courts office.

Gilda considers her efforts a personal accomplishment and not one that she wants to boast about.

“It’s all about raising money for MS,” said Gilda, whose husband, Tracy, also joins her during the annual trek.

The couple is a part of the “Mi-ah-zerts” team, which was formed 14 years ago. Each year the team joins thousands of Minnesotans who participate in the ride.

Jason Long, dean of students for the Nay Ah Shing Schools, has been on the team for 13 years.

“A lot of us have a direct contact with family members

who have MS,” said Jason. “I have two cousins that are affected by the disease.”

He got involved when former Nay Ah Shing Principal Eric North and Ray Jackson, a teacher at the lower school, recruited him.

The size of the team changes from year-to-year, but typically there are six to eight riders.

“Some years we train together. Other years we don’t,” Jason said. “Some of us don’t get on our bikes until the ride, while others train on a regular basis.”

“Gilda and Tracy Burr work out all the time,” he continued. “Tracy even ran the Grandma’s Marathon a week later.”

This year’s ride was June 11-12. It started at Proctor High School in Duluth. The group spent the night at Grand Casino Hinckley and then finished in White Bear Lake.

The team typically raises between \$2,400 and \$5,000 for the event. According to the national website, the Minnesota chapter raised approximately \$2.7 million during the Bike MS: C.H. Robinson Worldwide MS 150 Ride. Nearly 3,500 riders participated.

Another Nay Ah Shing teacher, Roz Hoff, has been a part of the team for the past five years as a rider and as one of the support crew.

“I started because my mother, Shirley Hoff, has been diagnosed with MS for the past 17 years,” said Roz. “Even though my mom can’t ride, (due to the progression of the MS she always uses a walker), she supports our team

by holding a garage sale for MS in St. Cloud every summer.”

“Whatever she makes, she gives to us to use to help with our fundraising efforts,” Roz said.

Since she started riding, Roz has recruited two friends to ride as well as her husband, Shane Lee, the lower school’s physical education teacher.

She didn’t ride this year because she had a baby three months prior to the ride, but instead served on the support crew along with Larry Hansen, a science teacher at the upper school.

“It’s a fun ride and it feels good to know that our efforts are helping to find a cure for this debilitating disease,” Roz said.

Jason says he’s committed to the cause for the long term.

“I enjoy doing it and I can do it,” he said. “It’s always the one thing on my schedule during the first or second week of June that I know I will do. I know that my body will be connected to a bike.”

Participants

Band employees who have ridden in the MS 150 Ride include Corwin Graikowski, Julie Benjamin, Tracy Burr, Gilda Burr, Berni Johnson, and Jodell Meyer. Current Band members who have ridden include Ray Jackson, Jason Long, Shane Lee, Roz Hoff, and Dawn Nuvayestewa. Support staff for the bikers have included Bugs Haskin, Jim Ingle, and Larry Hansen.

Some names may have been unintentionally omitted.

Tribal Noteboard

(Continued from page 9)

Thank you

Thank you to our friends and family for their thoughts and prayers during **Irene Jones** funeral. A special thank you to the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for helping our family in our time of need.

In memory

In memory of **Gina Sam Reese** and **Jack Sam** whose birthdays are on August 3. Sadly missed by the Sam family in Isle.

Birth announcements

Congratulations to Tyson Sam and Tiffany Kingbird on the birth of their baby girl **Faith Harmonie Kingbird-Sam**. Faith was born on June 2. She weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz., and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Lenore Potter,

Curtiss Sam, Gina Kingbird, and Wayne Kingbird Jr. Great-grandparents are Lenny Potter Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Kingbird Sr.

Congratulations to **Chrissy Ballinger and Loyn Davis** on the birth of their baby girl who was born on July 12, with love from *Heather, Daniel, Thomas, Judy, and Mylz Virnig*.

