

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

November 2009

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

Volume 11 • Number 11

## Time to Talk Forum Draws Hundreds



Don Shelby

### WCCO News Anchor Don Shelby is keynote speaker

By Toya Stewart Downey

Hundreds of people gathered at Grand Casino Mille Lacs last month to discuss topics that aren't typically easy to talk about, particularly with strangers. Yet, it didn't stop the conversations about racism, prejudice and injustice from happening during the third annual "It's Time to Talk Forum on Race: Tear Down the Walls and Build Community."

The event was sponsored by the Mille Lacs Area Human Rights Commission and featured WCCO News Anchor Don Shelby as the keynote speaker. Several Band members and Band elected and appointed officials participated in the Oct. 18 event.

Don, who was given the name Obahshii Winini by the Red Lake Nation, has long

been involved in community building and race relations efforts. During his presentation, Don told the audience about his background growing up in the South and witnessing injustices firsthand then and throughout his life.

While it has saddened him, it has also fueled his fire to fight the wrongs he's encountered. And he encourages those around him to do the same.

"You're faced in this community with bigotry and injustice, and what's the answer?" he asked. "Well, you're figuring it out as you go."

"Patience is active, it's a concentrated strength. It doesn't matter who is right, it matters what is right," he continued. "Small moments change people's lives and small awareness's change people's lives."

Don told the group that often intolerance in a community finds its fountainhead in fear but understanding the people and their fear could be the first step to healing. He reminded the community members that have invested their time and energy into finding peaceful ways to coexist that, "you didn't make yourself weaker by extending a hand."

"It may be the hand that they were looking for to pull them to a higher moral plain. Kindness always wins. The evidence is so clear, kindness and nonviolence is the way," he said.

### Elder Dorothy Sam encourages people to listen and keep an open mind

Band Elder Dorothy Sam was a featured speaker at the event and shared her thoughts on why the conversation was important. Dorothy has long been an advocate of creating racial harmony through tolerance and understanding.

"There's been racism and prejudice all over for many years," she said. "What's a helpful way that we can communicate with everyone so that racism doesn't get in the way?" she asked.

"We're not going to get rid of it because it's out there, but what we can do is have a healthy attitude," she said. "If everyone, God willing, maintains a spiritual attitude all the time, we can maintain healthy and good attitudes."

"And we need to continue to talk to one another," Dorothy continued. "There are so many things that Indian, white, and black people can do to get along so the Great Spirit looks down on us in a good way."

"Don Shelby's talk was a good start, but there are so many things we need to do to make sure we have a healthy community," she said. "I'm hoping that what Don said helps us have an open mind and hear people."

## Chief Executive Attends Conference With President Obama

On November 5, Chief Executive Marge Anderson and other tribal leaders from across the country joined President Obama for the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. The President requested the meeting to help him understand how his administration can better address the needs of American Indians.

During his Presidential campaign, President Obama promised to respect the nation-to-nation relationship between the U.S. and tribes. That message was reiterated on November 5.

"I'm absolutely committed to moving forward with you and forging a new and better future together," the President said. "It's a commitment that's deeper than our unique nation-to-nation relationship. It's a commitment to getting this relationship right, so that you can be full partners in the American economy and so your children and your grandchildren can have an equal shot at pursuing the American dream."

(Continued to page 4)



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

[www.millelacsojibwe.org](http://www.millelacsojibwe.org)

Printed on 100% recycled paper

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

## Students at Nay Ah Shing Lower School Learn About Fire Safety



Photo courtesy of Early Education

Students from the Early Education Giigoo Room learn how to hold a fire hose from a Garrison firefighter during the Mille Lacs Early Education Program Fire Safety Day on Thursday, October 8. The Fire Safety Month event at the Nay Ah Shing Lower School was coordinated by the Mille Lacs Early Education Program, the Mille Lacs Band Emergency Services Program, and the Garrison Fire Department.

## Kids Learn Safety Tips For Trick-or-Treating



Toya Stewart Downey

Children at the Mille Lacs Band urban community meeting on October 29 listened attentively as Carla Nielsen, a crime prevention specialist from the Franklin Avenue Safety Center, provided practical tips for a safe night of trick-or-treating.

## DNR Offers Firearm Safety Certification Course



Photo courtesy of Jenny Waugh

Band members learned the standard shooting positions in a Firearm Safety Certification Course led by Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources conservation officers at the East Lake ceremonial building on October 13-15. Participants included (back row from left to right) Conservation Officer Mike Taylor, Stormy Pike, Joe Moore, Conservation Officer Eric Hanneken, Conservation Officer Jared Rosati, (front row from left to right) Ashlinn Moore, Jennie Johnston, Julius Aubid, Winnie Fredrickson, and Lexi Campbell.

## Understanding the Health Care Debate

### MN Rep. Thissen and Sen. Lourey weigh in

By Toya Stewart Downey and Jamie Edwards

Too many Americans lack health insurance coverage, are underinsured, or cannot afford to pay the high costs of health insurance. And unless something changes, many say the situation is likely to get worse.

But finding a solution that works for the majority of people is causing major discourse locally and around the nation as the government tries to reform the ailing system.

"Minnesota is doing better than other states yet the insurance system doesn't work for too many Minnesotans," said Rep. Paul Thissen, a Minneapolis DFLer and chairman of the House health policy committee.

"That's because it is not affordable for the masses, it is not accessible for many, and there are still racial, access and economic disparities throughout the state," Rep. Thissen added. "Solving the health care problem is a complex challenge, and there is no one single answer."

To understand the crux of the discussion, it is important to know the fundamentals of the proposed reform. President Barack Obama and many other Democratic lawmakers share two common objectives – to expand health insurance coverage and slow the growth of health care spending.

For more than four decades, the cost of health care has grown significantly, outpacing wages, the economy, and inflation. The U.S. is expected to spend more than \$2.5 trillion this year alone.

Because of the increasing costs, employers are cutting back on health insurance coverage and requiring employees to pay more.

Democrats are proposing several options to ease the burden of the burgeoning costs. They are:

- Reducing the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on Medicare to pay hospitals and other health care providers.
- Moving away from a fee-for-service model that bases pay on quantity of care rather than quality of services.
- Using more information technology.
- Better managing chronic diseases.
- Creating more options for preventative care to save money over the long-term.

"The thing we have to fix is how we pay for health care," said Rep. Thissen. "Right now we pay by procedure. We should pay the

physician to take care of the whole person."

State Senator Tony Lourey, a Kerrick DFLer whose district includes Lake Lena, agrees that the system needs a major overhaul.

"We need to start declaring health care a basic human right. If we can get there, it is a better and more productive discussion," said Sen. Lourey.

Sen. Lourey, who coauthored a universal health care bill and is chief author of the "Make Health Happen Campaign," said he does not believe that anyone should be denied health care for any reason, but too often it happens which forces people to show up in emergency rooms across the state for care because ERs can't turn people away.

