

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

July 2007

"The story as it's told."

Volume 9 • Number 7

Band's Two Charter Schools to Hold Grand Openings

Upcoming grand opening celebrations will be held for the Mille Lacs Band's new charter schools – the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy, located in East Lake, and Pine Grove Leadership Academy, located in the Aazhoomog community. Parents and students will be able to meet teachers and other staff members at these events.

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy

The grand opening will be held on **Wednesday, July 25** starting at 10 a.m. Keynote speaker Dave Anderson, founder of Famous Dave's restaurants, will speak at 11 a.m. Tours of the new state-of-the-art facility will be available throughout the day.

The school will also host its first annual powwow with a grand entry at 4 p.m. Little Otter, Mudd Lake Singers, Whitefish Bay, and Black Bear Crossing are the drum groups that will perform. Pete Gahbow will emcee the event, Lee Staples will serve as the spiritual advisor, and Ricky White will be the arena director.

Lunch and supper will be provided. Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 4. For more information, contact Chrissy Howes at 218/768-3474.



Pine Grove Leadership Academy

On **Monday, August 6**, from 5-8 p.m., the Pine Grove Leadership Academy will hold its grand opening celebration. Come tour the school, meet with teachers and staff, and listen to drum groups.

Dinner will be provided. For more information, contact Terry Moffatt at 320/384-7598.

In July 2006, the Minnesota Department of Education approved the Band's new charter schools to open this fall. A team of parent volunteers, led by Mille Lacs Band School Board Chairs Clifford (Skip) Churchill and Dawn Aubid, researched, planned, and applied for the two charter schools. Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Education Joycelyn Shingobe also provided skillful direction in the year-long planning and application process.

Peter Nayquonabe Named New Assistant Commissioner of Administration



Tammy Miller

Pete Nayquonabe was sworn in as Assistant Commissioner of Administration on July 2.

Mille Lacs Band member Pete Nayquonabe was sworn in as the Band's Assistant Commissioner of Administration on July 2. Pete, a lifelong District I resident, most recently served as Deputy Assistant for the Office of the Chief Executive.

As Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Pete will assist Commissioner of Administration Christine Costello in the day-to-day operations of the tribal government. This includes managing human resources, financing, and contracts.

"My parents are long-term Band employees, and I knew that I also wanted to use my education to serve the Band," said Pete. "The Department of Administration operates programs that impact the lives of Band members and Band employees."

Pete, who earned his finance degree from St. Cloud State University in May 2007, was a

full-time student while he worked his way up from Intern to Deputy Assistant in the Chief Executive's Office. Before beginning employment with the Band government in the spring of 2005, he worked for Polaris Industries and the Occupational Development Center in Roseau, Minn.

Pete and his wife Kristina are expecting their first child this September.

New Deputy Solicitor General

Also sworn in on July 2 was Richard Osburn, the Band's new Deputy Solicitor General. Enrolled with the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma, Richard previously was a Prosecutor and Staff Attorney for the Cherokee. He is a University of Oklahoma graduate and a former Navy officer and high school teacher. He and his wife Kristie have four children.



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Message to Graduates from Chief Executive



As your Chief Executive, attending graduation ceremonies for our children and youth is very special to me. I look forward to celebrating the educational milestones of our youngest Band members all year. Unfortunately, a death in my immediate family resulted in my needing to miss graduation ceremonies this year. I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of our young graduates. Whether you are moving on to higher education, employment, fifth grade or kindergarten, you are each special, gifted Anishinabe people. I am so proud of each and every one of you. Mii gwetch, Melanie Benjamin.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Editor's note: In June, we highlighted many of our 2007 graduates. The following graduates' names were not available for the June newspaper. Congratulations to all graduates!

GED

Mary Banner
Kevin Boyd
Lauren Day
Kevin Defoe
Tina Kegg
Vincent Merrill
Ashley Mitchell
Eric Mueller
Jory Potter
Russell Thomas Jr.
Joshua Wandersee
Shayli Weous

High school diploma

Dimitre Audie
Cordell Benjamin-Ficken
Amanda Boyd-Strong
Cherelle Brown
Michael Curtis
Brittney Doffing
Alexander Graham
Cassandra Kelly
Kathleen Kevan
Yolanda Lopez
Audrey Mager

Nikolai Nahorniak
Ashley Newton
Tanya Pardun
Wayne Potter
Steven Schaaf
Cheyenne Shaugobay
Nathan Sutton
Harriet Weyaus
Sasha Weoud
Linda White
Krystal Woyak

Technical degree

Jae Boyd
Tim Boyd
Crystal Doffing
Amanda Hernandez

Associates of arts

Lisa Murphy
Crystal Songetay

Associates of arts and science

Nahar Garbow
Barbara Mullhall
Terra White

Bachelor's degree

Amanda Bruneau
Peter Nayquonabe
Kathleen Shingobe-Johnson
Brianna Sipma

Ask Melanie

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

During the month of June, I held listening circles in each of the three districts and in the urban area. A number of good questions were raised by Band members at these meetings, and I'm in the process of responding personally to each Band member who brought forth an issue or concern. For this column, I want to respond publicly to a few of the questions that other Band members might also be wondering about.

What is the status of the Band Pension Program for Elders?

The pension plan is in the final process of being reviewed by attorneys with expertise in finance and tax matters. For the past three years, 5% of the Band's net revenues have been set aside to fund this plan, which will provide a pension payment to Elders 62 years of age and older. The plan is expected to be finalized by October 2007.

How will changes to the Circle of Health program affect my family and me?

Due to the rising costs of health care, the Band was required to make some tough decisions with regard to eligibility and coverage for family members who are not enrolled Band members. These proposed changes are intended to ensure that Band members do not experience any decrease in the quality of health care. I will be holding listening circles in July to discuss these changes with you. Health professionals will be in attendance and available to answer your questions. In the meantime, if you have

immediate concerns you can contact the Ne-Ia-Shing Clinic at 320/532-4163.

Does the Band help pay for legal services for individual Band members?

Legal services are provided to Band members at no cost through East Central Minnesota Legal Aid. These attorneys are also available for consultation or referral to Band members living in the urban area. However, the Band does not pay for private attorneys for Band members.

What is the status of economic development efforts in District II and District III?

Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Sarah Oquist will be holding district meetings to discuss current plans and future ideas for economic development projects in each of our communities. If you have a good idea for a business project, please try to attend these meetings and share your perspectives.

Mii gwetch to all Band members who attended and participated in these listening circles. Your ideas and input are very valuable to me. I look forward to seeing you again at future meetings.

Do you have a question?

If you have a question that you would like me to answer, please fax it to 320/532-4209 or mail it to:

Chief Executive's Office
Attn: Ask Melanie
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

Attention Onamia School Students

Were you on the A or B honor roll? Did you have perfect attendance for the whole school year and not receive any discipline referrals? If so, you will be receiving an award from the Onamia Indian Education Parent Committee. If you have not received your award yet, please contact David Sam at 320/532-4901.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and her commissioners have recently held listening circles in all reservation districts and the urban area to discuss issues that are important to Band members. Two of the issues discussed in the urban area (pictured above) were Circle of Health and the pension program for Elders.

Summer 2007 Bonus Checks

Distribution dates and locations

Checks will be distributed to all eligible Mille Lacs Band members on **August 2, 2007**, at each Band member's home district. This distribution will include all Band members receiving monthly, bi-monthly, and three times per year bonus distributions.

