

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

June 2008

"The story as it's told."

Volume 10 • Number 6

## Nay Ah Shing Graduates are College Bound



Front row L-R: Danielle Edgington, Marisa Cochran, Kristin Boyd. Middle row L-R: Jon Nickaboine, English Teacher Alicia Eischens, Anthony Buckanaga, Activities Director Bugs Haskin, Steven Aune, and Math Teacher Amanda Klevgaard. Back row L-R: Dean of Students Mary Simon, Rene' Athman, Science Teacher Larry Hansen, Sewing Teacher Donna Benson, and Counselor Anna Braam.

By Eric North, Nay Ah Shing Principal

On May 21, Nay Ah Shing was proud to honor the graduation class of 2008. This year's graduating class consisted of Steven Aune, Kristin Boyd, Marisa Cochran, Danielle Edgington, Matt Hatfield, Jon Nickaboine, and Tony Buckanaga. There was a very large crowd in the high school gym to recognize and honor this year's class. Emcees were Anna Braam, School Counselor, and Jason Long, Physical Education Teacher. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin gave an address encouraging students to continue with their education

and I gave the key note address where I asked students to make a change in the future and a positive difference for others. The seniors gave speeches in Ojibwe, thanked their teachers and staff, and presented gifts to individuals that were significant in their lives and academic success.

Some members of Nay Ah Shing's graduating class of 2008 will attend St. Cloud State University, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Central Lakes College, and Le Cordon Bleu College. The staff at Nay Ah Shing are very proud of their graduates and know that they will be successful in the future.

## Melanie Benjamin Elected to Third Term As Chief Executive

Incumbent Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was re-elected in the Band's general election on Tuesday, June 10. The win gives Melanie her third four-year term as Chief Executive.

### Total votes

Melanie Benjamin	634
Marge Anderson	412
Voids/blanks	3
Total	1,049

Melanie was elected to her first term in 2000. Prior to that, she served as the Band's Commissioner of Administration from 1989 to 1997, Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance at Grand Casino Hinckley, and in several other positions with the Mille Lacs Band. She has also served the Indian community through numerous boards and organizations at the local, state and national levels.

### Sandra Blake returns to District I Representative post after one-term absence

In the District I Representative race, Sandra Blake defeated incumbent Alicia

Skinaway. Sandra previously served in this post from 2000-2004, and most recently has been the Band's Executive Director of Education.

### Total votes

Sandra Blake	468
Alicia Skinaway	217
Voids/blanks	10
Total	695

### Nay Ah Shing School Board election results

In the school board election, the results were:

#### School Board Chairperson

Ruth Sam	551
Rose Wind	400
Voids/blanks	22
Total	973

#### School Board member District I

LeeAnn Benjamin	302
Dale Ballinger	379
Voids/blanks	10
Total	691

#### School Board member District II

Cheryl Miller	102
Voids/blanks	27
Total	129



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## Young Students Prepare for Their Future

District I Head Start graduation



Front row L-R: Braelyn Harrington, Kiala Ryle, Leilani Washington, Roxann Benjamin, Krista Nayquonabe, Isabella Boyd. Back row L-R: Cedric Bearheart, Bobby Eagle Jr., Matthew Mitchell, Noah Benjamin-Sam, Stone Shingobe, Devin Miller, Elvis Smith, Derek Smith Jr. Not pictured Rose Killsplenty.



Front row L-R: Kevin Watterson-Harrington, Dayaunna Nadeau, Keegan Jackson, Victoria Villebrun, Jashawn Machen, and Dawn White. Back row L-R: Syrus Pacheco, Caleb Sam, Shaun Jackson, Dove Boyd-Davidson, Tayshaun Fahey, and James Lyons. Not Pictured Kira Moose.

## Fourth grade graduation



Nay Ah Shing fourth grade students graduated on Friday, May 30, when they were recognized for completing elementary school. The class, which will move into the middle school next year, achieved several accomplishments including winning the school's food drive, reading at a sixth-grade level, and working with the assisted living unit in District I. Pictured from left to right: (front row) Mia Anoka, Kelsey Benjamin, Harmonie Boyd, Tehya Wade, Mercedes Deyhle, (back row) teacher Ray Jackson, Sebastian Benjamin, Eddie Nadeau, Julius Aubid, Justin Leecy, Chase Nickaboine, Chaz Pendegayosh, Aaron Nayquonabe, and teacher Govinda Budrow.

## Band Members Graduate From Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College



On May 22, nine Mille Lacs Tribal College attendees graduated from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, which holds classes in District I. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin (center) and Mille Lacs Tribal College Programming Consultant/Academic Advisor Candi Aubid (far right) attended the ceremony. Graduates are L-R: Camille Smith, Deb Jones-Northrup, Kim Zgodava, LeAnn Benjamin, John Schmitt, Laureen Davis, Loretta Hansen, and Thomas Saros Jr. Not pictured Rebecca Churchill.

## Mii Gwetch from the Chief Executive

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

As I write this article, it has only been 12 hours since I learned that I won my bid for a third term as Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. I received the final election results at 3:30 a.m. and am looking forward to a good night's rest, as I'm sure are all those dedicated Band members who served as election judges and who stayed awake nearly all night long counting, recounting and compiling results. Led by Election Judge Roberta Fox, these people worked so hard. Mii gwetch to each of you for your service to the Band.

I also want to say mii gwetch to all the candidates who ran for office. Marge Anderson is a respected Elder in this community, and I'm sure she will continue to serve the Band in her capacity on the Housing Board and in other roles. I welcome Sandra Blake back to the Band Assembly, and know that Sandra's keen intelligence along with her dedication to advancing issues like education will result in great progress for the Band. And, I say mii gwetch to Alicia Skinaway, who served the Band well as District I Representative during the past four years and will continue to work on important issues in the community.

Also, mii gwetch to all of the candidates who ran for office in the primary election. I

immensely enjoyed all the forums and debates and have the highest regard for each of these Anishinabe community leaders. While there were recently some new records set with regard to pre-election rumor-mongering and negativity, those actions were orchestrated by other persons and not the political candidates personally.

I want to remind all Band members that we should thank those who ran for elected office. When a person throws their hat into the ring to represent the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, they are signifying their willingness to devote their lives to serving their fellow Band members. That's what every candidate did. As Band members, remember to express your gratitude to these Anishinabe community members.

Finally, I want to say to all the candidates and all the Band members who are willing to publicly express and share their views and opinions: I am so appreciative of your political activism and encourage you to continue challenging us as Band leaders to always work to improve services for Band members and protect our Band rights.

Mii gwetch to everyone who voted. As elected officials, we will continue to move forward to advance the interests of all Band members, no matter what.

## New Newspaper Contributors

### Toya Stewart



Rick Anderson

Mille Lacs Band member Toya Stewart is joining the ranks of Band newspaper writers beginning this month. Toya, a Minneapolis resident, has been an award-winning journalist since 1994.

She has worked at several daily newspapers across the country including the *Star Tribune*, the *Argus Leader* in Sioux Falls, S.D., *The Times-Leader* in Wilkes-Barre, P.A., the *Kansas City Star*, and at two Texas newspapers, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and *The Dallas Morning News*.

After seven years as an education reporter, Toya left *The Dallas Morning News* in 2006 to move back to the Twin Cities to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota.

She is a full-time student and is two classes shy of finishing her masters program in health journalism. Her master's project will focus on two major health issues affecting Native Americans – obesity and diabetes.

