

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

June 2011

"The story as it's told."

Volume 13 • Number 6

Mille Lacs Band Appoints New Officials



Todd Matha was sworn in as the new Solicitor General on May 2.

The Mille Lacs Band appointed Ho-Chunk Nation member Todd R. Matha as its new Solicitor General. He was sworn into office on May 2.

As Solicitor General, Todd will advise and represent the Mille Lacs Band on tribal, state and federal legal matters. He will also lead the Band's Department of Justice, which includes the Department of Public Safety and the Tribal Police Department.

Prior to his appointment with the Mille Lacs Band, Todd worked for the Ho-Chunk Nation in Wisconsin. He served on the tribe's Trial Court as an Associate Judge from 1999-2005 and as Chief Judge from 2005-2011. He will continue to serve as Associate Justice for the Ho-Chunk Nation Supreme Court.

"The Mille Lacs Band and Ho-Chunk Nation's tribal histories are strikingly similar. Both refused to leave their aboriginal territory and have

persisted as uniquely independent sovereign nations," said Todd. "My goal as the Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General is to continue to assert the sovereignty of the tribe."

Todd graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1996 and received a bachelor's degree from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania in 1991. Todd has a wife and a daughter, and is expecting a second child.

John Gerdener Commissioner of Finance

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has named John Gerdener its new Commissioner of Finance. He was sworn into office on May 16.

As Commissioner of Finance, John is the chief financial officer for the Mille Lacs Band's Office of Management and Budget. He is responsible for

the financial activities of the Band, including financial reporting, investments, tribal government accounting, and administering the Band's taxation activities, personal loan program, and burial insurance program.

"This is an exciting time to work for the Band as Commissioner of Finance, as we work to protect and enhance the Band's assets," said John.

Prior to his appointment with the Mille Lacs Band, Gerdener had his own financial consulting practice and held a senior leadership role in a large public accounting firm. Gerdener earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and his master's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin. He also is a certified public accountant.



Commissioner of Finance John Gerdener (center) was sworn into office on May 16. He is pictured with Secretary Treasurer Curt Kalk and Chief Executive Marge Anderson.

Photo courtesy of Gilda Burr

Special Session Looms

The 2011 Minnesota Legislature officially adjourned on May 23 without balancing the state's budget. This means that Governor Dayton will need to call a special session to pass a new budget, because the current budget expires on June 30. The state government will shut down if the Legislature and the Governor cannot compromise on a budget before July 1.

Gaming expansion remains a serious threat during the special session. Some lawmakers may turn to gaming expansion to help solve the state's budget problems.

Also, a proposal was introduced late in the regular session that would use racino money to fund new stadiums for the Minnesota Vikings and the St. Paul Saints. Another plan, which was introduced in the House of Representatives, would transform Block E in Minneapolis into a luxury casino.

Hundreds of our supporters have contacted their legislators over the past several weeks to urge them to oppose gaming expansion. These phone calls and e-mails have made a tremendous impact. We appreciate your continued support for the economic vitality of East Central Minnesota.



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

Q&A With the 2011 Nay Ah Shing Graduates

By Toya Stewart Downey

Courtney Boyd



What are your plans after graduation?

“To get a job.”

What will you miss most about Nay Ah Shing?

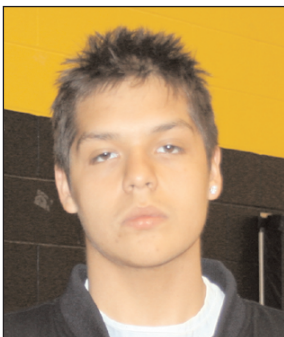
“My friends.”

At graduation you will give blankets to people who are significant to you. Who are they, and why are you honoring them

with a blanket?

“My dad, Rodney Boyd Sr., my mom, Louise Davis, and my grandma, Roberta Davis. My grandma is not here, but I just want to remember her because she’s here all the time.”

Jordan Todd Bellcourt



What are your plans after graduation?

“I’m going to Dunwoody College for graphic design.”

What will you miss most about Nay Ah Shing?

“My teachers.”

At graduation you will give a blanket to someone who is significant to you. Who

is that person, and why are you honoring her with a blanket?

“My grandma, Lorna Day, because she was the one who raised me.”

Jordan Boyd



What are your plans after graduation?

“I want to be a veterinarian.”

What will you miss most about Nay Ah Shing?

“Volleyball and basketball.”

At graduation you will give a blanket to someone who is significant to you. Who is that person, and why are you honoring her with a blanket?

“My mother, Beth Mitchell, because she wakes me up everyday.”

Band Members Graduate From Central Lake College



Mille Lacs Band member David Sam Jr. carried the Mille Lacs Band flag at the Central Lakes College commencement ceremony on May 12 in Brainerd. David received a diploma of occupational proficiency in automotive technology, and Band members Michelle Benjamin and Michelle Palomaki graduated with associate of arts degrees.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Head Start

Kelia Armstrong
Ariana Aune
Blade Bastedo
Jordan Beaulieu
Angus Benjamin
Anthony Benjamin
Nevaeh Benjamin
Binesii Berger
Amare Boyd
Cyrell Boyd
Jonathan Boyd
Sheldon Boyd Jr.
Storm Cash
Jeremiah Churchill
Avagail Davis
Georgianna Day
Jeffrey Defoe
Gabriel Gahbow Jr.
Jayla Harrington
Isaiah Jackson
Makiah Johnson
Myles Johnson
Cyliss Lafave
Niko LaFriniere
Landon Livingston
William Martin
Darnell Mitchell
Delilah Mitchell
Serenitie Morin
Chase Morgan-Stanley
Dysen Morrison
Carter Nayquonabe
Karli Nayquonabe
Sophia Oschendorf
Antavia Pendegayosh
Christina Pike
Kiyawna Reynolds
Leroy Sam
Albert Sam-Ladd
David Shabaiash
Priscilla Shabaiash
Joaquin Skinaway
Jenise Smith
Tammy Stanley
Alizea Taylor
Coral Taylor
Maria Villebrun
Leland Weyaus
Ronnie Weyaus
Tia White
Jada Wind

High school degree

Joshua Anderson
Lanayah Austin
Michael Barany
Jordan Todd Bellcourt
Jesse Bohanon
Alysia Boyd
Courtney Boyd
Jordan Boyd
Kristin Boyd

Chad Canfield
Sonny Deyhle
Breanna Enno
Aaron Flodin
Thomas Frolichman
Linnia Garbow
Chelsea Kevan
Corrin Locke
Robert Oswaldson
Athena Sagataw
Emily Sam
Chelsea Shaw
Tanya Skinaway
Skylor Weyaus

GED

Drew Anderson
Russel Balenger
Erlene Benjamin
Sean Bongo
Crystal Dorr
Melissa Dorr
Jeremy LaFromboise
Cassidy Sam
Sandra Shabaiash

Technical degree

Donna Eagle
Amanda Karsjens
William Peel

Associate of arts degree

Brandy Oswaldson
Ira Standing Cloud
Stephanie (Sam) Zuniga

Associate of arts & science degree

Samantha Craker
Julian Winiecki

Bachelor’s degree

LeAnn Benjamin
Nathan Churchill
Shelly Day
Connie DeMarsh
David Hanold
Bradley Roache
Samantha Sam
Valerie Sam-Harrington
Terra White

Master’s degree

Amanda Bruneau
Erin Bruneau
Casey Dorr
Joe Nayquonabe Jr.

