

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

October 2011

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

Volume 13 • Number 10

## Four Powwow Committee Members Form Lasting Friendship Through Shared Experiences



Photo courtesy of Studio One Photography

*(Left to right) Sharon James, Mary Jo Jennings, Cyrilla Bauer, Freedom Porter and (Front) Kenneth Weyaus, Sr.*

By *Toya Stewart Downey*

At the beginning, they were four people who came together for a common cause – to help plan the Band’s annual traditional powwows.

That was a decade ago, and since then the four Band employees who didn’t know each other well have become friends who have bonded over the shared experiences of helping coordinate one of the Band’s biggest events held each year.

“Many have come and gone, but the core group has stayed the same for 10 years,” said Freedom Porter, co-chair of the committee. “We all choose to volunteer our time to make this powwow a success year after year. And that was what has always held this group together.”

“The four of us – Mary Jo Jennings, Sharon James, Cyrilla

Bauer, and me – have been together officially as the executive committee for eight years, and we have all served together for 10,” he added. “Four people, who came from different walks of life within the Band, four strong-minded individuals, four people who may not have ever come together if not for the powwow, are now walking away from this as friends.”

As the 45th Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow came to a close on August 21, so did the decade-long partnership of the core committee members.

The four had decided that last year would be their final term serving on the committee, because each had new roles to play both personally and professionally. However, Chief Executive Marge Anderson

asked them to reconsider, so they signed up for another year.

Sharon, a 14-year committee veteran, said, “A connection is created with those you work and struggle with.”

“We have shared common goals and difficulties throughout the years, she said. “When you work through that you form a friendship that strengthens you. We helped hold each other up when the going got tough, we cheered each other on when we felt like quitting, and we kept the fun and humor alive as it should be with anything we do.”

Through their times of disagreements, and “even a bona fide argument or two,” what always mattered most is that they were involved on the committee for the same purpose.

Mary Jo joined the committee as a way to get more involved with the community and gain leadership experience.

While she accomplished those goals, she got more than she bargained for.

“My best experience is the friendships I’ve cultivated,” she said. “You would have never thought that we would have become friends. We have different personalities, and there are times we disagreed or didn’t understand why decisions were made, yet we formed a unique relationship that is hard to explain.”

“We all get each other,” she said. “Freedom thinks there are gray areas, I’m more direct and think it’s either black or white, Sharon is precise and evaluates everything, while Cyrilla is the quiet one who sits back and listens, but understands everything.”

The first year was challenging as they figured out the nuances of the new relationship, but by year two they found their groove.

“We could anticipate the needs of others and we developed insights about each other,” Mary Jo said. “It was a lot of work, but it was exciting at the same time, especially the weekend of the powwow.”

Cyrilla said while the weekends were usually a busy blur, the grand entries were always the highlights each year.

“That was always the payoff from the planning leading up to the powwow,” she said.

Over the years, Cyrilla said committee members came and went, but the camaraderie she felt with Sharon, Freedom and Mary Jo was constant.

“I enjoyed being a part of the committee,” she added.

The four said their relationship with each other was built on trust, being comfortable with each other, and the

**(Continued to page 2)**



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## Four Powwow Committee Members Form Lasting Friendship Through Shared Experiences

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common goal of planning the powwow.

"We were keenly aware of the number of people who relied on us every year. That did a lot to develop our characters and is probably the cornerstone of our partnership," Freedom said.

Another crucial part of their bond was the lessons they learned from the Elders including James Clark, Raining Boyd, Kenneth Weyaus, Sr. and Dorothy Sam. Those Elders taught the group about powwows and what it means to be Anishinabe, Freedom said.

"I took a lot of pride that these Elders trusted us with this powwow year after year," he continued. "Most of all, they showed us how important it is that this powwow remain true to itself. Their golden rule, which was passed to us and we have passed on to future powwow committees, is what you see at other powwows is not brought to Mille Lacs. Ours is unique, and ours must remain the same every year."

Sharon said she, too, is grateful for the teachings of the Elders.

"Personal growth for me is mental, physical, emotional and spiritual," she said. "Participating and interacting with the committee, the community, our youth, the singers, dancers and vendors – this all adds to an individual's experiences and knowledge."

"I have learned from them, walked the powwow grounds

hundreds of times with them, laughed and cried with them, and strengthened my spiritual connection because of them," said Sharon. "It is all who participate that I appreciate and thank. Chi mii gwech!"

The four say they will miss being a part of planning the event, yet each is confident that the "good folks who stayed on for another powwow" and those who will join the committee will carry on the traditions and legacy that have been built over the last 45 years.

"The 46th powwow committee is looking good, and so even though we are going to miss it, I think the four of us all feel comfortable stepping down," said Freedom.

His advice to the future committees is that they learn to rely on each other, just as he and his cohorts did.

"You will have failures and setbacks. Take it as a group and don't blame. Listen to your spiritual/Elder advisers. Build on the successes of your predecessors, and stay true to our history. We have been there before. Most importantly, have fun," he said.

"Keep in mind we are all a part of this family, and we share the same experiences. Don't hesitate to look to the past for assistance, and use your advice when you can," Freedom continued. "But remember it is your show now; don't hesitate to put your own signature on a legacy that has been building for 45 years."

## Statement of Sympathy

The Traditional Powwow Committee expresses its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Commander Kenneth Weyaus, Sr.

Kenny was one of our longest-serving powwow committee members, having been an influential part of the Traditional Powwow Committee for three decades.

Kenny chaired the Traditional Powwow Committee for nearly 20 years before entering semi-retirement in 2002. Kenny had served as our Elder/spiritual adviser for the past nine years. Through his leadership, Kenny

kept the traditional powwow true to its history, always injecting humor into this organization. Powwow committee members have come and gone, but Kenny was always our link to the past. He guided the traditional powwow into the 21st century.

Kenny had fallen ill earlier this year and was unable to join us for the 45th Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow. Yet we knew his heart was with us.

The traditional powwow has lost a great leader, a dear friend, guide, and teacher.

## Curt Kalk Honored By Emergency Managers

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) presented Mille Lacs Band Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk with the Outstanding Elected Official Award at its annual fall conference in September. This award recognizes elected government officials who support the work of emergency management.

AMEM consists of more than 400 county, city, tribal and other emergency response planners from across Minnesota. It advocates for the development of programs and processes that advance disaster preparedness.

Monte Fronk, the Band's emergency management coordinator, is a long-time AMEM member as part of his work for the Band.

"Monte has done an outstanding job in coordinating the Band's emergency management efforts for the past 10 years," Curt said. "He's developed partnerships with neighboring agencies, made sure that we have critical equipment,

and helped us prepare for the unexpected."

DNR was the agency within the Band government that applied for the initial grant a decade ago to establish the emergency management program on the reservation. Mille Lacs was one of the first two tribal governments in Minnesota to have its own program.

Curt, who was the DNR Commissioner at the time, became an active member of the Band's Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) – essentially the people behind the program. In many of the Band's drills and exercises, he was the lead Commissioner in the TERC command system, since many types of emergencies affect the Band's natural resources. As Secretary/Treasurer, Curt has continued to stress the importance of Band preparedness and individual preparations that people can make at home and with their families.

Congratulations Curt.

