

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

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APRIL 21, 1932 – JUNE 29, 2013

## MARGE ANDERSON

FORMER MILLE LACS BAND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

It is about this time every year that we are reminded that we live in a land of extremes. During the recent July heat wave that brought temperatures in the high 90's, I kept thinking it seemed like only a few weeks ago that I was shoveling snow off my path in sub-zero cold. Of all the climates on this continent our ancestors could have chosen to make their home, they chose a place with a climate of extremes. Why? Maybe because they knew that as Anishinabe people we could not only handle hot summers and freezing winters, but that the extreme weather would make us stronger.

Much has been happening in Band government this past month, and like our climate, it seems our community sometimes experiences extremes as well. While one day brings optimism and excitement, the next can bring disappointment and loss. My goal is to be as candid with Band members as possible about everything that impacts us as a community and as Band members, whether good or bad. We are strong people and don't need our news whitewashed.

June 30 brought the end of the terms of several commissioner positions as dictated by Band Statute, including the Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Commissioner of Education and Commissioner of Natural Resources. Michele Palomaki was confirmed as Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Katie Draper is Commissioner of Community Development, but other positions remain unfilled at the time of this printing, pending action by the Band Assembly. I have submitted names to the Band Assembly for these positions, but in the meantime Assistant Commissioner of Administration Michele Palomaki is doing an outstanding job handling the task of managing multiple Band departments. Please express your gratitude to her when you have a chance.

On June 13, I sent Band members a letter announcing a "Hearing of Inquiry" involving the Mille Lacs Band Police Department and concerns expressed by Band members regarding the Department. The procedures for conducting the hearings are set out in 4 MLBSA §§ 13 and 14. I informed Band members that I would be appointing an investigator to conduct this inquiry and keep you informed.

One new development in this matter is that on July 26, the Band Assembly approved a contract I submitted with

the Minneapolis law firm of Lindquist & Vennum. Attorneys Wally Hilke and Mark Larsen will be working with the Band on this matter as investigators. Hilke is a long-time friend of the Band and former President of the Minnesota chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, with extensive experience investigating allegations of abuse of Indian people in northern Minnesota. His work resulted in the percentage of Native American inmates imprisoned at Beltrami County Jail (Bemidji) falling from 80 percent to 45 percent over five years.

Larsen is a former assistant U.S. Attorney and an expert on law enforcement. On this critical matter, the Band Assembly and my office are completely united and I am grateful for their support and collaboration as elected officials. We will continue to keep Band members updated as this matter proceeds.

If I needed a reminder of my preference of our Minnesota extreme weather over all other parts of the country, I got it on July 22-24 when I traveled to humid and muggy Washington D.C. to visit with members of our congressional delegation about issues including health care and economic development. We met with Representative Betty McCollum, whose district includes our two new hotels in St. Paul, and received updates about critical taxation and legal issues impacting Indian gaming.

Speaking of our new hotels, our new properties in St. Paul have already made a big entry into the regional and national American Indian conference business. On July 9-10, the Band was proud to host the summer meeting of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) at the Band's Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Paul. This is just one example of the many opportunities for regional and national conferences on American Indian issues that we hope to bring to our new properties.

In cooperation with other MAST tribes, the Band addressed issues including mining and its impact on our natural resources, how casinos can lower carbon footprints, issues involving transferring land-into-trust status, and the impact of over \$228 million in cuts to the Indian Health Service last year due to sequestration. Many very poor tribes are facing substantial challenges in providing health care due to these cuts. In times like these, I am so appreciative of our ability to supplement cuts in health care through our economic development revenue.

On July 18, I joined members of the Nay Ah Shing School Board and Suzanne Wise in attending an excellent training in the Twin Cities presented by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) regarding the status of the Nay Ah Shing Schools. The BIE shared critical data that it has been documenting on Nay Ah Shing Schools in a "Report Card." The Report Card is based on attendance, reading and math scores, and is intended to document areas of student progress from the beginning of the year to the end of the year when students take standardized tests.

The good news is that our student test scores have been steadily improving in the Abinoojiiyag, but the Upper School has unfortunately not experienced the same progress. The training offered tools to map out goals, objectives and priorities for not just the upcoming school year, but also several years into the future. One of the BIE requirements is that the School Board hold an annual public meeting to share the Report Card results, so look for information about an upcoming School Board meeting or speak with a School Board member for more information. As parents, grandparents, and care-givers, you are our partners in the education of Band children, and only working together will we ensure that our current generation of youth have a future that is brighter and filled with more opportunity than the one before them.

It was heartbreaking to learn of the recent tragic passing of another young Band member. We all know too much about the problems we face as a community. What we need are ideas and solutions for how we're going to address these problems. We need to come together as a Band and offer our ideas and support to put a stop to the violence and harm that plague our people. Ideas covering everything from better street lighting to welcome gates to new penalties for those whose actions create safety concerns need to be on the table. All of your ideas are welcome. Look for information about upcoming meetings. Action by all is needed to make our community safe.

The State of Minnesota wolf hunt has been on the minds of many Band members. I'm troubled by the State's actions to reauthorize another hunt on wolves for 2013-2014. Wolves have critical cultural and spiritual importance to Anishinabe and other Native people. Despite the objections of the Band and other tribes, the State went

ahead with the 2012-2013 hunt without any consultation with tribal governments.

In July I attended a meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT). At that meeting we adopted a resolution confirming the authority of each Band to regulate wildlife on tribal lands, including the authority to declare tribal lands a sanctuary where taking of wolves is not permitted. The resolution also calls upon the United States Department of Interior to assist the MCT and each Band in developing a comprehensive wolf management plan, and to meaningfully exercise its trust obligation to ensure the State of Minnesota's single-minded wolf hunt does not trample upon the tribal authority and sovereignty of the MCT and constituent Bands. In addition, mining has become particularly contentious in Wisconsin as well as in Minnesota, where our wild rice crops are threatened by proposed copper sulfide mining.

I serve as our regional representative of the Department of Justice's Tribal Nations Leadership Council (TNLC), and a few weeks ago I asked that the impact of mining and other industry on treaty-guaranteed fishing and harvesting rights be included on the next agenda meeting of the TNLC. Our next meeting takes place in August and I will keep Band members posted about those discussions.

Expanding health care opportunities for Band members is an issue I'm exploring closer to home, through an initial meeting with officials in Rochester, Minnesota, to explore potential partnerships with Rochester health care providers like the Mayo Clinic. These are exploratory discussions, but they went very well. I'm excited about relationship building with the Rochester community and Mayo — and the improved healthcare for Band members that might eventually transpire.

