

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

APRIL 2017 | VOLUME 19 | NUMBER 04



RETURN TO THE SUGARBUSH

MINISINAAKWAANG STUDENTS LEARN
TRADITIONS AT OLD VILLAGE SITE

DIVISION OF POWERS
ON MINNESOTA
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AGENDA

BAND MEMBERS
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APRIL SPRING
CLEANUP DATES
ANNOUNCED FOR
ALL DISTRICTS



Band Members March With Standing Rock in Washington

A busload of Mille Lacs Band members rode overnight to Washington, D.C. to participate in the snowy, rainy Native Nations Rise march in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux in their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The march was the culmination of several days of lobbying on behalf of tribal interests. Tipis were set up at the Washington Monument, and activists spoke with representatives in Congress.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was among those who met with members of Congress, along with other leaders of the National Indian Gaming Association. Although she had to come home for the March 8 and 9 community meetings (see page 3) she was able to spend Monday through Wednesday in the nation's capital.

More than 5,000 Native Americans and allies participated in the March 10 march in one of the largest gatherings of indigenous people at the nation's capital. Coming together to show united tribal opposition to the approval of the Dakota Access Pipeline, crowds sought to send President Trump a message that their voices matter, despite his recent actions that discounted Native views on numerous issues, especially in regards to the very controversial project.

Among their demands were a meeting with President Trump and a requirement of tribal consent before pipelines are allowed to cross their lands.

The Standing Rock Sioux have been fighting the Dakota Access pipeline since 2014. Near the end of his administration, President Obama ordered the Army Corps of Engineers to consider other routes for the pipeline, but President Trump, in one of his first official acts, rescinded Obama's order and allowed construction to continue.

Construction was completed a short time later, and oil was expected to begin flowing as early as April 1.

The original plan called for the pipeline to cross the Missouri River upstream from Bismarck, North Dakota, but public outcry led to a change in the route. The new river crossing is directly upstream from the Standing Rock Reservation.

Native Americans March on Washington

Sierra Edwards Staff Writer

It was a rainy and chilly morning, that morning of the 10th of March. But this wasn't any old cold day in our nation's capital. No, it was much more than that. It was the day that Native Americans from across the country and anyone who gives a damn about the future of our planet filled the streets of Washington D.C., chanting, "You can't drink oil, keep it in the soil!" Thousands traveled by plane, car, and bus to partake in the Native Nations March on Washington in order to stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and, ultimately, with the environment.

I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel with a coach bus full Mille Lacs Band members to the District of Columbia in order to express my grievances with the energy decisions being made by this country, of late. And although I can find no estimate for the amount of attendees, the sea of people stretched far and wide whenever I stopped to observe the historic event unfolding before my eyes. Countless signs and posters proudly stated, "We Exist, We Resist, We Rise."

The march began at the headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, those responsible for the proposition and building of that black snake, the Dakota Access Pipeline, across the Midwest. The wind was freezing, it was hailing, and my hands were numb from holding the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe flag and forgetting to grab gloves. But the intense feelings of empowerment and unity made the cold day and the 20 hour one-way drive well worth it. In front of the headquar-

ters, protesters gathered in song while the employees of the building gathered at the windows to look outside. Then, we marched, pausing in front of Trump's hotel in downtown D.C. in order to set up a tipi on its doorstep and make our presence be known.

The march continued to Lafayette Square, a green area across the street from the White House. In the Square, more speeches were given and songs sung. Peggy Flanagan, a Native American Representative from Minnesota, gave encouraging words from the heart, which is what she's good at. Taboo from the Black Eyed Peas performed multiple songs including "Where Is The Love?" aiming his lyrics at the man who was occupying the white building across the street. The notable actor Wes Studi also gave a speech; and youth from the Standing Rock reservation stressed that the fight is not really over.

While the focus of the protest was against the building of the Dakota Access Pipeline, it was really much more than that. It was a call to protect the environment, to protect tribal sovereignty and treaty rights, and to protect the future of our children. The Native Nations March on Washington was an event which proved that people of all colors care about the future of our planet and will unite in that common goal, even if it means driving across the country. Never underestimate the power of simply standing up for what you believe in, because when enough people do the same, you have a movement. Oh, and one more thing, Mni Wiconi.

Band Member Honored as Recipient of 2017 Bush Fellowship

The Bush Foundation announced March 21 that Band member Baabiiitaw Melissa Boyd is one of 24 residents of Minnesota and the Dakotas who have been awarded a 2017 Bush Fellowship.

"I was thrilled to hear the news that I had been chosen," said Melissa. "The application process was very rigorous, and I'm happy to have the opportunity to grow into my potential as a leader on behalf of the language."

She applied for the fellowship in September, so the March 21 announcement came after months of waiting. A total of 639 people applied for the Fellowship; being one of 24 winners is an incredible honor.

"My project is to pursue a Master of Education degree but also to research the social and political changes that had to happen for language revitalization in Hawaii," said Baabiiitaw, who has worked as an Ojibwe immersion teacher at Wewinabi Early Education in District I and the Waadookodaading Immersion School on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in Wisconsin. Her goal is to bring Ojibwe immersion to Mille Lacs following the Hawaiian model of language revitalization.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was very happy when she heard the news. "To be one of only 24 people selected out

of 650 applications is an absolutely amazing accomplishment," said Melanie. "I am so incredibly proud of Melissa. She has not only honored herself, but also her family and the Band."

The 2017 Bush Fellows were chosen "for their records of achievement and their extraordinary potential to make significant contributions in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and 23 Native nations that share the same geography," according to the Bush Foundation news release.

Baabiiitaw, the release states, "wants to help lead the movement to re-stabilize and renew the Ojibwe language in the homelands of her people, starting in the classrooms of youngest learners. Her goal is to create Ojibwe schools recognized for both cultural and academic excellence. She will explore how to replicate in her community the ways the Hawaiian nation created nearly 20,000 proficient indigenous speakers. To master her craft and advance her leadership skills, she will use her Bush Fellowship to finish her bachelor degree in elementary education, complete a certificate of contemporary indigenous multilingualism at the University of Hawaii and study behavior design through Stanford School of Medicine and the Engaged IN behavior design firm."

Division of Powers on Tribal Executive Committee Agenda

Brett Larson Staff Writer
Brett Larson, Chad Germann Photographers

Members of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) received a crash course in Mille Lacs Band history March 15 at Grand Casino Hinckley. Although some TEC members expressed their support of the Band's division-of-powers government, concerns remained for a few that aspects of the Band's system conflict with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitution.

The special TEC meeting came about after a Band member asked the TEC to force Mille Lacs to return to the Reservation Business Committee government outlined in the MCT Constitution. Instead, the TEC asked Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu to give a presentation on the tribe's government.

The presentation was on the agenda for the February meeting of the TEC, but leaders of some MCT bands felt it was inappropriate for the TEC to question a member band's government at a regular meeting, so it was removed from the agenda and the presentation offered at a special meeting hosted by the Mille Lacs Band.

