

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

September 2011

"The story as it's told."

Volume 13 • Number 9

Mille Lacs Band Appoints New Officials



Photo courtesy of Gilda Burr

Michele Palomaki was named Assistant Commissioner of Administration on August 12.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has named Michele Palomaki as its new Assistant Commissioner of Administration and has reappointed Arlene Weous as a member of the Corporate Commission Board of Directors. Michele and Arlene were sworn into office on August 12.

Michele Palomaki

As Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Michele will act in a deputy-level capacity to the Commissioner of Administration to help manage the day-to-day operations of the Mille Lacs Band government. Her duties include managing human resources, finances, and contracts for the executive branch of Band government. Michele will also act as Commissioner of Administration when the Commissioner is absent and will assist other commissioners with day-to-day operations as needed.

Michele joined the Mille Lacs Band in 2001, first serving in the office of management and budget. Most recently, she was

the director of Circle of Health. Prior to working for the Band, Michele held several positions in the accounting and medical industries in Michigan.

Michele, a Mille Lacs Band member, is excited to continue serving the Band. "It is important for me to give back to the Band, which has provided me with countless opportunities," she said. "I look forward to playing an instrumental role in the positive changes that are happening for the Band."

Michele has an associate of science degree from Northern Michigan University and an associate of arts degree from Central Lakes College. She is planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in January 2012.

She lives in Isle with her husband, Bruce, and son, Jacob. She also has stepchildren and a granddaughter who live in Michigan.

Arlene Weous

Band member Arlene Weous has served on the Corporate

Commission Board of Directors since 2006. Arlene originally held one of two at-large positions on the board. When the District I position was vacated recently, Arlene was appointed to fill that position. Arlene's term will expire March 31, 2014.

The Corporate Commission manages the Band's businesses and analyzes new business opportunities. The Corporate Commission operates Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grand Casino Hinckley, and other Band-owned businesses such as a cinema, a grocery store, convenience stores, and a golf course. The Corporate Commission Board guides the business and investment decisions for the Band.

The board meets quarterly to discuss and review business opportunities for the Band. Current board members are Ron Anderson, Dale Greene Sr., and Arlene Weous. Two seats are vacant.

Kalk Appointed to Clean Water Council



Brad Kalk is a new member of the Minnesota Clean Water Council.

Governor Mark Dayton recently appointed Brad Kalk, the Band's Commissioner of Natural Resources, to the Minnesota Clean Water Council.

Created by state law in 2006, the council oversees the implementation and funding distribution for protecting and restoring Minnesota waters. It is a partner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

"The Mille Lacs Band has a major stake in preserving the state's second largest lake. We are also part of a region that relies on a unique aquifer that needs special protection," Brad said. "I want to use my experience in this region to benefit statewide decisions, and I also believe my time with the Clean Water Council will inform my work protecting waters in and around the reservation."

Brad's council term expires in January 2015.



Photo courtesy of Gilda Burr

Chief Justice Rayna Mattinas swears in Arlene Weous to the Corporate Commission Board of Directors on August 12.



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

Mille Lacs Powwow Photos



Photo courtesy of Kim BigBear

2011-2012 Mille Lacs Powwow Royalty are (from left to right) Nakaya Losh, Junior Princess; Noel Kegg, Senior Princess; Eldayshun Day, Junior Brave; and Darius Barnes, Senior Brave.



Toya Stewart Downey

The Boys and Girls Club's float took first place in the parade on Saturday, August 20.



Toya Stewart Downey

Band members Renee Pawaush, Jeff Potter, and Allen Weyaus bring in the flags and flag staffs. The presentation of colors occurred at the beginning of each grand entry.



Toya Stewart Downey

Several hundred dancers from around the United States and Canada participated in the 45th annual Mille Lacs Powwow on August 19-21.

For additional powwow coverage see pages 10 and 12.

Youth Learn About History and Sovereignty at Annual NVAM Camp



Photos courtesy of Brian Enright

Campers practiced a play about finding their purpose in life during the Youth Civic Camp in July. The camp was hosted by Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota.

Ten youth from tribes in Minnesota and South Dakota learned about American Indian history and sovereignty at the second annual Youth Civic Camp in July. The campers were 12-16 years old and were members of the Mille Lacs Band, White Earth Nation, Oglala Sioux Nation, and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

During the camp, the youth learned about the history and culture of their ancestors from Mille Lacs Band Elder Dave Matrious. They attended the Sandy Lake Tragedy Ceremony, which commemorated the winter of 1850, when hundreds of Lake Superior Chippewa died from illness, hunger and exposure.

Elizabeth Scott, Mille Lacs Band local community coordinator, and Sally Fineday, executive director of Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota (NVAM), taught the youth about sovereignty and the importance of civic engagement and voting.

Band member Valerie Martinez, who lives in the urban area, taught the youth about eating healthy foods. The youth then visited the

Dream of Wild Health Farm in Hugo, where they learned about vegetable gardening, medicinal plants, edible flowers and plants, and honey bees. They also helped cook a healthy meal.

During the week, the campers developed a play about finding their purpose in life with Brian Enright and Sharif Abu-Hamdeh, who are bicycling across the country to help Native American youth find creative voices. They performed the play for their parents and guardians at the end of the week.

"Our youth are our leaders of tomorrow," said Elizabeth. "By helping them learn about the history of their ancestors and participate civically at a young age, we can help them become leaders in tribal government and good role models for other American Indian youth."

The camp was hosted by NVAM at the Ojibwe Language and Culture Center. The Mille Lacs Band provided scholarships for Band youth to attend. NVAM is planning to host the camp again in 2012.

Broadband Survey iPad Winner

Congratulations to Barbara Lobejko, who won the drawing for an Apple iPad. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey about their current access to broadband service. The results of the survey will help determine if there is a need for expanded service in the Mille Lacs Reservation area.

The *Inaajimowin* will publish the results of the survey in an upcoming issue.

Deer Hunting Season Opens After Labor Day

The Mille Lacs Band's deer hunting season begins on Tuesday, September 6.

