

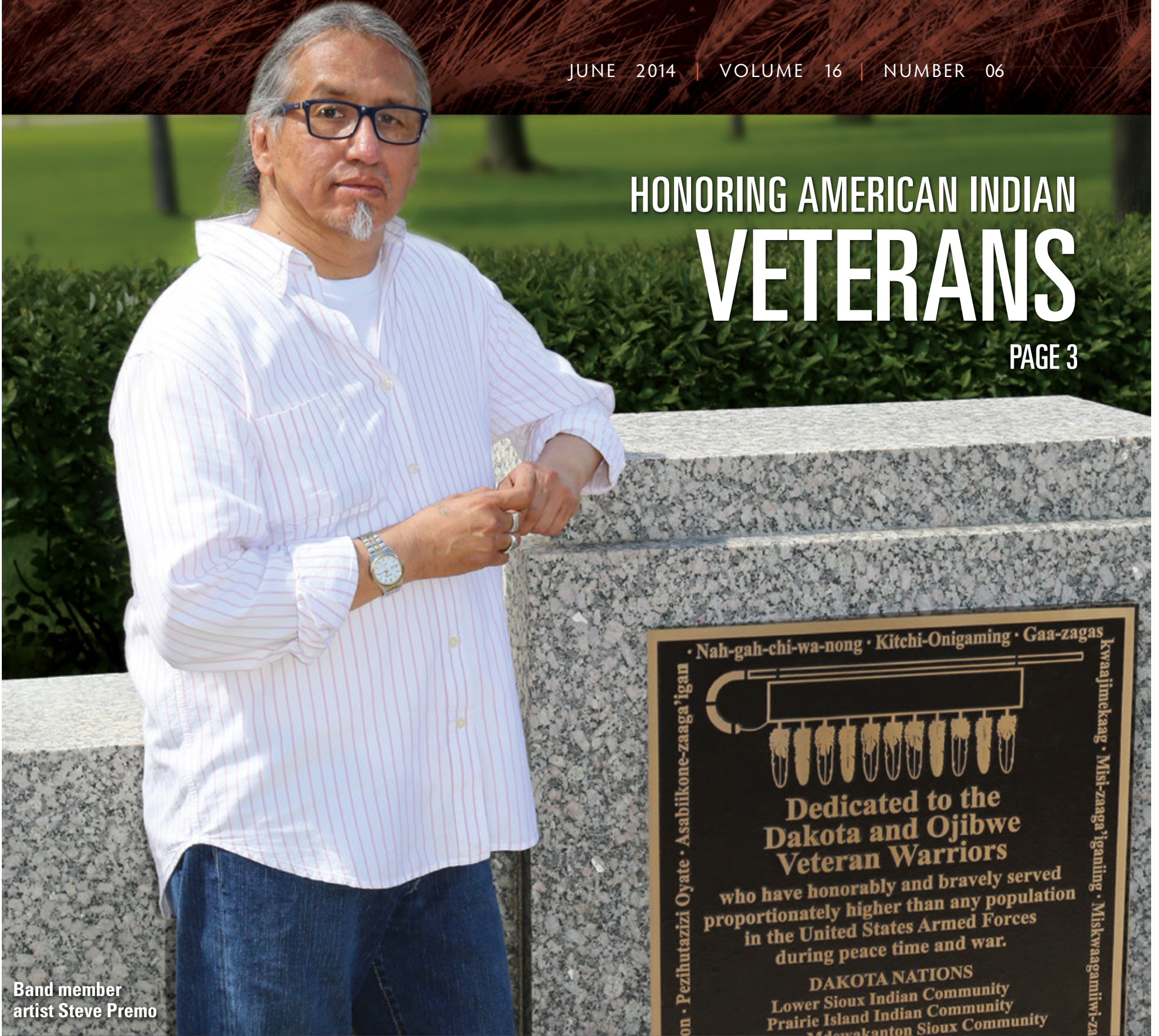
OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

JUNE 2014 | VOLUME 16 | NUMBER 06

HONORING AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS

PAGE 3



Band member
artist Steve Premo

SHADOWS,
LIGHT, AND A
CLEAR VISION

WASHINGTON
D.C. CLOSE UP
FOUNDATION TRIP

INCREASING
GRADUATION
RATES

THE HEALTH
OF AMERICAN
INDIANS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



After one of the snowiest winters in decades, Ziigwan (spring) is finally here! For us as Anishinabe, spring is about renewal and community. This was the season when our families would move from winter camp to the sugar bush, seeing friends and relatives they hadn't seen since moving to winter camp, catching up on all the news. Ziigwan was the best time for harvesting fur, birch bark and of course spearing and netting fish. I hope that Band members have been able to take part in some of our traditional practices. It is so important to our identity as Anishinabe that we do these things and teach our young people.

In this century, Ziigwan's importance has expanded to being a time of celebrating the educational accomplishments of Band members young and old. From four and five year olds graduating from Head Start to middle-aged people graduating from college, the Band was well represented in numerous graduation ceremonies this spring! Congratulations to Band members Ron Anderson, Caryn Day and Lisa Jackson who achieved their Master Degrees in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota Duluth. This is the second year the Band has been well represented in this program. We are so proud of all of our Band members who have advanced their education, young and old. I am including my speech that I gave to our youngest Head Start graduates, which I hope you enjoy!

Another moment of pride for the Band occurred on Thursday, May 22, when a plaque designed by Band member Steve Premo was unveiled at the State Capitol Court of Honor commemorating American Indian veterans for their sacrifice for our country. Miiigwetch to Steve, who is a brilliant artist, and to Chairwoman Erma Vizenor of White Earth, who has been work-

ing to get this plaque approved for several years.

At the ceremony, State Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Shellito talked about how in World War II, 44,000 Indians joined the service voluntarily, which as a percentage was by far the largest of any ethnic group in the nation to serve. These statistics have been repeated in every major combat since. Many of our great grandfathers served in World War I, before Indians were even citizens or had the right to vote! Commissioner Shellito said the United States military has studied why Indians are more likely to join the military than other Americans, and credited our strength, honor, devotion, pride and wisdom. It was interesting to me how closely these values align with our Seven Teachings! This was a very special day that coincided with Memorial Day weekend, when the country honors its veterans. For us as Anishinabe, we need to make certain that every day is a day we honor our Ogitichidaag.

This month also brought about new elections for the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) at its annual convention. Congratulations to Chairman Kevin Leecy of Bois Forte for being elected NIGA Vice President once again. I was honored to have been asked to serve as First Alternate for the Minneapolis Area for NIGA. The Band has done very well in diversifying our economy with hotel purchases and the new resort planned at Eddy's, but we are still dependent upon gaming as the engine that fuels our economy and need to ensure we protect our gaming rights in Washington D.C. NIGA is a critical part of our efforts to ensure that Indian gaming is preserved.

In other developments, On May 7, I was appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to serve on the Minnesota Board on Aging, which is a new role that I am especially excited about. This is a State board that advocates for changes that will enable elders

in Minnesota to "Live Well and Age Well." In this role, I will be responsible for advocating at the state and federal levels for new health care models that improve chronic disease management, which I plan to use as a platform to work on addressing diabetes among our Indian people. The Board encourages the adaptation of new health care technologies to improve access to information and services — particularly in rural parts of the state. My top propriety as a board member will be to serve as a voice for improving access to diabetes prevention, care and access to dialysis facilities for our elders.

In the circle of the seasons, Ziigwan reminds me most about renewal. Spring is a reminder that under all those feet of snow there was life happening all along, just waiting to burst green leaves and plants into what was a white world for so many months. Within that circle, our lives in this world eventually end as we begin a new journey into the Spirit World. Over the winter, many of us said goodbye to loved ones as they began their journey into the Spirit World. This past Memorial Day weekend was a time to remember our loved ones and celebrate the circle of life, knowing that renewal and new life and new opportunities are always just around the corner. This spring, we should all remember to take time to pass on lessons to our youth when we have a chance, congratulate someone who reached an educational milestone, and give thanks to our elders and our Ogitichidaag every chance we get. Enjoy all the gifts that Ziigwan brings!

Melanie's Head Start Graduation Speech

Boozhoo! Aaaniin! Hello, boys and girls! And hello to all of your families and friends! This is a VERY big day and a very special day. Graduating from Head Start means you are all ready for Kindergarten. You have a lot of fun ahead of you, but the best part is you are going to learn so many things!