Band members Ogimaaginiw (Syngen Kanassatega) and Nazhike Awaasanang (Bradley Harrington Jr.) were asked by Carolyn and Melanie to give the three-part presentation to the TEC, which is composed of the Chief Executive (or Chair) and Secretary-Treasurer of the six MCT bands.

The presenters explained that the Band's division-of-powers government is an exercise of sovereignty allowed under Article VI of the Bylaws of the MCT Constitution.

In response to beliefs expressed by a few that the Bands are not federally recognized tribes separate from the MCT, the Band presented legal arguments to the contrary.

In fact, all six MCT bands are listed among the 567 federally recognized tribes in addition to the MCT. Twelve federal

statutes, several acts of Congress, scores of administrative actions, and federal court decisions, including the 1837 Treaty case, recognize Mille Lacs' sovereignty as a federally recognized Indian tribe separate from the MCT. Minnesota also recognizes each individual band's sovereignty and separate federal recognition in gaming compacts and tax and law enforcement agreements.

The six bands' consolidation as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 did not affect the Bands' inherent sovereignty. The Bands retain all powers not expressly taken away by Congress.

The MCT came about as a way to distribute funds related to the Nelson Act. The "business committee" model was not a Chippewa model but was based on bankruptcy laws and originated during the termination era of the 1950s and '60s. It was written primarily by non-Indian BIA attorneys.

In the 1970s and '80s, the MCT received money to develop a new Constitution. Mille Lacs created a 12-member commission to develop a new constitution and brought their recommendation of a three-branch government back to the TEC. It was rejected, and even laughed at, so Secretary-Treasurer Doug Sam collected the copies and left. Chief Executive Art Gahbow followed suit.

After the TEC rejected their ideas, they determined to implement their division-of-powers model at Mille Lacs and spent three years holding hearings and revising drafts. Each new version was read out loud, and after three years, they reached consensus, which was the traditional way of making decisions.

From 1981 to 1983, they passed ordinances creating the new governmental system, including the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch (Band Assembly) and Judicial Branch — the Tribal Courts.

To ensure that what they were doing was legal, Band leaders requested a Solicitor's Opinion from the U.S. Department of Interior on the Constitutionality of the system. In May of 1983, the division-of-powers was upheld by the United States as consistent with the MCT Constitution. Regardless of what some may believe, that opinion was "dispositive" that the Band's system complies with the MCT Constitution. In other words, it settled the issue.

Nazhike concluded by saying the MCT bands should accept

each other's differences and focus on preserving the language and culture for future generations.

Ogimaaginiw said the TEC's questioning of the Band's government has created concerns and anxiety in the community, and it is time to put the issue to rest.

A lively question-and-answer session followed between the TEC and audience members. During the day, Band attorneys made clear there is no contradiction whatsoever between the Mille Lacs Band's system and the MCT Constitution.

Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu said, "We have statutes that govern everything we do." She encouraged those who don't understand the Band's government to review the Mille Lacs Band Statutes.

Band member Valerie Shingobe said the TEC should be spending its time preparing for attacks from the Trump administration. "This is a time that we should come together and work out our differences," she said. "I don't think it's a time for any kind of situation that breaks us apart."

Commissioner of Administration Catherine Colstrud introduced herself as a "proud member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe." Speaking only on behalf of herself as a Band Member, she took offense at the TEC's questioning of Mille Lacs Band law. "It feels very much to me like you are trying to force my Tribe, my Band, my people, into a position we don't want to be in," she said. "Maybe it's time to step away from this body because the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe does not seem to be representing the needs of my Band."

Chairman Norman Deschampe of Grand Portage and Chairwoman Cathy Chavers of Bois Forte both went on record supporting the Mille Lacs Band's division of powers government.

In response to an MCT member who asked who is going to make the determination about whether the Mille Lacs Band's system is constitutional or not, President Dupuis stated, "I can't answer the question of whether it is constitutional or unconstitutional. Will there be future meetings and discussion about this? Yes, there will be."

A motion was made by White Earth Secretary-Treasurer Tara Mason to hold a "constitutional convention" of the MCT so that MCT membership can discuss and resolve constitutional issues. Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu seconded the motion. Constitutional conventions are generally convened by

governments for the purpose of writing a new constitution or amending an existing one. The motion passed, and the TEC agreed that it would select meeting dates for the constitutional convention at the next regular meeting of the MCT.

Later in the day when discussing a resolution that passed addressing infrastructure matters, the discussion came up again about whether or not each of the Bands are separately recognized by the United States as Indian tribes or whether it is the MCT that is the "real" tribe.

Mille Lacs Attorney Beth Baldwin responded by explaining that the separate federal recognition of each of the Bands has been affirmed by the United States through treaties, legislation and administrative action. The United States has long recognized each of the MCT's constituent bands as a separate Indian tribe.

In a discussion during the break, Tadd Johnson pointed out that the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) mandates that only federally recognized tribes may enter into casino gaming compacts, and if the Bands were not separately federally recognized, the Bands would be unable to enter into gaming compacts independent of the MCT. Johnson serves as a Special Advisor to the Band's Government Affairs office and is the former Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, which is the federal agency that regulates Indian gaming. **Continued on page 10.**



The Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe held a special meeting at Grand Casino Hinckley March 15 to hear a presentation on the Mille Lacs Band's division of powers government. Mille Lacs Band member Catherine Colstrud and TEC member Faron Jackson were among those who participated in a dialogue after the presentation.

National News Briefs

Tribes Looking for Improvements at IHS: With the repeal and replacement of Obamacare in the spotlight, Tribes are still waiting on the federal government to fulfill its trust responsibilities. The U.S. is required by numerous treaties and laws to provide health care to tribes and their citizens, but inadequate funding, limited staff and mismanagement at the Indian Health Service have hindered those efforts. Consequently, American Indians and Alaska Natives are at the bottom of the heap in terms of life expectancy and chronic conditions. To address this issue, Senator Mike Rounds (R-South Dakota) has introduced a bill which would require an independent and comprehensive audit of the IHS to determine where improvements can be made. Many Tribal leaders have long been calling for a comprehensive audit.

Celebrating the progress of Native American Tribes: Tribes recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of a landmark courtroom victory. On Feb. 25, 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians to confirm the rights of federally-recognized Indian tribes to offer gaming on Indian reservations. Tribal gaming has fueled economic and social opportunities across the nation by funding vital tribal government services such as infrastructure improvements, clean water, housing, health care and education to Native Americans.

Indian Health Service Largely Spared by Republican Health Care Bill: Republicans recently unveiled their long-promised bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare). While the Republican American Health Care Act largely spares the Indian Health Service, it does propose changes could negatively impact tribes because it stops the expansion of Medicaid in 2020, transforming the program as a whole and replacing it with more limited funding. The repeal does not speak to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

New Interior Secretary's Focus Remains on Keeping Promises to Indian Country: Ryan Zinke, an adopted member of the Fort Peck Tribes, was confirmed as Interior Secretary by a vote of 68-31. This position is perhaps the most crucial Cabinet position for Indian Country due to its influence over topics like federal recognition, economic development, protection of Native women and sovereignty. Zinke made his first appearance on Capitol Hill as Secretary to testify before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to discuss the Trump administration's tribal priorities. Zinke stressed the importance of recognizing Tribal sovereignty and keeping promises made to Tribes through treaties and existing laws.

