

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

April 2010

"The story as it's told."

Volume 12 • Number 4

Band Member Donates His Allowance to Charity



Photo courtesy of Ivy Vainio

Band member Jacob Vainio donated his allowance money to relief efforts in Haiti.

By Toya Stewart Downey

Just a few days after a tragic earthquake struck Haiti, Jacob Vainio decided he wanted to help the millions of people devastated by the disaster.

Jacob, an 11-year-old Band member, decided he would donate all of the money he had saved from his allowance – dating back to 2007 – to relief efforts in Haiti and to the Haitian people.

"I just saw all the suffering on TV, and I thought they could use my money more than I could," said Jacob, a sixth-grader at the Marshall School in Duluth.

Jacob donated \$145 for Haiti relief efforts during an annual Soul Food Dinner program sponsored by the Black Student Union and the World Student Association at the University of Wisconsin-Superior in February.

Jacob was the single largest donor that night. In total, the student groups raised more than \$1,500 for the American Red Cross's Haiti fund.

When Jacob started getting his monthly allowance three years ago, his father, Arne Vainio, taught him to set aside 10% for charity and 10% for a savings

account. The amount of his allowance is equal to his age.

"We've never told him what to do with his allowance," said Arne, a Band member. "He's bought a few things, but mostly he's been saving."

After the Vainios first heard about the earthquake on Minnesota Public Radio, they turned on the television and saw the haunting images of the tragedy.

"It was striking, and when Jacob told me he wanted to donate his money, I was speechless," said Arne. "I almost don't know what to say now, except I'm extremely proud. A lot of adults might have backed out during the time it took for him to hand over his allowance, but he was set on it."

"It felt good to put my money in a place that needed help," said Jacob, who was recognized during a special ceremony in March when the money was presented to the Red Cross.

"A lot of people were surprised, but they thought I was putting my money to a good cause," Jacob said. "I will start saving up again, and maybe I'll donate to another cause."

Mille Lacs Band Primary Election Results

Secretary/Treasurer candidates Curt Kalk and Herb Weyaus (incumbent) will move on to the general election for the position after receiving the most votes in the March 30 primary election.

Following are the primary election vote totals for Secretary/Treasurer:

Curt Kalk	311
Herb Weyaus	310
David Matrious	254
Brad Roache	87
Total	962

In the District II Representative primary election, candidates David Niib Aubid and Marvin Bruneau (incumbent) received the most votes.

Following are the primary election vote totals for District II Representative:

David Niib Aubid	49
Marvin Bruneau	45

Johnathan Benjamin	31
Jennifer Aubid	24
Darlene Day	24
Mary Susan Bohanon	11
Bahwahung Merrill	0
Total	184

In the District III Representative primary election, candidates Diane Gibbs and Harry Davis (incumbent) received the most votes.

Following are the primary election vote totals for District III Representative:

Diane Gibbs	80
Harry Davis	75
Mert Liebgott	56
Wallace St. John Sr.	24
Edward St. John Sr.	9
Total	244

The Band's general election will be held on June 8.

Inaajimowin to change publication deadlines

Information due on the 15th, issue mails on the 1st

Thank you to everyone who participated in last month's communications survey. We received an overwhelming response. We will announce the results of the survey and the changes we will be making in the May issue of the *Inaajimowin*.

In the meantime, we have decided to implement an immediate change to the *Inaajimowin* based on the survey results. Effective May 1, the *Inaajimowin* will be published on

the first of the month. Currently, the newspaper is mailed in the middle of the month, but this has made deadlines confusing.

To facilitate the schedule change, this month's edition was mailed a week early. The May issue will be mailed on the new schedule.

Under the new publication schedule, information will be due on the 15th of each month. This new deadline will start with the June issue of the *Inaajimowin*.

Thank you for your patience as we make changes to help communicate with you better.



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Band Members Celebrate Treaty of 1837 Court Victory



Photo courtesy of Carla BigBear

Band members Erik Parsons (left) and Syngen Kanassatega (right) competed against each other in the inflatable sports challenge during the Treaty Day celebration. Several hundred Band members attended the day's festivities at the District I Community Center, which included a Wii bowling contest and prize drawings for a round golf at Grand National Golf Course, fishing nets, a Wii, bikes, and more.



Photo courtesy of Carla BigBear

Chief Executive Marge Anderson addresses Band members at the District I Community Center. Marge spoke about the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Treaty of 1837, which respected the rights of Band members to hunt and fish in the ceded territory included in the treaty. She said she hopes that all Band members will keep the treaty rights victory fresh in their minds, because it will continue to inspire everyone to do great things.



Photo courtesy of Carla BigBear

AmVets Post 53 members (left to right) Renee Pewaush, Alan Weyaus, and Kenny Weyaus participate in the flag-raising ceremony. This ceremony unveiled the new AmVets logo on the organization's flag.

2010 Election Calendar

- April 1: General Reservation Election Board publishes primary results
- April 2: Deadline for request for recount
- April 6 (5:00 p.m.): Deadline for contest of primary election
- April 7 (results, if allowed, or 5th or 6th if earlier request): Decision on request for recount and results of recount
- April 16: Decision on contest
- April 19: Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals
- April 22: Record of contest to Court of Election Appeals
- April 26: Last day for hearing on appeal
- May 6: Last day for decision on appeal
- May 7: Notice of regular election; TEC provides ballots
- **June 8: General election**
- June 9: General Reservation Election Board certifies results of election
- June 10: General Reservation Election Board publishes election results
- June 11: Deadline for request for recount
- June 15 (5:00 p.m.): Deadline for notice of contest
- June 16 (or 15th or 14th, if request for recount is filed before deadline): Decision on request for recount and results of recount, if allowed
- June 25 (or 10 days from notice of contest, whichever is sooner): Deadline for decision on contest
- June 28: Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals
- July 1: Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals
- July 6: Last day for hearing on appeal (hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal)
- July 13: Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the Court of Election Appeals
- 10 days from hearing on appeal: Deadline for decision of the Court of Election Appeals
- Day following decision of appeal: Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office

Obama Signs Indian Health Care Improvement Act

After more than a year of debate, the United States Congress and President Barack Obama passed health care reform legislation that included the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA).

The IHCIA, which provides support to the Indian Health Service (IHS) and other programs that aid American Indian health care, was first enacted in 1976 and had not been reauthorized since 2001.

The IHCIA reaffirms the federal government's trust responsibility to provide health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. It also reinforces the nation-to-nation relationship between the federal government and individual tribal governments.

The IHCIA includes funding for the following new and enhanced programs:

- Long-term care services, including home health care, assisted living, and community-based care.
- Mental and behavioral health services, including programs for suicide and domestic violence prevention.
- Mammography and other cancer screenings consistent with the recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force.
- Programs for health care facility construction, including demonstration programs for modular component construction and mobile health stations.
- Grants to prevent, control and eliminate communicable and infectious diseases, including hepatitis and HIV.

Boys of Summer Program: Year-Round Fun

By Bugs Haskin, Nay Ah Shing Athletic/Activities Director and head of the Boys of Summer Program, and Boys of Summer participants Ricky Boyd, Randy Sam Jr., and Ethan Smith

The following article appeared in the June 29, 2009, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with the Messenger's permission.

