

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

August 2008

"The story as it's told."

Volume 10 • Number 8

Band Member Elected to Top Post of State Veterans Organization



Photo courtesy of the Mille Lacs Messenger

Allen Weyaus is the first American Indian to be elected as Department Commander for the AMVETS of Minnesota.

By Toya Stewart

Allen Weyaus has a busy year ahead of him. As the first American Indian to be elected as the Department Commander for the AMVETS of Minnesota, Allen wants to leave his mark.

"Historically, there's never been a Native American in Minnesota who has ever been a department commander in any congressional-recognized organization," Allen said.

Elected in May, he is responsible for recruiting new members and will work closely with the Commissioner of the

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Our main goal is to get American veterans more visible in the state of Minnesota," said Allen, who was enrolled in the U.S. Navy during Desert Storm in 1991. One of his personal goals is to help get a memorial erected on the grounds of the state Capitol that honors Native American veterans.

AMVETS is a veteran service organization for members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It was established during World War II and is best known for assisting veterans. The organization's leaders, like Allen, are volunteers who are elected by their peers.

"I'm still wowed," Allen said. "This is a new and exciting challenge for me to be out front for the veterans in Minnesota."

Allen, who is a Housing Maintenance Supervisor in District III, has been active in the AMVETS for 15 years. Allen, 38, lives in Onamia. He is married to Donna and they have three children, Tanya, Autumn and A.J.

Mille Lacs Band Hosts National WEWIN Conference



Rick Anderson

During the WEWIN conference at Grand Casino Hinckley, WEWIN President Susan Masten (left) and Chief Executive and WEWIN Treasurer Melanie Benjamin (right) presented Mille Lacs Band Elders Millie Benjamin and Dorothy Sam blankets for their work in Indian communities.

**By Elizabeth Towle,
Government Affairs
Administrative Assistant**

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe hosted the fourth annual Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN) conference at Grand Casino Hinckley on July 29-31. Women from various tribes across the nation attended the conference, which offered workshops on topics from personal finance to getting out the vote.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who is also the

WEWIN treasurer, honored two Mille Lacs Band Elders – Dorothy Sam and Millie Benjamin. The women were recognized for their work in Indian communities, including their work to keep the Ojibwe language alive by passing it on to their children and youth.

WEWIN participants also enjoyed karaoke, dancing, and getting to know one another during the evening festivities. The conference was a great learning experience for all ages.



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43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

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Ron Anderson Joins the Corporate Commission Board of Directors



Photo courtesy of Beth Hamilton

Mille Lacs Band member Ron Anderson was sworn in as a member of the Corporate Commission Board of Directors on July 17. Pictured is Mille Lacs Band Chief Justice Alvina Aubele congratulating Ron on his recent appointment. Ron was nominated by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and ratified by the Band Assembly to fill the vacant District III position on the board. Ron's military and business background brings a wealth of experience to the board. Other Corporate Commission Board members include: Dale Greene Sr., Arlene Weous, and Gary Davis.

Ask Melanie

Who is your Deputy Assistant and what is his role?

There is a new face in the Office of the Chief Executive, and his name is August Drew Syngen Kanassataga. I recently hired Syngen as my new Deputy Assistant. This is the position formerly held by Peter Nayquonabe, who is now the Assistant Commissioner of Administration.

Syngen is a Mille Lacs Band member. He is the son of Judy Kanassataga, grandson of Raining Boyd, and his adoptive grandmother is Dorothy Sam. Syngen's father is Jay Kanassataga, who many Band members remember as our first Solicitor General. Syngen recently graduated from Hamilton College in New York with a degree in public policy.

The position of Deputy Assistant is an important one. It is the only position in my office that is referenced in Band Statutes. One of Syngen's most important responsibilities is to handle matters when Band members request assistance from my office.

On that topic, I want to make sure all Band members understand how to get the best service from Band government and the chain of command in the Executive Branch.

When Band members require services from the Band government, the first person they should go to is a member of the program staff. We have hundreds of excellent employees who work hard for the Band and are skilled in their specific areas. Going to a staff person first is usually the fastest way to get

your issue addressed appropriately.

Occasionally, crisis issues come up. When the proper staff person is not immediately available (perhaps he or she is in a meeting or assisting another Band member), the next step is to go to the Commissioner responsible for the program. Ultimately, the Commissioners manage every aspect of our government programs and services and make all decisions in their respective areas.

If there are unique circumstances or the issue can't wait, the next step is the Commissioner of Administration. Commissioner Costello is the Chief of Staff for the Executive Branch and can act on behalf of other Commissioners in their absence.

If Band members are still not getting the help they need, the last step is to contact my office. In those situations, Syngen is the person who is authorized to act on my behalf when I'm unavailable and help resolve issues through our government system.

Syngen's role is to serve Band members on my behalf and to help when he can. He is someone who can get Band members connected with the right staff person to ensure their issue is properly addressed, and listen to any concerns you may have. He is my right-arm in my personal office.

Syngen will be profiled in the *Inaajimowin* next month, so you can learn more about him. In the meantime, he has already proven to be a great addition to the Office of the Chief Executive and I, along with his family, are happy to have him home.

Names and Faces

Band members compete in Grandma's Half Marathon



Photo courtesy of Deb Northrup

In June, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Health and Human Services Sam Moose (left) and Band member Darrell Shingobe (right) completed Grandma's Half Marathon in less than two and a half hours. Sam also ran in a 5K run with his eight-year-old son Tyler. Sam and Darrell plan to run the full Grandma's Marathon next year. For others considering the sport, they recommend getting in the "road miles" prior to any running event. Darrell said, "You just

can't beat the adrenaline rush when you finish. I advise people to try it once in your lifetime." Great job, Sam and Darrell!

Band member recognized for top academic performance



Photo courtesy of Bill Premo

Congratulations to Mille Lacs Band member Cole Premo for his outstanding academic achievement at the University of Minnesota. Cole was named to the spring 2008 dean's list for the College of Liberal Arts for having a grade point average of 3.66 or higher. He will be a senior this fall. Congratulations on this great accomplishment.

Thank You to My Supporters

By Arne Vainio, M.D., Mille Lacs Band member

I was recently awarded the Early Distinguished Career Award by the University of Minnesota Medical Alumni Society. It turns out this is a very big deal. I am the first Native American to receive this award, and the first graduate from the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus. When I first started medical school in 1990, I never would have dreamt this possible. I am grateful for this honor, and wish my mother was alive to be there when it is officially awarded on September 26 in Minneapolis. This one would have made her cry.

How did I come to receive this award? Not alone. Many have helped me swim when it would have been easier to watch me sink. A total of 14 people wrote letters of support for me. These ranged from the Dean of the Medical School to med students to resident physicians, all related to Indian health in some way. Two of them are connected to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and deserve special mention here.

Melanie Benjamin is the Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, in which I am enrolled. She is dedicated to improving conditions in Indian Country and works tirelessly on the reservation

and around the nation to make sure Indian voices are heard and acknowledged. Our whole country desperately needs more leaders like Melanie. In my work I have come to know her as a champion for our people and more recently as a friend of my family. Mii gwetch, Melanie!

Ivy Vainio. I met Ivy in September 1988 and am lucky enough to have married her in 1997. Everyone's heard, "I couldn't have done it without my wife." In my case, it's actually true. She is a consummate organizer and makes sure I meet deadlines for articles, she sets up my speaking engagements, and everyone knows that I am not to be trusted with my own schedule. Without her, my schedule (and my life) would completely fall apart. Our women are our strength and carry on our traditions; often it is easy to forget that.

