

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

June 2010

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

Volume 12 • Number 6

## Work Underway at New District III Development



Photo courtesy of Community Development

**Work started on the Wise Owl Road development in District III on May 12. Following the initial road construction, crews will begin work on the 15 new Elder and rental homes.**

To prepare for building homes in the Wise Owl Road development in District III, the Band has started road construction. Skip Churchill provided a blessing at the site on May 12.

Fifteen new homes will be built at Wise Owl Road in addition to the four that are already there. They will be a mix of Elder and rental homes, all on lots that are two and a half acres or more. The Wise Owl Road development is located on 99 acres of trust land off of County Road 138 – about one and a half miles north of County Road 48 and 15 miles east of Hinckley.

Home construction will begin once the roadwork is completed, which is anticipated to be mid-summer, weather permitting. The homes will take approximately four months to build, and they

should be ready for occupancy by early 2011.

The work underway now involves clearing trees, building new streets, paving existing streets, developing on-site septic systems and wells, and creating a storm water management system. These efforts are funded in part through a \$700,000 ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) grant.

The storm water management system consists of wetlands and vegetation that form natural rain gardens. This system not only creates more green space; it is also more eco-friendly.

At another residential development – Zhingwaak Oodena in Hinckley – the Band recently finished construction of 25 single-family homes. Phase two of Zhingwaak Oodena is being planned.

## Band Member Employment Increasing at Grand Casinos

The number of Mille Lacs Band members working at Grand Casino Hinckley is at its highest level since 1998, and the number at Grand Casino Mille Lacs is the highest since 1997. About half of the Corporate Commission's employees are Band members. Also, the Grand National Golf Course in Hinckley recently hired eight Band members and Grand Casino Mille Lacs recently set up a blackjack course from which 11 dealers were hired.

"These numbers indicate that our efforts are making a difference," said Michael Garrow, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band. "Increasing Band member employment has been a significant goal for us."

This goal also aligned with a directive from Chief Executive Marge Anderson, who highlighted the need for Band member employment opportunities during her 2010 State of the Band speech.

### New director of Band member development

One of the steps taken to help increase opportunities was to hire a corporate director of Band member development. Band member Jodell Meyer began work as the director in April. She helps match Band members with employment



Photo courtesy of Jodell Meyer

**Jodell Meyer**

and training opportunities at Grand Casinos, the Band's small businesses, and even casino vendors and contractors. She is supported at the casinos by associate directors Loretta Hansen (Grand Casino Mille Lacs) and Salena LaGuard (Grand Casino Hinckley).

"Our goal is to eliminate employment barriers and boost Band member employment at our businesses," Jodell said. "We also want to help existing Band member employees develop the skills they need for future leadership roles."

Jodell worked at Grand Casino Mille Lacs for nearly two years before becoming the director of Band member development. Previously she worked for the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. She earned a master's degree in education from the University of Duluth in May.



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## Nay Ah Shing Graduates

By Toya Stewart Downey

Congratulations to this year's Nay Ah Shing graduates. The graduation ceremony was held on June 1. Coverage of the ceremony will be available in the July *Inaajimowin*.

We asked this year's graduates about their school experience and plans after graduation. Here is what they said.

### Marchel Day



**Plans after graduation:**

To attend college.

**What he'll miss most about Nay Ah Shing:**

Hangin' with the homies.

**What he gained from his high school experience:**

Education and friends.

### Ricky Boyd



**Plans after graduation:**

To join the Air Force and become a fighter pilot. (Ricky plans to leave home within the next year for the 16-week training.)

**What he'll miss most about Nay Ah Shing:**

His friends, roaming the halls, and his teachers.

**What he gained from his high school experience:**

Maturity and learning to be responsible.

### Lacey Garbow



**Plans after graduation:**

To attend college for both an undergraduate and graduate degree. She then plans to return to the reservation to work for the community.

**What she'll miss most about Nay Ah Shing:**

Playing volleyball, walking the hallways, and seeing her friends. Talking to the teachers, especially the one she nicknamed "Spaz."

**What she gained from her high school experience:**

Gaining "crazy friendships" and learning that life is not always a game. She also learned that the path that a person chooses will impact them and their future.

## Bugs Haskin Presented With Fun Run Quilt

After a week of rainy days, the sun came out to dry the roads for the annual spring Fun Run at Nay Ah Shing on Friday, May 14. Staff members and students from kindergarten to twelfth grade congregated in front of the upper school where the race began.

Two weeks before the race, Mille Lacs Band Elder Linda Mitchell presented a special quilt to Athletic and Activities Director

Bugs Haskin. She made the quilt from shirts of previous Fun Runs. Linda's daughter Bridgett helped unveil the quilt at the Fun Run.

The tribal police were also thanked for their participation in every Fun Run. This year's escorts were Noah Melberg, Tim Kintop, and LeRoy Lassard.

Following the Fun Run, participants attended the royalty powwow.

## Mille Lacs Band and Minnesota Historical Society Collaborate on Educational Ojibwe Art Kit

Students in classrooms across the state are now able to create their own Ojibwe "shoulder bags" thanks to an educational art kit created by the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and the Minnesota History Center. The shoulder bags are simplified versions of traditional Ojibwe bandolier bags.

The kits feature the designs of Band member Cheryl Minnema. After being inspired by her grandmother's (Lucy Clark) and mother's (Millie Benjamin) beadwork, Cheryl started loom beading in her elementary years. A few years later she began sewing traditional beaded flowers. Soon she was making everything from beaded barrettes to belts to moccasins.

Looking for a challenging beading project, Cheryl started making bandolier bags, which are beaded shoulder bags used to carry one's most prized

possessions. The process of creating a bandolier bag is extremely labor intensive. It takes her seven to nine months to make one bag. Cheryl is one of very few Ojibwe people in Minnesota who are making bandolier bags.

"I have been beading for many years and my work is still improving. I hope my work will inspire younger generations to learn how to bead and feel proud of the gifts we have been given," said Cheryl.

The educational art kit also features a history curriculum that helps teachers introduce Ojibwe culture, history and arts, and traditional Ojibwe music recorded by Band member Darren Moose, Sr.

For more information on traditional bandolier bags and to see a picture of Cheryl's third bandolier bag see below.

## Bandolier Bags



Photo courtesy of Ed Minnema

Cheryl Minnema and her two sons, Sean (8) and Ethan (3), display her third bandolier bag, which she recently finished in May.

### Aazhooningwa-igan or Gashkibidaagan

By Cheryl Minnema (Waabaanakwadookwe)

Bandolier bags are elaborately decorated shoulder bags most commonly made by Native peoples of the Prairies and Upper Great Lakes, from southern Canada to Kansas. The bags are thought to have originated around the 1840s or 1850s. Few were made after the 1940s, although they are

occasionally made today.

Woodland Indian men wore bandolier bags as objects of prestige. Sometimes they wore more than one at a time. This kind of bag was so valuable that the Woodlands people could trade one bag to the neighboring Dakota people for a pony.

A Mille Lacs Band Elder remembers that bandolier bags were worn at ceremonial dances to carry beadwork to

exchange while dancing.