## Do You Know Any Hardworking Volunteers?

Do you know an outstanding Band member who gives time to the community or a special cause and expects nothing in return? The Mille Lacs Band is looking for strong examples of volunteerism as part of a future project.

If you have a story to share, please contact Kelly Sam,

*Inaajimowin* editor, at 651-292-8062 or Kelly@goffpublic.com. Be prepared to provide your name, the name of the person you recommend, an explanation of what that person did and when it happened, and who to contact for more information. Mii gwech!

## Influenza Vaccines Available

Influenza vaccines are available for people eligible for services at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, East Lake Clinic and Aazhoomog Clinic now through June 30, 2012.

Please call the clinic nearest to you to make your appointment.

- Ne-la-Shing: 800-709-6445 or 320-532-4163
- East Lake Clinic: 877-768-3311, ext. 2232
- Aazhoomog Clinic: 877-884-0149

## Heating, Water, and Home-Related Maintenance Problems

If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call for housing maintenance service in your district. During regular business hours, please call our customer service representative at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please call 866-822-8538. Press 1, 2 or 3 for your respective district.



# Band Member Relishes Role of Preserving History, Keeping Records Secure



By Toya Stewart Downey

As the archivist for the Mille Lacs Band, Donald Graves understands the great significance of his role. Whether he is transcribing oral histories of Mille Lacs Band Elders, restoring artifacts, or filing the original copies of the Band's important documents, he believes that what he is doing is what he was meant to be doing.

"It was told to me that my Ojibwe name, Ay Nah Mway We Dong, means the sound of rumbling thunder as it goes away from you or the voices of people engaged in a conversation you hear as they are going away from you," said Donald, 52. "With the transcription of the oral histories that I do, I wonder if I'm fulfilling a role that was foreseen for me by the old man who gave me my Ojibwe name a long time ago."

"I know it's important to preserve the Band's history for the generations that will come after us," he added.

The push to archive tribal records started with the formation of the Federation Fund Archives (FFA) in 1855. It was intended to record information on the Chippewa of the Mississippi and general information on American Indian history. The goal was to preserve documents so they could be available as research material.

The Mille Lacs Band government understood how important it was to preserve and keep its records secure, and some years later it established its own system to archive critical documents. Donald is responsible for the management and security of the Band's retired documents that are no longer needed for day-to-day operations.

"My job is to know where the documents are, to locate them, and to provide them when needed," he said, adding that

there is a process for requesting documents and an authorization process that must take place before any documents are released to anyone or any department. "I don't release documents to anyone without first going through the approved process."

Electronic copies are great, but original documents hold more weight if needed in a legal dispute. The Band's original documents are kept in acid-free boxes to help preserve them.

The Mille Lacs Band archives has set retention periods for different types of documents. Some documents may be retained for two years, while others such as treaties, important court cases, Mille Lacs Band resolutions, executive orders, statutes, and Commissioners' orders have enduring value, so they must be retained permanently.

## Assets protection

Donald started working in the Mille Lacs Band archives in 2006 after more than 15 years of working for Grand Casino Mille Lacs in departments including hard count, main bank, and surveillance. He served as the director of surveillance for almost five years.

"My jobs at Grand Casino Mille Lacs all involved asset protection in one way or another, and as the Band's archivist, my responsibility is protection and preservation of the Band's documents," he said.

Donald's personal vision for the Band's archives is to have a climate-controlled building separate from the Mille Lacs Band Government Center with adequate storage space and the ability to withstand natural disasters or other catastrophes.

## Oral history project

One of Donald's favorite parts of his job is the oral history project, in which he transcribes interviews that were done on audio cassette tapes. He also converts the cassette tapes to digital format (both CD and DVD). Donald also interviews people for the project.

"It's very time-consuming. You have to listen to the recordings and type what is being said in the interview," Donald said. "You want the typed version of the interview to match the recorded interview."

"I like everything about the oral history project," he

continued. "Sometimes the things they say are really funny. I even had a chance to listen to my mom, who was interviewed by Betty Kegg. To be able to hear her voice on that recording was very special to me."

He would also like to help in the process of returning artifacts back to the Mille Lacs Band when they are discovered.

Donald has developed a greater appreciation for the Band's history and says he loves his job because of the historical knowledge that he's acquired.

## Historic runs

"I was an amateur boxer in the 1970s. I did a lot of road work in those days. Even after I stopped boxing, I continued to do my road work, because it felt good," Donald said.

"I participated in the Waabanong Run from Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, to Washington D.C., in support of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's 1837 treaty rights case, which the Supreme Court heard on December 2, 1998," he said. "The Waabanong Run lasted 16 days."

After the runners arrived in Washington on November 28, a spiritual flame was lit for the four days leading up to the hearing. On March 24, 1999, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's rights to hunt and fish within the ceded territory. That day was also Donald's birthday.

"I also participated in the 1999 Mikwendaagoziwag Run from Sandy Lake, Minnesota, to Madeline Island, Wisconsin. Mikwendaagoziwag means 'we remember them.' In the late autumn of 1850, 400 Ojibwe Indians died and thousands of others suffered during what is known as the Sandy Lake Tragedy."

Donald went on to participate in the "sovereignty run" a cross-country relay spanning 12 states, "beginning in Washington state on September 11, 2002, and ending in Washington, D.C., on October 7, 2002," Donald said. "The primary goals of the sovereignty run were to unite tribes and tribal supporters throughout Indian Country, to create sovereignty awareness and support on a national level, and to raise \$1,000,000 plus for the Tribal Sovereignty Protection Initiative."

Donald no longer runs because he's not able to, but says he cherishes the memory of

participating in such symbolic events.

"As the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's archivist, I feel privileged to be able to hear the oral history and view historic documents concerning the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe," Donald said. "Having been involved in those three sacred journeys, I feel a connection to our ancestors and to our community."

Donald and his wife, Kathy, have been married for 24 years. They have seven children and six grandchildren. Donald has also been a boxing commissioner since 2007.

## Warriors Weight Loss Challenge

Do you want to lose weight? Do you need extra spending money for the holidays? Warriors Fight Promotions, owned by Mille Lacs Band member Bobby Anderson, is holding an individual weight loss challenge during October, November and December to try to help you accomplish both of these things!

A \$500 prize will be awarded to each of the three people who lose the highest percentage of weight during the challenge. There is a \$20 fee per person to participate in the challenge.

Weigh-ins will happen at the beginning and end of the challenge in each district and the urban area. Dates for the weigh-ins are:

- District I: October 12 and December 14
- District II: October 13 and December 15
- District IIa: October 13 and December 15
- District III: October 14 and December 16
- Urban area: October 11 and December 13

The challenge is open to Band members and tribal government and Grand Casino employees. Participants are encouraged to attend fitness and nutrition programs at each of the district community centers.

For more information about the challenge, contact Bobby Anderson at 320-385-0262 or warriorsfp@yahoo.com.



# New Higher Education Director Strives to Promote Tribal College, Encourage Students



**Camille Naslund is the new director of the Mille Lacs Band's Higher Education Program.**

**By Toya Stewart Downey**

As the new director of the Band's Higher Education Program, Camille Naslund is thrilled to have the opportunity to do work that combines two things that she's most passionate about – education and helping Native Americans.

