

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

June 2007

"The story as it's told."

Volume 9 • Number 6

Congratulations to Nay Ah Shing Graduates



Nay Ah Shing students Sarah Boyd (center), Jeremy Nickaboine (right), and Duane Wind Jr. (left), graduated from Nay Ah Shing High School on May 23. When asked about their advice to other high school students, all three graduates said working hard and staying in school were most important.

On May 23, three students graduated from Nay Ah Shing High School:

- Sarah Boyd, who will attend Central Lakes College in the fall.
- Jeremy Nickaboine, who plans to work after graduation and attend art school.
- Duane Wind Jr., who plans to go into the workforce.

Each student received their diploma, gave a speech, and presented a blanket they made to family members.

Principal Eric North gave the keynote address, telling the graduates to pursue their goals and speaking about his experience working with the graduates. "One of my favorite parts of my job is watching these young people grow," said

Eric. "I'm proud of you three, and you've earned my respect."

Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus encouraged the graduates to work hard to accomplish their dreams. "Whether you're training for a career or working in your career, effort is the most important part," said Herb. "If you do your best, you will earn self-respect, and you will earn other people's respect. You will succeed at what you can only dream about today."

Commissioner of Administration Christine Costello also spoke on behalf of Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who could not attend graduation due to a death in her family, and Nay Ah Shing teachers Jason Long and Anna Braam served as master and mistress of ceremonies.

Community Meeting Addresses Law Enforcement Matters

More than 200 Mille Lacs Band members and employees attended a community meeting on May 24 at the District I Community Center to discuss law enforcement matters involving Mille Lacs County.

A May 15 letter from Governor Pawlenty was shared, in which the Governor responded to a request from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin for assistance in dealing with the county's treatment of juvenile crime victims. She had written to the Governor expressing concern about the manner in which a young Band member who was the victim of a crime was treated at the hands of the Mille Lacs County judicial system.

"I agree that the treatment of this 11-year old boy raises significant concerns that warrant further review," Governor Pawlenty wrote. "I am confident the apparent problems will be fixed promptly. If they are not, we are willing to pursue legislative action."

The fact that the Governor twice referred to legislative action in his letter is significant, said Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs Director Tadd Johnson. "He advised us to wait for the outcome of the investigation being conducted by the Attorney General, but



Tadd Johnson, Mille Lacs Band Special Counsel on Government Affairs, and R.J. Brunkow, Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General, discussed law enforcement matters involving Mille Lacs County at the community meeting.

he's willing to step in if he needs to."

State legislative leaders also weighed in, expressing a willingness to hold hearings on how Mille Lacs County treats juveniles. Band staff will meet with legislators in the near future to discuss further action. Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN) also wrote to the Justice Department requesting that it initiate its own investigation.

Law enforcement agreement

The Chief Executive scheduled the community meeting in response to Band members' concerns about several pending law enforcement issues. One of those matters is the effect on law enforcement in District I if Mille Lacs County terminates the Mutual Aid Law Enforcement Agreement. This agreement allows tribal and county law enforcement agencies to

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Congratulations, Graduates!

The Band is proud of all of its graduates. Look for more coverage and photos of Band graduates in next month's *Inaajimowin*.

Head Start

Elias Altman
 Angel Bellcourt
 Myra Benjamin
 Priscilla Bonilla
 Connor Boyd
 Dante Boyd
 George Boyd IV
 Isabelle Boyd
 Jeffrey Boyd Jr.
 Krissy Dahl
 Eldayshun Day
 Ashlynn Eagle
 Jason Friend Jr.
 Jai-lee Hanson
 Donovan Hardheart
 Parker Jackson
 Gabrielle Jellum
 Jaedalynn Kangas
 Jaeden King
 Reggie Knowlen
 Cedar LaFave
 Cedric LaFave
 Cameron Martin
 Briannah Matrious
 Quentin Matrious
 Carmelena Mitchell
 Destiny Mitchell
 Tehya Nadeau
 Joshua Nayquonabe
 Rylie Pacheco
 Ryan Pacheco
 Amelia Ramos
 Ignacio Reynolds-Aguilar
 Mya Saice
 Kaitlin Sam
 Jeanette Smith
 Alexis Staples
 Charles Wadena
 Jordan Weous
 Justin Zabinski

High School Diploma

Wen Aubid
 Arielle Beaulieu
 Shauna Becker
 Sarah Boyd
 Samantha Burr
 Channele Gallagher
 Grant Garbow
 Lindsey Kalk
 Shayla Livingston
 Jessica Miller
 Beatrice Mitchell
 Heather Nickaboine
 Jeremy Nickaboine
 Stephanie Pewaush
 Dale Pindegayosh Jr.
 Maria Potter
 Donevin Sagataw
 Mitchell Sam
 Shawna Sam

Belinda Schaaf
 Brittany Schaaf
 Leila Schaaf
 Denni Thomas
 Jordan Thurstin
 Renae Tvedt
 Duane Wind Jr.

GED

Marc Anderson
 Lacey Ballinger
 Corey Benjamin
 George Dorr
 Tamela Eagle
 Sean Garbow
 Dillon Goodsky
 Susan Hendrix
 Phillip Hernandez
 Falon Jackson
 Audrey Jones
 Duane Laquier
 Tony Mitchell
 Jordan Moose
 Jacob Reuter
 Dean Reynolds
 Marlin Sam
 Cathryn Sam
 Brent Sam
 Monroe Skinaway
 Jon Smith
 Rueben St. John
 Damien Wade
 Laura Wakanabo

Technical

Nicole Anderson
 Kimberly BigBear
 Shawn Cody
 Roland Dorr
 James Mitchell
 Shena Sawyer
 Michelle Schaaf

Associate of Arts

Brion Eagle
 Ryan Pendegayosh
 Andrew Schaaf
 Kathleen Shingobe-John
 Gary Smith

Associates of Arts & Science

David Mager
 Teresa McMahan
 Robert Oswaldson
 George Sharlow III
 Karen Small

Bachelor Degree

Brian Dorr
 Matthew Moltaji
 Amanda Nickaboine

There is no formal way to keep track of Band graduates. We apologize if we've missed anyone. Your additions are welcome. To add a graduate's name, please call Sami Thomas at 320/495-3702.

Young Students Prepare for Their Future

District I Head Start Graduation



District I Head Start graduated 24 students from this year's class. Pictured here are the kids on stage doing a musical skit.

District III Head Start Graduation



District III Head Start students were recognized for their accomplishments on their graduation day.

Community Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

cooperatively address law enforcement issues in Mille Lacs County. On the reservation, tribal and county law enforcement officers can be dispatched to answer calls from non-Indian residents and Band members.

Solicitor General R.J. Brunkow reassured Band members who are concerned about the effects of the potential cancellation of the agreement. "We will do everything necessary to make sure Band members continue to have police protection," he said.

At issue is a directive to tribal police requiring that the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) review police reports issued to Band members and other Indians to ensure that cases that should be heard in tribal court are not sent to the county. The County Attorney has demanded that the OSG rescind this memo, and in telephone conversations and voicemails she has threatened to cancel the agreement if the directive is not rescinded.

On May 24, Mille Lacs County Board Chairman Phil Peterson sent a memo to Chief Executive Benjamin objecting to OSG review of police reports prior to sending them to the County Attorney. "The Mille Lacs County Attorney's office is the sole prosecutorial authority for

all criminal matters," wrote Peterson, who requested the Chief Executive's response to this matter by June 5.

On May 31, Chief Executive Benjamin responded: "The Band retains inherent law enforcement and criminal jurisdiction over both its members and non-member Indians under federal and Band law. Contrary to your claims, the Band is not required to refer reports of criminal violations subject to the Band's inherent jurisdiction to the County, especially where the County itself lacks jurisdiction over such matters (such as civil-regulatory offenses and most hunting and fishing violations)."