Legal Challenges to the Dakota Access Pipeline Stall: A federal judge recently denied the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe's request to block the Dakota Access Pipeline. The Tribe filed the legal challenge asserting that the pipeline violates religious freedoms due to its placement under Lake Oahe; the lake is used for sacred ceremonies. With a pipeline under the lake, water could be desecrated, which in turn, violates their religious freedoms. U.S. District Judge James Boasberg dismissed this argument. Boasberg has also been asked to rule on the legality of the process that approved the pipeline project in 2016 and the overall validity of the project. A further decision is pending.

Line 3 Pipeline Meeting Held in District II

Danielle Molliver and Jamie Macalister, the Tribal Liaison and Environmental Review Manager with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, came to East Lake Community Center March 22 to provide information on the proposed Line 3 Replacement Project.

"We were there largely to answer questions and have direct dialog with Band members on topics to be covered in the Environmental Impact Statement," MacAlister said.

The Line 3 project would reroute Enbridge Energy's existing Line 3 oil pipeline through the Rice Lake and Sandy Lake watersheds. The Band has been fighting the project since it was proposed, saying it would threaten wild rice beds and other cultural resources.

The Band also opposed the Sandpiper pipeline Enbridge wanted to put through the corridor. That application was withdrawn after Enbridge chose to invest in the Bakken Pipeline System, which includes the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The meeting was not a public hearing to take testimony. Public scoping meetings and a public comment period were held in April and May of 2016. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be issued April 3 for public review



Representative David "Niib" Aubid educated staff from the Minnesota Department of Commerce about treaties at the March 22 Line 3 pipeline meeting at East Lake Community Center.

and comment. Public meetings on the Draft EIS will be held in April and May of this year before the final EIS is issued July 10, 2017.

Syphilis on the Rise; Get Tested

D.V. Gunderson, MD, MBA Medical Director, Health and Human Services

Syphilis is on the rise in Minnesota, and our area isn't immune. The Minnesota Department of Health reports that our area of the State has seen a large increase in cases of syphilis.

We at the Department of Health and Human Services have partnered with the Minnesota Department of Health to address this issue and provide resources to protect our health. Please join us at three community events across the reservation where you can learn more about syphilis, how it spreads, and how to prevent it. Free and confidential syphilis testing will be available.

Please see the graphic below for more information on syphilis, and follow the Ne-la-Shing Clinic Facebook page for announcements about these events in Districts I, II, III and IIa.

In the meantime, if you have a concern about syphilis or think you may have been exposed to syphilis, please go either to the Ne-la-Shing Clinic or to the Mille Lacs Medical Center in Onamia and request testing.

Information and Testing

Please attend one of these events to learn more about syphilis. Free and confidential testing will be available. The date and time for the Isle event will be shared on Facebook.

Wednesday, April 5

12 – 2 p.m.

Chiminising Community Center

Wednesday, April 12

12 – 2 p.m.

East Lake Community Center

Wednesday, April 19

12 – 2 p.m.

Aazhoomog Community Center

Syphilis is on the rise in Minnesota

What is syphilis?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease that can cause serious health complications if left untreated. It can cause damage to the heart, blood vessels, liver, bones and joints, dementia and even death. Untreated syphilis in pregnant women can lead to a low birth weight baby, early delivery of a baby or stillbirth (a baby born dead).

Syphilis symptoms are divided into stages. Syphilis can be transmitted to sexual partners through direct contact with a syphilis sore or sores during vaginal, anal, or oral sex during the primary stage of the infection.

Transmission may also occur during the secondary stage when mucous membrane lesions (sores in your mouth, vagina, or anus) are present. A non-itchy skin rash is common during the secondary stage.

In the late stages of syphilis, the disease causes damage to internal organs and even death.

Can syphilis be cured?

Syphilis is treatable by the right antibiotic at all stages of the disease. It is important to be tested by a medical professional to determine if one is infected with syphilis so adequate treatment can be provided.

How can syphilis be prevented?

The only way to avoid STDs is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex.

If you are sexually active, use condoms the right way every time you have sex. Condoms can prevent transmission of syphilis by preventing contact with a sore.

Get tested and treated

Get tested for syphilis by a medical provider. Syphilis can be cured with prescribed antibiotics. In the Onamia area, schedule an appointment for affordable syphilis testing and treatment here:

Ne-la-Shing Clinic
43500 Migizi Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
320-532-4163

Mille Lacs Health System
200 North Elm Street
Onamia, MN 56359
320-532-3154

For more information about syphilis and other testing locations contact the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-5414 or visit <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/syphilis/>

MDH Minnesota Department of Health

STD, HIV AND TB SECTION
Minnesota Department of Health
STD, HIV, and TB Section
651-201-5414
www.health.state.mn.us/std

February 2017

To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-5414.

Graduation Rates for Native American Students Continue to Rise

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

As the graduation rate for the state continues to improve, so has the four-year graduation rate for Native American students, according to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

The data released in late February shows that for the class of 2016 more students — 82.2 percent — graduated from high school than in previous years.

“Graduating high school is a crucial step in attaining the dream we all have for success in life,” said MDE’s Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius. “It is encouraging to see more Minnesota students — especially more of our students of color and American Indian students — reaching this milestone. It’s a promising step for stronger futures.”

Minnesota’s Native American students, often cited as having some of the lowest graduation rates in the nation, have increased by 10.1 percentage points since 2011 — a 23.7 percent increase — after not budging over the previous five years.

Mille Lacs Band Education Commissioner Ed Minnema said the news is encouraging, and he hopes the trend continues.

“There are many dedicated teachers within the Band and across the state that want to make sure that Native American students are successful,” he said.

Another way to ensure that the graduation rate continues to improve is to continue to invest in schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) program. The Minnesota BIE schools are Nay Ah Shing, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School and White Earth’s Circle of Life School.

“Funding is critical for BIE schools,” said Ed, adding that the funding source is approaching the end of a two-year funding cycle and it’s up the Legislature to ensure it continues

“The funding that the state provides equalizes the opportunities for Native American students and for the BIE schools,” he added.

MDE Commissioner Cassellius said that while the graduation rate has increased the state needs to “double down on efforts to help every student earn a diploma.”

“In order to close gaps, we need to see all boats rising, but

our students of color and American Indian students need to move faster,” said Commissioner Cassellius.

The data revealed notable trends across student groups. Graduation rates for non-white students increased by 13.1 percentage points since 2011. During that same time, rates for white students have increased by 3.2 percent.

