

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

July 2010

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

Volume 12 • Number 7

## Community Honors Nay Ah Shing Graduates



Toya Stewart Downey

2010 Nay Ah Shing graduates: Ricky Boyd, Marchel Day, and Lacey Garbow.

By Toya Stewart Downey

Families, friends, school staff, elected officials, and the community saluted the class of 2010 during the Nay Ah Shing graduation ceremony in June.

The upper school's three graduates – Ricky Boyd, Lacey Garbow, and Marchel Day – were lauded for their many accomplishments during the commencement exercise which reflected their class motto, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Principal Mary Simon told the graduates, "You've made it and it hasn't always been an easy road...everyone at Nay Ah Shing is very proud of you."

That sentiment was echoed repeatedly throughout the night as speakers offered their congratulations to the three outgoing seniors.

Chief Executive Marge Anderson told the grads, "The future is up to you."

She urged the students to set expectations for themselves. She encouraged them to remember their Ojibwe values and have high standards. She

also told them to hold themselves accountable.

If they need advice or counsel, Marge reminded them that they could look to the Elders, family members, and others who could keep them moving in the right direction.

During the ceremony, each of the graduates gave a speech in Ojibwe and then presented blankets they'd made to people who are significant to them.

Commissioner of Education Dennis Olson reminded the graduates that they have a built-in support system within their own families and the community.

"Lean on those supports when you need them," he said. "You're graduating and while it's exciting, it is also scary because you are transitioning. Use your supports."

Dennis also told them that higher education opens doors and that he was proud of them for choosing to go on to college and the military.

"We are all very proud of you and will hold you to the expectations that you set for yourselves," he said.

## Band Elects New Officials

Curt Kalk, Marvin Bruneau, and Diane Gibbs were elected in the Mille Lacs Band's general election on Tuesday, June 8. All three officials will take office July 13.

In the Secretary/Treasurer race, Curt Kalk defeated incumbent Herb Weyaus. Curt currently serves as the Band's Commissioner of Natural Resources, a position he was appointed to in 2001.

In the District II Representative race, incumbent Marvin Bruneau defeated David Aubid. Marvin has served as

the District II Representative since 1990.

In the District III Representative race, Diane Gibbs defeated incumbent Harry Davis. Diane serves as the District III case manager for the Band's Workforce Center.

### Nay Ah Shing School Board

Joe Nayquonabe Sr. defeated Judy Ballinger-Virnig to remain in his position as District I Nay Ah Shing School Board member.

## Sam Moose Named Commissioner of Community Development



Sam Moose was sworn in as Commissioner of Community Development on Friday, June 11.

As Commissioner of Community Development, Sam oversees all community development activities, including the public works and facilities departments and the

Mille Lacs Band's housing development initiatives. He also helps ensure that the department's development and improvement services promote safety, security, and cultural sensitivity while building communities.

Before becoming Commissioner of Community Development, Sam was the director of housing. He also served the Band as Commissioner of Health and Human Services from 2001-2009.

Sam is active in traditional activities within his community. He grew up near East Lake and graduated from McGregor High School. He has a bachelor of applied science degree in community health with a minor in Indian studies from the University of Minnesota Duluth.



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## NALES Replaces Stolen WeROC Funds



Photo courtesy of Nay Ah Shing School

**Clint Letich, president of the Native American Law Enforcement Summit (NALES), presents a \$75 check to Nay Ah Shing WeROC (We Rejuvenate Our Community) Advisor Bugs Haskin and Nay Ah Shing junior Brandon Anthony, the WeROC advisor assistant.**

**By Bugs Haskin, Nay Ah Shing Activities Director**

At the State of the Band in January, \$75 was stolen from the WeROC Pimushe Resort fundraising efforts. When Clint Letich, president of the Native American Law Enforcement Summit (NALES) heard about the incident, he informed the NALES committee and they decided to donate money to WeROC to replace the stolen funds.

The WeROC students were grateful and astounded that someone from the Minneapolis

Police Department and other law enforcement agencies would show such care and concern for them.

"I've taught the kids how to keep track of where every penny comes from and where every penny goes, and they were devastated that someone would steal from them. They have all worked so hard for this trip, and just recently invited our graduating seniors along, so they are really happy to have this money," said Haskin, who is also a member of NALES.

## Congratulations, Graduates!

### Head Start

- Alejandro Aguilar
- Waate Aubid
- Elijah Aune
- Anthony Beaulieu Jr.
- Craig Beaulieu Jr.
- Dominique Beaulieu
- Trevaughn Beaulieu
- Cailen Blake
- Morgan Boyd
- Nelly Boyd
- William Boyd
- Adam Carrigan Jr.
- Simon Day
- Taylor Harrington
- Troy Jackson
- Jachi Johnson
- LaDarius Loving
- Jasmyn Maurstad
- Jayden Maurstad
- Nevaeh Merrill
- Justin Mitchell Jr.
- Mataeo Mitchell
- Thomas Mitchell
- Gretchen Nickaboine
- Alex Quaderer
- Andrel Sam
- Chase Sam
- Dehlina Sam
- Kiara Sam
- Malerie Sam
- RaeAna Sam-Nickaboine
- Keira Sarcia
- Sunshine Shingobe
- Brooklyn Smith
- Daniel Weyaus
- Derrick Weyaus Jr.

### GED

- Ben Aubid
- Paul Bearheart Jr.
- Bryan Beaulieu
- Damian Beaulieu
- Keith Benjamin
- Travis Boyd
- Michael Cartwright
- Albert Gahbow
- Selena Gallagher
- Alanna Gordon
- Desiree Lyons
- Bayzhi Matrious
- Jessie Mitchell
- Dana Nickaboine
- Michael Nickaboine
- Jessica Reuter
- Michael Rodriguez
- Brittany Roy
- Darrick Williams

### High school

- Blake Ballinger
- Adrianna Berrard
- Krystal Berrard
- Rebecca Boyd-Strong
- Ricky Boyd
- Kristin Boyd
- Stephanie Churchill
- Justin Day

- Shane Earth
- Lacey Garbow
- Dylan Gaffney
- Andre Graham
- Elizabeth Hill
- Justin Johnson
- Raymond Jordan
- Megan Kalk
- Danielle Keggs
- Alissa Koslowski
- Sara Jami Miller
- Robert Moose
- William Nickaboine
- Preston Norton
- Ian Pratt
- Aishia Ruiz
- Nicholas Nelsen Sam
- John Thomas
- Mario Valtierra
- Colt Weber
- Cameron Weous

### Technical

- Megan Ballinger
- Lucy Jones-Bugg
- Nicole Jones
- Deliris Lopez
- Jessica Merrill
- Shawna Skinaway

### Associate of arts

- Michelle Abuhamed
- Chandell Boyd
- Emily Christofferson
- Tammara DeJesus
- Richard Hill
- Jessica Perry
- Carol Sam
- Starry Silva
- Tammy Smith

### Associate of arts and science

- Alexandra Boyd
- Jae Boyd
- Sarah Staples

### Bachelor's degree

- Colocia Barnes
- Heather Benjamin
- Rafael Eubanks
- Mallory Hofstedt
- Sara Hofstedt
- Desiree Miller
- Sierra Moose
- Lisa Murphy
- Andrew Schaaf
- Teresa Silva
- Crystal Anthony Songet
- Josiah Staples

### Master's degree

- Melanie Benjamin
- Jodell Meyer

*Editor's note: We apologize if we've missed anyone. To add a graduate's name, please call Sami Thomas or Camille Smith at 320/495-3702.*

## Tribal Cohort Graduates



Photo courtesy of Jodell Meyer

**These Mille Lacs Band members and other Ojibwe tribal members attended the Mille Lacs Tribal College and received their master's degrees in education from the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) this spring. Front row: Phyllis Y. Lowe, Erin Michelle Bruneau, Chris Tyna Howes, and Melanie Ann Benjamin. Middle row: Tabatha Jean Boyd, Amanda Lee Bruneau, and Jodell Marie Meyer. Back row: Gabriel Bradley Desrosiers, Brian James Jackson, Jeffrey Scott Tibbetts, and Instructor Brian McKinnis. Not Pictured: Jacqueline Crowe Fraedrich. The Mille Lacs Tribal College offers classes in collaboration with UMD, Fond du Lac Community College, and Central Lakes College.**

# Summer 2010 Per Capita Checks

## Distribution dates and locations

Checks will be distributed to all eligible Mille Lacs Band members on **August 5, 2010, at each Band member's home district**. This distribution will include all Band members receiving monthly, bi-monthly and three times per year per capita distributions.

