

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

September 2009

"The story as it's told."

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Academic Achievement of Students of Color and American Indian Students



Photo courtesy of Mille Lacs Messenger

Around 200 educators and community leaders gathered at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on September 3 to talk about academic achievement gaps facing American Indian students and students of color.

By Mary Sam, Office of Government Affairs

According to a recent report by the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Inc. (MMEP), American Indian students and students of color continue to face significant academic achievement gaps and are up to five times as likely to drop out of high school as their white peers. On September 3, MMEP researchers discussed these and other findings from the 2009 State of Students of Color and American Indian Students report at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center with approximately 200 regional educators and community leaders.

MMEP's Dr. Emmanuel Dolo discussed some of the complex

causes of the achievement gap, including pervasive and persistent poverty, poor health, frequent changes in residences and schools, parents with a low level of education, and institutional racism. Dr. Dolo stated that closing the achievement gap will require addressing issues of access, culture and climate. He describes a conducive education culture and climate as "creating a safe learning environment, promoting a sense of belonging, and fostering strong positive relationships among students and staff and between school and home community." Dr. Dolo indicated that one of the best things to do for students is to increase our expectations, never to lower them.

(Continued on page 6)

Band Welcomes State Lawmakers to Reservation



Elizabeth Towle

Mille Lacs Band officials took several state lawmakers on a tour of the Mille Lacs Reservation in August. Discussion topics included the successes, needs and concerns of our community. Pictured left to right: Don Eubanks, Commissioner of Health and Human Services; John Dunkley, Commissioner of Administration; Senator Larry Pogemiller; Dennis Olson, Commissioner of Education; Senator Lisa Fobbe; Jennifer Waltman, Commissioner of Community Development; Carolyn Shaw, Assistant Commissioner of Administration; and Michele Kelm-Helgen, Senator Pogemiller's aide.

Over the past few weeks, the Mille Lacs Band has welcomed several state House and Senate leaders to tour the Mille Lacs Reservation.

The tours, given by the Chief Executive's Office and the Department of Administration, help educate legislators about the Band's history, culture, businesses, schools, clinics, programs, facilities and neighborhoods. By learning more about the reservation and tribal issues, lawmakers will have a more thorough idea

of how their decisions affect tribal governments and Indian people.

During the 2010 legislative session (starting in February), legislators will likely face a state budget deficit of up to a billion dollars more than anticipated. They will need to find ways to cut spending and/or increase revenue.

The Mille Lacs Band will continue to provide tours to additional state leaders in the coming weeks.



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43rd Annual Traditional Powwow a Success

By the Mille Lacs Band powwow committee

It was another banner year for the MLB Traditional Powwow on August 14-16. We had about 3,000 guests per day, including 35 craft and food vendors, 21 drums (surpassing last year's number), more than 1,000 dancers, and 300 Band employees who staffed the powwow throughout the weekend.

Because the powwow has grown into such a large community event, the powwow committee added two new emcees and an assistant arena director this year. Steve Sam, emcee; Gabe Gahbow, assistant emcee; and Nygel Ladd, assistant arena director, all worked closely with Robert Kegg, arena director, and Kenny Weyaous, Elder advisor.

On Friday, Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaous and on Saturday, Chief Executive Marge Anderson provided a special welcome to the powwow guests. This year's theme was volunteerism, and everyone provided their thanks and appreciation for those who give of themselves to help others, especially our military troops and veterans. The Band was honored to have three Mille Lacs Band members who are actively serving in the military – Quintin Sam, Anthony Pike, and Nathan Nickaboine – join us at the powwow.

Powwow apparel

This year, the powwow committee introduced apparel, featuring t-shirts and jackets, with the Mille Lacs Band powwow logo. It was very popular. If you did not get a chance to purchase a t-shirt or jacket, you can contact Shannon Ramsey at 320/532-7460. T-shirts are \$12-\$15 and jackets are \$60-\$66.

Powwow royalty and winners

Congratulations to the 2009-2010 Mille Lacs Band royalty and this year's winners!

2009-2010 MLB royalty

- Dallas Anderson Jr., Sr. Brave
- Wyatt Sam, Jr. Brave
- Lacey Garbow, Sr. Princess
- Noel Kegg, Jr. Princess

Parade contest

- 1st Place: Garrison Fire Department
- 2nd Place: Willow Ridge Stables

- 3rd Place: Future Indian World

Rez car contest

- 1st Place: Lynda Mitchell
- 2nd Place: James Eubanks
- 3rd Place: Mary Gale

Department float

- AmVets/Ladies Auxiliary

Moccasin game

- 1st Place: Joyce Shingobe Team
- 2nd Place: Jerry Ojibway Team
- 3rd Place: Laurie Davis Team
- 4th Place: Randell Nickaboine Team

Adult horseshoe tournament

- 1st Place: Jeremy Smith & Roger Garbow
- 2nd Place: Rodney Smith & Roy Garbow
- 3rd Place: Bobby Eagle & Travis Smith
- Most Ringers: Jeremy Smith

Youth horseshoe tournament

- 1st Place: Alex Urrutia & Jazmine Clark
- 2nd Place: Sage Hardheart & River Roybalt

Raffle winners

- 1999 Chevy Tahoe: George LaFave
- Polaris 4-wheeler: Barb Benjamin-Robertson
- 52 weeks of bingo: Grover Johnson

Thanks to volunteers and contributors

The powwow committee would like to thank everyone for their support this year. It is a big responsibility to plan and coordinate this event every year; we could not accomplish such a major community event without the combined efforts of the Band's various departments and employees. We also wish to extend our appreciation to our neighbors who donated time and gifts towards making the 43rd Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow such a success!



Photo courtesy of Carla Big Bear

After the Mille Lacs powwow royalty was chosen, an honor song was played for them. Family and friends danced and congratulated them during the song. Shown here are (left to right): Lacey Garbow, Sr. Princess; Noel Kegg, Jr. Princess; Wyatt Sam, Jr. Brave; and Dallas Anderson Jr., Sr. Brave.



Photo courtesy of Carla Big Bear

The AmVets/Ladies Auxiliary float was selected as the best float during the parade on Saturday.



Photo courtesy of Carla Big Bear

Mille Lacs Band members Deze Gordon and Trina Fasthorse proudly show their dancing regalia at the August powwow.



Photo courtesy of Carla Big Bear

Mille Lacs Band members Anthony Pike (middle) and Quintin Sam (right) are recognized by Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaous (left) for their military service at a special ceremony before the powwow began on Friday.

Fisher Wins Nay Ah Shing's 3rd Annual Triathlon



Photo courtesy of Nay Ah Shing School

The winner of this year's triathlon was 9-year-old Marquis Fisher.