To be able to hunt, Band members need to purchase an \$8 big game license from one of the Band's licensing agents:

- District I: Kevin Stobb at the Department of Natural Resources building
- District II: Randi Harrington at the East Lake Community Center
- District IIa: Carmen Green at the Chiminising Community Center
- District III: Vanessa Gibbs at the Lake Lena Community Center
- Urban area: Urban office

Each licensed Band member will be issued two carcass tags. Orange antlerless deer permit cards will not be used this year. All other regulations remain the same.

Harvested deer must be registered at one of the registration stations by 4:30 p.m. on the first business day after the kill. For example, if a

deer is killed on a Saturday morning, it needs to be registered by 4:30 p.m. the following Monday.

Registration stations are located at the same places where you can purchase a license. You may also contact a conservation officer to register your deer.

Band members born on or after January 1, 1977, must complete a hunter education and firearms safety course, which is offered by conservation officers in the fall.

Band members under the age of 12 are not allowed to hunt with a firearm or bow. Band members age 12-14 may hunt if they are accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other adult designated by a parent or guardian. Band members age 12-15 do not have to purchase a license, but must have a license to use carcass tags.

For more information, contact Kevin Stobb, District I lead licensing agent, at 320-532-7896 or Mike Taylor, chief conservation officer, at 320-630-2473.

Nay Ah Shing Petite Softball Team Places Second In Local Tournament



Photo courtesy of Nay Ah Shing School

The Nay Ah Shing Petites Softball Team won second place in the Brainerd Parks and Recreation Softball League this summer. The team was comprised of Band members ages 8 to 10.

By Toya Stewart Downey

To some, it may have seemed as if the odds were stacked against the Nay Ah Shing School's Petites Softball Team from the beginning.

First, the young girls (ages 8 to 10) didn't start practicing earnestly for the summer 2011 softball season until it was already underway. After fundraising for team T-shirts, they began practice just days before their first game and never did practice on an actual softball field. The Nay Ah Shing girls had to use the school's gymnasium because softball fields were not available.

Despite the initial setbacks, the girls played their way into the championship game for the Brainerd Parks and Recreation Softball League, where they earned second place medals.

"Even though we got off to the slow start, the season ended really well," said Petites coach Chris Nayquonabe, who is also the K-12 art teacher at the Nay Ah Shing Schools. "We lost our first couple of games because we didn't have many practices and the season started before the school year ended. And then we didn't have a field we could use because the one behind the school is now a garden and the field by the District I Community Center is being used for the new Head Start building."

Though once they got their momentum going, the girls hit their stride, their coach said.

"By the end of the season, the girls were turning double plays, they were hitting home runs, and they started winning more," said Chris. "They really came together as a team."

The Petites lost their first game in the playoffs. They won the next two games, advancing to the championship game.

Chris stated, "We lost by one run, but we were neck and neck during the whole game. It was really intense."

Still, despite the intensity, the girls had a great experience even though some of them were never sure if they'd won or lost their games. "It was really cute," Chris said, "because at the end of each game, even if we won, the little girls would ask us, 'Did we win?'"

The team was comprised of Band members mostly from Onamia, Isle, and District I. Chris said the team had great parental support as well as strong coaching from her assistants, Alex Clitso and Sandi Jellam.

The summer recreational league started in June and ended in July.

Nay Ah Shing has three youth softball teams, the Petites, Juniors and Seniors. If your child is interested in playing for one of the teams, contact Bugs Haskin, Nay Ah Shing activities director at 320-532-4695, ext. 2120.

District I Community Travels to Valleyfair



Toya Stewart Downey

District I Representative Sandra Blake and her family stopped to take a photo with Sally at Valleyfair.



Toya Stewart Downey

Band member Leland Davis enjoys a ride on the carousel at Valleyfair.

District III Health Fair

The Aazhoomog Clinic will host the 4th annual Aazhoomog Community Health Fair on Thursday, September 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the District III Community Center gymnasium.

All Mille Lacs Band members and employees are welcome to attend.

Any department interested in having a booth at the event should contact Donna Hormillosa at 320-532-6240 or donna.hormillosa@millelacsband.com.

Jamie Edwards Named Director of Government Affairs



Toya Stewart Downey

Jamie Edwards is the Band's new director of government affairs. He has been the Band's state government affairs coordinator for the past 12 years.

Longtime public affairs specialist Jamie Edwards is the Mille Lacs Band's new director of government affairs. Jamie has been the state government affairs coordinator for the Band since 1999.

"Jamie has expertise on issues that affect the Band at all levels of government," said Chief Executive Marge Anderson. "That will serve us well as we continue to work

with local, state and federal leaders."

Jamie will lead the Band's lobbying and communications specialists who protect the Band's interests related to its sovereignty, reservation, economy and rights. He also helps develop and implement the Band's public relations efforts.

Most recently, he led the Band's successful opposition to gaming expansion in Minnesota.

"We are happy that state leaders agreed that gaming expansion is the wrong answer for Minnesota," Jamie said, "but we fully expect this issue to be discussed whenever the state needs money."

Although he spent 10 years in Washington, D.C., after high school, Jamie has lived most of his life in the Twin Cities. He currently is a Minneapolis resident. He serves on several education-related boards, including the Minnesota Parent Teacher Association and the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership.

New School Year Means Earlier Bedtime for Children

By Cindi Cooley, early education parent mentor coach

The transition from summer to fall can be difficult for children as they adjust their bedtime habits to accommodate their new school schedule. To ease the transition, the Early Education staff recommends that parents engage in a calm activity with their child 30 minutes to one hour before bedtime.

Bedtime tips

Taking a warm bath, eating a soothing snack, or changing into cozy pajamas for a bedtime story are all relaxing activities that can be part of a bedtime ritual. When parents are clear about what the bedtime ritual is and stick to the same routine, children will adapt more quickly since they know the activity is associated with bedtime.

Children often feel more comfortable falling asleep while their parent is in the same room and also wearing his or her pajamas. Over time, decreasing the physical contact and amount of time spent in the

child's room during bedtime will help the child gain independence and self-esteem. It is important for parents to always praise their child when he or she does well with the routine.

If your child wants a bedtime snack, the early education staff recommends whole grain breads, crackers, and cereals, string cheese, yogurt, fresh fruit, fruit smoothies, and oatmeal as snack options for children to eat an hour before bedtime.

