

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

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T H E S T O R Y A S I T ' S T O L D



GRANTS FOR NEW WARRIORS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOLLOWS THROUGH ON STATE OF THE BAND PROMISE

Grant recipients gathered in Hinckley on May 30 to receive New Warriorism grants from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

In her 2019 State of the Band Address, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin promised to provide “New Warriorism” grants to Band members who came up with plans to help their communities. On May 30 at the Winds Steakhouse at Grand Casino Hinckley, Melanie presented seven individuals and groups with their grants and thanked them for making the effort to improve Band members’ lives.

The grants were awarded after a competitive grant process with a lengthy application including a proposed budget, a timeline, matching grants, collaborations, communities or groups served, and a method of determining the success of the project.

Other great ideas were proposed but did not meet the requirements and therefore could not be funded.

The recipients were Colin Cash, Catherine Colsrud, Brad Harrington, Al Hemming/Bernadine Roberts/Christine Costello, Julie Hernandez-Corado, Curt Kalk, and Amber Lenz. Each was invited by Melanie to say a few words about their project.

Colin said his grant will pay for Sober Squad t-shirts to be distributed at events hosted by the recovery group. “Simply put, it is not just about the shirts,” said Colin in his grant application. “It is actually about the message we are sending the community with the shirts. Being proud of our recovery and sending a positive message to the community is our goal. It’s about the unity we have in spreading the same message of hope. It’s also about not being ashamed of the stigma associated with Substance Use Disorder.”

Catherine applied for funds to host a family painting event as a healthy, wholesome, fun, and sober alternative for those struggling to maintain sobriety or looking for ways to build family recovery. “I want people to look at what they were able to create

with just a little instruction and see that they can do that with the rest of their life,” said Catherine. “I chose painting because I enjoy it and think others will too.” She plans to host sessions at the Hinckley Lodge and Meshakwad and Aazhoomog Community Centers.

Brad’s grant was to cover expenses for a series of Sober Night Memoriam music events to honor survivors of the opioid epidemic and to remember those who passed. The first event was held May 16, and Brad is planning the next event to be held at Chiminising Community Center in District IIa. Brad also intends to host community jam sessions for those interested in playing in a band.

Al, Bernadine, and Christine applied for their grant on behalf of a grassroots group they formed in District III: The Alliance of Concerned Tribal Members, or ACT. The group received a sustainable farming grant to help bring access to healthier food to District III and to promote healthy eating and sustainability. Initial funds will be used to research the best ways to reach those goals, and they hope their research will be useful to the Band DNR’s Agriculture Program.

Julie applied for a grant to organize a smudge walk in Aazhoomog and Hinckley communities in District III on June 1. “As a Mille Lacs Band Community, we cannot give up on each other, and if the event of a smudge walk changes one person’s life, one family’s life, one child’s life, that is success,” said Julie. Grant funds covered t-shirts, smudge bowls, and a lunch from Subway. (For more on the smudge walk, see page 4.)

Curt’s grant, titled “Tribal Hunting and Gathering Services,” has the goal of providing cultural harvesting services to Band members receiving outpatient treatment as well as Elders, members with disabilities, and children.

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ZIIBAASKA’IGANAGOODAY HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

JINGLE DRESS FEATURED ON GOOGLE DOODLE

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

The Mille Lacs Band has been preparing for the centennial of ziibaaska’iganagooday — the jingle dress — for months, if not longer. In May, an exhibit opened at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum curated by Red Lake historian Brenda Child and featuring the work of Band members Steve Premo and Adrienne Benjamin.

But the jingle dress dance took a great step forward June 15 when Google’s daily “doodle” featured an image of the dress created by Canadian Anishinaabe artist Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley.

The doodle coincided with the Grand Celebration Powwow in Hinckley, and news coverage of the doodle on Google, CNN, and elsewhere drew the world’s attention to District III and the story of the jingle dress.

The late Larry Amik Smallwood passed along the story of the jingle dress as he learned it, telling of a man at Mille Lacs whose daughter was ill. The man had a dream of the new dance with four dresses adorned with metal cones.

At the drum ceremony, the girl was lying on the floor because she was so sick, so her father brought out the four women to dance as he had dreamed.

“The drum started, the people began to sing, and the women danced,” wrote Amik in a ‘Moccasin Telegraph’ version of the story. “And the little girl perked up. She lifted her head and watched the women dance. As the evening went on, pretty soon she was sitting up and watching. And before the night was over, the little girl was so moved by those jingles, she was following the women and dancing around.”

Several years ago, the Mille Lacs Band and Twin Cities Public Television produced a video featuring Amik’s version of the story.

Brenda Child’s research shows that the healing tradition arose during the global influenza epidemic of 1918-19.

That tradition has now reached thousands if not millions more thanks to the work of the Anishinaabe storytellers, artists, and scholars who have passed it down through the years.

The jingle dress exhibit at the museum, titled Ziibaaska’iganagooday: The Jingle Dress at 100, continues through October 2020.

Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for Mille Lacs Band members with ID.



The Google Doodle by Anishinaabe artist Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley brought worldwide attention to the jingle dress and the Grand Celebration powwow. Reprinted with permission of the artist.

M E S S A G E F R O M T H E C H I E F E X E C U T I V E

Boozhoo! Summer is finally here! June began with a meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), held on June 3-4 at the Lower Sioux Indian Community. The MIAC is comprised of each of the 11 Indian tribes within the State of Minnesota, and we meet quarterly with State officials to discuss policy, legislation and other issues.

For the second time in a row, Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan attended our quarterly meeting to speak directly with tribal leaders, and conducted a ceremonial signing of Executive Order 19-24, affirming the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and the State and expanding the training requirements for state employees to learn about and consult with tribal governments.

Also for the second time, most of the appointed state commissioners attended a MIAC meeting to share updates and hear our views on key issues. This has never happened before at MIAC and shows the impact of having an American Indian leader serving as Lieutenant Governor. At this particular meeting, one of the commissioners committed on-site to provide the Band with a \$150,000 grant for traditional healing to treat opioid addiction.

This Minnesota Legislative session was historic for Indian tribes, including:

- \$15.4 million: Expansion of tribal child welfare services child abuse prevention.
- \$7 million: Tribal contract school funding.
- \$4 million: Traditional healing grants to help tribes address opioid addiction.
- \$150,000: Creation of a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women task force.

This legislation was also directly due to the efforts of our Indian State legislators like Rep. Mary Kunes-Podein (Standing Rock). On another note, at the end of the MIAC meeting, Public Safety Commissioner Josh Harrington talked about the importance of supporting tribal law enforcement, and complimented Mille Lacs Band Chief of Police Sara Rice, calling her “very impressive and incredibly talented”! So a shout-out to Chief Rice, who was not able to attend the meeting.

On June 7, I attended the Drumkeepers meeting held at Meshakwad Community Center. These meetings are a chance for

Drum members to talk about issues they care about and is also a chance for me to provide updates about Band matters. Our office assists with helping find a location, getting notices out, and helping to coordinate the meal. A suggestion was made at that meeting that a future meeting be arranged just for the Ladies sitting on our Drums, which we will also assist with if there is interest.

During the week of June 20, several Elders and I attended the Wisdom Steps Conference at Grand Casino Hinckley, which was a wonderful conference as always. Later that day, I met with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services for the State of Minnesota for a consultation meeting about service delivery for our Band members, and we also met with the Minnesota Board on Aging to talk about recent concerns at the MCT level.

On June 25, Percy Benjamin was sworn into office for a second full term as Commissioner of Community Development. People don’t often see how hard our commissioners work, and Percy is a great example of someone who is devoted to the Band and constantly trying to improve our community for Band Members. Congratulations to Commissioner Benjamin!

The month of June concluded with an invitation from Senator Amy Klobuchar’s presidential campaign committee to attend the first 2020 Presidential Debate in Miami on June 27 as a guest of the campaign. I sat next to Minnesota State Rep. Patricia Torres, who co-sponsored and pushed legislation through the Senate creating a task force to address missing and murdered Indigenous women, while Rep. Mary Kunes-Podein sponsored and championed the legislation through the State House. We talked for hours about other issues important to Indian people in Minnesota and plan to work together to make more positive change during the next session.

On the policy front, this year the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) voted to support federal legislation that would transfer the title of Band lands which are currently titled to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe back into the name of each Band that currently has jurisdiction over those lands. This is very important to the Mille Lacs Band, because we are required to go through an extra layer of red tape at the federal level when we want to use these lands, which has significantly impacted our ability to get

Band Members into our Band homes on MCT land within our reservation. This is unacceptable. The legislation will resolve this problem if passed.

Since voting to support the legislation, two of the MCT Bands have now expressed concerns about this legislative effort, and unless something shifts, this legislative effort is temporarily stalled. This is very disappointing for the Mille Lacs Band, but Speaker Boyd and I will continue to work at the TEC level to find a solution to this issue.

Finally, graduation ceremonies abounded this month. With three districts including several high schools, Head Start programs, and middle school graduations, there are always overlapping events, but I always try my best to get to as many as possible. There were so many this year, in part due to the record-breaking number of Indian students who graduated from Onamia High School! Congratulations to all of our Band Member graduates, including Dr. Benjamin Sam, who just earned his Ph.D. in Physical Therapy! We are so proud of Ben’s accomplishments – congratulations to him along with all our graduates. I hope you all have a well-deserved break this summer! Miigwech!



BENJAMIN TAKES OATH FOR A NEW TERM

Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin, right, was sworn in June 24 for his second full term as commissioner. He became commissioner in November of 2014 to serve out the remainder of his predecessor’s term and was sworn in for his first full term in 2015. Percy is pictured with District Court Judge David Christensen, who administered the oath of office.



SOBER SQUAD HOSTS MARCH IN BRAINERD

Sober Squad’s Walk 4 Hope took place June 8 beginning at 11 a.m. at Lum Park in Brainerd. Free Sober Squad shirts were given out to the first 200 walkers, and the YMCA provided child care and biking activities for kids. Photos by Mille Lacs Band member Rhonda Mitchell.



AG COORDINATOR JON HOULE

'WE'RE THE FIRST FARMERS OF THIS LAND'

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Agriculture Coordinator Jon Houle with the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources hopes to bring Band members back to their roots.

"We're the first farmers of this land," said Jon, who spent summers growing up at his relatives' 3,000-acre farm in Wisconsin. "The generations of culture suppression our people have endured has hindered the thousands of years of inherited knowledge and abilities of Ojibwe farming and harvesting techniques that are necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle with one's self and mother nature. We all have the inherited drive to provide a healthy way of life for our family and our community. The Division of Agriculture's goal is to provide the momentum for that drive."

Jon has been busy this spring starting hundreds of varieties of plants from seed at the greenhouse near the District I powwow grounds.

He transplanted the seedlings to the gardens at Sodbusters where his cornucopia is growing strong: 150 pumpkins, 15 varieties of squash, dozens of varieties of peppers and tomatoes, beets, peas, 10 kinds of beans, a 60-foot potato patch, 50-some cantaloupe, kale, leafy greens, radishes, and 23 rows of corn sown by hand, including heirloom varieties planted by his colleague Linda (Black Elk) Bishop.

When he's not working in the greenhouse or the fields, Jon is planning ways to implement a grand vision for the Division of Agriculture, which includes development of a ranch west



Left: Jon Houle divides his days between the greenhouse at the powwow grounds, the gardens at Sodbusters (pictured), and the ranch east of Onamia. Above: Jon gave a tour of the Band's agriculture projects to a group of agriculture specialists from the University of Minnesota on June 7.

"WE ALL HAVE THE INHERITED DRIVE TO PROVIDE A HEALTHY WAY OF LIFE FOR OUR FAMILY AND OUR COMMUNITY. THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE'S GOAL IS TO PROVIDE THE MOMENTUM FOR THAT DRIVE."

— JON HOULE

of Onamia.

In June he hosted a visit from agriculture specialists with the University of Minnesota and the Natural Resources Conservation Service who are interested in partnering with the Band to develop the site.

He has also met with Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture Thom Petersen and many nonprofits who may work with the Band to develop the property.

The dream is for an agriculture education site with bison, cattle, poultry, and other livestock, in addition to an equine therapy and reentry program managed by Health and Human Services. He plans to build lodging where students and interns can stay and learn about farming in a large-scale operating ranch setting.

Jon credits his late father, Charles Houle Jr., for planting

the seed that grew into a love of the soil. Charles was raised in District I and told Jon about the gardens tended by his grandmother, Maude Kegg.

"He was always very intuitive when it came to nature and the outdoors life," John said. "His teaching about giving to tobacco before you take has cemented my ways of maintaining the natural balance of nature's proper give-and-take agriculture methods. With the threat of all the world's topsoil being lost by 2075 due to harmful chemical farming techniques, erosion-caused deforestation, and global warming, as Native people we can no longer sit by and wait for rest of the world to fix this alarming global crisis. We are the first farmers of this land, let us not be the last."

Looking over the Sodbusters gardens and apple orchard, Jon gives credit to another Elder, Leonard Sam, who first developed the site. "Leonard was out here last summer. He'd work from 7 in the morning until 5:30 at night, and he wouldn't even take a lunch break. We had dudes out here, 25-30 years old, who weren't able to hang with him."

Jon also developed a strong work ethic during his summers on the farm, and in recent years as a maintenance worker and Emergency Services Coordinator. With that work ethic comes high expectations for himself and his program: "In a world of talkers, I'm a thinker and a doer. I don't want this to be something that takes 10 years to transpire. The planet can't wait. We need it now."

COUNTY CAMPUS RECOGNIZES ANISHINAABE HERITAGE

On Tuesday, June 18, the Pine County Board of Commissioners held a grand opening of the new North Pine County Government Center in Sandstone. Pine County created a campus for residents of the county to find the services they need in an area that is more centrally located.

Pine County Commissioner Josh Mohr said during his opening remarks after the ribbon-cutting ceremony that the goal of Pine County is to "focus on the people." Mohr said he was proud that the building could not have been done without the strong partnerships between the county, the Mille Lacs Band, and the state.

The county consulted with the Band to include signage throughout the building written in both English and Ojibwe. Special thanks to Katie Draper, Bradley Harrington, and Chato Gonzales, who helped with the language consultations.

Mohr continued by saying, "It comes down to the need to work together. When we work together, anything can happen."



STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

New task force created to track missing

Native women: State lawmakers approved \$150,000 in May to create the Task Force for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein, DFL-New Brighton, pushed for the new legislation. “Members will be tasked with streamlining the collection and sharing of data among agencies, then we’ll look at the historic trauma, how to address it, acknowledge it, and come up with ways to stop this kind of violence against women,” Kunesh-Podein said. The task force will be composed of tribal officials, tribal members, law enforcement, attorneys, trauma personnel, and others representing 27 agencies. The first report is due to lawmakers by December 2020. *Source: kstp.com.*

Line 3 pipeline may face more delays:

Enbridge’s proposed Line 3 oil pipeline replacement could see more delays, after two state agencies said last month that the permitting schedule for the pipeline needs to be revised. In a joint statement, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said a recent state Court of Appeals ruling that the pipeline’s environmental review was inadequate will have implications for their permitting process. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Anishinaabe fashions burst off the runway: The spring collection of Ojibwe designer Delina White debuted at the Walker Art Center on June 13 in a show celebrating American Indian LGBTQ culture and coinciding with the Twin Cities Pride Festival. All the models will be indigenous and queer. “I just think the two-spirit culture is a beautiful culture, and I have a lot of two-spirits in my life,” said White. *Source: startribune.com.*

Two candidates advance to special election:

Brent Gish, 72, and Michael Fairbanks, 56, finished first and second in a June 4 primary on the White Earth Reservation. Gish won 29 percent of the vote and Fairbanks nearly 22 percent — seven votes ahead of former Secretary-Treasurer Tara Mason. Gish and Fairbanks advance to a special election August 6 to finish the final year of the term of former chairman Terry Tibbetts, who passed away in March. *Source: startribune.com.*

Duluth’s Lake Place Park is now Gichi-Ode’Akiing:

After unanimous approval from the Duluth City Council last December, a park in downtown Duluth has been renamed in the Ojibwe language. What was previously Lake Place Park is now Gichi-Ode’Akiing, which means “a grand heart place.” More than 100 people gathered for a naming ceremony June 1, including city officials and leaders of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Fond du Lac Elder Vern Northrup said, “I’m so proud and humbled to be a part of this historic day.” *Source: mprnews.org.*

Works of Native women on display at MIA:

“Hearts of Our People,” an exhibit featuring the artwork of Native American women, opened at the Minneapolis Institute of Art on June 1 and runs through August 31. Artist Dyani White Hawk of Shakopee said the exhibit is long overdue. “Art history has never been taught from an indigenous perspective,” she said. “It’s taught from a predominantly male European perspective. It takes a lot of work to unravel that.” *Source: mspmag.com.*



The Wraparound staff is currently based in one of the homes in the 18-unit Ookwemin Loop development. They plan to maintain a welcoming presence in the neighborhood.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PLANNED FOR DISTRICT I

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Nenda Noojimojig, a new housing initiative in District I, will provide housing to families in a supportive, sober environment thanks to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Community Development and Health and Human Services departments.

Nenda Noojimojig is Ojibwe for “the ones who seek healing.”

According to Wraparound Program Director Tammy Moreland, the two departments discovered that they could work together for the benefit of Band members.

“We had families that needed houses, and the Housing Department was calling us to deal with evictions,” said Tammy. “A light bulb went off: Hey, they have what we need, and we have what they need.”

Now, with Wraparound providing case management services, the 18-unit community on Ookwemin Loop in the Bugg Hill neighborhood has a chance to become a model duplicated in other districts. “We want to make it something where people say, ‘I want that for my community,’” Tammy said.

The Wraparound program was developed in 2013 based on a model of case management that focuses on the individual’s needs and goals. “The individual develops their own vision and goals, and we help them to identify services to accomplish their goals,” said Tammy. “We fully embrace the client’s voice and choice. There won’t be change unless the client buys into it.”

Nenda Noojimojig follows that philosophy to help Band members overcome barriers to housing:

- Unemployment/underemployment
- Treatment or therapy
- Negative peer and community associations

To help residents with the first barrier, the Wraparound staff works with Aanjibimaadizing to explore career options and set educational and training goals. Instead of just giving out a phone

number and name, however, Wraparound staff will bring people to Aanjibimaadizing and personally introduce them to those who can provide assistance.

To overcome the treatment/therapy challenge, they work with Four Winds Lodge, the Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) program at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, the Behavioral Health Department, the halfway house, Mino Bimaadiziwin, and Mash-ka-wisen Treatment Center.

To bridge the barrier of negative peer associations, Wraparound partners with Sober Squad and Natives Against Heroin to help with rides to treatment, meetings, and sobriety feasts.

Admission to the program will occur only after someone has been involved in the Wraparound program for a certain length of time. Potential residents will also need to demonstrate their sobriety through a treatment program, halfway house program, or attendance at recovery group meetings.

Since each unit is 2-3 bedrooms, priority will be given to families. Single individuals accepted to the program may be required to share a unit.

The Wraparound Program is currently housed on “the loop” and will maintain a family-friendly office there with a playground, picnic table, and garden.

Plans are in the works for a community space in the neighborhood for residents to hold meetings or just socialize.

Tammy said the Wraparound team will host listening sessions and community meetings to keep neighbors informed about the project, and they will monitor performance indicators during the first year to determine successes and areas to work on.

The Native Community Development Institute (NCDI) has been assisting the Housing and Wraparound programs with the planning of the project and development of the MOU. NCDI supports and strengthens the capacity of Native communities to reach their community development goals through trainings, workshops, and customized assistance.

SMUDGE WALKS BRING NEIGHBORS TOGETHER IN DIII

Smudge walks were held on June 1 in Aazhoomog and Hinckley to bring healing to communities suffering from addiction and the opioid epidemic.

“Grandma” Julie Hernandez-Corado applied for a New Warriorism grant to help pay for the events, and she couldn’t have been more happy with how the walks turned out.

She thanked the Creator first off, as well as Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, District III Representative Wally St John Sr., spiritual advisor/Elder Lee Obizaan Staples, Daphne Shabaiash, the Tribal Police Department, and Sober Squad for support and inspiration.

“Without each other, this walk wouldn’t have been possible,” said Julie. “I learned we are never alone no matter what. Whether it’s District III, II, or I, there is someone out there willing to help you. Don’t be afraid to ask, and never be ashamed! As a grandmother raising my grandkids and my son in recovery, the walk helped me to know I need to keep keeping on.

“Stand strong together, and keep walking!”



An enthusiastic crowd participated in District III smudge walks in Aazhoomog and Hinckley on June 1.

LOCAL REPORTER JOINS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM

Vivian LaMoore, the Mille Lacs Band's new Director of Public Relations, is a familiar face to many in District I, having covered the Band as a reporter and editor of the Mille Lacs Messenger for many years.

As Public Relations Director, Vivian will provide coordination and support of media requests as they occur, and she will work with the Government Affairs team in support of the department's goals:

- communicate regularly with Band members about external coverage of and interest in the Band;
- build, maintain, and improve upon key relationships in the region;
- weave the Band's cultural heritage into the tapestry of the region;
- raise awareness of the Band's leadership on environment and lake issues;
- raise awareness of the Band's economic contribution to East Central Minnesota;
- raise awareness of the Band's active role in improving public safety and combating violence on the reservation;
- and raise awareness of tribal sovereignty.

"I am looking forward to continuing to tell the stories of the Band members and all of the good and wonderful contributions the Band is making to not only the Mille Lacs Lake area, but also statewide and even nationwide," said Vivian. "The Mille Lacs Band is a leader in Indian Country, and I am very proud to be able to help raise more awareness of the issues that can and do affect Mille Lacs Band members on a regional level as well as nationwide."

Vivian has been an award-winning writer and photographer in the area since 1999 as well as a long-time proponent of di-

alogue and education about Indian issues.

She has written many compelling feature stories about Band members and has covered countless events hosted by the Band during her tenure.

As editor of the Mille Lacs Messenger since 2016, Vivian took many controversial positions in opposition to Mille Lacs County's anti-Indian decisions — like rescinding its law enforcement agreement with the Band in 2016.

Vivian also held the County Board accountable by questioning the thousands of dollars they have spent opposing the existence of the Mille Lacs Reservation.

Government Affairs Director Katie Draper said she is excited to be working with Vivian. "Vivian is very experienced and knows our issues and our history through her work in the area for the last 20 years," said Katie. "She will be a great representative of the Band, and we're fortunate to have her."

Vivian lives on the west side of Mille Lacs on a 20-acre farm with her boyfriend, five horses, four cats, and two dogs. The couple is working on renovating an 84-year-old farm house and converting a 66-year-old dairy barn into a horse barn. In their free time, "when it is not haying season, we ride horses or Harleys," said Vivian. "Jeff always teases me that his horses don't eat hay and don't need to be fed in the winter. But we both actually enjoy the haying process and sometimes have a difference of opinion over who should drive the tractors."



NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Harjo named first Native poet laureate: Poet, writer, and musician Joy Harjo, a member of the Muskogee Creek Nation, will become the country's 23rd poet laureate this fall. Harjo is the first Native American to serve in the position. "It's such an honoring for Native people in this country, when we've been so disappeared and disregarded," Harjo said. "I bear that honor on behalf of the people and my ancestors." Harjo is the author of eight books of poetry, including the American Book Award-winning *In Mad Love and War*. She has also written a memoir and literature for children and young adults and has taught at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Tennessee. *Source: npr.org.*

Washington state takes landmark step on missing women: Captain Monica Alexander, of the Washington State Patrol, released a report last month on the alarming number of deaths and disappearances of Native American women in the state. Her report said authorities had misidentified the ethnicity of women and possibly underestimated the potential role sex trafficking could play in these disappearances. Alexander stressed the need for both more coordination between tribal, state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies as well as a centralized database that can accurately track this crisis. There are currently 56 missing American Indian and Alaska Native women in Washington, where Native Americans make up 2 percent of the population but account for 7 percent of all disappearances. *Source: theguardian.com.*

New book covers Native American history from Wounded Knee to the present: Minnesota author David Treuer's new book, *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present*, is reviewed as a "brilliant and moving new history/memoir." The theme, according to reviewer James A. Warren, "is that, through imagination, adaptability, and sheer tenacity, Indians have not only survived many losses and wrongs, but flourished." Quoting Treuer, Warren says the book is also "an attempt to confront the ways we Indians ourselves understand our place in the world, as our self-regard — the vision and versions we hold of who we are and what we mean — matters greatly." *Source: thedailybeast.com.*

Gorsuch voting in tribes' favor: In an opinion column in the *Star Tribune*, law professor Grant Christensen claims that one of Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominees, Neil Gorsuch, is shifting the balance on the Court in favor of tribes. "On May 20, the Supreme Court issued its second 5-4 Indian law opinion of the current term, and in both cases Justice Gorsuch joined the four liberal justices (Ginsburg, Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan) in a majority ruling favorable to tribal rights. In *Herrera vs. Wyoming*, the court held that the Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation retained a right it secured in an 1868 treaty to permit its citizens to hunt in the 'unoccupied' lands of the United States. In doing so, the majority expressly overturned an 1896 precedent which had held that such a treaty right did not survive Wyoming's admission to the Union as a state." Gorsuch is the first justice since Sandra Day O'Connor (appointed in 1981) to have spent the majority of his or her professional career west of the Mississippi. *Source: startribune.com.*

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CENSUS 2020 IS COMING — WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The data that will be collected by the 2020 census are critical for states, tribes, counties, and communities.

Urban liaison Shelly Diaz is working to bring awareness of the census to the Mille Lacs Band and ensure an accurate count. "American Indians have been historically under-counted in the census, and that affects how state and federal funds are allocated," said Shelly.

Census data determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as districts for state government. *Minnesota is at risk of losing a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

Census data guides federal spending allocation of approximately \$589 billion to local communities every year. *Even one missed person could mean a forfeited \$15,000 in funding over ten years.*

Census data helps plan roads, schools, hospitals, senior centers, and emergency services to best serve changing populations.

Census data assists businesses in locating factories and stores, recruiting employees, and conducting market research.

New Warriors continued from page 1

Curt and his wife Carmen said they want to help those lacking equipment or experience to learn traditional harvesting, which will open their eyes to new possibilities while promoting health and wellness. They also intend to teach safety, environmental awareness, conservation, and language.

Amber said she applied for a grant on behalf of the students of Pine Grove Learning Center, where she is a teacher. The grant provides funds for students to build, tend to, and grow fruit and vegetable gardens. "The fruits and vegetables brought home will empower them with skills and confidence to make fresh, healthy dishes for a lifetime of healthy living," said Amber. (For photos of the gardens, see page 7.)

After dinner, grant recipient Curt Kalk thanked Melanie on behalf of the other grant recipients for going above and beyond the responsibilities of her position to find new ways to help Band members help each other.



Shelly Diaz attended the June 11 signing of a bill by Gov. Tim Walz appropriating 1.6 million to the state for the census.

If you have questions about the census, contact Shelly at 320-292-4234 or shelly.diaz@millelacsband.com.

Watch for the #wecount and #wecountMN hashtags on social media for more information about the census.



Grant recipients spoke about their projects at a banquet at Grand Casino Hinckley on May 30.

Melanie concluded the event by saying, "Ultimately, it's about the spiritual health of people, and once again I say, 'Chi-miigwech' for your efforts!"

SHE IS NOT INVISIBLE — RAISING AWARENESS OF MISSING AND MURDERED WOMEN

By Vivian LaMoore Director of Public Relations

She is somebody's daughter, somebody's sister, somebody's mother — and she is one of the nearly 6,000 cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women in the United States. Of these cases, only 116 were logged into the national database. The remaining women and girls are symbolically invisible.

"That invisibility is something that we have to change," said Minnesota Sen. Tina Smith when she met with a coalition working to address the problem at the state and federal level. The Senator added that the re-authorization of the federal Violence Against Women Act should include better protections for Native Americans giving a voice for Native American women in the VAWA.

Also playing influential roles at the coalition were Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan and Mille Lacs Band Family Violence Prevention Program Administrator Kate Kalk, among other Minnesota tribal leaders. Kate discussed with officials the strides the Mille Lacs Band is taking to bring awareness and help Band members address violence to women and children. Kate also included discussion of elder abuse.

These issues are not limited to Minnesota. A study from the Urban Indian Health Institute identifies victims as young as a year and as old as 83. The report included a case study in 2016 about a 25-year-old woman from Bad River, Tess White, who was 10 weeks pregnant when she was kidnapped, tortured, and killed. Her body was burned in an attempt to hide the evidence.

The numbers are staggering. The report from UIHI included numbers from the National Crime Center in 2016 indicating 5,712 reports of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, with only 116 entered into the Department of Justice NamUs database. And according to the National Crime Institute, murder is the third leading cause of death for women in Minnesota.

Rep. Mary Kunes-Podein, DFL-New Brighton, sponsored HF-0070 in the Minnesota state legislature this spring to create a task force to address missing and murdered indigenous women. Kunes-Podein is of Standing Rock Lakota descent. The bill passed the House in a 128-0 vote.

The task force will provide data and analysis of the systemic causes behind the number of missing Native American women in the state. The goal of the task force will be to better understand the causes of violence against Indigenous women and to reduce and prevent violence where it is happening. The task force will include members of the Indigenous community,



The Family Violence Prevention Program has been making red shawls with community members to bring attention to the plight of missing and murdered women.

law enforcement, policymakers, and the public.

"Today we mourn the women we've lost, but we have renewed hope that no one will have to wonder if their daughters, their sisters, their mothers, and loved ones will come home when they walk out the door," Kunes-Podein said.

Mille Lacs Band making a difference

Mille Lacs Band Family Violence Prevention Program Administrator Kate Kalk said the Band received a mini grant of \$500 from the Minnesota Indian Women Sexual Assault Coalition to use in an awareness campaign. Kate said the funds were used to make red shawls in collaboration with the Red Shawl Society.

"We bought the material and ribbons and hosted a community event," Kate said. "About 25 people helped to make the shawls. We then had the Band logo printed on the back of the shawls."

The red shawls are used to represent the Band at awareness events, parades, community events, powwows, and more to bring awareness to MMIW. The shawls are also used in the teen dating awareness programs.

"There is a huge push for the shawls for events — there is a waiting list! — so we are looking for more funding to be able to make more and bring them to more events," Kate said. They are also trying to bring equity to all three districts, but the grant funding at this time was not sufficient. "We are looking at ways to apply for more."

The family violence prevention team has also hosted a candlelight vigil and events on sex trafficking, and they attended the MMIW march last February. There will be a community walk for family peace this October to end domestic violence.

"This is a great event," Kate said. "We have so many people come. There will be food and speakers. And those who cannot walk are welcome to ride or drive in cars alongside to be a part of the walk. We will make sure to announce the date and time when it is closer."

Kate said she also discussed with the Lt. Gov and Senator the constant need for safe housing. "Our shelter is filled all the time," she added.

Most notably Kate said she is looking forward to positive changes. "To be where we are now with more indigenous women in Congress and state politics — well, the women in my life didn't ever think we would see the day. But now, we are actually seeing changes taking place. It is promising to see concrete changes after we talk with them."

More collaboration between Band programs and between tribal and state programs is necessary to achieve positive major changes, Kate said. "We all have grants with the same focus, and when you take a step back and look at our goals, we are all working toward the same things."

Advocates are on call 24/7, Kate said. "We are lucky to have people who really care about helping people. Community education and awareness is working."

CRISIS NUMBERS

In an emergency call or text 911.

24/7 Crisis Number: 1-866-867-4006

Shelter (non-crisis): 320-495-3514

Kristen Allord (Shelter Manager): 320-630-2677

Kala Roberts (Direct Services Coordinator
Sexual Assault Program): 320-630-2691

Petra Mauricio (Sexual Assault Advocate):
320-362-4995

Nanette DesJarlait (Community Advocate):
320-362-0642

Winnie Davis (Community Advocate):
320-674-0790

Carrie Sam (Community Advocate):
320-630-3811

Mike Davis (Elder Abuse Advocate):
320-630-7666

Cynthia Guernsey (Elder Abuse Advocate):
320-362-4941

Kate Kalk (FVPP Administrator): 320-630-2499

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

OLD-STYLE COOKING

By Beatrice Taylor

This article by the late Beatrice Taylor was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to help preserve her teachings for the next generation.

Sometimes I get hungry for the old-style Indian cooking. That kind of cooking means making do from scratch.

For example, maybe you have a little piece of meat, and you can't fry it or bake it because there won't be enough for everyone. So you cut it up in little pieces and put it in a kettle of water with onion and salt. If you have a little bacon or pork, you throw that in there, too. Or hamburger, rabbit, partridge — whatever. Then you peel potatoes and dice them and put them in. If you don't have macaroni, you can make little homemade noodles. You can make homemade dumplings, too.

You put this all together and let it cook to make soup. And that's the best soup there is — it beats any other soup. I tell you, the kids are scraping the bottom of the kettle when we make it!

I taught my kids to cook. The boys cook just as well as the girls. In fact, my son Edward took first prize one time in a cooking contest when we had a little powwow at our community

center. We had a cook-off to see who could make the best fry bread, and Edward won.

Fry bread is a very popular Indian food. And it's easy to make. You just use flour, water, salt, sugar and baking powder. Some people use yeast, too, when they make a big amount.

When you make fry bread, you beat an egg a little bit and throw it in with the other ingredients. Then you knead it all together. Then you get your fat heating in a pan. When it's hot enough, you just break off the bread dough in little pieces and put it in the hot fat. It's French-fried bread. Everyone likes it!

Some people make fry bread well, others don't make it so well, but we all like it. We all eat it.

And I like the bread when we cook by the fire, too. My mother-in-law taught me that. When you're out camping by the campfire, you rake some of the coals up. Then you grease your skillet a little bit, put some dough in it, and set it on those coals until you figure it's pretty well cooked on the bottom. Then you prop the skillet up on its side, and that cooks the bread. And you get that little bit of smoke taste in there. Oh, that is delicious. That is the good life, eating bread by the campfire.

MEN'S HALFWAY HOUSE

PROGRESS, NOT PERFECTION

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Behind the scenes of the resurgence of recovery in Mille Lacs Band communities is a nondescript building on a quiet road in District I: The Mille Lacs Band Men's Halfway House.

Although confidentiality laws prevent the staff from sharing the names of those they've served, you don't need to look far to find men in recovery who will happily share that the halfway house gave them critical assistance during a difficult time.

One former client is Colin Cash, founding member of Sober Squad, the recovery group that started at Mille Lacs and is making an impact with Indians and non-Indians across the state.

"We used to refer to the halfway house as 'the stronghold' — like from the movie 'Thunderheart,'" said Colin. "'Run to the stronghold, Thunderheart!' Back when I got sober, there was no Sober Squad, so the only safe place I had was the halfway house — the stronghold. That's where my journey began. It truly is a safe place for people seeking recovery."

Another veteran of "the stronghold" is now a staff member there: Band member Arvid Paschke. Arvid went through treatment several years ago and eventually moved into the halfway house, where Lloyd Keoke and others on the staff helped him become a healthy and productive member of the community.

"I never intended to come back," said Arvid. "How I came back is a spiritual thing, what my higher power intended."

Now Arvid helps others on the road to recovery as a counselor's aid.

Richard Hill, the lead counselor and house manager, said, "Progress, not perfection, that's our motto."

Clients come from all over but are primarily Band members and other Native Americans leaving treatment programs like Four Winds Lodge in Brainerd or Mash-ka-wisen on the Fond du Lac Reservation.

Once there, it's all about learning what they need to make it back in the community — from cooking and cleaning to job skills to healthy relationships.

"We wear a lot of hats," said Arvid. "Sometimes you're a father, sometimes a big brother, sometimes a friend. Sometimes we have to be the drill sergeant, or sometimes we just listen."

"A lot of it is accountability," said Rich. "We let them know what the expectations are and hold them accountable. They can stay up all night if they want to — but they have to be up



Arvid Paschke and Lloyd Keoke are two reasons for the positive impact of the men's halfway house.

at 6:30."

Although the program emphasizes Native American culture — with sweats, smudging, and Wellbriety — they meet people where they're at. "There's no one true path to recovery," said Rich. "We all want to get to Recovery Mountain. Some may do it through AA, some may go through treatment, and some may get there on their own."

"We expose them to different things so they can see what they gravitate towards," Arvid added. Clients of the program — "brothers," Arvid calls them — also get out in the community, to smudge walks, sobriety feasts, ricing, canoeing, fishing, and conferences.

What they all have in common is the need to overcome barriers that led them down the path to addiction, according to Rich. "Recovery is building bridges to overcome barriers."

Broken and defeated

Arvid remembers the hard times and isn't ashamed to share his experience with clients.

"I lacked a lot of skills," he said. "I wouldn't pay my bills, couldn't keep a job. I'm a product of this place, and simply by sharing with them what I've overcome and how I've done it, that can encourage them. I just try to remind them there's a lot of good stuff in the world. It's not all jail, loss of children, broken relationships. The sun will come up tomorrow, and you can be happy."

"My life was pretty bleak. It's not good to live just to get drunk and drink yourself into oblivion every day. I got to the point I was alone, and I began to pray. That's when my life started changing. So I kept praying, kept doing what I knew was right, and finally I went to Mash-ka-wisen, after getting a Rule 25 at behavioral health."

After treatment, Arvid came to the halfway house. "I came in humble," he recalled. "I was defeated, broken, and I needed all the help I could get."

What made the program work for him was the introduction to the culture and talking to Lloyd. "I had a lot of questions, and

I didn't know who to ask," he said.

For Lloyd, there's no magic to it. "The guys who come here, they're wounded. All I am is a good listener, and that's all some of them need. If you treat people with respect, you're gonna get it back."

Lloyd has decades of experience in the helping professions. Although he is Dakota, he is a valued member of the Mille Lacs community. Band members Herb Sam and Lee Obizaan Staples helped Lloyd in his recovery, and he later worked with Dorothy Sam and Joe Nayquonabe at Four Winds. He's been at the halfway house for 10 years and is encouraged by what he's seen lately.

"When you look for the positive, you see the positive," he said. "I'm seeing a lot of change, especially the addicts helping the addicts. A lot of these guys were hell-raisers, and now they're helping their own people."

For Lloyd, the cultural aspect of the halfway house program sets it apart. "A lot of the people who ask to come here want a place where there's cultural teachings. A lot of them got all the AA stuff, and they get kind of tired of it. When they come here, it's different, but we leave it up to them. If they want it, it's here."

Happiness is possible

Once he had completed the program, Arvid stayed close to the halfway house and its staff. The halfway house has programs open to the public — a weekly sweat lodge, pipe ceremonies, and smudging.

"I volunteered a lot of my time here," Arvid said. "At that time there was nowhere safe to go, so I'd come back here a lot. My life had been centered around use. It helped me to feel I was helpful to others. I felt important."

Now he's gainfully employed, with a young daughter who brings a smile to his face every day. "How I was blessed so much is beyond me. Maybe that's why I want to help other people. I know happiness is possible. I'm living proof."



KIDS KICK OFF A FUN AND HEALTHY SUMMER

Nay Ah Shing Schools are hosting summer activities for students, including fishing at the District I Cultural Grounds. Left: Melody Pendegayosh and Virgil Foote were among the students who had good luck with ogaa fishing in June. Right: Pine Grove Learning Center is in its first summer of year-round school, and part of the curriculum is gardening, thanks in part to a New Warriorism grant that provided funds for raised beds (see page I).

NO SUMMER VACATION FOR BASKETBALL BROTHERS

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor



Cedric LaFave, Eldayshun Big Bear, and Derek Smith are keeping busy with AAU basketball this summer.

A summer weekend for most teenagers means a lot of free time — hanging out with friends, playing video games, going to powwows, and maybe a part-time job. But for three young Mille Lacs Band members, it's all about ball — AAU basketball, that is.

AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) is the go-to organization for young kids who want to take their game to the next level by adding a spring and/or summer league to make progress between winter seasons.

Eldayshun Big Bear, who will be a senior at Isle High School this fall, and Cedric LaFave, who will be a senior at Hinckley-Finlayson, played last summer with the Minnesota Heat and decided to sign up again this year.

Eldayshun invited his teammate Derek Smith to join them, even though he's a year younger. Derek will be a junior this year and plans to play varsity for the Huskies. "I wanted him to get experience to play for varsity, so I told him to play a year up," said Eldayshun.

But summer ball isn't just about the sport for Eldayshun. "I like how it brings people together," he said. "Me and Cedric, we're like brothers now. Especially with AAU, you get to meet people and make new friends."

Cedric says basketball clears his head and helps him be the person he wants to be — "a rock" for his family.

Eldayshun focuses on basketball, but Derek also plays football and baseball, while Cedric runs cross-country and track and has also played football in the past. (For more on Cedric's track exploits, see below.)

On Saturday, June 15, the boys fell behind by 10 points but fought their way back during the second half with pesky defense and an efficient offense. Cedric and Eldayshun took turns bringing the ball up the floor and hitting buckets from long range, while Derek provided a spark off the bench, matching up equally against older opponents.

They came away with a three-point victory, and their coach congratulated them on the comeback and said he'd see them the next day.

A typical weekend involves two games on Saturday at locations like Maple Grove, Fridley, and Coon Rapids, followed by two more on Sunday.

And that doesn't count practice sessions during the week.

Along with keeping your grades up and dealing with injuries, that's one of the challenges of being in sports, according to Eldayshun. "Like this weekend, we're missing a powwow," he said. "Everybody's out having fun and we're here."

It's all worth it in the end, though. "The most rewarding part is making my family and friends proud," said Cedric.

The boys also have advice for youngsters considering sports.

Cedric says to try them all. "If you like something, get right into it. Just try it out. Not just basketball, try a variety."

"Start early," said Derek. "I started in sixth grade, but I'd be a better player now if I'd started younger."

Eldayshun said, "You gotta put your mind to everything you do. I didn't have a role model, so I want to switch that around and tell the younger kids you gotta put your time in. You can't be lackadaisical."

For Eldayshun, the time spent paid off when he broke the Isle High School single-season assist record. He made it his goal to set the record in honor of his late father and ended up breaking the record by 13. He also broke the single-game record with 18.

It was the highlight of his career so far. "I can't really explain how it felt," he said. "I worked so hard to do that for my dad. I just want everyone to know that if you put your mind to it, you can do anything. There were times when I didn't think I could do it, but my brothers and teammates told me I could."

Cedric's fondest basketball memory so far occurred during Hinckley-Finlayson's run to the state tournament two years ago. "During the section championship, I made this kid fall with my dribble moves."

Eldayshun, who was in the crowd that night, laughed at the memory of Cedric's famous crossover.

As for Derek, he's looking ahead to the coming season. "I don't have any highlights yet," he said humbly. "But I'm hoping to make some soon." (He didn't mention his career best 39-point game last season.)

The unsung heroes of the boys' team, of course, are the moms and dads who drive them to practice and games and cheer from the sidelines. Shout out to the boys' proud parents: Eldayshun's mom, Darcie, Cedric's parents, Vanessa and George, and Derek's parents, Wendy and Carlos.

Darcie said the boys practice two nights a week in the Cities and never complain. "I'm super proud of all three of them for sticking with it," she said. "I see improvement in their game every single weekend. All three are drug- and alcohol-free and are really good positive role models for the younger generation."

Wendy is equally proud and said she is grateful to the other moms for showing her and Derek the AAU ropes this year. "Derek has been working so hard," said Wendy. "Even when practice is canceled, he'll go to the gym to work out and practice. We definitely lean on each other as parents as well. It's not easy taking time out of our busy schedules, but we'd do anything so that our boys are successful."

Vanessa recalled that Eldayshun and Cedric met when they played Pace-setter basketball in elementary school. "There was a tournament in Cass Lake, and we reached out to Darcie to see if Eldayshun could play with the team — and the rest is history! They've been bros ever since and play on teams together whenever they get the chance. It's been great to watch them grow up together and build their skill level. Basketball is one of the many sports that turns friends into family."

And an additional congrats to Cedric and Eldayshun, who have been selected for an Elite Team to continue playing after the current season ends.



TRACK STAR RUNS IN STATE TOURNAMENT

Cedric LaFave, who will be a senior next year at Hinckley-Finlayson High School, represented his school at the Minnesota State High School Track Tournament on June 7 and 8 after smashing school records in the 1600 (the "metric mile") and 3200 meter runs. At State, Cedric finished fifth in the 3200 and seventh in the 1600.

"It was a joyous feeling," said Cedric. "I was just happy being there running in front of all those people. They don't know you, but they still cheer for you. It makes you feel good!"

Cedric is aiming for a return trip and more broken records next year!

Photos by Mille Lacs Band member Bradley Roache Jr.



MINISINAAKWAANG CELEBRATES MOLLY'S GRADUATION

The Minisinaakwaang community came together on June 4 to celebrate the graduation of Molly Bohanon from Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.

Vince Merrill gave a welcome and invocation in Ojibwe, and MLA Director Mary Sue Anderson (who happens to be the graduate's mom) spoke with pride about the school as a dream made real by District II Band members. Michaa Aubid, one of Molly's teachers, shared fond memories about Molly's performance in the classroom.

School Board Chair Taria White presented Molly with her diploma, and Molly thanked those in attendance for coming and showing their support.

Indian tacos were served following the ceremony.

Several community members came in graduation caps and gowns to emphasize the value of education.

Molly plans to attend Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin, which she chose for its strong science program.



CONGRATULATIONS TO NAY AH SHING GRADS!



GRADUATION CEREMONY INSPIRES

Family, friends, and Nay Ah Shing staff came to the high school graduation ceremony on June 6 to congratulate five graduates. Left to right: Clara Gahbow, Ronni Jourdain, Katelyn Mitchell, Jennie Mitchell, and Freddy Mitchell. Photos by Mille Lacs Band member Bradley Roache Jr.



Name: Katelyn Mitchell, Giiwedinoowkwe. **Clan:** Migizi. **Interests/Extracurriculars:** Volleyball, makeup. **Plans/goals/dreams:** I am going to college and planning to have a good summer off. **Miigwech to:** My grandma. **Advice to the youth:** Stay in school and listen to your friends when they motivate you to do better.



Name: Clara Gahbow, Ozhwashkiinebiikwe. **Clan:** Bullhead. **Interests/Extracurriculars:** Writing. **Plans/goals/dreams:** To become a child psychologist. **Miigwech to:** My dad for always being there. **Advice to the youth:** Pass your classes always no matter how bad your grades are.



Name: Ronni Jourdain, Bagwajikwe. **Clan:** Awaazisii. **Interests/Extracurriculars:** Art, singing, cooking, and dancing. **Plans/goals/dreams:** I plan on traveling around the country this summer and then going back to school to get my associates of liberal arts at Central Lakes College. **Miigwech to:** My family and friends, miigwech for keeping me motivated. **Advice to the youth:** Continue to learn our language and keep our culture alive. Study hard and learn to take a break when you need it. Be a good role model to those younger than you, and respect those that are older than you.



Name: Jennie Mitchell, Amikogaabawiikwe. **Clan:** Migizi. **Plans/goals/dreams:** My plan after being done with school is that I would like to stay home for a year, then go to college to get my generals and make my way to becoming a police officer. **Miigwech to:** My parents, and the school board for giving me another chance to come back to school. **Advice to the youth:** Stay in school and learn as much language and culture as possible. Just live life as best as you should. Also don't let anyone stop you from chasing your dreams.



Name: Freddy Mitchell, Gidagaabines. **Clan:** Migizi. **Interests/Extracurriculars:** Video games. **Plans/goals/dreams:** To stay home and take care of my family. **Miigwech to:** My family.

AMBE SHKE NAA OWI-NIIMIDAA! COME ON! LET'S GO DANCE!

Scenes from the 2019 Grand Celebration Powwow

Photos by Bradley Roache Jr. Mille Lacs Band Member



TRIBAL CONSULTATION AGREEMENT SIGNED

Mille Lacs Band and Minnesota officials gathered at Meshakwad Community Center on June 19 to sign a policy guaranteeing government-to-government consultation between the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

The agreement is authorized by Executive Order 19-24, which was signed by Gov. Tim Walz in April and affirms that the State of Minnesota recognizes and supports the unique status of the Minnesota Tribal Nations and their right to existence, self-government, and self-determination.

The order requires all state agencies to recognize the unique legal relationship between the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Tribal Nations and respect the fundamental principles that establish and maintain this relationship.

The order also requires agencies to update their tribal consultation policies and to designate Tribal Liaisons who will directly and regularly meet and communicate with the Agency's Commissioner and Deputy and Assistant Commissioners in order to appropriately conduct government-to-government conversations.

Finally, the order mandates tribal-relations training for all state leaders and other employees whose work may impact Tribes.

The new policy was signed by Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson (left), Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin (center), and Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services Tony Lourey (right). Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd and other Band and State representatives were also present at the signing ceremony — along with some representatives of the next generation!





The “Time to Talk” forum on educational equity at Mille Lacs was held at Onamia Elementary on May 28. District I community member and former school board member Mary Sam, right, has been instrumental in fighting for educational equity throughout her career. Mary is now Dean of Students at Central Lakes College.

TIME TO TALK — EQUITY EVENT ADDRESSES REGION’S EDUCATIONAL DISPARITIES

By Vivian LaMoore Director of Public Relations

Closing the education gap is an issue that has been discussed all around Minnesota for nearly a decade. Most of the discussion had centered on communities of color in urban areas. But educators as well as students and community leaders began to wonder why there was not more help and discussion to close the education gap in rural communities where there are pockets of students of color and American Indian students scattered throughout Minnesota. The Mille Lacs Area Education Equity for All brought the discussion to the public of the Mille Lacs area in a special dinner and discussion on Tuesday, May 28, with the fitting title “It’s Time to Talk.”

A Race Equity and Excellence in Education action plan was developed in 2014 in conjunction with the Mille Lacs Band leaders, Isle, Nay Ah Shing, and Onamia schools as well as Wewinabi Early Childhood Program and Central Lakes College with consultation from the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership. The plan, titled “A Promise To Act: Education Equity and Excellence for All of Our Children,” makes a clear and simple point, according to Mary Sam, Central Lakes College Dean of Students: “If we don’t get education right, other areas of our community are impacted.”

Phase 1 focused on creating community profiles and gathering data about the gaps that exist along the “cradle to career” education continuum. “The data was alarming to school board members, other leaders in education, and area Foundation Presidents,” Mary said. “It is easy to point fingers, but that is not productive or constructive.”

Many factors affect our children’s education including affordable housing, transportation, under-funded schools, socio-economics, and other larger community issues.

“Teachers do have a responsibility to provide a culturally responsive, equitable classroom,” Mary said. “But collaborating to provide resource tools is part of our collective responsibility.”

At CLC the staff is seeing that many students coming from our local communities are unprepared, Mary said. This includes recent graduates and adults returning to college seeking higher education. “That’s very discouraging — especially for the adults who realize they do not know basic skills of reading, writing, or math.”

Local Graduates Speak Out

Zac Virnig is a 2013 graduate of Onamia High School. He said he had lived in Onamia all of his life and realizes now that he led a privileged life. Zac explained that his parents are both doctors at Mille Lacs Health System, and while they were both

busy professionals, they always took time for family. They supported Zac through years of sports and were extremely active in the 4-H program. Zac has gone on to college and is now working on his master’s degree.

Zac said school was relatively easy for him and he was able to earn good grades while participating in many in-school and extracurricular activities. Zac said he was quite popular and had many friends — white friends and Native friends. But what he didn’t always realize was that not all of his friends had the same family and community support and access to resources that he did. Not all of his friends were able to get good grades and continue on to college, he said.

“THE BOUNDARY ISSUE IS NOT JUST AN ISSUE OF 61,000 ACRES. AS A YOUTH GROWING UP, I HAD BOUNDARIES BETWEEN FRIENDS. WALKING IN TWO WORLDS IN THIS COMMUNITY IS TOUGH.”

— BEN SAM

Ben Sam is a 2012 graduate of Onamia High School. Ben, too, has since gone on to complete college, obtained a master’s degree, and recently earned his doctorate in physical therapy.

Ben has a different perspective about going to school in Onamia. Obtaining good grades in college was a challenge for him and at times even a struggle. He stated he was clearly underprepared for the rigor of college, even though he worked hard to earn great grades in high school. Where some kids would have given up, Ben said he had to work even harder, “Mostly because my mom was an educator and made me,” said Ben. “My parents supported and pushed me, where the system in this community could have done much more for me and many others.”

Ben had the support of his family, but he didn’t then — and still doesn’t today — feel he has support from the community. “The boundary issue is not just an issue of 61,000 acres,” Ben said. “As a youth growing up, I had boundaries between friends. Walking in two worlds in this community is tough.”

Ben spoke of his return to the community after completing his doctorate program recently. He had gone into a local busi-

ness where the owner had recognized him. Instead of welcoming him back, the business owner said, “Why would you want to come back here? There is nothing for you here.”

Key Speakers

Adrienne Benjamin is the Equity Champion hired by the MNEEP Organization. She helped lead a retreat with members of the equity group that included the second visioning session with education leaders in 2018. She spoke about the need for a community connection. “We are losing economic growth. Kids leave and they leave for a long, long time. There is nothing for them to come back to.”

Dr. Hara Charlier is the President of Central Lakes College and was the keynote speaker at the dinner. Dr. Charlier said she grew up in what would be middle class, went to school, earned her college degree, her master’s, and a doctorate. In all of those years of education and now as President of CLC, she said, “I have learned an awful lot about what I don’t know. We have to understand ourselves — our own biases.”

Dr. Charlier recalled one point in her life where the light-bulb went off. “I was feeling pretty good about myself and met with some students of color. I wanted to understand more about their culture, so I asked the students to teach me to better understand their culture. And then it hit me: Teaching me to understand another culture is not their responsibility, it’s mine. It’s yours.”

Pulling back the curtain

Members of the audience were given time to discuss key areas from the presentations and to answer a few questions while members of the Theatre of Public Policy sat in on the discussions. After a few minutes, the actors in the group provided an improv comedy routine based on the speeches given and the group discussions.

The comedy routine was eye-opening as it pulled the curtain back about racism and equity in education in our specific community. It provided another way to look at the Mille Lacs area and the education being provided for all of our children.

Fred Cheng, one of the actors, said improvisational comedy helps to get people excited about their common interests and goals. “But more importantly, it really makes people think about the stuff that is hard to think about and that they sometimes can’t see.”

For more information on how you can become involved in the educational equity in our community, contact: Jennifer Godinez at 651-645-7400 or Mary Sam at 218-855-8159.

URBAN SITE MANAGER FINDS HER PASSION

By Bradley Roache Jr. Mille Lacs Band Member

Wahbon Spears is the new site manager for the Urban Office. Barb Benjamin-Robertson retired late last year after two decades of service, and has officially passed the torch.

Wahbon is a mother of three. Her youngest, Kaya, is entering the 8th grade and plays soccer. Her daughter Tehya will be a sophomore this year and is a Minneapolis Public Schools Native Youth Council member. Chaska, her eldest, plays lacrosse and recently graduated from Edison High School.

Wahbon grew up in Minneapolis, and like most city kids, attended public schools. Then in high school, she tested for and was accepted to Breck, a private college-preparatory school in Golden Valley. Making the transition from a public school to a private one can be difficult. It takes a certain level of adaptability to succeed. "I dealt with a lot of culture shock there," said Wahbon. "I learned from that experience to walk in two different worlds. It was a balancing act."

After high school, Wahbon attended Minneapolis Community and Technical College and then transferred to Augsburg University, where she majored in Business Management. Augsburg was named one of the top 200 schools for Indigenous Americans in 2018, by Winds of Change Magazine.

A summer internship with General Mills in 2009 led to a job offer that at the time looked great to Wahbon. "But there was something missing," she recalled, "and that was being in the Native community."

While searching for jobs in the community, Wahbon found out that Little Earth of United Tribes in Minneapolis was looking for a college navigator. With her experience and success in a college prep school, she was a solid candidate to help other kids find



their way. She got the job because she was well-versed in what it takes to succeed academically, as well as what colleges and universities were looking for in prospective students. Wahbon was a mentor who helped students navigate the whole process. She was also there to assist with application fees, rides to and from orientations, even proof-reading papers. Wahbon became a valuable resource to many students in the Native community.

In addition to her job as college navigator, Wahbon also managed the Little Earth Single Family Home Ownership Initiative, which assists Native families in getting through the process of home ownership and in finding good, quality, affordable housing.

After several years with Little Earth, budget cuts led to a change in funding, and unfortunately, Wahbon's job was on the chopping block. It was time to branch out a bit. She found a job with an event planning company in Burnsville. They planned weddings, corporate events, home parties, and other festivities. Along with keeping track of 140 employees for various events, she also had to be in attendance to run the show and make sure things went off without a hitch. Thinking back, Wahbon said, "I enjoyed my time there, and I was able to come back to my community with a new set of skills. I tried something new, and it was a lot of fun, but again, there was something missing. I never wanted to leave working in the Native community."

When news got around that Barb was retiring and the Urban

Office was in need of a new site manager, Wahbon was ready. She decided to throw her hat in the ring and apply for the job. Wahbon understood that if she got hired on, she'd have some pretty big shoes to fill. "As an urban Native who has lived here my entire life, she (Barb) was my connection to the tribe. And every time I came in here, whether it be to send a fax, renew my tribal ID, to fill out some paperwork, whatever I had to do, she was there for me."

When she found out that she got the job, Wahbon felt honored, humbled, and excited for the opportunity to work with and serve urban Band members. She received Barb's blessings as well. "What made me feel really good, and actually more confident, was that Barb had confidence in me. Because she's known me for so long, she was just like 'You're gonna do great!' Just hearing that from her felt good."

So far, the transition has been a smooth one, and Wahbon is appreciative of each day, "I get to come in to work every day and do something that I love." She said. "This is my purpose. My passion."

For Wahbon, the most rewarding part of the job is being back in the community. "It's the people I work with, and it's the community that I'm serving. I've been very fortunate, and everybody here has been absolutely great!" Wahbon is an inspired and experienced addition to the already talented Urban Office staff.

ADOPT-A-SHORELINE TAKES OUT THE TRASH

By Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

At the end of every winter, the need for shoreline clean up around Misi-zaaga'igan is answered by the Adopt-A-Shoreline program, which tackles the issue of beach litter by taking out the trash. Ranging from the usual food wrapper waste stemming from today's to-go culture to the abandoned fish house wreckage that washes up after ice out, the beaches and shores are well cluttered by Memorial Day, especially after the holiday traffic. For several years now, Adopt-A-Shoreline has organized a large-scale one-day effort to clean up Mille Lacs Lake solely with the help of volunteers.

The Adopt-A-Shoreline event this year was sponsored and organized by Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Governmental Affairs, and Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Volunteers are invited to walk into the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Event Center and sign up at any time throughout the event. Gloves, trash bags, a t-shirt, a box lunch, and pick-up sticks are provided. Trash can be picked at any shoreline as long as it is left at one of the designated drop-off locations that are arranged all around the lake, mostly at public water accesses. The event was promoted in local newspapers and on social media, and anyone was welcome to participate.

This year's and past Adopt-A-Shoreline events have seen a wide range of strange and interesting objects pulled out of the weeds, including buoys, drive shafts, stuffed animals, carpet, household doors, flip-flops, action figures, and of course the bits of plastic and styrofoam that inevitably get into everything. Last year's event collected 1,200 pounds.

Past participants Amy Weisgram, Liz Murphy, and Barb Johnson returned to adopt the shoreline around the Cove Public Water Access this year. The weirdest thing they found, they said, was one bottle of a nutritional supplement beverage mixed in with a discarded pile of beer cans. Picking up trash can lead to a lot of speculation.

More importantly, though, it's about the water. Water is life, all the participants seemed to agree. "It's as simple as that," said Liz. "The earth is our responsibility, especially as Band employees, not only as part of our job, but as part of the community."

Third Grade Nay Ah Shing Students Demario Smith Gomez, 12, and Jason Wind, 11, said Adopt-A-Shoreline and keeping the shores and waters clean is important for our future. "We want to have clean water for our children," Jason said, quickly adding, "if we have any!"

This year's effort was one more step in the right direction. Over 90 volunteers picked up 1,300 pounds of trash in just four hours. Participants said they would definitely volunteer again, and many said they would like to see more frequent events like this. One volunteer even pointed out that any roadside clean up impacts our waters by preventing the litter there from being carried to our streams and lakes by storm runoff. Our waterways are a complex system which many people want to protect.

The success of Adopt-A-Shoreline starts with the sponsors and organizers but ultimately depends on all the volunteers. Chi-Miigwech to all those who participated. Keep an eye open for future events by checking the calendar in this paper and Mille Lacs Band social media pages, such as facebook.com/millelacsband and facebook.com/mlbdnr.



Third Grade Students From Nay Ah Shing School posed with the Mille Lacs Band DNR's Adopt-A-Shoreline Mascot, a plush bear found during the clean-up last year. The bear has now been riding point for this DNR Environmental Programs truck for a full year, through work, winter, and washings.



Amy Weisgram, Liz Murphy, and Barb Johnson of the Office of Solicitor General donned their muck boots and hit the south end of Mille Lacs Lake at the Cove Public Water Access. All three agreed that participating in this event is important because Water is Life, and in Amy's words, "It's just that simple."

GIKENDANDAA I'IW OJIBWEMOWIN — LEARN THE OJIBWE LANGUAGE

By the late Maude Kegg. Reprinted from Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwe Childhood, by the late Maude Kegg, edited and transcribed by John D. Nichols. University of Minnesota Press.

Prepared by Memengwaakwe Mille Lacs Band Member

Jiimaan

Mewinzha agaawaa ingezikwendaan — amanj iidog gaa-inig-iniwaanen-maadaabiyaan. Jiimaan imaa gii-ate. Miish gaa-izhi-booziyaan. Maagizhaa gaye iwidi ishkwe-ayi'ii gaa-in-aandawewaanen. Gaawiin omaa ingikendanziin minik.

Imaa inaabiyaan igo, waasa azhigwa ayaamagad i'iw jiimaan, noondawagwaa ikwewag, niswi maagizhaa gaye niwin, noo-komis miinawaa go ninoshenh, miinawaa go ninoshenhyag niizh, biijiba'idiwaad, bi-mawiswaad, aanind biidaadagaaziiba'idiwaad, gaa-izhi-zegiziyaan.

Ingikendaan wiin igo zegiziyaan. Maagizhaa gaye gaa-kwaashkwaniwaanen. Baanimaa dash igo miinawaa gikendamaan iwidi ganawaabamagwaa ingiw giigoonyag, eni-

wek igo naa anooj ezhi-naagoziwaad. Agwadaashiinsag ingiw. Aangodinong gaye enda-besho inganwaabamigoog. Mii eta go imaa minik gaa-gikendamaan. Maagizhaa gaye gaa-agwaabi-iginigoowaanen.

Canoe

I can barely remember long ago — I don't know how big I was — going down to the shore. There was a canoe there so I got in it. I must've climbed down to the far end. I don't remember much.

When I took a look, the boat was far out, and I heard some ladies, maybe three or four of them, my grandmother and my aunt, two of my aunts, running towards me, crying as they came, some of them running right into the water, and so I got scared.

I remember that I was scared. I must've jumped. Then I remember looking at the fish of all different colors. They were sunfish. Sometimes they came real close and looked at me. That's all I have remembered. I must've been picked up out of the water.

Word Find and Matching

Find these words in the Ojibwe passage to the left and try to determine their meaning by looking at the translation. Match the Ojibwe word in the left column with the English in the right, or look up their meaning at <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu>.

Agaawaa	canoe
Gezikwendaan	s/he is scared; vai
Amanj iidog	my aunt(s)
Inigini	s/he is a certain size, so big; vai
Jiimaan	at the end
Ishkwe-ayi'ii	barely, hardly
Inaandawe	my grandmother(s)
Nookomis(ag)	I don't know
Ninoshenh(yag)	s/he climbs; vai
Zegizi	barely remember it; vti

Grammar

Bi-mawiswaad: They came crying

Bi: here, hither, this way, toward the speaker

Maw: s/he cries, weeps

-waad: they (b-form; plural)

Maagizhaa gaye gaa-kwaashkwaniwaanen: I must've jumped

Maagizhaa: maybe, perhaps, I think that

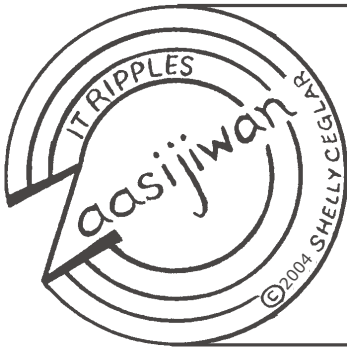
Gaye: as for, also, too, and

Gaa: initial vowel changed from gii-

Kwaashkwani: initial consonant changed from g to k

gwaashkwani: s/he jumps; vai

-waanen: 1st person dubiative; unsure



Niibin

Niibing nimbabaamaadizimin. Babaamaadiziyaang, aagodinong niwaabamaanaanig ingiw awesiiyag. Bimidaabii'iweyaang, nindikid, Naasanaa waawaashkeshi! Gakina awiia owaabamaawaan iniw waawaashkeshiyan. Gaye waabashkikiing, ninandawaabamaa mooz. Ishpemiing, Nimaamaa owaabamaan migiziwan.

It is Summer

(When it is summer, we travel about. When we travel about sometimes we see those wild animals. When we drive along, I say, "Look out deer! Everyone, they see them those deer. Also in the swamp, I look for a moose. Up above, in the sky, my mother sees an eagle.)

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin. —Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO Waasa—as in father Ambe—as in jay Ziibing—as in seen Mooz—as in moon —Short Vowels: A, I, O Gaye—as in about Imaa—as in tin Waagosh—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw. —Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

VTa—Verbs, Transitive, Animate
Action words which refer to a living thing, someone, him/her. The root word is a command.
Waabam—See someone.
Okawi'—Find someone's tracks.
Noondaw—Hear someone.
Miizh! Miin—Give something to someone. (conjugate miin)
Agim—Count someone.
Bimiwizh! Bimiwin—Carry someone along. (conjugate bimiwin)
Gagwejim—Ask someone questions.
Ganawenim—Take care of someone.

Niizh—2

Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Zaaga'iganing onaagoshing anokiiwag amikwag.
B. Waanzhang, niwaabamaag ingiw waagoshensag.
C. Ziibing, waagosh onitaa-nooji' aan waaboozoon.
D. Megwaayaak iwidi odaminowag ingiw gidagaakoonsag.
E. Daga bimosedaa! Bimibaatoog waasa!
F. Aatebidoon mazinaatesijigan.
G. Ambe omaa, agwajjiing. Inashke!

N O M G
I N A E S K
W A R J G I W
A A M I K W A G
A G I B N I A L T
B O Z B E D S A U C
A S H F Q I A I Y V A
M H W A A G O S H A D W
A I B I M O S E D A A M
A N G Y P B E X E O N K
G G A A T E B I D O O N

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:
1. Someone
2. See someone.
3. Carry him/her along!
4. Run!
6. Wild animals
7. Beaver
10. Count someone.

Across:
5. Swamp
8. Over there.
9. Far

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. At the lake, when it is evening s/he works, the beaver. B. By the den, I see those fox pups. C. At the river, the fox skillfully hunts a rabbit. D. In the woods, they are playing those fawns. E. Please let's all walk. Run far! F. Turn off the television set. G. Come here outside. Look!

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Awiia 2. Waabam 3. Bimiwizh 4. Bimibaatoog 6. Awesiiyag 7. Amik 10. Agim Across: 5. Waabashkiki 8. Iwidi 9. Waasa

Niwin—4 1. Throughout the day you all hear him that robin 2. My father he gives things to that elder man in town. 3. At the river did you find the tracks of the beaver? 4. When it was 2 o'clock, I saw her at the hospital. 5. The men they ask those women.

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation.

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Niwin—4

VTa conjugations

Niwaabamaa—I see him/her.
Giganawenimaa—You take care of him/her.
Omiinaan—S/he gives something to him/her.
Ningagwejiimaanaan—We ask him/her/them.
Gidagimaanaan—We all count him/her/them.
Ginoondawaan—You all hear him/her.
Odokawi'aawaan—They find his tracks.
4th person (s/he or they)—Action to bear, makwa has pluralized ending: "n"
Inini owaabamaan makwan.
A man sees the bear.

Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

1. Gabe giizhik _____noondaw _____ opichi.
2. Nindede _____miin _____ i'iw akiwenziyan oodenaang.
3. Ziibing ina _____gii-odokawi' _____ amik?
4. Gii-niizho diba'iganek, _____ngii-waabam _____ aakoziwigamigong.
5. Ininiwag _____gagwejim _____ iniw Ikewewan.

LANGUAGE TABLES

Ojibwe language tables are back in District I and District III.

Bring a favorite dish to share while you learn Ojibwemowin.

District Community Center, 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Meshakwad Community Center 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays.

Sponsored by the Higher Education Department.

"Gidaa-gagwe aabajitoon anishinaabemowin endaso-giizhik gabe-giizhik."

(You should try to use the Anishinaabe language every day, all day.)

AROUND THE RESERVATION

GRADUATES TO BE CELEBRATED AT LUNCHEON

The Mille Lacs Band Higher Education Department is once again holding a luncheon to honor those who have graduated high school or earned their GED, and those who have completed degrees or certifications in their chosen fields of study.

The luncheon for graduates and their families will be held on July 17 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, beginning at 11 a.m. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin will be in attendance at the event, which will include honor songs, lunch, presentations of certificates, and raffle prizes for graduates.

FREE MOVIES FOR KIDS AT GRAND MAKWA

Wewinabi Inc. (see page 16) is hosting free movies for kids on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. this summer. Watch the Wewinabi Inc. Facebook page for titles and more information.

MENDING BROKEN HEARTS TRAINING

The Family Violence Prevention program is hosting three trainings in Mending Broken Hearts: Healing from Unresolved Grief and Intergenerational Trauma. The trainings will be held September 26–28, December 5–7, 2019, and March 26–28, 2020.

Registration forms need to be submitted at least two weeks prior to the workshop. For registration forms, email kala.roberts@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

The purpose of Mending Broken Hearts training is to develop the capacity of the community to heal from unresolved grief and the losses created by the legacy of historical and intergenerational trauma, especially the effects of the boarding school era.

This three-day, culturally based program explores strategies for reconnecting with our loved ones and how to complete those relationships, even with family members who have made their journey.

FARM TO SUMMER WEEK AT NAY AH SHING

Nay Ah Shing summer school students will learn about healthy foods during Farm to Summer week July 15–19. They will learn about medicinal plants, gardening, and healthy eating.

Parents and guardians are invited to lunch all week, and on Wednesday, July 17, they can enjoy the Cucumber Crunch event, with food and prizes compliments of Public Health's Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant.

JULY EVENTS AT MILLE LACS INDIAN MUSEUM

Kid Crafts — Bead a Ring, Saturday, July 13, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Learn a basic stringing technique while beading a ring to take home. One of the many things the Ojibwe have been known for throughout history is their elegant beadwork. Learn how to get started working with beads through this simple craft.

Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 8 and up. \$3/kit, museum admission not included.

Note: The birch bark basket workshop scheduled for July 13 and 14 is sold out as of press time. Contact the museum for updates.

The Ziibaaska'iganagooday: The Jingle Dress at 100 exhibit continues through October 2020 with dresses and artwork by Mille Lacs Band members.

Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for Mille Lacs Band members with ID.



Hundreds of Elders from around the state attended the annual Wisdom Steps conference at Grand Casino Hinckley June 18–20. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin gave the welcoming address and greeted fellow members of the Minnesota Board on Aging.



WISDOM STEPS CONFERENCE PROMOTES ELDER HEALTH

The 19th Annual Wisdom Steps Celebration and Conference was hosted by the Mille Lacs Band at Grand Casino Hinckley June 18–20.

The event kicked off on Tuesday evening, June 18, with registration, beading, the moccasin game, a talking circle on grandparenting, and bingo.

Wednesday morning featured an opening ceremony and posting of tribal flags with Timber Trails drum group, followed by an invocation by Joe Nayquonabe Sr. and a welcoming address by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. The remainder of the day was spent in workshops on topics like human trafficking, suicide prevention, dementia, home care, Elder abuse, and traditional lotions.

Wednesday afternoon's keynote was delivered by motivational speaker James Anderson, and the evening entertainment featured Elvis impersonator Chris Olson. The event concluded on Thursday morning with a Wisdom Steps walk with Band member Bobby Anderson and presentation of awards by Renee Bruneau, followed by the closing ceremony.

The Wisdom Steps Golf Tournament is September 6 at Black Bear Golf course in Carlton. Registration is at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10. Cost is \$400 for a four-person team. Golfers and sponsors are welcome! See wisdomsteps.org or email barb38eta@gmail.com for more information.

WHAT IS WISDOM STEPS?

Wisdom Steps invites Tribal Elders to participate in activities that build their health. Wisdom Steps began in Minnesota in 1999. Wisdom Steps is a partnership among the eleven Minnesota Indian tribes, three urban areas (Minneapolis/St. Paul, Duluth, and Bemidji), and the Minnesota Board on Aging.

Wisdom Steps encourages elders to take simple steps toward better health. Activities such as participating in health screenings, attending a health education class, or enjoying a healthy living activity are promoted. Elders learn that the path to health is easy and can be walked by visiting with a physician and setting a personal health goal like losing weight or stopping smoking.

For more information, go to wisdomsteps.org or email info@wisdomsteps.org.

Next year's conference will be held the third week of June at Black Bear Resort and Casino.



ANISHINAABE VALUES RIDE FOR RECOVERY IS JULY 6

Join the second annual Anishinaabe Values Awareness "Ride for Recovery" July 6. The first of three registration points will be at the District I Community Center, 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

A community Wellbriety brunch and meeting will be provided by District I Representative Sandi Blake and her staff and Sober Squad. There will be a presentation on the values, a prayer, a drum song, and asemaa offering.

The second registration point is at Four Winds Lodge Treatment Center at 11600 State Avenue in Brainerd. Registration, presentation, and refreshments will be from 10:30 a.m. to

noon.

The third registration point will be at Mash-ka-wisen Treatment Facility at 1150 Mission Road in Sawyer, Minnesota, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. After a brief presentation, a Wellbriety luncheon will be served by local Sober Squad members.

The final destination will be the St. Croix Tribal Hall at 7530 Riversmeet Road in Danbury, Wisconsin, where there will be a community Wellbriety feast and a presentation on utilizing our values in recovery.

This drug- and alcohol-free event is open to all riders. For more information, see anishinaaberun.org.

END-OF-SCHOOL-YEAR PICNIC

ANNUAL GATHERING FOR URBAN BAND MEMBERS CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMUNITY

By Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

The sights and sounds of children running through the grass, playing tag with friends, and spending time in the playground are just a few of the delights of a summer day in a park.

Add in perfectly grilled burgers, other tasty food, and oodles of prizes and to the average passersby it becomes obvious that there's something special underway.

This "something special" was the joyful celebration that is the urban area's annual end-of-school-year picnic.

"Having these community events and getting together to celebrate each other is important," said Wahbon Spears, the site manager for the Urban Office. "It matters that we take time to gather because when we're together everyone feels like family. Being in the city and away from the reservation sometimes you feel like you're so far away, so we need this time together."

Sponsored by the Mille Lacs Band Urban Office each summer, this year's event drew more than 150 Band members and their families to Brackett Park in southeast Minneapolis.

A new addition to the picnic this year was the annual celebration of youth who have excelled both academically and in extra-curricular events. The incentive programs, Anangoog Nandoné and UHOPS (urban honoring our pre-schoolers), were created for urban youth by Band Elders Barb Benjamin-Robertson and her mentor, the late Jim Clark.

"It's important for tribal members to get together and to be able to celebrate our children and their successes," Wahbon said. "I know this sounds cliché, but they are our future and we



need to boost them up and support them and their victories."

The day's festivities also included a visit by Minneapolis firefighters, who brought two trucks to the park for kids to climb aboard and to learn about their careers. The families were also able to pick up safety tips from firefighters. Monte Fronk, the Band's Emergency Management Coordinator, began inviting the firefighters to the event several years ago.

Band member Penny St. Clair said it's important that this event for and by urban Band members continues.

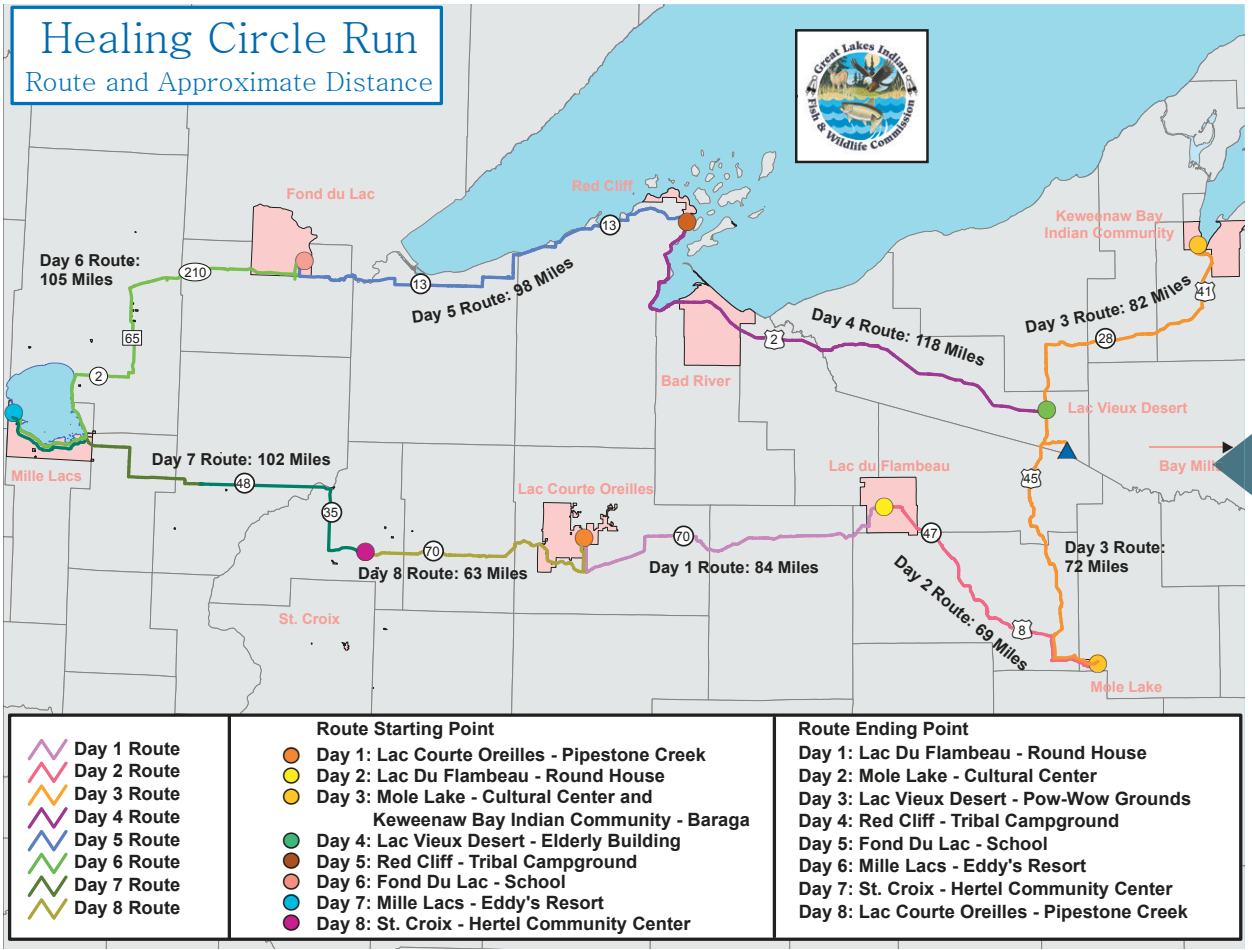
"It's good for the kids to come and play and run around," she said. "And it's a good community gathering."

Her sister, Micki St. Clair, agreed and added, "It shows the urban area that we are not forgotten."



SAVE THE DATE!

The Urban Office is sponsoring its first National Night Out event, which will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6. Families are encouraged to come out and enjoy the fun and support the local community.



GLIFWC HEALING CIRCLE RUN

The 2019 Healing Circle Run on July 13–20 connects 10 Ojibwe reservations in northern Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. The 2019 Healing Circle Run/Walk is a prayer for healing.

It is an opportunity for people to come together to pray for healing for themselves, their families, their communities, their nation, Akii (the earth), and all our relatives.

During the 2001 Healing Journey Run, participants were told of a teaching on healing — "for a nation to heal, it must begin with the individual. As a person heals, then that person can help heal his/her family. As a family begins to heal, they can help heal their community. As communities heal, they can help heal the nation." As individuals, families, communities, and nations heal, they can help Akii and our plant and animal relatives to heal.

For more information, or if you are interested in participating as a core runner or a group of runners, please contact Jenny Krueger-Bear at jkrueger@glifwc.com or 715-682-6619.

All participants must assume personal liability, as well as responsibility for their own transportation and expenses. We encourage participants to bring their own dish bundle, water bottle, and for women, a long skirt for ceremonies.

WEWINABI INC. OFFERS JOBS, SPECIAL DISCOUNTS TO BAND MEMBERS

Wewinabi, Inc. is responsible for the small businesses under Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures portfolio. Businesses include Grand Market, Grand Makwa, MLB Gas, Super Stop, East Lake Convenience store, Crossroads Convenience store, Grindstone Laundry, Taco John's, Subway and Big Sandy Lodge & Resort, which is currently operated under a management company.

In early 2017, the name Wewinabi, Inc. was selected to honor the late Chief Executive Art Gahbow and his vision to create jobs for Band members within our communities. It was not much earlier when the Early Childhood facility near the District I Community Center — also named Wewinabi — was built. In November 2017 the Wewinabi, Inc. administrative offices were moved to 510 Main Street, Onamia. We have five full-time staff members including our own human resources department. We're proud to share that 40 percent of our workforce are Band member preference Associates — and we want this number to continue to grow, which is why we are proud to announce that we'll have a section in the *Inaajimowin* dedicated to the Wewinabi, Inc. businesses. .

Summer jobs

For many people, enjoying summer means having enough cash for fun activities. It's also a great time to gain work ex-

perience. If you're looking for a part-time job that would give you extra cash and boost up your resume, Wewinabi, Inc. has a position for you. The businesses are considerably busier in the evenings and weekends during the summer season, and we currently are seeking applicants. Come work with our team and learn about our benefits, including the Band member incentive plan along with accruing PTO.

We also want to assure applicants that the background check process is different at Wewinabi; we have a process that allows a case-by-case review. Simply complete an application and our Human Resources team will review the background check to determine the course of action. If a Board of Appeals is necessary, the individual will meet with a Human Resources representative to determine a recommendation to move forward with approval, denial, cash handling or non-cash handling, etc. position, for a designated time frame. This process, depending on the applicant's availability, can be completed within a week.

Grindstone Laundry in District III currently has three available shifts. We are looking for energetic, dedicated, hard-working, and dependable individuals who would like to work in our fast-paced laundry facility. Individuals must be able to work well with others and independently, take instructions, and perform routine, repetitive tasks. They must also be in good physical health, as

there is some lifting involved.

Wewinabi, Inc. is committed to Band member preference, and development of our Band member Associates. We recognize the time commitments and make it a priority to meet with Band members who meet incentive benchmarks toward 500 hours. We also continue to partner with other tribal government departments and programs to ensure that eligible Band members are utilizing all services available.

Sales and specials

Each month we plan to advertise specials or sales that will be unique to the Mille Lacs community and are working on additional discounts at the Grand Market.

Text alert

If you'd like to receive sales and specials for any of our Wewinabi, Inc. businesses, we'd be happy to take down your information and include you in our text alerts. Please call our office at 320-738-1039 to provide your information. We also use this source to announce any closings or business hour changes, as well as the Facebook Wewinabi page. Please like us! Some of our locations have a separate Facebook page, and we intend to have one for all locations in the future.

Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

July 26, 27, 28th 2019

Host Drum
Red Willow

Head Singing Judge
Branden "Husky" Sargent

Committee Specials

- Hand Drum Contest
- Women's Back Up Singing Contest
- Woodland Sytle Special
- Old Style Jingle Special

Drum Contest
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th.

Dance Contest

- Men's Catagories-
Golden Age-Combined
Adults-Traditional, Grass, and Fancy
Teens-Traditional,Grass and Fancyy
- Women's Catagories-
Golden Age-Combined
Adults-Traditional, Jingle, and Fancy
Teens-Traditional, Jingle, and Fancy

Arena Director
Sherwin "Slickman" Obey

Head Dance Judge
Courtney Hayes

Grand Entries

Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 1PM & 7PM
Sunday: 1PM

3 on 3 Basketball Tournaments
-Men's- -Women's- -Youth-

Woodland Relay
-Senior Adult- Junior Adult- Youth-

Powwow Committee Contact / Vendor Contact
(218) 460-6410
eastlakepowwow@yahoo.com

Co-MCs
Vince Beyle and Ricky White

37736 State Highway 65, McGregor, MN 55760



Grand Makwa, pictured above, is showing free movies for kids this summer on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Other businesses operated by Wewinabi, Inc. are Grand Market, Taco John's, Subway, Grindstone Laundry, and convenience stores in three districts.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe			
Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2019	Expenditures through 5/31/19	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	20,696,617	11,003,463	53%
Department of Labor	22,431,153	2,902,461	13%
Judicial	2,395,725	794,554	33%
Department of Justice	7,430,636	3,404,222	46%
Education	19,131,771	10,911,646	57%
Health and Human Services	34,633,720	17,998,733	52%
Circle of Health Insurance	5,720,000	3,455,691	60%
Natural Resources	10,958,705	6,849,928	63%
Community Development	65,145,520	22,398,133	34%
Gaming Authority	5,332,641	2,869,220	54%
Bonus Distribution	38,028,247	32,455,295	85%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,299,000	3,295,332	100%
Total	235,203,735	118,338,678	50%

(1) Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.

(2) Casino operations are not reported above; however, they do include government operations funded by casino operations.

(3) The financial statements of the Band are audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.

(4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997.



BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM RECEIVES INPUT FROM EPA

Kyle Rogers, left, EPA Project Manager for Region 5, and Gary Schafer, right, Region 5 Section Chief, came to Mille Lacs June 11 and 12 to provide input into several ongoing cleanup projects through the Band's Brownfields Program. They also worked with fisheries biologist Carl Klimah to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES). Kyle and Gary are pictured with Todd Moilanen, the Brownfields Coordinator with the Department of Natural Resources.

GRAND CASINO EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BAND MEMBERS SHARE WHAT THEY LOVE ABOUT WORK

Name: Cameron Mitchell
Wind

Clan: Lynx

Length of service with Grand Casino: Seven years

Position: Project manager

Education: Carpentry I and II

Family: Wife Lori and five kids.

Hobbies: Football and classic cars

First Job: Factory assembly

Previous Job: Dishwasher at Country Kitchen

Other than your current position, what would be your dream job? Detail cars (if they paid more).

What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday? Weight lift (heavy).

What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino? Health care benefits.

If you're interested in a job at Grand Casinos, visit mlcvjobs.com/careers. For tribal government jobs, see millelacsband.com/jobs.



Name: Jason Lee Sam,
Miskwaanakwad

Clan: Eagle

Length of service with Grand Casino: Seven months

Position: Security

Education: GED

Family: Mother Pauline Linz, one brother, two sisters, wife Carrie, two boys, one daughter.

Hobbies: Powwows, traveling, ceremonies, traditional crafts.

First Job: Factory assembly

Previous Job: PCL

Other than your current position, what would be your dream job? To own my own business.

What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday? Lay up all day or do something with wife and family.

What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino? Being a Band member working at our casino sober and productive.



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk has been making the rounds of Mille Lacs Band communities as part of the Tribal Police Department's Community Risk Reduction efforts. Last month he provided first aid and CPR/AED training at Chiminising and Meshakwad community centers for Niigaan and Aanjibimaadizing staff and foster care providers. He also attended Operation Community Connect in Onamia to offer child seat checks.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

FITNESS INSTRUCTOR TRAINING JUNE 16-19

The Mille Lacs Band and Native American Fitness Council are hosting a Midwest Native Fitness Event July 16-19 at Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley. Participants have the opportunity to earn their Exercise and Aging Specialist Certification July 16 and 17 and their Medical Conditions and Exercise Certification July 18 and 19. Cost of each session is \$445. The All Access Pass, which includes both certifications, costs \$825. For more information or to register, call 928-774-3048 or email info@nativeamericanfitnesscouncil.com.

SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS IN DI, DIIA, DIII

Summer meals will be served to kids up to 18 years of age Monday through Friday, now through August 15, with the exception of July 4, 5, and 26, at Nay Ah Shing High School in District I, Chiminising Community Center in District IIa, and Meshakwad and Aazhoomog community centers in District III.

At Nay Ah Shing, a snack will be served from 8:30 to 9 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. to noon. Contact Deb Foye, Nutrition Services Coordinator, at 320-532-4690, ext. 2213.

At Chiminising, meals are available to Niigaan participants only. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to noon and a snack from 3 to 3:30 p.m. Contact John Benjamin, DIIa Niigaan Coordinator, at 320-362-0862.

At Aazhoomog, a snack will be served from 10 to 10:30 a.m. and lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Contact Julius Aubid, DIII Program Administrator, at 320-384-6240.

At Meshakwad, a snack will be served from 10 to 10:30 a.m. and lunch from noon to 1 p.m. Contact Ryan O'Brien, site director, at 320-336-0220.

No forms or registration required. Just show up and eat! These institutions are equal opportunity providers. The program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture.

INDIGENOUS NURSING CONFERENCE IN BEMIDJI

The Niganawenimaanaanig Indigenous Nursing Program at Bemidji State University is honored to announce their upcoming conference in Bemidji.

The inaugural Indigenous Nursing Conference, "Rising Up to Empower Change: Taking a Stand to Transform our Sacred Communities," will be held on the Bemidji State University campus July 15-16, 2019.

The conference will bring together health care and like-minded professionals who serve Indigenous people and communities. The Niganawenimaanaanig Indigenous Nursing Program is an innovative support program at Bemidji State that provides Indigenous students with relevant, holistic support to increase their likelihood of successfully completing the BSU Nursing Program.

For more information: Dr. Misty L. Wilkie, PhD, RN, FAAN, Niganawenimaanaanig Program Director, misty.wilkie@bemidjistate.edu.

SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is always looking for submissions from Band members! Compensation is available for stories and/or photographic coverage of tribal events. If you're interested in submitting a story or covering an event, please call 320-237-6851 or email brett.larson@millelacsband.com.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS TO MILLE LACS BAND ELDERS!

Robert Duane Anderson
David Niib Aubid
Cynthia Pauline Backora
Darline Ann Barbour
Jeffrey Allen Beaulieu
MaryAnn Sophia Belgarde
Faith Caylen Bellecourt
Roberta Joy Benjamin
James Oliver Benjamin
Anita Lynn Benjamin
Roxann Lynn Carr
Archie Dahl Cash
Kevin Scott Churchill
Randall Clark
Roger Erick Colton
Rosa Mae Colton
Christine Marie Costello
Martha Kathrine Davis
Gary Lee Davis
Michael Wayne Davis
Brian DeSantis
George James Dorr
Victoria Lynn Dunagan
Rosella Marie Eagle
Donna Lou Gilmore
Karen Harrington
Lawrence Gene Johnson
Debra Ann Kamimura
Dixie Marie Kamimura
Judith Joan Kanassatega
Vivian Roxanne Kegg
Richard Joseph Keller
Terry Bruce Kemper
Deborah Jean Kersting
Darlene Ann LaFave
Bonita Marie Lucas
Jennifer Carole Mancini

Virginia Mann
Brian David Matrious
Meskwanakwad
Letitia Mitchell
Jo Ann Mitchell
Doreen Kay Mitchell
Carol Jean Nickaboine
Alan Michael O'Brien
Debra Ann Olson
Kevin Dean Pawlitschek
Karen Peterson
Joseph Vincent Pawaush
Steven Edward Premo
Daryl Alan Quaderer
Louis T. Quaderer
Elfreda M Sam
David Frederick Schaaf
Orretta Faye Sharlow
Valerie Jayne Shingobe
Alicia Lydia Skinaway
Geraldine Ellen Skinaway
Loretta June Smith
Darryl Gene Smith
Andrew Felix St. Clair
Ruth Anne St. John
Kevin William Sutton
Patricia Louise Thomas
Jolette Marie Zapf

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS:

Happy birthday **Nicole** on 7/2 love the Harrington Family • Happy 6th birthday to my neph **Baby Q** on the 4th of July, love you so much, from your we'eh Cilla. • To **Mom** on 7/8, Happy Birthday Elder! Love you so much, from your fave daughter Cilla • Happy 40th birthday **Boy** (APB) Bearheart 7/9, From Mom, Bunny, Ian, and Caddy • Happy 18th 7/9 **Dezzerey Gordon**,

from Auntie Barb • Happy 9th birthday **Christa-Elena (GUS) Boswell** on 7/9. I love you my sweetheart, always n forever, love dad Chris Boswell, neema grama Kateri Boswell, great gram Frances Davis. We love you Christa! • Happy birthday **Max Dean** on 7/12 love the Harrington Family • Happy Birthday to my sister **Marissa**, 28 years young on 7/12! from your sister Cilla • Happy birthday **Karen** on 7/13 love the Harrington Family • Happy Birthday to my buddz **Erica Kay** 7/15 and congrats on the Babyboy! From your buddz Cilla. • Happy 9th Birthday to my Niece **Belle/Tehlissee** 7/19, Hugs from auntie Cilla. • Happy birthday **Ceddy** 7/20 from Grandma Barb, Dad, Uncle Bunny, Uncle Bear, and Uncle Brandon. • Happy birthday **Rachel** on 7/21 love your brothers and sissys. • Happy birthday **Cilla (Priscilla) Greenleaf** 7/22 from Auntie Barb, Bunny, and the twins. • Happy Birthday to my OLD sister **Stace** 7/22. lol. With love, from your sis Cilla. • Happy Birthday **Granny T** on 7/23, with love from, Shyla, Caden, Destanie, Carter, Bella, Jordan, Dilly Bar and Mom. • Happy 4th birthday **Caden Shingobe** 7/24 with lots of love from, Mommy, Daddy, Auntie Destanie, Carter, Bella, Uncle Jordan, Uncle Dilly Bar, Granny T and Great Gramma Gina. • Happy 4th Birthday **Carter Anderson** 7/25, with lots of love from Mommy, Daddy, Auntie Shyla,

Caden, Bella, Uncle Jordan, Uncle Dilly Bar, Granny T and Great gramma Gina. • Happy birthday to **Jeff Aubele** on 7/27 from your mother Alvina.

MIIGWECH!

I would like to take this time to say miigwech to Mille Lacs Tribal Police Officer Adam Cook and Mille Lacs County Deputy Sullivan and the Mille Lacs Ambulance EMTs for saving my mom's life on May 5. Words cannot explain the feeling me and my brother had for almost losing our mother. Adam and Deputy Sullivan and the EMTs, you are very welcome and thanks for all you did because without you we wouldn't have our mother today. She is recovering well, and it's going to be a long road for our mom to return to her healthy lifestyle. Our mom is a fighter. She has been through a lot of road blocks while in the St. Cloud Hospital. Everyone please don't take your mother for granted. Mothers are our only appreciation and guidance and role models, so please hug and tell your mothers how much you love and respect and care for them. Once again thank you Officer Cook and Deputy Sullivan and the Onamia ambulance team.

Keith and Chris Boswell

We would like to thank each and every one that helped us bring our Senior and Junior Braves for the Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow in East

Lake to White Swan, Washington. In May of this year, we decided to bring our boys to White Swan for their 1855 Treaty commemoration powwow. The powwow and many events were dated to start on June 5, 2019. As parents that want to keep our culture alive and instilled in our children, we wanted to bring them to other Anishinaabe territory and experience this from a different perspective. We also had the opportunity to bring them to the treaty days all-Indian rodeo as well. We started to fund raise close to the end of May with a taco sale in the McGregor area. We had also asked for sponsorship from different places as well.

We would like to publicly thank all these people and businesses for helping send our boys to Washington to represent our way of life and our community: Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, DII Representative Marvin Bruneau, Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida and family, McGregor Thrifty White Staff, McGregor Vet Clinic, McGregor Public School Staff, Deb Shabaiaash, and East Lake Community Members.

After having a taco sale and receiving sponsorship from these various people and places, we reached our goal to travel to Washington. Chi-miigwech to everyone that helped.

The Goodsky Family

MILLE LACS BAND RECOVERY GROUPS

District I Mille Lacs

Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition

Mondays, 5:30–7 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (brown building next to the Halfway House. Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768

Wellbriety Migizi Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel, 700 Grand Avenue, Onamia, Minnesota

Wellbriety Celebrating Families

Tuesdays, 6–8 p.m., Mille Lacs Band Halfway House Group, 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia, Minnesota. Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

NA/AA Welcome

Hosted by Mille Lacs Band Halfway House Wednesdays, 7 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia (Red Brick

Building) Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

Wellbriety Sons of Tradition

Sundays, 1–3 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia. Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768

District II East Lake

AA Group

Mondays, 5–6 p.m., East Lake Community Center . Contact Rob Nelson at 218-768-2431

District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog

Wellbriety Talking Circle

Mondays, 6 p.m., Aazhoomog Community Center

Wellbriety 12 Step Group

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Aazhoomog Clinic Conference Room. Contact Monica Haglund at 320-384-0149

Wellbriety 12 Step Group

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Meshakwad Community Center

DRUG TIP HOTLINE

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department's anonymous drug tip line is 320-630-2458. Feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and phone number. In case of emergency, dial 911.



RECURRING EVENTS

Language tables: Tuesdays 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center, Thursdays 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center

Co-ed Volleyball: Tuesdays, Meshakwad Community Center

Co-ed Basketball: Wednesdays, Meshakwad CC

Volleyball: Thursdays, noon, District I CC

Zumba: Wednesdays, noon, District I CC

Open Gym: M-Th 5–9 p.m., District I CC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow: August 16–18, Iskigamizige Powwow Grounds, District I. Government offices close at noon August 16.

Mille Lacs Day: August 19. Government offices closed.

District Ila Communtiy Meeting: August 21.

District II Communtiy Meeting: August 28.

Labor Day: September 2. Government offices closed. Offices close at noon on August 30.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>The Third Annual Mille Lacs Band DNR and Tribal Police Department Youth Fishing Tournament is July 10. Sign up by July 1 by calling 320-532-4772 or emailing alyssa.welsh@millelacsband.com!</i>	1 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i>	2 Inaajimowin Meeting 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Government Affairs, Wahkon Wellbriety District I, III. <i>See page 18</i> Language Table 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center	3 Free Movie for Kids 1 p.m. Grand Makwa <i>See page 14</i> NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i>	4 Midsummer Holiday Government Offices Closed Wellbriety 12-Step <i>See page 18</i>	5 Midsummer Holiday Government Offices Closed <i>Check for events at millelacsband.com/calendar!</i>	6 Anishinaabe Values Motorcycle Ride 8:30 a.m. <i>See page 14</i>
7 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i>	8 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i>	9 Language Table 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center. <i>See page 13</i> Wellbriety District I, III. <i>See page 18</i>	10 District I Community Picnic Powwow Grounds 5:30 p.m. Free Movie for Kids <i>See page 14</i> Youth Fishing Tournament 8 a.m. Eddy's Resort Urban Elders Meeting 9 a.m. American Indian Center	11 Language Table 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 13</i> Wellbriety 12-Step <i>See page 18</i>	12 <i>The deadline for the August issue is July 15. Send submissions to brett.larson@millelacsband.com.</i>	13 Healing Circle Run Lac Courte Oreilles to Lac Du Flambeau
14 Healing Circle Run Lac Du Flambeau to Mole Lake Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i>	15 Healing Circle Run Mole Lacs to Lac Vieux Desert Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i>	16 Healing Circle Run Lac Vieux Desert to Red Cliff Native Fitness Event Meshakwad <i>See page 17</i> Language Table 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center Wellbriety <i>See page 18</i>	17 Graduates Luncheon 11 a.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs <i>See 14</i> District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Native Fitness Event <i>See page 17</i> Free Movie for Kids <i>See page 14</i>	18 Language Table 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center Healing Circle Run Fond du Lac to Mille Lacs Native Fitness Event Meshakwad <i>See 17</i> Wellbriety <i>See page 18</i>	19 Healing Circle Run Mille Lacs to St. Croix Native Fitness Event Meshakwad <i>See page 17</i>	20 Healing Circle Run St. Croix to Lac Courte Oreilles
21 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i>	22 District II Sobriety Feast 6 p.m. East Lake Community Center District III Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center Wellbriety, AA, NA <i>See page 18</i>	23 Language Table 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center <i>See page 13</i> Wellbriety District I, III. <i>See page 18</i>	24 District IIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i> Free Movie for Kids <i>See page 14</i>	25 Language Table 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center Wellbriety 12-Step <i>See page 18</i> Urban Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church	26 Gii-ishkonigewag Powwow Grand Entry 7 p.m. District II Powwow Grounds <i>See page 16</i> Government offices close at noon.	27 Gii-ishkonigewag Powwow Grand Entry 1 and 7 p.m. District II Powwow Grounds <i>See page 16</i>
28 Gii-ishkonigewag Powwow Grand Entry 1 p.m. District II Powwow Grounds <i>See page 16</i> Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i>	29 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i>	30 Language Table 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center <i>See page 13</i> Wellbriety District I, III. <i>See page 18</i>	31 District II Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center Free Movie for Kids 1 p.m. Grand Makwa <i>See page 14</i>	FOUR WINDS SEEKS PLANT DONATIONS Four Winds Lodge Treatment Program is creating a flower garden in honor of sobriety and recovery. This garden will have meaning to clients and their journey to a new beginning. Please donate a plant with meaning to you or a loved one you have lost to addiction. Plants should be hardy for Zone 3. Some examples are yarrow, peony, wild sage, lavender, and bearded iris. Please contact Lisa or Rhonda at 218-454-8903.		

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Join the Inaajimowin team at 11 a.m. on July 2 at the Government Affairs office in Wahkon to share your thoughts and ideas. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to darla.roache2@millelacsband.com or 320-495-5006.

VISIT THE WEBSITE!

Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services. The homepage, millelacsband.com, has links to all of those pages as well as government departments, programs, and services.

BAND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

Band Assembly meetings are open to the public at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other info, call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181. **Dates, times, and locations are subject to change.**

More events: See page 18 for Recurring Events, Upcoming Events, and Recovery Groups.



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

millelacsband.com

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UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

If your address on file with the Enrollments Office or Office of Management and Budget is incorrect, you may not be receiving important mail from the Band. Each time you move, you need to fill out a Change of Address form from Enrollments (320-532-7730) and OMB. You can download a Change of Address form at millelacsband.com/services/tribal-enrollments.

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. The August issue deadline is July 15.

NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know is injured or in immediate danger, call 911 first.

Tribal Police Department dispatch:
888-609-5006; 320-532-3430.

Emergency Management Services:
24-hour fire, disaster, and emergency management response: Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator: 320-362-0435.

Addiction/Behavioral Health: 800-709-6445, ext. 7776.

Community Support Services: For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, sexual assault, or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.

Domestic violence: (c) 320-630-2499.

Women's Shelter: 866-867-4006.

Batterers' Intervention: 320-532-8909.

Heating, water, or other home-related maintenance problems: If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call our Customer Service Representative during regular business hours at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please contact: 866-822-8538 (Press 1, 2, or 3 for respective districts).

Mille Lacs Band Family Services: Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444; 800-709-6445, ext. 7588. Family Violence Prevention: District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 866-867-4006.

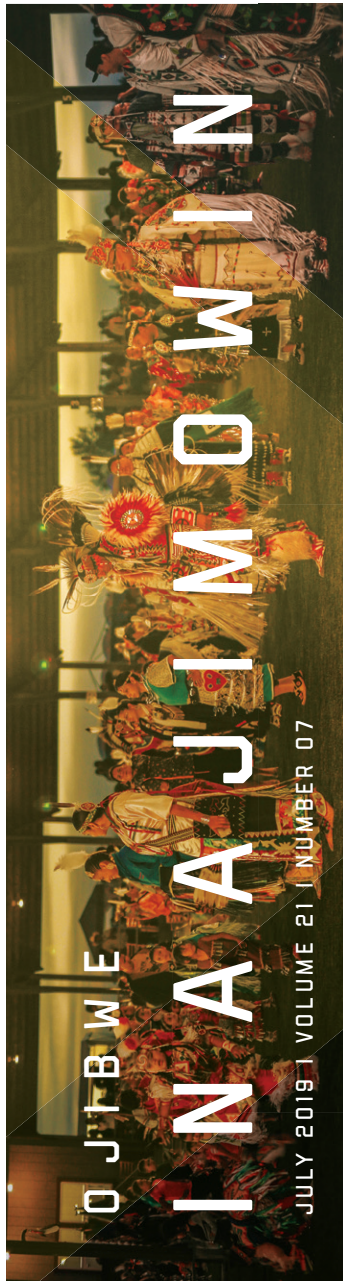


Photo by Bradley Roache Jr.

ANOTHER GRAND CELEBRATION

THE JINGLE (DRESS)
HEARD 'ROUND THE
WORLD
page 1

PROGRESS, NOT
PERFECTION AT
HALFWAY HOUSE
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EDUCATION EQUITY
DISCUSSED IN
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MEET THE NEW
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