The Mille Lacs Band's Nay Ah Shing Schools, tribal police, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Natural Resources work together to provide students with fun activities and community service projects through the Boys of Summer program. The program offers activities for school-aged boys and girls to help them develop positive relationships with law enforcement personnel. Although the program is called the Boys of Summer – named for its original aim of providing activities for boys – the program is open to boys and girls.

Following are some perspectives about the Boys of Summer program from the program's director and three participants.

Bugs: Nay Ah Shing held its second triathlon last summer with eight kids participating. Our triathlon consists of a one-fourth mile swim, 13 miles of biking, and a one-mile run.

Ethan (11 years old): I'm proud I finished the triathlon. We had to do a lot of training for four or five weeks before the race, which was hard work. But it was fun, and we got a gift certificate for finishing it.

Randy (12 years old): I did the triathlon the first year, too. Then last summer, I improved my time by 30 minutes. It was fun to have more friends involved and to train with them. I want to do it this summer and hopefully beat my time again!

Ricky (16 years old): I'm the oldest member of the Boys of Summer and have been involved for three years. My favorite activity last year was helping at the powwow in August by cleaning up the grounds and picking up garbage along the lake.

Ethan: The go-carts were my favorite last summer. We went with some tribal police officers and raced against them. The best part was when Bugs crashed Police Chief Dwight Reed into the fence, so he couldn't win the race.

Randy: This is my third year in the Boys of Summer. I really like all the different activities we do, especially boating and tubing

with the tribal police officers. I also liked going to Camp Chi Rho last July. We had bonfires each night and told scary stories. Bugs told us her scary story about "Liver Eye," which made some people scream. Some of the kids doubled up in their bunks or didn't sleep that night, but I wasn't that scared.

Bugs: Even though the kids had a good scare with my "Liver Eye" story, they begged me to tell it night after night. We took eight Mille Lacs Band youth to Camp Chi Rho in Annandale, where they were among American Indian youth from Minnesota and surrounding states. The kids worked on academics in the mornings and enjoyed fun, summertime activities in the afternoons and evenings.

Ethan: I made some new friends at camp, and I want to go back this year. I hope to go every year until I am old enough to start going as a camp counselor.

Bugs: We plan activities for the kids throughout the year as well, and we like to get their input. In order to participate, the students need to have good grades and attend the weekly meetings.

Ricky: Last year we adopted a soldier. Her name is Sarah, and she's from Hawaii. She is in Iraq right now. We send her letters and other things, like a Nay Ah Shing t-shirt. She sends us letters when she can. I want to go into the Air Force and hopefully become a pilot. So it's good to hear a perspective from a soldier overseas. We haven't received any mail from her in a long time. We hope she is okay.

Randy: I want to someday join the Army. I like sending letters to Sarah and hearing about her job as a medic and what it is like over there.

Ricky: Another activity we do is visit with Elders at the assisted living units. A while back, we visited with Elders and made popcorn balls and cookies with them. They really enjoy our visits. We even served them ice cream that Dan Oehrlein helped us make.

Bugs: We provide a variety of activities – from boating trips to community service projects – to keep the kids busy and help them make positive choices. We look forward to another great summer.

Editor's note: The 2010 Boys of Summer program will begin when school is finished for the year. For more information, please call Bugs Haskin at 320/532-4695.

Community Meetings Updates

District IIa

Michelle Palomaki, director of Circle of Health, updated Band members about the new federal health care law and how it will affect them. For more information, read the health care article on page 2.

District III

Sid Lucas, director of public safety, spoke at the meeting about the possibility of installing a tornado siren in District III. The siren would be paid for through a grant. A majority of Band members voted in favor of installing the tornado siren.

Travis Lund, community development project manager, presented information about the new Wise Owl development that will be located on trust property in District III near the Conoco Station.

Construction on the development will begin in middle to late May and will be finished by late fall. The development will include 22

single-family housing units, 14 of which will be new. There will be a mix of Elder, rental and homeowner units. In addition to homes, the Wise Owl project will include new roads and infrastructure.

Urban area

Band members in the urban area had an opportunity to see film footage from the Sherman Holbert Collection of the Old Fort Mille Lacs Village.

Most of the images are not accompanied by sound, but they are striking and unforgettable. They show Band members making canoes, harvesting wild rice, doing beadwork, cooking, cleaning, and dancing for crowds.

The screening was sponsored by the Band's Department of Natural Resources Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Another viewing will be scheduled on a future Saturday to allow for more people to attend and see the historic images. Contact the urban office for details at 612/872-1257.

\$132,609 Returned to Mille Lacs Band

Funds were stolen by former contractor and project manager

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has received a check for \$132,609 from the United States Department of Justice.

This money came from the formerly undisclosed bank accounts of Jason Heinlen (of Heinlen Construction), a former contractor of the Mille Lacs Band, and Eric Makowski-Budrow, a former project manager for the Band, after both men pled guilty in United States District Court to counts related to the theft of Mille Lacs Band funds. The Band will receive additional money after the federal government sale of a seized pickup truck driven by Makowski-Budrow.

Although both men are still awaiting their sentences, their guilty pleas made the release

of the \$132,609 possible prior to their sentencing. The theft was discovered during the course of an internal Band investigation, which the Band reported to the federal government, and a federal investigation ensued.

"The Mille Lacs Band is pleased with the progress of the federal legal process," said Rjay Brunkow, the Band's solicitor general. "The funds returned to the Band government today were deliberately stolen, and they can now be used as intended – for the benefit of the Band and its members."

The funds will be placed in the Band's long-term savings account. The Band will continue to fully cooperate in the ongoing federal investigation, which is expected to result in additional indictments.

Band Members Learn Dangers of Smoking



Toya Stewart Downey

Mille Lacs Band member Nickena Peet is learning how to make Kinnikinnick. She is scraping off the outer red bark of a red willow tree to get to the inner green bark (the kinnikinnick). The inner bark needs to be scraped off and dried. After it is dried, it can be mixed with cedar or other natural aromatic resources. Kinnikinnick is to be used only for traditional purposes.

By Toya Stewart Downey

Band member Nickena Peet wants to quit smoking. But Nickena knows quitting isn't easy, which is why she decided to attend the seminar, "Secondhand Smoke and Kinnikinnick."

The seminar was sponsored by the Band's Public Health Department and facilitated by Band Elders Gloria Songetay, Marlene Poukka, and Herb Sam. It was one of four seminars held across all districts and the urban area to educate Band members and others about the dangers of smoking, secondhand smoke, and traditional uses of tobacco.

The next seminar will be held from 1-4 p.m. on April 26 at the Isle Community Center. Participants will be able to choose a gift basket or one pound of wild rice for attending the session.

"There is no safe amount of smoke or secondhand smoke," Gloria told the seminar attendees. "It's really important to keep your children away from secondhand smoke."

Just ask Marlene. She smoked for many years, but quit when she learned that her grandson's asthma and breathing suffered because of her habit.

"I haven't smoked for seven years, but I still struggle," said Marlene, who once quit for nine years before smoking again. "Nicotine is an addictive substance in commercial tobacco, and that makes it more difficult to quit."

It takes the average smoker 10 to 12 tries before they successfully quit, Marlene said. On average, they're able to resist smoking for about a week before they break down and begin smoking again. That's why she encourages people to use gum or a nicotine patch to help them in the beginning.

"It takes time, but keep trying," she said. "It's like riding a bike. You fall off, but you get back on."

During his presentation, Herb encouraged Band members to use traditional tobacco –

kinnikinnick from the red willow tree – in a ceremonial way.

Herb, Gloria and Marlene are also spreading the message that smoking is dangerous for the person doing it, as well as those around them.

More children have respiratory ailments, such as asthma, because they're exposed to secondhand smoke. They also learned that smoking is an acceptable behavior.

"Respect kinnikinnick and the reasons it's used," said Herb. "Life is given to you. Your body belongs to the Great Spirit. Respect your body and reasons for life."

Nickena started smoking when she was 11 years old. By the time she was 13, she was smoking daily. Now she's 45 and knows that it's taken a toll on her health.

"I'm seeking clean living," said Nickena, who lives in the urban area. "I know I have to get my body pure."

And she's on her way. Before February 18, Nickena smoked about one-and-a-half packs per day. These days she's smoking about 10 cigarettes a day.

Seminars will continue to be offered throughout the year as a part of the Public Health Department's Tribal Education and Policy Initiative funding from a grant from ClearWay Minnesota.

"We are in our second year of funding," said Marlene. "The work plan calls for community education on a quarterly basis in each of the three districts and the urban area regarding secondhand smoke education and traditional tobacco, which is kinnikinnick."

Marlene added that Herb is the only traditional healer she knows that supports the advocacy of traditional tobacco use.

"Herb teaches us that Anishinnabe people did not have commercial tobacco before the arrival of the Europeans," she said. "If anyone did, it was obtained by trading with the southern or eastern tribes."

Spring Community Cleanups

By Brian Scheinost, director of public works

District I, Vineland April 24-30

Spring cleanup sites will be open from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. All rolloff dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Transfer Station.

Curbside pickups are free for Elders and \$75 per truckload for other Band members. To schedule a pickup, contact the public works office at 320/532-7430. Those who schedule curbside pickup must pile their community cleanup items at the end of their driveways.

District II, East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake, and Isle May 8-15

Rolloff dumpsters will be placed at the Apple Orchard, 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. The dumpsters will be placed at these locations for one week only.

District III, Lake Lena and Hinckley May 1-7

Rolloff dumpsters will be placed at the Old Lake Lena Community Center, the midway point on Badger Road, the baseball field in the Razor Lake area, County Road 20 going north, and the new community center behind the Hinckley ALU. The dumpsters will be placed at these locations for one week only.

E-waste recycling

The Band will also be collecting old electronic equipment, such as computers, printers, televisions, and microwaves. If possible, the Band will refurbish the equipment and give it back to community members. If the equipment can't be reused, the Band will recycle it responsibly.

E-waste can be dropped off in specially marked bins at the above locations. Please keep the piles separate. For more information about e-waste recycling, contact Andy Boyd, environmental and ecosystem technician, at 320/532-7779, or Scott Hansen, environmental programs manager, at 320/532-7445.

Please contact Public Works at 320/532-7448 if you have any questions or concerns about the 2010 spring cleanup.

Racino Bill Withdrawn, Later Revived in the House

In March, a major racino bill was withdrawn from consideration before it could be defeated by a Senate committee. For more than two hours, the committee heard testimony from both supporters and critics of the bill, which would allow slot machines at Canterbury Park in Shakopee and Running Aces near Forest Lake.

Angela Heikes, vice president of gaming planning and analysis for the Corporate Commission, represented the Mille Lacs Band at the hearing. She informed members of the committee that a new metro-area casino would hurt existing operations, including Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley.

At the hearing, Senator Dan Sparks, the author of the bill, mentioned his intentions to attach the proposal as an amendment to a key piece of legislation later in the session. Legislation regarding rural development, jobs, education, or early childhood education would be ideal targets for Sparks, because these topics would receive part of the racino revenues under the tabled bill.

Later in March, a House committee revived the racino bill in a hearing. Nevertheless, the proposal is not expected to pass this year. Representative Al Juhnke, committee head, indicated that racino advocates might be trying to build momentum for renewed efforts in the coming years.

The Story of Band Member Artist Steve Premo



Steve Premo

Photo courtesy of Steve Premo

By Toya Stewart Downey

Steve Premo knows he's one of the fortunate people whose career has allowed him to pursue his passion as an artist.

"It's rewarding to do what I like to do for a living," said Steve, 57, an artist designer for the Corporate Commission. "Work is a big part of who I am, and my art is intertwined with what I do."

"Of course it's work too, it's not just drawing pictures."

Like many artists, Steve's talent was apparent even as a child. He spent much of his childhood in Districts I and III, but he grew up in Minneapolis.

"I had a leg injury as a child, and I had to learn to walk again," he said. "During that time, I did a lot of those paint-by-numbers coloring books, and that got me interested in art."

"I was shy and introverted, but I quickly learned that through art I could communicate with people," he said. "They would ask me about what I created, and we would talk about it."

When he was in the third grade, he drew a human heart, complete with blood and veins coursing through it. It was a Valentine's Day project, and he recalls getting quite the reaction from his classmates. "The boys liked it, the girls and the teacher didn't," but that didn't stop him from continuing to take risks in his work.

He focused on art classes and even taught other kids how to do beadwork. He and a friend painted a mural at his high school.

Steve honed his craft as a student in the Minneapolis Public Schools, where he was allowed to take college-level art classes at the University of Minnesota. By the time he

graduated from South High School in 1972, his gift was appreciated by many of his peers and educators.

After high school, Steve attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but he wasn't ready to concentrate on higher education. Instead, by the time he was 21, life and some of its hardships came his way.

He moved back to Minneapolis and taught at the Heart of the Earth Survival School from 1974 to 1978.

When he left Heart of the Earth, two big life changes occurred. He got married to his sweetheart, Peg, and began working for the Minneapolis School District in the Indian Education Department. He worked there from 1978 through 1991. His primary role was to design curriculum.

His reputation as an artist also grew during this time. He won national education awards, illustrated the book *Night Flying Woman*, and worked on Indian education projects showing the history of the state's Ojibwe reservations.

"One of the highlights of that time was being invited to be in a show at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts that featured six Native artists in Minnesota," he said. "I did a picture of my dad, and it hung in the Institute. My dad saw it, and he liked it."

After leaving his career in education, Steve began working for Grand Casino as a consultant, but it didn't work out as he planned.

It was a trying time both personally and professionally. Steve had four children, and his wife was ill. He had mortgage payments on two homes, one in Minneapolis and one in District I. "I needed work, so I asked for any job. I started out as an arcade and slot technician and I did that from 1992 to 1998," he said. "It was a fun job...one of the coolest jobs in the casino."

But like most educators, the desire to teach was beckoning him once again. He got an opportunity to teach in the K-12 program with the Lac Courte Oreilles in Hayward, Wisconsin, for six months, but left to return to his job at the casino.

Then the Small Business Development Program started,

and he had the opportunity to own an art gallery at Grand Casino Hinckley. Premo Artworks opened in 1998 and remained in business for a year. He also did graphic design work to supplement his income and painted a mural at the government center.

Soon, the graphic designer job for the Small Business Development Program opened, and he took it. He worked there until the program was moved to the tribal government. He began working as a designer for the casinos in December.

Even if Band members don't know Steve personally, they've certainly been acquainted with his work. He's the artist behind the cover and illustrations in the comic book *Hero's Voice*, and he designed the Pendleton blanket that Band members received as a gift several years ago. He also created collector coins at the casinos.

"I began to get recognition only after my wife, Peg, died," said Steve, noting that his wife of 28 years succumbed to her illness and passed away in 1995. "The Great Spirit gave me something and took something away at the same time."

These days Steve has a couple of new ventures. He is the father of an additional son, Seth, of whom he's very proud. He has also created a traditional Ojibwe design and has transferred it onto fabric. He frequently wears it around his neck and has received praise almost on a daily basis. It's a floral design, and he's hoping to use it sometime in the future for multiple purposes, such as on clothing products.

He's also a National Indian Education Association award recipient for creating a commemorative blanket highlighting the organization's 40th anniversary.

Steve's work will be featured later this month at the Tally Art Gallery at Bemidji State University. The exhibit featuring Steve, Duane Goodwin, Bambi Goodwin, and Carl Gawboy will run from April 19 through May 7. An artists' reception will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on April 23. All are invited to attend.

Women's Project Helps Survivors of Sexual Assault

The Mille Lacs Band Women's Project is raising awareness about sexual assault this month.

Sexual violence is a major cause of injury and trauma throughout the country, especially among American Indians. American Indians are twice as likely to experience sexual assault crimes, and one in three American Indian women has reported being raped.

The Women's Project sexual Assault Program helps educate Band members in all three districts about sexual assault. With funding from the tribal government, the program provides several services to help survivors of sexual violence, including:

- 24-hour crisis line
- Crisis intervention services
- Support groups
- Family services
- Transportation to support sessions, medical procedures, and law enforcement offices

If you have been sexually assaulted or if you think someone you know has been sexually assaulted, please call any of the following emergency numbers.

- 24-hour crisis line: 866/867-4006
- Five-county mental health crisis line: 800/523-3333
- Native Youth Hotline: 877/209-1266

Additional resources are available online at www.millelacsojibwe.org

Meet District III Administrator Shelly Peer



Shelly Peer

By Toya Stewart Downey

It's not uncommon to find Shelly Peer cooking lunch for visitors, transporting Elders to their destinations, or inside the gym playing with preschoolers.

As the program administrator for District III, she's quick to offer a friendly smile along with her assistance to anyone who needs it.

On a recent morning, Shelly, a Band member, spent time calling Elders in the District III area to make sure they had everything they needed to leave that day for the Elders' trip.

Other days she'll help Band members fax their paperwork, revise their resumes, assist them with their unemployment, or find something on the computer.

"I like getting to know the community members, the Elders, and the kids," she said, noting that the schools pick up and drop off at the Lake Lena Community Center, so she gets to interact with them daily.

Shelly, 45, has been in her role for two years and says part of her job is to help District Representative Harry Davis ensure that Band members are getting the services that they're seeking.

"I enjoy working closely with Harry and making sure that the community center is functioning as it should on a daily basis."

Still, for as much as she enjoys her job, there are challenges that come along with it.

For example, the Internet service is spotty, so sometimes it's difficult to help Band members with their requests, because they can't access the Internet. Other times the people that Band members

need to see aren't in the building, and they want Shelly to find a way to help them.

"I want to make sure that when people walk in, they can get the services they need."

It's that same school of thought that Shelly has had throughout her career, both with the Band and when she worked for the St. Croix Tribe.

Shelly worked for the St. Croix Tribe for nine years as a licensing agent, administrative assistant to the general manager, travel coordinator, and in the interstate department. She was also the executive assistant to the Tribal Chairman.

As an employee of the Mille Lacs Band, Shelly has held a few different roles. She has worked at Grand Casino Hinckley as a guest services supervisor and then as an executive assistant to the general manager before landing her job as the program administrator. She also had a short stint as an office manager in the tribal police department.

"I enjoyed working for the St. Croix Tribe tremendously, but working for my tribe makes me feel like I am at home," she said. "I love this job, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with the community."

"The best part is doing things for the Elders and getting to know the community."

Shelly is hoping to have even more opportunities to interact with the community by offering different programs, such as a community barbecue cook-off or canning classes.

"Those plans are still under consideration," she said. "I would like to see more physical activities offered here and see more people get involved. I want to find ways to get the community together."

Shelly grew up in Danbury and Webster, Wisconsin, attending Danbury Elementary until her family moved to Webster. She remained there until she completed her education at Webster High School.

Shelly is married to Dave Peer and the couple has four children and two grandchildren.

Sharing My Prayers

Following is an excerpt from an article written for News From Indian Country by Mille Lacs Band member Dr. Arne Vainio.

Note: I asked Wesley and Jay if it was ok for me to write about this. They not only told me it was, but that it's important for me to do this as many of our people are getting further away from our traditions...

Twenty-two stones glowing in the darkness of the sweat lodge. There were 11 of us tonight, all glistening with sweat. The first round was Wesley singing Lakota songs and telling the newcomers what to expect. This second round was for our prayers. This was during a warm spell in February, and the weather was perfect. We had spent several hours getting the stones red hot in the fire just outside the door of the lodge. The fire was melting the snow in a circular pattern that was spreading farther and farther out from the intense heat.

Jay is a tribal council member and had given me an eagle feather before the ceremonial sweat started. We had sweated together several times before tonight. My youngest brother, Scott, had been in a sweat lodge before, but this was our first time together. Andrew had just turned 18 and was living in a home for boys who were trying to get their lives back together. My 10-year-old son Jacob was sitting beside me. It was so dark that sometimes he would brush against me just to make sure I was still there. This was his second sweat ceremony. Both times he had wanted to come in on his own, and I didn't have to ask him either time.

The prayers started by the door, each person praying for whatever was important to them for as long as it took. Everyone else was respectfully quiet until their turn came. Several prayed silently before letting the next person know they were done. Andrew, Scott and Jacob each did their prayers silently. Then it was my turn. This was too important to me to say silently.

"Miigwech, Nimishoomish (Thank you, grandfather). I've been thinking about choices. There are many things we do not say to each other in the course of our daily lives. We talk about superficial things and not about the important things we can talk about here. For some reason, we wait until we come here to say the things we should be telling each other every day.

Andrew, you are 18 years old and ready to go into the world on your own. You have many choices ahead of you. Not all of them are easy and many are traps put in your way to slow you

down or send you down the wrong path. You have chosen to work and to stay in a place to finish high school and to better your chances of success. Ivy and I are very proud of you for the choices you have made so far. Know that trust, respect, and a good reputation take a lifetime to earn, but loss of trust and a bad reputation take only minutes. There will be times when the right decision is not the most attractive one, but deep in your heart you know what is right. We know you will be able to do this.

My youngest brother, Scott, you have been struggling with alcohol for a very long time, and it has caused you to lose your children. But you have been going to meetings and have been making a tremendous effort to stay on the right path. I can see how difficult this is for you at times, and I am very proud of you for staying strong. I struggled with alcohol for years and know this is not easy for you. Alcohol has ravaged our family. I am honored to be sitting next to you in this lodge, and I have waited a very long time for this night. You, too, have choices that will be difficult to make. We will do everything we can to support you and help you. We know you will be able to do this.

Jacob, I am so proud to be your father. You have a good heart and a giving soul. After our first sweat, we drove home with the radio off and talked for well over an hour. We talked about the stars, the universe, your school, and what you want to do when you get older. We talked about music, what we are reminded of when we hear certain songs, how it could be summer below the equator when it's winter here, and how birds can stay together in a flock without hitting each other. But most important, we just talked. I want you to know that you can always talk to me about anything."

Scott and Andrew and I went out to bring in the rest of the stones – 22 more, for a total of 44 stones. It was going to be very hot for the rest of the ceremony. The pit was full of glowing stones, each stood out plainly and they were so hot that when Wesley started putting cedar water on them, they didn't even get dark. The hissing of the steam was fading as Wesley's drum was getting louder. As he started to sing again, Jacob brushed against me, and I realized there was no place on Earth I would rather be.

To view Arne's entire article, visit www.indiancountrynews.com and click on the food and health section.

Public Works: A Public Asset for the Community

By **Toya Stewart Downey**

Whether it's collecting trash, plowing streets, or overseeing the Band's water and wastewater system, the Public Works team is getting the job done.

Yet, Public Works is often overlooked because the department provides services that people take for granted, because the work is getting done. The department is probably best known to the public for sponsoring the annual community cleanup that is held each spring.

"People don't think of us until things aren't working," said Brian Scheinost, director of Public Works.

Department oversees water supply and trash collection

Brian, who has worked for the Band for 17 years, said even though the department's work can go unnoticed, he knows the work the team does is important and its impact is far-reaching.

For example, Public Works is responsible for providing safe drinking water for Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Band members in Districts I and II.

"In District I, approximately 180,000 gallons of water are used daily," he said.

Besides overseeing the supply of water, the team of 11 employees is responsible for trash collection from about 600 Band members' homes and maintaining the Band's road system, said Tony Pike, roads supervisor.

Staff members stay with the department

The department has longevity to be proud of when it comes to its staff. Band member Francis Colton has worked in the department for 15 years as a solid waste driver, and Band member Roger Garbow been a roads technician for 13 years.

"We've come a long way, and our customer base has gone up significantly," said Tony, who has worked in

Public Works for 16 years. He started out doing trash collection in District II.

As new housing is developed and buildings are erected, Public Works will get busier, Brian said.

Maintaining public parks, cemetery, powwow grounds

Another significant role of the department is to help maintain the grounds for the August powwow.

"We do a lot of community service for the powwow beginning in June, from mowing to watering the arena," said Tony. Sometimes we'll come in at 4 a.m. to make sure the lights work and are aligned correctly."

A few years ago, they improved the electrical system that vendors use. "The powwow is a big thing that we donate time and resources to," he said.

They also have a more somber role in the community as the caretakers of the cemetery. They remove trash, mow the lawn, and dig the graves needed in District I.

They're also responsible for collecting trash and maintaining the parks.

Doing your part

Band members can help Public Works maintain the beauty of the community by reporting vandalism on road signs, noting problems with roads such as potholes, and putting trash in cans rather than littering.

Current Public Works projects include the construction of a new solid waste transfer station in District I and oversight of the construction of infrastructure in the Bugg Hill developments.

Public Works also manages funding from the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to make water, sewer and road repairs in Band housing developments. For more information about applying for an IHS grant, contact Brian Scheinost directly 320/532-7437.

Plans Advance for Restoring Ogechie Lake's Wild Rice

The Mille Lacs Band and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have reached an important agreement that will modify the Buckmore Dam to help restore Ogechie Lake's natural water levels. The change will also create lake conditions that are more conducive to wild rice growth, which has been a problem for Ogechie since the dam's construction in 1952.

Mille Lacs Band DNR and Minnesota DNR officials have worked together for the last few years to study the impacts of the dam. Samples drilled from the bottom of the lake indicated that wild rice was present in the lake for 1,500 years, but stopped occurring around the time that the dam was introduced.

"The dam brought higher water levels to Ogechie Lake, and wild rice does not grow well in those conditions," said Scott Hansen, environmental programs manager. "This project complements the work conducted over the years on Lake Onamia, where wild rice has rebounded significantly. We anticipate similar results after the Buckmore Dam is modified on Ogechie."

Modifying the dam will lower water levels by about three feet on Ogechie Lake without impacting the water levels in other parts of the Rum River system. Mille Lacs, Ogechie, Shakopee, and Onamia lakes are all located along the Rum River, which flows 145 miles from Mille Lacs to the Mississippi River in Anoka.

The studies conducted by Mille Lacs Band DNR also indicated that by modifying the Buckmore Dam and installing a water control structure at the mouth of Mille Lacs Lake, fish would be able to pass more easily through the system. "This will restore the natural movement of fish through the entire system," Scott said. "Fish and wild rice will definitely benefit from the changes being planned."

Scott added that wild rice stands also provide food and habitat for migrating waterfowl, shoreline birds, beaver, muskrats, snails, and other aquatic life.

Next steps

State DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten signed the Ogechie Lake agreement on February 18 and Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Administration John Dunkley signed it on April 1, following approval by the Mille Lacs Band Assembly.

The next step is to conduct a joint federal/state environmental assessment over the next few months, which will include a public comment period.

"The wild rice at Ogechie used to be so plentiful that there were places where you couldn't see the water. Now you can't find any," said Elder Leonard Sam, the Band's DNR supervisor for wild rice. "The work we're doing to bring wild rice back to Ogechie gives Band members a lot to look forward to in the future."

Woodlands National Bank Acquires Zimmerman Bank

Woodlands National Bank is acquiring the Zimmerman branch of First National Bank. The acquisition, which will take place during the second quarter of 2010, will not affect employment, and business will continue as usual.

"This is an excellent opportunity for growth in our ideal market," said Ken Villebro, president and chief executive officer of Woodlands National Bank. "We look forward to operating a strong, viable bank and becoming a vital part of the Zimmerman business community."

"We want to thank the Zimmerman community for all of the years of support shown to First National Bank, and offer our congratulations to Woodlands

Bank and its staff," said John Houlton, president and chairman of First National Financial Services.

Woodlands National Bank is a part of the Mille Lacs Bancorporation, a holding company owned by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Mille Lacs Bancorporation, the first wholly Indian-owned holding company, acquired the First State Bank of Onamia in 1996, converted the bank to a national charter, and renamed it Woodlands National Bank.

The Zimmerman location is one of seven Woodlands National Bank branches. The other branches are located in Cloquet, Hinckley, Minneapolis, Onamia (downtown and Grand Market), and Sturgeon Lake.

Sara McRae Named to National All Star Rodeo Team

Sara McRae, 17-year-old daughter of Jackie McRae (Band member) and Coy McRae, was recently named to the 2009-2010 National High School Rodeo All Star Rodeo Team. Sara earned a position on the team based on leadership qualities, academic eligibility, and athletic achievements. Sara has competed in rodeo since she was eight years old, has won world buckles and scholarships, and most recently placed in breakaway roping in the Minnesota High School Rodeo Association, which won her the opportunity to compete at National Finals Rodeo in Farmington, New Mexico.

Sara will compete in Minnesota High School Rodeo again this year doing breakaway roping, barrel racing, polebending, and team roping. There will be approximately 14 rodeos in Minnesota this spring, ending with the state finals in Hugo in June. This year, the National High School Finals Rodeo will be held in Gillette, Wyoming, at the end of July.

Anyone interested in learning more about horses, riding, caring for horses, or just loving them can contact Jackie McRae at 320-277-3540 for a tour of Willow Ridge Stables.

Grand Market Sidewalk Sale

Grand Market will hold a sidewalk sale from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on May 14 with a brat-and-pop special. Grand Makwa Cinema will also have a sidewalk poster sale. Posters from the movies shown at Grand Makwa from 2006 through 2009 will be sold for \$5 each. This event will be held rain or shine.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

February 2010

	Approved budget for FY 2010	Actual expenditures through 2/28/10	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	12,136,299	4,767,446	39.3%
Workforce*	12,388,274	2,188,983	17.7%
Judicial	705,712	253,246	35.9%
Law enforcement*	4,474,276	1,448,037	32.4%
Education*	16,750,017	6,543,439	39.1%
Health and human services*	24,644,712	9,229,881	37.5%
Natural resources*	5,119,143	2,068,123	40.4%
Community development*	36,844,536	7,060,833	19.2%
Gaming authority	2,413,826	1,890,367	78.3%
Per capita payments	15,011,178	13,426,136	89.4%
Economic stimulus	2,900,000	2,763,983	95.3%
Total expenditures	\$133,387,973	\$51,640,474	38.7%

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.

* Gaming authority is operating on continuing resolutions.

Upcoming Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum

Beading 101 workshop

Come and learn basic beading styles and techniques at this beading workshop. The two-day event will be held at the museum on April 10 from 12-4 p.m. and April 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

Ojibwe baby moccasin workshop

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post will host a class in which

participants will create a pair of Ojibwe-style baby moccasins. The two-day workshop will be held at the museum on May 8 from 12-4 p.m. and May 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The workshop, which includes lunch and refreshments, costs \$45 for the general public and \$40 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members. There is an additional supply fee of \$15. Discounted hotel rooms at Grand Casino Mille Lacs are available on Saturday for participants.

Registration must be received by May 5. To make a reservation, call 320/532-3632.

Free Hearing Evaluations at Ne-la-Shing Clinic

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, May 14**, 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.

Tropical Ambrosia

Submitted by *Christine Kegg*,
nutrition education assistant

Ingredients

- 1 large pineapple
- 2 kiwis, peeled and sliced
- 1 cup cubed mango or papaya
- 1 cup cubed cantaloupe or honeydew
- 8 oz. lemon or orange yogurt
- 1 cup light whipped topping
- 2 tablespoons light orange marmalade
- Toasted coconut for garnish
- Macadamia nuts or slivered almonds for garnish
- Mint sprigs for garnish

Directions

- Cut pineapple in half; remove fruit, keeping the shells intact
- Cut pineapple into cubes, discarding the core
- Mix pineapple and remaining fruit and spoon into pineapple halves
- Mix yogurt, whipped topping, and marmalade
- Spoon dollops of topping over fruit
- Garnish with toasted coconut, macadamia nuts, and mint

Tribal Noteboard

Happy April birthday to:

Amy LaDue on April 2, from Lenore, Tyson, Eva and Jon • **Eva Sam** on April 4, from Mom, Evelyn, Tyson, Jon, Evan, Uncle Evan, Susan, Coleen, Maggie, and Grandpa Lenny • **Corey Sam** on April 6, from Tyson, Eva, Jon and Lenore • **Albert**, 18 on April 11, from Lenore, Tyson, Eva, Jonny, Mom, Kyky, and Dakota • **Hayben Lynnae**, from Asia Boyd, Grandma Devy, Papa Jerald, uncles and aunties, Mommy, Daddy, Maria, Jay Jay, Dames, Uncle Shel, and Cat • **Grandma** on April 1, with love from Butch, Brandy, Sarah, Greg, Oz, and Erika • **Erin** on April 10, from the whole family on the rez • **Emmilo Cash** on April 22, from the whole family on the rez • **Luther Sam** on April 23, from the whole family on the rez • **Kasey Sam** on April 24, from the whole family on the rez • **Lynelle Bean** on April 29, from the whole family on the rez • **Cork** on April 30, from the whole family on the rez • **Jean Oswaldson** on April 1, with love from your sister Niss, Tina, Deondre, Dana, Tanya, Dalene, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Elle Nevaeh, Jim, Jay, and kids • **Chadlin Skinaway**, 17 on April 20, with love from Tanya, Dana, Dave, Sarah, Prince, Trinity, Grandma, Tina, Deondre, Jay, Rains, Matty, Valerie, Lil Niss, Way Way, Jim, Mom, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Elle Nevaeh, Lance, Gramma Tisha, B-Dub, Owen, Diamond, and Silas • **George Jackson Jr.**, with love from Tara, Shaun, George, Troy, Isaiah, Stephen Jackson, Sandi, Erykah, Jesus, and the rest of your family in Minneapolis • **Brooklyn Georgia**, with love from Tara, George, Shaunie, Geo, Troy, Zay, Stephen Jackson, Mom, Dad, your brothers, Gramma, Tam, Missy, B-Rose, Britt, Corey, Nick, Dess, Mike, Alexis, Diamond, Izik, Sincere, P.J., Chey, Wally, Sharon, Rave, and Melodie • **Diamond**, with love from Tara, George, the boys, Gramma, Dad, Tam, Ric, Bear, Romes, Jason, Brook, Lil Bear, Nick, Destiny, Corey, Brandi, and Brit • **Laila Mitchell**, 6 on April 20, from Keith, Cheyaunne Rei, Frances, Mitzi, Antwuan, Marlow, Lil Frances, Destiny, Kelsy, Jaagab, Riley, Elaine, and Mom • **Kateri**, 46 on April 15, from Keith, Cheyaunne Rei, Frances, Mitzi, Antwuan,

Marlow, Lil Frances, Destiny, Kelsy, Jaagab, Riley, Elaine, and Ricki • **Aiva Doust**, 3 on April 26, from Mom, Dad, Agnes, Karen, Tracy, Carla, Shelby, Jarvis, Sharon, Wally, Melodie, Val, Mariah, Baby Kevin, Heather, Amber, Abby, Mike, Jake, Chris, Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, Baby Chris, Jayla, Lileah, Baby Mark, J.T., Lorna, Phillip, Micki, Nadine, Charlotte, Whitney, T.J., MaxDean, Rave, Brad, Bruce, Jayla, Lil Jay, Kate, Peep, Adam Parker, Basil, Randi, Rachel, Brad Eric, Kristy, Braelyn, Peyton, Eric, and Wesley • **Amy and Cari** on April 2, with love from Beth • **Sassi Day**, 10 on April 28, from Mom, Dad, and all of your sisters • **Rodney**, 47 on April 14, from Judy, your daughters, and grandchildren • **Trina**, 13 on April 9, from Mom, Sissy, Brother Bear, Erick, Jason, Deze, Little Man, Don Vito, and friends • **Lindz** on April 20, from Mom, Sissy, Erick, Trina, Jason, Deze, Little Man, and Don Vito • **Raymond Daly** on April 20, from Kathy, Oscar, Zachary, Sergio, Richard, and Kyle • **Jada** on April 24, from Gram AA, Karen, Tracy, Jake, Jamie, Ava, Marky, Shel, Jarvis, Val, Pie, Lil Kev, Sharon, Wally, Rave, Melody, Brad, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, Lil Chris, Rachel, Sherry, Shawntell, and Gabbi • **Keaona** on April 27, from Gram AA, Karen, Tracy, Jake, Jamie, Ava, Marky, Shel, Jarvis, Val, Pie, Lil Kev, Sharon, Wally, Rave, Melody, Brad, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, Lil Chris, Rachel, Sherry, Shawntell, and Gabbi • **Ern Boyd**, on April 13 from Cyrell, Candy, K&R, Grams and Landon • **Miss Kayla** on April 20, with love from Candy, Ernie, Cyrell, Gramma Chris, and Johnny • **Mary K.** on April 8, from Marc and kids, Ernie, Candy, and Cyrell • **Cupcake** on April 13, from Pounder and Otis • **Kelia** on April 20, from Mommy, Daddy, Miss Rala, Cy Guy, Nums, Mavis, Richard, and Gramma Mar • **Joni** on April 14, with love from Day, Elle Nevaeh, Chaddy, Lance, Tanya, Dana, Dave, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Dad, Jim, Onee, and family in Isle • **Carrie Ann** on April 11, with love from Day, Elle Nevaeh, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Chaddy, Lance, Paul Bunny, Buck Jim, and Onee.

Happy April birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Marge Anderson
Dorothy Aubid
Terry Beaulieu
Donivon Boyd
Russell Boyd
Peggy Bush
Sharon Chavarria
Nancy Foster
Reginald Garbow
Barbara Grey Bull
Duane Haaf
Gwendolyn Hanold
Arleen Hunt
Darryl Jackson
Elsie Karsjens
Evelyn Kegg
Raymond Kegg
Rayna Mattinas
Ada Merrill
Bahwahsung Merrill
Russell Nayquonabe
Gloria Nickaboine
Sherry Nielson
Donald Oswaldson
Jeannette Oswaldson
Darlene Savage
Gloria Songetay
Gail Tyson
Leonard Wind

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Zachary Moose** for making it to the state tournament in wrestling. Zachary is 11 years old and is in the fifth grade at Isle Elementary School. He wrestles with the Mille Lacs Raiders and took third place at his tournament on March 20. Good luck at your tournament on April 10, with love from Mom, Howard, Renae, Jerry, Kira, Jeremy and family, Phil and family, and Sherry and family.

Congratulations to **Trina Fast Horse** for taking second place at the Anoka Hennepin quiz bowl. She competed against 17 other teams. *Good job from Mom, Sissy, Brother Bear, Little Man, Deze, Erick, and Don Vito.*

Congratulations to **Albert Gahbow** for receiving his GED. *From Dakota, Miss Lynn, and Mom.*

Congratulations to **Joanne Weyaus and Daniel Boyd** on getting married. Their wedding was on March 10, 2010. After so long, you finally did it, and we are so happy for you both. *Best of luck from Danni Jo and Elliot.*

In memory

In memory of **Valerie Ann Skinaway**

July 14-1948-April 24, 2003

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday, and the days before that too. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. Now all we have is memories, and your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part. The Great Spirit has you in its keeping, we have you in our heart. We love and miss you every day, *from Niss, Jean, Bunny, Ed, Bear, Laurel, Herb Jr., Lisa, Alana, Dana, Dalene, Jaylene, James, Tina, Deondre, Cassidy, Tayah, Taleigha, Audrenina, Delmer, Lance, Jarvis, Kathlyn, Shanna, Andrea, Daniel, David Gomez-Sam, and many others.*

In memory of **Isabel Daly-Skinaway**

December 13-1936-
April 6, 1996

It is true when you told me that the Elders keep the fabric of the family together. I wish you were still with us, Mom. Although I do feel you in spirit everyday, I still can't believe it's been 14 years since I've seen your beautiful face or felt your warm embrace. You were always there to keep us on our toes and out of conflict. I miss all that you did for us. Your loving memory will live on forever in me and my family's heart. Your grandkids will never forget you, and all your teaching will be passed on to them MumMum. *From Kat.*

Obituary

Richard Thomas O'Brien

Born – 7/29/1972

Died – 3/26/2010

Resided in Stacy, MN

First Responders Recertify Skills



Photo courtesy of Monte Fronk

Linda Moses, Renee Bayerle, and Rebecca Swanseay from the Band's Public Health Department check the pulse of a simulation mannequin as they practice first responder medical skills in a recertification course.

During February and March, 74 Mille Lacs Band first responders (EMTs and certified employees) practiced their medical skills as part of a recertification course. The first responders use mannequins to practice CPR, defibrillation, triage, splitting, controlling bleeding, using oxygen, taking pulses and blood pressures, and more.

This year the first responders were able to practice on new simulation mannequins that display different signs,

symptoms and medical conditions. This gives students hands-on practice that will better prepare them for working with patients in the field.

First responders are required by the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regulatory Board to take a recertification course every two years. The Indian Health Service's EMS Division collaborates with the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center to provide the course at no cost to the Band.

New Foundation to Provide Opportunities for Youth

Mille Lacs Band Chief Justice Rayna Mattinas has always been interested in working with the Band's youth, so one of the first things Rayna did as Chief Justice was form the Community Leadership Youth Foundation (CLYF).

CLYF is a joint collaboration between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of tribal government that draws on the many talents of community members to educate and inspire the Band's youth.

The foundation recognizes the need to provide alternatives for our youth and their families. Through community leadership opportunities, youth will build confidence, make new friends, practice good sportsmanship, and learn the importance of being responsible. Ultimately, CLYF hopes to foster positive Ojibwe values among the Band's youth.

Additionally, the foundation plans to support and conduct nonpartisan research on the educational needs of American Indian youth and hopes to partner with other educational institutions.

The Band's Chief Executive, Speaker of the Assembly, and Chief Justice will be members of the foundation as a part of their positions. They will appoint a board of directors, which will be the decision-making body of the foundation.

"As leaders in the community, we believe we have an obligation to provide opportunities for our youth and build a community that will support them," said Rayna.

Fundraisers

CLYF kicked off with an "Oji-Cree" Round Dance fundraiser on March 5-6 at the District I Community Center. Members of the Cree First Nation of Canada joined the Band for the event.

Approximately 300 participants and spectators attended the event, which raised more than \$1,500 for CLYF through raffle tickets and cash donations.

For more information about CLYF or to get involved in future activities or fundraisers, contact Chief Justice Rayna Mattinas at 320/279-0063.

Disconnecting Electrical Services

Submitted by Tribal Court

The Public Utilities Act for Cold Weather Disconnects ends on April 15. Under this law, cooperative and municipal utilities cannot disconnect a residential consumer between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heating source.

Mille Lacs Energy customers who do not pay their bill on the 28th of the prior month and have a balance of \$200 or more are sent Mille Lacs Tribal Court Summons and Complaint papers. These are mailed out around the first of each month and at least 10 days prior to the court date that has been set by the court and Mille Lacs Energy.