Currently, Toya works part-time in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. She is an administrative fellow on the communications team for the Dean's Office and writes for several of the school's publications.

Toya received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Rhetoric and African-American Studies in 1993 from the University of Minnesota. She is engaged to Steven Downey and they have a 10-month-old son, Dallas. She is a member of the Native American Journalists Association and the National Association of Black Journalists.

Toya can be contacted at [stew0004@umn.edu](mailto:stew0004@umn.edu) or at 612/250-8727.

### Rick Anderson



Photo courtesy of Rick Anderson

Tribal and Community Coordinator Rick Anderson has added the role of photographer to his resume since he began shooting photos of Band members and events for the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. Rick, a Band member, is owner of Eagle Clan Productions and has worked in the video production industry for three years.

Rick has written, filmed, directed, edited and produced 13 videos. One video, "The Ojibwe Language Master/Apprentice Program," was broadcast on the Twin Cities Public Television show, *Minnesota Native Showcase* last year. Another project, "We Vote for our Future," video was shown at the Red Fork Film Festival in Oklahoma and at the American Indian Film Institute.

Rick has worn many hats for the Band including Gaming Compliance Officer for the Corporate Commission, Associate Director of Corporate Relations and Special Projects, Special Projects Coordinator, and Coordinator of the Youth Advisory Council in the Chief Executive's Office.

Music has also been a major part of his life for more than 20 years and includes offering drum lessons to Mille Lacs Band youth. He's especially proud of starting an after-school music arts and media arts program at the Band's District I Community Center. Funding from the three-year grant enabled him to purchase instruments and other equipment for the program.

Rick, a Garrison resident, graduated from South High School in Minneapolis. He has five children, Anisa, Desiree, Tiffany, Brittany and Tyler.

Rick can be reached at [eagleclan24@yahoo.com](mailto:eagleclan24@yahoo.com) or at 320/282-5650.

## Nay Ah Shing High School Students Receive Award at National American Indian Business Leaders Conference



Photo courtesy of Eric North

**Front row L-R: Kelsie Shaugobay, Jordan Boyd, Amber Buckanaga, Rene Short, Nikki Sam, Jayme Boyd. Back row L-R: Sponsor Bugs Haskin, Brandon Anthony, Ricki Boyd, Kyle Aune, and Sponsor Mary Simon.**

### By Mary Simon, Dean of Students

Fifteen Nay Ah Shing students participated in the 2008 American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL) National Leadership Conference. This year's conference, entitled "Empowering Nations, Inspiring Generations" was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Students were selected based on grades, attendance, behavior, and participation in AIBL chapter activities.

American Indian Business Leaders is a nonprofit organization that supports and promotes the education and development of future American Indian business leaders. AIBL creates leaders that facilitate self initiative and economic development.

The AIBL chapter program focuses on education, experience, leadership and culture.

Nay Ah Shing School has recently established both a high school AIBL chapter and a middle school AIBL chapter. These highly successful chapters strive to develop the leadership potential of students through a variety of chapter activities, including the operation of two businesses: a photography business, Pow Wow Picz, and a school store which operates at after school events, school powwows, etc.

The money earned from these businesses is used to support American Indian Business Leader chapter activities, such as attending the National AIBL Conference, assisting students with positive business ventures, and supporting students who wish to pursue business degrees beyond high school.

Nay Ah Shing students submitted a business plan for competition while at the national conference. The business plan described the current chapter owned and operated business – Pow Wow Picz. The plan was judged based on weighted criteria of 55% written presentation and 45% oral presentation. The plan was developed and written at last year's Youth Entrepreneurship Summer Camp, which was a collaborative project between Nay Ah Shing School, the Mille Lacs Band Small Business Development office, and the Fond du Lac Tribal College AIBL Chapter. The students worked very hard preparing for the oral presentation as well. For most of them, it was the first time speaking in front of a large group. The students were proud of this personal accomplishment. It was announced during the awards banquet, that Nay Ah Shing High School AIBL Chapter received the first place award in the business plan competition.

The second day of the conference was reserved for fun. All conference participants took part in the Haulapai Nations Economic Development Tour to the skywalk at Grand Canyon West, AZ. The students viewed the canyon by walking out onto the glass bottom skywalk. What an opportunity to see the world in a whole new way!

Pow Wow Picz will be open for business this summer at a variety of area powwows which include Cass Lake, Hinckley, and Mille Lacs. Come on over to the Pow Wow Picz booth, and say aneen to the students, as they appreciate an opportunity to talk about their success as young entrepreneurs.

## Dr. Arne Vainio Receives Prestigious Medical Award



Photo courtesy of Ivy Vainio

Mille Lacs Band member Dr. Arne Vainio recently received the prestigious Early Distinguished Alumni Career Award from the Minnesota Medical Foundation. This award is given to a physician who has demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in his/her career within 15 years after graduating from medical school.

Arne's career has been dedicated to working with American Indian communities. Arne graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School-Duluth Campus in 1994 and served a three-year residency at the Seattle Indian Health Board. In 1997, he joined the Min-No-Aya-Win Human Services Clinic on the Fond du Lac Reservation in Cloquet. When he is not working in the clinic, Arne spends time mentoring medical students. He also encourages American Indian students to pursue a career in the medical field and supports them throughout their endeavors.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin wrote in support of Arne's nomination, saying, "Dr.

Vainio has devoted his life to improving the health of Indian people, and is a role model not just for the American Indian community, but for all Minnesotans and especially physicians."

Arne received several letters of support from students, colleagues, fellow alumni, and others. He said that he was "humbled to receive their support, and just reading their letters was enough of a reward."

### Educational initiatives

Arne advocates for American Indians to get regular checkups and take care of their health. One way he is doing this is through a documentary film (still in production) that shows him undergoing screenings and regular health exams. He wanted to do this to show the importance of preventative screenings, particularly to Indian men who avoid going to the doctor. While Arne used to be among this group, he realized that he needed regular checkups, especially with his family history of diabetes, substance abuse, and heart disease.

Another way Arne is reaching out to people is by writing regular columns about health topics and his own personal experiences for *News from Indian Country*.

"I wanted to write these stories not only because I am a physician, but also because I want to help keep our Elders for as long as we can," said Arne. "We have so much to gain from them, but we are losing them too early to smoking, diabetes, and other diseases."

## Interested in Becoming a Licensed Family Child Care Provider?

The Mille Lacs Band Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Child Care Program will host informative meetings for those interested in becoming a licensed child care provider.

The meetings will outline training requirements, background checks, adult/child ratios, and much more.

The class will be offered in three different locations:

- July 8 – East Lake Education Modular (next to the community center) from 4-5 p.m.

- July 16 – Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center from 4-5 p.m.
- July 23 – Lake Lena Computer Lab from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

To register, contact the workforce center at 320/532-7407 or e-mail Theresa Romard at [theresar@millelacsobjibwe.nsn.us](mailto:theresar@millelacsobjibwe.nsn.us).

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

## Grand Auto & RV Care Opens in Hinckley



Photo courtesy of Beth Hamlin

L to R: Brad Roache, Lisa Murphy, Sarah Oquist, Deron Dunkley, Jack Thomas, Mel Towle, William Hemming, Steve Premo, and Perry Skinaway.

The Grand Auto & RV Care Center, which is owned and operated by the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band, is now open for business in Hinckley. The Grand Auto & RV Care Center is a premier full-service facility, specializing in everything from car washes to oil changes to transmission services for cars, trucks, and recreational vehicles (RVs). The new facility has six lube bays and two service bays to provide repairs on any make and model of vehicle or recreational vehicles.

