

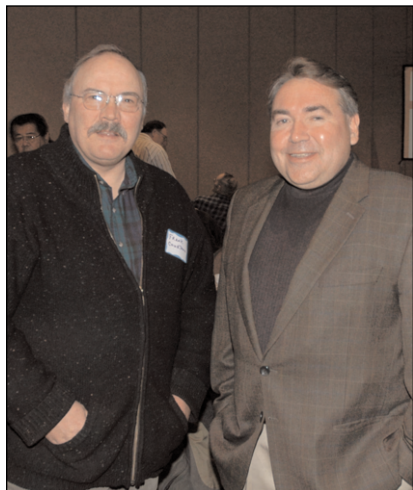
OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

March 2007

"The story as it's told."

Volume 9 • Number 3

Band Leaders and Local Elected Officials Discuss Building Relationships



Mille Lacs County Commissioner Frank Courteau (left) was among the many local officials who attended the Mille Lacs Band Elected Officials Gathering in January. He stands here talking with Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Tadd Johnson.

Building stronger relationships between the Mille Lacs Band and local elected officials was the main topic at the first-of-its-kind Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Elected Officials Gathering held on January 31 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. About 120 people – including Band leaders, Elders, and area elected officials – attended the event to talk about ways to enhance these relationships and to learn more about the Band's tribal government.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin welcomed the attendees and discussed the importance of working together as neighboring governments. "Together, we want to build bridges that will result in a better community for everyone, Indian and non-Indian alike," said Melanie.

Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus said that although racism still exists in the community, building

partnerships and developing a better understanding of the different governments will help to eliminate it. "Ignorance always leads to fear, because it is human nature to fear what we don't understand," said Herb.

Educating local leaders

To further educate local officials on the Band, Chief Justice Alvina Aubele talked about the Judicial Branch and State Government Affairs Coordinator Jamie Edwards discussed the Band's tribal government and how it has changed. The Band's Commissioners talked about the departments they lead. They included:

- Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration
- Mel Towle, former Commissioner of Corporate Affairs
- Al Olson, Commissioner of Community Development
- Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources
- Joycelyn Shingobe, Commissioner of Education
- Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services
- Angella Roby, Commissioner of Finance

Tadd Johnson, the Band's Solicitor General, gave a presentation about the history of federal Indian policy and state tribal relationships. He talked about significant dates and changes in American Indian policies from the 1700s to today and about topics such as

sovereignty and trust responsibility.

Emily Johnson, the Band's Director of Government Affairs, introduced the Government Affairs Department and talked about government-to-government relationships.

Questions and answers



Kevin Anderson, publisher of local newspapers including the Mille Lacs Messenger, was one of several people who asked questions at the Band's elected officials gathering.

When the presentations ended, participants were invited to ask questions. One question came from Mille Lacs County Commissioner Frank Courteau who said, "I think we need to work – where we can – together," and asked what areas the county and Band can come together on. He also thanked the Band for organizing the event.

Mary Sam, the Band's Local Government and Community Relations Coordinator, replied that all areas need to be worked on together.

Planning for Special Pension Program in Final Stages

The Mille Lacs Band is in the final stages of planning for the new special pension program for Band members who are age 62 and older. We anticipate that it will be ready to launch by May 2007.

The program will be in addition to people's income from their own retirement accounts, Band bonus payments, Elder Supplemental Income Program payments, Social Security, and other programs for which they are eligible. Although current retirees will receive about \$1,500 annually through the special pension program, that figure could grow significantly over the years because of compounding interest, making it especially valuable to Band members who are children today.

This program results from the Band establishing a savings account in 2005 that allocates 5% of casino profits for long-term savings, and from a planning process to determine how to best distribute those funds to retirees. The Band is working to resolve the final legal issues related to the program to ensure it will not affect Band members' other retirement income.

Continue to watch for updates on this program in the *Inaaajimowin*.



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Minnesota Legislative Updates

By Jamie Edwards, Governmental Affairs Coordinator/State

Band helps educate legislators on tribal concerns



Kelly Sam

(Left to right) Red Lake Chairman Floyd Jourdain Jr., Prairie Island President Audrey Bennett, and American Indian Policy Center President John Poupart took part in a training session with Minnesota legislators including Rep. Lyle Koenen, Rep. Karen Clark, and Rep. Frank Moe. They discussed how to have effective working relationships between the state and tribal governments.

With an almost 25% changeover in the membership of the Minnesota House and Senate, there are a lot of new faces in the Legislature this year. When you figure in the fact that Indian issues can be difficult to understand even for some veteran legislators, the time was definitely right to hold a legislative forum on Indian issues.

From February 20-22, the Mille Lacs Band helped the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) with "Indian Issues 101" training sessions at the State Capitol. Topics discussed included tribal sovereignty, government-to-government relationships with Minnesota's 11 tribal sovereigns, Indian child welfare, and a variety of other issues that affect Indian people in Minnesota. More than 30 legislators participated.

Tribes sign child welfare agreement with state



Jamie Edwards

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was one of the 11 Minnesota tribal leaders who signed a child welfare agreement with the state in February. The agreement will help better protect American Indian children in the child welfare system.

On February 22, leaders from Minnesota's 11 tribal governments signed an agreement with the state to enhance the protection of American Indian children in the child welfare system. According to Bois Forte Band Chairman and MIAC President Kevin Leecy, one in four Indian children in the system previously was placed with non-Indian families.

A 1999 child welfare agreement outlined how American Indian children should be cared for under the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act.

Following two years of development, the new agreement makes some much-needed clarifications and improvements, including:

- recognizing the need for Indian children to maintain connections with their tribes and cultures
- recognizing that ICWA applies to all Indian children who are tribal members or are eligible for tribal membership

"This is a good day," Melanie said after the agreement was signed. "Protecting our children is a top priority."

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe hosts annual dinner



Jamie Edwards

(Left to right) Al Paulsen, Minnesota Indian Chamber of Commerce; Mille Lacs Band tribal government employees Tammy Miller, Emily Johnson, and Tadd Johnson; and Grand Casino Hinckley General Manager Mel Towle were among the crowd of people who attended the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's annual dinner in St. Paul in February.

Each year, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe hosts an annual legislative dinner in St. Paul. Republican and Democrat members of the state House and state Senate are invited. The dinner is an excellent opportunity for lawmakers to learn more about issues impacting Indian tribes and people. This year, the legislative dinner was held at the Science Museum. Nearly 500 people attended the event, including many members of the state House of Representatives and the state Senate. Members had a chance to visit with tribal leaders and staff while enjoying a dinner of walleye, wild rice, and fry bread.

Harness racetrack owners request legislative approval to debut card club on opening day

Every year, the Mille Lacs Band, Grand Casino Mille Lacs, and Grand Casino Hinckley watch closely for news of gaming expansion bills moving through the Minnesota Legislature. While news from the gaming front has been fairly light so far, one of the bills we are monitoring most closely relates to the Columbus harness racetrack, which is scheduled to open in 2008 in nearby Anoka County.

The Mille Lacs Band is concerned about the harness racetrack setting the stage for privately-owned casinos in Minnesota. That's because the racetrack's financial backers, many of whom are affiliated with a private casino corporation, are asking the Legislature to eliminate the existing requirement that the racetrack complete 50 scheduled racing days before it is eligible for a card club. The owners want to open a card club as soon as racing begins and to offer simulcast thoroughbred racing, which would be more profitable than harness racing.