"Primary preventive care is the way to do business, and if we can grab that understanding, we're all better off," he said.

To help drive down the cost of health insurance, lawmakers favor the idea of a public insurance plan that could compete against private insurers. Others have proposed private nonprofit health care cooperatives that could compete with private insurers. Some legislators also want to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income families as well as provide subsidies to those who can't afford coverage but don't qualify for Medicaid.

As the lawmakers continue to work on the details, there are significant steps being made to move the reform forward. In November, the U.S. House passed a bill that would remake the health care system. Lawmakers say that tens of millions of people would gain affordable insurance thanks to this bill. Though opponents disagree with this assessment and say that the proposed reforms would end up costing much more money than anticipated.

There is also talk of a government-run program insurance plan that would negotiate rates with medical practitioners and hospitals rather than having set government pricing or an option for states to opt out of government-run insurance plans.

The debate can be a frustrating one, particularly because there are so many views to consider, but Sen. Lourey suggests that people "follow the debates, make sure you're as educated as possible, and realize it's not as threatening as it sometimes seems. Stay engaged and continue the dialogues."

*This is the first in a two-part series on the health care reform debate. Next month's article will focus on the impact to the Mille Lacs Band.*

## Bringing Experience and a New Perspective to Health And Human Services



**Don Eubanks**

**By Toya Stewart Downey**

Don Eubanks brings a unique perspective to his role as the Band's Health and Human Services Commissioner. He's a second-term Commissioner who served a decade ago and then went to work for the State of Minnesota.

Don was first appointed Commissioner in 1997 and served a three-year term. During this time, he oversaw the completion of the Elder assisted living units, the opening of a battered women's shelter, and the creation of Circle of Health.

"We put together Circle of Health as a way to ensure that all Band members had health care insurance with the hopes that we would be able to become our own self-insured program," he said. "We didn't anticipate health care costs skyrocketing, which stopped our efforts because we spent more money than we anticipated."

"We're now looking at creative ways to keep coverage and maintain costs," he said. "We're trying to reign in expenditures that Circle of Health was never meant to cover."

During his first tenure, he also oversaw the completion of the clinic in Lake Lena. "We still haven't successfully staffed the clinic, and I am saddened by that," he said. "We rotate staff in District I, II and III, and we've been doing that for years."

He also said the same holds true for the staffing situation at the assisted living units – they are understaffed and in some cases, under-utilized, by the Elders. "The primary goal of the assisted living units was to provide Elders a place to live on the reservation when loved ones or others couldn't take care of them." But for a variety of reasons, the units are not at capacity, particularly outside of District I."

Don said he is dismayed by the lack of progress in some other areas, including the gang and substance abuse problems that plague the Band. "There are

many things as a people that we used to take care of as a family and community, but that responsibility has been shifted to the tribal government and not family," he said.

"We're there to offer services, but we can't take the place of moral or ethical values that used to hold us together as a people," he said. "There's only so much the government can do, and I think there's only so much the government should do."

Still, Don has seen great progress in other areas. Diabetes education has improved and he's witnessed more Elders working on physical fitness. Healthy and nutritious meals are also being provided in more venues.

He's also seen changes in social services. "The Band is making stronger strides to place children in safe homes when they are in danger or being neglected," he said.

He's also seen growth within the department of Health and Human Services to better serve Band members.

Before returning to the Band, Don served for seven years as the director of the Chemical Health Division for the state's Department of Human Services (DHS) and for two years as the director of multicultural affairs for chemical and mental health administration for the DHS.

Over the years he's served as director of a father's resource center, director of an Indian teen program at the Division of Indian Work, worked as a counselor in a group home for delinquent youth, worked with emotionally disturbed youth, and worked with a local community action youth organization.

He's also had experience in the corporate world. "I enjoyed working in the business world, but it wasn't fulfilling to me," Don said.

In order to have the kind of career that was fulfilling to him, Don returned to college to complete his bachelor's degree in social work and later his master's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota. Don also has an associate of arts degree from Minneapolis Community College.

These days Don is focusing on the Band's future and the health of its members. "How are we supplying services to Band members, are they effective, are they responsive, and are they culturally appropriate? What kind of system changes do we need? These are the questions I'm seeking answers to," he said.

Don has two children, Rafael and Gabriella, and lives in Roseville with his wife, Mara Molenaar.

## Updates From Community Meetings

### District I

The District I community meeting was cancelled due to a funeral.

### District II East Lake

**By Elizabeth Towle**

Donna Burr spoke about the Mille Lacs Band emergency energy program and the Minnesota state grant application. The Minnesota State Energy Program helps people pay propane and electric bills, weatherize houses, and fix furnaces. Eligibility is based on income and three recent propane bills.

If you have any questions about this program, contact Donna at 320/532-4181, ext. 2552.

### District II Isle

Legislative Attorney Elaine Smith spoke at the District IIa and III community meetings about possible changes to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Constitution. The Band is one of six members of the MCT.

The MCT's Constitution is an example of the "boilerplate" document that was created by the federal government under the federal Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934. An IRA constitution tends to contain language that is part corporate and part government, unlike a true government constitution. At the time this type of constitution was drafted, the impetus was to make it easier for the government to acquire resources such as land, timber and minerals from the tribes. An IRA constitution also does not represent any individual tribe's customs or beliefs and is more of a "one-size-fits-all" document.

Now, some 70-plus years after the MCT adopted its Constitution, tribal leaders are discussing the possibility of amending it so that it better reflects the Ojibwe culture and beliefs. According to Article XII of the MCT Constitution, a two-thirds majority of the Tribal Executive Committee must vote to request a Secretarial Election in which the voters decide whether to amend or revoke the Constitution. (At least 30% of eligible MCT voters must turn out for the election to be valid.)

A committee of 12 Mille Lacs Band members has been formed and will soon begin reviewing the Constitution with the help of two tribal constitution experts. The two experts are Richard Monette,

an Indian law professor from the University of Wisconsin, and Robert Lytle, an Indian law practitioner. Both attorneys have more than 20 years of experience drafting tribal constitutions and are themselves enrolled tribal members. The committee will brainstorm ideas with the assistance of the two tribal constitutional experts and create a draft document that will be reviewed by the Band's elected officials. This process is expected to be lengthy as well as rewarding for all of the Band members who participate.

Elaine will share more information about the MCT Constitution project during upcoming community meetings in Districts I and II and the urban area.

### District III

**By Elizabeth Towle**

District I Representative Sandi Blake is putting together a committee to amend the dog ordinance because a young boy was injured severely from a pit bull attack. Some changes being considered include banning pit bulls on the reservation or criminally charging owners if their pit bulls attack others.

If you have ideas and comments on the proposed changes to the dog ordinance, please contact Sandy at 320/532-4181.

Gloria St. John and Patty O'Brien spoke about the master gardening program, a class the University of Minnesota is offering through Pine Technical College. As a part of the program, Gloria and Patty are willing to come to your house to help you master your own home garden.

