

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

July 2011

"The story as it's told."

Volume 13 • Number 7

Gail Kulick Named Commissioner of Corporate Affairs



Gail Kulick was sworn in as the new Commissioner of Corporate Affairs in June.

Gail Kulick, a long-time Milaca attorney and civic leader, became the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Commissioner of Corporate Affairs in June.

As commissioner, Gail serves as the chief executive officer and chair of the board of directors for the Band's Corporate Commission, which analyzes new business opportunities and oversees the Band's existing businesses, including Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grand Casino Hinckley, and numerous small businesses.

Gail plans to explore business diversification opportunities including more green-collar jobs, which essentially are blue-collar jobs supporting a mission to improve environmental quality.

"Coupling job creation with energy savings and environmental benefits would be a win-win for Band members and this region," said Gail, who believes there are other untapped

manufacturing and agri-business opportunities. She also plans to utilize her well-established relationships with elected and appointed officials at the state and federal levels to benefit the community.

A Milaca resident for the past 32 years, Gail has owned her own law practice for 25 years. Her legal specialties include business governance, business entity formation, real estate acquisition and title clearing, and estate planning.

Gail served District 16A in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2009-2011. She has also been a public defender in Mille Lacs County and the city attorney for Foreston, Onamia and Milaca.

Gail is an active Milaca Chamber of Commerce member and has served many local organizations, including the Milaca Economic Development Commission, Rum River Health Services Board, Mille Lacs Health Services Board, Mille Lacs Area Health Foundation, and Milaca School Board. She graduated summa cum laude from St. Cloud State University and has a law degree from the University of Minnesota.

"Gail's background in corporate law and as a respected local business owner makes her an ideal person to lead our Corporate Commission," said Marge Anderson, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band. "She has good ideas for more economic development in our region, and has the experience we need to advance those ideas into reality."

Nay Ah Shing Graduates Saluted During Ceremony



Nay Ah Shing Class of 2011 – Jordan Todd Bellcourt, Jordan Boyd, and Courtney Boyd.

By Toya Stewart Downey

After years of rising early, studying late, and meeting the academic challenges along the way, graduating from high school is deemed a major accomplishment in a young person's life.

In June, three students from Nay Ah Shing reveled in their accomplishments as their families, friends, school staff, and elected officials gathered to celebrate their "gashkitoon," an Ojibwe word that means success.

"A diploma is only a piece of paper. What's more important is what it stands for. It is a sign of gashkitoon," said Chief Executive Marge Anderson as she addressed the Class of 2011 – Courtney Boyd, Jordan Todd Bellcourt, and Jordan Boyd. "The challenge for you now is to embody gashkitoon from this day forward."

"By finishing high school, you have completed an important chapter in gashkitoon," she said. "You now have the skills and

knowledge to make an important impact on our community and on the world."

Marge challenged the graduates to think about gashkitoon daily – to take small steps and practice it so it becomes a part of their lives.

"One more part of gashkitoon is using our Ojibwe language. As you know, there aren't always English words to express what we want to say," she said. "Our language has words and phrases that help guide our lives as Ojibwe people. They help us succeed in being who we truly are."

Education Commissioner Dennis Olson reminded the graduates that they have the power and knowledge to achieve their goals.

"Work hard. Know that success isn't necessarily your grade point average, your salary, your personal property, or even your awards," he said. "No one will ever be able to take away your education, your Ojibwe culture, or your language."



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

www.millelacsband.com



Printed on 100% recycled paper

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRainerd, MN
PERMIT NO. 472

Nay Ah Shing School Video “Non Removable” Receives Top Awards at Minneapolis Film Festival

Students of Nay Ah Shing School participated in the Native CHAT (Natives for Curbing HIV/AIDS Transmission) Film Festival held at Augsburg College in Minneapolis on May 21. Native CHAT Film Festival is a one-day event where films created by American Indian youth in Minnesota are screened. “Non Removable,” a video created by Nay Ah Shing School youth, was presented for review along with 22 other films.

There were three different divisions for film submission: HIV/AIDS, health and culture, and alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Films were judged on their technical quality by various film experts from the metro area and on viewer’s choice. Each film

was shown and the viewing audience chose their first, second and third preferences. “Non Removable” received the first place award in both technical quality and viewer’s choice. Natalie Bueno and Kayla Cash accepted the award and a \$550 prize for Nay Ah Shing School.

“Non Removable” addresses drug and alcohol abuse as one of the most severe problems affecting families living on the Mille Lacs Reservation. In the film, several band youth share their personal stories and how they are committed to help heal the community’s pain caused by substance abuse. To view Nay Ah Shing School’s winning video, visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/NativeChat#p/u/15/5HJzBvTuue>.

Marge Anderson Receives “Woman of Distinction” Award from the Minnesota DFL Women’s Hall of Fame

Marge Anderson, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, was recognized in June for her longtime commitment to DFL politics and government in Minnesota. The Minnesota DFL Women’s Hall of Fame presented Anderson with its Woman of Distinction Award, honoring her achievements in strong governance, public service, and the advancement of women.

Marge is one of the nation’s most respected tribal leaders and a foremost advocate for tribal self-governance and civic involvement. Her extensive honors include selection as one

of the 25 most influential women in Minnesota by *CityBusiness* (now the *Minneapolis/Saint Paul Business Journal*) and one of the 100 most influential Minnesotans of the twentieth century by the *Star Tribune*. She also received the Tribal Leader of the Year Award from the National Congress of American Indians and was the first American Indian to receive an honorary degree from the Hamline University School of Law.

She was one of eight individuals who were named Women of Distinction by the Women’s Summit Committee.

Ne-la-Shing Clinic Offering Extended Hours for Summer Months

The Ne-la-Shing Clinic, District I location, will be offering extended hours on Mondays from 5-7 p.m. starting in July for walk-in or scheduled appointments. All services are offered. Please call 320-532-4163 with any questions.

Students Raise Money to Purchase Vest for Elder



By **Toya Stewart Downey**

For many years, Band Elder Ole “Makoons” Nickaboine was a welcome fixture in the halls of both the Nay Ah Shing Upper and Lower Schools.

The children flocked to him, and for many of them, he was like a grandfather. Besides being a loving presence on the campuses, he would also perform both school’s pipe and dish ceremonies.

“He loved that the kids called him ‘grandpa,’ and he had a great love for the kids,” said Bonita Nayquonabe, a teacher at the lower school.

Because he was so adored, it was only natural that students wanted to honor him with a gift that he would cherish.

