

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

January 2011

"The story as it's told."

Volume 13 • Number 1

Marge Anderson Honored by Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce



Sharon James (left) from the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce and Janice Bad Moccasin (right) from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community presented the Bear Award to Molly Judkins (center), executive assistant to Marge Anderson. Molly accepted the Bear Award on Marge's behalf.

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson was honored in December for her longtime commitment to tribal economic development. The Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce presented Marge with its Bear Award, recognizing her achievements in using gaming revenues to diversify the Band's economy, provide jobs, and expand services to Band members and the community.

Marge is one of the nation's most respected tribal leaders and a foremost advocate for tribal sovereignty and self-governance. Her extensive honors include selection as one of the 25 most influential women in Minnesota by *CityBusiness* (now the *Minneapolis/Saint Paul Business Journal*) and one of the 100 most influential Minnesotans of the twentieth century by the *Star Tribune*. She also received the

Wendell Chino Humanitarian Award from the National Indian Gaming Association and the Tribal Leader of the Year Award from the National Congress of American Indians.

The Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce gives the Bear Award to one individual each year who has shown an extraordinary commitment to the development and success of American Indian businesses.

Woodlands National Bank also wins award

Marge's Bear Award was one of five presented at the chamber's annual dinner on December 16. The chamber's Buffalo Award was given to Mille Lacs Band-owned Woodlands National Bank in recognition of its support of other American Indian businesses.

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 Band members better. The Band will use these tools to post information about its programs and services, pictures from Band events, news, and more.

Facebook: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

"Like" us on Facebook by going to www.facebook.com and searching for "Mille Lacs

Band of Ojibwe." Click "like" when you get to the page.

Twitter: millelacsband

Follow us on Twitter by going to twitter.com/millelacsband and click "follow."

LinkedIn: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Connect with us on LinkedIn by going to www.linkedin.com. Search for "Mille Lacs Band" under companies and choose "follow company."

2011 State of the Band Address



All Band members are invited to the 27th Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe State of the Band Address on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. The event will be held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center and starts at 10 a.m.



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
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Holiday Parties Attract Large Crowds

By Toya Stewart Downey

Urban area

Even the worst blizzard of the decade couldn't keep some Band members away from the urban area's annual holiday party.

About 150 people, including Band officials, corporate commission staff, Band employees, and the community, braved the elements to gather at the American Indian Center on Saturday, December 11.

When she learned that a snowstorm was going to hit the Twin Cities, Barb Benjamin-Robertson, urban program administrator, said she had doubts about whether to hold the party as scheduled or postpone it for a later date. Because so much effort had gone into the food preparations and staff were already in town to help, the party proceeded.

Even Santa Claus made an appearance spreading holiday cheer.

District I

Hundreds of Band members and their families, Band employees and others helped usher in the holiday season at the District I holiday party on Wednesday, December 15.

Maxwell Blake provided a relaxing atmosphere and played the flute during social hour.

The highlight of the evening was the performance by the Nay Ah Shing students, staff and employees. About 77 people from the schools participated in various song and dance routines.

The video/reading club recited the classic song, "My Favorite Things." The Maiingan Movers danced to the hit tune, "Party in the USA" by teen talent Miley Cyrus. And the school's athletic and activities staff danced to the Michael Jackson hit "Thriller" – all while wearing elf costumes.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus were on hand throughout the evening to visit guests.

Gift cards were distributed to District I residents who attended the party.



The Nay Ah Shing video/reading club recited the song, "My Favorite Things," at the District I holiday party.



The Maiingan Movers danced to "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus at the District I holiday party.



Director of Operations for the Band's Boys and Girls Club Justin Beaulieu (center) and Nay Ah Shing's athletic and activities staff danced to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" at the District I holiday party.



Commissioner of Education Dennis Olson (left), Commissioner of Health and Human Services Don Eubanks, and Urban Area Program Administrator Barb Benjamin-Robertson braved the snow to attend at the urban area holiday party.



Children visit Santa Claus at the urban area holiday party.



Children celebrate the holidays at the urban area holiday party.

Photos courtesy of Toya Stewart Downey

Boys & Girls Club Chapters Open in Each District



The new Boys & Girls Club staff includes (left to right) Erik Parsons, Phillip Sam, Justin Beaulieu, Weylin Davis, and Gilbert Zamora.

Youth ages 5-18 invited to participate

The Mille Lacs Band has started Boys & Girls Club chapters in each reservation district. The Boys & Girls Club is nationally renowned as a safe place for kids to learn, grow, and foster positive relationships with other youth and adults.

"The community has been asking for new ways to help our youth set and achieve goals. People want to see a reduction in crime and dropout rates, and more accountability in how we work with our kids," said Dennis Olson, Commissioner of Education for the Mille Lacs Band. "The Boys & Girls Club is one of the most proven programs known for making progress in these areas."

Band families with youth ages 5-18 are invited to sign up; there is no cost to participate. Boys & Girls Club activities run each Saturday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Monday-Friday after school until 8 p.m. for kids ages 5-12 and until 10 p.m. for youth ages 13-18. All activities are based at the Mille Lacs, Isle, East Lake, and Lake Lena community centers.

How this program is different

The Boys & Girls Club of the Mille Lacs Band replaces the Community Recreation and Sports Program in each reservation district. There are several benefits to the new program, says Justin Beaulieu, director of operations for the Band's four Boys & Girls Club chapters.

"The Boys & Girls Club has been around for 140 years. It's a successful model for fostering

healthy, productive youth, and it has existing resources that we can tap into and adapt to match the needs of the communities and the youth we serve," Justin said.

The Mille Lacs Band is currently funding the program, but "we will look at grants and other additional funding sources in the future," Justin said. Because the Boys & Girls Club is such a respected and well-known name, finding funding sources for a Boys & Girls Club chapter will be easier than pursuing them as an independent tribal youth program.

One of the reasons why the Boys & Girls Club has become so respected is that it provides quality programming that is continuously measured to ensure success. Justin and other program leaders will evaluate the ongoing progress of the program and make adjustments as needed.

"The Boys & Girls Club model includes standard programming, however, we will be assessing the needs of the community and the youth to offer variations that fulfill the needs of both," Justin added.

Another feature that Justin is looking into is transportation – both from local schools to the community centers and from the community centers to kids' homes. "We are working with the school districts to coordinate transportation to the centers. We are also exploring better options for transport after programming," he said.

