

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

May 2007

"The story as it's told."

Volume 9 • Number 5

Mille Lacs Band Working to Ensure Justice Following County Detainment of 11-Year-Old Victim

Following Mille Lacs County's recent arrest of an 11-year-old Mille Lacs Band member and crime victim, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office immediately responded to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's request for intervention. As of this writing, the State Attorney General is in the process of determining what authority her office may or may not have over Mille Lacs County in this situation. On May 3, the day after receiving a letter from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Attorney General Lori Swanson sent two representatives from her office to the Reservation to interview Band attorneys, law enforcement, and witnesses. They also planned to interview county officials.

"This is a necessary part of the process to see that justice is done," said Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General R.J. Brunkow.

On April 10, the 11-year-old boy was removed from school and transferred into the custody of Mille Lacs County based on a warrant issued by County Attorney Jan Kolb for failing to appear in court as a crime victim. The boy was handcuffed by county law enforcement, processed at the county jail, and transferred to a facility in St. Cloud, where he was detained overnight. Prior to appearing in Mille Lacs County Court on April 11, he was forced to wear handcuffs, shackles, and a jail-orange jumpsuit. There was no hearing scheduled on April 11, and the boy was sent home.

Band government response

After learning of the incident, the Mille Lacs Band government began investigating the incident, offered legal assistance to the boy's parents, and made numerous requests for information that Mille Lacs County has not fulfilled.

Even after the victim's parents made a written request for copies of any documents related to the case, the County Attorney's Office notified Band attorneys that these records would not be released to the parents without a court order. Further, the county's court administrator first agreed to comply with the Band's and the mother's written requests for the subpoena in this case, then two hours later denied the requests.

On May 2, Melanie sent a letter to Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson asking for immediate state intervention, citing concerns including:

- Detainment of an innocent child victim overnight for no apparent reason – There does not appear to be any legal reason for detainment, as the boy's safety was never in jeopardy.
- Possible violation of civil rights – Based on the information we have currently, it is the opinion of the Band's Office of the Solicitor General that the County Attorney may not have complied with state law with regard to proper issuance of a subpoena. (Please see the article by R.J. Brunkow on page 4 about subpoenas.)

- Arrests based on invalid warrants – Band attorneys have reason to believe that there may be instances of other Mille Lacs Band members being arrested on invalid warrants. The Solicitor General is attending talking circles and a community meeting to speak with Band members about any concerns they have related to subpoenas.
- Possible discriminatory treatment – The Band is questioning why the young Band member was handcuffed, shackled, and wearing an orange jumpsuit while being transferred to the county courthouse, while a non-Indian juvenile girl was transported in the same vehicle without restraints or a jumpsuit.

"Most sensible and compassionate people would agree that forcing a crime victim to appear with handcuffs, shackles, and a jail-orange jumpsuit is wrong, and re-victimizes the child victim," Melanie said in her letter to the Attorney General.

Support for the Band

The day after this letter was sent, two lawyers from the Attorney General's staff traveled to Mille Lacs County to look into the matter. The state's major media outlets have also covered the story; many stories contained quotes from independent sources expressing outrage about the incident.

For instance, in a *Star Tribune* story on May 4 ("Experts say

(Continued on page 3)

Economic Summit Centers on Renewable Energy and Resources For Local Artists



Steve Premo

Keynote speaker and Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture Gene Hugoson talks about Minnesota's ethanol industry at the economic summit.

The Mille Lacs Band Corporate Commission hosted another successful economic development conference on May 2. This year's theme, "Painting Economic Development Green," was a nod to the dual focus of the conference – renewable energy as an economic development tool and resource development for artists to grow the economy. Sponsors included Woodlands National Bank, The Initiative Foundation, East Central Electric and Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative, Minnesota Power, and Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP.

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Ask Melanie

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

What is the purpose of distribution payments?

The Mille Lacs Band's distribution payments to Band members were never intended to replace your job income. These payments are a supplement to your main income, and are intended to help you do things you may not otherwise be able to do.

Maybe you want to save for a new car or a family trip, or start a college fund for a child or grandchild. These are the kinds of things the distribution payments help you do. When it comes to meeting your family's long-term essential needs for food and shelter, those expenses should be met through your main income.

Also, the amount of each Band distribution is based on casino profits, which fluctuate with the seasons, as well as the number of Band members. The Band's membership has grown since the time our casinos opened in 1991 and 1992, so there are more people splitting

the distributions today than previously.

In addition, the Band is still working to meet our communities' basic needs in terms of infrastructure, health care, education, safety, etc. Some of the Band's income must continue to go toward meeting these needs. This is the only way we will build strong neighborhoods and overcome challenges such as crime and diabetes.

The progress made by the Band in just over 15 years should be a source of pride for all of us. We are investing our resources wisely and accomplishing things as a Band and as individuals that should make us very hopeful for a bright future.

Do you have a question?

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

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

Netting and Springtime Activities

By Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources

The spring netting season is over and the Mille Lacs tribal netters have taken more than 21,000 pounds of walleye this season. All the bands combined took a lot fewer fish than they legally could have, but our take was the most we have ever harvested since our treaty rights were reaffirmed. That's a good sign for our non-Indian neighbors, who should have a great season. Tell them not to worry; we left plenty behind for everyone.

Everybody seems to have had a safe season with no major problems. It was good to see a few new faces on the lake this spring as well as the old ones (or should I say "familiar" ones).

There's nothing like fried fish in the spring. If you did especially well netting, remember to visit your favorite friend or relative and share a meal with them. That way you won't have to surrender all of the fish you may have stashed away for some future secret meal when nobody's around (a lot of Band news articles are serious, so don't forget to laugh a little).

We try hard to meet the needs of Band members. Sometimes we are successful and sometimes we are still working to do better. One of the great things about tribal harvests is that it takes full participation – reaping the rewards of getting up earlier than you usually would, or in some cases just staying up a little longer to be part of the camaraderie that takes place on the landings when the netters come in.

Some people catch a lot of fish and some just get a few. If you're

like me and get skunked from time to time, this is when you find out who your real friends are. They are the ones that are sitting on the tailgate of their trucks laughing at me, holding up a mezii (eel pout), talking to it, and accusing it of being my doodam (clan or relative). A person could also be accused of being a fishpig (I'm still trying to imagine what one of those would look like), but I suppose there's no reason to drag anybody into that category.

Spring harvest

Every spring seems to have its own personality, and maybe we have a hand in this. Maybe there is a lot to think about. If we look at other aspects of our lives in a positive manner, even when things don't turn out like we plan, then we know we all share life's lessons together in some way.

So another spring season has come and begun to fade into summer, and the cycle of our harvest life continues. The maple sapping season was a little strange this year. I don't believe it had anything to do with the participants, but a person could have their suspicions. Maybe next year will be a little better for the ones who like to watch sap boil and fill their sweet tooth.

Remember fishing season is open year-round. You can check with your local licensing agent in any of the three districts and at the Chiminising Community Center for more detailed fishing regulations and information.

In the meantime, I'll try to find more time to write the next article.

Band Takes Part in Statewide Emergency Preparedness Campaign

By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator

This month, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety unveiled their codeReady campaign that enhances current emergency preparedness programs. Counties and tribal governments across the state are participating in this public awareness campaign to help people become better prepared for emergency situations such as tornadoes, chemical spills, or a pandemic flu.

