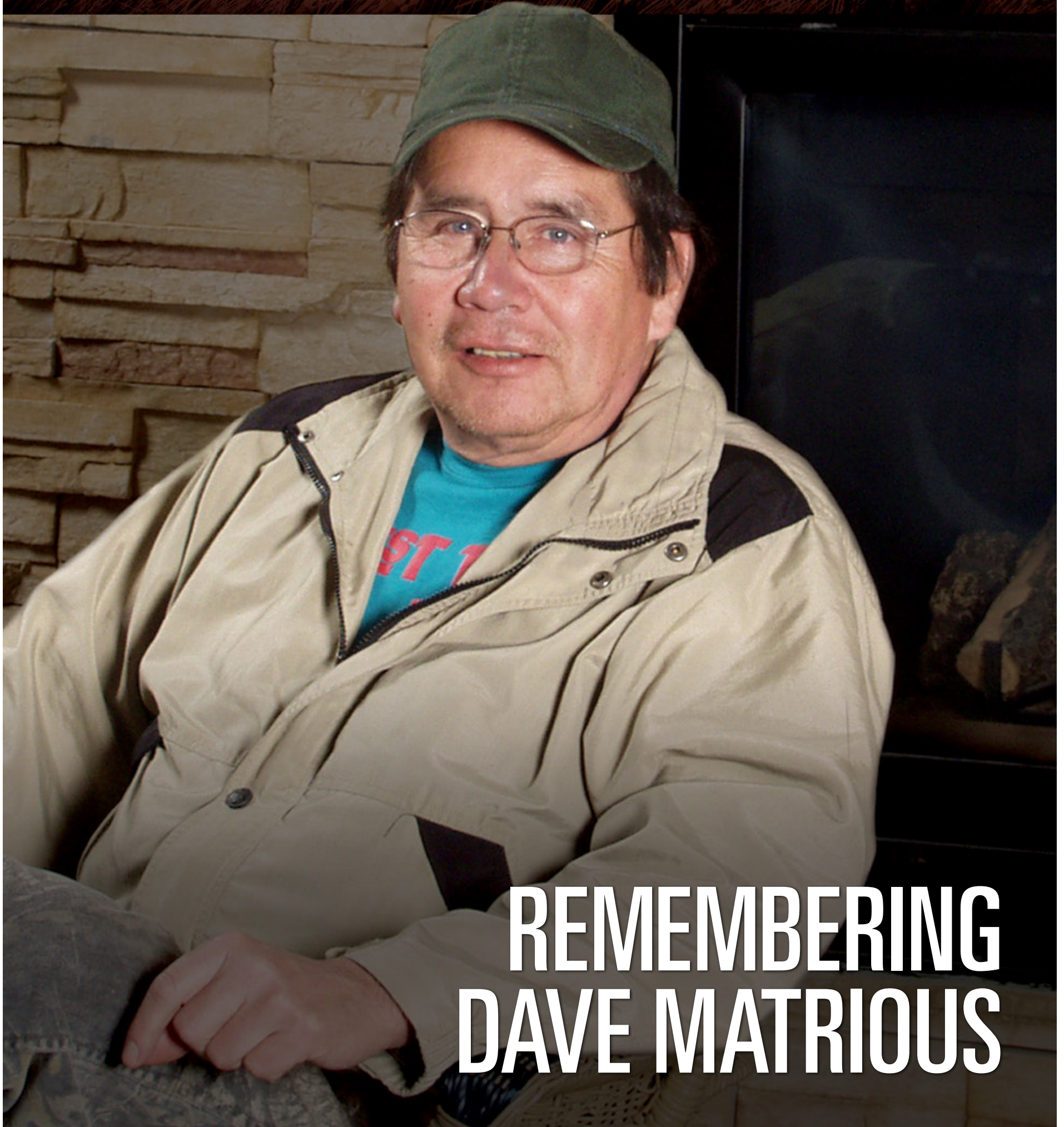


# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

AUGUST 2015 | VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 08



## REMEMBERING DAVE MATRIOUS

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin! As I write this column, I am waiting to board a plane at the Minneapolis Airport to travel to Washington D.C. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding an oversight hearing tomorrow (July 29th) on the "Real Cost of Alcohol and Substance Abuse" in tribal communities, and I have been asked to discuss the opiate crisis we are facing.

The Committee is interested in knowing the financial cost of addiction in tribal communities. We have some of that data that I will be sharing. For example, we know that each baby born addicted to opiates must spend an average of 15 days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and those costs average \$30,000. While there have been no national studies about the long-term impact of opiates on these children, we know that their symptoms as young children are very similar to babies born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS/FAE). And we do know that on average, the government spends \$2 million dollars over the course of the lifetime providing services to children born with FAS/FAE.

But the costs to our children, our families, and our future as an Indian Nation cannot just be measured in money. When a child is born addicted to opiates, the baby will most often be placed in foster care, but it is not just that baby who is impacted, because the baby's older siblings must usually be removed from the home as well. Unfortunately, we do not have enough Band member or Indian foster families to care for these children, which has also resulted in a crisis shortage of out-of-home placement for Band children.

It doesn't have to be this way. If you know of an expectant mother who is using opiates, please convince her to get help. As family members, you may feel resistance and even hostility when you approach these women, but deep down they want

help. Often, these women feel isolated and alone, because that is what addiction does to people. With medical treatment, intervention and counseling, babies can be born healthy and return home with their mother after birth. But it is absolutely critical that the mother get help!

Commissioner Moose and I have been working on several initiatives that we will be bringing to the Band Assembly to address this crisis, including a proposal for a residential treatment facility for expectant mothers where they can get help and support throughout their pregnancy. I will be sharing these ideas with the Congress tomorrow when I testify, and letting them know how they can help us stop this epidemic that has plagued reservations in Minnesota.

There are many other issues we are working on right now that directly impact the future of our children, and which are covered in this newspaper. Getting the Sandpiper pipeline stopped or at least routed away from District II remains a top priority. Two weeks ago, I had separate meetings with the Commissioner of Commerce, the Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission and the Commissioner of Natural Resources. I made clear our opposition to the Sandpiper and also insisted that these agencies engage in government-to-government consultation with the Band moving forward, prior to them taking positions on the route. We also held a first meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers and have requested that the Band be designated as a Cooperating Agency, which will give us a more influential role throughout this process.

Another issue that has taken up much of our time is the State's announcement that it is near its quota of walleye and may shut down walleye fishing for non-Indian anglers at the beginning of August. I want to make clear that this issue does

NOT impact tribal harvesting rights, but of course there are those who want to blame us and the other Bands for this problem, despite scientific evidence that tribal harvesting is completely un-related to the declining walleye population. I've met with Governor Dayton, Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith and DNR Commissioner Landwehr about this matter and they understand this, and know that the Band has been an outstanding steward of the lake and our environment. To further step up our conservation efforts, I have directed Commissioner Klapel to write a proposal for a fish hatchery for Mille Lacs. This is in direct response to my recent meetings with elders in each of the districts, who asked that we explore a hatchery option.

There are many other issues happening right now that would take much more space than I have available to discuss, including a trip to D.C. last week to advocate for more federal assistance in fighting crime on the reservation and numerous other initiatives, but I want to close on a positive note by congratulating the District II Powwow Committee for an absolutely wonderful Inauguration Powwow. What a wonderful weekend that was, with a spectacular turnout! Despite some of the challenges we face, when our Band community comes together like we did last weekend and celebrate our identity as Anishinaabe people, the feeling of happiness is profound. We all need reminders now and then of all that is good and right about our community, and how beautiful our culture is. I am so grateful to all who contributed to last weekend, especially to the entire District II Community! Miigwech!

## The Good Way of Life at 'Mino B'

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The old Budget Host Hotel on Hwy. 169 in District I has a new name: Mino Bimaadiziwin: The Good Way of Life. The name was chosen after staff found a board game with the name. It seemed appropriate given the developing philosophy of the hotel.

"Mino B," as staff and residents are calling it, still operates as a hotel under state and county laws and licenses, but it's more than a hotel. It's a place where homeless people, Indian or non, can spend a couple days or weeks getting things turned around and headed in the right direction. The hotel has a voucher program and reduced rates for Band members, but it's open to the general public as well.

The Band considered various uses for the building, including a halfway house or government offices, but in the end it was decided it should remain a hotel with special programs for homeless people. Since it's a business that is not on trust lands, it can't limit service to Band members but welcomes anyone who needs a place to stay. Even so, Mino Bimaadiziwin definitely has an Anishinaabe identity that goes beyond the name.

The hotel opened in December, and in February Richard

Hill came on board as manager. Richard had been the general manager of the Band's Housing Department, where he came to understand not only the housing needs of Band members but other needs as well: financial, physical, mental, social and spiritual.

During his time at Mino Bimaadiziwin, Richard has tried to implement a philosophy that makes the hotel unique.

"In five years as general manager of housing, I've seen a lot of the barriers our Band members deal with," Richard said. "I've built relationships with family services, public health, the tribal police and other departments. I was able to capitalize on that to identify what the barriers are and reach out to the departments to give our guests a hand up to get to that next step."

Richard admits that he's had some negative encounters with some of the guests due to his previous role in the Housing Department, but he puts that in the past. "We don't discriminate against anyone," he said. "I tell them right up front, today's a new day. Let's focus on tomorrow, not yesterday."

The hotel has 28 rooms as well as meeting space available, where a hand drum class was held recently, and a beading

class is in the works for the future.

On the grounds are a playground, basketball hoop, volleyball court, tetherball pole and barbecue grill.

The hotel also hosts a Wellbriety meeting on Saturday evenings at 6:30.

Richard would like to add a sweat lodge soon.

The casino provides a free shuttle service to bring guests to the government center, community center, Grand Market, casino or the movie theater.

On Friday, July 17, Richard invited Steve Lewis and Nancy Saboo to conduct a pipe ceremony for residents and anyone else who wanted to participate. Steve opened the morning by passing around cedar medicine and talking about the significance of cedar.

A pipe ceremony and talking circle followed. An elder talked about the importance of the Ojibwe language and explained the significance of the four directions. Another man named shared a pipe song and spoke about the importance of having a foundation in culture. A young father said it was the first ceremony he'd attended in a while, and it was helpful for him.

Richard Hill was born and raised **Continued on page 16**

# Notice of Public Meetings on Proposed Pipeline

Minnesota communities along the route of the proposed Enbridge Energy oil pipeline will have an opportunity to weigh in on the debate during a series of public meetings that are being held this month. The public meetings will be held Aug. 11 through Aug. 26. Band members are strongly encouraged to attend the meetings.