Due to legislative deadline requirements, the House and Senate bills related to the racetrack must pass through a first round of policy committees by March 23 in the House and April 14 in the Senate to have the best chance of passage. However, if the deadlines aren't met, the issue can still be included in a larger bill later in the session. We will continue to watch this proposal closely.

April 2007 Bonus Distribution

Distribution dates and locations

Checks will be distributed to all eligible Mille Lacs Band members on **April 5, 2007**, in each Band member's home district. **This distribution will include all Band members receiving monthly, bi-monthly, and three times per year bonus distributions.**

For minors, all funds will be placed into a trust account at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. Individuals who have turned 20 years of age since the last bonus payment in December are eligible for payment. You must be 20 years of age by March 1, 2007, without having to submit a General Education Degree (GED) or high school diploma. For Band members who are 18 and 19 years old and who have not received a high school diploma or GED, funds will be placed into a trust account at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. If you have not previously submitted diploma/degree information for past distributions, you must send in original documents showing proof of completion to the Tribal Enrollments Office at the Mille Lacs Band government center, attention Darcie Big Bear. If you have previously presented either of those documents, your April bonus will be included in your trust payment.

Pick-up locations

Elders, handicapped and homebound persons living in District I, II, Ila, III, and the Twin Cities urban area can pick up their bonus checks on **April 5, 2007**. 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 District I, II, Ila, 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 April 5-6, 2007.

- District I: Darcie Big Bear, 320/532-7440 or 800/709-6445
- District II and Ila: Carmen Green, 320/676-1102 or 877/676-1299
- District III: Bobby Anderson, 320/384-6240 or 877/884-6240

- Urban Office: Pat Clark or Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424

Your check pick-up site will be at the following centers, depending on where you live:

Government center:

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

East Lake Community Center:

For Band members living in McGregor.

Isle Chiminising Community Center:

For Band members living in Isle.

Lake Lena Community Center:

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

Urban Office:

For Band members living in Apple Valley, Andover, Anoka, 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, Little Canada, Maple Grove, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Mounds View, Newport, New Brighton, New Hope, Oakdale, Plymouth, Ramsey, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Roseville, Spring Lake Park, St. Anthony, South St. Paul, St. Louis Park, St. Paul, Wayzata, and Woodbury.

For all Band members who do not live in the towns/cities listed above, checks will be held at the 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."

The deadline for changing your pick-up site is noon on March 19, 2007. Any changes after this time will not be valid. Call Darcie Big Bear at 320/532-7440 or Ginny Davis at 320/532-7512 to verify your change.

Checks by certified mail

Those who can't pick up their checks on the dates listed will have their checks sent out by certified mail by **April 9, 2007**, to the address listed with the Tribal Enrollments Office. Your local post office should notify you of

the certified mail within 30 days. If you do not receive your check by May 9, 2007, contact Darcie Big Bear at 800/709-6445, ext. 7440.

Address and name changes

If your address or name has changed since the last bonus, it is very important that you send your information to the Enrollments Office. The deadline for address and name changes is **noon on March 19, 2007**.

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

Other important information

- You must show a **picture identification** to receive your bonus check.
- Bonus checks will only be given to the **enrolled Band member** to whom the check is made out. There will be no exceptions.
- **Bonus checks will be used to pay delinquent Band loans, discretionary loans, or Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction fines if they have not been paid.** For loan status, call Pam Boyd at 320/532-7467. For court fines status, call Gilda Burr at 320/532-7400.
- **Bonus checks are taxable;** therefore, all Band members who receive a bonus check should report it as income in the year received. You will receive a 1099-MISC form to remind you of how much income you should report on your tax return. Bonus checks should be reported as other income on a Form 1040 filing-line 21.
- If you are receiving **public assistance** from the county, please contact your caseworker because the bonus may affect the amount you receive. If, based on discussions with your caseworker, you wish to decline receipt of the bonus, please contact Kathy Heyer in the OMB Office at 320/532-7472 or Darcie Big Bear at 320/532-7440 to get a bonus declination form.

For more information please call Darcie Big Bear at 320/532-7440 or Ginny Davis at 320/532-7512.

Diabetes Support Groups Now Called Talking Circles

By Sandy Silver, Community Diabetes Representative

To honor and respect the culture and people I serve, the diabetes support groups will now be called Talking Circles.

There are a few rules for the Talking Circles:

- The person holding the talking stick (or other item) may speak.
- Talking Circle members listen to others as they want to be listened to when they are speaking.
- The talking stick passes around the circle.

As members of the Talking Circle, we will share a light lunch together, exercise for 10 or 15 minutes, and form our circle. The purpose of the Talking Circles is for members to share any concerns, setbacks, or progress they might have in managing their diabetes.

It is often easier to handle your disease when you can talk with others who share the same battle. Members of the Talking Circles may have ideas and solutions to perceived problems that you never thought about. Talking Circles can be the source of healing for people who come and take part in the process.

Below are the dates of the current Talking Circles:

- East Lake Community Center – first and third Mondays of the month
- District I Community Center – first and third Tuesdays of the month
- Lake Lena Community Center – first and third Wednesdays of the month
- Chiminising Community Center – first and third Thursdays of the month

If you have diabetes, I encourage you to come have a light lunch and join in the Talking Circles. Hope comes from sharing with others. Even though you might not need support, you can support someone else who does.

Names and Faces

Father and son "mad scientists" perform exciting demonstrations



Photo courtesy of Vainio family

Band members Arne and Jacob Vainio demonstrate the Bernoulli Principle on pressure and velocity to Jacob's classmates by using a leaf blower and toilet paper.

For the past year, Band member Arne Vainio has visited a Montessori School in Duluth – where his son Jacob is a third-grader – a number of times to present engaging science experiments to students. In January, Jacob assisted his dad for the first time. Father and son, who call themselves "mad scientists," demonstrated the Bernoulli Principle, which states that the velocity of a fluid increases if the pressure decreases. They used a leaf blower to shoot air on four rolls of toilet paper. The pressure on the toilet paper decreased, causing the toilet paper to unroll in 30 seconds.

By using fun experiments, Arne and Jacob show students how science principles apply to real life situations. "We want the science principles to stick in their minds," said Arne.

Besides this experiment, Arne has demonstrated the effects of liquid nitrogen on a balloon and used liquid nitrogen to make ice cream.

Band member graduates from University of Minnesota



Photo courtesy of Carmen Dorr

On December 10, Band member Brian Dorr graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor of arts degree in English. Brian is the son of Wes and Carmen Dorr. Brian's parents and his sisters, Angela and Maria Dorr, wish him much success in his future.

Band members chosen as Onamia High School Sno-Daze royalty



Photo courtesy of Bev Garbow

Stan Nayquonabe and Jillian Garbow were selected as the junior prince and princess during Onamia High School's Sno-Daze in January. This is the first time Band members have been selected for the royalty at Onamia High School. Jillian is the daughter of Bev and Roger Garbow, and Stan is the son of Joe and Rita Nayquonabe.

Ask Melanie

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

Why do Indians need passports to cross over to Canada? Aren't we covered by the Jay Treaty?

Since 1794, American Indians in the United States and Canada have had the right of "free passage" across the U.S.-Canadian border in accordance with the Jay Treaty, which stated that Indians on either side of the border would retain the right to trade and travel freely across this border. This right was restated in the 1952 U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act.