You will start to see advertisements and news about special events related to this campaign. The state is also providing emergency preparedness information through a variety of materials such as fact sheets, fliers, and a Web site that the Mille Lacs Band will make available at its community centers and the urban office. Also, look for information in upcoming issues of the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

CodeReady Web site

The codeReady Web site is a great tool for finding information about emergency situations. On the site, you can develop family emergency plans by answering a number of questions about your household. There is also a feature that allows you to generate a list of food and supplies specific to your household for an emergency kit. Simply visit www.codeReady.org to create your plans and learn more about preparing for potential hazards.

CodeReady tour

The codeReady campaign also includes a mobile tour about emergency preparedness that will travel throughout Minnesota. The tour is scheduled to stop in local areas including:

- Aitkin – May 19
- Isle – June 27
- Milaca – June 19
- Princeton – June 20

Grand Casino Hinckley Celebrates 15 Years



Photo courtesy of Randy Duxbury

As Grand Casino Hinckley celebrates its 15th anniversary in May, there are several new amenities opening this year. The Events & Convention Center is now open, the new 305-room hotel tower is scheduled to open this August, and the Grand Harmony Spa is expected to welcome its first spa-goers in September. "It's exciting to look back at the progress we've made over the past 15 years," said Grand Casino Hinckley General Manager Mel Towle. "We look forward to working with our business and community partners to ensure that the Hinckley area continues to be a great place to live and work well into the future."

11-Year-Old Victim

(Continued from page 1)

putting shackles on young victim is policy flaw”), University of Minnesota law professor Richard Frase said, “I’ve never heard of a policy like that,” referring to Mille Lacs County’s restraint of the boy. “It’s so incredibly overbroad, it’s bound to produce problems like this.”

In that same *Star Tribune* article, Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman said, “I don’t think the answer is arresting kids and holding kids in a juvenile facility overnight and fitting them in a jumpsuit. I think these things can be handled a little bit better, frankly.”

Several civil rights organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Minnesota, have given the Band their support. The ACLU sent letters to the Attorney General and Governor Pawlenty asking for an investigation.

Upcoming community meeting

A community meeting will be held to discuss this case and related issues from 3-5 p.m. on **Thursday, May 24**, at the District I Community Center. All Band members are encouraged to attend. Band members who are employed by the Band government will have permission to be released from work for this meeting; Commissioner of Administration Christine Costello will follow up with supervisors on the process for work release. The community meeting will be hosted by the Chief Executive’s Office.

In addition, talking circles are underway in all reservation districts to gather Band members’ input.

Economic Summit

(Continued from page 1)

“I am encouraged as the new Commissioner of Corporate Affairs to learn of the partnerships we have forged in the past years within the regional economic community,” said Sarah Oquist, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, in her welcome remarks. “I look forward to furthering these relationships and supporting new business opportunities that will strengthen the economy of the Band and the region as a whole.”

Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources Curt Kalk discussed the Band’s efforts in renewable and alternative energies. Conservation remains a key element in the Band’s future development, and the Band will continue to incorporate renewable energy alternatives into programs and building projects whenever possible.

Breakout sessions

Breakout sessions focused on renewable energies, including ethanol, wind, bio-mass and bio-diesel. Participants learned about each type of energy, about successful renewable energy projects around the country, and about financing and technical assistance for renewable energy projects.

Other presentations focused on the economic impact of area artists and crafters on the region. Research shows that the arts support 220 jobs and produce more than \$8.3 million in revenues. Our region stands out

from the rest of the state because businesses and communities do an excellent job in attracting audiences and dollars from outside the region. Other topics of interest included green tourism, technical and financial assistance for artists, and small business tools.

In addition, the East Central Minnesota Tourism, Recreation, Arts and Crafts (TRAC) Association unveiled its improved Web site, www.ecmntrac.org. This site helps people find information about local artists, tourism, recreation, and other events and opportunities in the region.

Arts and crafts fair

During the event, the TRAC Association hosted its first arts and crafts fair, where artists sold handcrafted items and showcased their beadwork, dreamcatchers, paintings, pottery, rugs, needlework, carvings, and other arts.

About the summit

The first regional economic summit was held in 2003. It started as an effort by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin to promote economic development and partnerships to support a common goal. The first economic summit resulted in the creation of the TRAC Association and the reorganization of the East Central Shared Prosperity Alliance, partnerships that continue to help economic growth and build collaborations.

Nay Ah Shing Schools Update

Nay Ah Shing nets a big one



Photo courtesy of Eric North

Nay Ah Shing students learn hands-on how to weave nets. From left to right: LaShelle Boyd; Curtis Fairbanks; Mike Montano, the net-making instructor; Aaron Buckanaga; and Larry Hansen, a Nay Ah Shing science teacher.

Nay Ah Shing students developed the skills necessary to make their own nets in the future. Students in grades five through 12 worked with Mike Montano to make nets for them to use this season.

“Providing our students the opportunity to learn net-making incorporates a wide range of academic areas,” said Eric North, Principal of Nay Ah Shing Schools.

Math (geometry), social studies (treaty rights), English (experiential writing), art (weaving), physical education (netting and rowing) and Ojibwe language were all incorporated into this project.

Students along with Elders spent time on this project. Loyn Dyhle and Devon Solis thought it was “cool tying the knots and weaving the nets.” The students then decided to donate some of the nets they made to Elders in their community. The students wove the nets to both an upper and lower line in order for the net to hold its shape in the water.

“This is another great opportunity that our students have that attend our school, and an opportunity to incorporate culture into the curriculum,” said North.

Summer school offered in all three districts

Nay Ah Shing Schools are proud to announce that summer school will be offered again for students from all three districts. Even if the student has attended another school during the school year, they can come to Nay Ah Shing and receive credit and improve their academic skills. Our summer school will begin on July 9, and end on August 3. Buses will be taking students from all three districts to school during these dates.

“This is a great opportunity for students to receive instruction in a small class environment,” said Mary Simon, Dean of Students.

For anyone interested in attending summer school, or if you have any questions, please contact Mary at 320/532-4695.

Band Member Celebrates Boxing Victory



Rick Anderson

Mille Lacs Band member Kristie Davis, a professional female lightweight boxer, celebrates her victory at the Band’s Boxing Commission’s March 17 boxing event at Grand Casino Hinckley. This was the first professional boxing match hosted by the commission.

What If You Receive a Subpoena?

By R.J. Brunkow, Solicitor General

Minnesota Rules of Court state the following:

Rule 22.03 Service

A subpoena may be served by the sheriff, by a deputy sheriff, or any other person at least 18 years of age who is not a party. Service of a subpoena upon a person named therein shall be made by delivering a copy thereof to such person or by leaving a copy at the person's usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein. Additionally, a subpoena may be served by U.S. mail, but such service is effective only if the person named therein returns a signed admission acknowledging personal receipt of the subpoena. Fees and mileage need not be tendered in advance.

Website link is:

http://www.courts.state.mn.us/documents/0/Public/Rules/Crim_Rules_as_amended_eff_04-01-2007.doc#cr22

A subpoena is a command to appear at a court and provide testimony. In this article I am only discussing subpoenas regarding victims and witnesses.

In Minnesota, a subpoena may be served by law enforcement officers, but there are other methods of service allowed. A subpoena may be served by delivering a copy to a person's house if it's left with someone of a suitable age. A subpoena may be served by mail, but only if the person named returns a signed admission indicating that it was received.

