

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

January 2007

"The story as it's told."

Volume 9 • Number 1

Economic Summit to Be Used as National Model

The recent Northern Minnesota Reservation Economic Development Summit not only gave the Red Lake Nation, Leech Lake Band, and White Earth Band an opportunity to discuss economic development with each other and their neighbors – it also gave some American Indian leaders a model to help other tribes across the country.

The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) plans to apply the summit concept to regional conferences across the country, just as Red Lake, Leech Lake, and White Earth adapted the Mille Lacs Band's model to meet their own needs and circumstances.

"This is exactly what Indian Country should be doing," said Ernest Stevens

Jr., NIGA Chairman. He announced at the recent summit that NIGA Vice Chairman and Bois Forte Band Chairman Kevin Leecy will direct NIGA's national effort.

More than 400 people attended the summit hosted by Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth, at which participants reviewed regional economic trends, considered partnership opportunities, and discussed ways to improve the region's future.

"A chi mii gwetch to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin for planting the seed for economic growth and building partnerships between the three northern tribes and our regional partners," said Vicki White, Economic Development Manager for the Leech Lake Band.

Santa Visits Early Education



Photo courtesy of Mille Lacs Band Early Education

Santa came to Mille Lacs Early Education on December 15th. Children received a goodie bag and present from Santa. Destiny Mitchell is pictured here with Santa. Mii gwetch to the parents who helped shop and wrap. Chi mii gwetch to Santa for spending the morning with us.

Band Receives National Weather Service Award



Elizabeth Towle

National Weather Service officers present Band officials with a StormReady certification. Pictured from left to right: Sid Lucas, MLB Director of Public Safety; Monte Fronk, MLB Emergency Management Coordinator; Carol Christenson, Warning Coordination Officer from Duluth's National Weather Service Office; and Todd Krause, Warning Coordination Officer from Chanhassen's National Weather Service Office.

Two of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service officials visited the Mille Lacs Band Government Center on December 12, 2006, to present two StormReady signs and a plaque to the Mille Lacs Band Department of Public Safety's Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk, who leads the Tribal Emergency Response Committee. The National Weather Service StormReady program recognizes communities prepared with action plans for responding to severe weather, and helps enhance local safety programs.

"This award recognizes the Band's commitment to emergency preparedness," said Monte. "The Band's Department of Public

Safety Emergency Management Office continually works to prepare for all types of emergency situations."

The Band received two signs because the reservation falls into two separate National Weather Service areas; one area is under Chanhassen's radar and the other area is under Duluth's radar. The Mille Lacs Band is the fourth federally-recognized tribe in the United States that has received official StormReady recognition.

"We want to incorporate anything that enhances public safety for the Mille Lacs Band," said Sid Lucas, Director of Public Safety.

For more information on the National Weather Service StormReady program, visit www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready.



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Ask Melanie

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

Why were people who don't live in District I mailed coupons for Grand Market in District I?

As Mille Lacs Band members, it's important for us to support Band-owned and Band member-owned businesses as much as we can. When we purchase goods or services from them, we not only help the owners, we help ourselves and our communities.

The Band's profit from Band-owned businesses is used to distribute bonus payments, pay the salaries and benefits of those of you who work for the Band, invest in widely used programs and services, and more. The money then keeps circulating in the local area, which keeps our economy strong. So, when our businesses do well, we all benefit.

It's not realistic to think that all Band members should patronize all of our

businesses. A lot of Band members in District III don't make it over to District I very often. But for those of you who do, I hope you will check out Grand Market and our other businesses in this area – just as I hope District I residents who travel to District III stop by Crossroads Conoco and the restaurants and Band member-owned shops inside Grand Casino Hinckley.

Band-owned businesses and Band member-owned businesses were created in response to community needs – a need for jobs and a need for goods or services that were previously in short supply.

Do you have a question?

If you have a question that you would like me to answer, please fax it to 320/532-5800 or mail it to:

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

State Government Has New Look

By Jamie Edwards, Mille Lacs Band State Government Affairs Coordinator

When the 2007 legislative session begins on January 3, Minnesota's state government will look dramatically different than it did last year at this time. The November 2006 elections resulted in a 24% changeover in the makeup of the House and Senate. And, while Governor Tim Pawlenty will begin his second term, he will have three new commissioners.

The Governor's office

Gene Merriam served as Governor Pawlenty's Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for four years, and before that he was a DFL state senator. Charged with duties including management of the state's hunting and fishing regulations, the Mille Lacs Band met with Merriam on a number of occasions to discuss the Mille Lacs Lake fishery and other issues.

In 2003, Merriam was asked about the fairness of different fishing rules for Indians and non-Indians while speaking at a fundraiser for Proper Economic Resource Management (PERM), a group opposing treaty rights. "I think that any system of apartheid based on race is inherently misdirected," he said. This resulted in eight Minnesota tribal governments calling for Merriam's resignation. He remained in his post, but his relationship with the Band was clearly strained from that time forward.

Merriam was replaced by the deputy commissioner of the DNR, Mark Holsten, with whom we hope to establish a positive, respectful working relationship.

The other outgoing commissioners are Finance Commissioner Peggy Ingison, who will be replaced by the Governor's Chief of Staff Tom Hansen, and Revenue Commissioner Dan

Salomone, who will be replaced by Ward Einess, former Acting Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development. The revenue, tax and business issues that concern these commissioners also concern the Mille Lacs Band, and we are eager to get to know Hansen, Einess, and their priorities better.

The Legislature

With the large number of DFL election victories, the DFL now holds an 85-49 majority in the House and a 44-23 majority in the Senate over Republicans. This means that in the House, the DFL is just four seats shy of being able to override the Governor's veto. For the first time in eight years, the DFL has gained control of the House.

The leaders of the four legislative caucuses are also all new. The Speaker of the House is Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL) and the Senate Majority Leader is Larry Pogemiller (DFL). The House Minority Leader is Marty Seifert (R) and the Senate Minority Leader is David Senjem (R).