Road construction on Twilight Road did not deter this year's NAS triathletes. Six youth and one adult participated in the competition. The triathlon began at the Brick House where the athletes took to the water and swam out to the DNR boat operated by Conservation Officer Erik Hennekin. After checking in and swimming back to shore, they dried off their feet, put on socks and shoes, mounted their bikes, and began the second leg of the competition.

The bicycle route this year was to Eddy's Resort. After arriving at Eddy's, the racers turned around and headed back to the Brick House where they dismounted and ran to the finish line.

This year's winner was Marquis Fisher, 9-year-old son of Jericho Sayles. Other competitors, in the order that they finished were: Brenda Mitchell, Kirby Benjamin,

Charisse Cash, Bugs Haskin, Eddie Nadeau, and Charles Shingobe. This is the second year Marquis has competed in the triathlon, and it was very exciting for him to have his grandmother, Bugs, participating. Bugs is the athletic and activities director at Nay Ah Shing.

Family, friends, community members, and Band employees cheered the athletes on. Chief Executive Marge Anderson started the race, and then followed the athletes along the route in her vehicle to show her support. Chief of Police Dwight Reed led the competitors in his squad car to ensure their safety, while DNR Officer Jared Rosati followed the group in his car. Triathlon coaches Jason Long and Roz Hoff were with the athletes during the entire competition.

Chief Reed commented on how Marquis never let up. "He never slowed down on his bike and never walked. He ran the entire time. It was amazing to watch him!"

An awards ceremony and luncheon was held at Nay Ah Shing Upper School following the competition. The Health and Human Services Department presented Marquis with a \$200 Target gift card for his first place finish.

The triathlon is held every August. Everyone is invited to participate, however only the athletes who train with the coaches are eligible for prizes and awards.

Mille Lacs Band History and Culture Showcased at New Gopher Stadium



Photo courtesy of Molly Juckins

Chief Executive Marge Anderson and Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus attended a dedication ceremony for TCF Bank Stadium's Tribal Nations Plaza. The plaza exhibits the history and culture of the state's 11 Indian tribes on individual sky markers.

Among the many features of the University of Minnesota's new TCF Bank Stadium, which

opened this fall, is a special outdoor plaza that pays tribute to the state's 11 American Indian tribes.

On August 17, Chief Executive Marge Anderson and Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus attended a dedication ceremony for the Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza, located by the west entrance of TCF Bank Stadium. The plaza exhibits and celebrates the history, presence, and cultural contributions of the state's 11 Indian tribes. Each tribe has a separate 18-foot sky marker that describes its culture and heritage. The sky markers include tribal flags, images, and facts about the tribes.

The plaza was created through a donation by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

Higher Education: A Benefit to Band Members And Our Community

By Toya Stewart Downey

History has long shown that when compared to the white population in the United States, those in different racial, ethnic and minority groups lag behind the predominate group when it comes to economic prosperity and social status.

A common denominator that seems to better level the playing field for all groups, including American Indians, is higher education, according to experts.

Research conducted by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement and the National Center for Education Statistics shows that, "Higher education often serves as the best means of social mobility available to our nation's youth."

Graduating from college is associated with more stable patterns of employment and higher earnings, according to a report, *The Condition of Education, 1996*, which was written for the U.S. Department of Education.

"As the gap in earnings between high school and college graduates continues to widen, college has become even more important for minorities who are trying to enter into a globally competitive labor market," the report continues.

Dennis Olson, Commissioner of Education for the Band, agrees and adds that there are many reasons why Band members should pursue some type of higher education beyond high school.

"With a college degree or training certificate, there are often a wider variety of job options and opportunities," said Dennis. "A two-year degree from a tribal college, community college, or technical school can increase a person's earnings by about one-third. A four-year degree can increase a Band member's earnings by about two-thirds."

Beyond earning more money, pursuing postsecondary education can help Band members build professional and life skills.

"You learn how to develop time management skills, self-advocacy skills, organizational skills, and communication," Dennis said. "Students gain knowledge in specific and general areas, and the skills that students learn and build upon in higher education are oftentimes the ones that are most needed by their tribal communities."

Dennis added that one of the biggest motivators for students going to college is to complete their program, return home, and

utilize the skills they gained to work for and with their communities.

Yet, he added, there seems to be fear in some Indian students that they might forget their communities, language, teachings and traditions by pursuing higher education. This fear may have been instilled in them by the experiences their parents or other family members had with the educational system.

But Dennis tries to help diminish their fears by focusing on the positive aspects of pursuing higher education, including the fact that there are large support systems and networks for Indian students.

"Students can often find cultural activities and clubs and enroll in history and language classes specific to their community," said Dennis. "Our Mille Lacs Band tribal college offers many classes taught by community members and other American Indian instructors."

"Smaller colleges like our tribal college, offer students a built-in support network with plenty of small class sizes, one-on-one instructor time, and student support services."

Those who pursue higher education also gain a sense of self-sufficiency, have more options in the workforce, and develop a sense of community development, according to research.

Just ask Band member Amanda Nickaboine-Meyer, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology and Human Services from Bemidji State University in 2006.

"I always knew I was going to go to college. It was a future goal, and I knew at a young age I would go even though my parents didn't go to college," she said.

It wasn't easy, but Amanda said she focused on what the end reward would be – a promising future and the first college graduate in her family.

"It's a struggle, but there's a payoff in the end," Amanda said. "When I graduated, it was the best feeling in the world because I did it."

Carolyn Shaw, Assistant Commission of Administration offers this advice to Band members: "Pursue education. Try it so you'll know. Learn a trade. You have to develop a skill set, and you do that through education beyond high school," Carolyn said. "I would like young people to understand that opportunities are here, and it's up to them to take advantage of them."

Back From Iraq



Tony Pike

The following article appeared in the August 19, 2009, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with their permission.

When 3-year-old Christina Pike looked up and spotted her father step out of the car, she simply said, "Daddy," as she ran and jumped into his waiting arms.

Army Sergeant Tony Pike hugged his young daughter, whom he missed since deploying to Iraq last March.

A surprise visit was set up for Christina and her dad on Wednesday, Aug. 12, when Tony was due to return to Minnesota for a little R and R.

Two men from Onamia – 37-year-old Army Sergeant Tony Pike and 20-year-old Marine Quintin Sam – chose the second and third weeks in August for their two-week leaves this summer.

Although stationed worlds apart, the two chose mid-August to return home not only to see their loved ones, or, like Tony, to avoid temperatures in Iraq that can rise to 130 degrees, but also because this time of the year coincides with the Mille Lacs Band's annual traditional powwow – an event both have grown up with and a celebration they find hard to miss.

Pike, who was raised in Minneapolis but has lived and worked in Vineland since the late 1980s, said being around friends at powwow time is something he looks forward to.

Sam, who is currently stationed in California, said that, as a Marine, every month he can earn up to two and one-half days of leave time.

"I saved up enough time to get home for a while, and I wanted to be around during our powwow," Sam said.

