

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

May 2008

"The story as it's told."

Volume 10 • Number 5

2008 Mille Lacs Band General Election Guidelines

A general election for Chief Executive, District I Representative, and School Board will be held **June 10, 2008**.

To vote in the general election, the following conditions must be met:

- Enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.
- 18 years of age as of June 10, 2008.
- Reside in a district of the Mille Lacs Reservation 30 days prior to June 10, 2008.

If you do not meet the 30-day residency requirement or have never resided within the district areas of the Mille Lacs Reservation, then you must vote by absentee ballot.

How to request an absentee ballot

If you cannot vote in person on June 10 at one of the Band's polling places, you can vote with an absentee ballot by taking the following steps:

1. Request an absentee ballot

You can request an absentee ballot in one of two ways. The first is by filling out the Absentee Ballot Request Form on page 2 and mailing or faxing it to the Election Judge. Note that you **MUST** choose the district in which you would normally vote.

If you or your family came from District I, II (East Lake), IIA (Isle), or III, you should vote absentee from that district. If you do not have familial or residential ties with a district, you should choose a district to vote from and consistently vote absentee from that area.

After you fill out your Absentee Ballot Request Form, mail it to the address provided under number four of this article or fax it to the Election Judge at 320/532-7506. **DO THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, because the ballot must be sent to you and received back at the government center via mail, which will take some time.

Or, you can request an absentee ballot by calling 320/532-7792 or 800/709-6445, ext. 7792. Ask for the Election Judge, Roberta Fox. If you leave a message, you **MUST** provide all of the information requested on the form, including the district from which you will vote, your full name under which you are enrolled, and your return address. If possible, **PLEASE LEAVE A RETURN TELEPHONE NUMBER** in case the Election Judge needs to contact you.

2. Follow up if you do not receive your ballot

Within a few days, you will receive an absentee ballot via mail. If you do not receive a

ballot within a reasonable time – approximately **FIVE** days – please call the Election Judge at 800/709-6445, ext. 7792.

3. Complete your ballot and have it notarized

A Notary Public needs to notarize your ballot. Notaries are generally not hard to find and may be found at your local bank or even your post office. Make your choice of candidates, then sign the ballot in front of the notary. **DO NOT** sign your ballot without a Notary Public witnessing you!

4. Seal your ballot and mail it in the envelope you are provided to the attention of the Election Judge

The address of the General Election Board is:

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
General Election Board
Attn: Election Judge
43408 Oodena Drive,
Onamia, Minnesota 56359

Any election questions can be directed to Roberta Fox at 320/532-7792 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Voting is your unique right under the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the laws of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Please take advantage of the opportunity to vote.

Candidates

Chief Executive

- Melanie Benjamin, incumbent
- Marge Anderson

District I Representative

- Alicia Skinaway, incumbent
- Sandra Blake

District I School Board Chairperson

- Ruth Sam, incumbent
- Rose Wind

District I School Board Member

- Dale Ballinger, incumbent
- Leann Benjamin

District II School Board Member

- Cheryl Miller

Polling Places

Polling Places – Open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on June 10

- District I Community Center
- East Lake Community Center
- Isle Chiminising Community Center
- Lake Lena Community Center
- All Nations Indian Church – 1513 E. 23rd Street, Minneapolis



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
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Onamia, MN 56359



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Absentee Ballot Request Form

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe • General Election • June 10, 2008

I am requesting an absentee ballot for the June 10, 2008, general election.
My full name, which I am enrolled under, is:

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

District which I will vote from:
 District I-Nay Ah Shing
 District II-East Lake
 District IIA-Isle
 District III-Lake Lena

Signed _____

For Office Use Only

In person: _____

Date voted: _____

By mail: _____

Request received: _____

Phone: _____

Letter: _____

Fax: _____

Request form sent: _____

Request form received: _____

Ballot sent: _____

Ballot received: _____

2008 Election Calendar

- May 9: Notice of regular election, TEC provide ballots
- **June 10: General election**
- June 11: General reservation election board certifies results of election
- June 12: General reservation election board publishes election results
- June 13: Deadline for request for recount
- June 17 (5 p.m.): Deadline for notice of contest
- June 18 (or 17, 16, if request for recount is filed before deadline): Decision on request for recount and results of recount, if allowed
- June 27 (or 10 days from notice of contest, whichever is sooner): Decision on contest
- June 30: Deadline for appeal to court of election appeals
- July 3: Record of contest forwarded to tribal court of elections appeals
- July 7: Last day for hearing on appeal (hearing within seven days of notice of appeal)
- July 8: Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the court of election appeals
- Ten days from hearing on appeal: Deadline for decision of the court of elections appeal
- Day following decision of appeal: Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office

“Putting High-Tech to Work for You” Is Theme of Economic Development Conference

About 114 attendees participated in an economic development conference held on April 29 and 30 at Grand Casino Hinckley. The conference was hosted by the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Workforce Center, and Northern Minnesota Technology Institute – the first time these groups had partnered together for this event.

The conference, titled “Putting High-Tech to Work for You,” focused on topics such as e-commerce for artists, technology trends, health care savings accounts, and high-tech communications for businesses.

Keynote speaker Jack Uldrich, president of the NanoVeritas Group, discussed lessons to help businesses stay ahead of the

curve in emerging technologies. Dan Conroy, operations manager for the Nexon Group, was another keynote speaker and presented “Best Kept Secrets and Missed Opportunities (Manufacturing’s Future Workforce).”

Conference attendees also participated in workshops, viewed an art show, networked with other participants, and enjoyed fun social activities.

The Corporate Commission annually holds an economic development summit to bring together businesses, government agencies, and other organizations to assess trends and generate ideas on joint efforts to ensure healthy, prosperous economies.

Ask Melanie

What opportunities for home ownership are currently available to Band members?

Many Band members have asked me about how they can obtain assistance to purchase or construct a new home. There are several sources of assistance available, including:

1. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Home Loan Program – This program provides a maximum loan of \$160,000 to Band members for a 35-year mortgage at a very low interest rate of 2%. This is an extremely popular program for Band members, which is why there is currently a waiting list for applicants. Our staff estimates that the current waiting period is close to three years. Band members who are interested in applying for this program can contact Connie Kittlesen at 320/532-4181.

2. Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Finance Corporation – The MCT provides loans to enrolled Band members for use in building or purchasing homes within the state of Minnesota. The maximum loan amount is \$201,000 for new construction or for home purchase. Renovation loans can be an amount up to the appraised equity. New construction loans include a 3% contingency set aside to cover potential cost overruns. Land purchases may be included in the financing package up to 10% of the total loan. The MCT provides classes to educate applicants about this program. For more information or to inquire about future classes, Band members can contact Cindy Beaulieu at the MCT at 218/335-8582. Application information is also available online at www.mctfc.org. Small business loans are also available to MCT members through this program.

3. Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program – This is a federal program through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

designed to assist American Indian families with obtaining a home mortgage. With Section 184 financing, you can get into a home with a low down payment, no mortgage insurance, and flexible underwriting. Loans more than \$50,000 require a down payment of just 2.25%, and loans less than \$50,000 require a down payment of 1.25%. Also, you don’t have to pay a mortgage insurance premium each month. Instead, a one-time 1% loan guarantee fee can be added to your final loan amount. To get a loan, you must apply with a HUD-approved Section 184 lender. For more information, contact Cindy Kuntz at Woodlands National Bank at 888/532-4142 or visit HUD’s Web site, www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/homeownership/184, to learn more about the program.

4. Multi-Indian Urban Housing Project – The Band recently partnered with five other tribes to provide affordability gap financing for Band members living in the urban area. Qualified buyers can borrow up to \$35,000 to cover gaps in financing, which is the difference between a home’s cost and the mortgage amount. More information about this program is provided on page 8. Band members can contact LindaLee Retka at 800/709-6445 to apply for this program.

These are just some of the options available for home ownership. It is our goal as a tribal government to continue to work toward providing as many options as possible to help Band families obtain quality, affordable homes.

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

2008 Chief Executive Candidate Bios

Melanie A. (Staples) Benjamin

52 years old
 Single with 1 son (Clayton) and 3 grandchildren (Clayton Jr., Aubrey and Roxann)
 Current employer: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
 Current position: Chief Executive
 Years in position: 8 years (two 4-year terms)
 Prior employment: Heavy Equipment Operator for Riley Brothers Construction Company (two summers, 1998-1999), Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Administration (1989-1997), Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration for Grand Casino Hinckley (1994-1995), Business Development Specialist for Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (1986-1988), Instructor at Itasca Community College
 Education: Currently pursuing a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, bachelor's degree in business administration from Bemidji State University (1988), clerk/typist certificate from the Minneapolis Area Vocational Technical Institute, and GED from McKinley High School
 Organizations involved in: Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN), Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), MCT Finance Subcommittee, Mille Lacs Tribal College Board of Regents, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), Minnesota Indian Gaming Association (MIGA), Federal Home Loan Bank Advisory Committee, American Indian Supportive Housing Initiative (AISHI), Indian Law Resource Center, Native Americans for Hillary Clinton, Indian Health Service Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, and Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium Board of Directors.

Marge Anderson

Elder
 Married
 Current employer: Retired
 Current position: N/A
 Years in position: 24 years in Tribal Government
 Prior employer: N/A
 Prior positions: District I Representative, Secretary/Treasurer and Chief Executive
 Years in positions: District I Representative 11 years, Secretary/Treasurer, 4 years, Chief Executive, 9 years
 Education: High School Graduate, Honorary Doctorate Degree
 Organizations involved in: Chair, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Housing, Chair, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwa Housing Dept., Vice President, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minneapolis Area Vice President, National Congress of American Indians, Treasurer, National Unity Caucus, President, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, Director, Federal Home Loan Bank, Board Member, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Board member, Harvard University, Harvard Project on Economic Development, President Clinton's Transition Team.

Graduations and Celebrations

The school year is once again coming to a close, which means awards banquets and graduation ceremonies are just around the corner. Following is a listing of upcoming events:

- Wednesday, May 21 – Nay Ah Shing Upper School graduation
- Thursday, May 29 – District I Early Education graduation
- Friday, May 30 – fourth grade graduation at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiiyag
- Friday, June 20 – District III Early Education graduation

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe would also like to invite you to attend the graduation celebration picnic at the Mille Lacs Band Tribal College on **Friday, May 30**. The graduation celebration, sponsored by the Higher Education Department, is the

perfect opportunity to celebrate and recognize the achievements of our graduates. This celebration helps us realize that goals and achievements can be reached through hard work and dedication. There will be food and door prizes. All districts graduates and their families are invited to attend.

Please R.S.V.P. to Sami Thomas at 866/916-5282 by Tuesday, May 27.

If you are graduating this year, please contact the scholarship office to make sure you are on their graduation list. For event locations or other information, please call the Nay Ah Shing Schools at 320/532-4695, or the Mille Lacs Band Scholarship Office at 866/916-5282.

Friday Night Fights

The Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission will host a professional boxing event on Friday, June 6, at 7 p.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley. Boxers Anthony Bonsante and Carl Daniels will compete in the main event.

Anthony "The Bullet" Bonsante is a professional middleweight boxer from

Shakopee. In 2005, Bonsante was featured on NBC's *The Contender*. Carl Daniels is a light middleweight boxer from St. Louis, Missouri.

Other boxers to compete include Allen Litzau, Phil Williams, Marcus Upshaw, Wilton Hilario, Harley Kilfian, and Band member Kirstie Davis.

Workforce Center Offers College Preparation Class

The Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center is offering a college preparation class for Band members and employees. The class will answer questions about applying and preparing for college and help people fill out forms such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Minnesota Indian scholarship application, and Mille Lacs Band scholarship application.

The class will be offered in three different locations; each class will be held from 10 a.m.-noon:

- June 10 – East Lake Education Modular (next to the community center)
- June 18 – Lake Lena Community Center
- June 26 – Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center

To register, contact the workforce center at 320/532-7407 or e-mail Theresa Romard at theresar@millelacsojibwe.nsn.us.

Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult. Contact the workforce center for a complete list of workshops and classes offered throughout the year, or look for more information in future editions of the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

Resumé and cover letter writing assistance

The Workforce Center staff is available to assist you in writing a resumé or cover letter

at the locations and times below:

- District I – Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center – Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Classroom closed daily from noon-1 p.m.)
 - District II – East Lake Community Center – Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 - District III – Lake Lena Community Center – Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Please note that hours may vary depending on community event closings.

In order to better serve you, please come prepared with the following:

- Objective – your reason for applying for the job
- Employment history – including employer names and locations, dates employed, and details of past and present job positions
- Education history – including name(s) of school(s), graduation year(s), and degree(s) received
- Copy of advertisement/job posting for the position for which you are applying
- Community involvement/interests/hobbies – these tell the employer a little more about you and your character

For more information, please call 800/922-4457.

Voter Engagement Training Held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs



Photo courtesy of Mary Sam

(left) Trainer Pamela Twiss and (right) Elizabeth Towle are simulating a one-on-one conversation during relationship building.

By Mary Sam, Local Government and Community Relations Coordinator

Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota (NVAM) in collaboration with Wellstone Action sponsored a nonpartisan voter engagement training on April 22 and 23 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Similar trainings were held in White Earth, Leech Lake, and Red Lake.

The Mille Lacs Band Governmental Affairs Office hosted the two-day training, which was open to the community. About 30 people participated. Participants included Mille Lacs Band members, tribal members from Leech Lake, Red Lake, and Fond du Lac, and community members from Mille Lacs County.

Wellstone Action Fund's Native American Leadership Program provided funding for the 2008 Native voter engagement trainings (NVES). The trainings are designed specifically to address the unique legal status of tribes in tribal, federal and state elections and provide nonpartisan training in creating voter plans, registering voters, and electing leaders that best represent the interests and values of Native constituencies. Each participant in the two-day Native voter engagement training session was provided a customized curriculum on voter education and mobilization – called the Native Nonpartisan Voter Engagement Manual – to use in their communities.

NVES is designed to train organizations and individuals in the basic skills of voter engagement; assist them in creating voter engagement plans for their communities and assessing those plans; help them build collaborative, resource-sharing networks with other organizations; and ultimately lead to increased voter turn-out.

Mille Lacs was fortunate to be trained by White Earth enrollee Peggy Flanagan. Peggy is the first American Indian to hold a seat on the Minneapolis School Board and is currently running for a

position in the state Legislature. Our second trainer was Pamela Twiss, Program Director for TakeAction Minnesota.

For the Mille Lacs Band, our goal is to help our community become engaged in the voting process on the tribal, local, state and federal levels. Others before us fought for our right to vote; now it is up to us to make sure that we are all voting. We have crucial elections on all levels and it is important that our Band members are aware of the issues facing our communities and our country! We want to help Band members realize that every vote matters and that individual votes can make a huge difference in the lives of everyday people. This training encouraged us to step out of our comfort zones to learn how to use our voices, our hands, and each other to engage our community in getting involved in voting issues.

The Mille Lacs Band is looking for Band members who are interested in serving on the Get-Out-to-Vote Team. Volunteer duties may include phone calling, door knocking, providing rides to the polls on Election Day in November, and more. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Elizabeth Towle at 320/384-4661 or me at 320/532-8853.

Feedback from Band members who attended the training

"This was a great training... I was inspired to get involved in voting... Many myths about politics were dispelled and I feel empowered."

– Amanda Nickaboine

"It was a good training... It inspired me in so many different ways!"

– Bernie Johnson

"This training was very informative, always interesting, and really positive!"

– Joe Edgerton

"The NVAM/Wellstone Action voter engagement training was very interesting and important.

– Sandra Blake

Contract Health Services

Contract Health Services (CHS) provides health care coverage on services required for patient care that cannot be provided at the Mille Lacs Band clinics. There are some circumstances that may result in services being denied by CHS, including not giving adequate notice to the CHS Administrator.

To be eligible for CHS, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a Mille Lacs Band member or a spouse or child of a Band member.
- Reside within the Mille Lacs Band's CHS delivery area, which includes Mille Lacs, Aitkin, Pine, and Kanabec counties.

Following are basic coverage guidelines for CHS after a person's eligibility has been established:

- CHS will pay for care/services at community clinics, hospitals, emergency room facilities, etc. when the Band's clinics are closed and the care/service cannot wait until they are open, or when the care/service required cannot be provided at the Band's clinics.
- CHS will pay for specialty services only after referral from a tribal provider. Referrals require prior approval from the CHS Administrator.
- CHS will pay for prescriptions for eligible persons only if the prescription has been written by a provider on the Mille Lacs Band-approved prescriber list

or a specialist referred by a Ne-la-Shing Clinic provider.

- CHS is the payer of last resort. All other resources must pay first. CHS will then pay co-pays, deductibles, etc., except for Medicaid, which is considered payment in full.
- Notice of services received for emergencies or during a time when Ne-la-Shing Clinic is closed **must be made to the CHS Administrator within 72 hours of service for people under age 55, or within 30 days of service for Elders (age 55 or older). The notice may come from the patient, his/her family, or his/her provider's staff.**
- **CHS will not pay for services at other facilities when Ne-la-Shing Clinic or one of the district clinics is open and able to provide the needed services.**
- **CHS will not pay for services when the patient is eligible for alternate resources and has refused to apply for them.**
- **CHS will not pay for services related to automobile accidents if the patient was not in compliance with state automobile insurance laws.**
- **CHS will not pay for services for illnesses or injuries that result from illegal use of alcohol/drugs.**

For more information on CHS, please contact Francis Davis, CHS Administrator, at 320/532-4163, ext. 2515.

Nay Ah Shing Students Compete in Spelling Bees



Photo courtesy of Eric North

Students pictured from left to right: (first row) Taylor Nadeau, Francis Davis, and KeiAnna Sam; (middle row) Alizayah Nickaboine, Brandon Wade, and Thomas White; (back row) Julius Aubid, Eddie Nadeau, and Darius Barnes.

By Eric North, Nay Ah Shing Schools Principal

Once again "March Madness" took over the halls of Nay Ah Shing High School and Abinoojiiyag Elementary School in the form of spelling bee competitions. Students were busy memorizing words such as "legislative" and "illusion." The

students had an excellent time, and the competition was exciting.

"We have seen our students make huge gains over the years in their reading scores, and therefore their spelling skills as well," said Mary Simon, Dean of Students.

Congratulations to our spectacular spellers!

Minnesota Celebrates 150th Anniversary in May

On May 11, Minnesota will mark its 150th anniversary of statehood. As events and celebrations will be held throughout the state, two Mille Lacs Band employees have written articles in connection to this milestone. Don Wedll, Mille Lacs Band Long-Range Planner, discusses the history of Minnesota's statehood in a "Moccasin Telegraph" column. Natalie Weyaus, Mille Lacs Band Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Elder, shares information about the Band's Tribal Historic Preservation Office with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota as the organization examines the state's preservation movement. Following are their articles.

Celebrating Minnesota's 150th Anniversary: A Look Back at American Indians' Role in Our Statehood

By Don Wedll

This May we will commemorate Minnesota's 150th anniversary and reflect on the people and events that helped shape our state's history. American Indians, including the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, are some of the people who played a major role in the state's development – long before reaching statehood.

About 500 years ago, many American Indian tribes began migrating west. By the mid-1700s, ancestors of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe had settled around Mille Lacs Lake, and hunted, fished and gathered as their way of life. Not long after, settlers and fur traders migrated to the area and saw opportunities to settle on tribal lands. As the U.S. was growing, the government entered into treaties with American Indian tribes and promised to give them monetary payments, reservation lands, and goods and services in exchange for their land.

In 1837, the Minnesota Chippewa (Ojibwe) tribes entered into a treaty with the U.S. that ceded approximately 12 million acres of land in present-day north central Minnesota and northern Wisconsin. In return, the

government provided payment to the Ojibwe tribes and preserved their rights to hunt, fish, and harvest wild rice on the ceded lands. In the Treaty of 1854, the Ojibwe ceded their lands in the Arrowhead region.

Then in 1855, the U.S. negotiated another treaty with the Ojibwe tribes to further acquire land, gaining millions of acres in what is now central and north central Minnesota. In exchange for this land, the government created reservations for the tribes – including the Mille Lacs Reservation – and promised them money, goods and services. Dakota Indian tribes also signed treaties that ceded land for the expanding Minnesota territory, including much of the southeastern part of the territory.

On May 11, 1958, Minnesota became the 32nd state, largely due to tribes' land cessions. Up until 1851, most of what is now Minnesota was still owned by either the Ojibwe or Dakota Indians. The U.S. bought most of Minnesota with three major treaties, which required tribal people to move onto reservations.

The government often did not fulfill parts of the promises it had made in the treaties it signed with tribes. This created much conflict, and in 1862, the Dakota Indians launched a war against white settlers and solicited other Ojibwe tribes to join them. The Mille Lacs Band refused to join in the fight and instead helped protect the settlers. Because of this "good conduct" during the Dakota Conflict, the Mille Lacs Band was able to retain its home on the Mille Lacs Reservation through treaties made in 1863 and 1864.

Apart from ceding lands to the expanding U.S. government, the Mille Lacs Band has made many other contributions to our state, including supporting economic development in our area. Mille Lacs Band members traded furs and Ojibwe goods to European traders, and later sold traditional crafts to tourists who flocked to the Mille Lacs area. The Band even opened a trading post on the Mille Lacs Reservation, which today serves as a gift shop next to the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. In the early 1990s, the Mille Lacs Band opened Grand

Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley, which today provide thousands of jobs and economic impact on the region by attracting millions of visitors to the area each year.

Without the government obtaining land from the Indian tribes through treaties, Minnesota would not be the state we have today. As we celebrate Minnesota's sesquicentennial, it is important to look at the past to learn about the people who played a part in developing our state and how their actions have affected our present and future.

Don Wedll is developing a 50-year plan for the Mille Lacs Band that addresses education, housing, health care, and other needs.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Historic Preservation Office

By Natalie Weyaus

My name is Natalie Weyaus. I am a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Director of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). I am honored to share my work and history of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's THPO with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, and to celebrate the state of Minnesota's 150th anniversary.

History of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe THPO

In 1996, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians established a THPO to assume authority of the National Historic Preservation Act on the Band's lands. The Mille Lacs Band and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe were two of the first 12 tribes to establish THPOs in the U.S. that year. The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office wrote a letter of support in establishing a State Historic Preservation Office on tribal lands. The letter was included in the grant that was written to the Department of the Interior/National Park Service to establish a THPO on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

Role of the THPO

The Band's THPO is dedicated to the preservation of archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties, which include burial mounds, cemeteries, and ceremonial sites within the boundaries of

the Band's jurisdiction and on lands held in trust for or owned by the Band. Tribal Historic Preservation Officers have the responsibilities of State Historic Preservation Officers on tribal lands. We consult and work with federal agencies on the management of tribal historic properties. Tribal Historic Preservation Officers also preserve and rejuvenate the unique cultural traditions and practices of their tribal communities.

Cultural preservation extends across many lands. Tribal Historic Preservation Officers recognize that the cultural and heritage preservation interests of Indian nations and their people extend far beyond the boundaries of present-day reservations – often crossing state and national boundaries. They also stand ready to assist in activities relating to cultural and environmental issues across many boundaries. Before the colonization of the U.S., there were no boundaries establishing where indigenous people resided. Many federal agencies understand the concept of "no boundaries" and meet not only with one tribe, but many tribes in consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Confidentiality of information

Federal agencies are requested to recognize and respect the confidentiality of information regarding Native cultural and ceremonial practices and places of religious or cultural significance. Many times, sensitive information of these traditional cultural places are given a privileged or confidential status when shared between THPOs and federal agencies.

Prior to working as a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Natalie Weyaus worked for the Mille Lacs Band as a high school math and science teacher; an Associate Magistrate; the Chief Justice; and Director of the Iowa State Outreach Project, which researched the effects of substance abuse on American Indian families and helped develop an intervention method for the Native bands involved.

Band Member Remembers Mentor With an Eagle Feather



Photo courtesy of Arne Vainio

Band member Dr. Arne Vainio (left) shares the importance that his mentor, Dr. Ed Haller (right), has had on his life and career.

Mille Lacs Band member Dr. Arne Vainio works on the Fond du Lac Reservation and is sharing his personal stories in a series of articles in News From Indian Country.

Below is an excerpt from Arne's seventh article:

Dr. Haller's cancer took him quickly.

My wife, nine-year-old son, and I went to see him the day after I heard of his cancer. This was about a week after he had first fallen. He had a CT scan that showed a brain tumor, but it wasn't known at the time exactly what it was. We went to see him, his wife Irina, and his daughter at his house. He was already unable to walk, but was able to talk with us at length. We spent a long time with him that day.

He was in the hospital the next week for his biopsy. This came back showing he had glioblastoma multiforme. This

was not the result hoped for as this can be a very aggressive cancer.

I saw him later in the week, by then he was getting radiation treatments. That and the medicines needed took a lot out of him and he was very tired.

Within the next few weeks he was in a hospice house for respite care. This means that nurses and volunteers will give the family some time to take care of other business. This was supposed to be for a few days only, but his breathing worsened and he was hardly eating. He ended up staying there instead of going home.

I had an eagle feather presented to me after I became a doctor. Ivy (my wife) suggested we give it to Dr. Haller. I knew she was right, now was the time to pass this gift on. I wanted to do this with as much respect as possible and wanted to honor our traditions

properly. My family is tied closely to a traditional Ojibwe couple that we very much respect. I called Joe and asked him if this would be proper and how we should go about it. I feasted the feather by making some food that my mother and grandfather loved. I put this on a piece of birch bark with some asema (tobacco) and put it outside so my ancestors could eat with me. We saged the feather that night and smudged ourselves before we went to the hospice house.

My son sat with my wife next to Ed. Irina stood at the head of the bed next to him. I wanted my son to see how we respect the people who so selflessly teach and nurture us. I talked to Ed and my son at the same time. I explained how the eagle is sacred to us, is an intermediary between us and the spirit world, and can carry messages there. I've been told an eagle feather dropped at a powwow represents a fallen warrior, and only a veteran can pick it back up after a special ceremony. Eagle feathers are given for achievement or courage.

This was an eagle feather given to me for becoming a doctor – that achievement was partially Dr. Haller's. He had to have courage to face what he was up against now. I explained that in our respective journeys, my son was just beginning and Ed was moving into a different part of his journey. Even though he was leaving us, he would

remain as a larger part of the spirit that helps others. My son doesn't know who will help him in the future, but those people are out there now. We don't know who he will help in the future. But he will.

We explained how to care for the feather to Irina, she will honor that.

I went to see Dr. Haller the next night and sat with him for a long time. He didn't respond at all. The feather was at the head of his bed. I have never taken it upon myself to present an eagle feather to anyone and do not take this lightly. This needed to be done, and I felt it needed to be the feather that was presented to me. I would much rather have had Joe or a medicine man do this, but time was very short. I accept any criticism for this. At some point we will return the feather to where it came from. Joe explained what we would need to do. Hopefully he will help us with that.

Ed died that night with Irina by his side.

Ed wrote Irina a letter, she wasn't to open it until after he died. Part of it was "no one ever dies unless they are forgotten." Many will remember him. My family and I will never forget him. He is a part of our lives forever.

To view Arne's entire article, visit www.indiancountrynews.com and click on the food and health section.

Notice from the Court Liaison Program

The District Court Liaison Program transports Band members living on the reservation to tribal, county and state court-ordered activities. Following are some reminders for those individuals who use the court liaison services:

- Please contact the court liaison office immediately for transportation. Individuals are served on a first-to-sign-up basis, and everyone is encouraged to contact the liaisons five days ahead of time to set up transportation.
- Due to the limited number of liaisons who provide transportation in various areas, there are occasions when we cannot meet everyone's requests. Priority is given to individuals who made earlier arrangements for transportation.

- All juveniles must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Individuals who need transportation must provide a phone number and address in the event that a liaison needs to contact them.
- Transportation during inclement weather is left to the discretion of the individual providing the transportation.
- No transportation is provided for witnesses, people who are visiting family members in jail, or for non-court-related situations.

If you have any questions, please contact Court Administrator Gilda Burr at 320/532-7401.

Thank You to Our Emergency Medical Personnel

By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator

Emergency Medical Services Week will be celebrated May 18-24 to recognize the valuable service that emergency medical personnel provide to their communities. Thank you to the Mille Lacs Band's nine emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and 62 first responders for your outstanding service.

First responders are volunteers who are trained in trauma response, CPR, defibrillator use, patient stabilization, and other basic emergency preparedness skills. Some Mille Lacs Band employees' jobs require them to obtain first responder or

EMT certification, but others simply choose to be certified to better serve our community.

The Indian Health Service provides our first responder and EMT training and recertification training sessions. We recently held a training course for new EMTs and first responders and one for those who needed to renew their certification, which is required every two years by the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board.

If you are interested in becoming a first responder or EMT, please contact me at 320/532-4181. Thanks again to all of our emergency medical personnel for your hard work.

East Central Legal Services Summer Hours

By East Central Legal Services

East Central Legal Services (ECLS) provides free legal advice and/or representation in civil matters to low- and moderate-income Mille Lacs Band members, their spouses, and their minor children who live in Morrison, Mille Lacs, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Pine, Hennepin, and Ramsey counties under the contract guidelines.

ECLS also conducts community legal education on legal topics of interest to Mille Lacs Band organizations. If you would like to schedule a presentation, please call 800/622-7772.

Advice or representation is free, but clients may still be required to pay court fees and other costs unless those fees and costs are waived by the court and/or organization.

ECLS provides a Legal Assistant to conduct outreach in all districts. During the past few weeks, it has come to our attention that our clients in the outlying communities would rather have scheduled appointments. This will allow them to schedule other meetings or tasks in the same area, helping to reduce gasoline costs. As a result, we will change our hours for the months of June,

July and August (we will resume our outreach office hours – as listed in the Mille Lacs Band Programs & Services Guide – in September).

New hours

- Mille Lacs Band Government Center – Wednesdays, noon-4:30 p.m. (We are keeping these regular office hours due to our proximity to other programs and Tribal Court.)
- East Lake Community Center – every other Tuesday by appointment only, either morning or afternoon
- Lake Lena Community Center – alternate Tuesdays by appointment only, either morning or afternoon
- Chiminising (Isle) Community Center – every other Thursday by appointment only, either morning or afternoon
- Urban Workforce Center – By appointment only

For an appointment in your area, please call 800/622-7772. We can also conduct the initial intake of information over the phone. Other accommodations can be made for Elders or for disabled people.

Public Health Updates

Upcoming men's health event

A men's health event will be held on June 12 at the District I Community Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to help encourage men to participate in early screenings and prevention of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and other diseases. Other departments involved in the event include Behavioral Health Services, the Self-Governance Office, and the Human Resources Department. If you have ideas for the event or would like to set up a booth, please contact Rob Thompson at 320/532-4181 or Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812.

Health fair

The Health and Human Services Department is planning a health fair for all community members on June 17 at the District I Community Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have ideas or would like to set up an informational booth, please contact Roberta Ladd at 320/532-4163 or Marlene Poukka at 320/532-7812.

Community Health Representatives transportation services policy

Community Health Representatives are available to assist Mille Lacs Band members with transportation services for specialty medical or dental appointments. Transportation will not be provided for medical appointments outside the immediate service area if the same or equitable health service is available at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. A referral from your medical provider at the Ne-la-Shing Clinic is necessary for transportation outside the area.

We also provide medication delivery to homebound Elders

in the three districts. Please call your individual district to see what day is available (see phone numbers below).

Purpose

To ensure that Mille Lacs Band members who have no means of transportation are able to obtain needed specialty medical and dental services.

Procedure

- Clients in need of transportation should contact their district office:
District I office – 320/532-7815
District II office – 218/768-2389
District III office – 320/384-0149
- Clients must provide documentation and/or a referral from their health care provider.
- Clients are advised to request transportation at least two days in advance of their appointment.
- Clients with last-minute appointments will be transported only if there is a Community Health Representative available.
- Clients requiring emergency transportation must call 911.

Service hours

- Transportation will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (exceptions will be considered on an as-needed basis).
- Transportation will not be provided on any Band holidays.

Welcome to Elizabeth Trutwin

Elizabeth Trutwin recently joined the Public Health Department as a Registered Nurse for District I. Welcome, Beth!

Scholarships Available to Criminal Justice Students

The Mille Lacs Band Public Safety Department is offering scholarships to Mille Lacs Band students pursuing degrees in criminal justice. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2008.

Eligibility requirements

- Must be a Mille Lacs Band member
- Must be currently registered at an accredited post-secondary institution or community college
- Must be a second-year student or registered to enter your second year of studies
- Must be seeking a degree in the criminal justice field
- Must have a current grade point average of 2.50 or higher
- Must submit a three-page, double-spaced essay on why you chose to study criminal justice and how this scholarship opportunity

would assist you in reaching your career goals

- Must submit three letters of recommendation

Award guidelines

The students selected to receive the scholarships will not be eligible to reapply annually. Candidates will be expected to produce a certified copy of their academic records and school enrollment, proof of Mille Lacs Band membership, their three letters of recommendation, and their essay.

Please submit all requested materials to:

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

The application deadline is July 31, 2008.

For more information

Contact the Public Safety Department at 320/532-4181, ext. 7540 for more information.

Seeking Vendors for Mille Lacs Powwow

The Mille Lacs Band traditional powwow is August 15-17. The powwow committee is seeking Band member craft and food vendors. Please contact Robert Thompson at 320/532-7841 for more information.

MLB Youth

Do you have what it takes?

Come discover what **Business Ownership** is all about.

We invite Mille Lacs Band youth in grades 7-12 to apply for our 2008 Youth Entrepreneurship Summer (YES) Camp.

The YES Camp will be held June 22 - 27. We will select the top 20 students who show their interest and dedication for entrepreneurship.

The camp is a partnership between Nah Ah Shing School and the Corporate Commission's Small Business Development Program. This year we're expanding our coverage area with the goal to involve more Band member youth.

Deadline for applications Tuesday, May 27
Contact
Gina for applications 320-532-8850
John for questions 320-532-8812

We Won!

Our 2007 YES Camp youth attended and won the 2008 National American Indian Business Leaders Business Plan Contest in Las Vegas.

Taking it away from an 8 year- winner by one point, the students impressed the judges with their YES Camp business plan. They captured unusually high scores for high school students.

Watch for more youth winner details in the next issue.

Join the winners circle!



Call today!

Mille Lacs Band Of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

March 2008

	Approved Budget for FY 2008	Actual Expenditures through 3/31/08	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)*	13,014,256	5,182,007	39.8%
Workforce*	10,051,961	2,289,554	22.8%
Judicial	1,085,086	425,027	39.2%
Law Enforcement*	3,666,991	1,576,794	43.0%
Education*	14,362,864	7,170,521	49.9%
Health and Human Services*	22,542,304	10,575,828	46.9%
Natural Resources*	4,476,112	2,112,273	47.2%
Community Development*	38,541,648	9,297,710	24.1%
Gaming Authority	4,441,857	1,990,764	44.8%
Bonus Distribution	27,137,267	16,046,225	59.1%
Total Expenditures	\$139,320,346	\$56,666,703	40.7%

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 2007 fiscal year.

Tribal Members Eligible for New Home Financing Program in Twin Cities

Members of federally recognized American Indian tribes have a new home financing option available to them in the Twin Cities metro area. Led by the Mille Lacs Band, five tribal communities recently announced the Multi-Indian Urban Housing Project, which will help more Indian people afford homes through "affordability gap financing."

Affordability gap financing will assist qualified buyers in covering the difference – up to \$35,000 – between a home's cost and the mortgage amount for which each individual qualifies. Enrolled members of any federally recognized tribe are invited to apply for the program. The program's coverage area is the 11-county Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area.

The Mille Lacs Band will coordinate the affordability gap financing, made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Individual participants will be responsible for obtaining the first mortgage financing for the homes they wish to purchase. The program is supported by the Leech Lake Band, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Mille Lacs

Band, Red Lake Nation, and White Earth Band; as well as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Financial Corporation, Bremer Bank, and the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation.

"Making homeownership possible for Mille Lacs Band members has always been one of our top priorities," said Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive. "By working together, our five tribes will achieve the dream of homeownership for many more Indian people than we could ever accomplish working on our own."

Applicants for affordability gap financing will be considered based on their proof of tribal enrollment, proof of mortgage commitment from an approved lender, income, completion of a homebuyer training course, and compliance with any local property requirements.

For more information about the Multi-Indian Urban Housing Project or eligibility requirements for affordability gap financing, please contact LindaLee Retka, Mille Lacs Band Assistant Director of Housing, at 320/532-7454 or 800/709-6445, ext. 7454.

Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum

Memorial Day Powwow

The annual Memorial Day Powwow sponsored by AMVET Post 53 will be held Monday, May 26 from 12-5 p.m. on the museum grounds. Dancers, singers and vendors are welcome. For more information about the powwow or to sign up for the moccasin game tournament, contact Ken Weyaus at 320/309-6925.

Black ash basket weaving workshop

Participants will learn to split, pound, dye and weave wood into baskets during this three-day workshop, which will be held 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on June 6-8. The cost is \$175 for the public, \$170 for Minnesota Historical Society members, and \$150 for Mille Lacs Band members.

Tribal Noteboard

Happy May birthday to:

Jarvis James, 16, on May 5 with love from Shelby, Jacob, Jamie, Ava, Auntie Nick, Jameson, Cordell, Lil Chris, Grandma Karen, Grandma AA, Sharon, Ravin, Wallace, Auntie Val, Kevin, Pie, and Baby Kevin • **Shelby**, 18, on May 9 with love from mom, Jarvis, Jacob, Jamie, Ava, Auntie Nick, Jameson, Cordell, Lil Chris, Grandma Karen, Grandma AA, Sharon, Ravin, Wallace, Auntie Val, Kevin, Pie, and Baby Kevin • **Izannia Inez Nickaboine**, 10, on May 7 with love from mom, dad, brothers and sisters • **Grandma G**, on May 1 with love from Jordan, Destanie, Shyla, Dallas Jr., Dallas Sr., Tina, mom, dad, Mile, Elv, and Bud • **Chase**, 3, on May 13 with love from Auntie Rosebud, Junior, Amare, Daityn, Kamryn, and Grandpa Bob • **Kamryn**, 6, on May 16 with love from mom, Junior, Daityn, Amare, and Grandpa Bob • **Ronni**, 7, on May 26 with love from Auntie Rosebud, Grandpa Bob, Junior, Kamryn, Amare, and Daityn • **Mom/Grandma**, with love from Tara, Shaun, Geo, Troy, Isaiah, Tamara, Erica, Romeo, Jason, Brookey, Wally, Ravin, Missy, Nick, Destiny, Mike, Alexis, Izik, Diamond, Corey, Brandi and Brittany • **Trookey**, 3, on May 8 with love from mom, grandma, Shaun, Geo, Isaiah, Auntie Missy, Erica, Tammy, Uncle Wally, Sharon, and all your cousins • **Isaiah**, 2, on May 12 with love from mom, grandma, Shaun, Geo, Travis, Trooks, Auntie Missy, Erica, Tammy, Uncle Wally, Sharon, and all your cousins • **Uncle Wally**, from Shaunie, Geo, Troy, Isaiah, Romeo, Jason, Brookey, Lexis, Brandi, and Britti • **Romeo**, 7, with love from mom, dad, Jason, Brookey, Auntie Tara, Shaunie, Geo, Troy, Isaiah, Auntie Missy, Tammy, Uncle Wally, Chey, PJ, Andy, and all your cousins • **Molly**, on May 16 from your Sister Sami and Sonny • **Kimberly Big Bear**, on May 21 from Auntie Sam, Sonny, Chocolate, Momma Judkins, and Papa Scott • **David Thomas**, 6, on May 25 from Grandma Sami, Uncle Sonny, Auntie Chilah, Bobby, Dezyre,

and Xavie • **Stevo**, on May 3 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin, and Lia • **Auntie Brenda**, on May 4 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Uncle Jerry**, on May 6 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Sheena**, on May 13 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Baby Joe**, on May 25 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Shawna Beaulieu**, on May 26 with love from Raenelle, Jereck, Larissa, Corbin and Lia • **Merlin Anderson**, on May 11 from Raenelle and family, Dal Jr., Jordy, Destanie, Shyla, Tina, Dal Sr., Gina, and Marge • **Gina Anderson**, on May 1 from Raenelle and family • **Dallas Jr.**, 12, on May 7 from Raenelle and family, Shy, Des, Jor, dad, Auntie Tina, Gramma Gina, Elvis, Miley, Buddy, Gramma Nazz, and Papa • **Dad**, on May 4 with love from B-Boy and Kiki • **Randy Sam Sr.**, on May 4 from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John and Elias • **John Donahue**, on May 8 from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John and Elias • **Jill Garbow**, on May 15 with love from dad, mom, Junior, Roy, Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, and Elias • **Jordan and Joshua Smith**, on May 25 with love from dad, Auntie Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, and Elias • **Vicki Smith**, on May 19 with love from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, Elias, Rog, Bev, Junior, Roy and Jillian • **Tara Smith**, on May 27 from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John and Elias • **Tyler Smith**, on May 22 from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John and Elias • **David Smith III**, on May 8 from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John, Elias, mom, dad, Elliot and kids, Lydia, Charlie and kids, Liz, Dylan and kids, Chelsie Keith, and C-Bass • **Brandon Smith Jr.**, on May 6 from Tammy, Brandon, Amy, Brandi, John and Elias • **Beverly Sutton**, on May 2 from the Workforce Center • **Brenda Beaulieu**, on May 4 from the Workforce Center • **Simon Yang**, on May 10 from the Workforce Center • **Valerie Boyd**, 24, on May 9 with love from mom, dad, Sarah, Sam, and all the