These are just two of the many people who have helped me along the way. None of us makes it alone. Sometimes it seems like no one understands us as individuals, and it's humbling to have to reach out for help. But when I've reached out, help has always been there. We do that for each other. An old African proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." It seems it takes one to raise a doctor, too.

Congratulations, Graduates!

High school diploma

Elise Anderson
Tiffany Anderson
Dillon Applegate
Steven Aune
Jasmine Ballinger
Kassie Benjamin-Ficken
Joshua Boyd
Kristin Boyd
Elizabeth Brown
Jasmine Davis-RedDay
Jeffrey Dorr
Donna Eagle
Daniel Edgington
Alyssa Enno
Cameron Farah
Jillian Garbow
Sasha Garbow
Robyn Graham
Nadine Harrington
Matthew Hatfield
Joe Juarez
Brad Kalk
Jacob Kalk
Katherine Kalk
Adam Nayquonabe
Stanley Nayquonabe
Jon Nickaboine
Meisha Oswaldson
Kelly Peet
Jessica Perry
Mary Jo Potter
Rochelle Potter-Stone
Bryce Premo
Magen Premo
Rosa Sam
Daphne Shabaish
Nicholas Shaw
Ismael Silva
Brock Smith
Miranda Spafford
Brandi Jo Wittstruck

GED

Jillian Anderson
Jake Baker
Antaysha Banks
Cassandra Beaulieu
Nicole Belden
Ashley Benjamin
Nakota Benjamin
Brook Blue
Heather Boyd
Jacob Boyd
Marcella Bradley
Thomas Cartwright
Tracy Demo
Clarice Eubanks
Ilai Faamamafa
Casey Fratzke
Amelia Kevan

Jason Lechelt
Deliris Lopez
Lorenzo Merrill
Sara Misquadace
Souttida Norasingh
Melissa Peet
Keith Reynolds
Lee Roberts
Frederick Shingobe
Preston Smith
Tony Sullivan

Technical diploma

Dawn Peel
Heather Reyes
Eric Turner
Jamie Williams
Tara Robertson

Associate of arts degree

Kerry Applegate
Deanna Benjamin
Shane Dunn
Nicole Hyatt
Mary Jo Jennings
Joseph Mitchell
Celeste Olivarez
Angela Roseen
Camille Smith
Douglas Woyak

Associates of arts & science degree

Andrew Boyd
Jeremiah Jones
Pernell RedDay
Perry Skinaway Jr.
Cory Wade

Bachelor's degree

Ronald Anderson
Dawn Aubid
Chilah Brown
Bradley Davis
August Kanassatega
Teresa Liebgott

Certificate

Tara Benjamin
Dominique Boyd
Rosa Colton
Mary Dalquist
Kirstie Davis
Aimee Hoggatt
Jesse Kersting
Alberta Loso
Dionne Thompson
Stephanie Thompson
Morgan Thompson

Child Care Rate Increase

Mille Lacs Early Education will increase child care payment rates effective September 2, 2008. Child care will now be charged at an hourly rate instead of a weekly rate. The hourly rate for child care payment will be \$2 per hour. The average hourly rate for child care in Mille Lacs County is \$2.42 per hour.

For the time that children are enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start, they will not be charged for child care. Head Start

hours of operation are 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Early Head Start hours of operation are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Please note this is a change in the hours of operation for Early Head Start.

Families who need help paying for child care should apply for child care assistance with the Mille Lacs Band or Mille Lacs County.

Media Sometimes Gets the Details Wrong, but Coverage Is Still Worthwhile

By Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources

There has been lots of media coverage this year about the tribal fishing harvest on Mille Lacs Lake, spurred primarily by the gill nets that were unaccounted for this spring and the *Mille Lacs Messenger's* YouTube video of Wisconsin tribal members netting on Mille Lacs. That video alone has nearly 20,000 visitors, and the number continues to rise.

I've heard from many Band members with thought-provoking questions and concerns about inaccurate details and misunderstandings that sometimes appear in media reports – often related to fishing. I appreciate the feedback and support, and trust me, I wish as much as other Band members that every reporter would get the story exactly right.

I most recently heard from some of you after a Nick Coleman column about fishing appeared in the *Star Tribune*. Mr. Coleman was mainly writing about failed attempts to shut down the *Messenger* Web site, and that it may be connected to the paper's coverage of the fishing issue – coverage that in some Band opponents' minds is too soft on tribal issues. But the main reason I heard from people was because of an error he made – incorrectly identifying the YouTube fishermen as being from the Mille Lacs Reservation – which I think is worth more discussion.

What about errors?

Tribal fishing rights on Mille Lacs Lake are primarily thought of as the Mille Lacs Band's fishing rights. It is not uncommon for coverage about netting to cite netters as Mille Lacs Band members, when in reality, they could be from any one of eight Chippewa bands that have treaty fishing rights on the lake.

When a reporter commits this type of error, it is generally an honest mistake with no harm intended. This is the case with Nick Coleman's column. Even though he got one detail wrong, he got the main point right. In this situation, we let Mr. Coleman know about the mistake to help prevent it from happening in any future columns he may write on the issue.

Tribal fishing rights are a very complex issue. Very few non-Band members understand the issue in depth or even want to know all the intricacies. The Band does its best to correct facts whenever possible, knowing that

our work of educating people will take a lifetime and possibly longer.

Why aren't the stories always positive?

Another common question I get is why stories about tribal fishing and other controversial topics tend to seem negative toward the Band, even when the reporter interviews a Band spokesperson. This was a common feeling after a FOX 9 fishing story in May.

I agree that it was a hard story to watch. And I wish it would have been more positive too. But the media's job is to give both sides of the story. I've heard some Band opponents who thought that same story was too generous toward the Band. The point is that this story would have aired regardless of whether I talked to the reporter or not, so the Mille Lacs Band elected to make sure our voice was part of the story.

Whether a story about us is on TV, the radio, or in print, the Mille Lacs Band has very little control over the content. We could say and do all the right things, but in the end not everything makes the final cut into the stories. This is how the media works.

Overall, we have to keep in mind that the media has helped the Mille Lacs Band share its story. More people are aware of our struggles, our culture, and how we contribute to the community because of the media. There is some frustration in our relationships with the media, just like there would be in any long-term relationship. But over time, we are doing everything we can to make the relationships stronger.

Consider the "Moccasin Telegraph" columns from our Elders that run in the *Mille Lacs Messenger*, the stories Vivian Clark has written about our Nay Ah Shing graduates, and the story a couple of months ago by Kevin Anderson, who talked about the Time to Talk Forum on Race. Tadd Johnson, the Band's Special Counsel on Government Affairs, recently had a column on taxes paid by the Band in the *Hinckley News*, which received a lot of positive comments. There are many positive stories being told about the Band, and Band members are the reason.

I appreciate Band members keeping track of everything being said about us in the media. Please keep your comments and feedback coming.

Eighteen Mille Lacs Band Youth Attend 2008 YES Camp



Photo courtesy of Eric North

YES Camp participants and counselors, left to right: (front row) Kristin Boyd, Jon Reynolds, Deanna Benjamin, Ashley Lafriniere, Jayson Sam, and Sharon James; (second row) John Gunstad, Roz Hoff, Ricky Boyd, Amber Buckanaga, and Kyle Aune; (third row) Nikki Sam, Lashelle Boyd, Heather Benjamin, Falcia Mitchell, Courtney Boyd, and Kayla Cash; and (back row) Andy Angell, Brandon Anthony, Kelsie Shaugobay, Jordan Boyd, Jamie Boyd, Mary Simon, and Eric North.