I made my first contemporary bandolier bag in 2007. It took me seven months to complete the bag. My mother, Millie Benjamin (Zhaawan), and my grandmother, Lucy Clark (Omadwe), inspired me to carry on our traditions through art and taught me how to make traditional crafts. I have been making traditional crafts for 20 years.

## 2010 Election Guidelines

A general election for Secretary/Treasurer, District II Representative, and District III Representative will be held on June 8, 2010.

### To vote in the general election, the following conditions must be met:

- Enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.
- 18 years of age as of June 8, 2010.
- Reside in a district of the Mille Lacs Reservation thirty (30) days prior to June 8, 2010.

If you do not meet the 30-day residency requirement or have never resided within the district areas of the Mille Lacs Reservation, then you must vote by absentee ballot.

### To request an absentee ballot by mail:

Submit by mail or fax an Absentee Ballot Request Form to the General Election Judge. All information requested must be filled out in order for the Election Board to process your request in a timely manner. Absentee Ballot Request Forms are in this issue of the *Inaajimowin*, at the front desk of each district community

center, at the urban office, and online at [www.millelacsojibwe.org](http://www.millelacsojibwe.org). Completed request forms can be faxed to Deb Northrup, General Election Judge, at 320/532-7842.

Absentee ballots must be received by the General Election Board by 8 p.m. on June 8, 2010, by mail or hand delivery. A hand-delivered ballot will only be accepted by the Election Board from the person to whom the ballot was issued.

### To vote by absentee ballot in person:

Voting in person by absentee ballot prior to the general election will be at the General Election Office located at the tribal government center. Office hours from May 7-June 8 are 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### General Election Board address:

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
General Election Board  
Attn: Election Judge  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, Minnesota 56359  
Any election questions can be directed to Deb Northrup at 320/532-7792 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

## 2010 General Election Candidates

### Secretary/Treasurer

Curt Kalk  
Herb Weyaus – incumbent

### District II Representative

David Niib Aubid  
Marvin Bruneau – incumbent

### District III Representative

Harry Davis – incumbent  
Diane Gibbs

## 2010 Election Calendar

- **June 8: General election**
- June 9: General Reservation Election Board certifies results of election
- June 10: General Reservation Election Board publishes election results
- June 11: Deadline for request for recount
- June 15 (5:00 p.m.): Deadline for notice of contest
- June 16 (or 15th or 14th, if request for recount is filed before deadline): Decision on request for recount and results of recount, if allowed
- June 25 (or 10 days from notice of contest, whichever is sooner): Deadline for decision on contest
- June 28: Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals
- July 1: Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals
- July 6: Last day for hearing on appeal (hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal)
- July 13: Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the Court of Election Appeals
- 10 days from hearing on appeal: Deadline for decision of the Court of Election Appeals
- Day following decision of appeal: Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office

## Polling Places

Polling places are open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

- District I Community Center
- East Lake Community Center
- Isle Chiminising Community Center
- Lake Lena Community Center
- All Nations Indian Church – 1515 E. 23rd Street, Minneapolis

## Absentee Ballot Request Form

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe • General Election • June 8, 2010

I am requesting an absentee ballot for the June 8, 2010, general election.

My full name, which I am enrolled under, is:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

District which I will vote from:

District I-Nay Ah Shing  District II-East Lake/Isle  District III-Lake Lena

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or fax request form to:

Debra Northrup, Election Judge  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe General Election Board  
P.O. Box 705  
Onamia, MN 56359

Fax: 320/532-7842

### For Office Use Only

In person: \_\_\_\_\_

Date voted: \_\_\_\_\_

By mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Request received: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Request form sent: \_\_\_\_\_

Request form received: \_\_\_\_\_

Ballot sent: \_\_\_\_\_

Ballot received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Green Building Training Available

Positions in the green building training sessions at the Summit Academy OIC (Opportunities Industrialization Center), a nonprofit education and vocational training center in the Twin Cities, are still available for interested Band members.

The Summit Academy will train participants this summer on using new materials and techniques that will help them build more energy-efficient homes.

The housing department's goal is to build homes that save energy and heating costs and have less of a negative impact on the environment.

"The green building initiative will continue our stewardship and respect for the earth and remain a reflection of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe culture," said Sam Moose, director of the Mille Lacs Band Housing Department.

Because federal stimulus money is funding energy-

efficient building projects, many experts believe that the future of construction will be in green buildings.

"This training will provide Band members with a new set of skills that are crucial in the expanding field of green building," said Sam.

In May, the Summit Academy conducted skills assessments on Band members who are interested in participating in green building training sessions.

Interested Band members can attend the Summit Academy OIC sessions in the Twin Cities or the OIC carpentry program in Onamia. Both programs, which are not affiliated with the Band, will be held this summer and are open to both Band and non-Band members.

To apply for the Summit Academy green building training, call 612/377-0150. To apply for the OIC carpentry program, contact Tim Sam or KC Paulson at 320/532-4046.

## Band Working to Improve Members' Access to Home and Small Business Loans

The Mille Lacs Band has begun the process of establishing a Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) to provide Band members with entrepreneur education, financial literacy, home and small business loans. Chief Executive Marge Anderson introduced the CDFI concept to Band members during her State of the Band speech in January.

Native CDFIs operate as nonprofit organizations with a relationship to the United States Department of the Treasury to help tribes and other American Indian entities provide affordable credit, capital and financial services to their members. They were created as part of a larger program to assist underserved populations that tend to have difficulty getting help from traditional lenders.

The Band's first steps in establishing a CDFI have been to (1) set up a planning board and (2) begin working with First Nations Oweesta Corporation:

- (1) The planning board is designed to become the CDFI board once the organization is approved.

The board represents a mix of Band members; Band employees; business, banking, finance, and legal representatives; and Elder and youth representatives yet to be named. To date, board members include John Dunkley, Jackie McRae, Cindy Koonce, Carla Dunkley, Barbara Cole, and Linda Moxness.

(2) Oweesta has a contract with the Treasury Department to help plan and implement Native CDFIs. It will help the Band write its CDFI application, train the board, and conduct market assessment and policy development.

If the Band's application is approved, the local CDFI would be a nonprofit lending organization separate from the tribal government. It would provide eligible Mille Lacs Band members with home loans, small business loans, and entrepreneur education/development services. The CDFI could expand its services as it becomes more established.

Please watch the *Inaajimowin* for updates on the CDFI effort.

## New Solicitor General Takes Office



Photo courtesy of the Chief Executive Office

**Barbara Cole was sworn in as the new Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General on May 12, 2010.**

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has appointed and sworn in Barbara Cole as its new Solicitor General. She has been the Band's Deputy Solicitor General since 2007. Barbara will fill out the remainder of former Solicitor General Rjay Brunkow's term, which expires April 30, 2011.

As Solicitor General, Barbara will advise and represent the Mille Lacs Band on tribal, state and federal legal matters. She will also lead the Band's Department of Justice, which includes the Department of Public Safety and Tribal Police Department.

