

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

December 2011

"The story as it's told."

Volume 13 • Number 12

## Band Conservation Officers Fight National Fires



Photo courtesy of Mike Taylor

**Mike Taylor, chief conservation officer, and Eric Hanneken, conservation officer, escort a staff member to the fire line near the entrance to Chiricahua National Monument. Mike and Eric were fighting the Horseshoe II Fire in Arizona in June 2011.**

Mille Lacs Band conservation officers have helped battle several wildfires throughout the United States this year. In 2011 Band conservation officers were called to fight the Horse Shoe II Fire in Arizona, the Las Conchas Fire in New Mexico, the Bonner Fire in Montana, the Bastrop Fire in Texas, and the Pagami Creek Fire in the Boundary Waters.

The Band's Department of Natural Resources works with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management to help battle and provide security during wildfires.

Several years ago Mille Lacs Band conservation officers trained to fight wildfires at the Federal Firefighting School in Grand Rapids, Minn. After completing the training, the conservation officers were placed on the National Interagency Fire Center's list of firefighters who are qualified to help with local and national fires as needed.

Chief conservation officer Mike Taylor and conservation officers Eric Hanneken, James Mattson,

and Jared Rasoti are all qualified to fight wildfires and have traveled throughout the United States this year to help battle several wildfires.

In September Band member Dean Staples, Mille Lacs Band fire management technician, was called to help battle the Pagami Creek Fire in the Boundary Waters. He and other members of the Band's fire crew provided support services to firefighters who were trying to contain the more than 100,000-acre fire. They worked at the Laurentian Ranger District in Aurora, Minn.

"Wildfires are powerful and dangerous. I'm glad that we are able to help people throughout the United States fight these fires," said Mike. "The skills we have learned on these missions will continue to help us as we assist with firefighting and investigations on the reservation."

More firefighting photos are posted on the Mille Lacs Band's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/millelacsband](http://www.facebook.com/millelacsband)).

## Gaming Expansion Still in the Cards for Vikings Stadium

By Jamie Edwards, government affairs coordinator

The question of how to fund a new Vikings stadium remains at the top of some legislators' minds as the beginning of the 2012 session nears.

The Senate Taxes Committee and the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee held a joint public hearing on Tuesday, November 29, to discuss the Vikings stadium. The Senate Taxes Committee and the Senate State Government Innovation and Veterans Committee will also hold a joint public hearing on Tuesday, December 6.

Although there are no specific proposals for funding the stadium, media throughout the state continue to cover the issue daily. Most of the discussions and media coverage have focused on using revenue gained from expanding gaming to help finance the stadium.

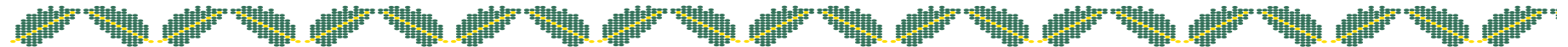
Electronic pull tabs have been mentioned as a possible funding source. This would modernize a form of gambling that is already in place, making it hard to estimate the amount of revenue that could be generated from this form of gaming expansion.

Advocates have been pushing hard for racinos, or slot machines at the state's horse tracks. While racino advocates recently released a more defined assessment of the revenue racinos could provide the state, the assessment failed to account for the negative impacts of racinos, including revenue and job loss at tribal casinos.

A state-run casino at Block E in Minneapolis continues to be a part of the discussion. It was recently revealed that one of the people involved is Lyle Berman, who ran Grand Casino Inc. and managed Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley in the early 1990s.

The Band supports the Vikings, but will work hard to defeat any gaming expansion that would hurt the Mille Lacs Band and Grand Casinos.

It is highly unlikely that Governor Dayton will call a special session to resolve the Vikings stadium issue. However, we anticipate that the Vikings stadium will continue to be discussed during the 2012 legislative session, which begins January 24.



**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE**  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

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



Printed on 100% recycled paper

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BRAINERD, MN  
PERMIT NO. 472

## Band Members Attend National Indian Education Conference



Photo courtesy of Katie Draper

Seven Band members from District III attended the National Indian Education Association's annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Pictured are (from left to right) Vanessa Gibbs, Laikora Thompson, Shawna Matrious, David Matrious, and Wanetta Thompson. Not pictured are Angela Matrious and Alex Matrious.

In October several Band members traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to attend the National Indian Education Association's annual conference. At the conference students, parents and teachers learned about culturally relevant curriculum, various options and scholarships for higher education, and more.

District III Representative Diane Gibbs sponsored seven Band members from her district to attend the conference: Vanessa Gibbs, Angela Matrious, Dave Matrious, Alex Matrious, Shawna Matrious, Wanetta Thompson, and Laikora Thompson.

Vanessa believes that the conference will help her identify more schooling options for her five school-aged children.

"I learned that there are a lot of people who want to help American Indian youth. Not only does the Band operate programs that help our youth, but there are national programs that give youth opportunities to pursue education," she said.

At the conference Vanessa also learned about summer camp opportunities for young American Indians, such as the Indian Youth of America Camp, where campers experience a variety of cultural, educational, and recreational activities with American Indian counselors.

When Dave Matrious was first invited to attend the conference, he was the

chairman of the Pine Grove Leadership Academy Board of Directors. He now serves as cultural administrator at the school and plans to use information that he learned about cultural-based education in his new position.

"Schools that have large Indian populations need to have a culturally based curriculum according to state education guidelines," Dave said. "For example, if students are learning about ecosystems in science, they should learn both the English and Ojibwe terminology for the material."

Additionally, Dave is developing a tribal leadership curriculum, which would teach students about tribal government and traditions, as well as educate them about the unique relationships that exist between tribal, state and federal governments.

"Thanks to Diane for giving us the opportunity to learn more about the NIEA and culturally based education opportunities for our youth," Dave said. "Having the opportunity to meet with American Indian educators across the country will help our students' desire to continue to improve the education in our schools."

More information about educational opportunities available to American Indian youth is available on the NIEA website ([www.niea.org](http://www.niea.org)).

## Band Youth Attend NCAI Conference



Photo courtesy of Justin Beaulieu

Boys & Girls Club members met Howard White, vice president of sports marketing Jordan brand for Nike, at the NCAI conference in Portland, Oregon. Pictured are (back row from left to right) Oleia St. John, Aaron Buckanaga, Howard White, Candace Killspotted, Noel Kegg, and (front row) Darius Barnes.

The Mille Lacs Band Boys & Girls Club took five Band youth ages 14-17 to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) annual conference to learn about youth opportunities within the organization. The conference was held in Portland, Oregon, from October 30-November 4.

Band members Darius Barnes, Aaron Buckanaga, Candace Killspotted, Noel Kegg, and Oleia St. John attended the conference. Justin Beaulieu, director of operations for the Boys & Girls Club and Charlee Edwards from District IIa accompanied the youth.