"We are open and ready to serve Hinckley, the surrounding communities, and anyone traveling to this area," said Grand Auto & RV Care Center General Manager Alan Sargent. "We are especially glad to be

able to offer RV care, which is a harder-to-find service."

The Grand Auto & RV Care Center is located near Grand Casino Hinckley's RV park and provides services Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the center's services or to schedule an appointment, call 320/384-4822.

"We are excited about this new business venture," said Mitch Corbine, Senior Vice President of Gaming and Business Operations for the Corporate Commission. "We look forward to being able to provide our Guests, neighbors and Associates with a quick, convenient and affordable option to service their vehicle needs."

## Tribal ID Cards Acceptable Identification for Domestic Flights

On April 28, the Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that it will officially accept tribal government photo ID cards as identification for domestic flights. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) collaborated with the department for months on this effort.

TSA announced a series of improvements in its aviation security and traveler screening system to strengthen security and streamline procedures for travelers. The revision includes new acceptable forms of identification that will be accepted at TSA airport checkpoints in the United States, including American Indian tribal photo ID cards

and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) cards.

The NCAI Homeland Security Working Group has been working vigorously to ensure tribal ID cards receive the same respect accorded to all governmental identification. TSA's decision is the result of the working group's persistent efforts. The working group was also successful in obtaining approval of tribal ID cards for international land border crossings earlier this year.

For further information on this new rule or the NCAI Homeland Security Working Group, contact Heather Dawn Thompson at [hthompson@ncai.org](mailto:hthompson@ncai.org), Robert Holden at [rholden@ncai.org](mailto:rholden@ncai.org), or visit [www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org).

## Assistant Commissioner of Administration Reflects on First Year of Duty



Photo courtesy of Duane's Photography

By Toya Stewart

As his first anniversary fast approaches, Peter Nayquonabe is pleased by his progress, yet knows there is still much to be done.

Peter, 31, Assistant Commissioner of Administration and currently the overseer of Community Development, administers several government departments including Housing, Public Works, and the Indian Employment Rights Office. He also assists the Commissioner of Administration in managing the Human Resources Department and the TANF program.

"The best part for me is seeing fellow Band members getting into a home," said Peter, who recently built his home in Garrison. "I know how exciting it can be."

The more challenging part is people's perception that as a commissioner, he's never around. That's because he moves from location to location to ensure that Band business is running smoothly.

Before taking on the role of Assistant Commissioner, Peter had a similar perception.

"I thought it would be an easy job where you sit in your office all day, but it's not that way," he said. "We're responsible for the operation of all the executive branch programs."

"There are a lot of long hours and it's a time-consuming job, but I enjoy that too," he said. "I have daily interaction with Band members through community development because we put out an actual product that everybody needs – a home!"

One of his greatest joys is providing affordable housing for Mille Lacs Band members, particularly Elders.

"Priority goes to Elders," he said. "My dad always said, 'you need to do what you can for them.'"

And it's easy for him to do. Peter grew up in Garrison. He remembers watching the economic struggle of the Band before the casinos came.

"There were dirt roads, people had to struggle just to make it, and this was a poverty-stricken area," he said. "It was a lot worse when I was a child... I think things are a lot better now."

Peter also recalls when things were worse for him, too. In 2003, he faced a health crisis that ended with a life-changing surgery. That experience gave him a different outlook on life and its problems.

"Just knowing I could have been gone helps me deal with the stress of my job or the stress in my life," said Peter.

His health scare also helped him re-evaluate his priorities. He knew he wanted to complete his undergraduate degree and he knew he wanted to work for the Band.

Peter had already earned an associate's degree in 2001 from Central Lakes College in Brainerd. He fulfilled his academic goals when he earned his bachelor's of science degree in finance from St. Cloud State University in 2007. He said one day he would like to get a master's degree.

"My background in finance helps me understand the budgets and the finances of the government," he said. "I think my experience is an asset to the team of commissioners."

Peter is the oldest of six siblings. His parents, Joe and Rita Nayquonabe, have worked for the Band all of his life – his mother is a nurse at the clinic and his father is a chemical dependency counselor. He is married to his college sweetheart, Kristina, and they have a nine-month-old daughter, Kayla.

## Fun End-Of-The-Year School Events

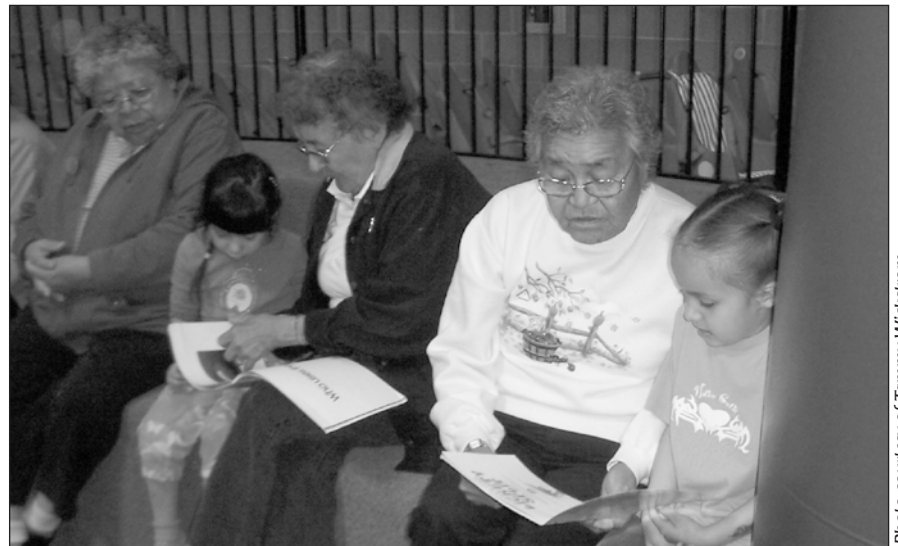


Photo courtesy of Tammy Wickstrom

On May 12, Mille Lacs Early Education and Nay Ah Shing Schools held a Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) event in which teachers, Elders, and more than 150 students participated. Students read or listened to more than 1,000 books during the event. Pictured from left to right: Susan Shingobe, Trinity Blake, Maggie Keggs, Delores Eagle, and Braelyn Harrington.



Photo courtesy of Tammy Wickstrom

On May 14, Mille Lacs Early Education held their end-of-the-year carnival. Families enjoyed a free supper, followed by carnival games and bingo.

Pictured is student William Boyd and Teacher Jennifer Shereck enjoying the ring toss game.

## Meet the Mille Lacs Band Diabetes Team

Cyndy Edgerton



Photo courtesy of Sue Swanson

The Mille Lacs Band Diabetes Team has a number of members – including a doctor, dietitian, fitness coordinator, and more – who work together to improve the health of people with diabetes. Following is information on Cyndy Edgerton and her role in the team. Look for profiles of other Diabetes Team members in future editions of the *Inaajimowin*.

**What is your position?**

Case manager for the Healthy Heart Program

**What are your primary duties?**

I manage the care for the participants of the Healthy Heart Program. The Healthy Heart Program is designed to help decrease the risk of cardiovascular disease in people with diabetes. I help the participants set goals for exercise and weight loss. I provide diabetes teaching in a classroom setting and in one-on-one visits.