“All of the drumkeepers had a vest, and so we all decided that we wanted to honor him and give him a vest, too,” Bonita said.

Initially, some students and their families contributed \$1 each towards the gift. Then they decided to sponsor two lock-in fundraisers, with the lower school students paying \$10 to participate and the upper school students paying \$20. One fundraiser was an all-nighter, the other was held for a few hours.

The Upper School event was held at the school and the Hallett Community Center in Crosby where the students got to swim and ice skate as part of the festivities.

The manager of the center, Maurice Slepica, was happy to help the students with their efforts and said, “It was a pleasure to have them utilize our facility for a fundraiser that was so important to them.”

Mille Lacs Chief of Police, Dwight Reed, got involved, too, and assisted with the students as well as taught some of them

how to ice skate and play hockey. The Boys and Girls Club Staff and others helped chaperone.

Bugs Haskin, athletic and activities director for Nay Ah Shing, helped organize the events and said she was moved by the students’ determination to raise enough money for Ole’s vest.

Dozens of students participated, and their efforts paid off. Students and school staff raised \$500 for the vest, which was made by Cheryl Minnema.

“We wanted to get him a vest so he wouldn’t have to spend his money on one,” said Mason Sam, 11, a fifth grader.

“He was just important to us,” added classmate Marquis Fisher, 11. “He was always there for us, he did Circles, and he was a nice person to everyone. I just wanted to give him a gift of thanks for all he did.”

Another classmate, Chelsea Benjamin, 11, said she felt proud that she helped raise money for Ole’s vest.

“All the people who came to the lock-in really cared about him,” said Chelsea, a fifth grader. “He would have been happy that we did that for him.”

Sadly, Ole passed away on a Thursday, just one day before the students were going to present him with their gift.

“He never saw it, but we gave it to his family and he was buried in it,” Bonita said. “We were really sad that we lost him.”

Mike Nickaboine, Ole’s nephew said the vest was, “absolutely beautiful.”

“It’s inspiring to know our youth respected my uncle enough to do this for him, he would have been very happy to know his teachings were taking hold,” said Mike. “Hopefully the time he spent teaching our youth will stick with them for a lifetime, he had a lot of knowledge of our heritage and culture. He will be missed dearly.”

Transitional Housing Offers New Opportunities for Residents

By **Toya Stewart Downey**

Within weeks of opening its doors, the Band's new supportive housing units on Bugg Hill quickly filled up.

Twenty families have taken up residence in the units that were designed to promote self-sufficiency while offering the tenants services to help them accomplish that goal.

"The response for these units was overwhelming," said Arlene Weous, the Band's director of housing. "We have already generated a waiting list for this property."

Families were selected on a need basis – either they were homeless or were living with family and friends in overcrowded conditions.

"The majority who applied were sleeping on couches, staying somewhere that wasn't their own home, or were homeless," Arlene said. "And they were the people who we were targeting."

The plan is that the residents will live in the units for two years and during that time they will work on achieving self-sufficiency.

After their 24-month cycle ends, a new group of tenants will move in. Housing services expects the turnover rate to be low.

To help achieve self-sufficiency, occupants will meet with case managers, health care professionals, educators, and others while they are developing their plans to become independent. There will also be group meetings with the property's coordinator to help residents stay on course.

The Band's Family Services Department is also involved in

the project and has already assisted by donating furniture for the units. Health and Human Services is also a key collaborator in this project.

The new development has six three-bedroom units and 14 two-bedroom units.

The occupancy rate of each unit is based on the composition of each family. The residents' gender is considered as is the age of the children. The dwelling is set up for families, not single people.

The units are leased to Band members who are the head of their households and if there are children involved that person must have full, legal custody of their children.

Some of those who moved into the units have been on the Band's housing list, while others fit the criteria and needed a place to call home. Rent is determined by the resident's net income.

The policies are strict because they were designed to help residents become self-sufficient. For example, alcohol, drugs, and partying aren't allowed.

"We have a zero tolerance, but that's because we want it to be a safe and comfortable place for all of the tenants," Arlene said.

In the short time since they moved in, the families seem to be really happy about their new homes and excited about their new opportunities.

"I'm excited for them," Arlene said. "When I see their faces, especially the expressions of the children, they are filled with joy and that makes me happy."

District I Head Start Class of 2011



Photo courtesy of Cindi Cooley

Members of the Early Education Head Start program perform at their graduation ceremony.

"Our young graduates have left their footprints in our hearts and letting go is both sad and joyful," said Cindi Cooley.

The Head Start Staff would like to say, "Go spread your wings, explore all your options, and follow your dreams graduates!"

Early Education Program Recommends Routine Check-ups

By **Paige Olson, Mille Lacs Early Education health specialist**

September can sneak up on families, therefore it is important to determine when your child's physical exams, immunizations, and dental exams are due and take care of them before the start of the school year.

One lead test is required when a child reaches 12 months of age, and hemoglobin tests are required each year. Both of these tests and your child's immunizations can be done at the time of the child's physical.

Additionally, routine vision and hearing tests, as well as height and weight measurements, will be offered

at the beginning of the school year. A reminder will be sent home to families in September explaining the screenings and when they will take place.

Not only are these preventative exams required by the early education program, but they also help detect health problems before they become serious and allow parents and children the opportunity to ask health questions.

If you have any questions regarding your child's health requirements and whether the Early Education Program has up-to-date records, please call Paige Olson, Gaylene Spolarich, or Berd Przybilla at 320-532-4690 to assist you.

Fitness Program Challenges Mille Lacs Community

The tenth annual Walk Around Mille Lacs challenge is taking place in July and August. The program 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. This is approximately equal to two laps around Mille Lacs Lake.

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, contact Jim Ingle, fitness coordinator, at 320-532-7547 or visit any of the fitness centers. If you live in the urban area and want to participate in the program, contact Barb Benjamin-Robertson at 612-872-1424.

Heating, Water, and Home-Related Maintenance Problems

If you live in a Mille Lacs Band housing maintained home, please call our customer service representative for maintenance service in your district during regular business hours at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please call 866-822-8538. Press 1, 2 or 3 for your respective district.

Summer Per Capita Check Distribution

Checks will be distributed to all eligible Mille Lacs Band members on **August 4** at each Band member's home district. This distribution will include monthly, bi-monthly and tri-annual Band members only. Reminder: checks will be given only to the person whose name is listed on the check.

Pick-up locations

Elders and handicapped people living in District I, II, IIA, III and the Twin Cities urban area can pick up their per capita checks on **August 4**. 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 4**.