By Small Business Development Program Staff

The fourth annual Youth Entrepreneurship Summer (YES) Camp was held on June 22-27 at Camp Koronis in Paynesville, Minn. The YES Camp is a collaborative project between the Corporate Commission Small Business Development Program (SBDP) and Nay Ah Shing School. The SBDP provided John Gunstad as facilitator and Sharon James as the instructor. Three Nay Ah Shing staff – Eric North, Mary Simon, and Roz Hoff – served as camp counselors. They served with three previous camp counselors from the Fond du Lac Tribal College American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL) Chapter: Ashley LaFriniere, Deanna Benjamin, and Andy Angell.

This year the camp was open to all Mille Lacs Band member youth, and 18 youth attended from Nay Ah Shing's two AIBL Chapters. The purpose of the camp is to teach students how to research, develop and manage a business, while promoting leadership, communication and self-esteem.

Camp attendees were divided into two groups and brainstormed on what business to pursue. One group developed a babysitting business and the other group updated and fine-tuned their previous paintball business. The students researched and developed their business and gained management training skills during the five-day camp.

But, it wasn't all work. The students had fun participating in activities such as horseback riding, lake activities, movies, bonfires, and volleyball.

The Nay Ah Shing AIBL High School Chapter received first place honors at the National AIBL Business Plan Competition for the business plan they developed at the 2007 YES Camp. The 2008 YES Camp students plan to submit their two business plans for competition in the 2009 AIBL Competition in Tucson, Arizona. The Nay Ah Shing high school and middle school AIBL chapters will work on implementing their business plans when they return to school in the fall.

"Nay Ah Shing students are beginning to understand what an important role they have in the future of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe," said Mary Simon, Nay Ah Shing Dean of Students. "With continued support, these students will be well prepared to assume the leadership roles within their communities that are needed to bring continual economic growth and development."

Sharon James stated, "This was the first time the YES Camp worked with seventh- through tenth-graders, and the first time we worked on two business plans rather than one. The younger students were usually quiet and a little shy, but once they spoke they had some wonderful ideas. It was also exciting to see the older students work on an existing idea and turn it into a realistic project for them to actually pursue. It is so enjoyable and such an honor to work with intelligent and motivated students. I am looking forward to seeing these young men and women in the future as they become leaders and entrepreneurs."

Business opportunities

The SBDP has been investigating potential business opportunities that may work in rural communities. Occasionally, we hear about a business that is for sale. For example, we have someone who is trying

to sell a marketing business. If you are interested in this, please call Sara Treiber at 320/532-8814. The SBDP staff will share this type of information with you either through the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* under "Business Opportunities" or at community meetings. The SBDP is currently scheduling time on the community meeting agendas for August and September. Watch for a SBDP presentation near you!

May 2008 Urban Business Management Training Class graduates



Photo courtesy of Sharon James

The Small Business Development Program partnered with the American Indian Economic Development Fund to provide a business class for Band member entrepreneurs. From left to right: (front) Harold Matrious, Roxanne Matrious, Eugene Salay, Kimberly Sam; and (left to right in back) John Dunkley, David Glass, Sharon James, Joan Theisen.

The Urban Business Management Training Class started on May 5 with 14 attendees. The SBDP partnered with the American Indian Economic Development Fund (AIEDF) to provide access to additional financing resources for Mille Lacs Band member entrepreneurs. Both the SBDP and the AIEDF require entrepreneurs to take a business training class before being eligible for financing. This partnership combines two classes so that Mille Lacs Band members only need to take one class rather than two.

Eight Mille Lacs Band members started the class, but several were unable to complete the class due to various personal obligations. We are proud to announce that Harold Matrious and Kimberly Sam successfully completed the class. On July 14, Harold and Kim were awarded their certificates of completion from both the SBDP and the AIEDF. Congratulations!

Upcoming business class

The next business management training class will be held in Hinckley starting on August 25. The Corporate Commission's SBDP provides this 12-week class, one night per week from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. You will learn how to develop a business plan and capture a greater understanding of what it takes to manage a business. To register for this class or for more information, please call Gina at 320/532-8850.

First annual business fair

The Corporate Commission SBDP is hosting a business fair. The "Native American Business Fair – Building Alliances for Success!" will be held at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events & Convention Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 15.

The purpose of the business fair is to:

- provide interaction with other American Indian business owners
 - showcase Mille Lacs Band member-owned businesses
 - provide an opportunity to connect with new customers and business resources
 - provide workshops on planning, marketing, accounting and finance.
- For more information, please contact Gina at 320/532-8850.



Temporary Labor Work Force Program Benefits Band Members



Photo courtesy of Curt Kalk

About 35 Band members participated in the Department of Natural Resources Temporary Labor Work Force Program, helping with projects such as restoring a graveyard and removing invasive plant species.

By Toya Stewart

The Band members trickled in one by one looking for a job after the spring fishing harvest. At first, they were denied employment because even though there was work to be done there weren't any official job openings.

Then Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources, came up with a plan. He'd hire them to do much-needed work around Districts I, II, IIa and III. From restoring a graveyard to removing an invasive plant species, the crew has been making its mark. They also help other government departments.

Now, the idea has become salvation for a group of approximately 35 men and women who found work in the Department of Natural Resources through the Temporary Labor Work Force Program.

The rules are simple: No drinking. No drugs. No swearing or fighting. Show up on time. Do your share of the work. Also crew members must tell someone when they're coming and going. They earn \$10 an hour, but they're also earning something more, Curt said.

"It's manual labor. The jobs are physically demanding," said Curt. "But more importantly, they're achieving something they couldn't do before and finding self worth without having to pursue a degree in education or be considered 'not qualified.'"

Some of the workers have had gang ties, legal problems, or just some hard luck that kept them in bad situations, Curt said.

Still, Curt said he would recommend this crew to work for anyone.

"Some may feel they have stunted potential or lack of self worth," said Curt. "But look at what they're doing. It's 35 people working. They're not on

the system and they're not asking for a hand out."

Cheyenne Davis said the job has provided just what he was looking for.

"It's working for our community and cleaning it up," Cheyenne said. "We're fixing things and improving things for the Elders."

Another worker, Donovan Nickaboine, agreed.

"I like making the reservation better," said Donovan. "It's hard work, but I like being outside, too. It's good exercise."

The crew has also helped clear the grounds for the powwow and helped the fire department burn brush and reduce fire hazards, Cheyenne said.

Jerome Anderson, who started in June, said, "We need work. We have to have jobs."

Curt agrees.

Curt hopes that he can continue to offer employment to Band members through the labor force program, but he's not sure how long the money will last. The cost to employ 35 people is approximately \$2,000 for an eight-hour shift and he has a small budget. Plus, there are other Band members eager to get on board, he said.

Curt is hoping that if the money is there, he can have the crew participate in the rice harvest this September.

He's also made a commitment to the workers that if they're serious about what they're doing and want additional training, he will find a way to help them get it.

"I'm showing them that there's a different way to earn respect and feel good about how to live, and our leaders understand how hard things can be when nothing else seems to work," said Curt.

Advocates of Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention To be Trained on Voter Engagement at Eddy's Resort

Camp Sheila Wellstone and Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota (NVAM) will host a nonpartisan voter engagement training aimed at advocates working to end domestic abuse and sexual violence on Tuesday, August 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The training will be held at Eddy's Resort.