Before coming to work for the Band, Barbara was an

attorney specializing in American Indian law issues at Larry Leventhal and Associates in Saint Paul. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2005. While in law school, she researched tribal constitutional reform for a respected Indian law professor, assisted with an advanced Indian law course, and worked on child custody cases at the Indian Child Welfare Law Center in Minneapolis.

Barbara was born in Germany and spent much of her youth at U.S. Army bases in Germany and Texas. Her father moved the family to his native Minnesota when she was a teenager. She lives in Minneapolis and likes to read, run, and work in her vegetable garden in her spare time.

Former Solicitor General Rjay Brunkow resigned the position. He remains under contract with the Mille Lacs Band on work related to the ongoing federal investigation into thefts that occurred against the Band and its Department of Community Development.

## Attention Renters in Band Housing Units

The Mille Lacs Band Housing Department is updating rental lease information for tribal rental properties, HUD low-income properties, the Mutual Help Project, and 18-home project.

If you live in one of these properties, please contact the housing department to update the following information: household income (e.g., wages/salaries, tips, social security, public assistance, per capita payment, investment income, child support, other business income, unemployment, military income) and family or household size.

The deadline for providing this information is June 20. If you do not provide updated information by the deadline, the housing department will determine your rent payment based on a default income amount. This could make your rent payment higher than the amount you now pay.

Please contact Gina Anderson at 320/532-7456 as soon as possible to schedule an appointment in District I or to check for times and places for outlying districts.

**Please note:** This article serves as your "Notice to Update" your rental lease agreement.

## Teens Find Work Through Band's Summer Employment Program

By **Toya Stewart Downey**

Finding a summer job during tough economic times can be challenging for any teen hoping to land work on summer break. It can be even more difficult in rural areas where jobs are already limited and harder to find.

But thanks to the Band's annual Summer Youth Employment Program, approximately 100 young people get the opportunity to develop new skills, gain work experience, and discover future options.

"The program is designed to introduce youth to the workforce and help them gain work experience," said Theresa Romard, a job developer for the Band's workforce center. "For many, it's their first job."

The program begins on June 7 and ends July 30. During the eight-week program, teens get an overview of basic jobs skills and learn about ethics, workplace behavior, and leadership skills. They will spend a day with Band Elders to discuss their futures and role in the community.

Participants range in age from 14 to 20 years old and live in Districts I, II and III. Due to funding limitations, the program is not offered in the urban area.

Youth earn \$7.25 an hour and when possible are provided job placement options in areas that interest them. Some of the jobs include janitorial, housekeeping, labor, child care, and administrative positions and other jobs involve working in the Women's Project, at the museum, and in the casinos.

The Summer Youth Employment Program started in the early 1970's during Art Gahbow's administration. In the beginning, the program employed about 15 youth. There were few worksites. Most of the work consisted of groundskeeping – especially the powwow grounds – and outdoor labor crews which cleaned up the communities. There were few administrative positions. The summer youth got paid less than \$2.00 an hour, but were still thrilled to get a paycheck, Theresa said.

Patty O'Brien, maintenance supervisor for the District III Community Center, is an employer participant in the program. "Even though it is extra work to teach a youth

about life in the workplace and all that goes with it, I am always pleasantly surprised at how willing to learn and how helpful young people are," said Patty, who was one of the first to sign up for this year's program.

"It is so important to provide an opportunity for them to earn their own money and develop the teamwork and skills that it takes to serve the community in a good way," she said. "It is usually with a sense of pride and accomplishment that they pick up their paychecks."

Patty said it's also empowering for the youth to know that financial rewards can be gained by their own efforts. "Sometimes I think I would rather not participate because my workload is already intense, but then I realize all the things the kids can do to help," said Patty. "And I remember how much it meant to me when I was a kid, and I got my first job. It seems so long ago!"

Besides learning workplace etiquette and new skill sets, one of the biggest challenges for youth in the program may be getting to their jobsite. Transportation is not provided because it is not financially possible. That is why families, relatives and others are asked to help provide transportation when possible.

Families, employers and participants will also be asked to fill out surveys each week to evaluate the program and its progress. The goal is to continue to improve the program and its operations. "The whole idea is to bring back a sense of community, so we ask parents, relatives and the community to support them," Theresa said. "Family involvement is crucial in helping these kids be successful."

So, too, are the departments that will offer employment. Recently, Theresa sent a note to potential employers telling them, "It is encouraged that we all take an active role in empowering and encouraging our youth to take an interest in their own future. You as a mentor are a part of that very important process."

It's a message that she firmly believes and hopes others do too. "This program should help our kids become successful and help them see their options for their futures."

## Strong Mille Lacs Band Presence at DFL State Convention



**Chief Executive Marge Anderson speaks to delegates at the DFL state convention on April 24. Marge was one of 1,344 delegates who helped choose the DFL gubernatorial nominee.**

"Thank you for nominating a governor who will respect our treaties... Thank you for being a friend to tribal governments and Indian people."

This was part of Chief Executive Marge Anderson's message to the DFL Party at its state convention on April 24. Her speech highlighted the support shown by the DFL Party over the years on health care, sovereignty, reservation boundaries, and other key issues important to the Mille Lacs Band.

Margaret Anderson Kelliher, who currently serves as Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, became the first woman endorsed by a major party for governor of Minnesota that day, edging out Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. The Republican Party endorsed Tom Emmer and the Independence Party endorsed Tom Horner as candidates for governor.

Marge was one of several Mille Lacs Band members and Band employees who attended the DFL convention. Marge and Elizabeth (Towle) Scott, the Band's governmental affairs administrative assistant and community organizer, were also among the convention's 1,344 delegates. In that role, they helped choose the DFL's nominee for governor over the course of six ballots and nine hours of voting.

"The most exciting part of this convention was helping endorse the next governor for our state," said Elizabeth, a third-time delegate at the state convention. "My vote definitely made a difference. The numbers were fairly close between Margaret Anderson Kelliher and R.T. Rybak, and every delegate who voted helped move the process along."

## Community Events

### District I health fair

All Mille Lacs Band members and employees are invited to attend the District I Community Health Fair on Wednesday, June 23, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The fair will be held at the District I Community Center and will include informational booths, a light lunch, and raffles throughout the day.

For more information, contact Amanda Nickaboine-Meyer at 320/532-7771.

### Gardening classes

This summer SHIP is sponsoring classes for anyone interested in learning how to start and maintain an organic

garden. The classes will be held at the Ne-la-Shing Clinic conference room on the third Thursday of every month from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The following classes are available:

- June 17: Container gardening and herb gardens
- July 15: Pests, diseases and prevention
- August 19: Harvesting, canning and freezing
- September 16: Native plants and water conservation
- October 21: Winterizing and cleanup

For more information, contact Shelly Foster at 320/532-4163, ext. 2538.

## African Visitors Discover Ojibwe Culture During Day-Long Trek to Mille Lacs



A group from Africa recently visited the Mille Lacs Reservation to learn about the Band and its culture. During the tour, the group also met with elected officials.

