

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

September 2010

"The story as it's told."

Volume 12 • Number 9

"FBI" (Fry Bread Inspectors) Monitor Powwow Vendors



Toya Stewart Downey

Kyrah Thompson (left) and Sierra Churchill (right) sampled fresh fry bread. The girls kept a score sheet to keep track of each fry bread vendor. They judged on color, taste and fluffiness and wrote down comments about each piece of fry bread they sampled.

By Toya Stewart Downey

Finding the perfect fry bread is serious business for two young Band members who recently spent time taste-testing one of their favorite traditional foods.

The girls, Kyrah Thompson and Sierra Churchill, attended the 44th annual Mille Lacs powwow in August not only to see the dancing, hear the songs, listen to the drums, and visit friends but to sample the fried delicacy to determine who prepared the best breads.

"Sierra and I were talking one day and we said maybe we should be fry bread inspectors so we can get free fry bread," said Kyrah, 12. "So we wrote a letter to the Chief and asked her to let us do it at the powwow."

Chief Marge Anderson granted the seventh graders at Hinckley Finlayson High School permission to test fry bread

from the vendors at the powwow. She even went a step further and provided them with name badges, "FBI hats", and turquoise blue t-shirts that read "Fry Bread Inspector" with their names and the Band's logo on them.

The girls also acted as Fry Bread Inspectors at the Hinckley powwow earlier in the summer. There, they sampled the goods from four different vendors. "It's a good job, and it's fun," Sierra said.

At the Mille Lacs powwow, as they approached each booth, sometimes a bit timidly but certain in their purpose, Kyrah provided the introductions and told each vendor about their mission.

In return they each got a fresh piece of fry bread from the six different vendors at the event.

As they waited for it to cool, they examined its color to make

sure it was perfectly golden brown. Then they tore into each piece ready to savor each bite.

After the initial tasting they filled in the blanks on their score sheets by filling in the boxes that asked for the vendor's name, the taste, color, fluffiness, and additional comments.

For one unnamed vendor Kyrah wrote, "kind of greasy, but good." For another, she judged the color by writing, "evenly cooked on both sides, dark color, kind of brown." Or, "When fresh and hot, a good deal."

Sierra was more general in her comments by writing, "really good, nice, good color, and tastes good so far." "The secret to good fry bread is it should be fluffy and kind of warm," said Sierra, 13. "It's hard to say how to make the best fry bread, but I think it's the people who make it and how they do it."

Then, after all the tasting was done, and their bellies were full, the girls compared notes and determined the winner. While there were no prizes or cash, the winner was offered bragging rights by the fry bread inspectors.

For Kyrah and Sierra the joy of sampling one of their favorite foods was a good way to spend their time at the powwow. "It's a job that doesn't require a lot of work, and we get to eat good fry bread all day," Kyrah said.

"We can't ever get tired of eating fry bread," Sierra added.

Native Vote Strongly Represented in Primary Election

American Indians were well represented at the primary election on August 10. According to the Minnesota Secretary of State, more than 15% of Minnesota's eligible voter population of 3.8 million cast ballots. But, American Indian turnout rates were as high as 30% in some precincts. More than 1,000 Band members voted in the election.

The following are the American Indian turnout rates for Mille Lacs Band precincts:

- Barry Township: 19.2%
- Cloquet Ward 4: 22.3%
- Cloquet Ward 5: 13.9%
- Hinckley: 19.4%
- Isle: 18.6%
- Kathio Township: 12.6%
- Ogema Township: 21.2%
- Onamia Township: 19.3%
- Roosevelt Township: 30.0%
- South Harbor Township: 21.8%
- Spalding Township: 21.2%

Following a highly contested state primary race, the gubernatorial field was narrowed from 13 to three candidates. Mark Dayton is the Democratic candidate, Tom Emmer is the Republican candidate, and Tom Horner is the Independence candidate.

(Continued on page 3)



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Community Celebrates National Night Out



Toya Stewart Downey

Mille Lacs Tribal Police Officer Tim Kintop shows Band members the inside of his police car during National Night Out on August 3. Several emergency vehicles were on display at the event, including an ambulance, fire truck and squad car.

By Bugs Haskin

A barbeque, inflatable carnival, and ambulance rides set the stage for the Mille Lacs Band's first National Night Out event on August 3. The Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department partnered with Nay Ah Shing to sponsor the event.

Several emergency vehicles were on display at the event, including three Garrison Fire Department trucks, an Onamia ambulance, and several tribal police squad cars. Attendees were able to climb aboard, check out the equipment, sound the sirens, and even take a ride on a stretcher. The tribal police also gave tours of the police department.

Chief Executive Marge Anderson, District I Representative Sandi Blake, Solicitor General Barbara Cole, and Commissioners John Dunkley and Dennis Olson attended the event.

During the evening, Dennis Olson, Commissioner of Education, led a moment of silence in memory of community members who have been lost due to violence, alcohol abuse, or substance abuse. He thanked those in attendance for supporting the efforts to bring the community and law enforcement together to stand strong against crime.

National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," was introduced in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), a nonprofit crime prevention organization. The program is the brainchild of NATW Executive Director Matt A. Peskin, who wanted to create an opportunity for communities to promote partnerships between the police and the community, prevent crime, and develop a sense of neighborhood camaraderie.

"While one night is certainly not the answer to crime, drugs and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy and determination that is helping to make many neighborhoods safer places throughout the year," Matt said. "It is a night to celebrate safety and crime prevention successes – and to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days."

More than 12,000 communities around the country were expected to take part in this year's event, which is held annually on the first Tuesday in August.

Plans are already underway to make next year's National Night Out event bigger and better.

Tribal Police Officer Josh Kimball, Nay Ah Shing Athletics and Activities Director Bugs Haskin, and coordinators of the 2010 National Night Out event want to thank the following people for their participation:

- MLB elected and appointed officials
- Sid Lucas, public safety department
- Tribal police officers
- Deb Foye, nutrition coordinator at Nay Ah Shing
- Garrison Fire Department
- Mille Lacs Health Care for the Onamia ambulance
- Bernick's
- Grand Casino food and beverage department
- Cheryl Miller, Nay Ah Shing School board member
- Brad Carlson of Minnesota T's
- Rick Moody, American Entertainment
- Ben Lauser, KCLD radio
- Mille Lacs Band public works department
- Angel Oehrlein, executive assistant for the administration department

2010 Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow



From left to right: Dallas Anderson Jr., Sr. Brave, Wyatt Sam, Jr. Brave, Jasmine Schwensen, Jr. Princess, and Corrine Locke, Sr. Princess were named 2010-2011 Mille Lacs Band powwow royalty.