Do any of you remember the last time I visited you at school? It was Dr. Seuss day, and I read "Green Eggs and Ham". That was one of my favorite books when I was your age, and it was a very fun day!

So today, I have a surprise for you. I am not going to talk in my normal way. Instead, because this is a special day, I'm going to talk like Dr. Seuss. This poem is just for you!

I read the book about Sam I am,
Who did not like Green Eggs and Ham!

He did not like them in a box!
He did not like them with a fox!

At the end, he liked Green Eggs and Ham!
But that was not the end of Sam I am!

He went to school and became real smart!
He's a teacher now, teaching reading and art!

He teaches kids that school is fun!
They play duck, duck — and then they run!

He teaches Chelsey, John and Martin!
I hear he teaches kindergarten!

Next year have fun, don't be shy!
Your teacher will be a real fun guy!

Or gal, depending on who you get!
But you'll have fun, fun, fun — you bet!

Perhaps you'll eat green eggs and ham!
And perhaps you'll meet old Sam I am!

So grown-ups, listen, one and all...
These kids grow fast, they'll soon be tall!

Make a plan for their education,
Get them ready for college graduation!

One last thing for the kids to know,
Year after year, you will grow and grow!



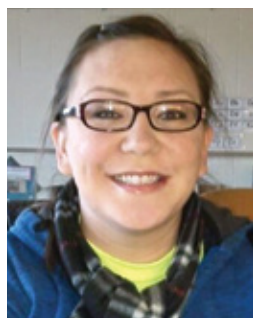
Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin reading Dr. Seuss to the Head Start class.

Grown ups will give you hugs and love,
And give you a hand, from up above.

And one day, on this very land,
YOU will be the leaders of the Band!

Gidinwewininaan

Baabitaw Boyd Gaa-ozhibii'ang



This month Baabitaw Boyd writes about wrapping up the second year of the immersion program.

Mii iw ani-ayaabawaamagak, mii iwani-gikinoo'amaageyaang i'iw gitigeng biinish gaye ani-maajiiging gegoo omaa endazhi-gikinoo'amaageyaang,

Miskwaanakwad gikinoo'amaadiwigamig ezhi-wiinjigaadeg. Mii ingiw abinoojiinyag ogitigaadaanaawaan iniw waabigwaniinsan biinish gaye ogii-zazegaatoonaawaan iniw onaagaansan biinjayi'ii dash imaa ge-onji-maajiiging iniw waabigwaniinsan.

Mii dash iniw waabigwaniinsan waa-kiwewidoowaad da-miinaawaad iniw omaamaayiwaan i'iw giizhigak a'aw wayaabishkiwed gaa-onaabandang wenjida da-ni-mino-doo-dawimind iniw omaamaayan awiya.

Mii gaye imaa endazhi-gikinoo'amaagengabiwinggii-ozisidooyaang dibishkoo-go adaawewigamigoons imaa abinoojiinyag adaawekaazowaad naa gaye adaawaagekaazowaad iniw waabigwaniinsan. Mii gaye a'aw mitig gaa-mazinibii'igaazod a'aw inininaatig ani-aabajichigaazod imaa ani-gikinoo'amaa-

geng a'aw Anishinaabe ezchiged iskgamiziged. Mii gaye imaa biskitenaaganan gii-mazinibii'igaadeg imaa mitigong, mii dash imaa endaso-giizhik baabiindigebii'idizowaad ingiw gikinoo'maaganag ezhinikaazowaad imaa biskitenaaganan gaa-mazinibii'igaadegin ani-wiindamaagewaad gii-tagoshinowaad imaa gikinoo'amaagoziwaad.

Ningii-izhiwinaanaanig ingiw abinoojiinyag iwidi endazhi-iskgamiziged a'aw Manidoo-bizhiki. Ingii-o-ganawaa-bamaanaan onzang ziinzibaakadaaboo. Dabwaa-dazhiikamowaad i'iw ziinzibaakwadaaboo, akawe gii-asemaakem, mii dash i'iw gii-ashakamoonindwaa ingiw abinoojiinyag, weweni dash ingiw abinoojiinyag da-ni-dazhiikamowaad eyaamagak iskgamiziged a'aw Anishinaabe. Mii dash gaa-izhi-naadoobii-waad ingiw abinoojiinyag naa gii-ganawaabamaawaad imaa enokiinjin biinitoonid i'iw ziinzibaakwadaaboo biinish gaye gii-onzamowaad. Azhigwa waa-ni-giiwewaad ingiw abinoojiinyag, mii iw gii-miinindwaa i'iw anishinaabe-ziinzibaakwadoons, nase'igan, naa gaye zhiwaagamizigan.

Mii gaye imaa gii-gikinoo'amawindwaa ingiw abinoojiinyag da-ganawaabandamowaad aaniin izhichigewaad besho ishkodeng imaa eyaawaad. Ingii-aangwaamimaanaanig ingiw abinoojiinyag da-nisaabaawewidoosigwaa odayi'iimaaniwaan weweni dash da-giizhoozowaad. Ingii-aabiji-wiindamawaanaanig, "Gego wiinjiishkiwagaag odaminokegon." Geget

ingii-minowaanigozimin imaa gii-izhaayaang endazhi-iskgamizigeng. Niminwendaamin da-izhaayaang iwidi ani-maajiigaawaad miinawaa ingiw mitigoog. Apegish dash nawaj ginwenzh maa baa-ayaayaang bi-izhaayaang imaa miinawaa.

Mii dash i'iw ani-ziigwang, mii dash i'iwapii da-ni-giizhiitaawaad gekinoo'amaagozijing omaa Miskwaanikwad gikinoo'amaageng nawaj dash ishpiming da-asindwaa gikinoo'amaagoziwaad. Geget niminwendaamin gii-inendaagoziyaang maa minik omaa gii-gikinoo'amawindwaa gaa-ni-giizhiitaajig. Geget dash indani-mamiikwaanaanig gaa-izhi-aangwaamitoowaad gakina gaa-gikinoo'amaagozijing omaa biinish gaye iniw ogitiziimiwaan naa gaye gaa-nitaawigi'igowaajin gii-chi-naadamaagowaad ani-gagwe-gikendamowaad da-ojibwemowaad.

Aano-go ani-maanendamaang ani-waabamangidwaa ingiw abinoojiinyag ani-giizhiitaawaad omaa, geget gaye indani-minwendaamin gashkitooyaang weweni da-gikinoo'amawangidwaa omaa.

Mii iw enendamaang apegish ingiw abinoojiinyag da-aabiji-ojibwemowaad oniigaaniimiwaang. Geget ingiw Manidoo oga-minwendaanaawaa noondawaawaad odanishinaabemiwaan ani-aabajitoonid geyaabi i'iw odinwewiniwaa gaa-miinigowaad iniw Manidoo.

Honoring American Indian Veterans

Tribal Leaders and State Officials Dedicate Plaque Designed by Band Member

Andy McPartland Staff Writer **Chad Germann** Photographer

In a May 22 ceremony in St. Paul, American Indian veterans were honored with a memorial plaque placed on the State Capitol grounds. The plaque is dedicated to all American Indian veterans who have served bravely in peacetime and in war.

Artist Steve Premo, a Mille Lacs Band member, designed the plaque.

"What an incredible honor," Steve said. "Years beyond my own existence, it will stand."

American Indians have historically served in the U.S. Armed Forces at rates proportionately higher than any other group of Americans, according to the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Steve dedicated the plaque to his father, William R. Premo Sr., who was a Staff Sergeant in the 161st Rifle Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

"It's a huge honor to me to have created this plaque," he said. "But it pales beside the fact that we all, a thousand times over, owe our Veteran Warriors a far greater acknowledgement."

Honored speakers at the ceremony included Chairwoman Erma Vizenor (White Earth Nation), Chairman Kevin Leecy (Bois Forte), Vice President Lucy Taylor (Prairie Island Indian Community), Governor Mark Dayton (Minnesota), and Commissioner Larry Shellito (MDVA).

The plaque, located in the Court of Honor, was signed into law on April 24, 2013.

"Even now, it's still not quite fully wrapped in my mind," Steve said. "I can only offer this small show of gratitude."