**Reminder:** checks will be given only to the person whose name is listed on the check.

For minors, all funds will be placed into a trust account at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. Individuals who have turned 20 years of age since the last bonus payment in April are eligible for payment. You must be 20 years of age by July 5, 2010, without having to submit a General Education Degree (GED) or high school diploma. For Band members who are 18 and 19 years old and who have not received a high school diploma or GED, funds will be placed into a trust account at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. If you have not previously submitted diploma/degree information for past distributions, you must send in original documents showing proof of completion to the Tribal Enrollments Office at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center, attention Darcie Big Bear. If you have previously presented either of those documents, your August bonus will be included in your trust payment.

## Pick-up locations

Elders, handicapped and homebound persons living in District I, II, IIa, III or the Twin Cities urban area can pick up their bonus checks on **August 5, 2010**. The distribution sites include the District I Assisted Living Unit, the East Lake Community Center, the Isle Chiminising Community Center, the Lake Lena Community Center, and the Urban Office. Hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

If you are an Elder or handicapped person, live in Districts I, II, IIa, III, or the Twin Cities, and are unable to travel to your distribution site, please call the contact person below to make arrangements for your check to be delivered to you on **August 5, 2010**.

- District I: Kathy Heyer, 320/532-7472 or Jana Sam, 320/532-7466
- District II: Renee Moore, 218/768-3311 or 877/768-3311
- District IIa: Carmen Green, 320/676-1102 or 877/676-1299

- District III: Michelle Peer, 320/384-6240 or 877/884-6240
- Urban Office: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424  
Your check pick-up site will be at the following centers, depending on where you live:

### Mille Lacs Government Center:

For Band members living in Aitkin, Brainerd, Garrison, Hillman, Milaca, Onamia, Pierz and Wahkon.

### East Lake Community Center:

For Band members living in McGregor.

### Isle Chiminising Community Center:

For Band members living in Isle.

### Lake Lena Community Center:

For Band members living in Askov, Braham, Brook Park, Danbury, Finlayson, Grasston, Hertel, Hinckley, Markville, Moose Lake, Mora, Pine City, Rush City, Rutledge, Sandstone, Siren, Sturgeon Lake, Webb Lake, Webster, and Willow River.

### Urban Office:

For Band members living in Andover, Anoka, Apple Valley, Arlington, Blaine, Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Champlin, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Crystal, Eagan, Eden Prairie, Edina, Fridley, Golden Valley, Ham Lake, Hilltop, Hopkins, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maple Grove, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Mounds View, Newport, New Brighton, New Hope, Oakdale, Plymouth, Ramsey, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Roseville, Savage, Spring Lake Park, St. Anthony, South St. Paul, St. Louis Park, St. Paul, Wayzata, and Woodbury.

For all Band members who do not live in the towns/cities listed above, checks will be held at the Mille Lacs Government Center unless you make arrangements for pick-up at one of the other districts. To make arrangements, call the contact people listed earlier under "Pick-up locations."

Deadline for changing your pick-up site is at noon on **July 29, 2010**. Any changes after this time will not be valid. Call Kathy Heyer at 320/532-7472 or Jana Sam at 320/532-7466 to verify your change. There will be no exceptions.

## Checks by certified mail

Those who can't pick up their checks on the dates listed will

have their checks sent out by certified mail by **August 6, 2010**, to the address listed with the Tribal Enrollments Office. Your local post office should notify you of the certified mail. If you do not receive your check by **August 27, 2010**, contact Kathy Heyer at 320/532-7472 or Jana Sam at 320/532-7466.

## Address and name changes

If your address or name has changed since the last per capita payment, it is very important that you send in your information to the Enrollments Office. The deadline for address and name changes is noon on **July 29, 2010**. There will be no exceptions.

All returned checks will be held at the government center and will not be sent out again until the Enrollments Office has received your updated address or name information.

## Other important information

- You must show a picture identification to receive your bonus check.
- Bonus checks will only be given to the enrolled Band member to whom the check is made out. There will be no exceptions.
- Bonus checks will be used to pay delinquent Band loans, discretionary loans, or Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction fines if they have not been paid. For loan status, call Pam Boyd at 320/532-7467. For court fines status, call Gilda Burr at 320/532-7400.
- Bonus checks are taxable; therefore, all Band members who receive a bonus check should report it as income in the year received. You will receive a 1099-MISC form to remind you of how much income you should report on your tax return. Bonus checks should be reported as other income on a Form 1040 filing-line 21.
- If you are receiving public assistance from the county, please contact your caseworker because the bonus may affect the amount you receive. If, based on discussions with your caseworker, you wish to decline receipt of the bonus, please contact Kathy Heyer in the OMB Office at 320/532-7472 to get a bonus declination form.
- Bonus checks can also be direct deposited into a checking or savings account. You must be signed up by July 29, 2010. For more information, contact Kathy Heyer at 320/532-7472.

## Minor Trust Fund Payments

Beginning with the next minor trust fund quarterly payment on July 16, 2010, minor trust payments will now be distributed out of the Office of Management and Budget in the Mille Lacs Government Center in Vineland. Checks can be picked up after 1 p.m. on Friday and may only be picked up by the person to whom the trust fund check is issued. Proper identification must also be provided in order to pick up a trust fund check.

The Internal Revenue Service requires that federal income taxes be withheld when the annual amount of distribution exceeds \$9,350. Minors who have funds in the accounts from December 2008 forward now exceed this amount, so income taxes will be withheld upon trust distribution, as required by federal regulation. The trust funds have been invested in U.S. government-backed securities and are held at the investment company of Morgan Stanley. The trust funds are subject to audit every year by an independent certified public accounting firm.

Based on the plan approved by the Mille Lacs Band's elected officials, funds may be withdrawn when a trust fund recipient reaches age 18 (provided that person has a high school diploma or GED), or at age 20 if the person does not have a high school diploma or GED. Forms to request trust fund distribution can be obtained from Darcie Big Bear in the Tribal Enrollments Office.

Direct deposit of minor trust funds is also available free of charge. If you want to sign up, call Kathy Heyer or Jana Sam today at 800/709-6445.

If you have any questions about the minor trust accounts, please contact Commissioner of Finance Angella Roby at 320/532-7475 or 800/709-6445, ext. 7475.

## Mille Lacs Band Housing Program Provides Homes and Services to Elders

By Toya Stewart Downey

Ensuring that Elders have quality homes to enjoy during their golden years is one of the top goals of the Band's Elder and Handicap Housing Services program offered through the Community Development Department.