Camp Sheila Wellstone is a training program that focuses on strengthening the skills of advocates, survivors, and community members working to end domestic and sexual violence in areas such as voter engagement, coalition building, social change advocacy, and leadership development.

"NVAM is excited to work with Camp Sheila Wellstone to provide

this great opportunity to train advocates and survivors on creating safe ways to educate and mobilize voters and to promote ending violence against women and children," said Judy Hanks, NVAM Board of Directors Chair.

Participants will each receive a "safety kit" for citizen activism and voter engagement to use in their efforts to mobilize domestic and sexual abuse survivors as voters. The cost of the training is \$15, which includes breakfast and lunch. Participants must register by August 15 for the training session. To register, contact Mary Sam at marysam@grcasinos.com or 320/532-8853.

Voter Protection and Election Judge Training Held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs

By Judy Hanks, NVAM Chair; Mary Sam, NVAM member; and Elizabeth Towle, NVAM member

TakeAction Minnesota and Native Vote Alliance Minnesota (NVAM) co-sponsored a voter protection/election judge training on Wednesday, July 23, at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The training was designed for individuals who are involved in voter protection efforts, those interested in becoming election judges, and those currently serving as election judges. Participants came from as far as Red Lake and the Duluth area to attend this outstanding training.

"TakeAction Minnesota leads the state's election protection effort to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote without being discouraged by intimidation, harassment, or poor information," said lead trainer Jonathan Mauer, Democracy Community and Political Organizer for TakeAction Minnesota. Jonathan and the TakeAction team went on to say, "while Minnesota has the highest voter turnouts in the country, voter suppression exists, often targeted at non-English speakers and communities of color."

TakeAction Minnesota and NVAM teamed up to ensure that election judges are trained as strong voting rights activists for American Indians and all people of color in Minnesota. Participants learned strategies to assist voters, discussed ways to

reduce barriers that some members of our communities encounter, and learned ways to help every eligible voter find a way to vote. TakeAction staff facilitated small group role plays about common conflict-resolution situations to teach them how to protect voter rights.

The group spent part of the afternoon learning about the roles, rights and responsibilities of people challenging voters at the polls along with the roles, rights and responsibilities of election judges in protecting and advocating for voters' rights if challenged. Participants also learned about their responsibility as election judges to assist voters with special needs at the polls. Voters in Minnesota have the right to assistance at the polls if they are unable to read English, physically unable to mark the ballot, deaf or hard of hearing, or unable to speak English or understand English when spoken.

The Mille Lacs community has been fortunate that many of our local cities and townships have not only welcomed our community at the polling places, but are committed to making sure that Band members are invited to serve as election judges. If you are interested in serving as an election judge in your community, please contact the township supervisor/clerk or city that you vote in to see if there are any openings.

Curt Kalk: Serving the Band, Preserving Natural Resources



By Toya Stewart

Before Curt Kalk came to work for the Band, he had never met any of the elected officials and rarely stepped inside the government center, except during harvest time.

Still, he knew that when he was asked about the possibility of assuming the commissioner's role that he would accept the job. Initially, when he started working for the Band as a licensing agent, he took a significant cut in pay.

"I kept up with some Band issues, but I wasn't involved," Curt said. "When Melanie offered to recommend me for the nomination as Commissioner of Natural Resources, I thought about it and then I told her I'd gladly do the best job I can."

That was eight years ago, and since then Curt has embraced his role with great passion. He oversees 14 different Band programs including enrollments, tribal identification cards, land use, cultural language, quarterly per capita payments, and fishing, hunting and gathering rights under the treaty of 1837.

"When our relatives made a treaty 170 years ago that protected our resources they said, 'this is what we need to retain – hunting, fishing and gathering – we need to keep the Earth connected to us,'" said Curt.

That thinking keeps Curt and many other Band members "culturally connected to our resources." That's why there are boundaries, and why resource management is so important, said Curt.

"Rules and regulations need to be followed to protect our

resources," added Curt.

To help make that happen, Curt serves as the Chairman of the Board on the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission – a governing body that includes 11 member tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, which makes decisions based on treaty rights in the great lakes region.

Throughout his career, Curt has worn many hats including working as a licensing agent for the Band, working for the U.S. Postal Service, and doing construction work. He also served in the Marines and has been a foster parent.

Curt, 45, also raises Black Angus cattle, which he breeds and then sells the calves. Curt has five children and has been married to his wife Susan for 21 years.

As one of the seven members of the first graduating class of Nay Ah Shing High School in 1981 – the year it was accredited – Curt grew up in Onamia at a time when there was "nothing here." But, he said he liked it and spent his youth working at resorts and the museum and living with his grandmother, Maude Kegg.

He didn't attend college, but learned by experience. He grew up understanding the cultural significance of the Band and its practices and stayed connected to its cultural beliefs.

"Being part of the history is important," said Curt, who remembers when his mother and grandparents would catch fish by netting.

"It was our right...today I can do what the state considered illegal back then," he added.

Curt's knowledge of tribal history and understanding of nature has helped him develop a philosophy about his role as commissioner.

"We have a government to provide services to our Band members," he said. "I'm not the expert. We have people who are the experts in their field of work to help us through issues that we could not achieve before. I'm just one of the people that helps people get where they need or want to be."

Barack Obama's Views on Health Care

By Toya Stewart

As the presidential campaign moves forward many Americans are paying close attention to what the top two candidates – Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain – are saying about issues that affect them. For many, including American Indians, health care tops the agenda. This month we take a look at Obama's views on health care as it pertains to American Indians. Next month we'll cover John McCain's views.

Throughout his campaign, Democratic nominee Barack Obama, has addressed issues that are relevant to American Indians.

In Barack Obama's "Principles for Stronger Tribal Communities," the U.S. Senator from Illinois shares many of his views on a variety of topics that range from tribal sovereignty to education and health care.

He is one of the original co-sponsors of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) Amendments of 2007 (S.1200). The amendment mandates modernization of the Indian health care system and strengthens urban Indian health care facilities. Additionally, Obama voted in the Senate to provide an additional \$1 billion for Indian Health Services to address disparities in American Indian health.

Earlier this year, Obama said in a news release that "Today's Native Americans are disproportionately suffering from debilitating illnesses, like diabetes, heart disease, and stroke."

He continued by saying, "It is our country's moral imperative to address the significant health care disparities between the Native American population and the American population as a whole."

"We must ensure our tribal health care programs on reservations and in urban centers are adequately prepared to provide preventative health care as well as treatment for substance and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues.

"Native Americans deserve the same high quality health care professionals that care for families throughout the country."

Obama is against the Bush Administration's efforts to eliminate urban health care for American Indians who do not live on reservations. He is also opposed to a federal land acquisition program that would have diverted funds from the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

In February, Obama wrote in *Indian Country Today*, "In my three years in the United States Senate, I have been at the forefront of the fight to pass the Indian Health Care Improvement Act... And I voted to dramatically increase funding for the IHS and urban Indian health programs... As President, I will support full funding of the IHS and continued funding of urban Indian health programs."

He also noted that he understood the importance of Indian gaming revenue as "important tribal resources for funding education, health care, law enforcement, and other essential government functions."

Jamie Edwards, Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs Coordinator, said he appreciates Obama's stance on health care issues.