In August I'm attending a Legislative Subcommittee meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe at Grand Portage. On April 30, we heard a summary of an Enrollment Survey in which we hope to target 400 Band Members in each Band. The purpose of this survey is to collect data regarding enrollment issues and I'm looking forward to an update about how the survey is progressing. If any Band members have been contacted about this, please be generous with your time and answer the survey questions. The information will be critical for informing our decision-making at the MCT.

Finally, I had the pleasure of attending the Urban Area meeting on June 27 and enjoyed sharing a nice meal with the many Band members who attended.

While we live in a climate of extremes, and as a Band our community often experiences extremes, it is the stability of our identity, our culture, our history and the wisdom of our Elders that sustain me in my daily work for the Band. I hope you feel some of that inspiration in your own daily lives as well.

Miigwetch.

*Melanie Benjamin*

## Grand Market Renovation Complete

### Expansion includes new full-service banking branch of Woodlands National Bank

**Sarah C. Barten** Public Relations Specialist



**Joe Nayquonabe and John Weiers presented a check on behalf of the Corporate Commission and Grand Market to Commissioner Katie Draper, Family Pathways representative Erik Theisz, Bev Sutton (Mille Lacs Band Emergency Services) and Bruce Anderson, Sr. (Mille Lacs Band Food Shelf)**

With an expansion of 3,056 square feet, the Grand Market now offers a variety of improvements throughout the store including an abundance of fresh produce, a bakery filled with fresh pastries and breads, a wide selection of Kretschmar deli meats and cheeses, a selection of specialty coffee, non-perishables and a new entrance into the store.

"We think customers will be pleased with the expanded selection," said Joe Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band. "We want to provide the best possible service to this community and we couldn't be more excited about what Grand Market has to offer."

In addition to the grocery updates, Woodlands Nation-

al Bank underwent a significant renovation which builds on the bank's legacy of stability, strength and commitment to the communities they serve.

The newly renovated Woodlands National Bank was designed with the customer in mind. It now is an inviting space that has customer seating, additional teller services and private offices for bankers to offer clients support and personal attention to their financial needs.

"We are committed to meeting the evolving needs of our customers and are proud to offer them convenient access to all of their banking needs in the Grand Market location," said Ken Villebro, president of Woodlands National Bank.

To celebrate, the Grand Market stocked local food shelves. "We know we are only as strong as the communities we serve, which is why it's a priority to give back to organizations that help improve the quality of life for others," said Nayquonabe.

The Mille Lacs Band's Emergency Services program received a \$1,000 donation, which will go to benefit the Mille Lacs Band Food Shelf, exclusively for Band members.

The Mille Lacs Band Food Shelf, which is open Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., is located at 16745 Shaw Bosh Kung Drive in Onamia. To find out more information, please call 320-532-7880.

## News about Eddy's Lake Mille Lacs Resort

### Corporate Commission

The Corporate Commission is charged with identifying new potential investments, as well as looking critically at existing assets to maximize their value and productivity. From the casinos to our hotels and restaurants, our Guests have come to expect a premier experience from our brands, and we see a significant opportunity to refresh the Eddy's property to better deliver on those expectations.

The Economic Development team has begun the stages of planning and conversations with Mille Lacs County and relevant state agencies regarding plans to move ahead on a complete renovation to Eddy's Lake Mille Lacs

Resort. Although it is too premature to comment on specifics before the planning process is completed, we can share that the intent is to freshen the whole property, including guest rooms, amenities, meeting spaces, the marina and the restaurant.

Because of the extensive work that goes into a complete renovation, Eddy's last day of operation will be Monday, September 3, 2013. The Corporate Commission will keep Band members updated in regards to this project through articles in the Inaajimowin as well as the Commissioner's bi-monthly letter.

# HUMAN LOUDSPEAKERS

Larry “Amik” Smallwood uses volume and humor to entertain the powwow crowds

**Deborah Locke** Staff Writer   **Tiffany Bolk** Photographer

Larry “Amik” Smallwood says that of all the things you need as a powwow master of ceremonies, the most important may be a big mouth.

You need a voice that can be heard over any noise from the powwow arena, past the grandstand seating, beyond the portable bathrooms and well into the campground parking lot and nearby woods.

You need a voice that keeps spirits up, an agenda moving, and people laughing. A voice like Henry Green Crow’s, a Ho-Chunk MC that Amik admired from the 1970s.

“I liked the way Henry captured people’s attention and made things run smoothly,” Amik said on a recent afternoon in Hinckley. “He had a loud voice. I thought, I have a loud voice! I could do that! I’ll never be a Henry, I’ll just be me.”

Being himself worked out pretty well for Amik. He went on to serve as a powwow master of ceremonies throughout the Midwest and as far east as New York. His first gig was the University of Minnesota-Duluth annual powwow in 1982. Today, Amik is a familiar presence in Indian Country, carving an identity with his well-modulated voice, humor and vast experience.

## Backstage at the Powwow

Like all good MCs, he brings the audience directly into the moment — without any hint of the months of preparation necessary to host a large powwow. It all starts with the powwow committee, which decides whether the powwow will include dancers and drum groups competing for prize money. Or the powwow could be traditional, without the judges and competition.

A date is selected, followed by an arena director, two masters of ceremonies as well as dance and drum judges. Most communities choose a guest MC and a local MC. The local guy’s job is to inform the guest MC about the traditions of that community. Most powwows seem to follow the same order and form but there are discreet changes from place to place, Amik explained.

For example, the Ojibwe expect children to be old enough to dance by themselves when they enter the arena. Dancers from other nations may allow adults to carry small children into their arenas. The powwow committee members outline the rules well before the day of the powwow. Amik said that when you sit down to announce, you are there at the pleasure of the powwow committee. As a newcomer, you always remember that you are a guest in that community, and you behave in a respectful way, he added.

Successful MCs have an idea of the crowd makeup before they sit down to announce.

**You need a voice that keeps spirits up, an agenda moving, and people laughing.**



Larry’s never seen without his signature boots



They observe the dancers, which can number up to 1,000. A large throng of competitive dancers is often serious; traditional powwows are more relaxed. Competitive dancers check out who is there, gauging the competition for prizes as lucrative as \$20,000 for first place.

As the MCs size up the crowd, the arena director makes sure the orchestration moves along on time. Are the drum groups in place and ready? Are the dancers lined up? If it’s hot, is there plenty of water? If it’s too hot, the director may decide that Elders and young children will dance late in the program after it cools down. If a rain storm approaches, it’s the director’s call to move indoors.