Pike and Sam came home looking forward to reuniting with friends at the powwow, but were unaware they were

Photo courtesy of the Mille Lacs Messenger



Quintin Sam

also scheduled to be featured as part of the 2009 traditional Ojibwe celebration.

Knowing Pike and Sam were going to be in the area, the powwow committee decided to honor the two soldiers during a flag-raising ceremony scheduled for noon on Friday, Aug. 14, at the powwow grounds.

"We introduced the flag-raising ceremony last year as a kickoff to our powwow that begins on Friday evening," powwow committee member Cyrilla Bauer said. "And this year, we couldn't think of two better men to honor than Tony and Quintin, especially since Tony is also a powwow committee member."

Pike is employed by the Mille Lacs Band Community Development Department as a supervisor of roads, and is also a member of a military police National Guard unit headquartered in Stillwater. His unit left for their first tour in Iraq on March 5.

Before going overseas, Tony gave his daughter Christina a small, stuffed bear which was equipped with an audio device capable of recording her father's voice. Tony recorded a short message, and Christina was able to listen to her dad's voice every day since he left home.

"She carries that bear everywhere," said Christina's mother, Marie. "She would listen to her dad's voice and would talk back to the bear as if she was talking to Tony."

That communication has kept Christina as close as she could to her dad during the past five months. On Aug. 5 she finally heard his voice for real again when he returned from Iraq for a surprise visit.

As father and daughter hugged, Tony looked around to the others who were on hand to welcome him back, and said,

"I missed all of you."

Pike is currently stationed near the southern Iraqi city of Basra, where his duties as an MP include controlling entry and exit points to their compound.

Asked what life has been like in the war zone these past five months, Pike was reluctant to say much within earshot of his mother for fear she would be concerned.

In private, he said that, despite their living quarters being well protected, their compound still receives incoming bombs on a regular basis.

"We call Thursdays over there 'Thumper Thursdays,' because it seems they always pick that day to lob in bombs on us," Pike said.

As for casualties in and around his base, he said three of his comrades were killed recently, but "the Navy Seals got the killers."

As for Quintin Sam, he is a generation younger than Pike, but no less determined to make the most of military life. "I am hoping to be assigned to Afghanistan next year," he said.

Sam credits encouragement from his mother for his joining the Marines.

"I guess I always wanted to be a soldier, but Mom gave me the extra push I needed to go for it," Sam said.

Sam also mentioned how he always looked up to Pike as an inspiration for military life.

With his mother Denise Sargent looking on, Sam stood at attention dressed in Marine blue along side Pike, clad in mid-east fatigues, during the flag raising ceremony that officially opened the 2009 powwow. As they unfurled the stars and stripes, pinned it to the flag-pole rope and raised the symbol of the nation they serve, the Onamia men saluted while the National Anthem was sung by Hevin Shingobe.

Pike knows exactly how many days he has left on his tour. "When I get back to Iraq, I'll be at the halfway point," he said.

When he finally comes home, little Christina will be a 4-year-old and ready to welcome back her daddy for good.

"I'm coming up on 20 years in the guards, and maybe it will be time for me to retire," Pike said.

Donate Old Cell Phones To Support Troops Overseas

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is partnering with the nonprofit organization Cell Phones for Soldiers to collect old cell phones to recycle for cash, which is then used to buy prepaid calling cards for soldiers overseas. The DNR will have a cell phone donation box at its office, located at 45380 U.S. Highway 169 in Onamia.

"I encourage anyone who has an old cell phone to donate it to this great cause and support our troops by helping them stay connected to their family and friends back home," said Andy Boyd, ecosystems and environmental technician for the Mille Lacs Band DNR.

The donated phones are sent to a company called ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each phone. The money received for each phone provides about an hour of talk time for soldiers abroad. Approximately half of the phones ReCellular processes are reconditioned and resold to wholesale companies in more than 40 countries worldwide. Phones and components that cannot be refurbished are dismantled and recycled.

Cell Phones for Soldiers hopes to collect more than 50,000 cell phones this year to help keep troops connected with their families. For more information about the organization, visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

If you would like more information about the DNR's cell phone drop-off site, contact Andy at 320/532-7779.

All-District Co-Ed Softball Tournament

The Community Recreation and Sports Program is hosting an all-district adult co-ed softball tournament. This event will be held in Lake Lena at the girls camp softball field on Saturday, September 19, beginning at noon. Each team is required to have a minimum of three females on its roster. This is a drug-and alcohol-free event, and lunch will be provided. If you have any questions, please call Weylin Davis at 320/384-6240, ext. 240.

Carolyn Shaw Bring Valuable Skills to New Role



Carolyn Shaw

By Toya Stewart Downey

Even though she didn't realize the impact it would have later in her life, Carolyn Shaw's decision to enlist in the United States Army immediately after high school provided a foundation for her life that has become invaluable.

"I joined because of a lack of opportunities here in District 1 in the 1980's," said Carolyn, 39. "By serving in the Army I was able to see the world and get the broader picture."

Carolyn, who served from 1988 to 1992, spent most of her time as a military police officer in Kaiserslautern, West Germany, Fort Benning, Georgia and in Panama, Central America. During her tour in the Army, Carolyn also performed a series of Administrative duties and learned about military government operations at a company level.

"I learned in the Army that you can't get things done by yourself...I learned how a team works," said Carolyn. "I learned about dependability, accountability and integrity."

It's those same tools that Carolyn, a Mille Lacs Band Member, says she brings to her job as the Assistant Commissioner of Administration. She was sworn in on July 1 and since then she's spent much of her time learning how things work.

While the Assistant Commissioner role is new, Carolyn has worked for the Band in other roles for eight years. She was hired as the Executive Assistant for the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs in 2001 where she worked for five years. During that time she was also served as the secretary for the Corporate Board of Directors and chairperson of the Mille Lacs Band Donation Committee.

Carolyn then was promoted to Associate Director of Band

Member Development in 2006 where she was responsible for assisting band members who were either interested in employment or currently working at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and other band owned businesses.

"Our role was to provide individual career services to Band members that included, job search basics, job skills assessments and on the job training," she said.

"I was able to identify several common barriers that many of our people face in their efforts to become self sufficient in regards to employment: lack of transportation, childcare, housing, and for some chemical dependency issues. These barriers need to be addressed all at once in order to implement a band wide solution. We also need more intensive work readiness programs to help our people overcome these barriers and prepare for jobs and careers that they are interested in".

That's why Carolyn wants to find ways to improve some of the programs that are under her umbrella. Some of the departments she oversees include Human Resources, TERO, Grants, Self Governance, Information Systems, Workforce Center, and Program Administration Offices in the District offices in East Lake, Isle and Lake Lena and the Urban Office in Minneapolis.

"I learned in the Army that you can't get things done by yourself," she said. "I know it's going to be a team effort."