Education, arts, culture and recreation activities

Boys & Girls Club programs focus on education, career,

character, leadership, health, life skills, and arts topics as well as sports, fitness and recreation. The Band's Boys & Girls Club staff members each specialize in a specific area, so that the youth know who to turn to as their leaders in the various areas, from homework assistance to health and fitness.

For example, the education specialists in each district will communicate with the schools so that they are better equipped to help youth with their homework.

"We want teachers to know that they can call us, and we want kids to know that they can have our one-on-one attention when necessary," Justin said.

While some features, such as homework assistance, will be available every day, other Boys & Girls Club activities will vary from day to day and week to week. A weekly schedule will be posted on www.millelacsband.com and at the community centers. When activities are scheduled that need permission, a weekly schedule will be sent home with the youth for parents or guardians to sign.

How to sign up

Parents or guardians who want to sign their kids up for the Boys & Girls Club can do so at any of the community centers. If you have any questions, the Boys & Girls Club district coordinators are:

- Phillip Sam, District I: 320/532-7518
- Gilbert Zamora, District II: 218/768-3311, ext. 2230
- Erik Parsons, District IIa: 320/676-1102
- Weylin Davis, District III: 320/384-6240, ext. 237

Justin Beaulieu also welcomes questions and suggestions. Contact Justin at 320/532-7586 or justin.beaulieu@millelacsband.com.

Upcoming open houses

The Boys & Girls Club will host open houses in February. Watch the bulletin boards at the community centers or www.millelacsband.com for dates and times in each district.

Central Lakes College Offers Free Nursing Assistant Class

The Mille Lacs Band is partnering with Central Lakes College and the Mille Lacs Health System to offer a free nursing assistant class to anyone interested in a career in health care. Band members who are interested in becoming a nursing assistant and/or home health aide are encouraged to register. Tuition, supplies and uniforms will be provided through a grant from HealthForce Minnesota.

The nursing assistant class will enable students to practice and demonstrate basic nursing skills in supervised laboratory and clinical settings. Clinical sessions will be performed in a nursing home.

The class will also teach nursing ethics, basic human needs, and personal care skills.

Upon completion of the three-credit college course, students will be eligible to take a test to be placed on the Minnesota Nursing Assistant Registry.

The purpose of this course is to recruit and train low income, first generation, students of color and American Indians in professional health careers.

The nursing assistant class will take place from January 25-March 14 at Mille Lacs Health System hospital in Onamia. Classes will be held Monday-Thursday from 4-7:30 p.m.

Students must register for the course by Friday, January 21. To register or receive more information, Mille Lacs Band members should contact Deb Campbell at 320/532-4741 and non-Mille Lacs Band members should contact Jean Mershon at 218/855-8236.

The Band, Central Lakes College, Mille Lacs Health System, and Nay Ah Shing, Isle and Onamia schools are also planning to offer a class for high school students in the spring interested in becoming nurses' aides. The *Inaajimowin* will have more updates as they become available.

Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health staff

Medicare

Medicare reimbursements for January, February and March will be processed and mailed by Friday, January 14.

If you have not received your award letter, call Medicare (800/633-4227) or your local social security office to request a new award letter.

Once we receive your award letter, we will reimburse you within our reimbursement period. We will automatically include you in the next round of reimbursements in April. These reimbursements will be for April, May and June.

State of the Band

Please stop by our table at State of the Band to update your yearly enrollment and consent forms. At this time, we need to make copies of the front and back of your current insurance cards. Once we have this information, you can request new cards to be mailed to you. We will have a prize drawing for those who complete their forms and bring in their insurance cards.

Insurance updates

The following updates are provided by our office on a quarterly basis. If you encounter a recurring problem, please call our office and let your claims processor know.

Private insurance

Every year insurance carriers adjust their monthly premium amounts, so watch for insurance packets. In most cases, they will request that you fill out information. Circle of Health is not responsible for filling out information on behalf of Band members. If you do not complete and return the requested information you risk the termination of your policy.

Requests from insurance carriers could include, but is not limited to:

- Consent of release of information forms
- Health history updates
- Acknowledgement of premium increases
- More information about dates of questionable service

- Information about dependents and secondary schooling
- Payer information
- Additional contact information

If you have immediate questions, or would like to find out when your annual increase is effective, call the 1-800 customer service number located on the back of your insurance card.

Remember that requesting that your premium notices be mailed directly to Circle of Health does not guarantee that we will receive them. It is each Band member's responsibility to ensure that we receive your monthly or quarterly premium notices.

Dental coverage plans

A new year has begun and most dental plans' yearly dental benefits are available up to the maximum coverage amount. Most dental plans run from January 1 through December 31, but you should call to verify this as there are some that may go by your enrollment date.

As always, before any procedures takes place, you should ask your provider or call your insurance directly to find out what your insurance will cover. Any cost incurred will be your responsibility.

A reminder, if you have recently applied for a private health policy and completed all Circle of Health update forms, you are also eligible to sign up for Brokers Life. Brokers Life can provide you with dental and vision coverage. Call the benefit coordinator if you have questions or would like to request more information.

Contact information

Please allow a two- to six-week grace period for reimbursement claims from the date of submission. If you have any questions, please contact David Boyd (A-L), Roberta Lemieux (M-Z), or Michelle Palomaki, director of Circle of Health, at 320/676-8214 or 800/491-6106.

Second Grader Wins Casinos' Holiday Card Contest



Ronni Jourdain (left), Dawn White (right), and Dajatay Barnes (not pictured) received prizes from Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley for their holiday artwork.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley chose Nay Ah Shing second-grader Dawn White's holiday artwork for their 2010 holiday card. Dawn received a pink Pendelton blanket and 50 holiday cards.

Every year, the Nay Ah Shing elementary school students draw a holiday scene for the casinos' holiday card contest.

After careful consideration, casino employees chose one of the drawings to be printed on their company's holiday card.

Dajatay Barnes won second place, receiving a \$50 prize. Ronni Jourdain placed third and won a \$25 prize. Each of the teachers received a \$65 donation from Grand Casino to their classrooms for participating in the contest.

Get Involved in Tribal Government

By Curt Kalk,
Secretary/Treasurer

The elected officials have heard from several Band members who are interested in getting involved in the tribal government. The other elected officials and I are excited to have more participation from Band members.

Below are the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe election guidelines. While the Mille Lacs Band will not hold its next elections until 2012, it is important to read the guidelines early, because candidates must meet residency requirements for the 2012 elections.