For Black students, graduation rates increased 24 percentage points since 2006, which amounts to a 59 percent increase. In comparison to their white peers, this represents a 46 percent reduction in the graduation gap for black students over the last decade. Other student groups have also demonstrated significant increases since 2006 and 2011, shown in the table below.

“Over the last decade, and particularly in the last five years, Minnesota has seen an increase in graduation rates and a decrease in gaps. This has happened at the same time that we have shifted to more rigorous career- and college-ready standards, and added challenging courses to our graduation requirements. This is precisely the right path we need to stay on,” the state commissioner said.

Student Group Data *(source: MDE)*

Demographic Group	2006 Graduation Rate	2011 Graduation Rate	2016 Graduation Rate
All students	75.2%	77.2%	82.2%
American Indian	42.7%	42.5%	52.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	69.7%	72.9%	83.6%
Hispanic	40.9%	51.1%	65.3%
Black	41.1%	49.9%	65.1%
White	81.7%	83.8%	87%
Non-white	49.1%	55.6%	68.7%
Special Education	53.6%	56.2%	60.8%
English Learner	45.8%	52.5%	63.2%
Free/Reduced Price Lunch	54.2%	58.8%	68.2%

Community Conversation Moves into Action Phase

Doug Scott Guest Writer

The community conversation entitled Building Community/Empowering Families Northern Mille Lacs County has moved into the final stage. Three gatherings designed to increase awareness of local economic and cultural realities will help transition residents to brainstorming, prioritizing and acting on issues of shared interest.

The initiative is a collaboration between the Mille Lacs Band, the Social Concerns department of Catholic Charities, St. Cloud and is funded in part by a grant from the Initiative Foundation, Little Falls.

Louis Johnston, a professor of economics who holds the Joseph P. Farry chair in Public Policy at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University, concluded the education sessions Feb. 23 with an engaging presentation at the ROC in Onamia. Louis shared a number of insights of particular interest to the over 40 people in attendance. After a lengthy volley between participants on the out-of-control-cost of health insurance Louis provided this factoid. “You know, economists like to say there are four types of health coverage — totally government owned like Great Britain, government sponsored like Canada, employer sponsored and individual. The U.S. has all four. We’d

be better off to pick just one and focus on it.”

Louis pointed out several areas of concern to residents of northern Mille Lacs County. For example, the average household income in Minnesota is \$61,000. That same number for communities in the region is well under \$30,000. Access to reliable and affordable internet service is essential for families and businesses.

Louis highlighted what residents already knew, broadband internet in the region is unreliable and can be very expensive, keeping even key retailers from doing business in the area. He asked participants, “Do we need a state-sponsored initiative to run fiber to every community just like we did generations ago with electrical wire?”

These and other issues with economic underpinnings like affordable housing, transportation and living wage jobs will surely rise again at discussion tables during the upcoming community action sessions. The first of three sessions took place on Thursday, March 23 at Eddy’s beginning with a light meal at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m.

Learn about upcoming meetings on Facebook by searching Building Communities Empowering Families.

Local News Briefs

Drug Seizure at White Earth Part of Growing Drug Use in Minnesota: In early March six people were arrested in the town of Waubun on the White Earth Reservation; tribal, state and federal authorities seized more than \$30,000 of heroin and meth. Across the state, health and law enforcement officials are seeing an alarming rise in the amount of drugs seized by authorities. Tribal communities are hit particularly hard, but rise in drug use is being seen across the state.

One Year Later Outcome in Netting Case Remains Uncertain: In 2015, Indian activists from central and northern Minnesota were cited with gross misdemeanors for attempting to net fish without a permit from the State. The Minnesota Court of Appeals recently remanded the matter back to Crow Wing County District Court after ruling the court failed to “make factual findings and to address the submission by the parties.” The issue under scrutiny was whether the two men retained off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights — without permit requirements — as members of Anishinaabe tribes.

Red Lake Girls Basketball Team Wins First Ever Section Title: The Red Lake girls basketball team won their first ever section title this year. They defeated Sacred Heart by a score of 67-52. The team, which has struggled for years, was led by Grace White, whose dominant play while overcoming the death of her younger brother, Aaron, inspired the team to achieve. White became the first Red Lake athlete — male or female — to sign with a Division I school. She will attend the University of Denver in the fall.

Native American Women Double Their Presence in the MN Legislature: The Minnesota Legislature has some new faces this year; Native American women doubled their presence in the Minnesota Legislature’s House of Representatives in 2017. The number of Native women has increased to four this year with the addition of Representatives Jamie Becker-Finn (Leech Lake Ojibwe) and Mary Kuneshe-Podein (Standing Rock Lakota). These women join Representative Peggy Flanagan (White Earth Ojibwe) and Representative Susan Allen (Rosebud Lakota).

New Report Highlights Opioid Addiction, Speaks to Impact on Native American Communities: A new report released in March highlights the impacts of opioids on Tribal communities across the state. The report summarizes the Tribal-State Opioid Summit that Gov. Mark Dayton and Lt. Gov. Tina Smith hosted last fall with Minnesota’s 11 tribal nations. The report outlines strategies that are working to reduce the epidemic and makes recommendations of how leaders can continue to address the issue of opioid addiction. Opioid deaths have increased 430 percent since 2000 — disproportionately affecting women and Native Americans.

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 May issue deadline is April 15.



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

Ojibwe Elders

By: Beatrice Taylor

The late Beatrice Taylor (1930-2015) was a respected Elder from the Aazhoomog community. This article was originally published in the Moccasin Telegraph series in the Mille Lacs Messenger.

“All the old customs are what have kept our people going over the years, so Elders try to make sure those customs are carried on. It’s knowing all these things that have kept me going, and that will keep my children and grandchildren safe and strong.”

People sometimes hear about Indian Elders and wonder, what is the role of Elders in Ojibwe life? A big part is teaching and giving advice.

Elders have been through life. We know what it’s going to be. We know what you have to do in order to survive.

One thing that is very important for Elders to do is to teach the customs that were taught to us by our grandparents. From our ancestors comes wisdom. The things my grandma told me are the things my children and grandchildren need to learn, too.

Elders pass along information about the Ojibwe culture, such as why we use tobacco in our ceremonies, why we go to drum feasts, or why we have naming ceremonies.

We teach our children and grandchildren about the different ways our people have lived and the things we do. For example, in the fall, the Ojibwe traditionally go out to harvest wild rice. I taught my daughters and my sons what they’re supposed to do when they go ricing, and hopefully they will pass that knowledge on to their children.

Elders also teach about hunting, fishing, and berry picking. We teach that whatever you do, you shouldn’t be greedy. Take what you need and leave some for someone else and for the Great Spirit as well, so he can give us some more rice or game or fish or berries next year.

It is also an Ojibwe custom to help others and take care of them. When folks used to leave their homes and go somewhere for a while, they would leave a little food on the table in case someone who was hungry came by.

All the old customs are what have kept our people going over the years, so Elders try to make sure those customs are carried on. It’s knowing all these things that have kept me going, and that will keep my children and grandchildren safe and strong.