For Carolyn, working as the Assistant Commissioner of Administration is an honor and privilege. "I always wanted an opportunity to work for our own tribe and based on my past experience Band government is a perfect fit," she said.

Now in her role as Assistant Commissioner, Carolyn is getting an opportunity to meet her goals during her four-year term.

Carolyn has an Associate of Arts degree from Central Lakes College. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management from the College of St. Scholastica and she expects to graduate in 2010.

Carolyn is the daughter of Larry and Delores (Boyd) Hegland and has four children; Nicholas, Chelsea, Joseph and Samantha and two grand daughters, Jayla and Kierra. She lives in District 1 with significant other, Marvin of 16 years.

Band Members Learn Carpentry Hands-On



Elizabeth Towle

Seventeen Band members went through a two-week training course in carpentry last month and got hands-on experience.

In August, 17 Band members learned hands-on about the carpentry trade during a demonstration training offered by the Anishinabe Occupational Industrial Center (AOIC) and North Central States Council of Carpenters. During the two-week training, Band members attended classes taught by apprenticeship carpenter instructors on topics including:

- Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA)
- Scaffold building
- Metal stud and drywall
- Window installation
- Tool safety and welding training
- All-terrain lift training
- Basic concrete forming
- Basic rigging

The goal of the training was to give Band members a firsthand look at the carpentry industry to help them decide if they want to pursue the Department of Labor Hardhat Grant, which is a full 22-week carpenter pre-apprenticeship program offered by the AOIC.

The Band members who participated in the program were: Ronald Anderson, Christina Boyd, Ernest Boyd, Joshua Boyd, Rodney Boyd Jr., Jacob Hardy, James Lindahl, Coleen Lueck (Weous), Gary Lueck Jr., Brandon Mitchell, Matthew Mitchell, Jake Morris, JoDenise Nickaboine, Jon Nickaboine, Merl Skinaway Jr., Clarissa Smith, and Jon Smith Sr.

From Garden to Lunch Tray: Nay Ah Shing Students Grow Their Own Food



Photo courtesy of Deb Foye

Twenty pounds of potatoes, two gallons of peas, and six large heads of cabbage are among the vegetables harvested from the Nay Ah Shing Schools' garden. When students returned to Nay Ah Shing on August 25, they resumed maintenance of the schools' garden that was started this past spring to grow vegetables for school lunches and nutrition education classes. Other produce grown in the garden includes cucumbers, cauliflower, corn, tomatoes, carrots, beans and pumpkins.

Victims Assistance Program Comes to Government Center

By **Toya Stewart Downey**

Beginning this month, Band members who are victims of a crime or who have witnessed a crime have a new option to meet with a representative from the County Attorney's office at the government center.

"People have had problems getting to Milaca to meet with us, so this will provide them an opportunity to talk about their case in a location that's more convenient for them," said Maria Meirink, the victim assistance coordinator for the Mille Lacs County Attorney's Office.

Maria said she expects to set up office at the Mille Lacs Band government center every week from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Wednesdays. Her first session will be on September 23.

"As long as people are utilizing this service, I will continue to come up every Wednesday at this time," she said.

Maria estimates that approximately 65 percent of the program's clients are Band members. From April 1 to June 30, the program took on 52 new Band members as clients.

The Mille Lacs County Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Program provides referrals and information about

the justice system, the role of a person who has witnessed a crime, the criminal case status, and financial assistance.

The program also provides help for those who are being threatened or intimidated by providing transportation to court, familiarization with the legal system, and helping people understand enforcement and victims' rights.

"My main purpose is to help the victims become comfortable and to let them know we're here to assist them," Maria said. She is also willing to attend court hearings with victims who ask her to accompany them.

Rjay Brunkow, Solicitor General for the Band, said having the program at the government center will make it easier for Band members. "It's really beneficial to have this closer for Band members because many people had a hard time getting to Milaca," he said.

The meetings between Band members and the representative from the Victim Assistance Program will be held in the conference room in the Solicitor General's office. For more information about the program, call Mille Lacs County at 320-983-8305.

Academic Achievement of Students of Color and American Indian Students

(Continued from page 1)



Photo courtesy of Mille Lacs Messenger

Dr. Emmanuel Dolo of Minnesota Minority Education Partnership discussed reasons for achievement gaps facing American Indian students and provided educators and community members with suggestions to help close the gap in classrooms.

Area legislators who attended the conference included State Representative Gail Kulick Jackson, Senator Lisa Fobbe, and Representative John Ward, who pledged their support for improving the educational system to meet the diverse needs of students of color. Representatives of the Initiative Foundation, Blandin Foundation, St. Cloud State University, Central Lakes College, and area schools were also on hand. Onamia School District required its staff to attend the event.

Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Education Dennis Olson was among the speakers. "With the academic achievement of American Indian students as my number one charge, we need to keep in mind that we have an increasing number of tribal members that are no longer only American Indian, but also Caucasian, African American, Latino, and of other cultural groups," he said. "Our children are often faced with juggling multiple cultures, learning styles, and community norms. We

know that when all students in a community are doing well, the entire community will do well. We know that we need to develop better strategies to work with our children."

According to the State Demographers Office (Barbara Ronningen, 2006), the non-white and Latino populations will continue to grow faster than the white population, meaning that fewer white students will be attending Minnesota schools and the state's young people will be more culturally diverse. Furthermore, Learn More Minnesota, an organization working to help children succeed in school and pursue higher education, states that Minnesota anticipates not producing enough skilled people to satisfy future workforce demands.

This conference was a great start to a regional conversation about the education achievement gap and other trends and tough issues. Dr. Dolo provided hands-on strategies for the classroom, culturally-based teaching practices, and best practices for the classroom, which also depend on policy makers for support, funding and evaluation.

MMEP, a nonprofit organization, is traveling across Minnesota to share the Students of Color and American Indian Students report and discuss strategies for increasing the success of students of color and American Indian Students in schools, colleges and universities. The organization is also working with the Minnesota Legislature to help lawmakers understand this issue's urgency. To view copies of the report, which is produced every other year, visit www.MMEP.net.

H1N1 Readiness and Prevention

By **Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator**

H1N1, a subtype of the influenza A virus, made widespread news last spring when it was responsible for illnesses and deaths around the world. Now it is time to prepare for the second wave of the virus, which experts anticipate being a serious concern in the 2009-2010 flu season.

Currently six manufacturers worldwide are producing an H1N1 vaccine. The Band's clinics and other clinics anticipate delivery of the vaccine by early November.

In the meantime, families are encouraged to take preventative measures early

and continually. Thorough handwashing, covering your cough with your arm, sanitizing surfaces like handles and doorknobs, and getting your normal seasonal flu shot are all helpful in prevention. If you have a fever or flu-like symptoms, you should stay home until 24 hours after your fever ends. Our tribal clinics will offer seasonal flu shots in the near future.