"Any change or improvement requires funding, however, Obama's commitment to dealing with tribal nations is a good approach," he said. "Barack Obama understands the basic principles of tribal sovereignty and has clearly stated a commitment to improving the lives of American Indian people."

In addition, Jamie added, "His statements on policy relating to American Indian health care describe a vision that would improve the health care delivery system to tribes and American Indian communities."

Chief Executive Calendar

- Attended swearing-in ceremony
- Attended District I ALU meeting on law enforcement issues
- Convened a two-day planning session with Executive Branch officers on government budget matters
- Attended Big Drum meeting
- Attended Human Rights Commission event honoring David Sam and others
- Hosted WEWIN conference at Grand Casino Hinckley
- Represented the Band at an event for Presidential candidate Barack Obama
- Held weekly meetings with Band members on various issues

Correction

Last month, the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* printed an article about Commissioner Sam Moose that incorrectly stated he is a drum keeper. Sam is not a drum keeper, but is part of the Big Drum society. We apologize for the error.

Recipients Pay It Forward



Photo courtesy of the Mille Lacs Messenger

Five local citizens were recognized by the Mille Lacs Area Human Rights Commission at a luncheon and ceremony on July 15. Pictured are Human Rights Commission co-chairs Cathie Rhodes (left) and Father Dave Gallus (right), along with the recipients. In back are David Oberfeld and David Sam. In front are Jean Novak, who accepted the award on behalf of her late husband Don, and Pastor Kris Johnson and Jenny Holbert.

The following article appeared in the July 23, 2008, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with their permission.

Commission recognizes five for human rights contributions

Two themes emerged as five local residents were honored by the Mille Lacs Area Human Rights Commission at a lunch-time ceremony on July 15 – the ripple effect of positive actions, and the idea of “paying it forward.”

Commission co-chair Pastor Cathie Rhodes opened the ceremony with a quote from Robert Kennedy: “Each time a man (or woman) stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he (she) sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

The first honoree, Jenny Holbert, was introduced by Mary Sam, who said Holbert has produced ripples in the area of healthy community relationships.

Sam said, “Jenny has created one of the more diverse family-based workforces in the area, building a thriving multicultural team supporting our Mexican and Asian community members in the workplace.”

Sam also referred to Holbert's travels to learn about global poverty and her role in developing a soccer program and wellness project in Onamia.

Cyndy Rudolph presented the next award to Pastor Kris Johnson of Bethany Lutheran for her involvement in two projects. First, she took over leadership of Voices of Unity on Mille Lacs and coordinated the second annual “It's Time to Talk: Forum on Race.”

Second, Rudolph pointed out Johnson's involvement in starting a conversation about the human rights of people who are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and

transgendered. Johnson's church offered a public showing of “Camp Out,” a documentary depicting the lives of teens who attended a Christian camp at Bay Lake to explore their homosexuality as it relates to the Christian church.

Rudolph concluded by saying Johnson's partner, Mike Johnson, noted that Kris is often heard to say that you “pay it forward”: “In presenting this award to Pastor Kris Johnson, the Mille Lacs Area Human Rights Commission would like to honor her and to thank her for ‘paying it forward’ in the realm of human rights in the Mille Lacs area.”

The family of the late Don Novak accepted the next award. Novak, who worked for the Mille Lacs Band in a variety of roles, was called a bridge builder who “had the ability to bring people together from all walks of life in our community, to work together, to laugh together in the name of being a ‘team.’”

Novak's wife Jean said, “Other than his three children, I don't know what else would make him more proud than to be appreciated for this.”

She added that “Pay it Forward” was one of Don's favorite movies.

The final two recipients were David Sam and David Oberfeld, who were recognized in part for their participation in the “It's Time to Talk” forum, where they talked about their experiences of growing up in the Mille Lacs area.

“Dave Sam has been criticized for sharing his personal story – for telling his truth,” Rhodes said.

Also listed were Sam's involvement in the Indian Education Parent Committee, his leadership in helping men recovering from alcohol and drug addiction, his work in educating non-Indians about Ojibwe history and culture, and his volunteer work on behalf of veterans and students.

Oberfeld said, “I hope what we did that night was a step in the process of helping our community to heal.”

Health and Human Services Updates

Public Health Department holds pandemic flu exercise

On June 24, Public Health Department staff participated in a mass dispensing exercise at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. The health staff practiced dispensing medication in the event of a pandemic flu. Experts indicate a pandemic flu can strike anywhere and at any time, and they encourage communities to be prepared in the event one occurs. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your health provider or any of the Public Health Department staff.

Friend-to-Friend Program

The Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department and Ne-la-Shing Clinic/Health and Human Services Department have partnered with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the American Cancer Society to educate women about early detection for cervical and breast cancer through Friend-to-Friend Program parties.

According to the American Cancer Society, American Indian women are two times more likely to get cervical cancer and three times more likely to die of cervical cancer compared to other non-Hispanic women. American Indian women are 10% more likely to die of breast cancer than other non-Hispanic women. Through annual screenings, education, and early detection, the risk of these cancers can be decreased. The Friend-to-Friend Program includes licensed medical professionals who talk about the importance of early prevention screenings and how to access medical screenings.

Friend-to-Friend events will be held in each of the three districts. Following are tentative dates:

- Monday, September 29 – 4-7:30 p.m., District I Community Center
- Tuesday, September 30 – 4-7:30 p.m., District II ALU
- Wednesday, October 1 – 4-7:30 p.m., District III Community Center

Finalized dates, times and locations will be posted in each clinic and community center. Women of all ages are invited to attend the Friend-to-Friend parties and learn facts on breast and cervical cancer screenings. Pre-registration is not required. Lunch will be available for participants as well as several gift drawings.

Women participating in the Friend-to-Friend events will have an opportunity to schedule a mammogram with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Mobile Mammography Unit, which will be in District I on October 28, District II on October 29, and District III on October 30.

Women 40 and older who qualify for the Minnesota Department of Health Sage Program – a free health screening program for qualified participants – will receive a \$20 gift card when they complete the mammogram screening. Tribal members age 40 and older automatically qualify for the program.

For more information, please contact Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812 or 800/709-6445, ext. 7812.

Welcome

Raenelle Weyaus, Nutrition Assistant, and Samantha Premo, Administrative Assistant, joined the Diabetes Team. Melissa Chalkins joined the Transportation Program as a Community Health Representative. Welcome to Raenelle, Sam and Melissa!

WIC dates

Following are upcoming dates for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program clinics:

District I

- Tuesday, August 26 – (voucher pick up only), 1-4 p.m., Health and Human Services Building, located at 17230 Noopiming Drive

District III

- Wednesday, August 27 – 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m., Aazhoomog Clinic
Call Joanne at 320/532-7821 for all WIC appointments or questions.

Commissioner -On-call Service to End

More utilized Band resources still available

The Mille Lacs Band's Commissioner-on-call service, which was started in 2001, gave Band members a number to call for certain emergency situations that occur during non-office hours. Because the majority of calls the Commissioners receive are non-emergency type calls or housing-related calls, the service will end on **September 1, 2008**. In its place, Band members should use other Mille Lacs Band phone numbers and resources.

As always, please remember that in the event of a medical emergency, fire, crime, accident, or other serious situations, call 911.

"We want Band members to reach the person or program that can assist them as quickly as possible," said Peter Nayquonabe, Assistant Commissioner of Administration. "Therefore, we will provide the numbers for housing on call. For all other emergencies please call 911."