All funds for minors will be placed into a trust account at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. Individuals who have turned 20 years of age since the last bonus payment in April are eligible for payment. You must be 20 years of age by July 6, 2007 without having to submit a General Education Degree (GED) or high school diploma. For Band members who are 18 and 19 years old and who have not received a high school diploma or GED, funds will be placed into a trust account at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. If you have not previously submitted diploma/degree information for past distributions, you must send in original documents showing proof of completion to the Tribal Enrollments Office at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center, attention Darcie Big Bear. If you have previously presented either of those documents, your August bonus will be included in your trust payment.

Pick-up locations

Elders, handicapped and homebound persons living in District I, II, Ila, III and the Twin Cities urban area can pick up their bonus checks on **August 2, 2007**. The distribution sites include the District I Assisted Living Unit, the East Lake Community Center, the Isle Chiminising Community Center, the Lake Lena Community Center, and the Urban Office. Hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

If you are an Elder or handicapped person, live in Districts I, II, Ila, III, or the Twin Cities, and are unable to travel to your distribution site, please call the contact person below to make arrangements for your check to be delivered to you on August 2, 2007.

- District I: Darcie Big Bear, 320/532-7440 or Ginny Davis, 320/532-7512
- District II: Mary Sue Bohanon, 218/768-3311 or 877/768/3311
- District Ila: Carmen Green, 320/676-1102 or 877/676-1299
- District III: Bobby Anderson, 320/384-6240 or 877/884-6240
- Urban Office: Pat Clark or Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424

Your check pick-up site will be at the following centers, depending on where you live:

Mille Lacs Government Center:

For Band members living in Aitkin, Brainerd, Garrison, Hillman, Milaca, Onamia, Pierz and Wahkon.

East Lake Community Center:

For Band members living in McGregor.

Isle Chiminising Community Center:

For Band members living in Isle.

Lake Lena Community Center:

For Band members living in Askov, Braham, Brook Park, Danbury, Finlayson, Grasston, Hertel, Hinckley, Markville, Moose Lake, Mora, Pine City, Rush City, Rutledge, Sandstone, Siren, Sturgeon Lake, Webb Lake, Webster, and Willow River.

Urban Office:

For Band members living in Apple Valley, Andover, Anoka, Arlington, Blaine, Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Champlin, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Crystal, Eagan, Eden Prairie, Edina, Fridley, Golden Valley, Ham Lake, Hilltop, Hopkins, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maple Grove, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Mounds View, Newport, New Brighton, New Hope, Oakdale, Plymouth, Ramsey, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Roseville, Spring Lake Park, St. Anthony, South St. Paul, St. Louis Park, St. Paul, Wayzata, and Woodbury.

For Band members who do not live in the towns/cities listed above, checks will be held at the Mille Lacs Government Center unless you make arrangements for pick-up at one of the other districts. To make arrangements, call the contact people listed earlier under "pick-up locations."

Deadline for changing your pick-up site is at noon on **July 20, 2007**. Any changes after this time will not be valid. Call Darcie Big Bear at 320/532-7440 or Ginny Davis at 320/532-7512 to verify your change. There will be no exceptions.

Checks by certified mail

Those who can't pick up their checks on the dates listed will have their checks sent out by certified mail by **August 6, 2007**, to the address listed with the Tribal Enrollments Office. Your local post office should notify you of the certified mail within 30 days. If you do not receive your

check by September 6, 2007, contact Darcie Big Bear at 800/709-6445, ext. 7440.

Address and name changes

If your address or name has changed since the last bonus, it is very important that you send in your information to the Tribal Enrollments Office. The deadline for address and name changes is noon on **July 20, 2007**. There will be no exceptions.

All returned checks will be held at the government center and will not be sent out again until the Tribal Enrollments Office has received your updated address or name information.

Other important information

- You must show a **picture identification** to receive your bonus check.
 - Bonus checks will only be given to the **enrolled Band member** to whom the check is made out.
 - **Bonus checks will be used to pay delinquent Band loans, discretionary loans, or Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction fines** if they have not been paid. For loan status, call Pam Boyd at 320/532-7467. For court fines status, call Gilda Burr at 320/532-7400.
 - **Bonus checks are taxable**; therefore, all Band members who receive a bonus check should report it as income in the year received. You will receive a 1099-MISC form to remind you of how much income you should report on your tax return. Bonus checks should be reported as other income on a Form 1040 filing-line 21.
 - If you are receiving **public assistance** from the county, please contact your caseworker because the bonus may affect the amount you receive. If, based on discussions with your caseworker, you wish to decline receipt of the bonus, please contact Kathy Heyer in the OMB Office at 320/532-7472 or Darcie Big Bear at 320/532-7440 to get a bonus declination form.
 - Bonus checks can also be **Direct Deposited** into a checking or savings account. You must be signed up by **July 25, 2007**. For more information contact Kathy Heyer at 320/532-7472.
- For more information about the bonus distribution, please call Darcie Big Bear at 320/532-7440 or Ginny Davis at 320/532-7512.

Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health Staff

Circle of Health sent a letter on June 15, 2007, to all adult Band members regarding proposed changes to the Circle of Health Program. If for some reason you have not received this letter, please contact Circle of Health at 320/532-5358 or 800/491-6106.

The following changes are expected to be effective on September 1, 2007 (unless noted):

- Co-pay and deductible amounts will be paid on covered services for Band members only.
- COBRA coverage will be paid for six months instead of 18 months.
- Private insurance policies will be covered for one year from the effective date.
- Adoption of enrolled Band member children to non-Band member families will follow the Adoption Policy, which will only assist with Band member charges when Circle of Health is the payor of last resort. (This change is effective 7/1/2007).

We are asking all Band members to call or write us with your comments and concerns. The information you provide will be reviewed and summarized at future board meetings.

Circle of Health has already received many phone calls. To answer one of the most popular questions: Yes, Circle of Health will continue to reimburse or pay premium amounts (private or employee) in full whether the Band member or non-Band member holds the policy.

Circle of Health cards

Depending on the outcome of the proposed changes, new Circle of Health cards may be issued, with only eligible Band members' names on them. If you have not filled out an annual enrollment and consent of release of information form this year, our office may not be aware if your dependants are enrolled Band members, in which case their names will not be printed on the new cards.

Monthly meetings

- Dawn Chosa, Benefit Coordinator, will visit each community on a monthly basis from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
- East Lake Community Center, Monday, July 23
 - Lake Lena Community Center, Tuesday, July 24
 - District I Community Center, Wednesday, July 25
- Please call 320/532-5358 for more information.

Nay Ah Shing American Indian Business Leaders Chapters Formally Recognized by National Organization

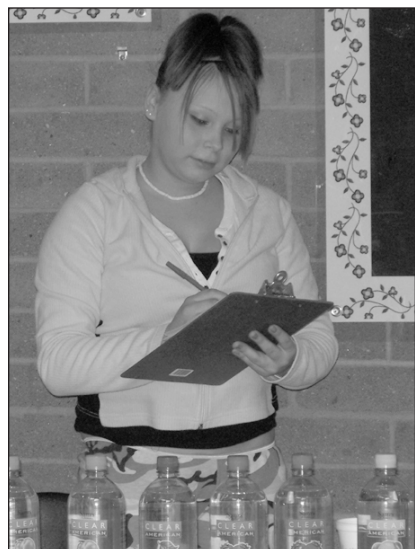


Photo courtesy of Eric North

High school student Kelly Friend, a member of Nay Ah Shing's American Indian Business Leaders chapter, helps run a snack bar as part of the organization's activities.

