

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

February 2012

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

Volume 14 • Number 2

## Chief Executive Urges Volunteerism; Calls on Government and Members to "Do More"



Band member Bella Nizhoni Nayquonabe and other Band youth served meals after the State of the Band Address.

"We can do more" was the message of Chief Executive Marge Anderson in her annual address to Mille Lacs Band members on January 10. She spoke to a crowd of 1,200 people at the 28th annual State of the Band Address at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

"For 20 years, our lives have been tied to our businesses – most notably Grand Casinos. For more than 10 years, our lives have also been tied to our reaffirmed treaty rights," Marge said. "But those two things are not all that we are – not even close."

She went on to urge both Band members and tribal government officials to continue making the Band "something greater." "We have not come this far to stop growing," she added.

Marge called on Band members to volunteer more. "Years ago that was the foundation of our community," she said, but today she sees that foundation cracking. She wants those cracks filled with active community members, noting that gangs, drugs and violence could destroy the foundation if the community doesn't get involved now.

Marge applauded several Band members who have helped neighbors and Elders, served on volunteer committees, and risked their own safety to protect others. "They expect nothing in return," she added. "This is the traditional Ojibwe way."

Marge also described several initiatives that are underway in the tribal government to "do more," including:

- The Band developed the nation's first all-Indian-owned holding company in the 1990s. Anderson believes it can be used today to further economic development and employ more East Central Minnesotans.

- The Band will explore how it can use the federal Tribal Law and Order Act to better address serious crimes committed on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

Marge's speech is printed on pages 3 and 4. Her directives to Band commissioners are posted online at [www.millelacsband.com](http://www.millelacsband.com).

### Other State of the Band speakers

Other speakers at the event were Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk, Chief Justice Rayna Mattinas, and Cultural Advisor Dorothy Sam.

Dorothy, a Band Elder, explained the importance of the drum, tobacco, and the pipe to the audience. "The drum was given to all of us as Anishinabe people," she said. "The drum comes with a lot of responsibility."

Curt convened Band Assembly into session prior to the State of the Band Address and welcomed Band members to attend open sessions anytime. He also spoke about the importance of the District I, II and III Representatives. "They work hard to make Band funds go the furthest possible," he said.

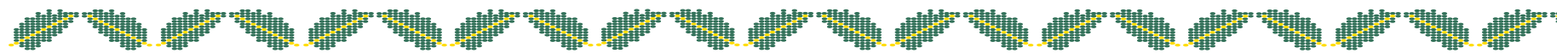
Curt then challenged Band members to "do a little bit better" and told his story of learning that lesson while stacking wood for a neighbor when he was young.

Highlights of Curt's comments, along with Rayna's speech, are printed on pages 4 and 5.

### Mii gwech

Mii gwech to everyone who attended the 2012 State of the Band Address. Special thanks go to:

- Emcee Carolyn Shaw
- AMVETS Post 53 members, who led the Grand Entry
- Ceremonial Drum participants
- Little Otter singers
- Elder Ralph Pewaush, who provided the invocation
- Cultural advisors Dorothy Sam and Sheldon Boyd
- Bela Nayquonabe and Megan Saboo, who sang the National Anthem
- Robert Kegg for the beaded Mille Lacs Band logo on the podium
- Marianne Washburn and Nay Ah Shing Middle School students, who sang "Put a Little Love in Your Heart"
- The youth who helped serve the meal
- Our hosts and servers at Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Everyone who signed up for the Band's Action Network to oppose gaming expansion



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## Upcoming Mille Lacs Band Candidate Forums

Two Mille Lacs Band offices are up for election this year – Chief Executive and District I Representative. Mille Lacs Band members are invited to attend a local candidate forum to learn more about the candidates running for these positions. The forums provide an opportunity for Band members to learn about candidates' qualifications for office and their positions on key issues.

Below are the dates, times and locations of the forums:

### Chief Executive Candidate Forums

- March 5, 5:30-9:30, District I Community Center, Onamia
- March 7, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Chiminising Community Center, Isle
- March 12, 5:30-8:30 p.m., East Lake Community Center, McGregor
- March 14, 5:30-9:30 p.m., All Nations Indian Church, Minneapolis

- March 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Lake Lena Community Center, Sandstone

### District I Representative Candidate Forums

(District I Representative candidates will speak after Chief Executive candidates.)

- March 5, 5:30-9:30, District I Community Center, Onamia
- March 14, 5:30-9:30 p.m., All Nations Indian Church, Minneapolis

The Mille Lacs Band primary will be held on April 3 and the general election will be held on June 12. If you have any questions about the candidate forums, please contact Jamie Edwards, director of government affairs, at 612-850-2124.

Please note that the candidate forums are separate from the elections. If you have any questions about the elections, please contact Darcie BigBear, election judge, at 320-532-7440.

## 2012 Election Calendar

*Provided by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe*

- January 23: Opening of period for filing for office.
- February 3: Close of filing period.
- February 17: Deadline for Notice of Certifications to TEC.
- February 20: Challenge certification or non-certification to MCT or 48 hours from receipt of notice of certification.
- February 22: Decision of certification or non-certification or within 48 hours of appeal.
- February 27: Deadline for appointment of Election Boards.
- February 27: Deadline for appointment of Election Contest Judge.
- February 28: TEC provides ballots for Primary Election.
- February 28: Notice of Primary.
- April 3: Primary Election.
- April 4: General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results.
- April 5: General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.
- April 6: Deadline for Request for Recount.
- April 10: 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election.
- April 11: (Results, if allowed or 9th or 10th if earlier request). Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount.
- April 20: Deadline for Decision on Contest.
- April 23: Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals.
- April 26: Record of Contest to Court of Election Appeals.
- April 30: Last Day for Hearing on Appeal.
- May 10: Last Day for Decision on Appeal.
- May 11: Notice of Regular Election. TEC provides ballots.
- June 12: General Election.
- June 13: General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election.
- June 14: General Reservation Election Board publishes Election results.
- June 15: Deadline for Request for Recount.
- June 19: 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Notice of Contest.
- June 20 (or 18th or 19th if request for Recount is filed before deadline): Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
- June 29, (or ten days from Notice of Contest, whichever is sooner): Deadline for Decision on Contest.
- July 3: Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals.
- July 6: Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
- July 10: Last Day for Hearing on Appeal (hearing within seven days notice of appeal).
- July 17: Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the Court of Election Appeals.
- Ten days from Hearing on Appeal: Deadline for decision of the Court of Elections Appeal.
- Day following Decision of Appeal: Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office.

## Isle Students Attend Basketball Camp



Photo courtesy of Tracy Sam

Sixth-graders Taya Sam-Sablan and Kayana Bearheart attended the Minnesota Lynx basketball clinic in December and met Lindsay Whalen, who plays for the Lynx. Taya and Kayana have been playing basketball since third grade at Isle Elementary and are Band Member descendants.

## Mille Lacs Tribal College Announcements

*By Camille Naslund, director of higher education*

### Students achieve academic success

Congratulations to the following Mille Lacs Tribal College students who earned a 2.0 GPA or higher during the 2011 fall semester:

- Jada Grap
- Karri Kegg
- Bradley Sam
- Rachel Shaugobay

- Derrick Weyaus
- Morningstar Weyaus

### Upcoming financial aid sessions

The Mille Lacs Tribal College higher education office will provide application assistance for FAFSA, scholarships, and college admissions from noon-4 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: February 21 and 28; March 6 and 20; and April 3 and 17.

For more information, contact the college's office of higher education at 320-495-3702.

## Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, February 10**, 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.

## 2012 State of the Band Speeches



### Chief Executive Marge Anderson

Aanin, Mr. Speaker, members of the Band Assembly, Madam Chief Justice, Justices, Commissioners, Band members, and guests. I am honored to be with you today.

Mii gwech – thank you – for coming. Your involvement today and every day is critical to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Coming together now – at the start of a new year – is a good time to assess where we are as a culture, community and government.

For 20 years, our lives have been tied to our businesses – most notably Grand Casinos. For more than 10 years, our lives have also been tied to our reaffirmed treaty rights.

But those two things are not all that we are – not even close. Our accomplishments and progress are much bigger than that. We as a people are much more than that.

Most importantly, we are going to become something even greater. We have not come this far to stop growing. We cannot afford to leave things the way they are.

I want to tell you about a few plans that are already underway.

Back in the 1990s, the Band developed a holding company to help us with economic development. It was the first all-Indian-owned holding company in the country, and it enabled us to create Woodlands National Bank in 1996. Today that bank has grown to seven locations.

As great as that is, our holding company could be used to accomplish much more. It was chartered by the Federal Reserve Board. This status provides us with many opportunities in the world of finance and investments. It provides us with the potential for many new business opportunities and jobs. It is

time that we reach the potential we dreamed of when we established this holding company.

I won't get into the details, but I want you to know that we are exploring how to fully use this resource. This is an effort to help maximize and secure what we leave for our children and grandchildren.

Second, you may recall that the Mille Lacs Band Police Department became a professional law enforcement agency in 1991. In 1998, we formed our first mutual aid agreement with Mille Lacs County. This agreement enabled tribal police officers to assist local law enforcement officers on non-Indian land, and the county officers to enforce laws on Indian land. A similar agreement with Pine County was signed in 2004. And other tribes followed our example.

As great as all that is, we can do more. President Obama signed the Tribal Law and Order Act in 2010, primarily to prevent violence against women in Indian Country. This act has provisions that could also help the Mille Lacs Band in other key ways.

I've ordered the Solicitor General to pursue all the authority we can, under that act. Most importantly, the act may help us combat gangs and drugs on the Mille Lacs Reservation – a major problem that has taken the lives of too many people; brought sadness to too many families; and held our community back.