There are also several opportunities to get involved in the tribal government by serving on boards. We will print the available board openings and their term limits in next month's *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

MCT candidate eligibility guidelines

A candidate for office must:
(1) be an enrolled member of

the Tribe; (2) be enrolled with the Reservation of his/her candidacy; (3) reside on the Reservation of his/her candidacy and enrollment; and (4) meet the requirements of Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution, as set forth in subsection D of this Section. A candidate for Committeeperson to represent a district established pursuant to Chapter I, Section 4.1, below, must reside in the district of his/her candidacy and enrollment. *Requirements (1), (2) and (3) must be met for at least the 12-month period immediately preceding the date established for the Primary election.* No member of the Tribe will be eligible to hold office, either as a Committeeperson or Officer, unless he or she will reach his/her twenty-first (21st) birthday on or before the date of the election. A candidate may file for only one (1) position.

To read a full version of the MCT election guidelines, visit www.mnchippewatribe.org/election_ordinance.pdf.

Band Member Accepted Into Political Fellowship



Photo courtesy of Carla Big Bear

Carla Big Bear

By Toya Stewart Downey

Band member Carla Big Bear is one of several college students across the country who have been awarded a prestigious fellowship opportunity at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Carla, 27, was selected to participate in the University's Semester in Washington Politics Native American Political Leadership Program.

"After my classes at St. Cloud State last semester, my eyes were more open to what was happening in the world – at the local, state and national levels," Carla said. "I became more aware of current events, so when I found out about this opportunity, I decided to apply so I could learn more about what is important to me."

While in D.C., Carla will take three classes and complete an internship – all designed to give her a better understanding of how government works.

Her tuition, books, housing, travel, and other costs will be covered by the fellowship, which runs from January 10 to April 29.

Her internship will be with Holland and Knight – a lobbying firm that the Band works with on federal issues.

Carla, who is working on a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice at St. Cloud State University, will take the semester off from her college studies during her stint in D.C.

She will also take a leave of absence from her job as a grant writer for the Band.

Carla believes the experience she will obtain at The George Washington University will be instrumental as she pursues a graduate degree or a law degree after completing her undergraduate education.

"I've always wanted to be a lawyer," said Carla who hopes to work as an assistant county attorney or eventually work for the Band in the Solicitor General's office.

All are realistic goals, according to Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson who wrote a recommendation letter for Carla's application into the program.

"Carla is a hard working individual with a great deal of potential," Marge wrote. "She has always given 100 percent in whatever she does."

Her supervisor, Elysha Gellerman agrees. In the recommendation letter Elysha wrote, "Those who know her are confident that she will hold an influential position; they know it is simply a matter of time."

The Native American Political Leadership Program is designed to give Native American undergraduates an educational opportunity that is unprecedented. They interact with policymakers and political leaders as well as study public policy issues affecting Native American communities.

Participants learn how political decisions are made, how the government is run, and how those in power use their influence. They also study components of political campaigns, see how messages are developed, and learn what lobbyists do.

When the program ends, students will have learned what it takes to win elections, pass legislation, and influence public opinion.

They will also know more about career options in the political field, such as congressional staffers, campaign managers, press secretaries, and lobbyists.

During the program, Carla said her goals are to obtain a better understanding of U.S. politics and interdepartmental relations; advocate Native Americans' needs in Washington D.C.; and enhance collaboration and communication between federal and tribal governments.

Carla said she is excited and nervous about going to Washington. It will be the first time she's been to Washington and the first time she'll be away from her family for an extended time period.

"I've never missed a niece or nephew's birthday," she said. "While I'm gone I'll miss four birthdays."

But she also knows that the time spent at The George Washington University will be invaluable and life-changing. "I'll find out how the federal government works and how it works with tribes," she said. "And I'll get a better understanding of how both can work together."

Families Enjoy Nay Ah Shing Festival

By Bugs Haskin

Families flocked to Nay Ah Shing Upper School in November to try their skill at many games in hopes of being a winner of several fall favorites, such as turkeys, hams, pies, fruit, potatoes, pop, and movie passes.

Everyone bundled up and went on a hayride, courtesy of Dan Oehrlein. It was a very brisk ride, but a lot of fun, and it was many peoples' first hayride. Several students went three or four times in a row, and then rushed into the school to warm up with hot chocolate and cider.

The gym was filled with laughter as family members challenged each other in shuffleboard, darts, football toss, hot hoops, ladder ball, bocce ball, toss across, and putting golf balls. A highlight of the evening was the Turkey Shoot, a game of shooting baskets. The names of winning contestants were put in a drawing for a turkey.

"Nay Ah Shing is all about families," said Principal Mary Simon. "Bugs Haskin puts in a lot of time and hard work to give the students opportunities to share fun activities with their families. This is our first Family Fun Festival, and it was a huge success. It just got us all ready for the holiday season."

Congratulations to the winners of the drawings, and thank you to those who donated prizes.

- Turkey Shoot: Shane Davidson, Donovan Hardheart, Bill Schaaf, and Amanda Eagle won turkeys

donated by Dwight Reed from the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police.

- Shuffleboard: Tia White and Chrissy Dahl won hams donated by Brandon Donahue from Mid States Refrigeration.
- Ladderball: Ronald Hardheart and Bob White won 24-packs of Mountain Dew donated by Cheryl Miller, a Nay Ah Shing School Board Member.
- Golf: Teyha Wade and Barb Wind each won five pounds of potatoes donated by Billie's Market.
- Bean Bag Toss: Charisse Cash and Lynnae Potter won bags of fruit donated by Luke Doud from Kirby Vacuum Sales.
- Darts: Taylor Nadeau and Ronald Hardheart won pies donated by Nay Ah Shing American Indian Business Leaders.
- Karaoke: Shyla Lussier and Clara Gahbow won Makwa movie passes donated by the Nay Ah Shing Athletic and Activities Department. Karaoke was provided by John and Sara Clemons.
- Concessions for the event were provided by the Nay Ah Shing American Indian Business Leaders.

Parents who are interested in planning and hosting school activities can join the Parent Action Committee. To sign up, contact Karen Sam, Nay Ah Shing parent involvement coordinator, at 320/532-4695, ext. 2160.

Danbury Fire Department Visits District III Head Start Program



Photo courtesy of District III Early Education staff

The Danbury Fire Department visited the District III Early Head Start and Head Start programs in November to help teach the children about fire safety.

Powwow Encourages Smoking Cessation



Robert White Jr., Nay Ah Shing Middle School Brave, and his family made an appearance at the Gego Zaagaswaaken Powwow.