At the conference the youth listened to speakers and participated in discussions about issues important to young American Indians nationwide.

"The kids learned a lot at the conference and asked lots of

insightful questions," Justin said. "They are excited to get more involved in NCAI in the future."

The kids also became individual members of NCAI, which makes them eligible to run for a position on the NCAI Youth Commission. The Youth Commission provides opportunities for Native youth to develop leadership skills, voice their opinions about American Indian issues, and network with other Native youth throughout the nation.

"We wanted to introduce young Band members to NCAI and their peers who are making a difference in their communities," Justin said. "We hope that these kids will take advantage of the great opportunities, like internships and scholarships, that are available to them through NCAI."

## U.S. Senator Al Franken Visits Mille Lacs Reservation



Photo courtesy of Molly Jenkins

U.S. Senator Al Franken toured the Mille Lacs Reservation and met with Band officials on November 12. He is pictured here with Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk and District I Representative Sandra Blake.

## District Ila Boys and Girls Club Members Give Thanks



Photo courtesy of Justin Beaulieu

### Members of the District Ila Boys & Girls Club.

In honor of Mii Gwech Day, Boys & Girls Club members in District Ila shared what they are thankful for. Below are a few of their answers.

"I am thankful for my mom because she helps me in many ways, and I love when she gets me presents and gifts...I love you mom!!!!" – Taya S.

"I am thankful for my mom because she loves me!" – Ben Jr.

"I am thankful for my mom because she makes sure that I'm home on time and because she cares about me!" – Trinity

"I am thankful for my mom because she is nice! I love you." – Nevaeh M.

"I am thankful for my dad because he got me the game I wanted! Thank you for my game!" – Noah S.

"I am thankful for my mom because without her I wouldn't be here." – Treavon

"I am thankful for my mom because she takes me shopping!" – Jordon K.

"I am thankful for Ricky because you are my big cousin, and I think you are special because you are a brother to Elise. That's why you are special, Ricky." – Amelio M.

"I am thankful for my dad because he is special!" – Celleia

"I am thankful for my grandma because I like her!" – Gussy K.

"I am thankful for my little sister because she is sweet and kind and friendly. She is three years old!!!" – Ale

"I am thankful for my mom because she feeds me and my brother." – Dehlina

"I am thankful for my mom because she helps with my homework, she helps me with everything, and she buys me what I need and what I want." – Jerry M.

"I am thankful for my brother Zack. You are the best brother I've ever had. Love you, Zack!" – Kira M.

"I am thankful for this person because I love her and she loves me. Mom I am happy I have you for a mom and you are my love. P.S. Love, Annalysa. I love you, and 'hey' you know you're very lucky, you're very special to me, and I know you love me! You are my heart!" – Annalysa

"I am thankful for my grandma because she buys me stuff when she goes somewhere and when I go with her somewhere." – Jordan S.

"I am thankful for my uncle." – Val

"I am thankful for my dad because he is helpful." – Quincey

"I am thankful for my mom because she lets me play until 8 o'clock; then it is bedtime." – Jayenissa

"I am thankful for my mom because she always fixes my hair, and I am always thankful for her because she buys me stuff and give me kisses and hugs every day." – Jared S.

"I am thankful my dad. Thanks for being such a great dad and taking care of me." – Michaela

"I am thankful for my mom because she took care of me my whole life. She took care of me when I was sick." – Victoria M.

"I am thankful for my Grandma because I love her!" – Serenitie

"I am thankful for my mom because she is very loving to me!" – Nici

## Save The Date: 2012 State of the Band Address



All Band members are invited to the 28th Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe State of the Band Address on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. The event will be held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center and starts at 10 a.m. Invitations will not be sent out to Band households this year.

## Corporate Commission Thanksgiving Feast Photos



Photos courtesy of Beth Hanlon

The entertainers at the Thanksgiving Feast were Tatanka Means (left) and Pax Harvey (right) from 49 Laughs. They are pictured here with District I Representative Sandra Blake and family.



Chief Executive Marge Anderson (center) dines with husband Merlin Anderson and Frances Davis at the Thanksgiving Feast in November.

## Minor Trust Fund Updates

Minor trust investments have continued to perform equivalent to averages for similar type investments.

If you are a parent or guardian of a Band minor and would like more information on their individual accounts please contact Kathy Heyer, per capita specialist, at 320-532-7472 or John Gerdener, Commissioner of Finance, at 320-532-7475.

## Grand Casino Mille Lacs Grants Dream for Stroke Victim



Photo courtesy of Grand Casinos

**Grand Casino Mille Lacs General Manager Ronda Weizenegger (left) is pictured with (left to right) Nancy Young, Cal Christensen and Cathy Gerding from the Koronis Manor of Paynesville.**

**By Sarah Barten, public relations specialist at Grand Casinos**

Cal Christensen had been planning to play the slots at Grand Casino Mille Lacs for his birthday in 1995, but a massive stroke changed his plans. Sixteen years later, his dream became a reality as a part of Koronis Manor's "Dream a Little Dream" program.

Before his stroke, Cal loved to spend time with his family and friends and go to casinos. He has longed for the excitement of the slot machines ever since his stroke.

"Because of the stroke, his communication abilities are very limited," said Trish Barten, social worker for Paynesville Area Health Care Systems. "Ever since we told him we were taking him to the casino, he has been saying, 'ding, ding, ding.' It's exciting to see him so happy."

On Wednesday, November 16, Cal received a special

welcome from the general manager of Grand Casino Mille Lacs, along with free lunch for him and his nurse aids, Grand Casino memorabilia, and free Grand Play on the machine of his choice.

"When we heard about Cal's wish, it was an immediate yes," said Ronda Weizenegger, general manager for Grand Casino Mille Lacs. "This is the part of our business that we enjoy so much – seeing our Guests enthusiastic to come and visit. We are thrilled to help bring a smile to Cal's face."

This holiday season, the Koronis Manor will have a "Dream Tree" with all of the dreams that are left to be completed for its residents. People will have the opportunity to sponsor a dream, if they choose. For more information, call 320-243-4212.

## Band Member Recognized for His Service at Xcel Energy Center



Photo courtesy of Tony Pike

**Mille Lacs Band member and U.S. veteran Tony Pike was selected to participate in a Minnesota Wild Hockey photo shoot to honor Minnesota troops. Tony served with the 34th Military Police Company and 34th Red Bull Infantry Division and recently retired after more than 21 years of military service. Pictured above, Tony stands next to his full-sized photo on a pillar at the Xcel Energy Center. The photos of troops will remain on the building's pillars for the duration of the 2011-2012 Minnesota Wild hockey season.**

## Department of Labor Announcements

**By Deb Campbell, Department of Labor lead instructor**

### Mille Lacs Band Tribal College offers GED exam

The Mille Lacs Band's Department of Labor is offering GED exams at the Mille Lacs Band Tribal College on January 20 and 27, April 13 and 20, and August 10 and 17 between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The GED exam is a series of five subject area tests. A new edition of the GED exam is scheduled to be released in January 2014. Test takers will need to pass all five subject area tests before 2014, otherwise previous test takers will be required to retake the entire exam.

