

Nah gah chi wa nong (Far end of the Great Lake – Fond du Lac Reservation) *Di bah ji mowin nan* (Narrating of Story)



Ojibwe School Junior Varsity Team at September practice

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Basketball Down Under

Late in July, Samantha Branley and Charlie Robinson traveled to Brisbane, Australia to participate in the "Down Under Sports Hoop Classics" annual tournament.

Samantha was a student at the Fond du Lac Community College last year and received notice from the Ojibwe School that she had been selected to participate on the "Down Under" team. A brochure inviting high schools to participate arrived in the mail; news of the tournament reached Samantha and Charlie who each raised their own funds.

Samantha is 5'2", but height didn't keep her from being named the Most Valuable Player on the Ojibwe School team last year. Her uncles played, so Samantha followed their example and played from the time she was a little girl. For her, basketball is the greatest thing in life.

Charlie is a senior at AlBrook High School and plays on the varsity basketball team as a guard. He was the only Minnesota player to travel to Australia, and was placed on a team with students from Missouri.

He said the trip changed his life, and broadened his perspective in many ways. He would strongly urge other students to take the same opportunity. One of Charlie's future goals is to get accepted into college and play college basketball.

The Minnesota women's team that Samantha played on took first place honors from a pool of about 10 or 11 teams. Samantha's position was guard. They were in Australia for one week. Samantha is now employed as a security guard at Fond du Lac, and expects to return to college next fall.



Big Lake Sanitary District Board agrees to pursue wastewater treatment plant

By Shoshana Cruz

Big Lake will have its own wastewater treatment plant, the Big Lake Sanitary District board decided. The decision came after an examination of feasibility studies and other options - such as doing nothing; pressing homeowners to replace failing septic systems; and connecting with the WLSSD pipeline in Cloquet.

"It's been very exciting and challenging," said Nancy Schuldt, FDL water projects coordinator. But the effort has been worth it: "When at the end of the day we get this built, then everybody benefits." The treatment plant will serve an area from Moorhead to Ditchbank roads, and from Mission to Cary roads. It will be built on four to five acres of tax-forfeit land southwest of the intersection of Mission and Ditchbank roads. The Carlton County Board has agreed to donate the land for the project.

The plant will use a recirculating sand filter system. The capacity will allow for some development, but not much; it's intended to serve existing buildings primarily.

The lake lies within reservation boundaries, and FDL has the authority to regulate activity that affects water quality. About one-third of the land around the lake is controlled by the band, and two thirds are privately owned and taxable. There are approximately 220 residences around the lake.

Several factors contributed to the decision to build an independent wastewater treat-

ment plant. First, pressing people to replace private septic systems creates conflict, is a patchwork partial solution, and doesn't ensure a clean lake. Second, connecting with the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District requires a large-diameter, seven-mile-long pipe, and the jurisdictional and boundary issues are more complex. And third, the board is more likely to get federal funding for a small, self-contained project.

"Our goal is to keep the cost of this project in line with similar community wastewater projects in the region," Schuldt said.

The five-member Big Lake Sanitary District board, which was created in March, is made up of two band members appointed by Fond du Lac, and three people appointed by the Perch Lake Town Board. They are Gary Harms, chair; Rocky Rennquist, vice chair and FDL representative; Tom Luke, treasurer; John Peterson, Big Lake representative; and Maurice Ojibway, FDL representative.

During the next few months, the board's consultants will be completing the facility plan, and construction is expected to begin the following year.

Translation: Far End of the Great Lake - Fond du Lac Reservation; Narrating of Story

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The mission of this publication is to provide the Anishinaabeg community of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Fond du Lac Reservation, with news and information that will be of help to them in their everyday lives. In addition, our goal will be to highlight many of the honors, accolades, accomplishments and awards that are earned by community members but are mostly overlooked by the mass mainstream media.

It is our hope that through greater information about the activities of our people, this publication can be an instrument of true community. It is not our intention to be a vehicle of divisiveness. To that end,

we do not publish editorials, opinion pieces or letters to the editor. There is an abundance of opportunity for the publishing, airing and dissemination of material of personal opinion in other communication vehicles available throughout the area, region and state.

Our mission is to provide for Fond du lac Anishinaabeg a publication that will not dismiss their culture, heritage, hopes and dreams. We are striving to make this newspaper fill that role.

Member of the Native American Journalists Association

Unique FDL pharmacy receives kudos at Sept. dedication

By Deborah Locke

The Fond du Lac Reservation's Human Service Division achieved national acclaim for the opening of its Twin Cities pharmacy, which was marked by the dedication ceremony on Sept. 10 in Minneapolis at the American Indian Center. The pharmacy, Mashkiki Waakaaigan (medicine house) is located across from the American Indian Center on Franklin Ave. The small pharmacy rooms are decorated with beautiful examples of American Indian art.

In attendance were state and local dignitaries as well as representatives from regional and national offices. About 100 people attended the event which included a meal and the presentation of framed artwork to those closely involved with the planning and implementation of the pharmacy.

The ceremony capped years of planning and negotiations by FDL staff who recognized that urban Indians also deserve quality pharmaceutical services.

"We recognized that many did not have access to good care," said Phil Norrgard, Human Services Director. That realization led to discussions with the area Indian Health Service office and Fond du Lac to see if the Band could use its purchasing discounts to serve an Indian population outside of its service area.

Norrgard first approached the RBC about three and a half years ago, which

was then headed by former Chairman Peter Defoe. That Council agreed to the creation of a pharmacy. Today's current RBC members were all on hand in Minneapolis to participate in the ceremonies.

Changes in medication availability to lower income people have been prominent in recent years. During the 2003 Minnesota legislative session, deep cuts were made in human services to balance the budget. Suddenly co-pays for medications were expected of Minnesota residents on MinnesotaCare, which provides basic health coverage for low income people. As a result, many urban Indians simply didn't get their medications.

Before long, more and more people were using hospital emergency room services because they had not been taking their medication, said State Sen. Linda Berglin (D-Minneapolis). Berglin, a guest speaker at the dedication event, chairs the Senate Health and Human Services Budget Division.

She said that the new pharmacy should help to curb the number of

emergency room visits once people have a dependable supplier of necessary medication.

"The beauty here is that the pharmacy will absorb the co-pays," she said. Diabetes patients in particular need their weekly supplies of insulin, which require a weekly co-pay through MinnesotaCare.

FDL drew upon the experience it already had in providing free pharmaceutical care to urban Indians in Duluth, which started in 1991. The Band built on that foundation, and formed a business plan that would permit it to provide free medicine to eligible Indians. The idea was to collect

enough money from third party payers like public and private insurance carriers to cover the costs.

No other Indian nation in the country had figured out how to pay for pharmacy expenses without collecting money in the form of a co-pay or some other payment from patients.

At the September dedication ceremony, Phil Norrgard also gave credit to Dave Loud, Elder Advocate for the Red Lake Nation. Loud has friends who used to dance at powwows but had to

quit because of diabetes. Some even had limbs amputated because they could not get proper care. Co-pays were creating a real problem among urban Indians, Loud said.

So he wrote letters to all of the tribal officials in Minnesota, and one of the letters found its way to Phil Norrgard. By then, FDL's plans for an urban Indian pharmacy were underway, but Loud's letter highlighted a need in Indian country aimed at tribal officials throughout the state. Loud knew firsthand that the co-pays demanded by the state created real havoc, especially with diabetes patients.

The new pharmacy means this: more of Dave Loud's friends, as well as more FDL Band Members, will dance longer. At the dedication ceremony, Kathleen Vanderwall, tribal relations specialist with the state human services dept., said that the pharmacy represented tribal governance at its best. "All we had to do was get out of the way of the tribes," she said.

The pharmacy address is 1433 E. Franklin Ave., Suite 13, Minneapolis MN. The phone no. is (612) 871-1989.



Ross Trotterchaude, FDL Band Member living in Lanesboro, Minn., drove to Minneapolis for the celebration.



State Sen. Linda Berglin (Minneapolis) addresses the audience at the dedication ceremony. Above, Human Services Director Phil Norrgard thanks RBC members for their support.

Drought takes steep toll on wild rice season; Division survey depicts who's who on lakes

Story and photos by

Thomas Howes

FDL Natural Resources Program Manager

The wild rice harvest for On-Reservation Lakes began on Sept. 4. The date was selected by a majority vote of the Wild Rice Advisory Council. The Council consists of five Band Members, all of whom have 20 years or more of ricing experience.

After that input, the FDL Natural Resources Program, a branch of the Resource Management Division, posted the lakes open to harvest. The Wild Rice Advisory Council suggested that harvesting be allowed on an every-other-day basis for the first week of the harvest, and every day thereafter.

In addition, the Council suggested reserving Deadfish Lake for Elder ricers this year for the first two days since the water levels were higher there. This restriction was applied instead of imposing boat limits for lakes.

This suggestion introduced the fact that FDL Resource Management needed to know more about the demographics of FDL ricers. FDL Natural Resources staff members conducted

a survey at the lake landings this year that simply asked the gender, age within a five year range, and the number of years of ricing experience.

A total of 130 Band Members participated in the survey during this 10 day event. According to the survey, the average ricer is 37 years old with 15 years of experience. The youngest ricer surveyed was 16, and the oldest was two Band Members who listed their age as 70 + . This is very useful information, and we would like to thank those that took part in the survey.

Sale of rice

The Natural Resources Program purchases green rice at the landings from Band Members if they wish to sell their rice. This green rice is delivered by our program to A&B Processing in Cass Lake and returned to the Reservation by Natural Resource Technicians for storage and eventual distribution back to the FDL community and guests through pow wows, funerals, ceremonies, events and gifts.