The program costs \$200 for the classroom version or \$250 for the online version. Those who enroll in the program and work 50 hours of community service will be reimbursed for \$75 of your enrollment fee.

### Urban area

**By Toya Stewart Downey**

Health and Human Services Commissioner Don Eubanks discussed possible changes to the Circle of Health program. These changes would help reign in costs that the program was not intended to cover.

Discussions about possible revisions will begin in the spring and will include input from all stakeholders.

## Band Member and Casino Executive Receives Prestigious St. Cloud State Award



**Joe Nayquonabe Jr.**

Mille Lacs Band member Joe Nayquonabe Jr., corporate vice president of marketing for Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley, received St. Cloud State University's Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) award on Friday, October 9.

The GOLD award recognizes undergraduate alumni of the past decade who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their professions or in service to the university and/or community.

"In the time that I have known Joe, he has demonstrated a strong drive to succeed while continually supporting and encouraging those he works with," said John Dunkley, Commissioner of Administration for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the nominator of this award. "His leadership and integrity continue to amaze Band

leaders as he brings forth new ideas, enthusiasm, and dedication to every aspect of his work."

At Grand Casino, the 27-year-old oversees the central marketing efforts for both Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley. This also includes oversight of Grand Casinos' Brooklyn Park office that focuses on marketing efforts in the Twin Cities. Prior to his move to central marketing, Joe worked as the director of marketing for Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Joe has also been recognized outside of Minnesota. Last November, he spoke at the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) conference in Las Vegas about managing and marketing casino slot hosts. G2E, an international trade show and conference, draws tens of thousands of gaming executives each year. Joe represented Grand Casinos and spoke to marketing executives, general managers, and casino owners from across the world.

Most recently, Joe was named a 2009 "Forty under 40" award honoree by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*. He was the youngest of 211 candidates to be nominated for this award which is given annually to 40 people under the age of 40 who have been successful in their careers and communities.

## Tribal Nations Conference With President Obama

(Continued from page 1)

Following his speech, President Obama signed an executive order instructing federal agencies to consult with tribes on a variety of pertinent policy matters; the order gives agencies 90 days to respond with their intentions.

Chief Executive Marge Anderson submitted information to the Obama administration on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Midwest Alliance of

Sovereign Tribes (MAST). She highlighted several issues important to the Band, including tribal consultation, self-determination, health care, treaty rights, and trust lands.

"President Obama's efforts so far give me a lot of hope for what his administration will do to help improve life for Indian people," Marge said. "He addresses tribes in a genuine nation-to-nation manner, which shows that he knows how to work constructively with tribes."

## Chief Executive Makes New Self-Governance Proposal at NCAI

### Idea would strengthen Band's authority over programs and services

"What if a handful of tribes take self-governance to the next level? What if we ask Congress to...authorize each tribe to have a single compact with the United States?"

This idea – introduced by Chief Executive Marge Anderson at the National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) conference in October – would reduce bureaucratic red tape at the federal level so that the Mille Lacs Band could have a clear, consistent role in governing the programs and services offered to Band members. Marge asked other tribal leaders to join the Band in supporting the idea before they introduce it to federal policymakers.

"This is an important contribution from the Mille Lacs Band to the future of tribal self-governance," said Tadd Johnson, the Band's special counsel on government affairs. "Mille Lacs has been viewed as the national leader on this issue since the 1980s, and Marge's proposal at NCAI shows that we continue to lead and innovate in ways that

will benefit Band members and Indian Country as a whole."

In the mid-1980s, Mille Lacs Band Chairman Art Gahbow and other tribal leaders testified before Congress about the need to transfer control over Indian affairs from an inefficient and distant federal government to the tribes themselves. Congress was persuaded, and the Tribal Self-Governance Demonstration Project was born. This successful demonstration project became permanent in 1994.

Self-governance has helped enable the Mille Lacs Band to make decisions about its programs and services that it otherwise could not. Today Marge hopes the Band can lead the way again in taking multiple compacts with different federal government departments and combining them under one compact with the U.S.

"There would be one set of standards. One reporting mechanism. One timeframe. One federal negotiator. One federal decision maker. One federal point of contact," Marge said at NCAI. "This is how we will move closer to our goal of a nation-to-nation relationship with the United States."

## Tribes Discuss Public Safety With Department of Justice Officials

Representatives from nearly all 564 federally recognized tribes gathered on October 28 and 29 to discuss public safety issues on American Indian reservations with officials from the U.S. Department of Justice. The listening sessions, held in the Twin Cities, gave tribal leaders the chance to raise issues they feel are critical to public safety and law enforcement.

Representatives from the Department of Justice included FBI and DEA agents as well as U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Deputy Attorney General David Ogden.

Prior to the event, tribal representatives gave input about the issues they wanted discussed. Topics included juvenile justice, violence against women, federal law enforcement, and support for the tribal justice system.

Mille Lacs Band Deputy Solicitor General Nikki Johnson attended the discussions to learn about the situations other American Indian tribes are facing.

"It's good for all the tribes to get together and recognize that

the tribes are all on the same page," she said.

Although the listening sessions were not specific to each tribe, all of the discussions were relevant to the programs and support the Mille Lacs Band receives from the Department of Justice.

"The Department of Justice wanted to understand what we need and how they can support our sovereignty," Nikki said. "They were making a concerted effort to understand each tribe's situation – including the Band's – and to do something about it."

At the end of the two-day event, U.S. Attorney General Holder told the tribal representatives that the Department of Justice is planning to establish a Tribal Nations Leadership Council. The council would consist of representatives chosen by tribes across the nation and would meet twice a year with the Department of Justice to discuss issues critical to public safety.

Holder pledged that the Department of Justice was going to make Indian public safety a priority for this administration.

## Male Band Members Find Refuge in New Halfway House

By Toya Stewart Downey

Male Band members who need a new start, along with a place to heal, need to look no further than the new halfway house that opened in August in District I.

"This house provides a safe environment for us to help men help themselves," said Joe White Hawk, a chemical dependency counselor and house manager.

"Here, men learn responsibility, how to be leaders, fathers, family men...how to be men," said Joe. "We help them try to get their life going so they can reenter society in a good way."

Whether it's helping the men get drivers' licenses, work on their education, find jobs, learn to cook and clean, or simply work on their personal needs, the staff are committed to helping the men find success during their time at the house.

### Men get treatment, learn life skills

Currently, three men live at the house, located at 17222 Ataage Drive in Onamia, but there is room for seven. The men can stay anywhere from 30 days to six months.

Residents of the house must be referred by chemical dependency counselors, known as Rule 25 Assessors, who by law assess people who are in need of services and place them in the most appropriate level of care.

While there, the men also get treatment for substance addition as well as one-on-one counseling.

The Band covers the cost of operations, but bills the state

the \$256 per person, per day it costs to pay for expenses.

"They're getting the support they need and adding life skills," said Donna Isham, behavioral health director for the Band.