By Toya Stewart Downey

When Carmen Lucas first heard she was going to visit the Mille Lacs Band Reservation she expected she would see miles of unpaved roads, people living in teepees, and residents living traditional lifestyles without modern accommodations. Instead Carmen, who lives in Mozambique, Africa, was quite surprised to see how advanced the Band, its people, and its government are.

"There are modern programs and practices, yet you're still trying to maintain your traditions," said Carmen, who is a judge for the Mozambique legal system. "There's a lot of globalization at home and I see it here, too."

Carmen was part of a group from the continent of Africa who recently visited the reservation to learn more about the Band, its people, traditions and culture. The group was in the United States participating in the International Visitor Leadership Program "Women and the Law: The U.S. Experience – A Regional Project for Africa."

During their time in the U.S. the contingent also stopped in three other cities – Salt Lake City, Utah; Jacksonville, Florida; and Washington, D.C. The goals of the trip were multifold and included providing a historical overview of the U.S. legal system, its principles and its traditions. There was a specific focus on women's legal rights, laws about gender discrimination, and initiatives to deal with human trafficking, domestic violence, and abuse.

Another objective included studying women's participation in and access to the legal and judicial system as well as the advancement of women's status in the political, economic and social structure.

A third goal was to explore the role of both governmental and non-governmental organizations that are working to improve women's status in areas such as health, education, and economic independence.

During their time on the Mille Lacs Reservation, the group toured District I and spent time with elected officials, leaders, and Band employees. Both groups shared different aspects of their cultures, including learning about the other's lifestyle, foods, and traditional practices.

"It's been good," said Michael Conteh, coordinator of the Gender and HIV/AIDS Program at the University of Namibia. "I've learned something very profound. Women play a key role here, which is not the case at home," he said. "We're still fighting for gender equity, and it's a long struggle."

"I was very fascinated to see how the Ojibwe are doing and learn that it's a matriarchal society," Michael added. "We were matriarchal, and we've lost that in many cultures."

Another participant, Grace Malera, an attorney and human rights practitioner in Malawi, said the time spent in Mille Lacs was a rewarding and moving experience. "I couldn't stop taking pictures at the museum," she said. "It was so alive to me."

Grace said she appreciates that the Mille Lacs Band has been able to preserve its culture and traditions even through changing times. "I ask myself if we can do this in Malawi because what's really going on here is self-determination. You are co-existing. Your self-sufficiency is impressive. At the rate you are going, I ask myself what will happen here in 10 or 20 years. It makes me want to come back and see," Grace said. "This visit has made a lasting impression on me."

## Band Member Jen Waugh: DII Admin and Foster Mom



Jen Waugh

By Toya Stewart Downey

Even though she interacts with the community on a daily basis, Jen Waugh likes the solitude that comes with her job.

As the administrative assistant for the District II Representative, Jen is responsible for planning community meetings, scheduling lawn services for Elders, and handling the billing for the district representative. She also has a host of other duties.

"I'm a quiet person, so this job suits me because I can keep to myself a lot of the time," said Jen, who has been in her role for about four years. "I do like communicating with the Elders and other visitors who come to the community center, but I like the quietness, too."

Prior to her current role, Jen held other positions with the Band including working as a receptionist, doing maintenance at the community center, and working as a nursing assistant at the Assisted Living Unit. She has also worked at both casinos.

"I was looking for something that fit my personality, my schedule, and provided some flexibility," she said.

Flexibility was crucial, particularly since besides having three children of her own, Jen is also a foster parent to two toddlers. She's had the siblings since they were infants and is hoping to adopt them.

"I became a foster parent because I wanted to help Band kids and give them a good life," she said. "I've had eight kids total."

The hardest part of being a foster parent is when the children leave her care. But the rewards outweigh the challenges, she said. "The best part is taking care of the children who need a good home."

Jen advises other Band members to consider becoming foster parents because the need is so great. "Open your hearts and help," she said.

Jen grew up in McGregor and graduated from McGregor High School. She's been married for seven years and currently lives in Round Lake with her family.

## State Legislature Concludes 2010 Session

The Minnesota Legislature wrapped up the 2010 session on Monday, May 17, needing an 11-hour special session to finish balancing the state's \$3 billion budget deficit.

Less than two weeks before the session was required to adjourn, the Supreme Court ruled that Governor Pawlenty exceeded his authority when he unilaterally cut state government spending last July.

In the final budget, the Legislature delayed \$2 billion in school payments and adopted \$1 billion in one-time cuts, largely to health and human services. These cuts will cause a general decrease in services across the state, affecting Band members and non-Band members alike.

The 2010 legislative session also saw several proposals to expand gaming. Although ultimately none of the proposals were passed, there was increased conversation at the end of the session about allowing slot machines in bars.

More gaming expansion proposals, especially for racinos, slot machines in bars, and electronic pull tabs, are expected

to be introduced next year.

Despite a concerted effort from some of the state's top lobbyists, the Vikings did not secure state or local funding for a new stadium. None of the Vikings-sponsored proposals included gaming expansion as a way to fund the stadium. Other groups, however, advocated for funding the new stadium through racino revenues.

The team is expected to renew its efforts to seek funding during the 2011 session. A continued threat by the Vikings to move to another state would further complicate the issue next year.

The Band and its lobbyists helped secure the passage of a bill that adds federally recognized Indian tribes to the legal definition of governments that can enter into joint powers agreements. This new law compliments the self-governance compacts tribes already have with the federal government and state agencies.

Following the close of the session, the 2010 election season officially started. All 134 legislators are up for election, and there will be a highly contested race for the governor's seat.

## Tony Pike: Back at Home Post Iraq



Tony Pike

By **Toya Stewart Downey**

Tony Pike wasn't planning to join the military after high school, but when two friends encouraged him to enlist along with them, he agreed.

He figured it would be a good move because if he stayed around south Minneapolis, he would end up running the streets like a lot of his peers. "There was nothing in the cities for me," he said.

After graduating from high school he decided to enlist in the U.S. Army. He was 17. "I had to beg and plead with my mother to join the military," he said.

The day before basic training, the friends Tony enlisted with backed out, but Tony was determined to keep his commitment. His first stop was Fort Jackson, South Carolina. After that he went to a military police training base at Fort McCollum, Alabama.

He has been with the same unit – the 34th Military Police Company – for the past two decades. Tony is signed up for four more years of service, but may consider re-enlisting beyond his end date.

"We're a tight-knit family," he said. "A lot of us have been in for the same amount of time."

The unit, called the Red Bulls, has also shared a lot of similar experiences. Over the years they've been deployed to help with state emergencies such as floods, strikes, searching for missing people, and even helping at the Republican National Convention.

In March 2009, they were deployed to the Middle East. After training at Fort Lewis in Washington the unit headed to Basra, Iraq. "I had no apprehensions about going because this is what we signed up for," he said. "We trained for it."

The unit was deployed for 342 days. They returned to Minnesota on January 29, 2010.