Beading Powwow Regalia: A Lifelong Education

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer Chad Germann Photographer

Trisha Moose fondly remembers crawling around the floor when she was a small child and tying blankets that her family members had created.

By the time she was nine years old, the Band member, who lives in District III, was doing beadwork along with her mom Pauline Moose, aunts and grandmother.

"I come from a family of craftspeople and people who sewed," said Trisha, 49. "Our family made blankets for ceremonies so I grew up learning from my relatives.

"I learned from my grandma how to make moccasins, the old Ojibwe puckered ones," said Trisha, referring to her grandma Madeline Moose, who was married to Archie Moose.

Besides beading, sewing and helping with other crafts, Trisha also began dancing when she was around seven years old. She did the fancy shawl until she was 18 years old, then moved on to the jingle dress for most of her life. Five years ago she began traditional dancing.

Throughout her life, Trisha has made much of the regalia she has worn when she danced. She has also made regalia for her four children as well as for others. She does a lot of beadwork and still makes blankets, though this time she's not crawling on the floor tying ends.

"I'm working on a new set of beadwork for myself, and I'm working on projects for other people," she said. "I work fulltime so I stay busy. If I had more time I would be able to compete the orders a lot sooner."

While she's doing beadwork, including earrings, moccasins, hair-ties, leggings, belts and other items, Trisha often uses the time to sit and think, or she may "chill out and watch a movie." She typically does floral, the Ojibwe floral pattern, but is currently working on a rose pattern for her own regalia. She is also going to try to implement the Ojibwe geometric design in her current project.

Trisha, who works as an assistant cook in the Assisted Living Unit in Hinckley, is currently working on regalia for one of



Trisha Moose's beadwork includes earrings, moccasins, hair-ties, leggings, and belts.

her daughters. Her sons have moved on to singing and drumming and the other daughter doesn't dance as much.

Because she desires to help keep the Ojibwe culture alive, she will offer to show people how to bead or sew, or she will tell them how to do it.

"Beadwork takes a lot of time and patience so I want people to learn," she said, adding that her sons and daughters know how to sew. "I think a lot of people should want to learn

how to do it to keep our culture alive."

And while she admits that it can be frustrating, the effort is well-spent.

"Even as old as I am, I still ask for help," said Trisha, who spends about 30 hours a month doing beadwork. "I usually have three or four different projects things going on at one time."

23rd Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Grand Celebration



Friday, June 20–Sunday, June 22
Grand Casino Hinckley

Master of Ceremonies: Terry Fiddler (Prairie Island) and AMIK (Hinckley)

Arena Directors: Randy Paskomin (Utah) and Dana Warrington (Wisconsin)

Judges: Buck Spotted Tail (Rosebud) and Dino (Flandreau)

Specials Coordinator: Pete Gahbow

Local Host: Little Otter (Mille Lacs)

Invited Drums: Black Stone (Utah), SeeKasKoostch (Saskatchewan), and Buc Wild (Arizona)

Grand Entries: Friday: 7 p.m., Saturday: 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday: 1 p.m.

Hotel Reservations: call the Grand Norther Inn at 800-468-3517 (7 a.m.–11 p.m.)

RV Park/Campground: 777 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley, MN 55037. Call 800-468-3517.

WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament: Saturday, June 21 at the Grand National Golf Course. 3 person scramble. 7:45 a.m. shotgun start. Men's, women's, and Elder's flights (Elder teams must include at least two players age 55 or older). For cost and additional details call 320-532-7486 or 320-384-7427 (Grand National Golf Course).

Other Information: Bring your chairs, bleacher seating also available. Campgrounds are available at the powwow grounds. Please bring your own camping gear. No drugs or alcohol allowed. For additional drum contest information visit millelacsband.com/district_news/23rd-annual-mille-lacs-band-grand-celebration

Contact: Nathan at 800-472-6321, ext. 4475

48th Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow



Friday, August 15–Sunday, August 17

Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds, West side of Lake Mille Lacs

Co-MC's: AMIK and Pete Gahbow

Co-host Drums: Little Otter and Pipestone

Grand Entries: Friday: 7 p.m., Saturday: 1 p.m.–7 p.m., and Sunday: 1 p.m.

Events: Princess & Brave Contest, Best Parade Float Contest, Best Rez Car Contest, Horseshoe Tournament, Moccasin Game, Fun Run (sponsored by the Mille Lacs Indian Museum)

Free: Admission, camping, showers, and firewood (off-site firewood prohibited)

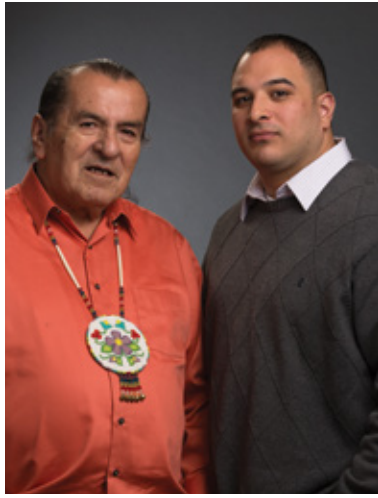
On sale: Powwow t-shirts & jackets and powwow buttons

Food & Craft Vendors: Limited space — reserve early. Contact Carol Hernandez, 320-532-776, ext. 2401

Drum Monies: Drums must have a minimum of five singers. All singers must personally register with their drum and designate one individual who will collect at payout. At least five registered singers must be present at the drum during each roll call in order to be paid for that session.

Other Information: All dancers must be in appropriate regalia at each grand entry and exhibitions in order to be paid. All tiny tot sessions will be smoke free.

Contact: Carla Big Bear, 320-532-7517 or Kim Sam, 320-224-1646



Maamawichigeng Wiisiniwin Miinawaa Asemaa Atamawind Waa-Maajaa'ind Coming Together to Help with the Food and Tobacco at Funerals

Lee Staples Gaa-anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Mewinza iko a'aw Anishinaabe ani-naazikaaged gegoo inakamigizid a'aw Anishinaabe wenjida asemaaked, mii igo booch gii-piindigadood ojiibaakwaan—wiisiniwin naadamaaged. Mii iko ingiw mindimooyenyibaneg gaa-ikidowaad, "Gaawin zheshenik niwii-ni-biindigesiin imaa asemaaked a'aw Anishinaabe wenjida ani-maajaa'ind awiya. Booch nijibaakwaan da-biindigadooyaan."

Long time ago when Anishinaabe would go to a ceremony, they always made sure they brought their cooking or food to help out. Our old ladies said, "I do not want to go into a ceremony empty handed especially when it is a funeral. I always make sure I bring my cooking in."

Ishke izhi-minochiged ani-bimiwidood i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhiginoo'amaagoowiziyang da-ni-naadamawang a'aw niiji-anishinaabeminaan anigagwaadagitood.

Anishinaabe is doing the appropriate thing by following our teachings, which is to help our fellow Anishinaabe when they are going through a difficult time.

Ishke ingiw beshoenawemaawaajin waa-maajaa'imind gegetonaadamaagonaawaa ani-maamawichiged naadamaagowaad miinawaa zhawenimigowaad inow wiiji-anishinaabemiwaan. Mii i'iw ge-ni-mikwendamowaad bi-naadamawindwaa nebowa inow Anishinaaben bi-dagoshininid bi-naadamaagowaad. Agano-go da-izhigozigwanini owasidaawendamowiniwaa.

It helps those that are grieving to see the community come together to help them and show compassion for their fellow Anishinaabe. This is what they will remember and what will help them in their future to see so many Anishinaabe come together to support them. It will help lighten the load of their grief.

Ishke gaye i'iwapii achigaadeg i'iw wiisiniwin imaa endanakamigizing, mii imaa wiidoopamind waa-ni-aanjikiid weweni ani-doodawind. Ishke gaye ingiw beshoenawendaasojig geget minochigewag ani-biindigadoowaad ojiibaakwaaniwaa. Ishke ogikenimaawaan wenjida i'iw wiisiniwin gaa-wenda-minwendamonid inow odinawemaaganiwaan waa-ni-aanjikiinijin. Geget omino-doodawaawaan biidagadoowaad iw wiisiniwin wenjida gaa-minwendamonid inow waa-naganigowaajin.