This stored rice is what many people receive in the brown one-pound bags with the Reservation logo. If you are fortunate enough to receive some of this rice, you should understand and



From the left: wild rice harvester Brad Barney; Adam Thompson, FDL Natural Resource Technician; Chris Houle, FDL Natural Resource Technician; and Mike Smith, FDL Conservation Officer. Here Adam and Chris are preparing a receipt for purchased wild rice from Mud Lake

appreciate the substantial amount of effort expended by the ricer, the Technician, Conservation Officer, Administrative Staff, and the processor.

This year 513 pounds of green rice was donated by the Reservation Business

Committee to the FDL Ojibwe School for students to have the opportunity to learn to process rice, and then have it available for school functions throughout the year.

Besides using the green rice as food, it's also used for seed in restoration projects. People may have noticed that Wild Rice Lake

on Highway 210 actually had a fair amount of wild rice growing on it this year. This is a result of several years of seeding and water level lowering by staff from FDL Wildlife, Environmental, and Natural Resource Programs. FDL is part of a cooperative project with

Ducks Unlimited, which contracts trappers to remove problem beavers in the wild rice lake watershed. Although it is encouraging to see rice growing on this lake, it is not likely a complete restoration. The past two drought years

FDL Natural Resources staff members conducted a survey at the lake landings this year that simply asked the gender, age within a five year range, and the number of years of ricing experience. A total of 130 Band Members participated in the survey during this 10 day event. According to the survey, the average ricer is 37 years old with 15 years of experience. The youngest ricer surveyed was 16, and the oldest was two Band Members who listed their age as 70+.

have played a part in the recovery of the wild rice, as well.

This year approximately 200 pounds will be reseeded in Cedar Lake as a test plot. Over the next year FDL Natural Resources will remove problem beavers and their dams to lower the water level in Cedar Lake. Many people remember that Cedar Lake was once the place where

beginner ricers were sent to learn how to rice, but today Cedar Lake currently supports a minor amount of wild rice.

A smaller harvest

The 2007 purchase of wild rice
Continued on next page

FDL Conservation Officer Darron Sepala oversees the cleaning and bagging of rice. Two ricers in a canoe on the lake show the low water levels at Mud Lake.



“Is it worth it?”

Doc assesses effect of diabetes on patients who accept amputations as an inevitable outcome

By Arne Vainio, M.D.

A.J. lost his foot today.

The FDL public health nurses have been to his house regularly to change his dressings in a desperate, but eventually futile attempt to heal his foot ulcer. He's had a chronic infection that's finally gone in and destroyed the bones in his foot, and has now spread to his bloodstream. Antibiotics are not enough to clear it.

He's had diabetes for years. His blood vessels are so damaged they couldn't provide enough blood flow to heal his ulcer. He has had amputations of his toes twice in the past. He's strong, he never complains. A.J. has schrapnel in his leg and shoulder from a war injury in Korea. He survived that, but his blood sugars turned out to be a bigger threat to his health than artillery shells and land mines.

David, too, will likely lose his foot. He also has a diabetic foot ulcer that is quickly becoming worse. He's just down the hallway from A.J. The surgeons will try to bypass the artery in his leg in order to get blood flow to his right foot.

Last year David had the same prob-



lem on the left side. He did get a bypass of the artery to improve blood flow, but it only stayed open for a short time and he lost his leg below the knee. His blood vessels are so damaged from uncontrolled diabetes that it takes him forever to heal. It

took nine months to heal a scar on his leg when he had his coronary artery bypass (the saphenous vein in the leg is often used in place of the blocked arteries to the heart). It should have healed in two to three weeks.

David is a father and a grandfather. He's a good man and he loves his family.

My mom lost her leg when I was in my first year of residency. I was in Seattle and didn't know how bad her leg was getting. She fell in the kitchen and laid on the floor for over 24 hours before one of her co-workers came to the house because she didn't show up for work. My mom was diagnosed with diabetes when she was 38; she died from complications due to diabetes at age 59. She lost her leg when she was 56. She waited her whole life for my son to be born. She

died 13 months before that and never got to see him.

Diabetes is more than just high blood sugars. It affects all parts of the body and constantly causes damage if sugars aren't controlled. In medical school we

were taught "If you know diabetes, you know medicine." All processes in the human body are meant to function properly only if everything is working the way it's supposed to. As blood vessels get farther away from the heart, they branch off and get smaller and smaller. Nerves have blood vessels that supply them. These blood vessels get damaged and the nerves don't get a good blood supply. They either send out burning pain (dia-

betic neuropathy), or the sensation is lost altogether.

I had a patient with diabetes in Seattle who stepped on a nail and walked with it in his foot all day long. He didn't even know it until he got home and took his boot off. He ended up with an infection and it took months of work by the public health nurses to save his foot.

You don't have to go very deep into

Diabetes is more than just high blood sugars. It affects all parts of the body and constantly causes damage if sugars aren't controlled. All processes in the human body are meant to function properly only if everything is working the way it's supposed to.

- Arne Vainio

most Native patient family histories to find someone who has had an amputation. I see many patients newly diagnosed with (or avoiding diagnosis of) diabetes who assume amputations are inevitable. This is not true. We CAN prevent diabetic amputations, but health care providers can't do this alone.

Controlling diabetes can be a difficult problem, but it is controllable. This means regular visits to the Clinic, watching what you eat and exercising. This is a huge responsibility on the part of the patient.

Is it worth it? I don't know. How much is a foot worth? How much is a grandmother worth? It's been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. To my way of thinking and with the advent of the metric system, I think an ounce of prevention is worth 10 kilograms of cure. That's 4.55 pounds of cure. No matter how you look at it, that's a pretty good deal.

Dr. Arne Vainio, who practices medicine at the FDL Min No Aya Win Clinic, writes about his experiences for this newspaper. He can be reached at avainio@hotmail.com

Wild Rice, from previous page

lasted 10 days and ended on Sept. 16 because harvesters stopped coming out to the lakes. A total of 9,641 pounds of green rice was purchased in 2007 from our five primary rice lakes which included Perch Lake, Jaskari Lake, Mud Lake, Rice Portage Lake, and Deadfish Lake. This year's harvest is approximately one-third of what was purchased last year. In 2006 over 26,000 pounds were purchased.

Although the harvest amount was disappointing, the wild rice harvest has always been variable, due to nutrient availability, climate conditions, and Band Member involvement. The past two years of drought have made many areas of Perch and Rice Portage Lakes less accessible to ricers because of the low water levels. The positive side of this is that the wild rice seed that is not harvested falls

back into the water and is there for the future.

Thomas Howes can be reached at (218) 878-8088 or at tomhowes@fdlrez.com



Wild rice at the flowering stage, from earlier last summer. The photo is courtesy of Charlie Nahgahnub, FDL Natural Resources Technician



A few thoughts from RBC members

From Chairwoman Karen Diver

What is “fair”?

This is a regular question that is talked about among members of the Reservation Business Committee. It is also the way that many Band Members frame the issues brought to the attention of the RBC. Often when the RBC ponders what is fair, it means taking a hard look at the way things are done on the reservation, and whether those things need to be changed to make them more fair. Generally, the RBC looks at its policy and procedures to make sure that they are applied equally to everyone. Sometimes we find that policies and procedures need to be updated to make sure there is clear direction to staff. Sometimes it is difficult to create procedures that will cover every circumstance, so it is important for the RBC to make sure there are processes in place that allow for individual circumstances to be taken into account.

Because the RBC is becoming more efficient with taking care of business matters, these discussions around fair-

ness happen with the whole RBC talking about issues, and not one member acting alone. We believe that it is fair to make sure that issues are heard and discussed by the whole council in order to ensure that we make decisions in the best interests of the Band.

One example is the Reservation’s policies regarding insurability and driving standards, and how they affect Band members’ employability on the reservation. When driving is required for the job, you cannot have had major offenses in the past five years. The policy did not take into account how much driving is required for the job (for example, everyday versus once in a while). By working with the reservation insurance carrier and with division directors to more clearly define what level of job related driving is required, we will be able to make sure that a poor past driving record does not



Karen Diver

prohibit as many band members from employment. The RBC has also been taking a hard look at its compliance procedures to make sure that they are no unnecessary barriers in place, while still holding onto the principles of our community.

Just a quick update on enrollment issues: The Tribal Executive Committee met in a working session to talk about the different positions held by the six reservations on enrollment. Fond du Lac is concerned that we make sure that Band Members have data that lets members know about what effect different decisions will have for us.

For example, how many people will be eligible for enrollment if you take other blood quantum from tribes outside Minnesota? The enrollment staff at MCT gathered information from within the MCT about what constitutes acceptable documentation for band enrollment. The staff will gather additional data and

documentation so that we can begin to have these conversations at the band and MCT levels. This issue will take a lot of work and time before we can even begin to have the conversations and understand the implications of any potential changes.

As I write this, I am beginning a couple of weeks of heavy travel.

I am attending the MCT working session on enrollment, a meeting of tribal leaders to discuss supportive housing in Indian Country, a look at best practices in Indian country governance, and a tribal economic development and finance conference.

I’ll give you an update on these next month. Remember, if you need to reach me, even while out of town, call the office at (218) 878-2612 or my cell phone at (218) 590-4887. Leave a message with your phone number and I’ll get back to you as soon as possible.

My email is karendiver@fdlrez.com.

From Ferdinand Martineau

There is one thing for certain. The days are too short and deadlines come quickly.

