

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

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## BRINGING BACK THE WALLEYE

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DAWNE STEWART PROFILE

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Boozhoo!

The Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes is made up of 35 regional tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa, representing 134,000 American Indians. The Alliance was formed in 1996 to advance, protect, and preserve treaty rights, sovereignty and the culture of Midwestern nations. The members of MAST are responsible for bringing important policy issues to the attention of state, regional and federal officials.

The Mille Lacs Band is a MAST member. In February, we met in Washington D.C. at the Holiday Inn Capitol for "Impact Week." The first couple days of meetings were to prepare us for later meetings with members of Congress and White House staff. Impact Week allows face-to-face time with congressional representatives and the opportunity to educate them on issues that impact our region. The tribal representatives were divided into 11 groups. Sometimes we met with staff of the elected officials, but more often we met with the officials themselves.

The Mille Lacs Band visit with U.S. House of Representative member Rick Nolan from the 8th Congressional District was very productive. We discussed expansion of our tribal schools, economic development projects, and the Tribal Law and Order Act, to name a few. Rep. Nolan has offered an interesting internship program that will have an impact on tribes in Minnesota. The internship will give Band members a chance to work in Washington D.C. I am excited that our Band members will have the opportunity to learn how Washington politics work. Stay tuned for more information on this opportunity.

During the course of Impact Week, I was elected by MAST to be its representative to the Department of Justice Tribal Nations Leadership Council. I received 82 percent of the vote for this two-year term, and appreciate that level of confidence from MAST. The Council works to strengthen government-to-government relationships between the U.S. and tribal nations. In the months ahead, we'll be addressing law enforcement in Indian Country, civil rights, tax issues, environmental concerns and issues

regarding sacred sites. I look forward to learning more about the Department of Justice and its role in law enforcement on tribal land.

Don't get the impression that all of our off-reservation meetings take place with elected officials. Oh, no. During the MAST Impact Week, I met with a representative from the Dr. Comfort footwear company to talk about products for people with diabetes. According to the sales representative, prescription diabetic footwear can help prevent

ed the audience that there is more vacant property in St. Paul for sale, in case anyone was interested.

I invited Robert "Tim" Coulter to make a presentation on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People later during the MCT legislative dinner program. Tim is the Executive Director of the Indian Law Resource Center. The Indian Law Resource Center was established by American Indians for legal advocacy. The Center staff gives legal assistance to Indian and Alaska Native nations that are working to protect their lands, resources, human rights, environment and cultural heritage. I've been a board member of the Indian Law Resource Center for about six years. Later that evening I spent some time with Dr. Tiffany Beckman from the University of Minnesota. We discussed the health of our communities.

## Elder trip

Late in February I went with the Elders on their two-day trip. More than 130 Elders signed up for the drive and visit to Treasure Island Resort & Casino. Only a certain number of hotel rooms were set aside for the trip, and unfortunately not everyone who wanted to attend could attend. But there will be other Elder trips in the future!

The MLB Commissioners were invited to join us and provide information from their departments. Everyone was especially interested in the remarks from Commissioner of

Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe, Jr., who talked about the St. Paul hotels purchase and other Corporate Commission projects like the new printing company to open in Onamia and renovation to Eddy's Resort.

Pete Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Administration, talked about the 2013-2014 budget process and what is happening in housing. We also heard updates from Suzanne Wise, Commissioner of Education, and Samuel Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services. We had a good time together, and thanks to all who attended.



**The Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes met in Washington D.C. in February to set its agenda and meet with congressional leaders and White House staff. The Mille Lacs Band is a member of MAST. Shown above are MLB Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Amber Benjamin, Minnesota Senator Al Franken, and Heather Benjamin.**

more serious foot health complications that arise as a result of diabetes. After a little thought, it made sense to me to bring this opportunity to our Elders. We will set up dates at each district for the shoe fittings if Elders are interested.

## MCT Legislative Dinner

This year's Minnesota Chippewa Tribe dinner was held at the Crowne Plaza in St. Paul in February. St Paul Mayor Chris Coleman delivered the welcome and opening remarks. Mayor Coleman was entertaining during his remarks, and challenged the Tribes to follow what the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe had done with the recent purchase of two hotels in downtown St. Paul. Mayor Coleman remind-

# Losing Our Future

## U.S. SUPREME COURT TO RULE ON INDIAN CHILD AND WELFARE ACT CASE IN APRIL

**Deborah Locke** Staff Writer

In January the U.S. Supreme Court decided to review a South Carolina case that evolved from the Indian Child and Welfare Act (ICWA). Oral arguments on this emotionally charged case will take place on April 16, 2013.

Mille Lacs Band officials involved with ICWA cases called that decision bizarre, puzzling and potentially devastating to tribes. A tribal judge called the review astounding and disturbing.

Somewhere in the details of the complicated case, one truth emerges: American Indians across the country will watch the outcome of that review with tremendous interest. The very future of their communities depends on it.

ICWA was passed as federal law in 1978 to halt the involuntary removal of Indian children from Indian tribes.

"The intent of the act was to protect Indian families," said Andrew Small, a tribal court judge from the Lower Sioux Reservation who helped craft provisions of ICWA in Minnesota. "When Indian tribes lose their children, they lose their future."

In the 1950s and 1960s, Minnesota was among the worst offending states for the wholesale removal of Indian children into non-Indian families, often simply because the biological Indian parents were impoverished.

"Kids were picked off," Andrew said. One out of every four Indian children in Minnesota was in out-of-home placement. In many instances, mothers were told that their babies would have more opportunities in a non-Indian household that had a higher income. Few if any at-

tempts were made to place the child or baby with tribal family members.

Today, ICWA requires child welfare workers to take measures to place an American Indian child first with his or her relatives, or with tribal members, and finally, with non-tribal, off-reservation members.

Long before those steps take place, District III Representative Diane Gibbs gets involved.

Diane is the Mille Lacs Band's ICWA Qualified Expert Witness. If the County Child and Welfare Department concluded that a child needed out-of-home placement, it would notify Diane, and the Mille Lacs Band.

"Parental rights should not be terminated in Indian Country unless the case is extreme," she said. "We tend to take care of our own."