If the reservation is affected by H1N1, the Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) will provide information to keep community members informed on response efforts and vaccine distribution. If you have any questions, please call me at 320/532-4181, ext. 2558.

Ladies Auxiliary Seeking New Members

The Ladies Auxiliary Am Vet Post 53 is seeking more new members to join our organization. The Auxiliary is looking for members who are willing to help with activities such as parades, raffles, and concession stands at the Veteran's and Memorial Day powwows.

To be eligible for this organization, you must have had a family member (father, mother, son, daughter, etc.) serve in the Armed Forces. You must also live in the immediate area, or be able to travel to District I for meetings.

If interested, please contact Bette Sam, president, at 320/532-7470.

Benefits of Physical Fitness Last a Lifetime

By Toya Stewart Downey

Jim Ingle knows what it means to set goals.

As the Band's Physical Fitness Coordinator for the past five years, Jim has worked with Band members and Band employees to help them find fitness regimes that meet their individual needs.

He's also worked to spread the message that regular exercise can make a difference in a person's health.

To help make his point, Jim is quick to use himself as an example. Two months ago he celebrated his 60th birthday. Last month he accomplished a long-time goal of participating in the National Senior Olympics in San Francisco.

Jim ran the 100- and 200-meter dashes and participated in the 4x100 relay race. His relay team placed third in the nation. This was the first year Jim qualified for the national competition, though he has participated in the state meet for seniors for the past three years.

"Right now, I'm in the best shape of my life," Jim said. "I'm becoming faster and stronger every week. At 60 years old, I have the oxygen maximum of a 25-year-old," said Jim, who is a member of the Cherokee Nation from Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

That's why he encourages everyone, especially Elders, to exercise as often as possible. "The growth hormone which helps us to grow and mature, goes dormant at maturity, but will kick back in during older age with intense activity," he said. "It's unbelievable what exercise does," said Jim. "People who haven't exercised in years or never exercised say it can't be

done, that they can't change their health, but it works."

Just ask Rick Anderson. "I visited with Jim in the early spring of this year to sign up for his fitness classes in District I to help get in shape after a long winter," Rick said. "I was diagnosed with having pre-diabetes, which was one of the reasons I needed to cut weight and get in shape."

Rick also had another health challenge. His weight had been fluctuating since 1994 – the year he had his thyroid removed.

Jim prescribed a workout program that included a continuous workout for 20 minutes per day, four to five days a week. "Jim is a very good trainer," said Rick. "He encourages you to do your best, yet he doesn't make it too hard and strenuous. He specifically knows when to push you too work harder, and makes sure you're sticking to a good program."

After just 10 weeks of training, Rick discovered that he is no longer a pre-diabetic. Now he works out often and eats more balanced and nutritious meals. "I highly recommend that anyone who wants to improve their health to start an exercise program now and take charge of their own health," Rick said.

For Jim, helping people improve their health is the most satisfying part of his job. "My encouragement to our Elders is that we don't have to give up," he said. "Seventy-year-olds can get up to a 150 percent gain in their strength in 45 days with intense workouts. I look at exercise as being a fountain of youth," he added. "We don't wear out, we rust out."

Band Member Performs at Fine Line Music Cafe



Blues Night was held at the Fine Line Music Cafe on August 7. Mille Lacs Band member Cole Premo (left) and his band Six Shot Love performed. Their special guest was Don Shelby (the Shoe Shine Man) from WCCO-TV. Cole Premo is interning at WCCO-TV. Pictured above with Cole and Don Shelby are Rob Gamache on bass and Ryan Toensning on drums.

Photo courtesy of Megan Kocisek

Updates From the Boxing Commission

Boxing commissioners attend conference

Members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Athletic Regulation attended the Association of Boxing Commissions' (ABC) annual conference on July 28 through August 1 in New Orleans. ABC is an organization of tribal, state and provincial boxing commissions from across North America. Discussions and presentations at the conference covered a wide range of topics from general boxing and mixed martial arts rules to neurological issues associated with combat sports.

During the conference, Department of Athletic Regulation Executive Director Jim Erickson was elected to a two-year term as first vice president of ABC, after serving as the organization's second vice president for three years. In addition to Jim, Mille Lacs Department of Athletic Regulation Commissioners Connie Kevan and Billy Joe Boyd also attended the conference.

Department of Athletic Regulation sponsors basketball camp

The Department of Athletic Regulation was one of the sponsors of the "Back-to-School

Basketball Camp" for youth from all of the Band's districts that was held on September 4-5. The Department of Regulation was proud to have an opportunity to support Mille Lacs Band youth through this event.

Fox Sports Net to televise upcoming boxing bout at Grand Casino Hinckley

By Jim Erickson, Department of Athletic Regulation Executive Director

The next scheduled boxing action at Grand Casino Hinckley will be televised live on Fox Sports Net on November 13, 2009. A couple of main event options that are being negotiated include a match between Jason Litzau and Wilton Hilario, or possibly a match between Matt Vanda and Phil Williams. Popular boxer Cerresso Fort will put his undefeated record on the line, and fellow Minnesota boxers Brad Patraw, Javontae Starks, and Patrick Cape are scheduled to appear. Former Olympic medalist and five-time world boxing champion Virgil Hill will make an appearance as a trainer for Julio Sanchez of New Jersey, who is also scheduled to be on the card.

Two Warriors Battle for The Championship Title



Rick Anderson

Chuck Anderson (middle) edged fellow Band member Reuben St. John in the August 22 warrior title fight.

By Rick Anderson

On August 22, Grand Casino Hinckley hosted full-contact fights. The warrior title fight was between Band members Reuben St. John and Chuck Anderson. Both fighters are trained by Bobby "The Warrior" Anderson of Warriors Fitness & Fight Promotions located in Hinckley.

The fight between two warriors was more a battle of two hearts than physical power and strength. The fight should have been a draw, but Chuck edged the win by one point. Chuck is now 8-1 with three championships. Congratulations to both fighters.

LEGAL NOTICE Public Comment Sought on Proposed Clean-Up Standards

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act § 128(a)(2)(c) [Brownfield 128(a)] requires all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Cooperative Agreement Recipients to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation. Under this statute, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indian's Brownfield 128(a) Program is requesting public comment on its proposed Clean-up Standards.

These proposed Clean-up Standards will be enforced on all environmental clean-ups conducted on property voluntarily entered in to this EPA grant-funded program, administered by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

Public comments will be accepted for 60 days beginning at 8 a.m., August 17, 2009, and ending at 5 p.m., October 16, 2009. Please contact Jammie Thomas-Rasset, brownfield coordinator, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources and Environment, in writing at 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359, for a copy of the standards and this notice.