kids • **Sarah Boyd**, on May 18 with love from mom, dad, Val, Samantha, and all the kids • **Liz**, on May 21 from mom, dad, Man, Elliot and kids, Lydia, Charlie and kids, Liz, Dylan and kids, Chelsie, Keith, and C-Bass • **Jazz**, on May 28 from Gramma June, Papa Guzh, dad, brothers, Uncle Charlie, Lydia and kids, Liz, Dylan and kids, Uncle Manny, Chelsie, Keith, and C-Bass • **Sis**, on May 12 with love from Val • **Tator Tot**, 3, on May 19 with love from Auntie Val, Kevin, Pie, and Baby Kevin • **mom**, on May 27 with love from Mariah and Kevin Jr. • **Pie**, 12, on May 31 with love from mom, dada, baby brother, Gramma Kim, Papa Brad, Braelyn, Baby Eric, Gram A, Gram Karen, Tracy, Jarvis, Shelby, Jake, Jamie, Ava, Nicole, Chris, Jameson, Cordell, Baby Chris, Sharon, Wallace, Ravin, Jay, Kate, Taylor, Paige, and Rachel • **Maysun Jr.**, 4, on May 27 with love from mommy, daddy, Selena, Dante, Shawsha, Soul, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Marissa, Joey, Sheila, Donni, Greg, gramma, DeaLayna, Stone, Junior, Franny, Danielle, Jim, Jeanette, Jack, and Bruce • **Cyrell Boyd**, on May 29 with love from dad, mom, Kelia, Rachel, Richard, Jeremy, gramma, Chan, grams, Landon, Chris and Johnny • **Richard and Rachel**, on May 14 from Kelia, Big Rell, Candy, and Ern • **Jonathan Boyd**, on May 6 from Candy, Ern, Cyrell, Rachel, Jeremy, Kelia, and your we-eh • **Bill**, on May 9 with love from Clara, Emma, Lenore, and the rest of your family • **Jerone**, on May 5 with love from your dad (Bill), Emma, Clara, and Lenore • **Kayana Bearheart**, on May 15 from Gramma Molly and Papa Scott • **Mark**, on May 27 from Molly and Scott • **Adrianna**, 7, on May 3 with love from mama and Jo • **Gordon Jr.**, 4, on May 10 with love from mama and Jo • **Jiz-O**, on May 31 with love from Sha-V.

Happy May birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Merlin Anderson
Alvina Aubele
Elisse Aune
Brenda Beaulieu

Beverly Benjamin
Maurice Boyd
Anthony Davis
Virginia Davis
Edna Day
Winona Evens
Lorraine Farah
Dale Garbow
Geraldine Germann
Harry Granger
Gertrude Hanson
Allen Hemming
Harold Hill
Vincent Hill
Patricia Jackson
Betty Kegg
Clarabell Kruse
Vera Mager
Frank Mason
Dominic Mayotte
Janelle Meehl
Earl Mitchell
James Mitchell
Pauline Mitchell
William Mitchell
Lawrence Moose
Ardith Morrow
Albert Murphy
Lorraine Nickaboine
Ole Nickaboine
Donald Olson
Betty Quaderer
Patricia Regguinti
Ronald Sam
Geraldine Shingobe
Virgil Skinaway
Beverly Sutton
Victoria Verkennes
Herbert Weyaus
Larry Wind

Thank you

Thanks to the **Mille Lacs Band and Herb Weyaus** for helping out Alyssa Dorr to travel to New York for a band trip. Alyssa attends Milaca High School and she's involved in various school activities.

In memory

In memory of **Myron Vernon Garbow** – May 12, 1943-April 9, 1999. Hey dad – I just wanted to wish you a very happy 65th birthday. I wish you could be here to celebrate your birthday with us. We all love you and miss you very much. *From your baby Raenelle.*

May is National Lyme Disease Awareness Month

By Rob Thompson, Safety/Risk Manager

Lyme disease was first named in 1977 and is caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*. This bacteria is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected tick.

Two types of ticks carry the Lyme disease bacteria in the U.S.: the deer tick, which is the most common tick and typically found in the Northeast and Midwest, and the Western black-legged tick, which is found along the Pacific coast of California and Oregon.

If you find a tick on your body, remove it as soon as possible. Infected ticks usually do not spread Lyme disease until they have been attached for at least 36 hours. If you cannot remove the entire tick from your body, consult a doctor.

Symptoms of Lyme disease

- Round, red rash that spreads at the site of the tick bite
- Flu-like symptoms such as fatigue, headache, sore muscles and joints
- Tingling and numbness in your hands, feet and back
- Trouble focusing thoughts; poor memory
- Weakness or paralysis in your face muscles

These symptoms can start at any time, from three days up to a month after you have been bitten. Some people do not even have any symptoms during the early stages and may not be aware that they were bitten.

How is Lyme disease diagnosed?

- By examining your signs and symptoms
- By looking at the round, red rash

- By conducting a blood test to check for the bacteria in your blood

How is Lyme disease treated?

Antibiotics are used to treat Lyme disease and can cure the disease within three weeks if detected early. If left untreated, Lyme disease can cause major problems with your skin, joints, nervous system, and heart. These problems often improve with antibiotics, but in some cases the disease will last for a person's entire lifetime.

How can we prevent Lyme disease?

- Protect yourself from ticks by covering your skin if you are going into wooded or grassy areas
- Wear a hat, long-sleeved shirt, and long pants with the legs tucked into your socks
- Use bug spray that contains the chemical DEET to repel ticks, and spray it directly onto the skin

Remember to check your pets daily because these ticks could fall off your pet and attach to you. Also, utilize a tick repellent designed for pets to help keep them from becoming sick.

The most important thing to remember is to get medical treatment ASAP if you suspect that you may have been bitten by a deer tick. Early detection greatly reduces the potential for the advanced stages of Lyme disease, when it is difficult to treat and cure.

If you would like more information about Lyme disease, please contact the Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services Department at 320/532-2500.

Wisdom Steps Conference to Be Held at Grand Casino Hinckley

Elders from tribes across the state will gather for the 8th annual Wisdom Steps conference at Grand Casino Hinckley on June 17-19. Wisdom Steps is a statewide program that encourages American Indian Elders to become more aware of and responsible for their health by advocating proper nutrition, regular exercise, and health screenings.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin will provide the welcome address during the event's "Honoring Our Elders"

awards dinner on June 18. That night, keynote speaker Dr. Arne Vainio, a Mille Lacs Band member who works on the Fond du Lac Reservation, will present "Getting Better with Age."

Elders are invited to participate in workshops on topics such as nutrition, fire prevention, and living wills; take part in a Wisdom Steps Walk; and enjoy fun games and entertainment at the conference.

To register, please contact Karen Sam at 320/532-4181, ext. 2160. The last day to register for the conference is May 30.

Legislative Session Nears End

By Jamie Edwards, Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs Coordinator/State

At the time of print, a number of issues were being resolved as the state Legislature nears the end of the session; both the Legislature and Governor were working to find a solution to the state's nearly \$1 billion budget shortfall.

Looking back at the last three months, the Legislature has accomplished a surprising amount of work in a short period of time, including the passage of a transportation bill and a bonding bill. The second year of a legislative biennium is typically shorter and primarily devoted to passing a bonding bill and technical bills for state agencies.

Solving the state's budget shortfall is the last thing that remains for legislators and the Governor to agree on before they complete their business. The final plan will likely result in some reductions in state funding for programs that provide services for American Indian people.

Fortunately, there have been few threats against the Band this session on the gambling expansion front. But it is already clear that next year's budget-setting session will be difficult. There may be some elected officials looking for new money to put into the state's treasury that would have detrimental consequences for the Band. We will continue to monitor any possible developments.