The program, which has been offering Elders homes for more than a decade, provides homes for as many Elders as possible during their lifetime or until they move out.

Currently there are 125 Elder-designated homes in the three districts, and while there is a waiting list to get into those properties, the program is thriving. "We are showing what good work we're doing for our Elders," said Arlene Weous, general manager of the Band's Housing Department.

The program provides home appliances, snow removal, and general maintenance repairs. The newer-built homes are designed specifically with Elders in mind. They have larger entrances for better mobility, handrails in the bathroom, and they are one-level.

As of March 1, there were 59 Elders on the waiting list for homes in all three districts. Homes become available when Elders move out, pass away, or when new ones are built. Though Elders and their families may live in a home for years, it still belongs to the Band. At times, it becomes difficult to convey that message to the surviving occupants, Gina Anderson, property manager for the Band explained.

"Sometimes an Elder will say, 'This is my home, and I want to leave it to my family,' and we

have to remind them that it's a Band-owned home," Arlene said.

That's why the Band is looking for ways to help families make a smoother transition from those homes when an Elder passes or moves out. "I think there's a misperception that the Band builds the houses and gives them away. We're trying to help people understand that is not how it works," Gina said.

Even with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) homes, which were built with federal grants, there are stipulations that say the properties are owned and managed by the Band.

The Band also has its own rules for residing in its properties. While the Band will help with repairs, occupants must maintain the property and keep it in good condition so it can be passed on to other Band members someday.

"We generate work orders for things that need to be fixed at an Elder's home, and we do it for free if it's normal wear-and-tear," said Gina. "We charge for the repairs if they are beyond normal wear-and-tear – like broken windows or property destruction."

The Band picks up most of the costs for Elder homes, but it also wants accountability from the occupants so that the homes retain their value. "We want to maintain a good stock of homes for future generations," said Arlene. "If we take care of them now, we can help make sure we have the homes our people need."

Elders can fill out an application for homes when they are 55 years old. After they get into a home, it's theirs for the duration of their lifetime or until they move.

## Elders Talk About Their Homes

By Toya Stewart Downey

Ramona Applegate knew that one day she would have an opportunity to move into one of the Elder homes that the Band owns. When she saw something she wanted for her new home, Ramona would purchase it and then put it in storage.



Band Elder Ramona Applegate

In January, her wish came true when the 67-year-old and her husband moved into their Isle home. "It's the best place I've ever had," she said. "We were so packed into the trailer we lived in for the last 10 years."

Ramona was on the waiting list for 15 years, and while she would have liked to move in sooner, she said it was worth the wait. "This house has everything you need," said Ramona who contracted Lyme Disease which caused Fibromyalgia. "Outlets and phone jacks are everywhere. And it's on one level so it's really good for me."

The home is spacious and gives her "plenty of room for my hobbies," said Ramona, referring to her three-bedroom, two-bathroom home. Plus, she's close to town, which is a bonus for Ramona, who commuted 50 miles from Onamia and Princeton to her job in Hinckley.

"We get plenty of all the beautiful water you could want," said Ramona who had to haul water from a well for many years. "You have no idea what good water means to a person. And I don't need to worry about being cold because this house is energy efficient," she said.

Ramona's home is a new house that was built using a method called Insulated Concrete Form. It has an interior and exterior layer of rigid insulation and the middle is filled with concrete. Proponents of this building method say the homes provide lower energy bills, lower maintenance, and a healthier environment. They also say the homes are quieter because they block outside noises.

The Band will monitor the energy savings and compare it with the other homes that

haven't used this building method to determine if there is indeed a reduced cost associated with this technology.

Another Elder, Beverly Benjamin, lives up the road from Ramona in a two-bedroom, one-bathroom home. She's lived there for about 18 months, and like her neighbor, is thrilled with her house. "I was on the waiting list a long time," said Beverly. "I took this one because I liked the location and it's easier to take care of," she said. "I've got back problems, but I can pretty well keep up with it."



Band Elder Beverly Benjamin

Recently built Elder homes are one level. They have large walk-in closets for easy accessibility. The doors are wider to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers. And the bathrooms have handrails installed to help with mobility. There are three floor plans available to Elders, and each home has two or three bedrooms.

For Arvina Benjamin who moved into her Mille Lacs home four months ago, living within walking distance of the government center, community center, store, bank, and casino is just one benefit of her new home. "This house is fabulous. I love it," she said enthusiastically. "I am happy to be back home. I love the bedrooms, and it's a lot easier to get in and out of the bathroom."

Arvina, who loves butterflies, has decorated her house and yard with images and hangings of butterflies. "I'm wishing for a deck," she said in a wistfully joking manner. "That would make it perfect."

She lives in a three-bedroom, one-bathroom house and is happy there aren't stairs to navigate because she has some difficulty walking. She said even curbs challenge her.

The location of Arvina's new home allows her to have more visitors, and even though it's behind the hotel, it's quiet, she said. "I feel so happy, I can't say enough about it."

## New Transfer Station Serving Band Members



Photo courtesy of Community Development

The Band has a new transfer station near the wastewater treatment plant in District I. The facility is a temporary holding area for solid waste from local residents, businesses and offices. It replaces an older transfer station that was located on Highway 169. "The new transfer station is in a much better location away from Mille Lacs Lake, and it meets all of the latest environmental standards," said Brian Scheinost, the Band's public works director.

# State Primary Election: August 10

This year, the Minnesota Legislature passed a law moving the primary election from September to August to comply with a new federal law lengthening the legally required absentee balloting period for military and overseas voters from 30 to 45 days. Minnesota's former political calendar only scheduled 31 days for absentee voting.

This was a welcome change for many Minnesotans who wanted this change. Each election, a sizable share of absentee ballots are disqualified and go uncounted because they arrive too late. According to the Federal Voting Assistance Program, only 63 percent of overseas votes were counted in the 2008 Presidential election while 91 percent of domestic absentee ballots were counted.

In the memorable 2008 Coleman/Franken Senate election, more than 500 ballots from overseas voters were disqualified, according to Secretary of State Mark Ritchie. These votes could have shifted the balance in the Senate election, which was decided by a margin of only 312 votes.

## Transforming the election season

The seemingly minor date change has the potential to drastically affect this year's elections, especially the wide-open gubernatorial election.

For many candidates, August is a less-than-ideal time to hold a primary. Minnesota's cabin culture means that fewer people will be in town and even fewer will be paying attention to campaigns. Additionally, college students will not have returned to campus. The Minnesota State Fair, which has perennially been a hot spot for last-minute campaigning, will now only feature candidates who survived the primary.

An August primary will thin the pack of political hopefuls earlier, and with a longer general election season, the winners of the primary will have more time to introduce themselves to Minnesotans who might not have been around for the primary.

# Primary Election Candidates

Primary elections will be held in Minnesota on Tuesday, August 10. Not all candidates will face primary elections, but all candidates will be up for election in the general election in November. If you vote in the primary, you can only vote for one party.

To find your voting district, visit <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>. If you don't live in the districts mentioned below, visit <http://candidates.sos.state.mn.us> to find the primary elections in your district.