The flags were presented at the Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow.



Band member Darrell Sam shows off his regalia at the powwow in August.



Mille Lacs Band members Darcie Potter and her son, Eldayshun Day, prepare for the grand entry.



Shelly Foster, SHIP coordinator, checks a young girl's blood pressure at the Diabetes Team's booth. The Diabetes Team provided free diabetes screenings at the powwow.

All photos courtesy of Steve Premo

Primary Election

(Continued from page 1)

Following are the statewide results of the gubernatorial primaries:

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL)

- Mark Dayton and Yvonne Prettner Solon: 41.33%
- Margaret Anderson Kelliher and John Gunyou: 39.75%
- Matt Entenza and Robyne Robinson: 18.21%
- Peter Idusogie and Lady Jayne Fontaine: 0.71%

Independence Party

- Tom Horner and James Mulder: 64.24%
- Rob Hahn and Thomas Harens: 14.33%

- John Uldrich and Stephen Williams: 9.97%
- Phil Ratte and Gayle-Lynn Lemaster: 6.86%
- Rahn Workcuff and Mark Workcuff: 4.60%

Republican Party (GOP)

- Tom Emmer and Annette Meeks: 82.48%
- Bob Carney Jr. and William McGaughey: 7.56%
- Leslie Davis and Gregory Soderberg: 6.59%
- Ole Savior and Todd Anderson: 3.37%

For more information about the state general election, which will be held November 2, visit www.millelacsband.com.

Community Forum Begins Healing Process

On July 17, 19-year-old Mille Lacs Band member William Nickaboine was murdered on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Two other young Band members have been charged with his murder.

As the community grapples with William's death and the concerns of gang violence on the reservation, tribal elected officials hosted a gathering to begin the healing process and share ideas to help address the problem.

About 500 people attended the gathering held at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center on August 4. The meeting began with a tobacco offering and remarks by Mille Lacs Band Elders Herb Sam and David Matrious. Throughout the event, grief counselors were available to help individual Band members. Band members were encouraged to submit comment cards describing their concerns and ideas to improve the community.

After attendees shared a meal, Mille Lacs Tribal Police Chief Dwight Reed gave an account of the crime that occurred. He thanked the community and the other law enforcement agencies involved for helping to resolve the crime so quickly.

Mille Lacs County Sheriff Brent Lindgren spoke about the benefits of working together. He said that 80 percent of 9-1-1 calls are now made via cell phone. Because of this, he said it is very important that people calling 9-1-1 provide basic information including their phone number and address, so that law enforcement has the information they need to get to them quickly.

The final portion of the gathering was facilitated by Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, who is a well-respected professional facilitator. Vivian read through about 100 comments from Band members that had been collected throughout the evening.

Many of the comments shared common themes. Ideas included:

- Creating more positive and healthy activities for kids on the reservation
- Practicing traditional cultural activities with youth
- Teaching kids the Ojibwe language
- Holding parents more accountable for the actions of their children
- Banishing or financially penalizing people who break laws
- Expanding community programs, including drug and alcohol treatment and support
- Creating a gang task force
- Nurturing people's respect of each other and the reservation

After the comments were read, Band members were invited to address the audience at an open microphone. Attendance at the event dwindled at this point. Yet many people took advantage of the opportunity to voice their thoughts, fears, emotions and hopes.

Chief Executive Marge Anderson closed the four-and-a-half hour meeting by saying that the event was only the first step in the healing process and that the conversation would continue in the coming months.

Youth Participate in First Civic Camp



Toya Stewart Downey

Sally Fineday, Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota executive director, and Band members Scotty Matrious (left) and Ronald Hardheart (right) practiced how to door-knock at Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota's Youth Civic Camp. Door-knocking is one tactic that Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota uses to encourage voter participation.

Five Mille Lacs Band youth participated in Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota's first annual Youth Civic Camp last month.

At the camp, youth learned about Ojibwe history and culture and the importance of American Indians' participation in public policy that affects tribal communities.

"Native Americans are often under represented at the polls. The camp is a great way for kids to learn the importance of civic participation at a young age," said Elizabeth Scott, chair of Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota and the local community organizer for the Mille Lacs Band's government affairs department.

The week-long camp was mostly held at the Ojibwe

language camp in Rutledge, Minnesota. Campers also took a field trip to visit the White Earth Land Recovery Farm to School Project.

While at White Earth, participants had the opportunity to learn about the tribe's renewable energy projects and toured the construction site of a new windmill.

Campers were youth ages 10-15 and included Mille Lacs Band members Sage, Ronald, and Donovan Hardheart and Angie and Scotty Matrious.

The camp, which was partially funded by a grant from the Honor the Earth Foundation, will be offered again next year.

Organic Community Garden Grows

By Shelly Foster, SHIP Coordinator

Members of the SHIP program would like to thank everyone who helped plant the organic community garden, especially Farm of Plenty, the organic farm that donated all of the seeds, plants and consultation necessary to start our own organic community garden.

We would also like to thank the Earthworks crew, the Lake Lena Sawmill guys, and the clinic maintenance team for helping us build the raised garden beds. Chi mii gwech to everyone who helped to make this challenge a big success.

Band Assembly Welcomes New Employees

In addition to welcoming new elected officials, Band Assembly hired two new employees this summer. Following is more information about each person on the legislative staff and their duties.

Darla Roache



Toya Stewart Downey

Darla Roache started her new position as legislative office manager at the beginning of August. She most recently worked for the tribal court. Darla oversees the operation of the legislative office and provides administrative support for Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk.

Darla can be reached at 320/532-7536.

Eloise Wind



Toya Stewart Downey

Eloise Wind started her new position as receptionist and

legislative aide in early July. She answers phones, greets visitors, and performs other office tasks.

Eloise can be reached at 320/532-7428.

Sarah Crannell



Toya Stewart Downey

Sarah Crannell continues to serve as a legislative assistant. She assists people with minor trust hardship applications and helps draft appropriation bills, resolutions, and meeting minutes.

Sarah can be reached at 320/532-7422.

Elaine Smith

Elaine Smith continues to serve as legislative counsel. She handles the legal work for the legislative branch of government, including drafting and amending Band statutes.

Elaine can be reached at 320/532-7421.

Sylvia Villebrun

Sylvia Villebrun continues to serve as the parliamentarian/clerk of assembly. She schedules Band Assembly meetings drafts appropriation bills, resolutions, and minutes.

Sylvia can be reached at 320/532-7420.