We have been through hard times before, and we have faced challenges before. Now we will do what it takes to fight this problem.

Of course we have to get to the root of the gang and drug problem. But step one must involve stopping criminals in their tracks and getting drugs off our reservation.

The Tribal Law and Order Act gives the Band an opportunity to request federal authority. If we are able to make an agreement between the Mille Lacs Band and the U.S. Attorney's Office, it could allow for federal prosecution of crimes committed on the Mille Lacs Reservation. In turn, we would be able to send the drug dealers and serious criminals on our reservation to federal prison.

That's right – federal prison.

I seldom resort to scare tactics. But if the prospect of federal prison can help turn someone's life around, I will use it with as many people as necessary.

Third, the Band government is constantly working to become more transparent and accountable. One measure that still needs work is our code of ethics.

I believe that your elected officials are all moral and honorable people who abide by a personal code of ethics.

But the Mille Lacs Band can do better. In fact, I want our tribal government to develop the best code of ethics in Indian Country.

I will be working with Band Assembly in the months ahead to make our code of ethics more enforceable. I also intend for us to build in more penalties for not abiding by the code.

By making our government officials more accountable, we will set the tone for making our members more accountable. This can only lead to positive outcomes in the years ahead.

As we start this new year, your Band commissioners are undertaking many initiatives. The 2012 directives to the commissioners are on your tables so that you can see what they will be doing.

In 2011, our government made progress in several key areas; here are just a few examples.

- One of the most visible signs of progress is the new early education building in District I. We look forward to its completion in August.
- We have worked with local public schools to make transportation more available to our Boys & Girls Club and to enhance Indian education. In fact, we were involved in helping the school district in Sandstone create an Indian Education Department. About 65 Indian students are enrolled there – most of whom are Band members or descendants.
- Last year we celebrated 20 years of Grand Casino Mille Lacs. This year we will celebrate 20 years of Grand Casino Hinckley.
- Band Assembly and I made a statute change that will prevent the use of per capita payments to satisfy bail bonds. The main goal of this

change is to prevent Band members who are repeat offenders from being bailed out of jail using bonds against their per capita payments. If we can help keep repeat offenders in jail, we can help prevent additional crimes.

Now that I've told you about what the tribal government is doing, I want to ask you: What will you be doing in the next year? How can you help your family, your neighbors, and your tribe?

First, I encourage you to be self-reliant.

Economically, the recession still lingers. As a result, Grand Casinos continue to have lower revenues. That gives the tribal government less to work with for our programs and services. We had to make difficult budget cuts this fiscal year.

The threat of gaming expansion is always on the horizon. In 2011, the Mille Lacs Band and other tribal gaming supporters fought back harder than ever. And we were successful.

Many of you here today were involved in our fight against gaming expansion. Mii gwech for your support; we will need you again in 2012 and beyond.

But we need even more of you to sign up as supporters of our cause. There are support cards on your tables. Fill them out and drop them off in a specially marked box in the foyer.

If the push to expand gaming succeeds, the result will be far worse than the cuts we had to make in our tribal government budget this year.

Grand Casinos would have to scale back, and so would the tribal government. Our employees, Band members, and the entire region would feel the loss.

We all need to prepare for this possibility, even as we fight it. That is the only responsible thing to do.

Of course none of us have gotten rich from gaming revenues. But they have helped us live more comfortably, whether we need a home computer or a more dependable car.

Looking ahead, we cannot count on anything or anyone but ourselves. We must become even more self-reliant.

**(Continued to page 4)**

## 2012 State of the Band Speeches

(Continued from page 3)

Second, I urge you to give of yourselves without expecting anything in return. This is the traditional Ojibwe way.

A few months ago in the *Inaajimowin*, you hopefully read the story about cultural leave being unpaid leave for tribal government employees. This is not a new policy; we just wanted to remind our employees.

When the reminder was sent, one of our Band Elders – Bette Sam – was quick to respond.

Bette said, “Years ago, we never got paid to do cultural stuff, ceremonies. Our fathers, mothers and grandparents never did anything for pay.”

Many others responded in support of Bette’s comments.

This was encouraging to me, because it seems like there has been a trend toward people expecting payment for almost everything they do. If they serve on a committee, they want money. If they give someone a ride, they want to be reimbursed for gas.

I’m not talking about everyone, but we cannot deny that many people have this expectation. I know this is not who we are.

Bette is right. Years ago, helping Elders, family, friends and neighbors was what everyone did. We counted on ourselves and each other. That was the foundation of our community.

Our community has many strengths, but our basic foundation is cracking. If we don’t fix our foundation, what will this community stand on?

All around us we see role models of giving, and they expect nothing in return.

After the storm at Lake Lena this summer, there were people who checked on Elders to make sure no one was harmed. I know of a tribal government employee who has driven people to appointments during her lunch break. Another employee has patrolled his neighborhood all night – on top of the police presence – to help keep people safe.

Members of several Band committees refuse stipends. They say that serving on a Band committee is an honor, and that’s enough of a reward.

Recently I’ve heard about a Band member who received a civil service award for helping

save the lives of two motorcyclists after an accident...

And about another Band member who has kept track of all the family plots at the Aazhoomog Cemetery since the 1970s.

Some of our Boys & Girls Club members have brought cakes and pies to Elders and asked if they need help with anything. You will also notice our youth serving meals today.

All of these volunteers I’ve talked about give us a strong community foundation. They know their reward isn’t money, gas or food. Their reward is a feeling of pride in having helped someone else.

Now we need to fill the cracks in our foundation.

There are committees and boards that need members. We need helpers for field trips and events. And our Employee Assistance Program is seeking families to volunteer.

The community really does need each and every one of us. Envision how much better our community would be if we all volunteered our time, knowledge and skills.

Please make the time to volunteer in your community.

Imagine what our community would become if we let the gang members take over. Imagine if we allow drugs to rule our minds instead of our culture and education. Imagine if we leave things the way they are and mind our own business.

I told you earlier that I try to avoid scare tactics. I stand by that still... Because I’m not using scare tactics. I’m only seeing what the future will hold if we don’t unite to protect our community and culture.

We need to stand up for what is good and right. We need to stand together. We need to fill in the cracks before they destroy our foundation.

As for your elected officials, we will continue to focus on strengthening the Band’s government. And now, more than ever, we need to work together to solve problems like gangs, drugs and violence. And we need to set priorities and standards for fiscal responsibility.

We all have roles to play in our community. If we all do our part, I know we can become something greater than what we are today.

Mii gwech.



### Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk

As Speaker of the Band Assembly, Curt convened Band Assembly into session prior to the State of the Band Address, recessed it afterward, and indicated that it would reconvene its session in the afternoon at the government center. He encouraged Band members to attend the afternoon session and said that Band Assembly sessions are almost always open to Band members.

Curt told the crowd that he “wished this many people were at Band Assembly every day.” He thanked Robert Kegg for providing a magnificently beaded Mille Lacs Band logo that was displayed on the speaker’s podium during the event.

Curt spoke about the importance of the District I, II and III Representatives. “Come meet and talk with your representative,” he said. “They work for you every day and are making big decisions for you. They work hard to make Band funds go the furthest possible.”

He said that Band Assembly is in the midst of making revisions to Title 3 and Title 4 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes. These titles relate to how the legislative and executive branches of tribal government operate and govern. Curt explained that certain law changes require a public comment period, and that Band Assembly always posts changes to the statutes so that Band members have time to provide feedback.

Curt challenged Band members to “do a little bit better.” He shared a story of his first job piling wood for a neighbor. The man offered to pay Curt \$5 to stack wood. Curt agreed and spent an hour or two stacking the wood. He knocked on the man’s door, eager to collect his earnings.

But, when the man checked the wood stack, it fell over, and he told Curt, “I’m not paying you for that.”

Curt said that at first he was very mad at the man and resented not being paid for the task. But Curt decided to go back and do the job right. He put more time and attention into his second attempt. Again he knocked on the man’s door, knowing this time the work would stand up to close inspection. The neighbor was pleased with Curt’s work, invited him in, and paid him double for the job.

“I learned that day, if you are going to do something, do it right,” said Curt. “And, if you are going to hire someone to do a job for you, make sure you are getting what you pay for. That’s what Band Assembly is doing every day.”



### Chief Justice Rayna Mattinas

Honorable Chief Executive, principled members of the Band Assembly, my fellow Mille Lacs Band members, employees, and guests, welcome to the 2012 State of the Band Address. It is my honor to provide you with the State of the Judiciary Address as prescribed by the Band statutes.

Currently I serve as the Chief Justice for the Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction and the Appellate Justice for District III. I will introduce the Honorable Clarence Boyd, Appellate Justice for District I, and the Honorable Brenda Moose, Appellate Justice for District II. Please stand and be recognized. Thank you!

I will next introduce the Honorable Richard Osburn, District Court Justice. Please stand and be recognized. Thank you!

(Continued to page 5)

## 2012 State of the Band Speeches

(Continued from page 4)

Judge Osburn hears cases involving civil, criminal and juvenile matters. The cases include custody, adoption, guardianship, children in need of protective services, child support, domestic violence and harassment, traffic, natural resources, and all other cases brought before the court.

Last year our goal was to amend the Appellate and District court rules. Judge Osburn took on the tedious task and completed the amendments in December of 2011. The rules have been sent to Band Assembly to be placed on their agenda. The rules will become effective 90 days after reporting to Band Assembly, and thereafter, the rules will be uploaded to the judicial webpage on the Band's website.

The court calendar was added as a courtesy and to further enhance the judicial webpage. The calendar is updated weekly and subject to change based upon motions, continuances or rescheduling.