Customers who receive the Summons and Complaint may pay the bill prior to the court date listed on the court documents or call Mille Lacs Energy to make payment arrangements. On the day of the court hearing, customers may come to Mille Lacs Tribal Court to pay their bill or make arrangements to pay the bill. This would avoid the need for a hearing and a possible judgment by the Court. It would also prevent

disconnection of electrical service.

Please note that after a customer makes payment arrangements, a letter is sent to the customer. It will state in the letter that "failure to follow the arrangement will result in immediate disconnection of service."

There is a \$75 fee for electrical cases. Mille Lacs Energy charges a \$50 fee and Mille Lacs Tribal Court charges a \$25 court filing fee. These fees can be avoided if the bill is paid or proper arrangements are made.

Failure to respond to the Complaint and Summons will result in a default judgment against the customer. The default judgment gives Mille Lacs Energy the right to disconnect the service on the disconnect date or as stated on the court papers. A default judgment also sets the amount owed to Mille Lacs Energy.

In short, if a customer receives court papers and cannot remit payment before the court date, it is important to call the Mille Lacs Energy billing department at 800/450-2191 to make arrangements.

Ojibwemowin "The Ojibwe Language"

Below are some common Ojibwe words and phrases using the phonetic form of the words.

- Wesini – Eating
- Nibah – Sleeping
- Jebahkway – Cooking
- Minikway – Drinking
- Agindahso – Reading
- Namadabi – Sitting
- Nemi – Dancing
- Bimosay – Walking
- Anwaybi – Resting
- Nagamo – Singing
- Bahpi – Laughing
- Zhomeengwayni – Smiling
- Anukey – Working
- Monominikay – Ricing
- Gewisay – Hunting
- Mawi – Crying

- Bimibatoo – Running
- Bimisay – Flying
- Asaymahkay – Puts tobacco out (offering)
- Bijenahgo – Yesterday
- Dibi Koong – Last night
- Noongoom – Today
- Onah go shig – This evening
- Dibi kuk – Tonight
- Gigishayb – Tomorrow morning
- Wahbung – Tomorrow
- Nah Guj – Later
- Ingo Ding – Sometime
- In'Ga Wah Ba Men – I'll see you later
- May Wi Zha – A long time ago

Calendar of Events

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 Beading 101 Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	12 Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting 5 p.m. Contact: Amiliya Zago, 320/384-7598 AMVETS Meeting GCML 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925	13	14	15	16 Glen Campbell* GCML 8 p.m. both nights	17
18	19	20 District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting 4 p.m. Contact: Dawn Aubid, 218/768-2345	21 District III Community Meeting GCH 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 320/384-6240	22 District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311	23 All Offices Closed for Art Gahbow Day	24 Tanya Tucker* GCH 7 p.m.
25	26 District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judy Virnig, 320/532-7423	27	28 District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam, 320/676-1102	29 Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424	30	

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*To Purchase Tickets Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800/745-3000, or visit www.ticketmaster.com	<i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at kellys@goffhoward.com</i>					1
2	3	4	5	6 Talking Circles The Brick House 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046	7	8 Ojibwe Baby Moccasin Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m.
9 Ojibwe Baby Moccasin Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14 Chippendales* GCH 8 p.m. both nights	15

What is Your Favorite Story or Book to Share With Your Children, Grandchildren or Young Relative?

Gene Davis



"The Turtle and the Rabbit. My kids loved it"

Bernadine Garbow



"Humpty Dumpty. All those old-time books, the classics."

Brenda Day



"I like to read The Cat in the Hat and storybooks like that."

Monica Benjamin



"Clifford and the Big Red Dog or Dr. Seuss books, like Go, Dog, Go."

Nigel Ladd



"My favorite has always been the life story of my grandfather, Albert Churchill, and the way he grew up. I tell my kids that story."

Carmen Behnkie



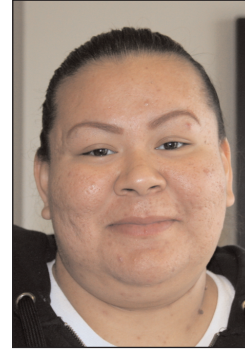
"Goodnight, Moon or Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? My two-year-old niece can do that book in sign language."

James Eubanks



"Where the Wild Things Are. It was always my favorite book."

Ricki Boswell



"The story about the Indian guy, the box, and the rabbit. Or I tell the Shrek story."

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

Band Members Take a Plunge for Charity



Photo courtesy of Bugs Haskin

Before jumping into the lake, Bugs Haskin participated in the Polar Bear Plunge costume contest, where she dressed as a peacock. Bugs said she was "proud as a peacock to participate" after she won the Polar Bear Plunge costume contest.

Approximately 300 Band members jumped into the icy waters of Big Pelican Lake to raise \$54,000 for the Minnesota Special Olympics. The Polar Bear Plunge, which took place at Breezy Point Resort on March 6, was sponsored by the tribal police department.

The money raised will benefit the 430 athletes from Area 5 (Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties) who will compete in the Special Olympics on April 10-11.



Photo courtesy of Bugs Haskin

Ten-year-old Marquis Fisher jumps into Big Pelican Lake to raise money for the Minnesota Special Olympics.

Band members of all ages participated in the plunge, including 10-year-old Marquis Fisher and his grandmother.

Dwight Reed, tribal police chief, and Sid Lucas, director of public safety, also jumped into the lake after Dennis Olson, commissioner of education, decided to sponsor them.

Bugs Haskin, activities director at Nay Ah Shing, took the plunge despite being afraid of water and not knowing how to swim. When asked why she would participate, she responded, "Kids and cops. They are my passion."

Grand National Golf Course Is Hiring

The Grand National Golf Course opened at the beginning of April and is interested in hiring people for several full- and part-time positions for the season, which runs from April to October.

Applications are available at the Grand Casino Hinckley Human Resources Office, which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. After dropping of your application, you will have the option to interview for the

position at the same time or another time that is convenient for you.

For the most updated job openings, call the job hotline at 800/472-6321, ext. 4977. If you have any questions, contact Vicki Kroschel, director of human resources, at 800/472-6321, ext. 4930 or Wanetta Thompson, vice president of human resources, at 800/472-6321, ext. 4909.

Attention Mille Lacs Band Job Seekers

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley have massage therapist and other jobs available for Band members.

Now is the time to send in a new application or update your existing application. Having an updated application or resume will improve your chances of securing a job with Grand Casinos and it is necessary.

Both Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley offer competitive compensation, a fun work environment, and great benefits, including flexible scheduling, comprehensive health and dental coverage, and a 401(k) matching plan of up to 5%. Other benefits include:

- Short-term and long-term disability

- Education programs
- Wellness programs
- Employee assistance programs
- Life insurance
- Prepaid legal services
- Paid time off
- Holiday pay

For more information about open positions or to update your application, please contact Deb Matthews at 800/626-5825, ext. 8325 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Viola Olson at 800/472-6321, ext. 4829 at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Job openings available online

Available jobs can be found at www.grandcasinosmn.com.

Reminder: The Mille Lacs Band tribal government posts available positions on its Web site at www.millelacsojibwe.org.