Please continue to use the following phone numbers when you need assistance:

- If you have an emergency during regular office hours, call the Tribal Police Department directly at 320/532-3430.
- To get in touch with other Band resources, such as the Women's Project Shelter, call 866/867-4006 or 877/290-2677.
- For housing maintenance in District I, call 877/886-2498.
- For housing maintenance in District II, call 877/338-2492.
- For housing maintenance in District III, call 877/894-2497.
- Band members can also find other resources in their programs and services guide. The information from this guide can also be found on the Band's Web site at www.millelacsojibwe.org under "programs and services."

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

	June 2008		
	Approved Budget for FY 2008	Actual Expenditures through 6/30/08	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	13,114,256	7,862,992	60.0%
Workforce*	10,254,222	3,577,582	34.9%
Judicial	1,085,086	670,424	61.8%
Law Enforcement*	3,707,433	2,471,490	66.7%
Education*	14,828,859	10,877,978	73.4%
Health and Human Services*	23,524,877	16,335,678	69.4%
Natural Resources*	4,642,161	3,337,331	71.9%
Community Development*	38,675,543	13,293,536	34.4%
Gaming Authority	4,441,857	3,036,609	68.4%
Bonus Distribution	27,137,267	25,930,433	95.6%
Total Expenditures	\$141,411,561	\$87,394,053	61.8%

Financial Notes:

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

* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2007 fiscal year.

Workforce Center Offers Class on Preparing for Driver's Exam

The Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center is offering a driver's preparation class for Band members and employees. The class will review the Minnesota driver's manual and prepare people for taking the written driver's exam.

The class will be offered in three different locations; each class will be held from 10 a.m.-noon:

- September 9 – East Lake Education Modular (next to the community center)
 - September 17 – Lake Lena Community Center
 - September 25 – Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center
- To register, contact the workforce center at 320/532-7407 or 800/922-4457, or e-mail Theresa Romard at theresar@millelacsojibwe.nsn.us. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult.

Behind-the-wheel training

The Workforce Center will also provide training to help Band members and employees prepare for their behind-the-wheel driver's test. Once a person has completed his or her driver's preparation class and passed the written exam to receive a driver's permit, then the Workforce Center will work with him or her to schedule behind-the-wheel training.

Contact the workforce center for a complete list of workshops and classes offered throughout the year, or look for more information in future editions of the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

Boxers to Take the Ring at Grand Casino Hinckley

The Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission will once again host an exciting evening of professional boxing bouts – titled "Undeclared" – at Grand Casino Hinckley. Heading the Friday night fights on August 29 at 7:30 p.m. are boxers Phil "The Drill" William (8-0, 8 KOs) and Marcus "Native Pride" Oliveria (13-0-1, 10 KOs).

Other match-ups include:

Six rounds

- Caleb Truax vs. Stephan Pryor
 - Jon Schmidt vs. Silas Ortley
 - Van Goodman vs. Brad Laffin
- ### Four rounds
- Wilshaun Boxley vs. Antonio Hernandez
 - Kirstie Davis vs. Jessica Bednark (professional debut)

Tickets for the show are \$20, \$35 and \$55. To purchase tickets, visit the Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Grand Casino Hinckley box offices, call Ticketmaster at 651/989-5151, or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy August birthday to:

Taya, on August 20 with love from grandma, mom, dad, Noah, Auntie Kelly, Jay, Deek, Jen and Wesley • **Rachel**, on August 2 with love from mom, June, Taya, Noah, Kelly, Jay, Jen, Deek, Wesley, Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John and Elias • **Samantha**, on August 27 with love from Tracy, Kelly, Jay, Rachel, June, Taya, Noah, Deek, Jen and Wesley • **Lynn**, on August 11 from Michelle, Jason, Wesley, Joshua and Jordan • **Lona Sam**, on August 25 from Tina and Tristan • **Jack**, on August 3 from Barbara Jo • **Gina**, on August 3 from Barbara Jo • **Jaylene**, on August 10 from Barbara Jo, mom, Tina, Deondre, Dana, David, Tanya, Rainy, Matt Jr., Valerie, Lil Jay, Waylon, Buck Jim, Chaddy, Meany, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, and the rest of your family • **Dustin**, 3, on August 7 from mom and family • **Amanda Staples**, 26, on August 15 from Elijah, Joyce, Billy, and Chasidy Benjamin • **Windy Benjamin**, on August 16 from the Benjamin family • **Billy Benjamin**, on August 30 from Emanuel Garbow and the Benjamin family • **Big Sis**, on August 20 with love from Buffy • **Joshie**, on August 14 with love from mom • **Nay Nay**, on August 24 with love from your family • **Reuben**, 9, on August 20 with love from mom, George, Cedric, Cedar, Caiarah, Cyliss, grandma, grandpa, and the rest of the family • **Cedric and Cedar**, 6, on August 23 with love from mom, dada, Reuben, Caiarah, Cyliss, grandma, grandpa, and the rest of the family • **Caiarah**, 4, on August 22 with love from mom, dad, Reuben, Cedric, Cedar, Cyliss, grandma, grandpa, and the rest of the family • **Aunty NeeCee**, on August 31 with love from Vannie, George, Reuben, Cedric, Cedar, Caiarah, Cyliss, and the rest of the family • **Leah**, from your best pal Vannie • **Grandpa Tarz**, on August 9 with love from Judy, Danielle, Boone, Shelley, Clint, Bonnie, O.J., Mandy, Becca, Beau, Brandon, Stevie, Ernie, E.J., Eddie, Elizabeth, Junior, Michelle, Rachel, Erin, and the all the grandkids • **Gerry DeFoe**, on August 29 from the Pike, Gibbs, and Leecy families • **Catherine Ann**, 21, on August 6 from T.J., Norman and Kali • **Teresa Mae**, 26, on August 10 from TJ Swan, Norm, and Kali • **Vanessa Smith**, 30, on August 14 from Tiffany Jane, Norman, Kali, Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo,

John, and Elias • **Clara Sam**, 77, on August 27 from Karen, Lu, Jan, Jim, Anna, Mary, Jayson, Nikki, Judy, Berta, Julian, Dean, Barb, Bruce, Jorel, Adam, Gordon, Dylan, Crystal, Codge, Royce, Teresa, Ryan, Jeremy, Vanessa, Vince, Kevin, Michelle, Nicholas, Amy, Tiffany, Twyla, Jamie, Cathy, Clayton, Christina, Stacy, Waylon, Alysia, Marissa, Natasha, Josie, Laney, and the great grandkids and great-great grandkids • **Lisa**, on August 8 with love from Auntie Niss and family • **Gary Sam**, on August 13 with love from Auntie Niss, Dana, Tanya, Dave, Tina, Deondre, Jay, Jim, Sherraine, Matt Jr., Valerie, Lil Jay, Waylon, Meany, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, and the rest of your family • **Dana**, on August 31 with love from David, Tanya, Sarah, Prince, mom, Tina, Deondre, Jay, Rainy, Matty, Valley, Lil Jay, Waylon, Meany, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, and the rest of your family • **Justin Jr.**, on August 28 with love from Keith, Chris, mom, Nema, Grandma Francis, Cheyenne, Jared, Shannon, and the rest of your family • **Tanya Castellano**, on August 19 from Keith, Marlow, Francis, Simon, and Baby G • **Greg Miller**, on August 20 from Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John, Elias, Todd, Brenda, Brandi and Brandon • **Todd Sam**, on August 13 with love from Brenda, Izzo, Brandi, Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John, Elias, and your family • **Cameron Miller**, on August 28 from Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John, Elias, Todd, Brenda, Brandi, and Brandon • **Aubrey Benjamin**, on August 16 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John, and Elias • **Tierra Smith**, on August 28 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John, and Elias • **LaDarius Loving**, on August 5 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John, and Elias • **Linda Mitchell**, on August 30 from Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John, and Elias • **Andrel Sam**, on August 5 from Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John, and Elias • **Carla**, on August 27 from Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, John, Elias, and all the girls • **Mahntao Nelson**, 1, on August 15 with love from Grandpa Sonny and Grandma Diane • **Shawsha Kay**, 2, on August 16 with love from daddy, mommy, Soul, Mase Jr., Dante, Selena, grandma, DeaLayna, Stone, Franny, June Bugg, Danielle, Rachel, Joe, Donni, Simone, Marissa, Sheila, Joey, Greg, Jim, Jeannette, Jack,