**What is your favorite part of your job?**

Being able to see the positive results that patients get when they start to reach their weight loss or exercise goals and notice how much better they feel.

**What is the best tip you give patients to help them stay healthy?**

Make healthy lifestyle changes. For example, park further away from the store and walk in.

**What is your favorite exercise?**

Walking. It's cheap and easy.

**What is one of your goals for the Diabetes Team?**

I would like to see more people join the Healthy Heart Program.

## Mille Lacs Band Critical Careers Program

The Mille Lacs Band Critical Careers Program is established to meet the Band's need for trained members to fill positions critical to tribal government operations. The goal is to strengthen tribal operations by placing Band members on an educational track to obtain a degree, licensure or certificate in an area identified as a critical profession.

### Critical professions

- Accounting technician/accountant/certified public accountant
- Heating, cooling, refrigeration technicians
- Lawyer/attorney/paralegal
- Social workers
- Law enforcement officer/probation officer/911 dispatcher/DNR officer
- School administrator/teacher (K-12)/college instructor
- Grant writer
- Medical records/third party medical billing professionals
- Doctor/physician assistant/nurse/nursing assistant
- Dentist/dental assistant/dental hygienist

### Eligibility criteria

- Enrolled Mille Lacs Band member
- Employed part-time or full-time with the Mille Lacs Band for one year prior to application
- Accepted in or currently attending a post-secondary institution
- Completed a two-page essay including career goal and

commitment to work for the Band

- Submitted two letters of recommendation – one from a supervisor and one from a personal reference
- Band member employees must agree to the following conditions:
  - Must be enrolled full-time to complete program in a reasonable amount of time
  - Hold a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average
  - Continue with original approved field of study
  - Provide class schedule and grades on a semester or quarterly basis to the Office of the Commissioner of Education and the Scholarship Office
  - Complete an education plan to be on file with the Scholarship Office
  - Submit weekly timesheets to the Scholarship Office
  - Sign a contract agreeing to work for the Mille Lacs Band for three years after completing academic program
  - Return to employment with the Band in area related to critical career study

A yearly stipend to cover living expenses is available to four enrolled Mille Lacs Band member employees. Monthly mileage will be allowed up to a designated amount per month. Start times in the program are staggered due to current participants' program completion dates. Elected and appointed officials do not qualify during their term.

## Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health Staff

### Ineligible claims

If Circle of Health receives any claims for ineligible individuals beginning with date of service May 1, 2008, we will not be responsible to inform the provider or pharmacy that it is the patient's responsibility. Make sure to follow up on any bills as some providers only give 30-60 days before submitting late invoices to a collection agency and pharmacies can choose not to continue prescriptions if there are past due amounts.

### Faxed information

Please be advised that when faxing any information to Circle of Health, anything you highlight does not come through legibly. If this happens, we make copies for your file and then mail you the copies requesting new copies.

We have had many requests for new Circle of Health cards. All Band members must fill out an enrollment form and consent to release information form if you have not updated them in the past year. In addition, we need copies of your primary insurance cards. Our office can mail or fax these forms to you, but you must mail the forms back to our office. Original signatures are required for your file.

### Eyewear benefit

Effective July 1, the Eyewear Benefit (which is for Band members only) has been increased from \$150 per fiscal year to \$250. Please continue to have providers call ahead of time for authorization. Circle of Health has the right to deny payment of benefits without pre-authorization.

### Quarterly premiums

If any Band member has been receiving premium statements, please contact our office to make sure that we are receiving the same information. You may have requested that these statements are sent in duplicate to our office, but this may not be happening.

It is the procedure of Circle of Health to pay premiums on a quarterly basis, the office submits these requests two to three weeks prior to the new quarter. Unfortunately, if they don't get to our office until the last week of the month, your policy is at a greater risk of being cancelled. Circle of Health staff have no influence (even as the payor), in requesting any policy to be reinstated.

### Summer schedule

We are asking for your patience and understanding during the summer months. Our standard reimbursement period is two to six weeks from the date of submission; expect this time period be longer during the summer months as many of our staff members take summer vacations. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

### Future issues

Circle of Health is currently collecting information about liens and estate claims which can affect Band members who live off the reservation and receive Medical Assistance. Yearly renewal forms are sent every fall. By signing the application, you are in agreement to the state's terms. Circle of Health will continue to provide information as we are informed. If you have any information, please call Director Michele Palomaki at 320/676-8214.

## 17th Annual Grand Celebration

The 17th Annual Grand Celebration will be held at Grand Casino Hinckley on June 20-22. The powwow is one of the largest in the area and all Band members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Grand entry times are:

- 7 p.m. on June 20
- 1 and 7 p.m. on June 21
- 1 p.m. on June 22

Dancers will compete in 12 dance categories; this year's special contests include the hand drum, old-style chicken dance, old-style traditional

grass, and old-style sidestep. A singing contest for groups performing for the dances will also be held. Cash prizes totaling more than \$90,000 will be awarded for first through fourth places for the dance and singing competitions. Along with the competitions, vendors will be selling food, crafts and artwork.

Attendees are asked to bring their own chairs and drums. Campgrounds are available during the event. For more information, call 800/472-6321, ext. 4843 or ext. 4556.

## Mille Lacs Messenger Seeks Summer Intern

The *Mille Lacs Messenger* is looking for a summer intern who will assist with reporting, photography, and/or newspaper layout, depending on the intern's experience and interests. The intern will gain valuable experience in covering meetings, summer youth programs, sports, and the outdoors. He or she will shadow reporters to learn copy editing and computer skills needed for a career in journalism.

The internship is full-time for 10 weeks, with compensation of \$8 per hour.

Position requirements:

- Completed at least one year of college
- Have an interest or are pursuing a career in journalism or a related field
- Enrolled in a college, university, or technical school

To apply, contact *Mille Lacs Messenger* Editor Brett Larson at blarson@millelacsmessage.com or 320/676-3123.

## Public Health Updates

### Tobacco survey

#### Short-term job opportunity:

The Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department, in partnership with the Indigenous People's Task Force, is seeking three or four Band members (preferably college students) to conduct a tobacco survey on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Hired interviewers will be paid for training, return of completed surveys, and project-related expenses. For more information on this short-term job opportunity, contact Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812 by June 20.

Survey respondents: Adult Band members will be randomly selected to complete the survey on tobacco use. Those selected will receive a request in the mail asking them to take the survey, for which participants will be compensated with a \$25 gas card. Surveys will be conducted until 150 are completed. Only Band members who are notified by letter will be able to take the survey. If you receive a letter, your participation will be much appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812.

### WIC voucher pick-up in District I

The District I WIC Program has added an afternoon voucher pick-up time on the last Tuesday of each month. Watch for more information to be posted in the District I Community Center. Please call Joanne Weyaus at 320/532-7821 with questions.

### Cancer education

The Public Health Community Educator is working in collaboration with the American Cancer Society to bring "Circle of Life Plus" training to the Public Health staff and other interested health care professionals. Circle of Life Plus educates community members about all screenable types of cancer, including breast, cervical, prostate and colon cancer.

The Fond du Lac Band and the American Cancer Society developed Circle of Life Plus in response to the high cancer mortality rate among Minnesota's American Indians,

and because cancer is quite often diagnosed at a later stage in American Indians, which increases the risk of mortality.

Training sessions are tentatively scheduled for July 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in District II (site to be determined) and August 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the District I Health and Human Services Building at 17230 Noopiming Drive. If you are a health care professional and are interested in attending the training, please call Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812.

