

# Nah gah chi wa nong

(Far end of the Great Lake – Fond du Lac Reservation)

# Di bah ji mowin nan

(Narrating of Story)



*In January FDL Wildlife Biologist Mike Schrage participated in a helicopter moose survey across selected areas of northern Minnesota. Most of the photographs were from the air but here we see a photo of an adult female with her calf taken near Highway 53 just north of Canyon in St. Louis County. Mike estimates that he was about 30 yards from the moose. (See story on page 3)*

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# Housing conflict, rumors fuel build-up to recall petition

By Deborah Locke

The story of a petition that was dismissed at a January hearing is a story with tentacles that reach in several directions at the Fond du Lac Reservation. The petition charged Chairwoman Karen Diver with malfeasance, dereliction of duty and non-compliance with constitutional/bylaw provisions.

The matter got its start following shakeups in the FDL housing department last summer. Dissatisfaction with that outcome inspired some Band Members to gather petition signatures in an effort to oust Diver.

This story will examine a few reasons for that dissatisfaction originating with the reservation's housing shortage. Additionally, it will explain aspects of the petition process.

First, know that the use of petitions to remove Reservation Business Committee members is not new at Fond du Lac. However, this was the first time that the process went as far as the hearing presided over by FDL Band Member Suzanne Ojibway Townsend.

## Origins

The current wave of anger may have its roots in actions taken last summer concerning a housing matter. A Band Member who was employed at the Black Bear Casino paid a set amount of rent based on her income. She lost her job, said

she became incapacitated, and did not notify the Housing Division that her rental amount should have been reduced. For two years her rent continued to accrue at the former rate; eventually, the Housing Division proceeded with an eviction notice. The woman complained to the RBC.

That led the RBC to pass an amended rule that allows incapacitated Band Members to be retroactively recertified at a more appropriate rate. The woman's arrears were reduced but not eliminated.

In the eyes of some Band Members, however, the woman was unfairly enriched. At an open meeting at the Tribal Center last summer, RBC Secretary Treasurer Ferdinand Martineau said that the remedy used for that particular case would apply to any Band Member who came forward with similar circumstances. Those circumstances would be the inability to notify housing authorities about a recertification.

A rumor began that the amount "forgiven" was \$18,000. At about the same time, rumors began that Karen Diver made unilateral decisions without the input or knowledge of her fellow RBC members.

Due to the shortage of homes, housing is a long-standing lightning rod at Fond du Lac. Consequently, lines were drawn in the sand, fueled by the "\$18,000 gift." Before long the 244-signature petition was presented to the RBC.

## The process

The petition process offered its own lessons. Townsend acted as hearing officer -- the decision making body was the RBC. Townsend, an arbitrator and judge for 25 years, has overseen many hearings. She said in a telephone interview from Oregon that she had never presided over a recall petition hearing. They're very rare.

Townsend said that a petition has to stand on its own, complete with attached documentation supporting the charges. The hearing was not the place for further arguments for or against the allegations. The petition alleged serious charges, but no proof was attached.

Article X of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution states that the RBC can remove a member by a two-thirds vote for very serious infractions. (Examples could be theft or the destruction of property.)

Band members are free to allege charges against an elected official through a petition containing signatures from 20 percent of the resident eligible voters. The RBC then notifies the accused of the charges, and sets a hearing date. At that hearing, the "accused shall be given opportunity to call witnesses and present evidence in his behalf."

About 200 people attended the January hearing that was open to Band Members only. In her state

ment to the charges, Diver said the allegations were "broad and provide no specific examples of how I may have been derelict or malfeasant...at no time during my term have I acted in violation of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution..."

She said that her management style includes the entire council in important decisions, adding that policy and personnel actions taken to date had the "complete agreement of all five members of the Reservation Business Committee." She acknowledged that the hearing would not end the misinformation and animosity spreading at FDL.

Townsend said that petitions should be reserved for serious malfeasance, rather than for unpopular decisions.

"As a practical matter, the process is very stressful for members of the RBC whether they are the subject of the petition or not," she said. "Ultimately this takes time from the things they would otherwise do."

She said that the people who attended the hearing had strong feelings both ways, but conducted themselves very well.

"They may have had other expectations when they arrived and heard the purpose for the hearing and what they would be allowed and not allowed to do," she said. Ultimately, however, she said that those in attendance were respectful of the process.

## Nah gah chi wa nong Di bah ji mowin nan

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*

*The photo of the bull moose was taken near the crossroads of Skibo located in the east central area of St. Louis County. The wolf pictured below was photographed as it ran on the Poplar River just north of the Lutsen Ski Resort.*

## Counting moose

### Survey shows an average of 10 moose per 13-square mile plot

**By Mike Schrage**  
*FDL Wildlife Biologist*

Crews from Fond du Lac, the 1854 Treaty Authority and the Minnesota DNR spent the first three weeks of January counting moose across parts of St. Louis, Lake and Cook Counties in the 1854 Ceded Territory. Although the final survey results still have to be run through computer models and averaged across the entire moose range, some initial results and impressions can be drawn.

Forty 13-square mile plots were randomly selected for surveying this year, which is about the same number of plots surveyed every year. To survey the entire moose range would be logistically and financially impractical. Instead, a selection of plots is reviewed and the results from the survey plots are extrapolated to the entire moose range. Usually different plots are drawn each year.

The helicopters used are Vietnam era Bell Jet Rangers. Each plot is flown back and forth along transect lines at about 45 miles an hour and an altitude of 300 feet. The survey

is conducted under federal Visual Flight Rules, which require a minimum 1000-foot cloud ceiling and three miles of visibility. An onboard GPS unit allows the pilot to navigate from the airport to the plot and stay on course while flying the plot transects. Observers are positioned to the pilot's left and right to spot for moose. The pilot's main job is to stay alert for cell towers, transmission lines and the odd super canopy white pine.

When a moose is spotted, the helicopter circles and drops lower for a closer look. The number, age and gender of the moose is tallied. Moose generally don't like the whoppity-whop noise of helicopter blades and run from the sound. Calves run in front of their mothers for protection. Sometimes a dominant old cow or a surly bull will shake their head or lay back their ears at the helicopter. On rare occasions, one will even rear like a horse and kick their front feet at the helicopter circling overhead.

By mid-January half or more of the bulls have dropped their antlers. For some reason there seems to be an east/west difference in the timing

of antler drop. In St. Louis and Lake Counties, most of the bulls have dropped their antlers by mid-January. In Cook County, most of the bull moose still have their antlers at the time we're flying. Most moose are in small groups or by themselves in winter.

This year an average of 10 moose were seen on each 13-square mile survey plot, but that ranged anywhere from zero to 37 moose depending on the individual plot. Some of the zero's were in plots along the North Shore or the western fringe of the moose range where low numbers could be expected. The highest moose densities this year were seen around Lima Mountain north of Grand Marais, Tait Lake and County Road 3 in Cook County and the Wine Lake area of the Boundary Waters. Better than expected numbers of moose, many with calves, were seen in the Skibo area. The percentage of calves is difficult to determine until all the survey data is looked at.

Although the moose survey does not usually tally the number of wolves spotted, wolf numbers ap-

peared to be up this year based on what was seen from the air. A large number of wolves were traveling or napping on lake and river ice. Only one or two wolves with mange were seen. In addition to wolf sightings, a large number of carcasses were observed where the wolves had trapped and killed deer on the ice. The signature dot dash dot dash of otter tracks through the snow were common as was an abundance of slush on most of the lakes. Unlike the last couple of years, snow depths were good this year helping us to spot animals and tracks and covering up the background clutter of root wads, stumps and big rocks.

As of this writing, the final results of the moose survey are not yet available. The raw numbers of adult and calf moose seen on survey plots need to be fed into the computer and crunched to account for the portions of moose range not flown. I'm expecting final results sometime in February and will report those in a future edition of the newspaper.

*Mike Schrage can be reached at [mikeschrage@fdlrez.com](mailto:mikeschrage@fdlrez.com)*



# The power of words

## On her path to sobriety, Beth Diver learned that honest communication with herself and others meant the difference between life and death

**By Lance Howard**

*Prevention and Intervention Specialist, FDL Human Services Division*

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

“It’s me that has to take care of myself,” said Beth Diver. “Others can’t do it for you.”

