

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

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CELEBRATING SOVEREIGNTY

BAND MEMBERS ATTEND
STATE OF THE BAND

Band member Tony Pike

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SHERIFF,
POLICE CHIEF
DISCUSS LAW
ENFORCEMENT

STUDENTS
HONOR SIOUX
RIDERS, FALLEN
WARRIORS

NUTRITION
PROGRAMS
OFFER HEALTHY
FOODS

STATE OF THE
LEGISLATIVE,
JUDICIAL
BRANCHES

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

2017 STATE OF THE BAND

Bob Pearl Photographer



Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu's Report

Good Morning and welcome. It is an honor to stand before you once again as your Secretary-Treasurer, and as the Speaker of the Mille Lacs Band Assembly, it is my duty to now call the 17th Assembly 3rd session of Band Assembly to order and ask the clerk to conduct roll call.

Before we move on to our first agenda item, the annual State of the Band Address which the CEO has the duty to present to the Band Assembly annually, on this day. I want to provide some updates from the Legislative branch.

Last year, I talked a little about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) structure. I did not talk about the officer positions of the MCT's Tribal Executive Committee. The TEC, as we refer to it, is the committee that consists of the Chief Executives and Secretary-Treasurers from each of the six MCT bands. There is a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary elected every two years to carry out the various duties listed in the MCT constitution.

I am honored to announce the election of the new Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee President: Fond du Lac Chief Executive Kevin Dupuis. Kevin fills the position held by Norman Deschampe for 18 years. I'd like to thank Norman for his dedication and commitment to the president position. The Vice President elected is Ferdinand Martineau, Secretary-Treasurer for the Fond du Lac Band. The Treasurer elected is Dave Morrison, Secretary-Treasurer of the Bois Forte Band, and the Secretary is our own Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. I congratulate each one of these officers and look forward to our continued collaboration and work on the Tribal Executive Committee.

I now need to take a moment to introduce the Mille Lacs Band's Legislative family: Darcie Big Bear, Band Assembly Clerk/Parliamentarian; Stacey Thunder, Legislative Counsel; Shelly Day, Office Manager; Danielle Smith, Legislative Coordinator; Bonnie Matrious, Legislative Office Assistant; Kim Keggs, Legislative Librarian; Nancy Wood, Legislative Receptionist; Caryn Day, Communications liaison.

I also want to introduce the District Employees: For District I, Bill Jo Sarcia, Megan Ballinger, Semira Kimpson; For District II, Raina Killspotted, and District II (a) Adrienne Benjamin; For District III, Monica Benjamin.

The Deputy Registrar for the Department of Motor Vehicles is Deanna Sam. Lastly, the Commissioner of Finance is Adam Valdez.

These staff members are dedicated and committed to their work every day to keep business moving in the various legislative offices and the government's Office of Management and Budget.

Now on to updates from home. Last year, I mentioned Band Assembly's work on some important matters.

First, Title 8, Chapter 13. Child Protection. It has taken a significant amount of time for the many individuals from various band departments to review the current law and make recommendations to statute revisions. Once there is consensus on language, the proposed law changes must be put into bill form that also takes time to format and diligently annotate the changes. I am happy to report that this particular bill is in the final stages of editing and ready to be submitted to the Chief Executive for final approval.

Some of the highlighted changes to the statute include adding grandparents and niia weh eh's to the placement preference category, and mandating active efforts for case workers in maintaining family structure and reunification.

Second, Tribal Employment Rights Office: Band assembly is in final stages of enacting a law that creates a TERO commission that replaces the Administration Policy Board and gives the TERO office its own autonomy with the ability to enforce TERO regulations without interference of day-to-day administrative decisions.

Third, Housing: After repeat audit findings and errors in

grant reporting to federal agencies and thoughtful consideration, Band Assembly initiated an audit of the Band's Housing office via Secretarial Order 39-16 and hired a firm in May 2016 to conduct the audit. The auditors did the following:

(a) A Review of the housing application process as compared to waiting lists and to tenant files to determine compliance.

(b) A Review of the existing internal control documentation and policies and procedures to determine compliance.

(c) A Review of tenant files for the period of May 2014-July 2016 and noted how processing records compare to the written policies and procedures and document expectations.

(d) A Review of the home loan program to determine compliance with repayment terms and applicable controls.

(e) Finally, they reviewed financial information to determine if it is being documented properly to present accurate and complete financials.

In August, a detailed report was delivered to Band Assembly. To summarize, the following are areas of concern:

(a) A lack of internal controls governing the day-to-day processes and failure to follow existing policy and procedures.

(b) Lack of overall goals for the department. As a result it appears that staff are working without a clear vision.

(c) There were inconsistencies between staff and how tasks are performed.

(d) Overall lack of documentation supporting decisions, daily activities, tenant files, waiting lists, and loan files.

(e) There was evidence of no follow through with regard to assessments of fees for repairs, collection of rents or loan payments due; nor reprimands for tenants who are in violation of tenant agreements.

In response to these findings, Band Assembly approved the issuance of Secretarial order 41-16 ordering the Commissioner of Community Development to work on a corrective action plan that addresses all of the areas of concern presented in the audit report and are now expecting the Commissioner to implement measures that address the findings and ensure adherence to policy, efficiency in record keeping and ensuring consistency and fairness in processing the many types of housing applications.

In relation to housing, Band Assembly approved a resolution establishing a committee to develop a "real estate" office to manage the Band's home loan mortgage program and land leases. This will allow for more free buying and selling opportunities amongst Band members without the red tape of the housing office policies.

Fourth, the Band's Revenue Allocation Plan: This plan, which we refer to as the RAP, is required by the federal government for tribes that issue per capita payments to their members. The RAP dictates what percentages of our casino revenues are allocated to per capita payments and accounts as Band government, long term savings, and economic development. We had a short article in January's newspaper explaining a little about the RAP. Band Assembly has been analyzing spending and budgets closely for the last 2-1/2 years. We are now familiar with current Band needs and wants. We are scheduling RAP discussions at the Community Meetings in February and March. I ask that constituents come with questions and comments about the Band's spending and Revenue Allocation Plan.

Finally, Titles 3 & 4...(Legislative and Executive Branch Statutes) As much as I wanted to tackle these two statutes, we were unable due to the tremendous amount of other business items, but we do plan on getting these two statutes on the agenda soon for revisions that will require public comment prior to implementing.

In other legislative news, effective January 2017, OMB was instructed to cease the collection of fees for automatic



Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu (back) with District Representatives Harry Davis, Sandi Blake and David 'Niib' Aubid.

deductions that Band members agree to. These automatic deductions actually save the Band money, and Band assembly saw no reason to continue collecting them.

Check forgeries are on the rise. Need I tell you all that this costs the band money? The Office of Management and Budget, the casinos, and banks are doing their best to deter this crime, but we ask anyone with information about who is committing these criminal acts, please contact the Tribal Police Department. We are contemplating posting photos of the subjects in public places and Band newspaper, if necessary.

Now on to a little about the Band's investments. We have a safe and conservative investment plan. Our investments continue to earn money. The Band Assembly and commissioner of finance discuss the Band's finances weekly to ensure adherence to policy.

On Friday, the Band effectively terminated its investment advisory relationship with Wells Fargo. The recent banking scandals involving Wells Fargo and the unwanted personal bank account scams, and other discreditable acts towards tribes and their members across the country played a role in the Band's termination decision. More importantly, Wells Fargo's direct participation in financing of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) was a significant factor in that decision. Wells Fargo is one of the most visible U.S. Banks financing the pipeline. All of us — myself, the Chief Executive and the three District Representatives — felt that it is in the Band's best interest to move its portion of investments from Wells Fargo at this time. All existing securities are now being transferred to other investment advisers.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has been working with Minokaw Technologies for implementation and assistance with Laserfiche. The Laserfiche technology will automate work processes for the DMV making workflow more structured and manageable. The Deputy Registrar will be electronically updating all files within the DMV office. This will not affect any incoming or new registrations.

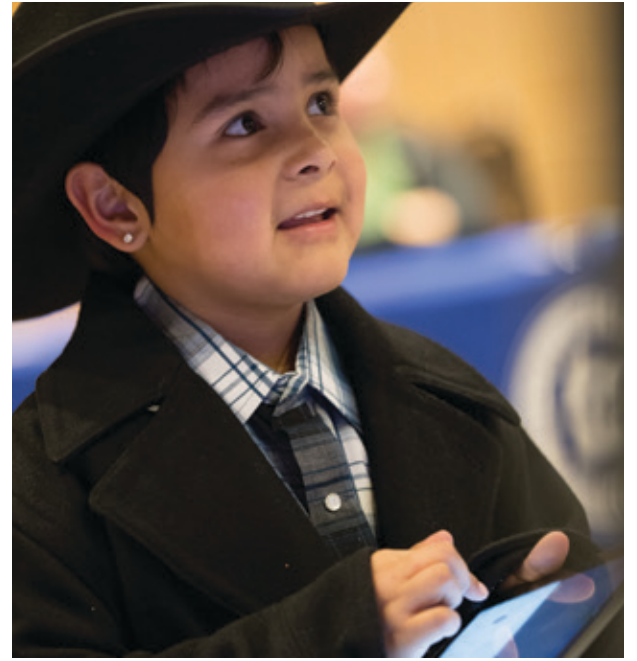
The DMV is initiating a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe License Plate redesign contest. The details of the contest are being drafted and we expect to have information out by the February newsletter. Our existing plate has been in place since the 1980s.

In final comments: Generally, Band Assembly meets twice a week in alternating districts and Band-owned properties. As always, Band Assembly meetings are open to the public with a few exceptions such as for discussion of investment strategies or review of personnel matters.

The Band's financial information provided to the public is limited in order to protect the Band's assets. If any member wishes to discuss the Band's finances, they can contact myself or the Commissioner of Finance.