Enbridge is required to obtain a route permit and certificate of need from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The public meetings are a step in the state review, providing an opportunity for the public to share their views on the project.

Band members and others are welcome to share their concerns, suggestions, alternatives, or revisions regarding the proposed route. Written comments will be accepted through September 30; see below for instructions on submitting feedback.

The Calgary-based Enbridge Energy has proposed a \$7.5 billion pipeline project, including a 337-mile segment through Minnesota. The 36-inch diameter pipeline would stretch from Alberta, Canada to an Enbridge terminal in Superior, Wisconsin. North Dakota has approved its half of the 610-mile pipeline. Enbridge hopes the pipeline will be under construction in 2016 and finished the following year.

## Meeting Information

- Each meeting begins on time.
- Attendees should arrive early to sign in, pick up materials, and find a seat.
- The meetings are led by state agency staff members.
- Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and Enbridge staff will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
- Both written and verbal comments will be added to the record.
- The Department of Commerce will use meeting comments and those offered during the comment period to develop the environmental analysis for this project.

## 11 a.m. Meeting Agenda

- 11 to 11:30 a.m. Formal presentations:
  - Public Utilities Commission
  - Enbridge Energy
  - Department of Commerce
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Citizen Comments
- 12:30 to 12:45 p.m. Break
- 12:45 to 2:00 p.m. Citizen Comments
- 2 p.m. Meeting Adjourns

## 6 p.m. Meeting Agenda

- 6 to 6:30 p.m. Formal presentations:
  - Public Utilities Commission
  - Enbridge
  - Department of Commerce
- 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Citizen Comments

- 7:30 to 7:45 p.m. Break
- 7:45 to 9 p.m. Citizen Comments
- 9 p.m. Meeting Adjourns

## Meeting Times and Locations

- 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11  
Hallock City Hall – Upstairs Auditorium  
163 3rd Street SE., Hallock, MN 56728
- 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11  
Newfolden Community Center  
145 E 1st Street, Newfolden, MN 56738
- 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 12  
Ralph Engelstad Arena – Imperial Room  
525 Brooks Avenue, Thief River Falls, MN 56701
- 11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13  
Plummer Senior Citizen Center  
185 Minnesota Street S., Plummer, MN 56748
- 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13  
Gully Community Center  
120 S Main St, Gully, MN 56646
- 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 17  
Clear Waters Life Center – Gymnasium  
256 2nd Avenue SW, Clearbrook, MN 56634
- 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18  
Rice Lake Community Center – Gymnasium  
13830 Community Loop, Bagley, MN 56621
- 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 19  
Park Rapids Century School – Cafetorium  
501 Helten Avenue, Park Rapids, MN 56470
- 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 19  
Park Rapids Century School – Cafetorium  
501 Helten Avenue, Park Rapids, MN 56470
- 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 24  
Pine River-Backus High School – Commons  
810 1st Street N., Pine River, MN 56474
- 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25  
McGregor High School – Gymnasium  
148 S 2nd St., McGregor, MN 55760
- 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25  
McGregor High School – Gymnasium  
148 S 2nd St., McGregor, MN 55760
- 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26  
Carlton County Transportation Department  
1630 County Road 61, Carlton, MN 55718
- 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26  
Carlton County Transportation Department  
1630 County Road 61, Carlton, MN 55718



DNR employees testified at the Mille Lacs Band's public hearing on the Sandpiper pipeline on July 5 at the East Lake Community Center. Pictured (L-R): Todd Moilanen, Chad Weiss, Ryan Rupp, Susan Klapel, and Perry Bunting.

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled. Call (toll-free) 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

## Comments accepted through September 30, 2015

- Refer to PUC Docket Numbers: PL-9/CN-14-916 (Certificate of Need) / PL-9/PPL-15-137 (Route Permit)
- Online: [mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment)
- Email: [jamie.macalister@state.mn.us](mailto:jamie.macalister@state.mn.us)
- U.S. Mail:  
Jamie MacAlister, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101
- Fax: 651-539-0109

**Important:** Comments will be made available to the public via the Public Utilities Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

## Project Contacts

- Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor: Tracy Smetana at [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us), 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782
- Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Planner: Scott Ek at [scott.ek@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.ek@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2255
- Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager: Jamie MacAlister at [jamie.macalister@state.mn.us](mailto:jamie.macalister@state.mn.us) 651-539-1775 or 1-800-657-3794
- Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership Project Contact: Lorraine Little at [Line3ReplacementProject@enbridge.com](mailto:Line3ReplacementProject@enbridge.com) or 1-855-788-7812

# State May Shut Down Mille Lacs Walleye Harvest

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced July 21 that state walleye anglers are nearing their harvest quota on Mille Lacs.

After the next creel report is received, Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr will take the necessary actions. If the state determines it has exceeded its harvest allotment, the commissioner will be legally required to suspend fishing for walleye on the lake.

At a meeting at the governor's residence on Monday, July 20, Gov. Mark Dayton informed Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Mille Lacs Band DNR Commissioner Susan Klapel of the news.

Gov. Dayton has directed the DNR to wait until after

the next creel survey, which will cover the period from July 16 to July 31, to see if the most recent numbers are an aberration. During that time, officials at the DNR, the Office of Tourism, and Department of Employment and Economic Development will meet with resort owners and other affected stakeholders on Mille Lacs to discuss the situation and seek recommendations.

Susan Klapel told Band members at the District III community meeting that the state's action will not affect Band members, who have not yet reached their walleye quota.

Despite the ongoing challenges with the walleye population, other fishing on the lake remains strong and near record highs. DNR Commissioner Landwehr stressed that anglers

should take advantage of the continuation of liberal northern pike and smallmouth bass regulations on the lake.

"Mille Lacs Lake remains one of the premiere fishing destinations in the state," Landwehr said. "Northern pike and smallmouth bass are at or near record highs. Anglers should take advantage of the liberal regulations for these species. DNR tagging studies also indicate that muskies larger than 50 inches have never been more abundant."

The Mille Lacs Area Tourism Council is also encouraging tourists and anglers to find other ways to "do the lake." State officials met with Mille Lacs business owners on Thursday, July 23, to discuss ways to help the business climate.

## Commissioner Sworn in for Full Term

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer



Percy Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Community Development, was sworn in Monday, July 6, at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center.

Percy was originally appointed in November 2014 to complete the term of Katie Draper, who took a new position in the tribal government.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin nominated Percy for a full term, and the Band Assembly ratified the appointment.

Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu initiated the proceedings, and Percy took the oath of office from Chief Justice Rayna Churchill.

Melanie thanked Percy for his efforts during his term of service. Percy thanked Melanie for the reappointment and the Band Assembly for ratifying him. He gave credit to his staff and said he is honored to continue serving as commissioner.

A large crowd of well-wishers who witnessed the swearing-in lined up to congratulate Percy on his appointment. He said afterwards that meeting the housing needs of Band members, especially Elders, will be at the top of his department's agenda in coming months.

### 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.

### 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 September issue deadline is August 15.

## Technology Provides Anishinaabe College Students New Options

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

When the Anishinaabe College students return on Aug. 24 for their fall semester, they will have a new slate of courses and a new way of taking those classes.

Students will take their classes through what's known as ITV — an interactive method that uses television monitors and phone lines and allows for students and instructors to interact without being in the same room. Another option will be through a method called telepresence, which is similar to ITV.

"We've wanted to use technology to offer classes for a while now, and now we can," said Camille Naslund, the Band's director of Higher Education. "What's really great is that people can take classes where there's an ITV class being offered so it will be convenient for them."

The partnership with the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College is making ITV possible, and it's opening the doors for students in East Lake and at Pine Grove to take classes without having to drive to the District I tribal college to attend in person. In DI classes are held at the Nay-Ah-Shing Upper School, in DII they will be held at the East Lake Community Center, and in DIII they will be offered at the Pine Grove Leadership Academy.

"Anytime something new happens there is quite a bit of

excitement in the community, which is a good thing," said Suzanne Wise, the Band's Commissioner of Education. "Our students want a variety of classes that can keep them motivated to continue on with their education."

The classes are being taught by staff from Fond du Lac and include offerings such as digital storytelling, American Indian studies, business, child development, American Indian history, calculus and introduction to Anishinaabe language.

"Previously, we've offered six to eight classes, but we are now offering 16 classes," said Camille. "Calculus is brand new, and so are some of the other classes that are being offered."

Students can continue to enroll for classes until the start of the semester and can eventually earn an Associate of Arts degree and can transfer their credits to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree.

"We're continually evolving to best meet the needs of Band members," said Camille, adding that there are more Indian studies classes and topics.

For the past four years, the tribal college offered classes taught through Central Lakes College (CLC) and staff from CLC came to District to teach in-person classes. This year the in-person classes aren't being of- **Continued on page 16**

## Band Assembly Opens Session

**Stacey Thunder** Photographer



The Mille Lacs Band Assembly opened the fourth session of the 16th Band Assembly on July 14, 2015. Pictured (L-R): District III Representative Harry Davis, District I Representative Sandra Blake, Speaker of the Assembly Carolyn Beaulieu, and District II Representative David "Niib" Aubid.

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

**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, Horseshoe 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.



DISTRICT 2

# Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

Chad Germann Photographer

The Inaugural Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow was held on July 24–26 at the Minisinaakwaang Powwow Grounds in McGregor, MN. The weekend included a special youth night on Friday, a men's woodland special Saturday night, a women's side step special, and 3-man hand drum contest on Sunday. The DII powwow committee also sponsored a Woodland Warrior Relay on Sunday, when

co-ed teams competed in canoeing, running, and biking.

Miigwech to the District II Powwow Committee and everyone else who contributed to this beautiful event!



# 'If I Can Do It, Anyone Can'

Luther Sam's story shows there's hope after heroin

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer/Photographer

Every morning, Luther Sam crosses the highway to the shore of Mille Lacs, where he puts out tobacco and says thanks for the gifts he's been given. He prays for the people he's hurt, and he asks for help to make it through another day.

Luther's story is a warning to anyone who thinks drugs are a game, but it's a beacon of hope to those caught in the powerful grip of heroin or other drugs.

Like many addicts, Luther was drinking by the age of 14. "Right from the jump I was experiencing blackouts," he recalls. "I'd wake up in a juvenile detention center not remembering how I got there. It was like my brain just turned off. Booze and drugs take over. And what's crazy is, you do it again the next day."