If the subpoena is properly served, you must go to court or face a possible warrant for your arrest. If you appear in court once (on the same issue or incident), the judge may rule that you now have judicial notice that you must appear at subsequent hearings on the same matter. However, if this happens, then demand that the future court date be set before you leave the courthouse that day. If the judge refuses and you are not absolutely certain that you will receive future mailings from the county, then demand personal service of future court dates and ask the judge to note for the record that you need personal service because you are not sure that you will receive future mailings from the county.

A subpoena mailed to a home is not effective if no signed acknowledgment is sent back to the county. Note that there is no requirement by law that anyone sign an acknowledgement and return it to the county. You may choose to do this or choose not to. However, bear in mind that the county attorney may seek a warrant for your arrest if you do not appear. Also bear in mind if this happens, the warrant is invalid and you should seek to have the county prove you were properly subpoenaed. If they can not, you should have the judge order the warrant quashed. You should then consider whether you feel your basic civil rights have been violated.

The Office of the Solicitor General encourages Band members to attend all court hearings they are required to under the law – whether the court be the Court of Central Jurisdiction for the Band, state courts or federal court. Courts exist to ensure that justice is properly meted out. As we have seen in recent weeks, sometimes court systems and prosecutors can forget their mission of seeking justice. When that occurs, you have civil rights which can also be adjudicated in court.

If you ever feel your civil rights have been violated, please contact me at 320/532-4733.

May Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum

Art show

Throughout May, the artwork of Carly Bordeau will be on display every Thursday through Sunday. The cost is \$7, \$6 for seniors and college students, and \$4 for children ages six to 17.

Annual showcase and silent auction

Opening Memorial Day and running through Labor Day is the Annual Showcase of Ojibwe Artists and Silent Auction. The

program is designed to inspire and promote traditional and contemporary Ojibwe artists of all ages, to educate and expose visitors to the living Ojibwe culture of artistic expression, and to provide a venue for artists to show their work. All artwork is up for silent auction bid. Proceeds go to the artists, along with a small donation for art programming at the museum. The cost is \$7, \$6 for seniors and college students, and \$4 for children ages six to 17.

Woodlands National Bank Makes Banking Easy For Band Members

Are you looking for the right bank for you and your family members? If so, a good option is the Mille Lacs Band-owned Woodlands National Bank – with locations in Onamia, Hinckley, Sturgeon Lake, Cloquet, and inside Grand Market.

Its services include:

- **Savings accounts**, which require a \$50 minimum deposit to open and a \$50 minimum monthly balance to avoid a \$1 service charge. However, the service charge is waived for all Band member minors. Typically the bank will waive the \$50 requirement for opening a savings account for a minor, but since it is not standard policy, just ask for this benefit when opening an account for a minor.
- **Checking accounts** with no minimum balance required.

There is a minimum deposit of \$50 required to open an account, but there are no other fees associated with this account except for the cost of checks.

- **Preferred service checking accounts**, which are available only to Mille Lacs Band employees (including casino Associates). This account requires no opening deposit, plus it provides free checks and a free debit card. The employee must set up a payroll direct deposit.
- **Direct deposit** is free and allows Band members to have their paychecks and Band distribution payments automatically deposited. To pick up a direct deposit form, stop at any of the Band's community centers or the Band's Office of Management and Budget.

Avoid the Lines

Direct deposit your Band distribution payment

By Angella Roby,
Commissioner of Finance

If you haven't already signed up to direct deposit your Band distribution payments, sign up today. Direct deposit is free and convenient. It allows your distribution check to be directly deposited into any

financial institution where you bank. Band members electing to direct deposit can access the funds at their bank as early as 9 a.m. each distribution day. Access to funds through an ATM may not be available until 11 a.m. on distribution day. If you have any questions or need a direct deposit form, please contact your district community center administrator or stop by the Band's Office of Management and Budget.

Summer Youth Employment Program

Are you between the ages of 14 and 20 years old and looking for summer employment? The Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center will be accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program beginning now through May 25. The program begins June 12 and ends August 3.

To be eligible, you must be at least 14 years old by June 6, 2007, and not turn 21 years of age before August 3, 2007. Applications can be picked up from the following contacts and locations:

- District I: Workforce Center – lower level of the Government Center

- Onamia High School – Nancy Harliss
- Nay Ah Shing School – Mary Simon
- District II: East Lake Modular Building – Judy Brown
- District IIA: Chiminising Community Center – Carmen Green
- District III: Lake Lena Community Center – Gloria Songetay

This is a great opportunity for Mille Lacs Band Youth to gain work experience and earn money! If you have any questions, please contact the Workforce Center at 320/532-7407 or 800/922-4457.

Names & Faces

Band member receives academic award

On April 27, Band member **Sharon Benjamin** received the 2006-2007 Best Academic Reading and Studying Skills of the Year Award from Century College in White Bear Lake, MN. She was nominated by two of her reading instructors for the award.

Last year, Sharon earned her GED and wanted to further her studies by taking general classes at Century College. "Many doors have opened for me," said Sharon of her continued education. She hopes to continue her college coursework and become a chemical dependency counselor or work in a related field.

Fourth-grader Paige Mitchell wins spelling bee



Photo courtesy of Chris Sam

Congratulations to **Paige Alvina Mitchell** for winning first place in the Nay Ah Shing School spelling bee for fourth grade. Love mom, dad, Rosa, Freddie and Tweety.

Band Names R.J. Brunkow Solicitor General and Reappoints Commissioner of Finance Angella Roby



Rick Anderson

In April, the Band welcomed a new Solicitor General and confirmed the current Commissioner of Finance for a second term. From left to right: Alicia Skinaway, District I Representative; Angella Roby, Commissioner of Finance; Herb Weyaus, Secretary/Treasurer; and R.J. Brunkow, Solicitor General.

On April 30, R.J. Brunkow was sworn in as the Band's new Solicitor General. In this position, Brunkow represents and advises the Mille Lacs Band in legal matters. He is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and brings legal experience and a knowledge of Indian issues and culture to his position.

R.J. graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2004. In November 2006, R.J. joined the Band as a Deputy Solicitor General. Prior to working for the Band, he served as an investment banker for Wells Fargo Specialized Finance. At the bank, he worked in tribal finance and worked with tribes throughout the Midwest.

"This is an exciting time to be working for the Band as Solicitor General. I look forward to serving the Band to the best of my ability. It is a true honor and privilege to have an opportunity to serve as legal counsel for a fellow Ojibwe tribe," said R.J..

R.J. lives in Oakdale with his wife and daughter.

Commissioner of Finance reconfirmed

Angella Roby was confirmed as the Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Finance for a second four-year term. She is the Chief Financial Officer for the Band's Office of Management and Budget. Before joining the Band in 2003, Angella worked for 14 years as a certified public accountant.

Chippewa Tribe Keeps Enrollment Criteria The Same for Now

On April 26, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) met at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center to discuss a number of important issues. Notably, a resolution that would have changed enrollment criteria for MCT Band members was not brought forward for a vote.