By Eric North, Nay Ah Shing Schools Principal

The national American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL) organization accepted two individual AIBL chapters at Nay Ah Shing Schools – one at the high school and one at the middle school. AIBL is a nonprofit student-based organization, which originated at the University of Montana's campus in Missoula. The original idea for the organization evolved from concerns expressed by many tribal leaders for the need for educated, experienced members to assist with tribal economic development efforts. AIBL puts emphasis on four main areas: education, experience, leadership and culture. The educational, service and social activities of chapters provide opportunities for members to assist in creating a better social, economic and cultural environment for American Indians. As Nay Ah Shing student Kelly Friend said, "It's not just about making money, it's about learning how to run a business."

During the 2006-2007 school year, the middle school chapter operated a snack bar during the lunch hour, controlled inventory, and balanced the finances. The high school chapter held successful raffles at two powwows in the spring. Students from both chapters spent the week at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids and developed a business plan for the upcoming year as part of the Youth Entrepreneurial Summer (YES)

Camp. The plan was completed under the direction of Sharon James and John Gunstad with the Corporate Commission's Small Business Development Program. The students also worked with students from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College's AIBL chapter, which won national recognition for its business plan this year at the national conference. This is the third year that Nay Ah Shing students have attended a summer program. More information about the YES Camp will be provided in next month's *Inaajimowin*.

We invite you to look for and support the students' stand this summer at the Mille Lacs Powwow.

Nay Ah Shing High School AIBL Chapter

- President – Amber Buckanaga
- Executive Vice President – Jon Reynolds
- Vice President of Budget and Finance – Kyle Aune
- Vice President of Marketing – Danielle Edgington
- Vice President of Fundraising – Steven Aune
- Secretary – Renae Short
- Vice President of Public Outreach – Vala Reya Leecy
- Staff Advisors – Mary Simon and Ethel Greene

Nay Ah Shing Middle School AIBL Chapter

- President – Keriann Kingbird
- Executive Vice President – Lashelle Boyd
- Vice President of Budgeting and Finance – Isabelle Sanchez
- Vice President of Marketing – Heather Benjamin
- Vice President of Public Outreach – Damien Boyd
- Vice President of Fundraising – Kirby Benjamin
- Secretary – Falcia Mitchell
- Staff advisor – Mary Simon
- Assistant Student Advisor – Kelly Friend

Diabetes Team Update

Public Health screening at August powwow

By Sue Swanson, Registered Nurse and Certified Diabetes Educator

Have you ever wondered what your blood sugar, oxygen, blood pressure or hemoglobin levels are? Maybe you would like to know about your risk of developing diabetes, or how to prevent the onset of diabetes. Or maybe you just want to unite with other community members in receiving diabetes care education. If so, come join us! It's time to start thinking about the free screenings that will be available at the upcoming powwow again this year for people 21 years of age and older. A blood glucose screening can identify those who have or are at risk for diabetes or pre-diabetes.

Why screen?

The primary reason for screening in a community is to improve the health of an individual. It is estimated that half of all people with diabetes do not know they have diabetes. Diagnosing diabetes early will decrease the likelihood of complications and related conditions, such as a heart attack and stroke. It has even been shown that those with pre-diabetes, if found early enough, can be reversed or delayed with lifestyle changes, including a healthy diet and exercise. Type 2 diabetes is an epidemic right now. Many tribes across the nation are using powwows as an opportunity to have a diabetes screening.

When?

The free screenings will be provided by the Public Health Department's Diabetes Team and will be available at the Mille Lacs Powwow on Saturday, August 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Door prizes, including pedometers for measuring walking steps and free glucometers will be given away.

Your participation will help to make this upcoming event a huge success and will help to identify and prevent diabetes in our community. If you have any questions about the screening or diabetes in general, please call me at 320/532-4163, ext. 2527.

Healthy Heart update

The Healthy Heart Program is planning a fun walk for July 21 at 9 a.m. Participants will

engage in a short walk and will receive a healthy lunch. Those who participate in the walk are eligible for a door prize.

The Healthy Heart Program holds monthly classes, which include cooking demonstrations, motivational speakers, and fun learning experiences for people who are trying to improve their lifestyle and make healthier food choices. Foods high in saturated fats, sugar and salt were the topics of conversation for May's Healthy Heart class. Participants in the class enjoyed a healthy meal and engaged in stimulating conversation.

The Healthy Heart Program is designed to help reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in people with diabetes. The goals of the program are to help people lose 7 percent of their body weight and increase their physical activity. To learn more about the walk and how you can participate in the program, please call Cyndy Edgerton, Registered Dietitian and Case Manager, at 320/532-4163, ext. 7840.

You're invited to attend a diabetes class

- When: Tuesday, August 14
- Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Location: District I (TBD)
- RSVP: Lorna Garbow at 320/532-7852

Be our guest to learn more about managing your diabetes. If you are newly diagnosed or have had diabetes for awhile, join us on a journey to good health. Lunch will be provided.

Diabetes support groups/talking circles

- East Lake Community Center – 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at noon
- District I Community Center – 1st Tuesday of the month at noon
- Lake Lena Community Center – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at noon
- Chiminising Community Center – 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at noon
- District I ALU – 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 10:30 a.m.
- District III ALU – 2nd Monday of the month at 10 a.m.

For more information, please contact Sandy Silver, Community Diabetes Representative, at 320/532-7712.

Band Member Teaches Others About Purple Martins



Kelly Sam

Kelly Applegate

On June 23, purple martin enthusiasts gathered for the 2007 Minnesota MartinFest in Rice, Minn., including Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist Kelly Applegate. The Mille Lacs Band donated \$300 to help with the festival.

Kelly has participated in this annual event for the past four years; this year he gave a presentation on building and maintaining purple martin houses and trapping invasive species. Demonstrations on how to check purple martin nests and discussions on purple martin conservation were also part of the festival.

Purple martins are the largest members of the swallow family and typically live in human-made bird houses. In generations past, Mille Lacs Band members hung gourds to attract purple martins to make their nests. Not only would this attract purple martins to the area for bird-watching purposes, but the birds also helped to keep hawks and raccoons away from drying meat and animal hides.

Today, Kelly has helped the Band's DNR build six purple martin communities on the reservation, including one at the District I Assisted Living Units and one at Eddy's Resort. All the communities together contain more than 100 purple martin houses – including a mix of wooden bird houses and gourd houses. Kelly has been instrumental in getting these placed on the reservation in order to help increase the purple martin population, which has been declining in recent years (according to the Audubon Society, purple martins have had a 78% decline in population in Minnesota since 1967).

Kelly is responsible for maintaining the purple martin houses, checking on the nests, and removing unwanted species, such as English house sparrows and European starlings, which attack the nests.

"People often come up to me when I'm checking on the purple martin nests and ask about the birds," said Kelly. "I've heard Elders say that they used to see more purple martins around the area when they were younger, and are now seeing them come back."

All of the Band's wooden purple martin houses were made by the DNR and built with white pine from the reservation. Thank you to Robert Lindstrom and Wendell Leecy with the Maintenance Department for their help in building these houses.

For more information and to learn how you can build your own purple martin community, contact Kelly at 320/532-7747 or visit purplemartin.org.

Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post

Annual showcase and silent auction

Now running through Labor Day is the Annual Showcase of Ojibwe Artists and Silent Auction. The program is designed to inspire and promote traditional and contemporary Ojibwe artists of all ages, to educate and expose visitors to the living Ojibwe culture of artistic expression, and to provide a venue for artists to show their work. All artwork is up for silent auction bid. Proceeds go to the artists, along

with a small donation for art programming at the museum. The cost to visit the museum is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and college students, and \$4 for children ages six to 17.

Hours of operation

Now through Labor Day the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays through Saturdays and Mondays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Group tours can also be scheduled by calling the museum at 320/532-3632.

Band gets \$500,000 to Start Child Support Enforcement Agency

By Jake Oetting, Grant Writer

The grants department has secured a \$500,000 Title IV-D Tribal Child Support Enforcement (TCSE) start-up grant from the Administration for Families and Children (ACF) that will pay for the Band to start its own child support enforcement agency.

Previously, only states could administer a federal child support enforcement agency. Many states, like Minnesota, turn over responsibility for child support enforcement to the counties, who run it through their county attorneys' offices.

By operating its own agency, the Band will be able to access the federal funds that are currently going to the state and counties to administer enforcement. The Band can then use those dollars more effectively. Other tribes who have started their own agencies have seen child support payment collections nearly double during their first year of operation.

Another difference involves in-kind child support payments. The state system does not allow

in-kind payments. An in-kind payment is when something else is offered as payment instead of the usual cash payment that the state requires. If the Band chooses to allow in-kind child support payments, a custodial parent and a non-custodial parent can work out arrangements that allow the non-custodial parent to provide things like food, transportation, daycare, house repairs, etc., instead of cash.

Often these forms of payment can be more beneficial to the custodial parent than cash, and can also be beneficial to the non-custodial parent who may be out of work or have other financial difficulties.

In the end, though, it's all about our kids. While nobody likes being forced to make child support payments, nobody likes watching their kids or grandkids live in poverty, either. By forming our own child support agency, we will be able to make our own enforcement rules that will allow us to increase collections, reduce arrears, and care for the kids who can't care for themselves.

Public Safety Update

By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator

Wisdom Steps panel

On June 20, the Band's Emergency Management Department worked with National Weather Service representatives to present information on severe weather safety at the Wisdom Steps panel held on June 18-21 at Grand Casino Hinckley. The panel, hosted by the Minnesota Board of Aging's Indian Elder division, discussed a variety of topics, including diabetes prevention, home safety, nutrition, and exercise.

Severe weather training at district community meetings

We are also working with the National Weather Service to present severe weather preparedness information at district and urban area community meetings. Following each presentation, we are giving away a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(NOAA) weather radio.

Educating community members about severe weather is the next step that the Band is taking in its StormReady certification – which is a National Weather Service recognition for communities prepared with action plans for responding to severe weather. As part of the certification, we have also placed NOAA weather radios in all Band facilities in Districts I, II, IIa and III.

Our next presentation will be at the July 12th community meeting in District III.

Emergency Preparedness Training

On July 19, the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Emergency Readiness Education & Training (MERET) program will hold emergency preparedness training at Grand Casino Mille Lacs from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The workshops are free, but pre-registration is required. For more information, call Tonya Fitzgerald at 612/625-4409 or e-mail her at fitz0019@umn.edu.

Mille Lacs Baths and Birch Bark Canoes

By Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources

The water is warming up in the big lake and the sun is getting high in the sky...and the tourists are doing their best to look like we always do. I'm even starting to look like a full-blood.

The sun hasn't reached the part of me that remains naturally less pigmented. But everyone should remember, the sun can be harmful if you stay out in it too long, regardless of how dark or light your skin is. These days, the sun doesn't discriminate. Full-blood or not, no matter how dark each of us is naturally, we all have something in common – we're prone to skin cancer.

If you don't use sun block yourself, make sure that your small ones wear a sun block in the SPF 30 range. Why, you ask? As Indians, shouldn't we have natural protection?

We used to, but the rules have changed. Years ago, the sun may not have been as damaging to us. But pollution in the air and a hole in the ozone layer lets more harmful sunrays reach us these days. (I have never actually seen the hole in the ozone layer myself, but I've read enough to know it's there.)

Remember when we were young? Every trip to the beach on the big lake involved one important task – taking a bath. It seemed natural since there was all that water that nobody was using, and we didn't have to worry about the floor getting wet.

By the end of our bath, we were so incredibly clean, in part because of all that sand that stuck to the soap, almost like our own homemade version of Lava soap.

These days our soap is different. Our water is a little different now too; it has things like Zebra mussels and Chinese snails and Eurasian milfoil in it. I don't think any of us tribal members are to blame for this, though some people around these parts try to find a way to blame us for anything that goes wrong.

But when I last checked, all of our tribal ships with ballasts full of water from some far-off international ocean waters were empty before we portaged. Of course, that's after we had to stop and lay on the hot asphalt to warm up from our cool refreshing bath.

So remember this summer, regardless of whether you are out with that high tech boat or your birch bark canoe, make sure that the strange weeds and species that get drug around by people who don't know any better, aren't hanging on your canoe, canoe trailer, or freighter.

Make sure that all of the water that leaked into your canoe leaked back out before you leave the shipping lanes. Don't be afraid to pick up some of the trash that seems to be left behind by our shipping or sportsmen friends. And, especially remember to tell the small ones about how harmful trash left behind can be to the waters that give us life.

Tribal Police Cracking Down on Noise Ordinance

By Police Chief Dwight Reed

I want to remind Band members about the Band's "Public Nuisance Ordinance" and let you know that moving forward, tribal police officers will be especially strict on enforcing noise laws.

Elders have voiced their concerns about noise at recent community meetings. Noise is a serious issue that not only wakes people up at night, but also raises worries about safety. The noise ordinance is in place to help ensure that our Band neighborhoods are great places to live, where people feel safe and secure in their own homes. Our heightened enforcement efforts are a direct response to people's concerns.

Excessive noise is outlined in Band statutes as follows:

- Loud music: "Any music emitted from any car, house or music player so as to create a disturbance to the neighbors or community members between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m." (Statute 302 i.)
- Uncontrolled party: "Any social gathering that creates a

disturbance so as to disrupt the peacefulness of the neighborhood or community due to loud noises and/or fights or other obnoxious behavior." (Statute 302 k.)

Tribal police officers have the authority to enforce the ordinance on all Band lands.

Please do your part by:

- Keeping noise levels down on your property and in your car.
- Telling your children and grandchildren about the noise ordinance and the ramifications of being cited for a noise violation. Citations carry the possibility of misdemeanor charges and fines.
- Reporting violators to law enforcement. During regular business hours on weekdays, call the tribal police department at 320/532-3430. On weekends or after hours, call Mille Lacs County dispatch toll-free at 888/860-8250.

If we all do our part, we will have fewer violations and more peaceful neighborhoods. Thank you!

Band and Mille Lacs County Officials Meet to Discuss Law Enforcement Agreement

A cooperative law enforcement agreement that has been in place since 1998 was the focus of a June 29 meeting between Band and Mille Lacs County officials.

The Mutual Aid Law Enforcement Agreement enables tribal and county police officers to cooperate with and assist one another for purposes of providing law enforcement services throughout Mille Lacs County and within the Mille Lacs Reservation. The Band also has mutual aid agreements in place with other counties.