The Band works to help families before they reach a stage of crisis, she said. The ICWA requirements — notifying family members and tribes of a potential out-of-home placement of an Indian baby or child — could use a review, she said, but it works overall.

### The Supreme Court case

Clearly, someone on the U.S. Supreme Court disagrees. The convoluted facts of the South Carolina case roll out something like this: a non-Indian woman engaged to a Cherokee man became pregnant and decided to break off the engagement and allow a non-Indian couple from Oklahoma to adopt the baby. The father relinquished his pa-



rental rights without fully understanding what that meant, presuming that the ex-fiancée would raise their child. He was deployed to military service in Iraq through the U.S. Army, and learned that the baby girl was adopted by an Oklahoma couple.

Following tests that proved the Cherokee man was the father and that the Cherokee Nation recognized the baby girl as a tribal member, the South Carolina Supreme Court determined that the girl, now 2, should live with her father.

The fact that the father was serving his country while at the same time, trying to establish his right to his child really bothers Sam Moose, MLB Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

"None of this should have happened," Sam said. "He was serving his country and his rights at home should have been protected." An important strength of ICWA is the caveat that an Indian child's relatives must be aware of a potential out of home placement, and that the tribe, **Continued on page 10**

# Changes at MLB: Zero-Based Budgets and Potential Federal Cuts

**Deborah Locke** Staff Writer

Two changes, one real and one potential, could change the financial landscape at the Mille Lacs Band. Both changes make the job of managing tribal finances challenging.

Last year Republicans in Washington, D.C. demanded budget cuts in exchange for a small tax increase on the wealthiest Americans. As a consequence, governments across the country received warnings: Expect a budget drop of at least 15 to 20 percent from the federal government starting in 2013. Municipalities, counties, and even reservations all got the same bad news: Prepare for less.

John Gerdener, Finance Commissioner for the Mille Lacs Band, was one of the first at Mille Lacs to receive the news. He can't predict which areas would be hit the hardest among housing, education, health and law enforcement. A lot depends on what Congress and President Obama do in the upcoming weeks.

"Then again, there may be no cuts or only small cuts,"

John said. "We are continually monitoring this situation in Washington."

But here's a change that's a certainty at the Mille Lacs Reservation as of October 1, 2013 — zero-based budgeting. That may sound new, but it's not. Former President Jimmy Carter used that system when he was governor of Georgia in the early 1970s and then later as President.

It means that an organization examines needs and costs. Budgets are built around what is really needed, not just what was spent in the previous year. It's a reversal of the way government has usually been conducted. Typically, a government department will create a budget based on what was spent the previous year (the baseline), and perhaps add three percent to the total. It presumes that inflation, wages and gas increases will drive costs up.

Zero-based budgeting means every line item of a budget has to be justified, with no reference to prior expenditures.

"It reverses the traditional process," John said. "Every nickel now has to be justified."

The new budget method will require far more scrutiny and there are usually challenges with implementation.

"The advantage will be the elimination of waste," John said.

The disadvantage?

"It's a very hard process to get your arms around and implement," he added.

There is an upside. For example, operations and services often improve because more cost-effective methods are adopted. Employees are motivated to take more responsibility in decision making and setting priorities. Wasteful and obsolete operations are identified and cut back or eliminated.

"Band members expect Band government to deliver the highest level of services at the most efficient and effective costs," John explained.

BAND WORKS WITH STATE AND WILDLIFE  
COMMISSION TO INCREASE WALLEYE POPULATION

# BRINGING BACK THE WALLEYE



Deborah Locke Staff Writer

Tribal and state officials agreed to cut the walleye harvest at Mille Lacs Lake in half this year for both tribal members and for sport anglers. The decrease — from a total quota of 500,000 pounds last year to 250,000 pounds for the 2013-14 season — is due to a declining population of walleye. The Ojibwe will be allocated a 71,250-pound harvest. Sport anglers will be allocated 178,750 pounds.

As a consequence of the declining numbers, news stories have flourished lately about the walleye, which is the most sought-after fish in the state, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources is concerned with increasing the walleye numbers for current and future generations of Band members.

"There's no smoking gun," said the Band's Natural Resources Commissioner Brad Kalk when asked about reasons for the declining fish population.

"You can't point to a single predatory fish or an invasive species or harvest methods or global warming as a single reason for the decline," he said. Instead, a perfect storm of variables evolved over time which strained the lake's ecosystem. This issue occurs both here and in other lakes throughout the state.

## Finding solutions

Those variables will be addressed by biologists from the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, who will work with the Band and the state DNR on the walleye shortage. The team will come up with recommendations on how to more responsibly manage Mille Lacs Lake with its present day challenges. The Band will take seriously any dramatic solutions that may be recommended, Brad said. Future meetings with GLIFWC will take place in July and October.

It's not the first time a fish population has dropped in Mille Lacs Lake. Earlier generations of Ojibwe recognized periods of decline among the walleye and took measures to bring the numbers up, Brad said. Red Lake was nearly empty of walleye a decade ago, a fate also suffered by Leech Lake. Changes were made and today the walleye population has rebounded.

## Lake history

Those earlier generations of Ojibwe beheld the same natural beauty of Mille Lacs Lake that can be seen today. "Mille Lacs" is French for "one thousand lakes." In Ojibwe, the lake is called Misizaagaigan, or "grand lake." Its land mass is more than 132,500 acres. Mud flats make up the northern half of the lake while gravel and rock bars make up the southern half of the lake.

Mille Lacs Lake offered an ideal environment for walleye. The Minnesota DNR states that the walleye, with its thick, white fillets, handsome shape and coloring and elusive nature, is a prized catch among anglers. The average walleye pulled from any lake is about 14 inches long and weighs just over a pound, according to the state DNR. The fish is named for its pearlescent eye that helps it see and feed at night or in murky water.

The state DNR reports further that walleye usually feed in shallow water at dawn and dusk. Their diet is other fish, and they prey heavily on yellow perch, especially at night. During the day, they seek shelter in deep water.

If that environment is ideal, where did the fish go? Again, look for a perfect storm rather than an easy answer. For example, Brad said that if the number of northern pike is high one year, the smaller walleye up to two years of age are prey for the increased numbers of pike. That's one way the imbalance begins.

## Invaders

Zebra mussels, the fingernail-size striped mussel that attaches to objects, were found in the Great Lakes in 1988. They made their way into Minnesota's lakes through boats, nets, docks, and other objects. Brad said that the mussels attach to rocks in Mille Lacs Lake, die off and a new shell layer forms on top of the old layer. That creates a surface similar to a razor-sharp coral reef. Walleye spawning in water with a rocky bottom get their underside scratched by the zebra mussel shells. Also, baby walleye eat less when zebra mussels are around because the mussels filter out tiny "zooplankton," microscopic animals found in aquatic ecosystems.

"The baby walleye are too little to swim elsewhere to find the zooplankton, so they starve," Brad said. "Zebra mussels are terrible for any lake."

Another issue: the fact that the lake is managed in a way to produce trophy-size fish at 18 to 28 inches in length. Any fish that big needs a lot of smaller fish to survive. Warmer lake temperatures will affect the tullibee population, a slender silvery white fish preyed upon by northern pike and walleye. A couple of weeks of intensely hot summer weather will quickly kill off a tullibee population. The tullibee also eat zooplankton so their numbers would be reduced because of the zebra mussels.

Burbots, the small cod-like fish that prefers cold, deep lakes, have disappeared from Mille Lacs Lake. A soft fish, they were "like a candy bar for a lot of fish," Brad said. Warming temperatures cleared Mille Lacs Lake of burbot.

"Hook mortality" claims its share of walleye, also. It happens when an angler catches a walleye that's too big to keep and drops it back into the lake. The walleye is tired after the struggle on the fish line, and rests in the top ten feet of water that on hot days can be 80 degrees. The heat and inability to get sufficient oxygen from deeper depths kill walleye.

"I had friends out this summer who said it looked the genocide of walleye," Brad said. "They saw at least 15 walleye floating in one area."

The decline in the walleye population gets stickier when you add political pressures to the mix emanating from treaty law that retained the age-old Ojibwe harvest tradition. To put it gently, not every person in the state agrees that the Minnesota Ojibwe treaty provisions that retain traditions are valid. The decline in walleye becomes stickier yet when you consider the economic pressures from entrepreneurs who earn a living from the lake and its tourist population. Fewer anglers mean fewer dollars gained by business owners.

Overall, the majority of the lake is in good health, Brad said. Although the walleye population is strained now, the population could return within five years with care and good management.

Through it all, the lake seems to take care of itself at times. Last year's net season was bad, Brad said. One day the weather and wind combined to chase netters back into their vehicles and home.

It's like the lake said to everyone: take off, leave me alone.

Today I need to rest.

*Information on walleye, zebra mussels and more came from the state DNR website, which can be found at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).*

# March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month

## AMERICAN INDIANS AT HIGHER RISK OF COLON CANCER THAN OTHER POPULATIONS

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

Joy Rivera knows firsthand how devastating a cancer diagnosis can be for a family. Her mother died of the disease and her aunt is currently battling brain cancer.

That's why Joy is determined to spread the word as far and wide as possible that one type of cancer is more prevalent in the American Indian population than other cancers. Joy belongs to the Snipe Clan of the Seneca Nation Haudenosaunee People.

"Many people don't know this, but colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in American Indians," said Joy, a colon cancer screening navigator for the American Indian Cancer Foundation. "Sadly enough, the fact that we're Native Americans puts us at risk."

"Colon cancer follows lung cancer. Breast cancer is more common in women and prostate cancer in men, but overall, colon cancer is number two."

According to the American Indian Cancer Foundation, cancer is the leading cause of death in Minnesota of American Indian adults.

"In Minnesota American Indians, cancer recently passed heart disease as the leading cause of death," said Joy. "Part of this is due to better treatments for heart disease, but it is also due to many cancers being more common in Indians." A sobering statistic is that in Minnesota American Indians have a 55 percent higher incidence of colon rectal cancer.

While overall one in 17 will have colon cancer in their life, having a sibling or parent with colon cancer can mean there is a cancer gene in the family, and the lifetime risk can go up to one in six.

"The more family members that have had colon cancer, the higher the risk because there is a greater chance these genes are in the blood lines," Joy said.

Some of the factors that increase risk for colon cancer include being overweight, smoking and having diabetes — the same ills that plague many American Indians today.

That's why it's important that people get screened beginning at age 45 if at all possible. Medical insurance typically covers screenings beginning at age 50, but some physicians may approve the earlier screening based on genetics and other risk factors.

Typically, there are not any symptoms that are evident for this disease, which makes it more critical that people get screened.

"It's important to know that colon cancer is a cancer that can be prevented. As a colon cancer navigator, my job is to teach all that will listen about the impact colon cancer has on our communities and how it can be prevented," said Joy. "It is also to spread the word on how important screening is in catching the disease early when it can be most easily cured, and to prevent to disease."

"I work in the community to teach our people about screening options, where to get screened and what the test results mean."

"There are different ways of getting screened, but the best way of being screened is actually getting it done. The method doesn't matter. Just get it done."

*For more information: [www.americanindiancancer.org](http://www.americanindiancancer.org) and [www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal)*



## Burial Insurance Update

The Band Assembly recently made changes to the Band's burial insurance program. This program is self-insured by the Band and is available to all enrolled Mille Lacs Band members. It has always been the intention of the program that funeral and grave digging expenses, along with a family stipend in an amount not to exceed \$500, be the sole expenses covered by this program. The program is not an insurance policy, but is a benefit to Band members who, for whatever reason, do not own a private insurance policy.

After notification to OMB by a Band Assembly staff member, OMB will pay the family stipend as soon as reasonably possible and according to OMB procedures. The

family stipend will be paid to the relative designated by the deceased Band Member on their burial insurance form. The funeral home and grave digging expenses will be paid within thirty days after OMB's receipt of an itemized billing statement and certified death certificate. The maximum amount paid for any funeral is \$7,000.00.

In order to comply with the Band member's wishes upon his/her passing, it is recommended that a burial insurance designation form be completed and on file in the OMB office. However, if a designation form is not on file in OMB, the deceased Band member's spouse or designee that is appointed according to the policy must agree to be responsible for making funeral arrangements.

The Band assumes no liability for any costs related to an individual's funeral or burial in excess of the benefits that will be provided under the terms of the policy.

In the unfortunate event that a child who is eligible for enrollment dies prior to becoming an enrolled Band Member, the Band Assembly may, in its discretion, provide up to a \$7,000 benefit towards funeral and burial expenses of such child.

The Band Assembly reserves the right to amend or terminate the burial insurance program at any time. This program is subject to the budgetary conditions of the Band.

*If you wish to fill out a burial insurance designation form, please call Bette Sam at 532-7470, or stop by OMB to ensure that you have a designation form on file in the OMB office. Having a form on file allows OMB to serve your family best during their time of loss and grief.*



# DISTRICT 1



## DI February Community Meeting



Judge Richard Osburn speaks to the DI community.



The next District I Community Meeting will be held at the District I Community Center on Monday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m.



# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Arctic Blast a Success

Trip Johnson Staff Writer Tiffany Bolk Photographer

The 18th Annual Arctic Blast Snowmobile Rally took place on February 9th and 10th at Mille Lacs Lake, bringing Mille Lacs Band members together with members of the Minnesota Vikings. Participants included several current and former Vikings players, members of the Vikings Cheerleaders Team, and several Mille Lacs Band members.

The two-day event, which included a Community Breakfast, Snowmobile Ride, and Prize Party, gave away more than \$30,000 in prizes — and raised close to \$100,000 for area charities and the Vikings Children’s Fund.

# Reducing the Presence of Mold in Your Home: Part 1

Charles J. Lippert Air Quality Technician

*Courtesy of Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Environmental Office in cooperation with Mille Lacs Band Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Office.*



**R**educing the presence of mold in your home is a year-round effort, but when your home is closed off during the winter, reduction efforts become difficult, often leaving the home occupants to face a large mold colony in their home.

This short guide, which will be published in three parts, is designed to help you reduce the presence of mold in your home. The next two segments will share tips on mold prevention.

## What is mold?

Mold is a general term for a wide variety of microorganisms whose function is to help decompose dead matter and return it back to the Earth as dirt. Many molds help rot away plant matter, while some help rot away animal matter. Molds are a natural part of our ecosystem and are found everywhere. They can be found right now, as small colonies on various forgotten areas of your home and as spores in the air trying to find a new colony site. Mold spores generally are not visible to the naked eye but mold colonies are, so most people don't take action until well into the mold's life-cycle.

In some cases, humans can use some decomposing enzymes of mold to our advantage, such as by creating medicines and foods. Some people have mold product allergies and sensitivities, while others can develop them over time. There are rare cases of mold-induced lung,

skin and immune-response illnesses. Consequently, we do not want large colonies of mold in our presence because they can destroy our home and its contents – which are full of plant matter such as wood, paper, linen, cotton, rubber, fruits, vegetables, and grains. Homes are also filled with animal matter such as leather, wool and furs, meats, dairy products, human and pet dander and feces from pets and pests. Dust, which is pervasive in homes, is typically a mixture of plant and animal matter and if exposed to mold for a long time, they can also destroy our health. But like any living organism, mold needs three things: food, water and shelter. We cannot eliminate their shelter, as it is also our shelter. We cannot eliminate their food, as it is our home, belongings, foods and ourselves.

**Our first real choice in reducing the presence of mold in your home is to reduce its access to water.**

Molds are very social and when they form colonies, several different mold types come together to help each other decompose the plant or animal matter. Some mold colonies also invite bacteria, fungi and other small organisms to join their colony for a symbiotic relationship. Consequently, it does not matter if the mold is black, white, green, brown, blue, purple, orange or red. They all equally pose risk to us. Mold, like any living organism, has several stages of life: spore, mildew, reproduction and fruiting. If molds begin to form colonies, through physical elimination and through chemical elimination, by interfering with any of their stages of life, **our second real choice in reducing the presence of mold in your home is to cut their colony down to a small size.**

## For more information, contact:

On mold reduction strategies:

Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
Environmental Office Air Quality Program

All districts: 1-320-532-4704

On health effects of prolonged mold exposure:

Department of Health and Human Services Public  
Health Office

**District I Office:** 1-320-532-7776

**District II Office:** 1-218-768-2389

**District III Office:** 1-320-384-0149

## WIN AN iPod nano!



Sign up to follow the official Facebook page of the Chief Executive by March 15 to be entered into a drawing for an iPod nano!

Please join the conversation by "liking" me on Facebook. It's a great way to stay current on Band news, and a great place to share your opinions on matters affecting our Tribe. Hope to see you there. Miigwech!

*Melanie Benjamin*



"Like" us on Facebook

[facebook.com/ChiefExecutiveMelanieBenjamin](https://facebook.com/ChiefExecutiveMelanieBenjamin)

## Wanted: Youth Powwow Dancers

**Be a contestant at the 47th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Royalty Contest**

*Do you love to dance at powwows? Would you like to be a role model for other youth?*

**Held August 16-18, 2013**

Must be:

- 6-18 years of age
- Mille Lacs Band member, or
- Direct descendant of a Mille Lacs Band member

Jr. Brave & Jr. Princess - 6-12 years of age

Sr. Brave & Sr. Princess - 13-18 years of age

Deadline to sign up is August 2, 2013, but we recommend that you sign up early so you have plenty of time to complete your required tasks for your points.

For more information and application packets contact LeAnn Benjamin at 320-532-7595, or e-mail: [LeAnn.Benjamin@millelacsband.com](mailto:LeAnn.Benjamin@millelacsband.com) or Chasity Gahbow at 320-532-4742, e-mail: [Chasity.Gahbow@millelacsband.com](mailto:Chasity.Gahbow@millelacsband.com)

## February Community Meeting Report

The District III February Community Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 20, at the Aazhoomog Community Center.

### Speakers

- Donna Hormillosa, Public Health 320-384-0149
- Sharelane Staples, Schools 320-384-7598
- Dave Matrious, 320-384-7598
- Billy Garbow, Sobriety Group 320-279-1712

The next District III Community Meeting will be held at Grand Casino Hinckley on Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30 p.m.

### Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation First-Time Homebuyer Education Class

Saturday, April 6  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Building  
15542 State 371 NW  
Cass Lake, Minnesota

First-time Homebuyer Education is a requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation for qualified buyers.

Please reserve your spot in this **FREE** class with Cindy Beaulieu by calling 218-335-8582, ext. 150 or by email: [cbeaulieu@mnchippewatribe.org](mailto:cbeaulieu@mnchippewatribe.org)

*No Childcare is provided so please make other arrangements.*

### Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

The deadline for the April issue is March 15th.

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Andy McPartland at [andy@redcircleagency.com](mailto:andy@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-372-4612.

## DISTRICT 3



**Elder Advisory Council members (L-R):** Alvina Aubele, Carole Higgins, Herb Sam, Gloria Songetay, Dave Matrious, and Larry Smallwood with DIII Rep., Diane Gibbs.

# Tapping the Wisdom Within

AAZHOOOG ELDER COUNCIL PROVIDES INVALUABLE ADVICE

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

Even before she was elected to serve as the District III Representative, Diane Gibbs believed that in order to be a strong leader, having a strong group of advisors was crucial.

That's why, when she assumed her role as an elected official, she carefully selected a group of seven Band Elders who could offer her thoughtful and deliberate counsel to help her govern as a Band Representative.

"I never believed that there was one leader in a community," said Gibbs. "I always believed you needed other people's advice."

The committee is a mix of traditional healers, spiritual leaders and drumkeepers, including:

- Alvina Aubele, Ogichidaakwe
- Carole Higgins, Ogichidaakwe
- Dave Matrious, drum keeper
- Larry Smallwood, drum keeper
- Herb Sam, traditional healer
- Lee Staples, spiritual leader
- Gloria Songetay, a Christian by faith who provides a different perspective

"Their role is to advise me as to what needs to happen in this district," Gibbs explained. "They have authority to tell me what I or my staff should do."

Gibbs and the Elder Advisory Council, which has been in place for more than a year, also rely on Band Commissioners, who oversee the Departments to assist them in getting projects completed.

One example of the joint efforts was the creation of a sign for the Steven's Lake Cemetery.

By removing the poison ivy plants, the group is making sure the cemetery remains well maintained.

Another request by the Elder Advisory Council was for the community to begin using the name Aazhoomog, which means "crossroads" in Ojibwe, rather than Lake Lena.

According to legend, many years ago there was a postmaster named Lena in the area, who allowed local children to swim in a lake on her property. In her honor, some residents began calling it the Lake Lena area.

"It's a nice story," said Gibbs. "But we're trying to get back to the traditional Aazhoomog name."

The committee also provides suggestions on what the Elder trips should be and places they should go.

"We are all working together to make sure our community has what it needs," Gibbs said.

The group meets bi-monthly for updates and discussions. Members frequently talk about two very important topics: keeping children engaged in school, and teaching and promoting the Ojibwe language.

"We have had long discussions about what our education needs are and what we can do to keep our kids in school," Gibbs said. "And every member of the committee is 'pro-language.' They all know how important it is to continuing teaching our language."

This article first appeared in the January/February issue of the Aazhoomog News.



Elder Advisory Council member Lee Staples





## URBAN AREA

# Dawne Stewart Profile

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Mille Lacs Band member Dawne Stewart has been providing catering services for the Urban Area community meetings for the past four years. Dawne, who works full-time for an energy conservation company, isn't ready to quit her day job to become a full-time caterer. However, she says she enjoys the regular opportunities to pursue her passion for cooking through the work she does with the Band. Toya Stewart Downey sat down with Dawne, owner of DB&J Catering, to find out more about how she got her start and what her future plans are as a small business owner.

### When did you start catering for the Band?

My journey began in 2009 as I was seeking ways to use my love of cooking to provide a better way of living for myself and my children. I knew it was important for me to find ways to grow my finances by finding a way to make a difference in our lives.

### How did you become interested in this opportunity?

As a youth I always loved to feed people and spent countless hours glued to PBS, watching Julia Childs, seeing her make wonderful dishes to share with people. My love for cooking came naturally as my grandfather spent his life cooking for people in hospitals, and of course, making his famous chili for Christmas cookie parties. I would also watch him add the ingredients skillfully and gleaned a little from him as well. Initially, my hopes were to cater the dessert portion for the Urban Christmas Feast. I make delicious sweet potato pies, one of my specialties, and everyone who tried it loved my pies. I decided I would give it a try, and didn't worry about what the answer would be, I just knew I had to ask. I called the Urban office to inquire about submitting a bid for desserts for 500 people, and was told they had another caterer. But the director, Barb Benjamin-Robertson, asked if I would I be

interested in catering for the Urban meetings. The idea thrilled me and, of course, my answer was yes.

### What are the challenges?

My primary challenges were my own attitude and balancing my other responsibilities which competed for my attention. I had to figure out how to get time off from my full-time job and figure out who could assist me in preparing a meal for a large group. I had some experience as a caterer because my aunt owned a restaurant many years ago and I worked with her. But my responsibilities were different then because I was helping her, not man-

aging the whole thing by myself. At times I would become nervous wondering if I could really do it and balancing the pressures of raising a family and a full-time job.

### What have you learned from the experience and what advice do you have for others?

My key take away is this: "If you want to do it, do it!" Sometimes your dreams may seem pretty far out, but your dreams can become reality when you do the work. Take advantage of learning opportunities as this will increase your confidence and prepare you for having a business. Recruit others who support your vision, and be willing to delegate.

### What's the best part of catering the community meetings?

It's so rewarding to see everyone arrive with their families, and knowing that I've prepared a good meal for people. Seeing everyone I haven't seen for a while and being able to serve our Elders is definitely rewarding. It's good to be a member of Mille Lacs Band and do something you love for your community.

### How much longer do you plan to do this?

As long as we have Urban meetings, I will be there serving good meals and bringing smiles to everyone.

"Sometimes your dreams may seem pretty far out, but your dreams can become reality."

## Local Teens Positively Impacted by MAST Experience

Trip Johnson Staff Writer



Pictured (L-R): Melanie Benjamin, Jefferson Keel (President of the National Congress of American Indians), Heather Benjamin, Representative Betty McCollum, and Amber Benjamin.

Among the representatives from the Mille Lacs Band attending the recent MAST Impact Week were Heather Benjamin and her sister Amber – both students at local high schools. The conference, which lasted four days, caused Heather to "change my outlook on my future," adding that she was now quite interested in pursuing tribal relations work, as well as working with various national Native organizations such as NIGA (the National Indian Gaming Association).

Younger sister Amber also enjoyed meeting national leaders, including Representative Betty McCollum, Senator Al Franken, and NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens. She added that the conference "helped me see more of the world as well as open my eyes and mind" to the many issues facing sovereign tribes.

For more details about the MAST Impact Week, please see Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's column on page 2.

*The next Urban Area Community Meeting will be held at the All Nations Indian Church on Thursday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m.*

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## U.S. Supreme Court to rule

too, must receive notice of that action.

"If the tribe had been given notice [of a potential adoption], the family would have been contacted," Sam said. Were the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down ICWA, Indian Country would feel a severe impact. "This case is unbelievable, not only as an ICWA case but from the standpoint of a man serving his country," he added. "The system failed him in every way."

In most cases, ICWA's strength is the notice requirement that informs all parties about the status of a child or baby, Sam said. Unfortunately, in the South Carolina case, everything that could fall through the cracks did.

Yet the case could have ended with the South Carolina Supreme Court ruling, said Andrew Small. The adoptive couple claimed in their lawsuit that ICWA was unconstitutional because the baby was not removed from an "existing" married Indian couple. The couple who adopted the little girl demanded proof of paternity, which was established.

### An administrative plug?

"This case is not worthy of a Supreme Court review," Andrew said. Remarks from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia point to potential changes to the law, but Andrew said there is no real indication anywhere as to why the justices decided to review this case. A plausible theory is that the Court had a calendar to fill that was not filled close to the deadline. This case appeared and was added in at the last minute.

What's the most troubling impact the U.S. Supreme Court could have concerning ICWA? Right now a few state courts in the U.S. deny an Indian child protection under ICWA, even when (1) a "child welfare" proceeding is underway, and (2) the child is American Indian. Those two qualifications trigger application of the ICWA.

Some state courts have said a child was not in an Indian family at the time of removal, which minimizes the child's tribal membership or eligibility for membership. This is called the Existing Indian Family Doctrine.

If the U.S. Supreme Court finds a rationale to uphold the practice of the few state courts who uphold that view, ICWA would be gutted, Andrew said. Nineteen states oppose the Existing Indian Family Doctrine. Minnesota opposed the Doctrine through a state law.

If the Supreme Court does gut ICWA, where will that leave the Mille Lacs Band? Neither helpless nor indifferent, according to Sam. Indian nations throughout the U.S. will then join to create a new law to protect the future of their children, he said. It will start with a new wave of education, locally and then nationwide.

"We need ICWA," Sam concluded. "We need to be able to receive notice. We need to be part of the system."

## Public Health Department Update

**Linda Moses** Home Health Aide for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health Department and Coordinator of the Circle of Life Plus Outreach Program for the American Cancer Society.

### Cancer Prevention Study-3

If you've ever known someone with cancer, you know that birthdays are a very significant milestone. There are nearly 13.7 million people in America who have survived cancer who will celebrate birthdays this year. You can join the movement for more birthdays and fight back against cancer by enrolling in a new research study called the Cancer Prevention Study-3. The American Cancer Society's Epidemiology Research Program is inviting men and women between the ages of 30 and 65 years who have no personal history of cancer to join this historic research study. The ultimate goal is to enroll at least 300,000 adults from various racial/ethnic backgrounds from across the U.S. By joining CPS-3, you can help the American Cancer Society's research program understand how to prevent cancer. Preventing cancer will save lives and give people more of their most precious resource — more time with their families and friends, more memories, more celebrations.

For more information about the CPS-3 and the selected enrollment locations please email: [cps3@cancer.org](mailto:cps3@cancer.org) or call toll free 1-888-604-5888.

## Circle of Health Update

**MLTC (Mille Lacs Tribal Community):** The next open enrollment period is April 1, 2013. Circle of Health will mail out notices to eligible Band members the first week in March. Please remember that the MLTC is not designed to be a lifelong health insurance plan. Once you are employed and have health coverage available it is expected that you sign up for coverage through your employer. You also need to notify Circle of Health of any changes in coverage since we can only pay for one policy. Dawn Chose, Benefits Coordinator for the MLTC needs to be notified, too, so she can end your MLTC coverage on the appropriate date.

**Medicare Reimbursements:** There are still some Elders who have not submitted their notices from Social Security stating how much their Medicare Part B and Part D premiums are for 2013. If you are new to Medicare and have questions about the reimbursement please call your claims processor for assistance.

**First Line Descendants FT School Status:** Please remember to submit proof of FT student status each quarter/semester or medical and dental claims will be denied.

**All District Elder Meetings:** Program director Carol Hernandez will discuss Medicare, Medical Assistance Spenddowns, and Durable Medical Equipment benefits at the following Elder meetings:

March 21: District 2 – ALU  
May 16: District 3 – ALU  
Meetings start at 11:30 a.m.

*It is very important that Band members notify Circle of Health of contact information changes (address/phone). Circle of Health makes every attempt to notify Band members of important changes, especially when it requires action on their part.*

### Claims Processors:

Roberta Lemieux: A-L  
Tammy Smith: M-Z  
800-491-6106 or 320-676-8214

## Child Support Update

Child support checks cannot be picked up early due to the processing time needed to get them ready for timely distribution for all clients.

Photo identification is required to pick up a child support check.

Child support checks cannot be released to anyone other than the custodial parent unless a power of attorney form is on file with the Child Support office.

Those who would like child support checks mailed or held for pickup need to contact the Child Support office to make arrangements.

Clients are encouraged to call the Child Support office to see if a check is waiting before going to the office. Callers should be prepared to verify case specifics to have payment information released.

Clients are encouraged to share updated mailing addresses and phone numbers as soon as possible to eliminate delays in payments from our office.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For questions or information, call the Child Support office at 320-532-7755.

## Community Cleanups

**Brian Scheinost** Director of Public Works

**District I,** Vineland – Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Old Transfer Station Site off of U.S. HWY 169.

**District II,** East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle – Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> through Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Note Roll-off locations will be reduced to areas that can be monitored. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Roll-offs will be placed at the East Lake Maintenance facility for District II and Isle Community Center for District II-A.

**District III,** Lake Lena and Hinckley – Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Note Roll-off locations will be reduced to areas that can be monitored. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Earthworks building located on HWY 48, 2 miles east of Hinckley Casino, the Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Aazhoomog Community Center and at the cul de sac at Wise Owl.

Mille Lacs Band Elders will receive free curbside pickup for their community cleanup items. Elders must call the Public Works office at 320-532-7433 by Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, to be placed on the list for pickup. Anyone receiving curbside pickup must have their pile at the end of their driveway

Please contact Public Works at 320-532-7433 if you have any questions or concerns about the 2012 spring cleanup!

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## Happy March Birthdays:

Happy Birthday **Tash** on 3/2 from Rachel, Waylon and Boo.

- Happy Birthday **Adrian** on 3/3 from Rachel, Waylon, Brevin, Kaitin, Andrel, RaySean, Mom, Marcus, Jess, Cici, Lil Marc, Nate, Ant, Mick, Phil, Nade, Char, Pj, Whit, Carter, Val, Kev, Mariah, Jaz, Micheal, and Jayden.
- Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Jayden and Jordan Sayers** on 3/3 from Auntie Barb.
- Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday **Beige** on 3/5! From Dust and Smuge.
- Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday **Beige** on 3/5! Love Mom, sister, Jake, and Kinney.
- Happy Birthday **Papa Doug** on 3/7 from Rachel, Chum Lee, Brevin, Mick, Chick, and Oguy.
- Happy Birthday to my beautiful niece **Amanda** on your 7th birthday on 3/7, love Auntie Tina and Uncle Kim and Jordan and Theresa.
- Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Rileh Emme Shomin** on 3/8. We love you Rileh, love Daddy Christopher Boswell, Christa, and Carter.
- Happy Birthday **Rileh Shomin**. Neema and Laila love you. Enjoy your day sweetheart.
- Happy Birthday **Weh eh B Boy** on 3/9 from Rachel.
- Happy Birthday **Terry Smith** on 3/12 with love from Tam, Brandon, Brandi, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico.
- Happy Birthday **Sami Thomas and Roy (Knute) Sam** on 3/12. Love from your sister Barbara Jo.
- Happy Birthday **CiCi Bugg** on 3/14 from Rachel, Waylon, Brevin, Kaitin, Andrel, Daddy, Mommy, Gram Joyce, Gram Tammy, Kelly, Mandy, Dev, Poose, Millly, Bee, Adrian, and Gram Chick.
- Happy Birthday **Kelly Jo** on 3/14. Love from

- your Cousin Barbara Jo.
- Happy Birthday **Kali** on 3/15 from Rachel, Waylon, Boo, Deanna, and Cilla.
- Happy Birthday **Marcus Jr.** on 3/16 from Rachel, Waylon, Brevin, Kaitin, Andrel, Daddy, Mommy, Gram Joyce, Gram Tammy, Kelly, Mandy, Dev, Poose, Millly, Bee, Adrian, and Gram Chick.
- Happy Birthday **Jayla** on 3/18 from Rachel, Waylon, and Boo, Daddy, Randi, Brad, Val, Jay, Daddy, Eric, Wes, Payton, Brynley, and Papa Brad.
- Happy Birthday **Bruce** on 3/19 from Rachel, Waylon, Boo, Clayton, Randi, Brad, Val, Jay, Dad, Jayla, and Lilz.
- Happy 8th Birthday **Craig** on 3/20. We hope your day is as awesome as you are! Love Mom, Dad, Jordan, and Michaela.
- Happy Birthday **Marcus Sr.** on 3/21 from Rachel, Waylon, Boo, Mom, Adrian, Nate, Kaitlin, Andrel, Ant, Jess, Cici, Poose, Dev, Gram Joyce, Gram Tammy, Kelly, Mandy, Millz, Bee, Mick, Phil, Nade, Char, Pj, Whit, Val, Kev, and Mariah.
- Happy Birthday **Anessa Hicks** on 3/21! Love from Mom, Dad, and sister.
- Happy Birthday **Gushy** on 3/22 with love from Tam, Brandon, Brandi, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico.
- Happy Birthday **Waylon** on 3/23 from Rachel, Boo, Deanna, Don, Mary, Clayton, Christina, Stacy, Cilla, Marissa, Lisa, Josie, Laney, Nig, Marsha, Adrian, Marcus, Kate, Drel, RaySean, Cici, Poose, Kelly, Tammy, Bruce, Val, Brad, Jay, Pickle, Kev, Mariah, Mick, Phil, Nade, Blake, Char, Pj, Whit, Carter, Delores, Larry, Craig, Arielle, and Nick.
- Happy 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Marlow Joseph Davis** on 3/23, love your Weh Eh Neema, Laila,

- Rei Rei, Lil Ricki, Grandma Frances, Dad, Phat Sister, Antwaun, Shannon, Quada, Mavis, Joe, Lil sis Franny, Simon, "G", Snooks, Uncle Tippy, MIng MIng, and Aunty Diamond & Bruno. Have an awesome day!
- Happy Birthday **Brandi Sam** on 3/29 from Tammy and family.
- Happy Birthday **Desi Smith** on 3/29 with love from Auntie Tam, Brandon, Brandi, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico.
- Happy Birthday **Beverly Garbow** on 3/30 with love from your lil sister, Brandon, Brandi, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico.
- Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday **Gram Pauline Moose** on 3/30 from all your grandkids and great grandkids.
- Happy Birthday **Sharon (Sissy Poo) Sam** on 3/31. Love from Auntie Barb.
- Happy Birthday **Wyndessa Davis**, love from your Grandma Frances, Aunty Neema, and Laila Marie.
- Happy Birthday **Wyndessa Davis**. Love you babygirl. Love Daddy, Marlow, Franny, Sean John, Phat Sister, Rei Rei, and Lil Ricki.
- Happy Birthday **Mary!** Love, your favorite Poke-man.
- Happy Birthday **Tawnya Stewart**. Enjoy your day. Love, Toya, Dawne, Brittany, Jessica, Blake and Dallas.

## Happy March birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

- Ramona Anne Applegate
- Debra Rose Barge
- Nancy Mae Bearheart
- Cynthia Eileen Beaulieu
- Marie Ann Bengtson
- Larry Benjamin
- Laurie Marie Benjamin
- Randy Elmer Benjamin
- Robert Patrick Benjamin

- Patricia Lorayne Christofferson
- Curtis Anthony Cody
- James Joseph Dorr
- Robert Allen Dorr
- Mary Flores
- Terry Duane Frye
- Beverly Diane Garbow
- Cheryl Darlene Garbow
- Virginia Ann Goodman
- Marie Jane Gudim
- Kathleen June Hill
- Leslie Roger Karsjens
- Sandra Arlene Kegg
- Barbara Jane LaBlanc
- Lorelei Lee LaFave
- Mert Elaine Liebgott
- Wanda Kay Misquadace
- Pauline Moose
- Victoria Marie Nichols
- Larry Laine Oswaldson
- Marie Esther Paschke
- Marlene Ruth Poukka
- George Wilbur Premo
- Douglas Sam
- Fred L. Sam
- Kathryn Mary Sam
- Roy Duane Sam
- Francis Dean Schaaf
- Susanna Lee Schaaf
- Russell Shabaiaash
- Edward Skinaway, Jr.
- Merle Lee Skinaway, Jr.
- David Smith, Jr.
- Terrance Lee Smith
- Gloria Ann Starkey
- Sharon Lee Sutton
- Sami Thomas
- Robert Tibbetts, Jr.
- Carol Ann Towle
- Marlene Wakanabo
- Barbara Marie White

## Happy belated birthdays:

- Happy Belated Birthday to **Mom** from your daughter Tina and son in law Kim Peet.
- Happy Belated Birthday to my grandson **Tristan** on his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday from Grandma Tina and Grandpa.
- Happy Belated Birthday from Auntie Tina and Uncle Kim

to my wonderful nephew **Adam**, who turned 5 on Valentine's day!

## Other Announcements:

I would like to acknowledge an exceptional employee—Robert Mitchell. Robert goes above and beyond his work duties by getting me to dialysis three times a week in Princeton. No matter what the weather is like or if it is a Band holiday, Robert gets me to my appointments on time every time. I can always trust that if he is my driver he will be there to take me. Thank you for having such an exceptional HHS Public Health Transportation employee. — *A Mille Lacs Band Elder*

• In Memory of **Roger Allen Boswell**, whose Birthday would have been on March 24<sup>th</sup>. From my memories, you have been a source of strength, for all those years and even now. Although, in your presence, life would have followed a different path. Each day would be full of life, with lots of love and new beginnings. You are the greatest gift from God, I just feel blessed to be your daughter. I thank God for giving me a father like you, I will miss you and feel your presence always. Love you dad and we miss you. Kateri Boswell, Wanda Boswell, Vincent Merrill, Janice Saice, and Joni Boyd.

## Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Andy McPartland at [andy@redcircleagency.com](mailto:andy@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-372-4612.

*The deadline for the April issue is March 15th.*

# MARCH CALENDAR



Join us for our annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indian's

## TREATY RIGHTS CELEBRATION

Friday, March 22, 2013

Invocation at Noon

Lunch served at 12:30 pm

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center

Don't forget your camera or cell-phone for the

Digital Scavenger Hunt!

(3 different age groups, including adults)

4 different games for the kids to participate in with prizes!

Drawings for both children and adults!

Vendors and information booths on our Treaty Rights!

Hosted by the MLB's Department of Natural Resources and Environment

8

### Hand Drum Contest

Friday, March 8 at 6 p.m.  
Grand Casino Hinckley

Onsite registration is from 4 p.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Pre-register by calling 320-532-7486.

Each singer must lead. \$69 special room rate available. No alcohol; will be disqualified. Sponsored by the Chief Executive Office.

### Lunch Sale and Raffle

Friday, March 8 from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
District I ALU

Cost: \$8; Elders/Disabled eat FREE

9  
10

### Beaded Medallion Workshop

Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and  
Sunday, March 10 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Mille Lacs Indian Museum

Fee: \$65 or \$60 for MHS members, plus \$15 supply free for all. Reservations required, call 320-532-3632.

16

### No Sew Fleece Blanket-Tie Baby Blankets: Saturday Class

Saturday, March 16 from 11 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Urban Office

A light lunch and refreshments will be served. Door prize drawings for participants. Class size is limited, so please R.S.V.P. to the Urban Office at 612-872-1424 by March 13.

20

### District III Community Meeting

Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30 p.m.  
Grand Casino Hinckley

22

### Treaty Rights Celebration

Friday, March 22 from 12 p.m.–5 p.m.  
Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center

23

### Maple Syrup Harvest Workshop

Saturday, March 23 from 12 p.m.–3 p.m.  
Mille Lacs Indian Museum

Fee: \$10 or \$7 for MHS members. Reservations recommended, call 320-532-3632.

25

### DI Community Meeting

Monday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m.  
DI Community Center

26

### DI Sobriety Feast

Tuesday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m.  
DI Community Center

27

### DII-A Community Meeting

Wednesday, March 27 at 5:30 p.m.  
Chiminsing Community Center

28

### DII Community Meeting

Thursday, March 28 at 5 p.m.  
East Lake Community Center

### DII-A Sobriety Feast

Thursday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m.  
Chiminsing Community Center

### Urban Area Community Meeting

Thursday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m.  
All Nations Indian Church

30

### U of M Spring Powwow

Saturday, March 30  
Great Hall of Coffman Memorial Union

Grand entries: 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Feast: 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Janelle White at whit1432@umn.edu or AM Indian Student Cultural Center at 612-624-0243.

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millelacsband.com



## Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours, tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call

800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders.

After business hours, tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.