I am very proud to announce the tribal court has received a three-year grant from the Office of Justice Programs in the amount of \$461,000. I would like to take this time to recognize and thank Gilda Burr, court administrator, for securing the grant plus its tremendous enhancement to the tribal court system. Please stand and be recognized. Thank you!

The objectives outlined in the grant are three-fold: 1) to rewrite certain Band statutes, 2) to host a guardian ad litem training program, and 3) to catalog and scan the court files for improved efficiency.

The most important function of the grant is to update Title 8 – the Children's Code, consisting of the child welfare, juvenile delinquency, and domestic violence codes, and Title 24 – the Criminal Code in Band statutes. The funding provides for the hiring of personnel to review, research and rewrite the codes.

The guardian ad litem training program will be held in 2012 for community members who are interested in becoming a certified guardian ad litem for the tribal court. As a court-appointed officer, a guardian ad litem is primarily responsible for

representing the best interest of a child in a court proceeding.

The final grant project is cataloguing active case files and integrating the scanning component into the court management system.

The Mille Lacs Band Family Services notified the court regarding the peacemaking component within their department. The court will send certain types of cases, such as contested family matters, to the peacemaker to help settle disputes as a neutral third party.

The benefit to utilizing a peacemaker is providing the parties with the following:

- Incentive to participate
- Greater control
- Sense of confidentiality
- Vested interest in arriving at their own decisions
- Litigation cost is lower
- Decisions are based on custom and tradition

The goals aforementioned are the gradual development of the Mille Lacs Band tribal court.

In 2011, the number of cases filed totaled 1,784, a 7% increase from the prior year. Of the 1,784 cases, 93% have been adjudicated.

- Of the 189 new child support cases filed, 173 are State child support and 16 are Band child support.
- The general civil and small claims cases totaled 564.
- Family-type cases totaled 148, which is 34 more cases filed than in the prior year.
- Criminal-type cases totaled 40, encompassing the criminal, natural resource, traffic, and juvenile delinquency matters. This is a reduction of 53 cases from the previous year.
- Lastly, 13 domestic cases and 63 harassment cases were filed.

In closing, my goal for the tribal court is to ensure fair and impartial justice is being administered. Thank you for attending the 2012 State of the Band Address.

## Emergency Services Department Hires New Coordinator

In January the Mille Lacs Band's Emergency Services Department hired Richard John as its new energy and emergency assistance programs coordinator. Richard will manage the weatherization, food distributions, emergency assistance, and loan distributions programs.

He will also administer federal Sustainable Energy Resource for Consumer (SERC) grants, which will help Band

members decrease energy costs.

Richard has several years of experience working with the public in various capacities. "I really enjoy trying to help the public in any way that I can," Richard said. "I am excited to learn about and help Band members with all of these crucial programs."

For program assistance, contact Richard at 320-532-2552, ext. 2552.

## Fire Destroys Grand Casino Hinckley Warehouse

Fire engulfed a Grand Casino Hinckley warehouse on January 1, destroying the building. No one was injured in the fire, and casino operations were not affected.

The 100' x 200' warehouse was used as a maintenance and storage facility.

Fire crews from Hinckley, Sandstone, Pine City and Brook Park helped put out the fire.

"Thanks to the quick response of firefighters, the fire was contained to the maintenance building. We are grateful that no one was injured and that we were able to operate the casino as usual on New Year's Day," said Mel Towle, general manager of Grand Casino Hinckley.

The cause of the fire is undetermined.

## Seeking Youth Interested in Boxing

The Mille Lacs Band is considering developing an amateur boxing program for Mille Lacs Band youth who are eight years old and older. The program would have locations in all districts and would be run by the Mille Lacs Band Boys & Girls Club.

Currently the Band is trying to gauge the level of interest from

prospective boxers, coaches and assistants. If enough people are interested in the program, the Band would make concrete plans.

If you are interested in the program or would like more information about it, contact Jim Erickson, director of the Department of Athletic Regulation, at 320-532-8346.

## Connect with the Mille Lacs Band Online and on Your Phone

The Mille Lacs Band recently started Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn pages to help communicate with you better. We will use these tools to post information about our programs and services, pictures from Band events, news about the Band, and more.

- Facebook: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

"Like" us on Facebook by going to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mille-Lacs-Band-of-Ojibwe/146734525376084> and clicking "like."

- Twitter: millelacsband

Follow us on Twitter by going to [www.twitter.com/millelacsband](http://www.twitter.com/millelacsband) and clicking "follow."

- LinkedIn: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Connect with us on LinkedIn by going to [www.linkedin.com/company/mille-lacs-band-of-objibwe](http://www.linkedin.com/company/mille-lacs-band-of-objibwe) and clicking "follow company."

## Band Assembly Update on Power of Attorney Usage

This article regarding the use of a Power of Attorney is for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal advice. The Band Assembly is examining a standing practice of the Band's Office of Management & Budget (OMB) and its acceptance of the Minnesota short form Power of Attorney (POA). As this article will show, the Minnesota short form may be used for a variety of reasons.

Currently, the OMB permits individuals presenting valid POA forms to collect tribal per capita payments at designated disbursement sites. The Band Assembly has not yet addressed the subject through tribal legislation, and consequently relevant state law is relied upon.

Most importantly, it is important to note that an individual cannot be forced to sign a POA. The execution of a POA should represent a free and voluntary choice. Under Minnesota statute, a valid POA may be created by a legally competent adult, known as the "principal." The POA must include the following components: 1) a designation of another individual or entity to act as an "attorney-in-fact," 2) an original signature of the principal, 3) and a date of issuance. MINN. STAT. § 523.01 (2011).

A POA may include a specific expiration date, but an expiration date is not necessary. MINN. STAT. § 523.075. Without an expiration date, a POA may remain in effect until the death of the principal unless earlier revoked. MINN. STAT. §§ 523.08 and 523.09. Also, a POA form need not be notarized unless the principal is unable to physically sign the document. MINN. STAT. § 523.01. An attorney-in-fact cannot use a copy of the original POA unless the copy is certified by a state official. The certification must indicate that the official has viewed the original document for purposes of ensuring the authenticity of the copy. MINN. STAT. § 523.06.

The purpose of a POA is to confer authority from a principal to a second party known as an attorney-in-fact in order to conduct the principal's financial affairs. The scope of the POA

may be broad or narrow. MINN. STAT. § 523.12. Typically, individuals, including Band members, opt to use the Minnesota statutory "short form" POA, which is a fill-in-the-blank document. MINN. STAT. § 523.23. While the short form may be executed with greater ease, it must be pointed out that an individual should attempt to limit the authority of his or her attorney-in-fact to the degree necessary to accomplish specific objectives. The listed categories of general authority on the short form have wide-ranging effects, and therefore could be misused by an attorney-in-fact. MINN. STAT. § 523.24.

It should also be pointed out that once a Band member or other individual creates a POA, he or she is not deprived of the ability to make his or her own financial decisions. MINN. STAT. § 523.23(1). However, the attorney-in-fact may likewise make such decisions, and third parties may rely upon the asserted authority of the attorney-in-fact. MINN. STAT. §§ 523.04, 18. An attorney-in-fact's decisions must satisfy an "ordinarily prudent person" standard. In other words, an attorney-in-fact may not act in bad faith. MINN. STAT. § 523.21.

It is also especially important to note that a principal of a POA may revoke it at any time since it is a voluntary arrangement. However, the revocation must be in writing and signed by the principal or witnessed by a notary if the principal is unable to physically sign the document. MINN. STAT. § 523.11(1). If you are a signer (principal) of a POA, you must provide notice in writing to relevant parties, including the attorney-in-fact, because an individual must have actual knowledge of a revocation. MINN. STAT. § 523.11(2). Without written notice, an individual may still rely upon the original POA. MINN. STAT. § 523.19.

As the subject of the use of Power of Attorney forms are discussed, a second article may be forthcoming to notify you of any change to the existing system. In the meantime, we hope that you found this article helpful.

## TANF Program Updates

*By Raina Killspotted, director of case planning and management at the Department of Labor*

### Child support cooperation

As of January 1, 2012, anyone who opens or re-opens a Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) case will be automatically referred to the Mille Lacs Band's Tribal Child Support Enforcement (TCSE) program for child support services.

It is TCSE policy to promote cooperation and agreement by the parents regarding fulfillment of their parenting duties. These services may include establishing paternity, establishing and enforcing child support orders, modifying child support, and distributing support payments.

Anyone who accepts federal TANF dollars must comply with the child support collections process if there is an absent parent in the family.

Current county child support cases will remain with the county unless Band members left the tribal TANF program and returned after January 1.

### TANF orientation

Beginning on Monday, February 27, TANF will require all new and returning applicants to participate in a one-day TANF program orientation prior to being issued a grant.

The orientation will be held as needed each Monday, unless

it is a Mille Lacs Band holiday, then it will be moved to Tuesday. Band members will be informed about where and when to check in for orientation at the time of application.

Band members who qualify for TANF and reside in Districts I, II, IIa and III will attend orientations at the District I Department of Labor classroom. Urban area TANF program participants will attend orientations in the Band's Minneapolis Department of Labor classroom.

The orientation will consist of four assessments covering personal barriers, job skills, basic literacy, and basic numeracy. Results from these assessments will be used in the development of individual employment plans.

Other topics that will be covered at the orientation include an introduction to the TANF requirements, employment services, expectations of participants, and financial literacy. The orientation will also provide an overview of the Onaakonan system, which helps participants organize their journey toward self-sufficiency. Onaakonan means "to plan" in Ojibwe.

For more information about the TANF program, application process, or orientations, contact Raina Killspotted, director of case planning and management, at 320-532-4708.