The series of tests costs \$60 per person. If you are retaking individual tests, each test costs \$12. If an agency is funding your GED exam, the series of tests costs \$100, and each individual test costs \$20.

If you are interested in taking the exam, you must register with Melissa Lupinek, chief examiner, at 320-223-3826 or 763-689-6230.

### GED scholarships

Mille Lacs Band members and first generation descendants may be eligible to use educational enrichment funds for test fees. Educational enrichment funds are available once per fiscal year. To be eligible, you must be age 18 or older.

Application forms are available on the education section of the Mille Lacs Band's website ([www.millelacsband.com](http://www.millelacsband.com)).

For more information contact the Tribal College Scholarship Office at 320-532-3702.

Mille Lacs Band members, first generation descendants, and other federally recognized tribal members could also be eligible for the Department of Labor's GED preparation program, which covers the cost of exam fees for those who are eligible.

To enroll in the GED program, contact Deb Campbell at 320-532-7811.

### Free driver's education classes

The Department of Labor is offering free driver's education classes to adults 18 years and older who need to take the written portion of the driver's test on December 6, 7, and 13 from noon-3 p.m. in East Lake's Department of Labor modular.

The nine-hour course will cover the information needed to pass the written driver's test. The course is open to those who have never taken the written driver's test and those who are eligible to retake the written driver's test and apply for a driver's license. Class size is limited, and participants must meet program eligibility.

After completing the three-day, nine-hour course, the department of labor will provide transportation to the driver's license exam center in Brainerd to take the written exam. To pre-register and complete an application, visit the Department of Labor offices in District I or II or call 800-922-4457.

### Classroom hours

The Department of Labor offers classroom hours in each district for Band members who would like assistance with resumes and cover letter writing, online job searches, computer skills, and GED exam preparation. The following are the weekly classroom hours in each district:

#### District I

- Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

#### District II East Lake modular

- Thursdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### District IIa Chiminising Center

- Tuesdays from 1-4:30 p.m.

#### District III Lake Lena Community Center

- Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Heating, Water, and Home-Related Maintenance Problems

If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call for housing maintenance service in your district. During regular business hours, please call our customer service representative at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please call 866-822-8538. Press 1, 2 or 3 for your respective district.

## Nay Ah Shing School Celebrates Red Ribbon Week



Photo courtesy of Bugs Haskin

**Pictured above are the Nay Ah Shing students who participated in the Upper School Fun Run and placed 1st-5th in each grade category.**

**By Bugs Haskin, Nay Ah Shing School activities director**

In October, Nay Ah Shing students, staff, and community members participated in Red Ribbon Week, a national prevention program designed to promote drug-free lifestyles by encouraging communities to sponsor anti-drug events.

Nay Ah Shing School's Red Ribbon Week featured a week-long series of activities that focused on fun fall activities and school spirit. The activities included sport competitions, family game nights, a lock-in, hayrides, carnivals, clothing-themed school days, a pep fest, and more.

To kick off the week, Chief of Police Dwight Reed teamed up with Community Services Officer LeRoy Lassard to take on Investigator Russ Jude and Officer Craig Nguyen at the school's Circle area to play trivia game "Blast from the Past." The game consisted of questions related to consumer products of the past.

Some of the week's highlights included the flag football competition between the Nay Ah

Shing students and tribal police officers, and the First Nations Volleyball tournament, which featured six tribal teams.

The flag football game featured Brett Haskin, Russ Jude, Justin Churchill, Jeff Schafer, and Noah Melberg of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department. The tribal police officers dominated until the final minutes of the game when the students rallied back to finish with a tie. Both teams were winners.

Red Ribbon Week concluded with the volleyball tournament hosted by Nay Ah Shing. At the tournament, Mille Lacs Band member and Nay Ah Shing volleyball player Kelsey Shaugobay was selected to represent Nay Ah Shing on the All-Tournament Team. Also, Band member and three-time team captain Jaime Boyd was honored with a special sweatshirt for her leadership. The Nay Ah Shing team took fifth place in the tournament.

Mii gwech to everyone who participated in this year's Red Ribbon Week and helped spread the anti-drug message throughout the community.

## Santa's Workshop Coming to Nay Ah Shing School

**By Bugs Haskin, Nay Ah Shing Schools activities director**

The Nay Ah Shing Upper School is hosting the annual Santa's Workshop on Saturday, December 17, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Youth in second grade through seventh grade are invited to visit the school's Santa store and purchase gifts for family and friends on their holiday list.

The workshop costs \$20 per student, which includes snacks, games, a hayride with Santa, and five personally-wrapped gifts of the student's choice. Additional presents will cost \$2 each, which also includes gift-wrapping. Workshop

participants are encouraged to bring their holiday gift list along so the staff can help them find what they need. Youth younger than second grade can also attend, but must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.

The workshop is sponsored by the Nay Ah Shing's Activities and Athletics Department and the proceeds will help fund Nay Ah Shing youth groups such as AIBL, drummers, fun club, and the senior class.

For more information about Santa's Workshop, contact Bugs Haskin at 320-532-4695, ext. 2120.

## Oath of Office Reminds Us of Band's Self-Governing Authority

Today the Band's elected and appointed officials are sworn in to office by a tribal court judge in front of their peers. But that has not always been the case. Until the 1980s, only two Band officials were sworn in, and they swore to a different oath.

### Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's oath

When the Band was led by a Reservation Business Committee, only the Band's Chairman (equivalent to the Chief Executive today) and Secretary/Treasurer took an oath of office. As Tribal Executive Committee members for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), they were sworn in by the MCT and took the MCT oath.

That oath states: "I do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I shall preserve, support and protect the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and execute my duties as a member of the Tribal Executive Committee to the best of my ability, so help me God."

The MCT's oath dates back to 1934, according to Donald Graves, the Band's archivist. "It was written by the MCT and approved by John A. Carver Jr., the Assistant Secretary of Interior of the United States, on June 18, 1934," he said. "It is part of the MCT constitution."

The oath is also in the bylaws for the MCT's Tribal Executive Committee, said Elaine Smith, an attorney for the Mille Lacs Band's legislative branch. Those bylaws require Tribal Executive Committee members – including the Band's Chief Executive and Secretary/Treasurer – to subscribe to the MCT oath.

### Mille Lacs Band's oath

After the Band adopted its own separation-of-powers government in 1981, Band leaders decided to develop a new oath of office. "We thought that since our first language was Ojibwe, our oath should be in our first language," said Chief Executive Marge Anderson, who at the time was the District I Representative.