Meanwhile at the microphone, the MCs are shuffling through papers that list dance categories. At the same time, they begin lighthearted chatter with the audience.

## Sizing Up

“We watch the crowd so we know who we can brag about, who we can make fun of, who we can tell lies about,” Amik said with a smile. A good MC knows how far to go and when to stop kidding. You can’t be too serious up there, and you have to be loud. Since not all members of the audience are native, the MCs often explain a dance style and its meaning.

An announcer’s worst nightmare? A faulty sound system, which can pretty much end a powwow, Amik said. When the sound system works, the audience may mostly see and hear a couple of entertaining MCs. What they do not see is the paperwork that has to be followed and the flexibility required to keep the powwow moving along. Maybe a category of dancers is not ready with a song, so another group takes their place. The arena director stays in close communication with the MCs so everyone knows what to expect.

What is the most striking moment of any powwow?

“I’m always amazed at how beautiful our people are when I first see all of them at the Grand Entry,” Amik said.

The dancers move through in order — Veterans, powwow royalty, Elders, male and female dancers and children — which can take up to a half hour or 45 minutes.

The sea of movement leads seamlessly to the first round of dancers. Starting in the 1960s, Amik danced on and off for a few decades. Now at a powwow only his mouth moves, in a style that might have made Henry Green Crow proud.

It’s easy to overlook the role the MCs play as powwows throughout Indian Country roll out this season. The wise-cracking guys make it look so effortless.

In reality, they’re the critical glue that keeps the whole complicated production together, one loud and humorous syllable at a time.

## 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow

Friday, August 16 – Sunday, August 18

Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds, west side of Lake Mille Lacs

For more information, visit: [facebook.com/iskigamizigan](https://www.facebook.com/iskigamizigan)

# We're Going to Luxembourg This Summer

**Arne Vainio, MD** Family Practice Physician **Stephan Hoglund** Photographer



We're going to Luxembourg this summer.

This has been in the works for several years, but we're finally going to make it happen. My involvement in this is from several different perspectives.

When I first met Stan, I saw an old man who continually seemed confused about everything. On his very first visit he came in because he needed a refill of his medicines. He didn't have any of the bottles, but had his day's supply of pills in a little rubber coin purse. He didn't know the names of any of them or what they did, he just knew how many times a day he took the blue rectangular pill, the round orange pill and so on. This was before everything was on the Internet, and it took a pharmacist the better part of a day to figure out his meds. His blood pressure was very high and I needed to add a medicine, but he told me he had been started on a new medicine once and it caused severe abdominal pain and he ended up in the hospital. He thought it was a blood pressure medicine, but he didn't remember the name. He thought it started with an "A" or an "L".

Every hallway seemed to be a challenge and he would stand outside any door clearly wondering which way to go. I couldn't get a straight answer to any question and every answer had a long story leading up to it. I spent hours trying to explain his medical conditions to him and after a long and what I thought was a clear explanation, he would ask a basic question that I had already answered several times.

All of his visits turned into very long and complicated ordeals and I was always late for my patients for the rest of the day after any encounter with him. He was hard of hearing and I had to yell to communicate with him. He would start the visit talking about one thing and as I was getting ready to leave tell me why he was really there. Those reasons were always big reasons and were not things I could put off until his next visit. He lived a long way away and a visit with me meant his entire day.

I came to dread seeing his name on my schedule.

In spite of that, I liked him and he liked me. I knew he had been in the military service because I finally got his records from the VA. He had an extensive and complicated medical history.

One day I came into the exam room to see him and he

had a wrinkled and torn brown paper bag on his lap. "Dr. Vainio, I thought I might show these to you."

The bag was covered in dust and I assumed it was an old car part he was going to show me. He reached into the bag and he pulled out an old metal helmet. There were several holes through the helmet and the webbing was torn from shrapnel.

He told me he was at Normandy during the invasion in World War II. Most of his unit didn't survive and he didn't want to talk about that. He passed me the helmet and he reached into the bag and pulled out a Purple Heart medal.

"I never look at these anymore," he said softly, "I just thought I might show them to you."

I'd never even seen a Purple Heart before, much less held one. I couldn't hold back my tears and I couldn't talk for several minutes. I had been seeing him as a confused old man when in reality he fought against incredible odds when he was just a boy. I saw him with different eyes and I saw him that way for every visit thereafter. None of his conditions got easier, none of his stories were less convoluted, he never understood me the first time, his hearing never got better, but now none of that mattered.

He fought for me.

Johnny Mercer was my wife Ivy's great uncle. He was from the Grand Portage reservation in northeastern Minnesota and was 19 years old when he entered the service. He was on a bomber crew when his plane was shot down over Germany. No one ever really knew for sure what happened to him, they just knew he died in the war.

He was simply gone.

Ivy was researching our family histories 14 years ago when our son Jacob was born, and she started trying to find out what happened to Johnny. She was eventually able to find out he was buried in the American Cemetery in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg. She was able to get pictures of his grave marker for family.

Ivy's grandmother is 87 years old and she remembers Johnny to Ivy. She remembers him as a 19 year old man, handsome and strong. She cried when Ivy sent her the picture of Johnny's grave marker and Johnny will always be 19 years old to her.

This summer we are traveling to Luxembourg. Most

people think we're crazy because we're only going there for 2 days and then we're coming home. We aren't going to Paris or to any other big cities or to any museums or famous places.

Ivy and Jacob and I are going as a delegation, the way our people have always gone when there is something of great importance. We are going there for one purpose only and not as part of a trip to an amusement park or a resort.

We are going there to honor our warriors. Ivy will touch Johnny's grave marker for her grandmother and we will put asemaa down and we will thank him in Ojibwe for his sacrifice. We will stand with him as family.

No one has ever been to his grave site. Before Ivy found him, no one even knew where he was.

Stan died several years ago and I didn't get to see him before he died. I suspect he never had the chance to go to the cemetery to honor his fallen brothers.



Ivy was researching our family histories and found out Johnny was buried in the American Cemetery in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.

I will do that for him. I will also do that for anyone else who has relatives there. Send me their names and I will speak them as we thank Johnny and the rest of our Ojibwidaa, our warriors.

We will talk to our Elders to find out what we need to do to do this in the proper way. Many will not have the opportunity we've been given to make this journey. We need to do this right.

We need to do this while Ivy's grandmother is still with us.

We'll see you soon, Johnny.

*Arne Vainio, MD (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Member) is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac Ojibwe reservation in northern Minnesota.*

**"We're going there for one purpose only... to honor our warriors."**

**— Arne Vainio**



# MARGE ANDERSON: SHAPING A LEGACY

The impact of one of Minnesota's most important American Indian leaders

**Deborah Locke** Staff Writer

In the early days of Indian gaming, Marge Anderson showed up at a Washington D.C. congressional hearing with a group of Indian children.

