

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

April 2007

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

Volume 9 • Number 4

## Band Members Celebrate Anniversary of Treaty Rights Victory

On March 24, 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Mille Lacs Band retains the right to hunt, fish and gather in East Central Minnesota. This decision ended the Band's nine-year legal battle to have its 1837 treaty rights recognized by the state of Minnesota.

To commemorate the eighth anniversary of the decision, the Band held a treaty feast at the District I Community Center last month. Approximately 100 people attended. They enjoyed a drum group performance and heard comments from emcee Curt Kalk, the Band's Commissioner of Natural Resources, and Don Wedll, Long Range Planner.

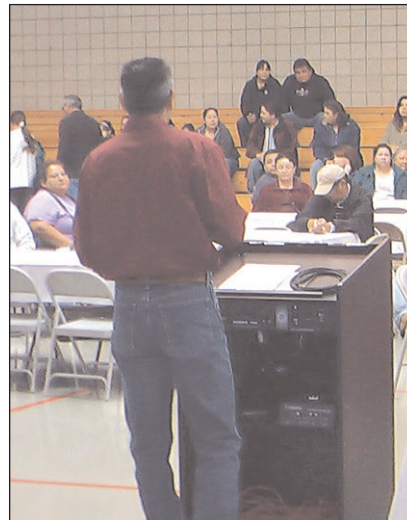
"The Band had to take action to preserve the rights your relatives and ancestors wanted you to have," Don said. "We knew we were right and we knew we could prove we were right. And we did."



*Around the drum beginning at left: Jorden Bellcourt, Ron Kingbird, Jon Reynolds, Kyle Aune, and Jack Kingbird of the Nay Ah Shing Singers performed at the treaty feast.*

***"Many of us grew up hunting, fishing and gathering with our parents and grandparents in the traditional way."***

— Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources



*Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources Curt Kalk spoke about how things have changed since the Supreme Court reaffirmed the Band's treaty rights eight years ago. "Many of us grew up hunting, fishing and gathering with our parents and grandparents in the traditional way. While this is something we've always done and will always continue, the treaty rights victory reaffirmed this right with the outside world."*



*Left to right in aprons: Brian Scheinost, Public Works Administrator; Jim Kalk, Director of Facilities; and Mike Moilanen, Planner. They prepared 290 walleye and perch fillets with a secret recipe, and not one crumb of fish remained as a leftover.*

## Summer Youth Employment Program

Are you between the ages of 14 and 20 years old and looking for summer employment? The Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center will be accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program from May 1 through May 25. The program begins June 12 and ends August 3.

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

- **District I:** Workforce Center – lower level of the Government Center  
Onamia High School – Nancy Harliss  
Nay Ah Shing School – Mary Simon
- **District II:** East Lake Modular Building – Judy Brown
- **District IIA:** Chiminising Community Center – Carmen Green
- **District III:** Lake Lena Community Center – Gloria Songetay

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

**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE**  
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## Band Welcomes Sarah Oquist as New Commissioner of Corporate Affairs



Steve Preemo

**Sarah Oquist, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs**

In March, Band member Sarah Oquist was sworn in as the Band's new Commissioner of Corporate Affairs. In her new position, Sarah is responsible for overseeing all of the Band's businesses, including Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley.

"The Mille Lacs Band has a history of providing good jobs and supporting economic development in the region," said Sarah. "I am excited to be part of a team that continues to grow the Band's businesses

and give back to the community."

Sarah earned a bachelor's degree from Lyon College in Arkansas and a law degree from Creighton University School of Law in Nebraska in 1999. After law school, she worked as an attorney for Faegre & Benson LLP in Minneapolis. Before joining the Band, she worked as Senior Corporate Counsel for U.S. Bank National Association, where she was responsible for advising management staff and other officers in the domestic and international finance departments. While working at the bank, she also taught a law class at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul.

Sarah has served on numerous nonprofit boards including the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association, Lyon College Board of Trustees, Minnesota State Bar Association, and Hennepin County Bar Association.

## Names & Faces

### Second-grader Shyla Lussier wins spelling bee



Photo courtesy of Gina Anderson

Congratulations to Shyla Lussier for winning first place in her second grade spelling bee contest. She is congratulated by Destanie, Jordan, Dallas, her mom, Grandma Nazz, Papa and

Grandma Gina, who say they are very proud of Shyla.

### Students recognized for achievements

On March 22, General Educational Development (GED) Instructors John Cox and Becky Steffenson congratulated three students at the District II East Lake community meeting. These students were commended by the McGregor Area Literary Council for their educational accomplishments:

- **Jordan Moose** received a student achievement award for the most improved GED test scores for 2006.
- **Windy Morrison** earned the 2006 Salutatorian Award.
- **Heath Ochendorf** earned the Valedictorian Award.

The first GED graduate for 2007 is **Falon Jackson**.

## Ask Melanie

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

### Why is there so much talk about Minnesota Chippewa Tribe enrollment right now?

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) is considering revising its enrollment eligibility requirements, which would impact all of us. I'm discussing this issue with Band members at district community meetings and other talking circles to gain a sense of how the majority of Band members and Elders want me to vote at the MCT meeting.

To be enrolled in the MCT, a child must be born to an enrolled MCT member and have at least one-quarter Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood quantum. To be enrolled with the Mille Lacs Band, one parent must already be enrolled with Mille Lacs. One concern is that a growing number of children fall just below this mark. To address this, one proposal would include other Chippewa blood from outside the MCT. For instance, the MCT would count a child's Chippewa blood from tribes like the St. Croix Band of Chippewa (Wisconsin) or Red Lake Nation if the child has an MCT member as one of his or her parents.

The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) comprised of Secretary/Treasurers, and Chief Executives or Chairmen of all six bands of the MCT are expected to vote on an enrollment resolution in the near future. If you have an opinion on enrollments, please speak up at your community meeting or call my office at 320/532-7863.

In order to change the enrollment eligibility requirements, the MCT would first need to amend its Constitution, which would require a referendum vote. I will keep you updated on enrollment issues and let you know if the tribe decides to move forward with a referendum.

After holding many talking circles on this topic, most Band members who have shared their opinions are telling me that they do not want enrollment criteria to change. Instead, they are telling me they want the MCT to focus on researching and fixing the problems and mistakes that exist on current enrollment records.

These talking circles are very valuable to me and provide me with my direction in representing the Band. Once we are finished discussing enrollment issues, I will begin holding talking circles on another topic important to Band members.

I want to thank everyone who has attended these talking circles to discuss this important issue, and especially want to thank those who shared their opinions with me. Mii-gwetch!

### Do you have a question?

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

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

## Chief Executive's Calendar

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

- Hosted and attended Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission meeting
- Conducted a two-day cabinet meeting with all commissioners
- Participated in annual legislative meeting of the National Indian Gaming Association

- Held a compromise hearing with Band Assembly
- Participated in a Youth Leadership Council meeting
- Chaired a Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) housing board sub-committee meeting
- Participated in a meeting with Bureau of Indian Affairs officials at Fort Snelling
- Hosted an Elder Advisory Council meeting
- Held several talking circles with Band members on enrollment issues



## Meth Coalition Has New Name and Mission Statement

By Tammy Miller, Executive Planner/Meth Coalition Coordinator

The Meth Coalition has a new name – The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive’s “To Protect and To Serve our Communities” Coalition.

We also have a mission statement – “Through our culture, communities and families, our goal is to create healthy families, safe communities, and respect for our people, land and assets through support, education, prevention and enforcement so that we will ensure a successful future for our children, families and future generations.”

The name and mission statement was developed by coalition members at our meetings. We are at the point where we will start implementing some of the ideas and projects from the coalition members. Now we need you. As many of you may know, we have been meeting for over a year. We are at a point where each and everyone in the community can make a difference by taking back our communities. We will no longer tolerate drug abuse, underage drinking, or physical abuse of any sort in our communities.

Some may say that we have said this before, on more than one occasion, and that nothing has changed. In some cases you may be right, but let’s look at the big picture. It cannot change unless each and every one of us decides to change. Government cannot make change happen – it is done by individuals. Change is hard, but with it comes good things.

Please look for the mailing with the dates of future meetings. Your input is always welcome and you may attend any coalition meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the District I Community Center. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 320/532-7486 or tammym@millelacsojibwe.nsn.us.

### Bill allows tribes to apply for funding to fight meth use

In March, the United States House of Representatives passed the Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007. This bill amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to allow Indian tribes to apply for funding under three grant programs related to fighting meth use. The three programs are:

- Drug-Endangered Children Grant Program – provides services to children who live in homes where meth has been used or manufactured
- COPS Hot Spots Grant Program – helps law enforcement agencies reduce meth production and distribution, clean up meth labs, and support health and environmental services
- Pregnant and Parenting Women Offender Grant Program – assists in reducing meth use among pregnant women and those raising children

The bill now goes to the U.S. Senate for a vote.

## Governor Rejects Mille Lacs Band’s Request to Ask for State Boxing Official’s Resignation

Leading up to the first boxing bout to be sanctioned by the Mille Lacs Band’s Boxing Commission on March 17, Minnesota Boxing Executive Director Scott LeDoux asked two Minnesota boxing judges to not officiate the event at Grand Casino Hinckley. He also made derogatory comments about the Band to the *Duluth News Tribune*. In response, Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin asked Governor Tim Pawlenty to seek LeDoux’s resignation.

LeDoux told judges Jim Perrault and Scott Moe that if they worked the event, they would never again work a bout sanctioned by the Minnesota Boxing Commission. “They can’t do both. It’s about appearance,” he told the *Duluth News Tribune’s* Jon Nowacki (“Fight judges against the ropes,” March 17, 2007). LeDoux also called the Mille Lacs Band “stupid” multiple times to Perrault, indicating that the state’s commission would do a better job.

“Although Mr. LeDoux insists that ‘he didn’t say anything racist,’ I believe his comments speak for themselves,” Melanie said in her letter to the Governor. “He apparently believes it wouldn’t look good if the state’s judges also worked for bouts sanctioned by the Mille Lacs Band. What else could explain his statement that, ‘It’s about appearance?’”

Governor Pawlenty appointed LeDoux in 2006 when the state’s Boxing Commission was reinstated. Former Governor Ventura had abolished it in 2001 due to budget cuts.

“As a representative of the state, the Minnesota Boxing Commission’s Executive Director should be held accountable to a high standard of conduct,” Melanie said. “Mr. LeDoux’s conduct is offensive and inappropriate.”

District III Representative Harry Davis also expressed disappointment about LeDoux’s behavior. In a letter to the board of directors of the Minnesota Boxing Commission, he said, “I want to make sure that our lines of communication are open so that we can proceed with our common goal of promoting boxing in Minnesota . . . I also feel an apology is warranted.”

The Mille Lacs Band believes there is plenty of room in Minnesota for two boxing commissions, and that the Band and the state should work together to promote boxing.

### LeDoux remains in post

Despite his remarks, Scott LeDoux is still the Executive Director of the Minnesota Boxing Commission. Matt Kramer, Governor Pawlenty’s Chief of Staff, initially told the *Star Tribune* that, “Based on what we know, we don’t believe it rises to the level of resignation” (“Pawlenty to keep boxing official,” March 24, 2007).

However, since those remarks, the Governor’s Chief of Staff met with the judges in Duluth and listened to a tape of the conversation between a judge and LeDoux, which the judge says corroborates his claim that LeDoux did make derogatory remarks about the Band.

And *City Pages* reported that LeDoux recently sent a mass e-mail asking people to pray for him and to call the Governor to request that he remain in his post.

At the time of this printing, the Governor has not officially responded to the Chief Executive’s request that LeDoux step down, but sources say he is concerned and monitoring the situation closely.

## Band Members of All Ages Enjoy Reading the Ojibwe Inaajimowin



Jaelyn Palmer, the granddaughter of Mille Lacs Band Elder Ken Wade, attempts to read a past issue of the Ojibwe Inaajimowin.

Photo courtesy of the Wade family

## Interested in Owning Your Own Business?

By Sharon James, Small Business Development Program Coordinator

Urban classes are available specifically for Band members who are interested in owning a business or improving their managerial skills. Classes begin Monday, May 15 and run for 11

consecutive weeks (excluding holidays) from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The classes will be held at the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce community room.

If you would like to attend the class, please register by calling me at 800/746-9805, ext. 8817.



## Minnesota Supreme Court Extends Predatory Offender Law to Indian Reservations

On March 22, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in *State v. Jones* that predatory offenders living on Indian reservations must register their place of residency with the state. The Supreme Court decided that the matter of offender registration is criminal in nature – not civil – as the law was previously classified. This decision gives the state jurisdiction over predatory offenders living on Minnesota Indian reservations.

Minnesota tribes – except for the Red Lake Nation and the Bois Forte Band – fall under Public Law 280, which gives the state criminal jurisdiction over tribes, while tribes have civil jurisdiction over their members and reservations as sovereign governments. Although the Court's decision transfers the jurisdiction over predatory offenders to the state, the Band will remain actively involved.

The Band shares the state's concern about registering predatory offenders who live on Minnesota reservations and it does not want the Mille Lacs Reservation to be a safe haven for predators. The Band has already been voluntarily providing predatory offender information to the state since 2005, and will continue to comply with state law.

Even before the *State v. Jones* decision, the Band was working to register predatory offenders under the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act Law, which made it a felony for predatory offenders who do not register and created a national sex offender registry. Under this law, tribes subject to Public Law 280 are presumed to comply with state laws regarding predatory offenders starting in July 2007.

## Legislative Update

*By Jamie Edwards, Governmental Affairs Coordinator/State*

### Tribal veterans' offices to be funded

The Minnesota Senate passed a bill in late March to fund the creation of Tribal Veterans' Service Offices around the state with \$750,000 a year in the 2008-2009 budget cycle. This bill follows Governor Pawlenty's budget recommendation, and therefore is expected to receive the Governor's signature for final passage.

### Education and child welfare updates

There are several education-related proposals of interest to the tribes, including:

- a bill that would modify state education standards to include more education on the contributions of Minnesota's American Indians
- legislation to provide funding to help revitalize Dakota and Ojibwe languages
- a proposal that would reopen an Indian scholarship office in Bemidji

Also, as a result of the 11 tribal governments and the state signing an agreement in February to enhance the protection of Indian children in the child welfare system, legislation is currently proceeding that would bring state law into full

compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act.

### Harness track not given immediate card club privileges

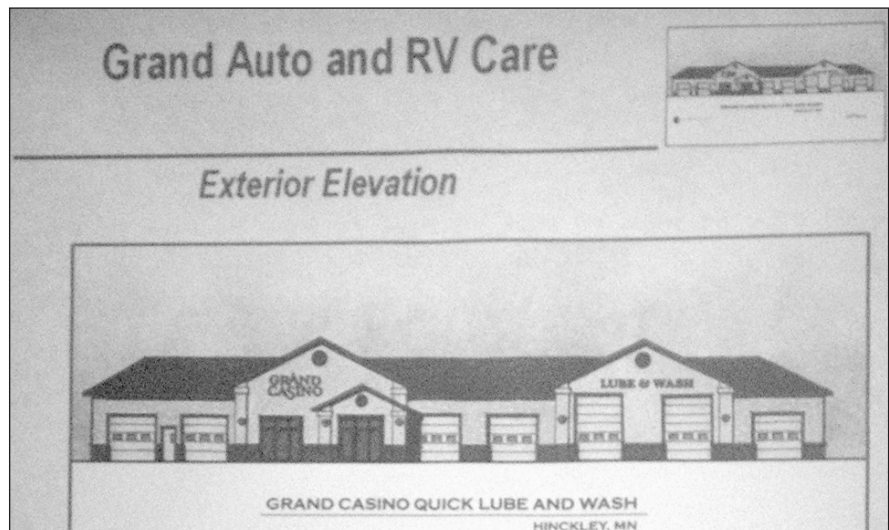
One of the proposals monitored most closely by the Band this session has been an exemption for the Columbus harness racetrack, which is scheduled to open in 2008 near Forest Lake at the junction of I-35W and I-35E. Existing state law requires the racetrack to complete 50 scheduled racing days before it is eligible for a card club. Racetrack owners wanted the Legislature to exempt them from this requirement.

In late March, the Minnesota Senate passed a bill that did NOT include language about an exemption. This means that the harness racetrack will need to start operating with racing alone. After 50 days of racing, the harness racetrack may open a card club.

While 50 days may not seem that significant, many experts agree that harness racing is not financially viable in Minnesota, and that the track's developers will have difficulty financing the project without the promise of a casino.

I will keep you posted on the status of these proposals as the session proceeds. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn by May 21.

## Proposed Maintenance Garage Discussed at District III Meeting



Elizabeth Towle

Community members learned about a proposed maintenance garage to be located near Grand Casino Hinckley (blueprint above) at the District III community meeting.

*By Elizabeth Towle, Government Affairs Administrative Assistant*

The March District III community meeting took place in the new addition of the Grand Casino Hinckley Convention Center. The ballroom filled up fast with about 200 Lake Lena community members in attendance. The first presenters were Sara Treiber and Martin Jennings from the Mille Lacs Band Corporate Commission. They informed community members of a maintenance garage proposal that would be located on the Grand Casino Hinckley grounds.

The primary intent of this project is to provide quick lube/routine maintenance services and a car wash. There would also be one bay car/RV wash and detail garage and two bay routine maintenance garages. Fluid changes, windshield wiper blade replacements, and other minor services would be provided.

There would possibly be eighteen positions available after the garage has opened including one general manager,

two assistant managers, two mechanics, seven lube technicians, and valet attendants to service vehicles that arrive under the Grand Casino Hinckley canopy. For job opportunities within the garage, the Corporate Commission would provide training for local community members. This new facility would also increase the Band's net revenue and diversify job opportunities.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin attended the meeting to inform the community about tribal enrollments and the possibility of changing the enrollment policy. Currently, all enrollments depend on the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's (MCT) Constitution. In order to modify the enrollment process, the MCT's Constitution would have to be amended. Melanie also spoke about the possibility that some enrollment records are inaccurate and suggested that hiring a person to research and correct the records may be a solution. See the Ask Melanie article on page two for more information.

## Healthy Heart Program Holds Monthly Classes on Healthy Lifestyles

The Healthy Heart Program holds monthly classes which include cooking demonstrations, motivational speakers, and fun learning experiences for people who are trying to improve their lifestyles and make healthier food choices. The next class will be held on April 10 at noon at the Ne-la-Shing Clinic; a healthy lunch will be provided. Herb Sam will be the guest speaker.

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



# Mille Lacs Band to Host Fifth Annual Economic Summit



On May 2, the Mille Lacs Band will host the fifth annual East Central Minnesota Business Development Summit from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The summit's theme, "Painting Economic Development Green," is a nod to the dual focus of the conference – renewable energy as an economic development tool and enhancing resources for area artists to develop the economy.

This annual summit brings together businesses, government agencies, economic development organizations and local artists to assess trends and generate ideas to work together on ensuring healthy, prosperous economies. Discussion topics will include art and economic development, tourism, and alternative energy options. There will also be specific break-out sessions that showcase regional companies' projects in the areas of wind energy, bio-mass, bio-diesel, and ethanol. There will be workshops for artists to develop and use the tools to grow their businesses and help their communities thrive.

As a result of the Band's first summit in 2003, the East Central Minnesota Tourism, Recreation, Arts and Crafts (TRAC) Association was developed. Judy Cain, East Central Minnesota TRAC Chair, will speak at this year's event about the association's progress in enhancing its Web site and helping people find information about local artists, tourism, recreation, and other events and opportunities.

This year's welcome will be presented by Curt Kalk, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of

Natural Resources, who will open the conference with a discussion on the Band's efforts in renewable and alternative energies. The keynote speaker will be Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture Gene Hugoson, who will give updates on the state's renewable energy programs and on its future plans to promote renewable energy as an economic development tool. The Band's new Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, Sarah Oquist, will emcee the conference and present a session on working with the Band. The conference will end with a networking reception during the First Annual East Central Minnesota TRAC Arts and Crafts Fair.

## Evening event to discuss "Building for the 21st Century"

This year's conference will have an evening event from 6 to 9 p.m., called "Building for the 21st Century," sponsored by the Initiative Foundation. It will include panelists and speakers who will explore the economic viability of prefabricated structures and components as an economic growth option for the central region. Panelists will share their expertise on trends in this industry.

In addition to the Corporate Commission, sponsors of the economic summit include Woodlands Bank, the Initiative Foundation, East Central Electric and Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative, and Minnesota Power.

The event is open to the public and costs \$55 to register. For more information and to register, contact Sara Schlegel at 320/532-8816 or [sschlegel@grcasinos.com](mailto:sschlegel@grcasinos.com). A complete listing of the agenda can be found at [www.corporatecommission.com](http://www.corporatecommission.com).

# Fitness vs. Wellness

By Jim Ingle, Fitness Coordinator

In February, we started the yearlong Chief's Fitness Challenge to help Band members and employees lose weight and stay healthy. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin initiated and sponsored the challenge, and Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose is overseeing its implementation.

The Chief's Fitness Challenge can be the beginning of living life in wellness. Wellness is much more than fitness, but fitness is a step toward wellness. Fitness is the condition of the body which enables an individual to use his or her body in activities requiring strength, muscular endurance, cardio-respiratory fitness, flexibility, coordination, agility, power, balance and speed without undue experience of fatigue and exhaustion.

Wellness is the condition of an individual that considers health, disease status and risk potential. There are varying degrees of wellness ranging from death to optimal wellness. To many people, wellness is the opposite of illness – if you are not ill then you are well. This view of wellness is negative and narrow and may be due to the role of traditional medicine in our culture. The medical system has been centered around the need to care for the sick, treat symptoms of disease, and find cures. This approach will bring a person back to a neutral position in what is called the wellness-illness continuum (see below).

Illness	Neutral point	Wellness
Death		Optimum wellness

Health or wellness is not just the absence of disease or infirmity, but it is a state of positive well-being. It is wrapped up in the theory of the unity of the whole person – the mental, physical, spiritual and social-emotional dimensions of life. Traditional medicine considers disease signs and symptoms, disability and ultimate death.

## Preventive health care

In the late 1970s, I had my first experience with preventive medicine working with a patient to help prevent the onset of a number of degenerative or lifestyle-related diseases such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Preventive medicine considers education, growth, development, self-actualization and the emergence of optimal wellness or total well-being.

Health professionals feel more than half the deaths that occur in America could be prevented or at least delayed (no one gets out of life alive) by practicing more positive lifestyle behaviors. Dr. Kenneth Cooper, innovator of the concept of aerobics and founder of the Cooper Institute of Preventive Medicine, calls this "compressed morbidity," which is being able to live your life well or healthy until you die.

In 1900, the leading causes of death in the U.S. were from infectious diseases. Today, most deaths are due to poor lifestyles. Prevention is the first step toward high levels of wellness for individuals. The Chief's Fitness Challenge is a yearlong program designed to help us start on the journey to total wellness. Achieving physical fitness is a great way to start making lifestyle changes.

Come into your local fitness center and sign up for the Chief's Fitness Challenge; make a positive change.

# Informational Meetings Regarding Cancer Prevention and Screening

The Public Health Department and Ne-la-Shing Clinic have formed a partnership with the American Cancer Society to bring educational information on cancer prevention and screening to Mille Lacs Band members, community members, and Band employees. Informational meetings will be held in each of the three districts:

- District I Community Center – Friday, May 11, 8 a.m. to noon
- East Lake Community Center – Monday, April 30, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Lake Lena Community Center – Friday, April 27, noon to 3 p.m.

A light luncheon will be provided to participants as well as incentives such as informational handouts, gift cards and other giveaways. If you have any questions, please call Marlene Poukka at 800/709-6445, ext. 7812.

The Newspaper of the Mille Lacs Band

## OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

"The story as it's told."

Kelly Sam, Editor

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Please provide news tips and other information by the 25th of each month.



## Circle of Health Reminders and Updates

By Circle of Health Staff

### Annual update

Circle of Health has still not received all annual updates from Band members. The Enrollment Form and Consent for Release of Confidential Information are forms that need to be completed annually. Files will be audited in the near future; any Band member's file that is missing this information will be put on a "hold for reimbursement" status until the forms are received.

The Release of Confidential Information is necessary for Circle of Health staff to be allowed to talk directly to health/dental providers regarding claims, an insurance agency regarding premiums, other Health and Human Services departments, or designated family members who may be assisting a Band member due to a health condition. If you receive personal reimbursements, you should have received these forms with your last reimbursement check. If you have not received them, please call our office so that we can mail them to you.

### Office visits

In addition to providing your primary insurance cards at office visits, please show your Circle of Health card at each time of admission. If you do not provide your Circle of Health card, they will not bill us. This happens even if they have the information on file from previous visits. If you have lost or misplaced your Circle of Health card, please contact your

claims processor at 320/532-5358 to get another one:

- David Boyd, Claims Processor for A-L
- Roberta Lemieux, Claims Processor for M-Z

### Dental claims

The following information is provided to follow up and further clarify March's Circle of Health article:

Ne-la-Shing Dental Clinic provides free dental care to Band members who are not covered by a dental plan. However, you will be required to apply for dental/medical insurance to see if you are eligible. In special cases where the Ne-la-Shing Dental Clinic cannot do a particular procedure, a referral will be made. An insurance policy must be in place in order for a referral to be made, unless it is an emergency determined by the dentist on staff. Once a referral is made, any uncovered insurance charges may be billed to the Ne-la-Shing Dental Clinic. If you go to another dental clinic without a referral, you will be responsible for any charges incurred.

### Reimbursements

On a final note, please allow reimbursement claims a two- to six-week grace period from the date of submission to process. If you still haven't received a reimbursement or denial after six weeks, contact your claims processor or Circle of Health Director Michele Palomaki at 320/532-5358.

## Severe Weather Awareness Week Promotes Safety During Storms

By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator

On April 9 to 13, the National Weather Service (NWS) held Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota to remind people of the dangers of severe weather. NWS provided information on various weather topics that we should remember yearlong including:

- **Severe thunderstorms** – Severe storms can have wind gusts of 58 miles per hour or higher and may be accompanied by large hail and tornadoes. If you are outdoors when a thunderstorm hits, move inside and stay away from windows. If you are on a lake, move to shore immediately.
- **Flash floods** – These can result from heavy rains, ice jams on rivers, or failure of dams. In Minnesota, an average of five flash floods occur each year. Vehicles can float in shallow water and cause loss of control, so never drive into flood waters.
- **Tornadoes** – Last year there were 25 tornadoes in Minnesota. Although the peak tornado months are May and June, they can happen any time when conditions are right. In the event of a tornado, move to a basement or the lowest floor and stay away from windows. You

should also move to an enclosed area such as a closet, bathroom, or under a table. If you are in your vehicle or in a mobile home, find a building or other sturdy shelter as quickly as possible.

- **Lightning** – It is important to remember that all thunderstorms produce lightning. If you are outside when lightning is present, avoid standing near tall objects, such as a lone tree, or other objects such as a chain link fence, which can attract lightning.

More information about severe weather can be found at [www.hsem.state.mn.us](http://www.hsem.state.mn.us).

### Weather radios provide warnings during storms

In February, the Band placed National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios in all Band facilities. These radios broadcast weather warnings and general weather information. During Severe Weather Awareness Week, these radios tested the severe weather warnings.

Weather radios are useful in your home and outdoors and can be purchased at general retail stores. For more information, visit [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr).

## Casinos to Feature George Jones, Merle Haggard, and More this Summer

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley have begun to fill their summer concert lineups. Performances will include:

### Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center

- Blake Shelton on Friday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m.  
Hits include: "Austin," "The Baby," and "Goodbye Time"
- Merle Haggard on Sunday, June 24, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
Hits include: "Hungry Eyes," "I'm a Lonesome Fugitive," and "Okie from Muskogee"
- Comedian Rita Rudner on Thursday, July 12, and Friday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. each night

### Grand Casino Hinckley Events & Convention Center

- "The Man in Black" – A Tribute to Johnny Cash on Sunday, May 6 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- George Jones on Sunday, May 20, at 4 p.m.  
Hits include: "The Door," "He Stopped Loving Her Today," and "I Don't Need Your Rockin' Chair"  
To purchase tickets, visit the Grand Casino Hinckley or Grand Casino Mille Lacs box offices, call Ticketmaster at 651/989-5151, contact any Ticketmaster outlet, or visit [www.grandcasinomn.com](http://www.grandcasinomn.com).

## Mille Lacs Band Holds its First Pro-Am Boxing Event



The Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission held its first professional boxing event on Saturday, March 17, at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events & Convention Center. Commissioners are (left to right) Gary Davis, Jeff Boyd, Wallace St. John, Ron Davis, Dean Staples, and Mike Christenson, who were on hand for the event along with District III Representative Harry Davis.



# Nay Ah Shing Schools Update

By Eric North, Nay Ah Shing School Principal

## Nay Ah Shing students to work with university on environmental research



Photo courtesy of Eric North

*Nay Ah Shing staff will help students get involved in a summer environmental research project with St. Cloud State University, other colleges, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. From left to right: Eric North, Nay Ah Shing Schools Principal; Larry Hansen, Nay Ah Shing Science Teacher; and Richard Rothaus from St. Cloud State University.*

Nay Ah Shing students, working in conjunction with St. Cloud State University, will perform environmental research that will benefit the Mille Lacs Band now and in the future. This summer, selected

Nay Ah Shing School students will work with college students throughout Minnesota on environmental research. The theory behind the project is research, creativity and service, and the projects investigated will directly benefit the communities in which the studies have occurred.

Some of the topics that will be investigated by the students over the summer are contaminants and their impact on fish, wild rice strains, Lake Onamia vegetation, and metal quantities in sediments. The results of this research will benefit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Mille Lacs Band. It is our hope that these real life experiences will continue to spark our students' interests in science and environmental studies.

St. Cloud State University, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Rainy River Community College, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Nay Ah Shing Schools will all be working together on this project. This is another example of the great opportunities students have that attend Nay Ah Shing Schools.

## Magic at Nay Ah Shing



Photo courtesy of Eric North

*Students enjoyed a magic show as a reward for creating a safe educational environment at Nay Ah Shing Schools.*

Students at both the elementary and high school were entertained with magic by Twin Cities world-renowned magician Norm Knight. Cards disappeared and reappeared, and newspapers that once were torn into pieces magically became one again under the watchful eyes of Nay Ah Shing students and staff. The magician performed for students in early education through high school. Student Dena Staples said, "Norm's show was fantastic!" Another student, Amber Shingobe, said, "When he pulled coins out of people's hair, ears and pockets, I thought it was cool. He made a dollar bill into a twenty dollar bill – it was really cool!"

Students were rewarded for creating a safe educational environment in their school for all students that attend. "Our students have worked together to make their school safe for everyone," said Mary Simon, Dean of Students.

The students have worked hard to reduce incidents of violence by working together with school staff to solve problems in positive, productive ways. This was a lot of fun for our students. We are very proud of our students' gains and hope that the skills they are learning will benefit both them and their community in the future.

# Internship Opportunity for Two Band Member College Students

By Berni Johnson, Corporate Director of Band Member Development

Welsh, a full-service commercial real estate company that provides services to clients worldwide, has two internship opportunities available for Band members enrolled in a four-year school. The company's expertise extends into every aspect of commercial real estate including office, industrial and retail brokerage; corporate services; property management; facility management; general business maintenance; construction; community development services; architecture; development; mortgage banking; and investment services. Welsh is headquartered in Bloomington with offices in downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. **The internships are based in the metro area.**

Interns work regular business hours Monday through Friday

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The internship program is set up for 40 hours per week; the pay is \$12 per hour. Typical internships are in the areas of brokerage, marketing, property management, and accounting. Enrollment in a four-year college program is required. Candidates can be in any year in school, so long as they are majoring in marketing, business administration, psychology, finance or similar majors (these are typical majors of past interns). The company is looking for candidates who have high initiative, are self-starters, are able to work independently, are flexible and willing to learn, and are able to ask questions to move projects/assignments forward.

For more information, contact me at 320/532-8872 or visit Welsh Companies online at [www.welshco.com](http://www.welshco.com).

# Mille Lacs Band Home Renovation Project

Homeowners, do you need help fixing up your home? The Mille Lacs Band Housing Department has a grant/loan program that will assist Band member homeowners in refurbishing their homes to safe and standard conditions. Applicants who meet the income guidelines and other policy requirements for the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development grant and tribal loan program may be awarded up to \$35,000 toward their home renovations. The maximum loan portion of \$20,000 will be amortized over a 10-year period at one percent; the maximum grant award is \$15,000. Each qualified applicant will be required by the Housing Department to sign a 10-year retention agreement for their refurbished home.

If you are a homeowner who resides in the 30-mile radius around the Band's three districts or in the Urban Area and you feel this is a program for you, contact Outreach Specialist Ruth Sam at 800/709-6445, ext. 7842 or 320/532-7842 to receive a complete application and more information. You can also send your request to Ruth at:

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Housing Department  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

The following are the income limit guidelines for the Mille Lacs Housing Department home rehabilitation project:

Family size:	Income limit:
1	38,500
2	44,000
3	45,500
4	55,000
5	59,500
6	64,000
7	68,500
8	73,000
9	77,000
10	81,500



## Free Hearing Evaluations

### Ne-la-Shing Clinic

When: Friday, May 12  
 To schedule an appointment, call 320/532-4163.  
 Walk-ins are welcome, we will do our best to serve you.

### Twin Cities locations

Where: Hearmore Hearing offices in St. Paul, Osseo, and Bloomington  
 When: Monday-Friday  
 To schedule an appointment, please call the St. Paul office at 651/771-4019, the Osseo office at 763/391-7433, or the Bloomington office at 952/884-3007.

Please check your insurance policy to find out if you are eligible for \$1,000 toward the purchase of hearing aids.

## Tune in to KKIN & KBEK

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

### KKIN radio – 94.3 FM

**April 19, 8:30 a.m.**  
 Curt Kalk and Don Wedll  
 Topic: Sugarbushing

**May 12, 8:30 a.m.**  
 Curt Kalk and Don Wedll  
 Topic: Forestry preservation and fire prevention

### KBEK radio – 95.5 FM

**April 17, 7:30 a.m.**  
 Larry Smallwood  
 Topic: Cultural grounds

**May 15, 7:30 a.m.**  
 Kenny Weyaus  
 Topic: Mille Lacs Indian Museum

# Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

November 2006

	Approved Budget for FY 2007	Actual Expenditures through 11/30/06	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	12,858,142	1,326,210	10.3%
Workforce*	7,161,061	812,543	11.3%
Judicial	947,319	111,077	11.7%
Law Enforcement*	3,650,553	446,933	12.2%
Education*	17,112,323	1,922,841	11.2%
Health and Human Services*	19,530,702	2,426,233	12.4%
Natural Resources*	4,492,447	747,333	17.7%
Community Development*	32,140,968	3,128,518	9.7%
Gaming Authority (5)	4,271,016	485,712	11.4%
Bonus Distribution	12,402,340	12,402,557	100.0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$114,581,871</b>	<b>\$23,859,957</b>	<b>20.8%</b>

### Financial Notes:

- (1) Administration includes Chief Executive, administration, finance, Solicitor General, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- (2) The amounts above do not include casino operations. However, they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
- (3) The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has its financial statements audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center.
- (4) Economic development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997. As of October 1, 1997, the Band has separate accounting functions for the Corporate Commission from the tribal government.
- (5) The Gaming Authority is operating on a three-month continuing resolution for FY 2007.

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

## Think Spring and Think Safety

### By Daria Day, Bureau of Indian Affairs Contractor

April is wildfire prevention month and gives us a chance to reflect on wildfire safety and our role in protecting our families and communities. Last year the number of wildfires on the Mille Lacs Reservation increased; all of these fires were caused by humans. Any wildfire has the potential to destroy lives, homes and natural resources that support the Band. Our community can make a difference. Together we can reduce the number of human-caused fires.

The Mille Lacs Wildfire Prevention Program, working in conjunction with the Mille Lacs Department of Natural Resources, is going to focus on three areas this year.

### Education

Last year more than 52% of human-caused fires were started by juveniles. We will continue to offer educational opportunities at Nay Ah Shing Schools and Head Start to teach children about fire safety. It is

even more important for parents to teach their children to respect fire and natural resources, which are precious to our community.

If a parent feels that their child may need some extra help with wildfire education and safety, they can contact the Mille Lacs Wildfire Prevention Program at 320/532-5100 or 218/341-0708. This program can help connect children – especially those with a history of fire-setting behavior – to resources designed for small group education.

### Home assessments

The Mille Lacs Forestry and Fire Prevention staff will be working in the communities this summer. We will be evaluating the wildfire safety of homes on the reservation and talking with residents about steps they can take to improve the survivability of their homes in the event of a wildfire. Each visit will take approximately 30 minutes and will help to empower residents to take precautions against wildfires.

### Law enforcement

Any wildfire that is suspected of being caused by humans will be investigated by a wildfire arson investigator. Individuals found responsible for starting wildfires will be held accountable to the full extent of the law. This summer you may see WeTip signs in the community. WeTip is a national nonprofit organization that has operators who take anonymous tips about arson and other crimes. Tips are always anonymous and can be made by calling 800/78-CRIME or by visiting [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com). WeTip hotlines are answered by bilingual operators 24 hours a day all year. A reward of up to \$10,000 is possible if the information provided leads to an arrest and conviction. The reward amount is based on how valuable the tip is in solving a case.

As winter starts to fade, remember to think spring and think safety!



## New State Guidelines for Child Support

**By East Central Legal Services**

In January 2007, Minnesota started new guidelines for setting child support called Income Shares. Income Shares set child support by looking at the gross income – the total income before taxes are taken out – of both parents. There will be deductions for other child or spousal support ordered as well as consideration for parents with children living with them other than those involved in the child support.

Additionally, there is a change in the type of paperwork that you will need to file and the supporting documents that you have to attach. Child support has three parts:

- Basic support – Part of your child's expenses such as food, clothing, housing and transportation
- Child care support – Part of your child care costs when you work or go to school
- Medical support – All or part of health insurance and other medical costs for your child

There were many changes made to the child support laws. If you have any questions regarding these changes or would like a copy of our free fact sheet, "Getting Child Support," please call East Central Legal Services at 800/622-7772. East Central Legal Services is also available for walk-in appointments at the following sites:

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

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

## Sheltering Lodges, Inc.

**By Sheltering Lodges, Inc. Staff**

Boozhoo. We would like to inform you that Sheltering Lodges, Inc. has been established as a waived service provider for all people with disabilities in Minnesota who possess the Mental Retardation/Related Conditions (MR/RC) Waiver administered by Medicare, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and your local county. We are committed to providing culturally relevant waived services to Minnesota American Indians with disabilities. Sheltering Lodges, Inc. is the first and only American Indian owned, operated and licensed 245B waived service provider in Minnesota.

Currently, we are contracted with Hennepin County to provide residential-based habilitation waived services and we plan to contract with other counties and set up regional offices in Bemidji and Duluth. However, we can work with people who have an MR/RC Waiver throughout the state to arrange a service program for them.

At this time we offer the following waived services: in-home family support,

personal support, respite care, and independent living support. These services can include helping someone with laundry, taking someone to a powwow, or providing grocery shopping assistance. We work with our clients to develop a customized service plan to fit their needs and wants – physically, socially and culturally.

We are also working to provide services and living arrangements in the future for people who have the Elderly Waiver. There are developments taking place within Medicare and the Minnesota Department of Health which will allow people currently residing in nursing homes to move into group homes. After this process is finalized, Sheltering Lodges can provide these services. If you have questions or comments, please visit our Web site at [www.shelteringlodges.com](http://www.shelteringlodges.com) or contact:

- Rick Powers, Executive Director, at 612/865-6544 or [rick@shelteringlodges.com](mailto:rick@shelteringlodges.com)
- Ken Nitsche, Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP), at 612/865-2015 or [ken@shelteringlodges.com](mailto:ken@shelteringlodges.com)

## Safety Preparation Important to Everyone

**By Rob Thompson, Safety/Risk Manager, Mille Lacs Band Government**

March was Red Cross Month and, although it is over, it serves as a good reminder about the importance of safety preparation yearlong.

The American Red Cross challenges each of us to take responsibility for our own safety and that of our families, homes and neighborhoods. By following these basic steps, we can all move toward greater safety:

### Make a plan

Design a family disaster plan. Choose two places to meet outside your home and neighborhood in the event of an emergency. Determine the best escape routes from your home and out of your community.

### Build a kit

Assemble a disaster supply kit with items needed if you are confined to your home or place of business for an extended period of time. Your home kit should contain food, water, a radio, and a flashlight. Your portable kit should include water, food, first aid supplies, a blanket, a flashlight, a radio, batteries, and medications.

### Get trained and learn to save lives

The Red Cross has classes in first aid, CPR, defibrillator use, and disaster preparedness. The Band also holds free CPR classes on the reservation for Band

members and employees to be certified in Heartsaver CPR (which includes training on recognizing emergency situations such as choking and heart attacks) and first aid. The classes are held monthly and by appointment; each class takes approximately four hours. For more information about upcoming classes, contact Lola Austin at 320/532-4163, ext. 2502.

The Band is also planning to hold a first responder course this spring for Band members and employees. First responders are trained in CPR, defibrillator use, basic patient stabilization (which includes the use of splints and backboards), and initial assessments of patients. They are on-call to respond to emergency medical situations before other medical personnel arrive. For more information, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320/532-4181, ext. 2558.

### Donate blood

Become a regular blood donor to ensure that the blood supply meets all needs, all of the time. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood, but only five percent of the eligible population donates blood. The Onamia Vets Club holds about six blood drives a year; its next blood drive is May 21 from noon to 6 p.m. For more information about donating blood, contact the Red Cross at 800/426-2164 or visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

## April Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum And Trading Post

### Sweet grass basket workshop

Sweet grass is considered a sacred herb in American Indian culture and is known for its aromatic fragrance. Participants will learn how to construct and coil baskets made from sweet grass during this two-day workshop, which will be on Saturday, April 28 from 12-4 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, April 29. The cost is \$50 for the public, \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members, and \$30 for Mille Lacs Band members. There is also a \$10 supply fee.

All workshops and events are subject to change or cancellation. Please call to confirm before attending any scheduled event.

### Hours of operation

The museum and trading post opened on April 5. Public hours are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 12-5 p.m. Group tours can also be scheduled by calling the museum at 320/532-3632. Interactive television programming and outreach programming are also available.



## Tribal Noteboard

### Happy April birthday to:

**Sheila Misquadace**, on April 24 from Grandma Agnes • **Keith Misquadace**, on April 27 from Grandma Agnes • **Darian Misquadace**, on April 30 from Great Grandma Agnes • **Barry and Brandon Bearheart**, 22, on April 1 with love from mom, sister JoAnna, Momzie (Kathy), big brudder, and Flo • **Trina Fast Horse**, 10, on April 9 from mom, sister, Brother Bear, Oeze, and your cuzin JoAnna Lynn • **Eloise Colton**, on April 6 from Jen Wadena • **April Boyd**, on April 6 with love from Uncle Jeff, Auntie Melissa, Branden, Bradley, Anthony, Amber, Alyssa, Aaron, Jeffrey Jr., Isabelle, Gram Barb, Pat, and Jen Wadena • **Branden Buckanaga-Sargent**, on April 10 with love from mom, dad, Bradley, Anthony, Amber, Alyssa, Aaron, Isabelle, Jeffrey Jr., Grandma Barb, and Pat • **Melissa Boyd**, on April 13, with love from Hubby, Branden, Bradley, Anthony, Amber, Alyssa, Aaron, Isabelle, Jeffrey Jr., Ma and Pat • **Becky**, on April 23 with love from grandma and family • **Jada Harrington**, on April 24 from Uncle Phil, Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, and John • **Keaona Harrington**, on April 27 from Uncle Phil, Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, and John • **Deb Smith**, on April 15 with love from Tam, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Jessica Benjamin**, on April 28 with love from Auntie Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Kevin Stobb**, on April 8 with love from Auntie Tam, Uncle Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Julie**, on April 14 with love from Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **George Jackson Jr.**, on April 10 with love from your family - Tara, Shawn, Geo, Troy, and Isaiah Jackson • **Diamond Rose**, 1, on April 3 with love from Aunty Tara and cousins Shawn, Geo, Troy, and Isaiah • **Brooklyn**, 1, on April 15 with love from Aunty Tara and cousins Shawn, Geo, Troy, and Isaiah • **Bruce Boyd**, 25, April 5 with love from mom, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Jr., Franny, Selena, Mary, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Sheila, Shawsha, Jim, Jack, Jo, Jo, Dante, Donni, Mase Jr., Greg, Marrisona, Derek Jr., and Mase Sr. • **Daddy**, 28, on April 15 with love from

DeaLayna Rose, Stone, Derek Jr., and Frances Rose • **Derek Shingobe Sr.**, 28, on April 15 with love from Danielle, Mase Jr., and Shawsha • **Sheila Marie Edington**, 1, on April 23 with love from mommy, daddy, Simone, Marrisona, Greg, Donni, Joey, Danielle, Gramma Verra, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek Jr., Franny, Mary, Selena, Dante, Mase Jr., Mase Sr., Shawsha, Jim, Jack, Bruce, and Nette • **Lindsay**, April 20 from mom, Cilla, Jason, Trina, and Deze • **Dorothy A.**, on April 1, with love from Auntie, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Bushey, Baby Boy, Baby Girl, Lil Baby Girl, and Num-Num-Boo-Boo • **Kelia A.**, 1, on April 20 with love from mom, Uncle Richard, PaPa, Pendee, Aunt Candy, Cousins Cyrell B., Rod Jr. and Jon, and Grandma and Grandpa Bushey • **Bull**, April 21 with love from your Marvelous Wife • **William Jordan**, April 28 from your dad, mom, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, aunt, uncle, and cousins Disco, Baby Girl, Lil Baby Girl, and Num-Num-Boo-Boo • **Tre'von Sams**, 6, on April 5 from mom, Bubble, Quincey, Berney, Willie, Dehlina, the Villebruns, Jeff, BT, Felicia, Tara, and Krissy • **Greg**, 15, on April 26 with love from dad, Rachel, Simone, Marissa, Donni, Joey, Sheila, Mary, Mase Sr., Selena, Dante, Mase Jr., Shawsha, Vera, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek Jr., and Bruce • **Grandpa Juice**, on April 14 with love from Judy, Val, Sam, Sarah, and all your grandkids • **Govi & Pooh**, on April 2 with love from Mal • **Amy LaDue**, on April 2 with love from Kevin, Devin and Sophie • **Kevin LaDue**, April 24 with love from Amy, Devin and Sophie • **Nathan Bugg**, on April 13 from Kevin, Amy, Devin and Sophie • **Justin Mitchell**, on April 15 from Kevin, Amy, Devin and Sophie • **Laila Marie Mitchell**, on April 20 from Kevin, Amy, Devin and Sophie • **"Skyy" Chaddy Skinaway**, 14, on April 20 with love from mom, dad, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Huck, B'dub, Diamond, Owen, "T. I.", Grandma Tisha, Tina, Nate, Jay and family, Paul Bunny, Carrie, APB and family, Grandma Loris, Deondre, Uncle Jim, and "Your Big Hip" • **Amy, Beth and Cari**, on April 2 from Laila • **Jamie Rae Boswell**, on April 6 from Aunty Terri, Uncle Jerod, Frybread, Christopher, Keith Antwaun, Laila, and Baby Wax • **Kendra Boxwell**, on April 7 from Aunty Terri, Uncle

Jerod, Frybread, Christopher, Keith Antwaun, Laila, and Baby Wax • **Richard Davis**, on April 14 from your neighbors on Henry Davis Dr. • **All who share our special day**, on April 15 from Terri Boswell • **Kateri Boswell and Justin Mitchell**, on April 15 from Ricki, Laila, Antwaun, Baby Wax, Jaagaab, Keippytyme, Jerod, Tawney, Babycat, Narcotic, and Baby the Bird • **Neemah**, on April 15 love Antwaun, Laila, Baby Wax, Babycat and Narcotic • **Meat Fingers**, on April 15 from Jerod • **Ernie Boyd**, on April 16 from Terri, Cheyenne, Jaagaab, Nubby, Keippy, and your crew on Henry Davis Dr. • **Laila**, 3, on April 20 with love from Neemah, Jerod, Uncles Shannon, Jaagaab, Keippy and Bubby, Danielle, Jeremy, and Caleb • **Marge Anderson**, on April 21 from Terri, Jerod, Christopher, Keith, Laila, Antwaun, Justin Jr., Frances, Mitzi, Cheyenne, and the rest of the crew on Henry Davis Dr. • **Squeeze (Ray Kegg)**, on April 27 from Terri • **Elizabeth Towle**, 21, on April 2 from your parents Carol and Leo Towle.

### Happy birthday in April to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Marge Anderson  
Dorothy Aubid  
Terry Beaulieu  
Donivon Boyd  
Russell Boyd  
Peggy Bush  
Sharon Chavarria  
Bernice Crown  
Nancy Foster  
Reginald Garbow  
Barbara Grey Bull  
Duane Haaf  
Gwendolyn Hanold  
James Houle  
Darryl Jackson  
Elsie Karsjens  
Evelyn Kegg  
Raymond Kegg  
Ada Merrill  
Russell Nayquonabe  
Gloria Nickaboine  
Donald Oswaldson  
Jeannette Oswaldson  
Darlene Savage  
Gloria Songetay  
Leonard Wind

### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Wayne Potter**, who graduated from high school. *From mom, dad and the rest of the Potters.*

• • •  
Congratulations to **Maria Potter**, who graduated from high school. *From Aunt Shelly, Uncle Joe, and family.*

• • •  
Congratulations to **Ashley Dauphinais**, for being on the B honor roll *from mom, Corrina, Austin, Corey and Grandma Bunny.*

### Anniversary

Happy second anniversary to **Jerod and Kateri** *from your kids and grandchildren.*

### In memory

In loving memory of **James "Tuggo" Mitchell**, our dad, on his birthday, April 25.

*There are times when I go for hours without a thought of you.*

*Sometimes even days have passed with just a tear or two.*

*Some days I think I may get by without hurting deep inside.*

*And I count the hours that have passed since the last time I cried.*

*There are times I look ahead to a future without you.*

*When I have to face the world alone and I don't know what I'll do.*

*Then again the tears well up like when you went away.*

*And I try again to hold them back for an hour or a day.*

Gone but never forgotten...

• • •  
In loving memory of **Lindsey Dale Sam**, May 18, 1986-March 18, 2006.

*Dang brother, I can't believe it's already been a year. To me it seems like it was only Saturday you were still here crackin' jokes and bringing smiles to our faces.*

*It was such a joy being your sister, I was lucky enough to have had you in my life those precious 19 years. I miss your smile, your laugh, and your cheers. You were such a good brother Lindsey. Marissa, Little Lon, and Angel couldn't have asked for a better uncle. To me there's no such thing as far away because I feel you in my heart everyday.*

*It took a while to realize that your in a better place because now only time will dull this pain. I want you to know we're all okay. We love you and miss you Linz. Even though your gone you'll never be forgotten, and I'll see you again one day. Love always, your Sister Shawna*



# Calendar of Events

## April 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Sarah Oquist,</b> <b>Commissioner of</b> <b>Corporate Affairs</b> 877/239-2444	16	17	18 <b>District III Meeting</b> GCH Hotel Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 877/884-6240 <b>East Central Legal Services</b> 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	19 <b>All District Elder Meeting</b> GCML 5:30 p.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181	20 <b>Frankie Valli*</b> GCML 7:30 p.m. both nights	21 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Pete Nayquonabe,</b> <b>Chief Executive Office Director</b> 877/239-2444
22 <b>Brad Garrett*</b> GCH 6 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Pete Nayquonabe,</b> <b>Chief Executive Office Director</b> 877/239-2444	23	24 <b>District II Meeting</b> East Lake Community Center 6 p.m. Contact: Mary Sue Bohanon, 218/768-3311 <b>Sobriety Feast</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Bea Mitchell, 320/532-7585	25 <b>District IIA Meeting</b> Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Marvin Bruneau, 218/768-3311 <b>East Central Legal Services</b> 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	26 <b>All offices closed for Art Gahbow Day</b> <b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Pat or Cindy, 612/872-1424	27	28 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Sam Moose,</b> <b>Commissioner of Health &amp; Human Services</b> 877/239-2444
29 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Sam Moose,</b> <b>Commissioner of Health &amp; Human Services</b> 877/239-2444	30 <b>District I Community Meeting</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Becky Sam, 320/532-7423			<i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar,</i> <b>please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at 255 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 102 St. Paul, MN 55101</b>	<b>Commissioners On Call</b> A Mille Lacs Band commissioner is available every weekend to help Band members handle emergencies. If you have an emergency, please contact the commissioner on call at 877/239-2444. The emergency phone is answered from 5 p.m. Friday- 8 a.m. Monday.	<b>*To Purchase Tickets</b> <b>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 612/989-5151, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</b>