For more than 10 years, the agreement between the Band and Mille Lacs County has worked very well, a sentiment echoed by both Band and County officials. "This agreement is one of the few examples of a good cooperative relationship between the Band and Mille Lacs County," said Tadd Johnson, Mille Lacs Band Special Counsel on Government Affairs.

The Mille Lacs County Attorney's Office recently began raising concerns with regard to

how the Band's Solicitor General forwards police reports to the County for prosecution. Solicitor General R.J. Brunkow said, "We are implementing this agreement to protect public safety and the Band's rights."

In an effort to educate County officials and dispel misinformation, Band attorney Marc Slonim led the June 29 discussion to respond to questions and concerns. Slonim is the attorney who successfully litigated the Band's 1837 and 1855 treaty cases.

In a good-faith effort to preserve the agreement, the Band will continue to keep communication lines open with the County. Participants in the meeting agreed that the Band would develop a proposal responding to County concerns. Band attorneys are in the process of drafting that proposal.

Regardless of any action that Mille Lacs County eventually takes, the Band will continue to provide public safety services to Band members within the Mille Lacs Reservation.

Financial Skills Workshop to be Held in August

Do you need help with budgeting, retirement and finances? To help you understand these concepts, a two-day workshop will be held on August 1-2 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. The training is sponsored by the Mille Lacs Band and Merrill Lynch. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Topics that will be covered include:

- Budgets and savings – benefits to you and the community

- Building a healthy economy
- Working with checking and savings accounts
- What you need to know about credit
- Financial marketing basics
- Home-ownership and equity
- Teaching your children financial skills

If you would like to attend, please contact Don Wedell at 320/532-4773. The class is limited to 30 individuals.

Band Leaders Urge Sharing of Nelson Act Claims in Nation's Capitol



photo courtesy of Gerry Sikorski's office

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus meet with Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison in Washington, D.C. to discuss their opposition to a bill in the House of Representatives.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus, along with several other members of the Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), traveled to Washington, D.C. in June to oppose H.R. 2306, a bill to divide the Nelson Act settlement funds. The MCT opposes the bill, introduced by Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN), because it is contrary to an MCT resolution passed in 1999.

In 1999, the MCT's Tribal Executive Committee voted (10-2) to allocate the Nelson Act funds equally among the six bands. However, in 2001, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recommended that the funds be divided based upon each band's enrollment. The MCT immediately objected and continues to object to the BIA's position. However, without notifying the MCT, the BIA sent a letter to the Congress in April 2007 introducing legislation to make the BIA proposal effective. Representative Peterson, whose district includes the White Earth Reservation, introduced HR 2306 (the BIA's proposal) in May. The White Earth Band has the largest population of any band in the state.

In a May 18 letter to Senators Coleman and Klobuchar, MCT

President Norm Deschampe stated: "We urge the Congress to take action to fulfill the federal government's trust responsibility to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe...the Congress should refer the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's proposed legislation to the appropriate committees and enact it as soon as possible."

The Mille Lacs Band supports the MCT's position on the equal distribution of funds among the six bands, and Band officials have voiced their support as they visited Senators and members of Congress on Capitol Hill.

"We were out there to make the case that the Congress needs to respect tribal sovereignty and respect the vote the MCT took on this matter," said Herb.

The Nelson Act was enacted in 1889. In 1948 and 1951, the MCT filed complaints before the Indian Claims Commission that: 1) the proceeds from the sale of land and timber on the six reservations of the MCT under the Nelson Act were misspent; and 2) the land and timber taken were sold at less than full value. In 1999, the claims were settled and the MCT recovered \$20 million from the United States. Since then, the funds have collected more than \$6 million in interest.

Benefit Comedy Show to be Held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs

On Friday, July 20, at 8 p.m., a special benefit comedy show will be held at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center to raise funds for 19-year-old Mary Catherine Hook-Virinig, who is undergoing treatment for a rare form of cancer. She is the daughter of Dr. Patti Hook and Dr. Arden Virinig, who work for the Mille Lacs Health System and who have also worked with Band members at the Band's clinics for many years. An avid runner, Mary Catherine was diagnosed with cancer in July 2006 after a tumor was found in her pelvis during a routine physical prior to joining a college cross-country team.

Tickets for the comedy show are \$22 and are general admission only. Tickets can be purchased at Woodlands National Bank in downtown Onamia and at the Grand Market branch; Meat on Mille Lacs in Onamia; the *Mille Lacs Messenger* office in Isle; First National Bank of Milaca's Isle branch; and the *Aitkin Independent Age* office in Aitkin.

The comedy show will feature Scott Hansen, a five-time Minnesota Comedian of the Year, and other comedians. Special guest Isaac Witty, who has appeared on the *Late Night Show with David Letterman* and public radio's *A Prairie Home Companion*, will also take the stage.

The Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is donating the use of the convention center and staging services for the comedy show. Grand Casino Mille Lacs will provide beverages during the show.

"This event is just one of the ways that the Mille Lacs Band can show support to a family that has played an important role in our community," said Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services for the Mille Lacs Band. "Dr. Hook and Dr. Virinig have not only shown great service through their work with Ne-la-Shing Clinic, but also through their work with Band members. We are eager to help support them and their daughter."

The comedy show is part of a series of events in the Onamia/Mille Lacs Lake area from July 20-22 to benefit Mary Catherine. Other activities will include a spaghetti dinner, pancake breakfasts, a raffle for a 2007 all-terrain vehicle, a watermelon eating contest, a silent auction, a 5K run/walk, and a kids' carnival. The Mille Lacs Band clinics will also host an Indian art and taco sale on Friday, July 20, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the District I Community Center. For more information, contact Mary Sam at 320/532-8853 or marysam@grcasinos.com.

Help Children Learn to Read

Serve for one year with Minnesota Reading Corps to help children age 3 through grade 3 improve their literacy skills.

Earn \$860/month (full-time) or \$430/month (part-time). In addition, you will receive an education award of \$4,725 (full-time) or \$2,362 (part-time).

Positions are available throughout Minnesota, including the Twin Cities.

To learn more and apply, please visit www.theMLC.org/ReadingCorps or call Tammy Wickstrom, Mille Lacs Early Education Director, at 320/532-4690.

Chief Executive Calendar

To keep Band members informed about what Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has been working on, here is a look back at just a few of the items from her recent schedule:

- Traveled to Washington, D.C. with Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus to meet with members of Congress on the Nelson Act settlement
- Attended and spoke at Indian Women's Gathering in District I
- Attended Grand Celebration
- Conducted a cabinet meeting
- Organized and attended Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN) conference
- Hosted and attended meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Housing Subcommittee
- Convened listening circles with Band members in all three districts and the urban area
- Gave the welcome address at the Summer Youth Gathering
- Held a meeting of the Minnesota Tribal Government Foundation

Head Start Enrollment Deadline Approaching

Enrollment packets must be completed by Tuesday, July 31, for returning children who were in the Head Start program last year. Otherwise, your child's spot will be considered open.

Please call Maxine Sam, District Coordinator, at 320/532-4690, ext. 2210 to schedule an appointment. Please allow 25-45 minutes to complete the enrollment paperwork.

We must have the following on file before your enrollment packet is considered complete:

- physical, dental and immunization records
- income verification
- emergency contacts

We look forward to welcoming your child back for another great year of learning.

Call Today!
Band Member Businesses



BLACK DOG
COMPUTER SERVICES, LLC
www.blackdogcomputer.com
Joe Hendron 651-387-0946



Cheryl Miller
320-279-0026
eaglesigns@frontiernet.net

4 Locations Available
HEAR MORE HEARING AID CENTER

DONALD OLSON
651-771-4019



Robert Kegg
16031 Migizii Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

Email: ParaEmb@mn.rr.com

Paramount Embroidery
Scott Meyer
952-294-8530

Joe Mojica



Phone 320-532-4600
Fax 320-532-4555
10474 Stevens Road
Onamia, MN 56359

Bobby "The Warrior" Anderson



At Toby's Mill Mall, Hinckley
Your Fitness & Tanning Needs
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
320-384-7409

Support your fellow
Band Members
visit today!

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

February 2007

| | Approved Budget for FY 2007 | Actual Expenditures through 2/28/07 | % of Budget Expended |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Administration (1)* | 13,317,254 | 4,253,003 | 31.9% |
| Workforce* | 8,888,239 | 1,875,311 | 21.1% |
| Judicial | 947,319 | 302,027 | 31.9% |
| Law Enforcement* | 3,688,053 | 1,186,210 | 32.3% |
| Education* | 15,441,245 | 5,980,443 | 38.7% |
| Health and Human Services* | 21,632,488 | 7,709,965 | 35.6% |
| Natural Resources* | 4,492,447 | 1,773,416 | 39.5% |
| Community Development* | 45,140,124 | 10,827,275 | 24.0% |
| Gaming Authority | 4,314,052 | 1,482,475 | 34.4% |
| Bonus Distribution | 22,464,940 | 14,221,130 | 63.3% |
| Total Expenditures | \$140,306,161 | \$49,611,255 | 35.4% |

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 2006 fiscal year.

2007 Grand Celebration



(left to right) Greg Davis, Diane Nickaboine, Bobby Smith, Bob Anthony, Alan Weyaus, and Renee Pawaush help carry in the flags during Grand Entry.



Photo courtesy of the powwow committee



Photo courtesy of the powwow committee

Dancers from all over the United States travel to Hinckley to attend the Grand Celebration powwow. Shown on the left is a men's traditional dancer and on the right is a women's jingle dress dancer.

Tune in to KKIN & KBEK

Every month we publish the dates and times of upcoming Mille Lacs Band radio appearances. The KKIN radio appearances have a Q & A format, meaning people can call in and ask questions. Band members are encouraged to listen and call in to 218/927-2100. The KBEK appearances feature a Band representative talking with the host. Listed below are the dates and times of the July and August appearances.

KKIN radio – 94.3 FM

July 19, 8:30 a.m.

Don Wedll

Topic: Powwows

August 16, 8:30 a.m.

Topic: Charter schools

KBEK radio – 95.5 FM

July 17, 7:30 a.m.

Leonard Sam

Topic: Hunting and fishing

August 21, 7:30 a.m.

Larry Smallwood

Topic: Meaning of powwows

Tribal Noteboard

Happy July birthday to:

Brandon, July 7 with love from mom, Pablo, Roach, David, and Auntie Sandy • **Black**, on July 5 with love from Sandy, Pablo and Roach • **Shannon**, on July 2 with love from Auntie Sandy • **Nicole**, 30, on July 2 with love from Val, Kevin, Pie, Baby Kevin, your mother-in-law Sandy, Pablo, and Roach • **Karen**, on July 13 with love from Val, Pie, Kev, and Baby Kevin • **Rochelle**, on July 21 with love from Val, Kevin, Pie, and Baby Kevin • **Deze**, 6, on July 9 from mom, Nokomis, Trina, Junior, uncle, and Auntie Barb • **Cilla**, 25, on July 22 from Deze, mom, Trina, Lindsey, Jason Jr., Jason Sr., and Auntie Barb • **Ryan Smith Sr.**, on July 15 with love from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Darryl Smith Sr.**, on July 3 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Andrew Nelson**, on July 13 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Marvin Smith**, on July 3 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Travis Smith**, on July 31 with love from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Brandon Benjamin Sr.**, on July 28 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Miranda Benjamin**, on July 9 with love from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Jerry Moose**, on July 6 with love from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, John, Auntie Dalene, Chaddy, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, and Jack • **Jonathan Bonilla**, 9, on July 13 from mom, dad, Priscilla, Alex, Joseph, David and family • **Renee Gale**, on July 10 from Antavia and Arielle • **Jaxin**, 3, on July 20 with love from mom, Hucky, Skye, Tommy Lee, Gramma Loris, Tina, Deondre, Valerie, Matty, Jay, Cheeky, Lil Jay, Dana, Dave, Tanya, Bice, OJ, Brittany, Diamond, Ha-tah, Carrie and kids, Darren, Lisa, Joey, Paul, Carrie, Jim, Gramma Tisha, Thomas, and the rest of your family • **Gramma Tisha**, on July 20 with love from Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Dalene, Thomas, Niss and family, Jaylene and family, Dana, Dave, Tanya, and Jim Jr. • **Cedric**, on July 20 with love from Auntie Day and family,

Uncle Paul and Carrie, and Grandma Bearheart • **Auntie Wanda**, on July 19 with love from Jaxin, Jack, Dalene, Chaddy, and Tommy Lee • **Alicia Skinaway**, on July 23 with love from Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Dalene, Niss, and family in Isle • **Valerie Mitchell**, 3, on July 4 with love from Auntie Meany, Jaxin, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Huck, Owen, OJ, Brittany, Diamond, Thomas, Lauren, Tyson, Katelyn, Destiny, Doreen, Baby Wax, Jenise, Laila, Justin, Jon, Nate, Debbie, Jade, Jessica, Sean, Amber, Carmelena, Mataeo, Grandma Bea, Dana, Dave, Tanya, Sarah, Prince, Grammy, Tina, and Deondre • **Vanessa**, on July 12 with love from Day, Thomas, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, and family • **Tahya Thomas**, on July 13 with love from Auntie Meany, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Rainy, Val, Matty, Lil J, Jay, Jim, Dana, Dave, Tanya, Gramma Loris, Tina, Deondre, and Jack • **Thomas Mitchell**, on July 13 with love from your baby girl, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Day, Mother Hubbard, Jay, Matt and kids, Dana, Dave, Tanya, Jim, and your family • **Gramma Carol**, with love from super boy, Jack, Dalene, Chaddy, and Tommy Lee • **Uncle Gus**, with love from super boy, Jack, Dalene, Chaddy, and Tommy Lee • **Day**, on July 21 with love from Skye, Tommy Lee, Dunn, Thomas, Huck, APB, Carrie and kids, Owen, OJ, Brittany, Diamond, Joe Cool, Jim, Paul, Carrie, Mother Hubbard, Tina, Deondre, Jay and kids, Dana, Dave, Tanya, and Barb • **Whitney Harrington**, on July 14 from mom, Nadine, Charlotte, and Phil Jr. • **OGuy Sam**, on July 29 from Mickey, Nadine, Charlotte, Phil Jr., and Whitney • **Boy**, on July 9 with love from mom • **Doreen Kay**, on July 1 with love from Katelyn, Destiny, Baby Wax, Jenise, Laila, Lauren, Tyson, Justin, Jon, Nate, Debbie, Jade, Jessica, Sean, Amber, Carmelena, Mataeo, Steve, and mom • **Sean Racelo**, on July 2 from Doreen, Lauren, Katelyn, Destiny, Baby Wax, Jenise, Laila, Justin, Jon, Tyson, Nate, Steve, and Amber • **Alan**, on July 21 from Doreen, Lauren, Tyson, Katelyn, Destiny, Baby Wax, Jenise, Laila, Justin, Jon, Nate, Debbie, Jade, Jessica, Sean, Amber Carmelena,