## Statewide elections

### Governor

#### Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL)

- Margaret Anderson Kelliher & John Gunyou
- Mark Dayton & Yvonne Prettner Solon
- Matt Entenza & Robyne Robinson
- Peter Idusogie & Lady Jayne Fontaine

#### Independence Party

- Rob Hahn & Thomas J. Harens
- Tom Horner & James A. Mulder
- Phil Ratte & Gayle-Lynn Lemaster
- John T. Uldrich & Stephen Williams
- Rahn V. Workcuff & Mark F. Workcuff

#### Republican Party (GOP)

- Bob Carney Jr. & William McGaughey
- Leslie Davis & Gergory K. Soderberg
- Tom Emmer & Annette T. Meeks
- Ole Savior & Todd "Elvis" Anderson

### Secretary of State

#### DFL

- Dick Franson
- Mark Ritchie (incumbent)

### Attorney General

#### DFL

- Leo F. Meyer
- Lori Swanson (incumbent)

#### GOP

- Sharon Anderson
- Chris Barden

### U.S. House of Representatives

#### District 4 (portions of Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties)

#### DFL

- Diana Longrie
- Betty McCollum (incumbent)

#### GOP

- Teresa Collett
- Jack Shepard

#### District 5 (portions of Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey counties)

#### DFL

- Keith Ellison (incumbent)
- Gregg A. Iverson
- Barb Davis White

#### District 8 (portions of Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Chisago, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, St. Louis, and Wadena counties)

#### DFL

- W.D. (Bill) Hamm
- James L. Oberstar (incumbent)

### Minnesota Senate

#### District 16 (portions of Benton, Mille Lacs, Morrison, and Sherburne counties)

#### GOP

- Dave Brown
- Patrick D. Munro

#### District 41 (portions of Hennepin County)

#### GOP

- Geoff Michel (incumbent)
- WM "Bill" Reichert

#### District 45 (portions of Hennepin County)

#### DFL

- Ann H. Rest (incumbent)
- Patrick J. Wiles

#### District 50 (portions of Anoka and Ramsey counties)

#### DFL

- Satveer S. Chaudhary (incumbent)
- Barbara J. Goodwin

#### District 58 (portions of Hennepin County)

#### DFL

- Linda Higgins (incumbent)
- Troy Parker
- Kale Severson

#### District 67 (portions of Ramsey County)

#### DFL

- John M. Harrington
- Foungh Hawj (Heu)
- Tom Hilber
- Chai Lee
- Vang T Lor
- Jim McGowan
- Trayshana P. Thomas
- Avi Viswanathan
- Cha Yang

### Minnesota House of Representatives

#### District 8B (portions of Isanti, Kanabec, and Pine counties)

#### GOP

- Roger Crawford
- Rudy Takala

#### District 55A (portions of Ramsey County)

#### GOP

- Nathan M. Hansen
- Bob Zick

#### District 58A (portions of Hennepin County)

#### DFL

- Joe Mullery (incumbent)
- David Anthony Boyd

#### District 62A (portions of Hennepin County)

#### GOP

- Kirk Brink
- Wes Whitby

#### District 65A (portions of Ramsey County)

#### GOP

- Jeremiah Ellis
- Rena Moran

## Walk Around Mille Lacs Fitness Program

The Band is organizing its ninth annual Walk around Mille Lacs Fitness Program this summer. The program, which runs from July 6-August 17, is a way to encourage people to exercise and stay in shape.

Participants will walk a total of 120 miles during the program – an average of two

miles per day or two laps around Mille Lacs Lake. Several other types of exercise also apply to the program, including biking and weightlifting.

The program is open to all Band members and employees. Participants will receive a T-shirt for successfully completing the program.

For more information or to sign up for a walking card, contact Jim Ingle at 320/532-7547 or [jim.ingle@millelacsband.com](mailto:jim.ingle@millelacsband.com). Walking cards will also be available at the community centers in all three districts and the urban area.

## Band Member Employment Update

*Submitted by the Corporate Commission*

The number of Band members employed at the Corporate Commission and its enterprises is at its highest since 1993.

Following are the number of Band members employed at each location (as of mid-June):

- Grand Casino Mille Lacs – 124
- Grand Casino Hinckley – 92
- Corporate Commission – 42

On June 7, the Corporate Commission changed the education requirements for all NO5 positions and below.

"We now require applicants for those positions to pass a basic skills assessment, rather than having a high school diploma/GED," said Michael Garrow, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. "It's important that the Corporate Commission and its businesses offer reasonable employment for all Band members so they can remain self-sufficient."

In addition to this change, the Human Resources Department is reviewing all job descriptions to ensure they remain accurate and are up to date with current business needs.

### Band member promotions

The Corporate Commission, along with Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley, are pleased to announce the following Band member promotions:

- Audry Pardun, Crossroad Convenience Store assistant manager
- Brian Wind, Grand Makwa Cinema manager
- Brandon Wade, beverage manager, Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- LeAnn Benjamin, Associate liaison, Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Karen Moe, vice president of slot operations, Grand Casino Hinckley
- Michelle Benjamin, Associate liaison, Grand Casino Hinckley

### Employment opportunities

If you are an ambitious, energetic person who enjoys a fast-paced team environment filled with challenges and opportunities, we hope you will consider employment at any of the Corporate Commission's enterprises. The successful Associates we employ are service-oriented, have integrity, and are committed to excellence. The Corporate Commission's enterprises offer competitive wages, great benefits, and a great place to work.

Applications and resumes are now being accepted for the following positions:

- Grand Auto service manager
- Grand Market assistant manager
- Grand Market head cashier (full-time)
- Grand Market produce department manager (full-time)
- Grand Market retail specialist
- Director of advertising and brand strategy
- Production manager (advertising)
- Player development manager (Grand Casino Hinckley)
- Director of marketing (Grand Casino Mille Lacs)
- Director of marketing (Grand Casino Hinckley)
- Player development director (Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley)

For more information about open positions or to update your application, please contact the following HR representatives or visit [www.grandcasinomn.com](http://www.grandcasinomn.com) or [www.corporatecommission.com](http://www.corporatecommission.com).

#### Corporate Commission

- Lisa Murphy  
800/626-5825, ext. 8841

#### Grand Casino Mille Lacs

- Deb Matthews  
800/626-5825, ext. 8325

#### Grand Casino Hinckley

- Viola Olson  
800/472-6321, ext. 4829

## Barb Benjamin-Robertson: Community Volunteer, Artist, Urban Program Administrator



*Barb Benjamin-Robertson*

*By Toya Stewart Downey*

Barb Benjamin-Robertson was on a two-year plan when she began working to energize the Band's urban office as the urban program administrator. "I thought I'd be there two years to get the ball rolling, and then I'd move on," she said. It's now been 12 years.

"I stayed because I'm helping my people any way I can," said the 57-year-old Band member. "I want to do more. I'm still looking for new ways to help," she said. "I would like to have more of a cultural component."

Over the years, Barb had offered arts and crafts classes, language classes, babysitting classes, and other sessions that she thought would be useful to Band members. Some were well attended and others were not so well attended. But regardless of the turnout, Barb said she is committed to continue offering programming that appeals to urban residents.

"I would like Band members to tell me what they want to do," said Barb, adding that she'd like to survey those in the urban area to get a sense of what services and programs they want the urban office to offer.

Each month, 300 to 400 people call or visit the urban office. They are looking for resources, job leads, or information or they want to use the computers or fax machine.

"A big part of my job ends up being social work," she said. "I help people who are in crisis mode and sometimes that's hard work." But, despite the challenges, helping others has its rewards, Barb said. "I enjoy working with the Band. I like working in the American Indian community, and I like being able to help where I can."

Before working for the Band, Barb held a variety of positions ranging from working at the public relations firm Goff & Howard to working in the banking industry and social services.