Since assuming her new role in July, Camille has been busy seeking ways to recruit new students and re-engage those who are already enrolled.

"Recruitment and retention are our biggest focus, and my main desire is to increase enrollment and promote education," said Camille, a member of the Leech Lake Band.

Camille said she wants Band members, regardless of their ages or backgrounds, to understand that higher education is an option for them.

It was a lesson she also had to learn.

While attending Hibbing High School, Camille decided she was going to enlist in the military just like her dad and grandfather did. When she told her counselor about her plans, he told her she was going to college instead. She agreed, but with a condition – she only wanted to attend Bemidji State University (BSU).

"He told me he had a friend there, so he picked up the phone and told his friend, who was actually the president of the college, he had a student who wanted to attend BSU and asked him to admit me on the spot," said Camille. "The friend said yes and I got in without having to take the ACT or SAT tests."

"It took that counselor having confidence in me and steering

me in a new direction to make me consider college," continued Camille, who believes that anyone who is determined to earn a degree can make it happen.

Camille earned her bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from BSU in 1990. She later returned to college to earn a master of arts degree in organizational leadership at the College of St. Catherine in 2005 and is currently finishing her doctorate in education degree at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Before coming to work for the Band, Camille was the dean of student affairs at the Leech Lake Tribal College for almost five years. In that role, she oversaw admissions, recruitment, retention, financial aid, and the student senate.

"My background is actually in social services, but I spent a lot of time helping people get enrolled in school even during the time I was working in the social services field," she said.

While working on her undergraduate degree, Camille interned with the Crow Wing-Morrison County Community Corrections. She ended up working as a contractor at the facility for a year before moving into a job as a probation officer for about five years.

As time passed she learned more about the courts process and then decided to make a shift in her career. She worked as a job counselor for a state agency and later transitioned to working for a program that helped abused women. After that she moved into her role at Leech Lake Tribal College.

"I had great experiences at Leech Lake, and it provided me an opportunity to move to the reservation and to give back to my community," said Camille. "I came to work for the Mille Lacs Band because I was looking for a new professional challenge, and I wanted to bring my experience here to help this program grow."

"For example, if the Band decides to try to get the college accredited, I could assist with that because I've been through the process with Leech Lake," she said. "But right now, my main focus is growing the enrollment and promoting education."

Camille would like to increase the Mille Lacs Tribal College's presence on the Band's website and find more ways to draw Band members to the campus.

When classes started, the college held a pizza party, complete with prizes. Later this month, they will host two family fun nights, where they will hold a best costume contest and serve snacks, and youngsters can go trick-or-treating.

"Families are invited – even those who aren't currently enrolled as students – because we want people to become familiar with the college and the classes we offer," Camille said.

Eventually she would like to recruit high school students to participate in the state's Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, which allows students to earn college credits while still in high school.

Camille would also like to find more ways to recognize student achievements and academic accomplishments.

"We should celebrate the success of our students," she said. "It takes a lot of commitment and dedication to decide to enroll in college and then attend classes, earn good grades, and eventually graduate."

"I want people to know more about the scholarship program. I want them to know we have classes here and that we have resources here for them," she said. "We know people have jobs and families and they're busy, but we are here to help them and we will."

Camille was born in St. Paul and grew up in Hibbing. She lives in Onamia, and when she's not working, she spends time with her family, fishing and kayaking.

## Family fun night

The Mille Lacs Tribal College is hosting two family fun nights on Monday, October 24, and Wednesday, October 26. The events are free and open to the public. Snacks will be available, youth can trick-or-treat, and there will be a costume contest. For more information, call the college at 320-495-3702.

# 12th Annual Fall Feast

The 12th Annual Fall Feast for all Mille Lacs Band members will be held on Thursday, November 17, at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Watch the *Inaajimowin* next month for more information.

## Local Community Organizers Prepare for 2012 Voting Efforts

At the end of August, 12 Band members and area residents learned nonpartisan voter organizing skills during a civic engagement training held by Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota (NVAM) and Wellstone Action's Native American Leadership Program in District I.

During the training, participants learned about organizing, door knocking, canvassing, voter mobilization strategies, and more. They also explored effective strategies to help influence policies at all governmental levels.

While many of the participants were veterans of previous NVAM Get Out the Vote campaigns, others were getting politically involved for the first time.

Elizabeth Scott, local community coordinator for the Mille Lacs Band, led the seven-hour training class with other political organizers from NVAM and Wellstone Action's Native American Leadership Program.

"I really felt that the participants were empowered by the things that they learned and are eager to help during the 2012 election season," said Elizabeth. "It's crucial that we engage Band members throughout the election process to increase voter turnout rates. Voting is one of the most important ways that we can influence governmental policies."

According to Elizabeth, Get Out the Vote efforts will start in earnest next spring after redistricting is completed in February 2012.



## Early Education Partners With Numbers Work! Math Program



Photo courtesy of early education department

**Dr. Sally Moomaw, Numbers Work! program proponent and nationally recognized author on early math, visited the Mille Lacs early education department to introduce the partnership.**

**By Tammy Wickstrom, Early Education Director**

Numbers Work!, an early math initiative of the Saint Paul Foundation, is partnering with the Mille Lacs early education department for the next three years to support early math literacy.

Numbers Work! addresses five subject areas for preschool children: numbers and operations, shape and spatial sense, measurement, patterns, and data analysis of graphs and charts.

Through the partnership, Numbers Work! will provide

classroom materials, math kits for families, workshops for teachers, and math coaches for teachers to help improve children's early math skills. To better implement the project, the early education department is hiring a math mentor to assist early education teachers in their classrooms.

Numbers Work! also partners with early childhood programs in the Saint Paul area. The program is funded by the F. R. Bigelow, the Saint Paul, and Mardag Foundations.

## Gaming Expansion Talks Stay, Even When Legislators Leave

**By Jamie Edwards, Director of Government Affairs**

During the 2011 legislative and special sessions, lawmakers considered gaming expansion as a way to raise revenue for the state. In the end, they decided against it.

Yet gaming expansion continues to be a strong and very real threat. According to a recent poll conducted by the Minnesota House of Representatives at the state fair, more than 51% of polltakers believe gaming expansion should be allowed to provide additional state revenue.

Revenue from gaming expansion has been suggested as a way to fund the state's portion of a proposed Minnesota Vikings stadium in Arden Hills. The stadium project would cost about \$1.1 billion, with the Vikings paying \$407 million, Ramsey County paying \$350 million, and the state paying \$300 million.

A bill to fund the stadium must be passed by the Legislature, which is not back in

session until January 2012 unless Governor Dayton calls a special session to pass a stadium bill. While this may not be likely, stadium advocates will keep the issue top of mind whether legislators are meeting or not. That's why we must continue to stand up for the East Central Minnesota economy by supporting Grand Casinos.

### Support the Mille Lacs Band

Hundreds of you have signed up for the Mille Lacs Band Action Center already to fight gaming expansion in Minnesota. Mii gwech for your support.

If you have not yet signed up to support the Band and Grand Casinos in our effort to prevent gaming expansion, please sign up now by going to [millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com) and clicking on "Action Center." After you sign up, you will receive important updates about gaming expansion discussions and may be asked to voice your opinions to state legislators at key times.