Jasmine Schwensen, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Jr. Princess, and her family supported smoking cessation at the Gego Zaagaswaaken Powwow.

By Public Health Department staff

More than 100 people encouraged people to quit smoking at the Gego Zaagaswaaken (Don't Smoke) Powwow at Nay Ah Shing High School. Youth danced with style and grace as they wholeheartedly supported this event. The Nay Ah Shing High School Singers also sang songs from the heart of the drum.

Mii gwech to the high school singers and the children that danced at the powwow.

Chi mii gwech to the various departments and people who supported this event, including:

- Minnesota Department of Health

- Mille Lacs Band Public Health Gego Zaagaswaaken Program
- Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department
- Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Office
- Mille Lacs Band Legislative Office
- Curt Kalk, Sectary/Treasurer
- Mille Lacs Band Early Education Program
- Mille Lacs Band Family Services Department
- Mille Lacs Band Behavioral Health Department
- Bugs Haskin
- Mary Simon
- Jack Kingbird

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320/532-7812

TERC Drill



By Toya Stewart Downey

Imagine turning on a faucet to fill a pot with water and having nothing come out. Or, finding out that there's no water for showering, brushing teeth, or washing clothes.

Now imagine a worst-case scenario – every building in the District I community including homes, schools, medical facilities, businesses and government facilities – are also without water due to a broken water line. And the problem won't be fixed for days.

What would the community do? How would people get fresh water to drink? Or get water to wash their hands or partake in normal daily activities?

Those are the kinds of questions that the Band's Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) recently discussed during a tabletop exercise conducted by Kim Thon from the Central Minnesota Region.

During the discussion-based exercise, the TERC members evaluated their ability to respond to the water crisis and review local plans. They also discussed ways to collaborate with entities across the region and state to help solve the situation.

Some of the topics discussed included tapping into resources such as water vendors and contacting emergency responders such as fire departments and the National Guard.

The committee reviewed possible scenarios that included closing the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel, shutting down schools, and moving residents in the Assisted Living Center to another facility along with other Elders who live at home but need medical assistance.

They also evaluated how the plans could change depending on the season. They discussed ways of communicating with Band members and others in

the community and how to best get the messages out regarding the most recent updates on the situation.

"What we know is that every piece of the puzzle would have to fit together to solve this problem," said Rob Thompson, the committee's safety/risk manager. "We all have a piece of the pie, and we need to work together to make this work."

It's also important for everyone to know what their role is and what they are supposed to do, added Mary Simon, principal of Nay Ah Shing schools.

"It's gratifying to know that there's a team that can help," said Mary, referring to the TERC committee.

Brian Scheinost, the Band's director of public works, said he thought the exercise was a great way to inform members of the TERC committee about the important role utilities play in day-to-day operations.

"Public Works does daily inspections on all of the main components of the water/wastewater system to make sure everything is operating correctly and to detect problems," Brian said. "The main components of the system have a redundancy of two built into them, like two pumps in a wastewater lift station or two wells at the water treatment plant."

"There have been times when things break that we can't be prepared for, such as a broken water line or wastewater lines," he said. "When these break, we have to shut down part or all of the utility to fix the item."

Still, Brian acknowledged, that a complete breakdown of the water system would be a complete nightmare for the community and it's something he hopes never happens.

Understanding the Differences Between the Band's Assisted Living Units and Nursing Homes



Photo courtesy of Toya Stewart Downey

Mille Lacs Band Elders eat lunch at the District I Assisted Living Unit.

By Toya Stewart Downey

Providing the best care for Band Elders has been a top priority of the Band for many years.

That's one of the reasons the Band established its assisted living centers in District I and in East Lake. The goal was to create a living environment for Elders who were able to care for themselves, but who needed a little extra help with daily tasks.

The endeavor has been more successful in District I than in East Lake, based mostly on the Elders' desires to live in the District I ALU and the Band's ability to provide adequate staffing in that location.

In East Lake, the population is smaller and it's been challenging to get the 24-hour staffing that's required at the center. Plus, Elders haven't been as eager to leave their homes to move into a center.

Still, the Band sees the growing need to find ways to accommodate Elders who require more medical attention and daily living assistance than the ALU can offer.

Currently the Band is studying the feasibility of providing a full-service nursing facility that will offer services that the ALUs cannot, said Salina Rizvi, the Band's director of medical services.

"To live in an assisted living center, you need to be independent to a certain point," Salina said. "And the ALUs aren't equipped and staffed for anything except minor health conditions."

On the other hand, nursing homes are designed to provide complete around-the-clock

medical attention for those who need it.

"Nursing homes have doctors on call and qualified medical staff who are on site 24 hours a day. They're equipped to monitor a person's health," said Salina. "They serve three meals each day and provide many other services that our ALUs cannot."

Stacie Papenfuss, the Band's Assisted Living Unit nurse manager and registered nurse, said, "The safety of a resident is the most important aspect of the ALU. The resident needs to be able to communicate their own safety needs."

Though Stacie said this is not always so clear. "Sometimes an individual can appear to be a good candidate for the ALU, but they may have episodes that are beyond what staff is trained for or the facility itself cannot accommodate."

To help people better understand the differences between nursing homes and ALUs, Stacie provided the following information.

Assisted Living Units

- Residents must be independent and only require minor assistance.
- Residents must be able to walk independently without having anyone transfer or lift them in any way. (ALU staff is not allowed to lift residents.)
- Residents must be independent enough to feed themselves, manage toileting needs, and bathe without assistance.
- Breakfast and lunch are provided by the ALUs, but residents need to prepare dinnertime meals. However, the staff at the ALU can

assist with dinner for residents who need help.

- Most residents do their own laundry, but ALU staff is available to help with laundry as needed.

When it comes to helping residents with medications and medical practitioners, the ALU can provide some assistance, Stacie said.

- The ALU can assist an individual with medical needs, such as making appointments.
- The ALU certified nursing assistant can deliver medications, but cannot administer medication or use syringes.

For insulin-dependent diabetics, there are other considerations to take into account before moving to an ALU.

- Residents who are insulin-dependent diabetics need to be able to give themselves insulin or have a family member administer it.
- Insulin can be given by nurses, but they are not on duty 24 hours a day.

ALU residents must be able to communicate with minimal effort and should expect to receive both oral and written communication.

- Minimal assistance for vision or hearing loss can be accommodated if the resident is able to communicate his or her needs to staff.
- The communication of the resident needs to be appropriate to staff and other residents.

