

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

February 2007

"The story as it's told."

Volume 9 • Number 2

Watch for Next Newspaper in Mid-March

Band members' feedback on the *Ojibwe InaaJimowin* has prompted a change in the timing of the paper that will take effect in March 2007. Instead of receiving it in the first few days of the month, you will receive it in the middle of the month.

One of the benefits of this timing will be a notice of the community meetings closer to the actual dates of the meetings. This will serve as a good reminder to attend and will create an opportunity for potential agenda items to be included in the newspaper.

Also, please note that the timing change will not impact the "Tribal Noteboard." March birthdays will still be printed in the March edition, and so on.

The most noticeable change will be the later deadline for people to call or e-mail their information for the next newspaper. **To be included in the next month's paper, please call or e-mail your content by the 25th of the previous month.**

2007 State of the Band Address

On January 9, a record audience attended the 2007 State of the Band Address at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center. More than 1,100 Band members, employees, and visitors learned about Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's priorities for the Band over the next 12 months, including continuing the war on addiction, engaging in a Band-wide strategic planning process, and instituting a pension plan for retiring Band members.

"This was the largest audience that I recall ever attending the State of the Band," said Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration. "Every seat in the main ballroom was occupied. A second room equipped with a television monitor of the ballroom was also filled to capacity."

The event began with an invocation by Band spiritual leader Lee Staples, followed by a flag procession conducted by Mille Lacs Band AMVETS Post 53. Samuel Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, served as the emcee.

As required by Band statutes, the first official proceeding of the event called the Band Assembly to order. "By the statutory authority and responsibility vested in me, I hereby convene the 12th Band Assembly, 3rd session," announced Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus. After conducting a roll call, Herb reported on



(Left to right) District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, Chief Justice Alvina Aubele, District III Representative Harry Davis, District I Representative Alicia Skinaway, Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin at the 2007 State of the Band Address.

the Band's achievements over the past 12 months, including a 30-percent increase in bonus distribution payments for Band members.

Chief Justice Alvina Aubele shared information about the significant increase in the Central Court of Jurisdiction's case load last year. "This past year, the courts handled an additional case load of 256 cases," said Alvina. "In 2005, there were a total of 963, bringing the total case load to 1,219 for 2006."

At approximately 11 a.m., Melanie delivered her annual State of the Band Address. She talked about the Band as an extended family, calling upon Band members to participate in the strategic planning process to map out the future of the Band.

"My goal is not just to hear the voice of the people, but to act on it," said Melanie. "Every facet of the Band government will be explored in this plan – health care, housing, education, the police

department, bonus payments, economic development, Elder programs, and Head Start. We won't just tackle problems. We will also look to you for direction on where you want the Band to go."

Melanie also reported on the past year's progress in instituting a Band-wide pension plan for Elders, which is close to being implemented. To fund the plan, five percent of the net revenue will be set aside.

"Pensions will be funded from the interest generated," said Melanie. For those who will retire in the very near future, the first pension payments would be about \$1,500. However, if we keep the program in place and continue funding it on an annual basis, when our youngest children turn 62 years old, they could each receive nearly one million dollars.

You can read the complete texts of three elected leaders' speeches on pages 2-5.



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Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's State of the Band Speech



Steve Premo

Aaniin, boozhoo. Good morning. Honorable members of the Mille Lacs Band, government officials, and guests, it is my privilege to deliver the 2007 State of the Band Address. Mii gwetch to you, Band members, for another opportunity to report to you on the state of our people, and to share some thoughts on the upcoming year.

I've been thinking a lot about family lately. I've been thinking about how, as Band members, we support one another – about the sacrifices we make as Indian people

and the sacrifices our ancestors made for all of our families. And so I would like to begin by thanking my family for the support and sacrifice they've made, which have made my two terms as Chief Executive possible.

To my son, Clayton, and his wife, Candy, I thank you for being there, for your support. To my sisters and brothers: like most large families, we don't always agree, but in the end, we're there for one another.

My sister Francine is my only sister in Minnesota right now. She knows how important it is for me to attend the Big Drum ceremonies. No matter how busy I am, Francine always makes sure that my mother and I have blankets for Big Drum.

That is what families do for one another.

My brothers help me in many ways. Were it not for two of them, instead of grass in my yard, I would have a field of hay. From the road, you wouldn't even know my house was there.

Then there is my mother, who is both my biggest supporter and my biggest critic. I remember my mother working two or three jobs at a time. She was always working, even taking in other people's ironing. But she still had time to sew beautiful clothes for us, and make sure we were all well fed. To this day, I don't know when my mom slept.

That is what families do for one another.

And of course there are my grandchildren, Clayton Jr., Aubrey and Roxeann . . . you are what brings me home from my trips as fast as I can. You provide me with a daily reminder of why I do what I do.

That is the gift of our children.

Sometimes I think of the Mille Lacs Band as a large, extended family. We have all the problems of a large family. Yet we have all the blessings and goodness as well. I value my relationship with all who are a part of my extended family.

And that brings me to an important decision I made this last year. I made this decision after years of thinking about it . . . and hearing the Elders talk about it . . . and hearing about its importance to the community. My decision: I decided to start playing bingo.

As a lot of you know, it does not take long to get hooked. It does not take long to start thinking about certain clothes or objects that are lucky. And you have to have them with you. I even have a little laughing green "Buddha guy" who I pull out of my purse. I have to confess, I am now hooked on bingo. But it's not so much the game. It is everyone who is there.

I have a friend that I usually sit next to at Mille Lacs. Her name is Luanne Fairbanks. I think she brings me luck. Maybe she thinks I bring her Grandma luck. And so when I walk in, I always look for her, and she looks for me. We always try to sit next to one another.

One thing I learned about Annie, is that she has the very best "BINGO" voice of anyone on the reservation. If I win, I let Annie know. Then she shouts out for me, at the top of her lungs, "BINGO!" And another benefit is that she always likes to share her treats with me! Annie is not just my friend . . . she is one more extended member of my family who helps and supports me, with her smile and her friendship.

Yet with all the strength and goodness within the Mille Lacs Band family, everyone here knows that we do have our problems. Last year I told you we were going to try to do something about one of the biggest problems attacking our families on the reservation – methamphetamine. I told you that we needed your help, and that we

wouldn't solve the problem in one or two years, and we have not solved it. But I want to update you on where we're at.

Continue war on drugs and alcohol

We've learned that different areas of the reservation are plagued by different drugs. Whether its crack-cocaine, meth, alcohol, or prescription drugs, we need to continue to fight addiction in all of its forms. This war on addiction will continue to be our top priority for 2007.

By working with community members, we have learned more about meth, and why some of our family members are drawn to it. We held several meetings and established better means of treatment and better law enforcement techniques. We must keep fighting this war.

But meth is not our only problem. I know for a fact there are babies born to Band members who are addicted to cocaine at birth. How can they do this? How can a mother do that to her child? It is a sickness, a tragic sickness that spreads to the next generation. We must reach out to these mothers. They are members of our family. We must help these defenseless babies.

The one thing that we've learned about all addictions is that a large part of recovery is getting support from families. I need to again ask the families in this room to step up.

I want to tell you a story that. It's real; it's happening right now. There is a young Band member who has been brave enough to speak publicly about her struggles with drugs. She started life just like one of the cute kids we see here today. She laughed and she played like other kids. She had hopes and dreams. But as she became a teenager, she got in with the wrong crowd. And one day, when it was offered to her, she tried meth. She began the downward path we've seen too many times.

A while back, she was brave enough to share her story about life on drugs. She has felt alone. She has been afraid. She has been abused. She has been beaten up. And she has been raped.

She has tried rehab many times, and gone back and forth between drug use and recovery. But every time she's tried to clean up her life, she has been pulled back into the world of drugs. Why? Why can't she stop?

Some say she lacks a family support system. Her immediate family might believe they're supporting her. I'm sure they tell her that they're supporting her. But what does support mean? It's hard for addicts to not think about getting high when their close family members have needles or alcohol available. We need to look at ourselves and question whether our own lifestyles and decisions are making it harder for those struggling with recovery. Support is not just about what you say; it's about what you do.

That is what families must do for one another.

That girl is our daughter, our sister, our cousin, our niece, our granddaughter. She is a part of our extended family. We all want to help her. But that first helping hand needs to come from those closest to her. When they can set aside their own problems and help her, then we can begin to solve this crisis.

Will this girl's story end in tragedy or triumph? That is partly up to her. And partly up to her family. As a government, we can help supply the resources. But because she is member of our extended family, we as individuals need to help her figure a way out of this nightmare.

Also, at a time when some of our people are moving out of poverty, there are still those among us who are homeless. We have a safety net for these people, and we can get them a place to stay. But how do we get them to stop drinking or using? Maybe we can first stop and remember that they are part of our family.

We must not allow these people to fall through the cracks. We have to keep fighting the day-to-day struggles against drugs and alcohol. This is a war. It will go on for years. We need to win it for our kids.

Last year I announced that we would begin a training program for community members who were interested in becoming chemical dependency counselors. For a small community like ours, to have 31 people sign up for this program shows you how serious a concern this is for so many of you.

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We applaud the courage and commitment of those of you who are working on your associate's degrees so you can help fight this drug and support our Band members. If any of you are in the room here today, would you please stand up so we can acknowledge you and say *chi mii gwetch?*

I pledge to you that we will someday beat these terrible drugs and get them off this reservation forever. But we need our families to help. We need your strength and commitment. We have miles to go on this problem and many sad days and hard times in store before we solve it. We have hope for the future, but we have much work to do together.

A Band-wide strategic plan

My second major initiative for the year also relates to the Band as a family. I believe that as community and family members, you are the key to solving even more of our problems and issues. I want you to help the Band solve the problems in the community. The most basic unit of government is family. We have families that are related who fall under the same *dudem*. All our clans together form the Band. All the Bands together form a tribe.

Planning for our future must start with our families. Whether your name is Benjamin, Nayquonabe, Garbow, Gahbow, Sam, Aubid, Misquadace, Bedausky, Boyd, St. John, Dunkley, Mitchell, Kegg, Staples or others, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe needs your help in the upcoming year. We are going to begin a Band-wide strategic planning process. This process will provide our Band government with a road map for the next twenty years.