"They're also reconnecting spiritually and culturally," Joe said.

### Traditional practices and values

A sweat lodge has been built on site, and the men use it weekly. Residents learn how to do beadwork, drumming, and crafts as well as meet with Elders. They also learn how to plan and prepare healthy meals for themselves, shop for their food, cook, and clean the house.

"I think it's really important to have the spiritual part," said Joe. "It's a reawakening, a connection to the family unit."

Joe is a member of the Assinboine Sioux in Montana and has spent years as a chemical dependency and mental health counselor, as well as a cultural advisor. He considers himself a professional person who embraces traditional values. For him, helping the men who pass through the halfway house learn how to live good lives and become whole again is his life's work.

Tom Mitchell, a counselor/aide at the house shares the same perspective. "We're doing a good job, and we are glad to be able to help," said Tom, a Band member who has been sober for seven years. "I was in the same boat they're in...if I could do it, these guys can do it."

## Meet the Chief Executive Office Staff



Photo courtesy of Carla Big Bear

The Chief Executive Office staff includes, from left to right: Rosella Eagle, Kim Kegg, Molly Judkins, and Nancy Wood.

Band members contact the Chief Executive Office daily, often without knowing who is on the other end of the phone. The staff would like to introduce themselves so you will know the person addressing your concerns.

### Molly Judkins, Executive assistant to the Chief Executive

Molly represents the Chief Executive Office at meetings, functions and other public events. She also handles calls and in-person visits to the office. Molly ensures Band members' issues are settled either by resolving the problem herself or referring the issue to other Band officials.

Molly's favorite part of her busy job is that it is a constant learning experience.

### Nancy Wood, Deputy assistant

Nancy manages the day-to-day operations of the office and acts as a liaison between the Chief Executive Office and the Commissioners. Additionally, she helps respond to Band member issues brought to the Chief Executive. In December 2009, Nancy will have worked in the Chief Executive Office for three years.

Nancy enjoys helping Band members and trying to assist with their problems and concerns.

### Rosella Eagle, Administrative assistant

In addition to answering the phones, Rosella is in charge of scheduling all of Chief Executive Marge Anderson's meetings and preparing her meeting agendas and itineraries.

Rosella loves everything about her job, especially when she works with Band members. She looks forward to her job everyday.

### Kim Kegg, Administrative assistant

Kim assists all staff working within the office. She also greets Band members and visitors and answers the phone.

Kim's favorite part about working in the Chief Executive Office is being in contact with Band members throughout the day.

### Contact information

To contact the Chief Executive Office, call 320/532-7484. For specific questions or problems, please ask for Molly or Nancy.

## Incumbents Sweep Urban Mayoral Races

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman will return to office after winning in landslide victories on Tuesday, November 3.

This year Minneapolis instituted a new voting system, called instant runoff voting, in which voters ranked all the candidates. DFLer Rybak received more than 70 percent

of first-choice votes, almost three times more first-choice votes than his 10 challengers combined. This will be Rybak's third term as mayor.

DFLer Coleman defeated Republican Eva Ng by a margin of more than two to one. This will be Coleman's second term as mayor.

Rybak and Coleman will both serve four-year terms.

## Free Hearing Evaluations

### Ne-la-Shing Clinic

When: Friday, December 11

To schedule an appointment, call 320/532-4163.

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

### Twin Cities locations

Hearmore Hearing has offices in St. Paul and Osseo.

When: Monday-Friday

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

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

# Winter 2009 Per Capita Payments

## Distribution dates and locations

Checks will be distributed to all eligible Mille Lacs Band members on **December 3, 2009**, at each Band member's home district. This payment will include all Band members receiving monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, bi-annual, and annual per capita distributions.

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

For minors, all funds will be placed into a trust account at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. Individuals who have turned 20 years of age since the last bonus payment in August are eligible for payment. **You must be 20 years of age by November 3, 2009 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 December bonus will be included in your trust payment.

## Pick-up locations

**Elders, handicapped and homebound persons** living in District I, II, IIa, III and the Twin Cities urban area can pick up their per capita payments on **December 3, 2009**. The distribution sites include the District I Assisted Living Unit, the East Lake Community Center, the Isle Chiminising Community Center, the Lake Lena Community Center, and the Urban Office. Hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

If you are an Elder or handicapped person, live in Districts I, II, IIa, III, or the Twin Cities, and are unable to travel to your distribution site, please call the contact person below to make arrangements for your check to be delivered to you on **November 25, 2009**.

District I: Darcie Big Bear, 320/532-7440 or Ginny Davis, 320/532-7512

District II: Renee Moore, 218/768-3311 or 877/768-3311

District IIa: Carmen Green, 320/676-1102 or 877/676-1299

District III: Michelle Peer, 320/384-6240 or 877/384-6240  
Urban Office: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424

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

### Mille Lacs Government Center:

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

### East Lake Community Center:

For Band members living in McGregor.

### Isle Chiminising Community Center:

For Band members living in Isle.

### Lake Lena Community Center:

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

### Urban Office:

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

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

**Deadline for changing your pick-up site is at noon on November 25, 2009.** 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. There will be no exceptions.

## Checks by certified mail

Those who can't pick up their checks on the dates listed will have their checks sent out by certified mail by **December 7, 2009** 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 **January 4, 2010**, contact Darcie Big Bear at 800/709-6445, ext. 7440.

## Address and name changes

If your address or name has changed since the last per capita payment, it is very important that you send in your information to the Enrollments Office. **The deadline for address and name changes is noon on November 25, 2009. There will be no exceptions.**

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

## Other important information

- You must show a picture identification to receive your check.
- Checks will only be given to the enrolled Band member to whom the check is made out. There will be no exceptions.
- 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.
- Per capita checks are taxable; therefore, all Band members who receive a check should report it as income in the year received. You will receive a 1099-MISC form to remind you of how much income you should report on your tax return. Per capita checks should be reported as other income on a Form 1040 filing-line 21.
- If you are receiving public assistance from the county, please contact your caseworker because the per capita distribution may affect the amount you receive. If, based on discussions with your caseworker, you wish to decline receipt of the distribution, please contact Kathy Heyer in the OMB Office at 320/532-7472 or Darcie

Big Bear at 320/532-7440 to get a declination form.

Checks can also be direct deposited into a checking or savings account. **You must be signed up by November 16, 2009.** For more information, contact Kathy Heyer at 320/532-7472.

## Band Marks American Diabetes Month

In observance of American Diabetes Month, the Mille Lacs Band Diabetes Program is holding a weekly online trivia contest. The first person to e-mail the correct answer to the trivia question each week will win a prize.

The diabetes team is also coordinating the stretching and exercise breaks at the Healing Across Generations Conference on November 17-19 at Grand Casino Hinckley. The conference offers an opportunity to explore the issues surrounding intergenerational trauma and to build a vision towards community hope, health and cultural prosperity. If you are interested in attending the conference, contact Deb Northrup at 218/591-5508.