Obituaries

Adam Nayquonabe

Born – 9-3-1989

Died – 7-1-2011

Lived in Onamia, MN

Irene Jones (Shaugobay)

Born – 2-4-1934

Died – 7-2-2011

Lived in Onamia, MN

Travis Martin

Born – 3-14-1985

Died – 7-3-2011

Lived in Sandstone, MN

Nay Ah Shing Drum and Dance Group Perform for Tribal Leaders



Photo courtesy of Rene Athman

Minnesota tribal leaders and members of the Minnesota Department of Health met at Grand Casino Mille Lacs in July. The meeting opened with a performance by the Nay Ah Shing drum and dance group. Performers sitting at the drum are (from left to right) Marquis Fischer, Thomas White, Tyler Nayquonabe, Jason Boyd, and Eddie Nadeau.

Fun in the Sun With Early Education Students



Photo courtesy of Cindi Cooley

The Early Education Fourth of July Parade featured toddlers dressed up as princesses, firemen, clowns, trains and more. Head Start teacher Brandi Wynn and teacher assistant Katie Geyer help the kids prepare for the parade.



Photo courtesy of Cindi Cooley

Toddlers in District I early education classroom D ride with their teacher Renee Huberty in the Early Education Fourth of July Parade.



Photo courtesy of Cindi Cooley

An early education student plays with animals at the Pine Grove Zoo in Little Falls during an early education field trip.

Band to Survey Members on Broadband Service

The Mille Lacs Band has received a planning grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to conduct a survey to determine Band members' access to broadband service. Watch your mail for the survey in early August.

The results of this survey will help determine if there is a need for expanded service in the Mille Lacs Reservation area.

Broadband is high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access.

Nay Ah Shing Food Programs Exceed Federal Guidelines

By Deborah Foye, Nay Ah Shing School nutrition services coordinator

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed new guidelines for school food programs that will increase the amount of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables served at meals, limit the number of starchy vegetables served each week, and lower the amount of sodium in meals.

Nay Ah Shing School and Mille Lacs Early Education menus will experience little change, because their food programs already incorporate whole grains in each meal, offer a daily salad bar, serve a variety of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, avoid adding salt to school-made soups and entrées, and have lowered fat and sugar content in dessert items.

As a part of educational and nutritional programming, the schools have planted four gardens for the past three years with a variety of fruits, vegetables and herbs. During the summer months the day care students help tend the garden, weeding, watering, and harvesting product. The fruits of our labors are then used as taste testing sessions as well as incorporated into the students' meals. The students have shown much enthusiasm for the gardens.

As a precaution, the schools urge students and families to avoid bringing any products containing nuts or pineapple into the buildings, as these

items could compromise the health of students and staff. Each school provides meal alternatives for children with food allergies. If your child has an allergy, please contact Deborah Foye, or any of the school nurses for a special diet statement form.

Free meals

All students are served free meals regardless of household income. At the start of each school year families are encouraged to fill out and return the Application for Benefits form, which is necessary for state reimbursements to the food program. All information is strictly confidential and will not be shared with anyone.

If any family members would like to join their K-12 student(s) for breakfast or lunch, tickets can be purchased at the school's front desk for the price of \$3 for breakfast, and \$4 for lunch. Early Education parents are always welcome to eat with their children in their classrooms.

Please remember that both schools are not "safe" and the Abinoojiyag school is also pineapple "safe". Please do not bring any products containing nuts or pineapple into the buildings as this could compromise the health of some of our students and staff.

If you have any questions regarding meals, applications, or special diets, please contact Deborah Foye, nutrition services coordinator, at 320-532-4690, ext. 2213.

Family Services Department Surveys Band Members

By Suzanne Wise, Mille Lacs Band family services social worker

The winner of the Pendleton blanket for the Mille Lacs Band family services survey is Adrienne Benjamin. MLB family services went to every district within the last few months and asked the community members to answer questions about how they felt family services was doing as a department and ways they can

improve their service delivery to the families of the Mille Lacs Band. Each person that filled out a survey had a chance to win the blanket. Family services is grateful for all the community members who filled out the survey and is taking all the suggestions and improvements under consideration. The data gathered will be submitted in a later issue of this paper. Mii gwetch!