However, while the U.S. has upheld the right, Canada has not. The legal issue seems to be that the Canadian government never formally codified the Jay Treaty's free passage provision,

so Canadian courts have struggled over it.

This creates a problem for us as American citizens when we travel to Canada without passports, even though as Mille Lacs Band members our Jay Treaty right should be recognized. As Chief Executive, I encourage Band members who travel to Canada to apply for a passport to be on the safe side. It would be upsetting to travel to the border and be turned away. Having a passport will make sure you are able to cross the border quickly and easily.

Do you have a question?

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

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

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:

- Held several meetings with Band members and guardians on Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) enrollment issues in the districts
- Hosted and met with MCT and Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) leaders at Mille Lacs
- Attended a Minnesota Indian Affairs Council meeting to discuss Indian child welfare issues
- Participated in a signing ceremony at the State Capitol on Indian Child Welfare Act agreement with state
- Met with Elders at the Elder Advisory Board meeting
- Presented an overview of tribal sovereignty to several state legislators at the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council meeting in St. Paul
- Met with several individual state legislators on issues important to the Band
- Convened a two-day strategic planning meeting with cabinet and executive branch officials
- Participated in the Affordable Housing Advisory Council meeting of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines
- Held planning meeting for Women Empowering Women in Indian Nations
- Met with state legislators at MCT Dinner
- Met with Timberwolves officials to discuss support for Indian youth athletic activities

Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission to Host First Professional Boxing Event

The Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission – recently established to regulate boxing matches held on the reservation – will hold its first professional boxing event on Saturday, March 17, at 7 p.m. at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events & Convention Center.

Band member Kirstie Davis, a professional female lightweight boxer, will compete at the event. Other boxers

include Joey "Minnesota Ice" Abell, a Coon Rapids heavyweight boxer; Zach "Jungle Boy" Walters, a professional lightweight boxer from Duluth; and Marty "The Wolfman" Lindquist, a professional light heavyweight boxer from Blaine. Tickets are \$25, \$40 and \$60 and are available through Ticketmaster and at the door.

The Newspaper of the Mille Lacs Band

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"The story as it's told."

Kelly Sam, Editor

Phone 651/292-8062 • Fax 651/292-8091

kellys@goffhoward.com

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Please provide news tips and other information by the 25th of each month.

Circle of Health Reminders and Updates

By Circle of Health Staff

Dental claims

Please take into consideration that Circle of Health only pays for co-pays and deductible amounts on covered dental services. If your dental policy does not cover a particular service, your insurance will not pay and it will also be denied by Circle of Health.

Before any dental procedures take place, you can ask your provider or call your insurance directly to find out what your insurance will cover. This will help you and your family determine which costs you will be responsible for.

Band members can contact Ne-la-Shing Dental regarding options that are available to them. In some instances, a referral can be made by the dental office. Once a referral is made, any uncovered charges may be billed to Ne-la-Shing Dental. Lastly, you can contact Indian Health Services, but dollars are limited. Keep in mind that referrals and Indian Health Services treatments must be approved prior to a dental service.

Private insurance

For the past few months, Band members have been able to sign up for a private policy for health and dental coverage without having a denial from MinnesotaCare or another state funded program. Although the denial procedure will be put back into effect later this year, there is still one more option if you have been declined for a health care insurance policy.

Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA) offers coverage to individuals who – in most cases – were declined coverage by Blue Cross Blue Shield because they were defined as having pre-existing medical conditions. In this case, Band members will need to fill out another application and will probably need to provide additional documentation from a provider. Contact Benefit Coordinator Dawn Chosa at 320/532-5358 for assistance.

If you were declined through the process, the refund of the first month's premium will be sent to you. It is important that you return this check to

our office as soon as possible. Circle of Health will not process another premium payment to MCHA until this check is brought into our office. If you cashed this check in error, you need to contact our office to set up a payment plan. Otherwise, the information will be forwarded to Tribal Court to be garnished from a future per capita distribution.

In March, the Benefit Coordinator will assist Band members in Districts II and III with signing up for private insurance plans. Please call our office at 800/491-6106 for dates and times.

Orthodontia benefit

Due to the high cost of orthodontia services, the lifetime benefit for these services has been increased to \$3,000 for Band members only. This benefit cannot be transferred to a non-Band member in the household.

Treatment claims

As of March 1, Circle of Health now pays co-pays and deductible amounts for Band members' treatments only. Most health care facilities will contact our office for prior approval, at which time Circle of Health staff will inform the facility of the change.

Medicare reimbursements

Circle of Health still hasn't received all 2007 annual award letters or benefit statements from eligible Band members that were sent out in mid-December. Please get copies to our office as soon as possible. If you have misplaced this paperwork, call the Social Security office in Brainerd, St. Cloud, or Minneapolis to request a new copy.

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

Phone Tax Credit

By East Central Legal Services

If you had long distance phone service in the past three years you can get a tax credit on your 2006 tax return. The IRS used to make long distance phone companies charge customers an excise tax. This tax showed up on your phone bill. In August 2006, the courts decided that the excise tax was not okay. They ordered the IRS to stop collecting the tax and to refund the money to phone customers.

On your 2006 federal income tax returns (filed in 2007), you can claim a credit for the amount of the excise tax plus interest on long distance telephone services billed after February 29, 2003. This is a refundable credit. That means that if you get a tax refund, it will be added on to your refund amount. If you owe taxes, you can subtract it from what you owe. If you are not required to file an income tax return, the phone credit will be part of your refund.

If you do not have your phone bills from February 2003 to August 2006, there is a standard amount you can claim. Standard amounts depend on how you file your 2006 income tax return. The number of exemptions you claim sets the amount of the credit. You claim one exemption for yourself, one for your spouse if you are married and filing together, and

one for each dependent. The amounts of the credit are:

- \$30 – 1 exemption
- \$40 – 2 exemptions
- \$50 – 3 exemptions
- \$60 – 4 or more exemptions

For example, if you are single and claim yourself as an exemption, but have no dependents, you can claim a \$30 credit. If you are married, filing a joint return and have two dependent children (a total of four exemptions), you can claim a \$60 credit.

For more information regarding this tax credit, you may consult your tax preparer, or call us for a copy of our free fact sheet, "New tax credit for phone customers." Our toll-free number is 800/622-7772. We are also available for walk-in appointments at the following sites:

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

Regular Screenings Can Help Prevent Cancer

By Marlene Poukka, Mille Lacs
Band Public Health Department

According to the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation, colorectal cancer rates have been decreasing for the last two decades. The decrease in colorectal cancer reflects an increase in the screening for precancerous polyps. Regular screenings can find polyps early, so they can be removed before they progress to cancer.

Please keep in mind:

- Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer among adults aged 50 or older.
- Polyps and colorectal cancer may not cause symptoms, especially at first.

- Both men and women are at risk.
- Many insurance plans, including Medicare, help pay for colorectal cancer screenings.
- When detected early, treatment of colorectal cancer can be very effective.

People who have symptoms including rectal bleeding, abdominal discomfort, pain, bloating, a change in bowel habits, iron deficiency anemia, and unexplained weight loss should be tested as soon as possible.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal and click on "Screen for Life Campaign," or talk to your health care professional about colorectal cancer.