Free CFL Light Bulb Recycling

By Andy Boyd, Ecosystems and Environmental Technician for the Mille Lacs Band DNR

For the past two years, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Environmental Services has given out CFL light bulbs at the State of the Band Address. We know that the recycling cost of these bulbs is high, and it would be cheaper to throw them in the trash, but we encourage you to recycle them. DNR will be putting free recycling bins at all the community centers so Band members can get rid of their CFL lights safely and conveniently.

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

		July 2009	
	Approved Budget for FY 2009	Actual Expenditures through 7/31/09	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	13,385,300	8,716,366	65.1%
Workforce*	11,676,744	4,665,665	40.0%
Judicial	1,093,149	766,096	70.1%
Law Enforcement*	3,477,344	2,573,346	74.6%
Education*	15,583,085	11,516,904	73.9%
Health and Human Services*	25,722,670	19,302,838	75.0%
Natural Resources*	5,460,796	4,080,873	74.7%
Community Development*	36,615,948	13,806,676	37.7%
Gaming Authority	4,641,974	3,407,796	73.4%
Per Capita Payments	37,512,496	26,085,768	69.5%
Economic Stimulus	2,800,000	2,780,000	99.3%
Total Expenditures	\$157,939,506	\$97,702,328	61.9%

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 from the tribal government.

* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2008 fiscal year.

Public Health Department Updates

By Marlene Poukka, Community Health Educator

Men's health event

The Band's Public Health Department and the American Cancer Society held a Men's Health Event on August 22 at the Lake Lena Community Center. Attendees learned about colorectal cancer, how to prevent it, and the importance of screening for people older than 50.

A nutritious lunch of wild rice soup, bread sticks, and fruit was prepared by Christine Kegg, public health nutrition education assistant. And, each attendee was given a T-shirt from the American Cancer Society.

Friend-to-friend party

The Public Health Department and the American Cancer Society will host a series of "friend-to-friend parties" for women in each district. This event will help educate women about early detection of cervical and breast cancer.

All women 18 and older are invited to dinner and to listen to presentations from Dr. Joy Dorscher and Cyrilla Bauer.

The first event is at the District I Community Center on Monday, October 5, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The second event will be at the East Lake ALU on Tuesday, October 6, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Each participant will have the opportunity to ask questions and will receive a gift.

WIC program

The WIC (Women, Infants, Children) program will continue to provide WIC services on Tuesdays in District I. The program will be provided in East Lake on the first Thursday of the month. WIC will be provided at Aazhoomog Clinic on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Remember moms and dads, WIC is considered a supplement program and not meant to be the only food source for your child/ren. WIC has changed the food package to provide more vegetables and healthy foods for children. If you have

any questions, please contact Joanne Weyaus at 320/532-7821.

Mobile mammogram unit

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Mobile Medical Unit provides mammograms to women who are unable to get the screenings elsewhere, especially those who reside in rural areas and have limited access to transportation. The Mobile Medical Unit will be available on the following dates from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.:

- Ne-la-Shing Clinic – November 2
- East Lake Clinic – November 3
- Aazhoomog Clinic – November 4

Appointments can be made by calling the clinic receptionist in each district. Women 45 years and older are encouraged to schedule an annual mammogram. Each participant will receive a gift.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy September birthday to:

Age B, on September 3 with love from Kelly and the girls • **Georgia Bearheart**, on September 6 from Kayana, McKellen, Chuck, mom, papa, all your siblings, and Auntie Barb • **Tony**, on September 3 from Momma Bear and all the girls • **Paco**, on September 17 from grandma and papa • **Chris Anderson**, 28, on September 20 with love from Jameson, Cordell, Chris Jr., Nicole, mom, Val, Mariah, Baby Kevin, Shelby, Jarv, Tracy, Jake, Jaime, Aiva, Markie, Karen, Gram AA, Sharon, Wally, and Rave • **Tai Ann**, on September 28 from Grandma Barb and dad • **Ian**, on September 29 from Grandma Barb, dad, Auntie Jo, Junior, Brandon, and Bear • **Destanie Anderson**, 13, on September 3 with love from mom, Shy, Jordan, Gramma Gina, Dal Jr., Uncle Dal, Gramma Naz, and papa • **Dan Wind**, from mom, Dena, Kiyawna, Keith, Raymond, Kaitlyn Ann, and your nieces and nephews • **Daniel Wind**, on September 14 from Grandma Maggie, Kris, Robert, Johnny, Baby Rod, Asia Boys, Maria, Sandy, Bevy, Bolly, Bobby, Dennis, Richard, Mooney, Conrad, Benji, and Margie • **Sandy**, on September 20 from your family • **Lynnae Potter**, on September 12 with love from mom, Shayla, Angel and Brianna • **Brianna Nayquonabe**, 3, on September 21 with love from mom, Lynnae, Angel and Shayla • **Larissa Weyaus**, 16, on September 13 with love from Grandma Joanne, mom, dad, Corbin, and Lia • **Chris Weyaus**, 26, on September 14 with love from mom, dad, Danni Jo, and Elliott • **JayBoo Eagle**, from momma, Baby JJ, Nina, and Steph • **Jerome Bedausky**, on September 5 with love from mom, Nikki, Brent, Taryn, Brenda, Roland III, Lucas, Michelle, Baby Cam, Cam, Tim, Miss Veronica, Ed, Auntie Nan, Larry Sr., and the rest of the family • **Taryn Beduasky**, 11, on September 18 with love from Gramma Mary, dad, Brent, Nikki, Auntie Brenda, Lucas,

Roland III, Michelle, Baby Cam, Tim, Miss Veronica, Ed, Auntie Nancy, and the rest of the family • **Mandy**, 21, on September 7 from Danielle and Baby OJ • **Daddy O**, on September 9 from OJ, Danielle, Auntie Shelly, Clint, Mandy, Beau, Brandon, Steve, Ernie, Eddie, and EJ • **Grandma Rae**, on September 28 from Ant, Ellie, MJ, Chad, Renee, Steve, and Darryl • **Tracy**, on September 29 with love from Aiva, Mark, Jacob, Shelby, Jarvis, Jamie, Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, Chris Jr., Chris, MM, Gram, Sharon, Ravin, Wally, Val, Mariah, and Baby Kevin • **Brad Jr.**, on September 17 with love from Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, Chris Jr., Chris, Karen, Gram AA, Tracy, Jacob, Jarvis, Shelby, Aiva, Mark, Jamie, Sharon, Wally, Val, Mariah, Baby Kevin, mom, dad, Rave, Kristi, Braelyn, Peyton, and Eric Anthony • **Dad**, on September 3 with love from Pie and Baby Kevin • **Jon**, on September 5 with love from mom, Bill, Tyson, Eva, Papa Lenny, Evan, Susan, Pumpkin, Clara, and Emma • **Tyson**, on September 14 with love from mom, Bill, Eva, Jon, Papa Lenny, Evan, Susan, Evelyn, Evan, Pumpkin, Clara, and Emma • **Evan**, 1, on September 14 with love from Lenore, Tyson, Jon and Eva • **Shay Schafer**, on September 23 from Aunt Lenore, Tyson, Eva, Jon, Evan, and Susan • **Zachary Kegg**, on September 15 from Aunt Lenore, Tyson, Eva and Jon • **Cassandra Merrill**, on September 23 from Lenore, Tyson, Eva and Jon • **Charlotte Harrington**, on September 9 with love from dad, mom, Nadine, Pinero, Whitney, Leo and Nick • **Nadine Harrington**, on September 28 with love from mom, dad, Barlette, Pinero, Whitney, Leo and Nick • **Chrissy Ballinger**, on September 11 with love from dad, Chrissy, Jazi, Jaden, Mickey, Phil, Nadine, Barlette, Pinero, Whitney, Leo and Nick • **DJ Ballinger**, on September 28 with love from dad, Chrissy, Jazi, Jaden, Mickey, Phil, Nadine, Barlette, Pinero, Whitney, Leo and Nick • **Kelly Graves**, on September 11 with