Things are moving fast here as we enter the budget season. All program managers who receive any type of support from the Reservation are starting to prepare their budgets. The Council is preparing its forecast of income and expenses for next year, deciding what can stay and what has to go. The most disturbing part of what I have seen so far is the expense side. The loan payments for the casino construction project are going to consume more than half of next year’s income. We are working with the bank and exploring other types of financing.

With all that is going on, I am trying to implement some new ideas that the community has expressed an interest in. The first is to develop a Youth

Advisory Board. I am going to work this concept through the Community Centers. If you or anyone you know would be interested in serving on this new Board, please contact me with your name and phone number. I do

not have any preconceived ideas except that the youth who serve on the board should be between the ages of 10 and 20. They should have an interest in helping to develop activities and programs at the Community Centers.

Next, I would like to develop a junior golf program at the Black Bear Casino Resort Golf Course. We have taken initial steps toward this goal. All that remains is some further development and finding the right person who will be committed to our



Ferdinand Martineau

young golfers. If you are that person, please contact me.

Finally, I wanted to mention our logging company. The equipment has been delivered and people have been hired to do the work. All expenses will be covered through sales of timber. The small profit from this venture will be deposited in the bank and used for equipment replacement or purchase in the future.

The last thing that I want to mention this month is the amount of gratitude shown to me by individual Band Members. Most of the time, as humans, we tend to forget the nice things that people do for us. Well, Fond du Lac Reservation, I want you to know that on the days when I leave work at 6 p.m. and have to explain to

my wife why I am late again, or why I did not make lunch today, or why I forgot to pick up bread – know that the heartfelt notes or the rice or the jam that you leave at the Tribal Center help me and my wife realize that you really do appreciate the sacrifices the Council makes as it serves the Reservation.

Chi-Miigwich! I hope you are had a nice summer. Again, I am always interested in hearing any new ideas, so please feel free to call me. My home number is (218)879-5074, office (218)878-8158

or you can e-mail at ferdinandmartineau@fdlrez.com

Myiigwich!

School News

Ojibwe School receives passing grade

By Deborah Locke

Year three is their charm. Staff and kids at the Ojibwe School learned at the start of the school year that the students achieved “adequate yearly progress,” a requirement of the federal No Child Left Behind act.

The act, passed in 2001, forced states to develop tests that measure basic skills. The tests are administered each year to students in particular grades. Test scores plus other criteria like graduation rates and attendance determine if a school made “adequate yearly progress.”

The Ojibwe School, with 305 students as of mid-September, did not make adequate progress in 2005-'06 or in 2006-'07. Ojibwe School Principal Rae Villebrun said a number of changes at the school might be the reason for the improved status.

For example, the attendance policy changed last year. Before, children could have as many as 15 unexcused absences each quarter, or 56 unexcused days of absence each year. This year students are allowed five missed days, whether they are excused absences or unexcused absences.

Parents began to receive messages about the importance of consistent attendance through newsletters that went home with the children. The NCLB act requires a 90 percent attendance rate; last year Ojibwe School attendance was 90.23 percent.

In addition, about half the students stay after school for a test preparation class.

Rae Villebrun believes the scores may improve further with the introduction of the “Success for All” curriculum, which was just introduced this year. All elementary age children read for about 90 minutes per day, and they have homework that requires reading.

She said she had an inkling that the school would make adequate progress after receiving the 9th grade writing scores over the summer. The majority of students scored at the “proficient” level.

Second grade teacher Meredith Martin said that attendance is crucial, especially for younger children. Children who consistently attend school get along well with their peers and know what is expected of them. Kids who drop in and out are lost and often not accepted by other students.

NCLB mandates that by the year 2013-'14, all children will be “proficient,” which means they perform at average grade level. If the school as a whole or certain subgroups within it do not meet the AYP goal, the school fails and must take corrective actions.



Twenty-six boys are playing on two Ojibwe School football teams this season. Three players are students at the Cloquet Area Learning Center. The younger players are on a team from grades 5 through 8; the junior varsity players are in grades 9 through 12. Players in the younger team were undefeated as of the end of September. They won against Mountain Iron Broule by a score of 12-6, and they beat Floodwood by a score of 6-0.

Coach Davalance Depoe characterized his varsity players as a young team. They've played competitively against Al Brook and Cromwell at the Junior Varsity. “The team is in a rebuilding year” said Depoe. He figures it will be about a year before the team competes at the Varsity level.

These photos were taken during a September practice session on the field near the HeadStart building. The pictures depict a fumbled drill, a blocking and tackling drill and player Luis Garcia helping a teammate off the ground.





Esther Nahgahnub Head Woman in the Sky

Born in a blizzard; spends life seeking justice amid flurries of opposition

By Shoshana Cruz

Wogichidaa Equay," or "Warrior Woman," is the name given her by a nationally renowned fighter for tribal sovereignty.

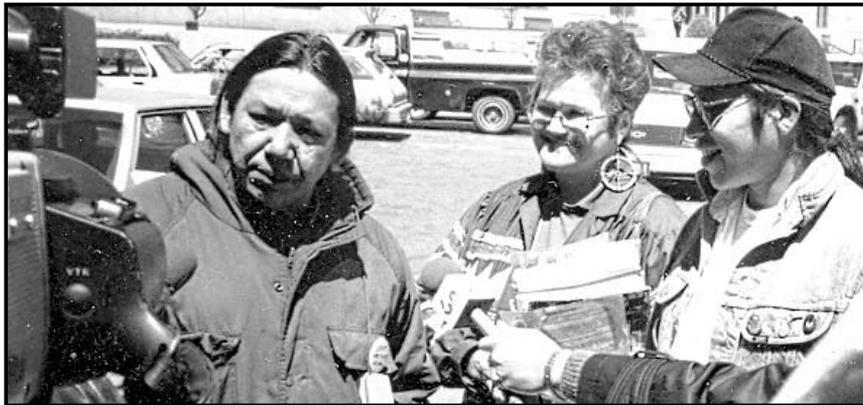
Although that's not Esther Nahgahnub's family-given Indian name, it is descriptive of much of her public life. The Sawyer elder has challenged state legislators, federal officials, Wisconsin anti-treaty residents, the Mexican government and Fond du Lac's Reservation Business Committee. She has put herself on the line with treaty spearers at boat landings in Wisconsin, with Indigenous marchers on the highway around Lake Superior, with Zapatistas in the jungle of Chiapas and with environmentalists on a Greenpeace boat off the shores of Louisiana. She has argued in the State Capitol, in federal court, in Washington, D.C., and at FDL band meetings.

"Her manner has always been respectful and civil - not mean-spirited," said FDL Attorney Dennis Peterson, who sometimes has been Esther's adversary. "She taught me something about respect."

Born Dec. 31, 1940, in Superior, the youngest of three children, Esther's life began in tumult. That winter saw some of the deadliest snowstorms in recorded history; the infamous Armistice Day Blizzard was followed by storm after storm. Scores of people in the region died. On New Year's Eve, her mother was snowed in with her brother Pete, 4, and her sister Johanna, 7. Her father was snowed in miles away, where he was working as a steamfitter. Her grandparents were snowed in at their cabin in Sawyer.

So Esther was born at home. And there, her mother developed pneumonia and a week later, still alone with her children, died.

Chester Nelson named his infant daughter for his late wife. Then he put the three children in the care of two missionaries, mother and daughter, in



L-R: Walter Brissett, Esther Nahgahnub, and Al Hunter talking outside the Duluth courthouse after the judge ruled favorably for Esther and Walt in the "Feathergate" case.

Superior. His work wouldn't allow him to care for the children, He didn't want them separated or sent to Indian board-

ing schools. The missionaries were kind and caring, and Esther remembers them with fondness. She began honing skills

for public action: delivering missionary pamphlets to homes, and singing gospel songs.

The children remained in Superior until Esther was almost five, when their father married again. His new wife, Vendla, never had her own children; she did her best to be a good mother to her three stepchildren.

The family moved to North Dakota, then to Montana. Esther developed a lifelong love of horses there, as well as a consciousness of just causes: Realizing that the farmers were killing off the mustangs, she informed her father and stepmother that she intended to have a ranch for homeless horses. The adults reminded her of the rugged appear-



Esther Nahgahnub

ance of a neighboring ranch woman. "Do you want to end up looking like that?" her stepmother asked.

"I thought that woman looked like she could handle her way around a ranch," Esther said recently. "I suppose they wanted me to drink out of teacups and wear frilly skirts."

When she was in eighth grade, the family moved to Fairmont, Minn., where she graduated from high school and married her high school sweetheart. Her husband became a career Navy man, and after their son Charlie was born, the family moved to Hawaii. Esther was pregnant with their second child, Kim, when her husband abandoned the family. She divorced him.

After daughter Kim's birth, Esther moved her family to Duluth. There, "Old Mrs. Howes" – Mary Howes of Fond du Lac - and Esther started up the American Indian Fellowship, the first of its kind in Duluth. "There was no other Indian anything," she said. "We had Christmas dinners for kids, kind of a drop-in center for Native people. She began attending the College of St. Scholastica, earning a bachelor's degree in English and Indian Studies.

Later, she went to the University of Arizona at Tucson, where she worked on a master's degree in Indian Studies, and spent time in Navajo Country ("Oh, that mutton! Big juicy slabs of it, fat dripping down your chin..."). She studied with the late legal scholar Vine Deloria Jr. (Lakota), and worked as his teaching assistant in federal Indian law. She also studied under Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa), who convinced her to write stories about what was going on in Indian Country. The stories were published in various magazines.