Another consideration is that sometimes health issues such as dementia causes behaviors that the ALUs aren't equipped to handle, Stacie said.

"Many times when dementia or other disorders progress, individuals become inappropriate and can be abusive towards other residents or staff," Stacie said.

"Dementia can also cause residents to wander," she added. "The ALU is not a locked unit, so a nursing home

would be a safer choice for a person suffering with dementia."

Nursing homes

- Nursing homes have staff that consist of directors of nursing, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, nutritionists, activity people, providers', and social workers that work on site to help with patients' needs.
- Nursing homes are for dependent individuals. They offer 24-hour care and have nurses on duty at all times.
- Nursing home residents need assistance with daily living activities. Residents require assistance in some way, such as grooming, bathing, dressing, transferring, walking, toileting, eating, and basic well-being. They may also need help with medications or emergencies.
- Nursing homes monitor residents' intake and output. A resident's intake is charted at every meal and their output is monitored by aids and given to nurses every shift. This is done to care for weight and help with medications and wound care.
- Nurses at nursing homes are also able to help with the cleaning and monitoring of catheters.
- Meals are prepared and monitored according to doctor orders (many individuals have low sodium or diabetic diets).
"A nursing home has adequate staff to perform duties that exceed the ALU, such as transferring and turning individuals," Stacie said. "Many times, residents require two people or lift machines to move them from one point to another or they may be placed on a turning schedule to prevent skin breakdown and bed sores."
Because health care needs change, some Elders who may start at the ALU are transferred to a nursing home when their needs outweigh what can be provided by the ALU.

Mary Sam Receives State Human Rights Award



Mary Sam received the Minnesota League of Human Rights Award.

Long-time community member Mary Sam received the 2010 Minnesota League of Human Rights Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions concerning human rights issues.

Described as a "seasoned activist," Mary received the award in December from the Minnesota League of Human Rights Commissions at the Minnesota Department of Human Rights Conference in Saint Paul.

"Mary Sam brings passion, commitment and activism to issues of human and civil rights. Mary is intolerant of intolerance," said the Minnesota League of Human Rights when presenting Mary with the award. "Mary does not allow old rules to squelch her sense of justice and the valuing of human and civil rights. As long as intolerance is tolerated, Mary Sam will be present, bold and purposeful."

Among previous winners is the Mille Lacs Area Human Rights Commission (2005), the first regional human rights commission to include an American Indian reservation. Mary helped form that organization.

This is the second such statewide honor for Mary. She was the recipient of the 1997 League of Human Rights Commissions Award for her distinguished service at Armstrong High School in Plymouth.

Mary is currently the director of diversity and student affairs at Central Lakes College.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

November 2010

	Approved budget for FY 2011	Actual expenditures through 11/30/10	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	12,436,601	1,114,199	9.0%
Workforce*	13,955,407	546,715	3.9%
Judicial	667,229	86,705	13.0%
Law enforcement*	4,955,586	498,995	10.1%
Education*	15,938,125	2,159,551	13.5%
Health and human services*	25,973,078	4,006,116	15.4%
Natural resources*	4,853,825	729,770	15.0%
Community development*	15,722,939	2,260,966	14.4%
Gaming authority	836,793	713,398	85.3%
Per capita payments	22,391,762	4,277,174	19.1%
Economic stimulus	2,910,000	2,908,000	99.9%
Total expenditures	\$120,641,344	\$19,301,590	16.0%

Financial notes:

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

* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2010 fiscal year.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Saves Energy and Money

**By Sarah Barten, Grand Casino
public relations specialist**

Grand Casino Mille Lacs was presented one of the largest rebate checks from Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative in December. Earlier this year, the casino replaced its incandescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) with LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights both inside the casino and in the parking lots.

"It's great to see a large business like Grand Casino Mille Lacs participate in this energy optimization program," said Jeff Peysar, Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative's energy advisor. "Together we are working to reduce energy consumption and utilize energy more efficiently."

Grand Casino Mille Lacs has participated in the rebate program for 10 years, but this is the largest rebate it has received. Every year, the Grand Casino Mille Lacs facilities department identifies ways to cut operating

expenses, and one of those ways was to reduce energy consumption. Jim Hutchison, Scott Hoffman, and Lucas Best, Grand Casino Mille Lacs staff electricians, played an important role in identifying and justifying this project.

Rob Johnson, vice president of facilities for the casino, said that other projects targeted to reduce energy consumption at the casino will result in additional rebates.

"We are exploring all options to ensure our property is energy conscious," Rob said. "Whether it is something as simple as replacing a piece of kitchen equipment or upgrading a major component of our HVAC system, we take into consideration all potential energy savings when we justify making that upgrade."

Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative's rebate program is funded by Great River Energy, an electric cooperative headquartered in Maple Grove. Electric utilities are required to

fund conservation programs that produce energy savings equivalent to 1.5% of total kilowatt-per-hour sales. Great River Energy funds conservation rebate programs through its wholesale power rate and, in turn, aggregates the savings from each of its distribution cooperatives for reporting to the State of Minnesota.

Grand Casino Hinckley also works to reduce energy consumption. Last year, East Central Energy gave its largest rebate check to Grand Casino Hinckley for the replacement of heat pump units in the hotel, which allows the casino to better control the heating and cooling systems and a new high efficiency roof top unit. Grand Casino Hinckley will also be replacing the incandescent bulbs to new LED lights. This project begins this month.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy January birthday to:

Deek, on January 1 with love from Kelly, Jay, Kellen, Tracy, Rachel, June, Taya, Noah, Jen, Wesley and Onee • **Tracy**, on January 14 with love from Kelly, Jay, Kellen, Rachel, June, Taya, Noah, Deek, Jen, Wesley and Onee • **Shane Boyd**, 23, on January 15 with love from Laila, Kateri, and your family on Henry Davis Drive • **Frances Davis**, 1, on January 1 with love from daddy, Grandma Frances, Marlow, Neemah, Laila, Tawney, Diamond, Tuffy, Tippy, Babycat, TI, Spike, Elaine, Rileh, Christa, Lorna Hanes, Antwaun, Cheyaunarei, Lil Ricky, Fat Sister, Billy, Lenore, Nubby, Roach, the boys, Mitzi, Chico, and cooties • **Anthony Passarelli**, 28, on January 18 with love from mom, Karen, Chris, Steve, Donald, and your family in Minnesota • **Brayden Mitchell**, 3, on January 1 with love from Auntie Debbie, Carmelena, Mataeo, and Grandma Bea • **Katelyn Mitchell**, 10, on January 7 with love from Auntie Debbie, Carmelena, Mataeo, and Grandma Bea • **Jon Mitchell**, 21, on January 14 with love from Auntie Debbie, Carmelena, Mataeo, and Grandma Bea • **Jameson Anderson**, 14, on January 4 from mom, dad, Cordell, Chris Jr., Gram K, Gram AA, Sharon, Ravin, Melodie, Wally, Tracy, Shelby, Jarvis, Jacob, Jamie, Aiva, Markie, Emery, Auntie Val, Mariah, Baby Kevin, Karen, Pie, Uncle Brad, and Rae • **Jamie**, on January 19 with love from Aiva, Mark, Emery, Jake, Tracy, Val, Pie, Kevin Jr., Shelby, Jarvis, Karen, Gram AA, Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melodie, Nicole, Chris Sr., Jameson, Cordell, Chris Jr., Uncle Brad, and Rae • **Arielle Pendegayosh**, 4, on January 20 from mom, dad, Antavia, Gram, Bapa, Auntie Hanay, Steve, Ben, Lalam Nino, and Grandma Shot • **Daniel McLean Jr.**, 4, on January 13 with love from mom and Thomas MacLean • **Booz**, on January 7 with love from Meany, Curt, Elle Nevaeh, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Chaddy, Gabriella, Lance, and Honey • **Tommy Lee**, on January 27 with love from mom, Curt, Elle Nevaeh, Jaxin, Chaddy, Gabriella, Lance, Jim, dad, and grandma • **Elle Nevaeh**, on January 29 with love from mom, dad, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Chaddy, Gabby, Lance, Big Happy, Tyson, Eva, Jon, Evelyn and family, APB, Paul Bunny, Owen, B-Dub, Diamond, Silas, Jim, The Bad Man, Chele, Carrie and family, and Honey • **Ahnaka Sam**, on January 30 with love from Auntie Meany, Elle Nevaeh, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Chaddy, Gabriella, Lance, Honey,

and your family in Isle • **Herb Sam Jr.**, on January 21 with love from Meany and family and your family in Isle • **Sanchez Sam**, on January 18 with love from Curt, Day, Elle Nevaeh, Tyson, Eva, Jon, and Evelyn • **Brent Bedausky**, on January 17 with love from dad, Nikki, Grandma Mary, Grandpa Jon, Brenda, Lucas, Rome, Chell, Camryn, Cordell, Cam, Tim, Ed, Veronica, Nan, Larry, Fran, Trista, and Paris • **Jaeden King**, 9, on January 17 with love from mom, dad, grandma, Bear, Sassi and Cate • **Clarissa**, on January 14 from Auntie Bear, Cali Rae, and Al • **Toni Marie Weous**, on January 3 from Auntie Bear, Cali Rae, and all your we-ehs • **Gabe Gahbow**, from Big Al, Dakota, Kyla, and Auntie Goats • **Dan Sam**, from Nancy, Kyla Lynn, Big Al, and Dakota • **Chelsie**, 20, on January 16 from Gramma June, Papa Gush, mom, dad, Dylan Jr., Leroy, Malarie, Lydia, Sam, Dan, Charles, Elvis, Hunter, Amber, Sunshine, Elliot, Ethan, Jazz, Tyrese, Manny, Keith, Sebastian, Marvin, and Terry and girls • **Charles III**, on January 16 from Gramma June, Papa Gush, mom, dada, Dylan Jr., Leroy, Malarie, Lydia, Sam, Dan, Charles, Elvis, Hunter, Amber, Sunshine, Elliot, Ethan, Jazz, Tyrese, Manny, Keith, Sebastian, Marvin, and Terry and girls • **Lydia**, on January 26 from mom, dad, Sam, Dan, Charles, Elvis, Hunter, Amber, Sunshine, Elliott, Ethan, Jazz, Tyrese, Manny, Keith, Sebastian, Marvin, Chelsie, and Terry and girls • **Niswi Sayers**, 11, on January 25 with love from Grandma Sami, dad, Kelly, Serenitie, Jay Jay, Jo Jo, Debo, Jamin, David, Drystin, Dayana, Chilah, and all your family in District IIA • **Debo Thomas**, 26, on January 31 with love from mom, Son, Kelly, Serenitie, Jay Jay, Jo Jo, Jamin, Dayana, David, Drystin, Niswi, Chilah, and your family in District IIA • **McKayla Boyd**, 14, on January 21 with love from mom, dad, Lydell, Tayaunna, Gramma Gladys, Papa Ron, Roland, Roland Jr., Collin, Camille, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Clay, Candy, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxanne, Danica, Roger, Bev, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Brandon Weidewitsch**, on January 15 from Ron, Gladys, Collin, Roland, Roland Jr., Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Clay, Candy, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxanne, Danica, Roger, Bev, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Danielle Smith**, on January 28 from Ron and all the Smith and Garbows • **Jeremy Dewayne Harrington**, on January 22 from Carrie, Renae, Justo, Zachary, Jerry, Kira, Phillip, Mickey, Nadine, Charlotte, Whitney, PJ, Sherry, Shawntell, Gabbi, Kathy, Potatoes, Carrie,

Kelly, mom, Leonard, Michelle, Jada, Keonna, Cameron, Grandma Agnes, Sharon, Ravin, Melody, Wally, George, Ron, Dawn, Crystal, Marvin, Curtis, Valerie, Brad, and Tracy • **Brenda**, on January 18 from your little big sister Judy • **Louise Renee**, on January 7 from Kateri, Laila, Frances, Cheyenne, Jaagaab, Elaine, Rileh, Christa, Ricki, Lil Ricki, Cheyauna, Antaun, and Billy • **Wanda Boswell**, on January 21 from Kateri, Laila, Keith, Chris, Elaine, Rileh, Christa, mom, Cheyenne, Marlow, Franny, Lorna Hanes, Princess, Tawney, Tippy, Tuffy, Babycat, TI, Analise, Wetness, Lickolis, and Darrell.