Waiting List for Head Start

Attention District I families with children from ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age: The Mille Lacs Band Early Education Program currently has a waiting list of 75 children. Due to the waiting list, program coordinators are requesting that families who wish to send their child to Early Head Start/Head Start in the 2007-2008 school year please fill out a waiting list application with Maxine Sam, Family Community Specialist, before May 1, 2007.

Please be aware that your child may be on the waiting list for up to three years. This is due to the program's limited facility space, which cannot accommodate all the children on the waiting list. Although the Band uses its revenues to help supplement Early Head Start/Head Start, the federal government – the program's primary funder – is not

providing enough financing to meet the Band's needs.

The Band's Early Head Start/Head Start waiting list is based on a point system. There is no number one spot; when a spot becomes available, the eligibility and needs of waiting children in that age group are evaluated.

Due to federal regulations (HSPL 1305.8), a child enrolled in Early Head Start/Head Start must maintain an average of 85% attendance per month to remain enrolled in the program. A child may be dis-enrolled for excess absenteeism.

If you have any questions regarding Early Head Start/Head Start, please call Tammy Wickstrom, Early Education Director, or Maxine Sam, Family Community Specialist, at 320/532-4690, ext. 2239 or ext. 2257.

Band Elder Participates In Band Member Development Programs



Band Elder **Barb Goodman** (above) is a Room Attendant at the Grand Hinckley Inn and previously worked at Grand

Casino Hinckley in guest service positions. She enjoys her current job because she likes to be active while working.

Barb has participated in the Band Member Development Department's Job Exploration Training (JET) Program and she is a graduate of the department's Steps to Economic and Personal Success (STEPS) classes. Barb had this to say about the JET Program and STEPS classes: "It's helped me accomplish a lot. I've got my priorities straight, set goals money and family wise, and I value my job more."

Housing Department Patrols Neighborhoods To Keep Band Communities Safer

By **Vern Johnson, Mille Lacs Band Housing Department**

Many of you may have noticed Mille Lacs Band Housing Department vehicles, including the little red and blue Honda SUVs, patrolling Band neighborhoods. This is part of the Housing Department's Security Liaison Program, which began last fall.

Our main purposes are to help make our communities safer for residents and to protect property by observing and reporting potential criminal activity to law enforcement officials. Although most nights are uneventful, our staff members have witnessed, reported, and at times prevented

acts of assault, vandalism, break-ins, and brush fires while routinely patrolling all districts. We have also helped individuals receive medical care and have recovered an abandoned firearm while checking a vacant building.

We would like to emphasize that we are not law enforcement officials, but we are there to act as eyes and ears for the community, reporting criminal activity and property damage as any citizen might do for their neighbors. We encourage your support and ideas to help make this program a success for Mille Lacs Band members. Please call the Housing Department at 320/532-7448 or 800/709-6445, ext. 7448.

Check in on Elders During Extreme Weather Conditions

Most of us are thinking spring right now – bringing short-sleeved shirts to the front of the closet, cleaning our yards, and watching the last of the ice leave the lakes.

But Minnesota has received blizzards as late in the year as May. If a storm comes this weekend, do you have a shovel? Do you and your family have enough food, bottled water, and medication to get through a few days? Do you know if the Elders in your family are able to get out of the house? These are just a few of the preparations we should all make in advance.

Keep in mind that the Band provides plowing service to Elders as quickly as we can. In the recent snowstorm a few weeks ago, our plow crews certainly did the best they could considering what a huge storm this was.

Still, this storm served as a good reminder to check on our Elders. Make sure your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles have everything they need before and after a storm.

It's also good to check on our Elders during times of high heat, which may not be too far into the future. Make sure their air conditioning is working. If it isn't, the Band can help arrange for repair or emergency housing until it is working.

Also remember that even outside of business hours, someone from the Band is on hand to help address emergencies. Please keep these numbers in a convenient location:

- Commissioner on call: 877/239-2444
- Heating, water, or other home-related maintenance problems in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home:
 - District I, 877/886-2498
 - District II, 877/338-2601
 - District III, 877/894-2497
- Emergency services/medical and funeral response: 320/630-2687
- Emergency services/emergency management, fire, and disaster: 763/360-2729 (cell), or 320/202-4123 (pager)

District I Update

By **Alicia Skinaway, District I Representative**

2007 women's and men's gatherings announced

The 2007 Women's Gathering will take place at the District I Powwow Grounds; we are looking at the weekend of July 14-15. The Men's Gathering will be held in the early fall at the District I Cultural Grounds. As the dates are firmed up, I will confirm them in the *Inaajimowin*.

Community meetings

District I community meetings are held on the fourth Monday

of every month beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a supper. If you want to add an item to the meeting agenda, please call Becky Sam at 320/532-7423. At the March meeting we will discuss items including gaming regulations related to employment and the "key" and "non-key" positions at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley. More items may be added to the agenda as the meeting date draws near. As I hear from Band members who have issues to discuss with a Band department, I request attendance from that department to work on the issue.

Band Member Sarah Oquist Sworn in as Commissioner of Corporate Affairs



On March 12, Band member Sarah Oquist was sworn in as the Band's new Commissioner of Corporate Affairs by District I Associate Justice for the Court of Appeals Clarence Boyd. Sarah, who holds a law degree from Creighton University School of Law in Nebraska, previously worked as Senior Corporate Counsel for U.S. Bank National Association and as an Attorney for Faegre & Benson LLP. In her new position, Sarah will be responsible for overseeing the Band's Corporate Commission.

Reauthorization of Indian Health Care Improvement Act Important to Band

By Emily Johnson, Director of Government Affairs

The reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) is a top priority for Indian tribes nationwide, and the new democratically-controlled Congress is moving quickly to reauthorize this important legislation – now 14 years overdue.

When it comes to the delivery of health care, the IHCIA is the most important federal law for Indian tribes across the country. Reauthorization, or modernization, of this law is necessary so that improvements can be made to the Indian health system. Since the Act's last reauthorization in 1992, the American health care delivery system has become revolutionized, while the Indian health care system has fallen behind.

At a recent Tribal Leaders Listening Session attended by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Band staff, U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) received testimony from a tribal leader about an American Indian Elder in South Dakota being turned away from a federally-run Indian Health Service (IHS) clinic. The Elder was refused treatment and told to go home and wrap her wounded legs in cabbage leaves. Another Elder, who was having a heart attack, was turned away from her local IHS clinic and sent 70 miles away in an ambulance. She had a note

taped to her leg that said her request for treatment was denied due to lack of funds.

Thanks to the success of the Band's casinos, Mille Lacs Band members are more fortunate than some of our brothers and sisters on other reservations. The Band is able to supplement its health programs with casino revenues and doesn't have to rely solely upon the federal government's pathetic level of funding. In fact, the Band is known for operating one of the highest-quality health programs and some of the top facilities available in Indian country. Still, we have a number of unmet needs in the areas of diabetes prevention and treatment, cancer and disease prevention, and mental health.

Still, a significant portion of our health budget is dependent upon federal funding, which we access through our self-governance compact with IHS. The importance of reauthorizing the IHCIA is very real for the Band. The new IHCIA would include critical provisions such as prioritizing health promotion, disease prevention, and advances in the delivery of mental health services.

The Band is working closely with other tribes and organizations like the National Indian Health Board and the National Congress of American Indians to ensure that Congress follows through on reauthorizing this crucial law as soon as possible.