The legislative office now has a monthly update in the Band's newspaper, a legislative website and Facebook page as efforts to share as much information as possible with our constituents. With that said and on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band Assembly, it's been an Honor to serve the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and we look forward to our continued commitment to you, the Band members. Mii Gwech... Mii iw!

2017 STATE OF THE BAND CONTINUED



2017 State of the Judiciary

Rayna Churchill Chief Justice

Note: Due to illness of the Chief Justice, this year's State of the Judiciary address was presented by District Court Judge David Christensen. It was written by Chief Justice Rayna Churchill.

Honorable Chief Executive, principled members of the Band Assembly, Mille Lacs Band members, employees and guests, welcome to the 2017 State of the Band Address. It is my honor to provide you with the State of the Judiciary Address as prescribed by the Band Statutes.

On behalf of the Judicial Branch, let me say that it is a pleasure to see all of you attend this distinguished event. Each year we assemble to inform the Band Assembly, Band members and our community on the condition of our respective branches and our future goals, which will be addressed shortly.

For those of you that do not know me, my name is David Christensen. I serve as the District Court Judge for the Mille Lacs Band. Rayna Churchill, the Chief Justice of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court, is not feeling well and requested that I provide the State of the Judiciary. So with that I will move forward with her request.

As I indicated, Rayna Churchill is the Chief Justice and serves as the Appellate Justice from District III. The Honorable Clarence Boyd serves as the Appellate Justice from District I. If you are in the audience please rise and be recognized. Thank you. Currently the District II Appellate Justice is vacant and will be filled in the near future.

I would like to take the time to recognize Brenda Moose for her dedication to the court for the past six years. Brenda served as the Appellate Justice from District II and provided a great deal of cultural insight and service to the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court. Chimiigwech Brenda!!

The Appellate Justices hear cases appealed from the District Court as well as original jurisdiction and Election Disputes. Previously, unlawful detainer cases were heard in the District Court but are now heard by the Justices within their respective Districts.

As the District Court Judge, I hear many cases involving civil, criminal and family matters. These cases are numerous and include a large number of truancy, child protection and family matters, child support, domestic violence and harassment matters.

Over the last two years the Center for Court Innovation, the court's Training and Technical Assistance Provider, assisted in a comprehensive assessment of the tribal justice system and a targeted assessment of the Tribal Child welfare system. Our needs assessment included several site visits, interviews and focus groups with stakeholders, as well as surveys conducted at last year's State of the Band Address as well as the other two districts. Members of the Tribal Court, Band Member Legal Aid, Law Enforcement, Family Services and Health & Human Services, Elected and Appointed Officials contributed to the needs assessments. I will provide a brief overview of the tribal justice system's report that we received last week.

This report provided numerous findings which we, the Tribal Court Officials, would like to discuss with the Chief Executive and the Members of Band Assembly at a date in February. There are eight main findings of which I will focus on three. Please note that the court will provide some recommendations. These are not set in stone, but we need to determine which are our priority, and the Tribal Court is asking for a three-branch plan of action meeting.

1. Substance abuse is the most pressing public safety concern for the Mille Lacs Band, and there is broad community support for developing more collaborative, treatment-based, problem-solving approaches within the Justice System to address substance abuse. With

your help, we would like to convene a substance abuse task force that can map out a coordinated interagency response such as a Healing to Wellness Court or Family Treatment Court, among other recommendations.

2. Truancy and juvenile delinquency are reported to have a negative impact on the community, and several stakeholders have suggested that they would like to see a more coordinated response to addressing truancy and delinquency by providing additional programming and resources for truant and delinquent youth.

In order to achieve number 1 and 2 as stated, we need to revise the statutes to address these serious community problems.

3. Stakeholders agree that there are numerous judicial codes that are outdated, ineffective or contradictory and these codes should be updated and revised in order to improve the efficient and equitable administration of justice within the tribal court. With your help we would like to convene members of the Legislative office, Judiciary personnel, Office of the Solicitor General, Band Member legal aid and other necessary personnel to compile a list of all judicial codes that are in need of revising.

Though these three findings are deemed necessary there are others which include:

- asserting jurisdiction by adjudicating the numerous low level criminal offenses,
- address the current practices that contribute to inefficiencies and inconsistencies within the criminal justice system,
- improve communication and cooperation among justice system agencies, social service providers and community-based partners,
- strengthening the confidence in the Judicial system, and
- potentially incorporating more cultural practices and traditional forms of dispute resolution and healing into the justice system.

The Tribal Court will be reaching out to both branches and other department agencies in hopes of discussing the Justice System Needs Assessment.

We have numerous objectives in 2017 which are to continue to improve the court rules, court safety and security, continue with the strategic planning and implement some performance measures which will give us goals for the next five to ten years. This also includes determining which findings from the needs assessments are our priorities and how to accomplish these findings.

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court received a new grant award from the Office of Justice Program. The focus of this award is to renovate our existing courtroom and court administration area. It is a \$909,000.00 three year grant which will make the court more accessible for the public, provide additional workspace for the court staff and a safer environment for all who use or visit the Tribal Court.

I will now be moving into the statistical data of the Judiciary address.

In 2016, there were 1,390 cases filed in Tribal Court. Of those cases,

- 312 were child support;
- 797 were general civil, small claims and electric utility;
- 37 low level criminal offenses, traffic and natural resource violations;
- 44 petitions for Orders of Protection were filed, which



District Court Judge David Christensen gives the State of the Judiciary address on behalf of Chief Justice Rayna Churchill.

include domestic abuse and harassment. Eighteen cases were domestic abuse, and the remaining cases were harassment.

- Family law cases totaled 171, which is a decrease of 8 percent from last year. The Family Law cases consist of Children in need of Protective Services, Guardianship, Custody, Adoption, Divorce, Paternity and Name Changes.
- During 2016, 65 cases were filed for children in need of protective services, 39 of those cases were for educational neglect, and 26 were for other forms of abuse or neglect within the home.
- Educational neglect for our purpose is considered truancy since we don't have a means to address truancy until new codes are passed into legislation. The 39 cases filed for truancy involved 55 Band member children; 20 cases closed in 2016 because school attendance greatly improved; six cases are still open from 2015 and two cases were reopened. The ages of the children range from 5 to 17 years old. There are two serious cases in which the children have not been in school since mid-September. The court held 127 hearings in 2016 to address truancy. These cases are increasing from year to year. We hope that in the next year the Band will enact truancy statutes which will create a more effective and efficient way of dealing with truancy.
- Of the 26 cases dealing with abuse and other forms of neglect, 58 children were removed from their homes. However, 6 children were reunited with their parents who worked a case plan with Mille Lacs Band Family Services. Twenty-nine children within the 26 cases stemmed from prenatal exposure, which is a 45 percent increase from last year. The court held 105 hearings specifically for these Chips cases.

In closing, I would like to mention that a majority of the cases filed with the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court are the result of addiction or mental health issues. A large percentage of our Mille Lacs Band families have mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, children and other relatives that are addicted to mood altering chemicals which in turn affects every one of us in some way, either as a family member, community member or Band employee. We, as a Band, need to come together to address this as a whole. The court is asking for commitment from the elected and appointed officials to find time to meet with the Tribal Court Judiciary to address these issues. We will be sending you a meeting invitation in the near future. A Three-Branch Plan of Action meeting is one way to aid the court in achieving its judicial philosophy which is to bring peace and harmony between the people of the Mille Lacs Band to ensure the continued survival of the Anishinaabe.

Thank you for attending the 2017 State of the Band Address.

Sheriff, Police Chief Address District I Community

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Mille Lacs County Sheriff Brent Lindgren and Acting Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice addressed Band members' questions about law enforcement at the Jan. 11 District I Community Meeting.

Lindgren said the revocation of the county/tribal law enforcement agreement came not from him but from the Mille Lacs County Board.

Although he stated that he wants the county and band to reach a new agreement, Lindgren said it is his duty to uphold the law of the land.

District I Rep. Sandi Blake introduced Lindgren, saying the community is concerned about the revocation of the agreement at a time when the Reservation is dealing with overdoses, drug addiction, burglaries, Elder abuse and violence.

Lindgren started by thanking Sandi for the invitation. He said the problems faced in Vineland are the same as those faced throughout the county.

"Gangs and drugs and violence are everyone's concern," Lindgren said. "The increase in opiate abuse and overdoses — nobody's a stranger to that in the county."

After the revocation of the agreement, he reassigned deputies to increase patrols in Kathio Township. He also said deputies have been encouraged to notify Tribal Police when they are called to the reservation.

Later in the meeting, in response to a question from Shannon Nayquonabe, Chief Rice said tribal officers are not being notified in most cases.

When the law enforcement agreement was revoked, Lindgren requested an additional 10 deputies to help fill the need that resulted from the Tribal Police having their authorities reduced. The county board approved the request, but Lindgren said he has moved slowly in the process of adding deputies in hopes that a new agreement would be reached.

Lindgren said he would strongly recommend that Mille Lacs County enter mediation with the Mille Lacs Band to come up with a new law enforcement agreement.

"I don't think anyone would dispute that we can do more if we work together," Lindgren concluded.

Rep. Blake and Band members questioned Lindgren on several topics before the meeting was turned over to Chief Sara Rice.

Colin Cash asked how the county's seven new officers could make up for the 25 Tribal Police officers whose authority has been reduced. "That's a pretty big discrepancy," he said. Lindgren repeated that he is moving slowly in the addition of officers in hopes that a new agreement can be reached.

Colin also asked about the level of cultural understanding of deputies vs. tribal officers. Lindgren replied that he has requested cultural training for his deputies as part of a new agreement.

Rep. Blake said the Band would be happy to help provide



Pictured (L-R): Rep. Sandi Blake, Sheriff Brent Lindgren, and Acting Police Chief Sara Rice.

cultural training to county deputies.

Shannon Nayquonabe said tribal officers' reports aren't being submitted with county deputies' reports. Lindgren said his sergeant is receiving the reports and forwarding them to the county attorney. Shannon, who works for Band Member Legal Aid, said the reports are not part of discovery and are not in the files.