Mataeo, and mom • **Paige**, on July 23 from Doreen, Lauren, Tyson, Katelyn, Destiny, Baby Wax, Jenise, Laila, Justin, Jon, Nate, Debbie, Jade, Jessica, Sean, Amber Carmelena, Mataeo, and Grandma Bea • **Birdman**, on July 3 from Katelyn, Destiny, Baby Wax, Laila, Jenise, Lauren, Tyson, and the other kids • **Aaliyah Hart**, on July 17 with love from your family • **Agnes Chief**, on July 22 with love from your family • **Angeline Wadena**, on July 24 with love from daughters, sons, sisters, brothers, nephews, nieces and grandchildren • **Bradley Buckanaga**, on July 30 with love from Gram, Pay, mom, dad, brothers and sisters • **Lindsey Squarecheeks**, 23, on July 18 from Louie, Danielle, handsome and captain • **Chase Nickaboine**, on July 7 from Louie • **Paige Mitchell**, 10, on July 23 with love from mom, dad, Rosa, Freddie, Tweety and Fluffy • **Bundy Mitchell**, on July 21 from Chris, Rosa, Paige, Freddy, Tweety and Fluffy • **Deloris Eagle**, 70, on July 2 with love from Stacey, Isabel, Luis, and Braelyn • **Isabel Sanchez**, 13, on July 4 with love from mom, Luis and Braelyn • **Ren**, on July 10 from mom and Darryl.

Happy July birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

David Aubid
Darline Barbour
MaryAnn Belgrade
Donna Boodoo
Lewelyn Boyd
Agnes Chief
Randall Clark
Martha Davis
Dolores Eagle
Kenneth Garbow
Donna Gilmore
Regina Hansen
Patricia Helland
Laura Hill
Margaret Hill
Caylen Jansen
Loretta Kalk
Debra Kamimura
Letitia Mitchell
Carol Nickaboine
Marlene Nickaboine
Sonja Peroceschi
Steven Premo
Bradley Roache
Elfreda Sam
Alicia Skinaway
Donald Skinaway
Geraldine Skinaway

Loretta Smith
Andrew St. Clair
Harold St. Clair
Ruth St. John
Virginia Tossey
Angeline Wadena

In memory

In loving memory to "Auntie Cookie" on your birthday – July 14. Remembering all the good times we've shared, we miss you so much. All the memories we hold in our hearts, *we love you always, Meany girl, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Dana and family, Niss and family, Jay and family, Lisa, Shawna, Andrew, Tina, Alana and family, and the rest of your family.*

Congratulations

Congratulations to our **mom** for making the Presidents List for the spring semester, *with love from Pie and Baby Kevin.*

• • •

Congratulations to **Alan Mitchell** on your graduation. *We're proud of you, from Jack, Jaxin, and family in Isle.*

• • •

Congratulations to **Beatrice Mitchell** on your graduation. *We're proud of you, Jack, Jaxin, and family in Isle.*

• • •

Congratulations to **Shibbey** on your graduation. *We're proud of you, Day, Chaddy, Tina, and family in Isle.*

• • •

Congratulations to **Amanda Boyd** for receiving your high school diploma from Isle High School, *with love from mom, grandma, grandpa, Becca, Beau, Brandon, Stevie, Eddie, Ernie, E.J., Danielle, O.J., Clint, Dawn, Boone, Bonnie and Elizabeth.*

• • •



Photo courtesy of Chris Sam

Congratulations to **Paige Mitchell** on your graduation from fourth grade. *With love from your family.*

Housing Department Offers Home Safety Training

By Robert Thompson, Safety/Risk Manager

Ask Americans where they feel the safest and most will say within their own home. However, unintentional injuries in the home result in nearly 21 million medical visits each year.

To help Band members learn about safety issues in their homes, the Band's Housing Department will offer monthly healthy home safety trainings starting this month. Housing department staff will hold half-day sessions to talk about issues such as indoor air quality, controlling mold problems, preventing carbon monoxide exposure, drinking water analysis, and other topics. Any homeowners or renters in the Band's three districts can attend the home safety trainings. In addition, the department plans to conduct housing budget training sessions for renters to learn about ways to care for their rental properties.

For more information and to sign up for a training session, contact Danielle Smith with the Housing Department at 320/532-7808. The department will work with those who sign up to arrange a date and time for the sessions.

Home safety tips

June was Home Safety Month, and although it is over, it is important to remember home safety information all year long.

Here are some simple steps you can take to minimize the risk of potential injuries in your home:

Fires/burns

- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home and test your smoke detectors' batteries monthly.
- Plan a home fire drill and practice it at least twice a year.

Falls

- Make sure all porches, hallways and stairwells are well lit.
- Use a non-slip mat or install strips or decals in bathtubs and showers.

Poisonings

- Keep medicines and household cleaners up high, out of the reach of children.
- Put the poison control center number near every phone (800/222-1222).

For more information on home safety, visit the Home Safety Resource Center online at www.homesafetycouncil.org.

Multi-Tribal Indian Housing Project Awarded Funds

By Jake Oetting, Grant Writer

Band seeking more funds for more projects

The Band is enhancing its reputation once again as the lead developer for a multi-tribal Indian housing project in the Twin Cities that is the first of its kind in the nation. The project is designed to reduce homelessness by helping provide homes to all low-income Indian families in the urban area regardless of tribal membership.

Last year I worked closely with Lindalee Retka, Assistant Executive Director of Housing for the Mille Lacs Band, to put together a winning proposal to secure funds from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA). That award brought \$390,000 to the project, and this year an additional \$500,000 was awarded for this worthy project.

Other grant applications that have recently been submitted and are awaiting awards including a \$150,000 Department of Justice Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP) grant to provide our courts with a court reporting

system and a court case management system. Both of these systems have been sorely needed for a long time. With better organization and management, our courts will be able to handle more cases more professionally.

Also recently submitted and awaiting award is the TCE Treatment Expansion grant application. If awarded, this grant will pay for the salary and benefits of three new outpatient treatment case managers. Along with a new treatment model (known as the Matrix) being implemented by the Department of Behavioral Health, these new case managers would vastly improve the Band's efforts to provide outpatient treatment and relapse prevention services. Besides their salary and benefits, the \$1.5 million request will also provide funds for training Behavioral Health staff, for travel and local mileage, and for incentives for participants to stick with their treatment and not drop out of the program.

These are just a few examples of the ways in which outside funding sources can help us reach our goals.

Full-Contact Mixed Martial Arts Cage Fights Draw Large Crowd

On July 7, mixed martial arts fans enjoyed Xtreme Full-Contact Cage Fights at Grand Casino Hinckley.

The event included amateur and professional mixed martial arts competitors. Mixed martial arts consists of a variety of fighting styles, including kickboxing, wrestling, judo, and muay thai – a style that allows fighters to use leg kicks and knee strikes along with some traditional boxing moves.

Marty "The Wolfman" Lindquist, a former world kickboxing champion and a professional boxer from Blaine, took on Tony Norlander, a professional mixed martial arts fighter from Pine City known for his ground fighting skills, for the Mille Lacs Band Warriors Championship. Tony won the fight and received the championship belt.