Free Hearing Evaluations

Ne-Ia-Shing Clinic

When: Friday, June 13
To schedule an appointment call 320/532-4163.

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

Twin Cities locations

Where: Hearmore Hearing offices in St. Paul, Osseo, and Bloomington

When: Monday-Friday

To schedule an appointment, please call the St. Paul office at 651/771-4019, the Osseo office at 763/391-7433, or the Bloomington office at 952/884-3007.

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

Mille Lacs Band's Diabetes Team Recognized by the American Diabetes Association

The Diabetes Team provides self-management education to people with diabetes and has met the American Diabetes Association's national standards.

Our friendly health care professionals provide you with the information you need to take control of your diabetes.

Join us to learn more on June 10 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the District I Community Center.

Contact Sue Swanson at 320/532-7790 to register.



Dr. Fred Ness heads the Mille Lacs Band Diabetes Team. He and his friendly team of health care providers work to help Band members with diabetes manage their health.

Calendar of Events

May 2008

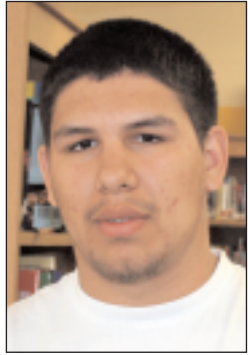
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact Kelly Sam at 651/292-8062 or write to Kelly at 255 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 102 St. Paul, MN 55101</p>	<p>Commissioners on call A Mille Lacs Band Commissioner is available 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>*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 11:30 a.m. Contact: Nora Benjamin, 320/532-4181</p>	<p>16 Little Big Town* GCML 7:30 p.m. both nights</p>	<p>17 Grand Asian Concert* GCH 8 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services 877/239-2444</p>
<p>18 Michael Bolton* GCH 4 p.m. <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services 877/239-2444</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 District IIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Carmen Green, 320/676-1102</p>	<p>22 District III Community Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley Ballroom, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 320/384-1424</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Joycelyn Shingobe, Commissioner of Education 877/239-2444</p>
<p>25 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Joycelyn Shingobe, Commissioner of Education 877/239-2444</p>	<p>26 All offices closed for Memorial Day Memorial Day Powwow 12-5 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 District I Community Meeting District I Community Center, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Kimberly Sam or Sarah Oswaldson, 320/532-7423</p>	<p>29 District II Community Meeting East Lake Community Center, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311 Urban Area Community Meeting All Nations Indian Church, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb, 612/872-1424</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources 877/239-2444</p>

June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Curt Kalk, Commissioner of Natural Resources 877/239-2444</p>	<p>2 Onamia Indian Education Parent Committee Meeting Onamia School District Office Conference Room 12 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Friday Night Fights* GCH 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>7 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> R.J. Brunkow, Solicitor General 877/239-2444</p>
<p>8 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> R.J. Brunkow, Solicitor General 877/239-2444</p>	<p>9 AMVETS Meeting Grand Casino Mille Lacs 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 Mille Lacs Band General Election Polls open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. See page 4 for more information</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Men's health event 10 a.m.-4 p.m. District I Community Center</p>	<p>13 Boston and Styx* GCH 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444</p>
<p>15 <i>Commissioner on Call</i> Christine Costello, Commissioner of Administration 877/239-2444</p>	<p>16 Health Fair 10 a.m.-4 p.m. District I Community Center</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>

What is Your Best Memory From the Last Week of School?

Matt Hattfield



"My best memory is when I beat my brother in basketball three games to zero."

Amber Buckanaga



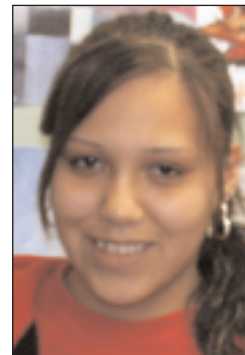
"My best memory is playing four squares with my fellow students."

Anthony Buckanaga



"My best memory is from my junior year in school and me and Matt Hattfield duct taped Anna Broom to her chair."

Ravin Pendegayosh



"My best memory is the big picnic they have at Onamia High School. You get to play outside almost the whole day."

Renae Short



"My best memory is when all the kids and staff go into the gym to play games."

Phillip Harrington Jr.



"My best memory is when I was running on the treadmill and I slipped and hit the wall behind me."

ValaReya Leecy



"My best memory was leaving sixth grade. We had slumber parties that whole week and had lots of good memories from our teachers. We got spoiled, and I met a lot of new friends."

Matt Eagle



"My best memory is when we had the National Guard here and they brought an obstacle course with them."

Photos courtesy of Rick Anderson

Names and Faces

Young dancer attends Timberwolves cheerleading camp



Photo courtesy of Diane Gibbs

District III Band member Cedar LaFave had the opportunity to attend the Minnesota Timberwolves cheerleading camp in March. Cedar is five years old and in Kindergarten at Hinckley Elementary School. She participated in the half-time dance performance during the Timberwolves v.s. Clippers game on March 17, 2008.

Band member excels in school

Congratulations to Zachary Daly Romero for making the A-honor roll for the last three quarters. Zachary is in sixth grade at Coon Rapids Middle School and his GPA is 3.71. Congratulations from your family.

Jillian Garbow named prom queen at Onamia High School



Photo courtesy of Bev Garbow

Onamia High School held its prom on April 26, 2008. Alice Johnson (left) and Mille Lacs Band member Jillian Garbow (right) both were chosen as prom queens. Jillian Garbow is a senior at Onamia High School who will be graduating in May and will be attending college in the fall. Jillian is the daughter of Roger and Beverly Garbow.

New staff at Lake Lena Community Center

The Lake Lake Community Center would like to welcome Bonita Lucas as the new receptionist as of March 11; Michelle Peer is the new Program Administrator as of April 14; and Tony Benjamin is the new Maintenance Tech as of April 21.

Healthy Heart Participant Success Story



Photo courtesy of Sue Swanson

Healthy Heart participant Elsie Karsjens.

Elsie Karsjens is one of our most successful participants in the Healthy Heart program. Along with improvements in her overall health and well being, she has been a regular attendee of the Healthy Heart classes and case management visits. Staff members say Elsie has a very nice demeanor and is very pleasant to talk to. She is willing to participate in most of the program's activities and group walks. She gives a 100% effort when working towards her Healthy Heart goals. Congratulations, Elsie!

Healthy Heart Program

Studies show that you can reduce your risk of developing heart disease by treating and controlling your risk factors, such as blood pressure, weight,

and cholesterol, and by stopping smoking if you are a smoker. The Healthy Heart Program is now offering education classes on heart health in group settings and one-on-one visits. These classes consist of weight loss, physical activity, and nutritional advice for controlling blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes. Special individual education and management are also provided by health care providers and a diabetes case manager. At this time, there are 48 individuals who participate in the project.

The program's goals are to:

- Help individuals:
 - Increase their physical activity (to 150 minutes per week or 10,000 steps per day)
 - Obtain 7% weight loss
 - Control heart disease risk factors with behaviors and medication
 - Feel better
 - Learn better nutrition and activity behaviors
- Learn the best ways to help other American Indians and Alaska Natives with diabetes prevent cardiovascular disease (we are evaluating the project to learn what works best).

The next Healthy Heart class will be held on May 27 at noon at the District I Community Center.