## May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <b>East Central Legal Services</b> 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	3 <b>Blake Shelton*</b> GCML 7:30 p.m. both nights	4	5 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Joycelyn Shingobe,</b> <b>Commissioner of Education</b> 877/239-2444
6 <b>Johnny Cash Tribute*</b> GCH 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Joycelyn Shingobe,</b> <b>Commissioner of Education</b> 877/239-2444	7 <b>Onamia Indian Education Parent Committee Meeting</b> Onamia School District Office Conference Room 12 p.m.	8	9 <b>East Central Legal Services</b> 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	10	11 <b>All offices close at noon</b>	12 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Curt Kalk,</b> <b>Commissioner of Natural Resources</b> 877/239-2444
13 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> <b>Curt Kalk,</b> <b>Commissioner of Natural Resources</b> 877/239-2444	14 <b>AMVETS Meeting</b> GCML 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925 <b>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting</b> Aazhoomog School 6:30 p.m. Contact: Skip Churchill, 320/384-6970	15	16 <b>District III Meeting</b> GCH Hotel Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 877/884-6240 <b>East Central Legal Services</b> 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	17 <b>All District Elder Meeting</b> GCML 5:30 p.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181	18	19



# Why is it important to know the Ojibwe language?

**Andy Mitchell**



Elizabeth Towle

*"Knowing the Ojibwe language is important because it keeps our culture and traditions alive. When I teach children Ojibwe, they also learn to appreciate it because it's a part of our religion and beliefs."*

**Bette Sam**



Elizabeth Towle

*"Ojibwe was our main language when I was growing up, and I don't want my children or grandchildren to lose touch with their culture. If you tell an Ojibwe joke in English it loses its translation and isn't funny. The same goes for the legends; if you tell them in English rather than Ojibwe, it doesn't make any sense."*

**Larry Smallwood**



Chris Segarra

*"We were given the Ojibwe language from the creator to help us pray and to do our ceremonies. If we don't continue to use and learn our language, we are going to be a lost identity."*

**Rick Anderson**



Elizabeth Towle

*"Teaching and speaking the Ojibwe language preserves our history and ancestors' ways of life and tradition."*

**Louise Davis**



Elizabeth Towle

*"If we lost our language, the Ojibwe people would eventually be forgotten. We use our language at various ceremonies such as funerals, drum ceremonies, and namesake ceremonies. If we didn't have the Ojibwe language, it would be impossible to perform these important events."*

**Barb Benjamin-Robertson**



Kelly Sam

*"It feels good to speak the language given to us by the Creator. Our ancestors spoke the language for centuries. My grandma spoke fluently and I knew what she said then, and now I am taking language classes (specifically Mille Lacs dialect) so I can recall my conversations with my grandma."*

# Community and Employee Spring Cleanups

*By Tony Pike, Solid Waste Supervisor*

I have set the dates for this year's employee and community spring cleanups!

## Community spring cleanups

- **District I, Vineland** – Monday, April 23 through Sunday, April 29. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. All rolloff dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Transfer Station. Mille Lacs Band Elders will receive free curbside pickup for their community cleanup items. Elders must call the Public Works office at 320/532-7430 by Friday, April 20 to be placed on the list for pickup. All other Band members can also receive curbside pickup for a charge of \$75 per truck load; you must call the Public Works office by April 20 and be paid in full prior to pickup.
- **District II, East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle** – Monday, May 7 through Sunday, May 13. Rolloffs will be placed in the following locations: Apple Orchard (two locations), Old East Lake Center, Country Road 30, Lake Minnewawa, Sandy Lake, Isle Community Center, and the cul-de-sac at the end of Sam Drive. Rolloffs will be placed at these locations for one week only.
- **District III, Lake Lena** – Monday, April 30 to Sunday, May 6. Rolloffs will be placed at the following locations: Old Lake Lena Community Center, midway point on Badger Road, ball field in the Razor Lake area, County Road 138, County Road 20 going north, and the new community behind the Hinckley ALU. Rolloffs will be placed at these locations for one week only.

## Employee spring cleanups

District I, Vineland and Isle – Wednesday, May 16

District II, East Lake – Tuesday, May 15

District III, Lake Lena – Thursday, May 16

Urban Area, Minneapolis – Friday, May 7

If weather is a factor on any of the employee cleanup dates, except for the Urban Area, we will delay the cleanup until the following week. All participants for Districts I, II, and III cleanups will receive a free lunch buffet coupon for either Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Grand Casino Hinckley. Urban Area participants will receive a free lunch at Famous Dave's on the day of the cleanup.

Please contact Ashley Blue at 320/532-7430 if you have any questions or concerns about the 2007 cleanups. Thank you.

# Band Donation Helps Onamia Public Schools Purchase Books for Third-Graders

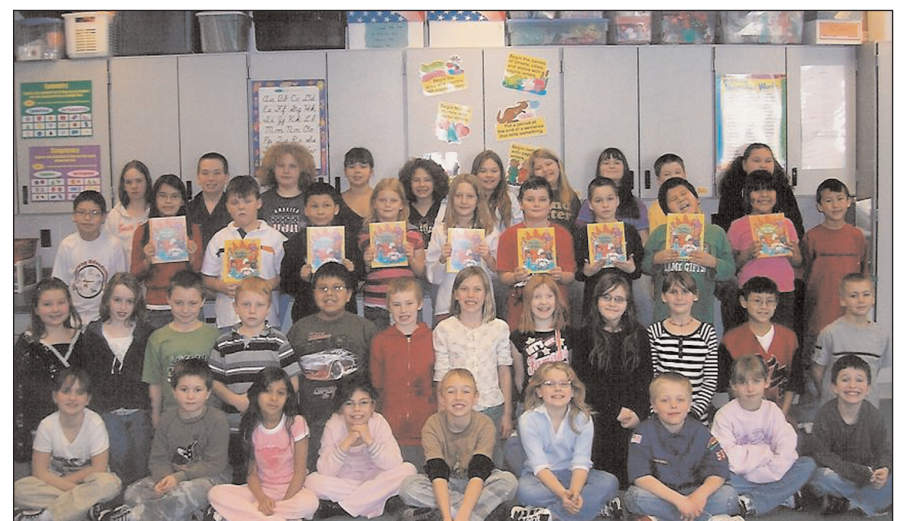


Photo courtesy of Onamia Public School

*The Mille Lacs Band donated funds to the Onamia Public Schools to purchase "The Way To Go" books for third grade students (pictured). The books have stories that discuss valuable lessons. Third-grade teachers Kelly Mertens and Jenny Wihlm wrote in a thank you note to the Band that "it was wonderful to allow each child to personalize their own book with their own thoughts and feelings about each story's lesson. Our students are now able to take these home and share them with their families." Students also wrote thank you notes to the Band about their favorite stories in the book.*