When food is served at the funeral, we are sharing in a meal with the spirit of the individual who is about to leave us. The close relatives are also following our teachings by bringing in their

cooking also. They are the ones who know what their relative's favorite foods were. They are being respectful to their relative that is about to leave them by bringing in his/her favorite foods.

Aaningodinong nibi-waabandaan a'aw Anishinaabe apenimod da-bi-biindigajigaadenig i'iw wiisiniwin maagizhaa gaye ataagewigamigong wenjikaamagak i'iw wiisiniwin. Mii dash i'iw geget debinaak doodawaawaad inow odinawemaaganiwaan gaa-wani'aawaajin. Miinawaa gaawin daa-bi-biindigesiin a'aw Anishinaabe da-wawenabid imaa da-daawanid da-akawaabandang da-ashamind. Odaa-biindigadoon i'iw wiisiniwin da-bi-naadamaaged. Mii iw wenjida wenda-apiitendaagwak da-naadamaaged a'aw Anishinaabe gaa-izhiginoo'amaagoowiziyang da-izhichigeyang. Aaningodinong onoodesitonaawaa i'iw wiisiniwin endanakamigak. Gaawin da-wii-izhiwebasinon i'iw.

There are times when I have seen Anishinaabe rely on the casino or Indian organization to provide the food for the funeral. They are exerting a half-heartily effort for their relative that has passed on. Anishinaabe should also not come into the funeral with their mouth open expecting to be fed. Anishinaabe should contribute food to the ceremony rather than expecting to be fed. It especially important for Anishinaabe to assist others as we were taught as Anishinaabe to do. There are times when they ran out of food at these funerals. This should not happen.

Mii gaye da-ni-dazhimag a'aw asemaa adaawetamawaawag omaa Misi-zaaga'iganiing ishkoniing wenjiig endanakiig. Nawaj odaa-mino-doodawaan odinawemaaganan gaa-wani'aajin a'aw Anishinaabe beshoenawendaasod da-asaad wiin igo odasemaan imaa da-ni-dagonigaazonid inow waa-aabajichigaazonijin asemaan imaa maajaa'iweng. Weweni igo da-ni-doodawaan inow beshoenawemaajin inow dedebinawe wiin inow odasemaan gaa-adaawed da-asaad. Gaawin dash debinaak da-doodawaasiin inow odinawemaaganan waa-naginogin.

This is what I am going to talk about also. The tobacco for these funerals is provided by the reservation for Mille Lacs Band Members. It would be more of a sacrifice and giving of themselves to provide some of their own tobacco to be added in with the tobacco that will be used at the funeral. They are being respectful to their relative by putting their own tobacco that they have purchased and making a sacrifice for their relative. They are being completely thorough by providing their input and assistance to their relative who is leaving them.

It's Construction Season at Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures!

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

Spring signifies the start of construction season and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is no exception. We have several projects underway:

As you know, our Crowne Plaza hotel is being rebranded as an InterContinental, and work is well underway to upgrade the rooms and amenities. We're on track to have the conversion complete in 2015. We're very excited to bring this level of luxury to Saint Paul. Being able to offer that luxury paired with a significant convention and meeting space makes our property a truly unique asset for Minnesota's capitol city.

Over at the Doubletree we're excited to be putting the finishing touches on our new dining concept — Rival House, which will officially be announced to the public in mid-June. Rival House will serve interactive entertainment, delicious foods and a vast selection of beverages. The choices in executive chef and theme for the space will make it a unique dining option for hotel guests and downtown visitors alike.

Eddy's Lake Mille Lacs Resort is our biggest news. On May 13, demolition of the old Eddy's Lake Mille Lacs Resort began. At the time of press, the site was being cleared of debris and site work finalized. Construction is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 2.

The redevelopment of Eddy's will still honor the fishing heritage of the lake but recognizes that there's a lot more to do here than just fish. Visitors to the new property will still find the guided fishing opportunities they've come to expect, but they'll also have boating and water recreation opportunities, fine dining and unique retail space.

As the project progresses and the new structures are nearly complete, we will be scheduling tours for any Band member interested in seeing the



Eddy's began demolition on May 13.

progress. Look for future issues of the *Inaajimowin* for more information on those scheduled dates.

General Election: June 10

Polling Places

- District I Community Center (Nay Ah Shing)
- District II Community Center (Minisinaakwaang or East Lake)
- District II-A Community Center (Chiminising or Isle)
- District III Community Center (Aazhoomog or Lake Lena)
- Urban Area — All Nations Church (1515 East 23rd St., Minneapolis, MN)

Polls Open

8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Each Band member must vote at the district of his/her residence. Any questions, contact the Election Office at 320-532-7586.

If you're unable to vote in person on June 10, you can request that an absentee ballot be sent to you. Any Band member can vote at the District I Community Center on June 10th, but will only be allowed to vote on his/her district ballot. Regular District I voters will vote in the District I Community Center Gym. Everyone else will be an absentee voter and will vote in the Election Office, which is located by the main front doors at the District I Community Center.

If you are a jail inmate or incarcerated, please write to request an absentee ballot as soon as possible by contacting:

MLB Election Office
PO BOX 98
Onamia, MN 56359

Election Office
Telephone: 320-532-7586
Cell: 320-279-0178
Fax: 320-532-4782

The Absentee Ballot Request Form can be downloaded through the General Election story on millelacsband.com

WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament

Sunday, June 22
Grand National Golf Course
7:45 a.m. Shotgun Start

4 person scramble
Men's, Women's, and Elder Flights (Elder teams must include at least two players age 55 or older)

Cost: \$400 per team

For details call 320-532-7486 or Grand National Golf Course at 320-384-7427

Sponsored by Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive



DISTRICT 1

Shadows, Light, and a Clear Vision

Talented District 1 artist participates in prestigious USD Art Institute

Deborah Locke Staff Writer **Tiffany Bolk** Photographer

Family and friends of Cassandra "KC" Merrill have known of her artistic talent for years.

That circle of knowing is about to expand prodigiously. For three weeks in June, KC, 16, will participate in the highly competitive Oscar Howe Summer Art Institute at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

Twenty high school students from across the country were selected to learn about contemporary Native American fine arts. The curriculum includes drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, cultural studies, and art history.

KC's special talent is sketching, and she also does well with ceramics. A thick portfolio of her work includes intricate drawings of friends, family members and people she made up in her head. She shows a gift for detail, and said that even as a small child, adults realized that what appeared ordinary to them was extraordinary through KC's eyes.

For example, for most people, a wrist watch is a wrist watch. However, during an interview KC had glanced at a wrist watch and noted the shadows and light emanating from its face. She sees beyond the surface, a quality that also leaps from the pages of her portfolio.

Locally the young artist has gained some notoriety. KC attends Onamia High School and will be a junior next year. This spring she finished second in a school-wide art contest that included entries from juniors and seniors. KC drew a remarkable pen and ink rendition of a headdress, which was part of her winning entry. The portfolio also contains pure kid stuff: a character from the "Alien Teens" website and a comic character from the "Home Stuck" website.

KC's talent appeared early in her life. She is the daughter of Vincent Merrill and Suzanne Wise. As a toddler she liked to play with markers, pencils and papers. Her dad stapled pages of blank paper together and little KC went to town, drawing up a storm. By the second grade, the seven-year-old drew people as people rather than as stick figures and by that time, teachers knew she had talent. Today KC credits a few of her teachers with teaching much more than subject matter. Geometry teacher Danielle Olson and health teacher Anthony Bizal use humor and wisdom in the classroom to teach life lessons, KC said. Each has been instrumental in building her confidence to shine as a person and as an emerging artist.

The path to that emergence has been incremental and steady. Art classes over the years introduced new mediums for



Kassandra Merrill (left), and one of her drawings (right)

expression, from paper cut-outs to clay, charcoal and etching. Among her work samples is a complex enlarged drawing that required use of a grid.

KC's mother Suzanne learned of the Oscar Howe Summer Art Institute and encouraged her daughter to apply. KC submitted 15 pieces of art, a letter of recommendation from a teacher, and an essay on incorporating American Indian culture with art.

The Institute, described on its website as "life changing" for many students, is free of charge and includes meals, housing, instruction and art supplies. The program is rigorous, with classes starting at 9 a.m., meal breaks, and then participation in an open painting studio from 6 to 10 p.m. each day. At 10 p.m., students return to the residence halls. Weekends are spent on field trips to museums. A celebration takes place on June 20 with an exhibition for participants, families and the public.