According to Tony, adapting to the day-to-day rigors of active duty had its challenges including

adapting to the extreme heat, working 12 to 16 hours a day, and having to remain on base 24/7 except while accompanying convoys off base. "I had an extra duty over there as an electronic warfare officer so I went out on a lot of convoys," said Tony.

There was also the stress of living in a war zone. "We were rocketed a lot by incoming mortars and there was a two-month period when it happened weekly," said Tony. "There are certain sounds now that trigger memories and give me flashbacks."

There was also the devastating tragedy of losing friends. Three members of Tony's unit were killed when they were hit by a rocket while on base. "We were pretty close, so it's still kind of hard," said Tony. As a tribute to one friend, Carlos "Doc" Wilcox, Tony wears a bracelet that has Carlos' name on it.

While in Iraq, Tony suffered some injuries including a ripped tendon after his hand got jammed in a door, an eye injury, and back problems from wearing 100 pounds of body armor. He also has a constant ringing in his ears that will probably last throughout his life.

Because there was always noise on the base, Tony is acclimated to hearing noise and can't sleep without the television on or some other background noise. Still, there were some comforts of home such as watching Vikings games, playing video games, using social networking sites such as Facebook, playing volleyball, and enjoying weekly steak and lobster dinners.

Since returning home, Tony has gone back to the same lifestyle he had before he left. He spends time with his family, plays in a dart league, and works for the Band. "It hasn't been too difficult to transition back," he said. "I could have taken 90 days off from work, but I was going stir crazy at home."

Tony is currently the roads supervisor for the Public Works Division. He's had a long career working for the Band. He got his start in security at the Hinckley casino in 1992. After a few years, he moved to the Public Works Division and has been there for 15 years. Tony has worked in the solid waste department as a driver, coordinator, and then as a supervisor.

In May, Tony also began going back to his monthly army reserve meetings. He expects that his unit will be deployed to the Middle East sometime next year.

Tony has four children that range in age from four to 19 years old. He lives in Bugg Hill.

Photo courtesy of Tony Pike

## Central Lakes College Veterans Resource Center and AMVETS Collaborate on Higher Education

By **Mary Sam and Deb Dewey,  
Central Lakes College**

Allen Weyaus, vice commander of Mille Lacs Band AMVETS Post 53, Greg Davis, tribal veterans service officer for the state of Minnesota, and Central Lakes College are embarking on a unique partnership to encourage American Indian veterans and their spouses and children to attend college.

Allen is a member of the Central Lakes College Veterans Resource Center Advisory Committee. "Getting our veterans, spouses and children to attend college is key to their success," said Allen. "Attending college outside of our own community fosters healthy relationships and helps break down the isolation that exists in our tribal communities. We need to teach our children to live in a multicultural community."

Greg Davis is excited about the opportunity to encourage veterans to use their education benefits in a program that offers great support services while attending college. "Many of our veterans need that one-on-one support, a quiet place to go if they are feeling anxious or overwhelmed, and the idea of attending college with other veterans is appealing."

### About the Veterans Resource Center

The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) provides information and support to veterans, military members, their families, and community members. The center is operated by Central Lakes College staff, student employees, and volunteers. More than 165 current service members attend Central Lakes College and use the Veterans Resource Center.

The goal of the VRC is to provide a welcoming environment for everyone. The center has, or can locate, information about veterans' services, financial resources, scholarships, and veteran and family support activities. The center refers individuals to appropriate campus and community service providers. It also serves as an advocate for veterans and their families who are students. The center encourages students or prospective students who are veterans, military members, or family members to contact the center about their potential benefits.

Central Lakes College also houses the state offices of the

Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs (MDVA) Higher Education Veterans Programs.

For more information about the VRC, please contact Deb Dewey at 218/855-8279 (ddewey@clcmn.edu) or Dan Davidson at 218/855-8290 (ddavidso@clcmn.edu). For information about military education benefits, please contact Laura Boden at 320/308-2185 (mnva@stcloudstate.edu). Please feel free to stop in and visit us at the Central Lakes College Veterans Resource Center.

### Upcoming events

#### Veterans education gathering – Mille Lacs Tribal College

On June 7, MDVA Higher Education Veterans Programs State Director Don Pfeffer and staff will provide an overview of services, programs and resources available to veterans, spouses and children. This event is from 2-4 p.m. and will be held at the Mille Lacs Band Tribal College. No registration necessary.

#### Central Lakes College 'Combat to Classroom' Course

Beginning August 23 with the fall 2010 semester, CLC will offer an innovative course: "From Combat to the Classroom – the Transition of Combat Veterans and Their Families."

The two-credit course will be taught by Don Pfeffer, the state's MDVA Higher Education Veterans Program Director and a counselor at CLC. "This course is for veterans, family members, and anyone with a strong interest in the military," he said. "We will start by examining what it means to be a veteran or family member of a veteran and move along the path of life after military service," Don said.

Don will lead students through the emotional, physical, financial, familial, and cultural issues that often arise as veterans transition to civilian life. They will examine Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

### Veterans Day celebration

In November, CLC Veterans Resource Center will hold a ceremony honoring the area's veterans, military members, and their families.

For more information about upcoming events, please contact Mary Sam at 218/855-8159, Deb Dewey at 218/855-8279, or Greg Davis at 320/532-7731.

## Circle of Health Updates

By Circle of Health staff

### Diagnostic tests

We are continuing to have problems with the billing process for Band members who have radiology tests, such as X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans. Even if you present your insurance card at the time of your visit, the information either is not passed along to the radiology provider or the radiology provider does not bill secondary payers.

Once you receive your first statement for the radiology tests, you must call the billing office to give them your Circle of Health information. They will ask for your date of service and account number. If you receive a second statement, call the billing office again and let us know you have encountered problems. In our experience, these are always the ones that are sent to collections with no hesitation.

### Annual updates

Last month was your final opportunity to complete the annual Enrollment and Consent to Release of Information forms, accompanied with copies of the front and back of all your insurance cards. Without this information on file, any future reimbursement requests will be put on a "hold" status.

If you have a "hold" status on your account, we will not process your reimbursement until our office receives the requested information. This information is vital to contacting you, sending letters, and corresponding with providers, insurance companies, and employers on your behalf.

If you have any questions, please contact your claims processor, David Boyd (A-L) or Roberta Lemieux (M-Z), or Michele Palomaki, director of Circle of Health, at 320/676-8214 or 800/491-6106.

## Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, June 11**, call 320/532-4163. Walk-ins are welcome. We will do our best to serve you.

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

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

April 2010

	Approved budget for FY 2010	Actual expenditures through 4/30/10	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	12,344,536	5,804,735	47.0%
Workforce*	12,388,274	2,851,457	23.0%
Judicial	705,712	368,312	52.2%
Law enforcement*	4,562,799	2,144,693	47.0%
Education*	17,557,543	9,057,017	51.6%
Health and human services*	25,179,144	13,654,558	54.2%
Natural resources*	5,055,619	3,124,194	61.8%
Community development*	37,941,614	9,353,197	24.7%
Gaming authority	4,827,653	2,659,767	55.1%
Per capita payments	26,871,178	21,855,214	81.3%
Economic stimulus	2,900,000	2,763,983	95.3%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$150,334,072</b>	<b>\$73,637,128</b>	<b>49.0%</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 2009 fiscal year.