Band Members Helping With Grand Casino Hinckley Build-Out

Following are some of the Mille Lacs Band members who have worked on the Grand Casino Hinckley expansion projects that we would like to highlight. They take pride in their work and know that they have helped make sure that the Band construction projects conform to the highest standards of quality construction. Thank you for your help.

Ron Anderson

Ron has been in the construction trade for 20 years. Ron mostly works on Band projects for the time being. Ron's advice for anyone coming into the construction trade is to take all the training and education you can to be more valuable to whichever trade you pick.

Mike Mitchell

Mike has been in the construction trade for the past 20 years. Mike mostly works on Band projects at this time. Mike likes that his work is different all the time. He likes the diversity and being able to learn new and different things on the job sites. Mike's advice is to be a hard worker and get all the education you can.

Brad Harrington

Brad has been in the construction trade for 20 years. Brad also works mostly on Band projects at this time. He likes the variety of jobs that he does on the work sites. His advice to anyone coming into the construction trade is to be on time, work hard, and be productive.

Rueben St. John

Rueben has been on the build-out project for less than a year, but he has learned many different trades such as sheet rocking, mudding, low voltage installation and fire stopping. Rueben, who is one of many in the apprenticeship program, has not only learned different trades, but also that classroom training is very important.

Curtis (Hundo) Martin

Curtis has worked in the construction trade for the past 20 years all across Minnesota; he goes where the jobs are. The best advice that Curtis can give to any new apprentice is to get all the education you can,

whether through unions or on your own.

Dennis Davis

Dennis has been a construction worker for five years, working primarily on the reservation during one of its biggest construction booms. What motivated him to become a construction worker was that he didn't have to wear a neck tie.

Frank Schaff

Frank has been a Journeyman carpenter for 30 years. He likes ensuring good workmanship on the projects he works on for the Band. When not working for the Band, he travels to work in Deer River, Grand Rapids, and the Twin Cities.

Jeff Matrious

Jeff is a Journeyman painter and union member. He said seven years ago that he was ready for a change, and he decided to try painting. He loves doing it and the union makes sure that he has a lot of opportunities to work. When not busy on the reservation, he works in the Twin Cities or Duluth.

Kathy Lathrup

Kathy is in the Band's apprenticeship program and is from St. Paul. She has always worked with her hands doing this kind of work and envisioned herself commuting from St. Paul. However, she has learned to love it up here and would like to stay working on the reservation.

Rick Martin

Rick is a carpenter who has worked for a lot of Native companies over the years. He likes working on Band projects and seeing that a big job gets accomplished and takes pride in making sure it is a quality product.

Larry Nickaboine and Ron Davis

Larry and Ron have both worked at various jobs in Band government and in construction. Both of them have been with the build-out program since it started; they like seeing something built that helps the Band. Larry used to be a desk guy, but he likes this job a lot better.

Business Management Training Classes in Minneapolis

By Sharon James, Small Business Development Program Coordinator

Urban classes are available specifically for Band members who are interested in owning a business or improving their managerial skills. Classes begin Monday, April 16 and run for 11 consecutive weeks (excluding holidays) from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The classes will be held at the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce community room.

If you would like to attend the class, please register by calling Heather Boyd at 800/746-9805, ext. 8850. If you have any questions about the class, please contact me at 800/746-9805, ext. 8817.

New Contacts and Location for Band's WIC Program

The Band's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program has a new Coordinator and Clerk. Deanna Thielbar is the Coordinator and Joanne Weyaus is the Clerk. To schedule appointments, please contact Joanne at 320/532-7485.

In addition, the distribution building has changed from the Ne-la-Shing Clinic to the Human Services Building at 17230 Noopiming Drive on Bugg Hill.

The next WIC clinic will be in Mille Lacs on March 20. For more information, please contact Deanna or Joanne at 320/532-7485.

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

October 2006

	Approved Budget for FY 2007	Actual Expenditures through 10/31/06	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	12,858,142	584,631	4.5%
Workforce*	7,164,056	456,134	6.4%
Judicial	948,944	44,735	4.7%
Law Enforcement*	3,570,084	202,425	5.7%
Education*	16,977,761	785,694	4.6%
Health and Human Services*	19,574,558	1,097,601	5.6%
Natural Resources*	4,320,043	558,646	12.9%
Community Development*	32,194,622	1,244,161	3.9%
Gaming Authority (5)*	992,830	216,599	21.8%
Bonus Distribution	0	2,273	0%
Total Expenditures	\$98,601,040	\$5,192,900	5.3%

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 from the tribal government.
- (5) The Gaming Authority is operating on a three-month continuing resolution for FY 2007.

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

Updates From the Office Of the Solicitor General

Jennifer Beck-Brown shares story of serving in Bosnia



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Beck-Brown

On February 15, Mille Lacs Band Deputy Solicitor General Jennifer Beck-Brown spoke at the Minnesotans' Military Appreciation Fund (MMAF) dinner. The annual event raises money for the nonprofit organization, which provides grants to soldiers returning from overseas as a way to thank them for their service.

Jennifer is a captain with the Minnesota National Guard's Judge Advocate General Corps, which provides legal service to

soldiers. At the dinner, she talked about her experience serving in Bosnia in 2003 and its affect on her family. After returning home after ten months overseas, she received a \$250 grant from MMAF. Jennifer spoke about her support of MMAF's work. For more information on the organization or to donate, visit www.thankmntroops.org.

Introducing Rjay Brunkow, Deputy Solicitor General

Rjay Brunkow joined the Band government as a Deputy Solicitor General in November 2006. His duties include handling contract review, a criminal caseload, and office administration work.

Rjay, a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, was formerly an investment banker for Wells Fargo Specialized Finance. He is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

"I'm excited about working for the Mille Lacs Band," Rjay

said. "The Band is a recognized leader throughout Indian Country on both the gaming side and the governmental side. The Band has been extremely progressive in finding ways to break new ground in all sorts of areas."

Meet the Band's new Housing Attorney, Barbara Cole

In February, Barbara Cole began working as the Band's Housing Attorney. In her new position, she works with the housing department on legal issues regarding rental properties, mortgages, construction, and other housing matters. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, and previously worked for a law firm in the areas of criminal law, civil rights law, and American Indian law.

Barbara was excited to hear about an opportunity to work with the Band. "I thought it would be great to work for a tribe and to also specialize in one particular area of law," said Barbara.

Nay Ah Shing Cheerleaders Perform at Minnesota Timberwolves Game



Nay Ah Shing cheerleaders perform a halftime routine with the Timberwolves Dance Team at the February 11 game.

By Eric North, Nay Ah Shing Schools Principal

In February, the Nay Ah Shing Cheerleaders attended the Junior Timberwolves Dance Team Clinic. The cheerleaders who attended the clinic were Destanie Anderson, Kelsey Benjamin, Amber Benjamin-Dorr, Dionne Cash, Anna Davis, Mercedes Deyhle, Shawntel Jellum, Shyla Lussier, Michelle Martin, Allison Mitchell, Brenda Mitchell, Susan Potter, Kyla Saice, Toni Weous, and Sherraine White. The Nay Ah Shing cheerleaders were

coached by Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe and Assistant Coach Sandi Jellum.

On Saturday, February 10, the cheerleaders learned a dance routine from the Timberwolves dancers and performed the routine during the halftime show at the Timberwolves game against the Boston Celtics on Sunday, February 11. This is the fourth year our girls have attended the clinic. We would like to thank all those who made this possible. We would also like to send a special thank you to student assistants Jessica Benjamin and Karissa Kegg.