Other fighters that competed included Joey "The Sandman" Clark, Mille Lacs Band member Troy "The Hitman" Hill, Asa Kingsbury, Eric Ortiz, and Dan Washburn.

The event was promoted by Warrior's Fitness & Fight Promotions and regulated by the Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission (please note that the Boxing Commission only regulated the event, and did not host the event, as stated in last month's Boxing Commission article).

Boxing Commission events

On Friday, July 13, the Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission held a professional boxing event at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events & Convention Center. Look for more information about the event's outcome in the next issue of the *Inaajimowin*.

The Boxing Commission's next event will be held on Wednesday, August 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events & Convention Center.

New commissioner

Welcome to Darrell Shingobe of McGregor, the newest member of the Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission.

Recipe: Angel Lush With Pineapple Cake

Preparation time

- 15 minutes plus refrigeration

Ingredients

- 1 pkg. (4-serving size) JELL-O Vanilla Flavor Instant Pudding & Pie Filling
- 1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple in juice, undrained
- 1 cup thawed Cool Whip Whipped Topping
- 1 pkg. (10 oz.) prepared round angel food cake
- Seasonal berries

Directions

Mix dry pudding mix and pineapple with juice in a medium bowl.

Gently stir in whipped topping. Let stand for five minutes.

Cut cake horizontally into three layers. Place the bottom cake layer (cut side up) on a serving plate.

Spread 1 cup of the pudding mixture onto the cake layer; cover with the middle cake layer. Spread 1 cup of the pudding mixture onto the middle cake layer; top with the remaining cake layer. Spread the cake with the remaining pudding mixture. Refrigerate at least one hour or until ready to serve. Top with your favorite seasonal berries. This recipe serves ten people.

Calendar of Events

July 2007

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|--------|---|
| 15 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Joycelyn Shingobe, Commissioner of Education 877/239-2444 | 16 Chief Executive listening circles 4-6 p.m. East Lake Community Center | 17 Chief Executive listening circles 4-6 p.m. Lake Lena Community Center | 18 District IIA Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Marvin Bruneau, 218/768-3311 Chief Executive listening circles 4-6 p.m. District I Community Center | 19 All District Elder Meeting 11:30 a.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181 Chief Executive listening circles 4-6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center | 20 | 21 Martina McBride* GCH 8 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources 877/239-2444 |
| 22 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources 877/239-2444 | 23 | 24 | 25 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772 | 26 Urban Area Community Meeting/Chief Executive listening circles All Nations Indian Church, 5-7 p.m. Contact: Pat or Barb, 612/872-1424 District II Meeting East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Mary Sue Bohanon, 218/768-3311 | 27 | 28 Hank Williams Sr. Tribute* GCML 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> R.J. Brunkow, Solicitor General 877/239-2444 |
| 29 Kenny G* GCH 6 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> R.J. Brunkow, Solicitor General 877/239-2444 | 30 District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Becky Sam, 320/532-7423 | 31 | | | | |

August 2007

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| *To Purchase Tickets Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 612/989-5151, or visit www.ticketmaster.com | <i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at 255 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 102 St. Paul, MN 55101</i> | Commissioners On Call A Mille Lacs Band commissioner is available every weekend to help Band members handle emergencies. If you have an emergency, please contact the commissioner on call at 877/239-2444. The emergency phone is answered from 5 p.m. Friday- 8 a.m. Monday. | 1 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772 | 2 | 3 Wayne Newton* GCML 7:30 p.m. nightly | 4 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444 |
| 5 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444 | 6 Onamia Indian Education Parent Committee Meeting Onamia School District Office Conference Room 12 p.m. | 7 | 8 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772 | 9 District III Meeting GCH Hotel Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 877/884-6240 | 10 | 11 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Al Olson, Commissioner of Community Development 877/239-2444 |
| 12 Tanya Tucker* GCH 5 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Al Olson, Commissioner of Community Development 877/239-2444 | 13 AMVETS Meeting GCML 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925 Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting Aazhoomog School 6:30 p.m. Contact: Skip Churchill, 320/384-6970 | 14 | 15 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772 | 16 Shinobe Jam GCH Amphitheater noon-6 p.m. | 17 Steve Miller Band* GCH 8 p.m. | 18 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Angella Roby, Commissioner of Finance 877/239-2444 |

What Do You Like Best About Your Summer Job?

We asked participants in the Mille Lacs Band's Summer Youth Employment Program about what they like best in their summer jobs. The students are between the ages of 14 and 20, and they are working in a variety of positions in Band businesses or Band government through early August. The program is coordinated by the Workforce Center.

Demitre Wind



"I like to cook. I'd like to attend a culinary arts school someday."

Demitre is working at the Nay Ah Shing Lower

School as a cook.

Rebecca Boyd



"I like working with people in the store as a cashier. I like the experience it gives me for future jobs."

Rebecca is working at the Grand Market.

Derrick Holm



"I like to work at the store and make money."

Derrick is working at the Grand Market.

Cameron Weous



"I like to work outside and learn the traditions."

Cameron is working at the District I Immersion Grounds.

Tyson Sam



"I like working outdoors. I also like to keep busy and stay away from negative stuff."

Tyson is working at the District I Immersion Grounds.

Jasmine Ballinger



"I like to make some extra money, and it's good training."

Jasmine is working in the Band Assembly office.

Shinobe Jam To Be Held in August



The Shinobe Jam will be held on Thursday, August 16 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Grand Casino Hinckley Amphitheater. Food will be served at noon and the first band will take the stage at 1 p.m. The headlining bands are Diamond in the Rough and Dubiously Grand.

If you are a Band member and interested in performing at Shinobe Jam, please call Gloria St. John at 320/532-7486.

All photos courtesy of Rick Anderson

41st Annual
"Home of the Jingle Dress"
ISKIGAMIZIGAN
1966 2007

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Pow Wow
August 17-19, 2007

Host Drum:
Raining Thunder
MC:
Larry "Amik" Smallwood
Arena Director:
Robert Sam

Grand Entries:
Friday 7pm
Saturday 1pm & 7pm
Sunday 1pm
Location:
"Iskigamizigan Pow Wow Grounds"
West side of Lake Mille Lacs,
12 miles north of Onamia
on U.S. Hwy 169, follow signs

Dancer & Drum Monies:
Only the first 15 drums registered will be paid for the sessions they participate with. Drums must have a minimum of 5 singers. All singers must register with their drum, and designate one individual who will collect at payout. At least 5 registered singers must be present at the drum during each role call, in order to be paid for that session.

Video Taping
We will be video taping grand entry to assist us with accurately registering dancers. These tapes will only be used for participation verification during payouts.

Pow Wow information contact:
Mary Jo Jennings 320-532-5944 or Freedom Porter 320-532-7496 - Security and Medical Staff on Premises. No Alcohol or Drugs Allowed. Not responsible for accidents or lost/stolen items.

Events:
Princess & Jr. Princess Contest
Brave & Jr. Brave Contest
Best Float Contest
Best Rez Car Contest
Parade
Horseshoe Tournament
Moccasin Game (We require 6 teams in order to hold contest)
Fun Run Sponsored by the Mille Lacs Indian Museum

On Sale:
Souvenir Buttons, Poster Series, Raffle Tickets

Free:
Admission, Camping, Campfire Wood, Showers

Food & Craft Vendors Welcome!
Limited Space, Reserve Early

Contact:
Robert Thompson
320-532-7841

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