As to her more distant professional future, KC isn't sure but may venture into video game design. Or maybe she will branch into work as a ceramist. At this point she knows one thing for certain. She does not want to work with pastels. Ever. She prefers the more clear delineation of a pen or pencil, and if colors are used, let them be true, not muted.

KC's three little sisters love the movie "Frozen," especially two-year-old Angelina Wise. So KC put her gift to use, drawing "Princess Anna" from the popular children's movie. The drawing is black, white and gray in sturdy pencil with subtle shadowing. No pastels mar the page.

KC scrunches her face when you mention pastels. Not in her work; not ever.

Native American Artist-in-Residence Program Call for Submissions

The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is pleased to announce the Native American Artist-in-Residence program. The goal of the program is to create opportunities for Native artists to use collections and library resources in order to enhance their artwork and engage their community.

- Selected artists will receive a \$25,000 stipend, plus additional money for travel
- Applicants must reside in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota or South Dakota
- Selected artists do NOT need to be enrolled with a federally recognized tribe but must be recognized within community
- Open to artists practicing traditional art, especially those emphasizing in regional traditions such as quillwork, beadwork, birchbark appliqué, and utilitarian arts

Please visit mnhs.org/residencies or contact Program Coordinator, Ben Gessner by calling 651-259-3281 or sending an email to benjamin.gessner@mnhs.org for more information and how to apply.

Band Member's Goals Are to Serve Community, Keeping Culture First

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer **Chad Germann** Photographer

Though it's only been two short months since Percy Benjamin began working as the Deputy Assistant to the Band's Chief Executive, Melanie Benjamin, he knew immediately how gravely important his role would be.

Percy's Anishinabe name is Ogimaa-Giizhik, which translates to "chief of the sky." He shares the same surname, but is not directly related to Melanie. Percy said he is in awe of the work that leaders in the Band, especially the Chief Executive, do to help the community.

"At times I wonder how she does it all," he said. "She is in high demand at the federal level, within the Band and in the community."

"But I also know that's where I come in," said Percy, 36, who took his post in April.

His primary responsibility is to keep Melanie informed, advise her, provide information she needs on a variety of top-



Percy Benjamin, Deputy Assistant to the Band's Chief Executive, Melanie Benjamin

ics, and communicate on her behalf to the commissioners and community.

"If she's gone, I'm here to collect and relay information and to make sure things are running smooth," he said. "I've got to make sure I do everything I can to assist her."

There is a staff of four in the Chief's office and it requires their collective efforts to take care of Melanie's schedule and everyday duties to help her office be the best it can be, he said.

"At the same time, we make sure that the community members and their needs come first," he said.

For Percy, that means helping with the cultural advisory board and working closely with the commissioners.

Before moving into his current role, Percy worked for Community Development as a housing maintenance supervisor in DIII for eight years. He helped manage 160 homes, worked with tenants and did basic maintenance.

He said his new position is a "great opportunity for me. I get to learn from Melanie — she's a mentor — and I get to work for Band members. It was an opportunity I didn't want to pass up," he said.

Percy was born in Onamia, but moved with his mom and siblings to the St. Croix reservation, where he grew up. He lived there for more than two decades and was raised by a political leader in the St. Croix Band.

"He wasn't a relative, but I grew up with him as a mentor."

By the time Percy was ready for high school he decided to attend boarding school in Flandreau, S.D.

After high school Percy said he had a bit of a rocky road and made some bad choices that had consequences in his life. But even as a young man he knew he wanted to do better: he wanted more than a lifetime of poor choices.

Two things happened that made Percy take stock of his life and decide to be a better man. First, his mother passed away and second was his desire to be a better father to his two sons, who are 17 and nine years old.

"My mom had a big heart and would lend a hand to everyone. She passed away at 51 years old.

"After my mom passed in 2005, it came to me that I had to better my life," he said. "It snapped me out of it and made me want to do better."

As a lifelong practitioner of the Ojibwe culture and traditions, Percy relied on the teachings he had learned to help him change his life.

"I've always been involved in ceremonies, powwows. I have talked and listened to Elders," he said. "I think a lot about the teachings given to me and all of the ceremonies, including the funerals, to help guide me.

"I'm a firm believer in our culture and our way."

Those beliefs help guide him as he serves as Deputy Assistant to the Chief, he said.

"My goals are to continue to serve the Band to the best of my ability," said Percy. "And I hope that the things I've seen over the years I can use to remind leaders not to forget about the less fortunate.

"I want to be the voice for the people who don't have a voice at times," he added. "It is important to work for all people."

Community Outreach Program

Mille Lacs Band Circle of Health

Circle of Health is coming to your community!

If you have no health insurance, Circle of Health can help you find a plan that you are eligible for. We will be in your community on the following dates to assist and answer any questions you may have about your health insurance coverage.

Circle of Health is also teaming up with MNSure Outreach and will have a certified MNSure Navigator available to assist anyone who needs to sign up for health insurance through the MNSure Health Insurance Exchange.

- District I Community Center: June 11, 1 p.m.–7 p.m. (Community Meeting), and June 25, 1 p.m.–7 p.m.
- District II Community Center, June 3, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., June 17, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., and June 26, 5 p.m.–7 p.m. (Community Meeting)

- District III Community Center: June 4, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., and June 18, 1 p.m.–7 p.m. (Community Meeting)
- Urban Office: June 12, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., and June 26, 1 p.m.–7 p.m. (Community Meeting)

Circle of Health website

If you cannot attend one of these events, you can access the enrollment form online on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Circle of Health page: millelacsband.com/programs-services-home/circle-of-health

Circle of Health has updated the information on our page to keep you informed on current issues on health insurance coverage and eligibility for Mille Lacs Band households.

Washington D.C. Close Up Foundation Trip

Amanda Nickaboine

Ojibwe Language Teacher Trainee

Nay Ah Shing High School was very proud to send six students to Washington D.C. to participate in the Close Up Foundation program. In this program Mia Anoka, Sage Boyd-Davidson, Shawntel Jellum, Justin Leecy, Eddy Nadeau, and Tehya Wade traveled to our nation's capital to take an extensive tour, learn about how our government works, and discuss our nation's important topics. The students also got to meet with Minnesota Senator Al Franken, and our Representative Richard Nolan. During this visit the students discussed many issues that affect the Native American population in their area and issues that affect our nation. The students also met and had debates about important issues facing our nation with other students from around the country, toured the capital, and met many new friends. This trip was a great learning experience for all and Nay Ah Shing would love to continue to send students to participate in this amazing opportunity.

Student's reactions:

"My favorite part of the trip was seeing the memorials and all the sights. All together it was a good experience and I was able to meet a lot of people and learn about government." – Tehya Wade

"The part I liked the most about the trip was meeting our District Representative Rick Nolan and seeing a live debate at the capital. It also showed us their world and life beyond the reservation."

– Justin Leecy

"What I liked the most about our trip to Washington D.C. was meeting our Representative Rick Nolan, who also offered me an internship for the summer in D.C." – Mia Anoka



Back row (L-R): Justin Leecy and Eddie Nadeau. Front row (L-R): Tehya Wade, Shawntel Jellum, Mia Anoka, Congressman Rick Nolan, and Sage Boyd-Davidson.



L-R: Justin Leecy, Amanda Nickaboine (Chaperone), Sage Boyd-Davidson, Tehya Wade, Al Franken, Mia Anoka, Eddie Nadeau, and Shawntel Jellum.

Make Walking Your First Step to Preventing or Managing Diabetes

As the weather gets warmer it's the perfect time to get outside and move

Mille Lacs Band Diabetes Program

Being physically active will help you prevent or manage diabetes. You can start by walking. It's easy to start walking. All you need is 10 minutes and a good pair of walking shoes.

How much walking should I do?

Walking for at least 150 minutes a week is best. Start out walking 3 or more times a week. Work up to 30 minutes of walking at least 5 days a week. You can break the 30 minutes into three 10-minute sessions spread throughout the day.

What kind of shoes should I wear?

Make sure that your shoes fit well. They should cushion and support your feet. Wear a clean pair of socks to protect your feet. If you have any foot problems or need help getting the right shoes, see your health care provider.

How fast should I walk?