Photo courtesy of Nay Ah Shing Schools

High School Students Encouraged to Enter Essay Contest

Prizes include trips and cash

Mille Lacs Band members attending high school are invited to participate in an essay contest that highlights American Indian triumphs, struggles, and young people's plans for Indian communities' futures. The 2007 Young Native Writers' Essay Contest is sponsored by Holland & Knight, a national law firm headquartered in Washington, D.C., that represents and advises the Band on federal policy issues.

Essays should discuss struggles and triumphs of American Indians in history and in today's world, and indicate how the writer will work to enhance the future of his or her tribal community. Subject suggestions include American Indian involvement in treaties, governments, languages, education, folklore, religion, entertainment, games, sports, media, and current events.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all high school students in public, alternative or home schools who are of American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Hawaiian descent or who are members of either a state or federally recognized tribe.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to winning essayists, including a college scholarship and all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to the five first-place winners, and a cash prize of \$500 to the five second-place winners.

Contest information

All entries must be received by Holland & Knight by June 1, 2007. To print a contest entry form and receive contest rules and other information, visit <http://indian.hklaw.com/2007/index.asp>. If you have any questions, call 866/452-2737 or e-mail indian@hklaw.com.

S.L.A.M. D.U.N.K.

Students Linked Against Meth; Don't Underestimate Native Kids

By Tammy Miller, Executive Planner/Meth Coalition Coordinator

February 21 was Native American Heritage Night at the Minnesota Timberwolves game. It was a night like no other. On that night, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Minnesota Timberwolves teamed up to prevent youth from using drugs.

The collaboration stated "Our mission is to encourage young people to link together in the fight against meth and work towards the preservation of their communities. The power of youth should never be underestimated. We are many, and our voices are strong."

The Mille Lacs Band purchased tickets so that students and families could attend together. Any youth attending the game on our behalf had to sign a contract pledging that they will never use

meth. The contract stated: "I commit to myself that I will do everything in my power to avoid making decisions that will jeopardize my health, safety, and overall well-being. I understand the dangers associated with the use of meth and the destructive behaviors often associated with its use. My signature below is also a pledge to my family and my people that I will bravely, stand proudly, and not accept meth use in my community. 'A hero's greatest strength lies in their voice. My voice is strong.'"

Along with a halftime show showcasing American Indian dances, we held a contest in which two students could win \$20,000 for their college education. The two students chosen were from Nay Ah Shing School.

Please look for future events promoting a drug-free lifestyle. A special thank you to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose for supporting this event. Families and youth had a wonderful time at the game.

Mille Lacs Band Adds Weather Radios To All Facilities

By Monte Fronk, Mille Lacs Band Emergency Management Coordinator

The Mille Lacs Band's Department of Public Safety is taking the next step in the National Weather Service's StormReady program – which recognizes communities prepared with action plans for responding to severe weather – by placing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios in all Band facilities in Districts I, II, IIa and III. The weather radios provide advanced warning of severe weather.

During the Emergency Management's hazard mitigation planning, the staff heard that Band facilities do not always receive advanced warning when severe weather is in the area. With the addition of these radios, people will be able to hear weather warnings easier. Although we usually think of air sirens as the main warning system, they are primarily meant to warn

people outdoors. The best warning device is an NOAA weather radio.

NOAA radios

NOAA radios broadcast National Weather Service announcements about potential serious weather, emergency information, and news on other hazards such as chemical spills. General weather information and forecasts are also broadcast 24 hours a day across the country. In the event of an emergency, the National Weather Service interrupts regular weather programming and sends out a warning.

I encourage everyone to purchase an NOAA weather radio for their home to further prepare for emergency situations. These radios can be purchased at general retail stores. You can also buy portable radios to use outdoors. For more information on weather radios, visit www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy March birthday to:

Big Joe, 5, on March 8 with love from mommy and Donna • **Mary Gale**, on March 5 from mom, Darryl, Forrest, Antavia, Arielle and Chad • **Jayla**, 1, on March 18 with love from Auntie Val, Pie, and Baby Kevin • **Bruce**, on March 19 with love from Val, Pie, and Baby Kevin • **Ashton Smith**, 3, with love from Uncle Derek, Susie, and kids • **Julia Sam**, 18, on March 21 with love from Susie, Derek, Baby D, Brooklyn, and Rihinna • **Adam Carrigan**, 2, with love from Uncle Derek, Susie, and kids • **Michelle Abuhamed**, on March 9 with love from Aseil Nemer Ameen • **Adrian Bugg**, on March 7 from mom, Rachel, Marcus, Auntie Becky, Max, and family • **Doug Sam**, on March 7 from your kids, Becky, Max, Arielle, Craig, Randy, Lance, DJ, Jasmine, Chrissy Belle, Leo, Nicholas, Joe Jr., Blade, Randy Jr., and Kiki • **Marcus**, on March 21 from mom, Adrian, Rachel, Auntie Becky, Max, and family • **Craig**, on March 30 from mom and dad • **Dana**, on March 27 from Dino • **Greg Crannell**, on March 30 with love from Sarah • **Mom**, on March 11 from Monica, Shawn, Shawna and Meghanne • **Kacie**, on March 17 with love from Meghanne, Monica, Shawn and Shawna • **Ria**, on March 21 with love from Monica, Shawn, Meghanne and Shawna • **Uncle Beercan**, with love from Monica, Shawn, Meghanne and Shawna • **Kali Anne**, 7, on March 15 with love from mom, Norman, Mama Karen, Papa Jay, Nikki, Gramma Jan, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy, Zayah, Jarvis, Nanz, Bonez, Daisy, and Gucci • **Tasha Marie**, 13, on March 2 from TJ, Bates and Kali • **Beige**, 15, on March 5 from TJ, Kali, Kinney Minnie, Big Jake, Sister, mom, Dusty, Todd, Curt, Jay, Karen, Nikki, and Jayson • **Jarvis Leigh**, 3, on March 18 from TJ, Bates, mom, dad, Zayah, Nanaz, Gramma Jan, Jaime, Cathy, and Kali • **RaeAna Larae**, 2, on March 16 from Auntie Tiff, Norman, mom, dad, Zayah, Jarvis, Gramma Jan, Jaime, Cathy, and Kali • **Delores**, on March 6 from mom and dad • **Micheala**, on March 19 from mom and dad • **David Bonilla**, 13, on March 1 from mom, dad, Alex, Joseph, Jonathan, Priscilla and family • **Joseph**, 14, on March 21 from mom, dad, Alex, David, Jonathan, Priscilla and family • **Bonnie Charwood**, on March 21 from Cindy B. • **Wanda Dorr Navaro**, on March 16 from Bonnie and Bob Charwood • **Cindy B.**, on March 17 from your friend B.D.C., Cheryl, the Gahbows and Weyaus families •