I want us to have a series of small group meetings to discuss solutions to the problems of the Band. We know we have problems with chemical dependency, youth boredom, and violence.

The process will be structured in a series of talking circles. The circle will stay intact until the talking is done. We will use a talking stick and each person will have a say. How many talking circles? As many as we need.

My goal is not just to hear the voice of the people, but to act on it. Every facet of the Band government will be explored in this plan. Healthcare, housing, education, the police department, bonus payments, economic development, Elder programs, and Head Start. We won't just tackle problems. We will also look to you for direction on where you want the Band to go.

We will give each Band Member a chance to participate if they choose, and we will provide you with a good meal, and we will learn from your wisdom and experience.

When these talking circles are finished, we will work with the community to put together a plan that reflects the direction from the community. At next year's State of the Band Address, we will provide you with the plan that you wrote. This plan will give our government its marching orders.

My view is, this is our government. It is my job to translate what you want into reality. I will then work with the Band Assembly to pass into law your plan.

Pension plan

Last year, I announced that we would begin the process of establishing a pension plan for all retired Band members. I'm pleased to announce that we are close to implementing this plan.

Many of our grandparents had to struggle in their old age. A few short decades ago, the work of our people was seasonal and either paid little or nothing. Even when social security came around, our people were still poor in their old age.

Now we can change that forever. We need a pension for every Band member. A committee was created to develop options on how this pension program will work. Members of the committee include Al Hemming, Catherine Colsrud, Mel Towle, and Don Wedll.

The committee has worked hard to develop options for the Band to consider. Within the next few weeks, Band members will be sent this menu of options. I ask you to please fill out the forms you are sent to decide how you would like to see the pension plan implemented.

In order to fund this pension plan, 5% of our net revenue will need to be set aside. Pensions will be funded from the interest generated. For those who will retire in the very near future, the first pension payments would be about \$1,500.

However, if we keep the program in place and continue funding it on an annual basis, when our youngest children turn 62 years of age, they could each receive nearly \$1 million dollars.

Legislative Initiatives to be sent to Band Assembly

I have five other initiatives for 2007 that will be drafted and sent to the Band Assembly over the next several weeks and months.

The first will be to establish a Board of Investment. This Board will be made up of investment professionals, the best we can find in the state. If we are to keep our level of services, and if we want our revenues to grow, we need to spread out our investments and not just commit to a small number of vendors. Every Band member has a stake in our investments. These funds are our future. We need this Board of Investment to meet often to ensure proper oversight. Our grandchildren deserve this.

Second, I will be sending legislation to the Band Assembly providing for health care goals for our people. We need to set targets to try to ensure that obesity is wiped out for our youngest Band members so that they will never face the problems of diabetes and heart disease. We need to set goals for ourselves on the treatment of diabetes. We need to reduce chemical dependency. We need to reduce the number of Band members addicted to smoking.

Third, I will be sending a bill to the Band Assembly to create an office under the Solicitor General that will investigate any future allegations of wrongdoing among contractors and others. This office would have broad authority to investigate and audit, most like a federal inspector general's office.

My fourth legislative initiative is to attempt to improve upon the way laws are made by the Band. I suggest a process more open to testimony by department heads and Band members – a process more open to legal analysis from the Executive Branch – a process where Band members can come to a hearing and express their views more readily. These matters of good government will require the help of the Band Assembly, but I believe we can improve upon our system.

Finally, I propose that we put our cultural work force back to work. We have come a long way in putting our Band members to work. But we can do better. I envision a program where family members mentor other family members, with the purpose of seeing a job started and completed.

These jobs can take many forms, such as doing beadwork, making maple syrup, creating traditional arts and crafts, or harvesting fish and game. Completion of a job will earn a check. The more jobs completed, the closer a participant comes to joining our workforce. I would like to see this type of work encouraged and the work product valued for honoring our way of life.

I will be providing more details on these initiatives in the weeks and months ahead. I hope to work with the Band Assembly on these bills in the upcoming year. We should always be working to constantly improve the Band government.

These are the main goals I foresee for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe over the next 12 months. There are many other tasks I will give to the Commissioners, and I will report these to you in future letters.

Conclusion

I want to close by taking time to talk a little about our community and what I see when I look out into the crowd of so many familiar faces. From here, I see so many friends, so many families.

Our family members care about each other. We have a quiet way of showing affection and respect for one another. How many times have you seen two elderly brothers or sisters in our community just sitting next to each other, not talking, but just happy to be close by? They are both just glad to know the other is there.

Our community cares about our children. At events like this, we always have kids running around. These are "our" kids. We are related to them by a common ancestry. We watch them grow, and we care about them more than they know.

That is what families are for.

We help each other out. If you are walking down Highway 169, you won't walk too long before someone you know picks you up. How many times has someone pushed your car out of the snow or given you a jump start on a cold day? And you do the same for them. It's what families do.

We share with each other. Whether it's fish or game or a pie we made, we usually call up a family member or friend and share it. If we have more than we need, we share.

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Chief Executive's State of the Band Speech

(Continued from page 3)

We laugh with each other. Some of the best times and deepest laughs come from being with family and the friends you grew up with. No one can replace these people. That is what families are for.

I look out there and I remember that we share a common history together. The families that are on this reservation have been on a long journey together. We carry a lineage that goes back centuries. We have had great chiefs, pipe-carriers, and drum keepers from all the families. We are a group of families that survived a thousand winters together.

We stand up for each other. We've had many enemies over the centuries, and we've developed a survival instinct. Part of that instinct is to trust each other and defend each other. If there is an injustice to a family member or a Band member, we let the world know we are with our kin. It doesn't matter if we've had our own disagreements, or even if we don't get along very well. In the end, we defend one another, no matter what.

Our families have helped revive our traditions. Mothers are making traditional regalia for their boys and girls to dance in powwows. Grandfathers are showing their grandkids how to make maple syrup. Grandmothers are teaching bead work to the young people. Our culture is being kept alive by families. One family keeping its traditions makes a difference for the whole Band.

One thing I want to say that is important. That is, I think this community is at its very best when times are at their very worst.

When we lose a loved one, it impacts us all. We bring food, we support one another, and we come together. All differences are gone. All grudges are forgotten. We become one.

When Mother Theresa accepted her Nobel Peace Prize, they asked her what we can do to promote world peace. She said, "Go home and love your family." As individuals, we probably can't change the world, but we can help those in our immediate family. And that may send out a ripple that might change our little part of the world.

This world is not perfect. And we as a people are far from perfect. But in you I see goodness and I see wisdom. And from you I learned these things.

We have sovereignty to protect a way of life – because there is something here that is worth protecting. We have a Band government to protect us from other governments – because they tried to take our way of life away.

If someone tries to mess with the rights of one Band member, they need to know there is a war council standing behind that Band member. It has about 3,900 members. It has resources of spirit and strength they have not dreamed of. My message to any government who takes us on is this: We don't negotiate our rights, we don't compromise, we don't back down, and we don't give up.

The Mille Lacs Band will outlive any governor, commissioner, attorney, and legislator. We always have, always will. And when it comes to our rights, we stand together.

And that is what tribal governments are for.

If you are a member of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, then please know this:

No matter what,

We will fight to protect our language.

We will fight to protect our culture.

We will fight to protect our way of life.

And we will never give up the fight to protect our reservation.

Our ancestors were born here and are buried here. This reservation is the birthright of every child in this room. So long as members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe exist, so will this reservation.

Over the next year, together we will write the next chapter of our history. Whatever may be wrong in our lives and in the world around us is greatly outweighed by what is right with the Mille Lacs Band. Our strength is our people. Our wisdom comes from the experience of our Elders. In their hearts and in their actions, our people are good, humble and kind.

Today, I am proud to say, the state of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is sound. We are a government, we are an extended family, and we are Anishinaabe.

And so, I only have one word of advice for you on this fine day: "Go home and love your family." Mii gwetch.

Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus's Legislative Report



Aniin and happy New Year family, friends, employees and guests. I also warmly welcome the other elected officials: Honorable Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Honorable District I Representative Alicia Skinaway, Honorable District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, and Honorable District III Representative Harry Davis, as well as honorable Chief Justice Alvina Aubele.

By the statutory authority and responsibility vested in me, I hereby convene the 12th Band

Assembly, 3rd session. Roll call, please: District I Representative, District II Representative, District III Representative. We do have a quorum. At this time, I will now recess Band Assembly until 1:00 p.m., at which time we will reconvene in the legislative offices. This meeting is open to the public.

First, the District II and District III Representatives and I would like to thank you, Band members, for your support and votes allowing all three of us to be re-elected last summer. Thank you Band members for giving us the opportunity to serve the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe people, as well as the employees of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe government.

The Mille Lacs Band has experienced many successes over the last year, including most recently, the numerous seats gained in the House and Senate by many political friends of the Band. We plan to work closely with these legislators to benefit the future of Indian gaming, solidify our reservation boundaries, and address issues that impact the future of all Indian people.

Since December 2005, per capita payments increased from 15% to 25% of net revenues, resulting in 30% larger payments to Band members in 2006. Beginning this Thursday, the Office of Management and Budget will begin processing per capita payments for Band members, allowing them the choice of monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly or three times per year payments. The payment frequency change will allow Band members to choose the payment option that works best for their individual budget needs.

In June 2005, the Band purchased the former St. Croix Girls Camp in Aazhoomog. This beautiful property is the future site of Pine Grove Leadership Academy, an Ojibwe school for our children in District III. Early education classes are currently being held there with plans for the K-12 school to open in fall 2007. District II East Lake is on the same schedule with the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy also scheduled to open in fall 2007. Construction of the new District II school building is underway with plans for District III construction to start soon.

More newly constructed homes, developments and complexes continue to become available for sale and rent to Band members in all three districts and the Urban area, thanks to the Housing Initiative program. The Band will continue to focus on housing until all Mille Lacs Band members who want a decent and affordable place to live, have a place to call home.

In 2006, District III Representative Harry Davis and Legislative Attorney Elaine Smith worked to establish a Department of Athletic Regulation for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. This department, with the assistance of the newly formed Boxing Commission, will regulate professional boxing and other professional athletic events held at the Mille Lacs Band casinos. The goal is to host our first professional boxing bout in March 2007 at Grand Casino Hinckley.