Mille Lacs Band Breaks Ground on Early Education Building



Kelly Sam

Mille Lacs Band Head Start and Early Head Start students helped break ground on the Band's new early education building in District I.

The Mille Lacs Band broke ground in July on a new building for the early education department. The 47,600 square-foot building, which will be located adjacent to the District I Community Center, will accommodate approximately 200 students ages 0-5 years old.

The new building reflects the growing demand for the Band's Head Start and Early Head Start programs, which integrate Ojibwe language and cultural instruction into the standard curriculum. The program currently serves 117 students in District I, with 70 children on the waiting list.

"Education is one of the Mille Lacs Band's highest priorities. At a time when many school districts have had to make hard cuts, we are humbled to have the opportunity to invest in the future of our youth and our education system," said Dennis Olson, Commissioner of Education.

The Band's early education department is a combination of six programs: federal Head Start, Minnesota Head Start, federal Early Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education, and Early Childhood Special Education (provided in partnership with the Onamia Public Schools), and child care.

The new early education building will include 17 classrooms, a gymnasium, large motor play areas, spaces to serve family needs, and integrated storm shelters.

The building will also feature a cultural room where Elders will teach Ojibwe traditions, including drumming, dancing and crafts. The design incorporates cutting-edge green building techniques, including natural lighting and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

The Band is funding the majority of the \$9.5 million construction project. Additional funding is provided by the federal government through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Early Head Start grants.

"The Band has a history of creating new jobs and energy in our region. This project builds on that momentum," said Sam Moose, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Community Development.

The project will create between 75-100 construction jobs. To fully staff the building, the early education department will need to hire 21 new positions.

"Education begins at an early age," said Chief Executive Marge Anderson. "This new building will give us the resources to educate the next generation of Mille Lacs Band leaders."

W. Gohman Construction Company, based in St. Joseph, is the general contractor for the project. The early education building is scheduled to be completed in August 2012.

GED Exam Offered at Mille Lacs Tribal College

The Mille Lacs Band's department of labor and tribal college are facilitating an official GED exam at the Mille Lacs Tribal College on Wednesday, August 10, and Friday, August 12, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The GED exam is a series of five subject area tests. A new edition of the GED exam is scheduled to be released in January 2014. This means that test takers will need to pass all five subject area tests before 2014. Otherwise previous test takers will be required to retake the entire GED exam.

The series of tests costs \$60 per person. If you are retaking individual tests, each test costs \$12. If an agency is funding your GED exam, the series of tests costs \$80 and each individual test costs \$16.

If you are interested in taking the exam on August 10 or 12, you must register with Melissa Lupinek, chief examiner, at 320-223-3826 or 763-689-6230.

GED scholarships

Mille Lacs Band members and first generation descendants may be eligible to use educational enrichment funds for test fees.

Educational enrichment funds are available once per fiscal year. To be eligible, you must be age 18 or older.

Application forms are available in the education section of the Mille Lacs Band's website (www.millelacsband.com).

For more information or to determine if you qualify for this scholarship, contact the Tribal College Scholarship Office at 320-532-3702.

Mille Lacs Band members, first generation descendants, and other federally recognized tribal members could also be eligible for the Band's Department of Labor GED preparation program. This program pays for eligible participants' GED exam fees.

To enroll in the GED program, contact Deb Campbell at 320-532-7811.

USDA Rural Development Offers Tribal Housing Loan Programs

USDA Rural Development offers two home financing programs for low-income tribal members who meet the program requirements. The programs are designed to improve the overall housing environment on Minnesota reservations.

The home repair program allows participants to make essential home repairs, such as window and furnace replacements, roof improvements, and siding refurbishment, with special financing options.

Loans of up to \$20,000 are available at a 1% interest rate

and repayable in more than 20 years for those who qualify for home repairs. Also, up to \$7,500 in grants are available to homeowners over the age of 62.