Sandi asked about increases to Lindgren's budget since the agreement has been revoked. He said there have been "significant increases" for additional employees, vehicles and equipment.

Melissa Boyd said there is a need for statewide cultural training of law enforcement officers. "I don't disagree with that," Lindgren said.

Curt Kalk asked several questions, including Lindgren's position on the reservation boundary and his involvement in the decision to revoke the law enforcement agreement.

Lindgren said, "I didn't know they were going to cancel it until after they canceled it."

Curt repeated his question on the reservation boundaries. "You're publicly elected," he said. "We'd like to know your opinion."

Lindgren repeated that his obligation is to follow the law of the land.

David Sam applauded Lindgren for coming to the meeting, especially given the confusing nature of the issues.

Bobby Eagle asked why the agreement was terminated. Lindgren said, "I have to refer you to the resolution agreement, what that says. That's their decision, not my decision."

Lindgren remained in attendance at the meeting while Acting Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice talked about implementation of the Tribal Law and Order Act, which went into effect Jan. 1.

She said the law would not bring drastic changes, but would allow law enforcement another tool to prosecute crime. She said the crime statistics for the reservation area indicated the need for additional federal involvement.

"It's a good thing for the tribe, but we're also told there will only be a handful of cases that will go for federal prosecution," she said. "That's why it's so important that we get back to the mutual aid agreement."

She said Tribal Police have responded to 2,158 incidents since the agreement was revoked, and that they created a call center staffed 24 hours a day.

She said federal deputization of tribal officers will give them the ability to investigate major crimes on trust lands.

The County is working with the Tribal Police to come up with interim operating procedures under the Tribal Law and Order Act until a new cooperative agreement is in place.

Sara said the lack of an agreement limits the Tribal Police department in carrying out its duty to protect Band members. "We have the ability, but they don't recognize us as state police officers," she said. "It really hinders us from pursuing a true investigation. We have a responsibility; we took an oath to keep everybody safe."

In response to a question on response time of deputies compared to Tribal officers, she said it depends, but that Tribal can usually respond to calls on the reservation in 30 seconds to two minutes.

Tony Pike asked about who would be at fault if someone dialed 911 and passed away waiting for the deputy to arrive. "It's about the safety of the community," he said.

Terry Kemper said the discussion implied that police are the answer to the community's problems, but that isn't the case. "We can't rely on the police," Terry said. "We as a community need to come up with something different to help us out with the drugs and alcohol. I've watched people turning their life around and telling their family 'That's enough of that.'"

Sandi agreed. "It's every individual's responsibility to call in and report drug dealers," she said. "That heroin is taking people over. They're throwing their life way."

Authority of the Mille Lacs Band Police Department

Can a tribal police or conservation officer issue state driving offense citations?

Yes. Tribal officers are State of Minnesota POST-licensed peace officers. As such, tribal officers acting "in the course and scope of employment" may enforce state traffic laws.

Can these citations be issued to non-Band members, including non-Indians?

Yes. Additionally, driving tickets issued to Band and non-Band member Indians can charge violations of tribal law.

Can a tribal police or conservation officer arrest an individual for violation of state law? Yes.

Do tribal police and conservation officers possess authority to arrest Band and non-Band member Indians for violating federal criminal law? Yes, as of December

20, 2016, tribal officers obtained Special Law Enforcement Commissions from the BIA, deputizing Band officers as BIA-OJS police officers. Additionally, tribal officers may perform criminal arrests of Band and non-Band member Indians for violating tribal criminal provisions, which appear throughout eight Band titles, but predominantly within Title 24 – Judicial Proceedings.

Can Band and non-Band member Indians potentially be prosecuted in federal court for violation of federal criminal law? Yes.

While anyone can be prosecuted for violating general federal criminal statutes, as of January 1, 2017, the United States Attorney's Office, District of Minnesota, may charge Band and non-Band member Indians for committing various other crimes, including, but not limited to: assault, burglary, robbery, sexual abuse and theft of personal property.

Chief Executive Meets with Interior Secretary Jewell



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell on Friday, Jan. 13, to discuss the transition from the Obama administration to that of President-elect Donald Trump.

Melanie was invited to the meeting by Larry Roberts, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.

Also in attendance were Standing Rock Chairman David Archambault, NCAI President Brian Cladoosby, NCAI Vice President Aaron Payment, Larry Roberts and several BIA staff.

"The point of this meeting was to discuss how we can protect the gains we have made as Indian Nations under President Obama, and keep momentum going in the next Administration," Melanie said. "Secretary Jewell was very emotional about saying goodbye to us, but she was also optimistic, and encouraged us to be assertive in providing the new Interior Secretary (and all of his appointees) with the same high quality education about tribal sovereignty and Indian issues as we provided to her when she first came into the position."

The group discussed the work ahead over the next four years, which will include continued advocacy of tribes' right to protect water from pipeline and mining activity, protecting tribal sovereignty and economic development, and protecting

the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA).

If the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is repealed, the IHCIA is also at risk because it is part of Obamacare.

"I was also able to thank her on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for all the wonderful work that has been done for Indian tribes over the last eight years, and for the support she has shown to the people of the Mille Lacs Band and the MCT," said Melanie.

Some of those achievements include settling the Cobel case regarding mismanagement of Indian trust funds; creating a position in the White House, which former Fond du Lac Chairwoman Karen Diver held; establishing a buyback program to help tribes regain scattered lands; expanding the jurisdiction of tribal courts; the Tribal Law and Order Act; and including tribal women under the protection of the Violence Against Women law in 2013.

"The most important thing is that all tribes remain very engaged with the next Administration and keep strategizing together so we don't lose ground," Melanie said. "Those of us who attended committed that we would keep the work going. Immediately following this meeting, we attended a larger event with other tribes celebrating the announcement of the settlement of water rights issues that had impacted several tribes."

Cabinet meeting

The meeting with the Secretary was part of a busy January for the Chief Executive. After delivering her State of the Band address on Jan. 10, she left immediately for a two-day Cabinet meeting with her commissioners.

The meeting focused on improving efficiencies in government programs and budgeting, and maximizing empowerment of Band members to be involved with our Executive Branch planning processes.

"Band Member participation will be critical in our efforts to reduce dependency on government programs, for the minority of those Band Members who are stuck in that cycle of dependency," Melanie said. "Responsible budgeting and empowerment of Band members is critical for our future."

Watch for notice of Executive Branch meetings in each District and attend if you can. January meetings were held in Districts I and II. February meetings will be held Feb. 15 at Chiminising Community Center and Feb. 16 at Aazhoomog Community Center. Both meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. with light supper and drinks provided.

Help Eliminate Teen Dating Violence

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Family Violence Prevention Program would like everyone to know that there's a lot we can do as parents and guardians to prevent teen dating violence and abuse.

Everyone deserves to be in a healthy and safe relationship. Communication is key to exercising mutual respect, establishing healthy boundaries and understanding each other's needs.

Unfortunately, as teens form their first romantic relationships, they often are unclear about what constitutes a healthy relationship. Verbal and emotional abuse erodes girls' self-esteem, making it more difficult to talk to someone about the abuse, let alone end the relationship.

More than 1 in 10 teens who have been on a date have also been physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year. One of the most important things we can do is keep the lines of communication open with our kids. We'd also like to remind everyone that we all deserve a safe and healthy relationship. Remember, love has many definitions, but abuse isn't one of them.

Take steps to make a difference:

- Be a role model — treat our kids and others with respect.
- Start talking to our kids about healthy relationships early — before they start dating.
- Get involved with efforts to prevent dating violence at your teen's school.
- We can help keep our loved ones safe and healthy.

Should you need more information, please feel free to call our Family Violence Prevention Program 320-532-7793.

Tips for Helping Elders

Elders need our help, especially in the winter months. If you are caring for an elderly relative or friend, keep these things in mind:

1. Check in. Make a schedule with other caregivers to make sure someone is calling or visiting regularly.
2. Make sure the home is safe, with handrails, wide walkways, sufficient lighting, functioning appliances, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and good locks on doors and windows.
3. Keep keys hidden from the view of windows, but make sure they are in a memorable place for the home owner.
4. Consider technological improvements like pull sensors in bathrooms, panic buttons and movement sensors.
5. Keep emergency contacts and numbers in an easy to find location.
6. Develop a plan for what Elders should do in an emergency or if they are in danger.
7. Inform the elderly about door and telephone scams. Remember the rule that if it seems too good to be true it probably is.
8. Watch for signs of Elder abuse (see page 16).



Mille Lacs Band Divests from Wells Fargo

Unethical business practices and financing support for Dakota Access Pipeline led to decision



The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians announced last month it has ended its investment advisory services relationship with Wells Fargo. The decision, made unanimously by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians Band Assembly and Chief Executive

Melanie Benjamin, is in response to Wells Fargo's unethical business practices and the financing the bank provides to Energy Transfer Partners. The Mille Lacs Band terminated the relationship effective January 6, 2017.

Wells Fargo has lent hundreds of millions of dollars to Energy Transfer Partners to finance the construction of the Dakota

Access Pipeline; the bank has also admitted to defrauding its customers by opening thousands of unauthorized accounts to meet internal sales goals. There were other negative practices by Wells Fargo throughout Indian Country that also contributed to the Band's decision.

"Wells Fargo has promoted initiatives that have hurt Native Americans across the country and the Mille Lacs Band will no longer associate ourselves with them," said Mille Lacs Band Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu. "In addition to preying on customers and other unethical business practices, Wells Fargo is actively financing the Dakota Access Pipeline project where peaceful Native American protestors have been taunted and physically harmed. We will not do business with a compa-

ny that finds these practices acceptable."

The proposed 1,100-mile pipeline would pump more than a half million barrels of crude oil per day across the Missouri River just upstream from the mouth of the Cannon Ball River, which flows through the Standing Rock Sioux reservation.