Parents with young children should also be aware of the average amount of sleep their child should get each day, including naps. Infants younger than one year old need an average of 14-16 hours of sleep; children ages 1-3 years old should strive for 12-13 hours of sleep; and children ages 4-5 should get between 11-12 hours of sleep.

If you have any questions regarding your child's sleeping habits, please contact Cindi Cooley, early education parent mentor coach at 320-532-4588 or 320-630-2619.

Public Health Department Updates

New program aims to help youth succeed

By Kristy LeBlanc, prevention specialist manager

The Mille Lacs Band public health department recently opened a new prevention program. Prevention work is relatively new to the Mille Lacs Band, but chronic substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and violence have and continue to be negative issues that affect Native people.

The mission of the prevention program is to create a supportive, educational, and culturally specific program that not only contributes resources to the community, but encourages Band youth to pursue a positive, affirming and substance-free lifestyle. To achieve this, the program will apply a community-wide approach that promotes the development of strong ties to family, community and school to help Band youth succeed.

The prevention program has created partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs, the chemical dependency and mental health departments, as well as the Ne-la-Shing and Aazhoomog clinics. Together these organizations have an exciting year planned with opportunities both through school and after school programs for youth.

If you have questions or suggestions for the prevention program, contact Kristy LeBlanc at Kristy.leblanc@millelacsband.com or 320-532-7776, ext. 2413.

World Breastfeeding Week held in August

By Kari DiGiovanni, WIC coordinator

World Breastfeeding Week, held the first week in August, was recognized by health centers worldwide including the Ne-la-Shing and Aazhoomog clinics. The theme for this year's event was "Breastfeeding, a 3D experience." The three dimensions referred to are time, place and communication. Time refers to the period from pre-pregnancy to weaning of baby; place pertains to home, community, and health care systems; and communication is an essential part of protecting, promoting, and supporting breastfeeding.

As of 2008, 81.9% of Minnesota moms initiated

breastfeeding with their newborns, which is one of the best rates in the nation.

If you have any questions about how to get started with breastfeeding or need breastfeeding support, contact Kari DiGiovanni, WIC program coordinator, at 320-532-7457, or Allison Harr, Maternal Child Health program coordinator, at 320-532-7511.

Gego Zagaswaaken (Don't Smoke) update

By Carol Hernandez, outreach coordinator

The Gego Zagaswaaken Project, which aims to educate people on the dangers of secondhand smoke and promote the use of kinnikinnick, plans to produce a second educational film; the film will feature the Band's traditional healer, Herb Sam, who will talk about the benefits of using kinnikinnick as opposed to commercial tobacco for ceremonial use. The DVD will be used at monthly educational sessions in each district.

Family Wellness Event

By Roberta Ladd, health educator

In July, the Gego Zagaswaaken Project, Boys & Girls Club, District I Representative Sandra Blake, and Chief Executive Marge Anderson cosponsored the Family Wellness Event.

The event featured three educational pieces about tobacco facts and prevention, secondhand smoke exposure, and chemical and drug abuse. The educational discussions were followed by outdoor contests for prizes. Mii gwech to all those who assisted with and participated in the event.

Public health department participates in youth program

By Lisa Blahosky, public health director

The public health department proudly participated in this year's Mille Lacs Band summer youth program. Our department's youth worker, Samantha Beaulieu, was an excellent addition to our staff, and we are grateful for her help. Thanks, Samantha!

Young Band Member Excels in Martial Arts



Toya Stewart Downey

By Toya Stewart Downey

Dakota Aportela has accomplished a feat that is quite remarkable for any eight-year-old boy. In less than two years, he met all of the requirements to earn a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

"I started when I was six, and I earned 12 belts," said Dakota, a Band member who lives in Saint Paul. "Then I got a black belt and that's 13. You can earn 14 belts."

"You get different uniforms and stars on the collar," explained Dakota, who is training to advance to the next level.

Dakota's mom, Pepsi Benjamin, encouraged him to participate in martial arts to keep him active and to give him an opportunity to try something new.

"It looked neat and the kids looked like little professionals in their uniforms," she said.

It wasn't long after he started training that Pepsi realized that her son was also developing skills that would benefit him during his whole life.

"He's always been a good kid, but since he's been taking Tae Kwon Do, I've seen a difference in his behavior," she said.

"He is more responsible and helps more at home – especially with our animals. We have two ferrets, two dogs, and a cat. I've noticed that he shows more compassion for them," she said, adding that he's more thoughtful and tends to think more about others.

Dakota, a third-grader, says the classes have taught him to be more obedient and to listen to his Elders.

He takes one-hour classes at Bally Total Fitness three times a week. His favorite activity is sparring, though he's quick to admit that even though he's earned a black belt he sometimes forgets what he's supposed to do.

"You learn to defend yourself, but you also learn that if a person is trying to hurt you, they're really hurting themselves," he said.

Dakota's grandmother, Sharon Benjamin, said she is thrilled he is enjoying the martial arts training and that he's become so accomplished at it.

"I wanted him to learn how to do it so no one would pick on him," said Sharon. "I wanted him to learn how to take care of himself if he needed to."

She is also pleased that Dakota is having fun. "He's not out to hurt anyone, or use it in a bad way; he's out to play," she said. "That is just what eight-year-old kids are supposed to do," she added.

Dakota said he looks at this experience with honor. He also says he hopes other youth give it a try.

"It's fun, but they're going to push you. You'll make it if you try. I hope you make it."

Band to Receive Federal Aid Following District III Storm

President Barack Obama signed a Minnesota Disaster Declaration for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and 14 counties, all of which sustained storm damage in early July. Reports indicate that about \$19 million in damages occurred in these counties and District III of the Mille Lacs Reservation, well above the \$6.8 million combined threshold needed for a disaster declaration.

The Band estimates about \$64,000 in costs and damages to tribal infrastructure caused by high winds on July 1, and this figure could continue to grow. The federal emergency management agency (FEMA) will fund 75% of the costs for debris removal, emergency services, and repair/replacement of public facilities.

"The most significant costs are for the time, fuel and equipment involved in debris removal," said Monte Fronk, emergency management coordinator for the Mille Lacs Band. "But we also have some road repairs and work that remains to be done. It takes time to go from damage estimates to final expenses."