The Band's casinos enjoyed another year of success, staying ahead of the latest gaming trends. Expansion of the Hinckley Grand Casino and hotel is expected to be completed in Fall 2007. When complete, the new convention center will accommodate 2,500 people, gaming floor space will increase, over 200 new hotel rooms will be added, and all existing rooms will be renovated. With the expansion project lasting two years, Band law has ensured

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that many Band members have had well paying jobs and gained valuable construction experience while working as a part of the expansion construction team.

We have heard just a few of the accomplishments achieved for our people over the last year. What lies ahead?

Besides a continued focus on education and housing, this winter the fiscal year 2008/2009 program and service government budgets will be drafted. This is your chance as a Band member to have your voice heard in the budgeting process. Let us know what programs work for you and which programs are no longer needed. Band Assembly is also the voice of our people. You will be heard!

At this time I'd like to introduce my mom, Jennie Weyaus, the oldest living Mille Lacs Band member, still full of life and energy at 92 years old. I'd also like to thank my mom, my wife Rosalie, my mother-in-law Rose and all my other family members for their attendance here today and continued support throughout the years.

Finally, I'd like to thank the legislative and OMB staff for all their hard work and service to the Band. Please stand. Please give them all a round of applause for their dedication to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Thank you.

In conclusion, I hope that as you sit here today, you feel proud to be an American, proud to be a Mille Lacs Band member, and proud to be free. May each of us seize the opportunities given to us by the Band's success and this wonderful country, to protect our families, lands and assets for our future generations.

Live for today and enjoy 2007! Mii gwetch, friends!

Chief Justice Alvina Aubele's Judicial Report



Welcome to the 2007 State of the Band Address.

The Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Court of Central Jurisdiction has been in existence since 1982 and has broad jurisdiction over Band members' legal issues.

The District Court Judges include Paul Day and special magistrates as needed.

The Appellate Justices hear all appeal cases. The Appellate Justices consist of one justice from each District. I serve as the Chief Justice and the

District III Appellate Justice, Clarence Boyd is the District I Appellate Justice, and Kathryn Hedstrom is the District II Appellate Justice. Other staff with the judicial branch includes:

- The new Court Administrator – Gilda Burr
- Clerk of Court – Eloise Wind
- Assistant Clerk of Court – Carla Big Bear
- Bailiff and Process Server – Brett Haskin
- Court Receptionist – Andrea Nayquonabe

In addition to the court functions of hearing and deciding cases, the Judicial Branch also has a Court Liaison program. The Court Liaisons are:

- Mike Quinn and Janice Sam – District I
- Jill Valentino – District II
- Oliver Gibbs – District III

The Court Liaisons offer assistance to Band members in reporting to required probation meetings, transportation for court hearings, and other court related matters both in the Tribal Court and county courts.

In 2007 and beyond, our goals are to enhance the court with a new court case management system, Wellness/Diversion/Drug Court, and we are in the process of developing a Guardian Ad Litem program.

A new court case management system will:

- Strengthen our ability to calendar case hearings, reviews, etc.
- Strengthen our ability to track orders issued, and
- Enhance our collections of imposed fines.

Our next goal is to create a Wellness/Diversion/Drug Court which will lead to sentencing options and restorative justice by collaborating with Behavioral Health, Family Services, the Meth Coalition, and the Education division.

Another goal is to develop the Guardian Program. The Solicitor General's Office coordinated the Guardian Ad Litem training in September. Eleven participants were certified and once the background checks are completed, they can start work as Guardians Ad Litem.

I'd like to deviate from past speeches where I'd read the statistics to the public. This year we have prepared graphs which are provided on the large screens indicating the growth from year to year.

I'd like to mention a few exceptions: This past year the courts handled an additional case load of 256 cases. In 2005, there were a total of 963, bringing the total case load to 1,219 for 2006 as shown in graph one.

In graph two, there is a steady increase in the business garnishments from 2004 to 2006. There are 24 new cases. This demonstrates that local and non-local businesses recognize our Tribal Court's ability to resolve business disputes.

In 2006, the court had 135 new child support cases in addition to the 435 active cases already pending since 1996 to 2005.

In graph three, our case load for misdemeanor criminal, natural resources, and traffic has increase from year to year. The traffic cases reached an all time high of 55 cases, thanks to Tribal Police sending more violations to the Tribal Courts.

Graph four shows our voluntary garnishment and electric utility cases.

Graph five provides Family, Juvenile & Order for Protection (Domestic or Harassment) cases. Here is where we have seen a dramatic increase. This can be attributed to a number of things such as:

- Population growth with the new homes being built
- Drug and alcohol related issues
- And for juvenile matters, better use of the tribal courts rather than sending them to the county courts.

We recognize and appreciate the efforts of the Family Services and Solicitor General's office in bringing these difficult family matters to Tribal Court.

Thank you for attending the 2007 State of the Band.

For a copy of the graph's used in Alvina's speech, contact the Tribal Court at 320/532-7400.

Nay Ah Shing Boys of Summer Hand-Stitch Blanket for Chief Executive



In December, participants in the Nay Ah Shing Boys of Summer program made a quilt that they presented to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin at the State of the Band Address. Donna Benson, Nay Ah Shing Crafts Instructor, sewed on the back of the blanket and reinforced the kids' hand stitching with her sewing machine. It was fun watching the students thread their needles and stitch. They worked long, hard hours to make this blanket and are very proud of the finished product.

The boys (and a few girls) meet weekly and do community projects, homework, and fun activities. Nay Ah Shing Athletic and Activities Director Bugs Haskin plans all the activities and is assisted by her daughter "Squig" (Jericho Sayles), Nay Ah Shing Parent Liaison Coordinator. Tribal Police Chief Dwight Reed, Tribal Police Officers Jeremiah Erickson and Russ Jude, and Chief Conservation Officer Mike Taylor also assist with the activities and are mentors and role models to the program participants.

Mille Lacs Band Donates Ambulance to Mille Lacs Health System



Judy Oslin, Mille Lacs Health System director of emergency medical response; Lois Lahr, director of community relations for MLHS; Monte Fronk, Mille Lacs Band public emergency management coordinator; and Dan Reiner, CEO of MLHS stand in front of the newest addition to the fleet of ambulances at MLHS. The used vehicle was donated to MLHS by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

The following article by Bob Statz appeared in the January 3 issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with their permission.

Recently, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Mille Lacs Health System's Emergency Medical Service, completed a two-year project to provide an additional ambulance for emergency response in northern Mille Lacs County.

The project began with MLHS EMS Director Judy Oslin approaching the Band inquiring if there were any resources available to assist in helping replace one of their ambulances.

Emergency management coordinator Monte Fronk knew of an ambulance program through the National Native American EMS Association which is operated by the federally funded Indian Health Service.

The IHS sponsors two funding programs: a shared cost lease program and a no-cost program called TRANSAM, which helps emergency response units obtain used serviceable ambulances.

With the aid of retired IHS employee Pete Decker, Fronk and Oslin were able to locate a Horton Type II Ambulance from the Voorhees Fire District in New Jersey. The used vehicle was shipped by flatbed to the Band. In turn, the Band donated the ambulance to the Mille Lacs Health System.

Details of the donation, which include recruiting a Mille Lacs Band member to become part of the MLHS EMT crew in Onamia, were worked out by Oslin and the Band's public safety director Sid Lucas. Both agreed that with increased calls to the Vineland area another ambulance would benefit all.

"It was a good collaborative effort of the Band and MLHS, and will benefit all north end citizens," Fronk said.

"A strong emergency medical response unit is vital to our system," MLHS CEO Dan Reiner said, regarding the Band's donation. "Certainly the addition of another ambulance will help our cause. We are most appreciative of the gift."

Upcoming WIC Clinic Dates

The Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department holds Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program clinics to provide pregnant women and new mothers nutrition education and vouchers for foods that promote good health.

The February WIC Program clinic dates and locations are:

- February 1: District II (East Lake) Clinic

- February 5-6: Ne-la-Shing Clinic
- February 7: Aazhoomog Clinic
- February 20: Ne-la-Shing Clinic

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the WIC Program, contact Lorna Garbow at 320/532-4163, ext. 7852.

February Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum And Trading Post

Storytelling

Storytelling is an Ojibwe custom that takes place when the lakes are frozen and there is snow on the ground. Come listen to oral traditions as told by community members in Ojibwe or English on February 12 and 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1 for Minnesota Historical Society members or Mille Lacs Band members.

If you are Anishinaabe and have stories to share, please call the museum. We would be honored to have you speak. Honorariums and travel expenses are provided.

Ojibwe language focus

Come to the Mille Lacs Indian Museum to experience the Ojibwe language in an unconventional learning experience. Explore experimental methods of language stimuli to help with memory retention including shitsu massage and aromatherapy. Be proud to be Anishinaabe, and learn your native language in a relaxed environment. Classes are held every Wednesday from 4:30-7:30 p.m. through the end of March.

Secret leather pouch workshop

Participants will learn to create a secret leather pouch (puzzle pouch) to amuse children or hide your possessions during this two-day workshop, which will be on Saturday, February 3 from 12-4 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, February 4. The cost is \$50 for the public, \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members, and \$30 for Mille Lacs Band members. There is also a \$15 supply fee.

Hand drum workshop

Participants will learn to make a two-sided hand drum from a kit with Band member Pete Gahbow during this one-

day workshop, which will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, February 10. The cost is \$40 for the public, \$35 for Minnesota Historical Society members, and \$20 for Mille Lacs Band members. There is also a \$45 supply fee.

Black ash basket weaving workshop

Participants will learn to split, pound, dye and weave wood into baskets during this three-day workshop, which will be held 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on February 17-19. The cost is \$175 for the public, \$170 for Minnesota Historical Society members, and \$150 for Mille Lacs Band members.

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

Rez TV opportunity

Did you ever want to be an actor or actress? Did you ever watch the evening news and say to yourself, "I could do that?" Did you ever wish you had the technical skills to make your own movie? Would you like to have your choice of programming and news seen on public television? Would you like to help revitalize the Ojibwe language? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please inquire at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum for training and support for a new community program. Rez TV is coming soon to a television near you.

Hours of operation

Although the museum is closed for the season, you can still arrange a group tour or attend some great events. Group tours can be scheduled by calling the museum at 320/532-3632.

The Trading Post is closed for inventory until mid-February. No buying or selling will take place.