Because of the significant number of new members, newly created House committees, and changes in committee assignments, it will be important to focus on educating legislators about issues such as tribal sovereignty, government-to-government relationships, and how to effectively work with tribes. I'll be working with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council on this effort.

The Band will monitor issues such as gaming expansion and child welfare very closely in the coming months. This will include meetings and regular communication with legislators and their staffs, interaction with key committees in both houses, and answering questions as they come along. I will continue to keep you posted on the latest updates from the Minnesota Legislature.

Melanie's Calendar

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

- Attended a Minnesota Indian Gaming Association meeting to strategize with other Minnesota tribal leaders and review legislative outlook for Indian gaming in Minnesota
- Attended a Federal Home Loan Program board meeting to advocate for increased funding for American Indian housing
- Attended a Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Housing

Sub-committee meeting to share information and discuss housing issues with other Minnesota tribes

- Attended a planning meeting for Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN) to coordinate the next annual conference
- Hosted and attended the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce annual banquet at Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Attended Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Tribal Executive Committee meeting to discuss state/tribal issues

Elders Enjoy Friends and Family at Annual Christmas Party

On Friday, December 15, about 230 people celebrated the holiday season with friends and family at the annual Elders Holiday Party at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Larry "Amik" Smallwood was the emcee for the evening, which included dinner, a karaoke contest, prizes, and more.



Band Elder Marie Bengston (left) laughs with her sister, Beverly Sutton Ramsey (right).



Band Elders and other guests enjoy dinner and festivities at the annual holiday party. Pictured from left to right: Roxanne Demo, Band Elder Suzanna Schaaf, Anna Houle, Band Elder Frank Schaaf, and Band Elder Nancy Foster.

Need a Vacation? Call Grand Ventures Travel

By Jill Hardy, Grand Ventures Manager

Grand Ventures Travel, Inc. is a business venture owned and operated by the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Our experienced and knowledgeable travel specialists on staff are Jill Hardy and LaDonna Robinson.

Whether you are looking for an airline ticket, all-inclusive package, honeymoon or wedding, or a nice warm sunny beach vacation, we can find the best value to fit your needs. We do domestic and

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- LaDonna Robinson – Travel Agent, 877/532-9057 or 320/532-9057 ladonna@grandventuretravel.com

Ojibwemowin

January is Gichi-Manidoo-Giizis or Big Spirit Moon

Ojibwe Clan System

According to Anishinabeg tradition, the Creator gave the Ojibwe people the clan, or dodem, system long ago. Ojibwe custom states that there were originally six beings that arose from the sea to live among the Anishinabeg: Wawaazisii (Bullhead), Ajejauk (Crane), Makwa (Bear), Moosance (Little Moose), Waabizheshi (Marten), and Bineshii (Thunderbird). These beings created the original clans.

One of the original six beings, the Thunderbird, always kept his eyes covered because when he looked at the Anishinabeg, they died. Because of this, the other five beings urged Bineshii to return to the sea. And that is why the Anishinabeg do not have a Thunderbird clan today.

At least 20 offshoots of the original clans have been identified. Here are some of the most common clans and their distinct characteristics:

- The largest clan was the Bear clan. Bear clan members were known as war chiefs and warriors, and for their thick black hair that never whitened, even in old age.
- Members of Fish clans – Bullhead, Sturgeon, Catfish, Northern, Whitefish, Merman and Sucker – were known for long life and baldness in old age. Fish clan members claim that their ancestor was the first to appear out of the sea.
- Members of the Crane clan were known for their loud and clear voices, and were recognized as famous speakers.
- The Wolf clan produced scouts. Wolf clan members lived mostly around Mille Lacs and St. Croix.
- Marten clan members served as pipe bearers and message carriers for the chiefs.

Eight clans have been identified among the Mille Lacs Band: Lynx, Bear, Marten, Bullhead, Wolf, Bald Eagle, Sturgeon, and Little Moose.

Even today, clan symbols are used to identify heritage. For example, when Band members are buried, their clan symbols appear on their graves to mark their lineage. Also, clan symbols appear on birch bark scrolls, treaties, and other documents.

Nay Ah Shing Schools Hold Food Drive Challenge



Photo courtesy of Early Education

Mille Lacs Band Head Start challenged the Nay Ah Shing Lower and Upper Schools to a Food Drive Challenge. Head Start collected a total of 448 pounds of food. Sarah Armstrong's class (pictured above) collected 282 pounds and won for Head Start. The Nay Ah Shing Lower School collected 740 pounds of food. Danielle Patrick's class was the winner with 309 pounds of food. The Nay Ah Shing Upper School collected 324 pounds. Student Council collected 83 pounds by asking for a donation as entry to a school dance. The winning class or group from each school received a party. All food was donated to Mille Lacs Band Emergency Assistance.

Moccasin Telegraph

By Beatrice Taylor, Mille Lacs Band Elder



Photo courtesy of Chris Segarra

Quilting

The following article appeared in the July 27, 2005, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with their permission.

I love to quilt. I feel cheerful when I'm making quilts. I can sit there day after day after day. It's a way to pass the time away. It keeps you busy so you're not at loose ends. And you make something that you will use in the future.

Quilts are used in our Ojibwe drum ceremonies. When you go to a drum ceremony and you put in your offering, usually it's a quilt or quilts. This is a way of asking for a good life for yourself and your family, and thanking the Great Spirit for what he has given you. It's a good tradition. I always make a couple quilts to put in.

And I use quilts a lot for gifts, too. I say that's the best gift I can give you because there's love in every stitch.

Some people have heard of star quilts. That is a pattern that is popular with many Native American people, from the southwest up to Canada. But Indian people don't just make star quilts. There are so many patterns you can make with different arrangements of blocks, stars and triangles. Star quilts are harder than

some other patterns because there is more sewing involved in them.