Additionally, the Band is urging members to join the American Diabetes Association (ADA) campaign, "Stop Diabetes: Help Us Confront It, Fight It, and Most Importantly, Stop It."

The ADA is asking people to participate in the national campaign, which began November 2:

- Share personal stories of how diabetes has personally affected your life;
- Learn more about how to stop this disease from taking control of your life; and
- Support research and diabetes education.

For additional information on this campaign and other ways you can become involved in promoting diabetes awareness, contact Sue Swanson at 320/532-4163.

## International Visitors Trek to Mille Lacs for Cultural Immersion

By *Toya Stewart Downey*

The Mille Lacs Band recently played host to visitors from Mexico, South America, and Israel as the guests spent time in District I learning more about the Band, its culture, and history.

The guests toured the reservation, the museum, met with elected officials and Band employees, and had the opportunity to ask questions about the Band.

"The visits are significant on many levels," said Mary Sam, who helped organize the visits. "Our community is gaining a reputation as a community that is finding success in language revitalization, maintaining culture and traditions, and developing a long-term economic infrastructure that is improving the lives of Band members," she said.

"Many international organizations seek us out, based on the experiences that former scholars had coming to our community. I remember the late James Clark talking to me about knowing our neighbors and embracing cross-cultural relationships," Mary added.

Further, Mary explained that international guests help the community to understand more about how rapidly our world is changing and how the Band and its members are becoming a part of global society.

"Building relationships with our international guests is an opportunity for us to welcome others to our community, but it also opens the door to our community being welcomed across the world."

### South American visitors impressed with Band's accomplishments

Tanisha Ellis, an attorney for the Minister of Labor in Costa Rica, said she was impressed by the way the Band, and other indigenous people in the United States, were able to organize.

"You have basically created entire cities," Tanisha said. "In my country, indigenous people are another part of the citizenry and not given any attention."

The South American group traveled to the United States under the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. The participants represented Argentina, Bolivia, Columbia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela.

One participant, Luz Mely Reyes Zambrano, a journalist from Venezuela, said what

impressed her most was learning that the Band's Chief Executive was a woman.

"In our country women have to fight really hard to assume leadership positions," she said. Luz also gave kudos to the Band for its business strategies, particularly using revenue from the casinos to benefit Band members and the Band itself.

"You're for the better here," Luz said. "Our indigenous are in poverty and don't have a recognized territory. They have been fighting for it for a long time and haven't achieved it yet."

Erick Lopez Barriga, a planning and development coordinator for the State of Michoacan in Mexico, said, "The transition from poverty in less than two decades into a very successful community that provides education and help to Band members all in the spirit of community is impressive."

Erick said he also appreciated that the Band is preserving the environment and protecting its culture and traditions, especially the language and the practice of traditional medicine.

### Jerusalem visitors will bring back American Indian history to their schools

In a separate visit to District I, Ron Shahara, and his wife, Irit, came to Mille Lacs to learn more about the similarities in intercultural relations, conflict resolutions strategies, and poverty initiatives in education.

Ron is a senior lecturer and the director of the Levtzion Center for Islamic Studies at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. Irit is a Hebrew language instructor at a Jerusalem high school.

"Both Ron and Irit were impressed by the Band's preservation of history, culture, and language revitalization efforts," said Mary. "They both noticed the similarities in the poverty, conflicts in maintaining religion/spirituality, language, and academic achievement strategies."

"They spent hours at the museum and trading post, purchasing many history books and other homemade crafts," she added.

The couple plans to take what they learned back to Jerusalem where they will add American Indian history into their curriculums in the public school setting and at the Hebrew University.

## Law Enforcement Agreement Benefits Band And Others

By *Toya Stewart Downey*

There's no question that having a collaborative law enforcement agreement between the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department and the Pine County Sheriff's office has been beneficial.

Besides offering more protection to county residents, the agreement gives the tribal police more jurisdiction to handle public safety matters and it increases the number of officers who can respond to emergency situations that range from domestic issues to wild animal attacks to emergency medical crisis.

"We have a really good working relationship," said Sid Lucas, the Band's director of public safety. "But this gives us the power to enforce state and Band statutes. Prior to the agreement, we could only enforce Band statutes."

"Now, in Pine County, we have authority as long as we see public safety issues."

The Law Enforcement Cooperation Agreement was signed in 2004 and authorizes tribal police to patrol parts of Barry Township and Ogema Township in Pine County – areas where concentrations of Band members live. Three members of the tribal police department also live in Pine County.

Steve Ovick, chief deputy for Pine County, calls the agreement a "win-win" for everyone.

"It's beneficial to the citizens of Pine County and to the Mille Lacs Band members," he said. "It allows us to have extra enforcement and that increases public safety."

"Tribal police have access to county records, the jail, and to the county attorney, which enables them to be equally effective in law enforcement as the sheriff's department," Steve said.

Officials say that crime has decreased and the response time of law enforcement

officials has improved dramatically. There's been a decrease in vandalism and other property crimes. And more residents are involved in community watch programs.

Two of the members that respond to emergencies are a part of the incident response team. Also, tribal police respond to medical calls and are trained as first responders in medical situations.

"In life-threatening situations we've administered basic first aid before an ambulance arrived and that is a really big benefit," said Sid. "We've had situations where we had to control bleeding. And in one instance that individual probably wouldn't have made it to the hospital."

"Our main objective is to be on Band properties and provide public safety," Sid said. "Prior to the agreement our hands were tied in some areas."

Currently the Band police department is trying to establish a similar agreement with Aitkin County.

Mille Lacs Band Deputy Chief Justin Churchill said the mutual aid agreement allows both departments to assist the other when help is needed.

"It gives us a power and a presence that wasn't there before," he said. "We patrol a lot of areas and people appreciate our presence."

It also gives the tribal police department more recognition as law enforcement officials.

"Before the agreement, we had limited use of radio time and could only use it in emergency situations," he said. "Since the agreement, we have unlimited time because we all share the radio."

That makes a big difference when officers are out in the field, Churchill added.

"This is one of the most positive things we could have because it gives us fully-vested power to protect Band members."

**Need Holiday Shopping Ideas? Support your fellow Band Members.**

**Grand Casino Hinckley**

**Carole's Grand Sale**

320-384-7737 Monday - Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wireless Hotspot!

**VELVET BEAN COFFEE SHOP**

Monday - Saturday 7:00 a.m. to serve you! Sunday 8:00 a.m.

**Two Eagles Art & Floral**

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

**Grand Casino Mille Lacs**

**NATIVE GROUNDS Coffee Shop**

Wireless Hotspot!