Mille Lacs Band Works on Much More Than Gaming Issues with Legislature

By **Jamie Edwards, Mille Lacs Band Governmental Affairs Coordinator/State**

Over the years, the Mille Lacs Band has spent state legislative sessions working on numerous initiatives to protect tribal sovereignty, prevent gaming expansion, and enhance service delivery to Band members. A few of the issues that the Band is concerned about or wants to put on the legislative agenda this year include:

- **Control health care costs:** Rising health care costs significantly impact the Mille Lacs Band. In 2002, the Band funded Circle of Health at \$2.1 million. In 2006, due to rising health care costs, its funding was at \$5.2 million. A \$3.1 million increase in just four years raises concerns about the Band's ability to keep pace with costs. The Band has additional concerns about continuing to provide quality insurance coverage to employees of the tribal government and Band businesses. To help find solutions to rising health care costs, the Mille Lacs Band wants to discuss partnership opportunities with the state and other health care stakeholders.
- **Protect and restore wild rice:** The majority of the nation's natural lake or river hand-harvested wild rice is grown in Minnesota.

Minnesota is the only state in the nation to require wild rice packaging to indicate whether rice is wild (natural lake or river hand-harvested rice) or cultivated (machine-harvested paddy rice). This labeling helps protect the right of consumers to know what they are purchasing. The Mille Lacs Band and other Minnesota tribes are interested in pursuing federal legislation that would require other states to abide by similar labeling practices. In addition, state legislation is underway that prevents genetic modification of wild rice in Minnesota. The Band supports both measures.

This comes at the same time when the Band is conducting a study that will suggest options for wild rice restoration on Ogechie Lake.

- **Ensure Indian child welfare compliance:** The federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) requires the recognition of tribal governments' authority to determine the outcome of foster care placement and/or adoption of American Indian children. Over the past several years, some Minnesota counties have failed to comply with ICWA guidelines. Minnesota tribes plan to bring forth a state legislative initiative this year to address compliance issues.
- **Correct rule on full faith and credit of tribal**

court orders: After two years of petitions and hearings, the Minnesota Supreme Court proclaimed a rule presuming that tribal court orders are not valid. Legislation is needed to correct this rule and standardize efforts to enforce tribal court orders off the reservation.

- **Reinstate polling places on or near Indian reservations:** Over the past few election cycles, county officials have closed several polling places on or near Indian reservations. In most of these cases, the bare minimum was done to notify voters that they now live in mail-in precincts without a walk-in polling place. In District II of the Mille Lacs Reservation, Spaulding Township's polling place was closed, and as a result some Band members had difficulty getting to the county seat in time to cast their votes.

Several tribes, including the Mille Lacs Band, have made inquiries with the Secretary of State's Office and the counties about the possibility of reinstating the walk-in polling places.

- **Integrate Indian history into K-12 education:** In 2006, a legislative proposal was introduced to effectively integrate the history and contributions of American Indian tribes from this region into Minnesota's K-12 academic program standards and into teacher

training/continuing education programs at the post-secondary education level. Teacher training and continuing education programs would require a number of courses to educate – or re-educate – teachers on this integral part of Minnesota's history.

The legislation also proposed creating a taskforce of tribal representatives and others that would make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the standards. This initiative will be brought forward to the Legislature again this year.

- **Improve service to American Indian veterans:** Governor Pawlenty is proposing that close to \$1 million from the veterans' affairs budget be dedicated to improve the now-inadequate service delivery to American Indian veterans living on or near reservations and in urban centers including Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Bemidji. A taskforce of Indian veterans has been formed to help design a more effective program.

- **Prevent gaming expansion:** The Mille Lacs Band will continue to oppose attempts to get the state involved in gaming.

Watch the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* for legislative updates on these and other issues.

Traditional Ojibwe Recipe Updated for Today's Cooks

Chicken Breast and Wild Rice (Baaka'aakwe/Manoomin)

Wild rice has grown along the edges of lakes and rivers in this region for more than 2,500 years. The Ojibwe People have used wild rice in their recipes since they arrived in this area several hundred years ago.

Even though modern ovens and food packaging have forever changed the way we cook, wild rice is still a readily available and popular ingredient in Ojibwe recipes.

Ingredients:

- 4 boneless chicken breasts*, halved and browned in butter
- 1 cup cooked wild rice
- 3 teaspoons butter, margarine or olive oil
- 1/4 cup minced onion, browned
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds, browned
- 1 4-ounce can sliced mushrooms
- 1/4 cup chopped pimento
- 1/2 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup chicken broth**
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

Directions:

Mix rice, almonds, mushrooms and pimento and place in greased flat baking dish. Place chicken breasts on top of rice mixture. Mix soup, sour cream, broth, salt, and pepper and heat until smooth. Pour over chicken and rice mixture. Bake at 375° for one hour. Makes eight servings.

* Other meats such as wild fowl can be substituted for chicken.

** One can of cream of chicken soup can be substituted for the chicken broth.

Check Out The Deals at Hinckley Chevrolet

By **Roger Dunkley, Mille Lacs Band member and Hinckley Chevrolet Sales Consultant**

At Hinckley Chevrolet, we have a great selection of new and pre-owned vehicles in our inventory. With our lifetime powertrain warranty on all new and selected pre-owned vehicles, customers receive peace of mind and real value. We also offer zero down financing. Stop in and ask for Alex Leger or me, or call us at 320/384-6197. We are located at 608 Fire Monument Road.

Ask Melanie

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

Which businesses does the Mille Lacs Band own?

A complete list of Mille Lacs Band-owned and Band member-owned businesses can be found on page 5 of this newspaper and on pages 46-50 of our 2007 Programs & Services Guide. A guide was mailed to each Band member household and is also available online at millelacsojibwe.org.

One of my biggest messages to Band members is to utilize these businesses and tell your friends about them. Your support keeps your money in Band communities, which benefits the Mille Lacs Band, Band members and employees, and the entire region.

The casinos are what most people think about when they hear about Mille Lacs Band-owned businesses. But we also own a full service travel agency – Grand Ventures – which can help you plan transportation, lodging, and other aspects of your

next vacation or business trip. We own Grand Makwa Cinema and Grand Market grocery store next to Grand Casino Mille Lacs, and Woodlands National Bank in Onamia, Hinckley, Sturgeon Lake, Cloquet, and Grand Market. These are in addition to Subway, three Conoco stations, Eddy's Resort, Grand National Golf Course, ML Wastewater Management, and the hotels and restaurants inside the casinos.

I encourage you to support these Band-owned businesses, as well as Band member-owned businesses, as much as you can. These businesses are a source of pride in the economic diversity and quality of services we've helped bring to East Central Minnesota.

Do you have a question?

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

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

Mille Lacs Band Meth Coalition Attends Training

By Tammy Miller, Executive Planner/Meth Coalition Coordinator

On January 16, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Methamphetamine Coalition and the Mille Lacs County Meth Education and Drug Awareness Coalition attended a training session hosted by the Initiative Foundation, an organization that works to build and support healthy communities in central Minnesota. Twenty-five Mille Lacs Band Meth Coalition members – who included community members, Elders, drum chiefs, and Band employees – attended the training session.

The Initiative Foundation's key program components include:

- Create and support volunteer coalitions at the tribal and county level.
- Award grants that mobilize volunteers and resources to implement local drug prevention, intervention, and efforts to support drug addiction recovery.
- Increase awareness of education on the dangers of meth use.
- Present educational workshops and conferences on drug abuse.
- Serve as a resource for providing meth guides, tool kits, and other materials for schools,

communities, parents, employers and partnering organizations.

Coalition sets desired outcomes

At a meeting held on November 22, 2006, the Mille Lacs Band Meth Coalition discussed key ideas and desired outcomes, including:

- Help current drug abusers become healthy with the support of the community, friends, family, and services provided by the Band.
- End bonus payments for those who break the law or who are convicted of drug and alcohol crimes.
- Build a cultural treatment center.
- Banish drug dealers from the reservation.
- Show the cost of house damages caused by drug dealing.
- Decrease substance abuse on the reservation by 20 percent.
- Develop more youth services.
- Provide education on the causes and effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

The Mille Lacs Band Meth Coalition welcomes your input and your attendance at any of its meetings. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 320/532-7486 or tammym@millelacsojibwe.nsn.us.

Chief Executive Calendar

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

- Attended swearing-in ceremony of U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar
- Met with members of Minnesota's Congressional delegation about Mille Lacs Band issues
- Participated in the National Indian Gaming Association's legislative strategy meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Delivered the State of the Band Address
- Hosted the first of several meetings with Band member employees about Minnesota Chippewa Tribe enrollment issues
- Coordinated and hosted a planning meeting for Women Empowering

Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN)

- Participated in a listening conference in Minneapolis with Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
- Participated in the quarterly meeting of the Indian Advisory Board for Indian Health Services' Tribal Self-Governance Program
- Met with federal officials to request help in acquiring dialysis equipment for the Mille Lacs Reservation
- Met with Band members on a variety of issues
- Held a cabinet meeting
- Attended monthly Mille Lacs Band Urban Area meeting
- Met with Bill Sinclair, former Interior Department Self-Governance Advisor, on leadership coaching for commissioners

Upcoming Township Elections in Districts I and II

Band members who live in Kathio Township in District I and Spaulding Township in District II have the opportunity to vote for township officers on Tuesday, March 13.

Each township's residents will vote for a supervisor and treasurer. Candidates running unopposed for these positions include:

Kathio Township

- Ted KostECKA (supervisor)
- Shirley Adolphson (treasurer)

Spaulding Township

- Bill Kangas (supervisor)
 - Hope Henry (treasurer)
- Elections will be held at the townships' town halls and will take place from 5-8 p.m. in Spaulding Township and from 4-8 p.m. in Kathio Township.

The Mille Lacs Band is making it a high priority to strengthen our relationships with local governments. One way you can help is to VOTE ON MARCH 13!

Moccasin Telegraph

By Clara Jackson, Mille
Lacs Band Elder



Kelly Sam

Living Books

The following article appeared in the November 30, 2005, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with their permission.

When I was young, my older brother went to live with my grandparents. They taught him a lot about ceremonies and history, and it would always fascinate me to hear about everything he had learned.

By that time, I had learned that everyone put things in books to document them. So, I asked my grandpa why he didn't keep his stories in books. I wanted to have a book of his life and of our culture. "The creator didn't give us books," he would say. "He gave us a mind. You can document everything there and pass it along to other people by talking."

He always said that if I wanted to learn something, I should go right to the source, straight to the horse's mouth. Now, that's often how I teach people about my own childhood and what I learned from my family.

I like to share my stories. Some of my best memories are of gathering, cooking, and sharing food. When I was growing up, you could go to anyone's house and have a snack. It was so cool. My family would always have jam and crackers ready for guests. People don't always do that anymore, and I miss it.

When it was time to gather food, I would always wear a special dress. It was a good pouch for anything. My

mom used to get mad at me for getting my dress dirty and tell me to wear an apron, but my dress held everything and I liked it better. I used it to carry potatoes, which we would bring inside to wash and chop up.

When we had good luck fishing, I'd also help prepare and cook the fish. I'd cut up a whole fish, take the scales off, remove the guts, and let it simmer a bit. Every once in a while, we'd get a bullhead, which was good with a little salt and pepper. My mom was really good at roasting fish and other food. Her oven was always on, roasting and baking food.

My grandma always had food on her table. She'd make jams and put them out on the table with bread all the time. On hot days, she would put out water in crocks, which kept the water cool. We would collect water in the crocks for her, and put them out by the food.

My siblings and I did a lot of chores. My dad would wake us up at 5:00 each morning so that we could get things done before we ever went to school. We'd haul wood, gather water, and sweep the floors. My mom took care of washing the dishes in the morning, but in the evening we had to do it. We had a rotation going – there were six of us – that went by age.

Now it seems that kids don't have to do as many chores. They're not learning as much about Ojibwe culture as I did as a child. Sometimes, young people ask me how to use tobacco and it surprises me. Why haven't they learned about this yet?

The lesson to be learned here is that we need to keep sharing our stories. Otherwise, part of our history and culture could be lost. When young people approach me with questions, I answer them. I teach them what I have learned in the hope that they'll pass the knowledge on to someone else, like a "living" book.

Leaving the Country? Check Passport Rules First

Depending on whether you will be traveling by land, air or sea to a destination outside the United States, you may or may not need a passport. There seems to be a lot of conflicting information on passports currently, which Jill Hardy, Manager of Grand Ventures Travel, clarifies below.

Q: In which situations is a passport needed?

A: If you travel by air anywhere outside the U.S., you need a passport. This includes Canada, Mexico, and nations in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. However, you do not need a passport yet for cruising to those nations or for crossing the border by land to Canada or Mexico. The only exception is that if you embark on a cruise outside the U.S., you need a passport to fly to the country where you embark. The passport requirements for cruising and land crossings are scheduled to take effect as early as January 2008. At that time, you will need a passport to leave the U.S. under any circumstances.

Q: How do I get a passport?

A: You can file your passport paperwork at any county courthouse. You will need to bring your certified birth certificate (it must have a raised seal), which will be mailed in with the paperwork and later returned to you. You will also need to bring a valid government-issued photo ID and method of payment. Some locations do not accept credit cards, in which case you will need cash or two checks (one for the U.S. Department of State and one for the facility where you apply). Also, some locations take your passport photo, but at others you will need to bring a photo. This cannot be any photo –

businesses including PROEX, most Wal-Mart locations with photo labs, and Koch's Hardware in Milaca take passport photos that fit the requirements.

Q: How long does it take to get my passport?

A: Standard delivery is six weeks, but you might experience delays right now because of the large volume of requests. Rush delivery is available at a higher price.

Q: How much does a passport cost?

A: A standard passport costs \$97 plus the price of the photo, which is generally about \$10. For rush delivery, you will pay an extra \$60.

Q: Do you have any other travel tips?

A: Security is tight at the airports. Arrive two hours before your flight departs to ensure you have enough time to get to your gate. Also, airlines' carry-on requirements can change frequently. Call Grand Ventures or visit www.tsa.gov for the latest information, which will help prevent delays as you pass through airport security.

For more in-depth passport information, visit travel.state.gov/passport.

For all of your travel needs and questions, contact Jill Hardy or LaDonna Robinson at Grand Ventures Travel:

- Jill – 866/983-5757, 320/983-5757, or jill@grandventurestravel.com
- LaDonna – 877/532-9057, 320/532-9057, or ladonna@grandventurestravel.com

Dates and Locations for 2007 Tribal Bonus Distribution

**By Angella Roby,
Commissioner of Finance**

In 2007, per capita checks will be distributed on the first Thursday and Friday of each month. Depending on the payment option you chose, you will receive your payments in the following months (please note that you will not be able to change your payment frequency until 2008):

- Three payments per year – April, August and December
- Four payments per year – March, June, September and December
- Six payments per year – every other month, starting with February
- 12 payments per year – every month

Payments will be distributed at the Mille Lacs Band Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in District I, except for the April, August and December payments, which will be distributed in your home district. Checks that are not picked up on

the distribution dates will be mailed the first Friday of the month. The following is a schedule of the distribution dates and locations for the year:

- January 11 – OMB
- February 1 – OMB
- March 1 – OMB
- April 5 – home districts
- May 3 – OMB
- June 7 – OMB
- July 5 – OMB
- August 2 – home districts
- September 6 – OMB
- October 4 – OMB
- November 1 – OMB
- December 6 – home districts

Direct deposit is available for tribal per capita payments. Please visit the OMB or your community center to complete a direct deposit form.

If you have any questions, please contact Per Capita Specialist Kathy Heyer at 320/532-7472 or Per Capita Assistant Danielle Othoudt at 320/532-7846.

Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health Staff

Starting on February 1, four of Circle of Health's services became available for Band members only. Circle of Health still asks that you get prior authorization from us before submitting any claims or billings. Please note the following yearly (the fiscal year is October 1 through September 30) or lifetime limitations on the four services:

- Eyewear – up to \$150 per fiscal year
- Durable medical equipment (such as walkers and wheelchairs) – up to \$500 per fiscal year
- Hearing aids – up to a \$1,000 lifetime benefit

- Orthodontia – up to \$1,500 lifetime benefit
- Providers have been notified that a Band member requesting to use these services will need to present their tribal identification card at the time of his or her visit.

On a final note, please allow reimbursement claims a two- to six-week grace period from the date of submission to process. If you still haven't received a reimbursement or denial after six weeks, contact Michele Palomaki, Circle of Health Director; David Boyd, Claims Processor for A-L; or Roberta Lemieux, Claims Processor for M-Z, at 320/532-5358.

Blood Donations Needed To Save Lives

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

Blood supplies often become low during the winter months. This winter, higher-than-expected holiday traffic accidents have caused an increase in blood demand, while illnesses, bad weather, and vacation travel have resulted in fewer people donating blood.

"Blood collections typically fall during this time of year," said Cliff Numark, donor-recruitment director of the Red Cross Blood Services of the Southern California Region in an article from the American Red Cross Web site. "But the flu has dampened regular donations and our core blood donors are dropping off left and right."

Three blood donation organizations – the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks, and America's Blood Centers – set a joint goal of collecting 1.2 million units of blood in January, which was designated as National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. Although January is over, donating blood is important yearlong.

Every two seconds, a person in the United States needs blood, and more than 38,000 blood donations are used each day. Blood donations are

especially needed for accident victims, people with blood disorders, burn victims, premature babies, cancer patients, and others with serious illnesses.

If you are interested in giving blood, here is some information you should know:

- Blood donors need to be 17 years of age or older and weigh at least 110 pounds.
- Donors can donate blood no more than once every 56 days.
- Blood donors should eat a good meal before donating and drink plenty of water before and after giving blood.

For more information on donating blood, call one of the following phone numbers or visit the following Web sites:

- American Red Cross: 800-GIVE-LIFE, www.redcross.org
- American Association of Blood Banks: 866-FROM-YOU, www.aabb.org
- America's Blood Centers: 888-USBLOOD, www.americasblood.org

Upcoming blood drive

The next blood drive in the Onamia area is March 29, from 12-6 p.m. at the Onamia Veterans Club.

Band Boxing Commissioners And First Boxing Event Announced



Boxing is a popular draw for many Mille Lacs Band members. (Back, left to right) Weylin Davis, Harry Davis, Wallace St. John, Gary Davis, (front, left to right) Jayson Davis, Ron Davis, and Catherine Colsrud attended a boxing event together at the Target Center in Minneapolis in January. Not pictured: Fred Davis and Dennis Davis.

By Harry Davis, District III Representative

The Band Assembly has ratified five Mille Lacs Band members for the Band's Boxing Commission. The commission is part of the Department of Athletic Regulation, which regulates professional athletic activities on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

The commissioners are: Jeff Boyd, Mike Christenson, Ron Davis, Wallace St. John, and Dean Staples.

The Band's first boxing event is scheduled for March 17 at Grand Casino Hinckley. Tickets will be available through Ticketmaster and at the door.