He'd lose hours on those binges. He would get in fights and wake up with bloody knuckles and bruises on his face. He spent his adolescence accumulating a record of minor consumptions, drunk driving and assault.

When Luther turned 18, things got worse. "I started using meth in a big way," he says. "Back then, people on the reservation were kind of sketchy about people who used meth. But then it blew up."

For the next 10 years, it was more booze, more drugs, more blackouts and more arrests. He started using Percocet, Vicodin and Oxycontin. "I'd be up for days, experiencing hallucinations. I spent time in jails, hospitals, detox centers, prisons. I slept on every state bed there is," Luther says.

In 2008, Luther was sent to prison for the first time for 3rd degree assault. Prison wasn't difficult for Luther because he had spent so much time in detention centers, county jails and treatment centers. He was comfortable with the routine, and he had developed a "survival instinct."

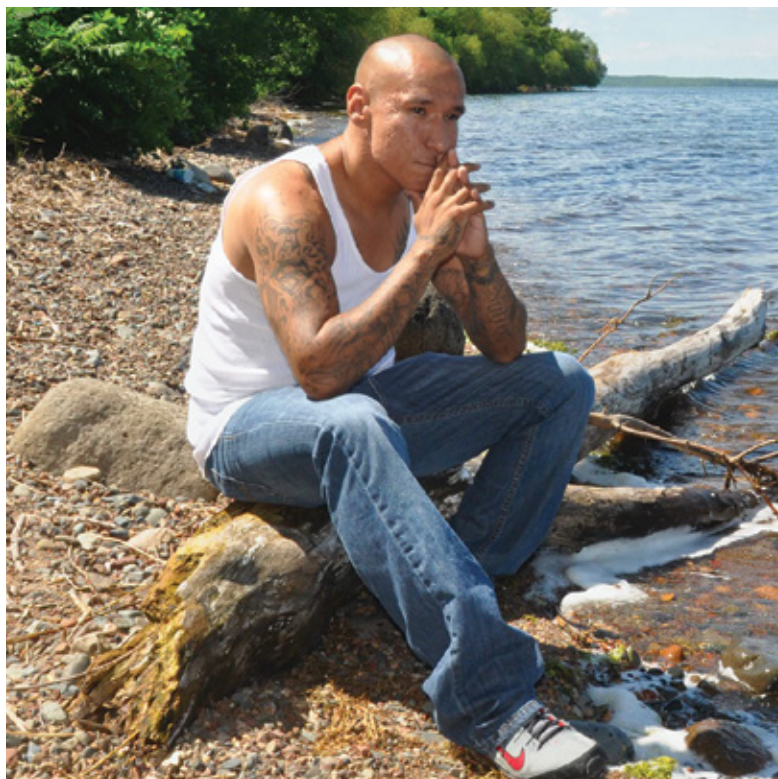
When he got out in 2010, he tried to get his act together. He had a daughter and a job to keep him focused. One day he was complaining to a girlfriend that he didn't want to go to work. She offered him heroin, and he accepted.

"Heroin was the lowest point for me," he says. "It became my life from the first try — a 24-hour kind of thing. Looking for it, getting it, using it, wanting it, and the cycle would start again the next day."

He started out sniffing it, but during the last year of his addiction, in 2012 and 2013, he was using IVs, often mixing heroin with methamphetamine.

Luther knew he was in trouble, so he checked into a treatment center where he was given Suboxone, Gabapentin and Klonopin, allegedly to help him get off heroin. "I walked in with a heroin addiction and walked out with a barbiturate addiction. As soon as my prescriptions ran out, it was right back to heroin and meth. Right where I left off. Nothing changed."

Luther went to prison again on April 26, 2013, which marked his first day of sobriety. Although drugs were available, Luther stayed clean, and one night he knew he wouldn't be going back to his old ways.



**"In recovery, anything is possible. It doesn't matter how far you've gone into drugs. There's hope that you can overcome."**

— Luther Sam

Luther Sam walks to the lake every morning to put out tobacco and pray.

"There was a big riot in prison, and I got some segregation time. While I was there, something happened in the middle of the night." He asked himself what was causing his addiction, the real reason for his troubled past.

"I knew I was lost," he says. "I had no sense of who I was, no sense of purpose. I needed spirituality in my life."

Luther calls it a "spiritual awakening."

"I started to pray every morning, quietly to myself. 'Give me the strength to make it through today. Watch over my daughter. Watch over my grandma. Watch over my mom. Thank you.' Every day. It just felt right. It felt like this is who I am, and this is what we need to do as Anishinaabe people."

Luther experienced an intellectual awakening, too. He turned off his TV and started reading books. At the prison library he checked out *The Red Road to Wellbriety*, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, and *Custer Died for Your Sins*. He started writing letters to friends in other jails.

Since his release from prison in February, things have steadily gotten better for Luther. He's received help from his friends Pat McCoy and Richard Hill, the manager of Mino Bimaadiziwin ("Mino B"), the old Budget Host Hotel where Luther was paroled. He has a full-time job and a driver's license. He's paid off his fines and restitution.

Meetings and ceremonies, especially the sweat lodge, help Luther stay clean and sober. He's hosting a wellbriety support group at the Mino B on Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. — to help others as well as himself.

He also credits his grandmother, Dorothy Sam, for planting

the seeds of recovery.

"My grandma was always talking about offering tobacco," Luther says. "If you're looking for answers, go to the Creator, ask the Creator and offer tobacco. Things she used to tell me didn't make sense back then, but it all makes sense right now."

Recovery is not without its struggles. Luther has ended relationships and faced hard facts about himself — including violence committed against his former partner. "There's nothing I could do or say that could make up for what I did to her — getting drunk and hitting her," he says. "I was a really bad person."

He's had to forgive himself and focus on the present day, trying to learn something new, to experience something positive. "Today I'm proud," Luther says. "I'm appreciative of who I've become. I'm doing things to better my life so my daughter can have a better life. I want her to have a strong, positive, cultural role model."

Luther wants other addicts to know there's hope. "In recovery, anything is possible," he says. "It doesn't matter how far you've gone into drugs. There's hope that you can overcome. Don't set limitations. Trust that the Creator has absolutely unconditional love for you. Everything we have in life is a gift, and it needs to be appreciated and respected as a gift — our kids, our partners, our home, our job."

"Three and a half years ago, I thought there's no way I'm gonna get off the drugs. I thought the only way out would be death, but here I am today, happy as ever. If I can do it, anyone can."

## Register Now for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Golf Outing

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is currently accepting registration for its second annual family golf outing. This 9-hole scramble will take place on Saturday, September 19 with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. at the Grand National Golf Club in Hinckley.

Registration is free and is limited to the first 36 teams. Teams must be comprised of two adults and two youth\* players.

Prizes include: door prizes, registration goodie bags, cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$400, and youth "Closest-to-the-pin" contest to win a PlayStation 4.

To register your team, please contact Beth Gruber at 320-532-8810 or [bgruber@mlcorporateventures.com](mailto:bgruber@mlcorporateventures.com).

\*Youth players are those 17 years of age and under.

Informational Flyer and Registration Form Can be found on [mlcorporateventures.com/news](http://mlcorporateventures.com/news)

Return completed registration to: Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Attn: Beth Gruber, 700 Grand Avenue, Onamia, MN 56359

For questions contact Beth Gruber at 320-532-8810 or [bgruber@mlcorporateventures.com](mailto:bgruber@mlcorporateventures.com).

# Mille Lacs Delegation Attends White House Tribal Youth Gathering

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

Mille Lacs Band youth and adults were among the hundreds of people who attended the first-ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering in Washington, D.C. last month.

The 12 attendees from Mille Lacs joined about 1,000 youth from 230 tribes representing 42 states. The event was held beginning on July 9 and held in conjunction with the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY, Inc.) conference.

The gathering promises to build on President Barack Obama's Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) initiative and his commitment to improve the lives of Native American youth.

The President launched the Gen-I initiative at the December 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference with a focus of improving the lives of Native youth through new investments and increased engagement. This initiative takes a comprehensive, culturally appropriate approach to ensure all young Native people can reach their full potential.

"Many of the students who attended the Tribal Youth Gathering have done certain levels of advocacy and community stewardship already," said Suzanne Wise, the Band's Commissioner of Education.

"We have students who are already activists against the pipeline, writers, public speakers, athletes, and youth who care for their communities and want the reservation to be a better, healthier place to live for all," she added.

Michelle Obama told the students not to give up and to continue to keep moving forward even through adversity. Her message was strong. She identified with the youth who have



**"Each of you was put on this Earth for a reason," she said. "Each of you has something that you're destined to do, whether that's raising a beautiful family, whether that's succeeding in a profession or leading your community into a better future."**  
– Michelle Obama

been maltreated because of the color of their skin, cultural differences and deep embedded family values. They enjoyed that. These cultural differences are very real to our students and they want to listen to messages that are meaningful and relevant to them.

At the gathering, the attendees had the opportunity to hear directly from First Lady Michelle Obama, Cabinet officials, the White House Council on Native American Affairs and others about issues including health, justice, education, climate change, economic opportunity, cultural protection and language revitalization.

During her keynote address, the First Lady told the youth attendees that they were precious and sacred members of society.

"Each of you was put on this Earth for a reason," she said. "Each of you has something that you're destined to do, whether that's raising a beautiful family, whether that's succeeding in a profession or leading your community into a better future."

"You all have a role to play and we need you," the First Lady said, adding that she believed in them and the story of their generation.

She said the story of the Gen-I generation is about the



**Bianca Roseland spoke about her trip to Washington, D.C. at the District III community meeting on July 22.**

youth investing in themselves and "rising up as leaders in your nations and in the world."

Suzanne shares the same perspective.

"Our students who work through the Band's Niigaan department have a strong base to work from," said Suzanne. "The gathering gave them the needed push to continue the good work they have already started."

One of the adults who attended with the Mille Lacs youth was District I Niigaan director Bugs Haskin, who said Mrs. Obama took a "page out of the book of my life for her talk."

"She reiterated everything I've been saying to the kids for years," said Bugs. "The best part was when she told the kids 'to take two things from this conference, no four things, take four things with you from this conference and don't just take it, but put it to use.'"

The students who attended were: Clayton Benjamin, Jr., Austin Stobb, Algin GoodSky, Bianca Roseland, Daja Barnes, Sherraine White, Megan Merrill, Kassandra Merrill, Candace Killspotted and Kali Sam.

During the event, the White House announced several commitments that are designed to help native youth and Indian Country thrive.