Paraprofessional Position – Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy (K-6)

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy is accepting applications for a special education paraeducator. This position will be in the elementary area and could include one-on-one interaction with students depending on the candidate's qualifications. A paraprofessional certification is desired but not required. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Please send a cover letter, resume, and references to:

Noah Johnson, Director
Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy
20930 367th Lane
McGregor, MN 55760

Interested parties may also direct inquiries to noah.johnson@mlacademy.org or by phone at 218/768-5301.

Widespread Frustration Over Delay in Nelson Act Settlement Payments

What ever happened to the Nelson Act settlement?

This is a common question heard by Mille Lacs Band elected officials, and a lingering source of frustration for both Band officials and Band members.

In 1999, the Court of Federal Claims ruled to reimburse the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for damages resulting from the Nelson Act of 1889, through which the tribe ceded some reservation lands to the federal government, the government sold the land in parcels, and the tribe was supposed to receive the proceeds from the land sales. The Nelson Act also required that ceded reservation lands could not be sold to non-Indians until land allotments had been made to tribal members.

The federal government did not deliver on its promises, and more than 100 years later, it was finally held accountable. The federal court's ruling led to the creation of a \$20 million trust fund account to reimburse the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

But that settlement money (plus millions more in interest earned on the fund over the past decade) has yet to be distributed.

Reasons for the delay

There have been several reasons for the delay, starting with disagreement within the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe about how the settlement should be distributed amongst the six bands that make up the tribe.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe was the only party instituting the Nelson Act litigation and the only party entering into the settlement agreement with the federal government. All decisions made by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe were decided by its governing body, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC). During this time, the costs were shared on a one-sixth basis.

The TEC originally voted to split the settlement evenly. But White Earth reversed its position after the vote, arguing that the settlement should be distributed on a per capita basis. In other words, the amount each band would receive would be based on its population – the more members, the greater that band's share of the settlement.

Later the Leech Lake Band presented its own plan, indicating that the Leech Lake Reservation lost more land than any of the other bands due to the Nelson Act. It claimed that Leech Lake had lost 69% of the total reservation resources and should therefore receive 69% of the settlement.

Meanwhile, U.S. Representatives Collin Peterson and Jim Oberstar had drafted opposing legislation on the issue – Peterson's revolving around per capita distribution, and Oberstar's supporting an equal split as approved by the TEC. Congressional approval is required before the settlement funds can be distributed.

In 2008, Rep. Peterson told Minnesota Public Radio, "If you have two senior members like us on opposite sides, the reaction around here [in Congress] is to do nothing..." (July 22, 2008).

White Earth eventually compromised, leading to a TEC resolution calling for part of the settlement to be distributed on a per capita basis, and part of it to be split evenly among the six bands. Leech Lake did not agree to this plan, but later indicated that it would withdraw its opposition to the resolution if the TEC would support Leech Lake's efforts to manage the Chippewa National Forest through a self-governance demonstration project. The TEC agreed.

Over the past year, Leech Lake has again wavered, indicating that it would only support the TEC's Nelson Act settlement distribution plan if it secures approval for the self-governance demonstration project to manage the forest. This has made any movement toward Congressional action on the distribution very challenging.

However, the TEC resolution to make the distribution partially on a per capita basis and partially on an equal basis is the clear position awaiting Congressional approval. This resolution is not contingent on Leech Lake securing its self-governance demonstration project.

How you can help

The Mille Lacs Band continues to lobby for Congressional movement on this issue. Band members can voice their support for action on the distribution payments by calling or writing to their members of Congress.

If you live on or near the Mille Lacs Reservation, Rep. Oberstar is likely your Congressman. His contact information follows:

Phone: 202/225-6211
Fax: 202/225-0699
E-mail and mail: Access through Oberstar.house.gov

You may also call 202/224-3121 or visit contactingthecongress.org to find your Congressperson's contact information.

Young Band Member Strives for the Best



Photo courtesy of Connie Keenan

Naomi Weyaus

By **Toya Stewart Downey**

For Naomi Weyaus, the motivation to lead a productive life came from within.

Throughout her life, the 18-year-old Band member saw some people around her, including family members, making poor lifestyle choices and determined at a young age that she would do it differently.

"Seeing those around me who didn't work hard made me decide to do the best that I could," she said. "I saw people who weren't doing well, and weren't making good choices, and I didn't want that."

Even when her peers tried to pressure her, Naomi didn't smoke, drink, or try drugs. Instead she'd try to encourage her friends not to indulge in destructive behaviors.

"My favorite quote and one I live by says, 'A fool learns from his own mistakes, but a wise man learns from others' mistakes.'"

This spring Naomi graduated as salutatorian from Onamia High School and this month she starts her life as a college freshman at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

"I looked at a lot of schools, but I liked Marquette the best," she said. "My older sister, Tala, graduated from there too and she liked it so that was half the reason I chose it."

Her sister still lives in Milwaukee, so Naomi will be close to family, yet still be on her own.

She's still deciding what her major will be, but is considering meteorology, theology, and perhaps journalism.

Naomi got her first taste of the journalism industry as a summer intern at the *St. Cloud Times*. "I've always known I liked to write and I was pretty good at it," said Naomi, who worked at the paper for six weeks.

"I'm a curious person and I've always asked a lot of questions because I wanted to know more," she said. "I didn't realize I was actually doing what journalists do until I was at the paper."

The best part, she said, was meeting new and interesting people. "I'm sure I got the coolest summer job," she said. "It was really fun, and I'm so happy I did it."

The internship was offered through the Upward Bound program that Naomi participated in during high school. Through the program, Naomi earned a college credit in English, as well as gained other social and academic skills that will serve her well at Marquette.

"I was already a good student, but joined because we earned money to get good grades, but honestly, I would have done it whether they gave us money or not. It's a chance to make new friends, learn about college options, and you get to travel to visit colleges," said Naomi.

Then, of course, there's the summer work program that provides students with the opportunity to work in a variety of settings. Naomi is already planning to work with Upward Bound as a tutor and mentor during the summers while she's in college.

Besides excelling academically, Naomi is also a talented musician. She has played the trumpet since sixth grade and has been in several school bands including the pep, marching, concert and jazz

bands. Her favorite was jazz band.

Through band and Upward Bound, Naomi has been able to travel around the country the past few years and was thrilled to see the Atlantic Ocean for the first time this summer. Recently, she's made stops in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Chicago. She's been to Memphis, Nashville, Washington, D.C., and South Dakota.

"I like seeing new places and maybe someday I'll go live in other countries. Maybe I'll write for *National Geographic*."

Naomi's dream career is to be a fiction author who travels around the world or to write for a travel magazine.

Naomi is an avid reader and loves science fiction books. Her other passion is anime – the Japanese cartoon craze that has become wildly popular throughout the United States. She has even attended two anime conventions dressed in costume.