She reminded the County that the Band has repeatedly suggested the County and Band sit down to discuss the matter, but so far the County Attorney has refused, saying "there is nothing to discuss" unless OSG rescinds the directive.

"These continuous showdowns with Mille Lacs County are a waste of everyone's resources," said Chief Executive Benjamin. "Time will tell how far the County is willing to go this time. But as far as I'm concerned, we will always do whatever we need to in order to protect Band members." Band and county representatives are meeting in the near future to discuss these issues further.

Minnesota Legislative Wrap-up

**By Jamie Edwards,
Governmental Affairs
Coordinator/State**

Following are some of the legislative highlights on issues that the Band closely monitored during the 2007 session.

Wild rice

Legislation was passed this session that requires an environmental impact statement and a Minnesota Environmental Quality Board permitting process before wild rice can be genetically modified. This helps protect the natural integrity of hand-harvested wild rice, like we have in our region, which could be affected if genetically modified wild rice is introduced into our environment. The legislation also establishes a process for notifying Minnesota Indian tribes, the state Legislature, and other interested parties when a permit is issued for the release of genetically engineered wild rice in other states.

American Indian education

Starting in the 2008-2009 school year, Minnesota public schools will be required to include more information on the contributions of Minnesota American Indian tribes in academic curriculums. Schools will also need to develop and implement more world language programs, including American Indian languages and cultures. Some grants will be available to assist schools in developing these programs.

In addition, a statewide American Indian education advisory task force will be established to examine whether

Minnesota's public schools are meeting Indian students' educational needs.

Veterans' services

A new law funds veterans services officers to be located on several reservations around the state in an effort to provide better service to American Indian veterans.

Child welfare

Another new law brings the state into compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and clarifies tribal governments' authority in the placement of American Indian children.

Harness race track

Construction began in April on the North Metro harness race track in Columbus, which is expected to be complete in the spring of 2008. You can see the facility from I-35 as you drive north from the Twin Cities.

Harness track officials have indicated plans to lobby again next session to change the state law that requires them to hold 50 days of racing before opening a card room. The proposal to change that law failed this year.

Smoking ban

A state smoking ban was passed and will take effect October 1, 2007 in bars and restaurants. Many people have asked what impact this will have on Indian casinos in Minnesota. As sovereign governments, tribes and their casinos are not subject to state regulation in this area. Each tribe has the authority to make its own decisions.

Chief Executive Calendar

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

- Attended meeting of Federal Home Loan Bank Committee, on-site housing visit
- Conducted Band member meetings
- Attended meeting in the urban area
- Attended DFL event honoring Elizabeth Towle

- Attended meeting with Senator Hillary Clinton
- Hosted and attended meeting of the Finance Subcommittee, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
- Hosted and attended meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
- Hosted Elders trip to Nashville, TN
- Convened three listening circles with Band members

Names and Faces

Band member Rick Anderson to show film at national festival

Mille Lacs Band member and independent filmmaker Rick Anderson will submit his film titled "The Art of Poi" at the 32nd Annual American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, Ca., in November. The seven-minute film shows a Polynesian fire twirler performing on Mille Lacs Lake. Rick's film is in contention for best producer and best director awards, which will be given out during the festival.

Last year, Rick showed another film at the festival called "We Vote for Our Future," which shows Minnesota American Indian youth talking about the importance of voting. "We Vote for Our Future" and "The Art of Poi" are being considered for an award from the Red Fork Native American Film Festival in Oklahoma. To view Rick's films, visit www.eagleclanproductions.com.

Along with these films, Rick is also working with Larry Smallwood, Director of the Band's Ojibwe Language and Culture Center, to create an Ojibwe language training video. The video will show Larry teaching Ojibwe, while the words appear on screen in English and Ojibwe.

Congratulations to Shayla Livingston



Photo courtesy of Shayla's family

Band member Shayla Rene Livingston graduated from East Central High School in Finlayson. She is congratulated by her mom, dad, Landon, and B.J., who are very proud of her accomplishments.

Band members and employees prepare for triathlon

This July, a team of 21 Band members and employees will take part in the Lifetime Fitness Triathlon at Lake Nokomis in south Minneapolis. Team members have been training for the past several months and they plan to take a trip to

Minneapolis prior to the race to practice swimming, running and biking the route.

The team was organized by Band member Lisa Murphy, who thought the event would be a great opportunity to support Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's challenge to the community to be healthier. She also said it is a great way for Band members and employees to get fit, have fun, and meet new people.

Band members attend Gathering of Nations Powwow



Photo courtesy of Rose Boyd

In April, Sage Boyd-Davidson (back right), Nay Ah Shing middle school princess and former K-4 Nay Ah Shing princess, and Dove Boyd-Davidson (front center), Head Start princess and former tiny tot princess, represented the Mille Lacs Band in their former titles at the Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, N.Mex. At the powwow, Sage and Dove met Miss Indian World Violet John (back left). Both girls are fundraising to attend the Mashantucket Pequot Powwow in Connecticut this August.

Congratulations to Matthew Moltaji

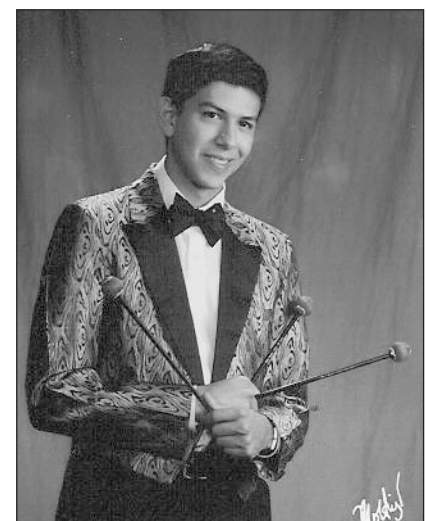


Photo courtesy of Marie Gudlin

Band member Matthew Moltaji graduated from Carlton College in Northfield, MN. His family is very proud of his accomplishments and congratulates him.

Makakees (Frogs) Chickens, Toads, Ticks, Bats and Skins

By Curt Kalk, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources

The leaves are out on the trees and make nice hiding places for mosquitoes. The wood ticks are in full bloom and the bees are busy. Every once in awhile, the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will get a call from someone asking how to control these pesky insects.

I always try to think of a natural remedy that would not hurt the environment. Some insect sprays are pretty harsh on the outer epidermis. If the word "epidermis" is not familiar to you, I can almost guarantee that yours is showing right out in front of everyone, even as you read this important message about our little biting friends. It is a scientific word used by people who can't say the word "skin" without blushing.

A Band member or two may have even called a dear friend this name at one time or another. Imagine hearing someone say, "There goes a car load of epidermises!" "Those" skins we'll have to discuss another time, as we think of our air quality and automobile emissions.

There are many effective insect repellants, but always remember to take out the ol' magnifying glass and read the very important directions and warnings. Big warning signs are easy to heed — it's the small print that us "skins" have learned we need to pay special attention to.

Mosquitoes

Back to the idea of what type of natural insect control is effective. Frogs love to eat mosquitoes. If you are lucky enough to have one singing in the evening next to your house (he probably didn't arrive with the car load mentioned earlier), let him help you control the insects. He will probably do the job for free.

Bats are also known to eat thousands of mosquitoes at night. To attract these scary-looking but very helpful creatures, check with the DNR about bat houses and where to put them to control insects near your home.

Bees and ground hornets

If you hit the jackpot (no pun intended) and find a toad, these little guys happen to eat bees and ground hornets. Conveniently placed next to a ground hornets' or bees' nest, toads will stay until they eat all that live in the ground nest. Placing one near this area is best done carefully at night.