In August, FEMA and state representatives held an

applicant briefing with the Band to complete a project worksheet. This was the second step in helping identify the specific projects that are eligible for reimbursement. Some of these projects have been completed, while others will continue into the coming months.

The Band's next step will be to formally submit its FEMA Request for Public Assistance form. Then a FEMA officer will be assigned to the Band's case.

Safe rooms

The August applicant briefing also included a discussion about future hazard mitigation – namely the creation of safe rooms inside some Band facilities.

"There may be opportunities for the Band to seek grant funds to help build safe rooms," Monte said. "That would give people inside places like the schools or assisted living units a place to go during severe weather."

Watch the *Inaajimowin* for continued updates on the aftermath of the District III storm.

BIA Holds Conference at Grand Casino Hinckley

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) held its first annual Midwest Region Partners in Action Conference at Grand Casino Hinckley last month. It was the first regional BIA gathering to cover the many areas of tribal governance – from land management and finance to housing and transportation – all in one place.

"Having the Mille Lacs Band host this conference made it really accessible to the Band's commissioners and other officials as a one-stop-shop for information and networking," said Lisa Johnson, the Band's real estate director, who helped organize the three-day event.

Representatives from the BIA and other federal agencies were on hand, including Larry Echo Hawk, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs,

who was the keynote speaker. He highlighted the importance of tribal consultation and the administration's priority of putting land into trust for tribes.

Several Mille Lacs Band officials spoke, including Commissioners Carolyn Shaw and Sam Moose, Mike Moilanen (director of planning and project management), Elisse Aune (historic preservation officer), and Lisa Johnson. Band Elder Skip Churchill gave the opening prayer, AMVETS Post 53 presented the colors, and the Little Otter Drum Group performed.

Four hundred people attended the Partners in Action Conference, many of whom were from the 36 tribes across the Midwest.

Community Celebrates National Night Out



Photo courtesy of Cindy Cooley and family

Commissioner of Education Dennis Olson and Nay Ah Shing School staff Laurie Campbell and Bugs Haskin face off against the Garrison firefighters in a waterball fight during National Night Out in August.

Band Members and Employees Commit to Physical Fitness



Toya Stewart Downey

Band members and employees work out over the lunch hour at the District I Community Center.

By Toya Stewart Downey

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

Jim Kalk had just finished eating his Thanksgiving dinner and wanted sweet potato pie for dessert. But instead of eating just one slice, he ate the whole thing.

It's a story that he shares to show how far he's come since last November.

"I've lost 38 lbs., I'm more active, and I've reduced the number of medications I have to take," Kalk said recently after participating in an intense lunchtime workout with other Band members and employees.

The weekly group workouts are organized by the Band's physical fitness coordinator, Jim Ingle, who also works with

individuals who want his expertise.

This group, which averages ten people a session, has been meeting for two months during the lunch hour. Twice a week they do a timed circuit training routine based on a program used by the Navy Seals. However, Ingle has been facilitating group workout sessions as well as offering personal training for years.

"We do 30-second exercises, we rest 20 seconds, and we do four or five sets," said Ingle. "We're taking each exercise to burnout."

The desired goal is to make the body's oxygen more efficient at the muscular level, he explained.

"My heart is with helping people be what the creator intended them to be," said Ingle. "When it comes to health, nothing happens without it – mental, physical and spiritual. Unless all three are in balance, you're out of balance. I'm here

to help people be healthy and achieve all that they can."

Jim Kalk

"Before I started working out again, I ate really bad, I drank, and my blood was bad," he said. "I had high blood pressure, high cholesterol, was pre-diabetic, and had high triglycerides."

"When I went to the doctor he told me I could have a stroke," said Kalk, operations and maintenance coordinator at the Nay Ah Shing Schools.

He isn't a stranger to physical fitness. In fact, for more than four years, Kalk was an avid exerciser until he fell off the fitness train for about 18 months prior to that fateful Thanksgiving meal.

"Exercising is a good stress reliever. You feel better, and it's easier to relax when you're healthy," he said.

Cheryl Minnema

Cheryl Minnema started working out with Ingle two and a half years ago. She was at her heaviest weight and knew she wanted to slim down and improve her health.

"My mom died from diabetes complications, and I lost a brother and sister from the same thing," said Cheryl, a Band member who is an Ojibwe language coordinator at Nay Ah Shing.

Since she began working out, she has lost 30 pounds and has improved her eating habits. Her goal is to lose 30 more pounds.

"I started working with Jim, and he set me up with a routine," she said. "My goal is to work out daily, but it averages about two or three times a week."

"Better health is my motivation, but so are my kids, who are 5 and 10 years old," she said.

Darcie Big Bear

Band member Darcie Big Bear, the Band's enrollment technician, has been working out with Ingle for the past four years. She also does the lunch-hour circuit training sessions.

"We started doing the group workouts about seven or so months ago, and I was the only female that could hang in there with the guys," she said. "I wish more women would participate."

Darcie said she was always physically active, but not as much as she is now. Regular exercise has benefited her greatly on many levels, she said.

"I sleep better, I am more alert at work, and I just feel so much better about myself," said Darcie, who has lost 20 pounds and wants to shed five more. She also wants to run a 10k race next year.

"I had a health scare a few months back that made me kick my health and fitness into high gear," she said. "I am a single mother of two boys, and I take care of them 100%. I need to be here and be healthy for them."

September Designated National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM), a time to raise awareness about the importance of being prepared for a wide range of disasters. The theme of this year's NPM, which commemorates the 10th anniversary of 9/11, is "A Time to Remember; A Time to Prepare."

Band members interested in raising awareness about emergency preparedness can join a coalition at www.ready.gov/community. Coalition members across the nation can help their communities identify local

risks, make emergency preparedness plans, and coordinate practices, safety drills, and community activities that include participation from local government and first responders.

The Mille Lacs Band is always considering ways to make reservation buildings safer and better equipped for emergency situations. In August, the Band's Tribal Emergency Response Committee met with the Red Cross to discuss how to prepare for mobilizing shelter spaces at local schools and community centers.

Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health staff

Private insurance plans

If you have a private insurance plan that is paid by Circle of Health, please contact the Circle of Health office. Private insurance plans include Blue Cross Blue Shield, Health Partners, and other insurance carriers in Minnesota. If you have a private plan, you probably filled out an individual application with a local insurance agent in your area and have Circle of Health pay your quarterly payments.

Circle of Health is cooperating with another Band department on developments that would affect these individuals. We would like to speak to each person about these developments. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Contact information

Please allow a two- to six-week grace period for reimbursement claims from the date of submission. If you have not received a claim reimbursement or denial after six weeks, contact 320-676-8214 or 800-491-6106.

The Ultimate Road Trip

By Dave Boyd, Mille Lacs Band member

This is part one of a two-part story from Dave Boyd. The second part, highlighting the family's time in Alaska, will be printed in next month's Inaajimowin.

In 1981, my mother Brenda, sister Dawn, cousin Corwin, and I took the journey of a lifetime to Alaska. I was 17 years old.

Going to Alaska had been one of my mother's dreams for as long as I could remember. Her father, Alex Moose, helped build the Alcan Highway in the late 1940s. So this dream was passed down from my grandpa to my mom and then to us. When we left Minnesota in August, my grandpa was sitting in one of our lawn chairs in the shade of our old house.

This would become a once-in-a-lifetime road trip (or twice for me, as I would learn later), followed by two years of living in Alaska.

Our trip started with a detour south to the bus terminal in Minneapolis, where we picked up my cousin Corwin, who came from Wisconsin. We made it as far as the Detroit Lakes area on the first night. We didn't have a camper. Corwin and I got too warm in the tent and slept outside by the road. The next morning we packed up our trailer and left after the tent dried. When driving down the road, the tarp flapped like clothes in the wind.

It didn't take too long for trouble to literally run into us. We were rear-ended by an extremely intoxicated guy in a truck in North Dakota. Once he ran into us, he went into the ditch and passed us on the right. If this had been in Minnesota, he would've been airborne, since most of the ditches aren't too truck-friendly.

We stopped and checked the trailer. The tongue was bent, but the ball and the chains held. The next town was Martin, North Dakota. We called the local lawman, who rounded up the drunk driver. He was so drunk that when he opened his truck door, he fell out. My guess is that he would've blown a .20 or more. We got \$200 from the driver, which more than covered our \$12.00 repair bill.

Crossing into Canada

Crossing into Canada was much easier in 1981 than it is

today. All you had to do was say how long you were going to be there and where you were going. Nowadays it's Twenty Questions.

Canada is kind of like any other flat part of the U.S.A., except everyone says "eh." They all dressed like us and spoke English. But their pop cans also had French words, and the gas was measured in liters. (Gas cost about 65 cents a liter, or \$1.35 a gallon.)

There were days that we drove into a never-ending horizon. We stopped at grocery stores and ate lunch meat sandwiches and potato chips. One such grocery store, somewhere in the middle of Canada, stands out. We were eating our food outside in the parking lot. Some of the locals decided to show off and spin the tires on their car. When the tires spun, they contacted the tar and had some grip. The girl's head snapped back and hit the seat. We laughed at them – so much for trying to be cool.

We just drove and drove. We didn't have any mechanical problems. We all knew what our jobs were. Mine was to unpack the tent and put it up while the others were cooking a meal or going into town to get our dinner. I suppose some of you are thinking, "Wasn't it better to eat in a cafe?" It might've been, but when you are on a budget, cooking your meal is a lot cheaper.

When we reached the head of the Alcan Highway, we stayed a couple of days in Dawson City, British Columbia, to see the sights. Then we started on the Alcan Highway.

The highway was being paved in some parts, so there were some long lines of traffic. We had heard about all of the flying rocks that took out headlights, so we bought some light covers, which didn't work. Somewhere down the line we bought a one-size-fits-all bug screen, which made the front of the vehicle look like a fence, but it saved us, I think.

We went through the Canadian Rockies. The streams were so clear and cold. At one spot we stopped to observe mountain goats that were on the side of a mountain.

At another stop we encountered a stranded family whose vehicle had taken some damage and the engine had blown up. We were so lucky to not have any breakdowns or flat tires.

Mille Lacs Band Members Attend National Casino Marketing Conference



Photo courtesy of Grand Casino Mille Lacs

Band members Joe Nayquonabe Jr., Chad Germann, and Rodney Pendegayosh attended the Casino Marketing Conference in Las Vegas.

By Sarah Barten, Grand Casino public relations specialist

Joseph Nayquonabe Jr., corporate director of marketing for Grand Casinos; Rodney Pendegayosh, executive host for Grand Casinos; and Chad Germann, founder and CEO of Red Circle Agency attended the Casino Marketing Conference July 18-20, 2011, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference is the only senior-level marketing conference in the gaming industry. This year's event was loaded with tools and techniques to help gaming properties bounce back from the recession.

Nayquonabe was excited for this year's conference, not just as an attendee, but as a panelist as well. Nayquonabe was asked to sit on the "Hunters & Huggers?" panel, to talk about the changing roles of casino hosts. He was among good company, too. He was one of four player development experts from around the world who weighed in on the topic.

"I was honored to sit on this particular panel among great leaders," Nayquonabe said. "Gaming is a mature industry in our market, so it becomes a greater challenge and a greater necessity to understand our

casino customers and how to best serve them. I learned some great ideas to bring back to help our player development departments at each casino."

Rodney Pendegayosh attended three sessions to learn more about player development. He has an interest in this area and in casino marketing, and this conference gave him the opportunity to explore ways to reach existing and potential Guests.

"As a former legislator, I know how important Indian casinos are to the economies in rural Minnesota," said newly-appointed commissioner of corporate affairs Gail Kulick. "This conference was a great opportunity for two of our key Associates to learn more about how we market Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley to ensure that we maintain the success of the properties and the jobs they have created."

The conference also featured a vendor tradeshow for businesses to share information and network with other casino clients. Chad Germann's business, Red Circle Agency, was a featured business at the vendor trade show.