Naomi knows that everyone has to determine their own path, but she offers this encouragement to others, especially young people. "You have to work hard and sometimes it's not going to be easy, but you have to decide what you want your life to be," she said. "It's never too late to make positive changes."

Public Health Updates



Vanessa Regguniti, Rocky Dorr, Alia Dorr, and Patricia Regguniti participate in the first "Live It" retreat sponsored by the Public Health Department.

"Live It" retreat

The first "Live It" retreat was held at the language and cultural grounds in Rutledge on August 12-13. The retreat, which was sponsored by the Public Health Department, focused on teen pregnancy prevention.

The group discussed several topics, including sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy prevention, and healthy relationships. Special emphasis was placed on taking care of the whole being – the spirit, mind, body and heart.

The Public Health Department would like to thank Larry Smallwood and the

language and cultural grounds staff for their help in making the retreat successful. Also, the department would like to thank June Evans and Karen Boyd from the Women's Project for sharing information about warning signs in relationships.

Mammography unit

The mobile mammography unit will visit each district in September. Sign up for a mammogram at each location. Contact Mary Thompson at 320/532-4163, ext. 2502 for more information.

- Ne-la-Shing Clinic from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on September 27
- East Lake Community Center from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on September 28
- Aazhoomog Clinic from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on September 29

Family Boat Launches

Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk is sponsoring boat launches for Mille Lacs Band families at Eddy's Lake Mille Lacs Resort on Mondays and Thursdays in September. The launches, which are first-come, first-served, will be held September 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23 and 27 from 5-9 p.m.

The launches are a drug- and alcohol-free event. Please bring your own food and beverages as they will not be provided. Dress accordingly for the weather, especially because it can get cold on the lake.

For more information, contact the legislative department at 320/532-7428.

State, Federal Representatives Discuss Track Records

Band members talked recently with state and federal elected officials who represent the District III area about their accomplishments on behalf of Indian Country. The informal discussion was held during the District III community meeting on Wednesday, August 18.

Joe Elkinson, a staffer from Congressman Jim Oberstar's office, shared information about several bills that Oberstar supported during the past year. He helped pass the health care reform legislation, which includes the Indian Health Care Improvement Act; the Tribal Law and Order Act which helps the federal government better address the unique public safety challenges that confront tribal communities; and the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provides funds for transportation and construction jobs.

State Representatives Bill Hilty and Tim Faust both said they were against gaming expansion. Rep. Hilty mentioned that he has never voted for any gaming expansion legislation in the 14 years he has been in office.

Congressman Oberstar and State Representatives Hilty and Faust are up for reelection during the general election on Tuesday, November 2.

For more information about the candidates and the District III community meeting, contact Mille Lacs Band Local Community Organizer Elizabeth Scott at 320/384-4661.

Upcoming Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum

Porcupine quill jewelry workshop

Come learn to make necklaces, earrings, and hair ties out of quills during this two-day workshop. The classes will be held at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on September 11 from noon to 4 p.m. and September 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Registration is required by September 8. A minimum of

five participants is required for this workshop.

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided at both events.

Please call 320/532-3632 to register for these classes.

Learn how to process wild rice

Watch museum staff process wild rice the traditional way, including how to dry, parch, thresh and winnow the wild rice. Visitors will see the finished product. Twenty-minute presentations every hour from noon to 3 p.m. every Saturday in September. The free demonstrations are outdoors and do not include museum admission.

Aazhoomog Community Multi-Family Sale

- **Where:** Aazhoomog Community Center Parking Lot, 45749 Grace Lake Road (County Road 173)
- **When:** Saturday, September 18
- **Time:** 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Directions:** 25 miles east on Highway 48 from

Hinckley, take a left on County Road 173, 4.5 miles to community center.

All Band members are welcome to set up tables.

Please contact Gloria St. John at 320/384-6240 if you have any questions.

Introducing the Band Member Development Advisory Committee

Submitted by the Corporate Commission

The Corporate Commission has created a seven-member Band Member Development Advisory Committee to provide guidance and support to the Band Member Development (BMD) Department and the Corporate Commissioner.

Committee members will assist in evaluating and updating the BMD programs and services; review all applicable courses, seminars and training required of Mille Lacs Band members participating in BMD; assist in the selection of the Mille Lacs Band member trainees; and coordinate "celebration" events recognizing and highlighting participant and program accomplishments.

"One of the Corporate Commission's top priorities for BMD is to ensure that enrolled Mille Lacs Band members are provided with opportunities for optimum employment and individualized career development," said Michael Garrow, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Corporate Commission. "The geographic representation, as well as the vast experience and success each advisory board member brings to the committee, will provide needed advice in the further programming and development of the BMD Department."

BMD Advisory Committee members include:

- Elder Representative – Audrey Stately
- District I Representative – Irene Benjamin
- District II Representative – Jennifer Aubid
- District III Representative – Bernadette Smith
- Corporate Commission Associate Representative – Nicole Hyatt
- Grand Casino Hinckley Associate Representative – Vicki Kroschel
- Grand Casino Mille Lacs Representative – Jenny Bucholz

Advisory committee meetings will be held quarterly (or as deemed necessary) to meet the needs of the BMD Department.

"This dynamic group of women is passionate and action-oriented," said Jodell Meyer, director of BMD. "They will be at community events as they help to communicate the programs and opportunities provided by BMD." BMD is also asking for feedback from the tribal community on barriers to employment and concerns regarding employment opportunities so that the BMD Department can work towards solutions.

For more information on the advisory committee or to provide feedback, please contact Jodell Meyer, director of BMD at 320-532-8880.

Fitness Enthusiasts Tackle Mille Lacs Trails

For the past two months, approximately 100 Band members have been walking, running, biking, weightlifting and more as a part of the Band's ninth annual Walk Around Mille Lacs Fitness Program.

The program, which ran from July 6-September 3, is a way to encourage people to exercise and stay in shape. Each participant walked a total of 120 miles during the program – the equivalent of two laps around Mille Lacs Lake or an average of two miles per day.

Yvonne Winiecki, a 56-year-old Elder, broke in her two-year-old titanium knees during this year's program.

Prior to a knee replacement surgery, Yvonne was extremely

active, doing aerobics and taekwondo to keep healthy. After the surgery, it took awhile for Yvonne to feel like her new knees were truly hers.

Yvonne decided to participate in the Walk Around Mille Lacs Fitness Program to start using her knees and get back in shape. Yvonne exercised for an hour every morning starting at 3:30 a.m. After an average of 22 miles per week, Yvonne's resting heart rate has dropped from 70 beats per minute to 64.

"If you're active, you can live a much fuller life and feel much better about yourself," Yvonne said. "Age is a blessing not a burden, but it will be a burden if you don't stay active."