Wood ticks

Wood ticks are a whole different story. I haven't had much luck in researching natural and convenient wood tick repellants. Chickens work "very well," but chickens also fit "very well" among the "rez" dog food chain. And, some people say they don't like the way a chicken looks at them. This statement always reminds me to not look "chicken" at other people.

Keeping your lawn mowed and trimming the trees and brush in your yard will help reduce wood tick habitat. Birds are also really helpful at wood tick control, though I have not heard of a bird picking a wood tick off of a person. (But it sure would be helpful if they could or would.)

If you look carefully, you will see a lot of new birdhouses placed throughout our Band properties to help attract birds that reduce the insect population. This is thanks to our Wildlife Technician, Kelly Applegate, and land maintenance team, Robert Lindstrom and Wendell Leecy.

So remember to use very good judgment when asking someone (usually someone you know) that famous question asked this time of year. "Can you see if there's a wood tick right there?" This could become a very intimate moment, a very disastrous moment, or both. The wood tick's location usually defines this moment in your life and its outcome.

So trim the grass and bushes and don't let the wood ticks and mosquitoes take control of your life or its outcome. And always remember to read the small print.

Mille Lacs Band Recognizes Employees For Their Service



Photo courtesy of Rick Anderson

Commissioner Sam Moose thanks employees in the Health and Human Services Department for their service to the Band.

During the Mille Lacs Band's employee picnic on June 1, the Band recognized more than 500 of its 684 government employees for their length of service with the Band.

The recognized employees have all served at least one year with the Band, and many have served much longer:

- One to four years – 226 employees
- Five to nine years – 186 employees
- 10 to 19 years – 105 employees

- 20 years or more – nine employees

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and the Band's commissioners thanked all the employees for their service. Commissioner of Administration Christine Costello also presented a special certificate of appreciation to the Band's maintenance department. Jim Kalk, Director of Facilities, accepted the award on behalf of the department.

The Administration Department would like to apologize to any employee whose name was missed.

New Program Helps Band Members Save Money

By Jake Oetting, Grant Writer

The Grants Department is pleased to announce a new program called Family Assets For Independence In Minnesota (FAIM) which will help low-wage workers save money.

Band members who are eligible to join the program and who agree to put \$40 each month into a savings account will have that amount matched with an additional \$120, resulting in a total savings of \$160 per month.

FAIM is a matched savings project that assists low-wage workers at or below 200% of the poverty level to build assets. Participants save earned income each month that is matched at a 3:1 ratio by the public and private sector.

FAIM helps participants purchase a home, pursue a higher education, and begin or enhance a small business.

Participants will save earned income each month. The maximum savings is \$40 per month over two years. Once families reach their savings goals, matched funds will be added and the monies can be used.

FAIM helps people change spending and savings behaviors, including consumer debt reduction. Participants complete a free 22-hour Financial

Strategies for Success course. The course includes economic literacy (12 hours), plus 10 hours in the homestretch, micro-enterprise, or higher education tracts, depending on the use of the savings.

Income guidelines for FAIM

Family Size	Gross Income
1	\$20,420
2	\$27,380
3	\$34,340
4	\$41,300
5	\$48,260
6	\$55,220

Add \$6,960 for each additional family member.

To be eligible, participants must be at or below the gross income guidelines listed above. This is a great opportunity for Band members who want to own their own homes but who do not have any savings for a down payment.

To ensure success, Band members who participate may request to have their \$40 share automatically deducted from their checks each month and directly deposited into their FAIM account.

If you are interested in the program and would like to apply for an account, please contact Becky Steffenson in the Workforce Center at 320/532-7811.

Nay Ah Shing Updates

By Eric North, Nay Ah Shing School Principal

Foster Grandparent Program

Make a difference in the life of a child at Nay Ah Shing School. Are you 60 years of age or older and have time to spare? The Foster Grandparent Program is looking for you. Join a group of caring individuals helping children learn. Volunteers receive a stipend of \$2.65 an hour, up to 15-40 hours per week. Increase your tax-free income by \$200 per month and receive mileage reimbursement. Call Pat toll-free at 877/771-0617 or 612/390-0617.

Seat belt challenge



Photo courtesy of Nay Ah Shing Schools

Nay Ah Shing Student Council, Princeton High School Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), and Onamia High School SADD competed this year in the annual 2007 Teen Seat Belt Challenge. The challenge was hosted by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Safe Communities grant and coordinated by Sarah Neibling, Health Educator for Mille Lacs County Public Health. The three schools competed against each other to see which one could increase seat belt use the most among their target population.

All schools conducted initial seat belt checks in April to determine how many people wear seat belts without encouragement. Sarah then used these numbers to compare and determine the winner. After the initial checks, each school implemented four weeks of the seat belt use encouragement activities, including student surveys, posters, and school assemblies to promote traffic safety.

After the four weeks of activities, all schools completed their final check on May 18. Princeton High School won the Golden Seat Belt Award by having the best overall seat belt use at 87% seat belt compliance after the final check. Onamia High School wasn't far behind

Princeton with 86% seat belt compliance. Nay Ah Shing School came away with the most improved seat belt use award, earning an 84% seat belt compliance at their final check, compared to 59% seat belt compliance after its initial check. Nay Ah Shing increased its seat belt use by an impressive 25 percentage points with encouragement activities, which is the biggest increase seen in Mille Lacs County Teen Seat Belt Challenge history.

The Teen Seat Belt Challenge is a fun way to get important traffic safety messages to teens. Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens aged 16 to 18, and most of those fatalities are preventable if more teens buckle up.

Perfect attendance pays off



Photo courtesy of Nay Ah Shing Schools

Perfect attendance really pays off at Nay Ah Shing! Congratulations to Destanie Anderson, Allison Mitchell, Shyla Lussier, Wyatt Oswaldson, Teri Boyd, Amber Taylor, and Dionne Cash, who all earned a brand new bike and helmet. These students attended school every day during the 2006-07 school year, and they got to pick out the bike and helmet of their choice. At Nay Ah Shing we know how important it is to be in school every day and how it benefits students' educational gains. Congratulations to both the students and their families for making this year's attendance successful.

Students work together

Marie Hendrickson's first grade class and Jo Polito's kindergarten class are the winning classrooms for collecting the most Box Tops for Education coupons and Kemps/Land O Lakes milk lids for the 2006-07 school year. Nay Ah Shing students and their families have done collections like this in the past, but this year we collected an all-time high.

Students were treated with a pizza party and sherbet push-ups for their hard work and dedication. This year, our school totaled more than 4,733 box tops and 5,737 milk lids. Thanks to the parents/caregivers for taking the time to help our school. The money we receive goes into special purchases for the benefit of all students. We will be collecting these items again next school year, so everyone is encouraged to save and send them to Nay Ah Shing Schools with your children next year.

Students help Ronald McDonald House

Since November, Abinoojiiyag Elementary students worked to collect metal lids from various foods/drinks to help children and families at the Ronald McDonald House. Students met with the founder of the Ronald McDonald House organization at the Garrison McDonald's in May and donated many pounds of metal. They were also able to talk to him and hear stories about how the tabs will help provide service and shelter to families who will stay with their loved ones who are sick and receiving help. This is a great program that Nay Ah Shing Schools is proud to be able to assist. After the visit, the students were treated with ice cream from the Garrison McDonald's. It was a pleasant surprise for all and another example of how Nay Ah Shing students are able to help others in their community.

Early Education holds sleepover

By Tammy Wickstrom, Director of Early Education



Photo courtesy of Tammy Wickstrom

Mille Lacs Early Education held a "Readover" on May 9. Children were invited to come in pajamas. Parents and middle school students were invited to read to the children. Four hundred and twenty-six books were read to the children in half an hour.