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.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy September birthday to:

Wesley Gahbow on September 13 with love from Kelly, Jay, Kellen, Auntie Peanut, Rachel, Taya, Noah, June, Onee, and Deek • **Ruel Smith**, 19, on September 14 from Cliff and Mary Pewaush • **Jeffrey Sam**, on September 27 from Lesley, Tre’von and Quincey • **Jose Williams**, 29, on September 25 from mom, Theresa • **Destanie Anderson**, 15, on September 3 with love from mom, Shyla, Jordan, Gramma Gina, Uncle Dal, Dilly Bar, Buddy, Elvis, Gramma Nazz, and Papa • **Evan**, on September 14 with love from mom, dad, Jazzy, Grandpa Curt, Tyson, Tiff, Faith, Jon, Eva, Jeff, and Gramma Lenore • **Oginii**, from mommy, sisters, brothers, papa, Kokum, aunties, uncles and cousins • **Elfreda**, from mom, dad, sisters, brothers, Elyla, Redfeather, nieces and nephews • **Ian**, from mom, sister, brothers, papa, Kokum, aunties, uncles and cousins • **Aiyanna Lynn**, on September 14 from mom, Harmz, Nan, Dessa, Gramma Nat, and Uncle Travis • **Uncle Travis**, on September 27 from Harmz, Nan, Yaya and Dessa • **Dakota**, 9, with love from mommy, dad, Jai, Hamlet Ferrari, Tinkerbell Fenti, Durc Shinobi, Christian Dior, Zelda Monroe, Abuelita, Jory Lee, Anty Heather, and your cousins • **Daniel St. John**, 7, on September 24 with love from daddy, mommy, grandpa, sister, and Mouse • **Q**, 3, with love from Auntie Chey, Ron, and Shay Shay • **Krystyna Virnig**, 21, with love from Heather, Daniel and Thomas Virnig • **Dad**, on September 3 with love from Mariah and Kevin • **Char**, on September 9 with love from Gram AA, Karen, Valerie, Mariah, Kevin, Rae, Waylon, Tracy, Jarv, Shel, Max Dean, Aidan, Jake, Jaime, Mark, Aiva, Emery, Sharon, Wally, Rave, Melz, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, and Chris • **Prince Charming**, on September 17 with love from your sis • **Chris**, on September 19 with love from Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, Chris, Val, Mariah, Kevin, Brad, Tracy, Jarvis, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jake, Jaime, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Sharon, Wally, Rave, Melz, Rae and Waylon • **Nade**, on September 28 with love from Gram AA, Karen, Valerie, Marian, Kevin, Rae, Tracy, Jarv, Shel, Max Dean, Aidan, Jake, Jaime, Mark, Aiva, Emery, Sharon, Wally, Rave, Melz, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, and Chris • **Mexican Sis**, on September 29 with love from your Latina Sis •

Jerome Bedausky, on September 5 with love from mom, Brenda, Rome, Lucas, Fran, Trista, Paris, Michelle, Camryn, Cordell, Ed, Timmy, Miss Veronica, Auntie Nancy, Larry, and the rest of your family • **Taryn Bedausky**, on September 18 with love from dad, Gramma Mary, Brent, Brenda, Rome, Lucas, Michelle, Camryn, Cordell, Ed, Timmy, Miss Veronica, Nancy, Larry, and the rest of your family • **Selena Marie**, on September 10 with love from mom, Chey, Dante, Mase, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Gramma, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Frankie, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Donny, Joey, Sheila, Jim, Jeannette and Bruce • **Soul Son**, 4, on September 15 with love from mommy, Chey, Selena, Dante, Mase, Shawsha, Daymon, Gramma, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Frankie, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Donny, Sheila, Donny, Sheila, Joey, Jim, Jeannette and Bruce • **Simon**, 1, on September 5 from Gramma Vera, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Frankie, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Donny, Sheila, Joey, Mary, Selena, Dante, Mase, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Jim, Jeannette and Bruce • **Georgia Rae**, on September 6 from Auntie Barb and all the girls • **Tai Ann**, 7, from Grandma Barb • **Ian**, 13, September 29 from Grandma Barb • **Cheyuana Rei**, on September 1 from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Faith, Jon, Eva and Jeff • **Jonathan**, 18, on September 5 from mom, Tyson, Tiffany, Faith, Eva, Jeff, Evelyn, Evan, Jazmyn, dad, Grandpa Lenny, and Gladys and family • **Lynnae**, on September 12 from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Faith, Jon, Eva, Jeff, Grandpa Lenny, and Gladys and family • **William II**, on September 13 from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Faith, Jon, Eva, Jeff, and Grandpa Lenny • **Tyson Sam**, 21, on September 14 from mom, Tiffany, Jon, Eva, Jeff, dad, Evelyn, Evan, Jazmyn, Grandma Lenny, and Gladys and family • **Daddy**, on September 14 from Faith Harmonie • **Collin**, 22, on September 24 from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Faith, Jon, Eva, Jeff, mom, dad, Roland, Kevin, Vince, Desi, Lydell, Kayla, Roland Jr., Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clay Jr., Aubrey, Roxanne, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy and Jill • **Clay Sr.**, on September 25 from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Faith, Jon, Eva, Jeff, Candy, Clay Jr., Aubrey, Roxanne, Danica, and Garbow and Smith families • **Cassandra**, on September 23 from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Faith, Jon, Eva and Jeff • **Snooki**, on September

7 from Lenore, Tyson, Tiffany, Faith, Jon, Eva and Jeff • **Kyle Welsh**, 17, on September 4 with love from Ron, Gladys, Roland, Collin, Desi, Kayla, Lydell, Roland Jr., Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clay Jr., Aubrey, Roxanne, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy and Jill • **Roger**, 56, on September 5 from Roland, Collin, Desi, Kayla, Lydell, Roland Jr., Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clay Jr., Aubrey, Roxanne, and Danica • **Karen “Mama” Sam**, on September 4 from Tiffany Jane and Kali Anne • **Krystyna Virnig**, 21, on September 6 from TJ and Kali • **Joseph Daniel Smith**, 11, on September 22 from TJ and Kali • **Noah Dude**, 9, on September 26 from TJ and Kali • **Autumn Rae Smith**, 16, on September 26 from TJ and Kali • **Chrissy Bell**, on September 11 from Rae and Waylon • **D.J.**, on September 28 from Rachel and Waylon • **Bradley Eric**, on September 17 from Rachel and Waylon • **Barlette**, on September 9 from Rae and Waylon • **Nards**, on September 28 from Rae and Waylon • **Trace**, on September 29 from Rachel and Waylon.