The direct home loan program helps qualified low-income tribal members achieve home ownership with interest rates as low as 1% after a payment subsidy.

To learn more about these programs, eligibility requirements, and the application process, contact the USDA Rural Development office in Cambridge at 763-689-3354, ext. 4.

Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, August 12**, at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, call 320-532-4163. Walk-ins are welcome. We will do our best to serve you.

Hearmore Hearing has offices in St. Paul and Osseo. To schedule an appointment Monday through Friday, call the St. Paul office at 651-771-4019 or the Osseo office at 763-391-7433.

Golf Tournament Raises Money for Elders



Photo courtesy of Molly Judkins

Band members (from left-right) Greg Miller, Joe Nayquonabe Sr., Pete Nayquonabe, and Stan Nayquonabe line up their shots at the Chief Executive Elder Golf Tournament.



Photo courtesy of Molly Judkins

Band Elder A.J. Nickaboine tees off during the Chief Executive Elder Golf Tournament on June 18 at Grand National Golf Course.

Chief Executive Youth Golf Tournament Rescheduled

The youth golf tournament hosted by the Chief Executive office is rescheduled for September 18 at the Grand National Golf Course.

Shotgun starts at noon. Please call 320-532-7486 if you have any questions or would like to enter a team.

Discounted Telephone Services Available

CenturyLink (formerly Qwest) offers two special assistance programs which provide discounts on initial telephone installation and basic monthly telephone service to low-income tribal members who qualify.

CenturyLink's Link-Up program helps pay up to 50% on the initial cost of installing your home telephone service.

If you already have a home phone, you may still qualify for Lifeline, a service that saves consumers up to \$35 per month on basic services.

Individuals living in a CenturyLink service area should call 800-366-8201 or visit www.centurylink.com/lifeline to find out both program's eligibility requirements.

Nay Ah Shing Students Attend American Indian Business Leaders Camp



Photo courtesy of Nay Ah Shing School

The YES! Camp was held at Central Lakes College on June 27. The students who attended were Lashelle Boyd, Sage Boyd, Isabel Sanchez, Savannah Boyd, Shyla Lussier, and Teyha Wade. René Athman, AIBL advisor; Mary Simon, Nay Ah Shing principal; and Laurie Campbell helped chaperone the students.

Six junior and senior high school students from Nay Ah Shing attended the second annual Yes! Camp, an American Indian Business Leaders camp hosted at Central Lakes College in Brainerd. The camp is designed to inspire and encourage American Indian students to become entrepreneurs.

At the camp, students were given hands-on training and skills to help them develop a viable business plan to open up a small gift shop at Nay Ah Shing School that would sell school clothing and healthy snacks. The students will continue to work on their business plan throughout the year in preparation for a competition against other tribal schools across the nation.

During the camp, several prominent business leaders

provided the students feedback on their business plan. These people included Andy Wells, a Band Elder and businessman; Dennis Olson, Band Commissioner of Education; Gail Jackson, Corporate Commissioner; Don Hickman, Initiative Foundation member; John Gunstad, Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation representative; and Larry Lundblad, president of Central Lakes College.

The camp concluded with a farewell message from Andy, who was recognized by President Obama for his entrepreneurial leadership and giving spirit.

The Yes! Camp is sponsored by Central Lakes College, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Nay Ah Shing School, and the Initiative Foundation.

Cell Phones for Soldiers

By Toya Stewart Downey

It's not uncommon to upgrade to a new cellular phone and cast the old one aside.

Instead of letting those old phones collect dust in a drawer, donate them to Cell Phones for Soldiers, says Andrew Boyd, an ecosystems and environmental technician for the Band's Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

"It's a great program that recycles materials in phones. The money that comes from what's recycled goes to purchasing phone cards for soldiers," said Andrew, who served in Korea in 1996.

To date, the national program has raised millions of dollars to purchase prepaid phone cards that are given to troops who are serving overseas.