Baby Lawrence, on March 5 with love from Uncle Jack, Jaxin, Day, Chaddy, and Tommy Lee • **Andrew Sam**, on March 13 with love from Auntie Mini, Chaddy, Jack, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, and your family in Isle • **Uncle Eddie**, on March 13 with love from your nieces and nephews in Isle • **Owen Jr.**, 2, on March 7 with love from mom, dad, Auntie Day, Jaxin, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Huck, Buck Jim, Onee, Papa Tony, Brittany, and Diamond • **Huck**, 44, on March 17 with love from Jaxin, Day, Skye, Tommy Lee, Bice, Brittany, Diamond, Aaron, Bunny, Carrie, Buck Jim, Onee, Teen-O, Deondre, Cheeks, Minnow, Lil Jay, Big Jay, Mother Hubbard, Joe Cool, Dana, Dave, Tans, Ashley, and your gang at Jacks • **Lil Minnow**, on March 25 with love from Auntie Mini, Huck, Chaddy, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Brittany, Diamond, and Owen • **Alana Marie**, on March 26 with love from Mean Girl, Jack, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jaxin, and your family in Isle • **Owen Sr.**, 21, on March 27 with love from Day, Brittany, O.J. Diamond, Huck, Skye, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, Buck Jim, APB and family, Paul Bunny, Carrie, and the gang at Jacks • **Bev Garbow**, on March 30 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, Rog, Junior, Roy and Jillian • **Desi Smith**, on March 29 with love from Auntie Tam, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, Rog, Bev, Junior, Roy, Jillian, and your family • **Terry Smith**, on March 12 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, Rog, Bev, Junior, Roy and Jillian • **Gushy**, on March 22 with love from Tammy, Phil, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, Rog, Bev, Junior, Roy, Jillian, June, kids and grandkids • **Carrie Shaugobay**, on March 4 with love from Phil, Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, Renae, Zach, Jerry and Kira • **Renae Short**, on March 12 with love from mom, Zach, Jerry, Kira, Uncle Phil, Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, and John • **B-Boy**, 11, on March 9 with love from mom, dad, Kiki, Aaron, Damian, Grams and Rueben • **Linda Moose**, on March 5 with love from mom and family • **Jeffrey Jr. and Isabelle Boyd**, 5, on March 9 with love from Gram Barbara, Grandpa Pat, mom, dad, Branden, Bradley, Anthony, Amber, Alyssa, and Aaron • **Ruby**, on March 20 with love from Grandma Caroline and family • **Caroline Boelter**, on March 8 with love from your family • **Sami and Knute**, on March 12 from Shell and kids • **Kella Rae Churchill**, on March 16 with love from Jake, Aunt Bernida, Uncle Howard, Marisa,

and your family • **Justin Churchill**, on March 30 with love from Margaret, Madelyn, Drew, Aunt Bernida, Uncle Howard, Marisa, Jayson and family, John and family, Ryan, and your family • **Tommy Mattinas**, 24, on March 22 with love from Journey, Heather, mom, Stephanie, Mystery, Aunt Bernida, Uncle Howard, Marisa, Nigel and family, and your family • **Eyrah James Churchill**, 1, on March 11 with love from mom, and your family • **Donni**, 6, on March 10 with love from mom, dad, Greg, Marissa, Simone, Joey, Sheila, Mary, Mase Sr., Selena, Dante, Mase Jr., Shawsha, Gramma Vera, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Junebug, Franny, Bruce, Jim, and Nettie • **Marissa**, 12, on March 28 with love from dad, Rachel, Simone, Donni, Joey, Sheila, Greg, Mary, Mase Sr., Selena, Dante, Mase Jr., Shawsha, Vera, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Junebug, Franny, Jim, Bruce, and Jack • **Mary Kay**, 23, on March 28 with love from Mason Sr., Selena, Dante, Mase Jr., Shawsha, mom, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Marissa, Donni, Joey, Sheila, Greg, Danielle, DeaLayna, Stone, Junior, Frances, Jim, Jack, and Bruce • **Ma Dukes**, on March 24 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Boob, Sheena, Rayna, June, Jared, Amanda, Devin, Wanetta, Anton, Laikora, Kyrach, Tourrie, Bod, Carol, Joe, Sam, Damien, Aaron, Jordan, Dysen and Lamya • **Candi**, on March 24 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Boob, Sheena, Rayna, June, Ms. Gahbs • **Joe Beaulieu**, on March 16 with love from Grandma Cheryl, Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin, Lia, Boob, Sheena, Rayne, Jared, Wanetta, and family • **Marchel**, on March 21 with love from Auntie Cheryl, the Gahbow and Weyaus families • **Darrian**, 13, on March 8 from Sassi, dad and mom • **Gaylyn**, 12, on March 17 from Sassi, dad and mom • **Willow**, 3, on March 24 from Sassi, mom and dad • **Mike C**, on March 31 from Falon, Paschen, Trevor, mom, and Grandma Al.

Happy birthday in March to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Ramona Applegate
Nancy Bearheart
Marie Bengtson
Larry Benjamin
Randy Benjamin
Robert Benjamin
Joseph Budeese
Patricia Christofferson
Robert Davis
James Dorr

Robert Dorr
Beverly Garbow
Cheryl Garbow
Virginia Goodman
Bernice Grice
Marie Gudim
Mert Liebgott
Barbara Machen
Pauline Moose
Shirley Munson
Victoria Nichols
Laurie Pardun
Marie Paschke
Marlene Poukka
George Premo
Donald Sam
Douglas Sam
Fred Sam
Roy Sam
Francis Schaaf
Susanna Schaaf
Russell Shabaiash
Kathleen Shingobe-Johnson
Edward Skinaway
David Smith Jr.
Sandra Smith
Sharon Sutton
Robert Tibbetts
Carol Towle
Marlene Wakanabo
Barbara White

Birth announcements

Antavia Pendegayosh would like to announce the birth of her sister **Arielle Jewel Pendegayosh**, who was born on January 20. Proud parents are Mary Gale and Chad Pendegayosh, grandparents are Jane Rae Bruce, Darryl Bruce, and Charlene Shingobe.

• • •

Congratulations to Stephanie Mattinas and Patthew Quequish on the birth of their new baby girl **Mystery Morning Rain Mattinas-Quequish** who was born on January 23, 2007. She weighed 6 lbs. and was 19.5 in. long. *Congratulations from your families.*

• • •

Congratulations to Stacy Skinaway and Micheal Dubois on the birth of their new baby girl **Ashlyn Mae Skinaway** who was born on September 28, 2006. She weighed 6 lbs., 1 oz. and was 19.5 in. long. *With love from Day, Chaddy, Tommy Lee, Jack, Jaxin, and your family in Isle.*

• • •

Carlos and Mya would like to welcome home their new brother **Landen Saice** who was born on December 11, 2006. Proud parents are Yolanda Boyd and Brian Saice.

