

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

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BAND MEMBERS PRODUCING JINGLE DRESS DOCUMENTARY

Band member Larry "Amik" Smallwood

PAGE 5

TRIBAL SUMMIT
ON CRISIS OF
INDIAN CHILDREN

CONFRONTING
THE PROBLEM
OF ELDER ABUSE

EDDY'S RESORT:
SAME NAME,
NEW LOOK

STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT
CELEBRATED

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin! This month, there is more news to report than I have space to write about, so I'm just going to touch on a few highlights. Some big news for the Aazhoomog community is that the Pine Grove Leadership Academy is about to become part of the Bureau of Indian Education System, as a satellite school of Nay Ah Shing! This is wonderful news, which you can read more about in this newsletter. It means that our Pine Grove Leadership Academy will be able to expand programming and opportunities, via satellite classroom link through live video to Nay Ah Shing school classrooms. These virtual classrooms will be in addition to our on-the-ground teachers at both Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove, improving opportunities at both sites, while allowing us to serve more children at Pine Grove.

We are the first tribe in the United States to achieve this "satellite school" status, which required lobbying new legislation through the Congress. There are many issues I work on when I travel to Washington D.C., but nearly every one of my visits to D.C. over the past two years has involved advocating for legislation allowing Mille Lacs to achieve this satellite school status for Pine Grove. Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Congressman Rick Nolan, and Senators Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar were behind our success, and I'm very grateful for their persistent efforts. This is one example of why it is so important for the Band to keep strong relationships with federal policy-makers. Also, congratulations and chi miigwech to the hard work of Joyce Shingobe, Jane Harstad and Shelly Diaz who worked hard to get our schools ready for the site visit from the BIE Director, who approved the waiver. I encourage Aazhoomog parents to begin thinking about Pine Grove as an educational choice for your K-5 students in Fall, 2015!

On May 5, we held our ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Eddy's Resort, creating a new revenue stream for the Band and

jobs for Band Members. The facility is beautiful, and the food in the restaurant is outstanding. Stop by if you have a chance!

On May 28, the Band hosted a meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council members to engage in a second summit on the issue of the impact of opiates on our babies, known as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). This was a powerful meeting that included next steps. Some ideas include developing a legislative proposal to better regulate methadone clinics and prescription drugs, improving access to pre-natal care for high-risk women, and developing better supportive programming for young women to strengthen the bond between mothers and children. Of course, we also need to do more to hold our family members accountable for getting the help they need. This includes our young men, who need to be held accountable for ensuring that their children are brought into this world in a safe and healthy environment. Miigwech to Speaker Beaulieu and District I Representative Blake for their leadership in bringing this summit to Mille Lacs.

Elders enjoyed a wonderful trip to Las Vegas in May and had great fun just being together. Miigwech to the Band Assembly for helping to support that trip with my office. The next Elder trip will be to Oklahoma City and is coming up this month, provided the weather holds out.

On May 26, I signed an agreement between the Band and Leech Lake, Upper Sioux and Lower Sioux creating an Intertribal Law Enforcement Task Force. This Task Force will allow for sharing of information and resources between the four Bands to combat drugs and gang-related violence, which relates to the opiate issue. We know that drug-dealers have been "Rez-Hopping." Almost as soon as they are chased off one reservation, they migrate to another. Through information sharing, our police officers will know who these criminals are

no matter where they are, no matter which reservation they run to. Through sharing of resources, we will provide on-the-ground support to one another. In the true spirit of self-determination and self-governance, this Task Force is about Indian tribes working together to improve our communities for the betterment of everyone.

May also brought the swearing in of a new face and an old one; Adam Valdez is our new Commissioner of Finance, and Todd Matha was reappointed to a four-year term as Solicitor General. We are fortunate to have both of these professionals on our team.

By the time this edition reaches you, our Public Hearing on Enbridge Energy's proposal to build the Sandpiper Pipeline will have been concluded. The Band will compile a report that will be shared with the State and federal agencies. Even if the State approves granting Enbridge a permit to construct a pipeline, we will continue working to convince state and federal agencies that a different route must be considered, and insist that our land, waters and resources be protected.

Finally, attending graduation ceremonies from Head Start to high school has been very rewarding. Hearing our Nay Ah Shing graduates speak so well in Ojibwe was pure joy, and powerful evidence of the success of our program!

As we head into powwow season and celebrate our culture, history and identity, let's all make sure we take time to appreciate the hard work of our powwow committees who make these celebrations special. In particular, I'm very excited for the East Lake Community which will be holding its first Inaugural powwow in July. Have a safe, enjoyable summer!

Pine Grove Satellite Project Approved

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer



Joycelyn Shingobe

Next fall, Pine Grove Leadership Academy in District III will open as an extension of Nay Ah Shing Schools, thanks to the hard work of several Mille Lacs Band members, including Education Executive Director Joycelyn Shingobe.

"This gives kids who might not fit in well at public school the opportunity to attend a school that's close to home, rich in culture and language, and offers a comfortable learning environment," Joycelyn said.

The announcement came May 21 during a visit to Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag by Dr. Monty Roessel, Director of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

Joycelyn was thrilled to hear the news that the Band's proposal had been approved. "I was so happy, my mouth fell open," Joycelyn said. "I wanted to ask him to repeat it — 'What did you just say?'"

The BIE's approval was needed because of a 1995 moratorium on new educational programs funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Band argued that the BIE would not need to

invest money because there was already a school building at Pine Grove. In fact, the Bureau could save money as a result of reduced transportation costs.

Many District III students over the years have commuted more than two hours to Nay Ah Shing from as far as Lake Lena and even Danbury, Wisconsin, Joycelyn said. It was not uncommon for kids to bring pillows and blankets onto the bus. "That long ride is hard on kids," Joycelyn said, "and participating in sports or after school programming was not an option for them."

Joycelyn said other Band members have been working hard to provide educational opportunities in District III for more than 10 years. Dave Matrious and the late Beatrice Taylor kept the issue at the forefront, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has also been a proponent since she was first elected in 2000. Benjamin lobbied for the project on a trip to Washington D.C. in March.

"It's those people who really kept the whole initiative alive in people's minds," Joycelyn said.

Shelly Diaz, the Band's education planner, was instrumental

in the proposal for Pine Grove School to become an extension of Nay Ah Shing School. She received help from education consultant, Dr. Jane Harstad, who helped the Band make the case with the BIE.

Joycelyn also credits Dr. Rick St. Germaine, who has helped the Band operate Pine Grove as a charter school, an online school, and a private school since it first opened in 2007.

The school building can accommodate up to 45 students, Joycelyn said. For now, it will be open to K-5 students, with two licensed teachers and a learning coach on site.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin gave credit to Joycelyn for her hard work. "I am excited for the Aazhoomog community to have this wonderful school as part of the Nay Ah Shing system," Melanie said.

Joycelyn said, "We were only able to do this because of the Chief Executive's work lobbying this legislation through the Congress specifically for Mille Lacs. She made many, many trips to D.C. to get this legislation through for Mille Lacs, which is why we are the first and only tribe in the country to achieve this status."

Band Hosts Tribal Summit On Crisis of Indian Children

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer



**District I Representative
Sandra Blake**



**MLB Commissioner of
Health Sam Moose**



**Boise Forte Chief
Kevin Leecy**



**White Earth Secretary
Tara Mason**



**Red Lake Chief
Darrell Seki**



MN Senator Chris Eaton

Over 50 tribal and state government officials and employees met on the Mille Lacs Reservation May 28 to address problems related to opiate abuse and addiction on Minnesota Indian reservations.

Tribal leaders from Bois Forte, Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, and Mille Lacs reservations were in attendance. The event was hosted by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Mille Lacs Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Rep. Sandra Blake, and Elder Joe Nayquonabe welcomed participants and shared their thoughts on the problem of opiate addiction and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Melanie Benjamin thanked her colleagues in government, Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu and District I Rep. Sandra Blake, for taking the initiative to host the forum. "I'm proud to work with these two strong women," Melanie said.

Melanie called the problem of opiate-addicted babies "the single greatest threat to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe." She said recent data on the prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) on reservations was a wake-up call for tribal leaders. Studies released in the fall of 2014 showed that 28 percent of babies with NAS in Minnesota are born to Native Americans, even though Native Americans make up only about two percent of the state's population. In other words, American Indian newborns are 8.7 times more likely than white babies to be born with NAS.

Melanie talked about addiction as a way to "fill an emptiness and numb the pain caused by historical trauma," which she said is "something that happened to us, not something we are." She talked about the strength and resilience of Indian people who have overcome disease, genocide, and relocation. "If there is one thing I'm convinced about," she said, "it's that we have the ability to fight this epidemic right here in this room."

Joe Nayquonabe Sr., a retired chemical dependency counselor, opened the event with a prayer in Ojibwe, and he also shared his perspective on the opiate epidemic, saying, "It strikes everybody. It doesn't discriminate. ... It's not only affecting us but it's affecting our children. The creator gave us a wonderful body, and it's up to us to take care of it."

Sandra Blake, who represents District I on the west side of Mille Lacs Lake, welcomed participants to the summit and spoke about the importance for these discussions to take

place. "The problem of drugs and alcohol, and children in crisis is a hard topic to speak on without getting emotional and teary. I see it all around me and it affects everyone. Grandmothers, adults, and children. There are also positive groups in the community like women in wellbriety," she told the audience. "I hope that as you listen today, you learn some things that you can use and bring back to your communities and families. It's very important that we keep working on this issue."

The agenda included opening comments by Bois Forte Chief Kevin Leecy, White Earth Secretary Tara Mason, Red Lake Chief Darrell Seki, Minnesota Department of Human Services Assistant Commissioner Jim Koppel, Minnesota State Senator Chris Eaton, and Jake Schwitzer, legislative assistant for U.S. Sen. Al Franken.

Sen. Eaton shared the story of her daughter's death by overdose. She said the "war on drugs" has been lost and that the focus needs to shift from imprisonment to treatment. "We can't arrest our way out of this.... Until we start treating (addiction) like a disease and an illness we're not going to be successful... It should be part of your general medical checkup. People should be screened for addiction. They should be treated for addiction. They should not be arrested."

The majority of the event was devoted to presentations on the following topics:

- Anishinaabe value of family and women's roles by Ted Waukey, Mille Lacs Band Social Services Director
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome and the problem of methadone therapy by Phil Norrgard, Health and Human Services Director for the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe
- NAS prevention projects at Red Lake, White Earth and Leech Lake
- Disparities and recommendations by Shirley Cain, Disparities Consultant for the Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Tribal State Agreement Legislation presented by tribal attorneys
- Urban Conditions by the Urban Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Advisory and Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) Members

The event concluded with a roundtable discussion of next steps to be taken to combat opiates and NAS in Indian Country. Sam Moose, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Health

and Human Services, suggested creating a process to share information and begin creating a list of best practices in dealing with the problems that had been discussed throughout the day. He also acknowledged the many tribal family/social service workers and the "tremendous" work they do on behalf of Indian Country — "even though they take pressure from all sides with little recognition."

"Their job of stabilizing and often rebuilding families is very intense and can take a toll on emotional, mental and physical health," Sam said. "Therefore it is extremely important to care for the care providers so they don't develop 'compassion fatigue' or burnout."

Sandi Blake, summarized some of the key points of the day and highlighted the importance of women's groups, cultural activities and parenting classes. "Those who are stuck in addiction do tend to isolate themselves," Sandi said. "We really have to struggle to reach out to them and bring them into our circles." She said she enjoyed the presentations and encouraged the participants to keep working on the problem. "We need to create these types of forums in our communities where we can present this information to community members and get them involved."

Kimberly Sam introduced herself in Ojibwe and then got a big laugh by adding, "My Social Security name is Kimberly Sam." She spoke about the Sons of Tradition, Daughters of Tradition and Mothers of Tradition programs she operates. The latter has been implemented in Mille Lacs County Jail. "The number one thing is getting involved with people, getting into action, getting out there, because it's about establishing trust and listening and understanding. For me it's not even like a job, it's doing what I want to do. This is home, and these are my people, and I want them to have what I have."

Joe Nayquonabe asked participants to look back to discover how tribes dealt with problems in the past. He stressed that parents need to "start being parents again. We need to be Indians again," he said. "We need to be Anishinaabe again."

Vern LaPlante, Tribal Relations Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, served as moderator of the summit.

It was the second summit on the crisis of American Indian children in Minnesota. The first took place in September 2014 at Bois Forte Reservation in northern Minnesota.

Dayton Signs Autopsy Bill

Brett Larson Staff Writer



Governor Dayton

Governor Dayton signed a bill into law May 19 that will provide for religious objections to autopsies in certain cases.

The bill passed the Minnesota Senate unanimously. The House of Representatives approved it by a vote of 128-3. It was sponsored by Sen. Tony Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) and Rep. Steve Green (R-Fosston).

The bill came about after the February deaths of two Native Americans: Mille Lacs Band member Mushkooub Aubid and Fond du Lac member Autumn Martineau. In both cases, the Carlton County medical examiner scheduled autopsies against the wishes of the families, who said the autopsies would violate their spiritual beliefs. Both families had to seek court orders to stop the autopsies and

force the medical examiner to release the bodies.

After Mushkooub's death, his family and friends held a vigil outside the morgue in Duluth, where his body was held. In March, Aubid's widow, Winnie LaPrairie, testified in support of the bill.

The new law requires medical examiners to notify the family of a planned autopsy and provide written materials including information about the law regarding religious objections to autopsies. Autopsies may still be conducted in certain cases if there is a "compelling state interest" as defined by the law. In those cases, medical examiners will need to use the least invasive procedures.

Historic Agreement Reached to Combat Crime

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer

Representatives of four Minnesota Indian bands came together at Mille Lacs on May 27 to sign an agreement that Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin described as “historic.”

The agreement will create a Consolidated Tribal Task Force allowing the four bands — two Ojibwe and two Sioux — to share information and cooperate in new ways to fight crime.

Participating in the event were Mille Lacs Chief Benjamin; Marisa Pigeon, Tribal Vice Chair of the Upper Sioux Community; Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Todd Matha; Mille Lacs Tribal Police Chief Jared Rosati; Brian Marquardt, Minnesota Office of Justice Programs; Upper Sioux Police Chief Chris Lee; Lower Sioux Police Chief Darwin Melin; and Leech Lake Tribal Police Chief Ken Washington.

After an invocation in Ojibwe from John Benjamin and a song by Benjamin, Chris Gahbow and Quintin Sam, Melanie Benjamin welcomed the guests and thanked the police officers present: “We know you care about our communities, and that you risk your lives each day to keep us safe,” Melanie said. “And we know that you don’t often get thanked for your work, so I want to be clear today how much we appreciate each of you.”

She also spoke about the problem of opiate abuse and opiate-addicted newborns in the community, and she explained that the agreement would help to combat the problem: “This agreement we are about to sign today is a first step in putting a stop to these criminals taking advantage of our children, our youth, our communities and our babies. Through creation of this Task Force, from now on, there will be no place for the drug dealers to hide, because our police will ALL know who they



Mille Lacs Tribal Police Chief Jared Rosati presented the agreement to representatives from the four cooperating bands. It was signed by Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Upper Sioux Vice Chair Marisa Pigeon, Leech Lake Tribal Police Chief Ken Washington and Lower Sioux Tribal Police Chief Darwin Melin.

are, across each of our reservations.”

Mille Lacs Tribal Police Chief Jared Rosati spoke briefly about the agreement and introduced his fellow officers before inviting to the podium Tribal Police Officer Derrick Naumann, who has been appointed Commander of the task force. Derrick spoke about his background and explained how the task force will help the four bands fight crime.

After the event, he summed up those benefits as follows: “One of the most important parts of this agreement will be the information sharing. Until now we would have no idea if there is contact made with a suspected drug trafficker in each other’s

jurisdiction unless we specifically called and asked about them. Now we will be able to have a seamless information database, which we can view when we have contact with the same subjects. This will allow us to work more efficiently in our cases.

“Another very significant part is the resource sharing. If there are major events or cases to be worked, we can assist by sending officers to each other’s jurisdictions to help out in any way needed.”

Naumann will be supervised by a board composed of the police chiefs of the four bands.

Band Hosts Tribal Relations Conference

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Band hosted a conference May 18 and 19 to help state employees better understand and serve Minnesota’s American Indian population.

The Government-to-Government Tribal-State Relations Training at Grand Casino gave attendees abroad and deep introduction to American Indian history, culture, law and politics, according to Mille Lacs Band consultant and UMD professor Tadd Johnson.

Tadd said the conference — one of several held around the state in recent years — is the result of a 2013 Executive Order from Gov. Mark Dayton requiring state agencies to implement tribal consultation policies and provide training for staff who work with American Indians.

The training was developed by Tadd and former Mille Lacs Band employees Linda Aitken and Ed Minnema. To date they have trained over 800 state employees and many tribal employees and officials. Tadd said, “We’ve received really good feedback. There’s kind of a dearth of knowledge of federal, state and tribal laws.”

Ed, a former Nay Ah Shing teacher who now teaches in the Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, facilitated the event, and Tadd and Linda were among the presenters.

After presentation of the colors and a flag song by Swamp Nation Drum Group, Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu welcomed those in attendance and Ed gave an introduction and overview of the conference.



Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu welcomed attendees to the conference and also participated in a panel of tribal leaders.

The first day was devoted to a presentation by Tadd titled “Federal Indian Policy and the Legal Background between the Tribes and States.” “What I provide is a legal history of federal Indian policy — how tribal, state and federal government policy came to be,” Tadd said.

Also participating were Joe Nayquonabe Sr.; Melanie Franks and Jim Jones of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council; and three employees of the Minnesota Department of Transportation: David Tomporowski, Edward Fairbanks and Linda Aitken.

The second day opened with Dakota Reflections from Janice Bad Moccasin, Assistant Tribal Administrator for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, followed by four breakout sessions: Q&A: Answers to Your Historic and Cultural Questions; Tribal Liaison Panel Discussion: Interacting with the Tribes — Meaningful and Timely Consultation; Cooperation and Coordination: State Agencies Working with Tribal Counterparts; and Q&A: Tribal Attorney Panel.

The afternoon session was a Tribal Leader Panel Presentation: Consulting and Building Partnerships with American Indians. The panel was composed of Mille Lacs Band Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, District I Rep. Sandra Blake, District II Rep. David ‘Niib’ Aubid and Leech Lake Band District III Rep. LeRoy Fairbanks.

Tadd said state employees had many good questions and enjoyed the opportunity to interact with tribal members, employees and officials.

U.S. Attorney Charges 41 with Selling Drugs on Reservations

United States Attorney Andrew M. Luger announced last week the indictment of forty-one members of a multi-state heroin trafficking conspiracy. The 41 defendants named in the indictment were charged with Conspiracy to Distribute Heroin, Methamphetamine, Oxycodone, Hydromorphone, Hydrocodone, and Methadone.

“The indictment of the Beasley drug trafficking organization is emblematic of our commitment to combatting heroin trafficking in Minnesota,” said U.S. Attorney Luger. “These defendants, led by Omar Beasley, represented the most significant source of heroin in Indian Country. Through close collaboration with our federal, local, and Tribal law enforcement partners, we have shut down this major pipeline that was spreading heroin across the Red Lake and White Earth Indian Reservations and the surrounding communities.”

According to the indictment and documents filed in court, from at least April 2014 until April 2015, Beasley, 37, led a drug trafficking conspiracy in which he recruited drug sources, managers, distributors, facilitators, couriers and drivers to bring heroin and other drugs to the Red Lake and White Earth Indian Reservations in Minnesota and Native American communities in North Dakota.

Band Members Producing Jingle Dress Documentary

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

It's long been a desire of Larry "Amik" Smallwood to tell the story he heard growing up of how the jingle dress came to be.

"I used to hear my grandma, Lucy Clark, tell the story of where the jingle dress came from," said Amik. "Back in '79 when I worked at Nay Ah Shing, Ben Sam and Fred Benjamin, both now passed on, also told me the story about the jingle dress."

"I've traveled around and heard stories about the jingle dress and they're all basically the same, but there are some variations," he said. "I've been wanting to do a documentary for the past seven years so we could get the story straight about where the dress originated."

His goal is about to be realized thanks to the hard work and shared vision of others, including Band members Rick Anderson and Natalie Weyaus.

Later this month the trio, along with other Band members, will begin working on a documentary about the jingle dress.

Rick, an experienced producer, director and videographer, will oversee the taping of scenes for the documentary at the Hinckley Powwow, which will be held June 19–21. They will begin filming during the Grand Entry on June 19.

Filming will continue July 1–2 during an exhibition powwow at the powwow grounds in District I. Rick is seeking Band members, employees and others to participate in the documentary by filling the stands or participating in short interviews. He is also seeking jingle dress dancers for both dates.

Rick and Natalie have worked together previously on another successful documentary, "The People of the Big Lake," that was a collaboration with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT). For this project, Rick is working as the producer for TPT and will supervise the TV station's team, including the camera operators. His own company, Eagle Clan Productions, isn't involved making the documentary.

The title of the 30-minute documentary hasn't been determined yet and it is not scripted, Rick said, but instead will feature Amik speaking in Ojibwe and telling the story of how the jingle dress came to be. Another narrator will translate the story into English.

"We are really excited about it and we're excited that it's coming together so we can tell the Mille Lacs story," Rick said.

Here's the story as it was told to Amik:

"About 100 years ago, give or take, a man had this recurring dream and in that dream he dreamt of these four women who were dancing in a certain way. He noticed in the dream there were four colors — red, blue, green and yellow.

After so many times of dreaming, he told his wife about it and she told him maybe we better do something about the dream and she asked him to describe the dresses to her.

She got together with some ladies in the village and they made those dresses according to how they looked in the

dreams. The man also showed his wife how they danced in his dreams and the wife then showed the ladies how they danced.

During one of the drum ceremonies, when they had a break, he got up and announced his dream and introduced the dresses and he brought them out.

There was a little girl at the drum ceremonies who was so sick she was laying on a blanket. She was next to the man and his wife, she could have been their daughter or granddaughter. When those ladies started dancing with those dresses she immediately began to look around and stir a bit.

As they danced through the evening eventually she sat up and she kept looking. High into the night, she was up dancing with the ladies in the jingle dresses. That's why they say it's a healing dress.

The Mille Lacs people later on gifted the jingle dress to our Canadian relatives and also to White Earth Nation. And then to Leech Lake. The White Earth people gifted the Lakota people the jingle dress and then the story of the jingle dress took off.

Now, the colors of the jingle dress have a connection to the big drum ceremonies, but it was not explained to me.

The traditional jingle dress dancers never carried fans and never wore eagle feather and never wore leggings. They only had a belt and carried a small bag with them. The dancers moved forward and in a rapid side-to-side movement. They didn't have fancy footwork, didn't turn around and didn't back up when they were dancing. They were red, yellow, blue and green dresses and there were shiny little cones on them.

That's the story that was told to me."

Band member Pete Gahbow and his drum group will provide music in the documentary. Four women, Darcy BigBear, Chasity Gahbow, Ah-Nung Matrious and Karla Smallwood, will represent the four jingle dress dancers from the old man's dream.

Six-year-old Arianna Sam, daughter of Herb and Patty Sam, will play the role of the little girl.

Herb and Patty said, "We are happy she is going to be part of this documentary and believe that this story should be told as it really happened.

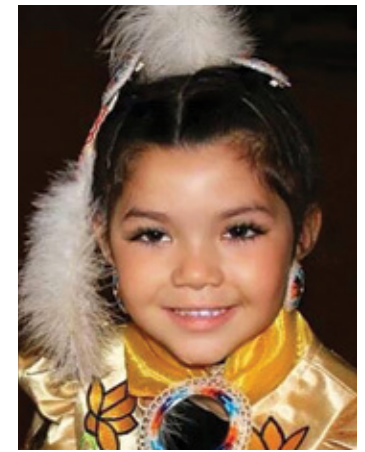
"Arianna's part is important because it will show how the dress originated, talk about why it is used, and show how the dress is used through generations of dancers as a healing dress and one that is highly respected."

Patty and Adrienne Benjamin will be the dressmakers for the film project.

Natalie said the Band, along with a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, is financing the documentary that will be shown on Twin Cities Public Television, which is also a collaborator on the project.



Rick Anderson filming a scene for a Federal disaster video with police, the military and Feds.



Ariana Sam will play the role of the little girl in the jingle dress documentary.

"There are stories all over the U.S. and Canada that say the jingle dress originated in their territory or reservation," said Natalie, who is the grant manager for the arts board funding.

The documentary team meets weekly and will use the summer to complete filming on the project. The group expects the final powwow footage to be shot during the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow in August. Then Rick will edit the piece and it should be final by the end of the year.

"The pictures or videos will be historic footage for future generations to see," Natalie said.

Amik said that while it took time to secure the funding and for all of the pieces to come together, he is pleased it's finally coming to fruition.

"The documentary will show our history and the protocol of the jingle dress," he said. "It's important that our people and our children know the Mille Lacs story of the jingle dress."

Rick added that the documentary "will be as real as it can be based on the story and when it was first told."

He said there will be "some updates and scenes filmed in contemporary fashion with music as it is now, but it will also show how far we've come today."

Seeking Volunteers

Those who have a personal story to tell about how the jingle dress has influenced their lives, or about their experience as a jingle dancer are encouraged to contact Rick Anderson at eagleclan24@yahoo.com. He is seeking people to provide a 15-second sound bite that can be considered for the documentary. Please provide a photo and a brief description of what you would like to say.

Highway 169 Bridge Replacement Project Near Lake Mille Lacs Begins June 1

Five-month project uses bypass lanes to minimize traffic impacts

Motorists on Highway 169 in Vineland, along the southwest shore of Lake Mille Lacs, may encounter slow traffic, flaggers and delays as a project to replace the Highway 169 bridge spanning the Rum River begins Monday, June 1.

Initially, Highway 169 between Twilight Road and Vineland Road will be reduced intermittently to a single lane during non-rush hours. When lanes are closed, flaggers will control traffic through the work zone. These initial closures will occur June 1 through late-June while crews construct temporary lanes to

carry traffic during the new bridge construction.

Motorists approaching the Highway 169 work zone in Vineland should slow down, be prepared to stop if necessary and watch for crews and heavy equipment.

In late-June, Highway 169 between Twilight Road and Vineland Road will be switched to temporary bypass lanes with narrow shoulders and a reduced speed limit.

The new bridge and all permanent lanes of Highway 169 will open by Oct. 29.

When complete, the project will result in a longer bridge with wider shoulders, improved safety and smoother ride.

To learn more about how bridge and road projects are chosen and funded, visit [Get Connected at **mndot.gov/getconnected**](http://GetConnectedat.mndot.gov/getconnected). For real-time travel information anywhere in Minnesota, visit 511mn.org.

Breaking the Silence: Confronting the Problem of Elder Abuse

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Though it's been an issue that has been around for longer than anyone knows, only in recent years has the topic of Elder abuse been openly discussed and addressed across Indian Country.

In March the Mille Lacs Band held a conference on Elder abuse, "Cultural Awareness is Prevention," that was followed in April by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's (MCT) "Indigenous Elder Abuse Awareness Conference."

"We believe the more it's talked about and openly addressed, the easier it is for Elders to speak up and talk about things they are going through," said Joanne Mulbah, the MCT's manager for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

"Elders write to us and tell us that now, because of these kinds of conferences and conversations, they know how to get help and how to talk about it," Joanne added.

This year, the fourth year the MCT has offered a conference on Elder abuse, had the biggest turnout so far. More than 340 attended from across the state and from Arizona, Oklahoma and South Dakota. The Mille Lacs Band was a major sponsor of the conference.

"Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and other Mille Lacs leaders have been very supportive of the event," Joanne said.

When the Band offered its Elder abuse conference, the goal was to bring awareness to people and create a safe forum for discussing some of the solutions, said Cindi Douglas, the Band's Elder Abuse Program Coordinator.

"Elder abuse is different than sexual or domestic abuse," said Cindi. "It can be financial abuse, neglect, abandonment, or it can be self-neglect.

"Elder abuse is where domestic violence was 30 years ago. People barely recognize or talk about it, let alone ask for or find help," said Cindi, adding that the Mille Lacs Band is only one of two tribes that have an Elder abuse program.

To help create awareness and to encourage conversations about it, Cindi frequently makes presentations, attends Elder meetings, and offers training to the police.

In July, August and September, the Band's program will host Elder fishing trips at Eddy's Resort in an effort to get to know Elders better and begin conversations about abuse.

Elder abuse is not exclusive to Native Americans, but it seems to strike a different chord because of the cultural teachings of the Ojibwe that say Elders are to be respected and honored.

"The Ojibwe culture teaches people that they are supposed to take care of their family," said Cindi. "For many in the younger generation, there's a lack of respect for Elders and the culture."

Joanne shares a similar perspective.

The common theme that comes out during her conversations and during the conferences is that strengthening the culture is critical.

"Children need to hear this and the professionals who work with Elders need to hear this," she said, adding that the Mille Lacs Band sponsored the MCT conference's keynote speaker, who focused on the importance of language and culture.

The loss of culture is a critical piece of the problem, said Sam Moose, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

"The negative impact of historical trauma and loss of culture are contributing factors to abuse in Indian Country, which unfortunately does not exclude Elders," Sam said.

"Additionally, the strong tribal values of the community and family, along with the mistrust of mainstream systems, become very real factors for Elders when they report abuse or seek protection," he added.

"These factors make addressing the issue in Indian Country very difficult with current law and will require a tribal solution that includes codes and tribal statutes."

If anyone has witnessed or suspects abuse of an Elder, many resources are available. The Band has a Family Violence Prevention Program, including a crisis line and shelter, along with community advocates and family services. For help 24/7 call the crisis line at 866-867-4006. For more information about the Band's program call Cindi Douglas at 218-768-3311.

County Hears Arguments for Social Host Ordinance

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, May 19, held a public hearing to receive input on adoption of a social host ordinance, which would make it illegal to host a party where underage drinking occurs. The board will vote on the proposed ordinance June 2. See millelacsband.com for the result of the vote.

The ordinance would make it a misdemeanor to host or allow a party on public or private property where underage drinking takes place, regardless of who provides the alcohol.

The Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention are encouraging the board to adopt the ordinance. Amber Kent said 10 youth and several adult coalition members attended the hearing, and some of the youth testified in favor of the ordinance. Kent said, "Of course there were some there that were opposed to the ordinance that got up and spoke as well, but that was good as we were then able to provide supportive arguments for their concerns." Letters of support and opposition were also read aloud.

The group has been trying to dispel myths about the ordinance by emphasizing several points:

- Individuals cannot be charged if they did not know about

an underage drinking party.

- Parents cannot be charged for allowing or permitting alcohol use by their own child while present in their own household.
- This does not apply to legally protected religious observances.
- Individuals cannot be charged if they take steps to prevent the underage drinking once they realize it is occurring.

The MAPP group, which is chaired and co-chaired by Band employees Amanda Nickaboine and Byron Ninham, also makes the following points in advocating for the ordinance:

- 90 percent of community adults disapprove of high school youth drinking alcohol.
- OVER 100 towns and cities in MN have already adopted social hosts ordinances.
- 26 counties in MN have adopted a social host ordinance.
- MN youth who drink alcohol monthly or more often are at least 6 times more likely to have used marijuana or abused prescription drugs not prescribed to them.
- 85 percent of community adults are concerned about the

harm from underage drinking.

- 46 percent of Mille Lacs county 11th grade students who reported consuming alcohol in the past 30 days said they obtained the alcohol from parties.
- 100 percent of local law enforcement officers agree their communities should adopt a social host ordinance.
- A Social Host Ordinance will help the many youth who don't drink feel supported in their choice NOT to.

Sheriff Brent Lindgren and County Attorney Joe Walsh both support the adoption of the ordinance.

According to a MAPP brochure on the social host ordinance, "Underage use of alcohol has many adverse individual, social, and economic impacts on a community. Law enforcement reports it is often difficult to determine the actual provider, but often times there is someone who knowingly hosts, allows, or provides a venue for this illegal activity. Communities have found that imposing criminal responsibility on social hosts has a deterrent effect and reduces the number of underage drinking parties."

NCAI Midyear Conference to be held in St. Paul

The National Congress of American Indians will meet at RiverCentre in St. Paul June 28 to July 1 for their midyear conference. Mille Lacs Band Member Shena Matrious has been serving as co-chair of the local planning committee.

The welcoming reception on Sunday, June 28, will be held at the Mille Lacs Band's Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Lee Staples will give the opening invocation on Monday morning, June 29, and the AmVets Post 53 honor guard will present the colors. Timber Trails drum group — made up of Band members Chris Gahbow, Quintin Sam, Percy Benjamin and John Benjamin — will also participate in the opening ceremonies.

Cultural Night on Tuesday, June 30, will also be held at Crowne Plaza. Swamp Nation, a

drum group from East Lake, has been invited to participate in cultural night. Band Elder Larry 'Amik' Smallwood will present the story of the jingle dress.

The theme of the conference is "Nurturing Tribal Resources: Culture, Land and People." Each day's agenda includes dozens of sessions on a variety of topics, in addition to meetings of the executive committee and subcommittees. General Assemblies will be held Monday, June 29, Tuesday, June 30, and Wednesday, July 1.

More information is available at ncai.org. See the July issue of Inaajimowin and millelacsband.com for more information.

Eddy's Resort: Same Name, New Look

Andy McPartland Staff Writer

On May 5th, Eddy's Resort re-opened its doors to the public, revealing a major makeover to the Lake Mille Lacs mainstay. The event included an official ribbon cutting, full tours of the property and speeches from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures CEO Joe Nayquonabe, U.S. Congressman Rick Nolan, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, and National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr.

Eddy's Resort was established in 1960 by Edward Silker, a local man who also attended the re-opening. The resort became an iconic staple to the area, as it served as a boat launch for fishing excursions.

In 2002, Eddy's was acquired by the Mille Lacs Band's Corporate Commission — now known

as Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. The Band is excited to be part of the Lake Mille Lacs resort community and to carry on the legacy of Eddy's.

The revamped Eddy's Resort now offers several lodging options for guests to rent: 64 rooms, 1 Parlor suite and 4 private cabins. As always, guests can bring their own boat or rent an Eddy's vessel for a leisurely boat ride or fishing expedition.

Another new addition to the property is The Launch Bar & Grill. The restaurant features craft beer, cocktails, and a full menu of food from appetizers to signature entrees.

Stop in and see the all-new, Eddy's Resort today! Grab a drink, bite, or stay the night. For more information, visit eddyresort.com or call 320-532-3657.



Comfortable rooms, a lobby with a fireplace, and a gourmet restaurant are among the attractions at the new Eddy's Resort.

Dr. Eddy Silker and his wife were on hand for the grand opening.



Participating in the official ribbon cutting were Mille Lacs Band District II Representative David 'Niib' Aubid, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures CEO Joe Nayquonabe, Jr., Mille Lacs Band Secretary Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, National Indian Gaming Association chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr., Congressman Rick Nolan, Mille Lacs Band District III Representative Harry Davis, Mille Lacs Band District I Representative Sandra Blake and Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan addressed the crowd.

Student Achievement Celebrated at American Indian Graduation Banquet

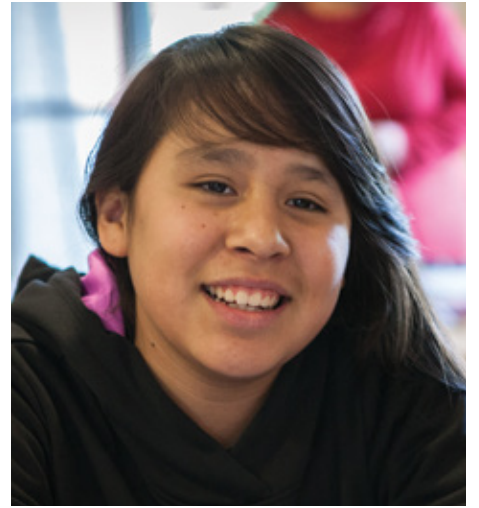
Mick Sawinski Staff Writer Bonn Banwell Photographer



Pictured (L-R): Sierra Churchill, Mariah Harrington, Ethan Smith, Samantha Mitchell, Noel Kegg, and Anna Davis



Noah Benjamin-Sam



Alexis Staples

On May 13th in the Rolf Olsen Center in Onamia, 17 recent high school graduates were honored for their hard work and commitment to their studies. Guest speaker Suzanne Wise, Commissioner of Education, spoke highly of each graduate. Other speakers included Nay Ah Shing School Principal Noah Johnson and Onamia Principal Jason Vold. Congratulations to each graduate on your achievement and we apologize if we missed any names.

East Central

- Jessica Benjamin

Hinckley-Finlayson

- Daylon Feuerhake
- Taylor Jackson
- Laikora Thompson
- Jacob Stenger

Isle graduates

- Makina DesJarlait

McGregor graduates

- Ashlinn Moore
- Brandon Wilkie
- Casandra Hill

Nay Ah Shing graduates

- Dallas Anderson
- Sage Boyd-Davidson
- Jakob Cash
- Paige Mitchell
- Tahnisha Sam

Onamia graduates

- Brittani Benjamin
- Sierra Churchill
- Anna Davis
- Jasmine Fetters
- Mariah Harrington
- Noel Kegg
- Samantha Mitchell
- Ethan Smith

To learn more about each graduate, we had them answer a series of questions about future plans, favorite memories and their greatest strengths. Once again, congratulations to all of this year's graduates!



Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise.



Makina Desjarlait with her parents

Mariah Harrington, 18

What's next after high school?: I plan to work and attend college.

What's your favorite memory of high school?: Too many amazing memories to name but my most recent memory is preparing to graduate.

What you will miss most about high school?: Learning from teachers that have been great mentors to me.

What are your greatest strengths?: I possess many great attributes, many qualities such as persistence, dedication, and intelligence. I have a great personality but most importantly a big caring heart.

Anna Davis, 18

What's next after high school?: College.

What's your favorite memory of high school?: Sports.

What you will miss most about high school?: Friends.

What are your greatest strengths?: Sports and language.

Samantha Naomi Mitchell, 17

What's next after high school?: College.

What's your favorite memory of high school?: After school activities.

What you will miss most about high school?: The sports.

What are your greatest strengths?: Determination, drawing, and math.

Ethan Smith, 17

What's next after high school?: I am going to get a job, and relax this summer.

What's your favorite memory of high school?: When I was in the 8th grade, that was the best year I have had.

What you will miss most about high school?: I will miss

my friends.

What are your greatest strengths?: To keep on doing what I do.

Noel Kegg, 18

What's next after high school?: Dental assisting school in Tucson, AZ.

What's your favorite memory of high school?: Class trips.

What you will miss most about high school?: Basketball season.

What are your greatest strengths?: Very outgoing and love to travel to youth conferences.

Sierra Churchill, 18

What's next after high school?: Spend summer in Arizona and off to college in the fall.

What's your favorite memory of high school?: Making new friends.

What you will miss most about high school?: The extra curricular activities.

What are your greatest strengths?: I'm persistent and goal orientated. I laugh and have fun.

Makina Anung-Ikwe DesJarlait, 20

What's next after high school?: Looking into jobs and schools.

What's your favorite memory of high school?: Learning new stuff to prepare for the future.

What you will miss most about high school?: Seeing everyone's beautiful faces.

What are your greatest strengths?: Being kind to others.

Nay Ah Shing Graduation

Nay Ah Shing graduation was held at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28. Speakers were Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise, and social studies teacher Amanda Sorby. Heather Sasse was the master of ceremonies.



2015 Nay Ah Shing graduates Jakob Cash, Tahnisha Sam, Darian Kegg, Paige Mitchell, Dallas Anderson Jr., and Sage Boyd-Davidson.



Nay Ah Shing School drummers played a Grand Entry song and an Honor Song.

9th Annual Ojibwe Language College Quiz Bowl

Ramona Bird Grant Writer

The 9th Annual Ojibwe Language College Quiz Bowl, sponsored by the Tribal Sovereignty Institute, took place on Saturday, April 25 at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD).

Six teams representing Minnesota colleges participated in the competition, which supports high school students continuing their Ojibwe studies at the university level.

The Quiz Bowl was a double-elimination tournament comprised of two divisions: Division I was for teams that have less than one year of Ojibwe language courses at the college level and Division II teams had more than one year of study.

After exciting competition rounds, UMD clinched first place in Division I. Second place went to the Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College/Central Lakes College. In Division II, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities secured first place and second place went to UMD.

Congratulations to the Division I second place team, Michelle Beaulieu and Bob Andrys representing Central Lakes College and Trevor Spry representing Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College/Central Lakes College.



Michelle Beaulieu and Bob Andrys (holding his son), representing Central Lakes College, took home second place in Division I.

To read more about the 9th Annual Ojibwe Language Quiz Bowl, visit <http://bit.ly/1JjZV15>



End of the School Year Picnic & Community Celebration (ESYP)

The ESYP is Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Join us for this annual event now held at Minnehaha Falls Wabun Park D Pavilion.

Game contests include hula hoop, egg toss, guess the candies in jars, and other games. There's face painting and balloon twisting by Anita Lovelace of "Twisted Balloons."

On the menu: hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, polish, potato & mac salad, chips, beans, fruit, cupcakes, cookies, and refreshments.

There will be door prizes for kids and adults. MUST be present to win. Volunteers needed. Come early at 9 a.m. to help with set-up, games, and give us a hand.

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and towels — there's a pool nearby.

Call the Urban Office if you can help! Happy summer!

Ojibwe Language Classes

Ojibwe language classes are offered in all three districts. In District I, John P. Benjamin offers classes Monday through Friday and individual programs at the community center. Wednesday night is a "language table" at the community center from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call John at 320-532-4181, ext 7831.

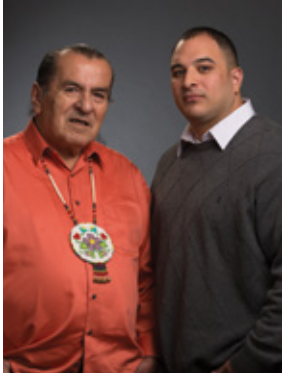
In District II, Adrienne Benjamin holds classes for youth at Chiminising Niigaan, and she will soon add a Monday evening adult class. Check with Adrienne at 320-233-6269. for summer hours. Sam Peet will be teaching classes at East Lake. Contact Sam for details at 218-768-3311.

In District III, Amik and Dave Matrious hold class on Tuesday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. at the old corporate building in Hinckley. For more information, call Amik at 320-233-6269 or Dave at 320-384-7598.

Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Mick Sawinski at mick@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018.

The July issue deadline is June 15.



Daga Minawaanigozidaa Bimaadiziyang Let's Be Happy in Our Lives

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Mii dash waa-tazhindamaan aaniin ge-izhichigepan a'aw Anishinaabe da-ni-minawaanigwendang bimaadizid. Ishke noongom a'aw Anishinaabe gaawiin odanikwenimaasiin naa gaye gaawiin odani-apenimosiin inow Manidoon i'iw iko akeyaa gaa-izhi-bimiwidood i'iw bimaadizid a'aw Anishinaabe ishkweyaang gaa-ayaad.

What I want to talk about is what *Anishinaabe* can do to live a happy life. Today *Anishinaabe* does not think about or does not rely on the *Manidoog* as *Anishinaabe* way back used to.

Ishke imaa wiigiwaaming gii-kabeshid mewinza a'aw Anishinaabe, nawaj imaa besho ogii-wiij'ayaawaan naa gaye apane gii-noondawaad inow Manidoon imaa eyaanijin bagwaj. Mii-go apane gii-asemaakawaad inow Manidoon. Mii imaa weweni gii-noondawaad gii-pagakitawaad inow Manidoon, onji imaa biinji-wiigiwaaming gii-kabeshiwaad. Mii dash imaa gaa-onjikaamagak moozhag gii-asemaakawaad inow Manidoon. Ishke dash noongom biinji-waakaa'iganing ayaayang, gaawiin igo gidaabaji-noondawaasiwaanaanig ingiw Manidoog bagwaj imaa eyaajig eshkam gidani-wanenimaanaanig da-apenimoyangiban.

Long time ago when *Anishinaabe* used to live in wigwams they lived much closer to the *Manidoog* and constantly heard them. They constantly put tobacco for the *Manidoog*. They were able to hear the *Manidoog* clearly, because they lived inside of these wigwams. As a result of the ability to hear the *Manidoog*, they put their tobacco for them often. Because we live in houses these day, we do not always hear the *Manidoog* that are outside, and as a result we are forgetting about the *Manidoog* and that they are a source of help for us.

Ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe ishkweyaang apane gii-noondawaad inow Manidoon imaa bagwaj miinawaa apane gii-asemaakawaad gii-kanoonaad inow Manidoon da-naadamaagod. Gaawiin igo aapiji nebowa imaa biinjina ogii-ayaanziin ge-wanishkwe'igod iko awiya ondamandang gegoo maagizhaa gaye niizaanendang gegoo.

Long time ago since the *Anishinaabe* always heard the *Manidoog* out in the wild they in turn always made tobacco offerings to them asking for their help. They did not have all of the inner turmoil of being worried or being fearful of anything.

Ishke iko a'aw Anishinaabe gii-tazhindang i'iw wasidaawendamowin, mii i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gagaanzomindwaa gaa-kagwaadagitoojig, "Mii imaa bagwaj izhaag da-o-nisanaamoyeg ogii-izhi-wiindaanaawaa. Mii ingiw Manidoog bagwaj eyaajig gida-noondaagowaag gida-zhawenimigowaag miinawaa gida-naadamaagowaag." Ishke mii imaa gii-wiindamaageng, nebowa ingiw Manidoog ayaawag imaa bagwaj ge-naadamaagojin a'aw Anishinaabe.

When our *Anishinaabe* spoke of emotional difficulties they were having such difficulties were told, "Go out into the woods, scream, cry, and holler to release your emotions. The *Manidoog* will hear you, they will take pity on you, and they will help you." Because of this teaching, we know that there are a lot of *Manidoog* out there that will help the *Anishinaabe*.

Ishke dash noongom a'aw Anishinaabe eyaad, gaawiin omoonendanziin i'iw inagokwekamig Manidoon imaa eyaanijin imaa megweyaak. Ninoondawaag sa wiin igo aanind a'aw Anishinaabe ani-dazhindang ezhi-naadamaagoowizid imaa megweyaak baa-ayaad.

Nowadays the *Anishinaabe* does not realize the abundance of *Manidoog* out in the woods. I do however hear of some *Anishinaabe* talk about the help they get by being out in the woods.

Mii imaa noongom ge-izhaapan a'aw Anishinaabe ani-gagwaadagi'igod gegoo. Ishke ingiw mitigoog imaa naabawijig imaa bagwaj manidoowaadiziwag Mitigwaabiiwininiwan izhi-wiinjigaazowan inow Manidoon gegigaabawiwaajin. Mii a'aw bezhig a'aw Manidoog eyaad ge-naadamookiban. Maagizhaa gaye besho gidanaaniibaw da-minjiminad a'aw mitig. Mii imaa azhigwa gaa-asemaakawad, mii imaa ge-biindigeshkaagoyamban i'iw menidoowaadak gegigaabawiwaad ingiw mitigoog da-ni-naadamaagoowiziyang dash da-ikowebinigaadeg wenishkwe'igoyan.

That is where the *Anishinaabe* can go when he is having a difficult time. The trees that stand out in the woods are spiritual beings and the *Manidoog* within them are known as Mitigwaabiiwininiwag. That is one *Manidoog* that could help you. What you could do is stand close and hang on to a tree. With your tobacco being offered, the spiritual energy from the tree can go into your spirit and knock out whatever is bothering you, helping you as a result.

Ishke gaye ingiw bineshiinyag, nebowa gaye imaa ayaawag imaa bagwaj. Ishke geget manidoowaadiziwag gaye wiinawaa. Ishke nimenewendaan iko "nishiimedog" izhi-wiinagwaa bineshiinyag. Ishke mii a'aw Manidoog eniwemag a'aw Wenabozho ezhi-wiinaad. Mii gaye inow ge-naadamaagopanen a'aw Anishinaabe aniasemaakawaad. Aano-go agaashiinyiwaad nebowa ingiw bineshiinyag, gaawiin gidaa-aanawenimaasiwaanaanig geget mashkawaadiziwag naa gaye geget manidoowaadiziwag.

There are also the birds that are plentiful out in the woods. These birds also have spiritual powers. I love addressing the birds "nishiimedog". That is the way *Wenabozho* addressed the birds as his little brothers and sisters. These are the ones that also help the *Anishinaabe* when they put their tobacco. Even though these birds are small in size, we cannot underestimate their strength and spiritual powers.

Ishke dash nebowa omaa ayaawag gaye ingiw awesiinyag bebiwaabaminaagozijig, mii-go dibishkoo ezhi-manidoowaadiziwag gaye wiinawaa. Ishke ingiw akiwenziyibaneg ogii-tazhindaanaawaa mewinza gii-moonenimind a'aw Anishinaabe gaa-izhi-manezid i'iw bimaadiziwag. Gii-pi-azhegiwe a'aw Niigaani-Manidoog gii-nandwewemaad inow owiiji-manidooman da-naadamawindwaa ingiw Anishinaabeg gaa-izhi-gidimaagiziwaad. Ishke dash mii ingiw gakinawawesiinyag ingiw mesoosaabewabaminaagozijig biinish gaye bebiwaabaminaagozijig wayeshkad gaa-nakodangig wii-naadamawaawaad inow Anishinaaben. Ishke dash gaa-ni-inaajimong, mii imaa ani-wiindamaageng gaa-izhi-zhawenimaawaad inow odanishinaabemiwaan ingiw awesiinyag, mii-go dibishkoo ezhi-zhawenimaawaad odanishinaabemiwaan noongom.

There are many animals that are small in size, but yet who are also powerful beings. The old men told about the time that when it was realized that the *Anishinaabe* was lacking spiritual energy in their lives. The creator or the head *Manidoog* came back to where the people were and called on his fellow *Manidoog* to help the *Anishinaabe* who were really pitiful. It was all of the animals, from the largest beings to the tiniest of them who were the first to answer the request of the head *Manidoog* to help the *Anishinaabe*. That story tells us how much compassion the animals had for the *Anishinaabe* at that time, and they still carry the same compassion for the *Anishinaabe* today.

Mii gaye imaa nibiikaang ani-dazhimindwaa ayaawaad ingiw Manidoog. Ishke gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyaan gii-kwiwizensiwiyaan, asemaa weweni akawe indaa-asaa imaa nibiikaang dabwaa-dazhitaayaan imaa. Nigii-wiindamaagoo, aniindi-go ani-waasaabikideg i'iw nibi, Manidoog imaa ayaawag imaa zaaga'iganiing miinawaa ziibiing. Nigii-igoo, da-ni-manaaji'ag Manidoog imaa eyaad. Gego anooj indaa-baa-izhichigesiin imaa nibiikaang. Dabwaa-bagizod imaa nibiikaang maagizhaa gaye azhigwa wii-wewebinaabiid maagizhaa gaye wii-manoominiked dabwaa-bagidaabiid, akawe asemaan oada-asaan a'aw Anishinaabe, ingii-igoo. Ishke gaye ingiw giigoonyag imaa eyaajig imaa nibiikaang gii-miinigoowizi a'aw Anishinaabe da-ondanjiged. Manidoowaadiziwag gaye wiinawaa ingiw giigoonyag.

There are also the *Manidoog* who exist within the bodies of water who are talked about. When I was a young boy I was taught to put my tobacco in the water before going into the lake. I was told that wherever there were bodies of water, such as lakes or rivers there is a *Manidoog* within. I was told to respect that *Manidoog* in that body of water. I should not fool around while I am in the lake. Before *Anishinaabe* swims in the lake, maybe prior to fishing, ricing, or netting, I was told that *Anishinaabe* should put their tobacco first. There are also fish in the lake that *Anishinaabe* were given to eat. Those fish too are spiritual beings.

Ishke awiya ani-ganawaabandag iniw anishinaabewinikaazowinan eyaang noongom a'aw Anishinaabe, mii-go omaa nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe apinikaazod inow awesiinyan, bineshiinyan, naa-go wawaaj inow giigoonyan. Ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe ani-waawiindaawasod, mii imaa gii-pi-naazikaagod inow Manidoon gegishkawaawaajin inow awesiinyan, bineshiinyan, naa-go gaye giigoonyan. Mii-go imaa miinawaa wiindamaagoowiziyang ezhi-manidoowaadak gakinawawesiinyan gaye omaa eyaamagak omaa akiing.

If someone were to take a look at the *Anishinaabe* names that people have, they will see that many of these names come from the animals, the birds, and even the fish. When someone is going to give a child an *Anishinaabe* name, it is the spirit within these **Continued on page 11**

animals, birds, and the fish that approach the name giver. Here is another example of a teaching where we are told that everything on this earth has spiritual energy.

Geget nebowa ayaamagad ge-naadamaagod a'aw Anishinaabe ani-gagwaadagitood. Ishke mii i'iw mewinzha a'aw gidanishinaabeminaan gaa-onji-minwaanigwendaagozid gii-pimaadizid, mii imaa gii-apanimod inow Manidoon bagwaj eyaanijin gaye. Ishke ani-biminizha'amang miinawaa ani-gikinawaabamang

a'aw gidanishinaabeminaan mewinzha gaa-izhi-bimiwidood obimaadiziwinn zakab gida-izhi-ayaamin imaa biinjina miinawaa da-ni-minawaanigoziyang.

Without a doubt there is a lot to help the *Anishinaabe* when he is having a hard time. That is why our *Anishinaabe* from way back enjoyed life, because he relied on those *Manidoog* in the wild to help him. If we go after and learn from the *Anishinaabe* in the past how they carried their lives, we will be at peace within and as a result be happy with our lives.



DISTRICT 3

Lake Lena Elementary Students Take in the Como Zoo

Mick Sawinski Staff Writer/Photographer

On May 14th Head Start students from Lake Lena Elementary visited the Como Zoo in St. Paul. Students spent the day learning about different types of wildlife. The trip was an end-of-the-year reward for the students' hard work in class.



Pictured (L-R): Avriana Benjamin, Jonathon Reynolds, KimBella Defoe, Rylan Hatfield, Eugenia Martin, Mckayla Jenkins, Xzavier St John, Niindaanis Jenkins, Aris Richey, and Westin Echeverria.

Protect Our Lands from the Sandpiper Pipeline

A public hearing on the Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline was scheduled for Friday, June 5, at 10 a.m. at the East Lake Community Center, 36666 State Hwy. 65, McGregor, MN 55760.

Since no hearings were held on any of the Indian reservations that will be impacted by this project, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin scheduled the hearing under the authority of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as a sovereign Indian Nation charged with protecting the welfare of its Members.

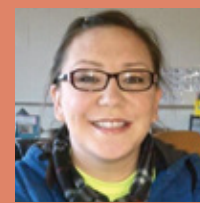
For information on the outcome of the hearing and an update on the status of the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline, see millelacsband.com or the July issue of *Inaajimowin*.

Vineland Road to be Paved

Vineland Road, which runs between Hwy. 169 and Timber Trails Road, will be paved this summer in a cooperative project of the Mille Lacs Band and Kathio Township. Construction is expected to begin in late June or early July and to last two or three weeks.

Gidinwewininaan

Baabitaw Boyd Gaa-ozhibii'ang



This month's article is about the different objectives for children and lessons teaching for kindergarten readiness.

Mii iw waa-

ini-dazhindamaan noongom gaa-kikinoo'amaagoowaad ingiw abinoojiinyag omaa gikinoo'amaadiiwigamigong Wewinabi ezhi-wiinjigaadeg. Mii gii-niizhwaasowag ingiw zayaagijibii'igejig . Anooj dash nigii-kagwe-gikinoo'amawaanaanig ingiw abinoojiinyag weweni da-gashki'ewiziwaad ani-niigaani-gikinoo'amawindwaa. Giishpin dash mizhodamowaad ge-bagakendamowaad onow gikinoo'amaadiiwinnan, nawaj wii-wenipanad wii-izhaawaad iwidi endazhi-maajitaang.

- Da-apiitenindizowaad.
- Da-ani-nitaa-wajepiziwaad.
- Da-nitaa-gwayakosidood zenagakin
- Da-nisidawinang asigibii'iganan
- Da-nisidawinang ozhibii'igaansan
- Da-ani-gikenimaawaad inow manidoon ezhinikaazonid
- Da-ani-apiitendang i'iw anishinaabe izhitwaawin

Ishke dash geyaabi nigikinoo'amaagoomin ge-izhi-nitaa-gikinoo'amaagekwewiyaang naa biinish-go gaye da-ani-nitaa-ojibwemoyaang weweni da-gikinoo'amawangidwaa da-ani-nitaa-ojibwemowaad miinawaa da-gikenindizowaad ezhi-anishinaabewiwaad ingiw abinoojiinyag gaye wiinawaa.

Nay Ah Shing Summer Food Service Program

Nay Ah Shing School on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation would like to announce their participation in the Summer Food Service Program again this summer.

Meals will be served free of charge to all children ages 1 – 18, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, at no charge. Meals meet nutritional standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Meals will be provided Mondays through Fridays, starting June 8, 2015 through August 14, 2015 with the exception of July 3, 2015 at:

Nay Ah Shing High School
43651 Oodena Drive
Onamia

Breakfast will be served from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2nd Annual Honor Our Elders Powwow

Friday, June 12
Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds

Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, dancing, and door prizes. Everyone is welcome!

Lunch served: 11 a.m.
Grand Entry: 1 p.m.
Host Drum: Timber Trails

Elder Warrior and Elder Princess Contest: must be a Mille Lacs Band member Elder, in full regalia, and 55 years or older. **Registration for Elder royalty** is from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For more information call 320-532-7539 or 532-7854.

If you see or suspect Elder abuse, call the MLB Elder Abuse Program: 320-532-7793 or the MLB Elder Services Program: 320-532-7854.

WEWIN Fundrasier Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 20
Grand National Golf Course
300 Lady Luck Drive
Hinckley, MN 55037



Four person scramble. 8 a.m. Shotgun Start.

Three payout categories: Elders, Women, and Men.

Cost: \$400 per team

For details call: 320-532-7486

All proceeds will support scholarships for Mille Lacs Band women to attend the 2015 WEWIN Conference, hosted this year by the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, August 17 – 19, 2015.

Event sponsored by: MLB WEWIN Chapter and Melanie Benjamin, WEWIN Founder and Treasurer.

4th Annual Bradley Roache, Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament

Krista Roache Contributor

Get your team ready! The family of Brad Roache is hosting the 4th Annual Bradley Roache Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday, July 25, at Territory Golf Club in Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Bradley Roache Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. Funds are awarded to Native Americans pursuing degrees in law enforcement and criminal justice.

A Mille Lacs Band member, Brad dedicated his life to public safety. He served with the Minneapolis Police Department for 24 years and was active on the homicide/robbery unit and the emergency response unit. After Brad retired, he served the Mille Lacs Band as the director of public safety and the Corporate Commission's director of security and surveillance.

The golf tournament is a four-person scramble. The registration fee is \$400 per team. The tournament will also have raffle prizes, a silent auction, and on-course games.

For more information on the tournament or the scholarship, contact Krista Roache Klug at 320-224-7061 or e-mail brmemorialgolf@hotmail.com.

Memorial Day Powwow

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer

The 20th Annual Memorial Day Powwow, hosted by AmVets Post 53 and Mille Lacs Indian Museum, took place indoors on May 25 due to the rain, but the dancers and drummers didn't let the foul weather dampen their spirits.

Allen Weyaus emceed the event and introduced the honor guard, which was composed of Marvin Beaulieu, John Reed, Diane Nickaboine and Tony Pike. Joe Nayquonabe, Sr. gave the invocation.



Allen Weyaus



Robert DesJarlait and Uvalle RedKnife



Joe Nayquonabe



Little Otter Singers



Honor guard



Dancers of all ages enjoyed songs from several different drum groups.

Wanted: Youth Powwow Dancers

Do you love to dance at powwows? Would you like to represent your community at other powwows for a year? Would you like to be a role model for other youth? If yes, you could be a great candidate to run for Royalty.

Be a contestant at the 49th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Royalty Contest (August 21–23, 2015).

Candidates must be: 6–18 years of age and a Mille Lacs Band member, or a direct descendant of a Mille Lacs Band member.

Jr. Brave and Jr. Princess: 6–12 years of age
Sr. Brave and Sr. Princess: 13–18 years of age

The deadline to sign up is August 1, 2015, but we recommend that you sign up early so you have plenty of time to complete your required hours for Cultural activities.

For more information and application packets please contact Chasity Gahbow at 320-532-7486 or email Chasity.Gahbow@millelacsband.com.



d2 DISTRICT 2

Inaugural Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

The District II Powwow Committee is very proud to announce the Inaugural Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow, which will take place at the Minisinaakwaang Powwow Grounds located four miles south of McGregor, MN on July 24–26, 2015.

The first 15 registered drums will be paid. Dancer registration will be open daily with daily payouts. The DII powwow committee will be sponsoring a youth special Friday Night, Men's woodland Special Saturday Night, Women's side step special and 3 man hand drum contest on Sunday. The DII powwow committee will be sponsoring a Woodland Warrior Relay on Sunday at

9 a.m. 3 division of co-ed teams will compete in canoeing, running, and biking.

Contact Michaa Aubid at 218-260-7690 or email michaa.aubid@gmail.com. We are also asking youth ages 5–18 (Band members/direct descendants) who are interested in being considered for the Royalty contest to contact Cheyanne Peet at 701-278-0229 or email cheyanne.peet@mlacademy.org. Interested vendors should also contact Cheyanne Peet no later than July 10, 2015. Event details will follow.

d3 DISTRICT 3

24th Annual Grand Celebration

Over \$85,000 in prize money



June 19, 20, and 21 at Grand Casino Hinckley (800-472-6321)

Invited Drums: Big Bear (Saskatchewan), Bear Creek (Ontario), and Thunder Hill (Oklahoma)

Arena Staff:

- **Master of Ceremonies:** Terry Fiddler (Prairie Island) and Amik (Hinckley)
- **Arena Directors:** Sherwin Obey (Montana) and Randy Paskemin (Utah)
- **Judges:** Dino (Flandreau) and Gabe Derosiers (Lake of the Woods Ontario)
- **Local Host:** Little Otter (Mille Lacs)
- **Invited Drums:** Big Bear (Saskatchewan), Bear Creek (Ontario), and Thunder Hill (Oklahoma)
- **Specials Coordinator:** Pete Gahbow (Mille Lacs)

Area Hotels:

- **Days Inn:** 320-384-7751 (104 Grindstone Court, Hinckley)
- **Travel Lodge:** 320-384-6112 (325 Fire Monument Road, Hinckley)
- **RV Park/Campground:** 800-468-3517 (777 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley)
- **Grand Northern Inn:** 800-468-3517 (604 Weber Avenue, Hinckley)
- **Grand Hinckley Inn:** 800-468-3517 (777 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley)

WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament: Saturday, June 20 at the Grand National Golf Course. See page 10 for additional information including cost.

d1 DISTRICT 1

Veteran and Active Duty Flags

The Iskigamizigan Powwow Committee is currently seeking out Mille Lacs Band families that intend to honor a family Veteran and/or Active Duty Band members by flying their U.S. Flag at the upcoming 48th Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow which is being held August 15–17, 2015!

Please note that the flag raising will take place on Friday, August 21, 2015. All flags will remain flying for the duration of the powwow and will be illuminated throughout Friday and Saturday nights. The lowering of the flags will take place Sunday, August 23, 2015 prior to the Adult exhibitions. We strongly encourage you and your family to listen for the MC to announce for your family to start gathering at your Veteran's Flag pole.

If your family intends on honor a veteran in your family during this time, please complete the form to your right. All completed forms can be returned to Tony Pike at email Tony.Pike@millelacsband.com or mail to Attention Powwow Committee, 43408 Oodena Dr., Onamia, Minnesota, 56359.

Deadline to confirm your intention is August 14, 2015!



Veteran and Active Duty Family Flags Form

Name of Veteran/Active Duty family member: _____

Rank: _____

Years of Service: _____

Military Service: _____

Military Operation(s): _____

Medals Awarded: _____

Who will be carrying in the Veteran's Flag:

Name: _____

Rank: _____

Military Service: _____

Please provide your name and contact information: _____

Mail this form by Friday, August 14 to:

Attention Powwow Committee
43408 Oodena Dr.
Onamia, MN 56359

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy June Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mary Ann Ailport
Donald Ray Anderson
Randall Wayne Anderson
Ronald Dale Anderson
Shirley Ann Beach
Arvina Marie Benjamin
Sharon Lee Benjamin
Rhonda Marie Bentley
Shirley Jane Boyd
David Bradley Jr.
Rory Levine Bruneau
Clifford Kenneth Churchill
Sherry Elaine Colson
Emma Compelube
Brenda Lee Day
Simon Eugene Day Jr.
Ellagene Diane Dorr
Peter Jerome Dunkley
Rosetta Marie Eagle
Bruce Wayne Frye
George Allen Garbow Jr.
Kat Anne Garbow
Melanie Raemel Garbow
Marilyn Ann Gurneau
Monica Louise Haglund
Steven Jerome Hanks
Bruce Duane Hansen
Devona Lee Haskin
Catherine Hedstrom
Shirley Ann Hillstrom
Dorothy Jean Hofstedt
Robert Dwaine Kegg
Connie Lou Kevan
Marlowe James LaFave
LeRoy Joseph Mager
Robert Wayne Mayotte
Clarence Moose
John Gene Morrow
Barbara Jean Mulhall
Dana Lou Nickaboine
Georgia Louise Nickaboine
Joel Jay O'Brien
Alof Andrew Olson Jr.
Gordon Gail Parr
Patricia Pindegayosh
Daniel Wayne Quaderer
Alan Duane Ray
Charlene Ann Shingobe
Charles Duane Shingobe

Warren Skinaway
Pearl Anne St. John
Dean Ray Staples
Frances Staples
Francine Wanda Staples
Judy Ann Swanson
Ann Marie Thalín
Arlene Rene Weous
Loris Marie White
Judy Jo Williams

Happy June Birthdays:

Happy birthday **William Boyd** on 6/1 from Grandma Shirley and family. • Happy 5th birthday **Alizaya Wagner** on 6/1, love Mommy, Elias, Tank, Rico, Gramma Tammy, Uncle Brandon, Auntie Chantel, Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday **Gretchen** on 6/2 from Cassandra, Travis, and Trevor Powers. • Happy birthday **Auntie Arvina** on 6/2 from Cassandra, Crystal, Leighnah, Kayla, and Caryn. • Happy birthday **Dante James** on 6/3 with lots of love from Mom, Selena, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Grama Vera, Stone, DeaLayna, Derek, and Frankee. • Happy 9th birthday **Jada Marie Wind** on 6/5, love always, Mom and Dad. • Happy birthday **Rome Bedausky** on 6/7, with love from Mom, Dad, Logan, Uncle Jerome, Nikki, Brent, Lyric, Taryn, and Gramma Mary. • Happy birthday **Leona Yellowhammer aka Kitty** on 6/8, love Mom. • Happy birthday **Booty** on 6/9, love Booty. • Happy birthday to my cuz **Rodney** on 6/9 from Brigitte and Donnie. • Happy 1st birthday **Logan Best** on 6/14, love Mom, Dad, Brother Rome, Brent, Lyric, Taryn, Grandma Mary, Uncle Jerome, Nikki, Uncle Guy, and Grandma & Grandpa Best. • Happy 1st birthday **Bianca Valerie** on

6/16, love Mom, Dad, Papa Brad, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wesley, Brynley, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Randi, and Auntie Rachel. • Happy birthday **Luis** on 6/16, love Elijah Alexander, Mom, Isabel, Dana, Braelyn, Brynley, Michael Jr., Grandma Pam, Tommy, Ana, and Reese. • Happy birthday **Sasha** on 6/16 from Cassandra, Travis, and Trevor. • Happy 1st birthday **Dana Micheal Schwensen** on 6/17, love, Mom, Dad, Nana Stacey, Luis, Elijah, Braelyn, Brynley, Michael Jr., Great Grandma Pam, Tommy, Ana, and Reese. • Happy 55th birthday to my loving husband **Steven Hanks** on 6/18 from your wife, Lorna and all the kids and grandkids. We love you, hope your day is full of joy. • Happy birthday **Auntie Jen** on 6/19 from Cassandra, Travis, and Trevor. • Happy birthday to my **Great Auntie Shirley** on 6/19 from Brigitte and Donnie. • Happy birthday **Grams** on 6/19, love Amy, David, Albert, and Andy. We love you! • Happy birthday to my baby boy **Jereck Weyaus** on 6/20 and many, many more. Love you lots, from Mom, Danni Jo, Elliott & Blazer, Chris Weyaus, and Raenelle & Kids. • Happy birthday **Candace** on 6/20 from Cyrell, Mom, Richard, Rachel, Kelia, and Railie. We love you! • Happy birthday **Duane Jr.** on 6/22 from Cassandra, Travis, and Trevor. • Happy birthday **Kevin** on 6/23, love Mom, Dad, Sister, Papa Brad, Uncle Brad, Auntie Melissa, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wesley, Brynley, Bianca, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Randi, and Auntie Rachel. •

Happy birthday **Mom** on 6/24, love Brandon, Chantel, and Brandi Jo. • Happy birthday **Gramma Tammy** on 6/24, with all our love Elias, Tank, Alizaya, Rico, Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday **Lindsey** on 6/29 from Cassandra, Travis, and Trevor. • Happy birthday **Ravin** on 6/30, love your family. • Happy birthday to **Little BIG sis Kayla** on 6/30 from Cass, Travis, Trevor, MOM, GRAM, Crystal, Leighnah, and BOB.

Other

Announcements:

The family of Daniel Boyd Jr. would like to take this time to say Miigwech to all relatives and friends for the comforting words and hugs we received during our great loss. Also to **Amik** (Larry Smallwood) and his helpers for the ceremony. I, Joanne would also like to take this time to say Miigwech to **Lisa Blahosky-Olivarez** and the **Public Health team** for being there for me when I needed them the most. Dan will be greatly missed. Thank you from: Joanne Boyd & Chris Weyaus, Danni Jo Harkness & family, Dan Boyd III & Tim Boyd, Bette Sam & family, Clarence Boyd & family, Delores Hegland & family, and Juanita Weyaus & family. • **Anna Darria Silva** is graduating from San Diego State University on May 17, 2015 with a B.A. in Television, Film, and New Media with emphasis on Production. Congratulations from Mom, Dad, Teresa, Leticia, Junior, Mudd, Jon, Sammy, Steven, Grandma, and Grandpa. All that hard work paid off! We love you are are extremely proud of you! • Aniin my daughter, **Brittani Benjamin** is in the graduating

class of 2015 Onamia High school! Congratulations from her mother Desiree Benjamin, Father Gordon Sam, Grandmother's Lorraine Sam and Beverly Benjamin, sisters Brandi, Adrianna, brothers Nicholas, Michael, Corey, Noah, and Gordon Jr., nieces Alexis, Diamond, Destiny, and her new nephew Sincere! • Congratulations to our daughter Band member **Alicia Dorr-DelaCruz** for completing her Associate of Arts Degree at Minneapolis Community Technical College (MCTC). We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad (Rodney and Sharon Dorr). • **Andrew Skywalker Arensdorf** has graduated from Midland High School. He is the son of Misty Arensdorf (Band member) and Brian Arensdorf. • We would like to congratulate **Amber D. Benjamin** on her recent graduation from Brainerd High School and receiving the Chef's Association Scholarship!! We are extremely proud of you, and are excited that you have been accepted into a college of your own choosing. The Art Institutes International Minnesota will offer you the best of the best with instructors as well as an awesome learning experience! Love, Mom, Heather, Gramma, Auntie, Uncles John and JD, and Papa. • Congratulations to **Laikora Thompson, Taylor Jackson,** and **Daylan Feuerhake** — Hinckley/Finlayson graduates.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Mick Sawinski at mick@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018. *The deadline for the July issue is June 15.*

Mille Lacs Indian Museum June Events

Farm Fresh Fridays

Friday, June 5 from 4 – 7 p.m.

Kids Crafts: God's Eye Activity

Saturday, June 6 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fee: \$4 per kit (museum admission not included) Recommended for children ages 8 and up.

Birch Bark Basket Workshop

Saturday, June 27 from noon – 4 p.m.

Fee: \$25/\$20 MNHS members; additional supply fee of \$15 applies

Reservations: required three days prior to workshop, call 320-532-3632

Visit events.mnhs.org for detailed information on all the June events.

JUNE CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 7 | 8 Birch Bark Camp 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. | 9 Birch Bark Camp 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. 15th Annual Wisdom Steps Conference Black Bear Resort Carlton, MN | 10 Comm. Moose Visit 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. East Lake DII-A Como Zoo Field Trip 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Niigaan Chiminising Birch Bark Camp 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. 15th Annual Wisdom Steps Conference Black Bear Resort Carlton, MN | 11 Birch Bark Camp 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. 15th Annual Wisdom Steps Conference Black Bear Resort Carlton, MN | 12 2nd Annual Honor Our Elders Powwow 11 a.m. Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds See page 12 Ceremonial Dance: Tim and Tom East Lake | 13 DII-A Outdoor Rec. Day 12 – 5 p.m. Niigaan Chiminising Ceremonial Dance: Tim and Tom East Lake |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Niigaan Basketball Camp 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. DI Community Center | 17 Comm. Moose Visit 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Aazhoomog Niigaan Basketball Camp 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. DI Community Center | 18 Niigaan Basketball Camp 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. DII-A Community Center | 19 24th Annual Grand Celebration Grand Casino Hinckley See page 13 | 20 WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament 8 a.m. Grand National Golf Course See page 12 24th Annual Grand Celebration Grand Casino Hinckley See page 13 |
| 21 24th Annual Grand Celebration Grand Casino Hinckley See page 13 | 22 | 23 Ojibwe Immersion Camp Contact Chris Nayquonabe or Byron Ninham | 24 Comm. Moose Visit 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. East Lake Ojibwe Immersion Camp Contact Chris Nayquonabe or Byron Ninham | 25 Ojibwe Immersion Camp Contact Chris Nayquonabe or Byron Ninham | 26 | 27 DII-A Split Rock Lighthouse 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Niigaan Chiminising Birch Bark Basket Workshop Noon – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum See page 14 |
| 28 | 29 DII-A Fort Snelling (K-12) 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Niigaan Chiminising | 30 | | | | Want your event here? Email mick@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018. |

Circle of Health Update

Circle of Health's mission is to promote physical and mental well-being in all of our communities by assisting Mille Lacs Band members to acquire health coverage and eliminate barriers to health care access.

New Office in Hinckley

Circle of Health will be opening an office at the Grand Lodge in Hinckley in June 2015. More information will be posted on our webpage soon. Pamela Spears, Benefits Coordinator, will be located in Hinckley to provide outreach, enrollment assistance and accessibility to DII and DIII community members.

Outstanding Medical Bills or Hospital Statements

Don't let those bills pile up! If you have medical bills in your mail and they have not been paid or may go to collections, please bring your bills immediately to Circle of Health. We can help you review them to determine why they have not been paid. Circle of Health can help you talk with your providers or your insurance company to clear up your medical bills.

Contract Health Services

As of March 16th, 2015, Contract Health Services (now known as Patient Referred Care Services) is managed by Cheri Hample, Health Director of Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Any questions regarding eligibility or program services can be directed to Cheri Hample. Her number is 320-532-4163, ext. 2538. You can also contact Frances Davis, CHS Specialist, at 320-532-4163, ext. 2515.

Social Security Benefit/Award Letters

Circle of Health requires elders and disabled individuals on Medicare to submit a copy of their annual Social Security Benefit/Award letter. This letter comes from the Social Security Administration.

We have seen three types of letters that list your "annual benefit amounts." Please look for any letter that has these words at the beginning. If you are not sure if you have the correct letter, submit it to Circle of Health for review.

The letters may have headings that start with:

- Your New Benefit Amount
- Social Security Administration — Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance — Notice of Change in Benefit
- Social Security Administration — Information of Social Security Benefit

My Social Security

You can create your own account to access your benefit verification letter, to change your address and phone number, or to start or change direct deposit. There is no fee to create your My Social Security account, but you must have an email address. If you would like to set up or create an account, you

can do so on your own computer or you can stop in at Circle of Health and we can help you. The link to My Social Security is: ssa.gov/myaccount

Changes in your Medicare Benefits

If you cannot afford to have your Medicare health benefit taken out of your Social Security check, DO NOT dis-enroll from your Medicare Plans. Please contact Circle of Health and we will help you arrange for your Medicare Plan to bill Circle of Health directly. If you do dis-enroll, you will lose your health care coverage and will have to wait until October of the following year to re-enroll in a plan.

Hospital and Clinic Bills

If you have any hospital, clinic or pharmacy bills that have not been paid or are going into collections, please bring these documents into Circle of Health. We can help you clear up these bills before it is too late and they go into collections. Often the provider doesn't know you have health insurance or a certain Medicare benefit. You should give your provider a copy of all your health insurance cards and Medicare Plan cards.

Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance

Circle of Health is an official partner with MNSure, Minnesota's Health Insurance Exchange. We are proud to announce that we have certified assisters through the tribal government.

Circle of Health is here to help you and your family enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. If you don't have health insurance coverage, we can help you get covered on a plan. We help people enroll in MNSure or on the Healthcare.gov website.

You may be eligible for Medicaid or a low cost health insurance plan. Health Insurance is a benefit on top of the healthcare provided by Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Health insurance means more choices for our families and more resources for our tribal health facilities.

Call Circle of Health today to make an appointment or stop in to sign up for health insurance.

New Tribal Delta Dental Plan

Do you need dental coverage? The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has started a new dental plan for tribal members. We have been enrolling Band members who don't already have dental insurance in Delta Dental. Premiums for the Delta Dental Plan are paid by Circle of Health each month. You can enroll, add or remove dependents, or opt out of the plan by filling out a Delta Dental membership enrollment form provided on the band website under Circle of Health or at our office.

Enrollment Forms

It is that time of year again! Many of you updated your enrollment forms last year. Circle of Health requires all Mille Lacs Band members to update their Circle of Health enrollment

forms yearly. By updating your information, you are giving Circle of Health consent to receive and pay your insurance claims and to speak with providers regarding any insurance billing on your behalf.

Circle of Health requires verification, we need a copy of:

- All current insurance card(s) (upon receipt) — front and back.
- Certificate of Enrollment or Tribal ID for all MLB Tribal Members.
- Birth Certificates for any new dependents to your policy/account.
- Proof of Full-Time student status for all first-line descendants 18 to 23 years of age.

New Location

Circle of Health
43500 Migizi Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

320-532-7741 or 1-800-491-6106. Fax: 320-532-4354

Update from the Enrollment Office

Congratulations to Amanda Roache, new Enrollment Manager, who supervises daily operations in the Enrollment office.

We are happy to announce that the Mille Lacs Band has contracted with Creating Stronger Nations, Inc. to conduct a complete audit of our Enrollment records. Scheduled to take place in mid-June, the audit will verify our records are correct and ensure accuracy of our files.

The department's goal is to enhance transparency for Band members and ensure that we are properly managing tribal membership.

Also this year, we will begin using Progeny, an enrollment data management software. One of the system's key features is the ability to research lineal descendency, which can assist in researching and building family trees – a common request of our office.

If you have any questions please call Amanda Roache at 320-532-7440, or Director of Natural Resources Administration Rachel Shaugobay at 320-532-7439.

Circle of Health Outreach

- Wednesday, June 3 from 1 – 4 p.m. at Aazhoomog Clinic
- Wednesday, June 10 from 1 – 4 p.m. at East Lake Clinic
- Wednesday, June 17 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Urban Office
- Wednesday, June 24 from 1 – 4 p.m. at DII-A Isle Community Center

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.

Free Hearing Evaluations

Evaluations take place on the second Friday of each month at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Call 320-532-4163 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome — we will do our best to serve you. Ask us about the \$1,000 in hearing aid benefits you can receive from the Circle of Health.

Hearmore Hearing has offices in Saint Paul and Osseo. To schedule an appointment Monday through Friday, call the Saint Paul office at 651-771-4019 or the Osseo office at 763-391-7433.

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