It was Barb's job at the Minneapolis Arts Commission that helped her develop her potential while fulfilling her passion as an artist. Barb, who grew up in Onamia on her grandparents' land on the west side of Mille Lacs Lake, knew from childhood that she wanted a career in the arts. The job with the Arts Commission was the perfect fit for her.

During her 13-year career at the commission, Barb developed a minority and ethnic neighborhood arts new presenters program, helped get cultural arts into the community, and worked to secure funding for the arts. "It was a wonderful program, and it gave me the freedom to work in the arts," she said. "It was so much fun. People would have ideas, and I'd get to help them execute it. I love art, color, and its beauty."

Barb appeals to her own creative side through her beadwork (she's been beading for over 25 years) and is now dabbling in quilting. Over the years, Barb has taught community education classes, sold her beaded jewelry, dream catchers, and other pieces at arts and crafts fairs, powwows, and other events. One of her greatest honors was doing the beadwork on an eagle feather for Chief Executive Marge Anderson.

Besides her work as an artist and Band employee, Barb is also a consummate community volunteer. She has served on a variety of boards and committees and is currently a member of Wisdom Steps Board of Directors and on the Science Museum of Minnesota's American Indian Advisory Committee.

Barb, a graduate of Onamia High School, has lived in the Twin Cities since she was 17 years old. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with an Associates of Arts degree in art administration. She and her husband Barry have been married for 28 years. The couple has two children, Aarik and Tara. They also have a near six-year-old granddaughter, Erika.

## Martial Arts Helps Transform Young Band Member's Life



Jory Benjamin

By Toya Stewart Downey

Jory Benjamin's story sounds like it could come straight from a movie script.

It would read, "A shy 12-year-old boy struggles in school, is harassed by bullies, and needs to find a boost of self-confidence. Then he discovers martial arts and is transformed."

But, unlike a similar story written for the blockbuster film – Karate Kid – this one happens to be true.

Jory, a Band member who lives in St. Paul, is that shy kid who has indeed transformed his life during the past few years as he's mastered the art of Tae Kwon Do.

The 5th-grader, who attends American Indian Magnet School, will continue to hone his martial arts skills when he heads to Korea on July 1 for a 10-day trip with his Tae Kwon Do instructor and three other students.

To help pay for the trip, Jory's family paid \$500 toward the cost and the additional \$2,000 needed came from Jory's trust fund that is managed by the Band.

"I'm psyched about going," said Jory, who recently earned a black belt. "I want to learn a lot of cool and interesting things, like new moves."

Jory began taking martial arts classes almost three years ago. "He had an interest in it, so we put him in it because he needed a confidence booster," said his mom Heather Benjamin.

Photo courtesy of Jory Benjamin's family

"We wanted to make sure he felt good about himself...this was one way to do it."

Besides developing a dose of self-confidence, Jory, who was slightly overweight, has shed the extra pounds. He works out six days a week.

Taking the classes have also helped in other areas of his life. Jory is a better student, more disciplined, and has become more active.

"He even keeps his room clean now," his mom said. "He's nicer to his brother and sister, and he's more accepting of change."

Jory's grandmother, Sharon Benjamin, says she is thankful for the many ways Tae Kwon Do has helped her grandson.

Sharon said Jory developed a slight anxiety disorder about six years ago when school workers left him outside alone one cold winter day. He started having trust issues and became introverted.

"His learning stopped due to that incident, and there were times he'd cry at school," Sharon said. "Now he's got all this confidence, and he's doing great. He's more secure, and he's had 100 percent attendance at school for the past three years."

"He makes sure school is the top priority in his life," she added.

Both Heather and Sharon are grateful for the changes they've seen in Jory and say they would encourage others to explore martial arts programs because of its physical, mental and emotional benefits.

"We've probably spent about \$2,000 over the past few years, but it was worth it," said Heather, who is pursuing a master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

"It's expensive, but it hasn't been a sacrifice because of how much it's helped my son," she said. "It's one of the best things I've done for him."

## Band's Family Services Director Brings Passion and Experience to Position



Ryan Champagne

By Toya Stewart Downey

Sometimes all it takes is one person to tell you that you can go farther in your life than you ever imagined. For Ryan Champagne, the Band's new director of family services, that person was an American Indian educator who visited his Milwaukee high school to talk about pursuing a higher education.

Until then, Ryan never thought he would go to college despite the fact that he was an excellent reader and had advanced math skills. "When she asked me why I couldn't go to college, I told her it was because I wasn't good enough," said Ryan, who was told by other educators that he should be a carpenter.

Instead of subscribing to Ryan's belief, she offered him advice and contact information for Wisconsin colleges. Ryan attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree with a triple major in sociology, anthropology, and the social sciences. He also attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Ryan was the first college graduate in his family and has made it his mission to affect the lives of others through education and social work. He's worked with families and children for more than a decade.

Ryan began working for the Mille Lacs Band in early May. For the past few months, Ryan has been getting to know his colleagues, the community, and learning more about the Band and how it operates. Ryan said his main goal is to keep families together in a safe environment. "I encourage the staff to look at the families they work with through the families' eyes and ask, 'What's your vision for your family, and how can I help you get there?'"

"The families should decide their own fate. Our role is to help

Toya Stewart Downey

families solve problems and encourage them along the way," Ryan explained.

Through his own experiences, Ryan knows how being encouraged can help change the path of a person's life. Ryan hails from the Little River Band of Odawa Indians Reservation located in Lower Michigan. He was taught his language, culture and traditions by his grandparents as he shuttled between Milwaukee and his family's home each summer.

It was an upbringing that he appreciated because he got to experience two worlds – living in the city and in the rural area his family called home. His mother moved to Milwaukee before he was born to create more opportunities for herself and later her family.

"My family had a squatters permit in the federal forest and that's where my grandparents lived," he said. "There wasn't plumbing or electricity and our water came from a spring. By the time my grandparents got electricity, I was in college."

Throughout his career, Ryan worked for the Ho-Chunk Nation, Little River Band of Odawa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi, and various privatized social service and government agencies.

To help him better serve the communities he worked for, Ryan embraced the cultures by learning the language, traditions and practices of each tribe. "It was really good working for our people," he said.

But he wanted a different experience outside the confines of a full-time job, so he took a year-long sabbatical and traveled to Indian Country to learn more about other tribes. "I did the powwow circuit and danced at powwows."

When his year was up, Ryan decided to pursue law school. He got accepted, but couldn't afford the tuition, so he didn't go. Instead he worked for a private Indian school and at the Potawatomi's Milwaukee-based casino in the human resources department.

"I grew bored and started missing working with families. That's when I started to look for jobs in Indian Country." When he landed a job with the Mille Lacs Band, Ryan said he was thrilled. "It's an honor to be here, and I'm excited about working with Anishinabe people."

Ryan lives with his family in Wahkon.

## Free Hearing Evaluations

To schedule an appointment for **Friday, August 13**, at Ne-la-Shing Clinic call 320/532-4163. Walk-ins are welcome. We will do our best to serve you.

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

## Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health staff

### Online material

Band members can now view the Circle of Health Policies & Procedures and print out forms to update information online. This information is available on the Mille Lacs Band website ([www.millelacsband.com](http://www.millelacsband.com)) in the "Program and Services" section.

### Medicare Part D recipients to receive \$250 checks

Medicare announced that it was set to begin mailing \$250 checks this month to individuals who have reached their Medicare Part D doughnut hole or coverage gap.

This rebate will be helpful to Band members who were absorbing high out-of-pocket costs on their own. If someone else paid your prescriptions during the coverage gap, you should contact the payer to find out if the check should be forwarded to that source.