### Health fair

Health & Human Services Health Fair is on June 19 at the District I Community Center. All community members are welcome. Door prize drawings will be held throughout the day for those who attend.

### Welcome new staff members

Welcome to the following individuals:

- Roger Jahn, Public Health Department Director.
- Renae Boyd, Office Manager/Billing Specialist. Renae has been with the Mille Lacs Band for five years.
- Becky Swansey, LPN, who transferred to District I Public Health. Becky will assist Lisa Blahosky in the Maternal Child Health Program, which consists of prenatal, newborn, post-partum, and well-child home visits.

### Other staff updates

- Tami Hinrichs, Public Health Administrative Assistant, recently graduated from Rasmussen College with a degree in criminal justice. Tami has worked for the Mille Lacs Band for eight years and is the proud mother of two children. Congratulations, Tami!
- Several Public Health staff members recently participated in "Basic Tobacco Intervention Skills Certification Training for Medical & Allied Health Professionals." Participants were Angela Kray, Roger Jahn, Lisa Blahosky, and Carol Kinnaman.

## Native Vote Alliance Minnesota Gears up for Local, State and Federal Get-Out-the-Vote Efforts

*By Judy Hanks, Mary Sam, and Elizabeth Towle*

In the spring of 2004, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Prairie Island Indian Community joined forces to develop a comprehensive statewide non-partisan Native voter mobilization campaign called "Native Vote 2004 – Minnesota Style." The goal of the project was to organize and facilitate voter education, registration, and get-out-the-vote strategies throughout Indian communities in Minnesota. Out of this campaign emerged the Native Vote Alliance Minnesota (NVAM) organization. The mission of NVAM is to mobilize and empower Native people in Minnesota as a collective voice through civic participation while embracing our cultural heritage.

There are approximately 82,000 Native Americans in Minnesota, around 55,000 are of voting age. In the 2004 general election, approximately 77% of eligible voters in Minnesota voted. Historically, Native American voter turnout has been low. However in 2004 – the first year of the Native American voter mobilization project – precincts in reservation areas saw increases in voter turnout, some exceeding the state average. The statistics show that the "Native Vote-MN Style" campaign was successful in engaging Native people in the elections.

While the increase in Native voter turnout is to be celebrated, it is the long-term impact of this effort that will be its legacy. The tribal leaders representing the 11 tribes in Minnesota recognized the project's success by supporting a resolution for the development of a formal structure to carry the initiative into the future. As a result, in May 2006, Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota became incorporated as a non-partisan, non-profit corporation under Minnesota law. It is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the 11 tribes in Minnesota and the urban Indian communities of Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Bemidji.

The success of the "Minnesota Model" was also recognized by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which presented presentations on the model at its annual conferences. The Minnesota Indian Chamber of Commerce recognized the project by awarding the Mille Lacs Band and Prairie Island with the "Spirit of the People Award" for their leadership in organizing the statewide campaign. In addition, print and broadcast

media including a New York City radio station and a Chicago-based newspaper covered the project.

In addition to the statewide planning efforts, NVAM and Mille Lacs Band hosted a precinct caucus training last fall and a voter engagement training this spring. Both training events were successful, drawing Band members and others throughout the state.

### Did you know?

*By Elizabeth Towle*

Did you know that we have 1,087 eligible voters within our three districts?

Did you know that in Senate District 16A, which covers District I and District II (Isle), we have nearly 750 eligible voters? Currently we have about 300 people in District I and II (Isle) registered to vote, leaving nearly 450 people not registered to vote!

Just one of those votes can make a drastic change in the elections for our reservation. Change does take time, but with everyone's help and enthusiasm we as a people can achieve anything. We did it in the past with the federal government before we were even a reservation. By not getting out into the community, learning the issues, and knowing where the candidates stand on issues that will impact us and our sovereignty, other people will continue to make decisions on our behalf. Sometimes the decisions they make hurt rather than help us. All of our individual votes will collectively make one voice, which will be heard not only in the counties we reside in, but at the state and federal level. Candidates know that our collective tribal voices are impacting elections across the country and even here in the Mille Lacs communities. Candidates are beginning to take more time to listen to us as individuals and as a tribal government.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, along with the Government Affairs Department, is committed to educating its members on issues so that you can make the right choice for yourself at the polls. We will also do what it takes to make sure that our people are turning out to vote and being heard. If you are interested in volunteering, please call me at 320/384-4466. **We're looking for youth to volunteer as well, so that they may learn the processes in a fun, cultural way.**

## Help Prevent Home and Wild Fires

By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator

Candles, appliances and fireplaces are a few examples of household items that can be potential fire hazards if we are not careful. Following are some important tips to keep you and your family safe from fires.

- Do not leave candles unattended.
- Make sure there are smoke detectors on every floor of your home; smoke detectors should also be located inside or near each bedroom.
- Check the batteries of your smoke detectors each month; replace batteries each year.
- Teach kids how to "stop, drop and roll."
- Have a family escape plan and make sure children know how to dial 911 for help.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Have chimneys, wood stoves, and fireplaces inspected each year.

### Preventing wild fires

Just as important as preventing fires from starting inside your home is helping prevent them from starting outside. You can help prevent wild fires and protect your home by remembering the following tips:

- Clear dead trees and shrubs from your property.
- Do not leave any fire unattended; extinguish all fires.
- Keep a 30-foot space around your home clear of debris (including under porches and decks).
- Mow and water the lawn around your home and other buildings.

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

April 2008

	Approved Budget for FY 2008	Actual Expenditures through 4/30/08	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	13,114,256	6,129,478	46.7%
Workforce*	10,068,808	2,474,275	24.6%
Judicial	1,085,086	501,129	46.2%
Law Enforcement*	3,666,991	1,869,948	51.0%
Education*	14,470,820	8,433,392	58.3%
Health and Human Services*	22,827,755	12,256,535	53.7%
Natural Resources*	4,533,612	2,683,785	59.2%
Community Development*	38,546,648	10,573,705	27.4%
Gaming Authority	4,441,857	2,320,099	52.2%
Bonus Distribution	27,137,267	22,886,625	84.3%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$139,893,099</b>	<b>\$70,128,971</b>	<b>50.1%</b>

### Financial Notes:

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

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

## Recipe of the Month

### Popped Wild Rice Snack

Submitted by Raenelle Weyaus, Nutrition Education Assistant

Use only fresh Indian wild rice. Put some unsaturated oil (e.g., corn, canola, or vegetable oil) in a frying pan, sprinkle in a little rice (start with about 1/3 cup of rice) and stir it carefully so it doesn't burn. Wild rice will not fly around like popcorn, as it slowly puffs into a long fat pillow. If it's too dried out (from being broken, then heated) it can't pop. Test your rice before doing a lot. Popped wild rice is also good as a breakfast cereal.

Traditionally, popped wild rice was fried in deer tallow or bear fat and served with maple syrup. In the winter, hardened sap candy was poured over it and made into balls. For winter travel, popped rice was crushed and shaped into cakes with some deer fat and quite a lot of melted sugar and dried berries. It was lightweight, filling and nutritious, and could be eaten without a fire if enemies were around.