## Public Health Updates

### Gego Zagaswaaken (Don't Smoke) program updates

**By Carol Hernandez, Gego Zagaswaaken Outreach Coordinator**

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Don Eubanks recently approved new smoking policies to help improve the health and wellness of the Mille Lacs Band community and reduce the harmful effects of secondhand smoke exposure.

Effective October 1, smoking is not allowed in front of any Health and Human Services building or in front of the Assisted Living Units. Designated smoking areas are available in the back of each building and have proper receptacles for extinguishing cigarettes. The Gego Zagaswaaken program thanks everyone for their compliance with the new policies.

As a reminder, community education sessions on commercial tobacco and the dangers of secondhand smoke will be held in District III this month. Look for more information to be posted at community centers and in each community newsletter. The education sessions will include a light meal and door prizes.

Additionally, the Gego Zagaswaaken program offers one-on-one appointments to help Band members and employees who are trying to quit smoking. Call Roberta Ladd, community health educator, at 320-532-7812 to make an appointment.

### Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month

**By Allison Harr and Kari DiGiovanni**

October is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month. SIDS, the unexpected and unexplained death of a healthy baby, is the leading cause of death for infants who are under one year of age.

American Indian babies are nearly three times more likely to succumb to SIDS than Caucasian babies. To raise awareness, health organizations across the nation are encouraging families with infants to take precautionary measures to help protect their loved ones from SIDS.

The majority of SIDS deaths are the result of unsafe sleep practices. To help avoid SIDS, babies should always be placed on their backs when being put to sleep. Their sleeping

environment should include a firm mattress with a tight-fitting crib sheet and exclude any soft or loose bedding items. For warmth, layer clothing or use a wearable blanket, a snugly-fit sleeping sack that provides comfort and doesn't compromise breathing during sleep.

Research warns against exposing babies to secondhand or thirdhand smoke (the chemicals from smoke left behind on skin, hair and clothing, in homes and in cars) which can increase an infant's risk of SIDS.

Contact Allison Harr or Kari DiGiovanni at 320-532-7776 for more information and resources about SIDS.

### Home care services

**By Donna Hormillosa, District III RN**

The Public Health Department's registered nurses (RNs) provide in-home nursing services for Elders and disabled Band members on the reservation.

Nurses help set up and order medications, monitor vital signs, care for wounds, draw samples for lab work, provide diabetes education and care, and offer many other services.

Jackie Jensen, RN, works in District I and District IIa; Mary Mercado, RN, works in Districts I and II; and Donna Hormillosa, RN, works in District III.

Jackie also trains and provides resources to caregivers who assist their family members. Additionally, the Public Health Department provides homemaking services, including meal preparation, light housekeeping, and laundry to Band Elders without family nearby who can help.

For more information about these home care services, contact Jackie at 320-532-7783, Mary at 320-532-7776, ext. 2407, or Donna at 320-384-0149.

### Transportation

**By Donna Hormillosa, District III RN**

The Public Health Department provides rides to medical and dental appointments for Band members in District III who don't have other means of transportation. Rides must be arranged at least two days prior to the appointment and will be available as the schedule allows.

Contact Francine Staples or Connie Taylor at 320-384-0149 to arrange a ride.



## Grand Casino Mille Lacs to Offer Blackjack Dealer Training

By Sarah Barten, Grand Casinos Public Relations Specialist

Beginning October 6, Grand Casino Mille Lacs will offer a blackjack training course to Mille Lacs Band members at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The 10-class course meets Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for two weeks.

Those interested must be at least 18 years old and able to pass background, drug and alcohol checks. Although course completion does not guarantee employment, it does allow the dealer to be certified, which is

required to be hired and licensed to work at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Prospective dealers should be personable, outgoing and professional in both demeanor and appearance. All of the games require a certain level of manual dexterity and proficiency in math.

To register for or learn more about the upcoming blackjack classes taught at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, contact the Human Resources Department at 320-532-8325.

## District III Storm Update

Since the Lake Lena community was hit with severe winds during a July 1 storm, the Mille Lacs Band has been cleaning up debris and addressing damages with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

DNR Commissioner Brad Kalk is leading his department's cleanup efforts. The initial cleanup phase is complete, and lately the biggest focus has been around the vicinity of Pine Grove Leadership Academy, which sustained some of the worst damage.

But wildfires in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) and other parts of the country have taken Band forestry and conservation staff who would otherwise be working in Lake Lena to areas where their help is most urgently needed.

"The BIA [Bureau of Indian Affairs] forestry department called up our fire crew. We have five employees who went to help in the BWCA, in addition to two conservation officers who are helping respond to Texas wildfires," Brad said. "I recognize that the timing may not be ideal, but this gives our personnel important on-the-job training that they might need on our own reservation some day."

In District III, two of the next steps will be to do an aerial assessment of the damage and work with BIA-certified loggers to help remove additional debris.

"We need to continue removing the trees that blew down to reduce the fire hazard in the coming years and encourage new growth of native plants," Brad said.

### FEMA process

Lake Lena was part of a Minnesota Disaster Declaration

signed by President Barack Obama following the storm. FEMA will fund 75% of the Band's costs for debris removal, emergency services, and repair of public facilities.

The Band submitted its FEMA Request for Public Assistance form in August, which was required before a FEMA officer could be assigned to the Band's case. As the main point of contact with FEMA, Brad met with the FEMA case officer for the first time on September 13.

Brad will also work in the coming months with other Band Commissioners to help them document the expenses their departments incurred due to the storm damage. These expenses include extra staff time beyond 40 hours per week, the equipment and fuel used to conduct cleanup and repairs, and the administrative work required. The Band estimates about \$64,000 in costs, but this figure could continue to grow.

### Strains on FEMA funding

Soon after the President signed the disaster declaration for District III and other parts of Minnesota, Hurricane Irene caused major damage from the Carolinas to Maine. That was followed by one of the worst wildfires in Texas history. This put further strain on FEMA, whose funding was already running low.

As a result, FEMA temporarily froze some funding associated with previous disasters. But District III is not currently affected, as funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures remains available.

## Friday Night Fights Return to Grand Casino Hinckley



Photo courtesy of Grand Casino Hinckley

Hinckley boxer Tim "Thunder" Taggart faced Wisconsin's Harley Kilfian at Grand Casino Hinckley's Friday Night Fights series in September. Taggart lost to Kilfian in a technical knock-out decision after receiving a cut above his left eye.

By Jim Erickson, Department of Athletic Regulation Executive Director

Local rivalries, underdog wins, world-class talent, and the bright lights of show time were all on display at the latest installment of Friday Night Fights at Grand Casino Hinckley on September 9.

The first matchup of the evening was between Hibbing boxer TJ Gibson and Al Sands of Duluth. Gibson was on the losing end of his last bout in Hinckley in May when he fought former Minnesota Viking Ray Edwards. This time it was a different story as Gibson weathered the storm in the early rounds and took advantage of Sands' fatigue as the fight progressed. Gibson scored two knockdowns and referee Mark Nelson stopped the fight at 1:46 in the fourth and final round, calling Gibson the winner.