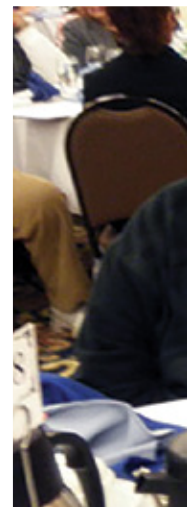
Donald Trump also showed up — to oppose Indian gaming in general and the proposed Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in particular. Trump saw the Connecticut casino operated by the Pequot as a threat to his own casino empire.

He should have been more afraid of Marge and her kids. With television cameras focused on the packed hearing room, Marge and others assured congressional leaders that Indians could develop and run their own gaming enterprises.

A full-page advertisement in the popular "Roll Call" Capitol Hill publication showed one of Trump's yachts next to a Mille Lacs Reservation school and health clinic. The text read that Trump's profits bought him yachts and made shareholders rich. Indian gaming profits paid for paved roads, schools and improved healthcare services.

Tadd Johnson, special counsel to the Mille Lacs Band, was working as a lawyer for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1993 when the drama unfolded. He said the Mille Lacs Band became a "poster child" in the ensuing battle that Trump lost.

With Marge Anderson at the helm, the Mille Lacs Band became a poster child for many good causes as Marge and her staff took on local, state and national leaders over the years. She was so well known



state-wide and nationally that people referred to her by her first name only. When someone in Washington wanted an Indian perspective on any matter, he or she picked up the phone and called Marge in Minnesota.

None of this is to suggest that her job was easy. When the Mille Lacs Band fought in the court system for the continuation of its traditional fishing and hunting traditions, Marge received death threats from opponents. For a decade a group of powerful non-Indians, spearheaded by former Vikings coach Bud Grant, attempted to remove the Ojibwe hunting and fishing rights on ceded land.

The issue brought out the "ugly side" of midwesterners, Tadd said. Anti-Indian sentiment flourished as many public figures expressed doubt about the treaties and their modern day influence.

The Mille Lacs Band win at the Supreme Court level was Marge's finest triumph, Tadd said. "It's hard to top a Supreme Court victory," he said in a telephone interview.

Tadd was with Marge and a few others on a cold day when the Supreme Court decision was announced in 1999.

## **Bonnie's announcement**

They were standing in the reception area of the Band's government center. Marge asked Bonnie, the receptionist, to use the intercom and tell all employees the outcome of the case. The building exploded with cheers, Tadd recalled. Marge could have grandstanded, preferring a press conference to make the announcement by way of a canned speech. **Continued on page 8**



# Timeline

- 1932** Marjorie Ann Davis was born and grew up in the Vineland area
- 1952** Graduated from Onamia High School
- 1976** Elected District 1 Representative
- 1987** Became Secretary/Treasurer and Speaker of the Band Assembly. She worked closely with Chief Executive Art Gahbow as the Band entered the modern era of tribal sovereignty.
- 1991** After Gahbow's death on April 11, 1991, the Band Assembly appointed Anderson to fill his term. Under Anderson's leadership, the Band uses casino revenues to strengthen its culture and benefit the region.
- 1992** Re-elected as Chief Executive. During her tenure as chief, she oversaw the construction of schools and ceremonial buildings. She was instrumental in the Band's decision to use new revenues to invest in infrastructure.
- 1993** Anderson emphasized the importance of managing the Band's casino enterprises. The Band opens the new Ne-la-Shing Clinic, the first tribal health facility in the nation built with casino revenues.
- 1994** By this time the Band's two casinos had created 2,428 local jobs, and paid \$33,500,000 in employee wages in 1993. The Band spent \$20,000,000 for public works projects from 1991 to 1994.

- 1996** Re-elected as Chief Executive
- 1997** Named Tribal Leader of the Year by the National Congress of American Indians.  
  
"It is a great honor to be recognized by my friends and colleagues," Anderson said. "But this is not just an honor for me personally, it is a tribute to my entire Band. Without my people's strength and support, I would not be here today." She dedicated the award to the Band's youth — "our leaders of tomorrow."
- 1999** The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Mille Lacs Band retains the right to hunt, fish and gather on lands it ceded to the federal government through the Treaty of 1837 under tribal regulations.  
  
When the Supreme Court upheld the lower court rulings in March of 1999, Anderson said, "Today the United States has kept a promise, a promise that agreements are made to be honored, not broken....Our rights are not just words on paper, they are vital to our being."
- 2008-2012** Served as Chief Executive
- 2013** Passes away at the age of 81 in Onamia, MN



But no. That wasn't her way.

Her way was usually quiet and thoughtful. She adopted a consensus-building style, took strong positions and did not back down.

"Her will was made of iron," Tadd said. She surrounded herself with staff members who had high levels of expertise, she listened to them, asked Band members for their opinions, and then considered the impact of her actions over the next decade and even 100 years.

She knew the Band's laws well, stuck to high principles, and pursued what the people said they wanted with zeal and courage, Tadd said.

Sam Moose, an executive commissioned officer with Health and Human Services, knew Marge all his life from the Drum Society ceremonies she attended with her husband, Merlin.

Marge built on the foundation established by her predecessor, Chief Executive Arthur Gahbow. She was no clone of Art's, but she agreed with his overall belief in sovereignty, self-sufficiency and Ojibwe values of strong families and a strong self-tailored government structure.

"I think Marge understood that our treaty rights were part of the foundation of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe sovereignty," Sam said. "She knew that the protection of those rights

was essential to the health and welfare of our communities." Marge championed the Band's infrastructure, helping to funnel dollars into schools, clinics, government and community centers.

"She understood Art's vision, a community vision with checks and balances in government," he said. She wanted her people to be happy, proud, attuned to their ceremonies and traditions, and strong.

To Molly Judkins, Marge was a lifelong friend. Molly was Marge's deputy assistant from 1995-'97, and her executive secretary in 2009. To Marge, economic development was a top Band priority.

"Marge thought that gambling would disappear and asked what would replace it," Molly said. "She made decisions based on how they would affect generations to come."

### Work ethic origin

Molly said that Art Gahbow had a strong influence on Marge, and so did Annie Davis, Marge's mother. A well-known story is that as a child, Marge had many siblings and food was hard to come by. One day her mother told the children that they would go outside and pick berries to raise money for food. And they did. Her mother's influence became apparent throughout Marge's life.