Happy September birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

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

Bonita White
Dale Barnet
Michael Wind

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Angelina Lanea** for becoming Ponsford Pine Point Princess. With love *from Auntie Star and the rest of your family.*

Congratulations to **Dave and Diane Barstow** for celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on August 27. May you be blessed with many more. With love *from mom and family.*

Thank you

Thank you to our friends and family during **Harold Hill’s** funeral. Special thanks to the OMB office, Chief Executive’s office, and Legislative Branch. From his family.

Thank you to the SYEP and a special thank you to Lou at Grand Makwa Cinema. My daughter enjoyed her summer job there and gained knowledge and experience. I’m proud of her! Thanks again, *from Valerie Harrington.*

Birth announcement

Congratulations to William Martin Sr. and Kimberly Taylor on their birth of their son **Gavin Richard Martin** on July 6.

In memory

In loving memory of **Adam Christopher Nayquonabe**, September 3, 1988-July 1, 2011.

Don't grieve for me, for now I’m free. I’m following the path the Great Spirit has laid you see. I took his hand when I heard him call. I turned by back and left it all.

I could not stay another day. To laugh, to love, to work, to play. Tasks left undone must stay that way. I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow. I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life’s been full, I savored much. Good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, Don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your hearts and peace to thee, the Great Spirit wanted me now, he set me free.

Love you always cousin, *from Tiffany J. Sam.*



Ojibwe Culture and Traditions



Highlights from the 45th Annual Mille Lacs Powwow

By **Toya Stewart Downey**

Thousands of spectators came out to witness hundreds of American Indian dancers who participated at the 45th annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow that was held August 19-21.

“The Traditional Powwow was a success,” said Freedom Porter, co-chairperson of the event.

Twelve drum groups participated, as did several hundred dancers from around the country and Canada.

Each day showcased dancers dressed in their brilliantly colored regalia. Veterans and royalty led the procession during each Grand Entry. Though rain showers delayed the Grand Entry on both Friday and Saturday nights, the majesty of the procession wasn’t lost, event organizers said.

“I felt that we did not miss a beat by holding off Grand Entry Friday and Saturday nights due to the rain,” said Rob Thompson, a powwow committee member. “We were delayed half an hour the first night and a full hour on Saturday, but the wait was worth it.”

Organizers were also pleased that the event garnered so much media attention through requests for interviews from mainstream media outlets including the public television station Lakeland News, Minnesota Public Radio, and KKIN radio station.

“We were also proud that the Ham Lake Boy Scouts used this powwow to earn one of their merit badges,” Freedom added. We wish to thank them

for volunteering to serve our Elders.

Although there were many highlights of this year’s powwow, such as witnessing Band member and veteran Tony Pike dance for the first time at the event and the announcement of new royalty, the weekend was also bittersweet for some.

“A lot of our long-time committee members are not returning next year, so the powwow ended with appreciation to them and also a bit of sadness,” said Freedom. “But this powwow will go on and continue to get better year after year. We always build on the successes of our predecessors.”

In a public thank you note on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow Facebook page, organizers wrote, “We close this powwow with gratitude and appreciation to each of you who have made this a success – our vendors for your cooperation, our guests for your words, and, of course, our singers and our dancers.”

“Mii gwech to our volunteers, our tribal police officers, and our powwow committee,” the Facebook post continued.

Other activities during powwow weekend included a horseshoe tournament, a parade, and a fun run sponsored by the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. The free event, which was open to the public, was held at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds, located two miles north of Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

For additional powwow coverage see pages 2 and 12.

Cultural Leave Is Not Paid Leave

Cyrilla Bauer, director of human resources for the Mille Lacs Band, recently sent the following memo to Band government employees:

Aaniin,

Many questions regarding Cultural Leave have been raised. Hopefully, this will clarify Cultural Leave.

Cultural Leave is not a paid leave. Cultural Leave is provided to regular full-time employees who have completed the 90-day probationary period. For purposes of this policy, Cultural Leave is defined as Mide’win ceremonies and Ceremonial Drum ceremonies. Eligible employees may be provided a maximum of two weeks “paid or unpaid” Cultural Leave with prior approval from supervisor.

Eligible employees who wish to get paid for the leave can utilize their accrued sick or annual if they are participating or involved themselves in Mide’win. If an eligible employee is walking a participant through Mide’win, the eligible employee will need to utilize annual if they wish to get paid for the leave. If the eligible employee has no sick or annual available, the Cultural Leave is unpaid.

If an employee is required to make special preparations for his/her attendance at a Ceremonial Drum ceremony, he/she may request four hours of “paid or unpaid” time off on the Friday preceding the weekend that the ceremonies are held. Again, “paid means employees can utilize accrued annual” and “unpaid means an employee does not have accrued annual and therefore takes the cultural leave with no pay.”

I hope this explanation will minimize questions or concerns regarding the policy on Cultural Leave.

Mii Gwech,
Cyrilla Bauer

This memo above evoked significant reaction, including the following e-mails. Elder Bette Sam, the assistant to the Commissioner of Finance, sent the first e-mail; the others responded to Bette.

Bette:

“Years ago, we never got paid to do cultural stuff, ceremonies. Our fathers, mothers and grandparents never did anything for pay. Just a thought, from me.”

Response 1:

“I totally agree with you. Seems like no one knows how to ‘Volunteer’ without getting paid anymore.”

Response 2:

“e’ya”

Response 3:

“Thank you Bette, I understand what you mean. It’s like that in Hawaii – we do things just because that is expected of us – not to get paid. I appreciate your words always. Thanks, again.”

Response 4:

“I wish it was still that way...”

Response 5:

“I totally agree with you Bette!”

Response 6:

“I totally agree with your response to Cyrilla!!! It seems no one wants to help each other anymore, without getting ‘paid’ to do it. That is really SAD!!! Mii Gwech, Bette!!!!”