In the second matchup, the always entertaining Hector Orozco sought revenge in his rematch with Tony Lee. Lee had defeated Orozco when the Twin Cities fighters faced off in Lee's professional debut. Orozco was the underdog going into the fight against former Golden Gloves World Champion Lee. True to his nickname, the Fighting Chihuahua applied pressure and did not give Lee a chance to display his boxing skills. The final bell sounded with Orozco winning a unanimous decision.

Following Orozco was Hinckley's own Tim "Thunder" Taggart, coming in as a full-fledged light-heavyweight and taking on rugged Harley Kilfian from Menomonie, Wisconsin. Taggart was well on his way to a victory when Kilfian landed a few hard right hands. A Kilfian punch opened an ugly cut above Taggart's left eye, forcing the doctor to stop the fight and resulting in a TKO (technical

knock out) win for Kilfian. It was an unfortunate ending to an otherwise spirited and skilled performance by Taggart.

Wrapping up the non-televised portion of the card, exciting Duluth boxer Gary Eyer faced off against slick Minneapolis-based Jeremy McLaurin in an eight-round battle. The taller McLaurin used his height and reach advantage to fend off the come-ahead style of Eyer. Eyer attempted several tactics, including taunting McLaurin, in an effort to derail McLaurin's effective game plan, but McLaurin came away with the unanimous decision.

Nigerian-born Lateef Kayode returned to Grand Casino as the number one ranked cruiser-weight in the world. Trained by Freddie Roach, a former professional boxer, the power-puncher appeared on ShoBox in August 2010. Since then, Kayode has positioned himself for a world championship fight. His opponent, Cora, showed his grit while withstanding Kayode's heavy punches and landing some effective punches of his own. In the end, Kayode was awarded a unanimous 10-round decision in addition to the North American Boxing Association Championship Belt.

The ShoBox main event showcasing Vincent Arroyo and Hector Sanchez was another battle of contrasting styles. The Bronx, New York-born Arroyo brought his quick, hard-punching style into the ring in an effort to counter the smooth, patient style of the former Puerto Rican amateur star, Sanchez. Sanchez had some pop in his punches as well, but in a war of wills, the tenacious Arroyo was determined to make the most of his on-air time. In the end, Arroyo came away with a hard-fought 10-round unanimous decision.



# Alaska Lives on in My Memories

By Dave Boyd

*This is part two of a story from Dave Boyd talking about his family's journey from Minnesota to Alaska in 1981. Part one appeared in last month's Inaajimowin.*

## Reaching Alaska

My mother Brenda, sister Dawn, cousin Corwin, and I crossed into Alaska in August 1981. We had another day's drive to reach Anchorage. I thought people there might be living in igloos, but when we got there, it looked like any other city. We called ourselves "greenhorns" because we didn't know much about Alaska.

When we got there, the tarp on the trailer was tight and not flapping. Two weeks and 2,500 miles of tying it down paid off, because it didn't flap like clothes on a clothesline.

It seemed like forever before we found an apartment. When we did find one, we knew the tenant before us had planted and cultivated marijuana, because the place smelled like it, and there was a planter full of soil and seeds there.

I was 17 years old. I enrolled at East High School in what was called the career center. I was interested in the outdoors, so I started in the natural resources program. My instructor was a "hotshot" crew member, meaning he jumped out of planes into the hot areas of fires to clear brush or fight fires.

I got homesick and wanted to go back to Minnesota, so I did. I flew out of Anchorage in October, made a stop in Seattle, and almost lost my ticket. I got back home and soon found out what a mistake it was to come home. But I stayed until February before flying back to Anchorage.

I enrolled in West High School and graduated on crutches in 1983. I had a motorcycle accident and broke my left ankle. I graduated with a class of 336 other Alaskans.

## Coming home

After my graduation, we had the inkling to get back home. So we packed everything into the same trailer and car. We left Anchorage at about 4 a.m., just when the sun was making its return over the Chugach Mountains. When we left, we put out our asema to help us.

We ran into a small rainstorm.

Our windshield wipers didn't work, so I got out and pounded on the wiper motor. Sure enough they started working. What we didn't know was that there had been a small earthquake. About five miles up the road, some rocks had fallen onto the road. If we hadn't stopped to fix the wipers, we might have run into the rock slide.

We drove straight through, and what had taken 15 days on our way to Alaska took only six days on the return trip. We stopped only for gas, food, and bathroom breaks. We had to stop in the middle of the Yukon Territory to take our bug screen off. When we got out, we were immediately swarmed by mosquitoes. I cut the bug screen off, threw it in the trailer, and scurried back inside.

We stopped for breakfast at one place and for burgers and fries at another place. At the second stop, we were greeted with a flat tire that we had to change. The closer we got to home, the less we wanted to stop.

Coming to the reservation, we saw an eagle sitting in a tree by the shoreline. He watched us drive by like he was expecting us. Our first stop at 6:30 a.m. was to see my grandpa. He was lying on his bed awake, and he said, "I knew you guys were coming."

When we got home, there was the old house with a very hairy lawn. But we worked at it and got it mowed, thanks to some local help. We got everything unpacked and had dinner at home.

We were gone for two years and had the adventure of a lifetime. We learned to live in a big city (more than 200,000) and had many stories to tell. Now when my girls ask me questions about Alaska, I tell them what the weather was like during the summer and how much sunlight we had, and how little sunlight we had in February.

The memories that I brought back have stayed with me for 30 years and will stay with me forever. I went back to Alaska in 1997. Anchorage had changed, but I remembered my way around. I hope that I can visit one more time, maybe next year, as my budget allows.

If you have a chance to visit the Last Frontier, it is a journey that I would gladly recommend.

# Band Member Returns Home to Teach Fourth Grade



Band member and Hinckley native Bill Peel is a new fourth-grade teacher at Hinckley Elementary School after serving more than 20 years in the military.

A 1986 graduate of Hinckley-Finlayson High School, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army when he was a junior in high school. After he graduated, he entered basic training.

In 1990, Bill received a Green to Gold Scholarship from the Army's ROTC program. The scholarship allowed him to receive a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Minnesota State University Moorhead as well as become a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army.

While Bill was serving in the Army, he and his family moved frequently and spent time overseas. He helped train soldiers and noncommissioned officers and was promoted throughout his career, eventually becoming a Major.

After he retired in 2009, Bill and his family moved back to the Hinckley area to be closer to their extended family. Bill planned to spend his retirement

fixing up his house and relaxing.

"After two months, there wasn't anything left to fix on the house, so I decided to start a second career," said Bill.

Bill began working for the Hinckley-Finlayson School District as a substitute teacher and a coach for the girl's basketball and volleyball teams. He also worked as a jailer for the Pine County Jail.

"I immediately realized that I loved working with the students. I decided to go back to school and get a teaching certificate so that I could become a fully licensed teacher," said Bill, who recently completed a 15-month graduate-level program at St. Scholastica in Duluth and received his K-6 Minnesota teaching license.

"I'm excited to start my second career as a teacher and hope to have a positive impact on my students," said Bill. "I'm a firm believer that we need to teach children more than just academics. We also need to teach students valuable life and social skills that will help shape them in the years to come."

Bill has 26 students in his classroom, two of whom are Mille Lacs Band members.