In June, Brenda Mitchell, a summer youth worker for the DNR, shipped 70 phones to ReCellular, a company that pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone.

"These phones will help soldiers and their families communicate better," said Brenda, 14. "Parents who have kids in the military can't always talk to them. One phone call from their loved one means a lot to them."

Scott Hansen, environmental programs manager for the DNR, calls it a "convenient recycling program that is beneficial to military troops and their families. We want to continue to promote the program as much as we can."

To donate old phones, go to the DNR offices at 45380 U.S. Highway 169 in Onamia. For more information, call 320-532-7439.



Ojibwe Culture and Traditions



Moccasin Telegraph

Ceremonies for children



By Lee Staples, Cultural Advisor

The following article appeared in the September 24, 2003, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with the Messenger’s permission.

As Anishinaabe people, we have been given many ceremonies that are meant for our children. Bringing these ceremonies back to our community is critically important. They give our youngsters that feeling of belonging, embracing the spirit of who they are as Anishinabe and enhancing the feeling of being loved/cared for.

Four days after birth, a ceremony is held where the baby’s little feet touch the earth for the first time and an offering is made thanking the Manidoog (spirits) for giving the baby that wonderful gift of life. The tobacco, which carries our messages to those powers, allows the baby to be formally introduced and acknowledged in that world.

At birth, when the umbilical cord is cut, a piece of that cord is left behind on the baby’s navel that forms into a scab. When this piece falls off, the parents would place it in a pouch with tobacco. This memento from the birth of the child would always be kept and remain with the child throughout life.

Within four months of birth, a namesake ceremony, where the baby is given an Anishinaabe name, would be held. I always tell our Anishinaabe people that our English names do not have a meaning in the spiritual world, and that an Anishinaabe name is necessary to better connect us to that world. Each of the parents selects an equal number of individuals for the baby’s namesakes. They are told not to rule out anybody whose name comes to mind as a namesake or the spirit of the child would not be at peace as a result. This ceremony should

not be delayed for the same reason, or the baby will act out or cry, asking for it to be done.

Only those individuals in our community who have been given a gift of either a dream, a vision, or another means of contact with one of the powers can give an Indian name. This gift of theirs serves as a guiding force in their lives. It is from what they were shown that the name comes forward for the child. And, in turn, those powers out there enjoy hearing the Anishinaabe name given since its original source came from them. There is much depth to this ceremony where a transfer of spiritual help is made available for the child’s future, which comes from the guardian spirits of the namesakes. Go about our community and listen to the Anishinabe names already out there. Then in your mind, try to imagine what it was that the name giver was shown in a dream or other contact with that world. I can guarantee that you will be amazed when you totally understand this.

The Anishinaabe name that I carry is Obisan ni gishig, which means “calm or quiet sky.” The four individuals that came to mind as namesakes through my parents were not given the gift to give names and honored that. Therefore the name I carry is the one given to the oldest of my namesakes. He transferred the name and spiritual help that went with it at the time of the ceremony.

As it was meant to be, I had a special relationship with my namesakes, one of very deep respect that went both ways. I could always count on them gifting me with special attention, being very protective of me and giving me a token of their affection whether it be food or money. Children need that extra attention, and certainly that was given to me.

Space will not permit me to cover all the other ceremonies for our children. I also want to talk about the importance of the role modeling – how the old people who raised me reflected their strong attachment to our teachings in their everyday lives. All of these ceremonies and role modeling made it very clear to me that I was a part of our Anishinaabe community, that I belonged and was cared for both on a human and spiritual level. As I journeyed out in life and took the detours that created problems in my life, I always knew I had a place to go for healing and to mend my ways. This is what this upbringing provided for me. Our children of today need that.

Band Member Attends Immersion Camp



Photo courtesy of Ivy Vainio

Sawyer, Minnesota, resident Sarah Agaton Howes (Fond du Lac Ojibwe) teaches Duluth resident Yolanda Boyd (Mille Lacs Ojibwe) how to make moccasins at the 3rd Annual Nagaajiwanaang Ojibwe Language Camp.