Start slowly and go faster as you become more fit. If you cannot talk while you walk, you are walking too quickly. If you can sing while you walk, you are walking too slowly!

How can I make walking a habit?

With a little time, walking can become a habit. Try to develop a habit of walking for at least 30 minutes every day:

- Have fun! Walk with family or friends. Enjoy talking.
- Take scenic routes.
- Park a little farther from the store or your work place.
- Walk on your lunch hour or break.
- Use the stairs.
- Walk at the same time each day.
- Have a weekly schedule. Walk on most days of the week.

How can I become more fit?

First check with your health care provider to find out what activities are best for you. Try bike riding, hiking, dancing, or working out at a gym. Find out what kinds of fitness activities you can join at your tribal health center. Ask a friend, your children, grandchildren, or other family members to join you. You will be a healthy role model to your loved ones

How do I get started?

Your MLB Fitness Department has staff members in each district that can help you get started! Call today!

- Jim Ingle, District 1: 320-532-7547
- Bobby Anderson, District 2 and 3: 320-384-0149
- Lee Lembke, District 2-A: 320-676-110

Increasing Graduation Rates

Educators from around the U.S. meet in Shakopee to find way to keep kids in school

Deborah Locke Staff Writer

In his usual plain-spoken fashion, Dr. Anton Treuer told a group of educators in Shakopee that no achievement gap exists among American Indian students. Instead, call it an opportunity gap.

He reminded the audience that yes, good reasons exist for the low graduation rate for Indian students, but why not look at what works and use those methods?

Dr. Treuer, an author and Executive Director of the American Indian Resource Center at Bemidji State University, was one of the keynote speakers at the 2014 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native and Tribal Communities, held April 27-30 at the Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Shakopee.

The agenda addressed instructional strategies, emotional supports, school climate and student safety, digital communication, and culture and language.

That last topic, culture and language, is especially important to Dr. Treuer, whose personal voicemail message is in the Ojibwe language, followed by the English translation.

The fluent Ojibwe speaker asked his audience why educators don't spend more time examining what works. For example, students at a Wisconsin Ojibwe language charter school have a 100 percent pass rate in English and math.

"For me what is important is to motivate change, to show what has worked and why, and to challenge people to take responsibility for change," Treuer said in a phone interview. Too often schools point to a lack of parental involvement as the reason for high dropout rates at the same time that parents point to schools as the root of the problem.

In Dr. Treuer's view, the message is simple: do more with language and culture so American Indian children learn more about their own achievements and history throughout the centuries. Starting with the 2014-15 school year, Minnesota will mandate an American Indian unit in eighth grade social studies. That's a small start to a larger story, Dr. Treuer said. Ideally, American Indian history should be taught in every grade, starting with simple concepts in elementary school and growing to the complexities of sovereignty and cultural strengths in high school.

"A scattershot requirement will not increase understand-

ing," he said. "We need to change the way teachers are trained so they are equipped for the environment they work in."

Right now, most Indian students learn an enormous amount of information about non-Indians as though that is all that matters, Dr. Treuer said. Even worse, many kids are still getting a "sugar coated" version of Christopher Columbus as a great explorer from teachers who have never learned anything else. If the teachers don't know the facts, how can they pass them on to students? Dr. Treuer said teachers are afraid to admit their ignorance, or they fear getting their heads bit off by an angry Indian parent anxious to set the record straight. So it's easier to do less and less with Indian culture and history.

In attendance at the conference and at Dr. Treuer's address was Suzanne Wise, Education Commissioner for the Mille Lacs Band. She said there were plans this summer to bring more culture-based education to the K-12 Nay Ah Shing Schools in District I. Changes were made to the reading and math curricula at the schools this year.

"Our kids have grown by leaps and bounds in the last few months," she said. It's critical that children have a strong foundation in math and reading, and to learn it through a curriculum that blends with American Indian traditions, Suzanne said.

Of course, challenges beyond the classroom exist. Some high school students already have children, which affects their ability to stay in school. Some settle for receiving a GED. Some kids struggle with drug addiction and violence at home.

But the way out is as simple and complex as getting an education, Suzanne said. She likens a degree to a car. Cars give a certain freedom and opportunity. Education opens up opportunities for both students and their families. Suzanne said that in many instances when a young person went to college for a degree, his or her parents followed suit.

Overall, she said, the future is bright. Many Band members are involved with the revitalization of their culture and ceremonies now. They are learning their language. They participate in their community.

"We want Mille Lacs to be showcased in this way," she said. "Even if there are barriers, we will work beyond them."

Congratulations to Nay Ah Shing High School Graduates

Seniors Whitney Harrington and Charisse Cash graduated from Nay Ah Shing high school on May 29. The years of studying have paid off for these two young women, and we congratulate them on this accomplishment. Best of luck to both of you in the future! Learn more about these two below.

Whitney Harrington

What was your best experience at NAS?

Going to Washington, DC for the Close-up Trip

What will you miss most about high school?

Going to cultural arts and learning to make different things

What are your plans after graduation?

College

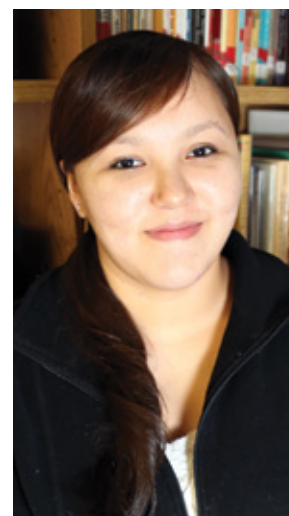
Charisse Cash

What was your best experience at NAS?

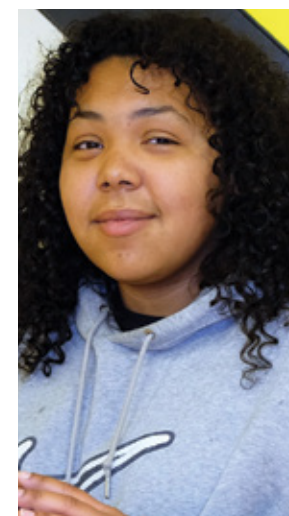
The traveling and extracurricular activities and the many opportunities I made for myself.

What are your plans after graduation?

College at Concordia University



Whitney Harrington



Charisse Cash

Symposium Invites Statewide Communication On the Health of American Indians

Next meeting scheduled for fall 2014

Deborah Locke Staff Writer

An American Indian health symposium held last summer will provide the starting point for a second symposium tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2014, said Jackie Dionne, Director of American Indian Health with the Minnesota Department of Health. The White Earth Reservation has offered to host this year's gathering.

The Grand Portage Reservation hosted the July 2013 symposium, which brought together tribal health professionals, tribal elected officials and representatives from the state Department of Health to encourage healthier lifestyles among American Indians for generations to come.

The symposium clarified that bands across the state have certain health challenges in common, said Ginger Weyaus, Health Benefits Administrator for the Mille Lacs Band. "We can start to share more information across our borders and also share solutions," she said.

Infant health was a popular topic, with special concern for the apparent increase in the number of babies born with irreversible brain damage due to maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Tribes do not keep data on the number of infants born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, Jackie said. It is likely that FASD and its prevention will be addressed at the next symposium.

Participants also discussed prescription drug abuse throughout Minnesota's Indian Country, and the role of historical trauma and its contribution to addiction. Participants from White Earth, Red Lake and the Leech Lake Reservations described prescription drug misuse as "epidemic," said Jackie, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Many attendees agreed that solutions resided within each

community and no single answer could apply to all 11 Ojibwe and Dakota reservations and communities in Minnesota. One challenge for health professionals at the county and state levels is to come up with collective solutions and climb out of agency and department "silos." "All sectors have to come together," Jackie said. For example, staff members in education, health, housing, and child care all know that teen pregnancies diminish the chances for a satisfying career and usually lead to a life in poverty. It makes sense for everyone to come together to look at the issue and identify ways to combat it. That doesn't mean mandates from the state or county; it means cooperation and ways to protect children so they live to their full potential, Jackie said.

That potential is easier to reach these days as tribes provide support for college attendance and other educational goals. "Tribes now use their gaming revenues for infrastructure and as an investment in economic development," she said. There is hope for a healthier community now and tomorrow. In past decades, children

graduated from high school with no hope of finding work on their reservations. They were doomed to poverty unless they moved far away. "That Indians are still here speaks to their resiliency and ability to sustain oppression," Jackie said.