"It's important for school districts to have a diverse teaching staff so that students can realize at an early age that there are many unique cultures in our world," said Bill. "I hope to become someone that all students can reach out to."

Bill plans to pursue a master's degree in education from St. Scholastica next year.

# District III to Offer Firearms Safety Class

By Mike Taylor, Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer

District III is offering a 12-hour firearms safety course that will begin on October 5. The three-day training will be held at Grand Casino Hinckley on October 5-7 from 6-9 p.m.

To register for the course, you must be 12 years old by December 31, 2011. The session costs \$7.50, and firearms will be provided.

Personal firearms and ammunition are not allowed without instructor consent.

Following training, a firearms exam and qualify shoot will be held on Saturday, October 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. for students who successfully complete the course requirements. Passing the exam is required to obtain a hunting license.

To register or learn more about the course, contact the DNR office at 320-532-7439.

## Band Member Forms Washington Nonprofit

Band member Kenny Towle and his wife Rachelle Weiss-Blanchard, who has ties to the Bad River Tribe in Wisconsin, recently founded HOWL, a nonprofit organization located in Port Angeles, Washington. The mission of HOWL, which stands for Helping Others With Life, is to bring volunteers and the community together to make a difference and address community needs.

The nonprofit offers a program called REWARD (Recognizing Everyone With A Real Dialogue), a weekly support group for people with mental health issues. The nonprofit also launched a program called MOON (Meeting Of Ones Nourishment), which provides meals to people in need on the weekends.

Within the next few months the nonprofit will add two more programs: HOPE (Homeless Outreach Program for Everyone) and WOLF (Watching Ones Life Forever). HOPE will help clients locate housing and assist with community resources, and WOLF will be a talking circle group for single parents.

HOWL is self-funded and has teamed up with two local businesses to help raise money. Purchases made at Awesome Costumes (a costume rental store) and Bev's Biz (a gift and variety store) in Port Angeles will help support the nonprofit's programs and services.

Kenny and Rachelle decided to start HOWL after seeing the need among the Native American community in the Port Angeles area. HOWL serves people of all cultures throughout the region.

"Our goal is to get the community as a whole involved by sponsoring community-wide volunteer activities and fundraisers," said Kenny. "Taking a few moments of your day to help those in need can be truly rewarding."

Visit [www.thehowlteam.com](http://www.thehowlteam.com) for more information about HOWL. If you are interested in donating to HOWL, you can mail a check to 230 W 8th St.; Suites A and B; Port Angeles, WA 98362.

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

August 2011

	Approved budget for FY 2011	Actual expenditures through 8/31/11	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	13,373,210	10,449,149	78.1%
Workforce*	14,866,610	4,390,184	29.5%
Judicial	674,669	558,214	82.7%
Law enforcement*	5,285,989	4,295,217	81.3%
Education*	17,535,956	13,862,643	79.1%
Health and human services*	31,691,119	23,534,414	74.3%
Natural resources*	5,540,684	3,661,465	66.1%
Community development*	41,543,988	14,505,464	34.9%
Gaming authority	4,844,746	4,078,860	84.2%
Bonus distribution	46,884,846	44,307,192	94.5%
Economic stimulus	2,910,000	2,908,000	99.9%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$185,151,816</b>	<b>\$126,550,800</b>	<b>68.3%</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 and the tribal government.

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

## Department of Labor Holds Free Driver's Education Class

The department of labor is offering free driver's education classes in the department of labor classroom to adults 18 years old and older who need to take the written portion of the driver's test. The nine-hour course will cover the information needed to pass the written driver's test.

The three-day, three-hour class sessions will be held from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on November 9, 10 and 11. Another section of the course will be held at the East Lake department of labor modular on December 6, 8 and 13 from 12-3 p.m.

The course is open to those who have never taken the

written driver's test or those who are eligible to retake the written driver's test and apply for a driver's license. Class size is limited. After completing the session, the department of labor will provide transportation to the Driver's License Exam Center for participants to take the written exam.

To pre-register and complete an application, visit the Mille Lacs Band department of labor office in District I, II or III. For more information, contact the department of labor at 320-532-4741 or 800-922-4457.

## Discounted Telephone Services Available

CenturyLink (formerly Qwest) offers two special assistance programs which provide discounts on initial telephone installation and basic monthly telephone service to low-income tribal members who qualify.

CenturyLink's Link-Up program helps pay up to 50% on the initial cost of installing your home telephone service.

If you already have a home phone, you may still qualify for Lifeline, a service that saves consumers up to \$35 per month on basic services.

Individuals living in a CenturyLink service area should call 800-366-8201 or visit [www.centurylink.com/lifeline](http://www.centurylink.com/lifeline) to find out both programs' eligibility requirements.

## Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, October 14**, at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, call 320-532-4163. Walk-ins are welcome. We will do our best to serve you.

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



## Tribal Noteboard

### Happy October birthday:

**Aniyah Dayna-Raye**, 1, with love from Mommy, Gramma, Rainz, Matty, Val, Niss, Wayz, Dana, Uncle, Tanya, Anthony, Junior, Prince, Elle Neveah, and the rest of the family • **Evan Potter** on October 3, from Colleen, Mike, Jessica, Nathaniel, Lenore, Tyson, Faith Harmonie, Eva, Jeff, and Jon • **Dad** on October 3, from Susan and Maggie • **Freddie Mitchell** on October 25, from Mom, Dad, Paige, Tiny, Cetiva, Tweety, Sam, Mulan, Tuco, Uncle, Dominic, Mike, Jessica, Nathaniel, Lenore, Tyson, Faith Harmonie, Eva, Jeff, and Jon • **Sonya C.** on October 17, with love from Royce, Luciana, Keira, Carmelena, and Mataeo • **Danielle St. John**, 8 on October 3, with love from Dad, Mom, Cory, Daniel, Grandpa and Mouse • **Clarisse Hicks**, 14 on October 24, with love from Mom, Dad and sisters • **Lucas Best** on October 25, from Brenda, Rome, Mom, Dad, Guy, Mary, Jerome, Brent, Taryn, Junior, Robert, and Nigel • **Eric** on October 25, with love from Mom, Dad, Peyton, Braelyn, Wesley, Brynley, Val, Mariah, Kevin, Papa Brad, Rae, Waylon, Jay, Kate, Peeps, Guy, Randi, Bruce, Jayla, Lili, Gram AA, Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Max, Aidan, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Nicole, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Chris Jr., Sharon, Wally, Ravin, and Melz Bellz • **Nancy Zeleznik** on October 30, from Mary, Brenda, Rome, Lucas, Jerome, Brent and Taryn • **Roberta Ladd** on October 20, from Mary, Brenda, Rome, Lucas, and Jerome • **Lil Bea Mitchell**, 23 on October 13, from Debbie, Mataeo, Carmelena, Jade, and Grandma Bea • **Joyce Drumbeater** on October 13, from Doreen, Debbie, and the District I ALU staff • **Vivian Bruce** on October 13, from Doreen, Debbie, and the District I ALU staff • **Marsha Sam**, 48 on October 1, from Debbie and Jade • **Jayden James**, 1 on October 10, with love from Heather, Daniel and Thomas Virnig • **Tavian**, 2 on October 21, from Grandma Deb • **Dysen**, 6 on October 18, from Grandma Deb • **Melodie Ra-Quel**, 2 on October 31, from Mom, Dad, Grandma, Papa, Mickey, Phil, Whitney, PJ, Nadine, Blake, Charlotte, Sherry, Shawntel, Gabbi, Val, Mariah, Kevin, Papa Brad, Rae, Waylon, Jay, Kate, Peeps, Guy, Randi, Bruce, Jayla, Lili, Gram AA, Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Max, Aidan, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Nicole, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Chris Jr., Jeremy, Jada, Keona, Cam, Sam, Erika, Barrett, Jason, Romeo, Brooklyn, Bear, Missy, Brandy, Brittany, Tara, George, Shawn, Tiny Man, Geo, Jasmine, Tammy,

Bev, and Isaiah • **Sandy Jones** on October 12, from your kids • **Ashley Hicks** on October 24, from Auntie, Erykah, and Sandy.