Summer Ojibwemowin

Summer is the perfect time to brush up on your Ojibwe language skills. Below are some Ojibwe words and phrases that you could use this summer.

- Asaawe: perch
- Ogaa: walleye
- Ginoozhe: northern pike
- Giigoonh: fish
- Ininaatig: maple tree
- Asemaa: tobacco
- Jiimaan: boat
- Mawinzo: s/he picks berries
- Miskomin: raspberry
- Niibin: summer
- Zagime: mosquito

I hear the ogaa (walleye) are biting on Mille Lacs Lake! Have you caught any ogaa?

What is your favorite giigoonh (fish) to catch in the summer?

Is one of your least favorite things about niibin (summer) getting bit by zagime (mosquitos)? How do you avoid getting bit by a zagime?

The weather reports project clear skies and warm temps for the weekend, perfect weather to take out the jiimaan (boat) on Mille Lacs Lake.

Recipe of the Month

Wild rice bread

Ingredients

- 3 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 1/2 or 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 packets active dry yeast or 2 tablespoons
- 2 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup fat-free milk
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 cups cooked wild rice

Directions

- In a large mixing bowl, combine the whole wheat flour, 1 cup all-purpose flour, yeast, and salt.
- In a small saucepan, heat the water, milk, butter and honey so that the butter melts. Take care not to boil. Cool mixture to less than 120 degrees.

- Make a well in the dry flour/yeast mixture and add the lukewarm liquid mixture. Slowly incorporate the dry mixture into the liquid mixture stirring with a large wooden spoon. When mixture is mostly combined, add wild rice and enough remaining all-purpose flour to form a stiff dough.
- Knead for 6-8 minutes. Spray mixing bowl with cooking spray and place dough back in bowl, turning the dough so its entire surface has been coated lightly with cooking spray. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 45 minutes.
- Turn dough onto lightly floured surface; divide in half. Let rise until doubled, about 40 minutes.
- Bake at 375 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until golden brown.
- Makes 2 loaves

Calendar of Events						
August 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <div>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting 5:30 p.m. Contact: Melanie Benjamin 320-384-7598</div>	2 <div>Onamia Indian Education Meeting Rolf Olson Center Noon Contact: David Sam, 320-532-4901</div> <div>National Night Out (See page 4)</div>	3 <div>Narcotics Anonymous Brick House 8 p.m. Every Wednesday</div>	4 <div>Talking Circles District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen 320-532-4046</div>	5	6 <div>Kids Crafts Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-4 p.m.</div>
7	8 <div>AMVETS Meeting Grand Casino Mille Lacs 6 p.m., Contact: Ken Weyaus 320-309-6925</div> <div>Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy first day of school</div>	9	10	11	12	13 <div>Porcupine Quill Jewelry Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m.</div>
14 <div>Porcupine Quill Jewelry Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</div>	15	16 <div>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting 4 p.m. Contact: Raina Killspotted 218-768-2345</div>	17 <div>District III Community Meeting Lake Lena Community Center 6 p.m. Contact: Katie Draper, 320-384-6240</div>	18 <div>Talking Circles District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen 320-532-4046</div>	19 <div>Mille Lacs Traditional Powwow (See page 16)</div>	20 <div>Open House Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-4 p.m.</div> <div>Hank Williams Jr.* Grand Casino Hinckley, 8 p.m.</div>
21 <div>Mille Lacs Traditional Powwow (See page 16)</div>	22 <div>All government offices closed for Mille Lacs Day</div>	23	24	25 <div>Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson 612-872-1424</div> <div>District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m., Contact: Jenny Waugh 218-768-3311</div> <div>Nay Ah Shing first day of school</div>	26 <div>Creedence Clearwater Revisited* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 8 p.m. each night</div>	27
28	29 <div>Pine Grove Leadership Academy first day of school</div>	30	31 <div>District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam 320-676-1102</div>	Sept. 1	2 <div>All government offices will close at noon</div>	3 <div>Don Williams* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 7 p.m.</div>
4	5 <div>All government offices closed for Labor Day</div>	6 <div>Early education first day of school</div>	7	8	<div>*To Purchase Tickets</div> <div>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800-745-3000, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</div>	<div>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651-292-8062 or write to Kelly at kelly@goffpublic.com</div>