"She never threw up her hands and gave up," Molly said. If there were a challenge needing a solution, Marge would bring people together and ask them what could be done. In recent years she arranged for meetings with Band Elders to discuss the rates of violence in the Mille Lacs Band.

Over the decades, Marge logged thousands of miles to attend meetings with countless individuals, all for the same purpose: to improve the lives of her Band members and Indians in general. Some criticized her for the

many trips to Washington D.C. to meet with congressional leaders.

Marvin Bruneau, District II representative, said that Marge represented the Band well on her visits. "Washington is where things happen," he said. "Marge worked to impress on the nation that sovereignty is paramount and she stressed the independence of the Band. Her timing was right. She created a lot of momentum."

She did that at home, too. Sometimes Marvin would approach Marge for help with a sticky situation in his district. Marge understood the nature and differences of Band members in the three districts, Marvin said.

"She tailored her leadership to each group," he said. "She lived a good and fruitful life and was lucky in a lot of ways." Marge frequently asked for guidance from the Great Spirit, and received it.

Any story about Marge Anderson would not be complete without the fact that she loved to play bingo and ride her snowmobile. She loved and protected her family, and she cherished traditional Ojibwe beliefs. With the possible exception of the snowmobile riding, the above might summarize many grandmothers on reservations throughout Indian Country.

Now add this. Friend and foe alike will acknowledge that Marge Anderson shaped the course of history and improved the lives of countless American Indians. She fought detractors who challenged the Band's very existence.

One does not reach that level of effectiveness without making a few enemies along the way. However, election outcomes show that more people admired her high standards, wisdom and devotion to her people's welfare, especially the generations to come who would rise as Band leaders and successfully take Mille Lacs into the next century.







## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

JUL 02 2013

The Honorable Melanie Benjamin  
Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, Minnesota 56359

Dear Chief Executive Benjamin:

On behalf of the employees of the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Indian Education, I want to express our deepest condolences on the passing of former Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson to the Mille Lacs Band community as well as her family and friends.

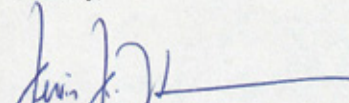
Chief Executive Anderson was an accomplished individual who willingly shouldered the weight of leadership and responsibility, and a visionary woman of action who worked to improve the lives of her people. She also was a tenacious fighter whose undaunted defense of her Tribe's treaty rights will resonate throughout Indian Country for many years to come.

She successfully represented her Tribe at the highest levels of national American Indian discourse and policymaking, but did not forget the importance of family and tradition. She advocated for tribal economic development in order to support and strengthen Ojibwe families while recognizing the importance of preserving Mille Lacs Band's history and culture for future generations. Her courage and follow-through to bring employment generating businesses to her community was integral in making the pursuits of long term prosperity for her people a reality.

Chief Executive Anderson's dedication to the rights of tribal sovereignty and self-determination for all tribes will continue to be recognized by many across Indian Country. It is hard to lose such a strong tribal leader, but it is a small consolation to know her life's work may inspire and provide an example for the future leaders of tomorrow to follow.

We join with you and the Mille Lacs Band in sorrow over her passing. Please accept our prayers for your peace and comfort at this time.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

## Thoughts on Marge

*She was the kindest woman I ever met. She never made quick decisions. She knew that if we pursued the treaty rights case and lost, it would be a big loss. But everyone knew that winning that case would outweigh the risk of a loss. Her decisions weren't based on the here and now, she was always looking to the future.*

– Carolyn Shaw-Beaulieu

*She gave up her personal life to be a leader and did that without hesitation. Marge and I served on the tribal council before casinos opened. I remember what we called Black Friday: we had no money to do anything. The banks seized our accounts and would not cash our checks and we could not make payroll. So we changed policies. The Band began to open tribal businesses, we gave no more personal loans. Marge and I stood by each other and supported each other. She was a true tribal leader. And everyone knew her by her first name, which was pretty impressive.*

– Bernida Humetewa

*She was a great visionary. People don't realize that there was nothing here but us before casinos. We were poor. We had gravel roads, no schools, old buildings. Then a new era began. Marge had the vision to put money toward infrastructure.*

– Sandi Blake

*I'm deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Marge Anderson, a trailblazer for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. An amazing woman and role model for the next generation of tribal leaders, Marge will be missed. She fought to preserve the Ojibwe culture while — at the same time — pushing to advance the progress of her people. I'm grateful to have known Marge, and proud to have worked with her on bringing new opportunity and promise to the Mille Lacs Band.*

– U.S. Senator Al Franken

*The members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe have lost a great political leader and champion of tribal rights who will be remembered for generations to come. Marge was an inspiration who dedicated her life to improving the lives of her community and Indian people all across this country.*

– U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn.





# Students Experience College Life During Summer Program

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

Even before the seven Nay Ah Shing students had arrived at Purdue University to participate in the Gifted Education Resource Institute, eighth grader Thomas White declared that he wanted to go back again next year.

By the time the two-week program had ended in mid-July, his fellow middle school classmates decided they also wanted to return to the Indiana campus again next summer.

The students — Thomas, Shaina White, Dajatay Barnes, Ronni Jourdain, Clara Gahbow, Megan Saboo and Taylor Nadeau — are part of their school's gifted and talented program.

The students were invited (and offered full scholarships) to attend through a grant specifically for Native American students, explained Gregg Rutter, the school's Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator.

"The students experienced life on a university campus," he said. "They lived in campus residence halls, ate meals there and attended classes during the day. It was a fast-paced and challenging two weeks. They really loved the experience for a lot of reasons."

They also had opportunities to meet other Native American students, as well as students from countries around the world — including China, Colombia, India and South Korea. They worked in state-of-the-art laboratories and computer facilities. They took classes based on their individual interests such as science, engineering, architecture, 3D geometry and mathematics.

Seventh-grader Megan Saboo mentioned the food, dorms, and activities when asked what she liked most about the summer camp.

"It's a place where you get to meet new people and learn new things in classes," she said. "It helps you break free and be the person you want to be."

Fellow participant Dajatay Barnes shared similar sentiments.

"I'll remember the activities, how I met new people and the Global Gala talent show," she said. "I think I know how to express myself a little more and know how to be myself better after going to the Gifted Education Resource Institute."

Gregg, who has been at the school for two years, said he hopes to take the students back again next year, but before then he will find ways to tie their summer learning



**Pictured(L-R): Clara Gahbow, Taylor Nadeau, Megan Saboo, Shaina White, Dajatay Barnes, and Ronnie Jourdain**



into what they do during the school year.