Challenges to the Treaty

Throughout her childhood, Esther often spent time with her grandparents, Alex and Isabelle Nahgahnuh, at their home on the south shore of Big Lake. They gave her an Indian name, Ogima geshig gwok quay, "Head Woman in the Sky." Her affection for the natural world – trees, water, the whole fabric of life - was nurtured there, as was an understanding of the crucial value of "the Treaty."

The Treaty of 1854 guaranteed a homeland, as well as off-reservation hunting and gathering rights, to Fond du Lac and other Ojibwe bands. Esther's

ancestor, Chief Nahgahnuh of Fond du Lac, was one of the signers.

"My grandfather always said, 'The Treaty will protect us,'" she said recently in her home. Although the State of Minnesota had long made a habit of trampling those rights, her grandfather knew that when push came to shove, the federal government would be forced to acknowledge the constitutionally-guaranteed sanctity of the treaty.

Push came to shove in the late 1980s, when Fond du Lac and other 1854 bands filed a lawsuit against the state. Instead of pressing a legal battle to the end, the bands and the state reached a compromise: the state would pay the three bands to refrain from exercising full hunting and fishing rights in the ceded territory. A federal judge would implement the agreement.

Esther and other band members were aghast.

They saw the agreement as a permanent sale of the rights, a relinquishment of their individual treaty rights. After failing to convince the RBC to reject the agreement, they went to St. Paul to try to convince the Legislature to do so. On each of her many lobbying trips, Esther wore a bright red coat because she wanted the legislators to be conscious of being watched from the gallery. After much testimony, pleadings and jousting with the RBC, the activists convinced the parties to insert a get-out clause in the agreement.

Later, Esther sat on the Band's 1854 Ceded Territory Committee. FDL attorney Peterson would go before the committee from time to time, to give it updates.

"I'd feel really uptight going in to talk to them," he said. "But Esther always

had this civility; I never left there feeling beat up or deprived of my humanity. Adversaries can have a way of doing that to one another."

The 1854 agreement had identified treaty rights as rights belonging to the Band, and not as individual rights held by virtue of belonging to the Band. Not long afterwards, Esther and the late Red Cliff activist Walter Bresette were involved in a federal court case that said otherwise. "Feathergate" arose out of a U.S. Fish & Wildlife charge that the pair had sold artifacts (mainly Esther's dreamcatchers, in Walter's store in Duluth) containing the feathers of federally protected birds. The court ruled



Esther with her beloved companion "Elmer" right before his death.

Esther at sixteen- "I wanted a nineteen inch waist like Gina Lollobrigida."



that their existing Indian treaty rights preceded and superceded the Migratory Bird Act.

Esther is proud of that decision. "It set a precedent, a big one," she said. "It showed the people that they had rights other than what the RBC gave them... In other words, we also have individual rights." Struggle to retain traditions in Wis.

Around the same time, Esther joined other witnesses at Wisconsin lakes where Indian spearmen exercised their treaty rights. The "wall-eye wars" were frightening. At Butternut Lake, for example, armed, drunken white

people mobbed, circled, threatened and screamed at a few Indian fishermen standing quietly in their boats. They also threatened to kill the witnesses, who stood nearby. Some carried fishing spears with a lifelike model of a Native man's head impaled on them. Others jeered at the female witnesses who were Native, using filthy language - even at a diminutive, very elderly Lakota woman who maintained a quiet dignity as they crowded her. The county law

enforcement officers seemed more in sympathy with the mob than with the law-abiding fishermen and witnesses.

"I've never been so scared in my life," Esther said. "I was terrified. Those guys were armed – over a few walleye!" The Lakota elder had come a long way to help Ojibwe treaty fishermen. She put her life on the line, so that future generations could maintain their customs and identity.

That's what it means to be an elder, Esther said – to live your life honorably, with commitment. "It's the way you hold yourself, how you've helped the children, how you have helped the people... My brother, who was a Ho Chunk, said at an elder council: 'You're not elders. You're a bunch of old people. All you're talking about is yourself, what you can get. You're not talking about the next generation.'

"You know, the biggest part of being Indian is respect. And there are two kinds of Indian: the kind who has blood quantum and can be registered, and then there is the kind who thinks with an Indian mind and heart."

"This 'Honor the Elders' thing. What do they mean by that? Having a powwow? Taking a bus trip? Or does that mean helping somebody who's sick, seeing if they need something, giving them a call, visiting with them?"

In recent years, Esther has expanded her activism to world issues, such as Indigenous rights elsewhere, and protecting the Earth. With Native people from Canada and the United States, she walked around Lake Superior to illustrate the sanctity of the fresh water. With the Indigenous Environmental Network, she toured on Greenpeace boats and testified in Washington, D.C., about deformed frogs and air quality. She went to Chiapas in southern Mexico to witness for Indigenous rights. Two days after she arrived, the revolution broke out. The jungle was rife with human violence and physical traps, and guns were leveled at her and other witnesses. She sent stories about Chiapas for publication in The Circle, and for broadcast on the Superior Radio Network, MPR and NPR.

Now her biggest fight is for her life. Diagnosed with cancer in January, she underwent extensive surgery, followed by radiation and chemotherapy. The experience convinced her that more must be done for people with cancer. FDL could do more – not just prevention, but one-to-one involvement



When something higher than yourself steps in

Debbie Johnson-Fuller's recovery

By Lance Howard

Prevention and Intervention Specialist, FDL Human Services Division; Interview by Victoria Durfee, Prevention and Intervention Specialist, FDL Human Service Division

“Why don’t you just do yourself a favor and just die, Deb? Because you are chronic.” Those are the words that a Willmar, Minn. counselor told Debbie Johnson-Fuller at a time when she had lost everything to alcohol – her job, her house, and her son Zeke, who was put in foster care.

The counselor’s words took away her excuses, Debbie said. “I had a whole stack of them that I could keep using.”

Fond du Lac Band Member Debbie Johnson-Fuller, 51, was born Wilmar, Minn. and grew up in Spicer, Minn. She graduated from the New London Spicer High School, and went on to get a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota.

If that sounds like an incredible outcome for a drug addict, know that the path to those achievements wasn’t easy or likely. She lived in a family where alcohol use was generational. “It’s been there forever,” she said, and the activities of the family revolved around alcohol.

“We didn’t do anything without alcohol,” Debbie said. As children, the kids played “bar” and would order whiskey and beer, pretend to drink and mimic getting staggering drunk.

By the time she was an adult, Debbie had become a junkie, using Class A narcotics like heroin and morphine. Then at age 29, she met the Willmar counselor who suggested that she just give up. Instead, Debbie decided she didn’t want to be a junkie anymore, and thought “I’ll just drink.”

From needles to bottles

At that point, Debbie had never consumed alcohol before, and when she did start drinking, she lost control over her life and became a chronic alcoholic. Each day she drank a quart size bottle of vodka flavored with a small amount of grapefruit juice.

Then a friend of Debbie’s who was a meth addict invited Debbie to a public speaking engagement in St. Cloud. Turns out the event was an open Narcotics Anonymous meeting. At that meeting, a little man approached Debbie, and recited to

her every possible excuse she could use for remaining a drunk.

“He looked at me and said ‘I’m going to open your Pandora’s Box,’” she said.

And he did. By the end of that evening in 1987, Debbie realized that she really had no excuses left for being a drunk. She decided to

At that Narcotics Anonymous meeting, a little man approached Debbie, and recited to her every possible excuse she could use for remaining a drunk. “He looked at me and said ‘I’m going to open your Pandora’s Box,’” she said. And he did. By the end of that evening in 1987, Debbie realized that she really had no excuses left for being a drunk. She decided to attend her first Narcotics Anonymous meeting. Today she views that man as an angel, sent to save her life.

attend her first Narcotics Anonymous meeting. Today she views that man as an angel, sent to save her life.

Narcotics Anonymous wasn’t her first brush with a form of treatment. Debbie had been in recovery programs since 1975, always getting healthy for her son and then leaving to resume her addiction. She went

to the Eden House in Minneapolis, a facility that broke people down to nothing by making them shave their heads or wear diapers. At that time, no one knew how to treat junkies, Debbie said. The recovery rate then was one percent as counselors experimented with methods

of recovery. In that program after reaching a rock-bottom low, it was hoped that the clients would rebuild themselves.

“I didn’t rebuild myself,” Debbie said. “I got out of there as quick as I could.”

Then Debbie tried a program in Wilmar, where she was put in a men’s group due to her hardcore addiction. It didn’t work. That was followed by her three-year “God will save me” phase where she tried a Christian-based treatment. Didn’t work.

Clearly, Debbie was not outpatient material. Yet longer-term programs weren’t working, either. Then “something higher up than myself stepped in,” she said. With tobacco in hand, Debbie simply asked for help.

“Spirituality, spirituality, spirituality. That’s what made me whole,” she said. The prayers made a big difference. Debbie eventually survived holidays and birthdays and parties without drugs or alcohol, and a year later got a call from a treatment center inviting her to a family group meeting for her sister.

Family intervention

That night Debbie and her sister worked through some of their issues, which really helped Deb with her recovery.

Since then Debbie had others to look up to. Connie Rivard of the St. Croix Band, known as Grams, was her ultimate role model. “She was strong, she looked out for her people, and did whatever she could to protect her people,” Debbie said. Connie passed away in June.

Also looking out for Debbie is her friend, Cathy. “I don’t think I’d be alive if I didn’t have her direction, friendship, and stubbornness not to let go of me.”

Debbie’s example of overcoming alcohol gave hope to her younger brother and sister who had substance abuse problems, because now they knew they had a chance. They had a chance because Debbie broke the pattern of alcohol abuse. On Nov. 19, she celebrates 20 years of sobriety.

In her life today, the most important people are her husband Dan and their children, four boys and two girls. She said that alcohol and drugs are not part of who she is anymore. She tries to be an example, a role model, to her children, because she’s well aware of the road they could take, especially since they live in an American Indian community.

“The addictions kill us,” she said. “They rob our spirit, diminish us as a people. That black cloud just comes right over and doesn’t care who you are.”

Debbie sees a hopeful future for the younger generations now, thanks to the Fond du Lac Community Centers, Clinic, Tribal Center, Drop-in Center, and Head Start. Children need lots of education, Debbie said, even though education produces seeds that remain invisible for 10 to 15 years. She believes that children who

grow while receiving a good education become adults with the knowledge and strength to change the status quo.

Debbie now works as a cancer outreach employee at the Min no aya win Clinic and loves life, as well as working and belonging to the Fond du Lac community.

“I cry out of joy because I was given a second chance to live,” she said. “The tears are healing.”

Debbie lived in a family where alcohol was generational and the activities of the family revolved around alcohol. “We didn’t do anything without alcohol,” Debbie said. As children, the kids played “bar” and would order whiskey and beer, pretend to drink and mimic getting staggering drunk.

This is the second story of sobriety and survival from the FDL Human Services Division. The first story appeared in our July 2007 edition.



Photos by Deborah Locke

More rez adventures with the Indian Scout

By Deborah Locke

The rez truck came to a slow stop on the rock road-way parallel to the tracks along the St. Louis River. A small beaten clearing through the trees and brush led down to the river where the eagle-eye Indian Scout spotted a canoe with three hopeful anglers.

That day felt more like summer in Florida than the second crisp day of fall in beautiful northeastern Minnesota. The trees, dressed in their finest reds and golds, smiled as the rez truck trudged over the railbed rocks.

This was my third foray into the belly and fringes of the Fond du Lac Reservation. My Indian Scout proved himself worthy of the title since early summer, charting courses that took us into the heart and history of the rez. Joining us that hot morning and on the next overcast, cool day was FDL Game Warden Pete Durfee.

The three of us scrambled through the clearing down the embankment to the river's edge. We had a clear view of the anglers as they passed Paw paw sco me metig, also known as Posey Island, the southernmost spot on the FDL Reservation. Scout said the Ojibwe word meant island without trees.

He added that the island was long of historical interest to the people of Fond du Lac. Some said it had always marked the southernmost reservation location; others said that the 1854 treaty and the maps that followed the treaty were unsynchronized. Somehow, the Lake Superior Band of Chippewa lost land because surveyors started measuring rightful Indian land from the wrong St. Louis River island. Elders knew that the island singled out in the treaty was located near the Tompson Dam, now buried in the dam's reservoir.

During his growing up years, Scout heard the stories about faulty geography from his elders. Such stories spin the Scout into a blue funk. How he hates those land grabs, as much as he hates the clear cutting of the giant white pine that once lined the river shore.

"The trunks were this broad!" the Scout proclaimed on the river bank, his arms reaching wide.

If the shoreline and island knew they were the object of lively conversation, they didn't let on. We climbed the steep embankment to a leveled area the Scout believed was a former campsite.

The Ojibwe people had a centuries-long appreciation for the St. Louis River, Scout said. The river provided a fine mode of canoe transportation as well as healthy populations of walleye and other fish.

A day later we stood at another St. Louis River clearing, site of the earliest known Ojibwe village. To get there Warden Durfee took Midway Road to Gary West Duluth and then to a cleared area along the quiet river. Scout speculated that Ojibwe villagers probably came to that spot in the winter to find protection from the north wind, and moved to Park Point as a summer home.



A plaque on a rock provided by the Daughters of the American Revolution informed us that a trading post was established there in 1817. Also, the DAR wanted all to know that in 1826, the first treaty between the Indians and non-Indians was made at that location.

"You're walking where the feet of your great great great great grandparents ran around when they were children," the Indian Scout said.

We walked plenty that day, most immediately to the river's edge over thick planks where a slip on soggy leaves meant a dip in the drink. A view from a giant boulder at the water's edge showed a river moving lazily past colorful trees.

We boarded the rez truck, this time for a burial area off Jay Cooke Road about a quarter mile into the woods. We walked a muddy trail where the Warden saw a deer shoot through the woods. An open gate led to graves dated 1847 and earlier. Two graves were marked with aged, knocked over headstones; the remaining graves were identifiable only as long sunken holes.

A majestic oak tree stood at the gated entrance. The oak delighted the Scout, who spends a lot of time studying trees. He loitered as we headed for the truck, scolding. We walked too fast to take in all the sights, he scolded. The rez truck dipped into deep grooves as we left, reminding the Scout of the rough roads traveled during moose-hunting season. "Your belly fat jiggles so much that it hurts at the end of the day," he observed.

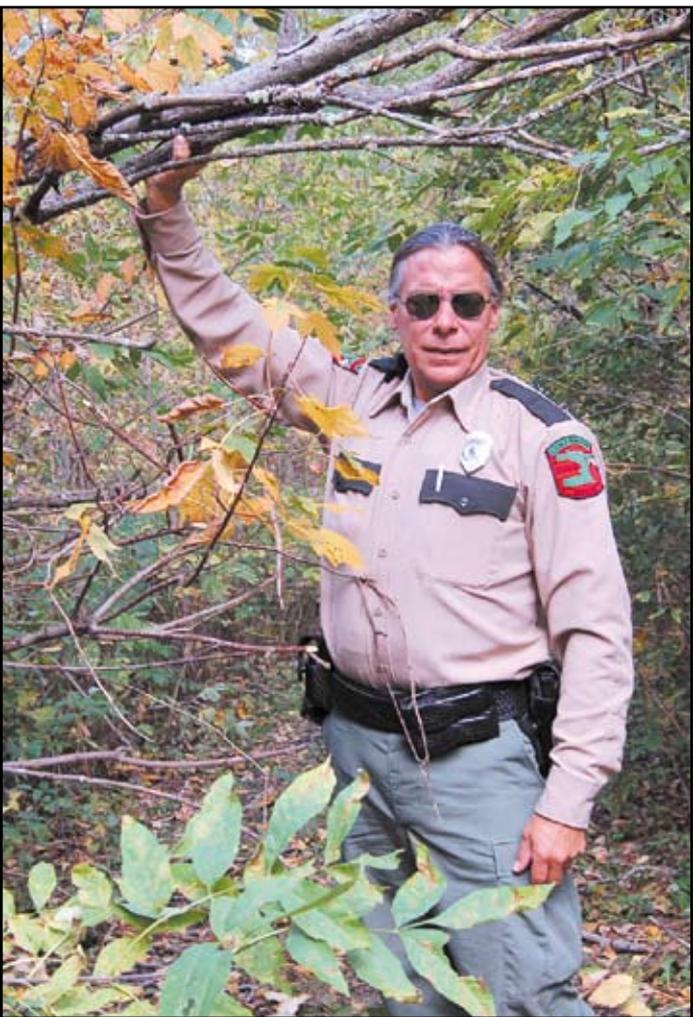
That day we spent about 20 minutes looking for wild leeks not far from the Jay Cooke State Park Swinging Bridge. They were gone. Also, the Warden introduced us to the rare Hemlock pine trees in the 50-acre Hemlock Ravine, the only trees of that species located this far west.

In two days we sought sunken islands, scanned vistas of apricot-colored trees against brilliant blue skies, stepped in mud and walked around bear poop. Trace our steps on a map and you'd presume we were well off the reservation, deep into parks and tourist areas.

Many Indians, however, believe the western reservation boundaries stretch way down the St. Louis River into West Duluth. They remember the grandparent stories about a surveying error.

When they stop at a state park Visitor's Center or a miscellaneous Tourist Attraction, they pause and think. From the map in their minds, they've just arrived at home.

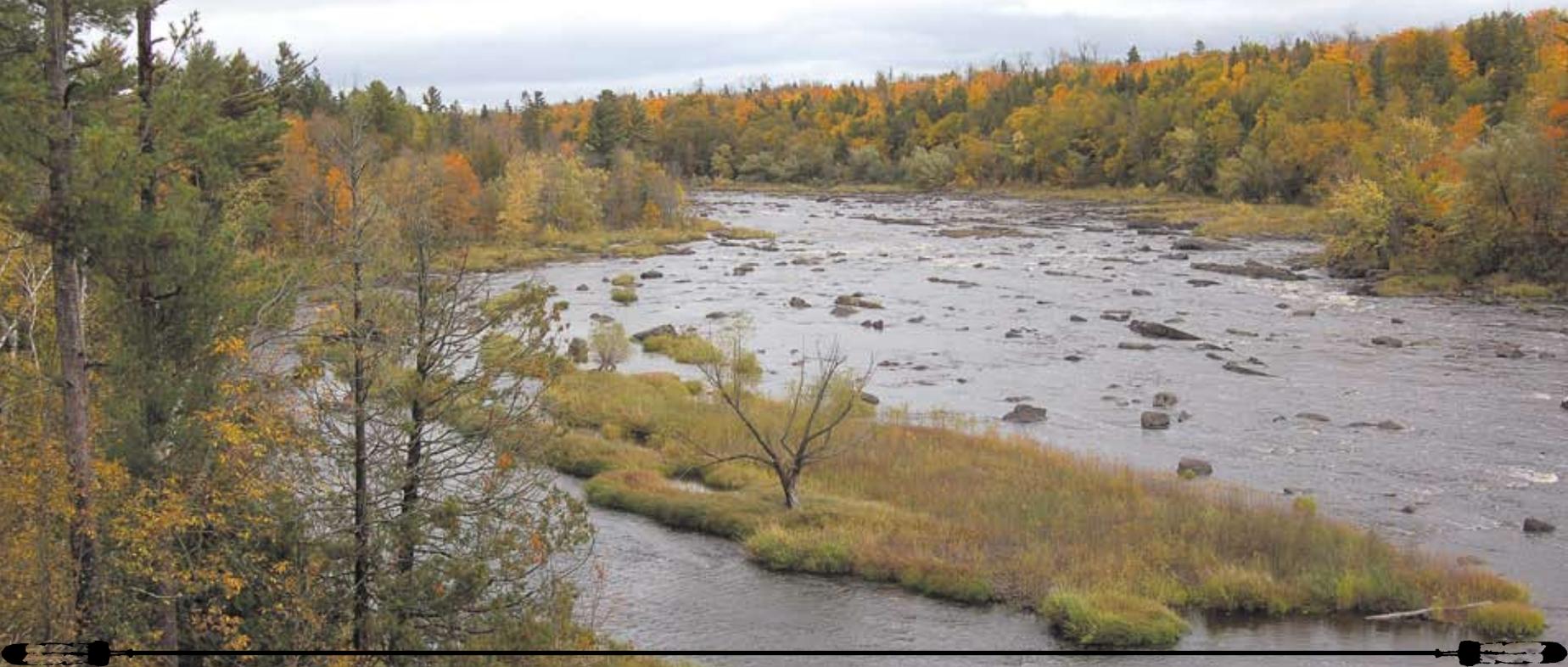
Deborah Locke can be reached at deborahlocke@fdl-rez.com. Her mailing address is FDL News, Tribal Ctr., 1720 Big Lake Rd., Cloquet Minn. 55720



Game Warden Pete Durfee held branches aloft on the path to the river shoreline



Above, anglers on the St. Louis River. Below, the brilliant colors of the season near the rail tracks and at Jay Cooke State Park. Photos by Deborah Locke



Etc.



Shown in this September photo is Prairie Northrup, daughter of Band Member Vern Northrup, with Country Western singer Leann Rimes. Rimes was one of the lead music acts at the three-day 2007 Black Bear Casino Resort Music Fest. About 16,000 people attended the concerts. Photo courtesy of Cassie Bauer.



On Sept. 11, 2007 Band Member Blake Evanson was sworn in as a FDL conservation officer for the Resource Management Division. There are eight full-time conservation officers who enforce FDL fish and game laws. Blake is a former FDL police officer. In this photo RBC Chairwoman Karen Diver administers the oath.



On Aug. 24, eight FDL kids participated in a Drop-In Center Pool Tournament. Shown here are the top winners from that tournament: Jordan Belland, 14 (middle) 1st Place; Brian Fineday, 10 (right), 2nd Place; and Jason Fineday, 7 (left), 3rd Place.

Frequent phone call list

(218) Area Code	
Tribal Center Switchboard	879-4593 1-800-365-1613
Black Bear Casino	878-2327 1-888-771-0777
Black Bear Hotel	878-7400 1-800-553-0022
Brookston Community Center	878-8033
CAIR	726-1370
FDL Propane	879-4869
FDLTCC	879-0800
Food Distribution	878-7505
Head Start	878-8100
Housing	878-8050
Human Resources	878-2653
Law Enforcement	878-8040



On Aug. 30, Pete Defoe received an appreciation award and a lifetime pass to the Proctor Speedway for his support of the Black Bear Silver 1000 annual stock car races. Pete, a former RBC chairman, has not missed attending the Silver 1000 in 35 years. Black Bear Casino became a major sponsor of this event about 12 years ago.

Area Indian news briefs

Bois Forte enters partnership to protect northern islands

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is collaborating with the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the 1854 Treaty Office to safeguard islands in northern Minnesota lakes.

Last year, the three partners started a five-year cooperative stewardship program to evaluate, stabilize, manage and protect the islands, which suffer from damage caused by recreational use, erosion, litter, and vandalism. Inventories of 86 islands in the Lake Vermilion Recreation Area have already been completed, and 28 archaeological sites -- some at least two thousand years old -- have been identified.

Band Members spent several days during the spring, summer and fall photographing and documenting their findings on the islands. The Band has also provided in-kind services and contributions to the project.

Tobacco/nicotine addiction

Wisconsin couple fined for building basement on mound

As part of a settlement with the U.S. Justice Dept., an Oneida County couple in Wisconsin must rip out a

basement they build on an American Indian burial site. The Wisconsin State Journal reported that Raymond and Patti Robinson built a foundation on a mound on the shores of Lake Nokomis in November, which is a violation of state law. The Robinsons must remove the foundation, fill in the hole and reconstruct the mound, and pay about \$17,000 in penalties and assessments.

The Wisconsin state archeologist, John Broihahn, said that the site is from 600 to 1,000 years old.

Wisconsin tribes join others to expand economic base

The Oneida Nation of Wisconsin joined two other tribes in the ownership of an off-reservation, 100 percent smoke-free Marriott Hotel in Sacramento, Calif. The 15-story, 235-suite hotel opened for business on July 6, and is the first hotel in the state located off tribal land and owned by multiple tribes.

Joining the Oneida in the "Three Fires LLC" partnership are the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, each located in southern Calif.

The partnership is among the first

joint business ventures nationally between tribal governments formed as an investment coalition. The venture reduces risks to the individual tribes and diversifies their individual economic futures. San Manuel Chairman Henry Duro said that the venture built on a tradition of trade and commerce that has been the basis for connecting Indian nations "since time immemorial."

In 2005 the three tribes, plus the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, formed a similar coalition that opened a Washington D.C. hotel. The story was reported in Indian Country Today.

Police stop willow branch gathering at St. Paul park

Police prevented four men at St. Paul park from removing tree branches they had cut for a sweat lodge ceremony. According to a police report, officers were called to Lilydale Regional Park early in Sept. after a witness saw the men gathering willow branches.

The men were informed that the wood, dead or alive, could not be harvested without permission from St. Paul parks. The men were issued trespass notices, which means they

must avoid the park for a designated period of time. The story was reported in the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Impact of tribal ventures on Minnesota economy

A study of workforce economic benefits of tribal casino resorts was released earlier this year that showed tribal jobs generating \$429 million to the Minnesota economy in 2005. The study was commissioned by members of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association, and completed by C. Ford Runge, an economist with the University of Minnesota. The Fond du Lac Reservation is a member of MIGA.

The report concluded that the tribal casino workforce included 12,900 jobs, 11,100 full-time and 1,800 part-time positions. Tribal casino jobs brought \$285 million in direct economic benefits to rural Minnesota.

Tobacco misuse in Indian Country

In Indian Country Mille Lacs Band adopts more non-smoking areas

The Corporate Commission members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe increased the non-smoking areas at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley in mid-September. The new non-smoking areas include the convention center, meeting rooms, hotel lobbies and restaurants.

Certain areas were already designated as non-smoking, such as the childcare and arcade areas.

Minneapolis summit addresses commercial smoking abuse

American Indian leaders from the U.S. met in Minneapolis in August for the National Tribal Leaders Tobacco Policy Summit designed to combat the high rates of commercial smoking abuse across Indian Country.

A story in the Circle reported that participants shared strategies to eliminate smoke-related illnesses through non-smoking ordinances passed on reservations and teach-

ing tools that encourage individuals to quit misusing tobacco. Other recommendations included asking casinos and tribes not to sell commercial tobacco products, getting youth involved in cessation campaigns, not taking tobacco ad money for powwows, lessons in the uses of traditional tobacco, and having casinos go smoke free.

Mention was made of the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana that passed a smoke-free ordinance effective Oct. 1. People will not be able to smoke or use pipe tobacco

in any tribal facility including casinos. Those smoking outside must be at least 25 feet from the nearest entrance. The council members who smoked were the most enthusiastic supporters of the ordinance.

Two tribes have passed smoke-free ordinances: the Blackfoot Reservation and the Hopi Nation.

Community news



These community pages are yours, the members of the Fond du Lac Band. We especially welcome family news. Please send us information about births, engagements, weddings, and deaths.

We also include news of graduations (high school and post-high school) and military service. Memorials to loved ones or notes of appreciation are also welcomed.

Our deadline for the next edition of this paper is Oct. 18, 2007. Information may be sent by U.S. mail to: Editor, FDL News, 1720 Big Lake Rd., Cloquet, Minn. 55720, or by email to deborahlocke@fdlrez.com

The telephone number is (218)878-2628. You may also drop off items at the Cloquet Community Center at the front desk. Include your phone number. Submissions will be edited for clarity and length.

Congratulations to these recent college graduates

Lisa Rue, University of Phoenix, Boise, Idaho; Bachelors of Science in Business/Finance/Marketing. Kittagakonce Sutton, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College; AA-Liberal Arts.

Sharlow Michael, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College; AA-Liberal Arts

Reminder regarding cemetery floral and misc. arrangements

Please remove all miscellaneous decorations including floral arrangements from the graves at FDL cemeteries by Oct. 15, 2007. After that date, staff personnel will dispose of the decorations.

Notes of thanks

Donnie Shabiash and family extend a big “miigwetch” to all who helped him at the time of his accident, and afterward. Words can’t begin to express our gratitude for the kindness from the Fond du Lac community.

The Donnie Shabiash family

The family of Don Savage would like to acknowledge all those who supported and contributed to the First Annual Don Savage Memorial Tournament.

Thank you to all the golfers who came to play and share that day with us! Congratulations to Jerry Ojibway and Sam Ojibway for their First Place win in the second flight.

We would like to express a special thank you to the Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee for the donations and for helping the FDL golfers with their fees. Your support is very much appreciated!

Proceeds from the tournament purchased a memorial bench located at Blueberry Pines Golf Course, and a donation to the Pine Point Boys and Girls Club where Don was last employed.

Also, thank you to Jerry Ojibway for the moment of silence and kind words at the Black Bear Tournament this year.

May Gichi-Manidoo bless each of you as he has our family in being sur-

rounded by friends like you. *Karol, Dannel, Darci, Shawna and families*

A big thanks to everyone who showed such kindness following the death of our mother, **Katie Olson**. Thanks for the cards and for the gifts of money which will be used to pay for her headstone. A special thank you to Fawn, Lynn and Billie Jo for their help at that time.

Tina Sadler

Thanks to all who participated in the fundraiser for my uncle, **Scherwin Costello**. The raffle was a big success and will provide alternative medicine for Scherwin.

Some area winners were: Ruth Reedy, Floodwood (quilted flag wall hanging); Dennis Thompson, FDL (Aveda gift basket); Darrin Olson, FDL (blue beaded tie with pullover sport jacket); Sylvia Smith, FDL (red beaded tie with pullover sweatshirt from); Mary Northrup, FDL (two 18-hole golf certificates for Black Bear Golf Course);

Lynn Reynolds (quilt); Kelly Smith, FDL (Holey knee's quilted wall hanging & Aveda gift basket); Evelyn Olson, FDL (free hotel stay at Shooting Star Casino, \$20 buffet certificates, 2 free bingo packs, \$20 in quarters); Nancy Elm, Duluth (Aveda gift basket).

A special thanks to the Fond du Lac Tribal Council for donating wild rice and the gift certificates for the golf course, Shirley Schleret for donating the Star Quilt wall hanging and to Elaine Rilea for the donated quilt. Thanks also to Dannel Kettlehut for help in designing the fliers for the benefit dinner and raffle. Miigwetch. Susan "Jane" Belcourt

As the wild rice season comes to an end, the **FDL Natural Resource Program** would like to thank the RBC for its financial support of wild rice issues.

Thanks, also, to the tribal members who harvest for continuing this tradition, the FDL Conservation Officers for providing safety for the ricers and enforcement of regulations, the Resource Management administrative staff for management of the pay out to Band Members, and the FDL Natural Resources Technicians for their long hours purchasing and delivering the wild rice. Chi-Miigwetch.

FDL Natural Resource Program

Birthday greetings

Happy fifth birthday to **Gina Misquadace** on Oct. 10!

Love from Dad and your brother and sisters

A belated happy birthday to **Randall Barney** (Sept. 7)

from his love, Cheryl



Birth Announcement

Welcome **Tianna Rosalee Morgan!**



Born August 16, 2007 Proud Parents: Erin

Reynolds and Tommy Morgan

Anniversary

Congratulations to **Arnold & Carolyn Bassett** on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on Sept. 26, 1947.

Memorial Cheyenne Thompson

June 8, 1975 to Oct. 27, 2000

You are in our thoughts. We love you very much.

The family of Cheyenne Thompson



Michael "Joe" DeFoe, Dec. 18, 1954 to Sept. 14, 2004

It has been a very long three years without you. We miss your sideways jokes, your warm helping hands and the teachings you were always willing to share through the stories that you told.

Our lives were changed forever when you left to be with your maker, the world changed.

We know that you are at peace and there is no more pain for you now. You gave us so much and never asked for anything in return. You were a simple man, with few needs. Your greatest need was to help others. The memories that we have of you gets us through today's tough times.

Chi miigwetch for all that you were to

us. In our hearts today, tomorrow and always, no matter what, *Lori, James, Neal, Shannon, Ted, Jamison, Nates and Sean*

Informal Ojibwe language lessons offered Thursdays

Anyone who wishes to learn the Ojibwe language or brush up on your language skills is invited to join the FDL Language Table from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays through the end of May at the Cloquet Community Center, 1720 Big Lake Road. A pot luck meal is shared: feel free to bring your favorite dish.

Obituary

Katie P. Olson, 82, of Sawyer, passed away on Sept. 3, 2007. She was born on Jan. 25, 1925 to Albert and Mary Porter. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughters Elsie and Hope "Too Too"; and son Danny.

Katie was a faithful but not always winning slot machine player, said her daughter, Tina Sadler. She was highly successful at gathering wild rice, however, and earned a reputation for bringing in record amounts. Katie was a fixture at all the area lakes in the early fall. Tina said her mother was 75 years old before Tina could harvest more rice than Katie.

Katie's children and grandchildren absorbed much of her time. She had 11 children; 8 survive her. She taught her children to follow the teachings of the Bible, reminding them to forgive and love each other no matter what.

She made excellent rabbit soup with a special kind of small dumpling, her daughter said. Katie enjoyed playing dice and Yahtzee, and watched "Wheel of Fortune" on television. She worked outside of the home at a fisherie, Geno's, and U.S. Paper, among other

jobs.

Katie is survived by her children, Joanne (Butch) Olson, Myrtle Soukkala, Jacob "Sonny" Greensky, Jackie (Norm) Pederson, FayAnn Greensky, Gil (Sandy) Greensky, Bobbi (Kent) Olsen and Tina (Jeff) Sadler; over 200 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; sister Evelyn Olson; many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Her funeral was held at 11 a.m. on Sept. 7 at the Sawyer Chapel on Soukkala Dr. Burial was at the Sawyer Cemetery.

FDL vets: Veterans Service Office available to assist

Just a reminder to FDL Veterans that the Veterans Service office located in the Tribal Center on Big Lake Road is open to help you file a claim or to assist you with filing a new claim. We also offer assistance to families of FDL Veterans.

Recent activities at the Veterans Office include assisting FDL Veterans with replacing medals, and the upgrading of discharges.

Veterans who have appointments with the U.S. Veterans Administration or who could use assistance from the V.A. are invited to call our office. Mary Northrup, Veterans Service Officer, has received ongoing training with the V.A. on ways to help FDL Veterans.

Please feel free to call her at (218) 878-7583.



Briefs

Tullibee netting to start on northern lakes in Oct.

Band Members will be able to set nets for inland tullibee again in 2007. Netting begins on Oct 22 and ends Dec. 23. Nets will be required to conform to provisions spelled out in the 1854 Conservation Code. Copies of the Code are available at the front desk of the Resource Management building located on University Road near the bus barns.

Band Members receive copies of the Codes when they pick up their identification cards and tags. Permits and angler diaries can be obtained from the FDL Resource Management Division. Records of fishing activities must be recorded in the logbook and returned to the Resource Management Division.

The tullibee is a relative of the whitefish, and is found throughout the northern areas of North America.

Up to three lakes may be declared for netting. Lakes available for declaration include the following: Vermillion, St. Louis County; Hanging Horn, Carlton County; Brule, Cook County; Isabella, Lake County; Caribou, Cook County; Prairie, St. Louis County; Silver Island, Cook County. Tullibee netting in lakes other than those listed must receive the approval of Reginald DeFoe, Resource Management Director.

No netting will be allowed in Lake Superior.

While not required, it would be a good idea to let FDL Conservation Officers know of your activities so that if nets are vandalized, tampered with, or simply found, our officers will know how to respond. Please www.fdlrez.com/newnr/main.htm for news on the Natural Resources link to the Resource Management Division.

Questions may be directed to (218) 878-8001.

Fall walleye netting at Mille Lacs Lake

FDL Band Members MUST come to the Resource Management office on

University Rd. and sign up prior to 4:30 on Oct. 9. Walleye netting will begin on the night of Oct. 12, and continue as long as Fond du Lac has northern pike in its quota. It is likely that FDL netters will be finished after only one night of netting.

Permits will be available at the Resource Management front desk during regular business hours beginning Oct. 10.

Kids on road to alcoholism begin as early as 4th grade

Ten percent of fourth grade children in the United States have had more than a sip of alcohol, and seven percent have had a full, adult-size drink.

That conclusion arrived at the end of a 15-year study in 39 states by scientists at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. The children consumed beer, wine and wine coolers as well as hard liquor. The majority of children who try alcohol do so at the ages of 10 or 11.

To date most studies of alcohol use and youth focus on college-age students and binge drinking. The University of Pittsburgh researchers showed that alcohol consumption rarely starts at 18, the age of an average college freshman. Early drinking increases the chances of alcoholism.

The study found that some parents ignite a child's interest in liquor by offering a sip or a drink, especially on New Year's Eve.

Associate Professor John Donovan said that parents should never offer liquor to children, and they should make sure that alcohol is not easily accessible to children. The story was first reported in *Newsday*.

Strategizing tips for those with diabetes

A "Living Well With Diabetes" workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 10 at the Center for American Indian Resources in Duluth. The Center is located 211 W.

4th St.

Registration is required and the deadline for registration is Oct. 5. To reserve a place, call Amanda at (218) 878-3765. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

5-K Pumpkin Run At FDLT&CC 10/27

The Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College is sponsoring its second annual 5 Kilometer Pumpkin Run and Walk at 10 a.m. on Oct. 27. The 3.1 mile course starts and ends at the College, 2101-14th Street, Cloquet. The course covers parts of County Road 3 (14th Street) and residential streets.

Register by mail or on the day of the race between 8:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. The entry fee is \$15 before Oct. 22, and \$20 afterwards. Entry fees are nonrefundable. Entry forms are available at area running and sporting goods stores, at the college (stop by the campus or call 218 879-0800), and on the college website at www.fdlcc.edu/pumpkinrun.

Costumes are encouraged, or orange clothing to commemorate Halloween. Awards will go to the top three overall male and female finishers according to age groups. Best costume also gets an award.

Workshop on preservation of family memorabilia

Learn how to protect and preserve cherished family belongings at a free Minnesota Historical Society workshop at the Fond du Lac Culture Center and Museum at 7 p.m. on Oct. 9. The Center/Museum is located across from the FDL Tribal Center at Big Lake and University Roads.

MHS outreach conservator Bob Herskovitz will teach participants how to preserve and care for different types of memorabilia; how to organize family papers, photos and other family treasures; and how to create oral family history. Participants are encouraged to bring in items that they have preservation

questions about that can be transported safely.

This event is free and co-sponsored by MHS and the FDL Culture Center and Museum. It is offered in conjunction with the Society's ongoing "Minnesota's Greatest Generation" project. For more information, call Jeff Savage at (218) 878-7582.

Tips offered on how to buy a new home

For those who want to buy a home but need help, a homeownership class will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 6 in the library classroom of the Cloquet Community Center on Big Lake Road.

Participants must be a Fond du Lac Band Member who is a first time home buyer. The cost of the class is \$50. That cost will be reimbursed after the successful completion of the class.

For the time and location of other classes or to register for this class, call (218) 727-8604.

Rez needs your current address

Please keep your address and your children's addresses current so you receive future correspondence from FDL Enterprise Accounting. If you and/or your children have changed residences or plan to change residences, contact Patti at (218) 878-2674 or call toll free, (800) 365-1613, Ext. 2674.

Brunch promoting women's health to be held Oct 20

A brunch to increase cancer awareness and prevention with featured speaker Dr. Joy Dorscher will be held at the FDL Tribal Center from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 20. The brunch will be held at the Elder Nutrition Program cafeteria. Bring a friend or relative to be eligible for a drawing for prizes.

Dr. Dorscher is the director of the Center for American Indian and Minority Health at the University of

Minnesota – Duluth. The event is free and is sponsored by the Public Health Nursing Dept. of the FDL Human Services Division. For more information, call (218) 878-3726.

Tribal college administrators seek info from Band Members

In October the Fond du Lac Tribal College will mail confidential community-wide surveys to randomly selected FDL community members living on and off the reservation. The survey's purpose is to gather opinions about higher education at Fond du Lac, and to learn the training needs of the community. The direction given by the survey will also help with long range planning.

Additional surveys will be available at the three district centers for members who would like to participate, but did not receive a survey in the mail.

Please fill out the survey, and make your thoughts known. All

surveys should be returned to the FDL Tribal Center by Nov. 2, 2007. If you have questions, call the Tribal College President Patty Petite (218) 878-2618 or Donna Statzell, Vice President of Academic Affairs (218) 878-8026.

Reward offered

The Fond du Lac Reservation is offering a \$200 reward for information leading to the arrest of individuals responsible for graffiti and/or property damage on the FDL Reservation and surrounding area.

Please call the FDL Police Dept. at (218) 878-8040 M-F 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Or call 911 if you witness such damage in progress. Your anonymity will be respected, and your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Transit program closer to reality

In late September, two transit bus arrivals at Fond du Lac will introduce small-scale public transit to the reservation. Routes and bus fares have yet to be determined, but for now, it's known that each bus holds 16 passengers with two wheelchair tie-downs. The bus operations are expected to start later in the fall.

The buses will prove to be valuable to employees whose cars break down, or for those who have no other mode of transportation to work. Most likely, stops will be scheduled at the Community Centers, Clinic, housing offices, and more.

The buses each cost \$60,000, and are part of a Minnesota Department of Transportation federal grant of \$125,400. The state may pay half of the operational costs to the Band once the system has operated for a year.

FDL seeking applicants for judgeship position

The Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee is accepting proposals to provide services as Chief Judge of the Fond du Lac Tribal Court. The Tribal Court

administers the regulations of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, including its traffic code, conservation codes, and environmental regulations, and has original

jurisdiction over disputes involving the Band. The Court holds session on the first Monday of each month.

Send a proposal with a resume to Michael W. Himango, Executive

Director, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, 1720 Big Lake Road, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720 no later than Oct. 31, 2007.

New faces at FDL

New General Manager starts at Black Bear Casino Resort

Catherine Colstrud started work at the Black Bear Casino Resort as General Manager in early September. She is a Mille Lacs Band Member, and has 16 years of experience in the gaming industry.



Most of that experience took place at the Grand Casino Hinckley and the Grand Casino Mille Lacs, in various positions including General Manager, Assistant General Manager, Director of Special Projects, Director of Bingo/Pull-Tabs and Community Relations Manager, to name a few.

Catherine grew up in Minneapolis, part of a large family that includes nine siblings. She attended Minneapolis North High School, Minneapolis Community College, Augsburg College and the University of Phoenix. She has a

few quarters of college left before earning a business administration degree.

Catherine lives in Sandstone and commutes to FDL. Some of her hobbies include spending time with family and friends, gardening, traveling, reading, and an occasional round of golf. She also enjoys going to traditional ceremonies, and learning more about her native culture. Catherine also makes good use of a four-wheeler, snowmobile and likes to fish.

Her goal is to take the new Fond du Lac Casino Resort to the top of the Minnesota gaming market. She said she arrives at FDL at an important and exciting time, as the Band prepares to move into the new casino and hotel, now under construction.

"The transformation occurring in the enterprise as a whole is certainly a turning point in the Band's history," she said. "It's a privilege to a part of that."

Band Member returns to FDL for directorship position

In August, FDL Band Member Connie Saaristo started work as Community Centers Director, a new position. She oversees about 60 employees in the three district centers.



As director, Connie's responsibilities include maintaining the budget, hiring/firing of employees, the settlement of grievances, staff management and more. The position was created because of the growth in general of the community centers, and the need for consistency in operations. The three community centers include gymnasiums, activity rooms, youth programs, games areas and at the Cloquet Community Center, the Library, Drop-In Center and the Olympic-size swimming pool.

She worked previously as a treatment facility director and also worked at the Mille Lacs Reservation as executive director of the Circle of Health. The

Circle of Health is a tribally operated and owned insurance corporation that gave health insurance to all Mille Lacs Band Members across the country.

Connie, 55, received a B.A. degree in social work from the University of Minnesota – Duluth, and a Masters in Social Work degree from UMD. She is a licensed independent social worker. She served on the FDL housing and college boards, and on the Human Rights Commission in Duluth. She is a past member of the Minnesota State Board of Social Work.

A large portion of her spare time is shared with her grandson, Jordan, 5, of Duluth.

Binaakwe Giizis (Leaves Fall Moon) October Events

Cloquet Community Center in black 218-878-7510 • Sawyer Community Center in blue 218-878-8185 • Brookston Community Center in red 218-878-8097

Headstart Schedule in Green • Ojibwe School in brown

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Language 6:00-8:00 pm Girls Connection 5:00-9:00 pm	AA Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm Parenting class 9-11:30 "Temperments-ours and our childrens" School Brd. Mtg.	Sunshine Girls Group Learn to make Pow Wow regalia-8weeks	Daughters of Tradition: Finding our identity as a Native American Woman-3weeks	NYG-6-7pm Early Release/Mid Qtr.	Sawyer Helpers 5:00-7:00 pm Drop in-Bowling at Southgate 12:30 Gooseberry Falls 12:45pm
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Premiere Theatre 9:15am	Language 6:00-8:00 pm Girls Connection 5:00-7:00 pm	Parenting class 9-11:30 "Learning Styles" FACE-pumpkin patch	Learn to make Pow Wow regalia-8weeks	Daughters of Tradition: Finding our identity as a Native American Woman-3weeks	NYG-6-7pm	Sawyer Helpers 5:00-7:00 pm Drop in-Adult brunch & movie Nordic Ridge Pumpkin Patch 10:30am
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Language 6:00-8:00 pm Girls Connection 4:30-7:30pm	AA Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm Parenting class 9-11:30 "Toilet teaching & picky eaters"	Sunshine Girls Group Learn to make Pow Wow regalia-8weeks Parent Mtg.		NYG-6-7pm NO SCHOOL	Sawyer Helpers 5:00-7:00 pm Drop in-Ice cream social 1-3pm NYG trip-corn maze 5-9pm Scream Town trip 4:45pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Language 6:00-8:00 pm Girls Connection 6:00-9:00 pm	Parenting class 9-11:30 "tantrums & timeouts"	Sunshine Girls Group Learn to make Pow Wow regalia-8weeks	Daughters of Tradition: Finding our identity as a Native American Woman-3weeks	NYG-6-7pm Haunted ship & Omnimax 6pm	Sawyer Helpers 5:00-7:00 pm Drop in-hay ride & carnival 12-2 Halloween Party 3-5pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Language 6:00-8:00 pm Girls Connection 5:00-7:00 pm	AA Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm Parenting class 9-11:30 "Fears & Fantasies"	Happy Halloween Halloween Dance 5-8pm			
28	29	30	31			



The annual zoo event is part of FDL Headstart's monthly outing program, which includes activities like visiting museums and touring the Depot. "We try to expose our families to educational experiences that they might not go on their own," said Headstart Program Manager Kathy Regas. In this Sept. photo, Noah Petite and his parents gaze at the grizzly bear at the Lake Superior Zoo.

How to send an announcement for this monthly calendar

When submitting calendar items, please include the name of the event, the time, date and place. The deadline for submitting calendar events for the November, 2007 issue is October 19, 2007. Also, please clarify the District where the event will take place, Cloquet, Sawyer or Brookston.

Calendar items may be sent by email to deborahlocke@fdlrez.com or by U.S. mail to FDL News Calendar, Tribal Center, 1720 Big Lake Rd., Cloquet, MN 55720