We also give advice on how to live, how to get along, and how to help those who are unable to help themselves. I give advice to my children, my grandchildren, and whoever else will listen. I’ve got oodles and oodles of relatives — grandsons, granddaughters, nieces and nephews. I tell them don’t try to be better than someone else. You’re just as good as anybody else, but you’re not better than anyone else, either.

Most of us Elders are this way. We want our people to have good lives after we go, so we try to be a good role model for them now so they will live right.

Director Dedicated to Indian Community

Noya Woodrich, the new director of Health Services and Public Health, is from the Athabascan tribe and was born in Anchorage, Alaska, but she’s spent most of her life here in the Midwest — including over 20 years working in the American Indian community in the Twin Cities.

With a degree in social work, Noya has spent much of her career in the nonprofit sector with the Division of Indian Work, which is part of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. As her management responsibilities increased, however, she found her duties expanding beyond the American Indian community.

“The American Indian Community is my community, and I was missing being a part of that,” she said. “I need to feel I’m putting my skills and abilities toward a cause that I feel strongly about.”

Those skills were a perfect fit for the Health and Human Services department at Mille Lacs, as Noya found out last year, when she was hired as a consultant to work with HHS on a strategic plan. She worked closely with Commissioner Sam Moose, Executive Director Jeff Larson, and the directors of

other HHS departments.

The position of Health Director had been vacant for several months, and the Public Health directorship for over a year, so the Band was in need of a manager with experience in human resources, budgets and proposals. Noya felt strongly that she was up to the task, and so did HHS administrators.

In her position, Noya oversees the health clinics, dental clinics, the assisted living units and public health programs for all three districts.

On her agenda are a few issues related to the strategic plan she helped develop, including accreditation of the health clinics, assessing the mission of the ALUs, improving internal and external communications, reducing staff turnover, and increasing collaboration between HHS departments.

“I’m impressed with the people working here,” said Noya. “I feel like everyone who’s here needs to be here to move in the direction we need to go. When it comes to management, human resources and staffing can be the hardest thing to deal with, and by and large we have a good group of people who are all trying to achieve the same thing.”

Two Senior Athletes Will Compete in National Sports Contest

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

In a few short months Band member Bobby Anderson and the Band’s Fitness Coordinator, Jim Ingle, will compete in the country’s largest athletic event designed for adults over 50 years old. Come early June, the men will head down to Birmingham, Alabama, to compete in The National Senior Games otherwise known as the “Senior Olympics.”

For Bobby, who is 59 and will compete in golf, it will be his first time participating in the national event.

“I’m very excited I qualified and very excited I get to compete against people my own age,” he said with a laugh.

Jim, who is 67 years old, has competed three other times previously, so this time will mark his fourth time at the event. He qualified another time, too, but didn’t participate at the national level. Jim is training to run in four events — the 50-meter, 100-meter, 200-meter and 400-meter races.

“What is really encouraging is that I’m getting faster and I’m getting stronger,” he said. “It’s rewarding to know what diet and exercise can do to help postpone aging.”

Jim said he trains the same and does the same things he’s always done, so can’t explain why he’s getting better, but he likes the results.

The men, who are good friends, qualified to move forward when they competed last summer at the games held in St. Cloud. Bobby took first place in golf and says it was Jim who encouraged him to enter the contest.

Bobby has played “serious golf” for the past seven years, and when asked if he’s a good golfer his reply was, “I can hold my own.”

He works for the Band in District III. His goal is to help others find success through leading healthier lifestyles. One of the ways he does that is by playing and teaching others about “cardio golf.” It’s where you run to hit and chase the balls.

“It seems weird you hit this little white ball and go chase it to hit it again, but it keeps me in shape,” said Bobby, who has clients exercise by playing the game. To get ready for his event, Bobby practices as much as he can at an indoor golf course. It’s not ideal, but living in Minnesota it’s the best he can do in the winter months.

Jim, who has qualified for four running events, has the same challenge — trying to get as much running in as he can despite the weather.



“The problem we have in the North is that we can’t get enough time outside, so we have to run on a track or practice on a golf simulator,” said Jim. “That’s a disadvantage.”

Three days a week Jim drives to Foley — a 70-mile round trip — to run on an inside track. Bobby also drives a long distance to practice his sport to make sure he can keep honing his skill.

The national event first came to fruition in 1985 when seven men and women formed what was called the National Senior Olympics Organization. The vision was to promote healthy lifestyles for adults through education, fitness and sport. The first year it drew 2,500 competitors. Since then the number of athletes has grown to an average of 10,000.

Later the name was changed to the National Senior Games Association. The national event is held every two years, and contenders must qualify a year before the games commence. There are 33 sports offered for men and women including swimming, tennis, volleyball, archery, bowling, horseshoes, track events and more. It is the largest multi-sport event in the world for seniors.

Jim said he is hopeful that what he and Bobby are doing will serve to inspire others to get motivated.

“What we’re hoping to do is get more Elders involved in these competitions,” he said. “They are fun, and it gives you a reason to exercise — other than for your health.”

He’d love to see all tribes in the state form teams and compete against each other. While both men are excited about the opportunity, they either have to pay their own way or find sponsors to fund their trip to the national event. The cost can vary, but it will likely cost around \$1,300 per person.

“I think I’ll do really well,” said Bobby. “My goal is to land in the top three or win.”

Super Bowl Committee Awards Grant to Mino-Mijim Program

The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Legacy Fund last month awarded the Mille Lacs Band a grant to acquire equipment and provide support for Band's sustainable community gardens as part of the Mino-Mijim (Good Food) program. The grant is part of the 52 Weeks of Giving campaign, a year-long effort to make Super Bowl LII a statewide event by awarding 52 communities with grants that will help improve the health and wellness of young people in Minnesota.

Mino-Mijim is the continuation of a three-year project to improve the Mille Lacs Band community. This year's focus is on providing and processing local sustainable foods for tribe members at all economic levels. The reservation community is considered a "food desert," defined by the USDA as a low-income area where a substantial number of residents have limited access to a supermarket or large grocery store. The absence of nutritious food in the area prompted the Band to find alternative ways to improve their tribe's overall health.

"A lack of access to nutritious food has led to diabetes-related health issues such as high blood pressure, obesity and chronic kidney disease in our community," said Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose. "This grant supports our effort to give our communities the ability to eat and share healthy and locally produced food."

Along with providing nutritious food, the Band will use the community gardens to foster youth engagement.

"This grant will help us maintain and grow our community gardens and our Mino-Mijim program," said Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. "We believe getting our youth involved with gardening will lead to healthy eating, moderate exercise and a respect for the environment, for many future generations."

In addition to the sustainable community gardens, the Mino-Mijim program will include food and nutrition education to support economic self-sufficiency for individuals and households. These community food security programs will help ensure no one in this community lacks sufficient access to healthy food in the future.