- 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, Hayward, 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, Apply 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, per capita checks will be 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 **August 1**. 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 August 4 will have their checks sent out by certified mail August 5 to the address listed with the Tribal Enrollments Office. If you do not receive your check by August 30, 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 distribution, it is very important that you send your new

information to the Enrollments Office. The deadline for address and name changes is noon on **July 28**. 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 per capita check.
- Per capita checks will only be given to the enrolled Band member to whom the check is issued. There will be no exceptions.
- Per capita checks will be used to pay delinquent Band loans, discretionary loans, emergency services 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 320-532-7401. For emergency services status, call Sharon James at 320-532-2552
- Per capita checks are taxable; therefore, all Band members who receive a per capita 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. Per capita checks should be reported as other income on a Form 1040 as other income not subject to self-employment tax. All future 2011 per capita checks will have federal income tax withheld as the amount of the per capita checks now exceeds the IRS required withholding limits for 2011.
- If you are receiving public assistance from the county, please contact your caseworker because the per capita may affect the amount you receive. If, based on discussions with your caseworker, you wish to decline receipt of your per capita check(s), please contact Kathy Heyer in the OMB Office at 320-532-7472 to get a per capita declination form.

Voter Engagement School

Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota, White Earth Nation, and Wellstone Action's Native American Leadership Program are hosting Voter Engagement School programs in White Earth and Mille Lacs.

People who are interested in learning the skills of civic engagement and nonpartisan voter organizing and getting involved in get out the vote efforts are encouraged to attend the program.

The course will cover the following subjects:

- Communicating an effective message
- Voter registration, education and mobilization skills and strategies
- Recruiting and working with volunteers
- Integrating voter engagement work with community and issue organizing
- Developing leaders
- Getting out the vote

The programs will be held on the following dates:

- Thursday, August 11, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the White Earth Reservation Tribal Administration Building
- Tuesday, August 30, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Grand Casino Mille Lacs

Contact Lori Thompson at 218-983-4648, ext. 5754, to sign up for the White Earth program and Elizabeth Scott at 320-630-2487 to register for the Mille Lacs program.

Early Education Department to Break Ground on New Building

You're invited to the groundbreaking ceremony:
**Wednesday, July 6
9 a.m.**

The Mille Lacs Band is starting construction on a new building for the early education department and the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

The new building will be located at 43648 Virgo Road, Onamia, MN 56359.

Prescription Medication Abuse Increasing on the Reservation

By Mark Watters, Chemical Dependency Counselor

For years alcohol was the number one cause of death on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Today that cause is shifting rapidly. As community residents continue to sell, trade, share and abuse prescription medication, the number of lost lives continues to increase. One community member recently told my staff, "The drug abuse needs to stop. It's killing my family, and we have no one to blame. We are slowly killing each other."

A 2009 national study from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration suggests that American Indians were "abusing prescription drugs at more than twice the rate of whites." Since then, the numbers have continued to increase. It takes some people several years to become chronic alcoholics, but prescription medication abuse can turn into addiction more rapidly. We see many clients with full-blown medication addictions in their early 20s.

Commonly abused prescription medications

The National Institute of Drug Abuse describes prescription drug abuse as "taking a prescription medication that is not prescribed for you, or taking it for reasons or in dosages other than as prescribed."

Many abused medications are prescribed for pain, anxiety, and/or sleep disorders. Commonly abused classes of prescription medications include the following opioids (for pain), central nervous system depressants (for anxiety and sleep disorders), and stimulants (for ADHD and narcolepsy):

Opioids

Vicodin®
OxyContin®
Darvon®
Dilaudid®
Demerol®
Lomotil®

Depressants

Nembutal®

Valium®
Xanax®

Stimulants

Dexedrine®
Ritalin®
Concerta®
Adderall®

The drug most frequently used as an opioid replacement therapy has been methadone. Unfortunately, for residents of the reservation, methadone has become another means of abusing prescription medications. Many deaths have been attributed to methadone abuse, sometimes in conjunction with the abuse of other prescription medications.

When addiction becomes dependence

As drug tolerance increases, abusers need more prescription medications to achieve the same effect. As the fear of withdrawal sets in, people become desperate to get the next dose. Much like the effects of alcohol abuse and dependency, the human body can only last so long under these conditions. Addicts reject the help they really need as a result of impaired judgment. Without support and intervention, the situation will only worsen.

Help is available

One community member asked, "When has the community had enough?"

Mille Lacs Band Behavioral Health encourages community members to contact our department with concerns, questions or the need for services related to chemical dependency and mental health. We continue to offer options for people who are seeking a better way of life. Please contact:

- District I: Deanna Sam at 320-532-7773
- District II: Mark Watters at 218-768-2431
- District III (Hinckley): Mike Kettner at 320-384-6696
- District III (Lake Lena): Monica Haglund at 320-384-0149

Band Member Marsha Sam Overcomes Challenges, Embraces Life



Toya Stewart Downey

By Toya Stewart Downey

In her younger days, Marsha Sam didn't drink alcohol even though others around her did.

However, two decades ago when the father of her children was tragically killed in a car accident while driving under the influence, Marsha started drinking to numb her emotions and ease her pain. She spiraled out of control, even though she knew her actions hurt others. She also knew that she really didn't want to drink, but it seemed the only way to mask her feelings.

"I was mad because he was gone. I was mad because he wasn't going to be there to help me raise our kids," said Marsha. "I didn't want to feel the loss and the pain, so I drank every day."

A turning point came in Marsha's life when her grandfather, Frank Skinaway, suffered a heart attack. He survived, but the experience caused Marsha to wonder, "What am I doing to myself?"

She checked herself into a treatment center and later a halfway house. It was during this time that Marsha realized she wasn't feeling well.

"I kept getting dizzy and having hot flashes, so I went to the doctor," she said. "They did some tests and then told me what was wrong with me."

The diagnosis was shocking. She had multiple sclerosis – a chronic and often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system.

"The doctor came in, told me I had MS, said there weren't any cures, and then he walked out."

Appalled by the way she was treated, Marsha found a different doctor. She also began taking medications to help her with her MS and moved to Duluth to be near a medical facility.

"I was afraid to be far away from a hospital," said Marsha, who suffered seizures as a result of her disease. She remained in Duluth until about three years ago, when she returned to the Mille Lacs Reservation.

"I was assaulted by three men, and it got to the point where I was living in fear, so I decided to move home."

Because of her illness, Marsha stayed close to home. But she was lonely and felt like she wanted to do more with her life.

She attended a job fair and ended up landing a part-time job as a receptionist for the Corporate Commission. She's been in that role since January.