Chairman Leecy of the Bois Forte Band had previously proposed a resolution that would change the blood quantum of one quarter to include "other" Chippewa blood from outside the MCT. Several TEC members (the Chair/Chief and Secretary/Treasurer of each of the six bands) indicated that their tribal memberships were not supportive of the proposed changes or they needed more information. In response, Chairman Leecy decided to hold off on his resolution, saying he would reconsider bringing it forward to the TEC again in three months.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has held numerous meetings with Band members to discuss proposed enrollment changes. In her April "Ask Melanie" column, she reported that Band members whom she had met with did not appear to want the blood quantum expanded to include other Chippewa blood. Instead, she reported that most Band members were telling her they wanted to see errors in current enrollment records fixed.

At Melanie's direction, the Mille Lacs Band is moving ahead with an initiative to fix errors in enrollment records for Mille Lacs Band members, which will require hiring additional researchers.

Melanie will continue to keep Band members apprised of any additional proposed changes in MCT enrollment.

150 Band members have unclaimed funds

Also at the April 26 TEC meeting, Roger J. Heger with the Office of Special Trustee, U.S. Department of the Interior, notified TEC members that the federal government is attempting to locate MCT tribal members who have unclaimed money in accounts with the federal government. The Band was provided with a list of more than 150 Mille Lacs Band members who were "unaccounted for" by the federal government, and who have funds they can claim with the federal government.

The Band government has current addresses for most of these Band members. If you are on this list, you will soon receive a personalized letter from the Chief Executive explaining how you can claim these funds. The process involves contacting the Special Trustee Officer in Bemidji, Minnesota, and providing proof of your identity. Once the federal government has verified your identity, you will be given the details with regard to your account and provided with the choice of cashing out your account or leaving it invested with the federal government. Mr. Heger reported that current investment returns are averaging 6%.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) holds 11 million acres in trust for Native Americans. Money from timber sales, agricultural and oil leases is distributed under the Individual Indian Monies (IIM) program. In addition to IIM, the Office of Trust Funds Management administers Tribal Trust Accounts. The Special Trustee for American Indians oversees annual payments of \$450 million for 300,000 Native Americans, but the whereabouts of 47,000 Native Americans eligible for payment are unknown.

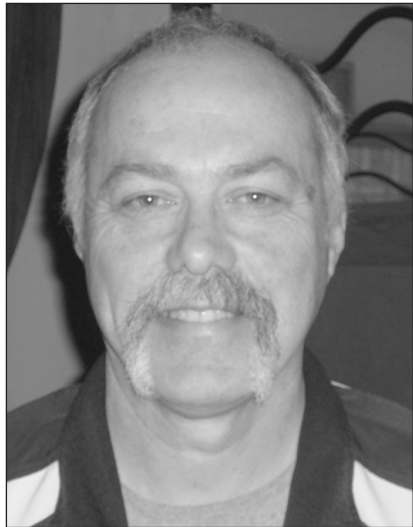
Chief Executive's Calendar

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

- Hosted a Minnesota Chippewa Tribe – Tribal Executive Committee meeting at Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Conducted numerous talking circles in each Band district regarding proposed changes to MCT enrollments
- Attended Art Gahbow Day picnic
- Represented the Band at the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council meeting and discussed Indian Child Welfare issues

- Participated in Boxing Commission meeting
- Conducted two-day strategic planning meeting with her cabinet
- Participated in Affordable Housing Advisory Council of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Committee meeting
- Attended Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN) planning meeting
- Participated in Drum Keepers meeting
- Convened Elder Advisory Board meeting
- Held meetings with Band members on various topics

Band Hires Executive Director for Boxing Commission



Elizabeth Towle

Anibal Miramontes

In April, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe welcomed Anibal Miramontes, a former international and world title boxing judge, as the Executive Director of its Boxing Commission. Anibal will oversee the commission's activities, including licensing boxers, trainers, managers, matchmakers, ringside physicians, and boxing officials and regulating boxing matches according to the rules and regulations adopted by the Band.

Anibal has been involved with the boxing industry for more than 20 years; he has judged four world title fights and about 20 international fights. He also served on the World Boxing Council Ratings

Committee for 10 years. Prior to joining the Band's Boxing Commission, Anibal was the President of Fight Fax, which is a company that gathers and publishes boxing results from the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) and other boxing commissions worldwide.

"Anibal's experience and knowledge of the boxing industry are an asset to the Band," said Harry Davis, Mille Lacs Band District III Representative. "He has been involved with the sport for years and will be a great leader for our Boxing Commission, supporting our goals of building a successful commission and getting local kids involved in boxing."

Anibal also shares the commission's goals of hosting televised professional matches, including world title fights, that appear on stations such as HBO, ESPN and Showtime.

"I like the challenge of working with a brand-new commission – we're all starting together," said Anibal. "We are all working to grow the commission's boxing events and connect with youth in our communities."

The commission's next event is planned for June 15 at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Mille Lacs Band Head Start to Participate in Statewide Reading Program

Mille Lacs Band Head Start has been selected as a sponsor site for the 2007-2008 Minnesota Reading Corps program year. Minnesota Reading Corps is a statewide initiative to help Minnesota children from age three to grade three become successful readers. Approximately one in five Minnesota third graders do not read at grade level. Minnesota Reading Corps aims to reverse this trend; it brings together ideas, techniques, resources, and caring people who are dedicated to helping children read. Children in the program are surrounded with a culture of literacy that engages them in reading, writing and talking. Student progress is tracked through regular assessments, which help tailor lessons to each student's specific skill level.

The Reading Corps approach has been used in Head Start classrooms and schools. Head Start children taught under the Reading Corps model gained crucial pre-reading skills at a rate of two to four times that of children in similar settings where the model was not used.

Get involved today!

Reading Corps members – who are also AmeriCorps members – dedicate a year of service to the program. Full-time and part-time positions are available. A one-year commitment starting in August 2007 is required. Reading Corps members receive an educational award up to \$4,725. For more information, visit www.theMLC.org/ReadingCorps or call Katie at 651/645-2277.

Safety First

By Robert Thompson, Safety/Risk Manager

May is High Blood Pressure Education Month

The Mille Lacs Band is offering high blood pressure educational activities this month in observance of National High Blood Pressure Education Month.

The Band's Public Health Department offers nursing services to all Band members. In May, it is providing blood pressure education and screenings as part of its regular community health services.

Please contact the Band's Public Health Department at 320/532-7457 with any questions about its high blood pressure activities.

Policy Changes for Emergency Assistance and Elder Energy Assistance Programs

By Ginger Weyaus, Executive Director of Health and Human Services

Emergency Assistance Program policy changes

The following policy changes became effective on May 1:

- All applicants must provide proof of tribal enrollment.
- The Emergency Assistance office staff will not be subject to any verbal or physical assault. In the event it occurs, tribal police will be called. The applicant will be suspended from receiving any further assistance for two years.
- Applicants will only be allowed to apply and receive one loan at a time. They will not be eligible for a second loan until the first loan is paid in full.
- Applicants for rent/deposit loans must show proof that the property has been licensed as a rental property by the city.
- Funeral travel is now available as a loan.
- Medical travel is now available as a loan.
- Daily per diem for medical or funeral travel is set at \$100 per day, lodging at \$60 per day, and meals and incidentals at \$40 per day.
- Mileage will be reimbursed at \$0.485 per mile. Applicants must have a valid driver's license to receive mileage for medical or funeral travel.
- Any medical travel requests for less than 12 hours will be referred to the Public Health Department.
- Utility assistance includes telephone bills.
- A maximum of four utility bills per year is allowed.
- Fire/disaster assistance is now available as a loan.
- Car insurance bills are now available as a loan.
- Driver's license renewal fees are now available as a loan.
- Automobile maintenance/service repairs are now available as a loan.