Band Member Participates In Leadership Program



Photo courtesy of Berni Johnson

Mille Lacs Band member Jewell Skinaway completed the Leadership from the Heart training program in May. From left to right: James Anderson & son, Cooper, Mike Moline, and Jewell.

By Berni Johnson, Director of Band Member Development

Band member Jewell Skinaway, who works as a Guest Service Representative at the Grand Hinckley Inn for the Corporate Commission Job Exploration Training Program, attended a two-day training program in May called Leadership from the Heart. The program was held in Minneapolis and organized by the Lifeskills Center for Leadership. The participants had a very exciting graduation program in which each one had to say the leadership pledge as loudly as they could. Jewell was the first one in line, and she confidently walked to the middle of the room, raised her voice, and said the entire pledge as loudly as possible.

When the certificates of completion for the program were handed out, Jewell got a standing ovation from her team. Jewell learned she's much stronger and has more courage than she realized. She proudly displayed her bent iron rod and a board she broke using only her hand!

Jewell learned about the importance of taking care of herself, so that she can take better care of others. She is ready to focus on her education and work goals. Please support Jewell on her personal and professional development journey. We all need people in our lives who encourage and support us. As they say in Leadership from the Heart – trust your heart, as it always speaks the truth.

Circle of Health Update

By Circle of Health Staff

Adoption Policy

Effective July 1, 2007, there is an adoption policy in place for Band member children adopted by non-Band member families. After researching this topic, each county in Minnesota has specific requirements to qualify for the Adoption Assistance Program, which includes: reimbursement of non-medical items, financial assistance, and Medical Assistance as a backup to families' health insurance.

As long as the agreement/adoption is in place, the child continues to be eligible for Medical Assistance. A copy of the Medical Assistance identification card will need to be in our records. If this is a supplement of insurance, Circle of Health will cover any co-pays/deductibles, in which case there should be no billings to the Circle of Health office. Circle of Health is the payor of last resort, so submission of claims must show that Medical Assistance has already been billed and denied. Premium amounts for reimbursement will be determined by the Circle of Health office on a case-by-case basis, provided that all other options have been exhausted. Co-pay and deductible claims will be processed for the Band member only. The policy in its entirety is available by calling the Circle of Health office.

Medicaid spend-down

The Circle of Health Board is currently reviewing the Medicaid Spend-Down Policy. Any claims regarding spend-downs are on a hold status. Previously, no spend-downs were paid by Circle of Health. Final determination needs to be made on how much assistance, if any, will be provided in the future.

Circle of Health realizes that spend-down costs relate to the months that the per capita payment is received. Please understand that in these situations, the monthly payment option would have been in the Band member's best interest. Circle of Health staff has been informed that in circumstances in which a Band member is being negatively affected by the payment option chosen last December, but is working in cooperation with the Office of Management and Budget, that a change may be honored. Please call our office for assistance.

Reimbursements

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

District I Events

Men's gathering

On July 20-21, the Band will hold a men's gathering at the District I culture grounds. Registration forms are available at the District I Community Center; the last day to register is July 20. During the event, men and boys of all ages will take part in workshops and learn about traditional Ojibwe activities.

For more information, contact Thomas Mitchell at 320/532-4181, ext. 7518.

Valleyfair trip

The District I community Valleyfair trip will be on August 6. Registration will be available at the government center starting on July 1 and must be turned in to Becky Sam by July 13. Transportation will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact Becky at 320/532-7423.

Women and girls invited to annual gathering

The Mille Lacs Band will hold its annual District I women's gathering at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, July 6 and ending at noon on Sunday, July 8. Women and children are invited to attend the free event to learn about the traditional role of Ojibwe women, enjoy fun activities, make crafts, participate in a sweat, and visit with Elders.

Participants can camp or commute each day to the gathering. Meals will be provided. Registration forms can be left at the District I Representative's office, faxed to 320/532-7506, or mailed to Becky Sam at:

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

Public Health Updates

Band members asked to bring medications to clinic appointments

In order to help the Band's health practitioners provide the best possible service to all patients, Band members are encouraged to bring along their prescription and non-prescription (herbal supplements, etc.) medications each time they have an appointment at one of the Band's clinics. This will help health practitioners better understand each patient's medication needs.

Although the clinics record each patient's health history and prescribed medications, some patients may receive prescriptions from non-Band health care facilities. For example, if a person is hospitalized, they may receive a new medication or have a dosage changed on a current prescription. By having Band members bring in their prescriptions to the clinics, health care providers can accurately see which prescriptions a person is taking and the dosages.

"Sometimes patients can't remember the correct names of their medications or their dosage," said Dr. Fred Ness, Mille Lacs Band Medical Director. "If patients bring in their medication, we can get all the information we need to best treat our patients."

For more information, please contact Dr. Fred Ness at 320/532-4163.

Diabetes education classes

Diabetes is a serious disease. The reason so many people today have diabetes is related to the way most Americans live their daily lives. Eating foods high in fat and sugar and being less active put us at risk for developing diabetes.

You can make a difference in how diabetes affects you and your family. The changes you make may influence family members and friends to make changes, which may prevent them from having diabetes later on.

When you first hear you have diabetes, it can sound like a bad message. The Mille Lacs Band Diabetes Team will help you hear the good message about diabetes. We will help you avoid the disabilities of long-term diabetes. You can go even further and achieve a high level of wellness and energy. This becomes possible as you discover what works best for you and begin to make healthy choices as part of your daily life.

The Public Health Department is offering monthly classes for patients with diabetes and their families. The information you receive in this class will help you take an active part in your diabetes care. Our team provides diabetes care in each district of the reservation. You are the most important member of the team. This class will help you learn to become a leader in your own diabetes health care. It will help you to learn about Type 2 diabetes and develop the skills and power to control your blood sugar.

This program has received recognition by the American Diabetes Association for meeting national standards in diabetes education. You and your family are fortunate to have this special opportunity to learn how to participate in your diabetes care.

The first of our monthly classes will be on Tuesday, June 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the District I Community Center.

For more information, please call Sue Swanson at 320/532-4163, ext. 2527.

Quit smoking with Band's new cessation program

This month, the Public Health Department started its Gegoo Zagswaaken (Stop Smoking) Program for Band members and employees. The program is designed to help individuals over a four-week period with the skills and support needed to quit using tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars and loose tobacco. However, individuals needing further assistance may participate in the program for 10 weeks.

The cessation program involves educational classes, talking circles, and the use of nicotine replacement therapies, such as patches, gums and pills. Some topics that are discussed include medical aspects of smoking cessation, traditional Ojibwe tobacco practices, and the dental effects of smoking.

You can join the program at any time. Following are the program times for each district:

- District I – Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon in the Public Health Building
- District II – every other Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Public Health Office
- District III – every other Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the clinic.

For more information, contact Community Health Educator Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812.

Band Members and Employees Trained in Emergency Preparedness



Photo courtesy of Monte Fronk

Band members and employees learn skills such as CPR and defibrillator use during a first responder course. From left: Mike Sneider, instructor; Billie Jo Boyd; Rose Boyd; and Andrea Nayquonabe.

By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator

Over the course of four weeks (from May 22 to June 22), 15 Mille Lacs Band members and employees are taking a 40-hour first responder training course in District I. First responders are volunteer citizens who are trained in trauma response, CPR, defibrillator use, patient stabilization, and other basic emergency preparedness skills. Once the participants complete the course, they will need to pass a written exam and a skills test in order to be certified by the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board as first responders.

Several Band members and employees expressed the need to increase their knowledge of EMS because they interact with Band members in their homes and workplaces, some of which are located long distances from the nearest ambulance service. These Band members and employees wanted to become first responders, so the Band contacted the Indian Health Service to sponsor a training course. In order to retain their status as first responders, the participants will need to be re-certified every two years. The Band provides quarterly classes to help first responders stay up-to-date on their skills.

Ask Melanie

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

I see on your monthly calendar that you serve on an affordable housing council. What is your role?

I serve on the Affordable Housing Advisory Council of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. I'm in the second year of my three-year term.

My primary interest in serving on this Council is to advocate for more funding for Indian home loan programs. The council advises the Federal Home Loan Bank on housing and economic development needs in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Missouri. In turn, the bank uses our recommendations when deciding how to distribute funds to local banks in those states for making home loans and development loans. Our suggestions also play a role in how the bank distributes ten percent of its net income each year to affordable housing programs.

As one of two Indian representatives on the Council, I take my responsibility very seriously. Better housing and affordable housing for Band members have always been top priorities. We have made a lot of progress, but much work remains to be done.

Woodlands National Bank, which is owned by the Mille Lacs Band, is among nearly 400 Minnesota banks that are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. My role on the advisory council is to help make sure that these banks receive adequate funding to keep up with the local needs of Band members and other Indian people in our region.

Do you have a question?

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

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

Sarah Oquist Receives 2007 "Up and Coming" Attorneys Award

Sarah Oquist has been named one of Minnesota Lawyer's 2007 "Up and Coming" Attorneys. This award, given to only 20 Minnesota attorneys each year, recognizes those with a significant record of accomplishment during their first ten years of practice. Nomination criteria included demonstrated professional achievement, leadership, and active service to their profession and community.

As the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, Sarah is the youngest person, and the first

woman, to hold this position. Prior to becoming Commissioner in March, Sarah worked as in-house counsel at U.S. Bank and before that was in the banking group at Minneapolis law firm Faegre & Benson. In addition to her legal prowess, Sarah has been a leader in bar associations and has demonstrated a knack for fundraising, having coordinated a golf tournament that raised thousands of dollars for scholarships for American Indian law students, and another that raised more than \$100,000 for the United Way.

Mille Lacs Band Tribal College Offers Masters in Education

By Josh Maudrie, Director of Higher Education

The Masters in Education program is an initiative between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal College (MLBTC) and the University of Minnesota Duluth, Center for Indigenous Knowledge Revitalization, to help Mille Lacs Band members obtain their master's degrees in education. This unique program has a curriculum focus on Indian education issues, with a strong emphasis on Ojibwe language revitalization.

This program is designed to assist Mille Lacs Band members from both the reservation communities and the urban area to come together as a tribal cohort. The program will provide instruction in a weekend format (one weekend per month) at the MLBTC in Wahkon with the possibility of lodging for urban members traveling up for the

classes. The program will also include advanced technology to link cohort members with other students and instructors. Students will also participate in research and other online course requirements during the program.

Unique aspects of the program include:

- Tribal cohort for Mille Lacs Band members
- American Indian faculty providing instruction
- Program curriculum focus – Ojibwe language revitalization, Indian education issues, American Indian worldview in education

Earn your master's degree within your own tribal community. For additional information, please contact Candi Aubid, MSW, LICSW, Educational Consultant at 320/495-3702.

Amateur Boxing Event Held At Grand Casino Hinckley

On June 15, amateur boxers, including several Mille Lacs Band members, took part in a boxing bout at Grand Casino Hinckley. The event was sponsored by the Crossroads Boxing Club in Lake Lena. Coaches for the club include District III Representative Harry Davis, Richard Martin, and Wallace St. John Sr.

Boxing Commission to host events in July

On July 7, the Boxing Commission will host a mixed

martial arts event featuring full contact caged fights at 7 p.m. at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events & Convention Center. Both amateur and professional fighters will compete.

Tickets are \$25, \$50, and \$100 and are on sale now. To purchase tickets, visit the Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Grand Casino Hinckley box offices, call Ticketmaster at 651/989-5151, contact any Ticketmaster outlet, or visit grandcasinomn.com.

Casino Shopping!

Grand Casino Hinckley Hotel Lobby

Appointments, 320-384-7737. Monday - Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Coupon - \$2 off any hair service
(good thru July 15, 2007)



Monday - Saturday 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Coupon - "July Special"
25¢ off Iced Tea & Iced Coffee Drinks.
(does not include Smoothies)



Monday - Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For Grand Celebration Powwow
10% off w/coupon
(good thru July 31, 2007)

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel Lobby



Wireless Hotspot!
Sunday - Thursday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday - Saturday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Haircare, Tanning, Massage & Nails!
Call for your appointment Today!



Monday - Tuesday, 11 am - 7 pm
Wednesday - Closed
Thursday - Saturday, 8 am - 8 pm
Sunday - Closed

320.532.5030
VISA & MasterCard accepted

Walk-in's Welcome!



7 days a week
9 am - 9 pm

10% off all Jelly Beans
(w/coupon, good thru July 31, 2007)
And enjoy our variety of Red White & Blue Candy for July 4th.

Support your fellow Band Members. VISIT TODAY!

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

January 2007

	Approved Budget for FY 2007	Actual Expenditures through 1/31/07	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	13,317,954	3,275,465	24.6%
Workforce*	8,461,707	1,618,819	19.1%
Judicial	947,319	242,764	25.6%
Law Enforcement*	3,655,553	991,575	27.1%
Education*	15,134,709	4,804,175	31.7%
Health and Human Services*	21,062,918	6,170,571	29.3%
Natural Resources*	4,492,447	1,525,734	34.0%
Community Development*	44,514,687	8,839,098	19.9%
Gaming Authority	4,314,052	1,182,168	27.4%
Bonus Distribution	22,464,940	13,181,948	58.7%
Total Expenditures	\$138,366,287	\$41,832,317	30.2%

Financial Notes:

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

* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2006 fiscal year.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum And Trading Post Events

Annual showcase and silent auction

Opening Memorial Day and running through Labor Day is the Annual Showcase of Ojibwe Artists and Silent Auction. The program is designed to inspire and promote traditional and contemporary Ojibwe artists of all ages, to educate and expose visitors to the living Ojibwe culture of artistic expression, and to provide a venue for artists to show their work. All artwork is up for silent auction bid. Proceeds go to the artists, along with a small donation for art programming at the museum. The cost is \$7, \$6 for seniors and college students, and \$4 for children ages six to 17.

Birch bark basket workshop

In this two-day birch bark workshop, participants will learn to construct their own birch bark basket with the help of an experienced instructor. This workshop will be on Saturday, June 30 from 12-4 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, July 1. The cost is \$75 for the public, \$70 for Minnesota Historical Society members, and \$65 for Mille Lacs Band members. Pre-registration is required.

Hours of operation

- Now through Labor Day:
- 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through Saturdays
 - noon-5 p.m. Sundays.

Tune in to KKIN & KBEK

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

KKIN radio - 94.3 FM

June 21, 8:30 a.m.
Curt Kalk and Don Wedll
Topic: Forestry preservation and fire prevention

July 19, 8:30 a.m.

Don Wedll
Topic: Powwows

KBEK radio - 95.5 FM

July 17, 7:30 a.m.
Leonard Sam
Topic: Hunting and fishing

Seeking Shop Owner

If you are interested in becoming the future owner of the Candy Cupboard, a retail business located in Grand Casino Mille Lacs, please contact the Small Business Development Program about on-the-job training.

Call Paul at 800-746-9895, ext. 8818 for more information. The deadline for applications is Friday, July 13, 2007.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy June birthday to:

Noah Sablan 1, on June 2 with love from mommy, daddy, Taya, grandma, T.T., and the rest of the family • **William Allen Boyd**, 2, with love from mom, dad, grandma, great-gram, Damian, Auntie Nel, Kiki, B-boy, Papa Turk, Auntie Arielle, Grandpa Joe, Grandma Rita, Craig, Tony, Jonathan, Aaron, Miranda and boys, Auntie Landa and kids, Auntie Bea, Keira, Great Uncle Ron, Joe and family • **Baby Kevin**, 4, on June 23 with love from mom, Sissy, papa, Grandma Kim, Auntie Nick, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Lil Chris, Gramma AA, Karen, C.C., Jacob, Shelby, Jarvis, Jamie, Aiva, Sharon, Ravin, and Wally • **Ravin Georgia**, 16, on June 30 with love from Auntie Val, Kevin, Pie, Baby Kev, mom, dad, Auntie Nick, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Lil Chris, Gramma AA, Gramma Karen, Tracy, Jacob, Shelby, Jarvis, Jamie, Aiva, Gramma Bev, Missy, Nick, Mike, Corey, Brandy, Brittney, Tara, Tammy, Erica, and your cousins • **Grandma Judy**, on June 9 from Tanya, Baby Chazzy, Nana, Morgan, and all your girls • **Grandma Irene**, on June 14, with love from Valerie, Chazzy, Samantha, Sarah, Judy, Juice and all your grandkids • **Grams**, on June 19 with love from Karen, Janelle, Rodney, Billy Joe, and your great-great grandkids • **Warren Skinaway**, with love from Tracy, Cindy, Jacob, Shelby, Jarvis, Falon, Mike, Paschen and Aiva • **Richard Pendee**, on June 1 from Rachel, Kelia, Richard, Candace and Cyrell • **Candace**, on June 20 with love from mom, stepdad, Rachel, Kelia, Cyrell and Richard • **Emanuel Whiteman**, 15, on June 24 from mom, Brad and Summer • **Chance Nickaboine**, 13, on June 21 from mom, Dana, Mikie, Louie, Randie, Chase and Auntie Linda • **Alena**, on June 1 from Boob and mommy • **Jared**, on June 8 from your sisters, nieces, nephews, Amanda and son, mom, Larissa, Corbin, and Lia Rae • **Dante James**, 5, on June 3 with love from mommy, daddy, Selena, Mase Jr., Shawsha, grandma, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, June Bugg, Franny, Rachel, Joe, Greg, Marissa, Simone, Donni, JoJo, Sheila, Uncle Jim, and Bruce • **Jim**, 31, on June 5 with love from mom, Jeannette, Mary, Mase Sr., Selena, Dante, Mase Jr., Shawsha, Rachel, Joe, Greg, Marissa, Simone, Donni, Joey, Sheila, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Juney, Franny, and Bruce • **Danielle**, 25, on June 1 with love from mom, DeaLayna, Stone, Junior, Franny, Rachel, Joe, Greg, Marissa, Simone, Donni, Joey, Sheila, Jim, Jeanette, Mary, Mase Sr., Selena, Dante, Made Jr., Shawsha, and Bruce • **Tammy Harrington**, on June 24 with love

from Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, John, Roger, Beverly and family, and Raenelle and family • **Juni**, on June 28 with love from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, and John • **Big John**, on June 29 from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brando Jo, Elias, John, mom, Roger, and rest of the family • **Vince Stobb**, on June 13 from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, John, dad, mom, Suddy, Dew, Dell, Kale, Meal, Lance, T-Rex, Sissy, LaDarius, Candy, Big Boo, Lil Boo, Aubs, and Rox • **Roland Smith**, on June 18 from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, John, mom, dad, Suddy, Dew, Dell, Kale, Meal, Lance, T-Rex, Sissy, LaDarius, Candy, Big Boo, Lil Boo, Aubs, Rox, and Lenore and family • **Elliott Smith**, from Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi Jo, Elias, John, mom, dad, and the rest of the Smith family • **Missy**, 41, on June 15 with love from mom, Nick, Mike, Corey, Brandy, Brittney, Tara, Tammy, Erica, Wally Bear, Sharon, Ravin, your nieces, nephews, grandkids, and rest of the family • **Connor Boyd**, 5, on June 25 with love from mom, dad, Courtney, Shane, and the Anderson's on Henry Davis Drive • **Shyla Lussier**, 8, on June 24 from Louise, Rodney, Shane, Courtney, Connor, Destanie, Jordan, mom, Gram, Papa, Dal, Sassy, Buddy, Gramma Gina, Cheryl and family, and Raenelle and family • **Roland Hunt III**, 8, on June 7 with love from mom, Grandma Mary, Uncle Jerome, Tim, Ed, Cam, Auntie Michelle, Biz, Max, Brent, Taryn, Baby Cam, and Miss Veronica • **Charles Duane Shingobe**, 28, on June 3 from your girl Lydia • **Elvis**, on June 7 from mom, dad, Gramma June, Grandpa Gushy, brother, sister, and the rest of the family • **Roger Jr.**, 25, on June 28 from mom, dad, Roy, Jillian, Uncle Ron, Aunt Gladys, Desi, Camille, Roland, Candy, Collin, and the rest of the family • **Alyssa Buckanaga**, 15, on June 1 with love from Gramma Barb, Pat, mom, dad, Brandon, Bradley, Anthony, Amber, Aaron, Isabelle, and Jeffrey Jr. • **Rachel Moose**, on June 1 from mom, grandma and family • **Kathy Hedstrom**, on June 16 from the whole family • **Loris White**, on June 4 with love from Tanya Jean, Skye, Minnow, Naughty, Lil Jay, Sara, Prince, Dana, David, Dalene, Jaylene, Matt Sr., Buck, Jack, Meany, Thomas, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, Jack, Brittney, Diamond, Aaron, Carrie and kids, Joe Cool, and the gang • **Diamond Wind**, on June 28 with love from Day, Skye, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Huck, Aaron and family, Mother Hubbard, Tina, Deondre, Jay and family, and Buck Jim • **Harmony Boyd**, on June 24 with love from Day, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, and Thomas •

Deanna Anderson, on June 22 from Day and family, Cheryl and family, and Raenelle and family • **Michelle Burger**, on June 28 from Day and family • **Suzanne Merrill**, with love from Jaxin, Jack, your family in Isle, Gladys and family, Snow Shoe, and Lenore and family • **Sty Hanks**, with love from Jaxin, Jack, your family in Isle, Gladys and family • **Uncle Moose**, with love from Jaxin, Jack and your family in Isle • **Edward James St. John**, on June 15 from your wife Kim • **Veronica St. Clair**, 1, on June 10 from Grandma Maxine, Grandpa Matt, dad, mom, Michelle, Brenda, Mary, Ed, Cam, Mike, Jerome, Brent, Taryn, Roland, and Baby Cam • **Tammy Gahbow**, on June 26 from Gladys and family and Lenore and family • **Bahama Mama**, on June 2 with love from Kevin, Amy, Devin and Sophie LaDue • **Brenda Mae Mitchell**, on June 4 with love from Kevin, Amy, Devin and Sophie LaDue • **Brandon Mitchell**, on June 8 with love from Kevin, Amy, Devin and Sophie LaDue • **Beatrice Mitchell**, on June 26 with love from Kevin, Amy, Devin and Sophie LaDue • **Breanna Jae LaDue**, 10, on June 30 with love from dad, Amy, Devin and Sophie • **Uncle Bear**, on June 27 with love from Donna, Meany, Jay, James Jr., Niss, and the whole family • **Jakob Wind**, on June 5 from Curt, Lenore and family • **Steven Hanks**, on June 18 from Lenore and family • **Cody Sam**, on June 6 from Uncle Curt, Lenore, Tyson, Eva, and John • **Leona Yellowhammer**, 9, on June 8 from mom • **Boob**, on June 1 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia Rae • **Marlow**, on June 2 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin, Lia and Auntie Cheryl • **Women**, on June 8 with love from your sister • **Jereck**, on June 20 with love from your wife, big baby, fat boy, gummy bear, and Cheryl • **Corina Jones**, on June 24 with love from Jereck, Raenelle, Larissa, Lia Rae, and Corbin • **Miss G Women**, on June 26 with love from Raenelle and family • **Becky Steffenson**, on June 13 from Raenelle and family • **Jenai**, 3, on June 4 from Janelle, Randy, Kiki, B-boy and Ada • **Lil Rod**, on June 9 from Janelle, grams, Dames, Ada, Kiki, and B-boy • **Grams**, on June 19 from Janelle, Karen, Ash, Kiki, B-boy, Landa, Carlos, Ada, Dames and all your grandchildren • **Max**, on June 23 from Janelle, Randy, Kiki and B-boy • **Damian**, 16, on June 23 from mom, grams, Ada, B-boy and Kiki • **Kelly Lee**, 3, with love from mom, Beige and Kinney Minnie • **Big Jake**, 8, from Jay, Karen, Nikki, Hayson, Dusty, Meoge, Rhonda and Curtis • **Numa Sam**, on June 23 from Becky, Chick, Mick and O-Guy • **Nay Nay Con**, 21, on June 23 from mom, D.J., Jazi, Chris, Leo,