Editor’s note: We apologize if we’ve missed anyone. To add a graduate’s name, please call Sami Thomas or Camille Smith at 320-495-3702.

Band Elders Participate in Wisdom Steps Walking Contest

By Toya Stewart Downey

When Band Elder Marie Gudim got a phone call asking if she wanted to participate in a walking contest, she readily agreed.

“I’ve been walking, exercising, and eating right for years,” said the 74-year-old Isle resident.

Marie is one of about 50 Band Elders who participated in a walking contest sponsored by the Wisdom Steps Healthy Living Activities Committee. The contest was held from February 1 to April 30.

Winners of the walking contest will be revealed in mid-June at the Wisdom Steps annual conference. The team with the most steps will win a grand prize. There will also be prizes for those in second and third place.

“It went really well,” said Renee Bruneau, a Health and Human Services Department staff member who coordinates activities at the assisted living centers. “I kept encouraging them and told them how proud I was of them, and they got out there and did it.”

To track their progress, the Elders wore pedometers everywhere they went. Some also participated in group activity days and walked around the gyms at the community centers.

“Through Wisdom Steps, we encourage Elders to take simple steps to healthy living,” Renee said. “At the conference and throughout the year, we teach them ways to better their own health and their own lives.”

Barb Benjamin-Robertson, the Band’s urban program administrator, thought the walking contest was a great way to get Elders more involved.

“It was exciting to recruit teams in the urban area – encouraging Elders to have fun

with the idea of this contest,” said Barb. “They came up with team names...crazy fun names indeed! This got them more involved and promoted team spirit.”

“Twenty-two teams registered for the contest statewide. We had four teams from the Minneapolis community,” she said. “The team names are pretty cool too – We Can Still Walk, Flying Eagles, Speed Limit 55+, and Gego Zaagaswaaken.”

“I participated on a Mille Lacs team called the Tiptoers,” Barb added.

“The teams consisted of Elders and their spouses from many different tribes, including nine teams from Mille Lacs,” Barb said. “At the conference, we’ll combine all of the total steps of the teams together and we’ll see how far we went around the world.”

To be able to attend the conference, Elders and their spouses were required to complete a health card indicating they had health screenings for their blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol, and weight. They also had to have other screenings and attend a health fair or educational event.

Wisdom Steps is a statewide preventive health program and is a partnership among the 11 Minnesota Indian tribes and three urban areas – Bemidji, Duluth, and the Twin Cities. The Minnesota Board on Aging is also a partner.

Wisdom Steps invites tribal Elders to participate in activities that build their health, including participating in health screenings, attending health education classes, or enjoying healthy living activities. For more information, contact Barb Benjamin-Robertson at 612-872-1424 or Renee Bruneau at 320-532-7853, or visit www.wisdomsteps.org.

Does Your Home Need Weatherization?



Members of the Mille Lacs Band weatherization team (left to right) Brian Dunkley, Percy Benjamin, Joe Farah, Lee Thompson, and Guy Davis.

By Toya Stewart Downey

When it’s warm and sunny outside, people typically don’t think about their furnace, insulation, or heating bills. Yet the timing couldn’t be better to determine whether a home needs to be weatherized so that it can become more energy efficient, according to Lee Thompson, an energy auditor for the Band.

“Getting a house weatherized is beneficial to the residents,” said Lee. “It saves them money by lowering energy bills, and it keeps their houses warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.”

Since the fall, the team has weatherized 49 houses, and 25 other jobs are underway. Common weatherization fixes include sealing air sources, repairing windows and doors, adding insulation, making general repairs to the roof and foundation, and repairing furnaces and water heaters. They also can install bathroom fans, range vents in the kitchen, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors.

“A lot of the work we do can’t be seen except through energy bills,” said Guy Davis, a weatherization installer. On average, about \$6,500 is spent per home for weatherization. There’s also \$1,000 in general repair money and \$1,000 in health and safety money that is allotted per home.

One of the perks of the Band’s weatherization program is a free in-home audit that teaches residents how to

conserve energy and educates them about their own homes. The audits take about five hours, but residents only need to be present for one hour during the initial consultation.

The Band received \$350,000 for its weatherization program from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The funding allowed the Band to expand its services. The Band holds the honor of having the top Native American weatherization program in the country and being the only tribe that was awarded this funding.

The Band oversees the program in Districts I, II and III. The urban area has other providers to service them.

To determine eligibility for weatherization services, Band members need to fill out an energy assistance application. Those who have already qualified for the state’s energy assistance program are eligible for the Band’s weatherization program.

“There’s money available, so we want Band members to apply,” said Armando Olivarez, a maintenance supervisor. “We want people to know that they will see the savings almost immediately, especially those who live in older homes.”

For more information or to obtain an application, contact Brandi Wagner at 320-532-7880.

Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, June 10**, at Ne-Ia-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.

Band Elder Honored by GLIFWC



Band Elder Leonard Sam was honored by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission for his years of service.

Mille Lacs Band Elder Leonard Sam, a longtime Department of Natural Resources employee for the Mille Lacs Band, was recently honored by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission for his 15 years of service on the Voigt Intertribal Task Force.

Leonard was the Mille Lacs Band representative on the task force from 1995-2010. He played a substantial leadership role on the task force by

assisting tribes in the affirmation, preservation and utilization of treaty-reserved rights in the Wisconsin and Minnesota portions of the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories.

"Leonard was an advocate and defender of our treaty rights," said Brad Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources. "We wish him well in his retirement."

Leonard retired earlier this year.

Kelly Sam

Ending Homelessness Among Mille Lacs Band Members

By Toya Stewart Downey

Mille Lacs Band elected officials heard details of a plan last month that addresses the problem of homelessness among Band members.

Beginning in October 2010, Band employees and consultants examined some of the issues surrounding homelessness and tried to determine viable solutions to fix the problem.

"We've developed a strategic plan and recommendations...and if we get the support of the elected officials, we are ready to move forward," said Don Eubanks, Health and Human Services Commissioner, at the May meeting.

"A lot of what is in this plan we're already doing, but there's more we can do," he said.

Making note of some of the programs that have helped address the homelessness problem, Don cited the development of transitional and low-cost housing; loans; free housing for Elders; and health, human services, and employment programs.

Still, he said, more needs to be done, and that can be accomplished through meeting the goals that are in the Band's 10-year plan to end homelessness.

Some of the goals include:

- Providing a safe, affordable range of housing that is specific to individual needs and culturally relevant
- Establishing emergency shelters and services
- Creating and sustaining effective policies and practices that promote accountability
- Improving communication between leaders and service providers, as well as between departments and Band members
- Commitments by decision makers
- Developing, aligning, coordinating and interpreting programs serving homeless persons
- Creating jobs to move Band members who are homeless or at risk for homelessness to permanent housing

Sam Moose, Community Development Commissioner, said that he knows the goals are ambitious, but he believes they can be accomplished through collaborative efforts within the Band.