Happy January birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Gloria Anderson
Art Benjamin
Gladys Benjamin
Mary Bellonger
Daniel Boyd Sr.
Edith Bush
Patricia Clark
Ronald Crown
Lorna Day
Eugene Davis
Bonnie Dorr
John Dowell
Dora Duran
Isabel Eubanks
Dorothy Frye
Janet Gahbow
Evelyn Granger
Rose Holmquist
Katherine Jackson
Charles Johnson
Grover Johnson
Patty Johnson
Richard Kegg
Lucille Kuntz
Priscilla Lowman
Gloria Lowrie
Bruce Martin
David Matrious
Temperance McLain
Michael Merrill
Mushkooub
Barbara Nelson
Cora Nelson
Rosalie Noonday
Dorothy Olson
Donna Pardun
Patricia Potter
Dora Sam
Bonnie Shingobe-Neeland
Joycelyn Shingobe
Larry Smallwood
Joseph Staples
Kathleen Vanheel
Walter Weyaus Sr.
Nancy Wood

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who attended services for **Bernice Grice (Wadena)** and for those of you who helped out. Bernice was a great woman who had a big heart for everyone. Her smile and gratitude will be missed by many. Thanks to those who sent

flowers, Marge, Sandy, Curt and all the other programs. Mii gwech to all.

Thank you to **Marge Anderson and staff** for the great Elder trip to Las Vegas. We didn't win a million, but you made us feel like a million bucks. *From Karen Harrington, Loretta Kalk, Bev and Roger Garbow, Cindy Beaulieu, and the rest of the Elders.*

Anniversary

Happy 29th wedding anniversary to **Roger and Beverly Garbow** on January 16. *With love from Junior, Jillian, Roy, Ahnung, Ron, Gladys, Collin, Roland, Roland Jr., Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Clay, Candy, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxanne, and Danica.*

In memory

In memory of **Maxine Sam**.

The Great Spirit saw she was getting tired and a cure was not to be, so he put his arms around her and whispered "come with me." With tearful eyes we watched her suffer and saw her fade away, although we loved her dearly, we could not make her stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands put to rest, the Great Spirit broke our hearts to prove to us he only takes the best.

On January 11, it has been one year since we lost our mom. Not a day goes by that we don't think of her. We miss her loving smile and her kind voice. It has been a rough year without her but we are grateful that she is no longer in pain. *Love and miss you mom, from Arielle, Craig and Tony.*

January 28 would have been **Elleraine Weous's** birthday. You left us on November 1, 2009, and not a day goes by that I don't think of you. Your sense of humor, your laugh that shook your whole body, and that look you gave us that told us we were in trouble. Oh mom, I miss you so much. I wish I could hug you and say happy birthday even though you said "forever 39." *Love you always, from Bear, Al, Cali Rae, and the rest of the Weous clan.*

Obituary

Patrick Henry (Reynolds)

Matrious

Born – 8-13-32

Died – 11-18-2010

Resided in St. Peter, MN

Bernice Grice (Wadena)

Born – 3-29-41

Died – 12-8-2010

Resided in Onamia, MN



Ojibwe Culture and Traditions



Moccasin Telegraph



Millie Benjamin (1945-2009)

Traditional Ojibwe crafts

By Millie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band Elder

The following article appeared in the May 21, 2003, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with the Messenger's permission.

When I was young, my parents lived at Fort Mille Lacs. It was a tourist attraction, and there was an Indian village. We lived there in wigwams. I think that's where I learned a lot of the old crafts. In fact, I tell people I went to "Clark University." They say, I've never heard of that. And I say, "Clark University was my mom and dad, John and Lucy Clark."

My parents made canoes during the summer. They even made the tools they used – they did it the old way. I remember, too, how my mom would get up early in the morning when it was still damp. She'd have us start weaving mats out of bulrushes (which are a kind of plant) because they still had dew on them and were moist and easy to weave. Oh, how I hated to get up in the morning when it was cold! She'd have all of us kids in a line with her at the head and me on the tail end.

We also helped her stretch deer hides to dry and then smoked them. But I never got good at tanning a deer hide. It's really a smelly process where you soak the hide to get the hair out. To avoid that smell, my dad sharpened one of my mom's old butcher knives, and she would shave all the hair off right down to the skin. She'd lean the hide over a chair and hold the other end and shave that hair off.

I always watched her shave the hides, and one day she said, "I think you know how now. But don't cut a hole in it." So I took her knife, and I just barely touched the hide and a hole popped. That was the end of my hide tanning career. She fired me!

When I grew up, I lived with my mom when I became widowed, and later when she became widowed she lived with me. So my kids always had gramma there to keep us on the right track.

Just as she had taught me, she taught my children everything she knew. My children can make birch bark baskets. They know how to make moccasins and dance outfits. They know how to prepare basswood to make basswood dolls. They know a lot of the crafts that aren't practiced anymore.

For instance, my daughters can make bulrush mats like I used to, which is a lost art now. I take the kids out picking bulrushes, and I'm teaching them how to cook the bulrushes. That's the hard part. A weaver could look at a bulrush mat and figure out how it's made – it's just weaving in and out. But it's the preparation of those bulrushes that is special. It's what we must know how to do, and I'm sharing it with my kids right now.

I also take my kids out in the woods to pick nettles because I want to make a net. Nettles are plants that sting and hurt if you touch them. But after the frost, nettles lose their sting. So we go out, even without gloves, and pull nettles out by the root. We let the plant dry, and then we work it so the pulp comes out. All that's left is the skin, which is so strong you can't break it. I swear, if you twisted this and made a little rope, you could probably pull a semitruck!

When my mom died, people started coming to me and asking me the questions they would normally ask her. It was a little frightening, because I was scared I would never be able to fit in my mom's moccasins. But I would just think of my mom and what she'd tell them, and it's not so frightening anymore.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum Hosts Ojibwe Winter Living Workshop

Come join the museum staff for this one day workshop and learn about Ojibwe winter living. We will be discussing topics on surviving winter conditions, winter transportation, and where and how to get food and furs. There will be demonstrations on how to use snowshoes, trapping methods, snaring, and ice fishing. Please dress accordingly as the demonstrations will take place on the museum grounds and Mille Lacs Lake. The class will

be held on Saturday, January 15, from noon-4 p.m.

The workshop costs \$25 for the general public and \$20 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members.

Registration is required by January 12. A minimum of five participants is required for the workshop. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please call 320/532-3632 for more information.

Band Youth Hunt Deer with DNR



Photo courtesy of Mike Taylor

Band member Kelly Kegg Jr. looked for deer from his tree stand in Father Hennepin State Park.

Three Mille Lacs Band youth hunted in Father Hennepin State Park this fall as a part of the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources' Youth Deer Hunts.

Kelly Kegg Jr. hunted on October 30. Although Kelly didn't shoot a deer, a total of seven deer were taken from the park that weekend.