But I think your blanket has more to do with the colors you choose than the pattern. If you want a spring blanket, then you use spring colors. In the winter, I use white for some of the blocks, but then I put in the brighter colors. I like bright colors – they're more cheerful.

I sew my quilts by hand. I know how to use a sewing machine, but I think with hand sewing, the pieces come out more even. With a machine, sometimes my seams want to crawl under, and then I have to take the whole thing out!

First I cut all my pieces out, then I stitch the blocks together, and then I applique the blocks onto a piece of material. After that, I put the runners around the edge.

Once I've got the top all done, then I put bought blankets in between the top and bottom. I don't like quilt batting – the stuffing that you can buy to go inside the quilt's top and bottom – because it comes apart in the wash.

It's not easy to make a quilt. People think, oh that must be easy, but you try it once! It's hard on the eyes, the fingers, the upper back, and the neck.

But I love to do it. It's a good pasttime. You can make a different design when you think of it, and put different colors together. And when you're done, you have something you can give to someone else. The world is for giving. I like to give, I like to share. I would rather give than receive. It's such a good feeling.

Housing Updates

By Rick Boyd, Director of Housing

Buffet coupons

The Mille Lacs Band Housing Department is discontinuing the distribution of buffet coupons. For more information, please call 320/532-7448.

Utility assistance

If a tenant requests utility assistance and signs the promissory note, this person must attend budget and training classes. Failure to attend these classes will limit future opportunities for assistance. Please contact Danielle Smith at 320/532-7448 for more information.

Carbon monoxide detectors

All Band members who need a carbon monoxide detector in their homes should contact Maggie Premo at 320/532-7448 to be put on the list. Installations will be done the last week of January. Band members who receive a detector must be home to sign an acceptance and completion form.

Do you need help fixing your home?

Attention homeowners: do you need help fixing your home? The Mille Lacs Housing Department has a grant/loan program that will assist Band member homeowners in refurbishing their homes to

safe and standard conditions. Applicants who meet the income guidelines and other police requirements for this Housing and Urban Development grant and tribal loan funded program may be awarded up to \$35,000 toward their home renovations. The maximum loan portion of \$20,000 will be amortized over a 10-year period at one percent, the maximum grant award is \$15,000. Qualified applicants will be required by the Housing Department to sign a 10-year retention agreement for their refurbished home.

If you are a homeowner who resides in the 30-mile radius around the Band's three districts or urban area and are interested in this program, contact Ruth Sam, Outreach Specialist, at 320/532-7842 or 800/709-6445, ext. 7842 for more information. You can also send your request to Ruth Sam, Mille Lacs Band Housing Department, 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359.

Below are the family size income limit guidelines for the Mille Lacs Band Housing Department Rehabilitation of Home Project:

- 1 member – \$38,500
- 2 members – \$44,000
- 3 members – \$45,500
- 4 members – \$55,000
- 5 members – \$59,500
- 6 members – \$64,000
- 7 members – \$68,500
- 8 members – \$73,000
- 9 members – \$77,000
- 10 members – \$81,500

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 January appearances.

KKIN radio – 94.3 FM
January 18, 8:30 a.m.
Emily Johnson and Don Wedll
Topic: State of the Band

KBK radio – 95.5 FM
January 18, 7:30 a.m.
Beatrice Taylor
Topic: Helping one another

Mille Lacs Band Department Of Public Safety Sponsors Fire Extinguisher Training



Photo courtesy of Monte Fronk

A fire safety instructor trains Band employee Jim Kovarik on properly using a fire extinguisher through practice with a simulated fire extinguisher and fire scenario.

By Monte Fronk, Mille Lacs Band Emergency Management Coordinator

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Public Safety sponsored a fire extinguisher training for Band employees on November 3 to give them basic knowledge on safely using a fire extinguisher to put out certain types of fires. The training was given by Nardini Fire Equipment Company, which services many of the Band's fire extinguishers.

Nardini Fire Equipment Company is one of the few companies that uses a fire extinguisher simulator in its training. The simulator provides a fire scenario – in the Band's training it was a metal storage closet containing dripping flammables that spread the fire from top to bottom – that participants

can practice putting out with a simulated fire extinguisher. The simulated fire extinguisher uses compressed air and a light to replicate the use of a real fire extinguisher and allows the person about a minute to try to put out the fire. This is the same amount of time that you can use a real fire extinguisher before depleting its contents.

The instructor programmed the simulator to challenge the participants at a level of difficulty that might have taken them two or three times to extinguish the fire, just as it might happen in real life. All the Band employees who attended the training appreciated it because they understood that it can save lives and property not only at work, but also at home.

Legislative Corner

Legislative Branch welcomes new employees

The Legislative Branch recently hired two new employees. Band member Rebecca Sam joined the staff as the District I Administrative Assistant, and Band member Jenny Waugh was hired as the District II Administrative Assistant.

Rebecca has worked for the Band for a number of years in areas such as scholarships and job

training. She started her new position in October, and she is responsible for assisting District I Representative Alicia Skinaway.

Before beginning her new job in November, Jenny worked for the Band in the Maintenance Department and as a Receptionist. Now, she assists District II Representative Marvin Bruneau.

Fitness Program

By Jim Ingle, Physical Fitness Coordinator

Exercise can put you in a good mood this winter

Seasonal Affective Disorder, or S.A.D., can make sufferers feel depressed and sluggish during the winter months. S.A.D. is a mood disorder that can result from lack of sunlight. Just as sunlight affects the behavior of animals, causing bears to hibernate in the winter, it can also affect people. January and February are especially difficult months for S.A.D. sufferers. Women and young people are also affected at a higher rate.