"There are a lot of barriers that create homelessness, and one department alone can't tackle the homelessness situation within the tribe," he said. "That's why we need good collaboration between departments and the government."

Those charged with developing the plan agreed that no one should be homeless, and that it is everyone's responsibility to help end homelessness, said Vivian Jenkins Nelson, the lead consultant for the homelessness planning group.

"We need to look at policies that work with today's society while maintaining culture and traditions," Vivian told the elected officials. "We need plans and policies that are focused, aligned and consistent."

To help determine some of the goals, the group relied on input from Band Elders, some of whom had experienced homelessness themselves.

They also acknowledged that the old ways of families living close to each other have changed due to societal changes as well as the Band's own housing plans.

"As the community grows, people don't follow old traditions of living in the same neighborhood as their relatives," said Sam. "Part of the reason is because the Band developed mixed neighborhoods that were sprinkled with rental units and homes that were privately owned. We didn't want to create low-income neighborhoods."

Next steps

Don requested that Chief Executive Marge Anderson and Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk write letters supporting the plan. He also asked the Band Assembly to create a resolution to end homelessness. Finally, he requested that the plan become part of the Band's strategic plan.

Once that happens and the plan is approved by the elected officials, both the Health and Human Services and Community Development departments will take the next action steps, which include:

- Creating a homelessness coalition
- Creating a work group
- Hiring a full-time coordinator
- Hiring an external evaluator
- Continuing data collection
- Creating communication and public education plans
- Financing the plan

Share Your Proud Moments With Us

By Toya Stewart Downey

During her State of the Band speech in January, Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson asked a thought-provoking question to the hundreds of Band members who attended: "What have you done today to make you feel proud?"

It was a question that Marge had reflected on for quite a while before sharing it with the community.

It was also one that she had answers to.

Citing some of the community's proud moments, Marge referenced the Community Healing Project that was organized after a number of tragic deaths. She also noted the record enrollment of students at Nay Ah Shing Lower School and the efforts of Band members who have helped share and teach the Ojibwe language and culture.

Pay it forward

"Paying it forward is also one of the truest sources of pride," said Marge, encouraging Band members to reflect on the seriousness of the question, "What have you done today to make you feel proud?"

"It's especially serious because it implies that we should do something every day to make us proud," she said. "Think of it this way, the Ojibwe culture wouldn't be a culture if people only participated in it from time to time. It isn't a culture of convenience. It isn't a culture that exists on its own. We have to practice it every day. We have to nurture it through our actions so it can nurture us in return."

Submit your stories

This month the Q&A on the last page provides our first examples of "Proud Moments" of the community and Band members whose work, actions and efforts exemplify pride. In upcoming months, we will continue the "Proud Moments" campaign by sharing the stories of those who embrace the challenge to have proud moments each day.

If you'd like to share your story or have ideas about people to feature during the campaign, please contact Toya Stewart Downey at 612-250-8727 or toya.stewart@millelacsband.com.

Getting to Know Band Member Mike Nickaboine



Toya Stewart Downey

By Toya Stewart Downey

As Mike Nickaboine sits at his desk in the Grand Casino Mille Lacs office, the view from his window is of the Band's government center.

"I was the lead carpenter on the project to build the government center," said Mike, reflecting on the first structure he worked on when he was in the construction business. "That was in 1997-1998, and I was really honored to work on such a big project for the Band."

Then came the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center expansion, followed by the District I Community Center and about 80 Band homes for more than a decade after that. "I've built entire neighborhoods for the Band," said Mike, who also built his own house on the reservation so that he could live in the community that he helped build.

"I also completed a 12-month \$400,000 contract for Mortenson Construction at Grand Casino Hinckley from Aug. 2006 to Aug. 2007," he said. "This contract was for door and hardware installs on the events and convention expansion and hotel tower."

These days Mike has traded his hardhat and tool belt for a computer and a desk as the new vice president of facilities for Grand Casino Mille Lacs. He began his job in early March 2011. In his new role, Mike oversees four departments and about 110 employees.

"This is the biggest department that the casino has, so it's a lot of responsibility," he said. "I was really excited about the construction part of the job, because I wanted to be a part of the team that has brought so much infrastructure to the reservation."

Early years

Mike was born in Oakland, California. His parents, Alvin and Carol Nickaboine, were among the families who were a part of

the relocation program of the 1950s that sent American Indians to the West Coast.

When he was a young child, his family moved to Minneapolis, where he grew up. After graduating from Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis, Mike enlisted in the U.S. Army and served for six years.

After his military stint ended, Mike and his family moved to the reservation. He began taking business management classes at Brainerd Community College, and after one year he decided to start a framing company and work as a residential contractor.

Building his business

As he looked for ways to grow his first business venture, Mike looked outside of the Mille Lacs area, since at that time there weren't many construction opportunities nearby.

"I got this idea to call counties around the state to see what building permits they issued, and from there I figured out where I'd locate to do business," said Mike, adding that he sought areas that had high growth potential and spikes in the construction business.

His first stop was the Rochester area. He helped build dozens of homes during the three years he lived there. Next, he moved to Clay County in Minnesota, so he could take advantage of the opportunities that were happening in Clay, as well as Cass County. "We uprooted everyone in the family to move there, because we were following the boom," Mike said.

He returned to the reservation in the mid-1990s. He worked for the Band's housing department for about a year before becoming the lead carpenter on the government center construction project. By the time the District I Community Center was finished, Mike, along with a partner, started another business, Wigwam Bay Builders, Inc. And that's when he began working on Band projects, including building homes through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In June 2003, Mike was deployed as a part of the National Guard. He spent almost a year in Bosnia on a peacekeeping mission known as Operation Joint Force.

Starting over

Unfortunately, Mike's business, which he co-owned, didn't survive his deployment, so upon his return he started another company, Northland Quality

Builders. A few years later his sons Tim and Miles joined the business and worked with Mike on several Band projects.

Currently, the company is on hiatus while one of Mike's son's completes college and the other one continues gaining experience with the Band's remodeling crew through the Community Development Department.

"We never made a lot of money, because I always went over the minimum specifications on the homes I built," said Mike. "I always looked at houses I built as family homes where people would live for years and raise their families in them. It was never to gain a lot of profit."

Building green

It was during this time that Mike began using a building technique called Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) on the homes he built. The method is a more energy-efficient means of construction because of the thermal mass of the concrete along with the insulating factor of the rigid foam insulation.

"Since 2001, I always used ICF because of its energy efficiency, but it was a more expensive building method, so it was hard to sell to the Band because at that point, green building wasn't a high priority like it is now."

In recent years the Band has built several new houses using ICF and currently has one under construction. There were some larger ICF houses built in the metro in the early 2000s, and two were completed in Isle in 2010. Two more ICF homes were completed in District I this past winter.

"ICF eliminates the lumber footprint by 60 percent," he said. "Anyone who lives in an ICF home should be able to see the difference in their utility bills."