and Bruce • **Papa Franco**, 61, on August 9 with love from Shawsha, Soul, Maysun Jr., DeaLayna, Stone, Derek Jr., and Frances • **Sharon**, on August 5 with love from Val, Kev, Pie and Baby Kev • **Gram Kim**, on August 15 from Mariah and Baby Kevin • **Papa Brad**, on August 15 with love from Mariah and Baby Kevin • **Jay**, on August 16 with love from your brothers and sisters • **Dayaunna Nadeau**, 5, with love from gram, papa, and the rest of the gang • **Dawn Zeleznik**, on August 3 with love from Auntie Mary and family • **Timothy St. Clair Jr.**, on August 5 with love from Auntie Mary, Jerome, Brenda, Roland III, Brent, Taryn, Michelle, Cam, Baby Camryn, Miss Veronica, Ed, and the rest of the family • **Brenda Bedausky**, on August 9 with love from mom, Lucas, Roland III, Jerome, Brent, Taryn, Tim, Ed, Michelle, Cam, Baby Camryn, Miss Veronica, and the rest of your family • **Anthony Beaulieu**, on August 6 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Blaine Beaulieu**, on August 8 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Ross Beaulieu**, on August 21 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Shante Beaulieu**, on August 23 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Cassie Beaulieu**, on August 23 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **John Joe Stately**, on August 27 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Kenny**, on August 14 from your boo and Raenelle and family • **Caryn Day**, on August 1 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Shelly and Sheila**, on August 15 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Jordan Diver**, on August 29 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Chelsea**, on August 10 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Emma Lee Wind**, on August 20 from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Tahnisha Sam**, on August 16 with love from from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia.

Happy August birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diane Barstow
Frances Benjamin
Clarence Boyd
Karen Clark
Geraldine DeFoe
Wesley Dorr

Samuel Garbow Jr.
Barbara Goodman
Diana Guizar
Mary Harpster
Blaise Hill
George Jackson
Doris Kegg
Lorraine Keller
Patrick Matrious
Andy Mitchell
Lynda Mitchell
Gerry Mortenson
Francis Premo
Margaret Premo
Bruce Ray
Regina Reese
Clara Sam
John Sam
William Schaaf
David Shaugobay
Frank Shingobe
Bernadette Smith
Evelyn Staples
Janice Taylor
James Thomas
Richard Thomas Jr.
Sylvester Thomas Jr.
Barbara Toth
Michael Wade
Diane Wadena
Juanita Weyaus
Kenneth Weyaus

Anniversaries

Happy 20th anniversary to **Don and Rhonda Petite**.

Happy 14th anniversary to **Wanetta and Anton Thompson** on August 18. *With love from Laikora, Kyrach, Tourrie, Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia.*

Birth announcements

Congratulations to James Schroeder II and Hannah Strawn on the birth of their son **James Robert Schroeder III**. James was born on July 9 and weighed 8 lbs., 11 oz. *Congratulations from mom and pops.*

Congratulations to Candace and Michael Karlstad on the birth of their daughter **MeMengwaa Eliana Sam**. MeMengwaa was born on July 1, she weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and was 21 in. long. *Congratulations from your family.*

In memory

In memory of you, mother, **Wilma Anderson**, on your birthday August 8. *With love from Michelle, Lynn, Jason, Wesley, Joshua and Jordan.*

Movie about Ojibwe Traditions to be Filmed on Mille Lacs Reservation

Filmmakers Elizabeth Day, a Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe member, and Rick Anderson, a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe member, are collaborating together on the creation of a short film called *Magic Wands*. The movie will be filmed on the Mille Lacs Reservation in early September. Rick will co-produce the movie through his company, Eagleclan Productions. Elizabeth adapted the screenplay from a short story written by her uncle, Steven Pitzen. Elizabeth will direct the film, which will be the second short film she has directed and co-produced.

"With *Magic Wands*, I want to record and capture a quickly fading pastime of Ojibwe culture – wild ricing – and convey its historical relevance to Native and non-Native audiences," said Elizabeth. "Furthermore, I intend for this movie to serve as a bridge between youth and Elders as they seek a means to find an intergenerational connection."

Magic Wands is a short narrative film that demonstrates how Ojibwe traditions are passed on through generations. Traditionally, Ojibwe Elders taught younger generations

about their morals and values through oral stories. In this film, a grandmother answers her granddaughter's question about the sacredness and importance of wild rice to Ojibwe culture. She describes the tale of an Ojibwe boy who goes wild ricing for the first time and discovers the strength of spirit required to harvest this staple, which was historically integral to Native diet. As she narrates the tale in Ojibwe, the film will show the boy immersed in the unfamiliar terrain of lake marshes as he learns to master the artful skill of knocking wild rice.

Actors needed

The filmmakers are currently seeking actors for the film. The roles needed to be filled are a boy about 9-12 years old, a girl 9-12 years old, a mother 25-35 years old, a father 25-35 years old, and an Elder woman 50+ years old who can read Ojibwe dialogue. Auditions will be held on the Mille Lacs Reservation on Saturday, August 16. If you are interested in auditioning, please contact Rick at chokecherrymedia@gmail.com.

Band Members Want Accredited College on the Reservation

A recent survey conducted by the Mille Lacs Band Department of Education found that Band members overwhelmingly want the Band to have its own accredited tribal college on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

"Of the 237 individuals sampled in a total population household survey, less than one percent disapproved of the need for our own college," said Jocelyn Shingobe, Commissioner of Education. She has led an effort to explore planning for an accredited higher education institution on the Mille Lacs Reservation, which would be the fourth tribal college in the state of Minnesota.

The Band currently offers post-secondary classes at the Mille Lacs Tribal College – located at the Galloway property near District I – in collaboration with Fond Du Lac Community College and the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Since opening its doors in the fall of 2005, the Mille Lacs Tribal College has been working to receive accreditation to become its own recognized higher education institution.

"While we have had some success in increasing the numbers of Band members with higher education degrees, it now appears that the Band wants us to exercise our sovereign authority to start our own degree-granting institution," said Jocelyn.

Thirty-five American Indian tribes throughout the U.S. operate colleges that offer associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees. The BIA and U.S. Department of Education provide primary financial support for tribal colleges through grants and financial aid revenue.

Band member respondents expressed interest in receiving training and degrees in 26 professions and career areas. Respondents expressed the most interest in the following areas:

- Construction trades (137)
- American Indian studies (132)
- Computer information systems (127)
- Gaming services (114)
- Natural resources (109)
- Criminal justice (109)
- Business entrepreneurship (108)

Child Passenger Safety Program

Through generous donations from Mille Lacs Band government departments and a reimbursement grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Public Safety Department is able to distribute a limited number of car seats to qualified Band members.