Divesting from Wells Fargo is a meaningful step we can take to make it clear that this is unacceptable corporate behavior," said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "The Mille Lacs Band understands the nature of finance and lending practices by U.S. banks. In many instances, banking relationships are unavoidable. However, the Band must work with financial institutions with much stronger social justice criteria.

Legislative Briefs

Attention All Mille Lacs Band Members:

The Legislative Branch is having a drawing contest for a New Design for the Mille Lacs Band Vehicle License Plates as well as a New Veterans' Plate Design.

The submitted design should specify certain colors and other specifications.

Submissions should be submitted to the Legislative/DMV Office no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

Band Assembly will choose the design to be used as the new license plate and Veteran's plate.

Regular Band Plate 1st Place = \$1,000.00.

Veteran/Armed Forces Band Plate 1st Place = \$1,000.00.

The selected design will be used on Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe license plates going forward.

To request an application or if you have questions, please call Deanna Sam, Deputy Registrar at 320-532-7498 or Bonnie Matrious, Legislative Office Assistant at 320-532-2006.

Revenue Allocation Plan Discussions: Band Assembly members will discuss proposed amendments to the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) at monthly community meetings in February. (See calendar on page 15 for dates.)

Band Assembly is amending the current Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) to be submitted for Bureau of Indian Affairs approval by the end of the fiscal year in October 2017. As a result, Band members may see changes to government spending, including per capita payments,

beginning as early as January of 2018. The authority to approve tribal RAPs has been delegated to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs by the Secretary of the Interior.

The RAP, which defines how tribal governments spend gaming revenues, is required under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act if tribes intend to allocate per capita payments to individual members from revenue derived from tribal gaming activities.

The Mille Lacs Band's current RAP plan allocates net gaming revenues as follows: government spending (25%), per capita distributions (35%), long-term savings (15%), economic development (8%), permanent initiative (7%), housing initiative (5%), Circle of Health endowment (5%). The current RAP plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Interior on September 1, 2010.

District Community Meetings:

District I Community Meeting: Wednesday, February 8 at 5 p.m.
District I Community Center

District II-A Community Meeting: Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m.
Isle Community Center

District III Community Meeting: Grand Casino Hinckley Events and Convention Center
Wednesday, February 22 at 5:30 p.m.

District II Community Meeting: Thursday, February 23 at 5:30 p.m.
East Lake Community Center

Urban Area Community Meeting: Thursday, February 23 at 5:30 p.m.
All Nations Indian Church

Clarification: At Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's 33rd Annual State of the Band Address on Tuesday, January 10, an Executive Summary was handed out by the Commissioners of the Executive Branch to attendees. The summary stated that in Summer of 2016, Band Assembly was given a proposal on Economic Justice options for employee bonuses. This is not true, in fact, Band Assembly did not receive the proposal until January 12, 2017 after seeing the Executive Summary. We are now reviewing and meeting with the executive branch on the proposal.

Ceremonial Dance Dates — Spring 2017

- March 17 & 18: Terry & Vince, White Earth
- March 24 & 25: Frank & Adrian, White Earth
- April 7 & 8: Merlin & Mick, Mille Lacs
- April 7, 8, & 9: Jim & Louis, LCO
- April 14 & 15: Ralph & Andy, Mille Lacs
- April 21 & 22: Lynda & Joyce, Mille Lacs
- April 28 & 29: Joe & George, Mille Lacs
- May 5 & 6: Skip, Lake Lena
- May 5 & 6: Elmer & Sheldon, Mille Lacs
- May 12 & 13: Tim & Tom, East Lake
- May 19 & 20: Lee & Larry, Lake Lena
- May 19 & 20: Niib & Iyawbance, East Lake
- May 26 & 27: Dale & Vincent, East Lake
- June 2 & 3: Bob & Perry, Mille Lacs
- TBA: Maabin, Round Lake, WI
- TBA: Donna & Becky, Round Lake, WI



Help for Furry Friends

A veterinary clinic held at the East Lake Community Center on January 9 serviced 33 animals with low-cost spay and neuters. The clinic was conducted by MNSNAP (Minnesota Spay Neuter Assistance Program) and was sponsored by the office of District II Rep. David 'Niib' Aubid. Vet clinics will continue to be held in all districts on an annual basis. Watch the paper, website and Facebook for details.

Ne-la-Shing's First Psychiatrist

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Dr. Melvina Bissonette is one of two new doctors at Ne-la-Shing Clinic in District I. She and Dr. Lacey Running Hawk (who was featured in last month's *Inaajimowin*) both joined the Ne-la-Shing team last fall.

Dr. Bissonette is a physician whose specialty is psychiatry. A psychiatrist is a medically-qualified practitioner who has spent four to five years training to be a doctor, followed by another four to six years of further training in helping people with psychological problems.

Unlike psychologists, psychiatrists' main job is not one-on-one counseling or therapy, but diagnosis, assessment and treatment of mental illness.

For Dr. Bissonette, the desire to be a doctor dates back to childhood.

"At a young age I remember saying I wanted to be a doctor," she said. "I don't know where that came from, but I always liked going to the doctor. As I got older, I developed a sense that I wanted to take care of people, and I recognized the health disparities that affect Native Americans and other people in rural, impoverished communities. I had a desire to help, and I didn't have people tell me I was ridiculous. People said I was smart enough to do it."

Dr. Bissonette's father is Oglala Lakota from Pine Ridge and her mother is Navajo. She was raised on the Navajo Reservation in Shiprock, New Mexico.

She admits that she was "clueless" about how to become a doctor when she left home for college in Albuquerque, but she figured it out quickly. "I realized there was a medical school at the University of New Mexico, so I went there and asked what I needed to do," she said. "I went home and made my schedule out for the next four years, what classes I needed to take and when I needed to take them."

When it came time to choose a specialty, psychiatry was at the top of the list. Dr. Bissonette had majored in psychology as an undergraduate because the usual pre-med biology focus didn't seem very exciting. "Psychology was captivating," she said, "but it meant I had to take a few extra classes to qualify for medical school."

"During medical school I found the course on mental health interesting, and as I went through residency I always gravitated to the patients who had mental illness," she said. "I always found that to be more interesting, and I noticed it was the one area where you really got to know your patients. It was fulfilling to watch them improve and to be there with them."

Dr. Bissonette is a long way from New Mexico, but she's found a second home in Minnesota.

"When I came up here to interview in October of 2006, I flew into Duluth, and when I got off the plane I thought it was beautiful," she said. "I had never seen so many trees or so much water. I felt a sense of belonging, like 'This is home. This is where I needed to be.'"

As she was finishing her residency, Dr. Bissonette sent a letter to her Indian Health Service mentor, who helped her make a connection with Ne-la-Shing, which was seeking to



Dr. Melvina Bissonette was raised in New Mexico but has found a second home in the north.

add a psychiatrist to the medical staff. Dr. Bissonette is enjoying the challenge of building a psychiatry practice in a clinic that's never had one.

"I'm here to help," she said. "I try to be very open minded and non-judgmental, to help people on their journey to achieve balance and wellness."

When she's not busy with work, she loves to read Harry Potter books and ride horses, but lately she's busy caring for her 9-month-old baby.

Dr. Bissonette's main interest outside the clinic, though, is education. "We recently started a new child initiative group, hoping to get the community to invest more in the children of the community," she said. "I feel passionate about that. The more you invest in children the more you improve your community."

Nutrition Programs Put Healthy Food on the Menu

Gwe Yak Mino Wiisin A Da — Let's Eat the Right Foods!

In recent years, poor nutrition has led to obesity and related health problems in Indian County and across the U.S. The good news for Mille Lacs Band members is that several programs exist to provide healthy food options and educate families on preparing healthy meals.

The Diabetes Department at Ne-la-Shing Clinic wants to help Band members find the assistance they need, no matter which District they live in.

Brittany Crawford is the Diabetes Coordinator at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. She works with Dietician Cyndy Travers, Fitness Coordinators Jim Ingle and Bobby Anderson, and SNAP Education Coordinator Diane O'Donnell. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and replaced the old food stamp program. This is the first year the Band has been awarded its own SNAP-Ed program.

Diane teaches nutrition lessons and cooking classes for adults at Mino Bimaadiziwin, the halfway house, the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program, the women's shelter and the commodities building. She uses curriculum from the University of Minnesota and also includes games and surveys to make learning fun. This spring she intends to put in a community garden at the Mino Bimaadiziwin after starting plants in the greenhouse near the commodities building.

"I like to assist folks with recipes, snacks and tips to eat better and be more active," said Diane. "The new commodities are healthier than they used to be, with an emphasis on fruits and vegetables and traditional foods. They'll soon be replacing white rice with brown and wild rice."

Diane is emphasizing meal planning to help people become better shoppers as well as better chefs. The three steps for healthy eating on a budget are planning, purchasing and preparing. She also stresses balancing calories and physical activity. "Even when we're stuck inside on a cold day, we can find something to do," she said. "It's better than sitting on the couch."

Diane says it's difficult in rural areas to access healthy, affordable foods, but she also knows of many programs and organizations that can help. If you struggle to put healthy food on the table, consider these resources:

- **SNAP:** Call 1-800-221-5689 to see if you qualify. Funds are deposited on a debit card.
- **Commodities:** Call 320-532-7880 extension 227 to see if you meet income guidelines. Even if you don't qualify for SNAP, you may qualify for commodities, but you can't qualify for both. The commodities program delivers food once a month.
- **Mille Lacs Band Food Shelves:** At the commodities building in District I, there is a "free store" providing not just food but also other household items. There's no waiting for applications to be processed, so if you're hungry today, you can get help. Deliveries are made to Districts II and III.
- **WIC:** The Women, Infants and Children program is an income-based program providing vouchers for milk, cereal, juice, fruits and vegetables. Call Joanne Boyd at 320-532-7821 to see if you qualify.
- **Ruby's Pantry:** On the first Monday of the month, from

10:30 a.m. to noon, Ruby's Pantry is open to everyone at the Lions Community Center 806 Kathio St, Onamia. Cost is \$20 for a monthly package. Contents can be viewed online, and it's always a great deal.