Mike said he is pleased the Band is using the technique and hopes that in some way, he helped pave the way for the greener building method.

"I've always wanted to pass along knowledge and teach people. I wanted to help create more carpenters," he said. "I wanted to make a living, but I always wanted to contribute to our community and show that Band members can do anything they wanted to do."

Mike has been married for 31 years to his wife Shelly. The couple has four children.

Friday Night Fights At Grand Casino Hinckley

**By Jim Erickson, Mille Lacs Band
Boxing Commission Executive
Director**

Former Vikings player Ray Edwards made his professional boxing debut in front of a packed house at Grand Casino Hinckley on May 20.

Edwards was the feature bout of the evening. Several current Vikings players attended his fight against TJ Gibson. After the final bell rang to signal the end to the four-round bout, Ray's athleticism and size gained him a unanimous decision win, but not without tasting a few of the well-timed punches from his shorter and lighter opponent.

In the bout leading up to the Edwards-Gibson clash, Hinckley's own Tim Taggart Jr. was holding his own against St. Paul boxer Cerresso Fort until Fort landed a heavy counter-punch that put Taggart on the mat, prompting Joe Cortez to waive off the fight. The bout was a step up in competition for Taggart, who was returning to the ring three months after an excellent victory over Charles Meier. Taggart was not fazed by Fort's 10-0 record, and was looking forward to handing Fort his first defeat as a pro.

The evening started with the little men, as bantamweights Jonathan Perez from Minneapolis took out Milwaukee's Raymond Torres with a hard body blow in the second round. Perez increased his record to 2-0 (2 KOs).

The results were similar as Tony Lee of St. Paul stopped Ronnie Fuentes of Milwaukee in the fourth round.

Larry Butler of Hayward, Wisconsin, won the bout with Minneapolis boxer Van Goodman. Goodman had the edge in experience, but Butler, who was making his professional debut, opened a cut on the left eyebrow that eventually caused the bout to be stopped via TKO in favor of Butler.

The fourth bout of the evening was a contest between Twin Cities boxers Jamal James and Hector Orozco. James had been having his way with his opponents, scoring four knockouts in four outings. Hector Orozco was not going to be knockout number five, as he aggressively pursued the quicker James and roughed him up for the entire six-round contest. In the end, the judges scored the bout for Jamal James.

The next professional boxing action is scheduled for June 24, when Ray Edwards attempts to rack up win number two at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health staff

Private insurance plans

Circle of Health currently pays private insurance plans for a maximum of 12 months. However, there are several plans that have extended past this period. We need to re-evaluate these plans, but we do not want to jeopardize any current coverage.

If you have a private insurance plan that is paid by Circle of Health, please contact our office. If you have a private plan, you probably filled out an individual application with a local insurance agent in your area. These insurance plans include Blue Cross Blue Shield, Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (Medica), and Assurant carriers.

Personal reimbursement requests

You can submit claims to Circle of Health electronically. If you submit your claims via e-mail, you do not need to send it through the mail as well. Please request a return e-mail if you would like to receive confirmation.

The e-mail addresses for Circle of Health are:

- Dave Boyd (A-L): dave.boyd@millelacsband.com
- Roberta Lemieux (M-Z): roberta.lemieux@millelacsband.com
- Dawn Chosa (benefit coordinator): dawn.chosa@millelacsband.com

- Michelle Palomaki (director): michelle.palomaki@millelacsband.com

Medical and dental employee deductions

Circle of Health reimburses medical and dental premiums that are deducted from paychecks. If you are a Band member who has been employed with your current company for at least a year, you are eligible to have premiums paid quarterly instead of weekly or bi-weekly.

Contact your human resource department to see if the company is willing to do this. If the company agrees, the human resource department needs to send a letter on company letterhead that clearly indicates the employee's portion of the premium. The human resource department will need to send a new letter that includes any increases or decreases in the premium amount each year.

We have found that most Minnesota employers welcome this idea because it saves them time and money copying, sending, or processing the reimbursements from our office.

If you or your employer have any questions, please contact Circle of Health.

Contact information

Please allow a two- to six-week grace period for reimbursement claims from the date of submission. If you have any questions, please contact Circle of Health, at 320-676-8214 or 800-491-6106.

Band Members Visit Pine Grove Students



Toya Stewart Downey

Four Band members shared information about their careers with Pine Grove Leadership Academy students in honor of American Indian Month.

By Toya Stewart Downey

When I was a young child, I decided I wanted to be a writer.

So while I considered other careers, such as teaching, my desire to have a writing career overshadowed them.

That's why when I was asked to speak to the students at Pine Grove Leadership Academy about my career as a journalist, I was more than eager.

Band Elder and traditional healer Herb Sam, artist Steve Premo, Grand Casino Hinckley General Manager Mel Towle, and I were among the speakers who visited the school in May for its recognition of American Indian Month.

Melanie Benjamin, the school's interim director, said the visits were both beneficial and inspiring for the students. In fact, she plans to continue to invite Band members to the school so they can serve as role models for the students year-round.

"Everyone who has come out has had excellent messages. They've talked about teamwork and about working hard to achieve their goals," Melanie said. "We have a talented pool of phenomenal Band members, and this is what we need to showcase to our youth. We have excellent people and we need to remind each other how great we are and

how great we can be. There is greatness within us, and that's what I'm going to teach the kids."

During my time with the students, I told them that my dreams of becoming a writer started young and grew over the years.

I told them that I was an avid reader, took pride in spelling words correctly, and was naturally curious – all good qualities for becoming a journalist. I encouraged them to read a lot, practice their writing skills, and listen to their teachers, because being a good listener is crucial to any career they might want to pursue.

After earning my bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota, I landed my first internship at the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. I had stints at other papers until my last stop at one of Texas's largest newspapers, *The Dallas Morning News*.

Since obtaining my master of arts degree in health journalism, I've been a writer for our tribal paper.

While at the school I had an opportunity to show the students the paper, take photos, and conduct short interviews with them for the paper's Q&A section. (See the July paper for their responses.)

NVAM Educational Opportunities

Youth Civic Camp

Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota (NVAM) is hosting its second annual Youth Civic Camp on July 24-30. American Indian youth ages 13-16 are encouraged to attend the camp.

Participants will learn about the history of the Ojibwe and Sioux tribes in Minnesota, what it means to be a sovereign nation, and the importance of American Indians' participation in public policy, Ojibwe and Lakota language, renewable energy, and localized farming.

The camp will be held at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's language camp in Rutledge. Participants will also take a field trip to the White Earth Land Recovery Farm to School and Renewable Energy Projects in White Earth.

The camp costs \$750 per student. Scholarships are

available for Band members. Contact Camille Smith or Sami Thomas, scholarship and career assistants for the Band, for more information about scholarships at 320-495-3702.

Contact Elizabeth Scott at 320-630-2487 or Sally Fineday, NVAM executive director, at 218-335-8581, ext. 139, for more information or to register.