44th Annual Traditional Powwow Recap

By Mille Lacs Traditional Powwow committee members

Powwow royalty and winners

Congratulations to the 2010-2011 Mille Lacs Band powwow royalty and this year's winners!

2009-2010 royalty

- Dallas Anderson Jr., Sr. Brave
- Wyatt Sam, Jr. Brave
- Corrin Locke, Sr. Princess
- Jasmine Schwensen, Jr. Princess

Parade float

- 1st Place: Turtle
- 2nd Place: Junior Princess Contest
- * 3rd Place: Mille Lacs County DFL

Moccasin game

- 1st Place: Ernie Boyd and Randall Nickaboine
- 2nd Place: Nolan Nayquonabe and Richard Davis
- 3rd Place: Joel Shaugobay and John Benjamin
- 4th Place: Adrian Bugg and Louie Davis

Adult horseshoe tournament

- 1st Place: Bruce Nayquonabe and Dylan Sam
- 2nd Place: Roy Garbow and Ray Doust
- 3rd Place: Ron Smith and Harvey St. John
- Most Ringers: William Urrutia

Rez car

- 1st Place: Donna Gilmore "Blue Car"
- 2nd Place: Rez Dog Catcher
- * 3rd Place: Shaggin Wagon

Raffle winners

- ATV: Tommy Lee Mitchell
- 52 weeks of bingo: Eugene Davis
- * BBQ grill: Gloria Songetay

Thanks to volunteers and contributors

- Chief Executive Office
- District I Representative Office
- Steve Premo, artist and graphic designer
- Power Lodge, Onamia
- Leach Electric, Onamia
- Grand Casino Mille Lacs Marketing Department
- Double D Construction, David D Granger, owner, Garrison
- Home Depot, Baxter
- Goff & Howard, Saint Paul

Our neighbors

- Lakeland Printers, Isle
- Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative, Aitkin
- Agnew Hardware Hank, Onamia
- Mille Lacs Museum and Trading Post, Onamia
- Woodland's National Bank, Onamia
- Sunclean Center, Onamia
- Walmart, Baxter
- Anderson Brothers, Onamia
- Mille Lacs Messenger, Isle
- Reeds Sporting Goods, Onamia
- NAPA Auto Parts and Service, Onamia
- McDonalds, Garrison

Our gracious weekend volunteers

- Beth Hanlon, radio dispatcher
- Randall Nickaboine, Moccasin Game coordinator

We extend our greatest appreciation to our contributors this year. This is a personal Chii mii gwech to all who have donated their time and gifts to making the 44th Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow a success.

We have attempted to list everyone, but we apologize if we have missed anyone.

Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota Golf Tournament



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Scott

Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota held its annual golf tournament at Black Bear Golf Course on August 11 to raise money for get-out-the-vote efforts. Pictured from left to right are NVAM members Gary Fuller, Linda Tealman, Sally Fineday, Elizabeth Scott, and Amanda Myers.



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Scott

Amanda Myers tees up at Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota's annual golf tournament. NVAM raised almost \$6,000 at the tournament.

District III Health Fair



Toya Stewart Downey

Gloria Songatay provided a wealth of information about the dangers of second-hand smoke and shared materials about traditional tobacco use during the District III Health Fair.



Toya Stewart Downey

Band Member Chris Kegg promoted healthy living and eating habits at the Lake Lena Community Health Fair.

Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, September 10**, 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.

The Newspaper of
the
Mille Lacs Band

OJIBWE
INAAJIMOWIN

"The story as it's told."



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255 East Kellogg Blvd.
Suite 102
St. Paul, MN 55101

Please provide news
tips and other
information
by the 15th of the
previous month.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

		July 2010	
	Approved budget for FY 2010	Actual expenditures through 7/31/10	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	14,747,822	9,690,503	65.7%
Workforce*	12,435,562	4,634,239	37.3%
Judicial	707,962	532,415	75.2%
Law enforcement*	4,562,799	2,978,844	65.3%
Education*	18,708,631	12,588,342	67.3%
Health and human services*	28,102,626	19,457,125	69.2%
Natural resources*	5,509,610	4,161,627	75.5%
Community development*	37,913,187	13,278,349	35.0%
Gaming authority	4,827,653	3,786,685	78.4%
Per capita payments	38,556,178	30,768,887	79.8%
Economic stimulus	2,900,000	2,763,983	95.3%
Total expenditures	\$168,972,031	\$104,640,999	61.9%

Financial notes:

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

* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2009 fiscal year.

Energy Assistance Applications Are Being Accepted

By **Toya Stewart Downey**

Though the weather is warm and the idea of cold winter nights seems far away, now is the time for Band members to start applying for Minnesota's energy assistance program.

The state program, which is administered through the Band's Emergency Services Program, offers families financial assistance with utility costs from October to July.

Depending on a person's income, the program covers some or most of the cost of the applicant's primary heat source – electric, gas or propane – during the months the program is offered. Payments are sent directly to the utility company, which credits the account.

In 2009-2010 approximately 360 Band households received funds from the energy assistance program.

"We encourage people to fill out the applications now so we can enroll them. If they've enrolled in the past, they need to apply again because it's an annual process," said Patricia Charlson, the Band's energy emergency services coordinator.

The Band is the state service provider for Districts I, II and III. The office can also assist Band members in the urban area with the application and then help them find an agency in the Twin Cities that can administer the services.

The state's energy assistance program is based on income – families must provide proof of income for the past three months. Band members should consider applying to discover if they qualify for assistance whether or not they think they would qualify, Patricia said.

"We find out that there's a great need for energy assistance based on the number of emergency loan requests that we receive each year," said Patricia. "If Band members can qualify for energy assistance, we want people to be able to use these dollars and not rely on emergency loans which have more stringent requirements."

For example, to receive an emergency loan for utilities, utilities must be past due or at a disconnected status. Then, the loan must be paid off before receiving another one. The cap on emergency loans is \$750 per

loan and must be paid off in six months. Repayments are made either through the per cap distribution or payroll.

Emergency loans are also available for some funeral expenses, such as travel, or to prevent eviction. Band members can also get vouchers to pay for some car repairs, gas, and food; however those costs must be paid back, too.

"The Mille Lacs Band funds the loan program, and we want to make sure we provide funds to individuals who truly have an emergency need," said Patricia. "We try our best to serve all Band members and need to be discrete in our efforts to protect the loan program so we can continue to be a resource and relieve emergency financial burdens."

"Last year we had 10 percent more applicants, but we're sure there are still people out there who could benefit from this program, but haven't applied – particularly Elders," Patricia said. "We have grant money available, and we want to use those funds to help the Band members that need it."