"We can turn around the health status and be one of the healthiest populations in state," Jackie said. "It's a matter of coming together." Every group that participated in the symposium came to this conclusion: culture and language are critical components to Indian health. "Think of the elders who would say exercise is good, eating well is good, but know your language," she said.

"That Indians are still here speaks to their resiliency and ability to sustain oppression."

— Jackie Dionne, Director of American Indian Health with the MN Department of Health

Young Readers Awarded at Hinckley Elementary

Photos courtesy Christine Costello



Ronald Davis and Jon Buchanan

On May 14, fourth grade students at the Hinckley Elementary School were acknowledged in an Accelerated Reader award ceremony.

Students — including Band members Elle Swanson, Hailey Wilberg, Ronald Davis, Mattie Churchill and Jon Buchanan — earned points for finishing books through the school year. They also needed to maintain certain grades, comprehend the books



Hailey Wilberg and Elle Swanson

they read, and test out on through a computer-based system that the school purchased.

Students had to read books that were at grade level; book points ranged from 0.5 up to 15 for longer ones.

We're very proud of the dedication these students are showing towards reading. Keep up the good work, students!

Band Members Highlight CLC Commencement

Band member and recent graduate Bradley Kalk posted the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe flag at the Central Lakes College Commencement on May 15.

Band member and CLC student Arlyn Sam sang an Honor Song at the ceremony. This was the first time in CLC history a drum and song were involved in a graduation ceremony. Congratulations to all!



Bradley Kalk posted the Mille Lacs Band flag at the commencement ceremony.



Central Lakes College student Arlyn Sam singing the Honor Song

The People of the Big Lake Broadcast Schedule

The traditions of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, shown in historic film footage and today, demonstrates the importance of family, relationships and cultural continuity among this Band from central Minnesota (54 minutes long).

Check out the documentary on The MN Channel, tpt MN Channel 2.2. on Saturday, June 28: 3 a.m., 9 a.m., 3 p.m., and 9 p.m.

For more information on upcoming broadcasts and quick access to viewing this programs online, visit: tpt.org/?a=programs#22577

Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Andy McPartland at andy@redcircleagency.com or call 612-372-4612.

The July issue deadline is June 16.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy June Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mary Ann Ailport
Donald Ray Anderson
Randall Wayne Anderson
Ronald Dale Anderson
Shirley Ann Beach
Arvina Marie Benjamin
Sharon Lee Benjamin
Shirley Jane Boyd
David Bradley, Jr.
Rory Levine Bruneau
Clifford Kenneth Churchill
Sherry Elaine Colson
Emma Compelube
Brenda Lee Day
Simon Eugene Day, Jr.
Ellagene Diane Dorr
Peter Jerome Dunkley
Rosetta Marie Eagle
Bruce Wayne Frye
George Allen Garbow, Jr.
Kat Anne Garbow
Melanie Raemel Garbow
Marilyn Ann Gurneau
Monica Louise Haglund
Bruce Duane Hansen
Devona Lee Haskin
Catherine Hedstrom
Shirley Ann Hillstrom
Dorothy Jean Hofstedt
Robert Dwaine Kegg
Connie Lou Kevan
Marlowe James LaFave
LeRoy Joseph Mager
Robert Wayne Mayotte
Clarence Moose
John Gene Morrow
Barbara Jean Mulhall
Dana Lou Nickaboine
Georgia Louise Nickaboine
Joel Jay O'Brien
Alof Andrew Olson, Jr.
Gordon Gail Parr
Patricia Pindegayosh
Alan Duane Ray
Charlene Ann Shingobe

Charles Duane Shingobe
Warren Skinaway
Pearl Anne St. John
Frances Staples
Francine Wanda Staples
Judy Ann Swanson
Ann Marie Thalín
Arlene Rene Weous
Loris Marie White
Judy Jo Williams

Happy June Birthdays:

Happy 6th birthday **Tayaunna Boyd "Giivedinookwe"** on 6/1, love, Mom, Dad, Lydell, and McKayla. • Happy birthday **Gretchen Nickaboine** on 6/2 from Cassandra and Travis. • Happy birthday **Roland Smith, Jr. "Niizhoogwaneb"** on 6/6, love, auntie Desi, Lydell, McKayla, and Tayaunna. • Happy birthday **Pickle Sam** on 6/6 from Liz, Billy, Mals, and Leroy. • Happy birthday **Elvis** on 6/7 from Grandma June. • Happy birthday **Elliott** on 6/7 from Mom. • Happy 8th birthday **Stina Pike** on 6/7 from Mom, Kevin, Rylee, Blake, Caleb, Alexis, Gabby, Grandma Barb, Tony, Melissa, Lissie, Ari, Papa, Johnathan, Ant, Jen, Saiah, Rusty, Adam, Anna, and Uncle Jon. • Happy birthday **Bugs** on 6/9 from your Garbow girls. • Happy 4th birthday **Jer Bear** on 6/9, love always from Mom, Dad, Gabe, and Roman. • Happy 1st birthday **Roman Lee** on 6/11, love always from Mom, Dad, Gabe, Jerron, Auntie Lynn, Uncle Jason, Auntie Maggie, Josh, and Jordan. • Happy 5th birthday **Fabes the Babe** on 6/14 from Mom, Ian, Ceddy B, Memengwaa, Remigio (Javi), and baby Lewis. • Happy

birthday **Sasha Garbow** on 6/16 from Cassandra and Travis. • Happy birthday **Alexis Watkins-Taylor** on 6/17 from Marie, Kevin, Rylee, Blake, Caleb, Alexis, Gabby, Grandma Barb, Tony, Melissa, Lissie, Ari, Papa, Johnathan, Ant, Jen, Saiah, Rusty, Adam, Anna, and Dad. • Happy birthday **Roland Smith, Sr.** on 6/18, love, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, and Tayaunna. • Happy birthday **Jennifer Mitchell** on 6/19 from the whole family. • Happy birthday **Auntie Jen** on 6/19 from Cassandra and Travis. • Happy 42nd birthday **Jereck** on 6/20, love, Mom, Dan, Chris, Danni Jo, Elliot, and The Blazer. • Happy birthday **Marita Jones-Yellowhammer** on 6/20 from your family. • Happy birthday **Duane Wind, Jr.** on 6/22 from Cassandra and Travis. • Happy birthday **Kevin** on 6/23, love, Mom, Dad, Sissy, Papa, Gram Kim, Mel, Gram Karen, Brad, Braelyn, Peyton, Eric, Wesley, Brynley, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Adriana, Alayah, Tracy, Jarvis, Shelby, Max, Aidan, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Emery, DeBreana, Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melodie, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, Chris, Jr., Sherry, Shawntel, and Gabbi. • Happy 15th birthday **Shyla Lussier** on 6/24, with lots of love from Mom, Jordan, Destanie, Lil Dal, Papa, Gram G and Bella. • Happy birthday **Lindsey Mitchell** on 6/29 from the whole family. • Happy birthday **Lindsey Mitchell** on 6/29 from Cassandra and Travis. • Happy birthday **Kayla Garbow** on 6/30 from the

whole family. • Happy birthday **Mom Ravin** on 6/30 from Melodie. • Happy birthday **Ravin** on 6/30 from Mom and Dad. • Happy birthday **Kayla Garbow** on 6/30 from your sis Cassandra and broski Travis. • Happy birthday **Saphyri** on 6/30, love, Frenchy. • Happy birthday **Ravin** on 6/30, love, all your family. • Happy 15th birthday **Marissa** on 6/30 from Mom, Dad, Zach, and the boys.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday to my son **David Smith III** on 5/8 from Mom and Dad. • Happy belated birthday **Papa Wallace** on 5/19 from Melodie. • Happy belated birthday to my grand-daughter **Jasmine Smith** on 5/19 from Grandma June. • Happy belated Birthday **Sunshine Shingobe** on 5/20 from Grandma June. • Happy belated birthday **Elizabeth Smith** on 5/21 from Mom and Dad.

Other

Announcements:

The Lake Lena Women's Softball Team would like say Chi-Miigwetch to the community for supporting us with our fundraiser on April 25th. A very special miigwetch to **Beverly Davis** for making the bread, to **Valerie Matrious** for helping cook the burgers, to **Stacy Benjamin-Reynolds** for her generous donation of \$100, and to the "anonymous" donator of \$100! With the funds the team made, we were able to purchase windbreakers, pay an

entry fee for a tournament in June, and buy two new bats.