love from Phil, Mickey, Nadine, Charlette, Pinero and Whitney.

Happy September birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Joe Anderson Jr.
Viola Buck
Joseph Crown Jr.
Roger Dorr
Shirley Evans
Violet Ewert
Lorena Gahbow
Joseph Garbow
Mary Garbow
Carol Hernandez
Donna Iverson
Kathleen Johnson
Carol Mojica
Jacqueline Moltaji
Elmer Nayquonabe
Joseph Nayquonabe
Carol Sam
Darlene Sam
Karen Sam
Janice StandingCloud
Charles Sutton
Irvin Sutton
Russell Thomas
Joanne Weyaus
Leonard Weyaus
Richard Weyaus
Dale Wind
Micheal Wind

Thank you

Thank you to all the people who helped out with the taco benefit for my sister Maxine.
From her sister Marsha.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Susan and Derek Smith** on their July 23 wedding. *With love from your children and family.*

Congratulations to **Toya Stewart and Steven Downey** on their August 30 wedding.

Birth announcement

Congratulations to Lace Thompson and Jory Potter on the birth of their new baby boy. **Jory Anthony Potter Jr.** was born on August 3. He weighed 8 lbs., 9 oz., and was 20 in. long.
Congratulations from your family.

Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center Updates

The Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center will implement a new data information system for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in September. TANF case managers will undergo training from September 28-October 2 to learn the new system. TANF clients will need to submit their required monthly paperwork by September to avoid any delays in receiving benefits.

Computer lab hours

The computer lab will be closed the week of September 28-October 2.

GED tutoring schedule

GED tutoring will be available in District I on Wednesday, September 30, from 5-8 p.m. Please call 320/532-7811 to gain entry into the building after hours.

Time to Register For Next Small Business Training Class

Don't forget to register early for the next three-day business management training class. The next class will be in October, and you need time to gather your market research before the class begins. The exact dates and location for the class will be determined by the Band members attending the class (Hinckley and Urban). There is no cost to the class, but you are responsible for any travel, lodging or meals. Call Sharon James by September 30 to register and to obtain your pre-class information at 320/532-8817 or 800-746-9805, ext. 8817.

Mobile Command Vehicle Used at Mille Lacs Powwow



Photo courtesy of Monte Fronk

The Band's Emergency Management Department showcased the mobile command unit at the Mille Lacs powwow in August. The mobile unit is equipped with radios, a satellite for Internet access, white boards, tables, chairs, a regional map, and other equipment useful for leading emergency responses.

By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator

During the recent Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow, the Band's Emergency Management Department showcased the mobile command unit it uses in partnership with city and county emergency management agencies in the region. The vehicle – a rehabilitated RV – is part of a federal grant project through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In Minnesota, the state's six emergency management regions each received a grant to use for projects that benefit their areas. For the northeast region, which the Band is a part of, we developed a mobile command vehicle that could be used at events such as county fairs, city festivals, powwows, and other public gatherings. We purchased a used RV and installed equipment including radios, a satellite for Internet access, white boards, tables,

chairs, a regional map, and other equipment useful for leading emergency responses. The RV bedroom was converted into a dispatch center, so that there is a quiet section of the vehicle that can be used solely for communications with emergency responders.

The mobile command vehicle allows local law enforcement officials and emergency management personnel to have a common gathering space for discussing public safety issues. With our radios and dispatch equipment, we are also able to quickly communicate with agencies throughout our region in the event of an emergency.

The mobile command vehicle has been a great asset to the Mille Lacs Band and our fellow emergency management teams in helping to ensure our communities are prepared for emergencies. Look for the vehicle at future powwows and other events.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

Sweetgrass basket workshop

Learn the art of making a coil sweetgrass basket by Mille Lacs Band member Joycelyn Shingobe. This two-day workshop will be held on Saturday, **September 19**, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, **September 20**. The cost is \$50 for the public and \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members.

Medallion and belt buckle workshop

Beaded medallions and belt buckles are common accessories

in Ojibwe country. Learn beading techniques to help make your own creative beadwork and accessorize your wardrobe. This two-day workshop will be held on Saturday, **October 17**, from 12-4 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, **October 18**. The cost is \$50 for the public and \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members. There is also a \$15 supply fee. Please call 320/532-3632 to register.

Hours of operation

Group tours can be scheduled by calling the museum at 320/532-3632. Outreach programming is also available.

Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction

By Gilda Burr, Court Administrator

Court rules, procedures and practices can be complex. There are many services that we are happy to help you with. Following is more information about which services we can provide and a clarification of the ones that we can not provide.

We can:

- Explain and answer questions about how the court works.
- Provide contact information for referral services, the legal services program, and other services.
- Give general information about court rules, procedures, practices and terms.
- Provide court schedules and information about how to get a case scheduled.
- Provide information from a case file as long as the case is not confidential.
- Provide court forms and instructions that are available, and check forms for completeness.

- Give information about court deadlines (however, we cannot compute deadlines for you).

We can't:

- Recommend whether you should file a case or what actions you should take.
 - Tell you what words to use in your court papers or what to say in court.
 - Research or interpret the law for you. (We cannot apply the law to the facts of your case.)
 - Give you an opinion about what will happen if you bring your case to court.
 - Let you talk to the judge outside of court or talk to the judge for you.
 - Take sides in a case or provide assistance that would be unfair to either side.
 - Change an order signed by a judge.
- If you have any questions, please call Tribal Court at 320/532-7400.

Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health Staff

Circle of Health cards

Our office continues to receive phone calls from providers who are still sending invoices to our old address in Onamia. This could result in invoices being sent to collections agencies. If this happens, our office usually can not help you.