## Employees Attend Confined Space Training



Mark Peterson, Tony Pike, and Corwin Graikowski learn how to use a winch on a retrieval tripod system. This was a part of a full-day training session on how to safely enter and exit confined spaces during an emergency.

Four Band members recently attended a one-day Confined Space Training at the University of Minnesota Saint Paul Campus. The training is conducted by the University's public health and occupational safety department. The department also provides funding for tribal government employees to attend.

At the training the participants learned the definition of a confined space; the proper equipment to use when entering a confined space;

how to use and calibrate air monitoring devices in confined spaces; how to safely enter and exit a confined space; and how to retrieve a hurt person from a confined space during an emergency.

Participants included public works employees Mark Peterson and Tony Pike, Department of Public Safety Emergency Management employee Monte Fronk and Mille Lacs Wastewater Management employee Corwin Graikowski.

## Photo Correction

In the "Students Plant Seeds for Nay Ah Shing Garden" photo in last month's paper, the teacher helping students plant seeds for the lower school's outdoor garden was incorrectly identified. Deb Foye, nutrition coordinator for the early education program, was assisting the students. We apologize for the mistake.

## Community Recreation and Services Summer Hours

Beginning on June 7, Community Recreation and Services (CRS) will change their hours. The new summer hours will be from 1-10 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays.

If you have any questions, please call Phillip Sam at 320/532-7518.



## Tribal Noteboard

### Happy June birthday to:

**Noah Sablan**, 4, on June 2 with love from TT, Kellen, Jay, Grandma Tracy, Taya, mom, and dad • **Brenda Mae Mitchell**, 13, on June 4 from TJ and Kali • **Krista Lee Nayquonabe**, 7, on June 6 from Auntie Jan and the kids • **Adam James Benjamin**, 8, on June 7 from Auntie Jan and the kids • **Pyckly Dyl**, 35, on June 8 from TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy and the kids • **Kennedy Nayquonabe**, 3, on June 6 from TJ and Kali • **Christina Marie Boyd**, 24, on June 13 from Auntie Jan, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy, Zayah, Jarvis, Rae Rae, Izzy, Dennis, TJ, and Kali • **Amelia Sam**, 6, on June 20 from TJ and Kali • **Tia Rose White**, 4, on June 25 from TJ and Kali • **Rodney Boyd Jr.**, 29, on June 9 from Jonathan, Asia, mom, grandpa, Carly and Rory • **Arianna Aune**, 4, on June 21 from dad and Nadine Harrington • **Jenai Beaulieu**, on June 4 with love from Papa Doug, Mickey, Phil, We-eh, Charlotte, PJ, Whitney, Leo, Nick, Jayla, and mom • **Craig Beaulieu**, on June 23 with love from Papa Doug, Mick, Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, PJ, Whitney, Leo, Nick, Arielle, Jayla, and Jenai • **Daddy**, on June 23 from Nick and Leo • **Lance Ballinger**, on June 23 with love from dad, Jazzy, Jaden, Papa Doug, Chick, Mick, Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, and PJ • **Debbie Mitchell**, from Carmelena and Mataeo • **Pickle Sam**, on June 8 from Slice, Sonya, Lucian, Keira, Carmelena and Mataeo • **Mataeo Mitchell**, 5, on June 13 with love from mom, Royce, Carmelena, Luciana and Keira • **Marita Jones-Yellowhammer**, 6, on June 20 with love from mom • **Nakota James Benjamin Jr.**, 2, on June 16 from mom and dad • **Jay**, 24, on June 30 from mom, Ben, Zach, Carla, Drin, Pete, Phoebe, Betty and Kane • **Sherry Harrington**, on June 9 with love from Carrie, Renae, Zachary, Jerry, Kira, Shawntel, Gabbi, Jeremy, Sammi, Jada, Keaona, Cameron, mom and Leonard • **Gilda Burr**, on June 3 with love from Carrie, Howard, Renae, Zach, Jerry and Kira • **Tammy Smith**, on June 24 from Bev, Roger, Junior, Roy and Jillian • **Roger Jr.**, 28, on June 28 with love from mom, dad, Roy, Jillian, Gladys, Ron, Roland, Roland Jr., Collin, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica • **Big John**, on June 29 from mom, Rog, Juni,

Roy, Jillian, Gladys, Ron, Roland, Roland Jr., Collin, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, and Danica • **Roland Hunt III**, on June 7 with love from Grandma Mary, Grandpa Jon, mom, Lucas, Jerome, Ed, Tim, Johnny B, Larry, Brent, Michelle, Nancy, Nikki, Veronica, Camryn, and Taryn • **Morgan Boyd**, 5, on June 18 from Tayaunna, Tanya, gram, and grandpa • **Dante**, 8, on June 3 with love from mom, dad, Shawsha, Mase Jr., Daymon, Soul, Beaner, Rae, Joe, MooButts, Donny, Joey, Sheila, gram, Dealayna, Stone, Junior, Franny, Danielle, and Bruce • **Danielle**, 27, on June 21 with love from Mary, Mase Sr., Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Mase Jr., Beaner, Dante, mom, Dealayna, Stone, Franny, Derek Jr., Rae, Joe, MooButts, Joey, Sheila, Donny, and Bruce • **Irene Boyd**, on June 14 from Judy and the gang • **Lil Kevin**, 7, on June 23 with love from mom, dad, Sissy, Gramma Kim, Papa Brad, Elias, Dede, Gramma AA, Gramma Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Max Dean, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Marky, Sharon, Wally, Melz, Rave, Rachel, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, Lil Chris, Bruce, Jada, Jayla, Lili, Bradley Eric, Kristy, Braelyn, Peyton, Eric, Wesley, Randi, Jay, Kate, Peeps, Adam Parker, Micki, Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, PJ, Whitney, Renae, Jeremy, Cameron, Keona, Sheey, Shawtel, Gabi, Nancy, and John • **Ravin**, on June 30 with love from mom, dad, Melz, Randy, Gramma AA, Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Max Dean, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Marky, Rachel, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, Lil Chris, Bruce, Jada, Jayla, Lili, Bradley Eric, Kristy, Braelyn, Peyton, Eric, Wesley, Randi, Jay, Kate, Peeps, Adam Parker, Micki, Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, PJ, Whitney, Renae, Jeremy, Cameron, Keona, Sherry, Shawtel, and Gabi • **Roland Smith Jr.**, 1, on June 4 with love from dad, mom, Gramma Gladys, Papa Ron, Collin, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Tayaunna Boyd**, 2, on June 1 with love from mom, dad, Lydell, McKayla, Gramma Gladys, Papa Ron, Collin, Roland, Roland Jr., Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Roland Smith**, on June 18 with love from Roland Jr., dad, mom, Collin, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell,

Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Vincent Stobb**, on June 13 with love from Auntie Jan, TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy and kids, mom, dad, Collin, Roland, Roland Jr., Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Bev, Rog, Juni, Roy, and Jillian • **Suzanne Merrill**, on June 21 from Gladys, Ron, Collin, Roland, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica • **Sty Hanks**, on June 18 from Gladys, Ron, Collin, Roland, Desi, Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Candy, Clay, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica • **Tami Gahbow**, on June 26 from Gladys and Desi.