Beth Diver knows all about taking care of herself, but she didn’t always know that.

As a child, Beth witnessed a lot of alcohol use. Today, she works full-time in maintenance at the Min No Aya Win Clinic and has been clean for 13 years.

Beth has fond memories of growing up on the Fond du Lac Reservation and attending softball games and barbecues. She loved spending time with her grandparents who lived in Ball Club, Minnesota, near Cass Lake. During her childhood, Beth learned traditional ways from her grandparents, such as the processing of wild rice. She remembers dancing on her grandfather’s rice, an activity her grandpa said was “fun.” Beth laughs at that today. It was work.

But there were other kinds of get-togethers throughout her growing-up years. The down side to those? Alcohol was always present and overconsumed.

Beth started to drink alcohol around the age of 12 and graduated to marijuana later. She drove her friends around who were drinking. As payment for driving them, they gave her marijuana. Beth then moved on to cocaine, numbing herself from life to escape her problems. The irony there is pretty obvious – her problems mounted.

### Hitting rock bottom

Beth’s methods for escape started to make her feel helpless and suicidal, and brought her to the lowest point in her life. She woke from a weekend binge of coke use. While lying in bed, she felt her heart beating too fast. “I decided I had to get

help or the drug use would end my life,” she said. Beth called a chemical dependency counselor at the Clinic who referred her to the women’s treatment center Liberalis and its outpatient program.

To keep herself in check, Beth asked for random drug testing while she was there. “It was hard to deal with your feelings without numbing them,” she said. Counseling helped. She refused to take an anti-depressant. “Why put something into myself at a time when I was trying to clean up?” she said.

She started taking care of herself. Spirituality helped. One morning in Grand Portage, Beth woke early, watched the sun rise and felt a warm feeling come over her. She knew then that there was a loving higher power.

That knowledge supported the other steps that Beth took on her road to recovery. She learned to deal with her feelings and fears instead of numbing them with drugs and alcohol, and to focus more on herself.

One important factor that helped Beth with her recovery was just simply talking.

“I’m able to talk about feelings now with different people, and I was not able to do that before. I kept everything bottled up,” she said.

Nevertheless, the urge to go back to old ways never dies, even after 13 years of sobriety, Beth said. That’s true especially when the many things that happen in life can make you turn around and start using and drinking again.

Then along came the bigger tragedies in life, like the death of Beth’s mother, which increased the temptation to escape through drugs and alcohol.

“It was really hard to believe in myself,” she said. “But I knew I had to do it.”

### Talking helps

Now when she feels the urge to start numbing herself to life, she simply deals with the problem that’s

making her want to find that escape. “If I do feel that coming on, I deal with the problems, like if it’s a relationship problem, I sit down and talk with the person. Talk about it.” Recognizing stressors helps keep Beth on track, and reminds her how she was when she was using. “I just remind myself how I was, being so low. I never want to go that

route again.”

Beth also believes in helping others avoid making her mistakes. She believes in calling the authorities on people who abuse drugs and alcohol so they can get clean. She ended a friendship by notifying the police that a friend of hers was drinking and then got into a car to drive with a baby and a child as passengers. Beth has no regrets when it comes to those situations, because she knows it’s for their own good.

To help ensure she never goes down that road of addiction again, Beth meditates, does smudging, goes to sweats, and of course, reaches out and talks to people. Spirituality is another big factor in her life, and she surrounds herself with spiritual



people, which she believes would benefit everyone in the Fond du Lac community.

She has strong opinions on the idea of community – she thinks that the reservation should be one community, rather than divided into smaller communities. If she could, she’d do away with the District system. She would also like more educational programs that encourage kids to open up so they feel better about themselves and learn about the old ways. Why do Ojibwe people smudge themselves, or put out tobacco? How many kids know the answer to those questions? Beth thinks every one of them should know.

For the adults, Beth would like job training for better job opportunities including apprenticeships and internships. Her future plans include completing her B.A. in social work at the College of St. Scholastica.

Today the most important thing in her life is that she sobered up, and now spends time with her grandchildren and bonding with her daughter, whose childhood she missed because of her addictions.

And it seems fitting that since talking helps Beth, she one day becomes a storyteller and shares her life with others.

For now, Beth lives one day at a time, putting tobacco out every morning and praying, enjoying her family, and taking care of herself.

# Senior's Legal Line Q&A

## Questions on identity theft and property tax refunds

### Dear Senior's Legal Line:

*I worry about identity theft. I am careful with my personal information. Are there ways I can be proactive and take further steps to protect my identity?*

Margaret

### Dear Margaret:

The "Minnesota ID Theft Freeze Law" is a new tool available to protect you from identity theft. It allows you to limit access to your credit report by requesting a credit report freeze from the consumer reporting agencies.

This freeze stops identity thieves from obtaining your credit history, and prevents them from opening new credit accounts in your name. It does not stop creditors from placing credit information on your reports.

As you may know, identity thieves can use a victim's good credit history in combination with the victim's name and Social Security Number to open new accounts including credit cards, checking accounts, utility accounts, and taking out loans in the victim's name. This is known as "new account fraud" and will impact the victim when the thieves neglect to pay the credit back and the creditors look to the victim for payment.

The ID Theft Freeze Law, effective Aug. 1, 2006, will stop this. Anyone can request a freeze on a credit report under this law. There is a small fee of \$5 to each of the consumer reporting agencies to get the credit freeze. However, victims of identity theft who can provide a police report or case number documenting the theft to the consumer reporting agencies will not be required to pay the \$5 fee.

The credit reporting agencies must place the freeze on the reports within three days of the request and

provide a unique PIN number to you within 10 days of the request. This freeze will remain in place until you request that the agencies remove it.

Once the freeze is in place, no one will be able to obtain credit by use of the credit reports, including you. In order for you to obtain credit, you must use your PIN number and contact the credit reporting agencies to "thaw" your credit reports.

It is advisable to plan ahead, as this may take up to three business days. If you know the specific company that you wish to obtain credit with, you can limit the thaw to just that creditor. You can also thaw your credit reports for a specific time period, allowing you to apply for credit with multiple companies. After the specified time, your credit reports will automatically re-freeze.

Because you will have to contact all three of the major credit reporting agencies to request a credit freeze, contact information is given below. (You can request instructions from each on how to request the credit freeze.) The agencies are:

(1) Experian Security Freeze, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013; telephone: (972) 390-4172. (2) Equifax Security Freeze, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348. (3) TransUnion Security Freeze, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834; telephone: (888) 909-8872.

### Dear Seniors Legal Line:

*I sold my house and moved into an apartment several years ago. I like my apartment and the rent is reasonable. However, I now realize that I should have been receiving a certificate for rent paid form (CRP) each year. I contacted my landlord about this and asked him to produce such forms for me but I am still concerned that he will not follow through. I*

*don't know exactly how much I would get from the refund but I certainly feel I deserve this form. What can I do?*

Lucy

### Dear Lucy:

Minnesota gives renters a property tax refund even though renters pay rent, not property taxes. It is called the "renter's refund." The amount of the refund depends on your household income and the amount of rent paid. According to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, 19 percent of the rent you paid during the year is deemed the portion of property tax paid. The maximum renter's refund that you can receive now is \$1,400.

For seniors, the current maximum household income that you may have and be eligible for a renter's refund is up to \$72,260 with five or more dependents. Furthermore, a renter must rent from an entity that pays property tax to claim a refund. To claim your renter's refund, you must file the CRP with the Minnesota Department of Revenue along with form M1RP. The CRP will list the amount of rent you paid and the amount of property taxes your apartment covered.

The landlord should supply the CRP no later than February 1 of the year following the year in which rent was paid, according to Minnesota Statutes §290A.19. If the landlord fails to provide the required CRP by February 15, or if there is a disagreement on the amount of rent paid, the Minnesota Department of Revenue encourages you to contact their tax help line so that you can get a "Rent Paid Affidavit" (RPA) from them. If you file the RPA to claim a renter's refund, you will have to provide receipts of the rent you paid to verify

your claim. This is why it is important to obtain receipts when paying rent.

Renter's refund returns must be filed with the Minnesota Department of Revenue by August 15 in the year following the rent paid. Returns can be filed up to a year after the due date. For example, the return deadline for rent paid in 2007 is August 15, 2009. After the deadline, you cannot claim the refund. Thus, you still have time to claim the 2006 refund (do so by August 15, 2008) and the 2007 refund (do so by August 15, 2009). Unfortunately, you cannot claim a refund for previous years as you missed those deadlines.

Further questions can be directed to the Minnesota Department of Revenue at (651) 296-3781 or 800-652-9094. You may want to advise your landlord that it is the landlord's responsibility to provide the CRP on or before February 1 the year following the year in which rent was paid. It can be the duty of either the owner or managing agent of the property.

Hopefully, your landlord will comply with the law. If your landlord does not comply with state law in the future, you may use the Rent Paid Affidavit procedure for filing.

*If you are 60 years of age or older and live within the Minnesota Arrowhead Region, you may contact us with questions for legal help by writing to: Senior Citizens' Law Project, Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota, 302 Ordean Bldg., Duluth, MN 55802. Please include a phone number and return address.*

# Taming tantrums

By Lucy Carlson

**T**emper tantrums. We've all seen them. Just what is the force that changes cherubs into monsters?

Thankfully, the tantrums we have often witnessed have been with someone else's child. We can look at that parent with empathy, grateful that the sobbing, head-banging mound of rage is theirs and not ours.

But, the tables do turn and sooner or later it is your own two-year-old who is screaming so loudly from the candy aisle of the grocery store that she can be heard in the parking lot.

What do you do?

If you have read the book, *1-2-3 Magic*, you would look down at the unhappy little monster, hold up one finger and say to the child, "That's 1."

You would say it calmly and firmly. Your child would already know that by the count of 3, "time out" or "rest time" would take place. This short calming down time can take place anywhere.

But, if you're one of many parents who rely on their own wits or their friend's advice to handle parenting hurdles, you might bribe, yell, or simply leave your half-full grocery cart where it is, put your child under your arm, and walk out of the store. Leaving the store at least leaves the embarrassment behind you, but often feelings of anger and frustration

remain. Let's take a look at what temper tantrums are, and how to head them off.

## What causes tantrums?

The first thing to understand is that tantrums are normal.

- Toddlers need to release the frustration of being young and continually hindered in their attempts to master skills. Think of the frustration of not being able to finish a puzzle, zip a jacket, or say what you mean.
- Toddlers need to express their feelings. They don't have a very large vocabulary yet. Tantrums speak louder than words.
- Toddlers do not have much control over their lives or emotions. Tantrums are simply an expression of this.
- Tantrums can be caused by a toddler's hunger, boredom, over stimulation, or exhaustion

**Note when your child's tantrums happen -- nighttime, before naps, before meals, etc.**

**Try to tell the cause, keeping frustration, hunger and fatigue in mind. Once you understand the circumstances around your child's tantrum, make plans to eliminate them.**

Lucy Carlson

## How do we head them off?

Prevention! Note when your child's tantrums happen -- nighttime, before naps, before meals, etc. Try to tell the cause, keeping frustration, hunger and fatigue in mind. Once you understand the circumstances around your child's tantrum, make plans to eliminate them. Try these suggestions:

- Encourage outlets for frustration, anger and other emotions. Splashing in the tub, playing outside, and pounding on clay are safe and don't take a lot of energy from



Illustration by FDL Band Member Karen Savage Blue. Karen teaches art at the Ojibwe School.

- parents who are already tired!
- Try to match your toddler's life to his or her personality. Regular meals, naps, and bedtimes often help lessen tantrums.
- Don't let your toddler go for long periods of time without food. Keep nutritious snacks handy.
- Diminish the need to say "no". Don't lay down the law - "because children need to learn who's boss."

Instead, pick your battles thoughtfully.

- Don't over control. This can lead to rebellion.
- Provide choices when possible.

## How do we handle tantrums?

There is no miracle technique that makes tantrums go away, but here's some suggestions.

- Stay calm. It's hard to do, but

eventually your child will mirror your behavior as she or he learns more self control.

- Speak softly. A gentle tone of voice says that you are in control.
- Don't try to reason or argue with your child during a tantrum. A screaming child is beyond reason.
- Express empathy. When your child is carrying on about something he can't have say "I know it's hard when you don't get what you want. Sometimes I am angry when

I can't have what I want."

- Try distraction. Get out a favorite plaything and try to entice your child to come play with you.

- If you're unable to stop a tantrum, don't worry. It probably needs to burn out on its own accord. It will taper off.

**When most people think of tantrums, they think of two-year-olds. But "kids" of all ages throw tantrums. Even adults. The same triggers that push a child over the edge can lead an adult down that same road.**

*Lucy Carlson*

people think of tantrums, they think of two-year-olds. But "kids" of all ages throw tantrums. Even adults.

**Adult tantrums**

When most

The same triggers that push a child over the edge can lead an adult down that same road. Here are a few.

Frustration (you've been working on your checkbook for three hours and the balance is still off.) Anger (your spouse forgot to have the flat tire fixed and now you have to drive to Minneapolis to your meeting with no spare.)

Even hunger or fatigue can cause an adult to blow up. The difference between an adult and a child encountering these circumstances is that adults have had more experience in controlling themselves, and lose their tempers with angry words rather than flailing fists. Realizing tantrums are a behavior we are all susceptible to helps put them into perspective.

**After the tantrum**

When the tantrum's over, let it be over. Your toddler didn't do anything wrong. Now deal with the cause. Does your child need a nap or a snack? If you asked your child to pick up his toys, which started the tantrum, you might take care of the job together now. Then move quickly to an enjoyable activity. Many children appreciate being held after a tantrum as reassurance of their parent's continuing love.

*Lucy Carlson is a Family Educator with the Fond du Lac Head Start Program. She will write regularly on parenting matters for this newspaper. Her email address is lucycarlson@fdlrez.com*

**'Neuter Commuter' visit provides neutering, vaccinations for FDL pets**

**T**oo many dogs and cats in concentrated areas of the Fond du Lac Reservation eventually leads to bad feelings between neighbors, said FDL Police Chief Wally Dupuis.

Dogs rummage through trash cans, bark excessively and run loose. Some neighborhoods are simply overrun with too many pets. In 2007 the FDL Law Enforcement Division brought almost 300 animals from the Reservation to the animal shelter on Highway 33. One solution – how about fewer dogs and cats?

To that end, 28 reservation dogs and cats were vaccinated and neutered or spayed on the "Neuter Commuter," parked outside the FDL Drop-In Center on Dec. 13.

Animal Allies of Duluth supplied the vehicle and veterinarians; Cloquet's Friends of Animals organization supplied volunteers including a vet. Additionally, Friends of Animals coordinated the event. The surgeries and vaccinations were free of charge to Band Members because Animal Allies donated its surplus grant money for costs.

The day's activities for up to 30 animals costs about \$2,000. The animal care was "hugely important" said Beth Collins, Friends of Animals president. "Almost every animal we saw that day had never been to a vet," she said. Dogs are especially vulnerable to the deadly and highly contagious parvo virus, which is common at FDL.

Also, most of the female dogs at the Drop-In Center that day had already had at least one litter of puppies or were pregnant or in heat. The vaccinations were for rabies, parvo virus, distemper and kennel cough. The pets were dewormed, had their nails and claws cut or trimmed, and their ears cleaned.

The Drop-In Center's gym was divided into areas for pets in crates who awaited surgery, and those who recovered. Volunteers hovered over and comforted the groggy dogs after the animals returned from surgery.

The Neuter Commuter facility costs far less for spays and neuters than a visit to a private practice veterinarian, Collins said. The surgeries cost \$35 to \$55 through the Commuter, whereas a visit to a vet is upwards of \$100. The obvious benefit to neutering is that the animal will not reproduce, but behavioral benefits exist. A neutered male dog is more likely to stay home and becomes less aggressive.

It's that aggression that often leads to neighbor complaints, according to Wally Dupuis. Sometimes a pet owner will simply lose interest in the animal and allow them to run wild. Unwanted, neglected pets lead to barriers between neighbors and that leads to an increase in police calls, Dupuis said.

"Too many pets affect the ability of people to get along," he said.

Collins said that the impact of clinics will be felt down the road with fewer cases of disease in the pet population, and a decrease in numbers of the pet population.

*In January, the Reservation Business Committee approved funding for four animal care clinics each year. The next clinic will be held starting at 7 a.m. on Feb. 19. For more information on having your pet vaccinated, neutered or spayed on that day, call the Friends of Animals at (218) 879-1655.*



*Danny Johnson, Friends of Animals Executive Director, comforts a puppy following surgery at the Drop-In Center in December.*

# More business education, more language and culture

## Band Members express higher ed needs (and lots more) via survey

By Deborah Locke

Survey results on higher education at Fond du Lac show a strong interest in a curriculum that advances business administration, building construction, natural resources and nursing. Band Members also value and encourage instruction on language and culture, and they cherish the environment and family life.

That is the shortcut summary from the "Fond du Lac Tribal College 2007 Community Higher Education and Training Needs Survey Final Report," released by the Tribal College Board of Directors in January. The survey's purpose was to give Reservation officials guidance in planning, said Dr. Patty Petite, Tribal College President.

"The survey shows that an investment in human capital is not a waste - that it's something to encourage and prepare for," Petite said.

In September 2,000 surveys were mailed to a random sample of Band Members across the United States, and 586 surveys were included in the data analysis. FDL employees were also surveyed; a story with those results will appear in the next issue of this newspaper.

The survey was developed, tabulated and analyzed by Donna Statzell, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Tribal and college officials contributed to the survey design.

Of the respondents, 58 percent were female, and 41.9 percent were male. Eighty-two percent of the respondents lived off the reservation, and 17 percent of the off-reservation

Band Members reported that they would like to live on the reservation at some time in the future.

Fifty-four percent of respondents were married, 68 percent had no children under the age of 18 living at home, and 35 percent earn \$20,000 or less per year.

Twenty percent have family incomes of more than \$75,000.

### Education levels

Forty-seven percent of the respondents had attended at least some college or technical schools. Of that 47 percent, 40 percent said they wish to continue their education at some point in the future. Reasons for attending a college? Personal growth (54 percent) and career advancement (50 percent).

Twelve percent had received B.A. degrees; four percent received M.A. degrees. Two percent had a professional degree or doctorate.

Eighty-six percent of respondents said they are employed off the reservation. Most are occupied in the construction and nursing professions. Eighty-eight occupations were reported.

### Culture matters

Forty-eight percent of the respondents had not participated in any traditional Anishinaabe practice, but 70 percent reported that education in language and culture were very important.

Almost 60 percent reported that the environment matters to them, as did family and friends (57 percent). Health care was essential for 67 percent of the respondents. Sixty-six

percent thought that K-12 education was significant; 59 percent thought that college education opportunities were important.

Computers are owned by 75 percent of respondents; 68 percent have dialed into the Internet and 51 percent of those Internet users would be interested in on-line classes.

One-fifth of the respondents attended at least one community event at the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

### Cost, work schedule impediments

Thirty-nine percent of respondents said that cost was a major reasons for not finishing college; twenty-five percent said that work schedules created too many challenges. A quarter of the respondents had children in grades K-12; of those, 28 percent hope their children attend college. Respondents also said that it's critical to develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. They want computer skills, career skills and course work that can transfer to a four-year school.

If asked to choose a vocational/technical program, the respondents gave high marks to business administration, nursing, building construction, and natural resource technician.

Forty-eight percent were uncertain about the adequacy of financial assistance available to Band Members.

### Conclusions

The study showed a clear appreciation for language and culture education, for basic education skills, for computer and career skills, for

four-year transfer course work, and for the opportunities for children to attend college.

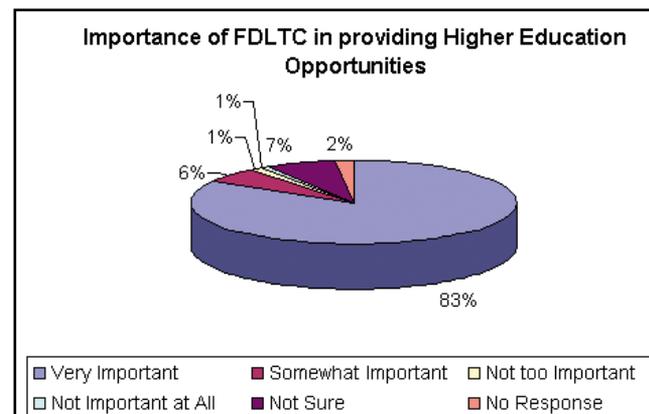
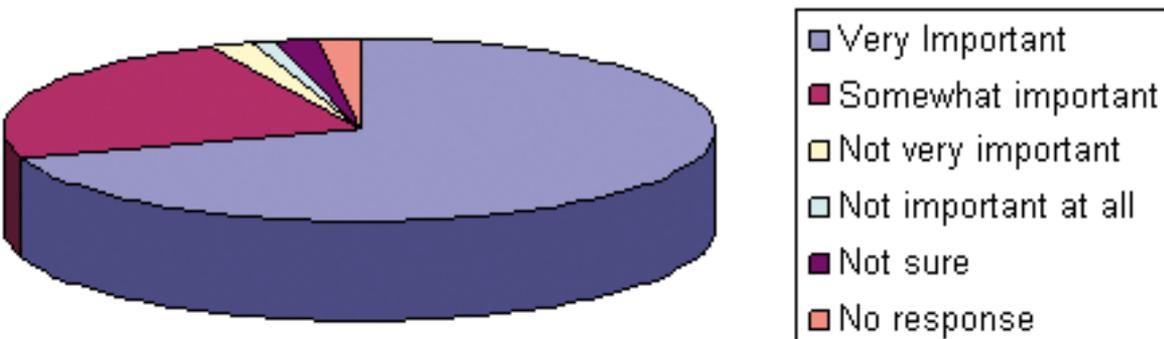
The Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College is unique in the country as it is operated by both the FDL Band and the state university system. The Indian student count submitted to the Bureau of Indian Education for FDLTCC was 498 in 2006-'07. An average of 55 students from FDL attended the college in the years from 2003 to 2006. (Information from the American Indian High Education Consortium AKIS/AIMS project.)

Petite and Statzell were hired to pursue separate accreditation for the Tribal College from the state university system. The survey is a step in that process, designed to shed light about the education and training needs of Band Members.

### Importance of aspects of community life

Aspects of Life	Essential	Very Important
Environmental	59%	29%
Gaming	35%	32%
Recreational	42%	34%
Social	57%	31%
Housing	54%	28%
Cultural	49%	32%
Small Town vs. City Life	27%	38%
Public Assistance	40%	35%
Cost of Living	46%	35%
Health Care	67%	22%
Job Opportunities	58%	27%
College Education Opportunities	59%	27%
K-12 Education	66%	20%
Other	5.3%	1%

### Important to educate tribal members in language and culture



# An end to a life well lived, and a beginning



By Arne Vainio, M.D.

Dr. Haller's cancer took him quickly. My wife, nine-year-old son and I went to see him the day after I heard of his cancer. This was about a week after he had first fallen.

He had a CT scan that showed a brain tumor, but it wasn't known at the time exactly what it was. We went to his home to see him, his wife Irina and his daughter. Ed was already unable to walk, but could talk at length.

We spent a long time with him that day. I thought I knew him well, but I didn't know he was an artist. Ed was a brilliant man, but had other talents. His wood carvings were in an exhibit in the Tweed Museum of Art in Duluth in the 1970's. The detail on them was amazing -- his trademark was to have some part of the woodcarving stand out from the background.

He played the violin. He was also working on setting up a scale model train that he had since he was a little boy. We had to help him walk into the room where it was set up. He had trouble getting the controls and switches to work properly and his speech was slow at times, but he was as articulate and gentle as ever. He thanked us for coming by.

Ed was in the hospital the next week for his biopsy. The test showed that he had a "glioblastoma multiforme" brain tumor. This was not the result hoped for as this can be a very aggressive cancer. Ed was tired and slept for most of the visit, but said

he was glad to see me and thanked me when I left. Irina and I talked at length while he slept. She's from Russia, they fell in love when Ed was on a visit there to promote U.S./Russia relations. Irina didn't speak English very well at the time and when she was finally able to move to the United States, Ed taught Irina English by having her read aloud.

They read "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll. Ed could have taught English from a scientific journal, since they were both scientists. Instead, they chose a children's book. I liked hearing that.

The next time I saw Ed in the hospital, his sister had to feed him and it took him a very long time to eat. He was able to talk with

me, but took a long time to gather his thoughts. Again, he thanked me for coming to see him.

I saw him later in the week; by then, he was getting radiation treatments. That and the medicines he needed took a lot out of him and he was very tired. I stayed with him for quite a while. He didn't talk, but didn't want to let go of my hand. That was OK as I didn't want to let go of his.

The next time I saw him was early the next week. He wouldn't wake up, and I let him sleep.

I stayed in touch with Irina. She had pretty much stopped working to stay with Ed as much as possible.

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

he was hardly eating. He ended up staying there instead of going home. I went to visit him with my wife, Ivy, and our son. Ed answered "yes" to one of my wife's questions. He held her hand tightly for the entire visit. He was very thin, most of his hair was gone. When we drove away, my wife couldn't stop crying in the car.

I had an eagle feather presented to me after I became a doctor. Ivy suggested we give it to Dr. Haller. I knew she was right. Now was the time to

pass this gift on. I wanted to do this with as much respect as possible and wanted to honor our traditions properly.

My family has close ties with a traditional Ojibwe

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

Irina was expecting us. We had called her earlier.

My son sat with my wife next to Ed. Irina stood at the head of the bed next to him. I wanted my son to see how we respect the people who so selflessly teach and nurture us. I talked to Ed and my son at the same time. I explained how the eagle is sacred to us, is an intermediary between us and the spirit world and can carry messages there. I've been told an eagle feather dropped at a

pow wow represents a fallen warrior, and only a veteran can pick it up after a special ceremony.

Eagle feathers are given for achievement or courage. This was an eagle feather given to me for becoming a doctor. That achievement was partially Dr. Haller's. He had to have courage to face what he was up against at that moment. I explained that in our respective journeys, my son was just beginning and Ed was moving into a different part of his journey. Even though he was leaving us, he would remain as a larger part of the spirit that helps others. My son doesn't know who will help him in the future, but those people are out there now. We don't know who Ed will help in the future. But he will.

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

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

Ed died that night with Irina by his side.

Ed wrote Irina a letter and asked that she open it after he died. He wrote that "no one ever dies unless they are forgotten." Many will remember him. My family and I will never forget him. He is a part of our lives forever.

Edwin W. Haller, Ph.D.  
5/19/36 – 12/12/07

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 a-vainio@hotmail.com



In this October photo, Arne Vainio visits with Dr. Ed Haller shortly before Ed learned his diagnosis.



*Shown are aerial photographs of the Black Bear Casino Hotel construction site from late November 2007*

## Casino complex nears completion

The new Black Bear Casino Resort Hotel is scheduled to open for business on Feb. 11, 2008. The new hotel will include 250 rooms in a 12-story hotel tower with views of the surrounding area.

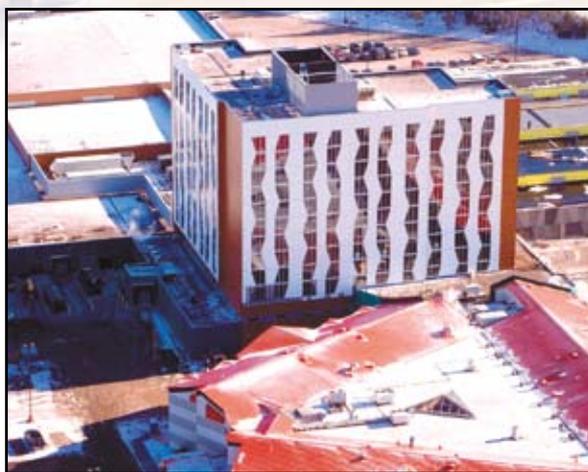
The new hotel rooms will bring the total rooms available for the Black Bear property to 408. The \$119 million dollar construction project is approximately six weeks ahead of schedule and presently under budget, said Dennis Olson, Fond du Lac Construction Project Manager.

The new 84,000-square foot casino is scheduled to open around mid-May, and will have over 2,000 slot machines. The casino will have a high limit slot area, high limit blackjack area, and a poker room. The new casino will house an upscale steak house, cabaret and other amenities geared toward providing

visitors with a variety of entertainment options.

The Otter Creek Convention Center is scheduled to be completed by early fall of 2008, and is designed to accommodate a variety of events from concerts to conventions and car shows as well as sporting events.

The overall design of the project reflects the natural beauty of Northern Minnesota, from its granite exterior to the natural wood finishes in the



lobby area. The hotel lobby has a water wall behind the registration desk, and cliff-style walls surround the new hotel entryway. Four wood

columns rise to the 20-foot ceiling representing a forest canopy. LED lights atop the hotel tower represent the Northern Lights, and can be seen from Interstate 35 for miles.

Olson said the expansion project is the culmination of a planning

process that started five years ago and as a result, the site has been transformed into a premiere destination resort complex. The Minneapolis architectural firm of Walsh Bishop and Associates was selected to design the project, and Kraus Anderson Construction was selected as the general contractor. Local vendors and suppliers were used as much as possible. As many as 250 workers have been involved in every aspect of the construction over the past 18 months. Approximately 50 percent of the work force was made up of American Indian employees from the Fond du Lac Reservation and other Minnesota reservations.

The total project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2008, with the completion of site work, landscaping and the partial remodeling of the existing hotel.

## Television broadcast system changes dramatically in 2009

Band Members should know that as of Feb. 17, 2009, television stations will broadcast in digital only, rather than through free over-the-air broadcasting also known as analog broadcasting.

That means those with non-digital television sets will need a converter box in order to receive the digital signal. Consumers who have cable

or satellite broadcast and digital televisions will not be affected. Consumers may choose to buy a new television set with the internal digital tuner that allows them to continue to watch free over-the-air programming.

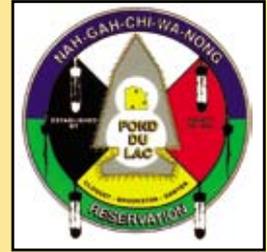
TV viewers who do not receive cable or satellite broadcast can get coupons that reduce the cost of the

converter boxes. Every household in the country is eligible for up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, toward the purchase of eligible digital-to-analog converter boxes. The coupons are available now.

The coupons may be used for eligible converter boxes sold at consumer electronics retailers, and the coupons must be used at the time of

purchase. The boxes will cost from \$40 to \$70 each.

For more information about the converter box coupon program, visit [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov), or call (888) 388-2009. The website answers basic questions about the transition and directs consumers to the nearest retail outlet that sells the converter boxes.



# A few thoughts from RBC members

## From Chairwoman Karen Diver

The January Reservation Business Committee open meeting was held in Minneapolis. There was a great turnout, and I would like to thank our Band Members from the southern part of the state for attending. We were guessing that it's been about eight years since a meeting was held in the Twin Cities.

The members were interested in eligibility for the Twin Cities pharmacy, updates on the Nelson Act settlement, opportunities for participation in elders and other activities, and establishment of a part-time Twin Cities office. Members asked us to return to the Twin Cities regularly. Now that the RBC is having open meetings monthly, it will not take away from Band Members on or near the reservation when the RBC takes time to have meetings off-reservation. The RBC will also be having a meeting in Duluth in the near future.

Good news on the development of the supportive housing project. Fond du Lac was awarded a \$440,000

grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. The first grant for operations, just under \$25,000, was also awarded and will be used for support services staff. This project is making great progress, and truly puts Fond du Lac in a leadership position in Indian Country for developing this model of housing on reservations.

Regarding financial matters, conversations are continuing with potential lenders for the loan refinancing. I expect to have additional information to share next month. Management staff is also looking at lease options for slot machines, so we do not have to have so much cash up front. Other up-front costs have been trimmed, and the plans for opening are coming together at a more manageable level. Reservation budgets are nearly complete, and



Karen Diver

staff has been asked to keep budgets at current levels.

On a different note, the consultant that has been working with the reservation on our investment policies and financial services has given the RBC information regarding the potential investment of minors' trust accounts. Right now, all Band members under the age of eighteen have their per capita accounts invested in bonds, and they receive statements regularly about the amounts in their account. The consultants have worked with other tribes to set up these minor accounts so that some is invested in stocks and bonds. Over the next couple of months, the RBC will set up meetings to get input from the community about whether or not this is an option that parents would like to see for their children.

With the recent petition that was circulated on the reservation, and all of the issues regarding the Black Bear financing, it seems that Band Members are paying closer attention to the activities and decision-making process of the RBC. This is good! This is an important time for the Reservation, and beyond the issues that are personal in nature, the Band faces larger and more long-term issues: financial stability, managing growth, developing more efficient operations, and constitutional issues, to name a few. When you have questions, please ask so that you can be informed and give us input to make decisions. We will keep you informed, whether individually, through open meetings, or through the newspaper.

*I can be reached at the office at (218) 878-2612, or cell at (218) 590-4887, or email [karendiver@fdlrez.com](mailto:karendiver@fdlrez.com). If I am not available when you call, please feel free to call my assistant, Annette LaFave at 218 878-2613 or [annettelafave@fdlrez.com](mailto:annettelafave@fdlrez.com).*

## From Ferdinand Martineau

Happy New Year! It is always nice to begin a new year. The possibilities are endless and the hope for a better year is here. By now I have broken all the usual resolutions to lose weight, quit smoking and be home on time. I actually started smoking at two minutes into the New Year. I was late getting home on New Year's Day. My diet lasted about three weeks. Well, there's always next year.

As most of you know, there was a petition submitted in December to remove Chairwoman Karen Diver. I was given the petition and asked to certify it. That was a new experience for me. I had to verify the signatures, ages and addresses of all who signed. After the verification was complete, the RBC convened a meeting and certified the petition and scheduled a hearing. The hearing took place on Jan. 7, 2008 at 9

a.m. in the Tribal Center gymnasium. I was quite surprised and pleased to see such a large part of the community show up to witness what was going on. I was also pleased with the support shown when the RBC dismissed all charges.

I have been working with the rest of the council on the financing package so that we have a successful grand opening in July. There are several options out there and we are looking at all of them. I do not have much to report on the package yet, but rest assured, we will have a successful grand opening.

During the last month there have been quite a few changes that are not apparent to you. We have implemented new software in the

accounting department that will increase efficiency. I know that most of you who did not receive your check on time last pay period may not think so, but the software will bring improvements. The application has closed for the housing director position and the screening should take place by the end of this month. The community services position should be advertised soon. The human resources department is being consolidated with compliance to streamline the hiring



Ferdinand Martineau

process. The supportive housing project is more than half funded. Plans for the assisted living unit are being worked on. Grant applications have been submitted and we are waiting to hear from funding agen-

cies. We are continuing to work on reorganization for our administrative structure. One of our more important projects is the development of a Code of Ethics for the council. The Code will become our promise to you that we will continue to serve you in the ways that you have come to expect.

The last thing I would like to talk about is the passing of a good friend of mine, Dave DePoe. Dave was a good father, a good son, a good worker, a good man, but most importantly, he was a good friend. He was always there if you needed help or just wanted to talk. I will miss you, my friend!

*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](mailto:ferdinandmartineau@fdlrez.com).*

# Community news

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

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

Please submit materials during the first two weeks of the month. Information may be sent by U.S. mail to the editor, Deborah Locke, FDL News, 1720 Big Lake Rd., Cloquet, Minn. 55720, or by email to [deborahlocke@fdlrez.com](mailto:deborahlocke@fdlrez.com)

The telephone number is (218)878-2628. You may also drop off items at our office at the Cloquet Tribal Center. Always include your daytime phone number and name with anything you submit. Materials will be edited for clarity and length.

## Thank you notes

The family of **Richard "Dick" Diver** would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support during this difficult time. We appreciated the cards, flowers and gifts from everyone. A special thanks to Ferdinand Martineau, who was a good friend of Dick. Ferd offered help and support to the family, and to Dick during his illness. Thanks also to St. Mary's Hospital staff for taking such good care of Dick, and to the ENP staff at Fond du Lac for the meal.

We will always appreciate your understanding and generosity.  
*The family of Dick Diver*

## Receipt of M.B.A.

Congratulations to **Richard Barney Jr.**, on completion of your M.B.A. (Master of Business Administration) in marketing management and information management from the University of St. Thomas.

Richard graduated with honors in December 2007 and is currently a Senior Search Marketing Consultant for FindLaw.com (a division of Thomson-West). Congratulations on this accomplishment. We are all proud of you.

*Love from your parents, Dixon & Mickey, and your daughter, Alyssa.*

## Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Qaiden Smith**, who will be three years old on February 10! We love you!

*Mom, Dad, Heather, Aaliyah and Qiana*



Happy 1st Birthday to **Isabella Tracy Peacock** on February 17. We love you so much.

*Love from Grandma Carol, Grandpa Mark, Dale, and Auntie Tracy.*

Happy Birthday to our South Carolina family, **Kingslee Zacher**, 2-9-07, and **Sarah Zacher**, 2/21-86.

*Love from your Minnesota family*

Happy Birthday to **Chic Smith** on Feb. 22, who was born in 1931. May you have many more years!

*Love from your family*

Happy Birthday to **Shirley Bassett** on Feb. 24, who is ageless in every other way.

*Love from your family*

## Birth announcements

Welcome to the world little **Damion LaPrairie** who was born on Oct. 10, 2007. You are the sunshine of our lives.

*With love from Grandma Dawn LaPrairie, Grandma Pam Siewert, Mom and Dad and your brothers and sisters*



**Savannah DeFoe** was born on Dec. 19, 2007. She weighed six pounds, 11 ounces, and was 18 inches in length. Savannah is the daughter of Jessica DeFoe.

## Wedding Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to **Terry and Shirley Bassett** who were married Feb. 16, 2002. May you have many wonderful years together.

*Love from your family*



## Ojibwe School Choir to do lobby performance at DECC

Members of the Ojibwe School Anishinaabe Choir will perform in the lobby of the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra Lollipop Concert to be held at 3 p.m. on Feb. 10 in Duluth. The Choir will join others on stage at the end of the concert to sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

The "Weather Follies - Meteorology Meets Music" themed concert will be held at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center in downtown Duluth.

Featured performers are Nell's Angels, Sinfonia, and the Concert Orchestra and Youth Symphony. General admission for adults is \$12; children's admission is \$6. Tickets are available by calling (218) 733-7579.

Special guests include several Duluth television meteorologists. The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa is the event sponsor.

## Memorial

In memory of **Norma Graves**, whose birthday was January 30. You are loved and missed.

*From all of your family - brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins*

## Obituary

**Gladys Louise (Lord) Sampson**, "Women of Many Moons," the oldest member of the Fond-du-Lac Band, 96, of Solon Springs, died Jan. 14,



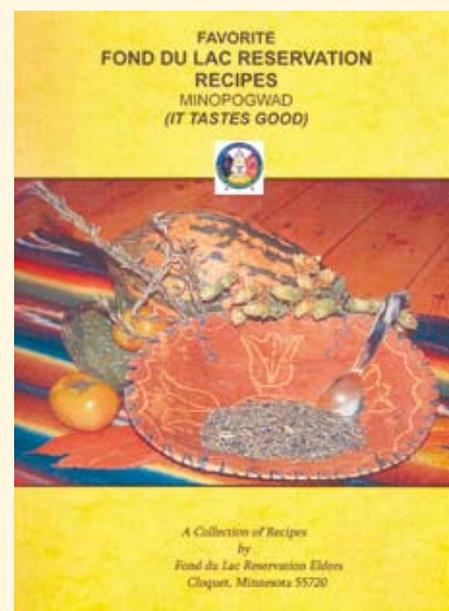
2008, with her family by her side at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth after a short illness.

Gladys was born Aug. 23, 1911 to Albert Leo and Margaret (Lucius) Lord in Solon Springs. She married John Sampson on Sept. 4, 1939, in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Solon Springs. He preceded her in death in 1982. They both lived in Solon Springs for 94.5 years.

Gladys was a member of the St. Pius X Catholic Church in Solon Springs and the Ladies Foresters, and once served as president of the Golden Age Club and the Historical Society. Her hobbies were gardening, crocheting afghans for family and friends, reading, crossword puzzles, music, playing cards, and most of all, spending time with family and friends.

Survivors include a daughter, Sandra (Cecil) Zimmerman of Duluth; sons Neil, Gordon, John and Albert Sampson of Solon Springs; two grandsons, Alan (Lee) Zimmerman of Duluth, Nathan Sampson of Superior; three granddaughters, Terry Stone of Solon Springs, Becky Haskins of Solon Springs, Audra (Rich) Sharpe of Superior; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by nine brothers and four sisters.

A funeral Mass was held on Jan. 18. Gladys will be buried at the St. Pius X Catholic Cemetery in Solon Springs.



At left is the cover of a new cookbook produced by FDL Elders. The cookbook of traditional and contemporary Ojibwe food costs \$10. Included are about 200 favorite family recipes including those of Cecelia Robinson, Sawyer RBC representative from 1968 - 1974. Many of the recipes are decades old and include "Crock Pot Deer Meat," "Rabbit Pot Pie" and "Blueberry Bannock." Sale proceeds will assist elders who want to attend the National Indian Council on Aging conference in September 2008. The conference will be held in Tacoma, Wash. Books are available on Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. at the Tribal Center Elder Nutritional Program meeting room. To order by phone call Sharon Shuck, (218) 728-5340 or Phyllis Stott, (218) 624-3332. To order by email, go to [kathypeil@fdlrez.com](mailto:kathypeil@fdlrez.com). The cost is \$10 plus \$3.50 for postage and handling.

# Area News Briefs

## Wisconsin Ho-Chunk take steps to increase bison herd at annual round-up

Members of Wisconsin's Ho-Chunk Nation rounded up, weighed and vaccinated about 120 bison in late December as part of an ongoing effort to increase the number of bison on tribal lands. The Ho-Chunk are joined by 56 other tribes in 19 states who all have the same end in mind: to return bison to native land.

"We believe that when the buffalo come back, everything else will come back," said Richard Snake, a herd manager for the Ho-Chunk Muscoda Bison Prairie 1 Ranch on the Wisconsin River in southwest Wisconsin.

A top priority with the return of the buffalo? To improve the diets of American Indians who suffer disproportionately from heart disease and diabetes, each related to poor food choices. Bison meat is lower in fat and calories than beef, pork or chicken.

The 642-acre Muscoda ranch started in 1997 with four animals. Today the bison number closer to 400. The meat harvested is free of charge to tribal elderly meal sites and to the Ho-Chunk community for its ceremonial programs. The story was reported in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

## Federal Reserve reports that state will travel rough financial road in 2008

Economists with the Federal Reserve Bank predict that Minnesota's economy will drop off sharply in 2008 to an annual rate of less than one percent. The decrease means less revenues for schools, roads, health care and other services.

That prediction comes in stark contrast to the state's economic record. In the past decade, Minnesota's job growth outpaced national averages; the Federal Reserve reports that the job growth will lag in all sectors in 2008.

The state suffered a housing slump in 2007, in part because the construction industry makes up a larger part of the state economy than it does nationally. The decline will be felt in areas like retail. Manufacturing industries – once a stronghold in Minnesota – display

early performance weaknesses.

The report pointed to some positive signs. Productivity is up, it's anticipated that global consumers will buy Minnesota products, and the pattern of low inflation rates here will reach into the future. The story was reported in the Jan. 7 issue of Construction Bulletin.

## Wisconsin Potawatomi move closer to adding pari-mutuel betting at Milwaukee Bingo Casino

Forest County Potawatomi officials who operate the Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee expect to offer pari-mutuel betting on horse and dog races that take place at tracks throughout the United States. A casino spokesman confirmed that negotiations have been conducted with out-of-state tracks to simulcast their races and take bets on them. The Oneida casino at Green Bay and the Ho-Chunk casino near Baraboo, Wis., already offer off-track betting.

The off-track betting could begin this year which is also when the casino finishes its \$240 million expansion.

Potawatomi simulcasting could present competition to the Dairyland Greyhound Park in Kenosha. Seventy percent of Dairyland's annual handle – the total amount wagered – comes from bets placed on simulcast races.

State legislators agreed to allow the Potawatomi and other tribes to offer off-track betting in 2003. Dairyland has applied to the U.S. Dept. of Interior for permission to sell its facility to Wisconsin's Menominee tribe, which would turn it into a \$800 million mega-casino complex. The story appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

## Wisconsin introduces additional \$1 cigarette tax per pack on January 1

Wisconsin's cigarette smokers received an unwelcomed holiday surprise as of Jan. 1. An additional \$1 tax increase was added to the price of a pack of cigarettes. That brings to cost of a pack close to \$5.

Gov. Jim Doyle initially proposed the excise tax as a way to reduced smoking among adults and teens which would save the state money in health care costs. The Centers for Disease Control shows a link

between cigarette tax increases and improved health.

## Many North Dakota/Minnesota Indians denied home loans due to credit histories

A 2006 analysis of home loan applications showed that lenders denied one out of every three applications from American Indians in North Dakota, and one out of every four in Minnesota.

The Forum newspaper examined records of 34,373 home loan applications made in North Dakota and 537,288 filed in Minnesota, as reported with the federal Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. In 2006, 376 American Indians from North Dakota were primary applicants for home loans; financial institutions denied 126 of the applications. The primary reason for denial was credit history. Records show that 67 applicants were not given a reason for the rejection of their loan application.

A spokesman for the Spirit Lake Housing Corp. on the Spirit Lake Reservation in east-central North Dakota said that tribal members face the same obstacles with credit scores and debt-to-income ratio as other races. The story was reported in the Bismarck Tribune.

## S.D. Governor says keep the Bear Butte developers away

South Dakota's Gov. Mike Rounds wants to spend \$1 million to keep developers from putting biker bars and other disruptive businesses on ranch land near the sacred Bear Butte Mountain on the northern edge of the Black Hills. The plan was introduced in January.

Rounds proposes using state, federal and private money to buy a perpetual easement to prevent commercial/residential development.

However, Mead County Commissioners oppose the easement that would block future landowners from considering other land uses.

For centuries Lakota and Cheyenne tribal members have climbed the mountain to hold ceremonies. Indians have tried to block development of land around the butte for the addition of more taverns and campgrounds which disrupted their ceremonial activities.

## Red Lake Nation receives \$100,000 ANA language preservation grant

In October, Red Lake Nation was awarded a language planning grant through the Administration for Native Americans. The grant will allow the Nation to create a Grant Coordinator position and exploratory committee who will develop a five year language plan for the Red Lake Band.

The committee will consist of elders, youth and fluent Ojibwe speakers.

In past years, Red Lake stepped up efforts to preserve and revitalize the Ojibwe language. More and more tribal programs are becoming involved in Ojibwe language preservation projects as a way to preserve and protect the state's indigenous languages.

For more information, contact Bill May, (218) 679-3224.

## Wisconsin Indian Mounds damaged by developer

Summit, Wis. – Wisconsin State officials have ordered Pabst Farms developers to repair and protect American Indian burial mounds near a large construction site located west of Milwaukee. In January crews damaged the rare panther-shaped burial sites. Fencing was constructed around the three earth mounds damaged by crews that were cutting brush. A vehicle caused deep tire ruts to the 800 to 1,400-year-old mounds.

Two mounds are in the shape of panthers – one lies on its side and the other lies on its stomach. The third mound is linear, about 75 feet long and 10 to 15 feet wide. The mounds are among the last known Indian burial mounds in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Historical Society officials will prepare a plan for repairing and preventing future damage to the mounds. The plan, to be implemented in spring, will fill in the ruts. Deep-rooted prairie grasses will be planted.

The 1500-acre Pabst Farms master plan community will contain business, retail, recreational and residential amenities. The story was reported in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

# Briefs

## **Elders age 55 and over invited to register for 2008 NICOA conference**

The National Indian Council on Aging Conference will be held in Tacoma, Wash. from Sept. 5 - 9, 2008. Fond du Lac Band Members who are 55 years of age and older can register to attend.

NICOA has served as the leading aging organization for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders for over 30 years. The organization's mission is to improve the health and social services for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders - and work daily to achieve it.

If you wish to attend this working conference or if you need information about it, call Velvet Linden at (218) 878-2603 or Debra Topping, Elder Advocate, (218) 878-8053.

## **Changes in eligibility for June Wisdom Step conference**

The following requirements must be met for those interested in attending the June 2008 Wisdom Step Conference at Grand Casino and Hotel in Hinckley, Minn.

Participants need to bring updated health information from their primary care physicians to Debra Topping, Elder Advocate, by April 16, 2008. The health cards from doctors will list the following information: blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol and weight. Make your doctor appointment soon.

Also, participants must turn in a "We Walk Many Together" card and must have reached the minimum Tier 1 level or 46,000 steps. That amount may sound intimidating but is attainable, since people walk much further in an ordinary day than they realize. Naturally, we encourage each person to do more than is required, as we want to extend our lives to get better and healthier.

There are incentives for the Health Walk Program, so get out and walk. Those in wheelchairs or walkers can meet Tier 1 of your incentive plan. If you need more information on how to count steps, contact Debra Topping at (218) 878-8053.

With the ever-rising costs of health care, we must take control of our health, so join this wonderful health prevention program and feel great. Get your annual physical and mark your card. Please complete health cards and walk cards early. The Elder Advocate office is located in the Tribal Center, 1720 Big Lake Road, Cloquet, Minn. 55720

## **Mille Lacs Netting, 2008**

Beginning this year, the Fond du Lac Reservation walleye quota increased to 20,000 pounds. That amount is significantly greater than quotas from the previous ten years.

Accordingly, the FDL Resource Management Division may allow an individual Band Member to set multiple nets each night if there is available allocation. As the short netting season progresses, the number of nets allowed per person per night will be adjusted, probably downward, so that FDL does not exceed its 20,000-pound quota.

Questions should be directed to the Resource Management Division, (218) 878-8001.

## **Free sewing class offered at ENP and Drop-In Center**

A sewing class is held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays at the FDL Tribal Center Elder Nutrition Program meeting rooms. Some materials are provided, as well as snacks. The class is open to people of all skill levels. Sewing classes are also held at the FDL Drop-In Center on University Road on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call (218) 878-7514.

## **Homebuyer education class available**

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation requires first time homebuyers to complete a class on homebuying. The next class will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2008 at the MCT Tribal Headquarters. The address is 15542 State 371 N.W., Cass Lake, Minn. 56633.

To reserve a place in this class, call Cindy Beaulieu at (218) 335-8582, Ext. 150, or contact her at cbeaulieu@mnchippewatribe.org.

## **Home loan applications for all homeowners**

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation will be at the FDL Tribal Center from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 20 to take applications for the MCT Home Loan Program. The loan program is not limited to first-time homeowners. All may apply.

Appointments are required. To make an appointment or if you have questions, call Brenda at (218) 335-8582.

## **Public Health Nursing Clinics for Feb - May**

Clients of the Min No Aya Win Clinic who attend the monthly foot care sessions have the opportunity to hear speakers address a variety of subjects at the foot care clinic. The clinics are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Clinic's McKnight Room.

On Feb. 12, Bonnie LaFramboise and Kaysee Olson will talk about emergency preparedness. On March 11, Debra Topping will talk about her work as Elder Advocate. On April 8, Debra Johnson-Fuller will discuss colon cancer and ways to avoid it. Finally, on May 13, Dr. Sue Miller will address dental health.

## **Vern Zacher retires from Cloquet School District**

Vernon Zacher, who has logged 33 years of public service, retired in January. He directed the Cloquet Public School American Indian Education Program for more than six years. Vern worked for 27 years for the Minnesota Department of Education, and has been involved with education



and tribal organizations since 1970. In 2001, Vern received a lifetime achievement award from the state Indian Education Association for his promotion of American Indian activities.

He was raised at FDL and is the oldest of five children. Vern is chair of the FDL Tribal College Board of Directors. He's active throughout the community, serving in numerous service boards and organization.

Vern has a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota - Duluth (1972) where he served as a charter member and first treasurer of the Anishinabe Student Organization.

## **Carseat and booster seat classes held in Feb. & March**

Classes will be held at the Min No Aya Win Clinic on carseat and booster seat use. Registration is required. The seats are \$22. Expectant parents are asked to plan ahead one month prior to a due date to receive a carseat.

The classes are held at the Clinic at 2 p.m. on Feb. 4, Feb. 21, March 3 and March 17. To register call (218) 878-3759.

## **Wildland firefighters needed for spring season**

The FDL Forestry Department is seeking temporary wildland firefighters for employment on an as-needed basis. An informational session will be held at 8:45 a.m. on Feb. 15, 2008 at the Resource Management Bldg. in the forestry garage. A physical fitness test will be administered at the end of the informational session.

The wage range is \$10.84 to \$11.92 per hour.

Most duties are related to prescribed burning, wildlife suppression and fire preparedness. Candidates must be able to walk three miles within 45 minutes or less while carrying a 45-pound weight vest.

For more information, call Mary Fairbanks at (218) 878-8016.

## **Notice to all Fond du Lac Band Members**

Please keep your address and your

# Briefs

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.

## 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.

## Scrapbooking – a class on how to capture and organize important memories

A class on how to put together an attractive scrapbook that captures memories will be held at the district community centers and the Center

for American Indian Resources in February and March. Space is limited to 37 people per class, and pre-registration is required.

Scrapbooks preserve family history, improve memories, express feelings and tell stories. A book could be entirely devoted to a powwow, for example, or a vacation, a year in review or a special person.

Scrapbooks and tools will be provided. Albums hold about 25 pictures. The classes are for people age 10 and above. A light meal will

be served.

The FDL Tribal Center class will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 2. The CAIR class will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 11. The Sawyer Center class will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on March 7. The Brookston Center class will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on March 19.

Register with Jenn Hall at (218) 878-2146, or by email at [jenniferhall@fdlrez.com](mailto:jenniferhall@fdlrez.com).

# Etc.

## 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
Mash-Ka-Wisen	879-6731
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe	1-218-335-8581 (admin.) 1-888-903-8582 (loans)
Min-No-Aya-Win Clinic	879-1227 1-888-888-6007
Natural Resources	878-8001
Ojibwe School	878-7559
Planning Department	878-2642
Sawyer Community Center	878-8185
Cloquet Community Center	878-7510

## Free Family Law Clinic scheduled for Feb. 25

Few subjects cause as much grief to divorced parents as the subject of child custody and child support. Since 2000, FDL Human Services in collaboration with Carlton County has held free family law clinics to clarify changes in family law.

The next clinic will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 25 at the Min No Aya Win Clinic on Trettel Lane, Cloquet.

The focus will be "Fathers and Families" although audience members can ask any question concerning family law. In attendance will be a panel of family law attorneys and a magistrate. All are donating their time.

Topics to be discussed include custody issues, parenting time, child support, housing and alternative dispute resolution.

Audience members will be reminded that

they can ask general questions only, without revealing private details about a particular case. Initially four clinics were held each year; now two are held.

On Jan. 1, 2007 Minnesota state law on child support changed so the income of both parents is taken into consideration.

A first time trip to a courtroom is intimidating for just about everyone, said Rebecca Ahlstrand, child support and collections supervisor for Carlton County. The law clinic gives audience members a chance to get answers to basic questions in a relaxed environment.

The clinic will be held in the McKnight Room – enter through the East Entrance, Door No. 5. Light snacks will be served. For more information, call (218) 878-3725.

## 2008 Summer Lunch Program Survey FDL Ojibwe School

If your child participates in the Summer Lunch Program, please answer the questions below. Surveys must be returned by Feb. 13, 2008, or you can phone in your replies to Violet at (218) 878-8091. The mailing address is Fond Du Lac Ojibwe School, University Road, Cloquet, MN 55720. Participants will be eligible for a drawing on Feb. 14.

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and Reservation District \_\_\_\_\_

The total number of children (birth to age 18) in my family is \_\_\_\_\_.

We are either enrolled or descendent Band Members (yes) (no)

Last year my family ate summer lunch meals in (circle one) Cloquet Brookston Sawyer

My family was transported on the school bus to summer lunch (yes) (no)

If transportation was not provided, we would still attend summer lunch (yes) (no)

Would you use the FDL Transit System if busing as not available? (yes) (no)

I have access to transportation and could transport my family. (yes) (no)

Do your children attend summer recreation/prevention/intervention programs? (yes) (no)