Families who qualify for energy assistance may also

qualify for the state's energy repair and replacement program. The program helps homeowners replace or repair furnaces that are broken or need maintenance.

Application process

The MN Department of Commerce will send applications to households that participated in the program in 2009-2010 by August 31.

Households should complete the entire application and mail it to the emergency services department office along with the income verification information (43500 Migizi Drive, East Entrance, Onamia, MN 56359).

Only one application per household can be submitted to avoid duplication of services.

If a household does not receive an application and/or needs assistance completing the form, contact the emergency services office at 320/532-7880 to request an application or to ask for assistance.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy September birthday to:

Age B, on September 3 with love from Kelly, Jay and your we-eh Kellen • **Erykah Jones**, 2, on September 26 from mom, dad, sisters and brother • **Richard Jones**, on September 8 from Sandy and family, Cheryl and family, and Thomas and Patricia • **Collin Smith**, 21, on September 24 with love from mom, dad, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, and the Garbows • **Clayton Benjamin**, on September 25 from your in-laws and the Garbows • **Roger Garbow Sr.**, 55, on September 5 from the Ron Smith family • **Georgia**, on September 6 from Chuck, Kayana, McKellen, mom, Papa Scott Judkins, Auntie Barb, and your G frenz • **Gilbert**, on September 3 from Momma Bear • **Paco**, 14, on September 17 from grandma and Papa Scott • **Even Steven**, on September 23 from Auntie Molly and family • **Rina Moo**, from Auntie Molly and family • **Laikora**, 14, on September 14 with love from your family • **Chris Weyaus**, 27, on September 14 with love from mom, dad, Danni Jo, and Elliott • **Larissa Weyaus**, 17, on September 13 with love from Grandma Joanne • **Big Bro Rogi**, on September 5 from Ruth, Lorne, Wand, Pete and Drin • **Andz**, on September 5 from Auntie Ruth, Ben, Jay, and Zach • **Dad**, on September 3 with love from Mariah and Kevin • **Char**, on September 9 with love from Gram AA, Karen, Valerie, Mariah, Kevin, Rae, Tracy, Jarv, Shal, Max Dean, Jake, Jaime, Mark, Aiva, Sharon, Wally, Rave, Melz, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, and Chris • **Prince Charming**, on September 17 with love from your sis • **Nade**, on September 28 with love from Gram AA, Karen, Valerie, Mariah, Kevin, Rae, Tracy, Jarv, Shal, Max Dean, Jake, Jaime, Mark, Aiva, Sharon, Wally, Rave, Melz, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, and Chris • **Mexican Sis**, on September 29 with love from your Latina Sis • **Jerome Bedausky**, on September 5 with love from mom, Nikki, Brent, Taryn, Brenda, Lucas, Roland III, Nancy, Larry, Chell, Baby Camryn, Cam, Tim, Miss Veronica, Ed, and the rest of the family • **Taryn Bedausky**, on September 18 with love

from dad, Brent, Gramma Mary, Brenda, Roland III, Chell, Baby Camryn, Cam, Tim, Miss Veronica, Ed, Nancy, Larry and the rest of the family • **Taiann Bearheart**, 6, on September 28 from Grandma Bearheart • **Ian Bearheart**, 12, on September 29 from Grandma Bearheart • **Onee**, with love from Day, Herb, Jaxin, Elle Nevaeh, Tommy Lee, Sky, Gabriella, Buck Jim, Mother Hubbard, Tina, Deondre, Jay and kids, Bice, B Dub, Diamond, Silas, OJ, and Bugger • **Steven Sam**, with love from Dey Luv and family, Chell and the girls.

Happy September birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Joe Anderson, Jr.
Viola Buck
Joseph Crown, Jr.
Roger Dorr
Shirley Evans
Violet Ewert
Lorena Gahbow
Joseph Garbow
Mary Garbow
Roger Garbow
Carol Hernandez
Donna Iverson
Kathleen Johnson
Rueben Merrill
Carol Mojica
Jacqueline Moltaji
Elmer Nayquonabe
Joseph Nayquonabe
Carol Sam
Darlene Sam
Karen Sam
Janice StandingCloud
Charles Sutton
Irvin Sutton
Marty Thomas
Russell Thomas
Joanne Weyaus
Leonard Weyaus
Richard Weyaus
Bonita White
Dale Wind
Micheal Wind

Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Kevin and Amy LaDue on the birth of their new baby girl. **Addison Marie LaDue** was born on August 6. She weighed 9 lbs., 13 oz. *Welcome to the family from Sophie and Devin.*

Congratulations to Morning Star Dorr on the birth of her new baby boy. **Brandon Dorr Charwood** was born on July 28.

He weighed 7 lbs, 8 oz., and was 19 in. long.

Congratulations to Shelby Doust and Craig Beaulieu on the birth of their new baby boy. **Max Dean Sam Beaulieu** was born on July 12. He weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz., and was 21.5 in. long. *With love from Grandma Karen, Grandma Tracy, and the rest of your family.*

Congratulations to Chady Skinaway and Lance Villebrun on the birth of their new baby girl. **Gabriella Rose Villebrun** was born on July 7. She weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz., and was 19 in. long. *With love from mom, Herb, Elle Nevaeh, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Big Happy, Josh, and the rest of your families.*

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Laikora Thompson** who played the national anthem on her flute at the August 6 boxing event at Grand Casino Hinckley. We are very proud of you. *With love from your family.*

Congratulations to **Summer Dorr** for receiving your GED. *With love from mom, dad, and TJ.*

Congratulations to **Lance Villebrun** for receiving your GED. *With love from Gabriella Rose, Chaddy Rose, Day, Herb, Elle Nevaeh, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Big Happy, Josh, and the rest of your family.*

Thank you

Thank you to the Chief Executive Office and Band Commissioners who sent flowers to the memorial service for Allan Applegate. Allan is the deceased husband of Band member Ramona Applegate. Thank you to all those who sent flowers, plants and offered support in her time of need. *From Jackie McRae.*

Obituaries

William Nickaboine

Born – 10-6-1990
Died – 7-18-2010
Resided in Onamia

George Boyd Jr.

Born – 11-10-1940
Died – 7-25-2010
Resided in McGregor

Clara Sam

Born – 8-27-1910
Died – 8-5-2010
Resided in Onamia

Grand Casino Hinckley Boxing Bouts Featured on Showtime

By Jim Erickson, Executive Director, Mille Lacs Band Department of Athletic Regulation

Two exciting matches from the Grand Casino Hinckley boxing event on August 6 were televised live on Showtime.

In the first televised match, Lateef Kayode of Nigeria, trained by hall-of-fame trainer Freddie Roach, used his strength to counter the boxing skill of Alfredo Escalera Jr. of Puerto Rico. Kayode's vicious body attacks and constant pressure had Escalera in trouble, prompting referee Joe Cortez to stop the bout at the end of round eight. Kayode claimed the North American Boxing Organization's cruiserweight championship.

The evening's main event, which was also televised, featured a battle of undefeated bantamweights for 10 action-packed rounds. Christopher Martin upset top-10 ranked Chris Avalos. Avalos, with a record of 16-0 going into the fight, made his professional debut at Grand Casino Hinckley in February 2008.

In addition to the televised bouts, the evening started with the big boys, as 234-pound Maurice Harris from New Jersey won the United States Boxing Association heavyweight title by defeating 240-pound Nagy Aguilera from the Dominican Republic. Aguilera landed some nice punches, but Harris was the busier fighter and walked away with a 10-round unanimous decision.

Local Minnesota fighters Andy Kolle and Matt Vanda each scored knockouts in their bouts. New York native Michael Anderson won via third-round technical knockout over Minnesota's Hector Orozco.

Watch the *Inaqjimowin* for upcoming announcements of boxing and mixed martial arts events.



Ojibwe Culture and Traditions



How to Approach a Traditional Healer

Part one of a traditional health series by Mille Lacs Band Elder Herb Sam

This information was prepared for American Indians who want to gain more knowledge of our beautiful culture and tradition. I have tried to make it simple for anyone who may want to truly understand it. This information is my attempt to give you as Indian people an understanding of traditional healing and traditional health.

All tribes of North America or Turtle Island have very close parallels in healing practices, but always remember there are variations from tribe to tribe. If consulting other tribes, please always be respectful of how other tribes practice their healing practices.

I will explain to you (as I understand it) how to approach a traditional healer. When you have made a decision and have chosen a certain healer, always prepare to go to him or her with your request.

Contacting the healer

Many people do not make the proper connections. They use the phone and try to explain to the healer their needs – they expect the healer to help them over the phone. Speaking for myself, I only accept phone calls to schedule an appointment. I can only continue to do as I was taught. Tobacco must be brought to me in a proper manner.

When the healer is chosen and a request has been made for an appointment, you can come to the healer and explain why you need his or her services. Your concerns may be physical or mental. Whatever your needs are, ask the healer if he or she can help you. At this point, the healer will tell you if he or she can help you.

Offering tobacco

If the healer says, "I can help you," then you take a pinch of tobacco from your tobacco bag and present it by putting it in his or her hand. If the healer says he or she can't help you, still put tobacco in his or her hand for the time that he or she gave you.

Some healers would rather accept Indian tobacco (Kinnikinnick), which you get from the red willow bush. It is always a good idea to check

which type of tobacco your healer prefers. This is the approach that is taken in consulting a traditional healer.

When your scheduled time has come, bring a gift along with tobacco. It may be a blanket, shirt, socks, or a monetary compensation if you are able, as a traditional healer also has to live. Present your gifts before he or she does the ceremony so that he or she may inform the spirit healers of the gifts that you have brought.

Dreams and names

In seeking help, there are many requests that are brought to me. These include requesting dream interpretations or naming a child or maybe yourself. Never feel ashamed to ask for a name as an adult. This is a very good thing to do, because it will help you with your journey in life.

Dream interpretations vary, but the traditional healer will help you. In some cases, the traditional healer may request that you bring a bowl of food for the ceremonies. If you would like some additional explanation regarding the "why" of some of these ceremonies, please feel comfortable to ask the healer. I have not met one healer who would be unwilling to help you understand traditional healing.

Plant medicine

When the healer has completed his or her ceremony for healing, he or she may advise you that in order to feel better, you need to use a certain plant. The healer will explain how this should be done. The healer or the healer's helper will give you the plant that has been prescribed and instruct you in how to prepare it.

If you have any questions, be sure to ask the healer, as some plants can be dangerous if they are not prepared properly.

How to have a good result

Please make sure that you understand the healer's directions before you leave. Also, belief and respect are the winning ingredients that will heal you. Always show great belief and great respect to the healer and the plant family that has helped you. Have good thoughts toward them.

Moccasin Telegraph



Amik (Larry Smallwood)

Respecting the Creator's creation

By Amik (Larry Smallwood), Mille Lacs Band Elder

The following article appeared in the October 2, 2002, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with the Messenger's permission.

When the Europeans first came over to this land, they saw native people and they stereotyped us as savages. They thought we were a lost people with no sense of direction, no kind of organization, no beliefs.

That's not so. Indians had a form of government, and we also had our beliefs.

We believe in the Creator. Some people call him God. We knew there was such a being. And we knew he created this world we live in and everything on it – the vegetation, the animals, the two-legged, four-legged, flying, crawling, swimming. He created all those.

We believe that the last species he created was the human being.

The Creator knew human beings needed direction, so he sent down a messenger to each color of man – the yellow people, the black people, the white people, and the red people. He sent these messengers to show the people how to live.

The messenger to the Ojibwe people walked around the Great Lakes region, teaching us as he went. He lived by example. He showed our people the medicines. He showed us the way of communicating with the Creator.

Our messenger was funny. He was also serious. He was all things a human could possibly be, even though he was spiritual. He showed the people things that would happen if you do wrong, what would happen if you do good, what would happen if you are foolish. He lived a lifetime doing these things to show the people.

And he told the people about the Creator. He also told them to treat all things with respect because they are the Creator's creation.

When we go out to use a tree or a plant or anything that grows out of the ground, we have to make a tobacco offering to the Creator. We're going to pull that plant out, or we're going to take the life of that tree. So we ask for forgiveness. We explain to the Creator why we need that tree or plant. We don't disrespect it and just start cutting it down or pulling it out of the ground.

When we go hunting or fishing, we offer the traditional tobacco because we're going to take the life of one of the Creator's creations so we can eat. When we go ricing in the fall, we put tobacco in the lake because we're going to take some of the food the Creator has provided for us. We do this because we were taught to put tobacco down when we pray. There are tobacco plants that grow in the woods that we can use. Some people mix traditional and contemporary tobacco.

Some people say Indians worship the trees, the waters, and the animals. We don't worship them – we respect them because of where they came from.

We have to respect everything because, if you don't, you're disrespecting what the Creator created. And the day is coming when you will have to answer for that.

If I disrespect another person because he is a different color, I'm disrespecting what the Creator created. Some people say you have to earn respect. I say no. When I meet someone, they have all my respect because they're from the Creator.