Pickles and Cream • **Pickle**, on June 8 from Deanna and kids • **Christine Marie**, 20, on June 13 with love from mom, Clay, Stace, Cil, Lisa and Waylon • **Vince**, on June 13 from Deanna and kids • **Amelia**, on June 20 from Deanna and kids • **Hayleigh Nickaboine**, from Uncle Jack, Jaxin, Dalene, Tommy Lee, and Chaddy • **Damian**, on June 23 from Gramma Cheryl and Auntie Raenelle and family • **Craig**, on June 9 from Auntie Cheryl and family and Raenelle and family • **Numa**, on June 23 from Cheryl and family and Raenelle and family • **Janai Beaulieu**, on June 4 from Auntie Cheryl and family and Raenelle and family • **Bob Jr.**, with love from Rosebud, Daitlyn, Kamryn, Junior and Amare.

Happy June birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mary Ailport
Shirley Beach
Arvina Benjamin
Raining Boyd
Shirley Boyd
Clifford Churchill
Jessie Clark
Emma Compelube
Simon Day, Jr.
Roberta Fox
Eunice Garbow
George Garbow
Catherine Hedstrom
Marlowe Lafave
Edward Martin
James Matrious
Robert Mayotte
Beatrice Mitchell
Clarence Moose
John Morrow
Georgia Nickaboine
Gordon Parr
Richard Pendegayosh
Mike Pindegayosh
Warren Skinaway
Frances Staples
Judy Swanson
Katherine Wellner
Loris White

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Sarah Boyd** on graduating from high school. You have made us all proud, *with love from mom, dad, Valerie, Chazzy, Sam, grandma, grandpa and all your nieces and nephews.*

• • •

Congratulations to **Trina Fasthorse**, who attends the American Indian Magnet School, for being in the Lester Jack Briggs Regional Quiz Bowl championship in Fond du Lac, MN. Her team took 7th out of 27 teams. *With love from mom, Cilla, Deze, Lindsay and Jason.*

(Continued on page 10)

Tribal Noteboard

(Continued from page 9)

Congratulations to **Kayla** for being Forest View's Student of the Semester in Baxter, MN. *We're so proud of you, with love from mom, Chris, Melissa, Nick, Samantha and Matt.*

• • •

Congratulations to **Donevin Sagataw** for graduating from Onamia High School, *from Deanna and kids.*

• • •

Congratulations to **Stacy and Mervel** on their engagement, *from mom and your family.*

Birth announcements

Congratulations to Jacob Doust, Jr. and Jamie Meister on the birth of their new baby girl **Aiva Lea Doust**. Aiva was born on April 26. She weighed 5 lbs., 11 oz., and was 19.5 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Larry and Delores Heglund, Karen Harrington, Warren Skinaway, Tracy Harrington, and Jacob Doust Sr., and great-grandma is Agnes Pendegayosh. *Congratulations from Great Auntie Nicole, Jameson, Cordell, and Chris Jr.*

• • •

Congratulations to Brandi Jo Wittstruck and John Wagner on the birth of their new baby boy **Elias John Wagner**. Elias was born on April 4. He weighed 8 lbs., 12 oz., and was 21.5 inches long. He is welcomed home by grandparents Tammy and Phil Harrington of Isle, Grandma Jane Wagner of Grand Rapids, Grandpa Carl Wagner of Onamia, Brandon Wiedewitsch, Amy Olson, Heidi and Emily Wagner, and the rest of your family and friends.

Reduction in Crime

By **Sid Lucas, Director of Public Safety**

During the process of researching funding sources and grants for the Tribal Police Department, we have found indications that criminal activity has been on a downward trend over the past five years. This observation is the result of statistical data that documents all law enforcement related calls handled by the Tribal Police each year. This same statistical information is also used by the Band's Self Governance Office when the annual minimum data collection reports are filed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Although the statistics indicate a significant drop in the overall crime rate for 2006, these figures were offset by a slight increase in reported assaults and property damage complaints compared to the previous year. Nevertheless, the

number of calls requiring police response was down an average of 8% from 2005, when 2,652 complaints were generated. This figure surpassed our previous goal of reducing crime on the reservation by 5% for that same year. In keeping these figures in perspective, Tribal Police responded to fewer complaints in 2006 by 418 actual calls.

We are very optimistic that the reduction in calls for police response is an indication of better services provided by our Tribal Police Department. These figures not only provide much needed statistical information for our funding sources, but they show target areas to be addressed through our overall policing efforts.

If you have any questions regarding these figures or any other public safety concerns, please call my office at 320/532-4181, ext. 7540.

It's Your Business

By **Sarah Oquist, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs**

As many of you may have already read in the *Inaajimowin*, I am the new Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band. In my position, I oversee the Band's businesses – including Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley – and the Band's investments to help ensure a successful future for the Band and its members.

The "It's Your Business" column is a great opportunity for me to tell Band members

more about the Corporate Commission and report on the Band's investments. Some of the topics I plan to cover in this column include job opportunities for Band members, why the Band has a Corporate Commission, and the importance of diversifying the Band's business investments.

Look for these and other topics to appear in future editions of the *Inaajimowin*. If you have any questions about the Corporate Commission or the Band's businesses, please contact me at 320/532-8881.

Ways to Get Fit and Stay Fit

By **Jim Ingle, Fitness Coordinator**

Walk around Mille Lacs

All Band members and employees are welcome to join the 6th Annual Walk Around Mille Lacs beginning July 2. This year we will walk the equivalent of two laps around the lake – 120 miles – in eight weeks during July and August. Please come in to your local fitness center to register and pick up your walking log. If you choose to ride a bike, your mileage will be 360 miles, or three times the length of the walk. All exercise may be put toward accomplishing your goals for the Chief Executive's Fitness Challenge.

Fitness challenge

The Chief Executive's Fitness Challenge is in the 2nd quarter of the yearlong event. It is not too late to sign up! Sign up, choose your goal, achieve it, and earn a nice incentive from Nike. During the 1st quarter, 50% of the participants achieved their goals and earned a nice gym bag or a backpack. The winning team, the M&Ms from Workforce, also earned a Nike warm-up suit. Congrats to all who worked hard and achieved their goals. Let's stay focused in the 2nd quarter and keep up the good work!

Adherence

There is a comment made by those in the fitness profession every time two or more are gathered: "If we could come up with a plan to gain adherence to a fitness program, we could be millionaires." Adherence is the willingness to stick with it, "it" being a fitness program. No fitness program will work if it is only practiced part time or if it is started and stopped a few weeks later. Consistency and week-in and week-out adherence is a must if one

wants to accomplish the goals set out in the beginning.

Consider these points and determine for yourself if they may help you remain consistent and adhere to an exercise program.