### Nutritional value per serving

- Serving size: 1 cup cooked wild rice
- 166 calories
- 0.6 calories from fat
- 6.5 g protein
- 35 g carbohydrates
- 3 mg dietary fiber
- 5 mg sodium
- 166 mg potassium
- 5 mg calcium
- 52 mg magnesium
- 0.98 mg iron

### Send us your recipes

Do you have a favorite Ojibwe recipe? The Diabetes Program is always looking for recipes to print in the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. Either mail or fax your recipes to:

Ne-la-Shing Clinic  
Diabetes Program  
43500 Migizi Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359  
Fax: 320/532-7831

## Warriors Fight Promotions Presents Kickboxing and Mixed Martial Arts Event

Audiences are sure to be on the edge of their seats during the July 11 kickboxing and mixed martial arts event at Grand Casino Hinckley. The 7:30 p.m. event will feature tough competition as fighters battle each other for championship titles. Kickboxers Heath Fonnest and Blake Franklin will go head-to-head in the world championship kickboxing event, and Tony Norlander and Nate Schut will compete for the Minnesota Mixed Martial Arts Championship.

To purchase tickets, call 612/716-9654 or e-mail [thewarrior15@yahoo.com](mailto:thewarrior15@yahoo.com). Warriors Fight Promotions will host the event. For more information, visit [www.warriorsfightpromotions.com](http://www.warriorsfightpromotions.com).



## Tribal Noteboard

### Happy June birthday to:

**Harmz Charmz**, 10, on June 24 with love from mom, Cheyenne, Nans, Yaya, Dessie D, Gramma Net, Uncle Nunu, Sassy Cassie, Tim, Auntie Dearest, O-Guy, Apal, and the Sam Fam • **Nannah Montana**, 9, on June 27 with love from mom, Cheyenne, Nans, Yaya, Dessie D, Gramma Net, Uncle Nunu, Sassy Cassie, Tim, Auntie Dearest, Apal, and the Sam Fam • **Missy**, on June 15 with love from Tara, George, Shaun, Troy, Isaiah, Nick, Destiny, Mike, Alexis, Izik, Diamond, Corey, Bandi Wose, Britti, Wally, Sharon, and Rave • **Rachel Cash**, on June 9 from Tara B., Sheila B., Jan B., Lorelei B., Dawn B., DeeBo, Rhiannon, and all your homeys • **Gramma Rosie**, with love from Hannah, Shaun, George, Troy, Isaiah, Masceo, Keegan, DeeDee, Lanaya, and Baby Dawn • **Roland Smith**, on June 18 with love from dad, mom, Col, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Auntie, Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brando, John, Elias, Lenore, Tyson, Eva, and Jonathan • **Vincent Stobb**, on June 13 with love from dad, mom, Col, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, and Elias • **Roger Garbow Jr.**, on June 28 with love from Ron, Gladys, Rol, Col, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, and Elias • **Suzanne Merrill**, on June 21 from Ron, Gladys, Rol, Col, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, and Roxann • **Sty Hanks**, on June 18 from Ron, Gladys, Rol, Col, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Lenore, Bill and family • **Tami SF Gahbow**, on June 26 from Gladys, Desi, Bill, Lenore, Clara, Emma, Tyson, Eva, Jonathan, and the rest of your family • **Candy Shaugobay**, on June 21 with love from Ern, Million, Rachel, Kelia, Jeremy, Richard, mom, Anthony, Grams, Judith, Landon, Rodney, and Aunt Janice • **Grams**, on June 19 with love from Ernie, Candy, Cyrell, Landon, Ash, Will, Harmonie, Janelle, Damian, Ada, Kiki, B-Boy, Landon, Mya, Carlos, and Yolanda • **William Boyd**, on June 1 from Ern, Candy, Cyrell and Harmonie • **Rodney Boyd**, on June 9 from

Richard, Rachel, Jeremy, Candy, Ern, Kelia, Cyrell, Johnny, Marllys, Ash, Will, Harmonie, Auntie Nel, Kiki, B-Boy, Damian, Ada, and Grams • **Harmonie Boyd**, on June 24 with love from dad, Candy, Cyrell, Gram, Ash, Will and Landon • **Savannah Boyd**, on June 17 with love from dad, Candy, Cyrell, Gram and Landon • **Luis Sanchez**, 12, on June 16 with love from mom, Isabel, Braelyn, Grandma Dee, Vala, Adrianna, Cheryl, Nicole, Brittany, Michelle, Thomas, Ana, and Angie • **Atila**, 33, on June 24 with love from Mrs. Hun, Ash, Bobby J, Tumbleweed, Miss 12, Isabel, Luis, Braelyn, Grandma Dee, Vala, Cheryl, Adrianna, Nicole, Brittany, Michelle, Thomas, Ana, and Auntie Angie • **Tammy Smith**, on June 24 with love from Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, John, and Punky Brewster • **Brandon Sam**, on June 13 from mom, dad, Brandi, Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, and Elias • **Big John**, on June 29 from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, and Elias • **Elliot Smith**, on June 7 from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, and Elias • **Kennedy Nayquonabe**, on June 8 with love from mom, dad, Autumn, Madison, Matthew, Carter, Grandma Deb, Dave, Auntie Tammy and family • **Kimberly Davis Taylor**, on June 20 from dad • **Robert**, on June 4 with love from your daughters, son, and grandchildren • **Ravin**, 17, on June 30 from mom, dad, Grandma Agnes, Grandma Bev, Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Jarvis, Jacob, Jamie, Ava, Nicole, Lil Chris, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Val, Kevin, Mariah, Baby Kevin, Aunty Tara, Missy, Tam, and Erica • **Arvina**, on June 2 from Sonny • **Paul**, on June 4 from Sonny • **Adam Jr.**, on June 7 from Uncle Sonny • **Hayleigh Nickaboine**, 10, on June 2 from Pete, Drin, and Grandma Lillian • **Kayla Garbow**, on June 30 from Pete, Drin, and Grandma Lillian • **Brandy**, on June 18 from Keith, Shannon and everyone on Henry Davis Drive • **Ricki**, on June 22 from Antwaun, Laila, Baby Wax, Marlow, Francis, Christopher, mom, and the rest of your family • **Baby Kevin**, 5, on June 23 with love from mom, dad, Sissy, Grandma Kim, and Papa Brad • **Dante**, 6, on June 3 with love from dad, mom, Selena, Maysun Jr., Shawsha, Soul, Gramma, DeaLayna, Stone, Franny, June Bugg, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Marissa, Joey, Donni, Sheila, Greg, Jim, Jeannette, Jack, Danielle, and Bruce • **Danielle**, 26, on June 21 from mom, DeaLayna, Stone, Franny, Junior, Jeannette, Dawn, Mary, Mase Sr., Shawsha, Soul,