## Mille Lacs Early Education

Mille Lacs Early Education (MLEE) is a combination of six programs: Federal Head Start, Minnesota State Head Start, Federal Early Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) provided with the Onamia Public Schools, and Childcare. The programs all serve children and families birth to age five. Childcare is available for children age 6 weeks to 11 years. All of these programs focus on educating children. However, the needs and requirements for the six programs are very different.

Head Start and Early Head Start are federal programs that focus on low income and vulnerable children age birth to five. The goals are to help get children ready for school socially and emotionally, educationally, increase parent involvement, and improve the health and safety of children. The program must prove that a minimum of 51 percent of the families served are low income. MLEE must also recruit and enroll 10 percent of the total enrollment to include children with disabilities. The program also has an enrollment preference for Mille Lacs Band members, descendants and other Native Americans. Currently, only Mille Lacs Band Members and descendants are enrolled. The majority of enrollment points are based on children being low-income, Mille Lacs Band Members, being a foster child, being homeless, and having a disability or suspected disability.

Head Start programs serve children age three to five years. The children are provided with a high-quality early childhood education experience during the day from September to May. The curriculum focuses on literacy skills, math, science, large motor skills, fine motor skills, health, Ojibwe culture, and social

emotional development. Children enrolled in Head Start are learning every day. Funding is provided federally by the State of MN and the Mille Lacs Band. This service is offered in all three districts.

Early Head Start focuses on the same learning areas, but adapts them to serve children birth to age three years. Early Head Start operates September through July. Head Start and Early Head Start have a strong parent involvement. Both of these programs must follow Head Start Performance Standards. These are federal laws that regulate classroom space and equipment, staffing, curriculum, transportation services, disability services, nutrition and enrollment criteria. There are over 1,500 Performance Standards. Failure to follow the Head Start Performance Standards will result in the program being found out of compliance and can lead to a loss of funding. Early Head Start is offered in all three districts and is federally funded and Mille Lacs Band funded.

Another major requirement of the Performance Standards is training for staff and parents. There are 25 required trainings cited in the Performance Standards. All staff working with Head Start and Early Head Start children must attend these trainings. Mille Lacs Early Education currently employees over 90 staff who all need to attend the required trainings. The only way to ensure that staff is properly trained is to have training days. Because all staff must attend the trainings, all programs including childcare must close for those days.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) funding is provided by the state. ECFE provides learning activities for children

and their parents. Mille Lacs Early Education runs Family Activity Nights September through May. These events and other parenting events, like Positive Indian Parenting, are open to all members of the community.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) provides child find activities, screenings and assessments for developmental disabilities, and service to children identified with special needs. Head Start must recruit and enroll 10 percent of the total enrollment as children with special needs. Services to children provided include educational support, speech, physical therapy and occupational therapy to help with developmental delays.

Childcare is provided as a wraparound service before and after Head Start and Early Head Start in District I. There is not enough space in the building to provide childcare for families who need childcare only. Because of limited childcare space, the program must follow Performance Standards relating to recruitment and enrollment first. This means the program must give priority to low income and the most vulnerable children first.

Mille Lacs Early Education has the goal to provide high-quality early childhood learning and cultural activities. School will start on September 2. August 25 will be the first day for Head Start and Early Head Start this year. Open House will be on August 25th in all three districts.

*For questions and information about the program contact Tammy Wickstrom, Director of Early Education.*



## FORMER SPEAKER WAS A MAN OF COMPASSION

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer Photographs courtesy of the *Mille Lacs Messenger* and the **Matrious family**

**A**lvina Aubele remembers when her brother, David Matrious, was born. “It was winter, and it was cold,” she recalled. “My dad had this old car hood, and he used it for a sled. We lived three miles from the main road, and he pulled my mom on that sled to the road.” From there they were driven to Cloquet, where David was born.

That car hood toboggan is a good symbol of David’s life — traditional and modern at the same time.

David passed away unexpectedly in June, taking with him a storehouse of cultural and historical knowledge and a loving heart that endeared him to his family and his community.

David served as District III Representative from 1986 to 1992 and as Secretary/Treasurer from 1992 to 1998. He played an important role in the development of the tribal government, the growth of the casinos and the victory in the 1837 Treaty case. During his time in office, David helped make decisions related to the planning and building of the casinos, the government center, schools, clinics, community centers, ceremonial buildings and a host of other projects.

Scott and Grace Matrious, David’s parents, were traditional Anishinaabe who lived in the Lake Lena community.

David and his siblings attended Twin Lakes School, a one-room schoolhouse near Lake Lena, as well as schools in Markville, Cloverton and Sandstone.

Scott made his income from logging, and he and Grace taught the children the value of hard work. The kids picked blueberries and beans to sell for extra income. They made birch bark birdhouses and peeled logs for their dad.

David always liked to be in the woods, according to his sister Carole Higgins. He was a Boy Scout, and he enjoyed sleeping in a tent and trying to live off the land. His mother would tell David, “I’m hungry for fish. Go fishing, Dave,” so he’d dig worms for bait and come back with fish.

David wasn’t exactly a saint, as his younger brother Gordon can attest. David once parachuted Gordon’s pet hamster off the roof, and he gave Gordon his first cigarette, then lied about it to their mom.

But Gordon admired David’s positive qualities.

“One thing about Dave, he always put everybody else before himself, even when he was in government office,” said Gordon. “Other people would get new houses for their family, but my brother wasn’t like that. He just got his house here two

years ago.”

Once Gordon asked David why he didn’t get himself a house. David answered, “I don’t really need one. If someone needs one more than I do, they should have it.”

His sister Alvina said he waited a long time for that house, finally moving in less than two years ago. She remembered how he tried to give the house to her when she was having health problems. “Dave, I lived in this house for 20 years,” she told him. “You just got yours. Enjoy it.”

Carole thinks David inherited his warm nature from his Elders. “Our parents showed a lot of compassion, and David showed a lot of compassion too.”

Alvina agreed. “Years ago when our folks were living, they took in an elderly bachelor,” she said. “They took care of him, fed him, gave him clothes. I think what my parents did with that old man, that’s where Dave got his sense of helping people, because that’s what he did: helped people.”

David surprised his family in 1993 by marrying and starting a family. They thought he’d be a lifelong bachelor like his uncles, but according to his sister Carole, he took to family life and loved being with his wife Alida and their children, Alex,



Angie and Scott.

He wasn't just a father to his own kids. Alvina has a 45-year-old son who lost his father at a young age. When he heard his Uncle David had died, he said, "He was like a father to me."

David was also a Drumkeeper, a role he inherited through his mother's father. He took his responsibility seriously, making himself available for naming ceremonies and funerals. He also used his knowledge of the community to help people find the graves of their relatives.

David was also an advocate for sobriety, encouraging others to live well without using drugs and alcohol.

David ran for Secretary/Treasurer in 1998. Though he wasn't successful in his bid for office, he continued to serve his community through research and teaching. In 2000, he helped establish Misizahga'igani Anishinabay Izhi Twah Win — the Ojibwe Language and Culture Center — in Rutledge, where he worked for seven years.

When Pine Grove Leadership Academy was started in 2007, David joined the staff, helping the Aazhoomog community pursue the dream of having a school to teach the Ojibwe language and culture. Earlier this year, Pine Grove became a satellite of Nay Ah Shing, and David was pleased to know the school would continue.

In recent years, David created artwork about clans and maps of the Anishinaabe communities along both sides of the St. Croix. He sponsored fundraisers for kids to travel to Alaska to meet native communities there, worked as a District III language instructor, and even put on a Christmas play with District III kids. David was named Outstanding Member of the Community in District III in 2011 after community members were asked to nominate people for the honor. David received the most nominations.

David's passing was unexpected. Although he had some minor concerns about his heart, he had seemed healthy in the days leading up to his death — even dancing at a powwow with his friend Donald "Duck" White.

Alvina hopes Band members will carry on David's legacy. "We should remember how Dave lived and how he was always helping other people. We need to do what we can to improve the community and be positive role models for the next generation."

Carole said David's passion was learning and teaching about Anishinaabe culture. "As we know, our Elders are dying, and a lot of knowledge gets lost. He would want us to get involved in learning traditional ways so we can help pass on that cultural knowledge."

“One thing about Dave, he always put everybody else before himself.”  
— Gordon Matrious

Dave Matrious in his own words:

## Returning to My Cultural Roots

I grew up in the Aazhoomog community in District III of the Mille Lacs Reservation. We lived off of the trail that gave the area the name "Aazhoomog", which means "crossroads" in Ojibwe. My father, Scottie Matrious, came from the St. Croix Band of Chippewa and my mother, Grace Sutton, was from the Mille Lacs Band.

My parents were very cultural people and spoke Ojibwe fluently. My mother stayed home with the kids and my dad was a logger in the spring and summer. He was a good hunter and liked to gather wild rice. I remember going to ceremonial events like the big drum with my dad and family. My father was a drum keeper. I learned a lot by watching him.

I quit high school in the tenth grade in 1969 and moved to St. Paul to work. Although I quit school early, I later got my G.E.D. and my A.A. degree in liberal arts. In St. Paul, I got my first job making \$1.50 an hour as a set designer at the local PBS television station. When I went to work in television, I was very excited and fascinated with the programs and their production. There wasn't electricity in Aazhoomog until the early 1970s, so I didn't have television growing up.

I started out constructing and painting sets before moving to the production side. At that time, there were very few American Indians in television broadcasting. When I was 20 years old, I moved to Maryland to work at another PBS station. It was scary, because I didn't know when I was going to return home. Working hard took my mind off of being homesick.

After four years in Maryland, I moved back to Minnesota. At that time, my parents lived on the St. Croix Reservation in Wisconsin. My father had a stroke that left him paralyzed on one side. My brother was finishing school, so I moved to Wisconsin

to help my mother care for my father.

Coming home from Maryland changed my focus in life. The move brought me back to traditional tribal ways, which I had turned away from during my adolescence. I felt like I was starving for something more and turned to my heritage. I learned my Ojibwe name and that my family clan was Sturgeon. I also learned the Ojibwe language, although I can understand it more than I can speak it.

After about a year in Wisconsin, my family moved back to the Mille Lacs Reservation. Since my father was sick, I began helping him and my mother with the drum ceremonies. Before I went to Maryland, I was placed on my father's drum, so I had some experience with the ceremonies.

In the mid-1980s, there was a special election for the District III Representative position and I decided to run. I lost the election, but still got involved in the community. I started attending community meetings and sat on the housing committee after being asked to do so by one of the Band Representatives.

Then in June of 1986, I ran again for District III Representative and this time was elected. I held that position for six years, at which time I was appointed to Secretary/Treasurer of the Band Assembly. I also held that position for six years.

Today, I continue to be involved with the Band. I now work at the Band's Ojibwe Language and Culture Center as a resource specialist and help teach others about the Ojibwe culture. I don't pretend to know everything about the Ojibwe culture and drum ceremonies, but what I do know, I want to pass down. It's important to share these traditions, otherwise we'll lose our culture.



## Remembering Dave Matrious



"Dave was a pillar of our community, always there to help anyone in need — anytime. He believed in our culture, and truly lived our seven values, one hundred percent. As a former elected leader, as a Drumkeeper and as a keeper of our history, he will be dearly missed by the entire community." — Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

"I was very saddened to hear of his passing. I first met David in the late 1980s when I was starting to research the history of the Aazhoomog or Lake Lena community in Pine County as part of my project to study the history of Ojibwe people through historical photographs. He was very kind and encouraging to me then, helping me to learn more about the history of the area and to get other band members interested in the project. He and I put together an exhibit of community photographs which we put up in the old community center where dances were held then. When I went to David's wake a few weeks ago I was very sad to be there but I was happy to see those photographs still on the wall in the community center of today. After my book *We Are at Home: Pictures of the Ojibwe People* came out in 2007, David took every opportunity to thank me and honor me for doing the book but it could never have been done without the active help and encouragement of David and his sister Alvina Aubele and many other people from the community. I had hoped that he and I could find opportunities to work together again to study the history of the area and even though he is gone the memory of his kindness will continue to be a help to me in every project I do. He will be greatly missed by me and by many others. I was honored to know him and to have him for a friend." — Bruce White, historian and author

"Dave was on the Band Assembly when I first got to the Reservation in 1987. There was not a kinder, gentler soul on Earth. Often folks in politics feel they have to be tough or mean. Dave proved he could get things done by being a fundamentally decent human being and serving the people." — Tadd Johnson, long-time Mille Lacs Band employee and consultant

"My friend David Matrious (Baadaasige): I had only met David in the last five years of his life. He was not only my friend but also my teacher. He taught me many native things, and though I was native myself I moved off the reservation when I was two years old and lost my native connection. We spent time in the sugar bush and the school he taught at. He would always be eager to help others and share his knowledge. I recently had a naming ceremony. He attended and was my sponsor. After I received my native name (Aawanagaabo — standing fog), he gave me his native name also, which to a native is an honor. I will cherish my time together and never forget my friend, my teacher, Baadaasige." — Frank Blue

# Hand Drum Class Connects Boys to Heritage

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer



**Damien Churchill, Jayden Sayers and Terry Kemper** used glue to secure the yarn to their drumsticks.



**Jayden Nayquonabe** concentrated on wrapping his drumstick.

Five young Mille Lacs Band boys learned to make a hand drum on July 8 at Bimaadiziwin Hotel, the old Budget Host in District I. More importantly, they learned about Anishinaabe culture and traditions.

Their teacher was Mille Lacs Band member Terry Kemper, who told them, "Everything we do as a people has a spiritual connection to it."

"The drum teaches you," said Terry. "The pipe teaches you. If you use them, they'll teach you. Everybody wants to go to an Elder to learn about the culture, but if you pick up a drum and use it, it will teach you, just from being connected to it."

Jordan and Jayden Nayquonabe, Seth Benjamin, Damien Churchill and Jayden Sayers learned to punch holes in hides to make the drumhead, cut strips of hide to attach it to the frame, and wrap willow branches in yarn and leather to make drum sticks. William Sayers, Jayden's father, also took part.

"It's a good thing to watch this happening — a father and a son working together," said Terry. "Learning something good, not what they learn in rap music and video games — something that has life that can help them."

"Today we need all the help we can get, and our culture is what's going to help us," he added. "If we can share that with the young ones, they'll have the tools to use, cultural things, rather than what the system now gives us. They'll be able to share with each other and create a better community."

The class was offered thanks to Richard Hill, manager of the Bimaadiziwin Hotel. Richard learned that the Mille Lacs Indian Museum had some drum kits to share, so he contacted the museum's director, Travis Zimmerman. Travis was happy to provide the drum kits for the class.

Richard brought in Terry to teach because he knew Terry would offer more than just a lesson in arts and crafts. "The teaching he brings with it goes beyond just the making of the drums," said Richard. "That's the big thing for Anishinaabe boys who are here. When they play their drums, hopefully they'll remember that teaching and know it's more than just a hand drum."

Richard hopes to host additional drum-making classes in the future, as well as drumming and singing classes.

# Cultural Center Hosts Fall Programs

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer/Photographer

Staff members are gearing up for fall at the Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin in Rutledge, also known as the Ojibwe Language and Culture Center.

The center hosted a three-day immersion camp in June for 80-plus students from Onamia and Nay Ah Shing schools and the Niigaan Program. They have also hosted a Fatherhood group from the St. Paul American Indian Family Center several times over the last year.

In late July, staff, volunteers and students built wigwams at the center as part of a traditional village project. A men's group from the American Indian Family Center also came to help.

In August, Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin will prepare for ricing season by hosting a youth camp Aug. 18-20 and an adult camp Aug. 25-27. Nay Ah Shing students will attend a ricing class Sept. 1-3, and a group from the Twin Cities will come for a rice finishing camp Sept. 9-12.

Other programs being considered are adult immersion classes for Band leaders and employees, a regional Ojibwemowin retreat, one-day language seminars for Band departments, a language-learning website, and youth camps hosted by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

For more information or to schedule an event, email [ojiblang@millelacsband.com](mailto:ojiblang@millelacsband.com) or call 320-233-6169.



**A three-day immersion camp was held at Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin June 23-25 in cooperation with Onamia Schools and the Niigaan program.**

# A Concrete Plan for the Future

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer/Photographer

Five Mille Lacs Band members are among 13 graduates of a training program organized by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Cement Mason Union, and four Indian communities: Mille Lacs, Bois Forte and Fond du Lac bands, and the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin.

The graduates spent 12 grueling, but inspiring, weeks learning the tricks and tools of their new trade at the Local 633 Cement Mason Union training center in New Brighton. On Thursday, July 2, their families, teachers, and tribal leaders gathered to congratulate them at the same site.

William Sayers, one of the Mille Lacs Band students, was living in Chiminising and sugarbushing when he heard Tribal Employment Rights Director Craig Hansen give a presentation on the training at the District II-A community meeting. William was looking for a way to stay active in the community and take care of his twins.

"I'm really proud," William said on graduation day. "We formed a pretty strong bond. It's almost like we're all brothers and sisters."

McKenzie Reynolds, another Band member graduate, heard about the training at the Mille Lacs Band's urban meeting. She said it's a great career for those who don't want to work in an office but prefer to be outside and on their feet.

"It's that kind of work," she said. "You bust a sweat."

She enjoys patching and making things look smooth, and she also likes the math involved in concrete work. She hopes others will have similar opportunities.

Band member Rueben St. John said he enjoyed the physical nature of the work.

"It sounds easy and looks easy, but Moke gave us a wake-up call."

Instructor Moke Eaglefeathers made the students carry five-gallon pails of rocks back and forth across the yard, just to give them a sense of the physically demanding nature of the job. He also made them skip lunch at times, because that's how it is in the real world.

"The harder it got, the more fun I had," said Rueben. "I'd just laugh and smile and say 'Let's play!' We made it through 12 weeks and had a blast."

Anthony Jones credits his grandmother, who heard about the program at the Mille Lacs Band's urban meeting and encouraged him to apply. "I didn't know anything about construction before I came here," he said. "Now I'm making new things I never would've thought I'd be making."

He's not sure what's next, but he's ready to get to work. "I don't really have a dream job," said Anthony. "I'm just going with the wind. Right now this is my opportunity, and I'm going to take it and see how far it will lead me." Jones also highly recommended the program to others.

Band member Anthony Kegg was selected as the student speaker for the ceremony. He admitted that it was hard for a "class clown" like him to be serious, but he performed admirably.

"It's a golden ticket for me," he said. "It's a means to financially stabilize myself. I want a house, I want the playground in the back yard. I want my son to be happy." He said it gives him a sense of pride not just in himself, but also in his people. "I love these guys. They worked hard and persevered, and they were successful. It makes me proud to be a graduate with them."

The graduation event began with a pipe ceremony and song from the Bois Forte Drum Group. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Brandon Benner of the Bois Forte Tribal Council and the instructors praised the graduates during the ceremony.

"What you have achieved today took tremendous courage because it required that you take the risk of believing in yourself. You bet on yourself, and took a chance that you would win," Melanie said.

She recalled her own experience in the construction trades, as she stressed the sacrifice the students made to be away from their families for 12 weeks.

"You took a chance, you bet on yourself, and today, you have won," she concluded.

The partnership between the tribes, MnDOT and the Union came about largely through the work of Mille Lacs Band Tribal Employment Rights Director Craig Hansen, who was referred to as "our ringleader — in a good way" by Maria Conley of MnDOT's Office of Civil Rights. Maria hosted the graduation event and gave the welcome.

Hansen was involved in the partnership from its inception

on May 5, 2014, when he met with TEROs from other tribes and the MnDOT Office of Civil Rights. "MnDOT was looking to partner with tribes to boost their number of qualified minority and female workers on projects throughout Minnesota," said Craig.

"We worked hard as a group to figure out how the training was going to work," he said. "The logistics of bringing 16 to 20 tribal members across the state and do a 12-week training was difficult. We held several meetings to work out the details, budget and iron out any differences."

After agreements were signed, Craig's office announced the training at the State of the Band in January, and they visited every community meeting from the end of January through February. The candidates were selected by the union and notified in March. On Monday, April 13, the first day of training



**Pictured (L-R): McKenzie Reynolds, Anthony Kegg, William Sayers, Anthony Jones and Rueben St. John.**

was underway.

The TERO Office will continue to stay in touch with the five Mille Lacs Band members for the next six months to track their employment opportunities and follow up with them as they begin their careers as cement masons. "Overall this training was a success, and we certainly hope to provide more training opportunities like this in the future," Craig said.

## Band Members Encouraged to Sign up for CodeRED



Mille Lacs Band Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk is encouraging Band members to sign up for

a new rapid emergency notification service called CodeRED.

The new system, which is available in Mille Lacs and Aitkin counties, will distribute emergency messages via telephone to targeted areas or the entire county at a rate of up to 1,000 calls per minute.

### What is CodeRED® and why is it important to me?

CodeRED® is an emergency notification service that allows emergency officials to notify residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message, email and social media regarding time-sensitive general and emergency notifications. Only authorized officials have access to the CodeRED® system. It will only be used in emergencies to notify citizens of missing persons, hazardous materials releases, boil water advisories, evacuations, etc.

### Am I in the CodeRED® System?

Most residential and business landlines are in the system as well as some cell phones. The best way to be sure is to register! This will allow you to receive messages on your home phone, cell phone, by text message and email.

### How do I get signed up?

**1. Use the links below to register.** Follow the instructions on the page. To sign up, go to <http://bit.ly/1RBWrNJ> if you live in Mille Lacs County or <http://bit.ly/116nV7K> if you live in Aitkin County. You can also link to the CodeRED signup from the Mille Lacs Band website: <http://bit.ly/1MwDMfB>.

**2. Add the CodeRED® telephone number to your contacts.** You will recognize the following types of CodeRED calls by the numbers below. Make sure to save these numbers in your phone's contacts. If you would like to hear the last message delivered to your phone, simply call the number back. CodeRED Emergency Alert: 866-

419-5000, CodeRED Community Alert: 855-969-4636, and CodeRED Weather Warning: 800-566-9780.

**3. Get the free smart phone app.** Smart phone users can download the free app. It provides advanced, real-time alerts to subscribers within the reach of a given location generated by public safety officials across the United States and Canada. Download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app at [ecnetwork.com/mobile/getitnow.html](http://ecnetwork.com/mobile/getitnow.html).

If you have additional questions, please visit Mille Lacs County's Frequently Asked Questions page at [bit.ly/1M8aN3U](http://bit.ly/1M8aN3U) or call 320-983-8288.

Because of the unforeseen nature of some large-scale emergencies, it cannot be fully guaranteed that you will receive a notification every time. Please keep yourself informed by continuing to monitor other public safety warning and information systems (such as television and radio) whenever possible.



# Maamandoogwaasonan Eni-Atoojin A'aw Anishinaabe Manidooked Quilts Offered Up By Anishinaabe In Their Ceremonies

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

**Mii i'iw waa-onji-dazhindamaan iniw waabooyaanan, geget niwenda-wanishkwe'igon waabandamaan eni-izhichiged a'aw aanind Anishinaabe ani-bagijiged noongom.**

The reason why I am going to talk about blankets, is that it really bothers me to see how some of our *Anishinaabe* are doing their offerings today.

**Mii i'iw aanind ezhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe ani-baabitaw-aabajitood iniw waabooyaanan ani-manidoowichiged. Ishke ayaapii iko ninisidawinaanan iniw waabooyaanan gayat gaa-atooyaan gii-pagijigeyaan ani-aabajitood aanind a'aw Anishinaabe ani-bagijiged.**

What some of our *Anishinaabe* are doing, they are reusing or recycling blankets that they put down as an offering at a ceremony. There are times that I recognize blankets that I had originally put down as my offering and then they show up later as an offering being put down by another *Anishinaabe* as their offering.

**Ishke imaa niimi'iding ani-okosijigeng ayaapii imbi-wiindamaag a'aw Anishinaabe ani-nisidawinang i'iw waabooyaan ani-aabajichigaadenig ani-bagijiged awiya. Mii iko enendamaan, mii iwidi nanaamadabiwaagwen ingiw Manidoog ganawaabandamowaad ina'oonindwaa, mii imaa ikidowaagwen, "Tayaa! Mii imaa bi-dagoshimoonagak miinawaa o'ow waabooyaan gayat gaa-miinigoowiziyang."**

There are times at the ceremonial dances where people have come up to me to say that they recognize a blanket that they had used as a previous offering now being used as an offering by someone else. My thinking is, the *Manidoog* must be sitting there looking at their gifts saying, "What is this! This same blanket has arrived here again that them *Anishinaabe* had already gave us."

**Booch i'iw oshki-waabooyaan da-atood a'aw Anishinaabe ani-bagijiged weweni ani-doodawaad iniw Manidoon. Gaawiin oada-baabitawi'oonaaasiin iniw Manidoon i'iw waabooyaan gayat gaa-ininamawindwaa ingiw Manidoog. Iniw waabooyaanan waa-aabajitoojin wii-pagijiged a'aw Anishinaabe, mii iniw noomaya gaa-kiizhi-gashkigwaadegin ge-aabajitoojanen.**

The *Anishinaabe* has to offer up a new blanket as a way to treat the *Manidoog* respectfully. They cannot offer up a blanket that has already gone to the *Manidoog* in a previous offering. In their offerings the *Anishinaabe* should use blankets that they know were recently sewn.

**Ishke dash waa-ni-izhichigeyaan niwii-ni-ayaangwaamimaa a'aw Anishinaabe da-atood i'iw waabooyaan gaa-kashkigwaadang maagizhaa gaye gaa-kashkigwaadamawind noomaya. Gego wiin iwidi oada-apatoosiin i'iw Waalimaating da-o-adaawed i'iw waabooyaan waa-atood. Ishke mii i'iw debinaak ani-doodawaad iniw Manidoon wii-ni-izhichiged i'iw akeyaa.**

What I am going to do now is encourage *Anishinaabe* to use quilts that they had personally sewn, or quilts that may have been sewn for them recently. They should not run over there to Wal-Mart to buy the blanket that they will use as their offering. *Anishinaabeg* are being disrespectful to those *Manidoog* when they are not doing the best they can by running to Wal-Mart to buy the blankets they are going to offer.

**Ishke iko imaa ani-dazhinjigaadeg iniw maamandoogwaasonan eni-atamawaajin iniw Manidoon a'aw Anishinaabe, mii a'aw eni-gaagiigidod, mii imaa ani-dazhindang izhi-minochigewaad geshkigwaasojig. Ishke mii imaa anooj da-gii-paa-izhichigewaapan, mii imaa awashime dash inendamowaad weweni wii-toodawaawaad iniw Manidoon. Mii imaa akawe awashime inendamowaad wii-ni-nanaamadabiwaad weweni wii-ni-doodawaawaad iniw Manidoon ani-gashkigwaadamawaawaad i'iw waabooyaan waa-ininamawaawaajin. Mii imaa wenjikaamadinig da-naadamaagoowiziwaad debinaak ani-doodawaasiwaawaad iniw Manidoon.**

When the *Anishinaabe* brings in a quilt as his or her offering, the one who speaks for him or her talks about what a good deed that person has done by spending their time sewing that blanket. During that time they could have been out doing other things, instead they decided to spend their time doing good for the *Manidoog*. They are doing the *Manidoog* good by deciding to spend their time sitting there sewing the quilt that they are going to offer to the *Manidoog*. That is where they will get their help from when they do not put a half-hearted effort in their offering to the *Manidoog*.

**Ishke imaa Misi-zagaa'iganiing ishkoniiganing ani-niimi'idiikewaad ingiw Anishinaabeg, geget ominwaabamigowaadogenan iniw Manidoon waabandamonid inigokwekamig iniw maamandoogwaasonan eni-atoowaajin ingiw Anishinaabeg apii okosijigeng.**

When they have their ceremonial dances on the Mille Lacs reservation, the *Manidoog* must appreciate seeing all the numerous quilts that the *Anishinaabe* put down for them in the bundle as their offering.

**Mii imaa booch wenjikaamagadinigwen ani-naadamaagoowiziwaad ingiw Anishinaabeg ani-niimi'idiikewaad. Mii imaa waabanjigaadeg, gaawiin debinaak odoodawaasiwaawaan iniw Manidoon.**

That has to be the source of the help that the *Anishinaabe* is given as a result of their dances. This shows that the *Anishinaabe* are giving their all to the *Manidoog* in their offerings.

**Gaawiin eta niimi'iding indazhindanziinan iniw waabooyaanan ayaabajichigaadegin. Mii-go gaye iniw waabooyaanan ayaabajichigaadegin imaa midewing, miinawaa gaye iniw waabooyaanan epigaabawijin Anishinaabe ani-zagaswe'iwed. Awegonen igo a'aw Anishinaabe eninamawaad iniw Manidoon, booch da-oshkayi'iiwang.**

I am not only referring to the quilts being used during the ceremonial dances. I am also talking about the blankets used in *Midewiwin*, and also the blankets used as an additional offering in our everyday ceremonies or feasts. Whatever *Anishinaabe* is going to use as an offering in our ceremonies has to be brand new.

**Booch gaye wenaajiwaniing akeyaa da-wii-izhi-naanaagadawendam a'aw Anishinaabe eni-gashkigwaadang iniw waabooyaanan waa-atamawaad iniw Manidoon. Ishke ingiw Manidoog, mii i'iw gegigaabawiwaad gegabiwaad i'iw wenaajiwang. Gaawiin da-minwendanziiwag ingiw Manidoog iwidi ani-dagoshimoonagadinig i'iw waabooyaan imaa mayaanaadak ani-dagosijigaadeg. Mii i'iw wenji-abaabasamaan iniw waabooyaanan etooyaanin. Aaniin gaye gii-ni-majinendang megwaa imaa gaa-kashkigwaadamawid i'iw waabooyaan.**

*Anishinaabe* must also have good thoughts as they sew these quilts that they are using as offering to the *Manidoog*. The *Manidoog* only stand and sit with that which is good. The *Manidoog* would not be happy to have a blanket arrive and placed before them that contains all those negative vibes. That is the reason why I smudge the blankets that I put down as my offering. There is always a possibility that the one who sewed the blanket for me may have had negative thoughts as they were sewing my blanket.

**Mii imaa ani-ikwe-niimi'iding, gaawiin memwech eta-go iniw weshkayi'iimagakin waabooyaanan da-ni-aabajichigaadesinoon ani-wiizhaangeng. Mii-go gaye imaa iniw waabooyaanan gaa-ondinigaadeg imaa okosijigeng niimi'iding, midewing, miinawaa anooj ani-bagijiged a'aw Anishinaabe da-ni-aabajichigaadegiban. Gaawiin ingoji izhaamagasinoon iniw waabooyaanan imaa apii wiizhaangeng. Mii eta-go ani-miinad a'aw eni-wiizhaamad dibishkoo gidani-odaminowaadaamin iniw waabooyaanan, mii imaa ani-minawaanigoziyang ani-wiizhaangeyang ani-ikwe-niimi'idiyang. Bi-wiizhaamigooyan i'iw maamandoogwaason bi-miinigooyan, ishke dash ayaanziwan waabooyaan aazhita ge-aabajitooyan da-azhe-wiizhaangeyan, wiikwajitooon igo niizhitana awashime daswaabik da-o-miinad gaa-pi-wiizhaamik.**

During the side-step dancing it is not necessary that only new blankets are used. It can be a blanket that someone was given from the bundles, given at a *Midewiwin* ceremony, or maybe a blanket that was used as an offering at any other ceremony. The blanket is not offered to the *Manidoog* during the course of side-step dancing. The blanket is only going to the one that you have asked to dance with you as if we are having a fun time using these blankets to ask each other to dance during the side-step social dancing. When someone asks you to dance and they give you a quilt and if you do not have a quilt to give back during the return song, try to give them twenty dollars or more during that return song.

**Ishke gaye imaa endazhi-niimi'iding, bi-miinikwaa gidagiigin ingiw Ogichidaakweg, mii-go ge-izhi-aabajitooyamban da-waabooyaanikeyan da-ozhitooyan iniw waabooyaanan waa-pagijigeyanin. Aaniin igo apii ani-miigiweng i'iw gidagiigin booch niizho-diba'igan maagizhaa niso-diba'igan da-akwaamagad. Ishke mii i'iw da-debisemagak dash da-waabooyaaniked.**

Also if you are given cloth by the *Ogichidaakweg* during the ceremonial dance, you can use that cloth to make a blanket for your future offerings. Whenever cloth is being given out, it should be between two to three yards long. It has to be that length to be in order to have enough to make a blanket.

# New Principal Stresses Need for Change

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer/Photographer



**Jane Harstad**

Jane Harstad, the new principal at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojijag and Pine Grove Leadership Academy, has found her ideal job. "I'm excited for the challenge," said Jane, a Mille Lacs Band descendant and Red Cliff member. "This is what I've studied all my life to do."

Jane spent 11 years as a teacher in St. Paul at the American Indian Magnet School (where her children attended) and Longfellow Humanities Magnet School. She taught kindergarten through 5th grade as well as a regalia sewing class.

In 2005, Jane enrolled in Penn State's Master's program in American Indian Leadership, which trains American Indians to be principals. She went on to earn her Ph.D., focusing on curriculum and instruction, and along the way she taught in the education program and mentored future teachers.

After seven years of graduate school, Jane was ready for a breather. In 2012, she moved back to her house in St. Paul and took a job at Birchbark Books, the Minneapolis bookstore owned by renowned Anishinaabe writer Louise Erdrich.

"That gave me a chance to think about what I wanted to do next," Jane said.

It didn't take long for the right opportunity to come along. After some time in the nonprofit sector, Jane heard about a position at Nay Ah Shing.

She was hired as a curriculum consultant but soon got involved in other areas as well. "I jumped in with both feet," Jane said.

Along with Education Commissioner Suzanne Wise, Executive Director Joycelyn Shingobe, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Emily Johnson and Education Planner Shelly Diaz, Jane worked to secure federal approval to turn Pine Grove Leadership Academy into a satel-

lite of Nay Ah Shing. That required writing a plan and finding the equipment and personnel to implement it.

A new opportunity opened up when Silvia Norberg, principal of the lower school, retired at the end of the school year. Jane applied for the position and was eventually chosen. She started work as principal on July 6.

Jane has a list of priorities for Nay Ah Shing. The school is in year eight of "restructuring" under the No Child Left Behind act. She said the school has turned things around but needs to continue making progress.

In addition, she wants to raise expectations — for students, staff and the community.

"If the staff can show and model those high expectations then the students will follow along," she said. One specific expectation is attendance. Truancy has been a serious problem at the school. She also hopes to provide more professional growth opportunities for teachers.

"The possibilities are endless," said Jane. "These teachers work so hard. They know change is needed, and they're willing to do it."

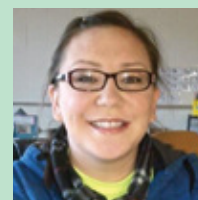
Jane intends to make the school's operations more transparent and to improve the school's relationship with the school board and the community. She said a new community liaison, Joe Montano, is already making improvements.

Jane wants to revamp the school's evaluation methods and use data to target instruction. She is putting new instructional teams in place and implementing a "responsive classroom" approach to aid learning and improve the school's climate. She's also creating a new lounge space to encourage teachers to decompress during the day.

"What we really need is lasting and sustainable change and not a quick fix," Jane said. "The changes that we're starting may not have effects you will see today, but they will tomorrow. We're investing in the future here, the future of our children and the future of the band."

## Gidinwewininaan

**Baabitaw Boyd** Gaa-ozhibii'ang



*This month's article is about the government providing Ojibwe language classes for staff on a department level! Way to go directors!*

Aaniin!

Mii iw waa-ini-tazhindamaan ezhi-gikinoo'amaagoowaad ingiw enokiiijig da-nitaa-ojibwemowaad omaa anisinaabe-mawanjii'idiwigamigong omaa Neyaashiing .Mii iw ge-onji-wawiingeziwaad maa ani-anokiiwaad. Mii ge-inendaagwak da-ni-maminosemagak omaa Misizaaga'iganing ishkoniganing. Giishpin bagidinigoowaad, aanind enokiiijig daa-gikinoo'amaagoziwig iwidi gabe-gikendaasoowigamigong. Aanind dash ogimaawag iwidi anishinaabe-mawanjii'idiwigamigong omisawenimaan da-gikinoo'amaagozinid da-nitaa-ojibwemonid owiidanokiimaaganivaan.

Nimiigwechiwawendam dash gii-kagwejimigooyaan gii-anoonigooyaan imaa da-gikinoo'amaageyaan. Gaawin eta-go ojibwemowin gekinoo'amawagwaa. Ningagwe-gikinoo'amawaag ingiw enokiiijig da-nitaa-gikinoo'amaadizowaad bebezhiig miinawaa-go nimiinaag aabajichiganan ge-aabajitoowaad da-ni-nisidotamowaad iw gidinwewininaan weweni.

Niwenda-apiitendaan o'ow enikamigak omaa. Odani-nisidotaanaawaa epiitendagwak gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang anisinaabewiyang da-inweyang. Mii iw waa-izhi-tibaajimoonagog. Miigwech!

## Wewinabi 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

**Tammy Wickstrom** Director of Early Education

Mille Lacs Early Education had our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Wewinabi School. Each classroom made instruments, costumes, and decorated floats to put on a parade for our families. We had a great turn out of around 100 family members. This is the one time the children threw out candy to the adults! After the parade our families joined us for a picnic lunch and some great time together. Thanks to everyone who joined the fun!



# Nay Ah Shing Students Attend Camp at Purdue

Eight students from Nay Ah Shing School, in grades 5 through 9, recently returned from a two-week trip to Purdue University's GERI Summer Residential Camp. GERI stands for Gifted Education Resource Institute. The students who attended were Chase Sam, Louis Whiteman-Cram, Molly Saboo, Mia Sam, Ronni Jourdain, Jennie Mitchell, Taylor Nadeau, and Megan Saboo. They all represented Nay Ah Shing School and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe with pride and respect.

For more on their trip, see [millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com).



## TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

### Happy August Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diane Marie Barstow  
 Frances Jean Benjamin  
 Wendy May Benjamin  
 Clarence Roy Boyd  
 Clayton Jay Boyd  
 Marlys Louise Bushey  
 Myrna Joy Ceballos  
 Karen Marie Clark  
 John Dewey Colstrud III  
 Geraldine DeFoe  
 Edward Ernest Dunkley  
 Roxanne Julie Emery  
 Gary Dean Frye  
 Dorinda Fay Garbow  
 JoAnne Sue Garbow  
 Samuel Garbow Jr.  
 Barbara Maxine Goodman  
 Diana Guizar  
 Mary Jean Harpster  
 Bradley Harrington  
 Blaise Eugene Hill  
 Robert Martin Houle Jr.  
 George Ben Jackson  
 Patricia Clarise Jones  
 Doris Kegg  
 Lorraine Marian Keller  
 Joseph Franklin Knudtson  
 Carol Elizabeth Kornkven  
 Andy Mitchell  
 Lynda Lou Mitchell  
 Gerry Warden Mortenson  
 Delia Ann Nayquonabe  
 Margaret Rose Premo  
 Linda Christine Quaderer  
 Bruce Anthony Ray  
 Sharon Marie Rogers  
 Theresa Joy Schaaf

William David Schaaf  
 David Duane Shaugobay  
 Bernadette Smith-Benjamin  
 Daniel John Staples  
 Connie Jean Taylor  
 Janice Louise Taylor  
 James Martin Thomas  
 Richard Henry Thomas Jr.  
 Sylvester W. Thomas Jr.  
 Barbara Ellen Toth  
 John Wayne Towle  
 Michael Laverne Wade  
 Alrick George Wadena Jr.  
 Diane Wadena  
 Carmen Denise Weous  
 Juanita Diane Weyaus  
 Donna Jean Wind  
 Eloise Betsy Wind  
 Franklin John Woyak

### Happy August Birthdays:

Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday **Lacey Ballinger** on 8/2, love Mom.  
 • Happy birthday **Taeren Ballinger** on 8/4, love Grandma Deb.  
 • Happy birthday **PJ** on 8/5, love the Harrington family.  
 • Happy birthday **Phil Harrington Jr.** on 8/5 from Auntie Sherry, Joel, Shawn, and Gabbi.  
 • Happy birthday **Tim St Clair Jr.** on 8/5 from Auntie Mary Brenda, Lucas, Rome, Logan, Jerome, Nikki, Brent, Lyric, Taryn, and the rest of the family.  
 • Happy birthday **Sharon** on 8/6, love the Harrington family.  
 • Happy birthday **Brenda** on 8/9 with

love from your husband, Logan, Rome, Mom, Jerome, Nikki, Taryn, Brent, Lyric, and the rest of the family wishing you a wonderful birthday.  
 • Happy birthday to my wonderful husband **David Shaugobay** on 8/11. I love you very much, your loving wife Flo Shaugobay.  
 • Happy birthday **Gram Kim and Papa Brad** on 8/15, love Kevin and Pie.  
 • Happy birthday **Mom and Dad** on 8/15, love Val.  
 • Happy birthday **Jay** on 8/16, love your brothers and Sissys.  
 • Happy birthday **Shawsha Kay** on 8/16 with lots of love from mommy, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Soul, Daymon, auntie Rae, uncle Joe, Simone, Donny, Sheila, Joey, and baby Sisi.  
 • Happy birthday **Gabbi** on 8/20, love the Harrington family.  
 • Happy birthday **Micki** on 8/20, love the Harrington family.  
 • Happy birthday **Jordan Garbow** on 8/20 from dad, Mary, Selena, CJ, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, and Dayday.  
 • Happy birthday **Stew** on 8/20 from Sherry.  
 • Happy birthday **Madz** on 8/20. Lots of love from Mamaz.  
 • Happy birthday **Gabbi Jellum** on 8/20 with lots of love from Big sis Shawn, Grandma Deb, Len, and the rest of the family.  
 • Happy birthday **Aunty Mick** on 8/20 from Shawn and Gabbi.  
 • Happy birthday **Mom** on 8/25

from Cass, Travis, Trevor, Kayla, Crystal, Leighnah, and Grams.  
 • Happy birthday **Brynlee** on 8/26 from auntie Mary and Cuzzins. Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, and Daymon.  
 • Happy birthday **Gram Lynda** on 8/30 from Cass, Travis, Trevor, Kayla, Caryn, Crystal, and Leighnah.  
 • Happy birthday **Sammi** on 8/30 from Cass and Travis.  
 • We would like to wish our **Aunt Denise Pike (Neesie)** a very happy birthday on 8/31. From Chelle, Johnny B, Meelz, DeMaya, DeBreanna, Cudgey, ValaReya, and the rest of the family! We love you!  
 • Happy born day to **BABS** from Cass, Travis, Trevor, Caryn, Kayla, Crystal, Leighnah, and Lynda.

### Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday **Kiana Morrison** on 7/7, love Mom.  
 • Happy belated birthday **Sophia Ochsendorf** on 7/13, love Grandma Deb.  
 • Happy belated 5<sup>th</sup> birthday to my baby boy **Brandon Dorr-Charwood** on 7/28!! Love mom, dad, big bro Kota, and big sister Brooklyn!!

### Other

**Announcements:**  
 Congratulations to my niece **Racquel Dorr** on achieving her high school diploma from

Milaca Senior high school. I am so proud! Love Aunty Star and family!  
 • Congratulations to my We'eh **Amber Benjamin** on her graduation from Brainerd high school! Love from the Dorr family!  
 • Congratulations to my cousin **Yolanda Dorr-Slowey** for putting in work and getting her Associate degree!! Good job! Love from Star Dorr and family.  
 • In memory of our mom **Betty Lee**, and our nephew/son **Kyle Parker**. You've been gone for 10 years, but not forgotten. Beautiful memories are wonderful things; in our hearts you are forever there. We miss and love you, Carolyn, Anita & Ken, Anita, Dianne, and Monica.  
 • The Band has hired Band member **Starr Erickson** as the temporary Court Liaison for District III. She will be transporting band members to court appointments. Call the Community Center at 320-384-6240 for further information and updated contact number.

### 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 September issue is August 15.*

## Mille Lacs Indian Museum August Events

### Kids Crafts: Cornhusk Dolls

**Saturday, August 1 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. (allow an hour to make the craft)**

**Fee:** \$6 per kit, museum admission not included

Learn how to make a cornhusk doll to take home. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

### 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

**Friday, August 7 from 11 a.m.–4 p.m.**

**Fee:** \$9 adults, \$7 seniors and college students, \$6 ages 6-17, free ages 5 and under and MNHS members

Help celebrate the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post's 55th birthday with cupcakes and refreshments. In celebration, take 10 percent off purchases for the day.

### Farm Fresh Fridays

**Friday, August 7 from 4–7 p.m.**

Meet with local farmers and growers and shop for regionally grown food products.

### We are Anishinaabe: Our Great Migration

**Saturday, August 8 and 22 from 1–2:30 p.m. (discussions offered at 1 and 2 p.m.)**

**Fee:** \$9 adults, \$7 seniors and college students, \$6 ages 6-17, free ages 5 and under and MNHS members

Discover the origins of Ojibwe people in Minnesota in this 30-minute discussion and explore the

stories, values and traditions that traveled with them and remain today.

### Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post Fun Run

**Sunday, August 23 from 9–10:30 a.m.**

Take a short walk around the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Powwow grounds and earn a free gift courtesy of the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post. Registration is located at the pavilion on the powwow grounds. Please note this event does not take place at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. Call 320-532-3632 for more information.

### Annual Open House

**Sunday, August 23 from 11 a.m.–4 p.m.**

The Museum and Trading Post are open and offer special Sunday hours and free admission.

### Ojibwe Mitten Workshop (two day workshop)

**Saturday, August 29 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Sunday, August 30 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

**Fee:** \$65/\$60 MNHS members, plus \$25 supply fee

**Registration:** required three days prior to workshop; call 320-532-3632

Learn techniques of leather working. Participants will make a pair of Ojibwe-style mittens to take home. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided both days. A minimum of five participants required to host workshop. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounted hotel rooms are available for workshop participants on Saturday night at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

# AUGUST 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>Visit <a href="http://millelacsband.com/calendar">millelacsband.com/calendar</a> for additional Mille Lacs Band events</p>						<p><b>1</b> <b>Kid's Crafts: Cornhusk Dolls</b> See page 14</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Chiminising Bingo</b> 6 p.m.</p>	<b>6</b>	<p><b>7</b> <b>DII and DII-A Community Fun Day</b> See page 16</p> <p><b>55<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration</b> See page 14</p> <p><b>Farm Fresh Fridays</b> 4–7 p.m. See page 14</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>We are Anishinaabe</b> See page 14</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>10</b> <b>AMVets Post 53 Meeting</b> 6 p.m. Grand Northern Grill Grand Casino Mille Lacs. All veterans welcome.</p> <p><b>Lake Health Conference</b> Eddy's Resort</p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>Lake Health Conference</b> Eddy's Resort</p>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Youth Camp</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>DIII Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center</p> <p><b>Chiminising Bingo</b> 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Youth Camp</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Nay Ah Shing Open House</b> 3–5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Youth Camp</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>49<sup>th</sup> Annual Powwow</b> See page 4</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>We are Anishinaabe</b> See page 14</p> <p><b>49<sup>th</sup> Annual Powwow</b> See page 4</p>
<p><b>23</b> <b>Fun Run</b> See page 14</p> <p><b>Open House</b> See page 14</p> <p><b>49<sup>th</sup> Annual Powwow</b> See page 4</p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>Mille Lacs Day</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Nay Ah Shing First Day of School</b></p> <p><b>Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Adult Camp</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Adult Camp</b></p> <p><b>DII-A Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Adult Camp</b></p> <p><b>DII-A Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m.</p>	<b>28</b>	<p><b>29</b> <b>Ojibwe Mitten Workshop</b> See page 14</p>
<p><b>30</b> <b>Ojibwe Mitten Workshop</b> See page 14</p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>Head Start First Day of School</b></p>					

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Labor Day

Monday, September 7

### MLCV Family Golf Outing

Saturday, September 19

### American Indian Day

Tuesday, October 13

### DIII Community Health Fair

Tuesday, October 20

10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Aazhoomog Community Center

### DII Community Health Fair

Wednesday, October 21

10 a.m.–3 p.m.

East Lake Community Center

### DI Community Health Fair

Thursday, October 22

10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Mille Lacs Community Center

### DII-A Community Health Fair

Friday, October 23

10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Chiminising Community Center

### Warrior's Day

Wednesday, November 11

### Mii Gwetch Day

Friday, November 27 and Saturday the 28

## Meet the Enrollments Team



Sue Engberg, Amanda Roache, Jennifer Ballinger

Band member Jennifer Ballinger is an enrollments specialist. She has been in her position since March. She helps verify enrollment information, answers questions, confirms eligibility, assists with trust accounts and researching families on behalf of family services.

Band member Amanda Roache is the enrollments manager. She has been in her role since June. Prior to that she served as the interim manager and as an assistant in the office for over a year. Amanda processes enrollment applications, does research, and serves on the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's enrollment review committee and oversees the Enrollments Office.

Sue Engberg is the probate clerk and has been in her role since 2006. Her position was moved to the Enrollments Office in April. She helps with family tree research for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, helps with family history affidavits and helps determine legal heirs for land ownership.

## August is National Immunization Awareness Month

**Kari DiGiovanni Carlson** RN

Getting caught up and keeping up to date on immunizations is one of the most effective ways to help protect your family and community from disease.

There are many important reasons to make sure your child is vaccinated:

- Immunizations can protect your child from 14 serious diseases.
- Vaccination is very safe and effective.
- Immunizations can protect others you care about.
- Immunization can save your family time and money.
- Immunization protects future generations.

Following the recommended schedule offers the best protection:

- Following the recommended schedule protects as many children as possible, before they are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases.
- Every dose of a vaccine is important because they all protect against infectious diseases that are threats today. These diseases can be especially serious for infants and very young children.

Adults need vaccines too:

- Many adults don't realize they still need protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Even healthy adults can become seriously ill, and can pass illness on to others.
- Immunization is especially important for adults 60 years of age and older, and for those who have a chronic condition such as asthma, COPD, diabetes or heart disease.

Parents can find out more about the recommended immunization schedule at [cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html) or call Public Health at 320-532-7775. Also, talk to your doctor or other health care professional to make sure you and your children get the vaccinations that are needed.

Source: CDC

## DII and DII-A Community Fun Day

The DII and DII-A Community 2015 Fun Day will take place at Valleyfair. The bus leaves Chiminising Community Center at 9 a.m. and East Lake Community Center at 8:30 a.m.

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## The Good Way of Life

in Iowa, but his birth family was from Lake Lena. After years in the air conditioning industry, he felt something calling him to Mille Lacs. Richard's kids are grown up and on their own, but he's now taking care of six foster children as well as his five stepchildren.

He's also taking the opportunity to learn about Anishinaabe culture. "As we're bringing things like drum classes and pipe ceremonies in here, it's helping me get educated too," said Richard. "A lot of our guests are looking for that spiritual help, and if I don't know it, I can't bring it to them. This gives me the chance to learn it, and then I can help teach."

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## Anishinaabe Students

ferred, but staff from Fond du Lac will spend time meeting with students as needed.

"The classes that are being offered are meaningful to our students — as Anishinaabe people," said Suzanne. "We want potential students to look at these class offerings and feel a sense that they want to learn and they can accomplish going to college.

"We welcome them even if they want to only start with one class that looks interesting," she continued. "It's getting them through the door that matters, and helping them accomplish their academic goals of working towards a college degree."

For more information or questions call Camille Naslund at 320-532-4695. For a schedule of classes visit <http://bit.ly/1KvMIEP>.

Anishinaabe College (formerly Mille Lacs Tribal College) is located at Nay Ah Shing Upper School — 43651 Oodena Drive in Onamia.

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## 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.