"I didn't know if I could work, because for a while I wasn't strong enough to stand up or walk," she said. "I couldn't stand without my legs trembling."

Marsha hadn't worked for about 10 years. Previously she had held a number of jobs, including as a blackjack dealer at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, as a receptionist at the government center, for Anderson Construction Company, and for the Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist. She was also enrolled in cosmetology school at one time.

"I felt like I was deteriorating and my life was passing me by, so I wanted to work," she said. "I enjoy working with people, and it rejuvenates my spirit."

This month marks Marsha's 13th consecutive year of sobriety. She can get around without a cane or walker and hasn't had a seizure for a few years.

When she's not working, Marsha does beadwork – a skill she learned from her mother, Chris Sam, who passed about 20 years ago. She also spends time with her family members, including her dad, Doug Sam.

Though there are many challenges that come with having MS, one of the biggest ones for Marsha is that it has affected her ability to dance. For many years, she was a fancy shawl dancer. Now, because she can't move her legs the way she wants to, she only dances traditional dances, which rely on arm movements.

"If I tried the fancy dance, I'm afraid I might fall over," said Marsha. "It hurts me the worst that I can't dance like I used to."

Still, Marsha danced at last year's powwow and plans to dance again in August during the Mille Lacs Band's traditional powwow.

Marsha, who is quick to share stories and has a quirky sense of humor, acknowledges that she wishes she would have made different choices. However, her outlook is positive, and she likes to encourage people whenever she can.

"I tell them to get an education," she said. "I tell people they should set goals and work towards them."

Department of Natural Resources Update

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources (DNR) welcomed three new employees to the department; Diane Nickaboine, John Benjamin, and Jim Mattson bring diverse work experience to the department.

Diane, a U.S. veteran, is the new DNR assistant/receptionist and handles administrative duties as the first point of contact in the office.

John transferred from Nay Ah Shing Schools to take over as the field operations coordinator. He will work with land maintenance technicians and coordinate with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and other tribes on wild rice issues.

Jim, a former GLIFWC warden for 15 years, is now a conservation officer for District II.

Community garden

The DNR's community garden, a project started by John Benjamin, has kicked off its growing season with plenty of strawberries that will soon be available for public picking. The community garden is located in Onamia near White Bear Ranch and its produce is available to

Band members on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the garden call the DNR office at 320-532-7439.

Black bears sighted

The DNR Enforcement Office wants the community to be aware of the black bears that have been spotted in the Isle area and request that residents secure lids on garbage cans, put away pet food, and take down bird feeders at this time.

Taking these precautions will discourage black bears from looking for an easy meal in the neighborhood until the wild berries ripen for them to eat. Please contact Chief Conservation Officer Mike Taylor or Conservation Officer Eric Hannaken at 320-630-2472 if there are any problems with bears.

Boat safety

With summertime in full swing, the DNR Enforcement Office would also like to remind everyone to always wear personal floatation devices while boating.

After Years of Waiting, Band Members Thrilled to Move into Homes

By Toya Stewart Downey

Wendy Merrill was 20 years old when she applied to the Band's home rental program.

Six years later, Wendy's name made it to the top of the list, and she moved into the home she had waited for so patiently.

"I knew I'd get a house eventually, but when I got the call that I had one, I was so excited and anxious to move in," Wendy said.

She now lives in Isle in a three-bedroom, one-bathroom home with her husband and three children, ages 8, 6, and 10 months. The house is brand new and includes new appliances and a heated floor in the bathroom.

When Wendy signed up for the Band's rental program, she knew she would need to be patient, because it would be a long while before she'd get a house. She knew that the homes were in high demand and the turnover rate was fairly low.

To make sure she was compliant, Wendy kept her application updated. During the first few years, she called periodically to see if she had moved any closer to the top of the waiting list. As she got closer, she began calling more frequently to get status updates.

"I called so much that Gina Anderson [the Band's director of property management] always knew it was me and what I was calling about," she said. "Gina was so patient with me, because she knew how excited I was to get a house."

Before moving into her new house, Wendy lived with family members or rented apartments in other areas. However, she said, the rent was always more expensive than what she currently pays, and the places where she lived weren't as nice.

Wendy, who works for the Gaming Regulatory Authority, said she thinks the home rental program is a great asset to the Band, and that the rent and the policies that govern the program are reasonable.

Still, Wendy dreams of purchasing her own home; she is on the waiting list for the Band's home loan program.

East Lake Band member "grateful"

Equally excited about the home rental program is Band member Jeffrey Moose, who moved into his East Lake home in February.

Jeffrey, 38, said he "got himself into a fix and ended up homeless" for a while before moving into temporary housing in the Band's Assisted Living Units.

"I was on the waiting list for a place in East Lake for about four years," he said. "The place I have now is newly built. It's a two-bedroom, two-bathroom duplex with a garage."

"It's a great location and it's close to the community center," said Jeffrey, who works at the center in the maintenance department.

Jeffrey, who lives with his significant other and her child, said, "I'm very pleased and grateful. It's one of the nicer places I've lived."

Jeffrey is also on the waiting list for the Band's home loan program.

The joy of new residents

Ruth Sam, the Band's resident services supervisor, said she feels happiness every time she witnesses the joy of the new residents.

"After waiting for so long on the housing list, people are more than happy to move into the homes – some of which are brand new," said Ruth. "The looks on the kids' faces and watching them get excited about deciding which room is theirs, it just makes you smile."

"The tenants have been waiting a long time, so they really appreciate the homes," she added.

Just ask Nichole Day, who moved into her three-bedroom, two-bathroom home in District I in January. She had been on the waiting list for more than four years, while living in a Minneapolis apartment with her three children.

"My kids needed a bigger place to stay," said Nichole, 28, who works at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel. "And, it's less expensive to live here, so moving to District I made sense, because it's a lower cost of living."

Nichole, who said she kept her forms updated during the years she waited, didn't often think about when her name would reach the top, but she's happy it did.

"I'm happy about it, and it's much better than where I lived in Minneapolis," she said.

Central Lakes College Offers EZ Enrollment Days for New Students

Central Lakes College is hosting EZ Enrollment Days in July and August to provide prospective students with everything they need to complete the admissions process in one stop. Central Lakes College staff will be on hand to assist with the application process.

All that is needed to complete the EZ Enrollment process is \$20.00 for your application fee and a photo ID.

At the end of each session, students will be registered for courses at Central Lakes College for fall semester. For more information about EZ Enrollment or to set up a meeting during one of the times listed below, please contact the Central Lakes College

Admissions Office at 218-855-8037.