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

Mary Ann Ailport  
Randall Anderson  
Shirley Beach  
Arvina Benjamin  
Shirley Boyd  
Clifford Churchill  
Sherry Colson  
Emma Compelube  
Simon Day Jr.  
Peter Dunkley  
Roberta Fox  
George Garbow Jr.  
Marilyn Gunneau  
Catherine Hedstrom  
Marlowe LaFave  
Kathy Lathrop  
James Matrious  
Robert Mayotte  
Beatrice Mitchell  
Clarence Moose  
John Morrow  
Georgia Nickaboine  
Gordon Parr  
Charlene Shingobe  
Charles Shingobe  
Warren Skinaway  
Pearl Skinaway  
Frances Staples  
Judy Swanson  
Loris White

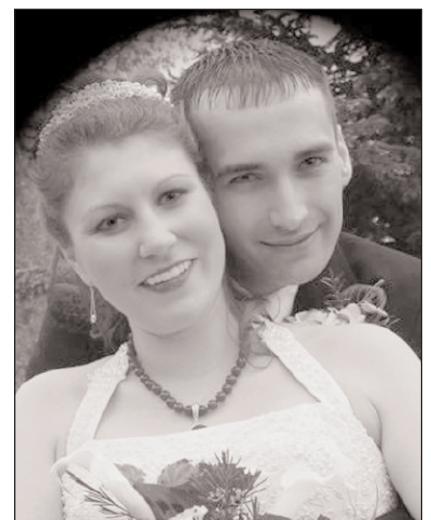
### Birth announcement

Congratulations to Charles Houle Jr. and Paloma Daniel Houle on the birth of their son. **DeShawn Jaron Houle** was born on April 19. He weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz., and was 19 in. long. *Congratulations from your family.*

### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Zachary Moose** who took second place in the state tournament in Grand Rapids April 10. Zachary is 11 years old and the son of Carrie Moose. He is very proud to be wrestling with the Mille Lacs Raiders. He practiced hard for the little time he had to get ready for the last two tournaments, and it paid off. Your family is very proud of you. *With lots of love from mom, Howard, Renae, Justo, Smokey, Cletis, Jerry, Kira, Uncle Phil, Mick, Nadine, Charlotte, PJ, Whitney, Uncle Jeremy, Sammi, Keaona, Jada, Cameron, Auntie Sherry, Shawntel, Gabbi, Gramma Deb and Leonard, and Gilda and Tracy.*

Congratulations to **Michael J. Fairbanks III** on receiving your promotion to store manager and receiving your own store. Mike has been working with Auto Zone for over a year and has shown he is trustworthy, dependable, and able to manage. Good luck in your new position. *With love from dad, Corine and kids.*



Congratulations to **Andrew and Elizabeth (Towle) Scott** on their marriage. Their wedding was on Saturday, May 8. *Congratulations from your friends and family.*

### Benjamin family reunion

This year, the Jim and Nina Benjamin family reunion will be held at the Lake Lena Community Center at noon on Saturday, June 26. To RSVP and find out what to bring to the potluck, contact Bugs Haskin at 320/532-4695.

### Obituaries

**Deanna Marie Anderson**  
Born – 6-22-1993  
Died – 4-24-2010  
Resided in Isle, MN



## Ojibwe Culture and Traditions



### Ojibwe Traditions Never Go Out of Style

Welcome to the *Inaajimowin's* new monthly feature on Ojibwe culture and traditions. Based on results from the recent Band member survey, many of you said that you would like to see and read more about our cultural heritage in the paper each month.

This feature will differ from month to month, and we encourage your feedback and participation. In the past, the *Inaajimowin* has reprinted "Moccasin Telegraph" columns. These columns will continue to be included in this section. This month, we are reprinting the first Moccasin Telegraph column that was authored by Elder Jim Clark (who has since passed away). Since then, Band members of all ages have authored more than 100 columns, helping the Band share its history, traditions and stories with others.

A schedule of traditional Mille Lacs Band activities, such as powwows and ceremonial

dances, will also continue to be included in this section of the *Inaajimowin*.

In addition to these items that were previously published in the newspaper, this section will include some of the following features:

- Ojibwe phrases and upcoming language opportunities
- Netting and hunting information
- New and old photos of Band members participating in their culture, showing activities like sugarbushing, ricing, and beading

If you would like to submit photos or ideas, contact Kelly Sam, editor of the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*:

- 651/292-8062
- kellys@goffhoward.com
- Goff & Howard, Inc.  
255 East Kellogg Blvd.,  
Suite 102  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

### Moccasin Telegraph



*Jim Clark (1918-2008)*

#### Getting familiar with each other

*By Jim Clark, Mille Lacs Band Elder*

*The following article appeared in the April 24, 2002, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with the Messenger's permission.*

Aaniin (Hello). My name is Jim Clark. I am an Elder of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. I want to welcome you to the first "Moccasin Telegraph" column, a new feature in the *Mille Lacs Messenger*. Approximately every three weeks, a member of the Mille Lacs Band will share a little bit about our people, our culture, our history, and our traditions.

What is a moccasin telegraph? Here's my understanding of it: years ago, there were no telephones and no mail service, so people had to find other ways to communicate with each other. The Anishinaabe (the Indian people) lived in family groups spread out over this area. Each one of these groups had a patriarch of the clan, like my grandfather. The patriarch would designate someone in his group, maybe a young fellow or a young girl, to carry news. These people were runners. The patriarch would say, "Something is happening, and we want to pass the news along," and the runner would take the news to the other family groups. Indian people wore moccasins at that time, so the runners would run in their moccasins.

That's how things worked a long time ago – the Anishinaabe had a moccasin telegraph that brought the news to the people.

Today, a phone can be the moccasin telegraph. And, Anishinaabe still say they've heard things "through the moccasin telegraph."

We want to use this "Moccasin Telegraph" in the *Mille Lacs Messenger* to tell you about the Mille Lacs Band. Anishinaabe have lived in this area for a long time, but some people don't really know much about us. And I think when people know each other better, when they familiarize themselves with each other, they are more relaxed with each other.

It's like when you wake up in the morning and it's snowed outside. Everything looks different, but we've seen snow all our lives so we don't worry about the difference because it's familiar.

It's like that with people, too. I remember I went to a boarding school in Hayward, Wisconsin, that was run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I went there for four years. On Saturdays, we'd walk into town – the boarding school was about a mile away – and we'd go to a show Saturday afternoon, maybe buy some popcorn. And some kids used to tease us, and some kids would try to fight.

And then the last year that we were there, we had to go to the public school because they didn't have any teachers at the Indian school. And there we got along with the kids. They found out that we were just like anybody else, and we got along with them really well because we were more familiar with each other.