- **Fare For All:** On the first Wednesday of the month from 3 to 5 p.m., Fare For All provides low cost fruits and vegetables, meats and combinations at the Onamia Vets Club on Hwy. 169 and 27.
- There are food shelves and/or thrift stores in Onamia, Garrison, Isle, Hinckley and McGregor. To find food shelves in Minnesota communities go to: foodpantries.org/st/minnesota.

Tips to a Great Plate

Enjoy your food, but eat less. Avoid oversized portions. Find out how many calories you need for a day at choosemyplate.gov.

Make half your plate fruits and vegetables and half your grains whole grains.

Reduce sodium, sugary foods, fatty meats, and sugary drinks.

Exercise every day, with some moderate to vigorous activity.

Contact Diane at the District I ALU, 320-532-7742 or diane.o'donnell@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

Nay Ah Shing Students, Staff Attend Dakota Memorial

Brett Larson Staff Writer



On December 26, 1862, the largest mass execution in U.S. history took place in Mankato, where 38 Dakota warriors were killed for taking part in a war against the U.S.

In 2005, a Dakota spiritual leader named Jim Miller had a dream that he was riding a horse across South Dakota to a river in Minnesota, where he saw the hanging of the 38 warriors.

The dream stuck with him and became the inspiration for the Dakota Wokiksuye Memorial Ride — also referred to as the “38+2” memorial ride because it remembers not only the 38 hanged that day, but also two more Dakota men who were found later and executed.

Each year since 2005, riders have trekked from the Lower Brule Reservation to Mankato — a 16-day, 330-mile journey that ends at the site of the hanging.

Bambi O’Hern’s sixth-grade class, along with parents and staff from Nay Ah Shing schools, traveled to Mankato to greet the riders on December 26, 2016, and it was an experience they won’t soon forget. The streets were closed off as a police escort led the 60 riders through town, their horses bunched side-by-side, some decorated with painted masks, their breath visible in the cold.

The riders were led by Wilfred Keeble, a Dakota Elder from the Crow Creek Reservation in Fort Thompson, South Dakota.

As one rider passed Bambi and her students, he asked if anyone wanted a ride. Jasmine Maurstad was game, and Bambi lifted her onto the bare back of a horse.

When the riders reached Reconciliation Park, they were greeted with an honor song and a ceremony recognizing the

riders, but more importantly remembering those whose lives were lost on a cold day 154 years ago. Among the other purposes of the ride are reconciliation between Indians and non-Indians, and recognition of the historical trauma that the aftermath of the war brought for Dakota people, who were banished from Minnesota and forced to wander from Nebraska to Canada.

The students were also impressed by a girl who spoke at the ceremony. Her father, who had ridden in the past, had died last year, and she gave away his cherished items — shirts, boots, blankets, a jacket, a hat.

The highlight for some of the students came at lunch, where they shared a meal of buffalo with Jim Miller, the founder of the ride. They were struck by his kindness and his impressive presence, the way he hugged everyone he met, and his belief that “we’re all family” — Dakota, Ojibwe and non-Indians.

Jim said he hoped to visit the students at Nay Ah Shing this winter.

The students designed sweatshirts for the event with the names of the fallen, and they presented sweatshirts to Jim and his nephew Pete.

RaeAna Sam-Nickaboine said, “I was excited to meet Jim because we saw him in the movie, and then we saw him in real life.”

Jayden Maurstad agreed, adding that it was “awesome” to meet Jim “because he made the video happen.”

Chase Sam wrote about her experience in an assignment for Bambi’s class. “The field trip to Mankato was important

because I know I may not attend this memorable field trip again,” said Chase. “It was also important because it was to remember the Dakota 38 plus 2 men that were hanged.” She said the sight of the riders coming into town was “one of the most memorable moments I’ll ever find.”

Meeting Jim Miller, she said, gave her “an overwhelming feeling of honor in his presence.”

Also on the trip were Jarvis Sam-Nickaboine, Jachi Johnson, Adam Benjamin, Ronni Jourdain, Dajatay Barnes, Bobby Eagle Jr, Bobby Eagle Sr, Elaine Rea, Naomi Sam and Education Commissioner Ed Minnema.

Bambi said, “I feel privileged to have the support of a great commissioner and school board who allow me to take my students to the ‘outdoor’ classroom and make history tangible and meaningful to them. This was a trip I know they will never forget — I know I won’t.”

According to historian Carol Chomsky, “The trials of the Dakota were conducted unfairly in a variety of ways. The evidence was sparse, the tribunal was biased, the defendants were unrepresented in unfamiliar proceedings conducted in a foreign language, and authority for convening the tribunal was lacking. More fundamentally, neither the Military Commission nor the reviewing authorities recognized that they were dealing with the aftermath of a war fought with a sovereign nation and that the men who surrendered were entitled to treatment in accordance with that status.”

Akawe Asemaa

LANGUAGE & CULTURE **Naawigiizis, Jim Clark** Guest Writer

Nookomisinaaban iko gii-aadizooke, mii ko aw ingii-inendam gaa-maamawi-nitaa-aadizooked. Niibowa ogii-kikendaan aadizookaan. Gakina go iniw gegoo gii-kikinoo'amaagemagadoon. A'aw nimishoomisinaaban oo'man gaa-izhinikaanangid, ogii-kikendaan aadizookaan gaaginwaa-biigak, ganabaj naano-diba'igan akwaabiigadani. Geget ingii-minwendaamin iko gii-aadizookaagoyang, aaningodinong gii-anoonangid nookomisinaan ji-aadizooked. Ingii-igomin iko ji-diba'amawangid, gii-mooshkina'amawaangid odoopwaa-ganan gemaa gaye ingomakakoons biindaakwaan, mii dash eget iko gii-maminwaadizooked. Asemaa iko ingii-asaanaan ishkodeng biindaakoonangidwaa aadizookaanag. Moozhag igo gii-ikido "Niwii-aadizooke dibikak," mii dash iko wapii anishaa gii-noondamang aadizookaan. Ayaapii aadizooked gii-sagaswaa epiitanoozod dash akawe ingoshkwaawaadabimin baabii'aangid miinawaa ji-maadaadizooked, mii imaa gikinoo'amaagooyang ji-goshkwaawaadabiyaang miinawaa weweni ji-bizindamaang.

First offer tobacco

My grandmother used to tell legends, or aadizookaanag. She was one of the best that I know. She knew a lot of stories, all with teachings. My stepgrandpa used to tell a story that was the longest I ever heard. It was about four or five hours long. Stories were a treat for us, and we were required to pay the teller something. For Grandma it was either a box of snuff or a pipeful of tobacco, and a lot of times we had to have a pinch

of tobacco to put in the fire as an offering to the subject of the story. But most of the time she would say, "I'm going to tell a story." So that was an invitation. We could hear a story for free. The offering had two purposes. One, the storyteller could smoke whenever he wanted to, and two, to show respect for spirits of the subject of aadizookaanag.

Vocabulary

Search for the following words (or variations) in the text to increase your vocabulary. Use a dictionary or the Ojibwe People's Dictionary (ojibwe.lib.umn.edu) to look up meanings and translate more words.

akawe	dash	dibikak
asemaa	iko	diba'igan
nookomis	maamawi	weweni
minwendam	gakina	miinawaa
nimishoomis	iniw	opwaagan
imaa	naano	niibowa
ganabaj	makakoons	a'aw
gege	biindaakwaan	
gegoo	ishkodeng	

Grammar

The prefix "gii-" is used to show third person (she/he) past tense. "Ingii-" is used for first person (I) past tense.

Here are some other verbs from the story you can study:

zagaswaa, gikendam, biindaakoozh, ikido, goshkwaawaadabi.

Present

Aadizooke: s/he tells a sacred story.

Indaadizooke: I tell a sacred story.

Gikinoo'amaage: S/he teaches.

Ingikinoo'amaage: I teach.

Bizindam: S/he listens.

Nibizindam: I listen.

Inendam: S/he thinks.

Indinendam: I think.

Past

Gii-aadizooke: S/he told a sacred story.

Ingii-aadizooke: I told a sacred story.

Gii-kikinoo'amaage: S/he taught.*

Ingii-kikinoo'amaage: I taught.

Gii-bizindam: She listened.

Ingii-pizindam: I listened.**

Gii-inendam: S/he thought.

Ingii-inendam: I thought.

*Note that the 'g' turns to a 'k.'

**Note that the 'b' turns to a 'p'.

Public Service Announcement: Please Release All Walleye Caught and Creel Crappie on Namachers Lake

In spring 2016 walleyes around 2-3 inches were stocked into Namachers Lake. Prior to this stocking there were no walleyes due to a fish kill that occurred around 2013. Fall electrofishing surveys indicated that the stocked walleyes are numerous and growing well. Therefore, The Mille Lacs Band DNR is asking for all Band members to immediately release all walleye caught in Namachers Lake.

At this time the walleyes should be between 8-10.5 inches. If we are able to protect these fish outstanding walleye fishing will soon be a reality in Namachers Lake.

In fall 2016, crappies were found in Namachers Lake. If you can, please let us know the size and amount of crappie you harvest. You can call, email, or mail us using the contact

information below.

Please use caution on the ice especially by the dam where aerators are in place. Thin ice signs will be posted around them.

For questions, comments, concerns, please feel free to contact us. Miigwich!

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources
43408 Oodena Dr.
Onamia, MN, 56359
320-532-7439 (Main Office)
320-733-0837 (Fish Biologist)
carl.klimah@millelacsband.com



State & Local News Briefs

New Legislative Session Starts in Refurbished Capitol: The 90th Minnesota Legislature was gaveled into session on January 3, marking the first legislative session in the newly renovated state capitol building. Not everything about the new capitol building is completed, however. Most notably, controversial historic works which contain paternalistic and disparaging depictions of early interactions between Europeans and American Indians in Minnesota have yet to find a new home in the renovated space, as the committee in charge of deciding on placement of capitol artwork has yet to render a final decision.