"It was so rewarding to witness the kids' excitement when they were there," he said. "They felt a new confidence and I will use that to keep encouraging them. We will reinforce what they learned as much as we can programmatically."

"One thing that we'll do is offer an extracurricular robotics class and the students will have an opportunity to participate in that," Gregg said. "And we'll continue to meet the kids at their learning level and need."

## Mille Lacs Early Education Open House

Mille Lacs Early Education (DI, DII, and DIII) will be holding an open house on August 28 from 12 p.m.–5:30 p.m. District II and III will be held from 12 p.m.–4 p.m.

Come tour the school, see the classrooms, and meet your teacher. Snacks will also be served.

We want to remind parents that your child's immunizations and physicals need to be up to date before the first day of school on Tuesday, September 3, 2013.



If you live near the woods in an area with black-legged ticks, keep your lawn mowed short.

# Preventing Tick-borne Disease

## Mille Lacs Band Health Department

Preventing exposure to blacklegged ticks (also known as deer ticks or bear ticks) requires diligence.

- Campers, hikers, hunters, farmers, and people in outdoor occupations may be at risk in the counties known to have blacklegged ticks.
- Some people have been exposed to blacklegged ticks in their yard. Especially when the yard has a lot of brush and leaf litter and is adjacent to the woods.

### Minimizing your risk

#### Avoid blacklegged tick habitats during the peak time of year (generally mid May through mid July).

- Blacklegged ticks are found in wooded, brushy areas. Unless you spend time in that kind of setting, simply being in a high-risk county won't place you at risk. You should know whether the areas where you live, work, or play have blacklegged ticks.

#### Walk in the center of the trail to avoid picking up ticks from grass and brush.

#### Use a good tick repellent:

- Products containing permethrin, used on clothing, are especially recommended for people who will be spending an extended period of time in possible tick habitat.
  - Permethrin products are marketed under names like Permanone® and Duranon® and are available in stores that sell outdoor gear.
  - Do not use permethrin on your skin.
- Standard DEET-based products are another option.

- Use a product containing no more than 30 percent DEET for adults.
- Concentrations up to 30 percent DEET are also safe for children (according to reports from the American Academy of Pediatrics). Do not use DEET for infants under two months of age.
- Products containing DEET will also protect you from mosquito bites and mosquito-transmitted diseases.
- Follow the manufacturer's directions for all repellent applications.

#### Wear clothes that will help shield you from ticks.

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Tuck your pants into the top of your socks or boots to create a "tick barrier."
- Wear light colored clothes to make it easier to spot ticks.

#### Check frequently for ticks and remove them promptly.

- Ticks must remain attached for one to two days before they can transmit the Lyme disease bacteria.
- Some research suggests that human anaplasmosis may be transmitted more quickly.
- Check the hairline and behind the ears and points of clothing constriction (e.g. behind knees, waist line, and arm pits).

#### If you live near the woods in an area with black-legged ticks:

- Keep your lawn mowed short.

- Remove leaves and clear the brush around your house and at the edges of the yard.
- Keep children's play-sets or swing-sets in a sunny and dry area of the yard.
- Make a landscape barrier (such as a three foot wide border of wood chips) between your lawn and the woods.

#### Prevention for pets

- A vaccine to prevent Lyme disease is available for dogs. However, the vaccine will not stop your dog from bringing ticks into the home.
- Check your dog or cat for ticks before allowing them inside.
- Topical tick repellents are available for pets.
- Talk to your veterinarian about these options.

#### Tick removal

##### If you find a tick on yourself, remove the tick promptly.

- Prompt tick removal is important.
- If possible, use a pair of tweezers to grasp the tick by the head.
  - Grasp the tick close to the skin
  - Pull the tick outward slowly, gently, and steadily
  - Do not squeeze the tick
  - Use an antiseptic on the bite.
- Avoid folk remedies like Vaseline®, nail polish remover or burning matches — they are not a safe or effective way to remove ticks.



## Birch Bark Harvest

Cultural Teacher Donald "Duck" White shows students how birch bark harvesting works.



**Pictured (L-R):** Commissioner of Health and Human Services Samuel Moose, Housing Board Member John Mojica, Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, District III Representative Diane Gibbs, and Tribal Court Chief Justice Rayna Churchill. **Not pictured:** Housing Board Member Jennifer Gahbow

## Swearing In Ceremony for Newest Appointed Officials

**Andy McPartland** Staff Writer

**O**n August 5 in the Band Assembly Chambers, recently appointed officials were sworn into office by Tribal Court Chief Justice Rayna Churchill. Congratulations to our newest appointed officials: John Mojica and Jennifer Gahbow (Housing Board), Commissioner Samuel Moose (Health and Human Services), and Commissioner Suzanne Wise (Education).

# Are You a Good Employee?

Tawnya Stewart Guest Columnist

How you act on the job can help create a better workplace culture.



**P**erception is real! Attitude is everything! What you put in is what you'll get out! Change your mind, change your world. Spending time at work is something most of us do half of our lives. Since we spend so much time at work,

we should do our best to make it worthwhile and be the best at what we do.

What makes a positive workplace and what are the benefits of one? A positive work environment leads to increased productivity, better employee morale and the ability to retain a skilled workforce. Negative attitudes in the

workplace — particularly from management — can have a dramatic impact on the entire workforce.

Overall, most employees want to perform well at their job. However, there are often some negative employees in the workplace. Typically, these people are unaware of how ev-

ident their negative attitudes are. This mentality can have a detrimental effect on the rest of the staff.

Over the years, I have coached many employees and managers on workplace performance. It is always interesting to see how "problem" employees conducted themselves in non-productive ways and blamed others for their actions. I decided to compile the different types of behaviors I noticed most frequently.

Employees need to take an honest look in the mirror and decide how they want to be perceived at work. The good news is that if you choose to accept this mission, you can take the necessary steps to improve your image at work.

Remember: you spend more time with people at work than you do with your family. Being a "good" employee can make your work and personal life enjoyable.

**Note:** Changing how you're perceived in the workplace can take time (maybe three to six months), but it is defi-

nately achievable by being consistent and having predictable behavior. This is important for employees if they want



**A good attribute to have as an employee is the willingness to learn new information about the latest software, industry and role.**

to keep things running smoothly at work.

"Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life." — Confucius

## Negative Traits

- Arriving to work late
- Not volunteering for new assignments
- Conflict with co-workers and manager
- Complaining about their work and manager
- Calling in sick on a regular basis (typically on Mondays or Fridays)
- Talking too much about personal issues and personal life
- Not being thoughtful about their intentions at work (just showing up)
- Requires manager to micro manage and creates unnecessary stress for themselves and the team
- Inability to solve problems with others
- Disrupt the work environment: thriving on being the disruption in the workplace
- Gossiping and being a "know-it-all"
- Surfing the internet
- Breaking company policies on a regular basis
- Stealing from the company both in materials and time
- Expects someone to find them their next job
- Blaming others for mistakes
- Bad attitude

## Positive Traits

- Gets to work on time, even early
- Accountable/reliable: Meets deadlines regularly. Has ability to start a task and complete without a lot of supervision.
- Innovation: Open to sharing new ideas to improve process.
- Upbeat and a good attitude: Environment that is unique, spawns new ideas and is enjoyable for the other people involved.
- Willing to learn new information about the latest software, industry and role.
- Passionate
- Ability to separate their personal life from their professional
- Open perspective, motivated and action oriented
- Good thinkers/problem solvers
- Confident and works to get along with others
- Honest
- Understands the purpose of their work and does not always need a pat on the back for every accomplishment
- Takes responsibility for career

## TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

### Happy August birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diane Marie Barstow  
 Frances Jean Benjamin  
 Clarence Roy Boyd  
 Marlys Louise Bushey  
 Myrna Joy Ceballos  
 Karen Marie Clark  
 John Dewey Colstrud, III  
 Geraldine DeFoe  
 Edward Ernest Dunkley  
 Roxanne Julie Emery  
 Gary Dean Frye  
 Dorinda Fay Garbow  
 JoAnne Sue Garbow  
 Samuel Garbow, Jr.  
 Barbara Maxine Goodman  
 Diana Guizar  
 Mary Jean Harpster  
 Bradley Harrington  
 Blaise Eugene Hill  
 Robert Martin Houle, Jr.  
 George Ben Jackson  
 Patricia Clarise Jones  
 Doris Kegg  
 Lorraine Marian Keller  
 Andy Mitchell  
 Lynda Lou Mitchell  
 Gerry Warden Mortenson  
 Delia Ann Nayquonabe  
 Victor Dennis Nayquonabe  
 Margaret Rose Premo  
 Linda Christine Quaderer

Bruce Anthony Ray  
 William David Schaaf  
 Theresa Joy Schaaf  
 David Duane Shaugobay  
 Frank Shingobe, Jr.  
 Bernadette Smith  
 Daniel John Staples  
 Connie Jean Taylor  
 Janice Louise Taylor  
 James Martin Thomas  
 Richard Henry Thomas, Jr.  
 Sylvester W. Thomas, Jr.  
 Barbara Ellen Toth  
 John Wayne Towle  
 Michael Laverne Wade  
 Alrick George Wadena, Jr.  
 Diane Wadena  
 Carmen Denise Weous  
 Juanita Diane Weyaus  
 Donna Jean Wind  
 Eloise Betsy Wind  
 Franklin John Woyak

### Happy August birthdays:

Happy Birthday **Herbert W.** on 8/1. Have a grand day on your birthday from your cousin Marlys. • Happy Birthday **Sharon** on 8/6 from your loving husband Wallace. • Happy Birthday **Sharon** on 8/6 from your granddaughter Brownie, Ravin, Tracy, Shelby,

Max, Adian, Jarvis, Jacob Jr., Avia, Mark, Emery, Val, Mariah, Little Kevin, brother Brad, sister Karen, Brad Jr., Bralyn, Wesley, Eric, Brynley, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, Buddy, brother Phillip, Mickey, Nadine, Blake, Charlotte, Carter, Whitney, and Camron. • Happy Birthday **David S.** on 8/11. Bro...you made it to the Big 60. Love you! From your little Sista, Bro-in-law A, Baby Girl, Kelia, Railei, Baby boy, Kandi, Cyrell, your baby sister, Micheal, Janice, nieces and nephews. • Happy Birthday **Brad Harrington, Sr.** on 8/15 from your sisters. • Happy Birthday **Gram Kim and Papa Brad** on 8/15. Love Mariah and Kevin. • Happy Birthday **Janis J.** on 8/15. Love ya my lil sis. Have a very good day, love Auntie M., Uncle A., Richard, Rachel, Kelia, Jeremy, Railei, Candi, and Cyrell. • Happy Birthday **Jay** on 8/16. Love your brothers and sisters. • Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Tyrese Smith** on 8/20 from Grandma June, Papa Gushy, Amber, Keith,

Hunter, and Elvis. • Happy 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Reuben** on 8/20, with love from Mom, George, Cedric, Cedar, Caiarah, and Cyliss. • Happy 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Caiarah** on 8/22, with love from Mom, Dad, Reuben, Cedric, Cedar, and Cyliss. • Happy 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Cedric and Cedar** on 8/23, with love from Mom, Dad, Reuben, Caiarah, and Cyliss. • Happy Birthday to our beautiful, much loved daughter, **Shayla R. Livingston** on 8/23. Mom & Dad. • Happy Birthday **Janice J.** on 8/27. *Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to you, how old are you?* Just kidding I tried to sing and I was out of tune. From your sister and bro-in-law, Richard, Rachel, Kelia, Jeremy, Railei, Candi, and Cyrell. • Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Lovey Dovey** on 8/27! With love from Momma, Daddy, Sage, Jake, and Grandpas. • Happy 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Sam and Dan Shingobe** on 8/28 from Grandma June, Papa Gushy, Amber, Keith, Hunter, and Elvis. • Happy 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Ethan Smith** on 8/29 from

Grandma June, Papa Gushy, Amber, Keith, Hunter, and Elvis. • Happy Birthday **Aunty NeeCee** on 8/31, with love from Vannie, George, Reuben, Cedric, Cedar, Caiarah, and Cyliss.

### Happy belated birthdays:

Happy Belated 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Latesha Sondra Rose Benjamin** on 7/18 from Dad, Lonnie, and the family. •

### Other Announcements:

Congratulations to my sister **Marissa Sam** and **Quentin Garbow** on the birth of their baby boy. He was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and weighed 8 pounds and 13 ounces, with love from your sister Cilla.

### Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Andy McPartland at [andy@redcircleagency.com](mailto:andy@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-372-4612.

*The deadline for the September issue is August 15.*

## Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

### Fun Run

**Sunday, August 18**

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Powwow Grounds  
 Register between 9 a.m.–10 a.m. at the pavilion  
 Take a brief walk around the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Powwow grounds and earn a free gift courtesy of the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post. Please note this will not take place at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum.

### Open House

**Sunday, August 18, 11 a.m.**

No admission fees  
 Come and visit the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post for our open house!