### Provider statements

When you receive a statement from a health care provider, you should contact them at the number provided to verify that they have your Circle of Health information for billing. If you receive another statement, and you know that the provider has the Circle of Health information, then call our office to learn the status of the claim.

It takes 60-90 days before our office is even billed and may be longer if your primary insurance has the payment on hold or is waiting for information regarding that particular service. Our office cannot make any payments off of a statement, but rather receives a form from the provider billing office and a copy of your explanation of benefits.

### Urban community outreach

In July, Donna Newgren, an Elder social worker, will join Dawn Chosa, Circle of Health's benefit coordinator during her visits to the Urban Office.

Donna will also add areas in District III to her outreach and is trying to coordinate with Dawn's schedule. For further information, contact Kristi Leblanc at 800/709-6445, ext. 7764.

If you have any questions, please contact your claims processor, David Boyd (A-L) or Roberta Lemieux (M-Z), or Michele Palomaki, director of Circle of Health, at 320/676-8214 or 800/491-6106.

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

May 2010

	Approved budget for FY 2010	Actual expenditures through 5/31/10	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	12,362,783	6,639,454	53.7%
Workforce*	12,435,562	3,664,474	29.5%
Judicial	705,712	418,063	59.2%
Law enforcement*	4,562,799	2,395,070	52.5%
Education*	17,519,277	10,611,693	60.6%
Health and human services*	26,407,047	15,427,004	58.4%
Natural resources*	5,131,365	3,332,911	65.0%
Community development*	37,913,187	10,482,474	27.6%
Gaming authority	4,827,653	3,013,518	62.4%
Per capita payments	26,871,178	25,358,458	94.4%
Economic stimulus	2,900,000	2,763,983	95.3%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$151,636,564</b>	<b>\$84,107,103</b>	<b>55.5%</b>

### Financial notes:

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

\* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2009 fiscal year.

## Diabetes Program Updates

### Balancing Your Life and Diabetes class

The next diabetes education group class will be offered at the District I community center on Thursday, July 8, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The class will cover topics including making healthy choices, diabetes medications and medical care, nutrition, and more.

Contact Arielle Beaulieu at 320/532-7852 to register by July 2.

### Powwow diabetes testing

The diabetes team will provide blood pressure and blood sugar tests at its booth at the powwow on Saturday, August 21, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### New staff members

The diabetes team recently welcomed two new staff members. Shelly Foster is the new SHIP coordinator, and Arielle Beaulieu is the new administrative assistant.

## Exercise in Emergency Preparedness Offers Insight to Participants

By Toya Stewart Downey

What would happen if a school bus filled with children blew a tire and crashed into a tanker truck hauling ammonia, causing bio-hazardous leaks as well as a dangerous situation for those involved?

That's just what representatives from the Band, along with other law enforcement and county agencies discussed at a recent exercise designed to show how the multi-jurisdictional group would respond and function in emergency or crisis situations.

The exercise, which was attended by about 50 people, was led by the Environmental Protection Agency at the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge in McGregor.

The simulated incident was a school bus transporting 25 children back to the East Lake area when it blew a tire and crashed into a tanker truck hauling anhydrous ammonia causing both an airborne ammonia leak and diesel fuel

leaking into the waterway into the Rice Lake Refuge area.

"The planning team felt that this would be the most unique site for a simulated incident because of the number of jurisdictions involved in the two-square-mile area," said Monte Fronk, emergency coordinator for the Band. "The area includes tribal lands, federal lands, state and county roadways, waterways, and both tribal- and non-tribal homes."

Education Commissioner Dennis Olson said the exercise was both informative and enlightening. "The goal of the exercise was to highlight the absolute need for collaboration with other organizations and entities of government to respond effectively to an emergency situation."

"Band members should feel confident that the TERC is constantly being trained to respond to emergency situations with the best interests of the community and its members at the forefront of their minds," said Dennis.



## Tribal Noteboard

### Happy July birthday to:

**Torrey Petite**, 16, on July 7 • **Rhonda Petite**, on July 31 • **Nicole**, on July 2 with love from Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, Lil Chris, mom, Gram, Val, Pie, Lil Kevin, Brad, Tracy, Shelby, Max Dean, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Marky, Rae, Sharon, Wally, Melz, Rave, Brad Eric, Kristy, Brae, Peyton, Eric, Wesley, Bruce, Jayla, Lili, Jay, Kate, Adam, Peeps, and Randi • **Karen**, on July 13 with love from mom, Brad, Val, Pie, Lil Kev, Tracy, Shelby, Max Dean, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Marky, Rae, Sharon, Wally, Melz, Rave, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, Lil Chris, Brad Eric, Kristy, Brae, Peyton, Eric, Wesley, Bruce, Jayla, Lili, Jay, Kate, Adam, Peeps, and Randi • **Rae**, on July 21 with love from dad, sis, Pie, Lil Kev, Tracy, Shel, Max Dean, Jarvis, Jake, Jamie, Aiva, Marky, Sharon, Wally, Melz, Rave, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, Lil Chris, Brad, Brad Eric, Kristy, Brae, Peyton, Eric, Wesley, Bruce, Jayla, Lili, Jay, Kate, Adam, Peeps, and Randi • **Dale**, on July 21 from Brennen • **Doll**, on July 21 with love from mom • **Asia Christine Boyd**, 2, on July 29 from grandma, Johnny, dad, Na-non, Mama Bevy, sisters, Shawn, Sheldon, Kathy, Levi, Gerald, and Levin • **Boy**, 31, on July 9 from mom, Jo, Paul Bunny, Brandon, and Bear • **Cedric**, 7, on July 20 from dad, Grandma Bearheart, Jo, Uncle Paul, Brandon, and Bear • **Ryan Smith**, on July 15 from Nae Nae and Chell • **Doreen Mitchell**, on July 1 with love from Debbie, Carmelena, Mataeo, Jessica, Sean, Brandon, Mother Bea, and Jade • **Sean Racelo**, on July 2 with love from mom, dad, Jessica, Brandon, Carmelena, Mataeo, Grandma Bea, Grandma Libbie, Tony, Robin, and Lovey • **Valerie Mitchell**, on July 4 with love from Debbie, Sean, Jessica, Brandon, Carmelena, Mataeo, and Grandma Bea • **Alan Mitchell**, on July 21 from Jade, Debbie, Dean, Jessica, Brandon, Mataeo and Carmelena • **Paige Mitchell**, on July 23 from Jade, Debbie, Sean, Jessica, Brandon, Mataeo and Carmelena • **Sean**, on July 2 with love from Amber • **Whitney Harrington**, on July 14 with love from mom, dad, Nadine, Best Boy, Char, PJ, Whitney, Papa Doug, Chick, Leo, Nick, Shawntel, Sherry and Gabby •

**Karen Harrington**, on July 13 with love from Phil, Mickey, Nadine, Blake, Char, PJ, Whitney, Sherry, Shawntel and Gabby • **Doug Sam**, on July 29 with love from Mickey, Phil, Nadine, Char, PJ, Whitney, Leo and Nick • **Terrence Sam**, 32, on July 5 from Auntie Jan and kids, TJ and Kali • **Roberta Matrous**, 29, on July 6 from Auntie Jan and kids, TJ and Kali • **Anna Banana**, 39, on July 8 from Jan, TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy, Kali, Zay, Jarvis, Rae, Izzy and Dennis • **Miranda Rose**, 15, on July 9 from Auntie Jan and kids, TJ and Kali • **Marissa Clare**, 19, on July 12 from Auntie Jan and kids, TJ and Kali • **Ryan Smith**, 35, on July 15 from Auntie Jan and kids, TJ and Kali • **Julian Nayquonabe**, 35, on July 15 from Auntie Jan and kids, TJ and Kali • **Twyla Jean**, 28, on July 20 from mom, TJ, Jaime, Cathy, Kali, Zay, Jarvis, Rae, Izzy and Dennis • **Stacy Boyd**, 23, on July 22 from Auntie Jan and kids, TJ and Kali • **Dawn Marie White**, 7, on July 22 from TJ and Kali Anne.