"The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Mino-Mijim program to improve the food and health of their community is an important initiative and the Super Bowl Legacy Fund is proud to support this effort," said Dana Nelson, Vice President of Legacy and



The Super Bowl Legacy Fund and the Mille Lacs Band hosted an event at the community greenhouse in District I to celebrate the Legacy Fund's grant to the Band's Mino-Mijim program. Young Band members hand-painted murals and learned about gardening and planting.

Community Partnerships for the MNSBHC Legacy Fund.

The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee is a private, non-profit corporation formed to plan and execute Super Bowl LII. For more information visit mnsuperbowl.com and follow @mnsuperbowl2018 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Legacy Fund is a 501(c)3, community advised fund of the Minnesota Com-

munity Foundation. Working in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health's Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) and based on the recommendations of SHIP's community health boards, the Legacy Fund is providing 52 grants to 52 community projects across our state over the 52 weeks leading up to Super Bowl LII. For more information on the MNSBHC's Legacy Fund, including an introductory video, please visit mnsuperbowl.com/legacy.



Sobriety Feast

Monthly sobriety feasts are a great way to learn and find support while enjoying friendship and good food. For this month's sobriety feasts, see page 15.



Drum and Dance

Students at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II are learning from some of the best.

Ceremonial Dance Dates Spring 2017

Merlin & Mick: Mille Lacs, April 7 & 8

Ralph & Andy: Mille Lacs, April 14 & 15

Lynda & Joyce: Mille Lacs, April 21 & 22

Joe & George: Mille Lacs, April 28 & 29

Skip: Lake Lena, May 5 & 6

Elmer & Sheldon: Mille Lacs, May 5 & 6

Tim & Tom: East Lake, May 12 & 13

Lee & Larry: Mille Lacs, May 19 & 20

Niib & Iyawbance: East Lake, May 19 & 20

Dale & Vincent: East Lake, May 26 & 27

Bob & Perry: Mille Lacs, June 2 & 3

Follow @millelacsband on Facebook! Stay up-to-date on breaking news, interesting stories and Band updates.

Nay Ah Shing Works to Address Habitual Truancy

As reported in last month's *Inaajimowin*, Band communities and the state as a whole face a truancy epidemic.

One important development in the fight against truancy occurred in March: The Band was awarded a grant from the Bureau of Indian Education to create an Alternative Learning Center (ALC) on the Nay Ah Shing Upper School campus.

The grant includes a 24'x64' modular building that will house four classrooms providing credit recovery, online learning and a learning environment geared toward students who have had trouble in traditional classrooms.

Education Commissioner Ed Minnema sees the new building as a way to help students enrolled at Nay Ah Shing as well as those enrolled at other schools. "We have too many kids who aren't attending school," he said. "Some have fallen way behind, and some have been expelled. This program will provide a way for them to get back on track and graduate."

Band and State laws require parents to send their children to school. Children cannot independently choose to "drop out" of school.

Minnesota defines "habitual truancy" as seven unexcused full-day absences during an academic year by an elementary school student or seven unexcused class period absences during an academic year by a middle, junior high or senior high school student.

The Band's Judicial Branch may apply state law in the absence of a Band definition of habitual truancy.

The worst consequences for truancy are not court sanctions. Children who do not attend school are more likely to become involved in delinquent and ultimately criminal behaviors.

These young people are severely limiting their opportunities, and truancy can be the beginning of a lifetime of problems.

Truancy and poor attendance are the primary reasons students fail to graduate.

A student is required to attend school each and every day and each and every class period. If they miss a school day or part of the day, for legitimate reasons, a parent or guardian must notify the school.

The Nay-Ah-Shing School Board is preliminarily responsible for determining the legitimacy of any absence in accordance with established standards.

Examples of excused absences include:

- Family Emergency
- Medical or mental health appointments
- Religious Holidays
- Sickness (a doctor's note may be required)

Examples of unexcused absences:

- Babysitting
- Cold Weather
- Child is not immunized
- Employment
- Missing the bus
- Need for sleep or rest
- Not in assigned location while at school

The Nay-Ah-Shing School Board can address truancy matters through an internal administrative process. At three unexcused full-day absences, the school is legally required to notify the parent(s) and/or legal guardian that the child is a "continuing truant." If matters do not improve, the School Board must request a formal hearing with the parent(s) and/or legal guardian of a student who has five (5) unexcused full-day absences during an academic quarter. A failure to attend the hearing or positively address the problem will result in a referral to Child & Family Services.

Additionally, parents and students are invited to attend an Attendance Intervention Meeting (AIM) that will outline the laws regarding school attendance, the diversion process, and potential legal consequences, as well as recommended actions to address the truancy issues.

Educational neglect

Band law requires that children attend either a Band or Public School throughout the academic year. Education is an essential component of a child's well-being, similar to food,

Tips to Improve School Attendance

- Tell your children that their education is important to you.
- Have a set bedtime and morning routine that includes breakfast.
- Communicate with the school; make sure you know the school's attendance policy and advocate for them at school.
- Set the expectation that your children complete their homework every day.
- Help your child with their school work or find someone who can.
- Buy your child an alarm clock.
- Do not enable your child's illegal behavior by calling the school to cover for their illegitimate excuses.
- If your child does not want to attend, ask why and help them overcome any barriers.
- Set clear expectations for the child; establish a set curfew.
- Seek out help for any issues that may be interfering with his/her attending school, such as mental and physical health or peer issues.



Language Tables

David 'Niib' Aubid has been teaching a language class at Chiminising Community Center on Monday evenings. For more information on language tables, see page 14 and 15.



Stargazers

The ExploraDome from the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum made a recent visit to Nay Ah Shing schools.



Career Day!

On Jan. 13 Alicia Skinaway of the Higher Education Program assisted with Career Day at Nay Ah Shing Upper School. She showed students what was offered at the Anishinaabe Tribal College, which is a collaboration with Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. Students took home brochures from FDLTCC and won backpacks, pens and other prizes.



Minisinaakwaang Sugar Bush



Students at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II have been learning about the sugaring (iskigamizige) tradition and also about their community's history this spring. They've been gathering ziinzibaakwadwaaboo (maple sap) at the traditional village site that is now on the grounds of Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Band members were moved from the site when it became a wildlife refuge in the 1930s. They are boiling sap back at the school, which is attached to East Lake Community Center.



Attention Netters and Spearers

If you plan on netting or spearing, please inform the MLB-DNR Licensing Agent no later than 11 a.m. on the day of (Monday through Friday). The District I office will be the only office open on some weekends during the spring netting and spearing season. Any netting permits not picked up by the netter by 5 p.m. will be canceled.

- Kevin Stobb, Lead Licensing Agent: 320-532-7896
- Randi Harrington, DII Licensing Agent: 218-768-3311, ext. 5316
- Vanessa Gibbs, DIII Licensing Agent: 320-384-6240, ext. 230
- Jared Rosati, DI Conservation Officer: 320-630-2470
- Jason Rice, DI Conservation Officer: 320-630-2619
- Taylor Hochstein, DII Conservation Officer: 320-630-7331
- Leah Kampa, DIII Conservation Officer: 320-630-2472
- GLIFWC Office: 715-682-6619
- Carmen Green, Isle Community Center: 320-676-1102

All nets must have a net ID tag and 4' buoys (no milk or laundry jugs allowed).