(Continued on page 11)

March 2007

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Commissioners On Call A Mille Lacs Band commissioner is available every weekend to help Band members handle emergencies. If you have an emergency, please contact the commissioner on call at 877/239-2444. The emergency phone is answered from 5 p.m. Friday- 8 a.m. Monday.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>*To Purchase Tickets Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at 612/989-5151, or visit www.ticketmaster.com</p>		<p>15 All District Elder Meeting GCML 5:30 p.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 ProAm Boxing* GCH 7 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444</p>
<p>18 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 District III Meeting GCH Hotel Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 877/884-6240 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>	<p>22 Craig Morgan* GCH 7 p.m. both nights</p>	<p>23 All offices closed for Treaty Day</p>	<p>24 Roy Orbison* GCML 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Al Olson, Commissioner of Community Development 877/239-2444</p>
<p>25 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Al Olson, Commissioner of Community Development 877/239-2444</p>	<p>26 District I Community Meeting District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Becky Sam, 320/532-7423</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 District IIA Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Marvin Bruneau, 218/768-3311 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>	<p>29 District II Meeting East Lake Community Center 6 p.m. Contact: Marvin Bruneau, 218/768-3311 Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church 5:30 p.m. Contact: Pat or Cindy, 612/872-1424</p>	<p>30 Creedence Clearwater Revisited* GCML 7:30 p.m. both nights</p>	<p>31 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Angella Roby, Commissioner of Finance 877/239-2444</p>

April 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Angella Roby, Commissioner of Finance 877/239-2444</p>	<p>2 Onamia LIEPC Meeting Onamia School District Office Conference Room 12-1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>	<p>5 Neal McCoy* GCH 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Golden Gloves Boxing* GCH 7:30 p.m. both nights</p>	<p>7 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Rick Boyd, Director of Housing 877/239-2444</p>
<p>8 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Rick Boyd, Director of Housing 877/239-2444</p>	<p>9 AMVETS Meeting GCML 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925 Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting Aazhoomog School 6:30 p.m. Contact: Skip Churchill, 320/384-6970</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 East Central Legal Services 12-4:30 p.m. Tamia Cramer, 800/622-7772</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Sarah Oquist, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs 877/239-2444</p>

Tribal Noteboard

(Continued from page 10)

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Niki Cote**, from Grand Rapids, for making the dean's list at Itasca Community College. *With love from mom, Mark, Autumn and Curly.*

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Congratulations to **Ron Davis and Dana Thomas** of Hinckley who were married on February

7, 2007. *Best wishes from your family.*

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Congratulations to **Deondre Sam** for making the honor roll. *With love from Mini, Jack, Chaddy, Jaxin, Tommy Lee, and your family.*

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Congratulations to **Nicole (Peterson) and Dennis Hyatt** who were married on January 27, 2007. *With love from Stacy and Angie.*

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Congratulations to **Jillian Garbow** for winning the Onamia Sno-Daze Junior Princess Royalty and for also making the honor roll. *With love from dad, mom, Junior and Roy.*

Anniversary

Happy 20th anniversary to **Jeff and Nancy Wood** on March 7.

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Happy 8th anniversary to **Jereck and Raenelle Weyaus** on March 6 from *Larissa, Corbin, Lia Rae, Boob, and mommy.*

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Happy 53rd anniversary to **Merlin and Marge Anderson** from your *we'eh Alena.*

Correction

Happy birthday to **Pauline** on February 12 with love from Cilla, Trina, Jason, Lindsey and Prince.

District Community Meetings

Film shown at District I meeting shows dangers of meth use

By Amanda Nickaboine,
Chemical Dependency
Counselor

At the January District I community meeting, the film "Tweaked" was shown. It is a 20-minute video that has great shock power. It was made to educate people about the dangers of meth use. The video shows terrifying stories of meth addicts, their behaviors, and horrendous crimes that were committed by addicts. The video also gives a history lesson on meth, including where it came from, who used it, how it is made today, and typical behaviors of a meth user.

I was introduced to the video during a methamphetamine curriculum training by Iowa State University. The program was designed to teach people how to educate their communities and teach youth in an artistic way. Many of the Chemical Dependency staff were trained on this curriculum and they are always looking for ways to present it to anyone willing to listen.

Along with the film, a presentation was given on having a healthy brain and on Dr. Daniel Amen's pioneering work in brain Single Photon Emission Computerized Tomography (SPECT) imaging. The machine scans the brain and shows its blood flow. It ultimately shows areas of the brain that work well, areas of the brain that are overactive, and areas of the brain that are underactive. Brain scans were compared on those who use drugs and alcohol and those who are in recovery – the images are astounding and give the medical field proof that addiction is a disease.

When there is not adequate blood flow to the brain, the brain doesn't work properly. There could be problems with memory, balance, mood, and thought processes. In fact, many of the images of those who abuse chemicals resemble disorders such as schizophrenia, depression, and Attention Deficit Disorder. However, with recovery, the brain can repair itself and get the adequate blood flow that is needed for all areas of the brain and body.

Anyone can find the video "Tweaked" by visiting www.escapemeth.com. There is another 50-minute video called "Tweaked: A Generation in Overdrive" that is also as graphic, but shows a family healing from four girls who were addicted to meth. On the Web site there is order information if anyone is interested in purchasing the videos. You can also visit www.amenclinics.com for more information on Dr. Daniel Amen and brain SPECT imaging.

Thanks to all those who attended the District I community meeting and a special thanks to District I Representative Alicia Skinaway and her Elder Advisory Board for inviting the Behavioral Health Services staff.

For more information, please feel free to call anyone on the Behavioral Health Services staff at 320/532-4754.

Community members learn about Corporate Commission's investments at District I community meeting

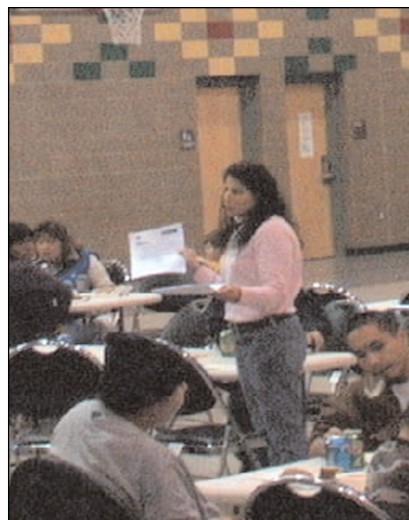


Rick Anderson

At a District I community meeting, Grand Casino Hinckley General Manager Mel Towle (above) and Corporate Commission Director of Development Martin Jennings talked about the Corporate Commission's new investment policy and spoke about recent investments. One project is the Key Lime Cove Water Park Resort Development in Illinois, which will be a destination resort with an indoor water park, conference center, spa, fitness center, shops, and restaurants. The Commission also invested in Welsh Companies Real Estate Fund, which is one of the largest real estate developers in the Twin

Cities. Mel and Martin also said that the Commission is working with the Natural Resources and Community Development departments to address traffic circulation and safety issues and to identify property for commercial use.

District IIA community meeting



Rick Anderson

Program Administrator Carmen Green (pictured above) informed community members at the January District II meeting about future meetings that will address Tribal enrollments.

Urban Area community meeting



Rick Anderson

District III Community Center Program Administrator Bobby Anderson (pictured above) spoke about diet and exercise at the January Urban Area community meeting. Other speakers included Fitness Coordinator Jim Ingle, who talked about the Band's fitness challenge for Band members and employees, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who discussed upcoming community meetings about tribal enrollments.

March and April Events At the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post

Ojibwe focus

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

Moccasin workshop

Participants will learn to make a pair of Ojibwe-style moccasins during this two-day workshop, which will be on Saturday, March 31 from 12-4 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, April 1. The cost is \$50 for the public, \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members, and \$30 for Mille Lacs Band members. There is also a \$15 supply fee for children/infant sizes, \$20 for adult sizes 6-10, and \$25 for adults sizes larger than 10.

Belt buckle workshop

Participants will learn bead-working techniques to create their own beaded medallions and belt buckles during a two-day workshop, which will be on Saturday, April 14 from 12-4 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, April 15. The cost is \$50 for the public, \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members, and \$30 for Mille Lacs Band members. There is also a \$10 supply fee.

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

Hours of operation

The museum and trading post will open on April 5. Public hours are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 12-5 p.m. Group tours can also be scheduled by calling the museum at 320/532-3632. Interactive television programming and outreach programming are also available.