### Happy July birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

David (Niib) Aubid  
Darline Barbour  
MaryAnn Belgarde  
Roberta Benjamin  
Donna Boodoo  
Lewelyn Boyd  
Agnes Chief  
Randall Clark  
Martha Davis  
Rosella Eagle  
Vernon Frye  
Donna Gilmore  
Karen Harrington  
Patricia Helland  
Laura Hill  
Caylen Jansen  
Loretta Kalk  
Debra Kamimura  
Dixie Kamimura  
Darlene Lafave  
Bonita Lucas  
Virginia Mann  
Lucille Merrill  
Meskwanakwad  
Letitia Mitchell  
Carol Nickaboine  
Marlene Nickaboine  
Sonja Peroceschi  
Joseph Pewaush  
Steven Premo  
Bradley Roache  
Elfreda Sam  
Alicia Skinaway

Geraldine Skinaway  
Loretta Smith  
Andrew St. Clair  
Ruth St. John  
Jollette Zapf

### Birth announcement

Congratulations to Nolan Nayquonabe and Amy Mitchell on the birth of their baby girl **Jasmine Mae Nayquonabe**. Jasmine was born on June 3, 2010. *With love from Nae Nae and Chell.*

### Congratulations



Photo courtesy of Donald Jones family

Congratulations to **Donald Jones and Rebecca Thompson** on their May 8 wedding. Thanks to all the family that made it to share their special day and all the lovely gifts.

### In memory

In memory of **Phyllis Joanne**. If roses could grow in heaven, please pick a bunch for me. Place them in my mother's arms and tell her they are from me. Tell her that I love her and miss her deeply too. And when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while for me. Remembering her is hard to do, I was so little at the time. But still there is an ache in my heart that will never go away. Forever missing you. *Your daughter, Barbara Jo.*

### Obituaries

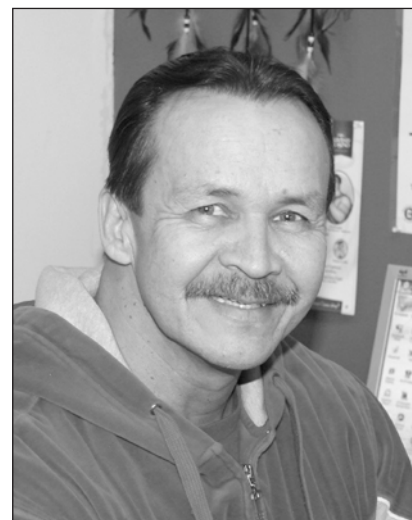
**Dennis Fredrick Jackson**  
Born – 10-19-1945  
Died – 5-29-2010  
Resided in Onamia, MN

**Mary Marion Merrill**  
Born – 1-19-1927  
Died – 6-8-2010  
Resided in Milwaukee, WI

**Diana Rose Poitra**  
Born – 1-6-1946  
Died – 6-10-2010  
Resided in Richfield, MN

**Rebecca Scullard**  
Born – 3-10-1965  
Died – 6-3-2010  
Resided in Leavenworth, KA

## Bobby Anderson to Fight for Last Title



**Bobby Anderson**

Thirty years after his professional fighting debut, Bobby Anderson will face his last opponent in the ring on Saturday, July 10. Bobby will battle Whitney Waddell in a 12-round fight for the Warriors World Championship.

Bobby started his kickboxing career as a semi full-contact fighter in 1980. Three years later he became a full-contact fighter and went undefeated, capturing the Wisconsin Light Heavyweight Championship.

Bobby retired from kickboxing in 1987, but returned to the ring in 2000. Although Bobby lost the Minnesota championship in 2005 (the second loss of his career), he challenged the same kickboxer in a rematch the next year, capturing the title.

Bobby retired again after the 2006 championship match to concentrate on training other fighters and raising a family.

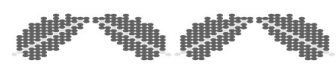
This month, Bobby is returning to the ring to try to add one more title to his illustrious career. To prepare for the match, Bobby trained with several other fighters, including Tim Taggart Jr., Tim Taggart Sr., Tony Norlander, Cody Sikkink, and Kevin Skadsheim.

"I promise, you will not be disappointed," Bobby said.

The event will be held at the Hinckley Community Center. Tickets to the match are \$30 for general admission and \$50 for ringside seats. For tickets or more information, contact Bobby at 612-716-9654 or warriorsfp@yahoo.com.



## Ojibwe Culture and Traditions



### Upcoming Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum

#### Birch bark harvest workshop

This two-day workshop will be held at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on July 17 from 12-4 p.m. and July 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The workshop costs \$70 for the general public and \$65 for Minnesota Historical Society

members and Mille Lacs Band members.

Registration is required by July 14. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided.

There is a minimum of five participants required for this workshop.

Please call 320/532-3632 to register for these classes.

### 2010 Grand Celebration Powwow



Photo courtesy of Ivy Vainio

Hundreds of American Indian dancers from around the country and Canada gathered for the 2010 Grand Celebration Powwow.



Photo courtesy of Ivy Vainio

Women's fancy shawl regalia has elaborately beaded moccasins and leggings that are complemented by beautifully embroidered or decorated long fringed shawls. The colorful outfits match the spirited twirling and prancing of this dance.



Photo courtesy of Steve Premo

Grand Celebration Powwow featured more than 30 dance competitions, including the women's traditional (shown above). This event is one of the largest competition powwows in the nation.

### Moccasin Telegraph



Beatrice Taylor

#### The migration story

By Beatrice Taylor, Mille Lacs Band Elder

*The following article appeared in the May 15, 2002, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with the Messenger's permission.*

Aaniin. I am Beatrice Taylor, a Mille Lacs Band Elder, and I am happy to be writing this column and sharing some stories about the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe.

I'd like to tell you the story of how the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe came to live in this part of the world. We've been here for a long time, so it's an old, old story.

Many years ago, our ancestors lived on the East Coast. One day, one of our Elders had a vision that we were supposed to come west. We were supposed to travel until we came to the place where the food grows on the water. That was the manoomin (wild rice).

So our ancestors migrated west. Some migrated up into Canada, some migrated over to Wisconsin and Michigan, some went to Iowa, and some came here.

The ancestors who went to Canada traded with the people there. In our Indian language, these ancestors were called the O-dow-wa. But I guess the English tongue couldn't get that tongue twister, so the people there called these Indians the Ottawa. That's the name that's still used today.

In Wisconsin, there was a group of Indian people who said to some of the other Indians who were migrating, "We're going to settle here, and we will keep the fire burning until you come back." And those people were called Bu-da-wa-da-mi, or keepers of

the fire. But again, that's a tongue twister, so they were called the Potawatomi.

Another group went a little further south and settled. These were called Manoomin people – Menominee. Some other people who were migrating went west into Iowa and settled there. And their name was Mis-co-a-kee, but again that was shortened to Meskwaki, the red earth.

And some came to this part of Minnesota. They came to be near the big lake where the food grows on the water. And they stayed. These people were the ancestors of today's Mille Lacs Anishinaabe.