As winter rolls around, our biological clocks can become out of step with our daily schedules and demands, making us feel down and lose energy. Some symptoms of S.A.D. include:

- Feeling moody or depressed
- Increased appetite
- Weight gain
- Sleeping longer during the fall and winter months
- Difficulty concentrating
- Low energy and fatigue
- Reduced interest in social activities
- A craving for sugary or starchy foods like pastries, pasta and breads
- Symptoms disappearing during spring and summer

A possible cause of S.A.D. is a sleep hormone called melatonin.

Melatonin is released by the body when it's dark, helping us fall asleep. Fewer hours of sunlight in the winter can release more melatonin than usual.

Some common treatments for S.A.D. include bright light therapy or medication. Bright light therapy is simply spending a few hours every day under a bank of white fluorescent lights that can simulate the sun's rays. Spending time outdoors during the day is another alternative, but many of us are too busy to be able to find time for a walk during the day. Coming in to work when it's still dark and leaving after the sun has set is a winter routine for many people.

Regular exercise is another great alternative for those who want to beat the blues. Exercise fights all symptoms of S.A.D., including loss of energy, overeating, and weight gain. Outdoor exercise is especially helpful. Make sure you dress warmly to conserve energy and warmth, which is another way to combat S.A.D.

So if you're feeling like you need to boost your mood and get your energy back, visit us at the district fitness centers, which have plenty of light and all the necessary fitness equipment, including a personal trainer, at no charge. Also, remember that S.A.D. is a clinical disorder – see your doctor if you have symptoms that interfere with your day-to-day life.

Learn How to Own and Operate a Business

By Sharon James, Small Business Development Program Coordinator

Come learn about business with the Corporate Commission's Business Management Training Class. The Small Business

Development Program provides a 10-week class to train Band members on what it takes to become a future business owner and/or manager. Contact me at 320/532-8817 to register for this class held on Mondays in District I.

Tax Refund Loans

By East Central Legal Services

Some tax preparers offer a way to get your tax refund fast. These are called "Rapid Refunds" or "Refund Anticipation Loans (RAL)." They promise to get your money to you in only a few days. Before you go get this fast cash, here are some things you should know.

- Refund Loans have high interest rates and fees. For example, if you are receiving a \$1,500 refund, your tax preparation fees would be \$100 and the cost for the refund loan fee and interest would be \$75, so you would only receive \$1,325. If your refund is larger, your fees will be even higher.
- Your refund could be taken to pay off another loan. If you owe money to a bank or other companies, signing refund loan forms may enable companies to collect those debts from your refund. Signing the loan form may leave you with no refund at all.
- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) audits some tax returns each year. If they choose to check yours, your refund may be frozen by the IRS. The company that gave you the refund loan won't be paid until the IRS is done checking your return. The company will then charge you even more interest.

You don't need to take out a loan to get your

taxes prepared. You can get your taxes done for free by Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in many locations. Some sites offer computer filing. To find one near you, call the United Way at 211.

Have the IRS deposit your tax refund directly into your bank account. Your federal refund should go into your bank account within two weeks if you file by computer, or four weeks if you mail it in. State refunds are usually deposited within five days if you file by computer.

East Central Legal Services does not prepare taxes. However, we may be able to help you find an attorney if you have problems with the IRS. For more information regarding Refund Anticipation Loans or other legal issues pertaining to taxes, please call East Central Legal Services 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

Mother and Daughter Share Positive Work Experiences at Grand Casino Hinckley



Photo courtesy of Band Member Development

Mert Leibgott

Mother and daughter Band members, Mert and Teresa Leibgott, recently shared their experiences of working together at Grand Casino Hinckley by submitting written responses for a display board created by the Band Member Development (BMD) Department to highlight Band members' success.

After completing her bachelor's degree in information technology in 2004, Mert worked with the BMD Department and was granted a six-month internship in the Information Systems Department at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. After gaining valuable work experience, she worked as a Computer Technician Specialist at Nay Ah Shing Schools, and then earned a job as a Database Manager in the Central Marketing Department at



Photo courtesy of Band Member Development

Teresa Leibgott

Grand Casino Hinckley in 2006.

"BMD is an excellent resource to Band members, and I am glad they were there for me on my way to a challenging career," said Mert.

Mert's daughter, Teresa, came to Grand Casino Hinckley in August 2005, after working at AT&T in Minneapolis. She started working in the Information Systems Department before becoming the Executive Administrative Assistant to the casino's General Manager.

"I believe there is unlimited opportunity here and that the sky is the limit," said Teresa. "I am excited to work for a company that values its employees and am looking forward to my future with a company that offers advancement. Currently, I am working toward that goal."

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Ne-la-Shing Clinic

When: Friday, January 12

To schedule an appointment, call 320/532-4163.

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

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

January Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum And Trading Post

Ojibwe toy workshop

Participants will learn to make toy drums, dolls, games, and other objects during this two-day workshop, which will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, January 21. The cost is \$50 for the public, \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members, and \$30 for Mille Lacs Band members. There is also a \$5 supply fee. Please call 320/532-3632 to pre-register.

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

Monday, January 29, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 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 provided.

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. Interactive television programming and outreach programming are also available.

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

Grand Market Team Works Together to Benefit Store



Grand Market staff participates in team-building activities.

By Berni Johnson, Corporate Director of Band Member Development

The Grand Market Management Team and key store personnel have been working on leadership and team building efforts since July. General Manager Ross Simons, Assistant Manager Ann Oswaldson, and the Grand Market staff have attended training classes on a personality assessment called the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), and participated in a seminar in Brainerd, Minn. on coaching, mentoring and teamwork. They will also participate in experiential learning activities to promote and strengthen trust among each other.

"These classes are improving our ability to work with one another, which has created a more friendly atmosphere," said Ann.

Some areas of concern the group is addressing are overall team performance, understanding each other as individuals in order to foster positive relationships, and improving Associates' morale and loyalty.

"We are making progress in understanding one another's behavior," said Ross. "So far it has been an interesting journey."

We're proud of this team and the commitment and dedication each person is making to benefit Grand Market.