So a group of first speakers including Marge, then-Chairman Art Gahbow, Raining Boyd, Doug Sam, Jim Clark, Norman Clark, Dorothy Sam, Millie Benjamin, Julie Shingobe, and others worked together to create the oath.

"It took us a long time to get some of the words right, because some English words don't translate to our language," Marge said. "We had to figure out how to say things like 'United States' in Ojibwe."

This is the oath they developed as enacted in Band statutes (2 MLBSA sec. 8): "I, [NAME], do hereby swear that I will support, honor and protect the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Constitution of the United States of America, the laws of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, and I will protect the rights of Band members and others under the jurisdiction of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office to which I hold to the best of my judgment and ability, so help me gichima nido."

When the judicial branch was officially established by Band ordinance in 1983, the Band's oath of office was contained in the ordinance. Over the years, the use of the oath continued to evolve, but its words stayed the same.

"The Band's oath of office was never amended once it became law," said Natalie Weyaus, a historic preservation officer for the Band, who was one of the first associate judges for the Band and later served as Chief Justice. She swore in Marge Anderson as Chief Executive in 1991 after Art Gahbow passed away.

In 1999, Mille Lacs Band Tribal Judge Scott Lundberg swore in Band attorney Dorn Lawin. That ceremony marked one of the first times a tribal judge, rather than a state or federal judge, ever swore in a new attorney.

"This is how all of the Band's elected and appointed officials take their oath of office today," Marge said. "While this may be a small detail, it's a reminder of how important our own laws and system of government are. It shows the great progress we have made as a self-governing tribe since the 1980s."

*Toya Stewart Downey contributed to the writing and reporting of this article.*

# Public Health Department Updates

## Gego Zagaswaaken (Don't Smoke) program announcements

By Carol Hernandez, Gego Zagaswaaken outreach coordinator, and Roberta Ladd, health educator

Congratulations to the Band members who quit smoking during the "Great American Smoke Out." If you missed it, there will be another opportunity to quit as a group during "Kick Butts" day, a district-wide event that will take place on March 12, 2012. More details to come.

Production for the second educational video is underway, and we hope to have a finished product by the end of December. Upon completion, viewings will be scheduled for each district. Each viewing will include a meal, door prizes, and hands-on demonstrations of how to make kinnikinnick (traditional tobacco).

If you are thinking about quitting smoking, attend a tobacco education class in your district to learn about the ingredients in commercial tobacco and how they can affect your health and others. This month's class will be held in District IIA at the Chiminising Community Center. Check with your local community newsletter for the date and time. If you have questions, call Roberta Ladd at 320-532-7812 or Carol Hernandez at 320-532-7760.

## Food safety for the holiday season

By Kari DiGiovanni, RN

Many of us will celebrate the holidays over a home-cooked meal. As you prepare your favorite festive dishes, it is important to practice good food safety habits as the chance of food poisoning caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, molds, toxins and contaminants increases during the holiday season.

There are four categories of food safety: clean, separate, cook and chill. Here are the most important tips for each category that will help keep you healthy this holiday season:

- Before preparing a meal, be sure to wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and running water, and clean surfaces, cutting boards, and utensils after each use.
- Separate raw meat, poultry, and eggs from fresh fruit, vegetables, and other ready-to-eat foods in the fridge, and

use separate cutting boards for produce and meat.

- Cook meat to at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit to kill illness-causing bacteria. Be sure to use a meat thermometer to check the temperature because color and texture are often not enough to tell if the meat is done.
- Chill promptly and don't let food sit more than two hours at room temperature. Illness-causing bacteria can grow in perishable foods unless you refrigerate them.

For more information about holiday food recipes and preparation tips, visit [www.holidayfoodsafety.org](http://www.holidayfoodsafety.org).

## Free transportation available for local medical and dental appointments

By Mary Sam, community health representative

Transportation aides are available to bring Mille Lacs Band members and their families to and from medical and dental appointments scheduled between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, excluding Band holidays, urgent care visits, emergency room visits, and walk-in appointments.

Free transportation is only provided to medical and dental appointments in the immediate service area, unless the health service needed is not available.

- District I or IIA residents can schedule transportation aides for appointments at Ne-la-Shing Clinic and the Mille Lacs Health System Family Clinics in Onamia and Isle.
- District II residents can schedule transportation aides for East Lake Clinic appointments.
- District III residents can schedule transportation aides for Aazhoomog Clinic appointments.

Referrals are needed for specialty appointments that are not offered at the clinics listed above. Appointments that are more than 100 miles away must be scheduled for 1 p.m. or earlier in order to request a transportation aide.

A two-day advance notice must be given when requesting a transportation aide. Booking in advance will increase the likelihood of availability.

Passengers under 18 years old must be accompanied by a

parent or guardian, and all children less than 80 pounds and 50 inches tall must ride in a car seat.

For more information or to schedule a transportation aide, contact the community health representative in your district.

- District I and IIA: Mary Sam, 320-532-7815
- District II: Eileen Farah, 218-768-2389
- District III: Francine Staples, 320-384-0149, ext. 339

## Home health aide services for District II

By Jackie Jensen, District I and II RN

In an effort to increase health services in outer districts, the public health department is now offering personal care assistance to Elders and those in need who live in District II. The home health aide services include bathing, grooming, and light home cooking.

We would also like to remind Elders to move cautiously in the cold weather conditions. Allowing more time decreases the risk of injuries caused from slippery falls.

For more information about personal care assistance, contact Mary Mercado, District I and II RN, at 320-532-7776, ext. 2407.

## The negative effects of marijuana

By Kristy LeBlanc, prevention specialist manager

Marijuana use among adolescents is a growing trend that has been proven to impair memory, judgment, and learning ability. Marijuana can also affect brain development and delivers as much as five times the amount of tar and carbon monoxide as found in cigarette smoke.

These harmful effects put marijuana users at greater risk for other health conditions and can negatively impact relationships, school performance, and job performance.

The prevention program encourages parents to talk to their children about marijuana and set a good example. For more information about the harmful effects of marijuana and prevention mechanisms, contact Kristy LeBlanc, prevention specialist manager, at 320-532-7776, ext. 2413.

## Allen Weyaus Elected AMVETS Post 53 Commander



In October, AMVETS Post 53 members unanimously elected Allen Weyaus as the post's commander.

Founded in 1991 by the late Kenny Weyaus, AMVETS Post 53 is an organization that sponsors programs to help ensure veterans are taken care of when they complete their service. Allen succeeds Kenny as the post's commander.

As commander, Allen is responsible for running meetings, passing along information from the state to the individual post level, recruiting new members, hosting powwows on Memorial Day, leading the post at parades, and maintaining a strong relationship with the Ladies Auxiliary. One of Allen's goals as commander is to boost membership activity and participation in the community.

There are more than 30 active members in Post 53, which includes veterans from the Band and the community. Elections for officer positions are held each year in April.

## Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, December 9**, at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, call 320-532-4163. Walk-ins are welcome. We will do our best to serve you.

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

## Boys & Girls Club Honors Two Members of the Month



Photos courtesy of Justin Beaulieu

**Band member Sage Boyd-Davidson, a ninth-grader at Nay Ah Shing School, and Band member Bobby Eagle, a third-grader at Onamia Elementary School, were named Boys & Girls Club co-members of the month in November.**

The Mille Lacs Band Boys & Girls Club honored Sage Boyd-Davidson and Bobby Eagle as the club's November members of the month.

To be chosen for this honor, participants must consistently have a positive attitude and willingness to learn and try new things. Additionally, club members must show certain characteristics of leadership and attributes of a good role model.

"I like to go to Boys & Girls Club because it is fun, and something to do other than get me in trouble. It keeps me occupied, and the staff is really great," Sage said.

"I like the Boys & Girls Club because we do fun activities like kickball and the staff helps us with our homework," Bobby said.

Congratulations, Sage and Bobby!

## Red Cross Trains Band on How to Set Up a Shelter

**By Jamie Edwards, public information officer of the Tribal Emergency Response Committee**

Red Cross officials were on the Mille Lacs Reservation on November 17 to train the Band's Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) on how to set up a temporary shelter. This training session helped TERC members understand the Band's role and each of their roles in setting up an emergency shelter in partnership with the Red Cross.

After the storm in District III this past summer, committee members requested training on how to set up temporary shelters at each District's Community Center. If any future disasters should leave Band members temporarily homeless or without basic necessities, a shelter would be the most efficient way to respond.

"Setting up a temporary shelter takes a lot of teamwork since an emergency shelter can be needed any time during the year and at all hours of the day," said Monte Fronk, Mille Lacs Band emergency management

coordinator. "TERC requested this additional training because we want to be prepared in the event that we need to set up a temporary shelter."

In general, the process would involve the Band preparing a shelter site (such as one of the community centers) for the Red Cross to bring cots, blankets and meals. Since government entities do not normally keep these supplies in their inventories, the Duluth Red Cross would provide these resources under the direction of TERC. The Band would also be responsible for operating the shelter as well as services such as transportation, medical care, and mental health services.

Mii gwech to the Red Cross's Duluth office for providing the training session. Mii gwech also to the 24 TERC members for their service. TERC includes all Band commissioners and their backup representatives, community center administrators, and personnel from the Band's public safety and public information teams.

## Prepare for Winter

As snowflakes have already started to fall, it is important to prepare for the unexpected events of winter.

### Detecting and treating frostbite

A wind chill of -20 degrees Fahrenheit can cause frostbite in 30 minutes. Parents are encouraged to limit the time their children spend playing outdoors in cold weather temperatures. The early stages of frostbite can cause burning, numbness, tingling, itching, or cold sensations in the affected areas. Eventually, there will be a decrease in sensation that can lead to a loss of feeling in the affected area. Swelling, blood-filled blisters, or skin discoloration may appear.

If you are assisting someone with frostbite, warm the person slowly. Start with having the person change into dry clothing and wrap him/her in a warm blanket. Warm (but not hot) foods such as soup broth are suggested. In extreme cases, seek medical attention.

### Holiday decoration tips

Where you decide to put the holiday tree and how you take care of it are important factors for indoor fire safety.

- If you have a real evergreen tree, be sure to keep your tree stand filled with water.
- Avoid placing your tree near a heat source, including a fireplace or a heat vent.
- Place your tree in a location that will not block an exit.
- Avoid using flammable ornaments.

### Winter survival kits

Survival kits should include: candle stubs and matches that can be used to melt snow for drinking water, a cup, a red bandana or plastic whistle to alert rescuers to your location, a first aid kit, a flashlight with spare batteries, two large plastic garbage bags to insulate feet, a gallon of water, and snack foods that provide ample energy. Other items to consider are extra articles of warm clothing such as winter boots and a blanket, jumper cables, a basic toolbox, a shovel, a bag of sand, and a tow cable or chain.

For more information about winter safety, visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Homeland Security and Emergency Management webpage at <http://hsem.dps.mn.gov>.

## Legislative Office Welcomes New Employees

### Semira Kimpson, legislative receptionist

Semira Kimpson started as the new receptionist at the legislative office on October 17. As the first point of contact, Semira answers phone calls and directs people to the person who can best help them. She also performs clerical duties around the office. Semira is also a blackjack and poker dealer at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know Band members more as they come into the legislative office," she said.

### Danielle Smith, deputy registrar

Danielle Smith is the new deputy registrar for the Band's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). She started her position on November 14.

As deputy registrar, Danielle processes title information for Band vehicles, boats, ATVs, and other motorized vehicles. She also processes Band license plates.

Prior to working as deputy registrar, Danielle was an employment specialist in the Band's Human Resources Department.

"I'm excited for the new experiences that I will get in this position. It's different than the other jobs that I've had," Danielle said.

## Governor Appoints Band Member to Broadband Task Force

Last month, Governor Mark Dayton appointed Mille Lacs Band member Keith Modglin, who is the Band's information systems director, to serve on the state's broadband task force.

The broadband task force has representatives from phone and cable companies, commercial interests, telecom unions, rural public policy nonprofits, wireless companies, schools, cities, counties, and tribal governments. Under the direction of former House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher, the 15-member team will work together to improve the state's broadband Internet resources over the next two years.

As the Band's information systems director, Keith works to find innovative ways to bring broadband services to the reservation's rural districts. As a broadband task force representative, Keith will assume a comparable responsibility at a state level capacity.

## Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

October 2011

	Approved budget for FY 2012	Actual expenditures through 10/31/11	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*		\$1,560,260	
Workforce*		\$271,843	
Judicial		\$33,652	
Law enforcement*		\$228,465	
Education*		\$794,082	
Health and human services*		\$827,515	
Natural resources*		\$533,889	
Community development*		\$462,181	
Gaming authority		\$285,200	
Bonus distribution		\$4,629,492	
Economic stimulus		\$0	
<b>Total expenditures</b>		<b>\$9,626,580</b>	

### 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 and the tribal government.

\* Currently the Mille Lacs Band Government programs are operating on a continuing resolution until November 30, 2011.

## Answers about Child Support Payments

By Amy Doyle, director of tribal child support

Parents who pay or receive child support will notice a difference in how child support is withheld from per capita payments and also how multiple orders are dispersed.

According to Mille Lacs Band statute, an income withholding action for child support enforcement can be initiated against the noncustodial parent's per capita payment if they are 30 days or more behind in paying. The custodial parent or the public authority must serve notice of the action on the noncustodial parent before any withholding can occur. If an objection to the withholding order is made within 20 days of when the notice was sent, a hearing will be scheduled with tribal court.

After a 20-day waiting period is complete, the Office of Management and Budget will withhold funds from the noncustodial parent's per capita payment, as specified in the

court order. The amount that can be withheld is the current month's order plus an additional 20% of the monthly order amount to pay toward any unpaid child support debt, known as arrears. According to Band statute, child support withholdings cannot exceed 50% of a person's per capita payment.

### How child support is withheld from per capita payments

As an example, if a noncustodial parent has a \$600 per month child support court order and owes another \$1000 in arrears, due to the Band statute that prohibits child support withholdings from exceeding 50% of a per capita payment, the maximum amount that can be withheld is \$466.50 for this order, based on a per capita payment of \$933. This means the amount withheld will not pay toward arrears and the unpaid order amount balance

of \$133.50 will be added to the arrears amount.

Another example is if a noncustodial parent has a \$150 per month child support court order and owes another \$1000 in arrears, the Office of Management and Budget will withhold the monthly order of \$150 and an additional 20% of that monthly order for arrears, which is \$30. The total amount that will be withheld from the \$933 per capita payment is \$180 instead of 50%, which may have been what the custodial parent had previously received.

### How multiple child support orders are distributed

Example: If a noncustodial parent has two different child support orders that total \$500 for the month and only \$400 can be withheld from the parent's per capita payment, the child support payments for each order are distributed

based on this calculation:

Case 1 monthly order amount: \$300

Case 2 monthly order amount: \$200

Total dollars owed from payer: \$500 per month for all cases collectively

Case 1: \$300 monthly order ÷ \$500 total monthly obligations for all cases = 0.60, or 60%.

Case 2: \$200 monthly order ÷ \$500 total monthly obligations for all cases = 0.40, or 40%.

Case 1: \$400 payment received x 60% = \$240 will be paid to case 1.

Case 2: \$400 payment received x 40% = \$160 will be paid to case 2.

Each child support case is different, and the rules are complex. If you have questions about your individual case or would like more information, contact tribal child support at 320-532-7755.



# Tribal Noteboard

## Happy December birthday:

**Kellen James Crawford**, 2, on December 17 with love from mom, dad, grandma, Auntie Rachel, Uncle June, Noah, Taya, Deek, Jen, and Wesley • **Chilah Brown**, 35, on December 29 from mom, Son, Jayden, Jordan, and Debo and family • **George Jackson III**, with love from mom, dad, Shaun, Troy, Isaiah, Stephen, Jasmine, and the rest of the family • **Billy**, on December 3 with love from dad, Lenore, Evan Colleen, Tyson, Eva, John, Susan, and Maggie Sue • **Evelyn**, on December 7, with love from dad, Tyson, Eva, Jon, Faith and Lenore • **Candy**, on December 18 from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff, Jon, Clay, Clay Jr., Aubrey, Roxanne, Danica, mom, dad, Desi, Lydell, Kayla, Tayaunna, Roland, Roland Jr., Collin, Camille, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Camille**, on December 30 from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff, Jon, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Lance, mom, dad, Desi, Lydell, Kayla, Tayaunna, Roland, Roland Jr., Collin, Candy, Clay, Clay Jr., Aubrey, Roxanne, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Ann N.**, on December 30 from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **Virgil**, on December 31 from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **Judith Louise Dorr-Beaulieu**, on December 31 from Colleen • **Dawn Marie Murphy**, on December 24 from Colleen • **Nikki Hyatt**, on December 7 with love from Stacey, Braelyn and Brynley • **Frances Davis**, 78, on December 18 from Keith, Terri, Thunder Thighs, Ricki, Lil Ricki, Christopher, Elaine, Shannon, Lorna, Jesse, Justin, Wax, Laila, Marlow, Franny, Loyn, Mitzi, Winston, Tristan, and your family on Henry Davis Drive • **Mitzi**, on December 14 from Keith, Terri, Thunder Thighs, Ricki, Lil Ricki, Christopher, Elaine, Shannon, Lorna, Jesse, Justin, Wax, Laila, Marlow, Franny, Loyn, Frances, Winston, Tristan, and your family on Henry Davis Drive • **Elaine Silva**, on December 24 from Snooki, Lopez, Chris, Krista, Elana, Riley, Frances, Nemah, Laila, Cheyaunna, Marlow, Franney, Antuane, Kelsey, Shane, Diane, Cheyenne, Ricki, Lil Ricki, and everyone on Henry Davis Drive • **Louis St. John Jr.**, on

December 21 with love from Little Lou, Daniel, Mouse, and Danielle • **Winifred Davis**, on December 18 from Snooki, Marlow, Franny, Cheyenne, Louie, Frances, Tanya, Montana, Anna, Yvonne, Georgianna, Simon and Shannon • **Brianna Day**, on December 30 from Snooki, Shannon, Marlow, Frances, Antuane, Kateri and Ricki • **Grandma AA**, on December 11 from Rachel, Waylon, Karen, Brad Sr., Sharon, Rave, Mels, Val, Pie, Kev, Jay, Kate, Taylor, Adam, Bruce, Lilly, Jayla, Brad, Kristy, Payton, Brae, Eric, Wesley, Brynley, Shel, Max, Aiden, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Phil, Mick, Nade, Char, PJ, Whit, Cam, Basil, Renee and baby • **Wesley Harrington**, 3, on December 6 from Rachel, mom, dad, Peyton, Braelyn, Eric, Brynley, Val, Mariah, Kevin, Papa Brad, Rae, Waylon, Jay, Kate, Peeps, Guy, Randi, Bruce, Jayla, Lili, Gram AA, Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Max, Aidan, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, Chris Jr., Sharon, Wally, Ravin, and Melz Bellz • **Jaime Sam**, on December 3 from Rachel and Waylon • **Kat-a-lac Grillz**, on December 4 from Rachel and Waylon • **Kim Sam**, on December 16 from Rachel and Waylon • **Delaney Boyd**, 4, on December 11 from Rachel and Waylon • **Melissa**, from Rachel and Waylon • **Brianna Friend**, on December 30 with love from Cheyanne, Ron, ShayShay, mom, Sam, Nate, Meech and Jason • **Carlos Taylor**, on December 14 with love from Cheyanne and family • **Danni Jo**, 22, on December 7 with love from mom, dad, Chris, Elliot, and Blazer • **Delsie Day**, on December 6 with love from Joanne • **Corrina**, on December 5 with love from Nancy, Bundy, and Kyla Lynn • **Cash Bailey**, on December 12 with love from Nancy, Kyla and Bundy • **Judy Ballinger**, on December 23 with love from Heather, Daniel, Thomas and Tyler.

## Happy December birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Judith Beaulieu  
Gayle Bender  
Rose Benjamin  
Pamela Bixby  
Henry Bonga  
Loann Boyd

Phyllis Boyd  
Lawrence Churchill  
Frances Davis  
Marilyn Davis  
Delsie Day  
June Day  
Randy Dorr  
Rodney Dorr  
Ernestine Durant  
Timothy Foreman  
Mary Forsman  
Diane Gibbs  
David Granger  
Dale Greene Sr.  
Angeline Hawk  
Viola Hendren  
Carole Higgins  
Frank Hill Jr.  
Esther Johnson  
Peggy Klapel  
Larry Koeppel  
Renda Leslie  
Richard Mortenson  
Linda Moxness  
Clifford Pewaush  
Agnes Pindegayosh  
Dale Pindegayosh  
William Premo Jr.  
Catherine Sam  
Herbert Sam  
Susan Shingobe  
Laura Shingobe-Garbow  
Steven Smith  
Louis St. John  
Anita Upegui  
Kenneth Wade Sr.  
Yvonne Winiecki  
Lucille Woyak

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Sarah Boyd and Stuart wade on the birth of their first child. **Lillian Irene Wade** was born on November 2, 2011.

Congratulations to Krystyna Virnig on her new baby boy with love from Heather, Daniel, Thomas and Tyler Virnig.

Congratulations to **Lancia Fronk, Shantelle Smith, and Noah Sablan** for receiving a Husky High Five positive referrals from the Isle School.

## In memory

In memory of **Albert Murphy**. May 22, 1925-December 24, 2008. Dad, it's been three years since you left. I think of you often and try not to cry. You are missed more than you know, but I know that you are

with me each and every day. I love you, *from Colleen*.

In loving memory of **Purjiel Jean Sam**. You would have been 8 years old on December 3. Not a day goes by that you don't cross my mind. I love you always and forever! *From your family*.

## Thank you

We would like to thank everyone for coming out and having family fun at the 2011 haunted house. We had an unexpected amount of people and it was great. Special thanks to Waylon, Brad Sr., Clayton, Jimmy, Cordell, Baby Kev, and Kiki Lou. It was alot of fun. We couldn't have done it without you guys. *From Rachel Sam*.

## Obituaries

### Vincent Paul Cody

Born - 4-22-1956

Died - 11-3-2011

Lived In Duluth, MN

### Bradley Alan Roache sr.

Born - 7-27-1950

Died - 11-20-2011

Lived in Minneapolis, MN

## The Newspaper of the Mille Lacs Band

### OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

*"The story as it's told."*

Kelly Sam, Editor  
Phone 651-292-8062  
Fax 651-292-8091  
kelly@goffpublic.com  
255 East Kellogg Blvd.,  
Suite 102  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Please provide news tips and other information by the 15th of the previous month.



## Moccasin Telegraph



### Sweat lodges are for purification

By Amik (Larry Smallwood), Mille Lacs Band Elder

Our people were given sweat lodges to purify ourselves – our minds and our bodies. Your body and your mind will let you know how long to stay in, or when you need to go in.

When we sweat, we're supposed to use our own language; we cannot hold a sweat using the English language. That is because the Creator gave us the Ojibwe language, and we are supposed to use it in our ceremonies – not just during sweats, but also during our naming ceremonies, our funeral ceremonies, all of our ceremonies. You can't do a ceremony using the English language.

We were also given cedar, sage, sweetgrass, and other plants to use for purifying ourselves, to prepare ourselves for communicating with the Creator.

There are different types of sweat lodges. Different tribes have sweat lodges for different purposes, and they're run differently, too.

I remember how it was for the people who raised me. When they sweat, they sweat inside the house. My dad had

made a structure and covered it up with blankets. They would go inside it and sweat there in their house. It wasn't necessary for them to go out in the woods and build a great big lodge.

But other tribes will do that – they will build a great big sweat lodge and use it year-round outdoors. That's their way. Some of our people have adopted that, which is OK. But I don't think there's any set rule or way to do that.

The opening to my dad's sweat lodge in the house, where you crawled in, faced west, but there was not a specific reason for this. Other tribes vary about which direction their lodges face.

Other tribes might also have co-ed sweat lodges, but ours are usually not co-ed. And other tribes sometimes have five to ten people in there. But with our tribe, I remember that sometimes just one person would go into a sweat lodge. A lot of the Elders would sweat individually. They wouldn't do a big ceremony – they would just get in there, pray, and offer tobacco.

There is no set schedule for how often you should sweat. That is pretty much up to each individual. You decide, because it helps you relax and purify yourself.

I want to add – not just about the sweat lodge, but also about other things I put on paper – there are no experts on anything. There are only people who have knowledge of certain things. The things that I know are things that I've seen, things that I've lived, and things that I've learned from my Elders.

## Upcoming Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

### Birch bark ornament workshop

Create miniature ornaments from birch bark that can be used to decorate for the holidays or given as gifts. This class will be held on Saturday, December 10, from noon-4 p.m.

The workshop costs \$25 for the general public or \$20 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members, plus an additional \$15 supply fee.

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. A minimum of five participants is required to host the workshop. Registration is

required by December 7. Please call 320-532-3632 for more information.

### Kids crafts workshop

Listen to museum staff read storybooks, enjoy light snacks, and learn how to make a corn husk doll to take home. Corn husk dolls are made out of the outer covering of an ear of corn. This project is recommended for children 10 years or older.

The workshop costs \$6 per kit and will be held on Saturday, December 3, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Band Elder Volunteers at Aazhoomog Cemetery

Band Elder Dave Matrious has been assisting with funeral ceremonies at the Aazhoomog Cemetery in District III on a volunteer basis since the late 1970s.

In the early 1950s, many families moved away from the smaller reservation communities, including District III. There weren't very many people left in the community who were able to help with funerals. After returning home from the east coast in the mid-1970s, Dave began to help dig graves and clean the cemetery grounds, and soon started helping with the funeral ceremonies.

"It's a part of our duty as community members to help families as they are grieving. It's a part of our tradition," he said.

One of the many duties Dave has performed during funerals is to make the funeral items, such as clan markers, wooden spoons, and birch bark baskets. Clan markers signify the clan of the deceased.

"Long ago when tribes were nomadic, headstones were not made. These markers would signify a burial place and those who passed by the marker would offer tobacco or food to their relative clan members," Dave said. "The tradition almost got lost in the early '50s, but we helped revive it."

Today many people's graves are marked with both a clan board and a head stone.

"The carving of the clan markers has become more of a work of art than a service," Dave said. "I take great pride in carving the different animal symbols on the cedar boards."

Over the years Dave has become quite knowledgeable about Ojibwe burial traditions, the Aazhoomog Cemetery, and the people who are buried there. He helps people identify where loved ones are buried so that they can be buried nearby.

According to Patty O'Brien, who works in District III, Dave is the unofficial sexton or historian of the District III cemetery.

"Dave is a wonderful resource for us and for other people who want to find their relatives' resting places," Patty said.

Dave would like to preserve his knowledge of the cemetery and Ojibwe funerals for future generations.

"I would like to make a map of all of the graves within the cemetery and plan a maintenance program for future generations," Dave said. "We should have a cemetery sign that says either Aazhoomog Cemetery or Steven's Lake Ojibwe Cemetery to better reflect our community."

## Do You Know Any Hardworking Volunteers?

Do you know an outstanding Band member who gives time to the community or a special cause and expects nothing in return? The Mille Lacs Band is looking for strong examples of volunteerism as part of a future project.

If you have a story to share, please contact Kelly Sam, *Inaajimowin* editor, at 651-292-8062 or Kelly@goffpublic.com. Be prepared to provide your name, the name of the person you recommend, an explanation of what that person did and when it happened, and who to contact for more information. Mii gwech!

# Calendar of Events

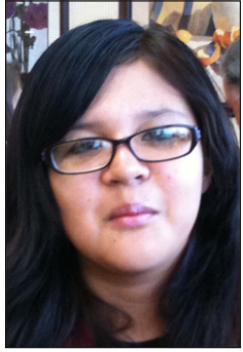
**December 2011**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>*To Purchase Tickets</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800-745-3000, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</b>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Jan. 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

# What Is Your Favorite Winter Holiday Tradition?

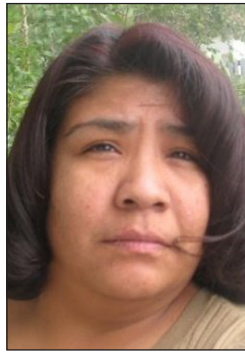
For this month's Q&A we polled Mille Lacs Band Facebook fans about their favorite holiday traditions. You can become a fan of the Mille Lacs Band on Facebook by visiting [www.facebook.com/millelacsband](http://www.facebook.com/millelacsband) and clicking "like."

## Hevin Shingobe



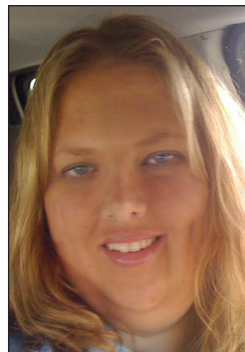
"Eating at Gramma Dorothy's and seeing all my cousins and then gram passes out all the presents."

## Dawn Murphy



"Just watching kids play in the snow, making snowmen and angels in the snow, and most of all spending time with family."

## Cindi Hettver Cooley



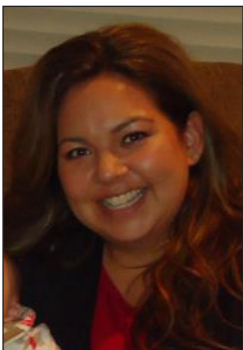
"Playing games Christmas Eve, going to church with my family, and, if it's not too cold, going on a sleigh ride with horses."

## Mike Beastmode Sam



"Sleeping."

## Courtney Martins-Breth



"Ours just started two years ago. We run out of bed to the front window with our four-year-old and two-year-old to see Santa's

sleigh and reindeer marks with all the glitter he leaves in the snow! It's so fun to see their faces and tell the rest of the family at our holiday gatherings!"

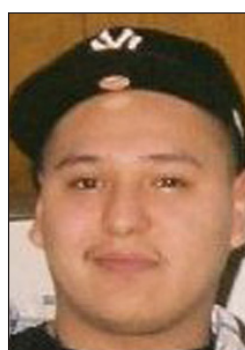
## Yvonne Winiecki



"Hiding the pickle ornament on the tree Christmas Eve and watching the four daughters scramble to find it! (There's a

prize for the pickle picker!) The daughters aren't little either ... they're 25-35 years old ... LOL!"

## Niitamii Gaahbow



"Well seeing how my birthday is on the 18th, I have momma make a huge batch of frybread and enjoy the winter!! I also like

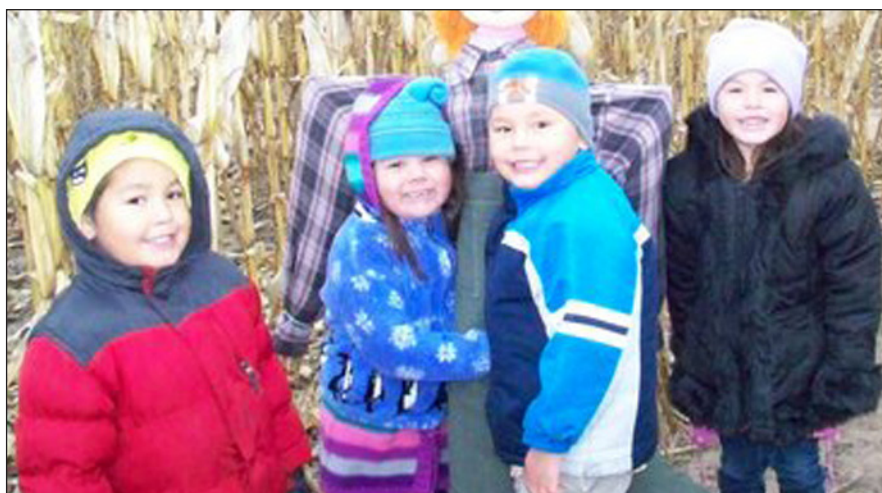
family time and eating good traditional food."

## Nay Ah Shing Early Education Events



District I Head Start held a Halloween parade in October. Pictured above are students from classroom 3.

Photos courtesy of Tiffany Sam



District I Head Start took a field trip to the Farm on St. Mathias in October. From left to right are Antonio Weous, Kennedy Nayquonabe, Isaac Klenk, and Arielle Pendegayosh.

## Circle of Health Updates

By Circle of Health staff

### Medicare annual award letter

This month Medicare recipients will receive their 2012 Medicare award letter. Medicare recipients are required to submit a copy of their letter to the Circle of Health office in order to receive quarterly reimbursements, which are given on the second week of January, April, July and October. Be sure to submit your letter by the end of December to ensure you will receive the first reimbursement in January.

Several other departments also require a copy of this letter, so it is important to make extra copies of the document and keep the original.

Lastly, please allow a two-six week grace period from the date of submission for reimbursement claims. If you still have not received anything after six weeks, contact your claims processor.

### Circle of Health forms

All qualified Band members are required to update their Circle of Health information annually. The update consists of filling out an enrollment form and consent for release of information form and submitting copies of primary insurance cards. Circle of Health staff will have forms at State of the Band, or you can find these forms on the Mille Lacs Band website ([www.millelacsband.com](http://www.millelacsband.com)) under programs and services.

### Ne-la-Shing pharmacy reminder

Make sure to check the Ne-la-Shing pharmacy's hours of operation when refilling or picking up prescriptions near the holidays or during severe weather conditions. Be sure to call in advance to order prescriptions and schedule pick ups. Ne-la-Shing pharmacy will close at noon on Thursday, December 22. The pharmacy will also be closed on December 23 and 26 and January 2.