### Naamjiig: Honoring our Traditions Public Artist Reception and Exhibit Closing

**Sunday, August 18, reception starts at 11 a.m.**

Join us for refreshments, a short program, and a chance to meet the artist. Cost is free and open to the public.

### Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop

**Saturday, August 24, Noon–4 p.m.**

**Sunday, August 25, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Cost: \$60 for public or \$55 for MN Historical Society members, plus a supply fee of \$15.

Learn techniques for working with leather at this two-day workshop and make a pair of Ojibwe style moccasins. Discounted hotel rooms are available for workshop participants on Saturday night at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided both days. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Registration required by Wednesday, August 21**, call 320-532-3632 or email [millelacs@mnhs.org](mailto:millelacs@mnhs.org)



# AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Rendezvous Days Powwow</b> Grand Portage, MN nps.gov/grpo</p> <p><b>Pine Point Powwow</b> Ponsford, MN business.parkrapids.com</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Four Winds Alumni Powwow</b> Brainerd, MN</p> <p><b>Indian Education Parent Meeting</b> 6 p.m. Hinckley-Finlayson High School District Office Potluck and Door Prizes</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>47<sup>th</sup> Annual Mille Lacs Band Powwow</b> Lake Mille Lacs, Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds Visit: facebook.com/iskigamizigan</p> <p><b>Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Annual Wacipi</b> Prior Lake, MN shakopeedakota.org</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>47<sup>th</sup> Annual Mille Lacs Band Powwow</b> Lake Mille Lacs, Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds Visit: facebook.com/iskigamizigan</p> <p><b>Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Annual Wacipi</b> Prior Lake, MN shakopeedakota.org</p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chaske Cikala Wacipi</b> Chaska, MN McKnight Park</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>47<sup>th</sup> Annual Mille Lacs Band Powwow</b> Lake Mille Lacs, Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds Visit: facebook.com/iskigamizigan</p> <p><b>Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Annual Wacipi</b> Prior Lake, MN shakopeedakota.org</p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chaske Cikala Wacipi</b> Chaska, MN McKnight Park</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Nay Ah Shing School Open House</b> 2 p.m.–4:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Nay Ah Shing School First Day of School</b> 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Parent Action Committee Meeting</b> 5 p.m.–6 p.m. Nay Ah Shing High School Circle Area</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>District III Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Ballroom</p> <p><b>Mille Lacs Early Education Open House</b> DI: 12 p.m.–5:30 p.m. DII &amp; III: 12 p.m.–4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Mille Lacs Government Center</b> Closed starting at 12 p.m. for Labor Day (also closed Sept. 2)</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>

## August is Child Support Awareness Month

August is National Child Support Awareness Month. The month provides a chance to recognize a child's right to financial support from both parents — including basic support, medical support and child care support — and to give a pat on the back to those parents that continue to meet their monthly obligations.

Child Support Awareness Month celebrates the important emotional and financial parental support that can create a brighter future for our children, helping them to become healthy, productive, and well-adjusted adults. Child support is important because it supplements and stabilizes family income, increases self-sufficiency, and encourages mothers and fathers to be involved in their children's lives.

Providing child support makes a tremendous difference in the life of a child, and it's much more than just a monetary obligation.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Child Support program was established in June of 2011.

Services available include:

- genetic testing
- establishing parentage
- locating absent parents
- establishing and enforcing court orders (including child support, medical support, and child care support)
- reviewing, modifying, and adjusting support orders; working with other counties, states and tribes to enforce child support when a parent lives outside Minnesota.

Amy Doyle, director of the Band's Child Support Program, said, "The reality is that more families than ever before are led by single parents or are part of a blended family where parents often remarry and merge families. Whether your child lives with you or with someone else, it's important to stay engaged at every stage of their young lives."

Anyone in the community can apply for child-support services regardless of income, nationality or gender — even if they already had a child-support order granted by a court. Either parent may apply for services. It's important to note that grandparents raising grandchildren and other custodians may also apply for services.

To recognize National Child Support Awareness month, Child Support representatives will be available first Thursday of August from 8 a.m. until noon without an appointment to answer questions about Child Support including how to transfer your case to the tribal program or how to get your order modified and what types of arrears management agreements are available.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Child Support program is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number is 320-532-7755.

## Department of Labor

**Thinking of taking the GED Test?** Prepare now before some really BIG CHANGES go into effect!

The Mille Lacs Band — Department of Labor (together with the Mille Lacs Tribal College (MLTC) and Pine City GED) is offering **one final opportunity** to take the current GED Test and do so right here at the MLTC Location (in Nay Ah Shing Upper School).

That 'final opportunity' is on Friday, September 13 and Friday, September 20 — attendance is required at both sessions and testing will be from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Start preparing today; call Deb, Jen, Adrian, or Paul at 320-532-7811.

**The NEW GED TEST**, beginning January 1, 2014, will be computer-based and proctored at an approved testing center; it will be more rigorous and aligned with Common Core State Standards to ensure both career and college readiness!

## Nay Ah Shing Open House

Nay Ah Shing School will host an Open House on Thursday, August 22nd from 2 p.m.–4:30 p.m. You are welcome to tour classrooms and meet the teachers that day.

The first day of school is Friday August 23rd. Students will attend school from 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Monday, August 26th will be the students' first full day of classes. Students in grades 6-12 can look forward to many changes as the school moves to a project-based learning model. Project-based learning is a hands-on approach to teaching in which students explore real life situations and challenges. With this type of active and engaged learning, students are provided opportunities to dig deeper into subjects they are studying. Also it allows greater opportunity to participate fully in cultural activities, as culture is integrated with academic instruction. More changes will be made at the high school level as Nay Ah Shing School begins to integrate Bridges Career Academies and Workplace Connections into the curriculum.

You can learn more about project-based learning and Bridges Academies at the Parent Action Committee meeting from 5 p.m.–6 p.m. on Monday, August 26 in the high school circle area.

Please visit the school website for additional information at [www.nas.k12.mn.us](http://www.nas.k12.mn.us)

## Circle of Health Has Relocated

Circle of Health has relocated to the Ne-la-Shing Health Center: 43500 Migizi Drive, Onamia, MN 56359. Phone: 320-532-4163 or 1-888-622-4163.

Contact your Claims Processor:

**Roberta Lemieux (A-L):** 320-532-7740, ext. 7724

**Tammy Smith (M-Z):** 320-532-7740, ext. 7740

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43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

[millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com)



## Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours, tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. After business hours, tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

## Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions to Andy McPartland at [andy@redcircleagency.com](mailto:andy@redcircleagency.com) or call **612-372-4612**. The deadline for the September issue is August 15<sup>th</sup>.