Elder Energy Assistance Program policy changes

The following policy changes became effective on May 1:

- An Elder is defined as an enrolled Band member age 55 and older.
- A disabled/handicapped person is defined by Social Security qualifications; a person must have a letter from the Social Security Administration stating a disability.
- Tribal distribution payments or Elder supplemental are excluded as part of the income requirements.
- Assistance is capped at \$1,200 per year for electricity, which is based on an average of \$100 per month.
- Assistance is capped at \$2,000 per year for heating fuel, which is based on an average of \$167 per month.
- An Elder's income must fall below the 300% poverty guidelines to be eligible. Please see the chart below.

Family size	300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
1	\$29,400
2	\$39,600
3	\$49,800
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,200
6	\$80,200
7	\$90,600

Graduations and Celebrations

The school year is once again coming to a close, which means awards banquets and graduation ceremonies are just around the corner. Following is a listing of upcoming events:

- **Friday, May 18** - District III Early Education graduation
 - **Wednesday, May 23** - Nay Ah Shing Upper School graduation
 - **Thursday, May 24** - Fourth Grade Graduation at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag
 - **Thursday, May 24** - District II Early Education graduation
 - **Friday, May 25** - District I Early Education graduation
- The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe would also like to invite you to attend the graduation celebration picnic at the Mille Lacs Band Cooperative College in Wahkon on **Saturday, June 30** from 12-3 p.m. The

graduation celebration, sponsored by the Higher Education Department, is the perfect opportunity to celebrate and recognize the achievements of our graduates. This celebration helps us realize that goals and achievements can be reached through hard work and dedication. There will be food and door prizes. All districts' graduates and their families are invited to attend.

Please R.S.V.P. to Sami Thomas at 320/495-3702 by June 15.

If you are graduating this year, please contact the scholarship office to make sure you are on their graduation list. For event locations or other information, please call the Nay Ah Shing Schools at 320/532-4695, or the Mille Lacs Band Scholarship Office at 320/495-3702.

Healthy Heart Program Update

By Cyndy Edgerton, Registered Dietitian and Case Manager

The Healthy Heart Program holds monthly classes which include cooking demonstrations, motivational speakers, and fun learning experiences for people who are trying to improve their lifestyle and make healthier food choices. Herb Sam was our guest speaker at our last class in April. He delivered a motivational talk on living a traditional lifestyle. The class –

which consisted of nine people – enjoyed a heart healthy meal and engaged in stimulating conversation.

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

Financial Skills Workshop to be Held in June

Do you need help with budgeting, retirement and finances? To help you understand these concepts, a two-day workshop will be held on June 5-6 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. The training is sponsored by the Mille Lacs Band and Merrill Lynch. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Topics that will be covered include:

- Building a healthy economy

- Budgets and savings – benefits to you and the community
- Working with checking and savings accounts
- What you need to know about credit
- Financial marketing basics
- Home-ownership and equity
- Teaching your children financial skills

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

Small Business Update

Future entrepreneurs of Indian Country

By Sharon James, Small Business Program Director



Youth Entrepreneurship Summer Camp

The Corporate Commission and Nay Ah Shing High School are once again partnering to provide a Youth Entrepreneurship Summer (YES) Camp for Band member youth. This year we will also be joined by the Fond du Lac Tribal Community College Chapter of American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL), which will provide camp counselors with business backgrounds. The YES Camp will be held June 24-29 at a resort in Grand Rapids, Minn.

A group of Nay Ah Shing High School students who are interested in learning more about owning and operating a business will be chosen to attend this summer camp. The selection criteria include a student's interaction in the community, attitude, grades, attendance in school, and a written essay.

This will be our third year holding the camp and it keeps getting better each year. These youth will surprise you; they grasp the concepts very quickly and come up with some great business ideas. Parents and community members should be very proud of these youth.

Entrepreneurship is one of many ways young Anishinabeg can establish a quality way of life for themselves. As adults, we need to introduce our youth to the various fields and opportunities they have to choose from. In so doing, they will find something they truly enjoy and will put more effort into making it happen.

Opening soon

Two new Mille Lacs Band member-owned businesses located in the Grand Casino Hinckley Southwing Shops are opening in May. Be sure to stop in and see what they offer. Help support our Band member-owned businesses:

Velvet Bean Coffee Shop

Owned and operated by Solita (Hill) Reum. Serving specialty coffee, tea, smoothie drinks, gelato, and pastries. The caffeine is back!

Skin-O-Vations Gift Shop

Owned and operated by Perry Skinaway. Providing custom wigwam and teepee lamps along with authentic Native American gifts. Come experience the beauty of the Woodland tribes.

Business training reminder

A business management training class started on May 14 in Minneapolis for all Band members. It's not too late to register. For more information, call Heather at 320/532-8850.

Ojibwe Charter School Now Enrolling

By Elizabeth Towle, Administrative Assistant, Governmental Affairs

At the April District III community meeting, Band members learned about a new education opportunity. Harry Davis, District III Representative, introduced Skip Churchill and Geri Germann, who informed the community that Pine Grove Academy – an Ojibwe charter

school located in Lake Lena – is accepting enrollments for the 2007-2008 school year. The deadline to register is June 1. The Pine Grove Academy budgeted for 65 students; so far there are 19 students enrolled. The academy must meet or exceed the 65 student quota they budgeted for in order to open the school on August 1.

**Construction
season is
upon us!!
CALL!!
Our Band
Member
Owned
Businesses!**

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Specializing in New & Remodeled Homes
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General contracting services, residential construction & excavating, licensed & fully insured.

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Latest technology in home construction, additions, garages, sky lights & interior remodeling

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Builders**

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Provides design, installation & 24-hour maintenance & repair service of sewage lift stations & control panels located throughout Northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, & Michigan.

**Support your fellow
Band Members. VISIT TODAY!**

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

December 2006

	Approved Budget for FY 2007	Actual Expenditures through 12/31/06	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	13,022,954	2,212,731	17.0%
Workforce*	8,331,758	1,144,700	13.7%
Judicial	947,319	184,399	19.5%
Law Enforcement*	3,655,553	691,453	18.9%
Education*	17,224,345	3,166,606	18.4%
Health and Human Services*	20,814,574	4,348,043	20.9%
Natural Resources*	4,492,447	1,261,010	28.1%
Community Development*	40,777,468	5,411,601	13.3%
Gaming Authority	4,271,016	862,471	20.2%
Bonus Distribution	12,402,340	12,409,246	100.1%
Total Expenditures	\$125,939,775	\$31,692,258	25.2%

Financial Notes:

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

* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2006 fiscal year.

Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health Staff

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) benefit

Effective on April 16, the Circle of Health Board increased this fiscal year's benefit from \$500 to \$1,000. This benefit is for Band members only and still requires a prescription or script for non-disposable items. There has been no change for this benefit to cover repair costs.

Additional services

Since there have been a few changes with additional service coverage this year, we would like to provide information on the yearly or lifetime benefits below. These services are for Band members only, which became effective on February 1. Prior authorization is still required before any payments or reimbursements are made on a Band member's behalf.

- Eyewear – up to \$150 per fiscal year
- DME – up to \$1,000 per fiscal year (increase effective April 16, 2007)
- Hearing aids – up to \$1,000 lifetime benefit

- Orthodontia – up to \$3,000 lifetime benefit (including dentures) (increase effective March 1, 2007)

Circle of Health's fiscal year is October 1 through September 30.