You are required to notify one of the Mille Lacs Band Conservation Officers as soon as possible if you're unable to set your net or show up for spearing as declared. If you do not notify us of your cancellation in a timely manner, privilege will be suspended for three days.

Angling regulations

The following basic fishing regulations pertain to persons angling within the Mille Lacs Band Tribal properties and public waters open to angling within the 1837 Ceded Territory.

Enrolled Mille Lacs Band Member License Requirements: Individual must possess the following: a current Band ID and a current fishing license. Band member children who are under 16 years of age do not need a license but should have a valid Band ID with them. Immediate family members who are not Band members that are actively angling are subject to state law and license regulations. The Mille Lacs Band does not do family licenses.

Restrictions: No more than 6 lines with a maximum of two hooks or lures per line may be used.

New Job Program Fits Hours to Lifestyle

By: **Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

Freedom and flexibility are two of the key components of a new job program offered by Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV).

It's called YOU PICK, and it's designed to allow Band and community members to work shifts that fit their schedules.

"It will help with work-life balance," said Lana Oswaldson, MLCV's Recruiting and Staffing Director. "And for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures it's a way to fill in staffing gaps."

It's a win-win for both the person who takes advantage of the job program and MLCV because it's a way to fill unexpected staffing needs, and it gives the person working job experience and possibly a permanent job.

Each week a list of available jobs is posted, and those interested can call and express interest in the offerings. Workers receive on-the-job training and in return are expected to display a high level of maturity, good guest service, independence, teamwork and professionalism. They are also expected to honor their commitment by working the day, shift and position they choose to work.

The pay is \$12 an hour. There are no benefits, but the option to gain experience and perhaps land a job can be appealing. This is a year-round program, so it can work to accommodate the needs of many. The departments that would likely have openings are hotel, facilities, grounds, food and beverage and the non-gaming operations.

Participants can work as often or little as they like, but jobs are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and are based on business needs.

To work in the gaming operations, people must be 18 years old and have the ability to obtain a Class C gaming license. Those who are 16 years old can apply for the YOU PICK jobs, which could be good for summer employment or days when school is not in session.

In March some participants helped move new mattresses into the hotel, Lana said. "If we have a large event or concert we may need a crew to help on those occasions," she added. "We think the program will be a huge success, and we're excited to be able to offer it."

For available jobs call the MLCV Human Resources office at 320-384-4545 or visit GrandCasinoMN.com. Review the list, pick a desired position, day and shift that best fits your needs.

Seasons: All species may be taken year round except all trout and sturgeon. Trout season is January 1 – September 30 and Sturgeon Season is June 1 – March 1. Sturgeon harvest allowed only on St. Croix River below Taylors Falls.

Non-Treaty Band members and All Others: All Non-Band members not meeting the above requirements are required to follow state regulations. All Non-Band members may assist Band members. Assisting is limited to activities not including angling.

Important Note: These are general guidelines of the Mille Lacs Band angling regulations and are intended to give general guidelines for basic angling regulations to be followed. It is strongly recommended that all people contact a Band licensing agent, Tribal Conservation Officer, GLIFWC or State Conservation Officer for changes to regulations of if you have any questions. Check with the DNR for species limits.

Mille Lacs Band 2017 Spring Clean Up

District I, Vineland — Saturday, April 15, through Friday, April 21. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday through Friday. All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Old Transfer Station Site off of U.S. HWY 169.

District II, East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle — Saturday, April 29, through Friday, May 5th. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday through Friday. Roll-offs will be placed at the East Lake Maintenance facility for District II and Isle Community Center for District IIa.

District III, Lake Lena and Hinckley — Saturday, April 22, to Friday, April 28. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Earthworks building located on Hwy 48, 2 miles east of Hinckley Casino, Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center and at the cul-de-sac at Wise Owl.

Mille Lacs Band Elders in all Districts will receive free curbside pickup for their community cleanup items. Elders must call the Public Works office at 320-532-7433 by Friday, April 14, to be placed on the list for pickup. Elders receiving curbside pickup must have their pile at the end of their driveway. Please contact Public Works at 320-532-7448 if you have any questions or concerns about the 2017 spring cleanup!

Sharing the Passion is Priority for New GLIFWC Officer

NATURAL RESOURCES Brett Larson Staff Writer



Mike Burns' eyes light up when he talks about his childhood in La Crosse, Wisc. "My family was always out hunting, fishing, even gathering mushrooms," he said. "The Mississippi played a big role in shaping who I am."

But he gets positively giddy when the subject of duck hunting comes up. "That's my passion," he grins.

Although law enforcement and resource protection are the heart and soul of a conservation officer's job, for Mike, sharing his passion for the outdoors is equally important.

"Youth involvement is one of my priorities, getting kids involved in spearing and netting, but also hunting and trapping," Mike said.

As the new Mille Lacs officer with the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), Mike has achieved the dream he's had since childhood. "My whole life I've been striving to be a conservation officer. Location doesn't matter, as long as I'm doing what I love."

He earned a four-year degree in resource management and environmental law enforcement at Stevens Point, and then went for law enforcement training in Wisconsin Rapids. After a stint in the Madison area, he made the jump to GLIFWC last year.

Although he's a "chimook," Mike learned a lot about Ojibwe

culture during his training and appreciates the exercise of treaty rights. "GLIFWC does a great job of helping with cultural understanding," he said.

While Mille Lacs Band conservation officers focus on tribal lands, Mike's role is to patrol off-reservation lands where members of GLIFWC bands are also able to hunt. During the heavy seasons, like spring netting and spearing, the Mille Lacs and GLIFWC officers work together to monitor the harvest day and night.

Since coming to Mille Lacs in January, Mike has been exploring the public lands in the region and wants Band members to be aware of the many hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities off the reservation.

Mike knows he may have to write a ticket on occasion, but that's not why he became a conservation officer. "I'd be happy to not write any tickets, but just encourage the youth to go out hunting or fishing," he said. "I think I'd be a success if I accomplished that. Being a conservation officer isn't just about enforcement, but understanding the resource and preserving it for future generations."

In that way, he fits in with the GLIFWC mission. "The GLIFWC board of commissioners puts a priority on teaching the youth, because they're the ones who will be here in 100 years to take care of the resource," he said.

Mike encourages anyone with questions on regulations to go to glifwc.org. His contact information is there as well, and he'd be happy to talk.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin (top) and Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu (bottom) gave the division of powers presentation to Band members at Mille Lacs and Hinckley March 8 and 9.

Continued from page 3

Division of Powers on Tribal Executive Committee Agenda

Other business

The TEC also conducted other business at the March 15 special meeting, including discussion of a proposed Secretarial Election to change MCT enrollment requirements.

TEC members expressed frustration that the BIA is holding up the process, but the TEC voted to continue to request the Secretarial Election. Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu voted silent, and two TEC members were absent.