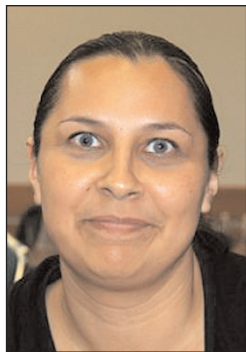
“What Is Your Favorite Part of Attending Powwows?”

Diane Nickaboine



“I’m a U.S. veteran and I’m really honored to bring out the colors every year at the powwows.”

Natosha White



“I just like to watch the dances. And I like the food.”

Athena Day



“I like to dance.”

Amy Doyle



“I like to watch the kids dance.”



45TH ANNUAL

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

TRADITIONAL POWWOW

AUGUST 19-21, 2011



GRAND ENTRIES:

FRIDAY – 7 PM

SATURDAY – 1 & 7 PM

SUNDAY – 1 PM

EVENTS:

PRINCESS & BRAVE CONTEST

BEST PARADE FLOAT CONTEST

BEST REZ CAR CONTEST

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

MOCCASIN GAME

FUN RUN (SPONSORED BY THE MILLE LACS INDIAN MUSEUM)

FREE: ADMISSION, CAMPING, SHOWERS, AND FIREWOOD (OFF-SITE FIREWOOD PROHIBITED)

LOCATION:

ISKIGAMIZIGAN POWWOW GROUNDS ON THE WEST SIDE OF LAKE MILLE LACS, 12 MILES NORTH OF ONAMIA ON U.S. HIGHWAY 169, FOLLOW SIGNS

ON SALE:

POWWOW T-SHIRTS & JACKETS

POWWOW BUTTONS

RAFFLE TICKETS

PRIZE 1: ATV

PRIZE 2: 52 WEEKS OF BINGO
AT GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS

PRIZE 3: CANOE

DRUM MONIES:

DRUMS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 5 SINGERS. ALL SINGERS MUST PERSONALLY REGISTER WITH THEIR DRUM AND DESIGNATE ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO WILL COLLECT AT PAYOUT. AT LEAST 5 REGISTERED SINGERS MUST BE PRESENT AT THE DRUM DURING EACH ROLL CALL IN ORDER TO BE PAID FOR THAT SESSION.

FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS WELCOME:

LIMITED SPACE-RESERVE EARLY

CONTACT DENISE SARGENT AT 320-532-7854

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

FREEDOM PORTER 320-532-7539

MARY JO JENNINGS 320-532-5944

NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR FIREWORKS ALLOWED

SECURITY AND MEDICAL STAFF ON PREMISES

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR LOST/STOLEN ITEMS



FACEBOOK.COM/ISKIGAMIZIGAN

PRINTING DONATED BY GOFF PUBLIC - WWW.GOFFPUBLIC.COM

Brenda Mitchell



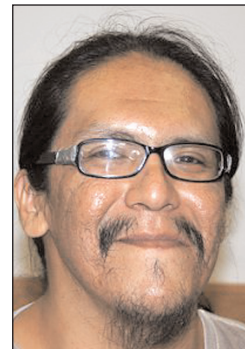
“I like all of the regalia and meeting new people. I’m the Nay Ah Shing High School Princess, so I’ll be dancing, too.”

Toni Sullivan



“I like the music and the dancing.”

Greg White



“The spirituality and togetherness of Indian people. It’s very powerful.”

Arlene Victor



“I love the sense of community and family. It permeates the whole weekend. Everyone is there to have a good time, lots of laughter and good spirits. It’s good being with your own people enjoying and embracing who we are.”

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey