

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

August 2012

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

Volume 14 • Number 8

## Chief Executive and District I Representative Take Office



Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin addresses the crowd after being sworn in on July 10.

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and District I Representative Sandra Blake were sworn in to office on July 10. Hundreds of Band members and friends of the Band gathered for the swearing-in ceremony and picnic lunch at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center.

Three Nay Ah Shing school board members – Kimberly Jayne Kegg, Semira Kimpson, and Eloise Betsy Wind – were also sworn in during the ceremony.

### Our new Chief Executive

As Chief Executive, Melanie will lead the Band's executive branch that implements Band laws and administers programs and services. She plans to immediately start tackling the many challenges facing the Band, including economic diversification, housing, education, language preservation, and more.

Most recently, Melanie was interim director of the Pine

Grove Leadership Academy in District III. She previously served the Band as Chief Executive from 2000-2008, Commissioner of Administration from 1989-1997, and chief of staff to the late Chairman Art Gahbow. She has also been senior vice president of administration and finance at Grand Casino Hinckley, and has served the American Indian community through numerous boards and organizations at the local, state and national levels.

"I'm honored to be serving a tribe of 4,300 people who take so much pride in being Mille Lacs Band members," Melanie said. "I share that pride as your Chief Executive, and I plan to channel your energy and the executive branch's hard work into solving problems and strengthening the Band."

Born in Danbury, Wisconsin, Melanie was raised in Lake Lena and St. Louis, Missouri. Melanie's family was one of the many American Indian families that the Bureau of Indian Affairs



Mille Lacs Band District I Representative Sandra Blake is sworn in to office by Mille Lacs Band District I Associate Justice Clarence Boyd.

tried to relocate to seven large U.S. cities, including St. Louis.

### Sandra Blake enters third term

In her second consecutive and third overall term, Sandra will represent District I of the Mille Lacs Reservation. With 1,458 Band members, it's the reservation's most populous district.

Sandra has also served the Band as executive director of education, among other

positions, and has held numerous roles within the Minnesota Historical Society at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. Sandra was born and raised on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

"My job is to serve District I Band members," Sandra said. "I appreciate the support that I received in the election, and I will continue to protect and promote the general welfare of the Band members from the district that I was elected from."



Kimberly Jayne Kegg, Semira Kimpson, and Eloise Betsy Wind were sworn in as Nay Ah Shing school board members.



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# District II of Mille Lacs Reservation Declared Disaster Area



Photo courtesy of Monte Fronk

*(Editor's note: Last month an incorrect caption appeared with this photo. This month we are providing a corrected caption.) Rick Benjamin, who works in the District II ALU maintenance department, delivered bottled water to Band members during the flooding in District II. He and Maurice Benjamin, who works in the District II public works maintenance department, built the temporary bridge shown in this photo.*

As the *Inaajimowin* reported last month, Band members living in District II of the Mille Lacs Reservation near McGregor experienced heavy rains that led to flooding in late June. Due to the damage caused to property and infrastructure, the area was included in a federal disaster declaration by President Obama on July 6.

"A disaster declaration like this means that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will cover 75% of the costs related to fixing or replacing public infrastructure and other facilities that were damaged," said Monte Fronk, emergency management coordinator. "The Band is in the beginning stages of its formal damage assessment."

About 287 Band members live in District II (East Lake), including about 50 people who reside in the Band's Apple Orchard development, which was cut off during the flooding. Rick Benjamin, who lives in Apple Orchard and works in the maintenance department at the District II Assisted Living Units, used his two ATVs to help deliver food and water to his neighbors for three days. Maurice Benjamin from the District II public works staff also assisted in this effort.

"The roads into the development were completely flooded. Trails were our only option," Rick said. Rick and Maurice got their supplies from the East Lake Community Center, which served as the Band's command center during the flooding.

The road into the District II Assisted Living Units was also under water. The four residents were evacuated on ATVs, with help from Rick and the Band's natural resources and public works departments. They stayed at a hotel in McGregor for three days.

Most local residents had electricity throughout the flooding, but they were instructed to boil their drinking water as a precaution.

## Emergency response

The recommendation to boil drinking water was one of the many communications that came from the Band's Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) to help Band members affected by the flooding. TERC was activated as part of the Band's emergency response plan for natural disasters and other crises.

Renee Johnson, program administrator for East Lake and an Apple Orchard resident, was at the community center throughout the crisis to help keep track of the trouble spots and direct conservation officers and others to District II homes.

"People who stopped by or called the community center were primarily seeking water, food packets, and information," Renee said.

Several Mille Lacs Band departments were part of the response effort during the flooding, and some are still working to assess and address damages. For instance:

- Public works, part of the Community Development

Department, monitored and restored roadways and built temporary bridges.

- Housing, another part of the Community Development Department, has been assessing damage to District II homes.
- The Department of Natural Resources checked on people, delivered supplies, and monitored drinking water and sewer concerns. The DNR has continued to monitor water levels of effected waterways and shorelines.
- Emergency management, part of the department of public safety, coordinates emergency preparedness and is working with the state and federal government on the disaster declaration and FEMA funding.
- The Health and Human Services Department filled and delivered people's needed medications during the floods. Staff was also available for behavioral health needs.

"Mii gwech to everyone who helped during the flooding," said District II Representative Marvin Bruneau. "Special thanks to our conservation officers, tribal police officers, Monte Fronk, Maurice Benjamin, Rick Benjamin, and Lance Vanderburg for all their extra effort."

Additional recognition goes to:

- DNR conservation officers Jared Rasoti, Mike Taylor, and others who are trained in search and rescue and got to families in need on ATVs before other departments could reach them.
- Public Health Director Lisa Blahosky and her staff, including Allison Harr, who provided health care to the people who needed it and helped get medications to the residents whose supplies ran low.
- Ginger Weyaus, executive director from the Health and Human Services Department, who was on site to coordinate food and water distribution from District I to residents in District II.
- Jeff Moose from District II maintenance, who helped

locate where Band members live.

- Commissioner of Administration Carolyn Shaw and Assistant Commissioner of Administration Michelle Palomaki, who helped guide the decision-making on site and made the process run smoothly.
- Commissioner of Community Development Sam Moose, who drove to Grand Rapids for additional water after the existing supplies ran out.
- Director of Public Safety Sid Lucas, who helped evacuate a family and many other tasks.
- Amanda and Amber Bruneau, who opened the East Lake Convenience Store each day during the flooding.
- Tribal police officers, who helped transport people.
- The many community members who checked on their neighbors and used Facebook and other tools to check on people and provide updates.
- Everyone else who helped in a variety of ways.

## Lake and river levels

Days after the heavy rains, the Mississippi River crested on June 28 at 18.71 feet, one of the highest levels on record. Water levels on Big Sandy Lake also crested on June 28. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the gauge on Big Sandy Lake rose from 17.55 feet on June 19 to 22.93 feet on June 28.

This is the worst flood the area has experienced since 1950. Thirteen Minnesota counties and three tribal nations (Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage) are part of the federal disaster declaration. Preliminary assessments estimate the flooding and storm damage at more than \$108 million.

Now that the waters have receded, Marvin says the tribal government is assessing damage to homes, other facilities, and areas including the cemetery next to Big Sandy Lake.

## Back-to-School Reminders

### Nay Ah Shing has later start date

As the 2012-2013 school year is about to begin, the Band's Nay Ah Shing Schools are gearing up to welcome back students on September 4. Teachers will report for work at their usual time on August 21. The late start will allow teachers time to prepare classrooms due to the remodeling of the lower school building.

Nay Ah Shing School enrollment and registration will be held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. daily at the upper school with the school registrar, Betty Mondeng. If you have questions about enrollment or registration, please call Mary Simon at 320-532-4695, ext. 2104.

You must bring along a copy of the student's birth certificate and social security card to register at any of the schools.

### Nay Ah Shing Schools to continue offering free meals

Nay Ah Shing Schools will continue offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students during the 2012-2013 school year under the National School Lunch/School Breakfast Programs.

### Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy's new school year started on July 30. The charter school, which holds classes throughout the year, is still accepting enrollments. To enroll, call Noah Johnson at 218-768-3477.

### Head Start for three- to five-year-olds

If you are looking for a fun, educational environment for your three- to five-year-old child, please contact the Head Start program in your district for more information.

- District I: 320-532-4690
- District II: 218-768-3311
- District III: 320-384-7162

Please note that your child must be age three by September 1, 2012, in order to register for Head Start. The first day of Head Start begins on September 4 (contingent on construction completion).

### Schedule your child's physical exam

Each child in Early Head Start/Head Start needs to have a physical with immunization updates and a dental exam

before starting school. When making the appointment, you will need to state that the exam is for Early Head Start/Head Start to ensure that all requirements are met. A parent or guardian must accompany each child to these exams.

For more information, contact one of the clinics listed below, or call Gaylene Spolarich or Berd Przybilla at 320-532-4690 for assistance.

- Ne-la-Shing Clinic: 320-532-4163
- East Lake Clinic/Community Center: 218-768-3311
- Aazhoomog Clinic: 320-384-0149
- Mille Lacs Health System: 320-532-3154

### Immunizations required

The following immunizations are needed to start school this fall in all Minnesota schools.

#### Kindergartners

- Five diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) immunizations
- Four polio immunizations
- Two measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunizations
- Three-dose Hepatitis B series
- Varicella immunization
- Four doses of HiB vaccine, which protects against HiB disease that can cause meningitis, throat swelling, and infections (recommended, but not required)

#### Seventh graders

- Two measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunizations
- Updated diphtheria and tetanus (DT) immunizations
- Three-dose Hepatitis B series
- Varicella immunization

Parents: Please note that the varicella immunization, also known as the chickenpox vaccine, is not required for students who have already had chickenpox. If your child has had chickenpox, please send the school nurses an approximate date of when your child had it. Also, please contact your clinic to schedule Hepatitis B shots for any child who has not yet had them. If your child has started but not finished the series of shots, your clinic can simply finish the series.

All students must have their immunizations up to date and on record with their school.

## Boys & Girls Club Members of the Month

By Justin Beaulieu, Boys & Girls Club director

The Mille Lacs Band's Boys & Girls Club honor Band youth from each district as members of the month.

To be chosen for this award, participants must consistently have a positive attitude and willingness to learn and try new things. Additionally, they must show certain leadership characteristics and the attributes of a good role model.

### District I



Sophie LaDue

The District I Boys & Girls Club chose Sophie LaDue as the club's July member of the month. Sophie, a

five-year-old, will start kindergarten this fall at Nay Ah Shing School.

"Sophie was chosen because of her kindness and positive attitude," said Christina Nayquonabe, District I Boys & Girls Club coordinator. "She is always joyful and excited for club activities."

### District IIa



Tylese Irving

The District IIa Boys & Girls Club selected Tylese and Tyla Irving as the club's July members of the month.



Tyla Irving

Both girls attend Nay Ah Shing School and had the highest attendance in the club for the past two months.

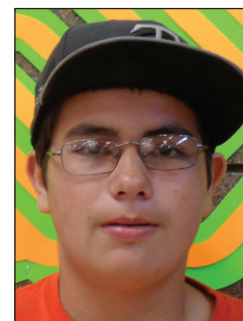
"Tylese and Tyla were chosen as the members of the month because of their kind hearts and great attitudes they show at the club," said Charlee Edwards, District IIa Boys & Girls Club coordinator. "You can't have one without the other, and the care and respect they give to each other and other club members is amazing."

### District III



Rhea Shabaiash

The District III Boys & Girls Club honored Rhea Shabaiash and Dallas Roseland as its July members of the month.



Dallas Roseland

Rhea, a second-grader at Hinckley Elementary School, had the second highest attendance

in her group and tied for the most stars in the club's Star Program, a rewards program that merits stars for participation and performance. Rhea participates in the reading, nature, cooking, and craft clubs; the arts; Project Learn; Smart Kids; and Power Hour, a national homework help program run at Boys & Girls Clubs.

Dallas, an eighth-grader, was the only teenager with perfect attendance at the club in July. He also had the highest number of stars in the Star Program for his group.

"Both Rhea and Dallas display excellent behavior at the club," said Weylin Davis, District III Boys & Girls Club coordinator.

Congratulations to Sophie, Tylese, Tyla, Rhea and Dallas for being July's members of the month!

Photos courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club.

## Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, August 10**, at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, call 320-532-4163. Walk-ins are welcome. We will do our best to serve you.

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

# Mille Lacs Band Government 101

Welcome to a new series in the *Inaajimowin* called "Mille Lacs Band Government 101."

We have several future topics that came to us directly from Band members. If you have a question about the Band government, please send it to *Inaajimowin* Editor Kelly Sam at [kelly@goffpublic.com](mailto:kelly@goffpublic.com) for consideration in an upcoming edition of the paper.

## What does each branch of the government do? Why are they separate?

The Mille Lacs Band has a three-branch system of government, just like the state and federal governments do. Those three branches are the executive, legislative and judicial, and they each have separate responsibilities. The reason for having them separate is to ensure that no single person or part of the government has absolute power in any one area.

### Executive branch

The head of the Band's executive branch, the Chief Executive, is responsible for implementing Band laws and appropriations. This includes signing contracts and agreements on the Band's behalf, issuing executive orders, calling elections, and conducting the Band's government-to-government relationships with

the State of Minnesota, the United States, and other tribes. His/her duties also include approving or vetoing Band laws and appointing and overseeing commissioners, who administer the Band's programs and services.

### Legislative branch

The legislative branch – known as the Band Assembly – is comprised of three District Representatives and the Secretary/Treasurer, who is also the Speaker of the Assembly. The Speaker has the authority to convene the Band Assembly meetings. His/her presence constitutes a quorum, but the Speaker has no vote on any Assembly business. Outside of Assembly meetings, the Speaker assumes the important duties of the Band's Secretary/Treasurer. In this position, he/she is responsible for the financial activities of the Band and has the authority to investigate any financial irregularities, including authorizing subpoenas for this purpose.

The Band Assembly develops and amends laws and appropriates money for the operation of the tribal government. These actions start as bills for the Band Assembly's consideration. A District Representative sponsors a bill and introduces it at a Band Assembly meeting. After

discussion, and depending on the bill's subject, it can be passed immediately by a majority of the Band Assembly or tabled for further discussion.

A bill may be changed or added to during the process. Some statutory amendments within a bill are required to go out for public comment, in which case meetings are held in all three districts. Other statutory amendments may go to public hearing at the Band Assembly's discretion. When a date is set for the Assembly to vote on a bill, a majority vote is required to pass the bill.

Bills that are passed go to the Chief Executive, who has the responsibility to sign or veto each bill. If a bill is vetoed, it is returned to the Band Assembly with a written comment providing the reason for the veto. Within five days, a compromise hearing must be held, during which the Band Assembly and the Chief Executive attempt to reach an agreement on the bill.

Sometimes the bill passes after a compromise is reached; other times it fails, and no further action may be taken on it for at least 180 days. The exception is an appropriations (funding) bill, which the Chief Executive has three days to act on, then compromise meetings must continue until an agreement is reached.

The Band Assembly also confirms commissioner appointments made by the Chief Executive, ratifies contracts and agreements, adopts resolutions, and performs other legislative functions. The Band Assembly does not administer Band programs and services. The Office of Management and Budget reports directly to the legislative branch.

### Judicial branch

The Band's judicial branch – known as the Court of Central Jurisdiction – preserves and maintains Band laws and accords equal rights, equal protection, and equal opportunity for Band members under Band laws and statutes.

It includes a District Court and a Court of Appeals, consisting of judges nominated by the Chief Executive and ratified by the Band Assembly. The District Court hears all civil cases, including traffic and natural resource violations, small claims, family cases, juvenile justice cases, and more. The Court of Appeals, consisting of one judge from each of the three reservation districts (including the Chief Justice), handles any appeals from the District Court. In both courts, the judges review the laws that are relevant to the case they are hearing to determine the outcome of that case.

## Band Youth Attend UNITY Conference in Phoenix, AZ



Photo courtesy of Adrienne Benjamin

**Mille Lacs Band Boys & Girls Club members visited the Grand Canyon during their trip to Arizona for the UNITY conference on July 6-10.**

Youth from the Mille Lacs Band Boys & Girls Club attended the UNITY conference in Phoenix on July 6-10. UNITY, which stands for United National Indian Tribal Youth, is a nationwide organization designed to empower tribal youth by fostering their mental,

physical, social, cultural and spiritual growth. Conference participants discussed the major issues affecting tribes today, including health, families, culture, education, economic development, the environment, and tribal governments.

## Vineland Water Tower Undergoes Repairs



Photo courtesy of Brian Scheinost

**By Brian Scheinost, director of public works**

The Mille Lacs Band public works department is in the process of cleaning, repairing and painting the 200,000-gallon water tower in Vineland at the intersection of Atooban Drive and Virgo Road.

The project will include repairing some of the welds which hold the steel water tower together and repairing and replacing components inside the tower.

Once the repair work is complete, the contractor will sandblast the paint from the interior and exterior of the tower. The water tower will be covered during the sandblasting.

Finally the water tower will be painted the same color blue as the Bugg Hill water tower. The Mille Lacs Band logo will also be painted on the north and south sides of the tower.

The project is scheduled to be complete by mid-August.

If you have any questions about the project, contact Brian Scheinost, director of public works, at 320-532-7437.

# Mille Lacs Band Employment Opportunities and Recent Hires

By Sarah Barten, public relations specialist at Grand Casinos

There are several employment opportunities for Band members at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grand Casino Hinckley, and the Corporate Commission's non-gaming operations.

Working at the casinos has afforded several opportunities for Band members, including Rosalind Leon, HR generalist.

Rosalind first learned about the open positions at Grand Casino Hinckley from the employment section of the Grand Casino website. She found a job she was interested in, applied, interviewed, and was hired as a HR representative in July 2011.

In December 2011, Rosalind began job shadowing the director of risk management and learned the different aspects of the HR department, which positioned her perfectly for a promotion to HR generalist.

"I really like working with my fellow co-workers and other Associates and Guests," Rosalind said. "This job is very rewarding and allows me to provide for my family."

Band members interested in finding employment at Grand Casinos, Corporate Commission, or a non-gaming Band-owned business should contact one of the following HR representatives.

- Grand Casino Mille Lacs: Deb Matthews, 800-626-5825, ext. 8325
- Grand Casino Hinckley: Bonnie Matrious, 800-472-6321, ext. 4929
- Corporate Commission/ non-gaming businesses: Nicole Hyatt, 320-532-8844

## New hires

Congratulations to the following Band members who were recently hired.

- Daniel Pewaush, buffet host at Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Robert Oswaldson III, systems service desk tech trainee, Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley
- Courtney Boyd, cage cashier at Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Lynn Kegg, bingo attendant at Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Athena Sagataw, arcade attendant at Grand Casino Mille Lacs

- Keith Boyd, slot technical assistant manager at Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Stacy Skinaway, hotel room attendant at Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Todd Big Bear, Makwa Cinema cashier at Grand Makwa Cinema
- Starrise Colsrud, finance revenue auditor at Grand Casino Hinckley
- Pernell Redday, banquets line cook at Grand Casino Hinckley

## Promotions

Congratulations to the following Band members who were recently promoted at their jobs.

- Rodney Pendegayosh was promoted to entertainment and events manager at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Rodney has nine years of casino experience and five years of supervisor and management experience. He has excellent communication, organizational and analytical skills.
- Danielle Churchill was promoted to slot service Associate at Grand Casino Hinckley. Danielle has been an Associate of Grand Casino Hinckley since 2011 and has excellent guest service skills.
- Ashly Johnson was promoted to purchasing assistant at Grand Casino Hinckley. Ashly plans to graduate in May 2014 from the University of Minnesota Morris with a degree in marketing.
- Corrin Locke was promoted to buffet cashier at Grand Casino Hinckley. She has been trained in many areas of the food and beverage department, including hosting, serving, and now as a cashier.

## Other employment opportunities

The Mille Lacs Band Marathon Convenience Store, Subway, Grand Market, and Grand Makwa Cinema are hiring. For more information or to apply, contact Nicole Hyatt at 320-532-8844.

Also, Band members interested in receiving e-mailed job postings on a weekly basis can send their contact information to [bandmemberjobs@ccmlb.com](mailto:bandmemberjobs@ccmlb.com).

# Emergency Services and Energy Assistance Updates

By Valerie Harrington, emergency services and energy assistance program coordinator

## Emergency services staff member highlight



Brandi Wagner

In an effort to connect Mille Lacs Band members to the names and faces of the emergency services program, this month the department is highlighting Brandi Wagner, its longest-standing employee. Brandi, a Band member and an emergency support technician, celebrated her third year with the program in June.

As an emergency support technician, Brandi is responsible for assisting clients with loan processing and state energy applications.

"I like working with my coworkers and helping people with their needs," said Brandi.

Brandi graduated from Isle High School and has lived in the Mille Lacs community her entire life.

## Identification reminder

Each time Band members visit the emergency services office to apply for a loan, they must provide a copy of their tribal ID or certificate of enrollment. This protects emergency services clients by ensuring that someone

else cannot apply on their behalf. This also validates that the correct amount is documented for the loan.

## Food distribution program reminders

The food distribution program is an alternative to food stamps for low-income American Indian households. The federal program provides food packages instead of coupons or cards to eligible Band members living in Mille Lacs, Crow Wing, Pine, Aitkin, Kanabec, and Sherburne counties.

The commodities available include dry packaged goods, an assortment of canned vegetables and fruits, frozen meats, soups, beans, pasta, sauces, rice, cereal, flour, oats, butter, cheese, milk, fruit juices, and more.

Households are eligible based on income and resource standards set by the federal government, and must be recertified every 12 months. Elderly and disabled households may be certified for up to 24 months. Households which use food stamps are not eligible for the food distribution program.

The amount of food available for each household depends on eligibility and family size. Orders are processed and filled by the warehouse staff. Once you apply and are accepted into the program, you may call or fax orders directly to the warehouse staff or food distribution clerk. To place an order, call 320-532-7510 or fax it to 320-532-3725.

Program applications are available at the emergency services office and at each of the district community centers and ALU units. The application can also be faxed, mailed, or e-mailed upon request.

For more information or to determine if you qualify for a program, contact our office at 320-532-7510. We are located at 16745 Shaw Bosh Kung Drive.

# Primary Election: August 14

By Jamie Edwards, director of government relations

Don't forget to vote in this year's state primary election on Tuesday, August 14. Absentee voting for the primary opened on June 29 and will remain open through August 13.

Primary elections for U.S. Senate candidates will be held in all Minnesota legislative districts. Primary elections for U.S. Representatives, state senate, and state representative seats will be held in districts where more than one candidate from the same party is seeking the same office.

Your vote is crucial to help decide which candidates move on to the general election. The primary elections will narrow the field of candidates to one candidate per party per elected office for the general election ballot in November.

Because this year was a redistricting year, your district and polling location may have changed since the last time you voted. Visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website ([www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)) for information on polling locations, candidates, absentee voting, voter registration, and more.

# Department of Labor Updates

By Paul Janowiec, director of training and development at the department of labor

## Introduction to Microsoft Word and Excel computer training

This month the department of labor is offering two free one-day training seminars on Microsoft Office programs. The trainings are designed to help participants learn the basics of word processing and spreadsheet-based computer programs.

The Microsoft Word training seminar will be held Wednesday, August 8, and the Microsoft Excel training seminar will be held Wednesday, August 15. Both trainings will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the lower level media room of the Mille Lacs Band Government Center, and will include lunch.

Class sizes are limited to 15, so register in advance by contacting Paul Janowiec at 320-532-4706 or paul.janowiec@millelacsband.com.

## GED testing in August

Band members who have yet to pass all five subject areas in the current GED test format are encouraged to register for the next round of testing offered in August.

The department of labor is facilitating the GED exam at the Mille Lacs Tribal College on Friday, August 10, and Friday, August 17, from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The entire five-subject test costs \$60 and each individual subject test is \$12. Students must bring a photo ID with their current address and their Social Security card on exam day. Students ages 16-18 will also need to bring a completed and signed Minnesota age waiver form. For more information, or to register, contact Melissa Lupinek, chief examiner, at 320-223-3826 or 763-689-6230.

## Check and Connect Program

Central Lakes College's Check and Connect Program is hosting a three-day orientation for students with learning disabilities on August 15, 16 and 17. The orientation program will prepare students for the

transition to college-level coursework.

All meals and fees for planned events will be covered by the program. The first 20 students to sign up will be accepted into the program.

For more information or to sign up, contact Ann Chouinard at 218-855-8117 or a chouinard@clcmn.edu or Aaron Mertes at 218-855-8218 or amertes@clcmn.edu. You can also visit [www.checkandconnect.org](http://www.checkandconnect.org).

## Child Development Associate (CDA) credential program

The new early education building in District I is scheduled to be complete this fall, which means several CDA positions will be available. All teaching staff and assistants are required to have CDA certification.

The Mille Lacs Band department of labor is offering an individualized CDA training program in all districts, which includes self-study workbooks, support groups, and paid internship possibilities.

To register for CDA training, call 800-922-4457 or 320-532-7407. Potential trainees will be prescreened according to CDA program guidelines.

## Mille Lacs Tribal College orientation

The Mille Lacs Tribal College is hosting an orientation on Thursday, August 16, from 1-3 p.m. New and current students are invited to attend and learn about financial aid, scholarships, and degree programs, and receive assistance with applications. For more information, call 320-495-3702, ext. 25.

## Boiler operator licensure training course

The department of labor is offering a three-day, 12-hour boiler operator training course to prepare participants to pass the new state testing requirements that go into effect August 1. The course will be held on the following Wednesdays from 8 a.m.-noon in the lower level media room in the Mille Lacs Band Government Center.

- August 29
- September 5
- September 12

The preparatory course costs \$150, which includes all training materials. Also, a \$50 application fee is required to take the state certification test. TANF, 477, TERO, and Mille Lacs Band scholarships and employee line-item funds may apply to these fees.

Class size is limited to 15. Contact Paul Janowiec at 320-532-4706 or paul.janowiec@millelacsband.com for more information or to register.

## Department of labor classroom hours

The department of labor is offering extended classroom hours in each district for Band members who would like assistance with resumes, cover letters, online job searches, computer skills, TABE testing, and GED exam preparation. Following are the weekly classroom hours in each district:

### District I department of labor classroom

- Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Tuesdays from 1-5 p.m.
- Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

### District II East Lake modular

- Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

### District IIa Chiminising Center

- Tuesdays from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

### District III Aazhoomog Lake Lena Community Center

- Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Free phone program update

All Band members participating in the free phone program can purchase extended minutes by visiting any business offering money grams, such as Walmart, Walgreens or Cub Foods. Participants experiencing difficulty with their free phone can contact the 24-hour, seven-day customer service line at 888-543-3620 to receive assistance.

# Area Education Leaders Work To Close the Achievement Gap

Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Education Dennis Olson participated in an education summit with Minnesota Commissioner of Education Brenda Cassellius, state elected officials, regional education leaders, and others in July to discuss how to close the achievement gap in central Minnesota schools. The summit focused on the Brainerd, Mille Lacs, and Long Prairie areas.

According to the Minnesota Department of Education, American Indian children scored 56.5% in statewide reading accountability test proficiency in 2011, while white children scored 80.9%. While the hard data from the testing has not been released to the public yet, Dennis said that Mille Lacs area students scored below the state average for American Indian children in both math and reading.

"This is one of the first times that we have data about the achievement gap and are beginning to talk about it in a healthy way," said Dennis. "The achievement gap needs to be recognized and addressed as a community issue. It's going to take all hands on deck to solve this problem, from parents to elected officials to each Band department to the non-Indian community."

The education summit gave the Mille Lacs Band the opportunity to provide input from the beginning of the process.

"It was powerful to be in the same room with so many key stakeholders who are striving for the same goal to close the achievement gap," said Dennis.

The Mille Lacs Band Education Department will work with schools and districts in the Mille Lacs area to develop and implement strategies to fight the achievement gap.

"Closing the achievement gap is a daunting task, but it could not be more critical to the health and future of our community," said Dennis. "This is a conversation that needs to happen now on a community-wide level."

Central Lakes College is coordinating a smaller planning group called the Regional Race Equity and Excellence Leadership Team, which will meet in mid-August to discuss how to build on the progress that the group has already made. Dennis will be a part of the discussion.

"We are on the right path as long as we continue to work together as a community to tackle this critical problem," said Dennis.

# Public Health Department Updates

## National Breastfeeding Month

By Kari DiGiovanni, WIC coordinator

August is National Breastfeeding Month, a time to raise awareness and support for breastfeeding mothers. "Loving Support Makes Breastfeeding Work" is the slogan for the WIC campaign, which promotes breastfeeding, increases referrals for breastfeeding support, increases public acceptance of breastfeeding, and provides technical assistance to state and local WIC agency professionals to promote the efforts.

To discuss the benefits of breastfeeding, receive tips for sharing the importance of breastfeeding, or to receive additional breastfeeding information or help, contact Kari DiGiovanni at 320-532-7457 or Joanne Weyaus at 320-532-7821.

## Adult tobacco survey

By Roberta Ladd, health educator, and Kristy LeBlanc, Secondhand Smoke Project outreach coordinator

The American Indian tobacco survey was administered randomly to 64 Mille Lacs Band members from each district. More than 90% of respondents had smoked a commercial cigarette, and more than half of the group included current and former smokers.

Nearly half of the respondents reported smoking every day and that they wanted to quit smoking. Also, more than 70% of the group had been in a car with someone who was smoking in the past seven days, and less than 10% lived in a non-smoking household.

The results show that second-hand smoke is prevalent on the reservation. Exposure to commercial tobacco can increase cholesterol, blood pressure, and the risk of life-threatening diseases, including diabetes and cancer.

A recent study printed in the *Los Angeles Times* concluded that about one in two smokers will be killed by smoking, regardless of a person's age bracket and length of time smoking. The survey respondents who expressed an interest in quitting commercial tobacco use are encouraged to seek help from the Band's smoking cessation program.

For more information about smoking cessation, contact Roberta Ladd, at 320-532-7812. You can also visit the Mille Lacs

Band website and watch the Gego Zaagaswaaken video under the Health and Human Services page.

## Maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle

By Linda Moses, home health aide

Maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle improves overall health and fitness and builds confidence. Exercise can also lower a person's risk for heart disease, diabetes, and certain types of cancer – including breast and colon cancers.

One of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to maintain this lifestyle is to engage in physical activity that feels like play. Any activity that increases a person's heart rate counts, such as biking or gardening. For the best results, engage in 150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous activity each week.

## Bii-Zin-Da-De-Dah coalition

By Kim Willis, prevention/performance improvement manager

Bii-Zin-Da-De-Dah, which means listening to one another in Ojibwe, is a community driven coalition that addresses the issues facing the reservation community, such as domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, and gang and domestic violence. Mille Lacs Band Elders, adults and youth are encouraged to join the coalition to help create a safe and healthy living environment. For more information about the Bii-Zin-Da-De-Dah coalition, contact the Band's behavioral health department at 320-532-7773.

## Heroin addiction

By Lisa Blahosky, public health director

Heroin, also referred to as black tar, smack, thunder, hell dust, and chiva, is a highly addictive drug that can be injected, smoked, sniffed or snorted. Heroin is typically sold as a white or brownish powder, or as the black sticky substance known on the streets as "black tar heroin."

Heroin is psychologically and physically addictive. Heroin abusers report feeling a surge of euphoria, followed by a twilight state of sleep and wakefulness. Heroin can severely impact a person's functionality and overall well-being. Physical symptoms of heroin use include drowsiness, constricted pupils, nausea, dry

mouth, and heavy extremities.

Because heroin abusers tend to underestimate the overall strength of the drug and its true contents, they are at a high risk of overdose. The effects of overdose are slow and shallow breathing, blue lips and fingernails, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, and possible death.

If you or anyone you know needs assistance to quit using heroin or other harmful drugs, contact the Band's Health and Human Services Department at 320-532-7776.

## Teen pregnancy

By Kim Willis, prevention/performance improvement manager

Each year more than 400,000 teenagers give birth in the United States, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The majority of those pregnancies are unplanned.

Teenage pregnancy poses a considerable risk for the mother and the baby. Teenagers are at a higher risk of developing several medical conditions during pregnancy than adult women. Because of poor diet, teenagers have an increased likelihood of suffering from high blood pressure, anemia, placental abruption, maternal renal failure, and depression during pregnancy. Also, women in this age group often fail to gain sufficient weight.

Expecting teenagers often don't receive the prenatal care needed to ensure a healthy pregnancy. Failure to take prenatal vitamins and maintain a healthy diet can severely impact the unborn child. Substance abuse is also more common among teen mothers than older women. Some of these factors contribute to premature birth, neurodevelopment disorders, and other birth defects.

Even after the baby is born, complications can continue. Children born to teenage mothers have a higher risk of developing chronic medical conditions and often need hospitalization.

Physical concerns aside, teenage mothers are often ill prepared mentally, emotionally and financially for motherhood.

For more information, please contact Kim Willis at 320-532-7760 or Kari DiGiovanni at 320-532-7457.

# Tribal Child Support Updates

By Amy Doyle, director of tribal child support

## Office closed August 16

The child support office will be closed on Thursday, August 16, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. for staff training. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

## Child support check pick-up times

Per capita child support checks are available for collection on the second Thursday and Friday each month. Checks can be collected from the child support enforcement office on Thursday from noon-5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Uncollected checks will be mailed on Friday after 2 p.m.

Wage child support checks are available for collection on Fridays from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Uncollected checks will be mailed on Friday after 2 p.m.

Unfortunately, checks cannot be released early due to our internal process, and in some cases, the timing of the State of Minnesota's electronic funds transfer for pass-through on TANF cases.

A photo ID is required for check collection. Finally, please note that case managers do not contact clients to notify them if a check is ready for pick-up.

For more information regarding this process, to see if you have a check available for collection, or to make other collection arrangements, contact the tribal child support enforcement office at 320-532-7755.

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

Normal business hours: Tenants in Band rentals and private Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7799 for work orders.

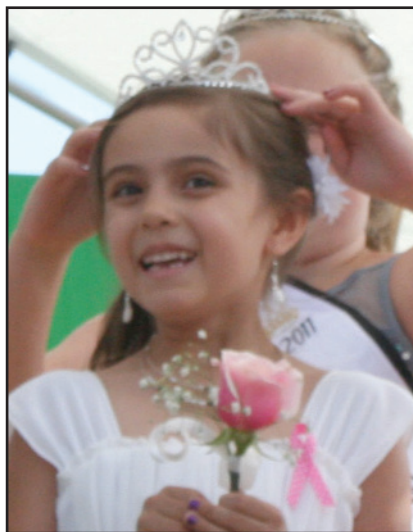
After business hours: Tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2 or 3 for their respective district.

## Wisdom Steps Golf Outing

Wisdom Steps is hosting its ninth annual golf outing on Friday, September 7 at Black Bear Golf Club in Carlton, MN. Registration starts at 9 a.m., shotgun starts at 10 a.m., lunch at 12 p.m. on the golf course, and awards ceremony and social hour at 2 p.m. The four person scramble costs \$400 and includes golf, lunch, two carts and contests.

Your participation in this event will support the improvement of Elders' health and will benefit future Elders. For more information about this event or to sign up, please contact Shauna FourStar at 218-335-8585 or 888-231-7886. You can also email Shauna at sjenkins@mnchippewatribe.org.

## Band Member Named Little Miss Hinckley



Halle Davis

Band member Halle Davis was named Little Miss Hinckley at the Corn & Clover Carnival in July. Halle is six years old and will be in the first grade at Hinckley/Finlayson in the fall. She is the daughter of Weylin Davis and Tiffany Davis; her grandparents are Harry Davis and Laureen Davis and Carrie Roberts and Terry Roberts. Halle enjoys dancing, singing, fishing, learning her culture, playing with her brothers, and arts and crafts. She competed against 11 other little girls and will now represent Little Miss Hinckley in the local area parades. Congratulations, Halle!

Photo courtesy of Hinckley News

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

June 2012

	Approved budget for FY 2012	Actual expenditures through 6/30/12	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	\$12,717,046	\$7,589,069	59.7%
Workforce*	\$16,497,080	\$3,763,125	22.8%
Judicial	\$1,195,327	\$547,339	45.8%
Law enforcement*	\$5,505,806	\$3,180,457	57.8%
Education*	\$18,748,349	\$12,840,527	68.5%
Health and human services*	\$22,212,589	\$12,576,720	56.6%
Circle of Health Insurance	\$8,206,226	\$7,053,015	85.9%
Natural resources*	\$6,321,520	\$3,412,688	54.0%
Community development*	\$44,429,223	\$16,102,087	36.2%
Gaming authority	\$5,006,548	\$3,470,286	69.3%
Bonus distribution	\$39,779,768	\$37,398,522	94.0%
Economic stimulus	\$3,000,000	\$2,953,000	98.4%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$183,619,481</b>	<b>\$110,886,834</b>	<b>60.4%</b>

### Financial notes:

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

\* These departments include continuing appropriations from FY2011.

## Circle of Health Updates

By Circle of Health staff

### Claims processing tips

The following tips will help ensure your medical and dental claims processing goes smoothly.

Show your primary insurance and Circle of Health cards at every medical and dental appointment. Do not assume the provider has your information. Information can get lost.

Be prepared to take action if you receive a bill by calling the phone number on the statement to make sure Circle of Health was billed. Sometimes the primary insurance company is billed instead of Circle of Health. Do not ignore a bill, because it may end up in collections, which means we can no longer pay the provider and the individual's credit score will be negatively impacted.

Circle of Health recommends that each Band member create a file and save the EOB

(explanation of benefits) he or she receives from his or her primary insurance provider. Circle of Health is unable to pay any statements that don't include an EOB form, and therefore we may need to request that information from the individual to complete the payment.

### EOB form

Billing statements often only provide the expenses the patient is responsible for, and do not include the individual's coverage. Circle of Health needs an EOB because it explains which medical and dental treatments and procedures are covered and which ones aren't. It also explains the deductible and copay for each service. Circle of Health has to know that information to make a payment, especially since we do not make payments for any uncovered services.

An EOB can be obtained by calling the customer service number on the back of your

primary insurance card. The representative will need to know the date of the service and the provider. Elders are welcome to use the Circle of Health office to assist with this process.

It is very important to pay attention to your outstanding medical bills, as the provider will turn them over to collections. Most of these situations can be avoided if the provider has the correct billing information.

### Circle of Health survey

The submission deadline for Circle of Health surveys has passed. Mii gwech (thank you) to all the Band members who submitted their Circle of Health surveys. We appreciate the comments, suggestions and feedback. The winner of the \$200 Walmart gift card and a summary of results will be announced in a future update, however all individual responses will remain confidential.



# Tribal Noteboard

## Happy August birthday:

**Rachel Sam**, 30 on August 2, from Mom, Lupe, June, Taya, Noah, Kelly, Jay, Kellen, Jen, Deek, Wesley, Onee, and Kim • **Taya**, 12 on August 20, from Grandma Tracy, Grandma Lupe, Mom, Dad, Noah, Kelly, Jay, Kellen, Jen, Deek, Wesley, Onee, and Kim • **Carla**, on August 27, from Kelly, Jay, Kellen and Kim • **Sam Burr**, on August 27, from the whole family • **Bella**, on August 31, from Kim • **Kira Moose**, 9 on August 5, with love from Mommy, Zach, Jerry, Grandma Deb, Leonard, Uncle Jeremy and family, Auntie Sherry and family, Mickey, Phil, PJ, Nadine, Blake, Charlotte, Cory Jr., Whitney, and Cameron • **Dayaunna Nadeau**, 9 on August 3, with love from Grandma Judy, Papa Juice, and the kids • **Tarz**, on August 9, from Judy, Rod, Val, Sam, Sarah, grandkids, and great grandkids • **Pinero**, on August 5, from Rachel and Waylon • **Dreezy**, on August 12, from Mom, Dad, Rachel and Waylon • **Lilz**, on August 30, from Rachel and Waylon • **Alicianna and Jayson Sam**, 1 on August 21, from Rachel, Waylon and Boo • **Andrel Sam**, on August 12, from Mom, Dad, Sissy, Boo, RaySean, Rachel and Waylon • **Tony Beaulieu**, on August 6, from Rachel, Waylon and Boo • **Catalac Grills Sam**, on August 6, from Rachel, Waylon and Boo • **Babs Sam**, on August 25, from Rachel, Waylon and Boo • **Mickey Sam**, on August 20, from Rachel, Waylon, Boo, Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, Phil Jr., Whitney, Cory Jr., and Blake • **Theresa**, on August 10, from Rachel, Waylon and Boo • **Bradley Harrington**, on August 15, from Rachel, Waylon, Boo, Bruce, Jay, Brad, Valerie, Randi, Kristy, Kate, Mariah, Biggy Man, Lil, Jayla, Taylor, Adam, Eric, Payton, Brae, and Binny • **Jay Harrington**, on August 16, from Rachel, Waylon and Boo • **Lilieah Harrington**, on August 3, from Rachel, Waylon and Boo • **Leiaunna Bugg**, on August 11, from Rachel, Waylon and Boo • **Sharon Pendegayosh**, on August 6, from Rachel, Waylon and Boo • **Shante Beaulieu**, on August 23, from Daddy, TJ, Rachel, Waylon, Boo, Arielle, Jenai, Jayla, Nick, Craig, CJ, Jordan, Max Dean, and Aidan • **PJ Harrington**, on August 5, from Rae, Waylon and Boo • **Brenda Best**, on August 9, with

love from Rome, Lucas, Mom, Dad, Jerome, Brent, Taryn, Chell, Casey, Cordell, Baby Cam, Cam, Tim, Veronica, Jeremy, Ed, Fran, Paris, Robert Jr., Roberta, Nancy, Larry, and the rest of the family • **Tim St. Clair**, on August 5, with love from Mary, Brenda, Rome, Jerome, Brent, Taryn, Chell, Camryn, Cordell, Casey, Veronica, Jeremy, Matt Hunt, Nancy, Larry, Ed, and the rest of the family • **Patrick**, on August 7, from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **Susan**, on August 9, from Dad, Colleen, Maggie Sue, Phoenix, Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff, Jon, and Grandpa • **Dad**, on August 11, from Evelyn, Tyson, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **Grandpa**, on August 11, from Evan, Jazsmyrn, and Faith Harmonie • **Ali**, on August 5, from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **DeAngelo**, on August 16, from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **Tierra**, on August 28, from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **Karla Nickaboine**, on August 30, from Lenore, Tyson, Faith, Eva, Jeff and Jon • **Marissa**, 16 on August 17, from Mom, Ang, Little Lon, Grandma, Papa and uncles • **Lacey Ballinger**, on August 2, with love from Auntie Nancy Lee • **Krista Roache-Klug**, on August 10, with love from Auntie Nancy Lee • **Taeren Ballinger**, on August 4, with love from Auntie Nancy Lee • **Cuddle Bugg**, 7 on August 12, from Mom, Dad, Brevin, RaySean, Sissy, Grandma Ruth, CJ, Bryan and Brent • **Antonio Sam**, 3 on August 21, from Ruth, Bryan, Brent, RaeAnne, Andrel, Kaitlin, Brevin, and RaySean • **Jackson Smith**, 3 on August 4, with love from Mom and Dad • **Michael**, on August 31, with love from Stacey, Braelyn, Brynley, Isabel, and Luis • **Tammy Williams**, from Theresa, Jesse, and Shaw-Knee • **Reuben**, 13 on August 20, with love from Mom, George, Cedric, Cedar, Caiarah, and Cyliss • **Cedric and Cedar**, 10, on August 23 with love from Mom, Dad, Reuben, Caiarah, and Cyliss • **Caiarah**, on August 22, with love from Mom, Dad, Reuben, Cedric, Cedar, and Cyliss • **Kayona Diane**, 1 on August 20, with love from Vannie, George, Reuben, Cedric, Cedar, Caiarah, and Cyliss • **Alissa Skinintheday**, 20 on August 30, with love from Rayna, Taw, Grandma and Auntie • **Phillip Harrington Jr.**,