Chaz Pendegayosh and Ross Beaulieu hunted on December 4-5. Chaz saw three deer and took several shots, but didn't harvest any. After the hunt, he said that the best part of the experience was seeing an albino deer in the snow.

Ross harvested three deer during the two-day hunt. Field dressing his deer was his favorite part of the experience.

Correction

Last month, the *Inaajimowin* printed an article about Troy Hill, a Band member mechanic. Since the article has printed his number has changed to 320/384-7299. Thank you.

Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, January 14**, 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.

Calendar of Events

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p>*To Purchase Tickets</p> <p>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800/745-3000, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</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 kellys@goffhoward.com</p>		<p>Narcotics Anonymous District I Community Center 6-7 p.m. Every Wednesday</p>			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		<p>Onamia Indian Education Meeting Rolf Olson Center Noon Contact: David Sam, 320/532-4901</p>		<p>Talking Circles District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046</p>		<p>The Fab Four* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<p>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting 5 p.m. Contact: Amiliya Zago, 320/384-7598 AMVETS Meeting Grand Casino Mille Lacs, 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925</p>	<p>State of the Band Address Grand Casino Mille Lacs 10 a.m.</p>	<p>District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judy Virnig, 320/532-7423</p>			<p>Ojibwe Winter Living Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m.</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<p>All government offices closed for Civil Rights Day</p>	<p>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting 4 p.m. Contact: Raina Killspotted, 218/768-2345</p>	<p>District III Community Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley 5:30 p.m., Contact: Katie Draper, 320/384-6240</p>	<p>All District Elder Meeting Mille Lacs Assisted Living Unit 11 a.m. Contact: Denise Sargent, 320/532-7854</p>		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			<p>District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam, 320/676-1102</p>	<p>Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424 District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m., Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311</p>		
30	31	February 1	2	3	4	5

“Who is Your Favorite Actor/Actress and Why?”

Ross Pagel



“Denzel Washington because of his role in Training Day.”

LouAnn Boyd



“Robert DeNiro because every movie he’s in you know will be a good one.”

Jaeden King



“Taylor Lautner. He’s a werewolf in the Twilight movies and that’s my favorite movie.”

Alberta Rosa



“Robert Redford. I like the way he looks. He’s very attractive.”

Jessica Monroe



“Loretta Lynn. She talks a lot about her family and her struggles in life. She has always made her family her priority. I love her music, too.”

Brenda Beaulieu



“Robert DeNiro. He reminds me of my father – he looks a lot like him. And he’s been around a lot of years. He plays every role excellently.”

Debra Kamimura



“Angela Jolie because she’s a humanitarian. Because of her work in poor countries, more people pay attention to what’s happening in the world.”

Donald Thomas



“Walter Matthau because he’s always brought a little bit of humor into whatever role he’s played. And he’s a lot of fun.”

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

Band Addresses Homelessness

By Toya Stewart Downey

There’s a new initiative underway that promises to address an issue that has long been present in the community – homelessness.

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation, the Band is one of seven Minnesota tribes that is looking for solutions to help end homelessness.

“Tribes need to develop their own plan,” said Don Eubanks, Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

“On the reservation, we don’t have shelters that people can go to, we don’t have bridges that people live under, so what ends up happening is that our people live with their families,” said Don. “We have people who are doubled-up in homes, and it’s not just a few Band members, it’s a lot of our people.”

The real work to develop a strategy to address homelessness began formally in October when elected and appointed officials, along with Band employees and others, participated in a two-day retreat.

Their goals were to:

- Develop a mission, vision statement, and guiding principles;
- Describe the unique problems, resources and solutions to end homelessness in the community;
- Develop a guide for future development of housing and services;

- Define the community’s homelessness problem; and
- Create an action plan to implement strategies.

Since the October retreat, a handful of other meetings have been held to continue the conversations about homelessness within the Band.

Other meetings are scheduled throughout January, and the final plan is supposed to be presented to the Band Assembly in February.

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, one of the consultants hired by the Band to help develop the strategic plan, said that it’s long been known that there are unique cultural and social issues of homelessness in the American Indian population.

“The work that we’re doing is based on the homeless study done by Wilder Research that focused on the American Indian population,” said Vivian. “This is the first of its kind in the country and the Band is leading it.”

Based on the research, which included 126 interviews with Band members, 273 people were counted as homeless or near homeless. Eight out of 10 respondents were doubled-up and living with relatives.”

Some of those who were doubled-up had lived with family members for more than three years, but at times, not in the same household, but in several different homes.

The top three reasons for homelessness include loss of a job or hours, the end of a

relationship with a spouse or significant other, and being unable to afford housing.

The study found that there were barriers to finding housing including unemployment, criminal history, or the need for three or more bedrooms.

It also showed that homelessness affects all age groups, males and females, and even those with some college education.

Some people who were homeless were employed, but couldn’t afford housing, and many had substance abuse issues or other health problems, according to the findings.

The Bush Administration made early efforts to address homelessness across America, but didn’t include rural tribes, Don said. “Tribes needed to be included, or we needed a separate plan,” he said. “That didn’t happen, so we’re developing our own plan to address our unique issues – including this concept of doubling-up.”

“We want to use the data we’ve collected and the plans we’re developing as leverage for more money to address our needs,” he said.

The federal government’s definition of homelessness also needs to be redefined to include doubling-up, Vivian said. “It’s incumbent on us to let the feds know our numbers and to make a case for the youth, children, and their families because we need to open doors for funding.”

Supportive Housing Unit Opening Soon

A supportive housing unit that will help Band families become more self-sufficient is opening soon. The development, which is located in District I, has 20 units, six of which are three-bedroom units and 14 of which are two-bedroom units.

Each Band family living in the units will develop and follow a plan with a case manager. The plan will address how to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency, such as substance abuse. Band members must remain chemical-free while in the program.

“Self-sufficiency is one of the most important skills a Band member can develop. That’s why we are holding people accountable for talking with their case managers and meeting their goals,” said Arlene Weous, director of housing.

As a part of their case management plans, Band members will save part of their per capita payments for future expenses, such as rent or utilities. This will help encourage good money management, said Arlene.

Band families can live in the units for up to 24 months.

“We hope that Band members will use this program to overcome barriers and become successful,” said Arlene.

Applications for the supportive housing program will be available soon. Arlene is hopeful that the program will begin in February. The *Inaajimowin* will have more updates as they become available.