Response 7:

“Nice”

Response 8:

“You go girl! So true so true! Roots.”

Mii gwech to these Band employees for being good cultural role models.

Ojibwe Language Classes Held at Urban Office

Ojibwe language classes will be held at the Urban Office starting on September 19. This five-week class is held from 5:30-7 p.m. and taught by Mille Lacs Band Elder Larry “Amik” Smallwood. Come early and enjoy a light meal before class. Everyone is welcome to join.

Calendar of Events						
September 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		Narcotics Anonymous Brick House 8 p.m. Every Wednesday	1 Talking Circles District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen 320-532-4046	2 All government offices closed at noon	3 Don Williams Grand Casino Mille Lacs 7 p.m.
4	5 All government offices closed for Labor Day	6 Mille Lacs Band deer hunting season opens	7	8	9	10 Kids Crafts Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
11	12 Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting 5:30 p.m. Contact: Melanie Benjamin 320-384-7598 AMVETS Meeting Grand Casino Mille Lacs, 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus 320-309-6925	13	14 District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judith Ballinger 320-532-7423	15 All District Elder Meeting East Lake Assisted Living Unit 11 a.m. Contact: Denise Sargent 320-532-7854	16 Paul Anka* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 8 p.m.	17 Paul Anka* Grand Casino Hinckley 8 p.m.
18	19	20 District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting 4 p.m. Contact: Raina Killspotted 218-768-2345	21 District III Community Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley 6 p.m. Contact: Katie Draper 320-384-6240	22	23	24 Woodland Pottery Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m. All District Elder Music Jam District I ALU 1-4 p.m. 320-532-7760
25 Woodland Pottery Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	26	27 Driver's Education Classes Lake Lena Community Center 12-3 p.m. (See page 8)	28 District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam 320-676-1102	29 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	30	October 1
2	3	4 Onamia Indian Education Meeting Rolf Olson Center Noon, Contact: David Sam 320-532-4901	5	6	7	8

“Describe Your Ideal Summer Day”

Monica Haglund



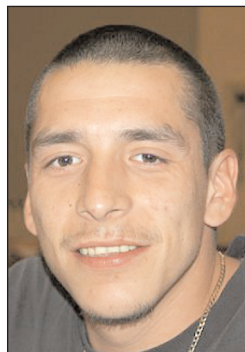
“Being with family and friends at the lake.”

Vanessa Gibbs



“Grilling out and hanging with family and friends.”

George LaFave



“Having a BBQ and playing sports with friends.”

Deloris Gibbs



“Playing with my son, Cheveyo, and his water beach ball.”

Patty O'Brien



“Eating a fresh cucumber salad while harvesting manoomin on the lake.”

Bonita White



“Picking berries, listening to the birds and animals, and visiting with all the grandkids. I can't walk, but I would love to be able to walk around.”

Duck White



“Peeling birch bark when it comes off nice and making baskets. Having a sunny day to pick blueberries.”

Jodi Nickaboine



“Going to the beach with family and friends. Playing basketball.”

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

45th Annual Traditional Mille Lacs Powwow Recap

By Mille Lacs Traditional Powwow committee members

Powwow royalty and winners

Congratulations to the 2011-2012 Mille Lacs Band powwow royalty!

Royalty

- Darius Barnes, Senior Brave
- Eldayshun Day, Junior Brave
- Noel Kegg, Senior Princess
- Nakaya Losh, Junior Princess

Parade float

- 1st place: Boys & Girls Club
- 2nd place: Women's Auxiliary
- * 3rd place: Pine Grove Leadership Academy

Moccasin game

- 1st place: Andrea Jackson's team
- 2nd place: Ernie Boyd's team
- 3rd place: Joel Shaugobay's team
- 4th place: Larry Wade's team

Horseshoe tournament

- 1st place: Randy Sam and Darwin Wilkins
- 2nd place: Jeremy Harrington and George Auginaush

- 3rd place: Tracy Burr and Travis Smith
- Most ringers: Jeremy Harrington

Rez car

- 1st place: Leslie Day
- 2nd place: Rachel Pierce
- * 3rd place: Donna Gilmore

Raffle winners

- ATV: Kenny King
- 52 weeks of bingo: Jeffrey Moose
- * Canoe with push pole, knockers, and paddles: Zoe Norrgard

Thanks to volunteers and contributors

We would like to give a special thank you to the Ham Lake Boy Scout Troop, which volunteered on Saturday to help serve the Elders.

The Powwow Committee is a volunteer group of Band members and employees who make this event happen every year. We'd like to recognize these individuals who put in many hours throughout the year planning and putting this event together. Committee members also worked all weekend managing the activities, vendors, contractors, and scheduled workers. Mii gwech to all of the committee members.

- Anthony Pike
- Carla BigBear
- Carmen Weous-Behnkie
- Cyrilla Bauer
- Denise Sargent
- Freedom Porter
- Ginger Weyaus
- Kenneth “Mister” Mitchell
- Kim Sam
- Lisa Blahosky
- Mary Jo Jennings
- Michelle Beaulieu
- Robert Thompson
- Sharon James
- Steve Premo
- Thomas Mitchell

Elder advisors

- Dorothy Sam
- Kenny Weyaus

Powwow Committee

If you are interested in serving on the Powwow Committee, the committee will be seating new members and electing 2012 officers on September 30. The time and location has not been set yet. Contact Sharon James at 320-282-2712 for meeting details.

For additional powwow coverage see pages 2 and 10.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

Wild rice processing

Watch museum staff process wild rice the traditional way, including how to dry, parch, thresh, and winnow the wild rice. Visitors will see the finished product.

Twenty minute presentations will be held every hour from 12-3 p.m. every Saturday in September.

Kids craft workshop

Children can learn a basic stringing technique while they bead a ring to take home. Please allow an hour to make the craft.

The workshop costs \$3 per kit and will be held on Saturday, September 10, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Woodland pottery workshop

On the first day participants will learn how to dig clay, harvest the tempering agents, and construct their clay vessel. On the second day, participants will finish their surface details and temper their clay vessel in a firing pit. This class will be held on Saturday, September 24, from noon-4 p.m. and Sunday, September 25, 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.

Please call 320-532-3632 for more information.