on August 5, from Mom, Dad, Nadine, Blake, Charlotte, Cory Jr., Whitney, Cameron, and Grandma Deb • **Gabbi Jellum**, on August 20, from Mom, Bob, Shawn, Mickey, Phil, PJ, Nadine, Blake, Charlotte, Cory Jr., Whitney, and Cameron • **Sharon Pendegayosh**, on August 6, from Mickey, Phil, PJ, Nadine, Blake, Charlotte, Cory Jr., Whitney, and Cameron • **Jaden Ballinger**, on August 4, from Mickey, Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, Cory Jr., Blake, Cameron, Whitney, PJ, and Papa Doug • **Melissa Nadeau Cash**, with love from Nancy, Dakota, Albert, Kyla, and Kyel Gahbow • **Shelley and Sheila Day**, from Nancy Gahbow • **Janet Swierczek**, from Nancy, Dakota, Albert, Kyla, and Kyel Gahbow • **Shayla Livingston**, on August 23, from Braydon, Waylon, Mom, Dad, BJ, and Landon • **Alberta Loso**, on August 5, from Dawn • **Derek**, on August 8, from Dawn • **David S.**, on August 11, from Marlys, Anthony, Richard, Rachel, Kelia, RaiLei, Jeremy, Candace, Cyrell, Michael, Janice, Judy, Beatrice, Raymond, Juice, David, Matthew, Ruth Ann, Janis, William, Aaron, and great nieces and nephews • **Janis J.**, on August 15, from Mom, Dad, Elijah, Judy, Beatrice, Raymond, Juice, David, Matthew, Ruth Ann, William, Aaron, Michael, nieces, nephews, big sis, Richard, Rachel, Kelia, RaiLei, Jeremy, Candace, and Cyrell • **Robbie Dale**, on August 22, from your sister.

## Happy August birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diane Barstow  
Frances Benjamin  
Clarence Boyd  
Marlys Bushey  
Myrna Ceballos  
Karen Clark  
John Colstrud III  
Geraldine DeFoe  
Wesley Dorr  
Edward Dunkley  
Roxanne Emery  
Gary Frye  
Dorinda Garbow  
JoAnne Garbow  
Samuel Garbow Jr.  
Barbara Goodman  
Diana Guizar  
Mary Harpster  
Bradley Harrington  
Eugene Hill  
Robert Houle Jr.

George Jackson  
Patricia Jones  
Doris Kegg  
Lorraine Keller  
Andy Mitchell  
Lynda Mitchell  
Gerry Mortenson  
Delia Nayquonabe  
Victor Nayquonabe  
Margaret Premo  
Linda Quaderer  
Bruce Ray  
Theresa Schaaf  
William Schaaf  
David Shaugobay  
Frank Shingobe Jr.  
Bernadette Smith  
Daniel Smith  
Janice Taylor  
James Thomas  
Richard Thomas Jr.  
Sylvester Thomas Jr.  
Barbara Toth  
Michael Wade  
Alrick Wadena  
Diane Wadena  
Juanita Weyaus  
Donna Wind  
Franklin Woyak

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Jared Gahbow** for receiving his GED.

## Obituaries

### Franklin Benjamin Jr.

Born – 2-17-1953

Died – 6-14-2012

Lived in Minneapolis

### Wesley James Misquadace

Born – 5-31-1977

Died – 6-19-2012

Lived in McGregor

### Rebecca Agua

Born – 5-1-1955

Died – 6-22-2012

Lived in Oakland, CA

### Pamela Elaine Pawaush

Born – 2-22-1960

Died – 6-27-2012

Lived in Onamia

### Maria Clara Kegg

Born – 3-21-1965

Died – 7-9-2012

Lived in Onamia

### Tyrese Malik Anderson

Born – 7-15-2010

Died – 7-6-2012

Lived in Minneapolis



## Traditional Roles in Ojibwe Society



**Kenny Weyaus Sr. (August 5, 1941-September 20, 2011)**

Men, women and children all had their roles in traditional Ojibwe society. The men's main role was as the providers for the family. Men hunted, got the food, and brought the food home.

Stories I have heard tell of some men stalking a deer for days trying to get close enough to kill it. Today, you can shoot a bow and arrow from 100 or 200 yards away. But back then, hunters had to get very close to an animal. They just had spears, and you could only throw that spear about 5 to 10 feet. Or else you could sneak up to the animals, get very close, and stab them.

Men learned different ways to hunt from their fathers and grandfathers. They also learned to use a sweat lodge to purify themselves. That way, they wouldn't have a human smell on them, and they could sneak up on the animal.

Men were also the protectors of the camp. They stood guard and noticed if someone was entering their territory, trying to raid their camp. There are a few stories about being raided. One story talks about when the Ojibwe attended a treaty gathering in Prairie du Chien. When they were at the treaty talks, they were friendly with the Sioux. But when they were coming home, they got attacked. That was one time they weren't in a defensive mode, but most of the time they were in that defensive mode, guarding the village.

When the men hunted and brought home the animals, then it would be the women's job to cure the meat, tan the hide, and use whatever bones they needed. The whole animal was used, and they used the bones in all kinds of ways. For example, the shoulder of the deer was used as a hoe for their cornfields or their squash. I think the bones of the deer were also used to make games, like the hoof game.

The men would cut wood that the women needed to do their work. Today, when we get ready for winter, we stockpile a lot of wood. Back then, they didn't do that, because they knew that sometimes they wouldn't stay in one place – their winter camps wouldn't be a permanent settlement. If a war party sighted something, they would come to camp and say it's time to move. It would be a waste to leave wood stockpiled. So they would cut wood every day for the fire for that night.

The Ojibwe were always good conservationists like this. Because if you cut a lot of wood and stockpile it for the winter and then you happen to leave, you cut that wood for nothing. They just cut what they needed, and they didn't waste anything.

Children's traditional role in society was to listen to what they were taught so they would remember it once they grew up, because there were no books back then on how things were done. The boys were taught how to gut and field dress a deer, and the girls were shown how to preserve the meat, tan the hide, and make clothing from the hide. They were taught in a hands-on way so they didn't forget.

Children were also taught to respect everything – the animals, the plants, their Elders, everybody. How you raise your child is how he is going to grow up. If you taught him well, taught him to respect everything, he remembers that.

## Upcoming Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

### Kids craft workshop

Kids can enjoy light snacks and learn how to make a God's eye to take home. This project is recommended for children eight years or older.

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

### 52nd birthday celebration

Come help celebrate the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post's 52nd birthday. Cupcakes and refreshments will be provided.

This event will be held on Tuesday, August 7, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Artist in Residence Program

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post has invited Band member Loretta Kalk to participate in an Artist in Residence Program in August. Loretta will create basswood dolls and traditional dreamcatchers.

This free event will be held on Friday, August 10, and Saturday,

August 11, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Open house

Explore the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post during their annual open house on Sunday, August 19, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The historic site will be open for special Sunday hours and will offer free admission.

### Loom beading workshop

Participants will learn the art of loom beading, create a design, put it on a loom, and learn how to apply the loom work to leather or cloth once it is finished. This two-day class will be held from noon-4 p.m. on Saturday, August 25, and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, August 26.

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

Participants are encouraged to register by August 22.

Please call 320-532-3632 for more information.