Band-Hosted Professional Boxing Is Getting Nearer

By Harry Davis, District III Representative

The Band Assembly is in the process of ratifying Mille Lacs Band members for the Band's Boxing Commission as part of the Department of Athletic Regulation.

The Department of Athletic Regulation was created by Band statute to regulate all professional athletic activities held on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Within this department, an independent authority called the Boxing Commission was established to regulate, administer and oversee these activities.

Once the ratifications are completed, we can hire a director and start the process of hosting our own professional boxing cards in our casinos. We will start with local boxers and eventually move up to national and world boxing title fights. Our first hosted event is scheduled for March 10, when a combination of amateur and professional boxers will compete at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Watch for the announcement of Boxing Commission members in the February issue of the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

How to Make Sure Your Kids' New Toys and Gifts Are Safe

By Marlene Poukka, Community Health Educator

While children are interested in how fun their new toys and gadgets are, it's up to parents and caregivers to make sure these items are safe.

Use the following guidelines as a safety check:

- Avoid toys that shoot, have parts that fly, or have sharp edges or points.
- Toys should be labeled "ASTM" (American Society for Testing and Materials) - this means the toy meets national safety standards.
- Don't give toys with small parts to young children. Young children tend to put objects in their mouths.

- Follow suggested directions for age levels. Keep toys meant for older children away from younger children.
- Develop a list of safety rules for your children regarding playing with toys.
- Remain aware of recalled products.

For further information visit Prevent Blindness America's Web site at www.preventblindness.org/new/releases or call 800/331-2020.

The Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department is able to provide safety education if you are interested. Contact Renae Boyd at 320/532-7775 and she will refer your request to the appropriate person.

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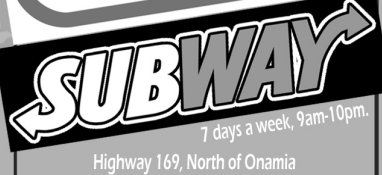
Monday - Friday, 8am-5pm.
 Located in Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel Lobby.



Movie Hotline: 320-532-3923
www.grandmakwacinema.com

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 Located next to Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

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 7 days a week, 6am-12 midnight



Highway 169, North of Onamia

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)*	13,662,311	11,753,159	86.0%
Judicial	943,361	788,113	83.5%
Law Enforcement*	3,592,427	2,895,392	80.6%
Education*	27,804,191	21,011,019	75.6%
Health and Human Services*	22,061,029	19,021,566	86.2%
Natural Resources*	5,414,464	4,696,756	86.7%
Community Development*	56,111,911	30,819,366	54.9%
Gaming Authority*	3,818,579	3,495,328	91.5%
Bonus Distribution	33,478,200	33,478,200	100.0%
Total Expenditures	\$166,886,472	\$127,958,899	76.7%

Financial Notes:

- Administration includes Chief Executive, administration, finance, Solicitor General, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- The amounts above do not include casino operations; however, they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
- 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.
- Economic development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997. As of October 1, 1997, the Band has separated accounting functions for the Corporate Commission from the tribal government.

* These departments will include continuing appropriations from the 2005 fiscal year.

* Please note that this Finance page is not final, we will print the final page in the February issue of the Ojibwe Inaajimowin.

Keep Your Family Safe From Carbon Monoxide

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

The long winter heating season exposes all of us to the hazards of carbon monoxide. If not dealt with appropriately, the outcome can be fatal.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, carbon monoxide can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, carbon monoxide causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, nausea and fatigue. The effects of carbon monoxide exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health, and the concentration and length of exposure.

Sources of carbon monoxide

Typical sources of carbon monoxide include unvented kerosene and gas space heaters, leaking chimneys, gas water heaters and furnaces, wood stoves, fireplaces, gas stoves, gasoline powered equipment, and automobile exhaust from attached garages. Incomplete combustion in gas ranges and unvented gas or kerosene heaters/furnaces can cause high levels of carbon monoxide in our homes. Auto, truck or bus exhaust from attached garages, nearby roads, or parking areas can also be a source of carbon monoxide in the home.

Steps to reduce exposure to carbon monoxide

To reduce your family's exposure to carbon monoxide, follow these tips:

- Be sure that combustion equipment is maintained and properly adjusted.
- Keep gas appliances properly adjusted.

- Vehicle use should be carefully managed adjacent to buildings.
- Additional ventilation can be used as a temporary measure when high levels of carbon monoxide are expected for short periods of time.
- Install and use an exhaust fan that's over gas stoves vented to the outdoors.
- Open flues when fireplaces are in use.
- Choose properly sized wood stoves that are certified to meet Environmental Protection Agency emission standards. Make certain that doors on all wood stoves fit tightly.
- Have a trained professional inspect and clean central heating systems (furnaces, flues and chimneys) annually.
- Purchase a carbon monoxide monitor and install it in your home so that it can alert you when carbon monoxide levels in your home become dangerous.

New Years Resolution: Prevent Wildfires

By Daria Day, BIA Contractor

Continued dry conditions and an increase in the start of wildfires put Mille Lacs residents at risk in 2007.

Thirty-one wildland fires burned on the Mille Lacs Reservation during the 2006 fire season. This is a marked increase from past years. The increase in fires came at the worst possible time – in the middle of one of the worst droughts Minnesota has seen in 30 years. Mille Lacs Band and Minnesota State Department of Natural Resources firefighters worked hard to protect the lives and property of residents in the Mille Lacs area, managing to get through the season without injuries or loss of homes.

All 31 fires that burned on Mille Lacs lands were caused by humans. The specific causes ranged from legally permitted fires which got away to deliberately set arson fires. These fires threatened important tribal buildings like the Ne-la-Shing Clinic, the Ceremonial Building in District III, and the Nay Ah Shing Schools. In almost every case, residents' homes were threatened by the flames.