The increased additional service benefits are for services beginning on or following the effective date. If the previous benefit amount has already been met this fiscal year and Circle of Health receives any claims sent by providers or suppliers dated before the effective dates, they will be denied. Additionally, Circle of Health will not reimburse any personal payments made on outstanding bills or make any future payments on scheduled payment plans or promissory notes.

Reimbursements

Please allow reimbursement claims a two- to six-week grace period from the date of submission to process. If you still haven't received a reimbursement or denial after six weeks, contact Michele Palomaki, Circle of Health Director; David Boyd, Claims Processor for A-L; or Roberta Lemieux, Claims Processor for M-Z at 320/532-5358.

Tune in to KKIN & KBEK

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

KKIN radio – 94.3 FM

- May 17, 8:30 a.m.**
Curt Kalk and Don Wedll
Topic: Ojibwe Language and Culture Center
- June 21, 8:30 a.m.**
Curt Kalk and Don Wedll
Topic: Forestry preservation

KBEK radio – 95.5 FM

- May 15, 7:30 a.m.**
Kenny Weyaus
Topic: Mille Lacs Indian Museum
- June 19, 7:30 a.m.**
Marene Hedstrom
Topic: Traditional ceremonies

Tribal Noteboard

Happy May birthday to:

Mariah, 11, on May 31 with love from mom, dad, baby brother, Grandma Kim, papa, Auntie Nick, Jameson, Cordell, Lil' Chris, Grandma Karen, Grandma AA, Auntie Tracy, Jacob, Jamie, Shelby, Jarvis, Sharon, Ravin, and Wally • **Valerie**, on May 27 with love from mom, dad, Pie, Baby Kevin, Kevin, Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, Lil' Chris, Karen, Grandma AA, Tracy, Shelby, Jarvis, Jacob, Jamie, Sharon, Ravin, and Wally • **Jacob Palomaki**, on May 24 from granny and papa • **Brittney Wind**, on May 1 from Aunt Joyce, Diamond, Skye, Day, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Huck, Buck, Jim, APB and family, Jay and family, Mother Hubbard, Joe Cool, Nick, Gab, Michele, Bruce and Jacob • **Michael Trudell**, on May 6 from mom, dad, your sister, Bruce, and Jacob • **Heather**, on May 13 from granny, papa, Auntie Michele, Bruce and Jacob • **Sara Misquadace**, on May 10 from Great-grandma Agnes • **Wesley Misquadace**, on May 31 from Grandma Agnes • **Jeff Matrious**, on May 3 with love from your wife Toni • **Jarvis Harrington**, 15, on May 5 with love from Auntie Val, Uncle Kev, Pie, Baby Kevin, Auntie Nick, Jameson, Cordell, Lil' Chris, Grandma Karen, Grandma AA, mom, Shelby, Jacob, Jamie, Baby Ava, Sharon, Ravin, and Wally • **Shelby Doust**, on May 9 with love from Auntie Val, Uncle Kev, Pie, Baby Kevin, Auntie Nick, Jameson, Cordell, Lil' Chris, Grandma Karen, Grandma AA, mom, Jarvis, Jacob, Jamie, Baby Ava, Sharon, Ravin, and Wally • **Randi Lee**, on May 12 with love from sis, Kevin, Pie, and Baby Kevin • **Taylor Paige**, 2, on May 19 with love from Auntie Val, Kevin, Pie, and Baby Kevin • **mom**, on May 1 with love from Wallace, Missy, Tamara, Tara, and Erica • **grandma**, with love from Nick, Mike, Corey, Ravin, Brandi Rose, Brittani Rose, Romeo, Shaun, Alexis, Geo, Jason, Izik, Troy, Diamond, Brookey, and Isaiah • **Troy Bob**, on May 8 with love from mom, dad, Shaun, Geo, Isaiah, Auntie Missy, Tamara, Erica, Uncle Wallace, Nick, Mike, Corey, Rave, Brandi, Brittani, Romeo, Lexis, Jason, Izik, Diamond, Brookey, and grandma • **Isaiah**, on May 12 with love from mom, dad, Shaun, Geo, Tony, Grandma, mom, Missy, Tammy, Erica, Uncle Wallace, Nick, Mike, Corey, Rave, Brandi, Brittani, Romeo, Lexis, Jason, Izik, Diamond, and Brookey • **Uncle Wallace**, with love from Shaun, Romeo, Alexis, Geo, Jason, Izik, Troy, Diamond, Brookey, Isaiah, Nick, Mike, Corey, Brandi Rose, and Brittani Rose • **Baby D**, on May 29 from Tara and Danielle •

Romeo Lee, on May 28 with love from Tara, Shaun, Geo, Troy, Isaiah, mom, dad, Jason, Brookey, Nick, Mike, Corey, Rave, Brandi, Brittani, Alexis, Izik, Diamond, Uncle Wallace, Missy, and Tammy • **Alizayah Darlene**, 7, on May 8 from TJ, Norman, Kali, mom, dad, Jarvis, Nanaz, Gramma Jan, Jaime, and Cat • **Mary Mac**, on May 15 from TJ, Bates and Kali • **Frank Mason**, on May 11 from Jacob, Ivy, and Arne • **Lorraine Farah**, on May 3 with love from Monica and family • **Dawn Flores**, on May 7 with love from Tina • **Carl Weous**, on May 9 with love from Tina and kids • **Betty Quaderer**, on May 10 with love from your family • **Patrick Losh**, on May 15 with love from your wife • **Jonathan Boyd**, 1, on May 3 from grandma, papa, dad, and Great-grandma Maggie • **Auntie Brenda**, on May 4 from Raenelle, Jereck, Jarissa, Corbin, and Lia • **Sheena**, on May 13 from Raenelle, Jereck and the brats • **Bev Sutton**, on May 2 from Raenelle and family • **Darryl Jr.**, on May 5 from Nell, Dan, Ashton, and Joe-Joe • **Vicky Smith**, on May 19 from Nell, Dan, Ashton, Joe, Bill, Trav, Buck, Strizz, Sue, Derek Jr., Brook, and Riehana • **Lorna Weous**, on May 19 from Nell, Dan, Asj, Joe, and Darryl Jr. • **Sunshine Rose Shingobe**, on May 20 from mom, dad, Amber, Sam, Dan, Charles, Hunter, Elvis, Grandma June, Papa Gushy, Andrea, Bev, Lacye, and C-Bass • **Tyler**, on May 22 from Nell, Dan, Ash, Joe, Bill, dad, Trav, Strizz, and Sue • **Tara Smith**, on May 27 from Nell, Dan, Ash, Joe, Bill, dad, Trav, Buck, Strizz, and mom • **John Donahue**, on May 8 with love from your kids, family, Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Jayson Churchill**, on May 1 with love from Danielle, Sierra, and family • **Daniel Churchill**, on May 9 with love from your family • **Ardel and Alexander Sam-Ladd**, 3, on May 17 with love from mom, dad, brothers and the rest of your family • **Percy Benjamin**, on May 28 with love from Marisa, Sam, and Jack • **Richard and Rachel**, on May 14 with love from mom, Kelia, Uncle and Aunt Cyrell, Candi, dad, Rod B., and Jonathan B. • **Cyrell B.**, 1, on May 29 with love from mom, dad, Uncle Richard, Aunt Rachel, Kelia, Jonathan B., Rod B., Grandma Pendee and Grandma Mar • **Judith S.**, on May 12 from Aunt Marlys, B-boy, B-girl, Candy, Cyrell, and lil' baby girl • **Elissa A.**, on May 15 from Pendee, Richard, Rachel, Kelia, Candy, Cyrell, and Mavelus • **Gaybe**, on May 4 from Disco, baby girl, and Chocolate Candy • **Grandma Gina**, on May 1 with love from Jordan, Destanie, Shyla, Dallas Jr., Buddy, and Sassy

• **David Thomas**, 5, on May 25 with love from Grandma Sami, Chila, Noah, Sonny, Terrah, Niswi, Dezy, and Xaviar • **Molly**, on May 16 with love from Sami, Knute, Darc, Carla, Kimmy, Toddy Lee, Eldayshun, Pat, Letha, Terrell, Miranda, Kaitlyn, Bug, Sherraine, Mary Jane, and Miss Ale • **Kim**, 21, on May 21 with love from Auntie Sami, Uncle Knute, momma, Scott, Dacie, Todd, Eldayshun, Carla, Age, Weena, Pat, Letha, Terrell, Miranda, Kaitlyn, Georgia, Kayana, McKellen, Amy, Bug, Sherraine, Mary Jane, and Miss Ale • **Blake Alexander Stewart Ford**, 5, on May 18 • **Pee-Wee**, on May 18 from Uncle Jack, Jaxin, and family • **Baby Kevin**, 4, with love from Auntie Nick, Jameson, Cordell, Lil' Chris, Grandma Karen, Grandma AA, Auntie Tracy, Jacob, Jamie, Shelby, Jarvis, Sharon, Ravin, and Wally • **Uncle Meoge**, 39, with love from Sleebees, Beige, Big Jake, Kinney Minnie, Jayson, and Nikki • **Uncle Dust**, 34, with love from Beige, Big Jake, Kinney Minnie, Jayson, Nikki, Dawg, Karen, Todd, Jana, Rhonda, and Curtis • **Todd**, on May 20 from Rhonda, Curtis, Jay, Karen, Jan, and Dustin • **Sarah Boyd**, 18, on May 18 with love from mom, dad, Val, Samantha, your nieces, and Pooty • **Valerie Boyd**, on May 9 with love from mom, dad, Sarah, Sam, the girls, and Pooty • **Kayana Carly**, 7, on May 15 with love from Grandma Molly, Papa Scott, Pat, Letha, Terrell, Miranda, Kaitlyn, Darc, Carla, Kimmy, Todd, Eldayshun, Bug, Sherraine, Mary Jane, and Miss Ale • **Phil Harrington**, on May 23 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Samantha Mitchell**, with love from Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Jillian Garbow**, on May 15 with love from Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Brandon Benjamin**, on May 6 with love from Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Darryl Smith**, with love from Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Jordan and Joshua Smith**, on May 25 with love from Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Vicki Smith**, on May 19 with love from Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Tyler Wind**, on May 22 with love from Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Ashley Boyd**, on May 7 from mom, Will, Kiki, Janelle, B-boy, Aaron, Damian, and grams • **Kenzy**, on May 21 from Nelly • **Randy**, on May 4 from Kiki, B-boy, and Janelle • **Cyrell**, 1, on May 29 from your family • **Johnny**, 1, on May 3 from your family • **Adrianna Lorraine**,

6, on May 3 with love from mom • **Gordon Sam**, 3, on May 10 with love from mom • **Dallas Anderson Jr.**, 11, on May 7 with love from Jordan, Destanie, Shyla, dad, Auntie Tina, Grandma Marge, papa and Grandma Gina • **Papa Merlin**, on May 11 with love from Jordy, Destanie, Shyla, Dallas Sr., Dallas Jr., Tina, Gina, and Marge • **Jacob**, 5, on May 24 with love from mom and dad.

Happy birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Merlin Anderson
Alvina Aubele
Elisse Aune
Brenda Beaulieu
Gladys Bedausky
Beverly Benjamin
Maurice Boyd
Anthony Davis
Virginia Davis
Edna Day
Winona Evens
Lorraine Farah
Dale Garbow
Geraldine Germann
Harry Gradger
Gertrude Hanson
Allen Hemming
Harold Hill
Vincent Hill
Patricia Jackson
Betty Keggs
Clarabell Kruse
Vera Mager
Frank Mason
Dominic Mayotte
Janelle Meehl
Earl Mitchell
James Mitchell
Pauline Mitchell
William Mitchell
Lawrence Mitchell
Ardith Morrow
Albert Murphy
Lorraine Nickaboine
Ole Nickaboine
Donald Olson
Betty Quaderer
Patricia Regguinti
Ronald Sam
Geraldine Shingobe
Virgil Skinaway
Beverly Sutton
Victoria Verkennes
Herb Weyaus
Larry Wind

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Eric Omdahl**, who received the arrow of light badge. This badge is received when all requirements are met to move onto a Boy Scout. *Congratulations from mom and dad.*

(Continued on page 10)

Tribal Noteboard

(Continued from page 9)

Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to **Mark and Judy Swanson** on May 6, with love from Greg, James, Marvin, Ronald, Calvin, and your grandchildren.

In memory

I remember the laughs, I remember the smiles.

I remember the good times we had for a while.

I remember the good, I remember the bad.

I remember the love that we once had.

I remember with a smile, I remember with a tear.

I remember the times you held me in fear.

I remember the kisses, I remember the hugs.

I remember the dimple in your smile, I remember.

In loving memory of **Darlene Mae Sam**, on her birthday, May 8. With love from your niece, Tiffany.

• • •

In loving memory of **Myron Garbow**, May 12, 1942-April 9, 1999. Holy man dad, its been

eight years since you've been gone. Not a day goes by that I don't stop thinking of you, wishing you were here, laughing with us, telling us stories, and playing with the kids. May 12 is coming soon and just wanted to wish you a happy birthday. Wish you could be here to celebrate your 65th birthday with the whole family. Love you and miss you very much. *Love you forever, your baby Raenelle.*

• • •

In loving memory of **Melvin Eagle**. Brother, little did we know that morning the Creator was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you. You did not go alone, for a part of us went with you, the day the Creator called you home. You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide. And though we cannot see you, you are always by our side. Our family chain was broken and nothing seems the same. But as the Creator calls us one by one, the chain will link again. *Love you bro, from Sheila Benjamin.*

How to Buy a Used Car

By East Central Legal Services

The following information was also presented by East Central Legal Services at the District III community meeting on April 18.

1. Never buy a car without bringing along a friend or family member. This person can help you avoid high-pressure sales pitches, give you a second opinion, and later serve as a witness if you should have to go to court with any problems related to the car purchase.

2. Go online or call your bank, credit union, or local library to verify the *Blue Book* value of the vehicle you want to buy. Then you will know if you are paying a fair price.

3. Watch out for tricks like "bait and switch." This occurs when you go to a dealer in search of an advertised "deal," only to be told that the car is gone, but that a more expensive car would be a good alternative. Another trick is when the salesperson says, "My manager may not agree with this price, so buy it now." Take your time. If you let the salesperson rush you, you will not get the best deal.

4. Ask a mechanic you trust to look at the car before you agree to buy it. If the seller refuses, buy your car somewhere else.

5. Get all promises in writing. A spoken promise will be almost impossible for you to prove. If the salesperson will not put a promise in writing, the dealer does not intend to stand by it.

6. Always ask the seller specific questions about the car, such as:

- Have you had the car checked by a mechanic?
- Did the mechanic find anything wrong with the car?
- Is there anything wrong with the brakes, engine or transmission?
- How long do you think the engine and drive train will last?
- If the engine or drive train does not last that long, will you repair it at no charge?

7. Insist on specific answers, not general statements. Statements like "this is a good car" are called "puffing." You cannot count on them. But if the dealer says in writing that the brakes were fixed last week and they work perfectly, you can force the dealer to fix the

brakes if they go out soon after you buy the car.

8. Read the contract, especially the fine print. Do not sign anything that says you are taking the car "as is," or that differs from what the salesperson told you.

9. Get your auto loan from your own bank or credit union. When you finance a car loan with the dealer, the dealer is often making money on the loan. They may also make more money if they give you the loan at a higher rate. While the dealer may tell you it is the best rate, a local bank or credit union may give you a better rate.

10. If you get your loan from the dealer, ask for a signed and dated document that indicates you are receiving the best rate, and that the dealer is not receiving any money from the lender on this transaction.

11. The dealer cannot force you to buy credit insurance, which is intended to pay the loan if you cannot. This insurance is often overpriced and does not help in many situations.

12. Get the title when you buy the car, not later. This is the law. Do not pay the seller until you see the title.

13. If you buy the car from a dealer and it has less than 75,000 miles, you may have additional warranty protections.

If you would like more information about how to buy a car, on warranties, or on the Lemon Law, please call East Central Legal Services at 800/622-7772. East Central Legal Services is also available for walk-in appointments at the following sites:

- District I at the Tribal Government Center's workforce office, Wednesdays, noon-4:30 p.m.
- East Lake Community Center, every other Tuesday, 8 a.m.-noon
- Chiminising Community Center, every other Thursday, 8 a.m.-noon
- Lake Lena Community Center, alternate Tuesdays, 8 a.m.-noon
- Urban Workforce Center, by appointment only

(The above times are subject to weather conditions and other factors; please call our toll-free number for the exact dates.)

Band Welcomes New Attorney Darlene Watchman



Kelly Sam

Darlene Watchman

In March, Darlene Watchman joined the Mille Lacs Band as a Legislative Attorney. Darlene, who is Tlingit/Navaho, has more than 20 years of professional experience, primarily in the public sector.

Darlene holds graduate degrees in business administration and public administration. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1998

and became a member of the Wisconsin Bar of Attorneys the following year. Since that time, Darlene has worked in risk management and health law for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and in criminal law for the Office of the Public Defender. Prior to joining the Band, Darlene worked in constitutional and administrative law for the State of Alaska Local Boundary Commission.

"The Band is involved in many diverse projects and it appealed to me on many levels to work within the Band's government," said Darlene.

Darlene has three adult children. While they were growing up, she served on local and statewide Native education boards for more than ten years. She also served as a tribal delegate to the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska in the 1990s.

Calendar of Events

May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	14	15	16 District IIA Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Marvin Bruneau, 218/768-3311 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	17 All District Elder Meeting GCML 5:30 p.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181	18	19 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> R.J. Brunkow, Solicitor General 877/239-2444
20 George Jones* GCH 4 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> R.J. Brunkow, Solicitor General 877/239-2444	21	22	23 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	24 District II Meeting East Lake Community Center 6 p.m. Contact: Mary Sue Bohanon, 218/768-3311 Community Meeting District I Community Center, 3-5 p.m. (See page 3)	25 All offices closed at noon	26 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444
27 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444	28 All offices closed for Memorial Day	29	30 District I Community Meeting Location TBD 5:30 p.m. Contact: Becky Sam, 320/532-7423 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	31 Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Pat or Cindy, 612/872-1424		

June 2007

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

What is your favorite outdoor sport or recreation?

Leroy Thomas



Elizabeth Towle

"I like the anticipation of hunting and fishing. I love to eat venison and fish, especially northern, sunfish, and crappies. Depends who's playing, but I enjoy watching football and baseball as well."

Kevin Stobb



Elizabeth Towle

"My favorite outdoor sport is golfing. I like getting out onto the green in the sunshine, it's relaxing and fun."

Pauline Sam



Kelly Sam

"I enjoy walking around Lake Phalen and getting out and being active in my daughters' and granddaughters' lives."

Loretta Hanson



Elizabeth Towle

"My favorite outdoor sport to watch is football, number one Packer fan right here! The outdoor recreation I enjoy is fishing for sunfish, even though my family likes catching the bigger fish."

Lucy Hanson



Elizabeth Towle

"I love planting beautiful flowers in the garden and watching them grow. Another recreation I enjoy is fishing, particularly catching sunfish."

Carla Big Bear



Kelly Sam

"I enjoy attending powwows, going fishing, and spending time on the water."

Mille Lacs Band Hosts International Visitors



Rick Anderson

University of Minnesota Humphrey Fellows along with human rights leaders visit the Mille Lacs Reservation to learn about the Band and its history.

On April 18 and 19, the Mille Lacs Band welcomed University of Minnesota Humphrey Fellows to the reservation to learn more about the Band. This is the 15th year that the Band has hosted members of the Humphrey Fellowship program, which brings professionals from designated developing countries to the United States for one year of study and related professional experience.

This year, the Band also welcomed members of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous People. The IITC works to protect the rights and traditional cultures of indigenous people. The United Nations Permanent Forum is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council that discusses issues relevant to indigenous people.

During the two-day gathering, the Humphrey Fellows met with Band government leaders and listened to human rights speakers, including Andrea Carmen, Executive Director of the IITC, and William Means, an IITC board member. Don Wedll, the Band's Long Range Planner,

also talked about the history of the Mille Lacs Reservation.

"This was a great opportunity to share the history and accomplishments of the Band not only with the Humphrey Fellows, but also with human rights leaders from the United Nations and the IITC," said Don. "We had valuable discussions, and several fellows plan to take what they learned back to their home countries."

The visitors also toured Nay Ah Shing School, the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, the government center, and other parts of the reservation.

Mille Lacs Band receives gifts

To thank the Band for hosting this event, several Humphrey Fellows presented traditional gifts from their cultures to the Band, including an African game, a carved wooden box from Malta, a cutting board made in Costa Rica, a knit hat from Cameroon, items from the Philippines, an eight-sided star from China, and a leather pouch. These gifts will be on display outside the Chief Executive's Office.

Minnesota Legislative Update

By Jamie Edwards, Governmental Affairs Coordinator/State

The 2007 legislative session is winding down, but a special session is a possibility. Following are a few updates from the past month:

- Governor Pawlenty signed the Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Omnibus Bill on May 4 that creates and funds reservation-based Tribal Veterans' Service Offices around the state.
- Proposals are pending that would fund Ojibwe and Dakota language revitalization

programs, reopen an Indian scholarship office in Bemidji, and include more education on Minnesota's American Indians in school curriculums.

- A proposal to prevent genetic modification of wild rice is also pending.

Special Session

At the time of printing, the Governor has vetoed or stated his intention to veto several state spending bills. If the Governor and the Legislature are unable to reach a compromise by the May 21 adjournment deadline, the Governor is expected to call an immediate special session.