Therefore, we ask that Band members complete Enrollment and Consent to Release information forms, and include copies of the front and back of your insurance card. This should be done annually.

Minnesota Care

Because Minnesota Care has seen a dramatic increase in applications (43% increase in July alone), the response time after you apply for coverage has gone from three to eight weeks.

To qualify for Minnesota Care, a client must be a state resident, uninsured, unable to get health insurance through an employer who offers to pay at least half the monthly cost, and meet income and asset restrictions.

For instance, an adult without children qualifies for Minnesota Care with an income at or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty line, or \$2,257 a month

for one person. Pregnant women, children under the age of 21, and parents with children qualify with an income at or below 275 percent of poverty, or \$4,198 a month for a family of three.

ARRA COBRA law

Some Band members who are currently on a COBRA plan may now be eligible to extend their coverage to December 31, 2009. Since the new ARRA COBRA law enables your former employer to bill the stimulus package for 65% of the total cost of your plan, it means that Circle of Health is responsible for 35% of the remaining cost. This is a tremendous savings and would allow Band members more time to attain other coverage. You can call your claims processor for more information.

Reimbursements

Please allow claims for reimbursement a two- to six-week grace period from the date of submission. If you still haven't received anything after six weeks, please contact your claims processor, David Boyd A-L, Roberta Lemieux M-Z, or Michele Palomaki, Circle of Health Director, at 320/676-8214 or 800/491-6106.

Calendar of Events

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
<p><i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at kellys@goffhoward.com</i></p>	<p>*To Purchase Tickets</p> <p>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800/745-3000, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</p>	<p>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting 4 p.m. Contact: Dawn Aubid, 218/768-3477</p>	15	16	<p>All Elder Community Meeting Hinckley ALU 11:30 a.m. Contact: Denise Sargent, 320/532-7494</p> <p>District III Community Meeting GCH, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 320/384-6240</p>	17	18	19	<p>Dwight Yoakam* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 8 p.m. both nights</p>
20	21	22	23	<p>Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424</p>	24	25	26	<p>TakeAction MN Candidate Visits Arlington High School 2-4:30 p.m. Contact: Elizabeth Towle, 320/384-4661</p>	
27	<p>District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judy Virnig, 320/532-7423</p>	28	29	<p>District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam, 320/676-1102</p>	30				
				<p>District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center 5 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311</p>					

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
				<p>Talking Circles The Brick House 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046</p>	1	2	3	
4	<p>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting 12:30 p.m. Contact: Rene Ann Goodrich, 320/384-7598</p> <p>AMVETS Meeting GCML 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925</p>	5	6	7	8	<p>International Kickboxing Event Hyatt Regency Minneapolis 7 p.m. \$20 for general seating, \$35 for VIP, and \$45 for ringside</p>	9	10
11	12	13	14	<p>Talking Circles The Brick House 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046</p>	15	16	17	
	<p>All offices closed for American Indian Day</p>							

What Is Your Indian Name and What Does It Mean?

Tara Robertson



"Minochigequak. It means, 'Woman that does good.'"

Kat Yanez



"Zagajiway Gabaweek Way. It means, 'The woman before sunrise to let everyone know Grandfather's coming.'"

Earl Monchamp Jr.



"Mush Kawanakwad. It means, 'Strong clouds.'"

Nicole Anderson



"Wasegiizhich Goqwe. It means 'Woman of the lighted sky.'"

Amanda Miller-Drumbeater



"Ozawahbinc Equay. It means, 'Yellow bird that carries visions to people.'"

Randy Pendegayosh



"Ge Zhii yaash. It means, 'Fast wind.'"

Richard Davis



"Nindizhinikaaz. It means, 'There is something standing at night.'"

Shane Aune



"Ogidak. It means, 'Boss of the hill.'"

Photos courtesy of Rick Anderson (Ay be Nizhoo Way we Daang)

Updates From Community Meetings

District I

Tammy Wickstrom, early education director in District I, spoke at the community meeting about the Band's Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

There are many opportunities for volunteers and parents to get involved in Head Start and Early Head Start in District I. Volunteers are needed to help children develop pre-literacy skills and install new equipment on the playground, which received \$5,000 in grant funding to make renovations.

In terms of parent involvement, parent breakfast events are held monthly, a pipe ceremony is held on the first Thursday morning of the month, a powwow is held on the fourth Thursday morning of each month, and a family activity event is also held monthly (usually the third Wednesday of the month).

Also important is the Parent Policy Council, which helps govern early education programming. The council is composed of enrolled youngsters' parents and interested community members and is responsible for reviewing and/or approving policies, grants, and information necessary to meet grant requirements.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer or parent opportunities, or if you would like more information about

Head Start and Early Head Start in District I, please contact Tammy Wickstrom at 320/532-4181, ext. 2239.

Mary Simon, Nay Ah Shing School principal, Silvia Norberg, Nay Shing School assistant principal, and Commissioner Dennis Olson were also presenters at the meeting.

District IIa, Isle

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Don Eubanks and Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk spoke at the community meeting in Isle.

Don discussed health care issues including Circle of Health and answered questions about funding and other topics.

Monte provided an update on H1N1 and the Band's preparations for the upcoming flu season. The Band has participated in local, state and federal efforts to stay informed and be ready to respond should it face an outbreak of H1N1. The Band has also updated its emergency operations plan to help prepare for any type of incident affecting public health on the reservation. For more specific information on H1N1 and how you can prepare, refer to Monte's article on page 3.

District III

About 145 people gathered on August 20 for the District III meeting. They were welcomed by Representative Harry Davis

and heard from speakers including Mel Towle, Grand Casino Hinckley's general manager, as well as David Matrious.

Mel gave a hiring update and reported that the latest openings in blackjack and table games were filled 100% by Band members. David announced the manoominike harvest and reminded Band members to use their tobacco.

Urban area

Two of the presenters at the August urban area meeting were Deatrick LaPoint, who discussed health insurance options, and Many Rivers Group, which invited Band members to an upcoming homebuyer workshop.

Deatrick talked about the various health insurance programs that may be available to Band members at a low cost or no cost; he is available to meet individually with people to help them through the application process. He is reachable at 612/721-9841.

Many Rivers Group specializes in helping the Twin Cities' American Indian community with the home buying process. The company is conducting a free introductory homebuyer workshop at 1404 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis on Wednesday, September 16, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. To register, contact Jason Bresette at 612/813-1610.

New Housing Development Coming to District III

Band members invited to September 23 groundbreaking

On Wednesday, September 23, District III Representative Harry Davis and other Band officials will lead the community in breaking ground on 18 single-family homes in Hinckley. The homes are scheduled for completion in 2010.

The blessing and groundbreaking ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. All Band members are invited.

The address of the groundbreaking is 1044 Zhingob Avenue. It is located at the southeast corner of the Zhingwaak oodena development. Watch for signage leading you to the site.