Mase Jr., Dante, Selena, Rae, Joe, Simone, Sheila, Joey, Marissa, Greg, Danielle, Jack, and Bruce • **Jakob**, on June 5 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Jeff Sutton**, 21, on June 1 from Auntie B • **El J**, on June 18 from Auntie B • **Tanaya Louise Day**, 3, on June 3 with love from mom, dad, Tanya, and Lil Meat • **Roland Hunt III**, 9, on June 7 with love from Gramma Mary, mom, Lucas, Jerome, Ed, Tim, Cam, Chell, Brent, Taryn, Camryn, Veronica, and Dusty • **Veronica St. Clair**, 2, on June 10 with love from Auntie Mary, Brenda, Chell, Jerome, Ed, Cam, Brent, Taryn, Camryn, Roland, Dusty, daddy, and mom • **Robert Sam**, 50, on June 4 from your family • **Connor Boyd**, 6, on June 25 with love from mom, dad, Shane, Courtney, Kelsie, Oscar, Storm, Daisy and Midnight • **Shyla**, on June 24 from Louise, Rodney, Shane, Courtney, Connor and Kelsie • **Damian Beaulieu**, 17, on June 23 from mom, Ada, B-Boy, Kiki, Grams and Landon • **Maxine**, on June 23 from Nel, Kiki and B-boy • **William**, 3, on June 1 from Kiki, Auntie Nel, Dames, Ada, and B-boy • **Debbie**, on June 2 from Goofy • **Brenda Mae**, on June 4 from Great-grandma Bea • **Brandon**, on June 8 from grandma • **Boob**, on June 1 from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, your we-eh, mom, and the rest of the crew • **Marlow Day**, on June 2 from from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Auntie Cheryl, and the rest of the crew • **Jared**, on June 8 from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, mom, your sisters, Bod, Amanda, Devin, and the unborn twins • **Jereck**, on June 20 with love from your wife, kids, Cheryl and family • **Corina Jones**, on June 24 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Auntie Bea**, on June 26 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Kaleb Blue**, on June 18 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Craig Beaulieu**, on June 9 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Auntie Cheryl and family • **Damian Beaulieu**, on June 23 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Gramma Cheryl and family • **Numa**, on June 23 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Cheryl and family • **Shyla Lussier**, on June 24 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Cheryl and family • **Deanna Anderson**, on June 22 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Cheryl and family • **Nae Nae**, on June 4 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Cheryl and family.

### Happy June birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mary Ann Ailport  
Shirley Beach  
Arvina Benjamin  
Raining Boyd  
Shirley Boyd  
Clifford Churchill  
Jessie Clark  
Emma Compelube  
Simon Day Jr.  
Roberta Fox  
Eunice Garbow  
George Garbow Jr.  
Catherine Hedstrom  
Marlowe LaFave  
Kathy Lathrop  
Edward Martin  
James Matrious  
Robert Mayotte  
Beatrice Mitchell  
Clarence Moose  
John Morrow  
Georgia Nickaboine  
Gordon Parr  
Charlene Shingobe  
Charles Shingobe  
Warren Skinaway  
Frances Staples  
Judy Swanson  
Loris White

### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Brandi Jo Wagner** for graduating from Isle High School. You have made us very proud. *With love from mom, Brandon, Amy, John, Elias, and your family and friends.*

Congratulations to **Jeffrey Dorr** for graduating high school. Good luck in college this fall. *With love from Rod, Sharon, Alicia, and Wes and Betty Dorr.*

Congratulations to **Chilah Brown** for receiving her B.A. degree from Haskell Indian University on May 9, 2008. Your hard work and dedication has paid off. *With love from Mother Goose, Son, Niswi, Princess Dezy, Xavier, D., Jamin, Little David, Drystin, and all your aunts and cousins.*

Congratulations to **Priscilla Greenleaf** for receiving your CNA certificate. *With love from mom, Trina, Brother Bear, J-Dogg, Eric and Deze.*

Congratulations to **Paul and Stefanie Nickaboine** on your recent marriage on May 1, 2008. *With love from Jeremy, Nae Nae, David, Trevon, and Damien Daniel.*

(Continued to page 10)

## Tribal Noteboard

(Continued from page 9)

### Birth announcement

Congratulations to Jacob Doust Jr., and Jamie Meister on the birth of their baby boy **Mark Gerald Doust**. Mark was born on May 12. He weighed 7 lbs., 13 oz., and was 23 in. long. Mark is their second child. *Congratulations from Aiva Lea, Val, Kevin, Pie, and Baby Kevin.*

### Thank you

Mii gwetch to the **Mille Lacs Band DNR Department** for helping with the District IIA employee clean-up on May 14. It was also much appreciated that the DNR department sent over staff to help clean up the Chiminising Community Center parking lot after the community clean up week was over. *Thanks again from the Chiminising Community Center staff.*

## Child Support Garnishments

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has changed the timeline for intake of new or existing child support motions for garnishment of bonus distribution payments. All bonus garnishments now need to be submitted by the 20th of each month. Therefore, the court will accept all new or existing child support motions by the 17th of each month in order to meet OMB timeline. This will give the court staff time to process the motion.

For example: A child support motion must be submitted to

the court by July 17. The Judge will draft a bonus garnishment order by July 21. That order will be sent to OMB on the 21st, so that the August bonus is garnished for payment.

Please note: If the 17th is on a Saturday or Sunday, the motion must be submitted the Friday before the 17th. Any motions submitted after the 17th will be processed the next month.

If you have any questions, please contact Court Administrator Gilda Burr at 320/532-7401.

## June is Fireworks Safety Month

**By Rob Thompson, Safety/Risk Manager**

The Fourth of July is right around the corner which means that June is a great month to brush up on your knowledge about firework safety. The only way to be totally safe around fireworks is to not use them at all, but if you do, make sure that you are aware of the hazards and follow the safety tips listed below.

### Fireworks facts

- Bottle rockets are the most frequent cause of serious eye injuries requiring hospital visits.
- Sparklers can burn at temperatures up to 1800 degrees F, hot enough to melt gold.
- Innocent bystanders are at risk when bottle rockets are launched because they are unpredictable and their flight path is erratic.

### Firework safety

- Always buy fireworks from an established retail outlet.
- Have a responsible adult present and in charge when lighting off fireworks.

- Never give fireworks to children.
- Always read and follow the directions for use on the label.
- Always have water nearby (a garden hose or water bucket).

### Steps to help save your child's sight

If an accident occurs, follow these steps to help minimize the damage to the eye:

- Do not rub the eye. Rubbing the eye may increase bleeding or make the injury worse.
- Do not attempt to rinse out the eye. This can be even more damaging than rubbing.
- Do not stop for medicine. Take the child to the emergency room ASAP.
- Do not apply ointment. This makes it harder for the doctor to examine the eye area.
- Do not let your child play with fireworks.

If you would like more information about firework safety, contact your local county office to learn about any specific laws relating to fireworks. You can also contact tribal police at 320/532-4181.

## Busy Legislative Session Comes to a Close

**By Jamie Edwards, Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs Coordinator/State**

The 2008 legislative session ended at 11:48 p.m. on May 18, minutes before the Legislature's midnight constitutional deadline.

While the first few weeks of session set an unprecedented pace for the passage of large policy bills, session-ending deals were still conducted in the final hours of the session. One week before the end, legislators pushed a budget-balancing bill, a tax bill, and a health care reform bill through the committee process, sending all three measures to the House and Senate floors. These bills served as the basis for the final negotiations between the Governor and Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) party leadership.

### State budget

The most significant agreement was on a bill to balance the state's budget, which had a nearly \$1 billion deficit.

### Taxes

The Legislature and Governor also agreed on several tax provisions that will

provide \$60 million in aid to local governments to help provide services and property tax relief.

### Health care

In addition, a health care reform bill was passed that will provide 12,000 more Minnesotans with health insurance. We expect that the debate over the state's health care system will continue next year.

### Looking Forward

With the conclusion of the 2008 legislative session, it is beneficial to look ahead to challenges and opportunities for 2009.

A number of political and policy possibilities could make the coming legislative session a challenge. First, early projections have indicated a potential \$2 billion state budget shortfall. This looming possibility will likely put pressure on some legislators to explore new options to solve a budget shortfall, especially in light of Governor Pawlenty's position on tax increases. The pressure to create new revenue will possibly lead some legislators to look at gaming expansion for additional state dollars.