SMSC Donation Supports Native Food Sovereignty Fellows: The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), which launched a \$5 million campaign to promote indigenous nutrition and food access in 2015 called Seeds of Native Health, recently entered an historic partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) at the University of Arkansas School of Law to affect change on the ground in Indian country. Native Food Sovereignty Fellows will work in 10 tribal communities nationwide to improve food access and nutrition as a part of the National AmeriCorps VISTA Project to address the native food crisis.

Polymet Takes Step Forward: The U.S. Forest Service has agreed to trade about 6,650 acres of land it owns and manages on the southern edge of the Superior National Forest to PolyMet, in exchange for 6,690 acres PolyMet controls in the same area. PolyMet plans to build the NorthMet mine, a mine for copper, nickel, cobalt and other precious metals. The Forest Service received nearly 23,000 individual objections to the project during the open comment period, as well as formal objections from the Grand Portage and Fond du Lac Bands.

Obama Names Minnesotan to Native Child Commission: President Barack Obama announced a number of administration appointments recently, including appointing Anita Fineday to serve on the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children. Fineday has a long history of service to Native people, including serving as the Chief Judge for White Earth, an associate Judge in Leech Lake, and more recently as a tribal attorney for Red Lake Nation. Fineday is a past solicitor general and corporate counselor for the Mille Lacs Band, and has served as adjunct faculty at Mille Lacs Tribal College as well as the University of Minnesota. For the past six years Fineday has served as the Managing Director of Indian Child Welfare Services at Casey Family Programs.

National News Briefs

Pipeline Battles Continue: Native American tribes and environmental allies continue to push back on the expansion of pipelines across the country. The Army Corps of Engineers has announced that it will conduct an Environmental Impact Study of the proposed route and alternatives for the Dakota Access Pipeline; the study could take up to two years to complete. Anti-pipeline advocates are turning their attention to trying to stop or remove pipelines in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Louisiana.

US Supreme Court Hears Sovereign Immunity Case: The US Supreme Court heard arguments in the only Indian Law case currently on the docket for 2017. The case, *Lewis v. Clarke*, centers on how far tribal sovereign immunity extends. A car accident between Brian and Michelle Lewis and William Clarke, an employee of the Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, sparked the case; the Lewises sued Clarke for damages but the Connecticut Supreme Court held that since Clarke was acting on behalf of the tribe as an employee, the sovereign immunity of the tribe extends to its employees. Clarke is represented by the same attorney who won a 5-4 decision in the 2014 *Bay Mills* case that affirmed the sovereign immunity of tribes.

Manhattan Land Donated to Lenape Nation: A three-floor, \$4 million home in Manhattan will soon become a prayer house, or *Pahtamawiikan*, owned and operated by the Lenape Nation. The home was donated by Jean-Louis Goldwater Bourgeois, a wealthy activist who told the *New York Times* that he wanted the original inhabitants of Manhattan to have the land back, "I'm giving it back to whom the land was stolen from, and that's really a joyful event."

Tribes Celebrate Bears Ears Designation: In January, the founders of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition gathered together to celebrate their successful efforts to have Bears Ears recognized as a national monument. The Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the Ute Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Zuni Pueblo worked together to preserve the 1.35 million acres of sacred land. Most importantly, in establishing the National Monument, President Obama ordered that the five tribes have a seat at the table when it comes to the management of the site, through the Bears Ears Commission.

Correction: The January *Inaajimowin* named Daniel Boyd as Director of Housing. He should have been named Interim Director of Housing. We regret the error and any confusion it might have caused.

Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653.

The March issue deadline is February 15.

Family Services Director Sets New Goals, Keeps Kids at the Forefront of Her Work

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Coming back to work for the Mille Lacs Band as the Director of Family Services was almost like coming home for Georgette Christensen. After being gone a decade, she returned in July.

"I've always had a fondness for Mille Lacs," said Georgette, whose first stint in the same role was from 1996 to 2001.

"Mille Lacs feels like home," she said. "There's a great draw to the lake and a draw to the people."

While she has seen some positive changes since her last tenure, she still sees a need for the services her department provides.

Those services include foster care, child protection services, Elder and disabled care, outreach and prevention, support services and resources along with independent living and life skills programs.

Yet, in spite of the work the department does in its efforts to help families, it's troubling to Georgette to know that many in the community don't have favorable feelings about its efforts or the department.

Because for Georgette, a member of the White Earth Band, "it's always been about helping families."

The early years

As the youngest of eight children born into an alcoholic family on the edge of Mahnom County Georgette's worldview was limited. She went to a little school with only a handful of other Native American students and never dreamed that college was in her future. She always thought she would grow up, stay at home and get a job.

It wasn't until a high school counselor, Bill Woods, asked her where she was going to college that she even gave it much thought. She told him she wasn't and that her family couldn't afford it.

Still, he encouraged her to apply and helped her with the process.

When she told her mom about it her mom said no because the family couldn't afford to pay for college. So Georgette told her mom all she had to do was sign the financial aid form and she would do the rest.

She was accepted to Bemidji and decided to attend – even though she had never set foot on the campus.

"Growing up in that environment I knew that there was more for me in life than that and because of Bill, bless his heart, I decided college was a possibility."

When she graduated, Georgette did an internship in Ramsey County's child protection department. From that humble beginning she's held other jobs including working in non-profit organizations, a private foster care agency and for Hennepin County. Mille Lacs is the only tribe she's worked for.

Before beginning her career with the Band in 1996, Georgette first earned her Master's of Social Work with a concentration in family therapy from Augsburg College.

Coming home to Mille Lacs

"One of the questions I ask myself is 'How can I make an impact?'" she said. "Another is 'How can I make the community see there is an impact to the work we're doing?'"

And while there aren't easy answers to help solve some of the bigger issues of the drug problems or societal ills, Georgette does have some ideas.

"One of the big challenges now is the drug scene. It has



increased and it's become more powerful," she said, adding that it makes the need for services even greater.

"During my first tenure, the children we worked with are now adults with their children in the system."

"Drugs and alcohol are brain diseases and we have to understand it as a brain disease and address it as such."

"I know and have seen the devastation that alcohol can do to Native families."

The intergenerational trauma that has traveled from generation to generation also needs to be addressed to help families identify and label it so they can understand how it has affected their children and grandchildren.

"I've made it my life's calling to advocate for Native children so that they are safe."

One of her goals are to grow the staff in her department so they can better serve families. She also wants to see staff deployed back to each district instead of being based in District I. She is also hoping to see more Native foster families identified because the need for foster care has grown substantially.

Another thing she plans to do is to attend community meetings to share more about the department and let the community ask questions. The department is also updating and creating policies and procedures to better guide its work and is working with Health and Human Services Quality and Compliance Department to see this task through.

A top goal is to create a family preservation program that will help families find resources and offer options that will help them maintain positive and healthy lifestyles. The participation would be voluntary and while there are still many details to work out, its goal would be to protect the wellbeing of the children the department serves.

"The progress has been slow, but I'm committed to seeing these things through," Georgette said. "I want my department to have a good reputation in the community."

"I want our department to be a safe place for families to come to for help."

Still, she knows perception can be reality for some families who have worked with Family Services.

"A family who has been traumatized sees life differently and our children see trauma," she said. "That trauma changes that child's brain. Many families don't understand traumas and how it carries on generationally and changes our brain."

Though her work is "incredibly hard," there is gratification. She loves to see parents pass their drug tests. Or them spending time with their kids or when kids are placed with their relatives.

"My staff wants to see families together. We want to see children with their parents — we know children want to be with their parents."

"We do this job for the kids."

Georgette lives in the Twin Cities with her husband David and their three daughters.

Early Education Program Earns High Marks for Services

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

For another year, the Mille Lacs Band's Wewinabi Early Education program was awarded a four-star rating for its services from the statewide organization, Child Care Aware.

The rating is the highest possible rating by Parent Aware, which is the state's childcare rating system.

"This shows that we go above and beyond to offer a high quality program for our families," said Mary Fletcher, the Band's Director of Early Education.

"It's a lot of hard work to make sure we fulfill the requirements and track them, but it shows our commitment to our children and families," she added.

The staff of 100, which includes teachers and support staff, had to participate in many hours of training to earn the rating that can range from one to four stars. They had to demonstrate competencies in the areas of child assessment, family relationships and health and wellbeing.

Further, the programs that have the all-star rating must exceed the licensing requirement to support school readiness.

Participating programs have:

- Volunteered for extra in-depth training
- Use a scientifically based curriculum, which is validated

by Parent Aware

- Shown evidence of strong, caring relationships with each child
- Adopted the latest approaches to getting children's learning on track
- Committed to daily activities that help children learn and grow
- Placed high importance on children's health and safety
- Been trained in current observation techniques, and that training is used to aid staff in assessing children's needs
- Demonstrated that it is respectful of each child's unique background and encourages children to celebrate their individuality. Activities that teach about similarities and differences in realistic, positive ways help children learn to value and respect themselves and others.

"This would not be possible without the dedication and hard work from the Mille Lacs Early Education staff," Mary said. "Every day, teachers and support staff come to work with the children's best interest in mind. It is that commitment and the support of the Band administration that has enabled us to continue to receive this honor."

The Wewinabi program has 220 students enrolled from the different districts. It is also strong in its language and cultural offerings that takes the "whole child" approach, Mary said.

The language immersion classes, time spent with Elders in classrooms and the other traditional and cultural teachings set the program apart from most typical childcare programs.

Band Elders spend time in the classrooms teaching Ojibwe to students and staff. The Elders are also a program resource that staff can utilize when making lesson plans.