Calendar of Events

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		Nay Ah Shing schools First day of school	Head Start First day of school	Talking Circles District I Community Center, 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046 Pine Grove Leadership Academy Open House 1-3 p.m.	All government offices close at noon	Learn how to process wild rice Mille Lacs Indian Museum Saturdays in September
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	All government offices closed for Labor Day	Pine Grove Leadership Academy First day of school			Randy Owen* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 8 p.m.	Porcupine Quill Jewelry Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m. Randy Owen* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 8 p.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Porcupine Quill Jewelry Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting 5 p.m. Contact: Amiliya Zago, 320/384-7598 AMVETS Meeting Grand Casino Mille Lacs 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925		District III Community Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley 5:30 p.m. Contact: Gloria St. John, 320/384-6240	Talking Circles District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046 All-Elder Community Meeting District III ALU 11 a.m., Contact: Denise Sargent, 320/532-7854		Tyler Florence* (cooking demonstration) Grand Casino Hinckley 4 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Multi-Family Parking Lot Sale Aazhoomog Community Center 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting 4 p.m. Contact: Dawn Aubid, 218/768-2345		District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311		Alan Jackson* Grand Casino Hinckley 8 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30	October 1	2
	District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judy Virnig, 320/532-7423 Mobile Mammograms Ne-la-Shing Clinic 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Contact: Mary Thompson at 320/532-4163, ext. 2502	Mobile Mammograms East Lake Community Center 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Contact: Mary Thompson at 320/532-4163, ext. 2502	District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam, 320/676-1102 Mobile Mammograms Aazhoomog Clinic 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact: Mary Thompson at 320/532-4163, ext. 2502	Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424		
3	4	5	6	7	*To Purchase Tickets Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800/745-3000, or visit www.ticketmaster.com If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at kellys@goffhoward.com	

Who Is Your Best Friend and Why?

Alyssa Irving



"Alex Bonilla is my best friend."

Brandi Nelson



"Maggie Rock is my best friend because she's there for me. And she takes me wherever I need to go."

Alex Bonia



"Alyssa Irving is my best friend because we just are."

Sierra Cruz



"My best friend is Maya because I always hang out with her."

Jordan Beaulieu



"My kid's dad, Windy Morrison, because he listens and understands me. And he'll be there regardless."

Adam Nayquonabe



"One of my close friends is JT. He chills with me and he's good people to hang out with."

Leslie Davis



"My daughter, Kelsie Shaugobay, because we're so close. We tell each other everything."

Candida Mitchell



"My significant other, Robert, because he's true and loyal. He has a good sense of humor, he's a good dad, he always helps people, and he knows everything about me."

She's a good girl, a good student, and a good person."

dad, he always helps people, and he knows everything about me."

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

Powwow Committee Dedicated to Preserving Culture and Traditions

By Toya Stewart Downey

Just one day before the Mille Lacs Band 2010 Powwow commenced, members of the planning committee gathered at the powwow grounds for one last meeting. They offered tobacco and set a dish before sharing a meal and discussing last-minute details about what promised to be a spectacular weekend.

And indeed it was, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the team of organizers who spent months making sure every facet of the annual event was addressed.

This year more than 800 dancers, 17 drums, and 37 vendors attended, with approximately 2,000 spectators per session.

"We are probably the largest traditional powwow in Minnesota," said Freedom Porter, who has co-chaired the powwow committee since 2004 and served on the committee for 12 years.

The committee, which begins meeting in January, is crucial to the powwow's success. The group is made up of volunteers who are not paid for their time or service, yet are dedicated to providing a memorable weekend.

Typically about 25 people volunteer to serve on the committee, but by the time the big event rolls around there are about 14 active members. "The only incentive we have is that we all know we did a good job...that's why we do it," Freedom said.

Mary Jo Jennings, co-chair of the committee, shares the same sentiments. Mary Jo has been on the committee for eight years. She joined because she wanted to learn more about organizing the event as well as become more involved in the community. "I have met some interesting individuals over the years and formed friendships that will last a lifetime."

"When we see the Grand Entry, all of the dancers, and everyone having a good time, we have such a sense of accomplishment and pride...it's almost too hard to put into words what it means to me or what the experience has been, but it's been an important part of my life," said Mary Jo.

So, too, are the members of the committee who call themselves a family. They establish a bond over the shared experience of planning the powwow.

Rob Thompson, a four-year veteran of the committee, calls it the "best group of hodge-podge people you'll ever meet. It's a fun group, and we have a blast."

Rob said those who have been on the committee previously should consider returning, and those who want to be a part of the event should also consider joining the team.

Janice Olson, who joined the group this year, said she felt like a part of the group immediately. "The first year you listen, you learn everyone's role, and you ask questions," said Janice, who works for the Women's Shelter. "It's a lot of work, but it's

exciting and fun. I would encourage others to join because it's worth it."

Just ask Sharon James, who has been on the committee for 13 years. She joined as a way to connect to the community and found even more. "I was able to meet people and interact with them in ways I couldn't have done in my 8-5 job," she said.

"It is very rewarding and fun, but a lot of hard work, especially when you're trying to keep the Band's culture and traditions while working within the policies and procedures of today's world," Sharon explained. "If the committee didn't have these traditions to guide them, I don't think the powwow would be so successful."

The committee strives to continue what the Elders created generations ago – a celebration of life. This is one of the reasons special ceremonies are not held during this powwow. Freedom said, "The creating Elders didn't want that, they wanted a time for celebration." The remaining Elder Advisors include Kenny Weyaus Sr. and Dorothy Sam.

The powwow committee is a community committee that operates with the support of the Chief Executive Office and the District I Representative. The committee keeps the Chief Executive and District I Representative updated on its activities, with the Chief Executive having veto power over committee decisions.

Freedom believes the traditional powwow has continued to be successful because the committee follows the path the Elders laid as the foundation many years ago. The 'Big Three,' Jim Clark, Raining Boyd, and Batiste Sam, were instrumental in keeping the culture at the forefront of this powwow, Freedom said.

That's why it's critical for more youth to get involved, said Kenny Weyaus Sr., who has served on the committee for 22 years, part of the time as chairman.

He would like to see more young people get involved so they can take his place one day. Kenny said, "As we're growing up, we're losing a lot of our traditions. If we can get our younger people involved, we can teach them the traditions we follow; being on the committee will help them learn those traditions."

"For example, a lot of people don't know you're not supposed to carry your child when dancing, as this is a sign of you giving that child away," explained Kenny. "Or they don't understand the cultural reason we don't allow fanning of the drum."

"As told to us by our Elders, we don't copy what other people do at their powwow because each community has their own traditions," he said. "We need our youth to know these things so they can carry on our traditions and learn by getting involved."