My family lived in Aazhoomog. That's our name for the area near Hinckley. Other Mille Lacs Anishinaabe lived around Onamia, Isle, McGregor, and other places.

There has been much that has happened to us since then and many reasons why some of us have had to move away from our home. Sometimes Anishinaabe moved away to find work because they couldn't find any here. Some were sent away to schools against their will. But still we hung onto our traditions, and our language, and our culture, and we kept on working together for the betterment of our children.

I moved away from Aazhoomog for a while, but I came back for ceremonial powwows. But that wasn't enough for me. I missed my home, my language, my relatives, being with my people. Then I moved back to Aazhoomog. And I felt good about it – I was home.

Now I teach my grandchildren about our culture. I talk the language with them. I use the words with them constantly. When we go to a sacred ceremony, we make our tobacco offering, and we ask the Great Spirit to take care of our children, our grandchildren, and their children coming up.

I am glad to live in Aazhoomog, where my people have lived. My mother lived here. My four sisters are around here. When I moved back, I said this is the last move I'm ever going to make, and I still feel that way. I'm back home.

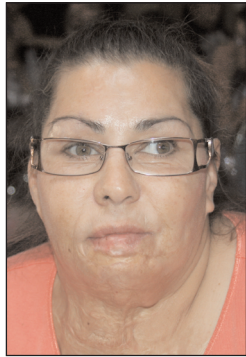
# Calendar of Events

July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>*To Purchase Tickets</b></p> <p><b>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800/745-3000, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</b></p>	<p><i>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at kellys@goffhoward.com</i></p>			<p><b>Talking Circles</b> 1 The Brick House 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046</p>	<p>2 <b>All government offices closed at noon</b></p>	<p>3</p>
4	<p>5 <b>All government offices closed for Mid-Summer Day</b></p>	<p>6 <b>Walk Around Mille Lacs Program begins</b> Jim Ingle 320/532-7547</p>	7	<p>8 <b>Diabetes Group Class</b> 8:30 a.m.- 4p.m. Arielle Beaulieu 320/532-7852</p>	<p>9 <b>Crystal Gayle &amp; Loretta Lynn</b> Grand Casino Hinckley 7 p.m.</p>	<p>10 <b>Warrior's World Championship Kickboxing</b> Hinckley Community Center 6 p.m. (See page 9 for details)</p>
11	<p>12 <b>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting</b> 5 p.m. Contact: Amiliya Zago, 320/384-7598 <b>AMVETS Meeting</b> GCML 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925</p>	<p>13 <b>Newly elected MLB officials take office</b></p>	14	<p>15 <b>All-Elder Community Meeting</b> District I ALU 11 a.m. Contact: Denise Sargent, 320/532-7854</p> <p><b>Talking Circles</b> The Brick House 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16 <b>Rob Thomas</b> Grand Casino Hinckley 8 p.m.</p>	<p>17 <b>Birch Bark Harvest Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m.</p>
<p>18 <b>Birch Bark Harvest Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</p>	19	<p>20 <b>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting</b> 4 p.m. Contact: Dawn Aubid, 218/768-2345</p>	<p>21 <b>District III Community Meeting</b> GCH 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 320/384-6240</p>	<p>22 <b>District II Community Meeting</b> East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311</p>	23	24
25	<p>26 <b>District I Community Meeting</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judy Virnig, 320/532-7423</p>	27	<p>28 <b>District IIA Community Meeting</b> Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam, 320/676-1102</p>	<p>29 <b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424</p>	30	31
August 1						

## What Movie/Program Have You Seen Recently That You Would Recommend?

### Sharon Rogers



"Pay It Forward. I recommend it because it shows how people can turn around and do something kind."

### Mario Rogers



"I like to watch Lock-Up. People should watch it if they don't want to go to jail."

### Danita Kegg



"New Moon. I like the Native wolf pack."

### Taya Sam-Sablan



"Kirate Kid 3. It was cool."

### Kyrah Thompson



"I would recommend Shrek 3. It's one where you can laugh, have fun, and enjoy."

### Adrian Garbow



"The Blind Side. It shows family and community values."

### Laiqora Thompson



"I liked Up a lot because it's family friendly."

### Manfred Kegg



"The Outlaw Josey Wales. It has Natives in it and it shows how they got along with some settlers and how it might have worked out back then."

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

## Poster Contest Aims to Increase Voter Turnout



More than a dozen students from Nay Ah Shing participated in a poster contest, sponsored by Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota (NVAM). The first-place winner was Jakob Cash, Shyla Lussier took second place, and Sage Boyd-Davidson came in third.

By Toya Stewart Downey

Middle school students from Nay Ah Shing are behind a new advertising campaign to encourage Band members to get out and vote.

"We wanted to involve students in our efforts so we can teach them the importance of getting engaged and participating in the political process...we hope this is a lifelong lesson that will keep them interested in politics," said Elizabeth Scott, chairwoman for NVAM.

"As we know at NVAM, every vote counts. We want our youth to know that their voices do indeed make a difference," said Elizabeth.

The posters are displayed throughout District I, including at the government center, assisted living center, the clinic and the community center, and other local businesses.

Students were recognized for their work at a June 17 NVAM meeting.

Darius Barnes, 12, a sixth-grader, created a poster that said, "Our Native American Vote Counts."

Winners were selected for their creativity and expression of the importance of the Native vote and what it means to them. Prizes were awarded for the top three designs.

Jakob, 12, a seventh-grader, said winning "was awesome." He reminded people of the date of the upcoming primary election, August 10, and encouraged them to go vote.

Another student, Ronald Hardheart, 11, a fifth-grader, put his poster up at the government center. Ronald said he wanted to participate in the contest to let people know, "Voting is important."

## Band Receives Additional Weatherization Funds

The Mille Lacs Band recently received \$350,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) high performance fund to expand its weatherization services. The Band was the only tribe in the country chosen for this funding.

The U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program allocated \$9.75 million of its ARRA funding to Minnesota. The funds were distributed to service providers that exceeded their weatherization goals and have the capacity to complete additional units.

Last year, the Band weatherized 40 houses. With the new funding, the Band will be able to weatherize about 50 more houses, meaning that the Band could potentially weatherize more than 100 houses during the next fiscal year.

Band members who are eligible for State Energy Assistance are also eligible for weatherization assistance. Weatherization includes energy-efficient upgrades to storm windows, roofs, insulation, and more.

The Band's success is due in part to the collaboration between the Band's Emergency Services Office and Housing Department. The cooperation provided the staff capacity necessary to effectively service low-income households.

"I started this position less than a year ago, and it amazes me how quickly the team was able to accomplish this. I am very impressed with their dedication," said Freedom Porter, director of community support services.

## Band Members to Premier Films in Urban Area

Short films written and directed by Band members will be screened at the urban area community meeting at the All Nations Church in Minneapolis on Thursday, July 29. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The following movies will be shown:

**Magic Wands:** A seven-minute long film written and directed by Elizabeth Day and co-produced by Rick Anderson.

**Traditional Ways of Ricing:** A 10-minute long film featuring

Larry Smallwood (Amik) and his crew. The film was directed and edited by Rick Anderson and co-produced by Elizabeth Day.

**Something for Em:** The 20-minute long film recreates the journey of Mille Lacs Band members Darcie and Kim Big Bear and Garret and Danny Sam as they rehearsed and performed two songs for First Americans in the Arts (FAITA) in Beverley Hills, California, in 2002. The movie was co-produced by Rick Anderson and the Mille Lacs Band.