- * Make the decision to exercise because you want to do it. Do not do it because someone else wants you to. Make it your decision.
- * Determine short- and long-term goals. It is difficult to know how to get to where you are going, if you don't know where you are going. Goals in life are essential to an exercise program. How much weight do you want to lose? How many miles do you want to walk/run? In the beginning, short-term goals should be attainable with modest effort. As your fitness level increases, make your goals more difficult. Your long-term goals, 6-12 months, should correspond to your short-term goals.
- * Determine a specific time and place for your workout. Set aside time each day for your workout. The place will determine the type of workout you will do. A walk/run will probably be outside, while a weight workout will be in a fitness center.
- * Use others as a support system. Exercising with another person helps you make a commitment. We do not want to let the other person down. It makes us accountable. A little competition may develop to help push each other.
- * Associate with peers who are involved in an active life. People who hang with active people will tend to stay active. It is easy to be a couch potato and do nothing. Get out, be active, and enjoy the benefits of exercise. Come into your local fitness center and get started today.

Informational Sessions for Local Veterans

Every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m., a veterans service officer will be on hand at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum to meet with local veterans – Band members and non-Band members – to discuss issues important to them. Some topics may include housing options, medical treatment costs for veterans, and transportation to VA hospitals. All veterans are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Kenny Weyaus Sr. at 320/309-6925

Calendar of Events

June 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>*To Purchase Tickets</p> <p>Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 612/989-5151, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</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 255 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 102 St. Paul, MN 55101</i></p>	<p>Commissioners On Call</p> <p>A Mille Lacs Band commissioner is available every weekend to help Band members handle emergencies. If you have an emergency, please contact the commissioner on call at 877/239-2444. The emergency phone is answered from 5 p.m. Friday- 8 a.m. Monday.</p>			<p>15</p> <p>Grand Celebration GCH powwow grounds</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Rick Boyd, Director of Housing 877/239-2444</p>
<p>17</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Rick Boyd, Director of Housing 877/239-2444</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>	<p>21</p> <p>District III Meeting GCH Hotel Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 877/884-6240</p> <p>All District Elder Meeting 11:30 a.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181</p>	<p>22</p> <p>David Spade* GCH 8 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Sarah Oquist, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs 877/239-2444</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Merle Haggard* GCML 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Sarah Oquist, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs 877/239-2444</p>	<p>25</p> <p>District I Community Meeting Location TBD 5:30 p.m. Contact: Becky Sam, 320/532-7423</p>	<p>26</p> <p>District II Meeting East Lake Community Center 6 p.m. Contact: Mary Sue Bohanon, 218/768-3311</p>	<p>27</p> <p>District IIA Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Marvin Bruneau, 218/768-3311</p> <p>East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Pat or Cindy, 612/872-1424</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bonnie Raitt* GCH 8 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Pete Nayquonabe, Chief Executive Office Director 877/239-2444</p>

July 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Pete Nayquonabe, Chief Executive Office Director 877/239-2444</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Onamia Indian Education Parent Committee Meeting Onamia School District Office Conference Room 12 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>All offices closed for Mid-summer Day</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Mixed Martial Arts* GCH 7 p.m.</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services 877/239-2444</p>
<p>8</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services 877/239-2444</p>	<p>9</p> <p>AMVETS Meeting GCML 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925</p> <p>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting Aazhoomog School 6:30 p.m. Contact: Skip Churchill, 320/384-6970</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>	<p>12</p> <p>District III Meeting GCH Hotel Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 877/884-6240</p>	<p>13</p> <p>ProAm Boxing* GCH</p> <p>Rita Rudner* GCML 7:30 p.m. both nights</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Joycelyn Shingobe, Commissioner of Education 877/239-2444</p>
<p>15</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Joycelyn Shingobe, Commissioner of Education 877/239-2444</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>	<p>19</p> <p>All District Elder Meeting 11:30 a.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Martina McBride* GCH 9 p.m.</p> <p><i>Commissioner on Call</i> Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources 877/239-2444</p>

What is Your Favorite Summer Food?

Kim Kegg



"Steak, chicken and brats."

Dean Staples



"Ribs, burgers, brats, chicken and anything that can be grilled."

Bill Schaaf



"Ribs and strawberry shortcake."

Maggie Premo



"Barbeque, all kinds of barbecuing."

Betty Mondeng



"Steak and baked potato."

Rick Boyd



"Hamburger, buns and potato salad."

All photos courtesy of Rick Anderson

Elizabeth Towle Receives Award From DFL Hall of Fame



Photo courtesy of Sally Fineaday

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Elizabeth Towle at the 8th Annual DFL Women's Hall of Fame dinner.

Elizabeth Towle was honored at the 8th Annual DFL Women's Hall of Fame as a 2007 Rising Star. The event was held on June 2 at the St. Paul Hotel. Recipients of the Rising Star award are selected by elected officials and activists.

Elizabeth was nominated by Alana Petersen of Congressman Oberstar's staff. Elizabeth and Alana worked closely together

on Pine County DFL issues. Elizabeth is currently interning in Congresswoman Betty McCollum's (DFL-MN) office in Washington, D.C.

"I'm very proud of Elizabeth's accomplishments and her political activism. She represents the Band well," said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.

Child's Four-Story Fall Leads to Improved Window Safety Standards



Photo courtesy of Tom Olmscheid

Mille Lacs Band member Ruth Shaugobay and her three-year-old daughter Laelawere instrumental in bringing about stricter state standards for window safety during this year's legislative session. Laela fell from a fourth-story window in Minneapolis last year when she leaned against the screen.

Band member Laela Shaugobay may look like an average three-year-old girl, but the experiences she's had in her young life are far from average. In June 2006, Laela was at her aunt's fourth-story apartment in Minneapolis when she fell out of a window and down to the concrete below. Lucky to survive, Laela started her journey to recovery in critical condition. One year later, she is fully recovered and has a brand new Minnesota law named after her.

Governor Pawlenty signed "Laela's Law" on May 25, making Minnesota the first state in the U.S. to have a law requiring that windows have

screens, guards, or other devices to protect children from meeting the same fate that Laela suffered last year. Other states are considering similar measures, and the law will likely have a national and international impact.

Getting a law like this passed in such a short time was no small feat. Laela and her family were instrumental in making it happen – attending legislative hearings, sharing the emotional story of how the young girl fell, and asking legislators to do their part in making windows safer.

"Just like fire alarms, just like air bags, it's something we could do, it's something we should do," Laela's mom Ruth told a House committee in March. The Shaugobay family worked closely with Jim Graham of the American Indian Housing and Community Development Corporation to lobby this issue.

As for the building where Laela fell, the Mille Lacs Band rents the fourth floor for Band member housing. Al Olson, the Band's Commissioner of Community Development, knew of special screens used in homes on the reservation that help prevent vandalism and improve safety. Following Laela's fall, the Band paid to retrofit the entire floor with the new windows.

"We were very concerned about people's safety, and it was time for a change," Al said.

16th Annual Grand Celebration

The 16th Annual Grand Celebration will be held at Grand Casino Hinckley on June 15-17. The powwow is one of the largest in the area and was recently voted as one of Indian Country's Top 10 Contest Powwows. All Band members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Grand Entry times are:

- 7 p.m. on June 15
- 1 and 7 p.m. on June 16
- 1 p.m. on June 17

Dancers will compete in 17 dance categories; this year's special contests include the hand drum, chicken dance,

old-style grass, and old-style sidestep. A singing contest for drum groups will also be held. Cash prizes totaling more than \$90,000 will be awarded for first through fourth places for the dance and singing competitions. Along with the competitions, vendors will be selling food, crafts and artwork.

Attendees are asked to bring their own chairs and drums. Campgrounds are available during the event. For more information, call 800/472-6321, ext. 4711 or 320/384-4711.