## Band Members to be Featured at Fond du Lac Event

Mille Lacs Band members David "Niib" Aubid, an Ojibwe storyteller, and Jacob Vainio, a 13-year-old musician and composer, will be part of an upcoming storytelling event with a traditional feast, music, youth activities, and silent auction at Fond du Lac Reservation's Sawyer Community Center. This free event will be held from 1-6 p.m. on Saturday, February 18.

Several other notable storytellers will participate, including recording artist Keith Secola; Anishinabe author, poet and playwright Jim Northrup; Anishinabe performer Frank Montano; and storyteller Rick Gresczyk.

For more information, contact Nikki Crowe at 218-878-7148 or Pat Northrup at 218-878-0245.



## Interested in a Health Care Career?

Attention Mille Lacs Band members who are currently in high school or college and interested in a health care career:

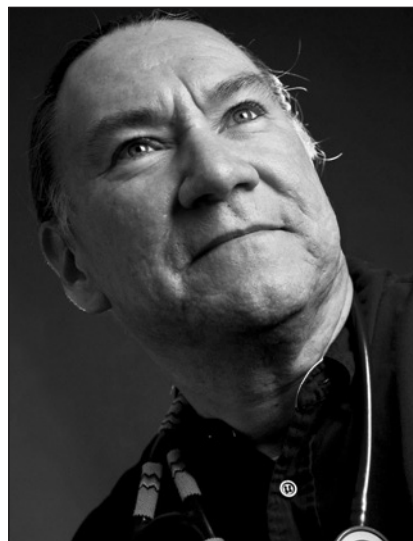
The Center of American Indian and Minority Health (CAIMH) at the University of Minnesota Medical School is offering free summer programs at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

The Native Americans into Medicine (NAM) program is for college undergraduates. It is a six-week summer program from June 18-July 27. NAM participants learn how to develop their personal and professional skills to become a physician or other type of health professional. The curriculum focuses on math and science coursework resembling health professions school content, as well as writing and computer skills. Students also meet with Native American health professionals, community members, and medical school faculty. Participants receive a weekly stipend while participating in the NAM program.

In collaboration with Fond du Lac Reservation, CAIMH is offering Stepping Stones to Health Careers (SSHC), which is for high school students going into grades 10, 11 and 12 in the fall of 2012. There are two one-week residential opportunities to choose from at the University of Minnesota Duluth: either July 8-13 or July 15-20. Students may participate in week 1, week 2, or both weeks, but must return home between weeks 1 and 2. On-campus housing and meals are provided. Students will explore health-related sciences, healthy living, research, and college preparation. Each week will have different topics and activities. Current medical students provide advice and inspiration as they interact with the participants in various activities during the sessions.

For more information on eligibility and how to apply, visit <http://www.caimh.umn.edu>, e-mail [caimh@d.umn.edu](mailto:caimh@d.umn.edu), or call 218-726-7235. The application deadline is April 27 for the NAM program and June 1 for the CAIMH program.

## Frank Taught Me To Enjoy The Simple Things In Life



*Mille Lacs Band member Dr. Arne Vainio, who works on the Fond du Lac Reservation, shares his personal experiences in a series of articles in News From Indian Country.*

Below is an excerpt from Arne's article:

Frank had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer a year ago. Pancreatic cancer is usually spread too far to do anything about by the time it causes symptoms, but Frank's was initially picked up when he had a CT scan for another problem. Luckily, he was able to have the affected part of his pancreas surgically removed.

About six months ago he had a repeat CT scan to see if any cancer had returned, and there was a new tumor in his chest next to his heart. A biopsy showed this was a different cancer than his original pancreatic cancer. The plan was to surgically remove it at one of the specialty hospitals in Minneapolis. A second CT scan several months later showed the cancer had grown. Originally the size of an orange, the tumor had more than quadrupled in size and was compressing the left side of his heart. This caused his heart to go into an abnormal rhythm, which made him short of breath. He also had new tumors around his stomach, and his pancreatic cancer had returned.

The cancer had spread to his esophagus, and it was growing into his aorta. Surgery would have been devastating. The cancer was too widespread to respond to radiation, and Frank

was too sick and weak to tolerate chemotherapy. Since there was no treatment available, he was sent to a nursing home for end-of-life care. He was developmentally delayed and his mental state was the level of a young child. His mother stayed with him in the nursing home as they had never been apart.

We went to the nursing home on the day Frank was admitted. He was able to visit a little bit, but he mostly slept. I touched his arm when I left and told him I would stop in when I could.

"When?," he asked.

"Wednesday," I responded.

In spite of his developmental delay, he always remembered dates and birthdays. I knew he would be expecting me on Wednesday.

Frank and I grew up as cousins, though he was 12 years older than me. I remember him being teased and tormented by other kids. He was afraid of ghosts, which made him an easy target. In spite of the teasing, he never held a grudge and his forgiveness was absolute.

Frank liked to watch wrestling and scary movies. Sometimes during scary movies, he only had his eyes showing from under the covers. His voice would be high-pitched and worried while he was watching. Even the old movies with the fake monsters had the exact same effect on him.

Within several weeks at the nursing home, Frank passed away. His funeral was four days after his death in traditional Ojibwe fashion. There are many preparations to be made and many things need to be done on certain days. This is the responsibility of the family, but there is no way any family could do all of this. The community came together and made sure everything happened as it should.

Frank's traveling bundle had to be made by hand and his clothes had to be sorted through to be given away. He had to be dressed according to

tradition by men who knew the proper mide ceremonies. Ivy had one of our friends make his moccasins. Personal items and food and supplies for his journey had to be prepared the way our ancestors prepared them. The grave had to be dug by hand on the day of the funeral in the pouring rain, but there were no complaints. A group of men and boys got together and started early in the morning and the grave was ready on time.

The ceremony at the wake and the funeral service itself were in Ojibwemowin and were done just the way they have always been done. Watching the community come together to make sure Frank will join our ancestors is a powerful reminder of how important our traditions really are.

Frank was accorded the same respect any Elder would have earned. The fact that he was different made no difference at all. The Elder who performed the ceremony told us that everyone is here for a reason, everyone has a purpose. Everyone is here to teach us. In many ways his childlike view of the world was naïve, but is really a reminder that we do need to see the world as fresh and new sometimes. Life makes us forget to look up at the night sky and we forget to lose ourselves in bad movies and fast wrestling moves.

In the four days following his funeral, we were told Frank's spirit would be made whole again. He has taught his lessons and now he goes to join his ancestors and loved ones free of the worldly disadvantages he had here.

I always drink my coffee black. But for now I've been drinking it like Frank did, with lots of creamer and sugar. I'm also going to dig out my old video copy of "The Creature from the Black Lagoon." I hope I can see everything from under the covers.

Gigawaabaamin, Frank. I'll see you again sometime.

# Tribes Are About Much More Than Casinos

By Marge Anderson, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Stanley R. Crooks, Chairman, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; Norman Deschampe, Chairman, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Karen Diver, Chairwoman, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Kevin Jensvold, Chairman, Upper Sioux Indian Community; Johnny Johnson, President, Prairie Island Indian Community; Floyd "Buck" Jourdain, Chairman, Red Lake Nation; Arthur "Archie" LaRose, Chairman, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; Kevin Leecy, Tribal Chair, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa; and Gabe Prescott, President, Lower Sioux Indian Community

*Editor's note: In response to a Star Tribune article that criticized tribal efforts at the Capitol to support Indian gaming, Chief Executive Marge Anderson and nine other Minnesota tribal leaders wrote a joint guest editorial to help explain their duty to serve and protect their people. The column was published in the Star Tribune on January 20.*

Some Minnesotans refer to tribes not by their official names but by their casinos' names, such as "Grand Casino" for the Mille Lacs Band or "Black Bear" for Fond du Lac. Perhaps that is why many people seem to mistakenly believe that the main purpose of tribes is to operate casinos. This could not be further from reality.

Tribes are governments, with all the same duties and responsibilities that state governments have. Minnesota is home to 11 American Indian tribal governments, whose main job is to serve the needs of our members through health care, education, and other services.

Our people count on us to help them when they are sick, prepare their children for college and careers, make quality housing available, care for the elderly, and be responsible stewards of the lakes and lands on our reservations. They want their voices heard in government, and they want to see solutions to community problems. In short, they expect their governments to meet their needs and make wise use of their resources.

This is a daunting task that didn't garner a single mention in Tony Kennedy's article in the January 15 *Star Tribune*. The misleading use of a \$15 billion "guesstimate" only further feeds the misconception of tribes as nothing more than casino owners spending excessive amounts of money to keep others out of the business. Kennedy's number could only represent total wager before prize payouts and has absolutely no relation to actual revenue. In fact, Minnesota tribes earn nowhere near such an amount in actual net revenue available for tribal government purposes. Well over 90 percent of the amount wagered is returned to bettors in prize payments, under the terms of Minnesota's compacts.

Meeting the needs and expectations of our people takes dedication, time and money. Most of our work is done on our own reservations, but some of the work has to be done in Saint Paul, where

decisions are made that affect nearly every category of work that we do. Tribal leaders, along with the lobbyists we have hired to represent our best interests, work with elected officials and state departments on issues ranging from child welfare and law enforcement to helping fight invasive species in Minnesota lakes.

Working with lobbyists is the responsible thing to do when so many issues are at stake. Of course gaming is one of those issues. Gaming revenues are critical to our governments' ability to provide essential programs and services to our members. Without gaming, we could not come close to meeting our people's needs. Even with gaming, tribal governments still struggle to meet important needs, and some tribal members still go without the basics that most Minnesotans take for granted.

But gaming is only one of the many issues that require Minnesota's tribes to spend time and money at the Capitol. The "battalion of 30 lobbyists" mentioned by Kennedy also represent other non-tribal clients and interests. Tribal gaming is far from being their only issue, and it is not the only issue they advocate for on behalf of tribes.

As tribal governments, we would prefer to spend all of our revenues on directly helping our members, our employees, our neighbors, and worthy causes. We'd be happy if we never had to spend another nickel on

lobbying. But the reality is that we must protect our best interests at the state and federal levels – using the system that has been created for that purpose – because our tribal members are counting on us to do so.

In addition to providing programs and services to our members, the tribes are also major job providers. Statewide, tribes are the sixth largest employer in the state. Many of us are the largest employers in our regions. We provide 20,550 direct casino jobs alone and another 21,000 people work for Minnesota companies that rely on our casinos and tribal governments for business.

Because most of these jobs are in rural areas, they will not be replaced if tribal gaming is harmed. We anticipate a loss of at least 5,000 casino jobs if gaming expands in the metro area, and we know that many more jobs will be at risk among our vendors and neighbors.

Protecting thousands of quality full-time jobs with benefits is worth our time and money at the Capitol. Giving a voice to the 60,000 American Indians in Minnesota is important. For our tribal governments, defending our peoples' interests is not a mere political game. It is our fundamental duty as tribal governments, whether our opponents acknowledge it or not.

## Gaming Expansion Remains in the Stadium Financing Mix

By Jamie Edwards, director of government affairs

While Governor Dayton's deadline has passed for submitting plans for a new Vikings stadium, no decisions on a site or financing have been made.

Gaming expansion continues to be discussed as a possible way to fund the state's portion of the stadium. Governor Dayton has indicated that racinos (slot machines at the state's race tracks) are not his preferred funding source. He believes that potential racino revenue would be delayed due to ensuing legal challenges.

Instead, Dayton prefers electronic pull tabs, which would upgrade traditional paper

charitable pull tab games to upgrade to electronic devices. The revenue generated by the state from electronic pull tabs could be used to pay for the state's share of the stadium.

A potential Vikings stadium and gaming expansion will be highly discussed topics during the 2012 legislative session, which convened on January 24. The Band will work hard to defeat any gaming expansion that would hurt the Mille Lacs Band and Grand Casinos. Gaming expansion would kill jobs in rural communities, which would be difficult – if not impossible – to replace.

As the state considers expanding gambling in Minnesota, the Band is uniting

with its members, employees, vendors, neighbors and friends to help protect our region's economy.

### Take action

You can join the coalition at the Mille Lacs Band Action Center on the Band's website ([www.millelacsband.com](http://www.millelacsband.com)). Once you sign up, you will receive updates on the status of gaming expansion discussions and might be asked to voice your opinions to your legislators at key times.

## First Time Homebuyer Education Class

Interested in buying a home? The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Finance Corporation is offering a class for first-time homebuyers on Saturday, March 3, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The MCT Finance Corporation requires buyers to take this class before they qualify for an MCT loan.

Please contact Cindy Beaulieu at 218-335-8583, ext. 150, or [cbeaulieu@mnchippewatribe.org](mailto:cbeaulieu@mnchippewatribe.org) to reserve your spot in this class.



## First American Indian Woman Elected to Minnesota Legislature



Photo courtesy of Minnesota State Legislature web site

Susan Allen, a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, made history on January 10 when she was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in a special election. The DFLer became the state's first-ever female American Indian legislator.

A total of nine American Indians have served in the Minnesota Legislature, six of whom served when Minnesota was still a territory. Only three American Indians have served in the Legislature since Minnesota became a state in 1858. Susan is the first American Indian legislator since Senator Harold Finn left office in 1996.

Susan is an attorney by trade, specializing in tax law and issues related to tribal contracts and governance.

"I grew up in poverty with many challenges, made it through law school with the support of my family, and became a lawyer so that I could fight for economic and social justice for those who most need an advocate. I know what it's like to feel left out of the process," Susan said on her campaign website.

"I reflect the great diversity of our district, as a Native American woman and a member of the LGBT community [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender], and hope to bring this important voice to the state Capitol to offer more balanced, representative contributions and input," she said.

Susan represents District 61B, which includes Powderhorn Park, Bryant, Lyndale, Kingfield, Field, Regina, and Central neighborhoods in South Minneapolis, some of the poorest areas in the Twin Cities. Approximately 800 of her constituents are American Indians.

## Indian Education Becoming Higher State Priority

In the early 2000s, the State of Minnesota eliminated Indian education offices that had fostered the working relationship between state officials and Minnesota's 11 tribes. Now, after several years and a coalition effort to renew Indian education priorities, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Education Dennis Olson is feeling more confident about the path that education leaders are on.

"The state is recommitted to working alongside tribes and educators to address disparities and the large achievement gap for American Indian students," Dennis said. "The state's education commissioner is supportive and enthusiastic, and the Governor is allowing her to run with her ideas."

Governor Dayton, Minnesota Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius, and tribal and education representatives from around Minnesota gathered for the first-ever Governor's American Indian Education Summit in January. The summit focused on addressing challenges facing the state's Indian students and developing shared strategies to improve their achievement. Currently, American Indian students' test scores lag behind those of their non-Indian peers,

and their dropout rates are higher.

The summit resulted from Commissioner Cassellius hosting a listening session last fall with the Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC), of which Dennis is a member. Formed after the state closed the Indian education offices, TNEC acts as a tribal liaison to the Governor and Commissioner Cassellius on education issues. TNEC includes a member from each of the 11 Minnesota tribes, a Minnesota Chippewa Tribe representative, and at-large members from the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. The agenda for the American Indian Education Summit was developed at this listening session.

TNEC also lobbied for recreating a state Indian education director position. Commissioner Cassellius quickly advocated for the position, and she and TNEC are now in the hiring process.

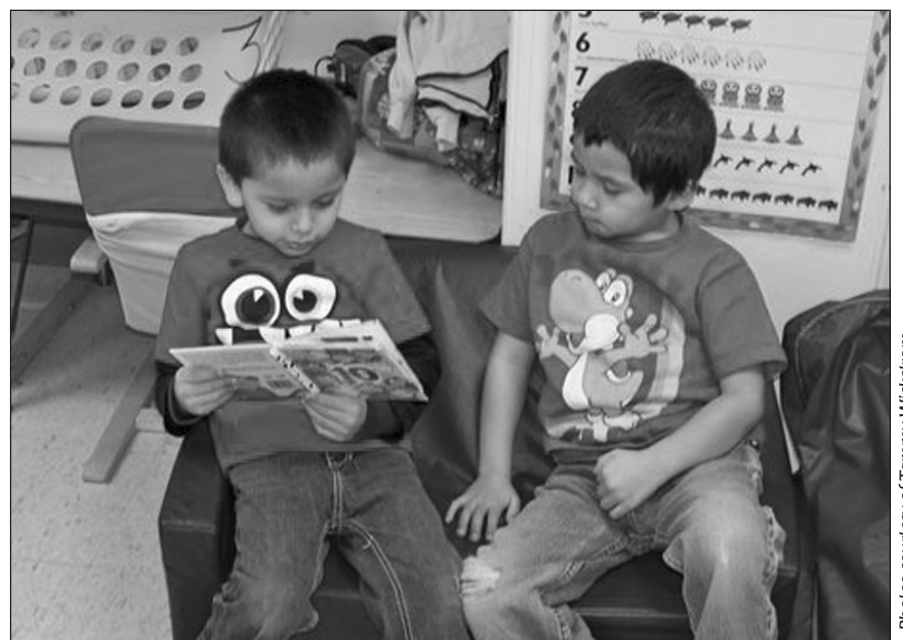
"Our recent progress helps us feel that we are regaining our voice with regard to education at the state level," Dennis said.

Mille Lacs Band member Mary Sam and Onamia Public Schools Superintendent John Varner attended the summit from the Mille Lacs area. Another summit may be held this spring.

## Nay Ah Shing Schools Promote Early Literacy



Nay Ah Shing student Isaiah Jackson reads to Head Start friends Ava Grap-Gahbow and Makiah Eagle. Each week Head Start classrooms 3 and 4 read with Nay Ah Shing kindergarteners as a part of the partner reading program.



Photos courtesy of Tammy Wickstrom

Nay Ah Shing student Darnell Mitchell reads to Kenny Mitchell as a part of the Head Start and kindergarten's partner reading program. The program promotes early literacy for Head Start students and gives the kindergarten students the opportunity to practice their reading skills.

# Public Health Department Updates

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

By Roberta Ladd, health educator

Congratulations to the many Band members who made New Year's resolutions to quit smoking. The Gego Zagaswaaken staff understands how difficult this pledge can be. Band members who need support to help reach their goals or are considering quitting smoking are encouraged to contact Roberta Ladd at 320-532-7812.

Monthly community education sessions featuring the program's new video, along with hands-on demonstrations on how to make kinnikinnick will continue throughout the year. Look for more information on dates, times and locations of the sessions in future *Inaajimowins*.

## WIC clinics to offer dental fluoride varnish this month

By Allison Harr, all-districts MCH coordinator

Oral health is critically important to the overall health and well-being of children. Cavities are painful, and they can disrupt proper development and alignment of facial bones, jaws, and teeth, as well as language development. If proper oral hygiene is practiced, cavities and other serious oral health problems can be prevented.

Even before childbirth, parents and other caregivers should make sure their own mouths are as healthy as possible to reduce the likelihood of spreading harmful, cavity-causing bacteria from their saliva to the newborn baby's mouth. Here are some ways to prevent spread of bad bacteria from caregivers to the infant:

- Practice good oral hygiene and seek dental care every six months
- Do not share utensils, cups, spoons or toothbrushes with an infant
- Do not clean a pacifier with your mouth before giving it to an infant
- Do not put an infant to bed with a bottle
- Wipe infant gums with a wet

cloth after feeding even before teeth appear

- Children age one or older should see the dentist regularly
- Give children healthy snacks such as fruits and vegetables
- Brush the child's teeth twice daily as soon as teeth appear.
- Preschool-aged children should brush with assistance twice a day for at least two minutes with fluoride toothpaste. Children should spit out the toothpaste after brushing but should not rinse their mouths with water. The small amount of toothpaste that remains in their mouths helps prevent tooth decay.

Another way to prevent cavities in children is to use dental fluoride varnish, a safe, protective coating painted on teeth with a brush. Fluoride varnish helps strengthen teeth and prevent tooth decay. The treatment should not replace regular dentist visits.

The Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department will offer dental fluoride varnish during Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics. For more information, contact Allison Harr or Kari DiGiovanni at 320-532-7511.

## Harmful effects of methamphetamines

By Kristy LeBlanc, prevention specialist manager

Methamphetamine (meth), a central nervous system stimulant drug, is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that easily dissolves in water or alcohol. It can be taken orally, by snorting the powder, through needle injection, or by smoking.

Meth is severely addictive and can damage the brain, liver, lungs and kidneys, and cause dental problems, high blood pressure, exhaustion, twitching, loss of appetite and weight, stroke, and even death.

If you know someone battling a meth addiction, encourage them to get help through the Mille Lacs Band Public Health prevention program. Contact Kristy LeBlanc at 320-532-7776 for assessment and treatment options.

# Housing Department 2012 Directives

By Arlene Weous, director of housing department, and Richard Hill, general manager of housing department

The Mille Lacs Band housing department would like to thank all the Band residents who are in good standing with the housing department. The department encourages tenants to continue good homecare habits and share their positive stories about maintaining safe, clean homes in the Mille Lacs Band community.

The housing department is responsible for managing approximately 440 Band-owned homes, including rental properties, Elder homes, and transitional housing in all three districts.

There is a waiting list for each housing option. Band members on the waiting list for each housing option are encouraged to keep their contact information up to date with the housing department to make the process of filling vacated homes more efficient. More information about housing waiting lists can be found online on the Mille Lacs Band's housing page under programs and services at [www.millelacsband.com](http://www.millelacsband.com).

To start off the new year, the housing department would like to remind tenants of the housing policies and share the department's goals.

Overall, the housing department would like to establish more accountability among staff members and tenants to ensure that the homes are properly cared for. Part of this initiative will include

more education on what it means to sustain a healthy, clean home.

Housing maintenance is one of the routine components of sustaining a livable home. New tenants are given a preventative maintenance education checklist and a fire prevention video from a housing staff member upon move-in, and existing tenants receive the same training during their annual maintenance inspections to ensure homes are in adequate condition.

Aside from these precautionary procedures, tenants are encouraged to be mindful of preventative maintenance and understand the importance of communicating with the housing department. Contact Daniel Boyd, housing maintenance coordinator, at 320-532-7415 or 320-630-2620 when there is a problem that should be addressed. Staying on top of problems when they first appear will help avoid more complex and expensive issues.

Some of the housing department's future goals include training staff on financial planning and maintenance procedures so tenants have more resources to utilize.

Look for more housing announcements in future *Inaajimowin* issues. The housing department looks forward to building relationships with its tenants in 2012.

## Mille Lacs Band Housing Christmas Light Contest Winners

Congratulations to all of the winners of the 2011 Christmas light contest!

### District I (south)

- 1st place – Sarah Crannell
- Runner-up – Jeanette Oswaldson
- Runner-up – Bernice Pawaush

### Bugg Hill

- 1st place – Dan Boyd Sr
- Runner-up – Rachel Sam
- Runner-up – Carmen Weous

### Whitefish/ Port Mille Lacs

- 1st place – Pete Nayquonabe

### District IIa (Isle)

- 1st place – Melanie Garbow

### District II (McGregor)

- 1st place – Clarence Moose

### District III (Hinckley area)

- 1st place – Vanessa Gibbs

### District III (Lake Lena area)

- 1st place – Carlene Benjamin
- Runner-up – Candace Benjamin

## Boys & Girls Club Announces Members of the Month



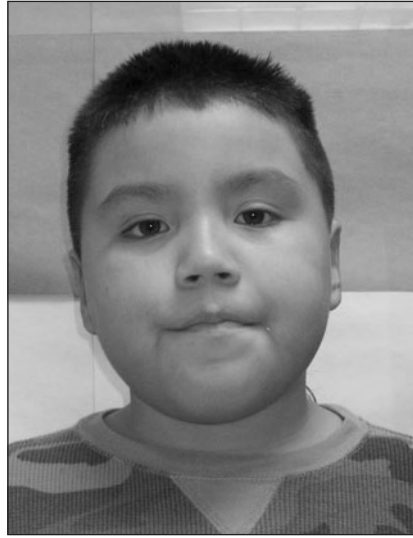
**Leilani Sam**



**Victoria Villebrun**

*By Justin Beaulieu, Boys & Girls Club director, and Charlee Edwards, District Ila Boys & Girls Club coordinator*

The Mille Lacs Band's Boys & Girls Club honored Leilani and Gordon Sam as the club's District I January members of the month, and Victoria



**Gordon Sam**

Villebrun as the District Ila January member of the month.

Leilani and Victoria are third-graders and Gordon is a second-grader. All three attend Nay Ah Shing School.

To be chosen for this award, 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.

Victoria was selected for this honor because of her dedication to homework, passion for helping younger members, good attendance, and enthusiasm for new activities.

Congratulations Leilani, Gordon and Victoria!

Photos courtesy of Justin Beaulieu

## Department of Labor Updates

*By Deb Campbell, Department of Labor lead instructor*

### Free driver's education classes in March

The Department of Labor is offering free driver's education classes to adults age 18 and older who need to take the written portion of the driver's test on March 13, 20 and 22 from 9 a.m.-noon in the District I Department of Labor classroom.

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. Class size is limited, and participants must meet program eligibility.

After completing the three-day 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 call 320-532-4741 or 800-922-4457.

### GED exam offered at Mille Lacs Band Tribal College

The Mille Lacs Band's Department of Labor and Tribal College are facilitating an official GED exam at the Mille Lacs Band Tribal College at 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on April 13 and 20 and August 10 and 17.

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. This means that test takers will need to pass all five subject area tests before 2014, otherwise previous test takers will be required to retake the entire GED 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 at the Tribal College, 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 or to determine if you qualify for this scholarship, 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 Band's Department of Labor's GED preparation program. This program pays for eligible participants' GED exam fees.

To enroll in the Mille Lacs Band's Department of Labor GED preparation program, contact Deb Campbell, Department of Labor lead instructor, at 320-532-7811.

### Department of Labor 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 Department of Labor classroom

- Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Tuesdays from 1-5 p.m.
- Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

#### District II East Lake modular

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

#### District Ila Chiminising Center

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

#### District III Lake Lena Community Center

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

## Snowshoes, an American Indian Invention

In the deep of winter, traditional Ojibwe hunters strapped on snowshoes to maneuver through thick snow. Snowshoes, which were developed by American Indians in the Great Lakes region, allowed the hunters to move more easily in their efforts to feed their families.

Ojibwe hunters wore snowshoes while trapping or stalking prey with bows and arrows. Traditional snowshoes were made up of two basic parts: a hardwood frame and a netting made of hide, twine or sinew (animal tendon). Wide and strong, snowshoes distributed the hunter's weight across a larger surface, preventing the hunter from sinking into the snow.

Ojibwe called the rounded type of snowshoe the "bear paw" because the contraption left a bear-like print in the snow.

Other groups of American Indians referred to the snowshoes as "catfish" because of their shape.

Although the Great Lakes Indians had used the devices for centuries, European trappers and hunters had never seen snowshoes before meeting Indians. Most Europeans, new to the region, relied on horses for transportation, but the deep snow made this kind of travel nearly impossible. So after forging friendships with local Indians, the European trappers and hunters began using snowshoes too.

Few people, Indian or non-Indian, continue to trap or hunt during the winter. But snowshoes are now known throughout the world and are widely used for sport and recreation.

# Diabetes Program Events

By Johanna Larson, diabetes program coordinator

## February is American Heart Month

The diabetes program will celebrate American Heart Month at the monthly healthy heart classes in each district. Classes, which begin at noon, are scheduled for:

- Monday, February 13, at the District IIa Community Center
- Tuesday, February 21, at the District III Community Center
- Tuesday, February 28, at the District I Community Center

## Family meal nights

The diabetes program will host the second monthly family meal night on Thursday, February 23, at the District I Community Center at 5:30 p.m.

At family meal nights, interested community members can learn healthy cooking tips and make a healthy meal together with their family. Community members also have an opportunity to ask diabetes program staff diet and weight questions while children participate in fun, physical activities.

For more information, contact Johanna Larson at 320-532-7790.

## Focus on your feet

Have you had your feet checked recently? It is recommended to have a foot exam once a year. The Mille Lacs Band's foot doctor, Dr. Ryan, is available for appointments at each district's clinic on the following days:

- Ne-la-Shing Clinic: Every Thursday
- Aazhoomog Clinic: The first Wednesday of each month
- East Lake Clinic: The third Wednesday of each month

Call your clinic to schedule your foot exam, or contact Johanna Larson at 320-532-7790 for more information.

# Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

December 2011

	Approved budget for FY 2012	Actual expenditures through 12/31/11	% of budget expended
Administration (1)		\$4,519,290	
Workforce		\$1,279,878	
Judicial		\$154,123	
Law enforcement		\$951,167	
Education		\$3,788,160	
Health and human services		\$3,611,505	
Natural resources		\$1,054,958	
Community development		\$5,401,236	
Gaming authority		\$1,071,483	
Bonus distribution	\$19,921,924	\$17,624,318	88.5%
Economic stimulus	\$3,000,000	\$2,493,479	83.1%
<b>Total expenditures</b>		<b>\$41,949,598</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.
- (5) Currently the Mille Lacs Band Government programs are operating on a continuing resolution until January 31, 2012.

## Early Education Department Announcements

By Cindi Cooley, early learning parent mentor coach

Mii gwech to all of the parents whose children had 100% attendance during December. Good attendance is very important for education development, and the early education department encourages parents to continue making good attendance a priority for their children.

If your child has to miss school, make sure you contact the school in advance at 320-532-4690. This will make sure the absence is excused instead of unexcused.

Also, if your child normally rides the bus and you need to pick your child up from school instead, remember to call the school by 2 p.m. that day to give adequate time to notify the staff and bus drivers.

### Parent Cafes

As a reminder, Parent Cafes are held every Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. at the Lower School. The early education department is putting together a scrapbook with the early education students. At the Parent Cafes, parents can help with the project by contributing childhood pictures and stories. Throughout the month of February, Parent Cafes will also cover parenting topics such as positive parenting, single parenting concerns, and grieving over the loss of loved ones.

For more information about Parent Cafes, contact Cindi Cooley or Becky Johnson at 320-532-4690.

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

If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, or if you are a Band member homeowner living within the service area and need emergency maintenance during the winter months, call the housing maintenance supervisor in your district. During regular business hours, please call our customer service representative at 800-709-6445, ext. 7433 or call direct at 320-532-7433. If you need assistance after hours, please call 866-822-8538. Press 1, 2 or 3 for your respective district.

# Tribal Noteboard

## Happy February birthday:

**Jenny**, on February 3 with love from Wesley, Deek, Tracy, Kelly, Jay, Kellen, Rachel, June, Taya and Noah • **Nancy**, on February 17 from your family • **Bobbi Sam**, from your family • **Bobber Head**, with love from Nancy, Kyla, Bundy, and Coda Gahbow • **Joseph**, 17, on February 25 with love from Mom, Dad and family • **John**, on February 25 with love from Renee, Troy and family • **Jeremiah Churchill**, on February 1 with love from your Churchill family • **Anna Churchill**, on February 17 with love from your Churchill family • **Ryan O'Brien**, on February 19 with love from your Churchill family • **Arianna Donahue**, on February 19 with love from your Churchill family • **Audrey Stately**, on February 7 from Robert, Candy, Leland, grandkids, and great grandkids • **Chantelle Beaulieu**, 24, on February 3 from Dad, Aunty, Leland, Rod, Louise, Shane, Courtney and Connor • **Kenny Towle**, from Rachelle and the HOWL crew • **Blaze X. Harkness**, 1, on February 7 with love from Mom and Dad • **Braelyn Harrington**, 9, on February 22 from Mom, Isabel, Luis, Brynley, Grandma Pam, Dad, Kristy, Peyton, Eric, Wesley, Val, Mariah, Papa Brad, Nicole, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Lil Chris, Gram K, Gram AA, Tracy, Jarvis, Shelby, Max Dean, Aidan, Rachel, Waylon, Sharon, Ravin, Melz, Randi, Jay, Kate, Taylor, and Adam Parker • **Gladys**, on February 3 with love from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **Clayton Jr.**, 14, on February 7 with love from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff, Jon, Mom, Dad, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Gramma Gladys, Grandpa Ron, Desi, Lydell, Kayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Roland Jr., Roland Sr., Collin, Roger, Bev, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Isaiah**, on February 10 with love from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff, Jon, Evan, Colleen, Susan, Maggie Sue, Grandpa Lenny, and Dad • **Raina**, on February 23 from Lenore, Tyson Faith, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **Rosa**, on February 26 from Eva, Jeff, Lenore, Tyson, Faith and Jon • **Brandon Boyd**, 17, on February 3 from Aunt Judy • **Chandler Connors**, 4, on February 2 with love from Grandma Judy and Grandpa Juice, Mom, Dayaunna, Morgan, and Tanya • **Courtney Boyd**, 19, on February 8 with love from Dad, Mom, Shane, Connor, Kelsie, Dan, and the rest of the family • **Cheyenne Davis**, on February 20 from Rod, Louise, Shane, Courtney, Connor, mom,

Boz, Mitzi, Marlow, Franny, Nubs, Ricki, Kendra, Sean, and the rest of your family • **Stephen Loso**, 22, on February 28 with love from Auntie D • **Melanie Benjamin**, on February 4 from the Smith and Garbow families • **Danica Benjamin**, 2, with love from Mom, Dad, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Gramma Gladys, Grandpa Ron, Desi, Lydell, Kayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Roland Jr., Roland Sr., Collin, Roger, Bev, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Roxann Benjamin**, 9, on February 6 with love from Mom, Dad, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Clayton Jr., Danica, Gramma Gladys, Grandpa Ron, Desi, Lydell, Kayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Roland Jr., Roland Sr., Collin, Roger, Bev, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Kaitlynn Wind**, on February 2 from Gladys, Ron, Desi, Lydell, Kayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Roland Jr., Roland Sr., Collin, Roger, Bev, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Brevin Bugg**, on February 4 from Gladys, Ron, Desi, Lydell, Kayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Roland Jr., Roland Sr., Collin, Roger, Bev, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **RaeAnn Sam**, on February 13 from the Smith and Garbow families • **Lil Chris**, on February 7 with love from Mom, Dad, Jameson, Cordell, Gram K, Gram AA, Val, Mariah, Kevin, Tracy, Jarvis, Shelby, Max Dean, Aidan, Jacob, Jamie, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Rachel, Waylon, Sharon, Ravin, Melz, Brad, Randi, Jay, Kate, Taylor, Adam Parker, Brad Eric, Kristy, Peyton, Braelyn, Eric, Wesley, and Brynley • **Jacob**, on February 16 with love from Mom, Jamie, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Val, Mariah, Kevin, Nicole, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Lil Chris, Gram K, Gram AA, Tracy, Jarvis, Shelby, Max Dean, Aidan, Rachel, Waylon, Sharon, Ravin, Melz, Randi, Jay, Kate, Taylor, and Adam Parker • **Cordell**, on February 23 with love from Mom, Dad, Jameson, Lil Chris, Gram K, Gram AA, Val, Mariah, Kevin, Tracy, Jarvis, Shelby, Max Dean, Aidan, Jacob, Jamie, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Rachel, Waylon, Sharon, Ravin, Melz, Brad, Randi, Jay, Kate, Taylor, Adam Parker, Brad Eric, Kristy, Peyton, Braelyn, Eric, Wesley, and Brynley • **Simone**, 15, on February 11 with love from Mary, Selena, Dante, Mase, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Gramma, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Frankie, Mom, Joe, Donny, Joey, Sheila, Bruce, Jeannette and Jim • **Gramma Vera**, on February 20 with love from Beaner, Dante, Mase, Shawsha, DayDay, Soul, DeaLayna, Stone,

June Bugg, Franny, Simone, Donny, JoJo, Sheila, and Nettie Poo • **Mona**, on February 13 from Vera, DeaLayna, Stone, Danielle, Derek, Franny, Mary, Selena, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Dante, Maysun, Rachel, Simone, Donne, Sheila, Joey, Jim, Jeannette and Bruce • **Mase Sr.**, on February 13 with love from Shawsha, Mase Jr., Soul, Daymon, and Dante • **Maylon**, on February 19 from Auntie Vera and all your cousins • **Dennis Thomas**, on February 11 with love from Sassi and Willow • **Antwaun**, 13, on February 18 with love from Mom, Billy, Cheyaunna, Laila, Lil Ricki, Baby Wax, Nema, grandma, and your uncles • **Pauline Sam**, on February 12 from Molly, Scott and family • **Mimi**, on February 23 with love from Gramma Molly, Papa Scott and family.

## Happy February birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Nancy Arnoux  
Laura Ashcroft  
Frank Benjamin Jr.  
Melanie Benjamin  
Debra Blake  
Judy Carlson  
Harry Davis  
Bonita Eagle  
Douglas Eagle  
Eileen Farah  
Eugene Garbow  
Beverly Graves  
Mary Hoffer  
Donald Houle  
Conrad Kegg  
Maggie Kegg  
George LaFave Jr.  
Dwight Madison Jr.  
Victoria Mitchell  
Gilbert Moose  
Debra Northrup  
Robin Oswaldson  
Rhonda Peet  
Alan Pindegayosh  
Lawrence Reynolds  
Ellen Roth  
Bette Sam  
Darlene Sam  
Gladys Sam  
Kenneth Shingobe  
Alvera Smith  
Elizabeth St. John  
Robert Staples  
Audrey Stately  
Berniece Sutton  
Emma Thomas  
Ramona Washington  
Tony Weous

Patrick Weyaus  
Marilyn Whitney  
Clyde Wind  
Dorothy Wistrom

## Birth announcement

Congratulations to Maria Costello and Charles Aubid Sr. on the birth of their new baby boy. **Jaxsen James Aubid** was born on December 20, 2011, weighed 7 lbs., 7 oz., and was 19 in. long. He is welcomed home by Sonny, Elle, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Sonny and Cassandra Vizenor** for receiving their A.S. degree in criminal justice from North Hennepin Community College. They also helped create the Native American Nations Association while at the college and served as president and vice-president. *From mom, James, Robert and Roland.*

• • •  
Congratulations to **Alejandra Merrill** for a receiving a Husky High 5 award. Alejandra is in the second grade at Isle Elementary School.

## Anniversary

Congratulations to **Don and Alice Olson** on celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary on January 15. *With love from your family.*

## In memory

In loving memory of **Harold St. Clair**. I miss you Mick! I especially miss our talks and being together almost every day. It will be three years on January 21 since you said goodbye to me. I think of you every day and wish you were still with me. I love you and miss you so much. You're missed and we love you *from mom and family.*

• • •  
In loving memory of **Mary J. Reynolds**. It's been over three years since you took your journey and moved on from this life. While we miss you every day, knowing you're finally happy and pain free is a comfort. You are loved just as much today as ever. Keep smiling beautiful lady. We'll meet again someday. *From your family.*

## Obituaries

### Rose Anna Benjamin

Born - December 16, 1954  
Died - December 16, 2012  
Lived in Hinckley



## Moccasin Telegraph



### My Grandma and Aunt Rose

By Isabelle Eubanks, Mille Lacs Band Elder

I grew up in Isle, where I was raised by my grandmother and my aunt Rose. My father moved us here from Fond du Lac just after my mother passed away. I was only a baby, the youngest of six children.

I stayed here year-round until I was in the fifth grade. My sisters and brothers were away at Indian boarding school, so I asked my aunt if I could go too. Every year we would go away to school from September to May. We got to come home in the summer, except for one year. We would look on a list and if your name was on it, you would go home. That year, our names weren't on the list, so me and my sister stayed at school. While we were there, we husked corn, broke the ends off green beans, and went swimming. Indian kids came from all over the United States, and we got to meet them. It was fun, but we forgot our language because we never spoke it – the school didn't let the students talk Indian.

By the time we got home in the summers, we would be speaking only English. Before I left Isle, I could talk to my grandmother, but when I came back from school, I would forget a lot of the words. I would try to talk in our language, but I would forget what I was going to say, so it would get real frustrating. I can understand the language now better than I can speak it,

but there's still quite a bit I don't understand.

When I would come home in the summer, my grandma and the others used to camp out by the highway and make birch bark baskets. They would put them out every day and sell them. If I wanted any money, I would have to make them too, but I only made the small baskets and little miniature canoes. They would sell, and I would get a little money. We didn't have much, but we were happy.

My grandma didn't believe in anybody being idle. She always wanted me to be doing something and be productive. When I would get up in the morning, I would take my time doing everything – making my bed, getting dressed, eating breakfast, doing the dishes – because when I was done, I knew I had to start sewing.

When she made birch bark baskets, grandma would get the basket fiber from big rolls of basswood bark. She would take the rolls and pound them against a tree to flatten them out and make the fiber. Then we would make the designs on the birch bark. Then the fiber would have to be dyed to make the color you wanted, and we would stitch the designs on the birch bark with the fiber. When I think back, that was a lot of work. But they turned out nice.

My grandma also used to teach me how to make fry bread. When I was grown up, I would make it once in a while and my kids liked it, but it wasn't like my aunt Rose's bread. I can only make small ones, but I think I will start trying again.

I moved down to the cities in 1952, right after school was over. I had a family, raised my children, and worked at the American Indian Center. I just moved back up here to Isle in 2000. While raising my children, I didn't have much time, so it is just now that I'm starting to get back in the cultural aspect of things.

## Mille Lacs Indian Museum Craft Workshops

The Mille Lacs Band has long been known for its talented artists and craftspeople. Basket making, beading, and using natural materials to create beautiful Ojibwe designs are skills that have been handed down from one generation to the next.

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum hosts workshops each month to teach people how to make traditional Ojibwe crafts, from birch bark ornaments to sweet grass baskets to leather moccasins. Mille Lacs Band Elders teach many of the classes.

Below are photos of crafts made at recent workshops.



Miniature ornaments made from birch bark



Sweetgrass baskets



Ojibwe-style mittens

### Ojibwe moccasin workshop

Learn techniques of leather working in this two-day class. Participants will make a pair of Ojibwe-style moccasins to take home. This class will be held on Saturday, February 25, from noon-4 p.m. and Sunday, February 26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The workshop costs \$60 for the general public or \$55 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band

members, plus an additional \$15 supply fee.

### Kids craft workshop

Listen to museum staff read storybooks, enjoy light snacks, and learn how to bead a ring. This project is recommended for children eight years or older.

The workshop costs \$3 per kit and will be held on Saturday, February 4, from noon-4 p.m.

Please call 320-532-3632 for more information.

Photos courtesy of Mille Lacs Indian Museum

# Calendar of Events

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>*To Purchase Tickets</b></p> <p>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800-745-3000, or visit <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com">www.ticketmaster.com</a></p>	<p>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651-292-8062 or write to Kelly at <a href="mailto:kelly@goffpublic.com">kelly@goffpublic.com</a></p>		1	2	3	4
					<p><b>2012 Elections:</b> Close of filing period (See page 3)</p> <p><b>America's Favorite Dancers*</b> Grand Casino Hinckley 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Kids Crafts</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum Noon-4 p.m.</p> <p><b>America's Favorite Dancers*</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 8 p.m.</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<p><b>Narcotics Anonymous</b> Red Brick House 6-7 p.m. Every Monday</p>	<p><b>Onamia Indian Education Meeting</b> Rolf Olson Center Noon Contact: David Sam, 320-532-4901</p>	<p><b>District I Community Meeting</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Rachel Peirce 320-532-7423</p>			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<p><b>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting</b> 5 p.m. Contact: Melanie Benjamin 320-384-7598</p> <p><b>AMVETS Meeting</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 6 p.m. Contact: Allen Weyaus 320-630-2988</p>		<p><b>District III Community Meeting</b> Grand Casino Hinckley 6 p.m. Contact: Katie Draper 320-384-6240</p>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<p><b>All government offices closed for Chief's Day</b></p>	<p><b>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting</b> 4 p.m. Contact: Raina Killspotted 218-768-2345</p>	<p><b>District Ila Community Meeting</b> Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam 320-676-1102</p>	<p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> East Lake Community Center 5 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh 218-768-3311</p> <p><b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson 612-872-1424</p>		<p><b>Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum Noon-4 p.m.</p>
26	27	28	29	March 1	2	3
<p><b>Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</p>					<p><b>Roger Hodgson*</b> Grand Casino Hinckley 8 p.m.</p>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

# How Do You Give Back To The Community?

## Brad Harrington Sr.



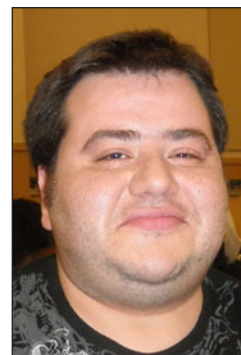
"I help out my neighbors with their housing issues, mow their grass, or shovel the snow from their driveway. The act of kindness goes a long way."

## Anthony Davis



"I built picnic tables for DNR and the community center in District Ila Isle. I also help mow Elders' lawns in the summer."

## Erik Parsons



"I exercise our treaty rights and give away fish and wild rice to the Elders and other community members."

## Circle of Health Updates

By Circle of Health staff

### Circle of Health hires new director

Circle of Health welcomed Band member Carol Hernandez back to its department as director in January. From 2000-2005 Carol worked for Circle of Health as the urban case manager.

As director, Carol will be working with the Department of Administration to address the directive from Chief Executive Marge Anderson to establish Band-wide health insurance. Band members can expect to receive mailed updates in the near future.

"I'm pleased to return to Circle of Health and work to better meet the needs of Band members," Carol said. "My goal is to assure that both Band members and providers receive prompt and courteous service."

### Annual updates

Thank you to the Band members who completed their annual updates at State of the Band. Band members who took the forms home will still need to submit copies of their insurance cards (both front and back). Band members who have not completed the annual update can request forms to be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to them. Otherwise the forms can be found on the Mille Lacs Band website, [www.millelacsband.com](http://www.millelacsband.com), under programs – Circle of Health.

Beginning in April, without this information on file, any future reimbursement requests will be put on hold until Circle of Health receives the requested information. The annual update information is vital for communication between Band members, insurance companies, and employers.

### Medicare premium reimbursements

The next processing period for quarterly reimbursements will be the second week of April. Band members who have not received their first-quarter reimbursement, which includes the months of January-March, should contact their claims processor in case he or she hasn't received their annual award letter for 2012.

### Diagnostic tests

All Band members who have radiology tests such as x-rays, MRIs or CT scans need to contact their provider's billing office to provide their Circle of Health information in addition to providing it to the clinic.

The billing office will ask for the date of service and an account number, so make sure to have those readily available. Also, an explanation of benefits (EOB) is needed along with a statement in order to process the claim. An EOB is usually sent by mail or e-mail. If it isn't received or is misplaced, Band members can call the customer service number on the back of their insurance card to request another copy. A date of service will need to be provided.

### Reimbursements

Lastly, Band members should allow a two- to six-week grace period from the date of their claims reimbursement submission. Band members who don't receive anything within six weeks should contact their claims processor, David Boyd (last names A-L), Roberta Lemieux (last names M-Z), or Carol Hernandez, Circle of Health director, at 320-676-8214 or 800-491-6106.

## 2012 State of the Band Address



Photos courtesy of Kelly Sam

Chief Executive Marge Anderson delivered the 28th annual State of the Band Address on January 10. Pictured (from left to right) at the event are Marge's great grandson Dallas Anderson, Marge, her granddaughter Tina Anderson, and great granddaughter Shyla Lussier Anderson.



Band Assembly members attended the State of the Band Address. Pictured (from left to right) are Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk, District III Representative Diane Gibbs, District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, and District I Representative Sandra Blake.



Band members Allen Weyaus, Dan Boyd Jr., Diane Nickaboine, and Renee Pewaus presented the flags at the State of the Band Address.