Voter Engagement School

NVAM is hosting a Voter Engagement School program in White Earth in July and in Mille Lacs in August. People who are interested in getting involved in politics are encouraged to attend the program. Contact Elizabeth Scott at 320-630-2487 for more information.

Heating, Water, and Home-Related Maintenance Problems

If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call for housing maintenance service in your district. During regular business hours, please call our customer service representative 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.

Understanding Land Allotments

Land ownership is a complicated issue for American Indians. In the coming months of the *Inaajimowin*, Lisa Johnson from the Band’s Real Estate Office will help Band members understand some of the nuances of land ownership, allotments, trust accounts, and related issues that affect American Indians. The topic this month is allotments.

What are allotments?

Indian lands were traditionally held communally by bands or tribes of Indians. The United States recognized tribal land ownership in many treaties.

In the second half of the 19th century, federal policy sought to break up tribal lands. The policy called for tribal lands to be divided into parcels and “allotted” to individual Indians. The allotments would be subject to restrictions that would prevent them from being sold, at least for a period of years.

In Minnesota, the 1889 Nelson Allotment Act provided for the allotment of Ojibwe reservations. Members of the Mille Lacs Band were entitled to allotments under the Act, but did not receive them until the 1920s. The government’s failure to make allotments to Mille Lacs Band members for many years imposed great hardship on the Band and its members.

In the 1950s, there was a big push by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to purchase the allotments and put them into tribal trust status so that they could never be sold.

“Today most allotments at Mille Lacs are owned by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe or the Band,” Lisa said. “There are only 30 allotments that are still individually owned, and those are typically about five acres.” All of the personally held allotments are in District I.

Who owns allotments?

When the allotments were first made, each allotment was owned by an individual tribal member. However, over the generations, the number of owners has increased.

When the original owner passed away, the allotment

passed to his or her heirs. If the owner had a valid will, the allotment passed to the heirs named in the will. If the owner did not have a will, the heirs were determined under state probate law. (Today the heirs would be determined under federal law.) For example, a one-third interest in the allotment might pass to the owner’s spouse with the remaining two-thirds being divided equally among the owner’s children.

Each of the heirs acquired an “undivided interest” in the allotment. This means that each heir had an interest in the entire allotment, which he or she shared with the other heirs. None of the heirs owned a portion of the allotment by him- or herself.

For example, if the allotment was six acres, and the original owner’s spouse acquired a one-third interest, the spouse had a one-third interest in the entire six acres, which he or she shared with the other heirs. The spouse did not own two acres of the original six acres by him- or herself.

This process continued with each generation, with each allotment being owned by more and more people, some holding only very small fractional interests in the entire allotment. “As people continue to pass away, the interests become smaller and smaller,” Lisa said.

Real Estate Office ready to help

Often, Lisa has found that when individuals receive a probate order regarding their inheritance in an allotment, they have a hard time reading the inventory of the land provided with the order. That’s why, she said, the Band’s Real Estate Office would be happy to answer questions about the probate order or help Band members understand how to read the inventory.

One of the most commonly asked questions is where land is located. The Real Estate Office can provide information about the location of allotments on the Mille Lacs Reservation and can provide contact information for allotments on other reservations.

“Often we also get calls about an heir wanting to build a home on the allotment,” said Lisa. “One of the first things that needs to happen is to find out what undivided interest they own and then find out how many owners there are for the allotment. The number of owners will determine the required percentage of the undivided trust interest needed to give consent to a lease.”

If the allotment is located within the jurisdiction of the Band, the Real Estate Office will request information about the allotment from the Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of the individual. However, if the allotment is located on another reservation, the individual would have to contact that tribe or agency to inquire about leasing the land.

“There are many other requirements for leasing allotted lands, and the Real Estate Office would be happy to go over those requirements with the person wishing to lease the land.”

Acquisition of undivided interests in allotments

Undivided interests in allotments can be sold to the Band if the owners want to sell their interest. “We’re not aggressively seeking to buy allotted interests,” said Lisa. “If someone sells it to us, it’s because that’s what they want to do. If the Band buys an undivided interest in an allotment, the Band becomes an owner in the property with the other owners. It is the Band’s policy to retain property in perpetuity once it has acquired the property.”

Owners of undivided interests in allotments can also sell their undivided interests to other owners in the allotments, which are often family members. They can even gift deed their interests to other owners with whom they have a special relationship. The Band’s Real Estate Office can help Band members if they want to do this.

For more information about allotments, contact Lisa Johnson at 320-532-7552.

Toya Stewart Downey contributed to the writing and reporting of this article.

Electronic Medical Records Conversion and Training Continue at Ne-la-Shing Clinic

By Toya Stewart Downey

As the conversion to electronic medical records continues, so do the preparations at the Ne-la-Shing Clinic.

More than 50 clinic staffers will be undergoing mandatory training sessions on information security that will help them better understand the high standards that are being put in place for protecting patients’ health records.

Both of the trainings, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and Information Systems Security Awareness, were required for all who work in the clinic and on the administrative side – including maintenance workers.

“Yearly HIPAA training for clinic personnel reinforces HIPAA training employees did when newly hired. This training covers how patient health information should be protected,” said Louise Sather, RHIA (Registered Health Information Administrator) and the Band’s clinical applications coordinator.

“This training covers different scenarios and what to be aware of when on the Internet, phone, or just at the office.”

Because both trainings are web-based, they can be done at the workstations, then paused and restarted as needed, Louise said.

“Band members should not be affected, just reassured that their Protected Health Information (PHI) is kept confidential and secure and that their privacy is very much respected,” said Louise. “This training is another layer of security.”

“This is another important step in our effort to make Ne-la-Shing fully electronic, helping the clinicians in their efforts to make sure all reservation members have access to quality patient care,” she added.

Urban Area Picnic and Community Celebration

All Band members and families are invited to kick off the summer at the 12th annual urban end-of-the-school-year picnic and community celebration on Saturday, June 11. The picnic will be held at Brackett Park in Minneapolis from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. A feast will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Attendees will receive a free t-shirt (supplies are limited) and have the chance to win prizes in several contests. Grand prizes include a TV, Jacuzzi suite, and boy's and girl's bikes.

The feast will include hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, Polish sausages, potato salad, chips, beans, cake, and refreshments.

Please bring your own blanket or lawn chair.

Volunteers are needed for registration, setting up, cleaning up, assisting with games, distributing door prizes, and more. If you are interested in volunteering, call Barb Benjamin-Robertson at 612-872-1424 or 612-250-3924.

The Newspaper of the Mille Lacs Band OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

"The story as it's told."



Kelly Sam, Editor
Phone 651-292-8062
Fax 651-292-8091
kelly@goffpublic.com
Goff Public
255 East Kellogg Blvd.
Suite 102
St. Paul, MN 55101
Please provide news tips and other information by the 15th of the previous month.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

		April 2011	
	Approved budget for FY 2011	Actual expenditures through 4/30/11	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	19,460,718	10,912,836	56.1%
Workforce*	13,954,505	2,606,556	18.7%
Judicial	674,669	353,550	52.4%
Law enforcement*	5,285,953	2,530,031	47.9%
Education*	16,001,164	8,691,263	54.3%
Health and human services*	29,530,543	14,743,445	49.9%
Natural resources*	5,009,061	2,622,757	52.4%
Community development*	41,009,389	7,490,668	18.3%
Gaming authority	4,844,746	2,545,171	52.5%
Bonus distribution	29,846,762	29,814,010	99.9%
Economic stimulus	2,910,000	2,908,000	99.9%
Total expenditures	\$168,527,509	\$85,218,287	50.6%

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.