Mille Lacs Tribal College

- Wednesday, July 20, 11-5 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 3, 11-5 p.m.

Brainerd campus

- Thursday, July 7
- Thursday, July 21
- Thursday, August 4

Staples campus

- Tuesday, July 12
- Tuesday, August 9
- Tuesday, August 16

District I Valleyfair Trip

The District I Valleyfair trip is only for Mille Lacs Band members living in the District I service area and is scheduled for August 8. A letter will be sent out in July with more details. Please update your address with Tribal Enrollments to reflect your current residency.

Community Healing Project Holds Essay Contest

Seven young Band members participated in the Community Healing Project's Father's Day essay contest. Participants were asked to write a paragraph about why their father (or male role model) is the best.

Clara Gahbow won first place, and Shauna and Meghanne Benjamin won second place. They received dinner at Woodlands Steakhouse with their dads.

Lonnie Bellcourt, Megan Saboo, Mackenzie Osburn, and Adam Benjamin were the runners-up. They received passes to take their dads to a movie.

The Community Healing Project also honored Dave Boyd, who is a member of the program. Dave is a very active participant in the lives of his two young girls, Toni and Terri. Dave received dinner at Woodlands Steakhouse with his daughters.

The submitted essays will be posted on the Mille Lacs Band's Facebook account (www.facebook.com/millelacsband) and in buildings around the community.

Our dad is the greatest dad in the world cause he loves me and my sister and we love him.

- Excerpt from Shauna and Meghanne Benjamin's essay

Free Driver's Education Classes

By Deb Campbell

The Department of Labor is offering free driver's education classes to adults 18 years old and over who need to take the written portion of the Class D driver's test. The course is open to those who have never taken the written driver's test or those eligible to retake the written driver's test and apply for a driver's license. Class size is limited.

The nine-hour course will cover the information needed to pass the written driver's test. The three-day, three-hour class sessions will be held 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, Thursday, July 21, and Tuesday, July 26, in the Department of Labor Employment & Training Classroom. After session completion, the Department of

Labor will provide transportation to the Driver's License Exam Center in Brainerd for participants to take the written exam on July 27, 28, or 29.

To pre-register and complete an application, visit the Mille Lacs Band Department of Labor office, located downstairs at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center, formerly known as the Workforce Center.

These classes will be scheduled in East Lake and Lake Lena at a future date. Please sign up at your local community center.

For more information, call the Department of Labor at 320-532-4741 or 800-922-4457.

District III Health Fair – August 4

The Aazhoomog Clinic will host the 4th annual Aazhoomog Community Health Fair on Thursday, August 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the District III Community Center gymnasium.

The event, designed to raise community awareness about health and wellness, will give community members an opportunity to learn about health resources and interact with employees from various

departments. All Mille Lacs Band members and employees are welcome to attend.

Any department interested in having a booth at the event should look for more registration information to be posted on the Mille Lacs Band's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/millelacsband) or contact Donna Hormillosa at 320-532-6240.

Women's Talking Circle Shares Culture and Strives to Build Leaders

By Toya Stewart Downey

Band Elder Alvina Aubele wants to connect with the younger generation of women and girls in District III. She wants to help teach them useful skills, such as sewing, cooking, and how to read recipes. She also wants to pass along cultural practices that they can share with their children.

That's why when Alvina heard about the Women's Talking Circle that was being established in District III she wanted to participate.

"There's probably a lot the younger generation doesn't know, such as how to do crafts, take care of kids or everyday things like cooking," she said. "They are probably ceremonial things they don't know about either so this could help them."

The Women's Talking Circle began holding meetings in December. It meets at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays every third week and anyone of any age can attend. They meet for a potluck dinner and discussion at the Hinckley Corporate Commission Building.

The next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19.

"I started this because we have women we need to mentor, and we have women we can learn from," said Melanie Benjamin, who founded the circle. "We can provide them with skills they can use in their families, on their jobs and in the community as a whole."

"It is for women and about women, but men aren't excluded," she added.

"Women are the backbone of our Ojibwe culture," Alvina said. "It is so important that we do

this, because it's an important part of our culture."

The participants share their knowledge, expertise, successes and achievements. It's a safe place where questions can be asked and confidences can be held.

"We talk about cultural leadership, what that means, and what the responsibilities are," Melanie said. "We talk about what's happening in the lives of our women and our community and how we can help."

In one instance, it served as a professional networking opportunity. A teacher was needed for a class at Pine Grove Academy and one of the participants had a daughter, who was a teacher who was looking for a job. Within weeks, the school had a new teacher.

"We want everyone to play a role in making the community a better place and everyone has a role in that," she added.

"If we don't have talking circles we will lose everything we've learned from our Elders, our mothers, fathers and grandparents," said Alvina. "Hopefully our younger generation will see the importance of this and will join us," she said. "And, maybe they'll start a men's group."

One of the projects the women's circle worked on was making quilts for the recent Head Start graduation ceremony per a request from Diane Gibbs, the district representative for the area.

"We want to showcase our resources and our talents as community members," Melanie added.

Band to Survey Members on Broadband Service

The Mille Lacs Band has received a planning grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to conduct a survey to determine Band members' access to broadband service. The results of this survey will help determine if there is a need for expanded service in the Mille Lacs Reservation area.

Broadband is high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access. The Band is

establishing the survey process and will provide more information as soon as it is available.

"We want Band members to have the high-speed Internet access they need to help them work, find jobs, pursue online education, and make their lives easier," said Diane Gibbs, District III Representative. "The survey is the first step in understanding the Band's needs and deciding how to move forward."

Summer Youth Employment Program

Sixty-three young American Indians are receiving hands-on job experience this summer through the Mille Lacs Band's annual Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The eight-week internship program started on June 20.

When the students applied for their positions, they identified the knowledge and job skills that they already had and what skills they wanted to learn during the program. The students were then placed in jobs at 29 worksites by Candace Shaugobay, SYEP facilitator.

Some participants were placed in positions in the Band's tribal government departments, such as the Department of Natural Resources, the Chief Executive's Office, and Public Health Department. Others secured jobs at non-Band owned businesses, including the Onamia Community Education Program and Country Corner Café in Isle.

In addition to gaining hands-on job experience, the students learn about ethics, workplace behavior, and leadership skills. They can also receive help with their resumes and other job-search materials from the Department of Labor.

"SYEP is an important opportunity for American Indian youth to receive hands-on experience in the workplace," said Candace. "Our youth are going to be the leaders of the future, and we need to help them develop the teamwork and skills that it takes to serve the community in a good way."