## Band Members Wanted for Historical Documentary

*By Natalie Weyaus, Tribal historic preservation office director*

The Mille Lacs Band's tribal historic preservation office is seeking Mille Lacs Band members who practice traditional gathering or make traditional cultural items for a one-hour historical

documentary about traditional Ojibwe cultural customs that are still being practiced today.

If you are interested in sharing your skills for the documentary production or if you would like more information, contact Natalie Weyaus at 320-532-7450.

## Mille Lacs Band Takes Part in Public Service Announcement



Photo courtesy of Sarah Barten

*(left-right) Joseph Nayquonabe, Jr., Dennis Olson, Gabriella Eubanks, and Don Eubanks recorded a public service announcement for the nonprofit organization SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voice of Education) in May. You can listen to the PSA on the SAVE website at [www.save.org](http://www.save.org).*

# Calendar of Events

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>*To Purchase Tickets</b></p> <p>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800-745-3000, or visit <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com">www.ticketmaster.com</a></p>	<p>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651-292-8062 or write to Kelly at <a href="mailto:kelly@goffpublic.com">kelly@goffpublic.com</a></p>		1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<p><b>Band Legal Aid Summer Outreach</b> East Lake Community Center 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>52nd Birthday Celebration</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>District I Community Meeting</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Billie Jo Sarcia 320-532-7423</p>			<p><b>Kids Crafts</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-3 p.m.</p>
						11
						<p><b>Miranda Lambert*</b> Grand Casino Hinckley 8 p.m.</p>
						<p><b>Artist in Residence</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<p><b>AMVETS Meeting</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 6 p.m. Contact: Allen Weyaus 320-630-2988 <b>Band Legal Aid Summer Outreach</b> Lake Lena Community Center 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Minnesota and Wisconsin Primary Election Day</b> (See page 5 for more information)</p>	<p><b>District III Community Meeting</b> Lake Lena Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Christine Costello 320-384-6240</p>		<p><b>Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Grand Entry</b> 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Grand Entries</b> 1 p.m. &amp; 7 p.m.</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p><b>Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Grand Entry</b> 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Open House</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>All government offices closed for Mille Lacs Day</b></p>	<p><b>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting</b> 4 p.m. Contact: Raina Killspotted 218-768-2345</p>		<p><b>All American Rejects*</b> Grand Casino Hinckley 7 p.m.</p>		<p><b>Darius Rucker*</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Loom Beading Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum Noon-4 p.m.</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	Sept. 1
<p><b>Loom Beading Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</p>			<p><b>District IIA Community Meeting</b> Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam 320-676-1102</p>	<p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> East Lake Community Center 5 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh 218-768-3311 <b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson 612-872-1424</p>	<p><b>All government offices close at noon</b></p>	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<p><b>All government offices closed for Labor Day</b></p>	<p><b>Nay Ah Shing School starts</b></p>			<p><b>Chris Young*</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 8 p.m.</p>	

# What Is Your Favorite Olympic Sport to Watch?

**Kelly Keggs Sr.**



"I enjoy watching gymnastics, downhill skiing, and ice skating."

**Kelly Keggs Jr.**



"Snowboarding is my favorite."

**Jenny Keggs**



"I like gymnastics."

**Caryn Day**



"I like watching downhill skiing."

Photos by Kelly Sam

## Summer Youth Employment Program Expands to Year-Round Program

By Department of labor youth program staff

The Mille Lacs Band department of labor's youth program is going strong with 130 participants. The youth are split up into age groups, 12-15-year-olds and 16-20-year-olds. Youth ages 12-20 can take part, and they can now start on a seasonal basis.

The older participants are placed at various work sites in the community that fit their interests. Participants have been placed at Grand Casinos, the Boys & Girls Clubs, the department of labor, the legal aide department, and the Band's small businesses.

Due to the age requirements for employment, the younger participants are awarded with cash incentives for participating in approved activities, which can range from learning cultural skills to participating in sports to doing community service activities.

Youth are compensated by the program based on the number of hours worked or the number of activities completed.

### Program expansion and curriculum

Thanks to the Band government and its federal funding partners, this year the Mille Lacs Band department of labor's summer youth employment program expanded into a year-long program with seasonal entry dates.

The program also switched its name from "summer youth employment program" to "youth program," because it encompasses much more than just employment opportunities for participants. The program's curriculum focuses on developing the participant's organizational skills, responsibilities, confidence, and overall preparedness for higher education and the work force. It achieves this by providing employment opportunities, community activities, and incorporating group meetings and a workbook component to track progress and learning.

The program emphasizes learning the Ojibwe values of achievement and self-sufficiency and using these values to respect and provide for the well-being of themselves and their Elders.

"The program has really evolved to focus on balancing all aspects of life – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual," said Loretta Hansen, director of job placement and services. "Each week time is set aside for 'Expanding the Circle,' which is when the participants connect what they are learning through their experiences to traditional Anishinabe teachings of honesty, humility, truth, wisdom, love, respect and bravery. They do this by meeting with mentors, organizing a portfolio, and journaling about their experience."

"The program's goal is to show these youth how the lessons of their own ancestors provide a path to their own well-being," said Mike Kafka, executive director for the Mille Lacs Band department of labor. "Even in a world of globalization and technology, the lessons of the Anishinabe have great relevance and meaning."

### Program eligibility and enrollment

Any Mille Lacs Band member, Band member first-descendant, or Native American youth between the ages of 12 and 20 living on or near the reservation service area (Aitkin, Benton, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Morrison, and Pine counties) is eligible to join. To be accepted into the program, participants have to take a career exploration and interest assessment, which helps tell the program staff what they like to do, what their strengths are, and what they want to learn.

The program is accepting applications later this month for the next enrollment, which begins September 1. For more information contact the department of labor at 320-532-4741 or 800-922-4741.

## Meet the Staff of the Chief Executive's Office



From left to right in the back: Joycelyn Shingobe, Christine Keggs, Dena Staples, and Peter Nayquonabe. Front is Gloria St. John.

The new staff members in the Chief Executive's office are quickly settling into their roles. They include Peter Nayquonabe, deputy assistant; Joycelyn Shingobe, special projects coordinator; Gloria St. John, office manager; Christine Keggs, executive receptionist; and Dena Staples, summer youth worker.

### Peter Nayquonabe

As deputy assistant, Peter

- manages the daily operations of the Chief Executive's office,
- maintains and coordinates the Chief Executive's calendar,
- travels with the Chief Executive as necessary, and
- acts as liaison between the Chief Executive and her commissioners.

He most recently was the finance manager in the Band's housing department. Before that he was the Assistant Commissioner of Administration and deputy assistant to the Chief Executive during Melanie's previous administration. Peter is working on his master's degree in tribal administration and governance at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

### Joycelyn Shingobe

Joycelyn's duties as special projects coordinator are to:

- provide District III educational services via online schools with the goal of re-opening Pine Grove,

- help Band members utilize the Band government by directing them to the person or department that can meet their needs, and
- plan executive events.

### Gloria St. John

As office manager, Gloria is responsible for day-to-day administrative operations. Gloria was the special projects and relations coordinator to Melanie during her previous terms as Chief Executive, and has served the Band in several other capacities since 1996. Gloria has a degree from Minneapolis Community College.

### Christine Keggs

Christine, the executive receptionist, greets callers and visitors to the Chief Executive's office, as well as sets up executive meetings. Chris has worked for the Band off and on since 1989.

### Dena Staples

Dena, a 10th-grade student at Nay Ah Shing, is interning for the summer in Melanie's office. After high school, she is interested in continuing her education to obtain a business degree and a career in real estate.

Welcome to everyone in the Chief Executive's office!