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

Diana Anderson  
Mary Bedausky  
Vivian Bruce  
Marvin Bruneau  
Archie Cash  
Albert Churchill Jr.  
Steven Churchill  
Ervin Crown  
James Dowell Jr.  
Joycelyn Drumbeater  
Jack Dunkley  
Byron Garbow  
Gary Garbow  
John Garbow  
Helena Graikowski  
Lucy Hansen  
Marene Hedstrom  
Delores Hegland  
William Hemming  
Charles Houle Jr.  
Doreen Knutson  
Joan Littlewolf  
Marcella Maurice  
Betty Mondeng  
Brenda Moose  
Aurelius Nickaboine  
Bernice Pewaush  
Charlie Roach  
Dorothy Sam  
Fred Sam Jr.  
James Schroeder  
Merle Skinaway  
Beverly Smith  
Charlene Smith  
Gloria St. John  
Montgomery Staples  
Jay Star  
Darlene Warren  
Earl Whitney  
Nancy Zeleznik

### Congratulations

Grandma Deb would like to welcome her 11th grandchild to the world. **Navarra Finesse Larsen** was born on September 3 to Candy and Scott. She weighed 7 lbs., 14 oz., and was 21 inches long. Navarra is welcomed home by Markiss, Damian, Natchez, Taeren, Phoenix, Kenis, Lacey, Kiana, Jordan, Windy, Heath, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

I would like to say I am so proud of my granddaughter **Carmelena Mitchell** for the fantastic softball season her team had this year. They came in second. I tried to be a faithful bystander during the games and I was cheering her on every game I attended. Carmel would always say I am going to try and

hit that ball. I would tell her to do her best, you are here for fun. I would like to thank Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe and other coaches for doing a great job with the girls. I can't wait until next season. *From Debbie Mitchell.*

### Thank you

Thank you to those who sent cards, plants, flowers and condolences during the loss of my brother, **John Pike Jr.** Mii gwech to the Band's DNR for the fish and deer meat. It was awesome to see the number of lives that were touched by John. *From Diane Gibbs.*

### In memory

On October 13, 2003, you were called away from the family to go to the happy place. We were left to cherish your memory. I am trying to live up to your expectations and when I feel like giving up your face and words of encouragement come to mind and I keep going forward. I am so glad I made you proud of me and I know you are smiling and watching over the family. You make your presence known to us and it gives us comfort knowing that you are still around. Yes, we miss you and it's hard to let go but the memories always make us laugh and sometime cry for what we have lost. We think of you every day and will always love and respect the awesome dad you were. Love you **James (Tuggo) Mitchell** *from Debbie and the rest of the family.*

### Obituaries

#### DeShawn James Gahbow

Born – 7-22-2011

Died – 8-25-2011

Lived in McGregor, MN

#### Reginald Jerome Gahbow

Born – 4-29-1941

Died – 8-26-2011

Lived in Onamia, MN

#### Shirley Ann Munson

Born – 3-20-1948

Died – 9-4-2011

Lived in Toledo, IA

#### Chelsie Benjamin

Born – 1-16-1991

Died – 9-17-2011

Lived in Onamia, MN

#### John Pike Jr.

Born – 4-6-1962

Died – 9-20-2011

Lived in Sandstone, MN

#### Kenneth Weyaus Sr.

Born – 8-25-1941

Died – 9-20-2011

Lived in Onamia, MN

## Band Member Chad Germann Honored With National Award

*By Toya Stewart Downey*

Band member Chad Germann, president and CEO of Red Circle Agency, was named one of the recipients of the 2011 Native American 40 Under 40 award by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

Chad, along with 39 others, was honored for his accomplishments during the 36th Annual Indian Progress in Business Awards Event (called INPRO) on September 30 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida.

The award was designed to recognize 40 existing and emerging American Indian leaders under the age of 40 who have proven leadership, dedication and initiative. Their accomplishments have led to significant contributions within their businesses, their communities, and Indian Country.

Chad founded Red Circle Agency in 2001. The company specializes in serving Native-owned casinos and is the marketing agency of record for more than 20 Indian gaming casinos in the United States.

"I'm happy to have the award, but what's important is we're a Native company that's doing good, smart work for Native casinos that makes a difference. That's why I started Red Circle Agency -- to make a difference," Chad said. "First with my own tribe's casinos, and then others. We've worked with over 60 casinos in the 10 years we've been in business. And I'm proud of the work we've done for every single one of them."

INPRO is the oldest and most prestigious Native American recognition event acknowledging accomplishments and contributions made by American Indians and those who support their economic and business development endeavors. Founded in 1969, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development is the first national nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation created and directed by American Indians, solely dedicated to developing American Indian economic self-sufficiency through business ownership.





## Moccasin Telegraph



### Everyone loves my frybread

By Rose Noonday, Mille Lacs Band Elder

The following article appeared in the December 3, 2003, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with the Messenger's permission.

Once a month, I cook at the meetings our Band has at our community center. I try to cook different things, but I always make some fry bread every month. If I don't have it, everybody asks where it is.

I was small – about five or six years old – when my mom taught me how to make fry bread. I learned from watching her. And through the years I kept it up. When I went away to boarding school, I kind of lost the ability. But when I would come home, I would relearn. I helped my mother cook because she was sick. Whatever she wanted me to cook, I would fix.

Here's how you make fry bread: get a bowl and put your flour in there and make a sort of dent in the flour. You need baking powder and salt. I put some sugar in mine, and sometimes I use powdered milk. Then you stir in warm water until it gets soft and the dough sticks together. And then you knead it down and fry it. I use vegetable oil to fry. Your flame can't be too high, otherwise you will burn the bread, so there's a little trick to it.

But really, it's simple to make.

I was even on TV on KARE 11 once making fry bread. Gaylene Spolarich, a woman who used to work at our community center and now works for the National Society of American Indian Elders, asked me one day if I wanted to go down to the Cities. I asked her what for, and she said I want you to appear with me on TV. I told her no, I can't do that! But then I asked her what we would be doing, and she said I would make fry bread, so I told her I would go.

When we went on TV, I had to write down my recipe. I usually just put in what seems right, so before we went to the Cities, I wrote it down: five cups of flour, four teaspoons of baking powder, one teaspoon of sugar, etc. I use heaping teaspoons. The salt I don't measure, I just put it in.

They gave us just a few minutes of airtime, and they told us to set our stuff out and start making the bread ahead of time. So I made my dough, fried it up, put it out, and covered it up in time for the show. The woman on the show picked up my bread and said it's so nice and brown, and so delicious. The mayor of Minneapolis was there, too. He came over and asked for some bread. All the bread went because everyone wanted to try it, and I told them to help themselves.

Everybody likes my fry bread. My nieces come to cut my grass and I want to pay them, but they won't take any money. So I make them fry bread, and they are happy.

I used to do crafts, too, but now my fingers are getting old so I can only knead fry bread dough. I have arthritis, but I don't let that bother me. I still try to do stuff. I work an hour each day at our community center answering phones, and I cook for the community meetings. I'd rather be busy than sitting around.

## Upcoming Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

### Kids crafts workshop

Children can learn how to weave a God's Eye to take home. This project is recommended for children eight years or older.

The workshop costs \$4 per kit and will be held on Saturday, October 8, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Beaded medallion workshop

Learn beading techniques to create a beaded medallion in this two-day workshop. Beaded medallions are common accessories in the Ojibwe culture. This class will

be held on Saturday, October 22, from noon-4 p.m. and Sunday, October 23, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The workshop costs \$60 for the general public or \$55 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members, plus an additional \$15 supply fee.

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. A minimum of five participants is required to host the workshop. Registration is required by October 19. Please call 320-532-3632 for more information.

## Band Member Receives Award For Illustrating Children's Book



Band member Wesley Ballinger (Niiyo-giizhig) recently received Minnesota's Best Read for 2011 for a children's book he illustrated titled *Awesiinyensag: Dibaajimowinan Jigikinoo'amaageng*, which

translates to *Little Animals: Stories for Teaching*.

The Ojibwe-versed book was recognized with the prestigious award by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The book represented all of Minnesota's publications at this year's National Book Festival on September 24-25 in Washington, D.C.

*Awesiinyensag* explores issues such as bullying, divorce, teamwork, and other topics that are familiar to children across all cultures through antics of animals who playfully deal with the situations in the stories.

## Fall Ceremonial Dance Schedule

Merlin & Mick	Mille Lacs	September 30 & October 1
Ralph & Andy	Mille Lacs	October 7 & 8
Lynda & Joyce	Mille Lacs	October 14 & 15
Dave & Skip	Lake Lena	October 21 & 22
Lee & Larry	Lake Lena	October 28 & 29
Elmer	Mille Lacs	November 4 & 5
Vince & Dale	East Lake	November 11 & 12
Joe	Mille Lacs	November 18 & 19
Niib & Mushkoub	East Lake	November 18 & 19
Melvin & Perry	Mille Lacs	December 2 & 3

## Recipe of the Month

### Blueberry wild rice muffin

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup cooked wild rice
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 5 tbsp. oil
- 1 cup milk
- 1 1/4 cup flour
- 1 tbsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt, optional
- 3 tbsp. sugar
- 1 cup blueberries

#### Directions

1. Sift dry ingredients together.
2. Stir eggs, oil and milk together, add wild rice.
3. Add liquid mixture into the dry mixture; stir well.
4. Carefully add the berries.
5. Spoon into lightly greased muffin cups.
6. Bake at 425 degrees for 15-18 minutes.
7. Make 18 muffins.



# Calendar of Events

October 2011

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 Kelly Sam at 651-292-8062 or write to Kelly at <a href="mailto:kelly@goffpublic.com">kelly@goffpublic.com</a></p>		<p><b>Narcotics Anonymous</b> District I Community Center 6-7 p.m. Every Wednesday</p>			1				
2	3	<p><b>Onamia Indian Education Meeting</b> Rolf Olson Center Noon Contact: David Sam, 320-532-4901</p>	4	5	<p><b>Talking Circles</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen 320-532-4046</p>	6	7	<p><b>Dierks Bentley*</b> Grand Casino Hinckley 8 p.m.</p>	8	<p><b>Kids Crafts</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-3 p.m.</p>
9	<p>All tribal government offices closed for American Indian Day</p> <p><b>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting</b> 5 p.m. Contact: Melanie Benjamin 320-384-7598</p> <p><b>AMVETS Meeting</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 6 p.m.</p>	10	11	<p><b>District I Community Meeting</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judith Ballinger 320-532-7423</p>	12	13	<p><b>March for Family Peace</b> Government Center invocation starts at 4 p.m.</p>	14	15	
16	17	<p><b>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting</b> 4 p.m. Contact: Raina Killspotted 218-768-2345</p>	18	19	<p><b>All-District Elder Meeting</b> Hinckley Assisted Living Unit 11 a.m. Contact: Denise Sargent, 320-532-7854</p>	20	21	22	<p><b>Beaded Medallion Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum noon-4 p.m.</p>	
23	24	25	<p><b>District IIA Community Meeting</b> Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam 320-676-1102</p>	26	<p><b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson 612-872-1424</p> <p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh 218-768-3311</p>	27	28	29		
30	31	Nov. 1	2	3	4	5	<p><b>Clay Walker*</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 6 p.m.</p>			



# What Are Your Academic Goals For This School Year?

**Amber Taylor**



"My goal for school this year is to have a better attitude."

**Music Anoka**



"My goal is to get As, have fun, and learn something new every day."

**Jessica Stewart**



"My goals are to get good grades, manage my time better, and do well in my classes."

**Camille Smith**



"My goal is to re-enroll in college. I took a break while I was serving as the interim director of the higher education program."

**Tara Benjamin**



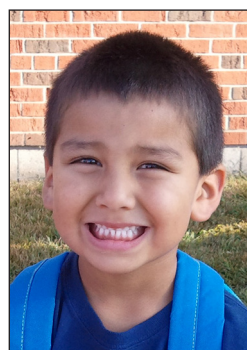
"My goals are to raise my grade point average, keep taking classes while juggling motherhood, and determine my major."

**Marty Jennings**



"I would like to know more about geography."

**Dallas Jennings**



"I want to learn how to write the letters."

**Brittany Stewart**



"My academic goals for this year are to move my grade point average from a 3.2 to a 3.5 or higher, and to increase my credit load so I can graduate from college sooner."

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

## Nay Ah Shing School Students Learn About Ricing



Photo courtesy of Erik Parsons

Nay Ah Shing students parch wild rice. Band member Erik Parsons taught the students the history of ricing and ricing techniques. He also showed them how to knock and gather rice on Lake Onamia.



Photo courtesy of Erik Parsons

Nay Ah Shing students winnow wild rice as a part of a wild rice tutorial led by Band member Erik Parsons. School instructors Bonita Nayquonabe and Cheryl Minnema helped with the event.

## Boys & Girls Club Activities

Members of the District III Boys & Girls Club held a dance-off at the Lake Lena Community Center on August 24. Thank you to all the parents and community members who attended and supported the kids. Great job to all the contestants who participated. It takes a lot of courage to perform. A special thank you to Bridget Brockamp, Boys & Girls Club social development specialist, for planning and organizing the event and to the rest of the Aazhoomog Boys & Girls Club team.



Photo courtesy of Weylin Davis

Cyliss LaFave took first place in the competition for ages 5-8.



Photo courtesy of Weylin Davis

Reggie Knowlen performed during the dance-off competition in District III.