To be eligible for the program, the students had to be enrolled or direct descendants of a federally recognized tribe.

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
kelly@goffpublic.com
Goff Public
255 East Kellogg Blvd.
Suite 102
St. Paul, MN 55101
Please provide news tips and other information by the 15th of the previous month.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

May 2011

	Approved budget for FY 2011	Actual expenditures through 5/31/11	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	12,465,823	7,115,132	57.1%
Workforce*	14,708,999	3,045,443	20.7%
Judicial	674,669	399,846	59.3%
Law enforcement*	5,285,989	2,900,378	54.9%
Education*	15,904,714	10,037,168	63.1%
Health and human services*	29,175,900	16,670,065	57.1%
Natural resources*	5,066,261	2,866,344	56.6%
Community development*	41,506,345	8,565,732	20.6%
Gaming authority	4,844,746	2,917,847	60.2%
Bonus distribution	32,041,762	32,000,136	99.9%
Economic stimulus	2,910,000	2,908,000	99.9%
Total expenditures	\$164,585,208	\$89,426,090	54.3%

Financial notes:

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

* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2010 fiscal year.

Avoiding Confusion – The Cobell Settlement and the proposed Nelson Act Settlement

Last month a federal court approved the \$3.4 billion Cobell class action settlement, which will benefit many American Indians. This is different from the Nelson Act settlement, which Mille Lacs Band members have been long awaiting.

The Cobell litigation began in 1996 as a class action lawsuit brought by Elouise Cobell, who claimed to represent more than 500,000 Indian people who held Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts. The money in these accounts was earned from individual allotments under the 1887 General Allotment Act (Dawes Act), through, for example, grazing fees and the proceeds from timber sales, mineral sales, and leasing. Cobell claimed that the government had mismanaged these monies, costing the Indian account holders billions of dollars. The government denied her claims and said the number of account holders was closer to 250,000. A settlement was finally reached in which the government agreed to pay \$1.4 billion to individual account holders and \$2 billion to re-purchase lands lost by tribes

under the General Allotment Act. President Obama signed legislation approving the settlement agreement in December 2010. The federal court's approval of the settlement agreement in June was the last step to finalize the settlement.

Congress passed the Nelson Act in 1889. It provided for the sale of land and timber on Minnesota Chippewa reservations and did not affect any Indians other than the Minnesota Chippewa. During the time of the Indian Claims Commission (1947-1977), the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) brought several actions against the United States. In two of the cases, the MCT claimed that the United States violated the Nelson Act by selling land and timber on MCT reservations for less than their full value, and by mispending the money it collected from these sales. During the late 1990s, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC, the MCT's governing body) voted to settle these cases by accepting \$20 million from the government, and then voted to divide the

settlement funds equally among the six MCT bands. The settlement was approved by the Claims Court and the government deposited the funds into an account for the MCT.

Unfortunately, some of the bands objected to the TEC's decision to divide the settlement funds equally among the bands, effectively blocking distribution of the funds. After more than a decade of discussion, the bands could not all agree how best to divide the \$20 million (which collected interest and is now close to \$30 million). Recently, Congressmen Collin Peterson and Chip Cravaak introduced a bill to distribute the Nelson Act settlement monies. Their legislation, H.R. 1272, would distribute the settlement funds as follows: (1) reimbursement of certain litigation expenses incurred by the MCT; (2) a \$300 payment to each MCT member; and (3) division of the remainder of the settlement funds equally among the six bands. The bill is currently pending in Congress.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy July birthday to:

Renee Gale, on July 10 from Antavia, Arielle, MJ, Chad and Steve • **Codghey**, 35, on July 5 from TJ and Kali • **Roberta Matrious**, 39, on July 6 from TJ and Kali • **Anna Banana**, on July 8 from TJ and Kali • **Miranda Benjamin**, 16, on July 9 from TJ and Kali • **Marissa Clare**, 20, on July 12 from your roommates • **Ryan Stone**, 36, on July 15 from TJ and Kali • **Julian James Jackson**, 36, on July 15 from TJ and Kali • **Tehlissee Ann-Louise**, 1, on July 19 from TJ and Kali • **Twyla Sam**, 29, on July 20 from mom, TJ, Jaime, Cathy, and the kids • **Stacy Boyd**, 24, on July 22 from TJ, Kali, Rachel and Waylon • **Dawn Marie White**, 8, on July 22 from TJ and Kali • **Stewy**, with love from Nancy, Kyla, Coda, and Al • **Jacob Cash**, with love from Auntie Nancy, Al, Kyla, and Dakota • **Boy (APB)**, on July 9 from mom • **Deze**, on July 9 from Auntie Barb • **Cedric**, on July 20 from Grandma Bearheart, dad, Uncle Paul, Auntie Day and family • **Memegwaa**, on July 1 from Kokum, papa, mom, aunts, uncles and cousins • **Jenny**, on July 7 from your nephews, nieces, sisters, brothers, mom and dad • **Nigel**, on July 7 from your wife, sons, daughter, mom, sisters and brothers • **Cedric**, on July 20 from Kokum, papa, mom, aunts, uncles and cousins • **Ryan Smith**, on July 15 from Nae Nae • **Gerald Moose**, on July 6 from mom, Zach, Kira, Ashley, Damian, Jazzy and Smokey • **Damian Regguinti**, 5, on July 27 from mom, sister, grandma, grandpa, Carrie and kids • **Karen H.**, on July 13 from Rachel and Waylon • **Whitney**, on July 14 from Auntie Rae and Waylon • **Jordan B.**, on July 25 from dad, Max Dean, Aiden James, Arielle, Tony, Rachel, and Waylon • **Max Dean**, 1, on July 12 from dad, Jordan, CJ, Aiden, Arielle, Tony, Rachel, Waylon, Papa Turk, Chicky, and Papa Doug • **Deanna Sam**, on July 8 from Waylon and Rachel • **Daymon Fronco**, 2, on July 4 with love from mommy, Beaner, Shawsha, Soul, Dante, Maysun Jr., Gramma, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek Jr., Frankie, Rachel, Joe, Donny, Moobutts, Sheila, Joey, Jim, Jeannette, Bruce, and Danielle • **Jeannette**, 9, on July 31 with love from dad, mom, Gramma Vera, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Frankie, Mary, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Donny, Sheila, Joey, Bruce, and Danielle • **Valerie**, 7, on July 4 with love from auntie, Curtiss, Jaxin, Elle Nevaeh, Tommy Lee, Chaddy, Gabby and Lance • **Nessa**, on July 12 with