Fires burn where the conditions are right. Unless environmental conditions

change dramatically, we will face a very dry spring fire season which will provide ready sources of fuel for fires. The only thing needed to start a deadly wildfire is a spark. We must make a commitment to our community that we will not allow our actions or the actions of our children to endanger the lives of others. Please remember to:

- Always obtain a burn permit before you burn, and check the weather before you light that match.
- Honor all burning restrictions, especially during times of drought.
- Never leave a fire unattended. An adult should always be present.
- Spend time teaching your children to respect the power of fire, both good and bad.
- Share your thoughts and concerns with your community.

Thank you for your help in our effort to prevent catastrophic fires in Mille Lacs. For more information, contact the Mille Lacs Band Forestry Department at 320/532-7589 or Mille Lacs Wildland Fire Prevention at 320/532-5100.

Children of Pregnant Smokers Are More Likely to Become Smokers

A recent study conducted in Australia found that women who smoked during pregnancy had children that were more likely to become smokers. The long-term study examined 3,000 mothers and their children, and assessed the children's smoking patterns by the age of 21.

Of the 3,000 women surveyed, about one-third of them smoked during pregnancy. After surveying their children at ages 14 and 21, researchers found that children whose mothers smoked during pregnancy were almost three times as likely to start smoking by the age of 14, and were twice as likely to start smoking after the age of 14 than children whose mothers did not smoke.

Smoking during pregnancy can cause serious health effects on the mother and baby, including:

- Low birth weight, which can lead to a number of development problems
- Premature birth, which can cause chronic disabilities such as cerebral palsy and learning problems
- Increased risk of miscarriage and stillbirth

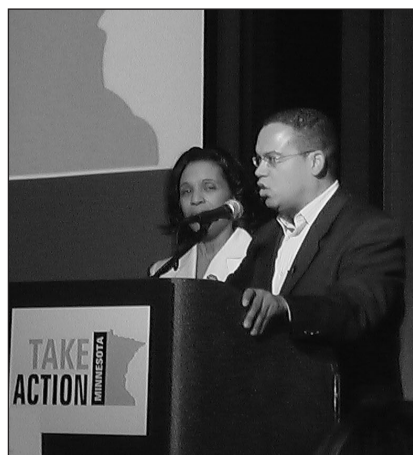
- Delivery complications
Mothers who quit smoking during pregnancy reduce the risk of health problems in their children, and both parents who quit smoking can reduce their children's health risks associated with second-hand smoke. Children exposed to second-hand smoke are at a higher risk of developing health problems, such as bronchitis, pneumonia and asthma.

Tobacco cessation program helps Band members quit smoking

For Band members who want to quit smoking, the Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department has a tobacco cessation program that is designed to meet the needs of Band members and their cultural practices. The program provides Band members who want to quit smoking the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a health educator to talk about the health risks of smoking and to develop a plan to quit. For more information on the program, contact Health Educator Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812.

Mille Lacs Band Represented at Awards Dinner

By Elizabeth Towle



Congressman Keith Ellison speaks to more than 450 guests at TakeAction Minnesota Progressive Awards dinner as his wife, Kim, looks on.

TakeAction Minnesota held its first annual Progressive Awards dinner Saturday, December 16, 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Paul. The Mille

Lacs Band was a key sponsor of the event.

TakeAction Minnesota helped several candidates who embraced progressive platforms in their elections, including supporting American Indian rights and other issues. Of all of the candidates the organization supported, more than half won their races. TakeAction Minnesota also helped Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota (NVAM) in this year's election cycle. Rick Anderson and myself, NVAM Board Members and staff from the Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs Department attended this event.

New Congressman Keith Ellison represents

Minnesota's 5th District in the United States Congress. He received the Progressive Leader of the Year award and delivered a very powerful and moving speech. "Life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness is what I'm talking about," he shouted to more than 450 guests, who gave him a standing



Band member Rick Anderson meets with United States Senator Amy Klobuchar.



Band employee Elizabeth Towle (left) joined State Auditor Rebecca Otto (right) at the dinner.

ovation. Newly elected officials including State Auditor Rebecca Otto, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, and State Representative Tim Faust also showed their support and praise to Congressman Ellison and to TakeAction Minnesota.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy January birthday to:

Janet Gahbow, January 1 with love from the whole family and Sami Thomas • **Tracy Sam**, on January 14 with love from the whole family and Sami Thomas • **Andy Nickaboine**, on January 25 with love from Michelle, Helena, Rosey, Annette, mom, pops, Joe Kegg, Aunt Ooge, Aunt Lorraine, Amber, Ashley, Angel, Dan, and Anna • **Priscilla Lowman**, on January 30 with love from Michelle, Loretta, Patsy, Tammy, Conway, Vivian, Marty, Joe, Amber, Ashley, Kailey, Angie, Anna, Dan, Ooge, and Rat • **Alicia Rose Dorr**, 13, on January 24 with love from mom and dad • **Jameson Anderson**, on January 4 from Grandma Sandy, mom, dad, Cordell, Christopher Jr., Grandma AA, Grandma K, Auntie CC, Jacob, Shelby, Jarvis, Rae-Anne, Sharon, Wallace, Marc and Brandon • **James Jr.**, 4, on January 23 with love from mom, Helena, Rosey, Annette, Uncle Joe, Vivian, Grandma Ooge, Marty, Aunt Lorraine, Ashley, Amber, Kailey, Angie, Dan and Anna • **Marty Kegg**, 49, on January 15 with love from wifey, Amber, Ashley, Kailey, Michelle, Helena, Rosey, Annette, Jr., Joe Kegg, Aunt Lorraine, Aunt Ooge, Angie, Anna, and Dan • **Windy Morrison**, 20, on January 16 with love from Jordan and Dysen • **Larry "Amik" Smallwood**, on January 13 from Bonnie Dorr-Charwood and family • **Jaeden**, 5, on January 17 with love from mom, dad, and Baby Keith • **Devin LaDue**, 11, on January 23 with love from mom, dad, Sophie, Grandma Bea, Doreen, Steve, Justin, Baby Wax, Lauren, Tyson, Katie, Destiny, Jon, Jenise, and White Guy • **Eldayshun Day**, 5, on January 8 with love from mom, Todd, Auntie Georgia, Kayana, and McKellen • **McKellen Bearheart**, 5, on January 17 with love from mommy, nana, Amy, Auntie Darcie, Todd, and Eldayshun • **Katelyn Kay Mitchell**, 6, on January 7 from Grandma Bea, mom, dad,

Destiny, Steve, Justin, Baby Wax, Jon, Justin, and White Guy • **Louie**, on January 24 from Killer • **Brent Sam**, 18, on January 6 from your brother, mom, sister, Kaitlin, and Drelli • **Kaija Farah**, on January 6 with love from mom and dad • **Cynthia Dionysius**, on January 11 from mom and Grandma Shirley • **Jon Smith**, 19, on January 14 from mom, Steve, Justin, Baby Wax, Lauren, Tyson, Katie, Destiny, Baby Jenise, grandma, and White Guy • **Steve**, on January 24 from Katelyn, Destiny, and the rest of the crew • **Jeff Boyd**, on January 13 from Rose • **Olivia**, 6, on January 30 from Auntie Rose and cousins • **Alise Kiara Rose**, 5, on January 3 from Auntie Rose • **Cody Richie**, 16, on January 16 • **Steven L. Pewaush**, on January 25 with love from your family • **Joe Mojica**, on January 11 from Chris, Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, and Christopher • **Shelley Boyd**, January 1 with love from Danielle, Baby Owen, mom, Mandi, Becca, Beau, Brandz, Steveie, Ernie, dad, Boone, Clint, Dawn, Rachel, Erin, EJ, Eddie, Jr, and the rest of the family • **Tommy Lee**, from Danielle, Baby Owen and Owen Sr. • **Deondre Lee Sam**, on January 7 with love from mom, Tina, Jim, Dana, Uncle Dave, Tans, Jay, Rainy, Minnow, Naughty, Lil Jay, Meany, Skye, Jack, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, and your whole family • **Patti Potter**, on January 6 with love from Auntie Niss • **Herb Sam Jr.**, on January 24 with love from Auntie Niss and family • **Lorna Day**, on January 27 with love from Auntie Niss, Dana and family • **LeRoy "Winston" Day**, on January 12 from Sami Thomas and family • **William Sayers III**, 7, on January 25 with love from Grandma Thomas, dad, mom, Dezy, Xavie, Auntie Chilah, Aunite Debo, Veezee, and Drystin • **Debo Thomas**, 22, on January 31 with love from Mother Goose, Sonny, Terrah, Chilah, Noah, Niswi, Xavie, Princess, Veezee, and Drystin • **Brandon Wiedewitsch**, 20, on January 15 with love from Amy, mom, Brandi

Jo, John, and your family in Princeton • **Jeremy Harrington**, on January 22 from Tammy, Brandon, and Brandi Jo • **McKayla Boyd**, on January 21 with love from Auntie Tammy, Brandon and Brandi Jo • **Danielle Smith**, on January 31 with love from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, and Brandi Jo • **Derek Shingobe Jr.**, 3, on January 1 with love from mom, dad, DeaLayna, Stone, Frances, grandma, Rae, Joe, Mary, Mase Sr., Jack, Papa Fronco, Jamie, Bean, Jim, Simone, Dante, Doni, Bruce, Jo, Mase Jr., Sheila, and Shawsha • **DeaLayna Rose Boyd**, 6, on January 9 with love from mom, dad, Stone, Jr., Frances, grandma, Rae, Joe, Mary, Mase Sr., Jack, Papa Fronco, Jamie, Bean, Jim, Simone, Dante, Doni, Bruce, Jo, Mase Jr., Sheila, and Shawsha • **Rachel**, 27, on January 14 with love from Joe, mom, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Jr., Franny, Simone, Doni, Joey, Sheila, Marrisasa, Gregg, Mary, Tara, Jim, Bruce, and Jack • **Auntie Jamie**, 19, on January 13 with love from DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Jr., Frances, Mase Jr., and Shawsha • **Joe Edgington**, on January 10 with love from Rachel, Greg, Marrisasa, Simone, Doni, Joey, Sheila, Ver, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Jr., Frances, Mary, Bean, Dante, Mase Jr., and Shawsha • **Tara**, 26, on January 21 from Danielle, Kurl, Berta, Nugs, Reese, H-Lap, Sumner, DeaLayna, Stone, Jr., Frances, Rachel, Shawn, Geo, Isiah, Troy, and Mary • **Dad**, on January 12 with love from your kids and grandkids.

Happy birthday in January to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Gloria Anderson
Mary Bellonger
Art Benjamin
Gladys Benjamin
Daniel Boyd
Edith Bush
Patricia Clark
Eugene Davis
Lorna Day
Isabel Eubanks
Dorothy Frye

Evelyn Granger
James Hill Jr.
Rose Holmquist
Katherine Jackson
Charles Johnson
Grover Johnson
Richard Kegg
Russell Kegg
Lucille Kuntz
Priscilla Lowman
Gloria Lowrie
Bruce Martin
David Matrious
Temperance McLain
Mary Merrill
Mushkooub
Barbara Nelson
Rosalie Noonday
Dorothy Olson
Donna Pardun
Diana Poitra
Patricia Potter
Dora Sam
Joycelyn Shingobe
Bonnie Shingobe-Neeland
Larry Smallwood
Kathleen Vanheel
Elleraine Weous
Walter Weyaus

Birth announcement

Kevin, Amy and Devin LaDue would like to announce the arrival of **Sophie Cecilia LaDue** who was born on November 5, 2006 at St. Joseph Medical Center in Brainerd. She weighed 9 lbs., 3 oz. *Congratulations from the whole Bea Mitchell family.*

Thank you

The family of **Joe (Bass) Bastedo Sr.** would like to thank everyone that helped with his funeral. It was deeply appreciated for all the food, flowers, plants and thoughts. He will be truly missed by his family. Thanks again to all.

Anniversary

Happy 25th anniversary to **Bev and Roger Garbow** on January 16 *with love from Tammy, Brandon and Brandi Jo.*

(Continued on page 11)

January 2007 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 All offices closed for New Year's Day	2	3 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Contact: Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	4	5	6 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Angella Roby, Commissioner of Finance 877/239-2444
7 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Angella Roby, Commissioner of Finance 877/239-2444	8 12-1:30 p.m. AMVETS Meeting GCML, 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925 6:30 p.m. Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting Aazhoomog School Contact: Skip Churchill, 320/384-6970	9	10 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Contact: Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	11	12	13 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Rick Boyd, Director of Housing 877/239-2444
14 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Rick Boyd, Director of Housing 877/239-2444	15 All offices closed for Civil Rights Day	16	17 District III Community Meeting GCH Hotel Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 877/884-6240	18 All District Elder Meeting GCML 5:30 p.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181	19	20 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Mary Sue Bohanon, Assistant Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444
21 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Mary Sue Bohanon, Assistant Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444	22	23 District II-Isle Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Marvin Bruneau, 218/768-3311	24 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Contact: Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	25 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	26 Kansas* GCML 7:30 p.m. both nights	27 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Mel Towle, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs 877/239-2444
28 Elvis the Musical* GCH 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Mel Towle, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs 877/239-2444	29 District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Becky Sam, 320/532-7423	30 Sobriety Feast District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Bea Mitchell, 320/532-7585	31 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Contact: Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772	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.		<i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar,</i> please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at 255 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 102 St. Paul, MN 55101

Tribal Noteboard

(Continued from page 10)

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Deondre Sam** for all your hard work staying on the honor roll. *We are very proud of you, from your whole family.*

In memory

In loving memory of **Briana Winona Jumbar**. You were here, now you're gone. Your name we will

carry on. Everyone misses you oh so much, we remember you by pictures and such. I'm reminded by your babies everyday, I will hold them and tell them mommy's ok. The memory of our friendship I hold dear, along with laughter and the tears. Its been two years since the great spirit led you away, just remember Briana, the love we have for you will forever stay. *Love always, Vannie.*

The Newspaper of the Mille Lacs Band OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

"The story as it's told."

Kelly Sam, Editor

Phone 651/292-8062 • Fax 651/292-8091
kellys@goffhoward.com

Goff & Howard, Inc.
255 East Kellogg Blvd., Suite 102 • St. Paul, MN 55101

Please provide news tips and other information by the 10th of each month.

Band Members Learn More About Training Programs and Interview Skills at Conference



Photo courtesy of the Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center

Mille Lacs Band Elder Panji Gahbow shows Rueben St. John (left) and David Robertson (right) how to make dreamcatchers at the Workforce Center's Employment and Training Conference.

By Don Novak, Director of Employment and Training

On November 20-22, the Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center hosted its annual Employment and Training Conference, titled "Building Dreams Together."

On Monday night, attendees pre-registered, ate dinner, played games, and had family photos taken. Taylor Jackson and Jordan Moose, winners of the hoop shoot-out, each won a freestanding basketball hoop.

On Tuesday, we kicked off our conference with an invocation by Larry "Amik" Smallwood, which was followed with greetings from Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration, and Mary Sue Bohanon, Assistant Commissioner of Administration. Throughout the day, a number of Mille Lacs Band programs had informational booths. Breakout sessions for the day included a TANF panel, "dream catchers" by Virginia Jackson and Panji Gahbow, "Mother Earth" by Dorothy Sam, "healthy relationships" by Candi

Broeffle, "cultural training" by Amik and Tom Benjamin, and "preparing for a job interview" by Brenda Beaulieu.

During the buffet lunch on Tuesday, JR Redwater, a comedian known as the "Reservation Sensation" from Standing Rock Reservation, gave a motivational speech. He presented his comedy routine Tuesday night during dinner.

We ended the conference on Wednesday at noon with a drawing for door prizes including a canoe, an iPod, and fishing nets with buoys.

Comments from the attendees included "I would tell family and friends to come to it next year," "Excellent, very accommodating and fun for the entire family," and "Excellent! Had a great time, really enjoyed all the speakers and staff. Can't wait 'til next year!"

The Workforce Center would like to thank all of the speakers and everyone who attended the conference.



2007 State of the Band Address

All Band members are invited to the 23rd Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe State of the Band Address.

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

10 a.m.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center

Meth Awareness Campaign Announced for Indian Country

On a national level, American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities experience the highest rates of methamphetamine abuse compared to all other ethnicities. To combat the crisis, a public awareness campaign was announced in late November that will be tailored to Indian Country. The initial phase of the campaign will feature highly targeted radio and print ads.

Partners in the \$300,000 campaign include the U.S. Department of the Interior,

the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the National Congress of American Indians.

"This new partnership will save lives," said NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Johnson. "While Indian Country may have been hit the hardest by meth, we have to seize the opportunity to create innovative solutions."

Fun Was Had By All at the East Lake Christmas Party

By Jenny Waugh

The East Lake Christmas Party was a great success, and adults and youth won prizes.

Adult prize winners

The 32" color television grand prize went to Chantel Martin. The second prize stereo went to Lisa Benjamin. The third prize vacuum cleaner went to Ashley Kangas.

The fourth prize 20" flat screen color television went to George Boyd, Jr., and a fifth prize tool set went to Kathy Sam.

Youth prize winners

A portable DVD player went to Nathan Peet. The second prize sports bag went to Brandon Wilkie, and the third prize crafts went to Marissa Phillips. Congratulations!