**The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Corporate Commission
Small Business Development Program
is proud to present**

**Mille Lacs
Band Member
Businesses**



**Small Business Development Program
700 Grand Avenue, Onamia, MN 56359
Toll Free: 800/746-9805 Direct Line: 320/532-8850**

Agriculture

Morning Sun Angus Co.
21862 County Road 10
Deerwood, MN 56444
Curt Kalk
T: 218/534-3778

Running Home Farms
56706 North Highway 123
Askov, MN 55704
Gordon Matrious
T: 320/224-4772

White Bear Ranch
12468 380th Street
Onamia, MN 56359-7903
William Boyd
T: 320/532-5706

Willow Ridge Boarding Stables
24383 Williams Road
Hillman, MN 56338
Jackie McRae
T: 320/277-3540
E: willowr@brainerd.net

**Maintenance
Services**

Badgun Enterprises, Inc.
10575 360th Street
Onamia, MN 56359
Gilda Burr
T: 320/532-0961
F: 320/532-0962
E: tabrrr@hotmail.com

Nickaboine Lawn Care Services
1490 Nay Ah Shing Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
Ole Nickaboine Sr.
T: 320/532-5884

Soo Line Towing, LLC
10474 Stevens Road
Onamia, MN 56359
Joe Mojica
T: 320/532-4600
F: 320/532-4555
Toll-free: 866/869-2488

Wiikwaibaan Inini
915 John Avenue
Superior, WI 54880
Robert Dowell
T: 715/392-2889
C: 218/349-7757
E: warf60@chartermi.net

**Personal
Services**

Carole's Grand Salon, Inc.
777 Lady Luck Drive
Hinckley, MN 55037
Carole Higgins
T: 320/384-7737

Hearmore Hearing Aid Center
(4 locations)
1445 White Bear Avenue
St Paul, MN 55106
T: 651/771-4019
F: 651/771-9941
106 Central Avenue
Osseo, MN 55369
T: 763/391-7433

1001 Center Avenue
Moorhead, MN 56560
T: 218/287-0508
Toll-free 800/664-6780

9424 Lyndale Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55420
T: 952/884-3007

Donald Olson
W: www.hearmorehearingaidcenter.com

Perla, The Salon On Grand
777 Grand Avenue
Onamia, MN 56359
Maria Spears
T: 320/532-5030

**Warrior's Fitness &
Fight Promotions**
Tobies Mill Mall
Hinckley, MN 55037
Bobby Anderson
T: 320/384-7409
E: warrior@youbetnet.net

Artists

Beadwork Art
3300 38th Avenue S
Minneapolis, MN 55406
Barbara Benjamin-Robertson
T: 612/722-3281
E: robertsonb@qwest.net

JD Original Custom Knives
Route 2, Box 358
Hinckley, MN 55037
Joe Dunkley

Migizii Regalia
16031 Migizii Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
Robert Kegg

Native Images
16235 Nayahshing Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
Vincent Merrill

Pauline's Custom Designs
415 West Main Street
Hinckley, MN 55037
Pauline Moose
T: 320/384-0989

Quilts & Things
RR 3, Box 402
Hinckley, MN 55037
Mary Reynolds

Skin-O-Vations
2481 Evergreen Court Apt. C
Hinckley, MN 55037
Perry Skinaway
T: 218/213-7832

Business Services

Eagle Clan Productions
18834 460th Street
Garrison, MN 56450
Rick Anderson
T: 320/282-5650

Eagle Signs
2620 Chiminising Drive
Isle, MN 56342
Cheryl Miller
T: 320/279-0026
E: cgmillr@ecenet.com

E & H Supplies
46056 Diedrich Road
Hinckley, MN 55037
Ed St. John
T: 320/384-9917
E: harriet1@pinenet.com

First Nation's Distributing, Inc
9462 State Highway 27
Onamia, MN 56359
William Schaaf
T: 320/492-5686
F: 320/203-0947
E: schaafb@hotmail.com

Paramount Embroidery
6941 Ticonderogo Trail
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Scott Meyer
T: 952/294-8530
F: 952/223-4773
E: ParaEmb@mn.rr.com
W: www.ParamountEmbroidery.com

Red Circle Agency
212 3rd Avenue, North Suite 445
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Chad Germann
T: 612/372-4612
F: 612/372-4617
E: chad@redcircleagency.com
W: www.redcircleagency.com

Retail

Native Grounds Coffee Shop
777 Grand Avenue
Onamia, MN 56359
Low Boyd
T: 320/532-4548

Two Eagles Art & Floral
777 Lady Luck Drive
Hinckley, MN 55037
Rod Matrious
T: 320/384-0674
E: twoeaglesart@wmconnect.com

**Construction
Services**

**Anthony Costello
Exteriors**
313 10th Avenue North
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Anthony Costello
T: 320/230-0503
C: 320/492-5943

**Applegate
Building Restoration**
7795 Alpha Road
Princeton, MN 55371
Jerry Applegate
T: 763/389-1194
C: 952/261-5795

Churchill Construction
46458 Grace Lake Road
Sandstone, MN 55072
Jayson Churchill
T: 320/237-6303

**Churchill
Contracting Company**
11575 East Laketowne Drive
Albertville, MN 55301
Albert "Joe" Churchill
T: 612/799-6730
E: churchill@charter.net

DECO, Inc.
14275 Golf Course Drive,
Suite 250
Baxter, MN 56425
Robert A. Dorr
T: 800/968-9114

**Double D Construction
& Carpet Sales**
6315 County Road 138
Garrison, MN 56450
David Granger
T: 320/692-6092
C: 320/279-1167
E: gravedangerDD@hotmail.com

**John Sutton
Carpentry**
8730 County Road F
Danbury, WI 54830
John Sutton
T: 715/656-3414

**Kalk Construction
Company, Inc.**
41893 310th Lane 290th Street
Aitkin, MN 56431
Brad Kalk
T: 218/838-7696
F: 218/927-2375
E: BKalk@KalkConstruction.com

KLS Construction
1440 10th Avenue #105
Newport, MN 55055
Kevin Schaaf
T: 651/769-1717
C: 651/428-5914
E: klss20032003@yahoo.com

**Lone Eagle
Construction**
2030 4 Driftwood Street
McGregor, MN 55760
Michael W. Davis
T: 218/768-2249
C: 218/851-8550

**Nickaboine
Construction**
16245 Nay Ah Shing Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
James Nickaboine

**Northland
Quality Builders**
28114 Cindy Street
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Michael J. Nickaboine
C: 218/841-5222
T: 218/847-5812

**Sherry's
Quality Painting**
P.O. Box 600174
St Paul, MN 55106
Sharon Benjamin
T: 651/334-3530

**Mille Lacs Band
Businesses**

East Lake Conoco & Laundry
30460 State Highway 65
McGregor, MN 55760
T: 218/768-3344

Eddy's Resort
41334 Shakopee Road
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 320/532-3657

Crossroads C-Store & Laundry
Route 3, Box 266, State Highway 48
Hinckley, MN 55037
T: 320/655-4412

**Grand Casino Hinckley,
Hotel, Events & Convention Center**
777 Lady Luck Drive
Hinckley, MN 55037
T: 800/472-6321

**Grand Casino Mille Lacs,
Hotel, Events & Convention Center**
700 Grand Avenue, P. O. Box 343
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 800/626-5825

**Grand Casino Hinckley
Amphitheater**
777 Lady Luck Drive
Hinckley, MN 55037
T: 800/472-6321

**Grand Casino Hinckley
RV Resort & Chalets**
777 Lady Luck Drive
Hinckley, MN 55037
T: 800/995-4726

Grand Hinckley Inn
777 Lady Luck Drive
Hinckley, MN 55037
T: 800/737-8675

Grand Market Grocery
16600 Ataage Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 320/532-4055
F: 320/532-4054

Grand Northern Inn
600 Weber Avenue
Hinckley, MN 55037
T: 320/384-4702

Grand Ventures Travel, Inc.
700 Grand Avenue
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 866/983-5757
T: 320/532-9057
E: travel@grcasinos.com
W: www.grandventurestravel.com

Grand Makwa Cinema
16550 Ataage Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 320/532-3929
320/532-3923 (Movie Hotline)

MLB Conoco
40955 U.S. Highway 169
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 320/532-3940

MLB Subway
40955 U.S. Highway 169
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 320/532-3142

The Candy Cupboard
700 Grand Avenue
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 320/532-5178

Tobies Mill Mall
540 Weber Avenue
Hinckley, MN 55037
T: 320/532-8816

Woodlands National Bank
(5 locations)

16602 Ataage Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 320/532-5463
F: 320/532-5486

P.O. Box B,
Onamia, MN 56359
T: 320/532-4142
P.O. Box 190,
Hinckley, MN 55037
T: 877/406-9234

P.O. Box 187,
Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783
T: 218/372-3105

240 North Road
Cloquet, MN 55720
T: 218/878-5999
F: 218/878-4762

W: www.woodlandsnationalbank.com

January 2007

Tune in to KKIN & KBEK

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

KKIN radio – 94.3 FM
February 15, 8:30 a.m.
Jim Ingle and Don Wedll
Topic: Traditional foods and fitness

KBEK radio – 95.5 FM
February 20, 7:30 a.m.
Rose Noonday
Topic: Frybread

Free Hearing Evaluations

Ne-la-Shing Clinic

When: Friday, February 9. To schedule an appointment, call 320/532-4163.

Walk-ins are welcome. We will do our best to serve you.

Twin Cities locations

Where: Hearnore Hearing offices in St. Paul, Osseo, and Bloomington

When: Monday-Friday

To schedule an appointment, please call the St. Paul office at 651/771-4019, the Osseo office at 763/391-7433, or the Bloomington office at 952/884-3007.

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

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

September 2006

	Approved Budget for FY 2006	Actual Expenditures through 9/30/06	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	13,426,312	11,996,084	89.3%
Judicial	943,361	812,573	86.1%
Law Enforcement*	3,592,427	3,032,867	84.4%
Education*	28,060,346	21,981,729	78.3%
Health and Human Services*	22,067,246	19,856,996	90.0%
Natural Resources*	5,774,464	4,679,152	81.0%
Community Development*	56,111,911	31,395,354	56.0%
Gaming Authority*	3,818,579	3,606,325	94.4%
Bonus Distribution	33,478,200	33,415,819	99.8%
Total Expenditures	\$167,272,847	\$130,776,899	78.2%

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 will include continuing appropriations from the 2005 fiscal year.

District III Band Members Enjoy Conversation and Comedy at Christmas Party



(left to right) Mabel Woyak, Marie Bengston, Bobby Anderson, and Heidi Krone enjoyed the conversation and entertainment by Powwow Comedy Jam during the District III Christmas party.

By Elizabeth Towle, Governmental Affairs Administrative Assistant

This year's District III Christmas party was an excellent event, from food to entertainment. Harry Davis, District III Representative, opened the event by welcoming Band members, then a dinner of wild rice hot

dish, pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, and fabulous desserts followed. The ballroom was brilliantly decorated with oversized Christmas bulbs hung from the ceiling. Next to the stage were two Christmas trees radiantly trimmed with blue and purple lights.

The Powwow Comedy Jam, who entertain American Indian audiences and travel internationally, provided entertainment. The first out of three performers was JR Redwater, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Community in South Dakota. After JR's act was finished, Navajo Marc Yaffee took the stage for a great performance that had everyone in the room nearly falling off their seats. Last, but not least, there was an Ojibwe performer, Jim Ruel, who also rocked the stage and audience. All three closed with a comical song. To learn more about the Powwow Comedy Jam, visit www.powwowcomedyjam.com.

Getting a Landlord to Make Repairs

By East Central Legal Services

If your landlord will not make repairs, there are things you can do to make the landlord fix the problems. If it is an emergency, call us right away. Emergencies are things like no power, no heat, no working plumbing, no hot water, or an intent-to-condemn notice.

If it's not an emergency, do these things:

- Fill out a repair list and mail it to your landlord, and keep a copy. We also have a list you can use.
- If your city has a housing inspector, call the inspector. When he or she comes, show him or her your list so nothing is missed. Ask for a copy of the report. Housing inspectors may find problems that you missed. If the problems are bad enough, they can condemn the building if repairs aren't made. If problems are not emergencies, inspectors usually give landlords 30 days to fix them.
- If the landlord still does not make repairs, file a Rent Escrow Action. This means you pay your rent to the court to start a repairs case against the landlord. You can also use the case to make your landlord follow the terms of your lease if

they have been violated. You can file a Rent Escrow Action if it has been 14 days since you sent the landlord a letter about the repairs or a deadline given by the housing inspector has passed.

- Until you file your Rent Escrow action, pay your rent to the landlord. If you do not pay, your landlord can file an eviction against you. You may have defenses because of the repair problems, but it's better, safer, and usually cheaper to use the Rent Escrow Action than to defend an eviction.

East Central Legal Services may be able to help you with a repair issue or an eviction action. For more information please call us at 800/622-7772. We are also available for walk-in appointments at the following sites:

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

Wildfire Readiness Review

By Daria Day, Bureau of Indian Affairs Contractor

Have you noticed the odd winter we are having? The summer of 2006 was one of the driest on record, and the continued lack of precipitation – rain or snow – isn't helping. Spring wildfire season is also just around the corner. So, what does this mean to you?

It is time for a wildfire readiness review. Every year, wildland firefighters go through a process called a readiness review to make sure they are prepared for the first wildfire of the year. This means a thorough review of the tools, tactics and training they will use to fight fires.

Many of us live in areas that are nestled in the midst of the wildland. We love having our homes close to nature and enjoy the beauty and privacy it provides. But choosing to live in an area where development is by wildland – what firefighters call the wildland/urban interface – means you have extra responsibilities. Wildland/urban interface residents have a responsibility to make sure that they are ready to help firefighters protect their lives, homes and property when a wildfire threatens. The early spring months provide residents with an excellent opportunity to conduct their own wildfire readiness review. Here are a few suggestions:

Tools

- Check to see that you have a working smoke detector on each level of your home.
- Make sure that your garden hose is in good working condition and ready to be connected.
- Maintain your lawn mower, because it is one of your most valuable tools.

Tactics

- Learn how to obtain a burning permit.
- Know how to check the weather for safe burning conditions.
- Develop a family escape plan for your home.
- Determine a plan to leave your neighborhood in the event of an evacuation, and be sure to have a vehicle ready to go.

Training

Remember, practice makes perfect. Have your family practice their escape plans and make sure everyone knows how to call 911 for help or to report a wildfire.

For more information on how to conduct your readiness review or how to build defensible space around your home, please contact the Mille Lacs Band Fire Prevention Program at 320/532-5100 or 218/341-0708 (cell), or the Mille Lacs Band Forestry Program at 320/532-7589 or 320/630-2431 (cell).

Deadline Changes for *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*

Starting in March, the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* will be distributed to Band members in the middle of the month instead of at the beginning. All information and articles for the March edition of the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* are due by **February 25** (see page one for more information about the newspaper's timing changes).

Upcoming Kickboxing and Mixed Martial Arts Event

On March 10, the Amateur Kickboxing and Warriors' Extreme Mixed Martial Arts event will take place at Grand Casino Hinckley at 7 p.m. Chuck Anderson, the son of Bobby "The Warrior" Anderson, will fight Cody Runquist for the International Kickboxing Federation

junior middleweight kickboxing championship. Cody is the son of Tim Runquist, a kickboxer who has participated in the heavyweight kickboxing championship. For more information, contact Bobby at 320/384-7409.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy February birthday to:

Noah Petite, 2, on February 13 from mom • **Irene Jones**, on February 4 from Rhonda • **Cordell Anderson**, 6, on February 23 from Grandma Sandy, Auntie Roach, Auntie Val, Kev, Pie, Baby Kev, mom, dad, Jameson, Chris Jr., Grandma AA, Grandma A, Jacob, Auntie CC, your we-ehs Shelby, Ravin, Joe, Rae-Anne, Sharon, Wallace, Marc, and Brandon • **Little Wolf**, from Grandma Sandy and Auntie Roach • **Braelyn**, on February 22 with love from Auntie Val, Kev, Pie, and Baby Kev • **Chris Anderson**, 1, on February 7 with love from Auntie Val, Kev, Pie, Baby Kev, mom, dad, Jameson, Cordell, Grandma AA, Grandma K, Auntie Sharon, Ravin, Wallace, Jarvis, your we-ehs Joe, Bob, Shelby, Brandon, Tracy, Jacob, and J.R. • **Jacob Doust-Harrington**, 18, on February 16 with love from Auntie Val, Kev, Pie, Baby Kev, mom, Grandma K, Grandma AA, Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, Christopher, Auntie Sharon, Ravin, Wallace, Shelby, Jarvis, and Jamie • **Dezyre (Princess) Eischiens**, 4, on February 8 from grandma, dad, mom, William, Xaviar, Chilah, Noah, Debo, Vincent and Trystin • **Clayton Benjamin Jr.**, 9, on February 7 with love from mom, dad, Aubrey, Roxann, Gramma Gladys, Papa Ronnie, Roland, Collin, Desi, Kayla, Lydell, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Auntie Bev, Roger, Juni, Roy, Jillian, Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, Lenore, Curt, Tyson, Eva, and Jonathan • **Foxy Roxy**, 4, on February 6 with love from mom, dad, Clay Jr., Aubrey, Gramma Gladys, Papa Ronnie, Roland, Collin, Desi, Kayla, Lydell, Camille, Lance, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Auntie Bev, Roger, Juni, Roy, Jillian, Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, Lenore, Curt, Tyson, Eva, and Jonathan • **Melanie Benjamin**, on February 4 from Clayton, Candace, Clay Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, the Ron Smith and Roger Garbow families • **Ruth Ann S.**, on February 7 from Mr. and Mrs. Bushey, baby boy, baby girl, lil baby girl, num num, lil big man,

Leila, Eric, papa and mama Jordan, your brothers, sisters, and nephew • **Gladys Sam**, on February 3 with love from Candace, Clayton, Clay Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Ruth and family, Tammy, Brandon, Brandi Jo, Lenore, Curt, Tyson, Eva, Jon, Evan, Susan, Beth, and Evelyn • **Darlene Sam**, on February 23 with love from Shelley, Clint, Boone, Mandy, Becca, Beau, Brandon, Stevie, Ernie, Eddie, Danielle, Baby Owen, and Dawn • **Clinton Boyd**, on February 1 with love from mom, Shelley, dad, Boone, Mandy, Becca, Beau, Brandon, Stevie, Ernie, Eddie, Danielle, Baby Owen, and Dawn • **Danielle Boyd**, on February 6 with love from Shelley, grandma, grandpa, Mandy, Becca, Beau, Brandon, Stevie, Ernie, Eddie, dad, Uncle Clint, Baby Owen, Tommy Lee, Day, Chaddy, Jaxin, and Jack • **Uncle Larry**, on February 4 from Jaxin, Jack, Dalene, Chaddy, and Tommy Lee • **Tina**, on February 7 from Mini, Jaxin, Jacko, Bob, Owen, Onee, B-Dub, Diamond, T.I., A.P.B., Carrie, Z-Man, Jerry, Kira, Jay, Matt Sr., Rainy, Minnow, Naughty, Lil Jay, Deondre, mommy, Jim, Ahnaka, Shanna, Andrew, dad, Tanya, Dana, Dave, Sarah, Prince, Becca, Shelly, Shibby, Bryan, Brandon, Stevey, Danielle, O.J., Thomas, Tisha, Jessica, Chaddy, DeAndrea, Cass, Damian, and Breezy • **Damon W**, on February 17 from mom, Deanna, Denise, Danielle, dad, Dalene, Skye, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Jack, and your family • **Rosa Sam**, 17, on February 26 with love from Al, Paige, Freddie, Tweety, Uncle Curt, Lenore, Tyson, Eva, Jonathan, and Evelyn • **Jayenissa Evelyn Mitchell**, 1, on February 3 with love from mommy, daddy, Rainy, Valerie, Matt Jr., Grandma Niss, Tina, Deondre, Jim, Dana, and Tanya • **Taleeah Mardell**, 1, on February 17 from Auntie Jay, Matt Sr., Rainy, Valerie, Little Minnow, Baby Jaye, Auntie Niss, Tina, Deondre, Jim, Dana, and Tanya • **DeAndrea Leecy**, 14, on February 26 with love from grandma and grandpa • **Ozzie**, on February 21 from Auntie Niss and family • **Lexis Benjamin**, on February 25 with love from

Auntie Monica, Meghanne, Shawn and Shawna • **Shawna Lyn Benjamin**, 8, on February 17 with love from mom, dad and Sissy • **Meghanne Rose Benjamin**, 7, on February 27 with love from mom, dad and Sissy • **Ann**, on February 21 with love from Monica, Megrose, Lynnne and Shawn • **Keith Reynolds**, on February 12 with love from Monica, Shawn, Meghanne and Shawna • **Gramma Maggie**, on February 17 with love from Monica, Erica, Shawn, Shawna and Meggie • **Rosie**, on February 19 from Shawn, Shawna, Megrose and Monica • **Levi Roseland**, on February 13 with love from Uncle Shawn, Monica, Meg, and Bean • **Nicholas Benjamin**, from Auntie Monica, Shawn, Shawna, and Meghanne • **Courtney Renee**, 14, on February 8 with love from mom, dad, Shane and Connor • **Chantelle**, 19, on February 3 from Louise, Rod, Shane, Courtney and Connor • **Antavia Pendegayosh**, 1, on February 25 with love from mom, dad, Grandma Rea and Grandpa Bruce • **Amber Rose**, on February 23 from mom, dad, papa, grandma, the boys, Sunny, Elliot, Keith, Chelsie, C-Bass, Fred, Marv, Bev, Andrea, Lacey, and Bon • **Kaitlin Sam**, 5, from Uncle B, Uncle Brent, Grandma Ruth, mom, Ade, your little brother, Tammy, Brandon, and Brandi Jo • **RaeAnne Sam**, on February 13 from mom, your brothers, Ade, the kids, Tammy, Brandon, and Brandi Jo • **Arianna Donahue**, 1, on February 19 with love from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, dad, mom, Cassie, Gary, Dannon, Auntie Ris, Auntie Jackie and boys, Auntie Bernida, Howard, Grandpa Buzz, and the rest of the family • **Jenelle Kingbird**, on February 9 with love from your family and friends • **Isaiah Potter**, 11, on February 10 from Auntie Lenore, Uncle Evan, Susan, Curt, Tyson, Eva, Jonathan, Papa Lenny, and dad • **Jeremiah Churchill**, 27, on February 1 with love from Jenny, Shaye Bird, Jeremiah Jr., Ris, Jackie, Dayzhan, Riley, Samantha, Mikey, and Keenan • **Ryan O'Brien**, 24, on February 19

with love from John, Jayson, Justin, and the rest of the family • **Anna Jo Churchill**, 12, on February 17 with love from your family • **Jeff Boyd Sr.**, on February 22 with love from your wife, Branden, Bradley, Anthony, Amber, Alyssa, Aaron, Jeffrey Jr., Isabelle, Barb, and Pat • **Patricia Boyd**, on February 3 from Tanya, Rob, Dakota, Amanda, Jeff and family • **Marty**, 5, on February 2 with love from mom, dad, Emma, Gary, Dallas, Grandma Marilyn, Great-Grandma Joan, Papa Paul, Papa Ken, Grandma Shirley Peterson, Ole Sr., Perry Benjamin, Corliss, Raymond, Berta, Kelly, Anthony, Frank, Joe, Gerald, Jennifer, Judy, AJ Nickaboine, Lillian, Mary Rose, Bev, Alexandria Iaquinto and girls, Alyssa, Brenda, Amelia Bedelia, and many cousins.

Happy birthday in February to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Nancy Arnoux
 Laura Ashcroft
 Judy Carlson
 Douglas Eagle
 Eileen Farah
 Eugene Garbow
 Beverly Graves
 Donald Houle
 Irene Jones
 Conrad Kegg
 Maggie Kegg
 George LaFave Jr.
 Dwight Madison Jr.
 Gilbert Moose
 Joseph O'Brien
 Adeline Pewaush
 Alan Pindegayosh
 Francis Reynolds
 Lawrence Reynolds
 Mary Reynolds
 Ellen Roth
 Bette Sam
 Darlene Sam
 Elizabeth St. John
 Audrey Statley
 Berniece Sutton
 Emma Thomas
 Tony Weous
 Marilyn Whitney
 Clyde Wind
 Dorothy Wistrom
 (Continued on page 11)

February 2007 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Commissioners On Call A Mille Lacs Band commissioner is available every weekend to help Band members handle emergencies. If you have an emergency, please contact the commissioner on call at 877/239-2444. The emergency phone is answered from 5 p.m. Friday- 8 a.m. Monday.</p>	<p><i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar,</i> please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 <i>or write to Kelly at 255 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 102 St. Paul, MN 55101</i></p>			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Mel Towle, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs 877/239-2444</p>	<p>Onamia LIEPC Meeting Onamia School District Office Conference Room noon-1:30 p.m.</p>		<p>East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Contact: Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Joe Diffie & Trent Tomlinson GCML 7:30 p.m. both nights </div>	<p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Mel Towle, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs 877/239-2444</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>Triple Threat Tour GCH 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Pete Nayquonabe, Chief Executive Office Director 877/239-2444</p>	<p>AMVETS Meeting GCML, 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925 Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting Aazhoomog School 6:30 p.m. Contact: Skip Churchill, 320/384-6970</p>		<p>East Central Legal Services noon-4:30 p.m. Contact: Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>	<p>All District Elder Meeting GCML 5:30 p.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Ricky Skaggs GCML 6:30 p.m. & 9 p.m. </div>	<p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services 877/239-2444</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services 877/239-2444</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> All offices closed for Chief's Day </div>		<p>Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Marvin Bruneau, 218/768-3311 District III Community Meeting GCH Hotel Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 877/884-6240</p>	<p>District II-East Lake Community Meeting District II Community Center 6 p.m. Contact: Marvin Bruneau, 218/768-3311 Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Pat or Cindy, 612/872-1424 Sobriety Feast Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Rosalie Noonday, 320/676-1102</p>		<p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Al Olson, Commissioner of Community Development 877/239-2444</p>
25	26	27	28			
<p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Al Olson, Commissioner of Community Development 877/239-2444</p>	<p>District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Becky Sam, 320/532-7423</p>	<p>Sobriety Feast District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Bea Mitchell, 320/532-7585</p>	<p>East Central Legal Services noon-4:30 p.m. Contact: Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>			

Tribal Noteboard

(Continued from page 10)

Birth announcements

We would like to welcome our new baby sister, **Shocka ShaRose Holmquist**, into the world. She was born on January 2, weighed 2 lbs., 9 oz., and was 16 in. long. *Congratulations from the Nickaboine and Holmquist kids.*

. . .

Leoniece Ballinger would like to announce the birth of her new brother, **Nicolas Carter Steven Ballinger**. He was born on December 24. Parents are AnaLise Aune and Lance Ballinger, and grandparents are Dale Ballinger, Rebecca Sam, and Alise Aune.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Band employees **David Wittstruck, Rhonda Sam, and Dan Smith** for each

obtaining their Professional Locksmithing Certificate. They successfully completed their coursework and excelled at their new talents. Way to go and good job!

. . .

Congratulations to **Rosa Sam** for making the B Honor Roll, *with love from mom, Al, Paige, Freddie and Tweety.*

. . .

Congratulations to **Miranda Nickaboine** for

making the B Honor Roll, *with love from all of us.*

. . .

Congratulations to **Megan Ballinger** for earning her associate's degree from St. Cloud State University, *from mom, Jenny, Austin, Nolan and dad.*

. . .

Congratulations to **Jenny Perkins** for passing her Minnesota state manager's license in cosmetology, *from mom, Austin, Nolan, Megan and dad.*

Still Time to Join Fitness Challenge

By Jim Ingle, Fitness Coordinator

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to lose weight, quit smoking, eat healthy, or start working out? While you may have already broken one of these, it's not too late to keep that resolution to get fit in 2007. Starting on February 5, the Chief Executive's Fitness Challenge will begin for all Band members and employees.

The challenge will take place over the course of one year, however, it is divided into four, three-month sessions. This will help you set fitness goals one session at a time and develop healthy habits throughout the year. There will be team and individual incentives for you to reach your fitness goals every three months, so you can easily track your progress and see the exciting results of good diet and exercise. I, along with the fitness assistants, will work with the teams to develop fitness goals and help each team and individual achieve them.

For the challenge, teams of five will earn points for each pound lost, spending time in the gym, and developing healthy habits. At the end of the year-long challenge, the team with the most points and the individual who has achieved their goals will be awarded prizes.

You can register your team at your local Band fitness center or contact me at 320/532-7547. If you are interested in participating but need to assemble a team, please contact me and I will help you find one.

Join the Band for the Minneapolis Aquatennial Triathlon

For another challenge, you can start training for this summer's Minneapolis Aquatennial Triathlon and help the Mille Lacs Band have a large representation at the event. The triathlon is nationally televised and has thousands of participants.

You can help the Mille Lacs Band achieve its commitment to a healthier nation and can have fun while losing weight, eating healthy, working out, and gaining new friendships. This event is a part of the Chief Executive's challenge to Band members and employees to lose weight and stay healthy.

You can sign up for the triathlon's short or long courses. For the short course, you will participate in:

- half-mile swim
- half-mile bike ride
- 3.2-mile run

For the long course, you will participate in:

- approximately one-mile swim
- nearly 25-mile bike ride
- 6.5-mile run

If you don't want to compete in all three events, you can be placed on a team of two or three participants and choose which one to complete. Participants need to sign up by February 15, 2007. For more information, contact me or Lisa Murphy at 320/532-8841. So grab your friends, relatives and co-workers and get fit in 2007!

Nay Ah Shing News

By Eric North, Nay Ah Shing Schools Principal

Students donate blankets made in school



Nay Ah Shing High School students made and donated more than 50 blankets to the Assisted Living Units.

With the addition of vocational arts at Nay Ah Shing High School, students in grades 9-12 have had an opportunity to help others stay warm this winter. Students in Donna Benson's cultural sewing class made and donated more than 50 blankets to residents of the Mille Lacs Band's Assisted Living Units, which Ojibwe Language and Culture Coordinator Zhawaan Benjamin arranged.

"It is very rewarding to know that our students are concerned about and care about Elders in our community," said Zhawaan.

This is another example of the great opportunities that students have at Nay Ah Shing Schools. Students not only help themselves by furthering their education, but they also help others.

Students' successes recognized

More than 250 Nay Ah Shing students, staff members, and parents celebrated students' success in the first nine weeks of school with an open house, dinner, and awards recognition on December 19.

Parents toured the newly remodeled school, examined their students' academic work, and socialized with teachers and staff. The students were recognized for their academic success through A and B Honor Rolls, Perfect and Near Perfect Attendance, and individual academic awards.

Nay Ah Shing parents and students can look forward to more celebrations in the future, so that students' gains and accomplishments are recognized as soon as possible instead of waiting until the end of the year.

Students share Christmas spirit in District I

For the fourth year in a row, Band members who attended the District I Christmas Party were treated to entertainment presented by the talented students of Nay Ah Shing Schools. Students, staff members, and tribal police officers sang, danced, cheered, and participated in comedy skits.

"Putting on a show like this is very time-consuming and stressful, but I love having the opportunity to work with our kids and being the driving force behind them," said Bugs Haskin, Nay Ah Shing Athletics and Activities Director. "This helps them build their confidence and self-esteem, and develop the courage it takes to get up in front of such a large audience and showcase their talent. It is one way that I am working with our youth to instill pride in our community."

The groups that participated in the program included the Boys of Summer, cheerleaders, Video Club (K-4), Reading Club (K-4), and the junior high boys' basketball team.