We would also like to say Miigwetch to **Dave Matrious** for his donation of a bat bag, and some gloves!!

We really appreciate all the support from everyone that has helped us along the way!! Miigwetch again, from the Lake Lena Women's Softball Team!!!

• **Tom and Tim** from East Lake had a Ceremonial Dance on May 2-3. We apologize for leaving them out of the May calendar. • In Loving Memory of **Biidaabanookwe MARGE ANDERSON**, 4/21/32 –

6/29/13. It will be one year on June 29th, since you've been gone! It's been a rough year

without you! You were the backbone of our family! Not a day goes by that we don't think of you. Because remembering you is easy we do it every day, but there's an ache within our hearts that will never go away. We Love you Mom! We will keep you in our hearts forever!

Deeply missed by Merlin,

Gina, Dallas, Tina, Jordan, Lil Dallas, Destanie, and Shlya. •

Congratulations to **Shyanne Abbott** for graduating from Champlin Park High School, love Grandma and Grandpa Olson, and family.

Submit Birthday Announcements

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

The deadline for the July issue is June 16.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum June Events

We Are Anishinaabe: Our Migration Journey

Saturday, June 14 or Saturday, June 28

Time: 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Fee: \$8 adults, \$7 seniors and college students, \$6 children (ages 6–17; free for children age 5 and under), free for MNHS members

Discover the origins of Ojibwe people in Minnesota in this 30-minute discussion and explore stories, values, and traditions that traveled with them and remain today.

Birch Bark Basket Workshop

Saturday, June 28

Time: Noon–4 p.m.

Fee: \$25/\$20 for MNHS members, additional supply fee of \$15 required three days prior to workshop, call 320-532-3632

Reservations: required by June 25; call 320-532-3632 or email millelacs@mnhs.org

Information: Learn how to store and work with birch bark in this one-day workshop. Participants will make a large basket to take home. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. A minimum of five participants required to host workshop. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8	9	10 General Election 8 a.m.–8 p.m. See page 6 for information	11 District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District I Community Center	12 District III Valleyfair Trip Contact Jenelle with questions: 320-384-6240	13	14 We are Anishinaabe: Our Migration Journey 1 pm. & 2 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum See page 10 for information End of School Year Picnic 11a.m.–2 p.m.Brackett Park in Minneapolis (rain or shine) Call 612-872-1424 with questions
15	16	17	18 Chiminising Bingo 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	19	20 Grand Celebration Powwow See page 4 for information	21 Grand Celebration Powwow See page 4 for information
22 WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament 7:45 a.m. Grand National Golf Course Call 320-532-7486 for details Grand Celebration Powwow See page 4 for information	23	24	25 District II-A Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	26 District II Community Meeting 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	27	28 We are Anishinaabe: Our Migration Journey 1 pm. & 2 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum See page 10 for information Birch Bark Basket Workshop Noon–4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum See page 10 for information
29	30 DNR Advisory Board Accepting Applications Due today. Application information found here: millelacsband.com/programs-services-home/natural-resources				Congratulations to all 2014 graduates! We will have more graduation stories in the July issue. For a list of Early Education graduates, go to millelacsband.com/programs-services-home/education	

Circle of Health

Circle of Health Office is now located at the Ne la Shing Clinic in District 1 Mille Lacs. Many changes have taken place to ensure that Circle and Health, Contract Health Services, and Ne-la-Shing Clinic work together to provide you with health care coverage for you.

Affordable Care Act — Medicaid Expansion: The Affordable Care Act will continue to allow more opportunities to Band members. One change was the Medicaid Expansion which means that many of our Band members will qualify for state coverage. In addition MN Care policies no longer have a \$10,000 limit. Several years ago, Circle of Health's policy asked Band member to apply for state coverage and then if denied would assist with acquiring a private plan. This will once again be enforced.

Annual Updates/New Cards to Be Issued: Circle of Health must receive updated enrollment forms from Band member households yearly. This year, Circle of Health, Contract Health Services and Ne-la-Shing Clinic are teaming up to update enrollment forms for all Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Band members.

New enrollment forms have been created and will be used to determine eligibility for Circle of Health, Contract Health and Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Your information collected will always remain confidential.

If you are eligible for Circle of Health, you will be sent a new Circle of Health card.

If you are eligible for Contract Health Services, you will be sent a new Contract Health Services card.

Things to bring/provide:

- Your current health insurance card(s),
- Tribal of Minnesota identification card, or
- Certificate of Enrollment from your tribe
- As a thank you our office will send one free Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Hinckley buffet coupon, per application.

You can make a request for the forms through **Pamela spears@millelacsband.com** or fax to 320-532-4354.

Thank You Gift!: To show appreciation for your help with updating your household information and providing a completed form, Circle of Health is offering each policy holder a free lunch buffet coupon for Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Hinckley. The coupons are good through June 24, 2014.

Enrollment Form Notice: Please be advised that if Circle of Health does not receive an updated and complete enrollment form by September 1, 2014, your account will be put on a "HOLD FOR REIMBURSEMENT" status, this hold will include payment of employer, private and Medicare premiums.

Insurance Premium Payments Made On Your Behalf

Please be advised that any private plans will need to be moved to the Minnesota Exchange. So we will be asking that the following covered groups be prepared to work with Circle of Health staff.

- Mille Lacs Tribal Community plans will end July 31
- Other private plans, in state will end September 30
- Minnesota Comprehensive Health Assn/Medica MCHA premium payments will end and plans will no longer be effective after December 31

Elder Loan Update

Last year the Band Assembly made some changes to simplify the Elder Loan Program. It is the Band Assembly's desire to streamline the loan process for Elders who may need to borrow on a short-term basis.

The Band may loan up to \$500 to a Band Elder payable over a six month term. The loan may now be paid back out of the Elder's monthly bonus distribution payments up to \$85.34 per month, provided the Elder has the available borrowing capacity in his/her bonus distribution payments. If the Elder defaults on a payment because of other garnishments or withholdings, the Elder must now wait one year after final payment before he/she can borrow again. Previously, Elders could not have payments withheld from their bonus distribution payments and needed to pay off the loan separately through other means.

For additional information, please contact Pam Boyd, loan specialist, in OMB at 532-7467.

Changes in Human Resources

In an effort to streamline the responsibilities within Human Resources, the following is an update.

- Email for "Travel arrangements" can be emailed directly to **HRTravel@millelacsband.com**
- Shawna Sam and Chasity Gahbow has assumed the roles as HR Ad-

ministrative Assistants. They will be working cohesively with administrative duties, mail, travel, etc. They both share one extension at extension 4742. They also share one email address at **HRAdmin@millelacsband.com**

- Kitty Johnson is the Employment Specialist — please direct all job postings, interviewing, hiring process, etc. to Kitty. She can be reached at extension 7460.

The following HR individuals are still available:

- Stacey Sanchez, HR Manager, ext. 7866
- Darlene Day-Beaulieu, Employee Relations Coordinator, ext. 7847
- Dawn Chosa, Benefits Coordinator, ext. 7477
- Cyrilla Bauer, HR Director, ext. 7488

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2014	Expenditures through 4/30/2014	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	15,626,913	7,314,221	46.8%
Workforce	18,914,615	3,394,224	17.9%
Judicial	1,418,613	608,790	42.9%
Law Enforcement	4,910,074	2,521,879	51.4%
Education	17,248,146	9,050,949	52.5%
Health and Human Services	23,839,173	9,837,365	41.3%
Circle of Health Insurance	10,111,681	6,271,997	62.0%
Natural Resources	8,146,166	4,897,248	60.1%
Community Development	39,086,480	9,219,451	23.6%
Gaming Authority	5,221,405	2,673,553	51.2%
Bonus Distribution	30,997,677	28,441,416	91.8%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,100,000	3,052,000	98.5%
Total	178,620,943	87,283,093	48.9%

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

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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.

Free Hearing Evaluations

Evaluations take place on the second Friday of each month at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Call 320-532-4163 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome — we will do our best to serve you. Ask us about the \$1,000 in hearing aid benefits you can receive from the Circle of Health.

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