"They have also been a part of our annual cultural training during our pre-service trainings," Mary added. They sew blankets for our babies every year. They have their own room, which includes sewing machines, and so while our children nap they are busily sewing quilts for them."

For more information about Mille Lacs Early Education's Parent Aware four star rating, please feel free to contact Mary Fletcher at Wewinabi early education center at 320-32-7590.

More information concerning Parent Aware and quality childcare can be found at parentawareratings.org.

Mille Lacs Band Family Violence Prevention Program

Together we can help end the violence

We provide the following services:

- One on one advocacy
- Legal Advocacy
- Emergency Shelter
- Information and Referrals
- Support Groups
- Transportation (limited to services.)
- Our services are free of charge and are completely confidential.
- 24 Hour Crisis Line 1-866-867-4006

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence can be physical or sexual assault, or psychological/emotional abuse. It occurs regardless of age, race, spiritual beliefs, income level, educational background, or sexual orientation. It happens to people who are married, separated, divorced or in a significant relationship.

Is your relationship abusive?

- Does your partner's temper scare you?
- Are you afraid to disagree with your partner?
- Do you apologize for your partner's behavior when you are treated badly?
- Have you been hit, kicked, shoved or had things thrown at you?
- Do you avoid contact with friends or family?
- Have you had sexual contact that was coerced or forced?
- Does your partner regularly accuse you of flirting?
- Do you alter your behavior to accommodate your partner's jealousy?

Types of abuse

- Physical: Slapping, pushing, hitting, kicking, and biting.
- Emotional: Insults, name calling, or being putdown.
- Sexual: Being forced or coerced into sexual acts.
- Threats: Threatened with bodily harm.
- Intimidation: Gestures, looks, breaking things.
- Isolation; Not allowed to go out, see, or talk to others.
- Economic: Restricted access to financial resources.

The facts

- Every 9 seconds in the United States a woman is beaten or assaulted.
- Around the world, at least 1 in 3 women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own family.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women — more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.
- Studies suggest that up to 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually.
- Nearly 1 in 5 teenage girls who have been in a relationship said a boyfriend threatened violence or self-harm if presented with a breakup.
- Every day in the US, more than 3 women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends.

We can help

Domestic violence advocates with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe provide support and assistance for victims of domestic or sexual violence.

Assistance may involve

- Giving information and reviewing safety options,
- Explaining court processes and procedures,
- Accompanying victims to court,
- Providing referrals to other agencies and community resources,
- Providing education to the community regarding domestic and sexual violence.

Native women's sovereignty

All native women possess or have a right to:

1. Her own unique path in life without fear, but with freedom.
2. Self-governance. To make your own decisions without others approval or agreement. This includes spending money, having/ending relationships (including sexual), choosing what support she wants, choosing what ways and how support will be given and also how she dresses

and where she lives.

3. Resources she needs in order to walk her path in the way she wants. This includes housing, food, clothes, transportation and other necessities.
4. Accurate information and respectful and non judgmental support.
5. Access to resources that support her chosen life way, including her spiritual ways.
6. Speak freely for herself in her own way, to define her own reality, experiences and self identity. This includes interpreting womanhood for herself.

As advocates for women who have been victimized, it is our right and responsibility to be advocates supporting every woman's right to power and control over her body and life (her personal sovereignty).

Contact Us

- Direct Services Coordinator:
Cell: 320-292-1566
Office: 320-532-7875
- Sexual Assault Program:
Cell: 320-360-2426
Office: 320-532-4780
- District II East Lake Cell:
320-292-1646
Office: 21S-768-4412
- District III Hinckley Cell:
320-630-2691
Office: 320-384-4613
- Elder Abuse Program:
Cell: 320-630-2660
Office: 218-168-3311, ext. 4412
- Family Violence Prevention Program Administrator:
Cell: 320-630-2499
Office: 320-532-7793

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy February Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Laura Ann
Maurice Wayne Benjamin
Melanie Ann Benjamin
Debra Jean Blake
Sandra Lee Blake
Judy Ann Carlson
Ellen Marie Dakota
Harry Richard Davis
William Carl Erickson
Eileen Frances Farah
Nicole Anne Froemming
Beverly Ann Graves
Mary Louise Hoffer
Donald Ray Houle
Sharon Louise Howard
Maggie Kegg
Kurt Drew Keller
Carolyn Dawn Lewis
Ornorio Zachary Lyons
Wesley Dean Merrill
Victoria Gina Mitchell
Gilbert Wayne Moose
Lawrence Mark Nickaboine

Debra Lee Northrup
Patricia Ann O'Brien
William John O'Brien
Robin Lou Oswaldson
Rhonda Lynn Peet
Alan Pindegayosh
Lawrence Virgil Reynolds
Ellen Marie Roth
Bette Sam
Darlene Frances Sam
Darrell Duane Sam
Gladys Diane Sam
James Allan Sam
Pauline Marie Sam
Kenneth Wayne [Mitchell] Shingobe
Alvera Marie Smith
Bennie David St. John
Edward Louis St. John
Elizabeth Ann St. John
Stanley Conrad St. John
Richard Jay Staples
Robert Lee Staples
Berniece Sutton
Emma Edna Thomas
Gary Marshall Thomas

Michael Leo Towle
Valetta Irene Towle
Marilyn Wakanabo
Ramona Joyce Washington
Patrick Weyaus
Marilyn Jean Whitney
Clyde Manuel Wind
Rose Marie Wind
Dorothy May Wistrom

Happy February Birthdays:

Happy 2nd birthday **Nayrons (Danayron Pewaush)** on 2/2, love gpa and aunties. • Happy birthday **Chris Jr.** on 2/7, love the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday **DeeDee** on 2/10, love Val. • Happy 20th birthday **Simone** on 2/11! From auntie/mom, Chey, Selena, Cj, Carlyle, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, and Daymon. • Happy birthday to my sister "**Doll**" (**Pauline Sam**) on 2/12, love your little sister Barbara Jo. • Happy birthday **Baby Jacob** on 2/13,

love the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday **Jacob** on 2/16, love the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday **Darius Barnes** on 2/17, love Grandma Sharon. • Happy 61st birthday **Mom/Grama** on 2/20! From Mary, Chey, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Selena, Cj, Carlyle, Simone, Donny, Rachel, Joe, Sheila, Joey, Simon, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Frankee, and Bruce. • Happy birthday **Mahlon Barnes** on 2/21, love Sharon. • A very happy 32nd birthday to my brother **Joseph Michael Nickaboine** on 2/21, love your sister Michelle. • Happy birthday **Uncle Joe** on 2/21 from your nieces, Rosiebear, Annette, and Nephew Jay. • Happy birthday **Princess** on 2/22, love Auntie Val. • Happy birthday **Braelyn** on 2/22, love Dad, Baabiitaw, Payton, Eric,

Wes, Waase, Bryn, Bianca, Henry, Papa Brad, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Stranger, Auntie Val, Tyler, Pie, Kev, Auntie Randi, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Jay, Taylor, and Adam. • Happy birthday **Cordell** on 2/23, love the Harrington family.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday **Jim Kalk** on 1/17!

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call **612-465-0653**. The deadline for the March issue is February 15.

Mille Lacs Band Recovery Groups

District I Mille Lacs

Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition

Mondays, 5:30 – 7 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (Next to the Halfway House – Brown Building)
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-7773, ext. 2419

Wellbriety Migizi Meeting

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

Wellbriety Celebrating Families

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

N.A./A.A. Welcome

Hosted by Mille Lacs Band Halfway House
Wednesdays, 8 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia (Red Brick Building)
Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

Women's Support Group

Thursdays, 3 – 5 p.m., DI Public Health Building

Wellbriety Sons of Tradition

Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-7773, ext. 2419

District II East Lake

AA Group

Mondays, 5 – 6 p.m., East Lake Community Center

Contact Rob Nelson at 218-768-2431

Women's Support Group

Mondays, Noon – 2 p.m., District II ALU
Contact Petra at 320-292-1646

District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog

NA Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Aazhoomog Community Center

Wellbriety 12 Step Group

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

Wellbriety Meeting

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Hinckley Corporate Bldg.
Contact Mike Kettner at 320-385-7052

RECURRING EVENTS

District I Open Gym

Open Gym is held at the DI Community Center, Mondays – Thursdays: 3:30 – 9 p.m.

District I Women's Group (Strength & Support)

Thursdays: 3:30 – 5 p.m., Public Health Building (17230 Noopiming Lane)

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds (1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.)

Ojibwe Language Tables

Mondays, 5 – 7 p.m. (through Feb. 27), Urban Area language table with Pebaamibines, 1730

Clifton Pl., Suite B10 Minneapolis, 55403

Mondays, 6:30 p.m., DII-A, Chiminising Community Center

Tuesdays, 6 p.m., DIII, Aazhoomog Community Center

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., DI, District I Community Center

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., DII, East Lake Community Center (3:30 p.m. on last Thursday)

Thursdays, 6 p.m., DIII, Hinckley Corporate building

DI Sewing Circle: Mondays & Wednesday, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Pool League Night: Wednesday Nights

B-Ball League Night: Thursday Nights

Aazhoomog Clinic Hours

Providers are at the Aazhoomog Clinic in District III from Monday through Thursday. The dentist is in the office on the last Friday of every month, and the foot doctor is available the first Wednesday of every month. Call 320-384-0149 to make an appointment or ask a question.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653.</p> <p>Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional Mille Lacs Band events</p>			<p>1 DI Open Gym 3:30 – 9 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>N.A./A.A. Welcome 8 p.m. Onamia</p>	<p>2 Band Assembly Meetings 10 a.m.</p> <p><i>See page 14</i> DII Language Table, DIII Language Table, DI Women's Group, Wellbriety Meeting</p>	<p>3 <i>See page 14</i> Healer Herb Sam</p> <p><i>Disinaagan: dinner plate</i></p>	<p>4 Storybook Time Noon – 1 p.m. Kids Crafts: Shoulder Bag 1 – 3 p.m. ML Indian Museum</p>
<p>5 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 – 4 p.m. Onamia</p> <p><i>Jiibaakwaadan: cook it</i></p>	<p>6 <i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym, AA Group, Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition, Wellbriety Migizi Meeting, NA Meeting, DII-A Language Table, Urban Area Language Table</p>	<p>7 Band Assembly Meetings 10 a.m.</p> <p><i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym, DIII Language Table, DI Language Table, Wellbriety 12 Step Group, Wellbriety Celebrating Families</p>	<p>8 DI Community Meeting 5 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>DI Open Gym 3:30 – 9 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>N.A./A.A. Welcome 8 p.m. Onamia</p>	<p>9 <i>See page 14</i> DII Language Table DIII Language Table DI Women's Group Wellbriety Meeting</p>	<p>10 Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Powwow Grounds</p> <p><i>Mijjim, wiisiniwin: foodeat</i></p>	<p>11 Ojibwe Moccasin 2-Day Workshop Noon – 4 p.m. ML Indian Museum</p> <p><i>Adoopowin: a table</i></p>
<p>12 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 – 4 p.m. Onamia</p> <p>Ojibwe Moccasin 2-Day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. ML Indian Museum</p> <p><i>Apabiwin: a chair, seat</i></p>	<p>13 <i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym AA Group Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition Wellbriety Migizi Meeting NA Meeting DII-A Language Table Urban Area Language Table</p>	<p>14 <i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym DIII Language Table DI Language Table Wellbriety 12 Step Group Wellbriety Celebrating Families</p>	<p>15 Executive Branch Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym</p> <p>N.A./A.A. Welcome</p> <p><i>Ambe daga wiisinidaa: Come on let's eat.</i></p>	<p>16 Executive Branch Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p><i>See page 14</i> DII Language Table DIII Language Table DI Women's Group Wellbriety Meeting</p>	<p>17 Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Powwow Grounds</p> <p><i>Ozisinaagane: s/he sets the table</i></p>	<p>18 Valentines Urban Elder Luncheon & Bingo 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. All Nations Church There will be a "dessert" contest with prizes (1st=\$25, 2nd=\$20 and 3rd=\$15 Target Gift Cards)</p> <p><i>Jiibaakwewigamig: kitchen, cook shack</i></p>
<p>19 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 – 4 p.m. Onamia</p> <p><i>Mookomaan: knife</i></p>	<p>20 MLB Government Closed</p> <p><i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym, AA Group, Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition, Wellbriety Migizi Meeting, NA Meeting, DII-A Language Table, Urban Area Language Table</p> <p><i>Onaagan: dish/plate</i></p>	<p>21 DII-A Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Isle Community Center</p> <p>Band Assembly Meetings 10 a.m.</p> <p><i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym, DIII Language Table, DI Language Table, Wellbriety 12 Step Group, Wellbriety Celebrating Families</p>	<p>22 DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Events & Convention Center</p> <p><i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym</p> <p>N.A./A.A. Welcome</p>	<p>23 DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m., East Lake Community Center</p> <p>Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church</p> <p>Band Assembly Meetings 10 a.m.</p> <p><i>See page 14</i> DII Language Table, DIII Language Table, DI Women's Group, Wellbriety Meeting</p>	<p>24 Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Powwow Grounds</p> <p><i>Nookabiwin: an easy chair</i></p>	<p>25 Loom Beading Workshop 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. ML Indian Museum</p> <p><i>Badaka'igan: fork</i></p>
<p>26 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 – 4 p.m. Onamia</p> <p><i>Emikwaan: spoon</i></p>	<p>27 <i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym, AA Group, Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition, Wellbriety Migizi Meeting, NA Meeting, DII-A Language Table, Urban Area Language Table</p> <p><i>Onaagaans: cup, small dish</i></p>	<p>28 Band Assembly Meetings 10 a.m.</p> <p><i>See page 14</i> DI Open Gym, DIII Language Table, DI Language Table, Wellbriety 12 Step Group, Wellbriety Celebrating Families</p> <p><i>Akik: pot, pan, engine</i></p>	<p>Band Assembly Meetings Band Assembly Meetings will be held at 10 a.m. on Feb. 2, 7, 21, 23 and 28. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. For locations and other information, call the Legislative office or visit millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com.</p> <p>Reporters Wanted, Submissions Accepted The Mille Lacs Band and Red Circle Agency are seeking Band members in all three districts to cover events and provide content for the <i>Inaajimowin</i> newsletter, millelacsband.com, and the Facebook page. If you or someone you know enjoys being out in the community, is active on social media, likes taking photos, or has an interest in writing, send an email to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. No experience necessary. Hours and pay will depend on work experience, education and availability. You can also simply submit articles or photographs, and if your work is used you will receive reimbursement.</p>			

Prevent Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is a term used to describe any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an Elder or vulnerable adult.

Types of Elder abuse include physical abuse, financial exploitation, emotional abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and self-neglect.

Signs of abuse include the following:

- Unusual or unexplained injuries (cuts, bruises, burns)
- Unkempt appearance
- Pressure or bedsores
- Confinement against will
- Dehydration
- Fear
- Depression/Anxiety
- Helplessness
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Sudden changes in finances

Resources:

- Elder Abuse Program — Mille Lacs Band: 320-532-7802
- 24-Hour Crisis Line: 1-866-867-4006
- Elder Care Rights: 1-800-893-4055

Child Support Enforcement Update February 2017

The Child Support Enforcement office would like to remind clients that all Child Support checks that are not picked up by Friday will be mailed out that day at 1:30 p.m. If you would like your check to be held, contact our office and request so.

Another reminder to all Child Support clients is to keep their address and phone numbers updated with the Child Support Enforcement office. This is important to keep our office updated with this information as there are sometimes refunds and critical information that needs to be communicated with our clients.

If you have any questions or concerns with your case, please contact your Case Manager.

Below is the Child Support Enforcements contact information.

- Rachel Sablan, Child Support Enforcement Director, 320-532-7461, rachel.sablan@millelacsband.com
- Lindsey Reuter, District I Case Manager, 320-532-7453, lindsey.reuter@millelacsband.com
- Tammy Smith, District II, III and Urban Case Manager, 320-532-7752, tammy.smith@millelacsband.com
- Valerie Harrington, Financial Specialist, 320-532-7434, valerie.harrington@millelacsband.com
- Ann Stafford, Foreign Jurisdiction Coordinator, 320-532-7591, ann.stafford@millelacsband.com
- Bev Sutton, Administrative Assistant, 320-532-7755,

mlb.childsupport@millelacsband.com
– Fax: 320-532-7476

The Child Support Enforcement office will be closed February 20th in observance of Chief's Day.

Help Eliminate Teen Dating Violence

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Family Violence Prevention Program would like everyone to know that there's a lot we can do as a parents and guardians to prevent teen dating violence and abuse.

Everyone deserves to be in a healthy and safe relationship. Communication is key to exercising mutual respect, establishing healthy boundaries and understanding each other's needs.

Unfortunately, as teens form their first romantic relationships, they often are unclear about what constitutes a healthy relationship. Verbal and emotional abuse erodes girls' self-esteem, making it more difficult to talk to someone about the abuse, let alone end the relationship.

More than 1 in 10 teens who have been on a date have also been physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year. One of the most important things we can do is keep the lines of communication open with our kids. We'd also like to remind everyone that we all deserve a safe and healthy relationship. Remember, love has many definitions, but abuse isn't one of them.

Take steps to make a difference:

- Be a role model — treat our kids and others with respect.
- Start talking to our kids about healthy relationships early — before they start dating.
- Get involved with efforts to prevent dating violence at your teen's school.

We can help keep our loved ones safe and healthy.

Should you need more information, please feel free to call our Family Violence Prevention Program 320-532-7793.

Makizinataadiwin — The Moccasin Game:

All players welcome, come to learn or to join the game Wednesday nights, 6 – 10 p.m. 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia, MN 56359

Mobile Mammogram Day: Screen, Educate and Earn. February 8, 2017 at NACC 1213 Franklin Ave. Mpls. Call 612-843-5924 to make an appointment.

Drum Group: For Native male teens (13 – 18). Why: To learn language, songs and protocol. This group is designed

for ALL levels of singers and EVERYONE is welcome. Starting in February Tuesday 5 – 6 p.m. at MAIC Auditorium 1530 E. Franklin Ave. Mpls. FMI 612-879-1783.

Snowplow Policy: Public Works and Housing departments are responsible for snow plowing in all districts of the Mille Lacs Reservation. After any snowfall event, Public Works crews will first open roadways, and when those are completed, they will move on to private residences of Elders and disabled Band members.

Vehicles parked on the roads will be towed.

Non-Elder private residences can be plowed for a \$25 fee, paid in advance. The Housing Department plows Elder rental units.

If you have questions about plow service, contact Public Works at 320-532-7448.

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.

Clarification: As part of materials handed out at the State of the Band Address on September 10, 2017, Commissioners included an update about the Economic Justice proposal which the Executive Branch has been working on. Statements were included in these materials that left some with the impression that a formal proposal had been sent to the Band Assembly for action. As clarification, while one approach about how to achieve the economic justice has been developed and shared by Band Commissioners with Members of the Band Assembly in 2016 as a starting point for discussion, specific proposals have not yet been provided by the Executive Branch for formal action. These discussions are on-going, and we apologize if this was unclear in the materials shared at the State of the Band Address.

Commissioners and Staff on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Susan Klapel, *DNR Executive Director*,
320-362-1756

Ed Minnema, *Commissioner of Education*
320-630-0674

Sam Moose *Commissioner of Health & Human Services*, 320-630-2607

Percy Benjamin, *Commissioner of Community Development*, 320-630-2496

Michele Palomaki, *Assistant Commissioner of Administration*, 320-630-7415

Catherine Colstrud, *Commissioner of Administration*,
320-292-0258

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO 30308

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