Poem From Band Member

Editor's note: Band member Adam Benjamin wrote this poem for his mom Arvina Benjamin. She would like to share it with other Band members.

I am a Native American. I am a human being. I chose not to follow the direction given by my heart of my spirit, therefore I am now chemically dependent.

I realize I must go back to the circle of my people to learn the beating of our drum and to ask the Great Spirit to restore my oneness with that circle of my people and culture, and that I may one day walk once more with dignity. Oh Great Spirit, hear my drum.

I realize who I am and that I must look within to find that powerful person to solve all of my problems.

I will search like a warrior to find my center, both fearlessly and courageously.

Grandfather, I stand before you. I have wronged my people, my family, and our traditions. Take pity upon me, Great Spirit.

I come before you in a humble way. You know what is written in my heart. Help me.

Great Spirit, I ask you to have mercy and give me the strength to fight my own greatest enemy, myself.

Great Spirit, I have disgraced myself and have wronged our proud traditions. I stand humbly before you with open arms.

Great Spirit, I ask that you grant me the wisdom and the courage that I will need to keep on learning more about myself and to keep fighting myself, that I may overcome this chemical dependency.

Great Spirit, I stand in this circle of life. I am struggling here. Hear my heart and grant that I may come to know myself so that I may be among my people again.

I must return to our traditions, the sacred pipe, the sweat lodge, the drum, and our people. I will again walk among those with dignity and pride and walk again on the red road. Hear me, grandfather, I have found my inner arrows.

Before I am released from this iron house, I will attend the sacred sweat lodge. When I come out, I will claim back my spirit and say, "Come, lets go home."

Thick Bean Soup

Ingredients

- 2 medium carrots, sliced
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 3/4 cup low-sodium vegetable broth
- 16 oz. can tomatoes, undrained and chopped
- 15 oz. can great northern beans, drained and pureed
- 1/4 tsp. thyme
- 1/2 tsp. sage
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 pinch black pepper
- 1 tbsp. chopped parsley

Directions

1. Heat a large pot over medium heat. Cook carrots, onion, and garlic five minutes or until soft.
2. Mix in broth, tomatoes with liquid, pureed beans, thyme, and sage. Let boil, lower heat, place lid on pot, and simmer 10 minutes. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
3. When ready to serve, top with parsley.
4. Add chicken or shrimp to make a more hearty soup.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy June birthday to:

Noah Sablan, 5 on June 2, from Mom, Dad, Taya, Grandma Tracy, Grandma Lupe, TT, Jay, Kellen, Deek, Jen and Wesley • **Patrick Sam** on June 2, from Mom, Scott, and the rest of the family • **Roland Smith Jr.**, 2 on June 4, from Daddy, Tammy, Brandon, Whitney, Brandi, Elias, Tank, Alizaya, Kloey, Kobe, Gladys, Ron, Collin, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Priscilla Bonilla**, 9 on June 21, from Mom, Dad, Alex Jr., Joseph, David, Jonathan, Carter, Christian, and the rest of your family • **Christina Pike**, 5, from Mom, Kevin, Grandma, Austin, Tahnisha, Paco, Anna, Chico, Melissa, Ari, Lissie, Ant, Baby John, Nathaniel, Rusty, Bud, and Max • **Nakota James Benjamin**, 2 on June 16, from Dad • **Sherry Harrington** on June 9, from Carrie, Renae, Zac, Jerry, Kira, Smokey, Mom, Len, Phillip, Mickey, Nadine, Blake, Char, Whitney and PJ • **Ashley Rae** on June 30, from Mom, Son-Son, Nina, Corey, Grandma, Grandpa, and Beco • **Shakarah** on June 4, from Mom, Andre, Grandma, Grandpa, Q, Emmy, Ger, Tone, Zane, Destiny, Quillon, aunts, uncles, and the rest of your family • **Dante James**, 9 on June 3, from Mommy, Selena, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, Day-Day, Grandma Vera, DeaLayna, Stone, Frankie, Derek, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Joey, Sheila, Donny, Jim, Jeannette, Danielle, and Bruce • **Jim**, 35 on June 5, from Jeannette, Mom, DeaLayna, Franny, Derek, Stone, Mary, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Donny, Sheila, Joey, Jim, Jeannette, Bruce, Dawn, Ethan, Ty and Jasmine • **Vincent Stobb** on June 13, from your family, Tammy, Brandon, Whitney, Brandi, Elias, Tank, Alizaya, Kloey, Kobe, Mom, Dad, Roland, Roland Jr., Lydell, Desi, McKayla, Collin, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Tami Gahbow** on June 26, from Spud, Nells, Quintin, Albert, Kyla Lynn, Dakota, Nancy, Gladys and Desi • **Judy Boyd** on June 9, from June Day and family • **Morgan Nadeau** on June 18, from Grandma June, Daddy, Dayuanna, uncles, and aunts • **Jereck Weyaus** on June 20, from Mom, your kids, and wife • **Christina Pewaush** on June 25, from Auntie Joanne, Dan, and Chris • **Kenneth Weyaus Jr.** on June 29, from Auntie Joanne, Dan, Chris,