So, that is why I think people should learn more about each other. I've been to schools and talked to kids and adults to tell them about Anishinaabe people. When I talk to people, they seem more friendly and relaxed even after talking to them for just a half hour or 45 minutes about what Anishinaabe people are like.

We look forward to using the "Moccasin Telegraph" to tell you more about the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe in the future, so that you can be more familiar with our people. Mii gwetch (thank you).

### Ojibwe Language Immersion Held Every Wednesday

Would you like to brush up on your Ojibwe? Or maybe you want to start learning the language in an informal setting?

People of all ages and experience levels are invited to the District I Assisted Living Unit each Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. to work on their Ojibwe with

Mille Lacs Band Elders. There is no cost, no agenda, and no tests. Every week is different depending on who attends.

Immersion is a great way to learn and use the language we were given. Please drop by the ALU any Wednesday night.

### Upcoming Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum

#### Sweetgrass basket workshop

The workshop will be held at the museum on June 12 from 12-4 p.m. and June 13 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The workshop costs \$50 for the general public and \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members. There is an additional supply fee of \$10.

Registration is required by June 9. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided.

There is a minimum of five participants required for this workshop.

#### Birch bark harvest workshop

This two-day workshop will be held at the museum on July 17 from 12-4 p.m. and July 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The workshop costs \$70 for the general public and \$65 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members.

Registration is required by July 14. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Please call 320/532-3632 for more information or to sign up.

# Calendar of Events

June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>*To Purchase Tickets</b></p> <p>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800/745-3000, or visit <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com">www.ticketmaster.com</a></p>	<p>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact <b>Kelly Sam</b> at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at <a href="mailto:kellys@goffhoward.com">kellys@goffhoward.com</a></p>	<p>1</p> <p><b>Nay Ah Shing Graduation</b> Nay Ah Shing Upper School 6 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>Talking Circles</b> The Brick House 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>Veteran Education Gathering</b> Mille Lacs Tribal College 2-4 p.m. (See page 7 for details)</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>General Election</b> 8 a.m.-8 p.m. (see page 3 for details)</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>Sweetgrass Basket Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m.</p>
<p>13</p> <p><b>Sweetgrass Basket Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting</b> 5 p.m. Contact: Amiliya Zago, 320/384-7598 <b>AMVETS Meeting</b> GCML 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925</p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>All-Elder Community Meeting</b> District III ALU 11 a.m. Contact: Denise Sargent, 320/532-7854 <b>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting</b> 4 p.m. Contact: Dawn Aubid, 218/768-2345</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>Talking Circles</b> The Brick House 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046 <b>Gardening Class</b> Ne-la-Shing Clinic 4:30-6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>Grand Celebration Powwow</b> GCH 7 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>Grand Celebration Powwow</b> GCH 1 p.m. &amp; 7 p.m.</p>
<p>20</p> <p><b>Grand Celebration Powwow</b> GCH 1 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>District I Health Fair</b> District I Community Center 10 a.m.-3 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> East Lake Community Center, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311 <b>District III Community Meeting</b> GCH, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 320/384-6240</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Larry The Cable Guy*</b> GCH Amphitheater 8 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>District I Community Meeting</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judy Virnig, 320/532-7423</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p><b>District IIA Community Meeting</b> Chiminsing Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam, 320/676-1102</p>	<p><b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> All Nations Indian Church, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>All government offices closed at noon</b></p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p><b>4th of July</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>All government offices closed for Mid Summer Day</b></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>July 1</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>

## Participants Needed for 2010 Mille Lacs Powwow

The Mille Lacs Band is holding its 44th annual powwow on August 20-22, and the powwow committee is looking for Band members interested in participating in one of the largest traditional powwows in Minnesota.

### Royalty contestants

Each year, powwow participants crown four Band members or direct descendants of Band members as royalty. Junior princess and brave contestants must be six- to 12-years-old and senior princess and brave contestants must be 13- to 18-years-old. Contestants must be Band members or direct descendants of Band members.

The deadline to register as a contestant is August 3, but contestants who sign up earlier will have more time to accumulate points. For more information, contact LeAnn Benjamin at 320/532-7496 or leannsue@frontiernet.net.

### Parade contests

Each year the powwow committee gives cash prizes for the best entries in the parade float and rez car contests. The top three Band department floats and the top three community floats in each contest will receive cash prizes. To register your float or rez car, contact Benji Blake at 320/532-7510.

### Judges

The powwow committee is looking for Band members interested in volunteering as a judge for the royalty and parade competitions.

The royalty competition needs five primary judges and three back-up judges. The powwow committee would like to have at least one representative from each of the Mille Lacs Band communities, including the urban area. If you are interested in being a judge for the royalty competition, contact Sharon James at 320/282-2712.

The parade contests need three to five judges to score all the floats and rez car contestants. If you are interested, please contact Benji Blake at 320/532-7510.

### Powwow tournaments

Teams are needed for the adult and youth moccasin games and horseshoe tournaments. Registration will occur at the powwow grounds during powwow weekend. For more information on the moccasin games contact Kenny Weyaus at 320/532-3855, and for more information on the horseshoe tournaments, contact Shannon Ramsey at 320/532-7460.

### Raffle

Powwow raffle tickets will be available in June for \$5 each. Prizes include a four-wheeler, 52 weeks of bingo, and more. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Shannon Ramsey at 320/532-7460 or shannon.ramsey@millelacsband.com.

### Vendors

The powwow committee is looking for Mille Lacs Band members interested in being vendors at the powwow. There are approximately 36 vendor sites, and the committee would love to see more authentic Native American crafts as well as more Band members serving food. All Band members receive 50% off the regular vendor rate. For more information, contact Rob Thompson at 320/532-7841.

### Emcee and arena director

The powwow committee is looking for Band members who would like to be an emcee or arena director during the powwow. These positions are paid. If you are interested in either position, contact Sharon James at 320/282-2712.

## What Is Your Favorite Summer Activity?

**Brandi Wagner**



*"Swimming and cooking out."*

**Karen Norby**



*"Camping, swimming, and tromping through the woods with my grandkids."*

**Sharon James**



*"Powwows. I love going to powwows, dancing, and camping out."*

**John Mojica**



*"We like to go to the park and ride four-wheelers. And my son, Justin, likes not being in school."*

**Sarah Boyd**



*"Going to powwows, having cookouts, and going to the park with my nieces."*

**Kim Big Bear**



*"Playing beach volleyball and going fishing."*

**Paul Benjamin**



*"Gardening."*

**Michelle Pagel**



*"Whitewater rafting in the class IV and V rapids."*

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

## Elder Fundraiser Golf Tournament

The Office of the Chief Executive will host a golf tournament on June 19-20 at Grand National Golf Course. The tournament will be a three-person scramble. Teams must consist of two Elders, who are at least 55 years old.

If teams register by Monday, June 14, the tournament will cost \$450 per team. On-site registration will be \$500 per team.

Please contact the Office of the Chief Executive at 800/709-6445, ext. 7486 to request a registration form.

Mail your form and payment to:

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Attn: Office of the Chief Executive  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359