love from Day and family in Isle • **Thomas**, on July 13 with love from Tommy Lee, Chaddy, Gabriella, Lance, Day, Elle Nevaeh, Jaxin, and family in Isle • **Tay Tay**, on July 13 with love from Auntie Meany and family in Isle • **Jaxin**, 7, on July 20 with love from mom, Elle, Tommy Lee, Chaddy, Gabriella, and Lance • **Gramma Tisha**, on July 20 with love from Chaddy, Gabby, Lance, Tommy Lee, Dalene, and Thomas • **Day**, on July 21 with love from Curt, Chaddy, Elle Nevaeh, Gabby, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Lance, Big Happy, B-Dub, Bice, Diamond, Silas, OJ, The Bad Man, Buck Jim, APB, Paul Bunny, Carrie and kids, Tina, Dulce, and Erik • **Auntie Wanda**, on July 19 with love from Jaxin, Day and family • **Alicia**, on July 23 with love from Tommy Lee, Chaddy, Gabby, Lance, Day, Jaxin, Elle Nevaeh, and family in Isle • **Jerry**, on July 6 with love from Auntie Day, Elle Nevaeh, Curtiss, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Chaddy, Gabby, and Lance • **Gabriella**, 1, on July 10 with love from Grandma Sylvia, mom, dad, Jaxin, Elle, Tommy Lee, Curtiss, Grandpa Tom, Grammy, Jakey, Amber, Eric, Tina, Dulce, Tanya, Junior, Anthony, Tory, Maria, B-Dub, Owen, Diamond, Silas, Josh, Kali, Big Happy, Antaysia, Latasha, Auntie Jay, Dana, Aniyah, Great Grandma Loris, Deondre, Rainy, Chad, Mary, Antavia, Arielle, and family in Isle.

Happy July birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

David Niib Aubid
Darline Barbour
MaryAnn Belgarde
Roberta Benjamin
Donna Boodoo
Lewelyn Boyd
Randall Clark
Martha Davis
Rosella Eagle
Vernon Frye
Donna Gilmore
Karen Harrington
Caylen Jansen
Margaret Johnson
Loretta Kalk
Debra Kamimura
Dixie Kamimura
Judith Kanassatega
Richard Keller
Debroah Kersting
Darlene LaFave
Bonita Lucas
Virginia Mann
Lucille Merrill
Meskwanakwad
Letitia mitchell
Carol Nickaboine
Debra Olson
Sonja Peroceschi
Joseph Pewaush
Steven Premo

Bradley Roache
Elfreda Sam
Alicia Skinaway
Geraldine Skinaway
Loretta Smith
Andrew St. Clair
Ruth St. John
Patricia Thomas
Jollette Zapf

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Meghan Door** for graduating from Rogers High School *from grandpa, grandma, and family.*

Congratulations to **Casey Dorr** for receiving his doctorate degree *from the Dorr family.*

Congratulations to **Michelle Benjamin** for graduating from Central Lakes College.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone for the flowers, thoughts and prayers when Ronald Dorr passed away *from the Dorr family.*

In memory

In loving memory of **Valerie Ann Skinaway (Auntie Cookie)**

Thinking of you on your birthday – July 14 – and everyday. We love you and miss you. Always in our hearts, *from Meany girl and family.*

Obituaries

Herman Keg
Born - 10-15-1927
Died - 5-23-2011
Lived in Onamia, MN

Baby Boy Aubid
Born - 5-23-2011
Died - 5-23-2011
Lived in East Lake, MN

Dorothy (Skinaway) Frye
Born - 1-9-1932
Died - 6-2-2011
Lived in Minneapolis, MN

Dallas Laverne Lovejoy
Born - 9-5-1986
Died - 6-7-2011
Lived in Park Rapids, MN

Leslie Ann Davis
Born - 5-11-1972
Died - 6-8-2011
Lived in Onamia, MN

Jose Raul Mojica
Born - 1-12-1968
Died - 6-9-2011
Lived in Garrison, MN

Randall Todd Nickaboine
Born - 8-31-1965
Died - 6-16-2011
Lived in Onamia, MN

State Government Headed for Anticipated Shutdown

The Minnesota Legislature adjourned its regular session on May 23 without balancing the state budget. Minnesota is facing a \$5 billion deficit going into the next two-year budget cycle, and state leaders disagree on how to balance the budget.

The Minnesota Legislature and Governor Dayton need to compromise on a budget before the current budget expires on June 30. At the time of publication, a budget deal has not been made, and it is anticipated that state government will shutdown on July 1.

All state services – except those deemed critical by a state court – will shutdown until the budget is resolved. It is unknown which services will be deemed critical, however, public schools, state parks, state-funded construction projects, and human services would likely be affected. Additionally, thousands of state employees could be laid off.

In 2005, a partial government shutdown closed a few major state agencies for eight days. It is anticipated that a government shutdown on July 1 would affect several more agencies, and it is unclear how long it may last.

During the state government shutdown, the Band government will conduct business as usual, but it will likely face some challenges due to a temporary lack of state funding and staffing. The Band will provide regular updates to Band members.

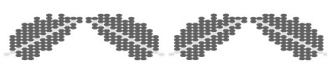
Gaming expansion remains a threat

Legislative leaders and Governor Dayton could still consider gaming expansion as a way to solve the state's budget deficit. The Band is watching for gaming expansion proposals of any kind.

No matter what the proposed expansion is, it would hurt Grand Casinos and East Central Minnesota. Gaming expansion could result in a loss in jobs, revenues, tourism, and economic development opportunities. These losses would be difficult, if not impossible, to recoup.

You can make a difference

If you want to join the Band and Grand Casinos in opposing gaming expansion – and to receive regular updates about the potential government shutdown – please visit the Mille Lacs Band Action Center at www.millelacsband.com.



Ojibwe Culture and Traditions



2011 Grand Celebration Powwow



Grand Celebration was held at Grand Casino Hinckley on June 17-19.



Hundreds of Native American dancers from around the country and Canada gathered for the 2011 Grand Celebration Powwow. Shown here are boys' grassdancers.



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



The women's jingle dress, which originated on the Mille Lacs reservation, is a favorite category to watch during the powwow.

Photos by Kelly Sam

Upcoming Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

Kids craft workshop

Children can learn how to make a corn husk doll to take home. Please allow an hour to make the craft. This project is recommended for children 10 years or older.