and Auntie Tammy and family • **Shyla Lussier**, 12 on June 24, from Mom, Destanie, Jordan, Grandma Gina, Uncle Dal, Dilly Bar, Elvis, Grandma Nazz, Papa, and the Weyaus family • **Peter Gahbow** on June 20, from Nancy, Kyla Lynn, Dakota, and Tea Bag • **Suzanne Merrill**, from Nancy and the kids, Lydell, McKayla, Desi, Gladys, Ron, Collin, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, and Danica • **Spud**, from Al, Coda, Kyla and Nancy • **Rachel Cash**, from Nancy, Dakota, Kyla and Albert Gahbow • **Mess**, from Kyla, Al, Dakota and Nancy • **Alena Susan**, from Kyla, Nancy, Albert and Dakota • **Jared**, from Nancy, Kyla, Albert, Dakota, Nelle and family • **Steven Hanks**, 51, from Lorna • **Rome Bedausky** on June 7, from Grandma Mary, Grandpa Jon, Mom, Lucas, Brent, Taryn, Veronica, Camryn, Jerome, Ed, Tim, John, and Larry • **Veronica St. Clair** on June 10, from Auntie Mary, Brenda, Chell, Dad, Jerome, Ed, Cam, Rome, Brent, Camryn, Taryn, Grandpa Matt, and Ruthy • **Boob** on June 1, from Nelle and family • **Marlow** on June 2, from Nelle and family • **Corinna** on June 23, from the Weyaus kids • **Charles Shingobe Jr.** on June 3, from Dad, Sister, Chuck, Sam, Dan, Amber, Sunshine, Hunter, Elvis, Ethan, Ty, Jeannette and Jasmin • **Chuck** on June 12. from your daughter, Chucky, Charles Jr., Ethan, Ty, Jasmin, Sam, Dan, Amber, Sunshine, Hunter, and Elvis • **Craig** on June 9, from Nelle and family, Rachel, Waylon, Mickey, Phillip, Nadine, Balek, Cahr, Whitney, PJ, Chick, Grandpa Doug, Arielle, Nick, Jayla, Jenai, Leo and Nick • **Damian Beaulieu** on June 23, from Nelle and family • **Millie and Batiste** on June 12, from Nelle and family • **Jakob Wind** on June 5, from Raenelle and family • **Jenai** on June 4, from Raenelle and family, Rae, Waylon, and Craig • **Caleb** on June 18, from the Weyaus family • **Connor Boyd**, 9 on June 25, from Mom, Dad, Shane and Courtney • **Lance** on June 23, from Heather, Daniel, Thomas Virnig, Leo, Nick, Mickey, Phillip, Nadine, Blake, Char, Whitney, PJ, Chick, and Grandpa Doug • **Dad** on June 9, from Johnny and Asia • **Dad** on June 9, from CJ, Jordan, Max Dean, and Aiden • **Elias** on June 24, from Tank, Alizaya, Kloey and Kobe • **Tammy Smith** on June 24, from Brandi, Brandon and Whitney • **Roger Garbow** on June 28, from Tammy, Brandon, Whitney, Elias, Tank, Alizaya, Kloey, Kobe, Mom, Dad, Lydell, McKayla, Gladys, Ron, Collin, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr.,

Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Roland Smith** on June 18, from Tammy, Brandon, Whitney, Elias, Tank, Alizaya, Kloey, Kobe, Roland Jr., Mom, Dad, Lydell, Desi, McKayla, Collin, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Tayaunna Boyd**, 3 on June 1, from Tammy, Brandon, Whitney, Elias, Tank, Alizaya, Kloey, Kobe, Mom, Dad, Lydell, McKayla, Gladys, Ron, Collin, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Big John** on June 29, from Mom, Lydell, McKayla, Desi, Gladys, Ron, Collin, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Sty Hanks** on June 18, from Lydell, McKayla, Desi, Gladys, Ron, Collin, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, and Danica • **Lil Kevin** on June 23, from Mom, Dad, Sissy, Grandma Kim, Papa Brad, Elias, Dede, Grandma Karen, Grandma AA, Tracy, Shelby, Max Dean, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Marky, Emery, Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melody, Rachel, Nicole, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Lil Chris, Bruce, Jayla, Lili, Bradley Eric, Kristy, Peyton, Braelyn, Jay, Kate, Peep, Adam Parker, Micki, Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, Whitney, PJ, Renae, Jeremy, Cameron, Keona, Sherry, Shawtel, Gabi, Nancy, and John • **Ravin** on June 30, from Mom, Dad, Bev, Tamera, Missy, Brandi, Brittany, Corey, Mike, Nick, Rick, Barrett, Romeo, Jason, Brooklynn, Lil Bear, Val, Mariah, Kevin, Karen, Grandma AA, Tracy, Shelby, Max Dean, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Marky, Emery, Sharon, Wally, Melody, Rachel, Nicole, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Lil Chris, Bruce, Jayla, Lili, Bradley Eric, Kristy, Peyton, Braelyn, Jay, Kate, Peep, Adam Parker, Mickey, Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, Blake, Whitney, PJ, Renae, Jeremy, Cameron, Keona, Sherry, Shawtel, and Gabi

Happy June birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mary Ann Ailport
Donald Anderson
Randall Anderson
Ronald Anderson
Shirley Beach
Arvina Benjamin
Shirley Boyd
Clifford Churchill
Sherry Colson
Emma Compelube
Simon Day Jr.
Ellagene Dorr
Peter Dunkley

Roberta Fox
George Garbow Jr.
Melanie Garbow
Marilyn Gurneau
Bruce Hansen
Devona Haskin
Catherine Hedstrom
Gwendolyn Holmes
Marlowe LaFave
Kathy Lathrop
James Matrious
Robert Mayotte
Beatrice Mitchell
Clarence Moose
John Morrow
Georgia Nickaboine
Alof Olson Jr.
Gordon Parr
Charlene Shingobe
Charles Shingobe
Warren Skinaway
Pearl St. John
Frances Staples
Judy Swanson
Loris White
Judy Williams

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Joseph Bonilla** for graduating from Isle High School. We are proud of you, *from Mom, Dad, Alex Jr., David, Jonathan, Priscilla, and your family.*

Congratulations to **Stina Pike** for graduating from Nay Ah Shing Head Start. We are proud of you, *from your family.*

Congratulations to **Antavia Pendegayosh** for graduating from Head Start, *from Nay-Nay Pike.*

Congratulations to **Courtney Boyd** for graduating from Nay Ah Shing High School. We are proud of you, *from Mom, Dad, Shane and Connor.*

Congratulations to **Joe Nayquonabe Jr.** for graduating from the University of Minnesota. We are proud of you, *from your family.*

In memory

In memory of **Rebecca Christine Sam** – October 27, 1957-May 28, 2008
We all miss you every day, so much more than words can say. Its been three years without you, I still can't believe it is true. Your face, your wit, and your smile have been on our mind for a while. We feel lost without you, Becky Sue. All our love, *from Rachel Sam, Marsha Sam, Mickey Sam and family, Papa Doug, Doug Sam and family, Dale Ballinger and family, Randy Sam and family, Ardana Beaulieu and boys, Craig Beaulieu and boys, Adrian Bugg and family, Arielle Beaulieu and family, and Tony Beaulieu and family.*



Ojibwe Culture and Traditions



Upcoming Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

Kids craft workshop

Children can learn how to weave a dream catcher and make one to take home. Please allow an hour to make the craft. This project is recommended for children eight years or older.

The workshop costs \$5 per kit and will be held on Saturday, June 11, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Birch bark harvest workshop

Learn how to harvest, store, and work with birch bark in this two-day workshop. Participants will make a basket out of their

harvested bark. This class will be held on Saturday, June 18, from noon-4 p.m. and Sunday, June 19, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The workshop costs \$60 for the general public and \$55 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members, plus an additional \$10 supply fee.

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. A minimum of five participants is required to host the workshop. Registration is required by June 15. Please call 320-532-3632 for more information.

Moccasin Telegraph



Summer traditions

By Kenny Weyaus, Mille Lacs Band Elder

The following article appeared in the July 30, 2003, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with the Messenger's permission.

In the past, I've written about some Ojibwe traditions for the fall, winter and spring. This time, I'd like to write about summer traditions.

In the summer, the Ojibwe people would gather by the shores of the big lakes. They would go fishing and hunt small game animals. They did not hunt big game animals during the summer because they had no means of preserving that much meat, and it would spoil. They also had little gardens with corn, beans and squash that they tended. The people worked hard to store up their food for the winter.