Community Services Officer Leroy Lassard scheduled car seat clinics in all three districts. Officer Lassard will provide assistance and training to all recipients, and will answer

questions regarding the best fit for each child.

The car seat clinics are from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the following dates:

- September 8 – District I Community Center
- September 9 – East Lake Community Center
- September 10 – District III Community Center

If you have any questions, please call Officer Lassard at 320/532-7531.

Education Update

Back-to-school dates

It's almost time to go back to school! Nay Ah Shing classes begin on August 26. An open house will be held on August 25 from noon to 6 p.m. to register students and meet with teachers.

To enroll a student for classes, a parent or guardian can stop by Nay Ah Shing High School's front office to register and verify the student's address or call 320/532-4695.

You must bring along a copy of the student's birth certificate and social security card to register.

Head Start

Do you have a child who will be age three by September 1? Are you looking for a fun, educational environment for your three- to five-year-old child? Please contact the Head Start Program in your district for more information.

District I: 320/532-4690

District II: 218/768-3311

District III: 320/384-7162

Schedule physicals now

Each child in Head Start needs to have a physical with immunization updates and a dental exam before starting in September. When making the appointment, you will need to state that the exam is for Head Start to ensure that all requirements are met. A parent or guardian must accompany each child to these exams.

Each student who participates in a school sport must also have a physical before beginning practice for that sport. Sports physical forms can be picked up at the

clinics or at the schools and must be filed with the school your child attends.

Immunization update

The following immunizations are needed to start school in the fall in all Minnesota schools.

Kindergartners must have:

- Five diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) immunizations
- Four polio immunizations
- Two measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunizations
- Three-dose Hepatitis B series
- Vericella immunization
- Four doses of HiB vaccine, which protects against HiB disease that can cause meningitis, throat swelling, and infections (recommended, but not required)

Seventh graders must have:

- Two measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunizations
- Updated diphtheria and tetanus (DT) immunizations
- Three-dose Hepatitis B series
- Vericella immunization

Parents: Please note that the vericella immunization, also known as the chickenpox vaccine, is not required for students who have already had chickenpox. If your child has had chickenpox, please send the school nurses an approximate date of when your child had it.

All students must have their immunizations up to date and on record with their school.

If you have any questions regarding your child's immunizations, contact your health care provider or Katy Grapp from Nay Ah Shing at 320/532-4690, ext. 2112.

Calendar of Events

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at 255 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 102 St. Paul, MN 55101</i></p>	<p>*To Purchase Tickets</p> <p>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 612/989-5151, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</p>				<p>15</p> <p>Kenny Logins* GCH 8 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Commissioner on Call Rick Pardun, Executive Director Community Development 877/239-2444</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Commissioner on Call Rick Pardun, Executive Director Community Development 877/239-2444</p>	<p>18</p> <p>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting 4 p.m. Contact: Dawn Aubid, 218/768-3477</p> <p>All offices closed for Mille Lacs Day</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Voter Engagement Training Eddy's Resort 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (See page 5 for details)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam, 320/532-7422</p>	<p>21</p> <p>District III Community Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 320/384-1424</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pat Benatar* GCH 8 p.m.</p> <p>Commissioner on Call Rick Boyd, Director of Housing 877/239-2444</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Commissioner on Call Rick Boyd, Director of Housing 877/239-2444</p>	<p>25</p> <p>District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Kimberly Sam or Sarah Oswaldson, 320/532-7423</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb, 612/872-1424</p> <p>District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311</p>	<p>29</p> <p>All offices closed at noon for Labor Day Weekend</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Commissioner on Call Peter Nayquonabe, Assistant Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Commissioner on Call Peter Nayquonabe 877/239-2444</p>					<p>"Undefeated" Boxing Event GCH 7:30 p.m. (See page 8 for details)</p>	

September 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>All offices closed for Labor Day</p> <p>AMVETS Meeting GCML, 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925</p> <p>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting Aazhoomog School, 6:30 p.m. Contact: Skip Churchill, 320/384-6970</p> <p>Onamia Indian Education Parent Committee Meeting Rolf Olsen Center 12 p.m. Contact: David Sam, 320/532-4901</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Neil Sedaka* GCH 7:30 p.m. each night</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Primary Election</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Business Fair GCH 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (See page 4 for details)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>

What Is Your Favorite Olympic Sport?

John Helms



"Boxing. I like to watch the up and coming future stars of boxing go from amature to potentially pro."

Carrie Mello



"My favorite Olympic sport is gymnastics, especially the floor routines."

Rayna Mattinas



"My favorite Olympic sport is track and field. I like the 100 and 500 meter races."

Rose Noonday



"My favorite Olympic sport is skiing and racing."

Kelly Mitchell



"My favorite Olympic sport is skiing."

Joycelyn Shingobe



"My favorite Olympic sport is gymnastics. I like the rings, the high bar, and the all around athletic part of gymnastics."

John Mojica



"My favorite Olympic sport is basketball; watching the All-Stars play against the world's best."

Bob White



"My favorite Olympic sport is track and field."

Photos courtesy of Rick Anderson

Big Drum Meeting Held at Language and Culture Center



Photo courtesy of Steve Premo

On July 23, ceremonial drum chiefs and members of the Big Drum met at the Ojibwe Language and Culture Center to talk about the future of the Band's drum ceremonies.

By Rick Anderson

On July 23, ceremonial drum chiefs and members of the Big Drum met to talk about the future of the Band's drum ceremonies at the Ojibwe Language and Culture Center. It was a nice day for the meeting, as the sun was shining, youth could be heard playing in the distance, and a couple of deer were wandering around the grounds.

Lee Staples, a drum chief from District III, blessed the meeting. Ojibwe and English were intermingled as participants discussed some of their concerns in the community and their goals for the Big Drum. Other topics discussed included:

- Washing-away-of-tears ceremony
- How to handle someone who shows up under the influence of drugs or alcohol at Big Drum ceremonies
- How to teach individuals about their positions and responsibilities on the Big Drum
- Origin of the Big Drum
"This was the first meeting that was held in decades with the drum chiefs, Big Drum members, and the Ogichidahquay," said Larry Smallwood, Language and Culture Center Director. "It was a positive meeting, and there are more meetings to follow."
After lunch, the women (Ogichidahquay) broke off from

the drum chiefs and discussed women's traditional roles and what to give or not give during the evening portion of ceremonies. Women are not supposed to give material/cloth to men but instead offer them blankets or money. The men also discussed their traditional roles. Most people shared stories, and some asked questions about how to carry out certain parts of the ceremonies.

Toward the end of the day, stories still flowed as people shared laughter and good times in their discussions on advancing the goals of the Big Drum group.

"As we are working to hold on to our language, it is important to have these meetings," said Larry. "More people need to get involved and learn our ceremonies and language, and the Language and Culture Center is a good place to do that."

The Department of Natural Resources provided the cooks and the food for the meeting.

Introducing The Community Recreation And Sports Program

By Dawn Aubid, Director of Community Recreation and Sports Program

Aaniin. I have been hired as the Director of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Recreation and Sports Program, which was formerly called Community Youth Services (CYS). The program is currently collaborating with the Band's fitness, healthy lifestyles, academic, arts, and cultural programs. This program will now be available for adults as well as youth.

I will provide more information in future newsletters. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 320/532-7586 or 800/709-6445, ext. 7586. My office is located in the District I Community Center.