Sunday - Wednesday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday - Saturday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**The Candy Cupboard**

7 days a week 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Visit today!**

# Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government Monthly Financial Report

September 2009

	Approved budget for FY 2009	Actual expenditures through 9/30/09	% of budget expended
Administration (1)*	13,355,300	10,673,257	79.9%
Workforce*	11,676,744	5,602,886	48.0%
Judicial	1,093,149	1,033,981	94.6%
Law enforcement*	3,477,344	3,203,157	92.1%
Education*	16,144,588	13,951,000	86.4%
Health and human services*	28,275,529	23,042,033	81.5%
Natural resources*	5,538,117	4,958,807	89.5%
Community development*	37,800,560	16,964,785	44.9%
Gaming authority	4,641,974	4,306,643	92.8%
Per capita payments	37,512,496	34,554,637	92.1%
Economic stimulus	2,800,000	2,780,000	99.3%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$162,315,801</b>	<b>\$121,071,184</b>	<b>74.6%</b>

## Financial notes:

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

\* These departments include continuing appropriations from the 2008 fiscal year.

## Prepare for Winter Weather

**By Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator**

Old Man Winter is knocking at the door, and the Band is dedicated to making sure its members are prepared for the wide range of weather conditions that Jack Frost brings during winter storms. Snow, sleet, ice, strong winds, and cold temperatures make this season extremely dangerous if people are unprepared.

November 9-13 is Winter Hazard Awareness Week, and all Band departments are working together to ensure that Band members are ready to mitigate the dangers of winter.

### Monitor forecasts

Monitor weather forecasts through the Internet or local television and radio stations. Visit the National Weather Service Web site ([www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)) for more information about winter storm watches and warnings.

### Winterize your vehicle

Keep your anti-freeze fresh, use snow tires, and make sure you have a strong car battery.

### Have a survival kit

Keep a winter survival kit in your car. The kit should include:

- blankets
- flashlight with extra batteries
- first-aid kit, including essential medications
- knife
- high-calorie, non-perishable food
- metal or plastic cup
- candle stubs and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- two large plastic bags to insulate your feet
- red bandanna and plastic whistle to alert rescuers to your location
- shovel

- windshield scraper
- booster cables

### Stay inside

If your vehicle becomes stranded during a winter storm, stay inside your car until help arrives, because conditions may suddenly worsen with little advance warning.

Although you should try to stay inside during a winter storm, if you need to venture outdoors, dress in layered clothing, cover your mouth and nose with a scarf to protect your lungs from cold air, and wear a hat, because most body heat is lost through the top of the head.

For more information, visit [www.winterweather.state.mn.us](http://www.winterweather.state.mn.us) or contact me at 320/532-4181, ext. 2558.



## Tribal Noteboard

### Happy November birthday to:

**Leonard Sam**, on November 11 with love from Tracy, Kelly, Rachel, Noah, Taya, and Barbara Jo • **James Sr.**, on November 14 with love from Lorelei • **James Jr.**, on November 21 with love from Lorelei • **Larry Wade**, on November 10 with love from Mussette, Cass, Marika, Bruce, Mia and Music • **Stone Shingobe**, 7, on November 2 with love from mom, DeaLayna, Derek Jr., Frances, grandma, Rae, Joe, Mary, Jim, Jack, Bruce, and all your cousins • **Frances Rose Shingobe**, 4, on November 30 with love from mom, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek Jr., grandma, Rachel, Big Joe, Mary, Jim, Jack, Bruce and all your cousins • **Baby Joey**, 6, on November 2 with love from mom, dad, Simone, Doni, Sheila, grandma, Danielle, Mary, Jim, Jack, Bruce, Greg, Marissa, and all your cousins • **Lenore**, on November 1 with love from Bill, Tyson, Eva, Jon, Evan, Susan, dad, Bill, Teri and kids, Clara, and Emma • **Emma**, on November 15 with love from dad, Lenore, Clara, Tyson, Eva, and Jon • **Lydell**, on November 27 from Lenore, Jon, Tyson, Eva, mom, dad, McKayla, Tayaunna, Papa Ronnie, Gramma Gladys, Rol, and Sud • **Matthew Smith**, 14, on November 3 from Auntie Jan, TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy and the kids, mom, Harv, and your brothers and sister • **Michelle Mitchell**, 31, on November 12 from Auntie Jan, TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy, and the kids • **Josie Marie Sam**, 11, on November 12 from Auntie Jan, TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy, and the kids • **Malorie Sam**, 5, on November 23 from Auntie Jan, TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy, and the kids • **Jayson Sam**, 19, on November 25 from Auntie Jan, TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy, and the kids • **Thomas White**, 10, on November 25 from Auntie Jan, TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy, and the kids • **Mylyz Ballinger**, 2, on November 26 from Auntie Jan, TJ, Twyla, Jaime, Cathy, and the kids • **Jiigayway**, 11, on November 12 from TJ and Kali Anne • **Slo-Mo Mitchell**, 31, on November 12 from Tiffany Jane • **Big Punkie Jays**, 19, on November 25 from TJ and Kali

Anne • **Ronnie Smith**, on November 1 with love from Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Roland Jr., Rog, Bev and kids • **Weedle**, on November 1 from Auntie Gladys and family • **Linda Sam**, on November 1 from Isabelle • **Isabelle Sam**, on November 12 from your family • **Greg Benjamin**, on November 11 from Isabelle • **Fabian Mitchell**, on November 24 from Isabelle • **Shanowa Thunder**, on November 20 from Isabelle • **Zachary Moose**, 11, on November 17 with love from mom, Renae, Justo, Jerry, Kira, Sherry, Troy, Shawntel, Gabbi, Grandma Deb, Betty, Barlet, Pinero, Mick, and Phil • **Shawntel Jellum**, 12, on November 18 with love from Renae, Justo, Jerry, Kira, mom, Troy, Shawntel, Gabbi, Grandma Deb, Betty, Barlet, Pinero, Mick, Phil, and Auntie Carrie • **Mia Sam**, 7, on November 4 with love from Auntie Rosebud • **Isaac Jourdain**, 5, on November 18 with love from Auntie Rosebud • **Kevin Boyd Jr.**, 25, on November 29 with love from Rosebud • **Jamie Jackson**, 24, on November 15 with love from Elijah, Arianna, Falon, Dana, Curtis, Riley, Adrien, Mick, Jewel, Lisa and the rest of the family • **Jason Lee Sam**, on November 20 from Auntie Barb and family • **Paul Jr.**, 28, on November 21 from mom, Boy, Brandon, Bear, Joanna, Ian and Cedric • **RaiLei Lanae**, 1, on November 3 from dad, mom, Kelia, Uncle Richard, Auntie Candy, Cyrell, grandma, and grandpa • **KiKi**, on November 13 from Donna and Big Joe • **Mayo Perez**, on November 12 from Donna and Big Joe • **Ralph Pawaush**, from the Bullchilds, Perez's, and White's • **Deanna Bullchild**, on November 27 from Donna and Big Joe • **Momma**, on November 5 with love from Joe White Jr. • **Arielle Beaulieu**, 21, on November 12 with love from Auntie Mick, Phil, Naughty, Barlet, Pinero, Whitney, Leoniece, Nick, mom, Craig, Tony, Jordan, CJ, TJ, Shante, and Papa Doug • **Jennie Weyaus**, 95, on November 21 with love from Leonard, Kenneth, Herb, Elfreda, Delsie and Joanne • **Ryan Henry**

and **Rylie Arik**, 8, on November 27 from Auntie Louise, Rod, Shane, Courtney, Connor, and Kelsie • **Mommy**, on November 12 from Jenai Raquel and Jayla Marie Shaw • **Roy Garbow**, on November 12 from dad, mom, Juni and Jillian • **C-Bass**, on November 19 from mom and family, Gramma June, Papa Gushy, and the rest of the family • **Malerie Sam**, 5, on November 23 from mom, dad, Gramma June, Papa Gushy, and the rest of the family.

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

Floyd Ballinger  
Barb Benjamin-Robertson  
Clifford Benjamin  
Irene Benjamin  
Charles Boyd  
George Boyd Jr.  
Alice Carter  
Mary Curfman  
Richard Dakota  
Michael Dorr  
Melvin Eagle  
Donald Eubanks  
Roger Granger  
Eileen Johnson  
George LaFave  
Darlene Meyer  
Mary Meyer  
Rose Noonday  
Elizabeth Peterson  
Ralph Pawaush  
David Sam  
Leonard Sam  
Mary Shedd  
Kenneth Shingobe  
Ronald Smith  
Maria Spears  
David Staples  
Beatrice Taylor  
Donald Thomas  
John Thomas  
Joyce Trudell  
Lawrence Wade II  
Linda Wade  
Jennie Weyaus  
Natalie Weyaus  
Patricia Xerikos

### Thank you

The family of **Roberta Davis** would like to thank everyone who sent plants, flowers and sympathy cards during the funeral – it was most

appreciated. We would like to say chi mii gwech to Herb Weyaus, Sandy Blake and Marge Anderson for everything you did for our family while Roberta was sick at the St. Cloud hospital. *Thanks again from Louise Davis, Kimberly Sam, Leslie Davis, and Robert Sam.*

### Anniversary

**Carrie** – you hold a special place in my heart and with each passing day I love you more and more. *Happy 12th anniversary from Joe.*

### Birth announcement

Congratulations to Falon Jackson and Dana Harms on the birth of their new baby girl. **Adrien Vivian Grace Jackson** was born on September 16. She weighed 9 lbs., 1 oz., and was 22 in. long. Adrien was welcomed home by Curtis, Riley, Jamie, Mick, Elijah, Arianna, Jewel, Grandma Lisa, and the rest of the family.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Keith Benjamin** for receiving your GED. We are very proud of you. *From mom, Gramma June, Papa Gushy, Lydia and kids, Elliot and kids, Terry and girls, Collin and Rachel Cash, and the rest of your family.*

### Obituaries

*Editor's note: Beginning in October, the Ojibwe Inaajimowin started printing obituaries. Thank you to the Office of Management and Budget for providing this information.*

#### James Hill Jr.

Born – January 20, 1940  
Died – October 17, 2009  
Resided in Onamia, MN

#### Kalen Nickaboine

Born – August 20, 1959  
Died – October 22, 2009  
Resided in Onamia, MN

#### Raining Boyd

Born – June 7, 1921  
Died – October 23, 2009  
Resided in Onamia, MN

#### Martin (Matt) Kegg Jr.

Born – October 5, 1950  
Died – October 25, 2009  
Resided in Onamia, MN

## Officer Awarded for Saving Man's Life



Photo courtesy of Mille Lacs Band DNR

**Mille Lacs Band Chief Conservation Officer Mike Taylor (left) and Commissioner of Natural Resources Curt Kalk (right) present Conservation Officer Eric Hanneken (middle) with an award for saving a man's life.**

Mille Lacs Band Conservation Officer Eric Hanneken recently performed CPR on a man who had collapsed. He was recognized for his quick-thinking action that saved the man's life.

"Conservation Officer Hanneken is a great officer, and I'm proud to have him working in our department. He brings a lot of good experience to the team," said Chief Conservation Officer Mike

Taylor, who presented him with the award.

"His quick actions and training have made the department very proud," Mike added.

Eric has worked as a conservation officer for the Band since October 2008. Prior to that, he worked as a K-9 officer for the Morrison County Sheriff's Office and as a tribal police officer for the Mille Lacs Band.

## Workforce Center Updates

*By Workforce Center Staff*

### Changes to software and hours

To provide better service to participants, the Workforce Center is installing a new software system. The center has changed its hours to 1-4:30 p.m. temporarily to ensure the new system is implemented efficiently.

### Empower to Succeed Conference

The Mille Lacs Band Urban Workforce Center sponsored the Empower to Succeed Conference in Minneapolis on September 17 and 18. The two-day event drew 75 participants and had 48 resource services present. Participants enjoyed the Smart Shopper Workshop, which informed participants how to find and use coupons to save money, and the Prescription Drug Use and Abuse Prevention Workshop.

The Workforce Center plans to host the conference again next year.

### Upcoming classes

#### Introduction of Computer Skills for the Workplace: Using Word, Excel and Internet in the Workplace

- November 19 – 1-3 p.m., District I workforce GED classroom
- November 25 – 1-3 p.m., District III workforce GED classroom

#### Creative Holiday Ideas on a Budget: Meal Planning, Creative Gift Making, and Shopping on a Budget

- December 8 – 1-3 p.m., District II workforce center modular
- December 10 – 1-3 p.m., District I workforce GED classroom
- December 16 – 1-3 p.m., District III workforce GED classroom

## Mille Lacs Indian Museum Events

### Puzzle pouch workshop

Create a secret leather bag, aka a puzzle pouch, to hide your treasures and amuse your friends. This workshop is taught by Mille Lacs Band member Kirstie Davis. This two-day workshop will be held on Saturday, **November 21**, from noon-4 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, **November 22**. The cost is \$50 for the public and \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members. There is also a \$20 supply fee.

### Birchbark ornament workshop

Create miniature ornaments from natural materials. Creations can be used to decorate for the holidays or given as gifts. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. This two-day workshop will be held on Saturday, **December 5**, from noon-4 p.m. and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, **December 6**. The cost is \$50 for the public and \$45 for Minnesota Historical Society members and Mille Lacs Band members. There is also a \$10 supply fee.

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

## U.S. Defeats U.K. in World Championship Kickboxing

*By Sharon James*

The United States fighters prevailed against the United Kingdom fighters in a world championship kickboxing event presented by Band member Bobby Anderson and Warriors Fight Promotions.

The evening's fights, which included kickboxing and muay thai bouts, were evenly matched with close scoring from the judges.

Light middleweight division world champion Chris Cichon defeated Scotland's Ryan Lyall by a unanimous decision. American Caleb Plant beat England's Rob Burbridge to

become the youngest title holder in the super middleweight division. The light cruiserweight division title went to England's Ashley Collins as he defeated American Adam McDermid.

For more detailed fight results, visit [www.ikfkickboxing.com](http://www.ikfkickboxing.com).

Bobby's next event will feature Team Minnesota battling Team Texas at noon on Sunday, December 6, at Grand Casino Hinckley. For ticket and fight information, call 612/716-3654 or visit [www.warriorsfightpromotions.com](http://www.warriorsfightpromotions.com).

## Public Health Update

*By Public Health Staff*

### Incentives for cancer screenings

The Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department's Circle of Life Plus program is providing a \$10 gift card to people who receive a regular screening for breast, cervical, prostate or colorectal cancers.

Associated with the American Cancer Society, Circle of Life Plus promotes early cancer detection screenings including mammograms, pap smears, prostate screenings, and colonoscopies.

Early detection is especially important for Band members because American Indians have the highest cancer mortality rate in the United States.

To receive the \$10 gift card, you must have your provider complete a verification form and fax it to Linda Moses, Circle of Life Plus coordinator, at 320/532-7524.

For more information about the program, contact Linda at 320/532-7776.

### Women, Infants and Children (WIC) schedule change

Due to the holidays, the WIC schedule for November and December has changed. WIC vouchers will be distributed on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The normal schedule will resume in January 2010.

For more information, contact Joanne Weyaus at 320/532-7821.

# Calendar of Events

## November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	<b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> All Nations Indian Church, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424 <b>District II Leadership Academy School Board Meeting</b> 4 p.m., Contact: Dawn Aubid, 218/768-3477	<b>District III Community Meeting</b> GCH 5:30 p.m. Contact: Monica Benjamin, 320/384-6240	<b>District II Community Meeting</b> East Lake Community Center 5:30 p.m., Contact: Jenny Waugh, 218/768-3311  <b>10th Annual Thanksgiving Feast</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 5 p.m.	20	<b>Puzzle Pouch Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m.
<b>Puzzle Pouch Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	23	24	<b>District IIA Community Meeting</b> Chiminising Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Lesley Sam, 320/676-1102	26	27	28
29	<b>District I Community Meeting</b> District I Community Center 5:30 p.m. Contact: Judy Virnig, 320/532-7423	30			If you would like an event included in the community calendar, please contact <b>Kelly Sam</b> at <b>651/292-8062</b> or write to Kelly at <b>kellys@goffhoward.com</b>	<b>*To Purchase Tickets</b>  Visit a Grand Casino box office, call TicketMaster at <b>800/745-3000</b> , or visit <b>www.ticketmaster.com</b>

## December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1	2	<b>Talking Circles</b> The Brick House 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046	4	<b>Birchbark Ornament Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 12-4 p.m.  <b>Duke Ellington Orchestra*</b> Grand Casino Hinckley 7 p.m.	
<b>Birchbark Ornament Workshop</b> Mille Lacs Indian Museum 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	7	8	<b>Mille Lacs Band Legal Aid Open House</b> 2-4 p.m. 44374 Virgo Road Onamia, MN 56359 Contact: Chris Sailors, 320/532-7798	10	11	<b>Urban Area Christmas Party</b> Minneapolis American Indian Center Contact: Barb Benjamin-Robertson, 612/872-1424	
13	<b>Pine Grove Leadership Academy Meeting</b> 12:30 p.m. Contact: Rene Ann Goodrich, 320/384-7598 <b>AMVETS Meeting</b> GCML, 6 p.m. Contact: Ken Weyaus, 320/309-6925	14	15	<b>Talking Circles</b> The Brick House 5:30 p.m. Contact: KC Paulsen, 320/532-4046	17	18	19

## What Are You Most Thankful For in 2009?

### Shawna Skinaway



*"My family, especially my son, Antonio, and for the Elders I work for and the health and happiness of Band members."*

### Louise Villebrun



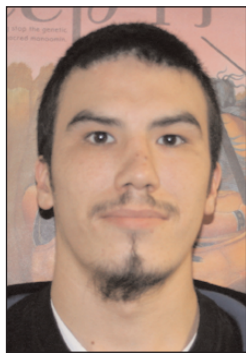
*"My family – but most of all my father Clarence Moose – because they have been there to help me with all the problems I've gone through."*

### Jackie Red Earth



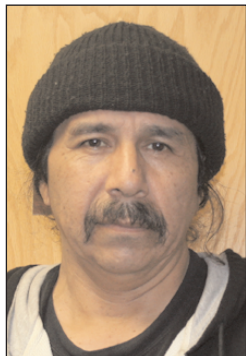
*"That I still have a job, because I know there are a lot of people out there who don't have jobs."*

### Joseph Nickaboine



*"Having my family and friends around me. And being alive."*

### DJ Nelson-Banks



*"Being a good father to my daughters, being a grandfather, and being healthy."*

### Janice Shaugobay



**Jordan**  
*"I'm thankful for my family."*

Photos by Toya Stewart Downey

## Circle of Health Answers Medicare Questions

### By Circle of Health Staff

Medicare recipients will receive their 2010 Medicare award letter in late November or early December. To facilitate the annual process, Band members receiving Medicare benefits should be aware of the following topics regarding Medicare.

### Social Security annual award letter

Circle of Health needs a copy of the 2010 letter even if the Medicare premium does not change. Band members can put a copy of the letter in the Circle of Health mailboxes at the government center and the clinic. Additionally, Dawn Chosa, benefit coordinator, has office hours at the District ALU craft room Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To ensure that your reimbursement will be processed for the first quarterly scheduled date, give a copy of your letter to Circle of Health by the end of December.

Several other departments also require a copy of the Medicare award letter, so keep your original and make extra copies.

### Medicare Part D coverage

Band members already receiving Social Security or Medical Assistance benefits should request low subsidy assistance when applying for Medicare Part D coverage. This can reduce or eliminate your premium.

To apply for this assistance, you will need to submit

information about you and your spouse's income and resources. During the application process, you may need to consult your Medicare card, bank account statements, Individual Retirement Accounts, tax returns, payroll slips, Social Security benefits award letter, and life insurance policies.

The enrollment period for the Medicare Part D prescription plan begins November 15, 2009, and will be effective January 1, 2010.

### County prescription discount cards

Band members without prescription coverage or those whose prescription costs exceed their Medicare plan amount are eligible for a discount card through their county. Please contact your county office for more information.

### Medicare air ambulance claims

In the unlikely event that you or a loved one requires urgent medical attention that your local hospital cannot provide, medical personnel will fly you to another facility. Medicare will only cover the mileage to the closest facility. If you request another facility, the remaining mileage will be your responsibility because Circle of Health does not pay for uncovered services.

If you have any questions about Medicare information, please contact Kim Benjamin-Rivers or Donna Newgren, the Band's Elder social workers, at 320/532-7776.



## Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians Invites You

**10th Annual Thanksgiving Feast for all Mille Lacs Band members**

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Seating starts at 5 p.m.

Kids activities from 5-7 p.m.

Invocation/welcome at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center