The workshop costs \$6 per kit and will be held on Saturday, July 9, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Loom beading workshop

Learn the art of loom beading, create a design, put it on a loom, and learn how to apply the loom work to leather

or cloth once it's finished in this two-day workshop. This class will be held on Saturday, July 23, from noon-4 p.m. and Sunday, June 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Registration is required by July 20. Please call 320-532-3632 for more information.

Moccasin Telegraph

What my mother taught me

By Betty Kegg, Mille Lacs Band Elder
(May 14, 1930-January 8, 2009)

The following article appeared in the August 25, 2003, issue of the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is being reprinted with the Messenger's permission.

My mother, Maude Kegg, is who I learned from. She was a strong woman. Everything I know from the past, or what to do, comes from her. She taught me my values, traditions and cultural crafts. My mom taught me to share and to do right for everybody. She taught me to not talk about people. She said don't ever do anything that you will regret, or that will hurt people. I've always thought about that.

People said we were poor, but we didn't know we were poor. I remember growing up, if somebody had more than what they needed, they'd go along and give it to other people. We had enough to eat. We didn't have money or brand new clothes, but we were happy. I never knew of Indians existing who didn't struggle day to day. Thank goodness this is starting to change for some of us.

My mother just loved people. She used to take young people in and raise them as her children. There were already 11 of us, and then she took in many more. One of them was my brother John Nichols. He became a linguistics professor at the University of Minnesota.

My daughter says I'm the same way as my mom when it comes to taking people in. One of my adopted daughters lives in Michigan; her name is Judy. My other daughter who lives here by

me is my daughter Mary.

My mother taught me how to make crafts just like hers. For example, she taught me how to make basswood dolls and birch bark baskets. I used to go out and pick the basswood and bark when I was younger. Now the kids, my grandson, and other relatives do it. Making basswood dolls and baskets is not easy to do. My mom always knew the right way to do things, and she would tell me what to do. She wouldn't do it for me, but she'd always tell me what to do. When I make baskets now, people look at what I've made and wonder if it's my mother's work. It looks a lot like hers, but I could never fill her shoes, but at least I can do work that is like her work.

About two years ago, I made some really beautiful baskets with a new design. They were really challenging. They were just beautiful. The Mille Lacs Band needed some gifts to present to people on official occasions. One of my baskets was presented to Governor Ventura and the other one was recently given to Governor Pawlenty. It is nice to pass on our traditional gifts to others.

These days, I teach our traditions to my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I teach them how to make fry bread. I taught my grandson, and he's really good at it, even though he's only eight years old. He's so good at everything. He even makes baskets with me, and little canoes. They are all so eager to learn. My kids and my grandkids are what keeps me going. I feel blessed.

My mother taught me to be thankful for everything that the Great Spirit has given us.

Calendar of Events

July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>*To Purchase Tickets</p> <p>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 800-745-3000, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</p>	<p>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651-292-8062 or write to Kelly at kelly@goffpublic.com</p>		<p>Narcotics Anonymous District I Community Center 6-7 p.m. Every Wednesday</p>		<p>1 All government offices closed at noon</p>	<p>2</p>
3	<p>4 AMVETS Powwow Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p> <p>All government offices closed for Mid-Summer Day</p> <p>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting 5:30 p.m. Contact: Melanie Benjamin 320-384-7598</p>	5	6	<p>7 Talking Circles District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen 320-532-4046</p>	8	<p>9 Kids Crafts Mille Lacs Indian Museum 11 a.m.-3 p.m.</p> <p>Goo Goo Dolls* Grand Casino Mille Lacs 7 p.m.</p>
10	<p>11 AMVETS Meeting Grand Casino Mille Lacs, 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus 320-309-6925</p>	12	<p>13 District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judith Ballinger 320-532-7423</p>	14	15	16
17	18	<p>19 District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting 4 p.m. Contact: Raina Killspotted 218-768-2345</p> <p>Women's Talking Circle 5:30 p.m. Hinckley Corporate Office</p>	<p>20 District III Community Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley, 6 p.m. Contact: Katie Draper, 320-384-6240</p>	<p>21 All District Elder Meeting Mille Lacs Assisted Living Unit 11 a.m. Contact: Denise Sargent, 320-532-7854</p>	22	<p>23 MLB Youth Golf Tournament Grand National Golf Course 7:45 a.m.</p> <p>Loom Beading Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m.</p>
<p>24 Loom Beading Workshop Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</p>	25	26	<p>27 District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam 320-676-1102</p>	<p>28 Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson 612-872-1424</p> <p>District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m., Contact: Jenny Waugh 218-768-3311</p>	<p>29 Pat Benatar* Grand Casino Hinckley 8 p.m.</p>	30
31	August 1	2	3	<p>4 District III Health Fair Lake Lena Community Center 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.</p>	5	<p>6 Hank Williams Jr.* Grand Casino Hinckley 8 p.m.</p>

“What Were Some of the Most Important Lessons you Learned at School This Year?”

Shalen Nelson



“Reading and learning the stories.”

Koda Corbine



“Math and adding numbers.”

Danielle Hughes



“Animals make different sounds.”

Rubyn Benjamin



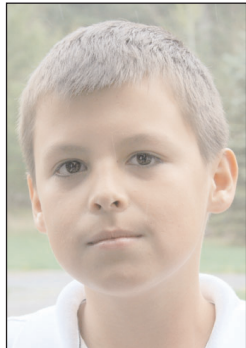
“About plants and science.”

Doyle Martin



“Math games – addition and multiplication, and fishing.”

Justyn Lundgren



“Catching and filleting fish. They taught us how to go sugarbushing and how to boil syrup.”

Dallas Roseland



“Filleting fish, how to make wigwams, and sugarbushing.”

Davion Lumbar



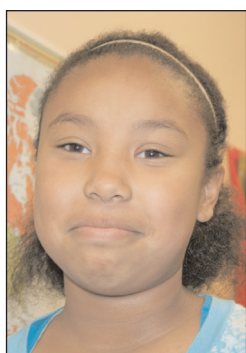
“Math, division, multiplication and shapes. Building wigwams, fishing, and filleting fish.”

Alliana Benjamin



“Reading and spelling.”

Cameron Martin



“Math and algebra.”

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

Urban Area Community Picnic



The 12th annual urban end-of-the-school-year picnic and community celebration was held on Saturday, June 11, at Brackett Park in Minneapolis. There were multiple contests for the youth including hula-hooping.



Young Band members couldn't stay off the basketball courts while at the park.



Urban Band members enjoyed the day filled with fun, food and face painting.



Band members Deze Gordon and Pauline Sam take a moment to smile for the camera.

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey