

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

JULY 2015 | VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 07



## MINISINAAKWAANG SAYS NO TO SANDPIPER

Darrell Shingobe, right, testified at the Sandpiper Hearing in District II on June 5

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin! Our annual Grand Hinckley Celebration is now behind us, and what a wonderful weekend it was! The scorching heat may have slowed some down a bit, but I know that nothing could diminish the joy of the dancers, enjoying family time together and celebrating our culture. Miigwech to the Pow Wow Committee for their hard work and dedication for turning out another wonderful powwow!

My June schedule began with a June 2–4 meeting of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST), which the Mille Lacs Band played a key role in founding in 1994. MAST represents tribes from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, and we gather regularly to ensure that our common issues (like fighting mining/pipelines and opiates) are advanced. We had an in-depth discussion about inter-tribal collaboration to stop the spread of opiates.

On June 5, I convened a public hearing on the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline project in East Lake, using the Chief Executive's power of Executive Inquiry. Band Members were inspiring and strong as they made their voices heard. The report from this hearing will serve as a powerful tool as we continue to do everything we can to stop Enbridge from building the pipeline along this route. An excellent article on this hearing is included in this issue.

This was a busy month for Elders! The Wisdom Steps Conference was held at Black Bear on June 8–11, and attendees said this was one of the best conferences yet. Wisdom Steps is a partnership among the 11 tribes in Minnesota, the urban areas, and the Minnesota Board on Aging, which I am a member of. The annual conference provides a forum for Elders to

address and explore solutions to issues of common concern to aging Native people.

During the week of July 15, about 90 Band Elders enjoyed a trip to Oklahoma City to check out our most recently acquired property, an Embassy Suites. I had a chance to join the Elders for a few days on this trip and had a wonderful time. Everyone was truly impressed with how beautiful this new facility is. The trip included some fun and adventure, but was also very moving, including a visit to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, a tribute to the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Just prior to the Oklahoma City trip, on June 12 I attended a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mille Lacs Wildlife Refuge. The Band co-manages this refuge with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and it is the smallest in the United States. It includes just the two small Spirit and Hennepin islands on Mille Lacs Lake, and is a critical nesting ground for the endangered Common Tern. There's a nice article about this celebration that expands on our partnership with Fish and Wildlife in this edition.

Between each of these events, my days were full working on several important policy matters for the Band. I intervened on a matter in which HUD was not fulfilling its obligation to the American Indian Home Loan Guaranty program through Woodlands Bank, and enlisted help from Senator Al Franken to help save that program for Native borrowers.

As the Midwest Representative to the Tribal Nations Leadership Council, which advises the U.S. Attorney General at the Department of Justice, I brought our pipeline concerns to their

attention and requested assistance via a policy that would protect Indian trust resources like wild rice, before they are harmed. We also asked the Department of Justice to expand access of its criminal database to Indian tribes, and strategized with the department about improving programs that support Native children who experience violence. And of course I've met with many, many Band members about their issues and concerns as well.

As July winds down, I'm preparing testimony to give to the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee, which will be holding a July hearing in Washington on the abuse of prescription and opioid drugs in Indian communities. We have a busy week coming up as the host of the Mid-Year meeting of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which will use our two hotels in St. Paul for this convention. All Band members should be very proud that we are able to provide this hospitality to the Nation's oldest and largest Indian organization in the United States.

There are a number of open board positions right now in Band government, and as I prepare to nominate people to fill those roles, Miigwech to Band members who have volunteered to serve. The gift of time, energy and wisdom that you give to our advisory boards and committees is invaluable and helps us to improve government operations. Miigwech!

## Election to be Held on MCT Membership Amendment

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) has agreed to move forward with the process to allow the adult membership of the Tribe to vote on whether other federally recognized Chippewa, Ojibwe, Anishinaabe blood and Canadian First Nations Anishinaabe blood should be counted for current enrolled members.

Mille Lacs Band Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu wants Band members to be informed about the amendment prior to the election. "It is important because of the potential increase of enrolled members," Carolyn said. "That would have an impact on funding and service currently provided to our constituents."

Currently, Article II, Membership of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws, requires that persons born after July 3, 1961, possess at least one quarter (¼ degree) Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood. MCT blood has been defined as blood derived from one or more of the six constituent Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: Bois Forte, Mille Lacs, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, White Earth and Fond du Lac.

The Tribal Executive Committee recognized that members of the MCT may possess other Chippewa, Ojibwe, Anishinaabe or First Nations Anishinaabe blood and decided to let the membership decide whether that blood should be included when determining eligibility for membership. As the first step in the process, the Tribal Executive Committee adopted two resolutions to put the questions before the MCT Membership.

Resolution 31-15 would amend the Constitution by adding a paragraph that provides: "The

Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood of persons enrolled on the effective date of this amendment shall be corrected on the membership rolls of the Tribe by including the verified First Nation Anishinaabe blood possessed by the member."

Resolution 32-15 would amend the Constitution by adding a paragraph that provides: "The Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood of persons enrolled on the effective date of this amendment shall be corrected on the membership rolls of the Tribe by including the verified federally recognized Anishinaabe/Ojibway/Chippewa blood possessed by the member."

As required by federal law, the Resolutions were forwarded to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for technical review, and the Tribe is waiting for its response in order to continue the Secretarial Election amendment process.

A resolution was also approved and forwarded to the Bureau of Indian Affairs requesting that the proposed Secretarial Election

waive the regulations in 25 CFR Part 81 to allow for same day registration and voting polls to be established on each reservation in addition to mail-in balloting for the Secretarial Election.

The MCT anticipates that the Secretarial Election process will take place 60 to 90 days after the federal review of the Resolutions is completed. The MCT office will provide additional information and the election date to all eligible voters as soon as the Secretary of the Interior calls the Election.



**"It is important because of the potential increase of enrolled members. That would have an impact on funding and service currently provided to our constituents."**

— Carolyn Beaulieu, Mille Lacs Band Secretary-Treasurer

# Lawsuit Challenges Minnesota Adoption Law

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

An unnamed Mille Lacs Band member is challenging a Minnesota law that requires tribal notification when Indian babies are put up for adoption.

In early June, the mother and father of the baby filed suit in federal court against the Minnesota Department of Human



**“While Commissioner Moose is a named defendant in the case, he has neither committed nor intends to commit a violation of the state or federal law.”**

— Todd Matha, Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General

Services, Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson, and Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Health and Human Services Sam Moose.

Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Todd Matha said, “While Commissioner Moose is a named defendant in the case, he has neither committed nor intends to commit a violation of state or federal law. Consequently, the Band will vigorously defend its executive officer in federal district court and seek an immediate dismissal of this suit.”

According to Matha, tribes cannot be sued because they

have sovereign immunity, but individual tribal officials can be sued under certain circumstances.

The lawsuit challenges the constitutionality of the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, which was passed in 1985 to require tribes to be notified when children who are members require out-of-home placements. It was updated in 1997 to require adoption agencies and attorneys to notify tribal social services of adoptions involving Indian children, including information about parents who voluntarily give their children up for adoption.

The parents chose a non-Indian family to raise their child in an “open adoption” and were told the tribe

would have to be notified. The birth parents said they intended to maintain contact with the child and to teach him about his Indian heritage, according to the Washington Post.

The state MIFPA law, like the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), was put in place because of the high number of Indian children placed in boarding schools or non-Indian families. Tribes argued that they had an interest in the placement of Indian children to preserve their cultures and foster the health of Indian children.

ICWA, which was passed in 1978, gives preference to fam-

ily members in adoption of Indian children, followed by other tribal members and other Indians.

The parents in the current suit, referred to as “Jane and John Doe,” claim that the law violates their right to privacy and equal protection. Their attorney, Turtle Mountain Ojibwe member Mark Fiddler, says the law is unfair because race cannot play a role in adoption for anyone except Indians. He says it allows the tribe to “second guess” the decision of parents.

Fiddler also represented the mother in an Indian adoption case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013. In that case, known as the “Baby Veronica” case, the Supreme Court determined that ICWA did not prevent a non-Indian mother from putting her daughter up for adoption, since the Indian father had given up custodial rights.

Sam Moose told Minnesota Public Radio that the Mille Lacs Band has traditionally enforced laws that protect cultural identity of tribes and individuals. “It’s important for children to understand their identity, to have access to the tribe’s resources and to be supported in that process. It’s critical to the development of the child. It’s in the child’s best interest with regards to welfare and health.”

The baby is currently living with the prospective adoptive parents. The case is expected to be resolved quickly because an adoption hearing is scheduled for July 8, and the matter must be settled before the adoption can be finalized.

# Indian Education Funding Gets Boost from State Lawmakers

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer **Brett Larson** Photographer

American Indian students and schools, including the Mille Lacs Band, will get a much-needed boost in education funding thanks to the historic investment by state lawmakers.

The state’s new \$17 billion education funding bill includes \$18 million in new funding for American Indian students and tribal schools overseen by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Education. The additional funding will be used for programs to help improve student achievement and will increase per-pupil funding at tribal schools during the next two years.

“This is a long time coming with Educational Services to American Indian students in the state on a public, charter and tribal school level,” said the Band’s Education Commissioner, Suzanne Wise.

“Every area will see some sort of increase,” she said. “The exact numbers haven’t been released yet but the Band’s Nay Ah Shing Schools will see an increase in over \$1 million over the two-year cycle compared to the existing budget.”

Suzanne called the additional funding historic and said it will help with recruitment and retention of teachers at the Band schools. The Band has long invested in education through the revenue generated by the casinos, she said.

The new funding, which was agreed upon in June during a special session, is expected to impact an estimated 20,000 American Indian students across Minnesota.

The achievement gap has continued to grow between white students and Indian students for the past decade or longer, and the graduation rate for the state’s Indian students has been among the lowest in the nation. Last year only about half of Indian students graduated on time.

Suzanne said the funding will be statewide and will assist any public or charter school that has more than 10 students who identify as American Indians. It’s based on a per-pupil formula.

“What we are all hoping for is an increase in the skills

necessary to be successful and for students to make academic progress. Higher graduation rates are always the goal,” Suzanne added.

Suzanne, who serves on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Indian Education Association and on the Tribal Nations Education Committee, said both organizations were crucial in providing testimony about why the additional funding was needed.

Along with Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and other elected officials and Indian educators, Suzanne served on a statewide group that focused on more education funding. Both Melanie and Suzanne were able to share details about struggles American Indian students face in public schools.

“Many of our American Indian students deal with racism and white privilege in our state’s public school systems,” said Suzanne. “These factors and others directly affect our students’ ability to succeed.”

Brenda Cassellius, Education Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), who also met with the Band’s leaders and other advocates in Indian education, said the additional funding was “a win” for American Indian students.

Former Band Commissioner of Education Dennis Olson, who is now the state director of American Indian Education for MDE, said the new funds will put Minnesota near the top of states when it comes to spending to help Indian students.

Dennis said that while the state has had policies in place specifically designed to help Indian students, they were often unfunded mandates. The new funding will help train staff to work with Indian students, develop academic supports and



**Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise spoke at Nay Ah Shing’s fifth-grade graduation on June 3.**

fund initiatives that will better connect students and their families to school.

He added that he is hopeful that eventually Minnesota will be a leader in providing resources for Indian students.

The lack of funding in Indian education funding in the initial education budget was one of the reasons Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton vetoed it, saying it didn’t invest enough money in the education priorities he deemed most important.

Outside of the funding, another big win for the Band was its waiver approval by the Bureau of Indian Education to bring Pine Grove School under the umbrella of Nay Ah Shing Schools.

“We want to ensure that all of our schools offer the latest technology, curriculum, extra-curricular activities, and Ojibwe language and cultural programming,” Suzanne said.

The Band has also assisted Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy to implement additional phases in its existing plans to advance its students.



Carolyn Beaulieu



Dale Greene



David 'Niib' Aubid



Nicholas Targ



Michaa Aubid



Harvey GoodSky Jr.



Tania Aubid



Algin GoodSky

# Minisinaakwaang Says No to Sandpiper

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer/Photographer

Last month, District II Rep. David 'Niib' Aubid and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin coordinated a public hearing in the Minisinaakwaang community to gather testimony on a proposed pipeline that would cross tribal lands, bringing North Dakota oil through Minnesota to Superior, Wisconsin.

The hearing was held June 5 at East Lake Community Center as a response to the state's failure to hold any hearings on tribal lands about the proposed pipeline. Enbridge, the corporation that would build and operate the pipeline, has dubbed it "Sandpiper."

The hearing was a directive from Melanie based on the fact that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) "seemed to be ignoring us," she said.

"I decided we needed a forum for Band members to make their voices heard," Melanie said. "Band Statutes provide the Chief Executive with authority to hold Executive Inquiries, so that's the authority I used to hold this hearing. It was an exercise of the Band's sovereignty as an Indian Nation."

Melanie appointed hearing officer Nicholas Targ, an environmental lawyer and former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator, to listen to testimony and submit a summary report to the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers. Melanie will request that the agencies consider the findings of the hearing and that the Band be designated a "cooperating agency" under federal law, which would give the Band a role in conducting the Environmental Impact Statement.

Melanie opened the hearing by welcoming those in attendance, introducing Nicholas, and explaining the importance of the hearing. "This is not just about the rights of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe," Melanie said. "This is about the rights of Band members to live, work and raise our children in an environment free from pollution."

Two common themes emerged during the morning testimony: the lack of government-to-government consultation throughout the process, and the need for an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed pipeline.

During her testimony, Mille Lacs Band Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu said Gov. Mark Dayton signed an executive order requiring Executive Branch agencies to consult with tribes on a government-to-government basis prior to taking action on issues of interest to tribes.

The Public Utilities Commission made no effort to reach out to the tribes, saying tribes had the same right as any individual citizen to submit a letter.

"Treating a federally-recognized tribal government the same as an individual private citizen offends Minnesota public policy, Governor Dayton's Executive Order, and our sensibilities," Carolyn said.

The PUC claimed that it is not a Cabinet-level agency identified in Dayton's Executive Order. Carolyn responded, "Failing to consult with tribes based on a hyper-technical reading of the Executive Order violates the basic tenets of respect between sovereigns. It also violates the spirit of the Executive Order that Governor Dayton issued."

The PUC was not alone in its failure to consult with tribes. The Department of Commerce and other state agencies also failed to do so. Like the PUC, Enbridge made no effort to consult with the tribes until after Mille Lacs and White Earth bands had scheduled their own hearings," Carolyn said.

"We ask that the PUC slow down. Stop. And back up to a point where it can give tribal governments the respectful and honorable consultation we are due," Carolyn concluded.

Multiple testimonies stressed the importance of manoomin (wild rice) to the culture and spirituality of the Rice Lake and Sandy Lake communities; the potential impact of an oil spill on the water, air, wildlife and forests; and the Band's right to harvest in the region.

A panel of Elders — Kaadaak (Dale Greene), Niib, Miskwaanakwad and



Nearly the entire staff of the DNR testified at the hearing. Pictured above are Charlie Sam, Natalie Weyaus, Henry Sam, and DNR Commissioner Susan Klapel.

Russell Shabaiash — talked about the importance of wild rice. Niib said the ancestors made sure to preserve their right to gather wild rice when they signed treaties with the U.S. government. He said members of other Bands often traveled to Minisinaakwaang and Sandy Lake because of the prevalence of rice.

Natalie Weyaus of the Mille Lacs Band's Tribal Historic Preservation Office warned that the existence of archaeological remains could create problems during the construction of a pipeline. Her colleague Charlie Sam said Enbridge has not contacted the office or considered historic preservation in its plans.

DNR scientists Perry Bunting, Ryan Rupp, Chad Weiss, Todd Moilanen, Kelly Applegate, Charles Lippert and Jacob Horbacz discussed the impact the pipeline could have on the water, wildlife, forests and air quality. Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose explained health disparities between Indians and the general population and the importance of culture and tradition to the welfare of the tribe.

Some of the most memorable testimony came from East Lake community members. Michaa Aubid, a Minisinaakwaang resident well versed in the history of the region, joined a panel of attorneys Frank Bibeau, Peter Erlinder and Philomena Kebec to put the pipeline in legal and historical perspective, explaining that the Ojibwe people have rights to use the land through which the pipeline would run, yet those rights were ignored by Enbridge and the PUC.

Michaa said the Anishinaabe reserved the right to harvest throughout the area Elders called the tribe's "dish" or "onaagan." "If you look at the map where the pipeline is coming through, it affects our ability to harvest and gather into the future. These treaty rights that the Anishinaabe saved in 1855 and subsequent agreements, that future is in jeopardy. . . . Literally, Enbridge is coming right through our 'dish'."

Darrell Shingobe brought his daughter and his aunt to the table to demonstrate how the issue affects all generations. He dumped a quart of oil into an aquarium full of grass so people could see how it affects the water and the soil.

"I'm fighting for her," said Darrell, referring to his daughter. "If I get emotional it's because I want her to be able to go out and rice. I want her to be able to take me out there to knock."

Harvey GoodSky Jr., accompanied by his baby boy in a traditional cradleboard, gave a passionate speech about his activism in opposition to the pipeline. "I would like for all the other youth, the ones that aren't even born yet, even this little guy in the cradleboard, to be able to exercise their inherent rights as well. And I want you to know there is no price — there is no price — to any of our inherent rights."

His mother, Tania Aubid, who has been battling the pipeline across the state during the past year, also spoke from the heart about the inherent dangers of oil pipelines and the devastating effect a spill would have on the environment.

Tania's other son, Algin, was equally eloquent in his description of the importance of traditional activities. Like many who testified, Algin introduced himself in Ojibwe, pounding the table as he said, "Minisinaakwaang in doonjiba. Minisinaakwaang indaa — I am from Minisinaakwaang, and I live in Minisinaakwaang."

"When I'm out ricing, when I'm out collecting, when I'm out harvesting, I know peace and happiness," he said. "For a company, a corpo-

**Continued on page 13**

# Cultural Artist Joni Boyd Teaches Youth Traditional Ways in Summer Classes

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer **Brett Larson** Photographer



Joni Boyd helped her daughter Rissa with her traditional jingle dress.

As a little girl Joni Boyd spent summers with her grandparents learning “the old ways,” including how to carve, sew, do bead-work and more.

Fast forward to the summer of 2015 and Joni is teaching others some of the old ways, based on what she learned as a young girl and has practiced for her whole life.

In June, Joni began teaching a class of 18 students of different ages how to make regalia. The class, which runs through August, is held at Nay Ah Shing School and is open to all youth.

“I learned a lot of skills from my grandma, who lived east of White Earth on Oshkinowe Lake,” said Joni, who lives in District I with her husband, Clayton Boyd Sr. and the couple’s three children, Rissa, Nelly Lynne and TayoJo.

During the five-hour classes Joni is teaching the students how to make the old-style jingle dresses in red, green, blue and yellow. They are also making earrings. The boys are learning to make grass dance regalia. Some are making headbands and the pocket-toe moccasins.

Frankie Anderson is making grass dance regalia. Kierra Eagle is learning to string beads. She made a fancy shawl last year. Shayla Nayquonabe is making a green traditional jingle dress.

“I enjoy beading and sewing,” said Shayla. “I’m learning to keep it straight. Joni’s a good teacher.”

Destiny Mitchell made a fancy shawl last year and this year is making a traditional jingle dress. She said she enjoys learning how to sew.

“When I’m teaching the kids at school it is so great,” Joni said. “They are ambitious and they are working so hard.”

It takes Joni about four hours to make a traditional jingle dress. It takes the kids about two full days. Joni is certain that by the end of the summer the kids will become more skilled in their work.

One of the students, Keira Sarcia, grew up watching her grandma, Wanda Boyd, making moccasins and dresses. Keira said she has long desired to learn how to make those things herself.

“I like that I can finally bead,” said Keira. “My grandma kind of taught me when I was little, but the only time I can bead is when she’s around, and she’s far away.”

Joni’s daughter, Rissa, said her mom taught her how to bead, and another teacher, Linda Stevens, showed her how to mix up the beads and combine the colors.

“Last year my mom helped me to make a dress that I still



Kierra Eagle

wear,” Rissa said. “I like to learn how to sew and bead so I can make my own stuff.”

Rissa is working on a traditional red jingle dress and said she has learned “that it takes a lot of patience to make your own regalia.”

Joni has taught classes previously at Nay Ah Shing and at the DI Community Center. She enjoys teaching others what she has learned. She wants to keep the culture alive and make sure her students and children learn how to practice the traditional ways.

“I love making jingle dresses for the dancers,” said Joni, who does a lot of different types of artwork including painting and carving. She also sells some of her work.

Joni and her family travel to powwows on weekends and she said the couple’s three children are all champion dancers. They have been princesses and a brave every year.

“It makes me proud to see them out there dancing,” she said. “It’s wonderful.”

It’s also wonderful that her children are practicing cultural ways including ricing, netting and gardening.

“I tell my children that when they grow up they will teach their children.”

Staff Writer Brett Larson contributed to this report.

## Wanted: Youth Powwow Dancers

Contestants are wanted for the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Royalty Contest, Aug. 21–23.



Candidates must be 6 to 18 years of age, and they must be either Mille Lacs Band members or direct descendants of Mille Lacs Band members.

The Junior Brave and Junior Princess contest is for contestants ages 6 to 12. The Senior Brave and Princess contest is open to those ages 13 to 18.

The deadline to sign up is Aug. 1, but contestants are encouraged to sign up early so they have plenty of time to complete the required tasks for their points.

For more information and application packets please contact Chasity Gahbow at 320-532-7486, or email [Chasity.Gahbow@millelacsband.com](mailto:Chasity.Gahbow@millelacsband.com).



## 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 three man hand drum contest on Sunday. The DII powwow committee will be sponsoring a Woodland Warrior Relay on Sunday at 9 a.m. Three divisions of co-ed teams will compete in canoeing, running, and biking.

Contact Michaa Aubid at 218-260-7690 or email [michaa.aubid@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:cheyanne.peet@mlacademy.org). Interested vendors should also contact Cheyanne Peet no later than July 10.

### Are you an Elder or do you know an Elder who has a story to tell?

The *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* is looking for Elder stories for upcoming issues.

Send your name, contact information, and a brief description of the Elder you would like to feature to [toya@redcircleagency.com](mailto:toya@redcircleagency.com), [brett@redcircleagency.com](mailto:brett@redcircleagency.com) or [mick@redcircleagency.com](mailto:mick@redcircleagency.com) or call Mick at 612-465-8018.

## Grand Casino Hinckley Hosts Training Conference

The Mille Lacs Band has been selected as a regional training site for the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) this summer. Training will take place July 14–16 in the convention center of Grand Casino Hinckley and is open to all regional tribes for gaming commissioners, operations management and staff.

Courses will include presentations by NIGC, other federal agencies, nationally recognized gaming experts and various keynote speakers. This three-day event will provide a variety of courses for everyone involved in our gaming organization.

NIGC does not require a fee to attend, but asks that all participants pre-register to ensure adequate resources. Additional information including course specifics can be found on the NIGC website ([nigc.gov](http://nigc.gov)).

## Join the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk around Mille Lacs

Band members and employees are encouraged to participate in the 14th annual Walk Around Mille Lacs.

The exercise campaign, which is sponsored by the diabetes program, lasts for 60 days, from July 6 to Sept. 3. The goal is to cover twice the circumference of Mille Lacs Lake for a total of 120 miles, or two miles per day for two months.

Sign up will begin June 29. Come into your local fitness center or contact Jim Ingle in District I at 320-532-7547 or [jim.ingle@millelacsband.com](mailto:jim.ingle@millelacsband.com). In Districts II and III contact Bobby Anderson at 320-384-0158. In District II-A contact Lee Lembke at the Chiminising Community Center. In the Urban district, contact Barb Benjamin at [Barb.Benjamin-Robertson@millelacsband.com](mailto:Barb.Benjamin-Robertson@millelacsband.com).

When you register/sign up via email or by phone, be sure to include your shirt size, cotton or dri-fit, and pick up the activity log and a conversion chart. You can also download the log at [millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com).

Other forms of exercise are acceptable!

- Biking: 3 miles = 1 mile of walking
- Weight room: 30 minutes = 2 miles of walking
- Swimming: ½ mile = 2 miles of walking
- 10 sets of stairs = 2 miles of walking

Please check with one of the fitness staff members if you have any questions.

Record your miles or time spent in activity on the log and turn it in during the first week of September. Logs are also available at <http://bit.ly/1GCJ87k>.

This can be a fun and healthy family or team event. Grab a friend or family member and start walking!

## Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Mick Sawinski at [mick@redcircleagency.com](mailto:mick@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-465-8018.

*The August issue deadline is July 15.*

# National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference held in St. Paul

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer Brett Larson Photographer

Hundreds of tribal leaders and members from around the nation converged in the City of Saint Paul to attend the 2015 Mid-Year Conference and Marketplace of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

The conference, “Nurturing Tribal Resources: Culture, Land & People,” was held June 28 through July 1 at the St. Paul RiverCentre.

Band member Shena Matrious, who served as co-chair of the planning committee, said NCAI conferences are a great way for tribes to learn about national issues that affect their members.

“Since this summer’s conference was in St. Paul, many of our Band members were involved in opening ceremonies and culture night, which was held in one of our St. Paul hotels.”

Participants learned about important topics impacting Indian Country including protecting national and cultural resources, building a stronger Indian community and addressing human trafficking. Other sessions included protecting tribal sovereignty, homelessness in Indian Country and building human capacity to rebuild tribal nations.

Mille Lacs Band Elder Lee Obizaan Staples delivered the invocation as the event kicked off. The AmVets Post 53 honor guard presented the colors.

The welcoming reception was held on Sunday, June 28, at the Band’s Crowne Plaza Hotel. The Timber Trails drum group, comprised of Band members Chris Gahbow, Quintin Sam, Percy Benjamin and John Benjamin, participated in the opening ceremonies.

Band Elder Larry “Amik” Smallwood presented the story of the jingle dress on Tuesday at Cultural Night, which was also



Timber Trails drum group, pictured at Nay Ah Shing fifth-grade graduation June 3, will play at NCAI opening ceremonies on Monday, June 29.

held at Crowne Plaza.

Swamp Nation drum group from District II played at the event.

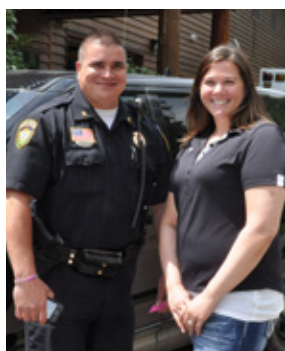
“Cultural night is a way to showcase our traditions and culture along with other tribes from around the United States,” Shena said.

Minnesota’s elected officials including Gov. Mark Dayton, Sen. Al Franken, Rep. Susan Allen, Rep. Betty McCollum and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman were also on hand at the conference to welcome attendees.

NCAI was established in 1944 in response to the termination and assimilation policies the U.S. government forced upon tribal governments in contradiction of their treaty rights and status as sovereign nations. To this day, protecting these inherent and legal rights remains the primary focus of NCAI.

## Know the Rules for Dog Ownership on Tribal Lands

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer



Police Chief Jared Rosati and Director of Public Safety Sara Rice.

Mille Lacs Tribal Police Chief Jared Rosati and Public Safety Director Sara Rice are encouraging Band members to register and vaccinate their dogs in compliance with the tribal dog ordinance.

Due to the large number of unregistered, unvaccinated and dangerous dogs on tribal lands, the police department and other departments will be enforcing the ordinance more closely.

According to Mille Lacs Band’s dog ordinance, “All dogs present on Band Lands must be registered with the Mille Lacs Band Department of Public Safety within 14 days after such dog is first present on Band Lands.” Dogs also must be vaccinated against rabies every year, and they must be collared and tagged with a rabies tag.

The tribe may confiscate dogs that are running loose, not maintained in a proper enclosure, outside of the owner’s property line, diseased, injured, or aggressive. Any dog wandering the streets or parking lots without a collar or rabies tag can be assumed to be abandoned.

The Tribal Court may order dangerous dogs to be destroyed, and the owner may need to reimburse the Band for the costs.

Dog owners can be fined up to \$250 if their dog bites someone; they are also liable for the victim’s medical costs. For a second offense involving the same dog, the fine is up to \$500 and the dog will be destroyed.

“We’re all animal lovers here,” Sara said. “No one wants to do that.”

Rosati agreed. “It’s all about making the reservation a safer place,” he said.

Rice added, “For the animals as well as the people.”

Anyone who is concerned about an abandoned, unrestrained, illegal or potentially dangerous dog should contact tribal police or the public safety department. Anyone in immediate danger from a dog should call 911.

The Housing Department also has rules about dogs in all properties owned by the Band, including HUD rentals, regular rentals, Elder rentals, grant homes and any other units owned or managed by the Housing Department. A maximum of two pets total are allowed per household (not including fish), and an additional security deposit is required.

Band officials are hoping to bring veterinary clinics to the reservation to assist with vaccination and encourage registration. The Department of Public Safety is hoping to hire two community service officers whose duties will include working with dogs and their owners.

Check [millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com) and future issues of *Inaajimowin* for updates.

# Moose, HHS Take Steps to Combat Opiates

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services Department, under the direction of Commissioner Sam Moose, is in the process of implementing a plan to address the problem of opiates and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) in the Mille Lacs Band community.

Moose said, "The department needs to be focused on the strengths of individuals, families and communities. To create a strengths-based approach, we need to ensure our practitioners understand the historical trauma that impacts our communities' health, and incorporate our cultural practices or link individuals and families to those cultural teachings."

In a Crisis Response Plan released in late June, the department describes the opiate problem as part of a continuing cycle of drug abuse in the community, beginning over a century ago with alcohol and continuing with crises related to cocaine, methamphetamines, prescription drugs, and now heroin.

The cycle began with oppression, violence and discrimination that created historical trauma and resulted in addiction and family dysfunction, the paper states.

According to the plan, "While the causes are known, the solutions are much harder to pinpoint. What is clear, however, is that a multi-dimensional problem requires a multi-pronged solution."

The paper lays out six initiatives:

- Creation of a Neonatal Drug Use Response Team
- Development of a recovery-oriented care system
- Strengthening of outpatient services
- Exploration of new residential treatment options

- Expansion of women's and children's programs
- Enhancement of existing prevention programs and collaborations

The severity of the opiate problem came to the attention of Band officials last fall with the release of statistics showing that American Indian babies are 8.7 times more likely than white babies to be born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome



**"Unfortunately, there are no quick fixes to historical trauma; however, as a department we can respond quickly to adapt our programs to address the opiate problem."**

**— Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services**

(NAS), and 28 percent of Minnesota babies born with NAS are born to Indian mothers.

In her State of the Band address, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin revealed that the Mille Lacs Band is among the hardest hit communities in the state. She called the problem "the single greatest threat to the future of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe" and urged Moose and his staff to address the problem as quickly as possible.

Moose said, "Unfortunately, there are no quick fixes to historical trauma; however, as a department we can respond quickly to adapt our programs to address the opiate problem."

## Services held for Drumkeeper, former Secretary-Treasurer



**David G. Matrious**

Funeral services were held June 27 and 28 for former Secretary-Treasurer and District III Rep. David G. Matrious, Baadaasige. David was a Drumkeeper who served the Band in many capacities over several decades. Most recently he taught Ojibwe language in District III and at Pine Grove Leadership Academy. David served as Secretary/Treasurer and Speaker of the Band Assembly from 1992 until 1998. He had previously served as District III Representative from 1986 until 1992. See next month's *Inaajimowin* for more on David's life of service.

## July is Purposeful Parenting Month

**Tammy Moreland** Performance Improvement Manager

It's easy to get caught up in the daily stresses of meal-planning, chauffeuring, and cleaning. But seizing the lazy days of summer as an opportunity to parent with purpose can reap a daily lifestyle of happiness in your family. If you can implement just one instance of purposeful parenting per day this July, it will soon become common practice in your long, blossoming relationship with your children.

Purposeful parenting is being an active, engaged parent. It's about giving your children the best life possible. Purposeful parenting is also about building strong, positive families with children of any age, and recognizing the importance of meaningful relationships between parents and children.

To celebrate Purposeful Parenting Month, parents can do a variety of simple and easy things to create a more positive and

loving home life. It's something that takes time and effort, but the rewards you'll see are worth it.

- Tell your children you love them, and do it often.
- Prepare a meal together.
- Celebrate the uniqueness of all family members.
- Create a safe environment for the entire family.
- Grab every opportunity to spend unstructured time.
- Plan fun family activities. Turn off the television.
- Learn the value of delegating responsibilities.
- Model the behaviors you want your children to learn.
- Establish family traditions.

We encourage every parent to take a look at their family to see how they can improve. Purposeful parenting is not just during the month of July. It is a lifelong effort.

## Reclaiming Breastfeeding

**Kathy Beaulieu-Sanders**

RN, BSN, PHN, CLC

As many are aware, the move away from our traditional practice of breastfeeding toward formula was the result of historical and social events that are unique to our people. Another factor was the tremendous pressure formula manufacturers and the medical establishment applied in the 1960s and early 1970s to push women to adopt artificial feeding (formula) practices.

Did you know that "the change away from breastfeeding as the norm came later to the Ojibwe in Minnesota than to members of the mainstream society living around them? Ojibwe mothers living on reservations during the 1950s and 1960s were breastfeeding when most women in the rest of the country were formula feeding" (Dodgson et al., 2003).

Our ancestors were wise, they breastfed because they knew breastfeeding offered many benefits including:

- Fewer common illnesses such as ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia, colds or flu
- Less illness shared among family and Band members
- The child's immune system is bolstered
- Perfect nutrition
- Lower maternal risk of losing too much blood following childbirth
- More bonding time for mom and baby

Today we know that other benefits of breastfeeding include:

- Lower risk for obesity and weight problems when your baby gets older
- Lower risk of diabetes when your baby is older
- Reduced risk for seizures in children
- Reduced risk for asthma in children

Benefits for the mother include:

- Lower risk for ovarian and breast cancer
- Possible delayed return of monthly periods
- Easy night time feeding: no need to prepare bottles
- Uterus shrinks more quickly, flattening the stomach sooner
- Cost savings: formula is expensive
- Less time spent caring for an ill child

Many of us are trying to connect with our indigenous roots and raise our babies in a way that strengthens our children. Breastfeeding is a way for us to take back our native identity and ensure that our youth remain strong and healthy.

### Circle of Health Outreach Dates

July 8 from 1-4 p.m.  
East Lake Clinic

July 15 from 1-4 p.m.  
Urban Office

July 22 from 1-4 p.m.  
DII-A Isle Community Center

August 5 from 1-4 p.m.  
Aazhoomog Clinic

# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Hinckley Celebration

**Chad Germann** Photographer

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Grand Celebration took place June 19–21. The Grand Hinckley Celebration took place at Grand Casino Hinckley, with Terry Fiddler (Prairie Island) and Amik (Hinckley) serving as Masters of Ceremonies. Over \$85,000 in prize money was awarded over the three-day event. Miigwech to everyone who participated in, helped organize, or attended this celebration!



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





# Native Pride: Bill Schaaf's Life of Service

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer/Photographer

Sometimes we have no idea of the stories our neighbors can tell.

Folks around Mille Lacs may know Bill Schaaf because he served as self-governance coordinator and Community Support Services Director from 1998 to 2008, or because his birch bark art work is on display around the reservation, or because he plays a mean game of pickup basketball — impressive for a 74-year-old.

But those may be near the bottom of his list of accomplishments.

Bill was raised in the woods on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, where his father, a member of the Minnesota Logging Hall of Fame, taught him the importance of independence. "Work ethic was really important to him," Bill says.

Although his father was German, Bill was immersed in Ojibwe culture. His mother was a Mille Lacs Band member and direct descendant of Chief Buffalo of the Lake Superior Red Cliff nation. She introduced her 11 children to family members who taught them to trap, hunt, fish, and rice in traditional ways.

In the 1960s and '70s, game wardens would chase him and his friends off their ricing lakes. "So we used to go night ricing," Bill recalls with a smile. He was strong from working in the woods, and one day on Bowstring Lake he gathered 710 pounds in his flat-bottom boat. "Back then, before paddy rice and commercialization, you could make enough in a day to buy a nice car."

After high school, Bill went to Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, a school his daughter attended and his granddaughter currently attends. It was there he learned to play basketball in the intramural program.

After Haskell, he participated in a relocation and job training program. Bill learned air conditioning and sheet metal trades and worked for GM for five years, but he soon grew bored and decided to head back to college at Berkeley, where he majored in political science and American Indian studies. That was in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when protests against the Vietnam War led to cancellation of an entire semester of classes.

"We weren't protesting the war," Bill says. "We had other things to do, like take over Alcatraz." The protest was intended to demand return of Indian lands. "Once everybody caught wind of it, Indians from all over the country came, and it just got bigger and bigger."

Although it dissolved into chaos, the takeover brought attention to Indian issues and prompted the U.S. government to recognize tribes' inherent sovereignty.

"It created a lot of awareness not only domestically but internationally about the conditions on reservations. We gave up over 100 million acres of land nationally and signed treaties that made the U.S. government legally responsible for the health and welfare of Indian nations. That's why we receive government allocation for things like health care, housing and social services. They're still paying for the conquest and seizure of our land. They still haven't paid a fair price for what they took from us."

Later Bill brought some California friends to Minnesota to join AIM in a fishing rights demonstration on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. "We joined AIM in Minneapolis and went up to Cass Lake and set up an armed encampment," Bill recalls. "We knew it was wrong for them to be arresting people and throwing them in jail. Those were our God-given, inherent rights."

He remembered getting chased off the ricing lakes in his youth. "You'd go ricing on what you considered to be Indian land, and there would be someone there to arrest you. I think that's why I had it in me to fight."

Their actions led to the groundbreaking case *Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians v. Herbst*, which resulted in the fed-



Bill posed with one of his picture frames at an exhibit of his artwork at the Onamia Depot Library.



Bill has won national Indian basketball championships for his age group in his 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s.

eral recognition of Band members' right to hunt, fish and gather on the reservation — free of Minnesota game and fish laws.

After the decision, Indian tribes started developing their own conservation codes and establishing their own tribal court administration. "I'm proud to say I was part of that," Bill says.

Following his rabble-rousing period, Bill began a long career of working on behalf of tribal sovereignty in California, Nevada, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Washington, while raising six daughters and two sons.

Among his accomplishments, Bill:

- Served as executive director of the American Indian Center in Sacramento.
- Helped start the California Indian Manpower Consortium — including 100 tribes — which is still in operation.
- Worked as business manager for the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation in Nevada, helping to get a museum built that is still standing today.
- Wrote a book on Chippewa government and developed a curriculum to be used in schools.
- Helped the Comanche tribe in Oklahoma rebuild their reservation by coordinating loans from the American

Indian National Bank and initiating gaming operations.

- Helped the Puyallup tribe in Washington win a \$160 million land claim settlement and put land in trust starting the Puyallup First housing project. Current Tribal Chairman Bill Sterud remembers Schaaf's contributions and offers his respect whenever Bill comes back for visits.
- Worked with Leisure Time Gaming, St. Cloud, to secure contracts with several tribes to operate and finance Indian casinos, including Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomon, Minnesota.
- Won national Indian basketball championships (and several MVP awards) for his age group in his 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s.

Basketball, family, travel and art keep Bill busy now. Bill learned about Ojibwe birch bark arts as a child in the north woods, but he didn't try it himself until 10 years ago. Although he makes some baskets and model canoes, his favorite work is making picture frames with traditional floral designs.

Bill's work is currently on display at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Government Center, Health Center, and District II and III Administration Offices.

# Klapel's Vision for DNR Based on Anishinaabe Values

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer/Photographer

Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources Susan Klapel has been in her position for just over a year — enough time to make progress on implementing Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's vision for the department, and enough time to make some controversial decisions.

Susan remains confident, knowing her vision for the department — and Melanie's — is rooted in Anishinaabe values.

"Everything we do here is based on the idea of preserving what we have for seven generations," Susan said. "I think about my nieces who are now 6, 3 and 2, the littlest ones. In 20 years when they're graduating high school and college, what is going to be there for them? What can we do in this department to make sure they have what we have in 20 years?"

Her to-do list is a long one:

- Using DNR resources to oppose the Sandpiper Pipeline
- Researching the potential impact of mining in District II
- Restoring Ogechie Lake and its wild rice beds
- Restoring Namachers Lake in Pine County
- Completing an enrollment audit to make sure information is as up-to-date as possible
- Re-seeding 400 acres in Pine County with native prairie grass
- Preserving the Band's archives and oral history
- Improving the health of the Mille Lacs walleye population
- Educating Band members on everything from climate change to Band history to cultural traditions.

It is Klapel's job to carry out the vision of Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beau-lieu and District Representatives. Susan seeks advice from District Reps on property purchases and other issues of importance to the Minisnakwaang, Aazhoomog and Chiminising communities.

As a resident of District III, she understands the importance of listening to all Band members, not just those in District I.

This spring, Susan found herself in the midst of controversy when she decided to ban netting under the ice from April 1 to ice out.

Rumors circulated and some people misjudged her motivation, assuming she was playing favorites or demonstrating a lack of understanding.



Susan Klapel, center, is assisted in her duties by Director of Natural Resource Administration Rachel Shaugobay, left, and Administrative Assistant Alyssa Welsh, right.

In fact, the decision came because she understood the issue well. Because of the small harvest allocation this year, Susan feared too much of the quota might be taken in a short time if a netter "hit the jackpot" under the ice. That would mean few Band members would have a chance to net.

She also feared that the timing of ice out might make netting under the ice unsafe — not just for netters but also for conservation officers. Susan has been on the ice in the spring when it's breaking up, and she's seen the danger it can bring. "The ban wasn't for the whole year — just at the end of the year when the ice was unstable and the new quota was in effect."

What hurt wasn't that people disagreed with her decision, but that they didn't call her and talk to her directly. "I miss being out with Band members," Susan says. "I used to love being at the lake or waiting at the border for the deer hunters to

come back. I don't want people to think I'm not approachable."

In the end, the Band Assembly annulled her order, but Susan took it in stride. "That just showed me that our government is working," Susan says. "That's what the elected officials felt their constituents wanted."

As the first woman to hold her position, Susan has experienced some criticism from those who don't think she's up to the task — but that's nothing new.

Susan started her career as a DNR Conservation Officer, and from there joined the Tribal Police force. She's also hunted and fished, so she understands the interests of harvesters. "I've done things any guy has done, but some people don't think my decisions are going to be the right decisions when it comes to hunting and fishing."

She shrugs it off, knowing she's working in the interest of the seventh generation — as well as today's Band members.



**DISTRICT 3**

## DNR Installs 'Beaver Deceiver' in District III

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer/Photographer

As part of an effort to restore Namachers Lake east of Hinckley, the Mille Lacs Band DNR on Wednesday, June 10, installed a "beaver deceiver" to prevent beavers from clogging a culvert near an inlet to the lake.

The deceiver, a type of flow device, is a trapezoidal metal cage designed to keep the beavers away from the culvert that passes under Davis Lake Road. Beavers have clogged the culvert, causing water damage to the road.

According to aquatic biologist Chad Weiss, the sound of the water rushing through the culvert may stimulate the beavers' instinct to build. The flow device allows them to begin building near the side of the culvert, but leads them away from the culvert and the stimulating sound of rushing water.

The device was developed in the 1990s by Skip Lisle while he was working for the Penobscot Indian Nation in Maine.

The Band hopes to raise the level of Namachers Lake and increase oxygen levels in the water to benefit walleye and panfish populations.



Chad Weiss installed the 'beaver deceiver' with help from DNR employees Wallace St. John, Richard Martin and Jacob Horbacz.



Wallace St. John

# Band Joins Fish and Wildlife Service to Celebrate Refuge Centennial

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer **Alejandro Morales** Photographer

The nation's smallest wildlife refuge celebrated its biggest birthday on Thursday, June 11, with a party including hot dogs, cake and scores of visitors.

The Mille Lacs Wildlife Refuge, composed of Hennepin and Spirit Islands in Mille Lacs Lake, is only about half an acre in size, but it is significant because it is home to one of a small number of nesting colonies of common terns. The species is threatened in Minnesota.

Melanie Benjamin and wildlife biologist Kelly Applegate were among the speakers at the centennial event. Melanie said, "The Mille Lacs Band is very proud of our role in protecting the common tern.

What I am most proud of, however, is the partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe."

She then recounted how the Mille Lacs Band entered into the partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based on a simple handshake agreement.

Charles Wooley, deputy director of the USFWS Midwest Region, acknowledged Melanie's memory in his own speech, saying, "As Chief Executive Benjamin mentioned, 20 years ago our two governments discussed the need to conserve, protect and enhance Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge. Out of that came a hand shake symbolizing trust, respect and a commitment to conservation. Madam Benjamin, I appreciate your close collaboration



Wildlife biologist Kelly Applegate was among the speakers at the centennial event.



Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Director Charles Wooley reenacted a historic handshake with Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.

and I would like to shake your hand as a commitment to another 20 years of this successful partnership."

With that he left the podium and walked to Melanie's picnic table for a reenactment of that historic handshake.

Kelly Applegate talked about the "international impact" of the common terns that nest on Hennepin Island — and which are not common at all. Kelly and his colleagues are banding birds to attempt to see if they are affected by the BP oil spill in the gulf as they migrate from Mille Lacs all the way to the coast of Peru.

Other speakers included Father Hennepin State Park manager Kris Erickson, DNR nongame wildlife program director Carroll Henderson, a representative from Congressman Rick Nolan's office, and Mille Lacs Wildlife Refuge manager Walt

Ford, who also manages Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge near East Lake. "Our management of common terns would not be possible without our partnership with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe," Walt said. "My hat's off to the Mille Lacs Band for assisting us."

Speakers explained how the Mille Lacs Band helps pay for pea gravel to be trucked to Hennepin Island during the winter. The gravel is a good bed for tern nests and replaces rock that washes away from wave action. A grid made of string is set up each year to keep away ring-billed gulls that otherwise might scare off the terns.

Niigaan kids also came to the event, enjoying lunch, the playground, the swimming beach, arts and crafts, bird banding, and bat house building.

## 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 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow, which is being held August 21–23, 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 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 to honor a veteran in your family during this time, please complete the form at right. All completed forms can be returned to Tony Pike at email [Tony.Pike@millelacsband.com](mailto:Tony.Pike@millelacsband.com) or mail to 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: \_\_\_\_\_

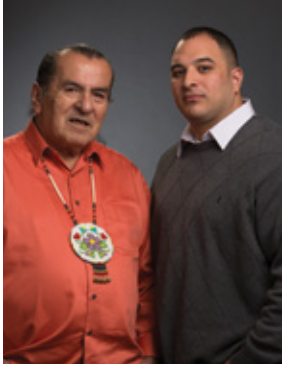
Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Wani'ind Abinoojiinyens Death of a Child

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

**Azhigwa a'aw ikwe wani'aad inow onijaanisensan bemiwinaajin, odaani-naniizaanenimaan inow chimookamaani-mashkikiwininiwan. Ishke gaawiin a'aw wayaabishkiwed gegoo odapiitendanzin i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhigikinoo'amaagoowiziyang anishinaabewiyang.**

When a woman loses her baby while she is pregnant, she should be wary of the white doctors. The white man does not have respect for what we were given as *Anishinaabe*.

**Mii i'iwapii gaa-ozhi'ind a'aw abinoojiinyens, mii-go omaa gii-ayaanid inow ojichaagwan. Daa-gagwedwe a'aw ikwe da-giiwewinaad inow abinoojiinyensan gaa-wani'aajin megwaa gii-pimiwinaapan. Ishke gaawiin gikendaagwasinini ge-doodawindwaabanen inow abinoojiinyensan weni'aawaajin ingiw ikwewag megwaa bimiwinaawaad. Maagizhaa gaye ingiw chimookamaani-mashkikiwininiwag epaginaawaagwen inow abinoojiinyensan iwidi endazhi-apagiji-ziigwebinigeng. Maagizhaa gaye anooj odoodawaawaadogenan inow abinoojiinyensan giishkizhwaawaad, aana-wii-ondinamowaad nawaj wii-gagwe-gikendamowaad gegoo.**

At the time of conception the baby has a spirit. The woman should ask to take home the fetus of the baby that she has lost. Who knows what could possibly be done to these babies that these women lost. Maybe the white man will just throw the baby in the garbage, or maybe they are doing research, cutting the baby up to learn something new.

**Booch da-maajaa'ind a'aw abinoojiinyens, giishpin maajaa'aasiwind a'aw abinoojiinyens, mii-go omaa da-baa-gaagiwozhitoonid inow ojichaagwan omaa akiing.**

It is necessary to send off the spirit of the baby. If the spirit is not sent off, his spirit will be wandering with no place to go here on earth.

**Mii dash omaa apii wii-ni-dazhindamaan i'iw gaagiigidowin gaa-achigaadeg ani-maajaa'ind a'aw abinoojiinyens gaa-wani'aajin a'aw ikwe megwaa gigishkawaad. Ishke gaa-ikidowaad ingiw akiwenziyibaneg, mii iw izhi-gwayak iwidi wenji-izhaad a'aw abinoojiinyens iwidi ezhaawaad gidiniwemaaganinaanig gegoo izhiwebiziwaad miinawaa wenji-noogitaasig omaa akiing, ogii-misiwaabamigoon inow Manidoon gaa-onji-inendaagozid izhi-gwayak da-izhaad iwidi a'aw abinoojiinyens. Azhigwa ani-dagoshimoonod iwidi, mii inow Manidoon da-ina'oonigod a'aw abinoojiinyens gegoo gaa-onji-inendaagozid izhi-gwayak da-ni-izhaad iwidi gidiniwemaaganinaanig eyaawaad. Gaagige-minawaanigoziwining ezhi-wiinjigaadeg.**

It is here that I want to talk about the talk that is used when a baby is sent off and lost during a woman's pregnancy. What the old men had said was the reason those babies go straight over to where our relatives are and do not stop here on earth is that the *Manidoog* saw something desirable in that baby and that is why it was decided he go straight over. When he arrives over there, the *Manidoog* will give and gift the baby with what it is they had in store for that child and the reason why they went straight over to where our relatives are. The place called, *Gaagige-minawaanigoziwining* — Land of Ever Lasting Happiness.

**Ishke gaawiin gegoo ogii-wanendanzinaawaa ingiw Manidoog. Mii-go gii-atoowaad ge-ni-naadamaagod a'aw abinoojiinyens iwidi izhi-gwayak gii-inendaagozid da-ni-izhaad. Ishke a'aw Manidoo iwidi genawenimaad gidiniwemaaganinaanan iwidi eyaanijin odayaawaan inow Manidoon nayaadamaagojin miinawaa genawenimaad inow abinoojiinyensan. Mii dash a'aw Gaagige-oshkiniigikwe. Mii a'aw bazhinizha'igaazod omaa, mii dash a'aw eni-dakonaajin inow abinoojiinyensan weweni da-dagoshimoono'aad iwidi eyaawaad gidinawemaaganinaanig. Ishke a'aw akiwenziyiban gii-ikido, ishwaasowag ingiw Manidoog ekwewijig. Mii a'aw eya'aansiwid ingiw Manidoog ekwewijig a'aw Gaagiige-oshkiniigikwe.**

There is nothing that those *Manidoog* forgot. They also put things in place that will help the babies when it is meant for them to go straight over. The *Manidoo* over there that takes care of our relatives has a helper that takes care of the babies. She is known as *Gaagige-oshkiniigikwe* — *Forever Young Woman*. She is sent here to carry the baby ensuring that the baby arrives safely over there where our people go. That old man said that there are eight *Manidoo* that are women. She is the youngest of those *Manidoog* that are females, *Gaagige-oshkiniigikwe* — *Forever Young Woman*.

**Akawe omaa niwii-tibaajimaag ingiw Manidoog ekwewijig, mii inow zeziikiziniin a'aw Wenabozho ogookomisan. Gookomisakiinaan ezhi-wiinind. Gaawiin a'aw akiwenziyiban ogii-kikenimaasiin gakina ezhi-wiinjigaazonid inow Manidoon ekwewiniin. Mii-sa wiin igo aanind ogii-tibaajimaan ezhi-wiinjigaazonid, mii dash a'aw Nabaanaabe, miinawaa a'aw Giganaan (dibiki'giizis), miinawaa aanind ingiw anangoog. Mii a'aw bezhig anang ezhi-wiinind, Nazhike'awaasang.**

First I am going to tell about the female *Manidoog*. The eldest is *Wenabozho's* grandmother. Her name is *Gookomisakiinaan*. That old man did not know all the names of the female *Manidoog*. He did mention some of them by their names. *Nibaanaabe* — Mermaid, and *Giganaan/Dibiki-giizis* — The Moon and some of the stars. One of the star's name is *Nazhike'awaasang* — The Evening Star/The One That Shines Alone.

**Mii omaa akawe nawaj wii-ni-dibaajimoyaan miinawaa. Ishke ingiw abinoojiinyag geshkitoojig babaamabatoowaad omaa akiing gegoo ani-izhiwebiziwaad, mii i'iw bikwaakwad ezhinimowaad i'iw menidoowaad, mii iw dash beminizha'amowaad imaa miikanensing biinish iwidi ani-dagoshimoonowaad iwidi Gaagige-minawaanigoziwining ezhi-wiinjigaadeg. Mii iw ba-izhinizha'igaadenig i'iw menidoowaad, mii dash ge-izhinang dibishkoo i'iw bikwaawad waabandang, mii dash iw nayaanoopinadood biinish iwidi weweni da-ni-dagoshimoonod.**

It is here I want to tell more. If something happens to a toddler, one that is able to run around the earth, there is spiritual energy in the form of a ball, and that is what they chase down that path, until they arrive over there to *Gaagige-minawaanigoziwining* — Land of Ever Lasting Happiness. It is that spiritual energy that is sent over here that appears in the form of a ball that he sees. That is what he will follow until he arrives safely over there where our relatives are.

**Ishke dash a'aw abinoojiinyens wani'ind dabwaa-wawiinge-giizhigid, gaawiin omaa wiidoopamaasiin omaa dabwaa-maajaa'ind iko endoodawind ani-maajaa'ind nawaj gechi-aya'aawid. Ishke gaa-ikidowaad ingiw akiwenziyibaneg, gaawiin gii-teojichaagoshinziin omaa akiing da-odaapinangiban i'iw wiisiniwin a'aw abinoojiinyens. Gaawiin dash memwech onaagan maagizhaa gaye onaaganan atamawaasiwag besho enawendaasojig da-ni-wiidoopimaawaad inow enaginigowaajin. Mii dash iwidi enabiwaad ingiw Manidoog epagizonjigaadenig i'iw wiisiniwin, mii dash imaa gakina awiya ani-naabishkaaged i'iw wiisiniwin, mii dash iwidi ge-ni-izhaamagak enabiwaad ingiw Manidoog.**

If a baby is lost before he is completely developed, we do not eat with these infants before they are sent off like we do with adults. Those old men said that their spirits did not make it to that point where they made an impression on the earth and to be able to accept food. It is not necessary to put a bowl or maybe bowls for the close relatives since we are not having a meal with the infant. Instead the food is sent over to where the *Manidoog* sit, and as everyone eats the food, it in return goes to where those *Manidoog* sit.

**Mii gaye ani-bimiwidood a'aw abinoojiinyens i'iw odaminowaagaansi-zhiishiigwan miinawaa i'iw iko eni-noobaajigaadeg omoodens miinawaa doodooshaaboo achigaadeg imaa. Miinawaa iko niminwendaan Anishinaabe-zhiwaagamizigan imaa dagonigaadeg ani-wiishkoba'igaadeg i'iw doodooshaaboo.**

The baby will also carry a little rattle and a bottle with milk. I prefer to have people add maple syrup to sweeten the milk.

**Mii gaye imaa gashkabijigaazonid inow naaning akeya giishkizhigaazonid gendidaawiziniin inow asemaan. Mii inow gendidaawiziniin asemaan iko gaa-shaashaagwamaawaajin ingiw akiwenziyibaneg. Mii dash i'iw meskwegak gidagiigin mii imaa gashkabijigaazod a'aw asemaa gaa-kiishkizhigaazod. Meskwozid a'aw zenibaanh aabajichigaazod omaa dakobinind a'aw asemaa omaa meskwegak gidagiigin. Mii iw enabaji'ind a'aw asemaa, niwing dasing imaa ani-waawaabanjigaazowag ingiw Manidoog, mii dash ani-biindaakoonindwaa jiigi-miikanens naabawijig. Mii dash iwidi ishkwaj ani-biindaakoonind a'aw Manidoo zhengishing imaa ziibiing iwidi ayaamagak. Mii iko imaa nawaj gechi-aya'aawid inow asemaan imaa baabiitawayi'ii oniinjiing achigaazonid. Onzaam dash babiwaamagadini oniinjiinsiwaan ingiw biibiyensag da-achigaazonipan, mii dash i'iw wenji-gashkabijigaazonid inow odasemaawaan.**

Also a small bundle is made with five pieces of cut up plug tobacco. **Continued on page 13**

That is the kind of tobacco those old men chewed. The cut up tobacco is then wrapped up in red cloth. A red ribbon is then used to tie up the tobacco in the red cloth. The purpose of the tobacco is that they will see a *Manidoo* on four different occasions; they will offer that tobacco to those *Manidoog* who stand alongside that path. The last piece of tobacco is used to offer it to the *Manidoo* who is lying in the river that they will come upon. For adults the tobacco is usually put in between their fingers. With infants since their hands are so small, that is why the tobacco is wrapped up in red cloth.

**Gaawiin memwech inow bashkwegino-makizinensan daa-biizikoonasiin a'aw abinoojiinyens. Ishke inow Manidoon a'aw Gaagige-oshkiniigikwen owii-ni-dakonigoon da-ni-bimiwinigod i'iw miikanensig gaa-miinigoowizid a'aw Anishinaabe da-ni-maada'adood azhigwa gegoo izhiwebizid.**

It is not necessary to put moccasins on the infants, since *Gaagige-oshkiniigikwe* will carry the infant down that path that we're given to take when it is time for us to change worlds.

**Ishke dash aabiding iwidi maajaa'iweyaan Neyaashiing, mii iw getegikinoo'amaadiwigamig gaa-atemagakiban iko imaa niigaan noongom badakidemagak i'iw ataagewigamig Misi-zaaga'iganing eyaamagak, mii imaa gaa-tanakamigiziyaang gii-maajaa'ind a'aw abinoojiyens.**

One time when I was doing a funeral in Mille Lacs, it was in the old school house that stood in front of where the casino is now in Mille Lacs, it was there that an infant funeral was being held.

**Mii dash a'aw abinoojiinyens inow omaamaayan, mii a'aw gii-wiindamaaged gii-waabamaad gii-pi-biindigenid inow Gaagige-oshkiniigikwen iwapii gii-abiichigaazonid inow abinoojiinyensan gaa-wani'aajin. Mii dash gaa-izhinawaad inow Gaagige-oshkiniigikwen, gii-niishtana-biboonagiziwan naa gaye gii-kagaanwaanikwewan, miinawaa gii-makadewaamagadini owiinizisan, mii iwidi gaa-pagamigoodenig owiinizisan omaa odiyaang. Mii dash a'aw ikwe gaa-ikidod ogii-waabamaan inow Manidoon ganawaabamaad inow oniijaanisensan. Mii iw gaa-izhi-waabandang i'iw zhawendaagoziwin omaa gaa-ayaamagadinig omaa oshkiinzhigoong ganawaabamaad inow oniijaanisensan. Mii-go gaye dibishkoo gaa-izhinamowaad oshkiinzhigoong inow oniijaanisensan ganawaabamaad inow Manidoon.**

The infant's mother told about seeing *Gaagige-oshkiniigikwe* come in during the course of the wake. She said *Gaagige-oshkiniigikwe* looked to be about twenty years old and she had long black hair, it hung down to her butt. The mother said she saw that *Manidoo* looking at her baby. She saw the compassion of the *Manidoo* as she looked at her baby. She could also see the love in the eyes of her baby as he looked back at the *Manidoo*.

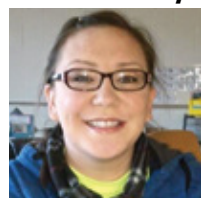
**Mii dash gaa-ikidod a'aw ikwe, "Mii iw gaa-ondinamaan gaawiin nigagwaadagitoosiin azhigwa gaa-maajaa'ind miinawaa gii-nanaa'inigaazod ninijaanisens."**

The mother said, "As a result of seeing all this, I did not have a difficult time at the funeral or at the burial of my child."



## Gidinwewininaan

**Baabitaw Boyd** Gaa-ozhibii'ang



This month's article is about my trip to Hawaii and meeting the Immersion teacher trainer.

Mii iw waa-ini-dazhindamaan gii-ini-izhaayaan iwidi chi-minising bangshimong Hawaii ezhiwinjigaadeg. Nigii-izhaa widi daminowaanagozing da-anwebing naa biinish-go gaye da-mawadisag a'aw bizhishig-hawaii-gikinoo'amaagewinini. Kalehua anishinaabewinikaazo. Mazinibii'igewiwininiwi miinawaa chi-gikinoo'amaagewininiwi iwidi chi-gabe-gikendaasowigamigong waasaa iwidi University of Honolulu ezhiwinjigaadeg. Ishke geget ogikinoo'amawaan inow weshki-gikinoo'amaagenijn iwidi.

Mii iwidi dagoshinaan imaa endaad a'aw Kalehua, mii gii-kanawaabamagwaa gii-abwanaanawaad inow gookooshan anaamikamig inow odinawemaaganan gaye wiinawaa.

Gii-paataniinowag nayaadamaagejig gii-ayaawaad da-ozhitoowaad gakina ge-mijiiyaang. Gii-wenda-wawiingeziwan inow oniijaanisaa naa go gaye inow owiiwan gii-anokiinid. Ishke geget gii-hawaii-inwewag gakina. Mii eta-go gaganoozhiwaad gii-aabajitoowaad i'iw zhaaginaashiimowin.

Ishke geget dibishkoo gaa-inikamagak mewinzha nigii-nanaamadabimin imaa adoopowining endaad a'aw Kalehua naa go gaye odinawemaaganan. Nigii-amwaanaan a'aw gookoosh gaa-abwaanind gii-tazhindamaang gakina ezhiseg gikinoo'amaageng omaa endanakiyaan omaa misizaaga'iganing naa-go gaye widi Hawaii.

Ishke geget ninga-ozhibii'aan nawaj-igo gaa-tazhinjigaadeg ge-naadamaagooyang omaa Misizaaga'ganing da-nitaa-objiwemowaad anishinaabe-abinoojiinyag naa-go gaye gakina awiia waa-kikendangig.

Continued from page 4

## Minisinaakwaang Says No to Sandpiper

ration, for any human being to take away that happiness and that way of life and that right is completely wrong, and I would like Enbridge to think about that because their peace and happiness can be taken away just as easily."

Opitchee Mushkoob said, "This is our food. This is where we live. This is our water. Our basic human rights. And that's all we want."

After hours of testimony, the hearing concluded with a look at the "big picture" of fossil fuel dependence and global climate change.

Winona LaDuke, a White Earth Band member, called the pipeline one more example of Indian people being victimized — a "dangerous" action given the fragile health of Indian communities. She said building a pipeline is "egregious from beginning to end," emphasizing that burning the remaining oil reserves "is pretty much a death sentence to the planet."

Don Wedll, a former Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources, said Enbridge is planning a second pipeline through the corridor to transport oil from Alberta's tar sands,

and he discussed the potential costs to remove carbon from the air. "This is no different than years ago when people would dump pollution into rivers to avoid the cost of disposing of it properly," said Don. "We will not see the impact of what we're doing today for 75 to 100 years, but one of the ways we can prevent some of this is to stop expansion of pipelines."

Dawn Aubid, another Minisinaakwaang resident, gave the final testimony of the day and summed up many of the arguments against the pipeline: "We are the caretakers of the land," Dawn said, "and to protect the land is our civic responsibility."

Before the testimony concluded, those in attendance learned that the Public Utilities Commission had voted 5-0 in favor of the certificate of need for the project. Although the action approves the construction of the pipeline, the final route of the pipeline has not been decided, so the testimony of Band members may still affect the outcome.

A routing permit will be granted after additional study of route alternatives. It is not clear how long that process will



Don Wedll



Winona LaDuke

take, but Enbridge has said it hopes to begin construction in 2016 and finish in 2017.

After the hearing, Melanie said, "This is far from over. We will do everything we can to protect our homeland."

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## Happy July Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Robert Duane Anderson  
David Niib Aubid  
Cynthia Pauline Backora  
Darline Ann Barbour  
MaryAnn Sophia Belgarde  
James Oliver Benjamin  
Roberta Joy Benjamin  
Donna Marie Boodoo  
Lewelyn Gene Boyd  
Roxann Lynn Carr  
Kevin Scott Churchill  
Randall Clark  
Christine Marie Costello  
Gary Lee Davis  
Martha Kathrine Davis  
Michael Wayne Davis  
Brian DeSantis  
George James Dorr Jr.  
Rosella Marie Eagle  
Donna Lou Gilmore  
Karen Harrington  
Caylen Jansen  
Lawrence Gene Johnson  
Loretta Ruth Kalk  
Debra Ann Kamimura  
Dixie Marie Kamimura  
Judith Joan Kanassataga  
Vivian Roxanne Kegg  
Richard Joseph Keller  
Deborah Jean Kersting  
Darlene Ann LaFave  
Bonita Marie Lucas  
Virginia Mann  
Lucille Ann Merrill  
Meskwanakwad  
Jo Ann Mitchell  
Letitia Mitchell  
Carol Jean Nickaboine  
Debra Ann Olson  
Karen Peterson  
Joseph Vincent Pawaush

Steven Edward Premo  
Daryl Alan Quaderer  
Elfreda M. Sam  
Valerie Jayne Shingobe  
Alicia Lydia Skinaway  
Geraldine Ellen Skinaway  
Loretta June Smith  
Andrew Felix St. Clair  
Ruth Anne St. John  
Glenn Staples  
Patricia Louise Thomas  
Jolette Marie Zapf

## Happy July Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Brody** on 7/2 from Grandma June. • Happy birthday **Nicole** on 7/2, love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **BOY** on 7/3 from KAKA. • Happy birthday **Isabel** on 7/4, love Dana, Duwayne, Mom, Michael, Michael Jr., Luis, Elijah, Braelyn, Brynley, Grandma Pam, Tommy, Ana, and Reese. • Happy birthday to my nephew **Baby Q** on 7/4 from his aunty/we'eh Cilla. • Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday **Baby Q** on 7/4 with love from Anna and family. • Happy 6<sup>th</sup> birthday **Daymon Fronco** on 7/4 with lots of love from Mom, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, Grama Vera, Stoner, Derek, Frankee, DeaLayna, and Bruce. • Happy 37<sup>th</sup> birthday **Codgie Dummo** on 7/5 with love from Anna and family. • Happy birthday to my wonderful sister **Anita Benjamin** on 7/5 from Monica and family. • Happy birthday **Berta Bubblebutt** on 7/5 with love from Anna and family. • Happy 8<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Dallas Downey** on 7/5! We love you SO much! Forever, Mommy (Toya), Daddy (Steven), Hunter, Cami, Aunties Tawnya & Dawne, Uncle Jamie, and cousins Jessica, Sierra, Blake, Mekhi, Aubrey, and the Texas cousins. • Happy birthday **Mom** on 7/8 from Cilla • Happy birthday **Miranda Benjamin** on 7/9 from the Benjamin Clan. • Happy birthday **Andrea** on 7/9 from Great-Grandma June. • Happy 6<sup>th</sup> birthday **Cadence Marie** on 7/10 with love from Mommy, Gabe Dad, Gramma TT, Benny, Joshy, LoLo, Freddie, and Sy! • Happy birthday **Mariss** on 7/12 from your sis Cilla. • Happy birthday **Karen** on 7/13, love all your family. • Happy birthday **Landon Livingston** on 7/13 from Mom and Dad. • Happy 20<sup>th</sup> birthday **Jessica Stewart** on 7/14! You are loved by all of us! Mom (Dawne), Brittany, Mekhi, Aubrey, Aunties Toya & Tawnya, cousins Sierra, Blake & Dallas, and our Texas family. • Happy birthday **Whitney** on 7/14 from Mom, Dad, Charlotte, Carter, PJ, Ashley, Grandpa Doug, Nadine, and Chik. • Happy birthday **BuddZ** on 7/15 from your buddZ Cilla. • Happy 7<sup>th</sup> birthday **Joshua Jon** on 7/15 with love from Mommy, Gabe Dad, Gramma TT, Benny, Cadence, LoLo, Freddie, and Sy! • Happy birthday **Loretta** on 7/15 from Liz, Lydia, Manny, Elliot, her grandkids, and her great-grandkids. • Happy 40<sup>th</sup>

birthday **Rhinestone** on 7/15 with love from Anna and family. • Happy 40<sup>th</sup> birthday **Julian** on 7/15 with love from Anna and family. • Happy birthday **Jon Reynolds** on 7/15 from Aunty Monica and family. • Happy birthday to my niece **Tehlis** on 7/19. • Happy 5<sup>th</sup> birthday to my beautiful grand-daughter **Tehli** on 7/19, love you my beeb — Grandma. • Happy birthday **Chey Garbow Sr.** on 7/20 from MareBear. • Happy 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday **Twyla** on 7/20 with love from Anna and family. • Happy birthday **Rachel** on 7/21, love your brothers and sissys. • Happy birthday **Rachel** on 7/21 with love from Anna and family. • Happy birthday **Stace** on 7/22 from your sis Cilla. • Happy 28<sup>th</sup> birthday **Stacy** on 7/22 with love, Mom. • Happy 1<sup>st</sup> birthday **Ahrianna Grace Wiedewitsch** on 7/23 with love from Daddy, Mommy, Jazmin, Gramma Tammy, Auntie Brandi, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico. • Happy birthday **Paige Mitchell** on 7/23, also congrats on graduation from high school, love Mom, Dad, Freddie, Sam, Mulan, Tiny, Cetiva, Bunson, Beaker, and Tweety. • Happy birthday **Damian** on 7/26 with love from Mom, sister, and family. • Happy birthday **Brandon Benjamin Sr.** on 7/28 from Vanessa, Miranda, Jessica, Brandon Jr., Byron, Holly, Sunny, and Bethany. • Happy birthday **Ogui** on 7/29 from Micki, Phillip, Nadine,

Whitney, PJ, Grandpa Doug, and Chik. • Happy birthday **Donevin** on 7/30 with love from Anna and family. • Happy birthday **“Neck”** on 7/31 from The Squad. • Happy birthday **Jeannette** on 7/31 from grama Vera, Derek, Frankee, DeaLayna, and Bruce. • Happy birthday **BJ Livingston** on 7/31 from Mom and Dad.

## Other Announcements:

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, **Morningstar** and **Harvey Jr.** welcomed **Harvey GoodSky III** into the world. • Congratulations to **Jessica Benjamin**, Class of 2015 graduate. From Mom, Dad, and the Benjamin Clan. • Congratulations to **Nay Ah Shing fifth grade graduates** James Bigbear, Trenton Cash, EmmaRae Gahbow, Deshania Jackson, Laila Mitchell, Talia Nadeau, Mackenzie Osburn, Justus Petite-Deegan, Kiala Ryle, Molly Saboo, Dylan Sam, Gordon Sam, Lliana Sanchez, Ashton Smith, and Louis Whiteman-Cram.

## Submit Birthday Announcements

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

## 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Powwow in August

**Friday, August 21–Sunday, August 23, 2015**

Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds, West side of Lake Mille Lacs

**Co-MC's:** AMIK and Pete Gahbow

**Co-host Drums:** Timber Trails and Pipestone

**Grand Entries:** Friday: 7 p.m., Saturday: 1 p.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday: 1 p.m.

**Events:** Princess & Brave Contest, Best Parade Float Contest, Best Rez Car Contest, Horse-shoe Tournament, Moccasin Game, Fun Run (sponsored by the Mille Lacs Indian Museum).

**Free:** Admission, camping, showers, and firewood (off-site firewood prohibited)

**Onsale:** Powwow t-shirts, jackets, and buttons

**Food & Craft Vendors:** Limited space, reserve early. Contact Tammy Smith, 320-532-7752

**Drum Monies:** Drums must have a minimum of five singers. All singers must personally register with their drum and designate one individual who will collect at payout. At least five registered singers must be present at the drum during each roll call in order to be paid for that session.

**Veteran and Active Duty Flags:** The powwow committee is seeking flags for honoring family members who served. See page 11 for form and additional information, or to complete forms via telephone, contact Ramona Bird at 320-532-7860.

**Other Information:** All dancers must be in appropriate regalia at each grand entry and exhibitions in order to be paid. All tiny tot sessions will be smoke-free.

**Contact:** Brad Harrington at 320-515-0824 or Kim Sam at 320-224-1646.

## Mille Lacs Indian Museum July Events

Visit [events.mnhs.org](http://events.mnhs.org) for more details on events happening at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum during the month of July.

# JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Want your event here?</b> Email <a href="mailto:mick@redcircleagency.com">mick@redcircleagency.com</a> or call 612-465-8018.</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>DII-A Chiminising Bingo</b> 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Mid-Summer Days</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Kids Crafts: Dream Catchers</b> 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum See page 14</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>District I Community Picnic</b> Powwow Grounds</p> <p><b>Circle of Health Outreach</b> 1-4 p.m. East Lake Clinic</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>DII-A WEX Outreach, Brenda Beaulieu</b> 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Computer room</p> <p><b>Farm Fresh Fridays</b> 4-7 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum See page 14</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>AmVets Post 53 Meeting</b> 6 p.m. Grand Northern Grill at Grand Casino Mille Lacs All veterans welcome</p> <p><b>Mobile Dental Clinic</b> Carlton County Public Health and Human Services See page 16</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Mobile Dental Clinic</b> Carlton County Public Health and Human Services See page 16</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Circle of Health Outreach</b> 1-4 p.m. Urban Office</p> <p><b>DII-A Chiminising Bingo</b> 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><b>Mobile Dental Clinic</b> Carlton County Public Health and Human Services See page 16</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Mobile Dental Clinic</b> Carlton County Public Health and Human Services See page 16</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>DII-A WEX Outreach, Brenda Beaulieu</b> 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Computer room</p> <p><b>Mobile Dental Clinic</b> Carlton County Public Health and Human Services See page 16</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Circle of Health Outreach</b> 1-4 p.m. DII-A Isle Community Center</p> <p><b>DIII/Aazhoomog Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>DII-A WEX Outreach, Brenda Beaulieu</b> 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Computer room</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Appliqué Porcupine Quill Workshop</b> Noon-4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum See page 14</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Appliqué Porcupine Quill Workshop</b> 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum See page 14</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>DI Sobriety Feast</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>DII-A Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>DII-A Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>DII-A WEX Outreach, Brenda Beaulieu</b> 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Computer room</p>	

## Higher Education Office's Annual Graduation Recognition Ceremony

One hundred and thirty-five graduates (high school through Master's degree) were honored June 24 at the Higher Education Office's Annual Graduation Recognition Ceremony at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Speakers included Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise, Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, and healer/Elder Herb Sam. The keynote speech was given by Ronald Anderson, an Elder and Property Manager for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. The honor song was by Timber Trails.



Yolanda Dorr-Slowey celebrated her graduation with her family and fellow Band graduates.



Ronald Anderson



Summer Olson brought her parents and husband to the event.

## UCare's New Mobile Dental Clinic

UCare's new Mobile Dental Clinic will visit Carlton County Public Health and Human Services (14 North 11th Street Cloquet, MN 55720) from July 13-17.

UCare members age 12 months and older can get a dental check-up and cleaning, and other primary dental care at no cost.

Call TODAY for an appointment: 1-866-451-1555 (toll free) or TTY: 1-877-627-3848 (toll free).

If a ride is needed, eligible members can call UCare's Health Ride at: 1-800-864-2157 (toll free) or TTY: 1-800-688-2534 (toll free).

No supervisory child care is available.

*UCare Minnesota is a health plan with a Medicare contract. This service is a partnership between UCare and University of Minnesota School of Dentistry.*

## Mille Lacs Band Corn Feed



The District I Niigaan kids invited the Mille Lacs Band DNR to a corn feed and kickball game on Thursday, June 11. No one kept score, but everyone had fun!

## Monte Fronk Teaches CPR Classes

Monte Fronk taught a CPR class to the District 1 Wii Du students, including Tierra Day, on Thursday, June 18. Monte, a certified CPR trainer, is the Band's emergency management coordinator. He is available to teach CPR classes to Band government departments. To schedule a class, which is four



Monte Fronk teaches Tierra Day about CPR.

hours in length and free of charge except for a small fee for the CPR card, call Monte at extension 2558.

## Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2015	Expenditures through 5/31/2015	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	14,696,104	8,111,591	55.2%
Department of Labor	20,487,635	3,947,510	19.3%
Judicial	1,273,825	618,444	48.6%
Department of Justice	5,225,715	3,071,081	58.8%
Education	18,394,174	11,153,693	60.6%
Health and Human Services	27,201,786	12,109,304	44.5%
Circle of Health Insurance	10,555,180	6,319,373	59.9%
Natural Resources	8,217,943	4,482,525	54.5%
Community Development	55,466,359	11,408,352	20.6%
Gaming Authority	5,324,748	3,091,110	58.1%
Non-Gaming Distribution	-	-	00.0%
Bonus Distribution	37,371,197	30,440,416	81.5%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,130,000	3,126,000	99.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,344,666</b>	<b>97,879,399</b>	<b>47.2%</b>

- (1) Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- (2) The amounts above do not include casino operations. However, they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
- (3) The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has its financial statements audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.
- (4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997. As of October 1, 1997, the Band has separated accounting functions for the Corporate Ventures from the tribal government.

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43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359  
[millelacsband.com](http://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.

## 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.