## Elder Panel Feast

**By Rick Anderson**

On April 30, District I Representative Alicia Skinaway sponsored a feast at the District I Community Center to celebrate the Elder panels that started in November. The panels bring together Elders to teach youth the knowledge of their wisdom, life lessons, and Ojibwe teachings and traditions.

After enjoying good food, the Elders spoke to the youth, taking turns to tell their life stories. Most of the Elders spoke about their traditional upbringings and how they were taught to respect one another and our Elders.

The youth then asked questions of the Elders, which led to great discussions. The more I listened to the Elders speak, the more I realized the importance of these meetings. I believe that if we are taught at a young age to respect

others and our Elders, then we can make a difference in the lives of our youth. These meetings were a great reminder of how teaching Ojibwe culture and showing respect makes a difference.

Thank you to all the Elders who participated on the panel:

Cheryl Garbo  
Reginald Garbow  
Evelyn Kegg  
Leticia Mitchell  
John Morrow  
Joseph Nayquonabe  
Jeanette Oswaldson  
Agnes Pendegayosh  
Douglas Sam  
Larry Wade  
Linda Wade  
Natalie Weyaus

Mii gwetch to all participants for your attendance, contributions, questions and curiosity in making these panels a success.

# Calendar of Events

## June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Christine Costello,</b> <b>Commissioner of Administration</b> 877/239-2444	16	17	18 <b>District IIA Community Meeting</b> Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Leslie Sam, 320/532-7423	19 <b>District III Community Meeting</b> Grand Casino Hinckley Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 320/384-1424  <b>Health Fair</b> District I Community Center	20 <b>Grand Celebration</b> GCH (see page 6 for more information)	21 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Rick Pardun,</b> <b>Executive Director of Community Development</b> 877/239-2444
22 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Rick Pardun,</b> <b>Executive Director of Community Development</b> 877/239-2444	23	24	25	26 <b>District II Community Meeting</b> East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311 <b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb, 612/872-1424	27 <b>Lee Ann Womack*</b> GCH 8 p.m.	28 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Angella Roby,</b> <b>Commissioner of Finance</b> 877/239-2444
29 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Angella Roby,</b> <b>Commissioner of Finance</b> 877/239-2444	30 <b>District I Community Meeting</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Kimberly Sam or Sarah Oswaldson, 320/532-7423		<i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar,</i> <b>please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062</b> <i>or write to Kelly at 255 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 102 St. Paul, MN 55101</i>		<b>Commissioners on call</b> 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.	<b>*To Purchase Tickets</b>  <b>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 612/989-5151, or visit <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com">www.ticketmaster.com</a></b>

## July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 <b>All offices closed for Mid Summer Day</b>	5 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Rick Boyd, Director of Housing</b> 877/239-2444
6 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Rick Boyd, Director of Housing</b> 877/239-2444	7 <b>Onamia Indian Education Parent Committee Meeting</b> Onamia School District Office Conference Room 12 p.m.	8	9	10	11 <b>Kickboxing and Mixed Martial Arts*</b> GCH 7:30 p.m. (see page 8 for more information)	12 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Peter Nayquonabe,</b> <b>Assistant Commissioner of Administration</b> 877/239-2444
13 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Peter Nayquonabe,</b> <b>Assistant Commissioner of Administration</b> 877/239-2444	14 <b>AMVETS Meeting</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925 <b>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting</b> Aazhoomog School 6:30 p.m. Contact: Skip Churchill, 320/384-6970	15	16	17	18 <b>Willie Nelson*</b> GCH 8:30 p.m.	19 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Sarah Oquist,</b> <b>Commissioner of Corporate Affairs</b> 877/239-2444

## What's Your Favorite Part of Attending Powwows?

**Tracy Sam**



"We usually go as a family – we enjoy watching the dancing and especially the powwow food."

**Lorna Weous**



"My favorite part is watching the dancers and the food."

**Billie Jo Sarcia**



"My favorite part is watching the grass dancers competition."

**Ashley Kalk**



"My favorite part is seeing family and friends that I haven't seen in awhile."

**Kalen Nickaboine**



"Buying food from the Elder's stand; it's a tradition every year."

**Steve Premo**



"My favorite part is the Indian tacos."

**Tiffany Anderson**



"My favorite part of attending the powwows is the grand entry, and watching the jingle dancers compete."

**Robin Anderson**



"I like the Indian tacos and I also like that we can attend our own powwows and it's free to the public and not have to pay a fee to attend."

Photos courtesy of Rick Anderson

## Names and Faces

### Sara McRae heading to Little Britches Rodeo finals



Photo courtesy of Jackie McRae

Sara McRae, 15-year-old daughter of Band member Jackie McRae and Coy McRae, has qualified for the national Little Britches Rodeo finals, which will be held in Pueblo, Colo., in July. Over the winter, Sara received top scores that qualified her for the finals. She will compete in four events: barrel racing, pole bending, trail course, and break-away roping. Last year, she placed third in the world out of competitors from the U.S., Canada and Australia.

Sara has competed in national Little Britches Rodeos since she was eight years old. The Minnesota

Chapter of the Little Britches Rodeo – a nonprofit organization – will hold a three-day rodeo in Elk River over the July Fourth weekend. Sara is also the 2008 Minnesota Little Britches Rodeo Queen and welcomes everyone to attend. More information can be found online at [www.nlbra.org](http://www.nlbra.org).

### Mille Lacs Band youth attend babysitter training course



Photo courtesy of Barb Benjamin-Robertson

**Mille Lacs Band youth participated in a one-day course to learn how to care for infants and children. Back row, left to right: Summer Sutton, Jessica Stewart, and Jewel Campbell; front row: Rosie Big Bear.**

Several Mille Lacs Band youth attended a babysitter training session held by the American Red Cross. During the six-and-a-half hour course, the

students learned how to care for infants and children, including leadership, professionalism, first aide, and other safety information. The students each received a babysitter training certificate following the course.

## Chief Executive Testifies on Distributing Monies from Nelson Act Judgment



Photo courtesy of Jerry Sikorski

**On June 5, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and other tribal leaders testified before members of Congress who serve on the House Committee on Natural Resources. She provided the Mille Lacs Band's position on how Nelson Act settlement funds should be allocated among the bands that make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The Mille Lacs Band supports the tribe's vote to distribute the judgment equally to each of the bands.**

As Congress ponders how to distribute a \$20 million judgment awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin went before the House Committee on Natural Resources to voice the Band's support for dividing the judgment equally among the MCT's six constituent bands.

This is the same position taken by the MCT Executive Committee in a 10-2 vote, and the same as in the current bill being considered in the Committee on Natural Resources. This bill is sponsored by Congressman Jim Oberstar, whose district includes the Mille Lacs Reservation.

However, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) position is to

distribute the judgment "pro rata" – meaning that each band would receive monies in proportion to its membership size. A second bill – sponsored by Minnesota Congressman Collin Peterson – is floating through Congress that supports this pro rata approach.

"We debated and discussed this matter at length. We put

forward proposals. Ultimately, we voted. As in most deliberative bodies, there was disagreement before and after the vote. The vote was not unanimous, but a substantial majority voted for the six-way split," Melanie told committee members during her testimony. "The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe spoke as a sovereign, self-governing tribal nation. No other government has the right to interfere with that vote."

The matter is still being deliberated in the Committee on Natural Resources. As important decisions are made, updates will be provided in the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.