Summertime was when people did most of their planning for the year ahead and figured out what they would need. For example, if you needed a new canoe to go ricing in the fall, you gathered the

birch bark for it in the summer. If you needed more bark for your home, you gathered it during the summer, too. People would make sheets out of the bark and sew them together, then roll them up to make them easier to carry.

People also gathered lots of berries in the summer and made them into little patties. Then in the winter, they would boil these patties and sprinkle them with maple sugar, and they tasted just as sweet and tasty as they had in the summer.

To get ready for the big, long winter, people would tan deer hides and work on clothing in the summer. Men did a lot of hunting and fishing. As I said, they hunted small game, like raccoons and ducks. When they fished, they knew how to make nets that were just big enough to catch what they needed.

They were good conservationists – they didn't waste anything. When they caught fish, they didn't just take the fish out and eat them. If they saw that a fish was female, they would squeeze the eggs out and deposit them back into the lake. If they killed a turtle for food, they used the shell for storage or as a plate.

They also moved their camps each year to be good conservationists. For example, in the summer they used elm bark when making their wigwams. Elm bark doesn't regrow within a year, so they wouldn't come back to the same area the next summer – they would leave the first area alone and move to a different area. That allowed the first area to regrow itself, and the trees and the animals would come back.

Mille Lacs Powwow Opportunities

By Sharon James, Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Committee secretary

The Mille Lacs Band's Traditional Powwow on August 19-21 is one of the largest traditional powwows in Minnesota. The powwow attracts thousands of dancers and more than 2,000 spectators each year. There are several opportunities for Band members to participate in and volunteer at the powwow.

Royalty contestants

Band members or descendants of Band members ages 6-18 can compete to become Princess or Brave Royalty. The deadline to sign up is August 1, but the earlier you sign up, the more time you will have to accumulate points. To sign up, contact Kim Sam, royalty coordinator, at 320-532-5105.

You can also sign up to be a royalty judge. There are five primary judges and three back-up judges. We would like to have at least one representative from each district, including the urban area. If you are interested in serving as a royalty judge, please sign up with Kim Sam by August 3.

Cooks and caterers

Each year the powwow committee serves a feast on Saturday and Sunday. If you are interested in submitting a bid to provide one or both of these meals, please contact Sharon James, powwow committee secretary, at jameshq@q.com or 651-768-3248.

Assistant emcee and assistant arena director

The committee would like to train an assistant emcee and assistant arena director. These are paid positions, and our goal is to give more Band members the experience to serve in these roles. If you are interested in being hired for either of these positions, please contact Sharon James at jameshq@q.com or

651-768-3248. Applications are due June 20.

Tournaments

The powwow will include adult and youth horseshoe tournaments and moccasin games. Start practicing, because winning teams will collect cash prizes. Teams can register at the powwow grounds during powwow weekend.

Parade contestants

You can create a float for the annual parade. Entrance is free, and the top three floats and reservation cars win a cash prize. In addition, each Band department competes for a rotating trophy. We also need three parade judges. If you are interested in being in the parade or serving as a judge, please contact the parade coordinator. Details and contact information will be posted in each district community center.

Artists and food vendors

The committee is seeking vendors of authentic Native American products and food to set up booths at the powwow. Band members receive 50% off the regular vendor rate. Contact Denise Sargent at 320-532-7854 to register.

Powwow committee

Each year Band members and employees are invited to volunteer for the powwow committee. If you are interested in joining the committee, attend an upcoming powwow meeting.

- June 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the District I Assisted Living Unit
- July 12 at noon at Grand Northern Grill
- July 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the powwow grounds
- August 2 at noon at the powwow grounds
- August 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the powwow grounds

20th Annual Grand Celebration Powwow

The 20th Annual Grand Celebration Powwow will be held at Grand Casino Hinckley on June 17-19. The powwow is one of the largest in the area, and all Band members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Grand entry times are:

- 7 p.m. on June 17
- 1 and 7 p.m. on June 18
- 1 p.m. on June 19

Attendees are asked to bring their own chairs and drums to the powwow. Campgrounds are available during the event.

Calendar of Events						
June 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*To Purchase Tickets Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800-745-3000, or visit www.ticketmaster.com	<i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar,</i> please contact Kelly Sam at 651-292-8062 or write to Kelly at kelly@goffpublic.com		District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judith Ballinger 320-532-7423	Talking Circles District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen 320-532-4046		
5	6	7	8 Narcotics Anonymous District I Community Center 6-7 p.m. Every Wednesday	9	10	11 Kids Crafts Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Rodney Carrington* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 6 & 9 p.m.
12	13 Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting 5 p.m. Contact: Melanie Benjamin 320-384-7598 AMVETS Meeting Grand Casino Mille Lacs, 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus 320-309-6925	14	15	16 Talking Circles District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen 320-532-4046	17 Grand Celebration Grand Casino Hinckey (See page 10)	18 Birch Bark Harvest Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m.
19 Birch Bark Harvest Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Grand Celebration Grand Casino Hinckey	20	21 District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting 4 p.m. Contact: Raina Killspotted 218-768-2345	22	23	24 Friday Night Fights* Grand Casino Hinckley 7:30 p.m.	25
26	27	28	29 District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam 320-676-1102	30 Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson 612-872-1424 District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m., Contact: Jenny Waugh 218-768-3311	July 1 All government offices closed at noon	2
3	4 All government offices closed for Mid-Summer Day	5	6	7	8	9 Goo Goo Dolls* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 7 p.m.

“What Have You Done Today To Make You Feel Proud?”

Guy Davis



“I got my residential auditor certificate from Dunwoody College.”

Tara Robertson



“I just bought my first home.”

Juanita Weyaus



“I’m teaching Ojibwe part-time at Nay Ah Shing School.”

Cheryl Jones



“I started attending classes that will help me get college tuition assistance.”

Patricia Potter



“I got a new job as a personal care assistant.”

Sandi Jones



“I’m getting speech therapy for my daughter, Erykah.”

Darrian Moose



“Learning my language has been really great, and it makes me feel proud. I’ve been living in Hinckley the past few months, but I

keep coming to Nay Ah Shing because of the language classes.”

Penny Kegg



“I got my certified nursing assistant certificate through Central Lakes College, and I’m looking for a job as a CNA.”

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

Onamia High School Graduates



Photo courtesy of Lana Oswaldson

Band members graduating from Onamia High School are Matt Chapel, Lanayah Austin, Breanna Enno, Robert Oswaldson, Rochelle Fraiser-Jones, Athens Sagataw, and Eva Sam. Not pictured are Michael Barany and Chelsea Shaw.

Boys & Girls Club Activities



Photo courtesy of Erik Parson

Members of the District I Boys & Girls Club helped clean up the community.



Photo courtesy of Edward Sablan

The Boys & Girls Club in District IIA helped clean up the Isle community recently.



Photo courtesy of Erik Parsons

Sherraine White, Noah Sablan, and Taya Sam Sablan skated with other members of the District IIA Isle Boys & Girls Club.



Photo courtesy of Erik Parsons

District IIA Isle Boys & Girls Club Advisors Charlie Sam and Jared Hanson skated with program participants.