White Earth Band members Gertrude Buckanaga and Leonard Roy and TEC member Faron Jackson, who is Chair of Leech Lake, gave impassioned calls for changes, saying Indian children are being left behind due to outdated enrollment rules and government inaction.

Jackson said, "Who knows what's better for our children, the government or us?"

Community Meetings

The presentation was first delivered to Mille Lacs Band members by Melanie and Carolyn at community meetings at Grand

Casinos Mille Lacs and Hinckley March 8 and 9. Hundreds of Band members attended the two events to learn about the origin of the division of powers government and ask questions of elected officials.

Band members expressed their support of the division-of-powers and asked elected officials for their opinion.

In response to a question from Band member Sheldon Boyd, the elected officials in attendance said they believe the Band's system of government aligns with the MCT Constitution.

Arlene Weous wondered why the issue has arisen after decades. "We were a poor, poor tribe. We had nothing. We had dirt roads. We relied on the government, but we succeeded in our way," she said. "Why are other Bands trying to infringe on our sovereignty?"

Nazhike Awaasanang said, "I'm grateful that they decided to do the presentation. Maybe it will inspire them to do something differently. I'm very thankful that we got this educational piece, and I'm proud to be a Mille Lacs Band member. We are still nonremovable — but now we are immovable."



Deputy Solicitor Takes Oath of Office

Shannon Porter Guest Writer

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court Chief Justice Rayna Churchill swore in a new Deputy Solicitor General Monday, March 6. Kaitrin (Kate) C. Vohs raised her hand and swore to uphold the Minnesota Chippewa Constitution and the Statutes of the Mille Lacs Band, and to protect the rights of Band members.

Kate is no stranger to Indian and Tribal law. She successfully graduated with a political science undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa, went on to obtain her juris doctorate from William Mitchell in May of 2015, and passed the Minnesota bar exam in October of 2015. During her schooling, she worked at a law clinic for the Menominee Nation providing criminal defense to Tribal members in Menominee Tribal Court.

Kate studied multiple subjects in the area of Federal Indian law and received the top grade in her class in her Advanced Indian Law course. She also participated in the National Native American Law Student Association Moot Court competition. After graduation she continued her work at Swanson, Drobnick

and Tousey, where she represented Native American clients in tribal governance, tribal business development, criminal law and family law. As an associate attorney, Kate became familiar with how the Mille Lacs Band works and how the Band runs its judicial department. Using these tools Kate decided to bring her passion for Federal Indian law and experience with Native Americans to work with the Office of Solicitor General. Here she will be working with child protection, criminal and truancy cases.

When asked why she chose the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as the next step in her law career, Kate stated, "The Mille Lacs Band is a model of progress in regards to other Tribes. The Mille Lacs Band is considered innovative in how it exercises its inherent sovereignty and jurisdiction." She is proud to call the Mille Lacs Band her employer. She sees boundless opportunity in the areas of economic development and the Band as a formidable force in the realm of treaty rights. "Plus the area is beautiful and everyone has been so welcoming and kind."



Mille Lacs Band Oath of Office

"I, _____, do hereby swear that I will support, honor and respect the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the laws of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, and I will protect the rights of Band members and others under the jurisdiction of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office to the best of my judgment and ability so help me gi chi ma ni do."

The Seven Values

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has community values that are rooted in our history and in our culture. These values form the foundation of our lives and are predicated on our language.

Gwayakwaadiziwin (Honesty)

To achieve honesty within yourself is to recognize who and what you are. Do this and you can be honest with all others.

Dabaadendiziwin (Humility)

Humble yourself and recognize that no matter how much you think you know, you know very little.

Debwewin (Truth)

To learn Truth, to live Truth, to walk Truth, and to speak Truth.

Nibwaakaawin (Wisdom)

To have Wisdom is to know the difference between good and bad and to know the result of your actions.

Zaagi'idiwin (Love/Compassion)

Unconditional love and compassion is to know that when people are weak, they need your love and compassion the most.

Manaadendamowin (Respect)

Respect others, their beliefs. Respect yourself. When you practice respect, respect will be given back to you.

Aakwade'ewin (Bravery/Courage)

Have bravery and courage in doing things right even though it may hurt you physically and mentally.

Chief Orders Listening Session on District III ALU

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has ordered an Executive Hearing regarding reported concerns with the District III Assisted Living Unit. As the first step, the Office of the Solicitor General will host a Listening Session at the DIII-ALU starting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6. Dinner will be provided.

Any DIII ALU resident, their concerned family members, and/or advocate or guardian who wishes to express or listen to concerns about the District III ALU is invited to attend.

There will be a separate opportunity for staff and management to meet with the Senior Deputy Solicitor General on Friday, April 7, 2017 at the DIII-ALU from 1 – 3 p.m.

If anyone has concerns they do not wish to share publicly, please contact Shannon Porter at 320-532-7894 for an appointment to speak privately with the Senior Deputy Solicitor General. You may also send written concerns directly to Angel E. Daher, Senior Deputy Solicitor General, 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359 or angel.daher@millelacs-band.com.

According to Executive Order No. 177-16, several tribal members have presented seemingly legitimate concerns with the administration and operation of the District III ALU ... which merit a comprehensive independent review and assessment."

The Deputy Solicitor General will issue a written decision within one month of the hearing.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

April 29, 2017, is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The purpose of this event is to provide a "safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications."

There are a number of reasons why it is important to discard your prescription medications. Proper disposal helps to prevent misuse and abuse of medications, flushing of medications down the toilet has a profound effect on the environment by polluting drinking water, and disposing of unwanted/unused medications in the trash isn't a good idea either.

It's time to clean out those medicine cabinets, junk drawers, and other places where your unused, expired, or unwanted medications sit in your home.

There is a drop off site located in the entry way to Tribal Police.

If you are not located in District I, you can go to this website after April 1 to find a location near you: deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/



Dogs Need to be Vaccinated, Registered

With the weather warming up, more people will be heading outdoors. According to Band Statute, all dogs present on Band Lands must be registered with the Mille Lacs Band Department of Public Safety within 14 days after such dog is first present on Band Lands. The Department of Public Safety will issue a Certificate of Registration and the owner must maintain a copy of such Certificate. Also, all dogs present on Band Lands over 6 months of age must be vaccinated against rabies each year.

A Tribal Enforcement Officer may confiscate and take to the nearest animal shelter any dog on Band Lands if the office has reasonable cause to believe the dog is running loose, the dog is not being maintained in a proper dog enclosure, the dog is outside a proper dog enclosure and is not under the physical restraint of a responsible and able person, the dog is noticeably diseased/injured/maimed, or the dog is chasing deer or livestock.

Dog Registration forms are available at the Tribal Police Department.

The Office of the Solicitor General will host a Listening Session at the DIII-ALU starting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6.

Dinner will be provided.

Circle of Health Outreach Makes Insurance Accessible

Circle of Health began an Outreach Program in 2015 in which Benefit Coordinators Jamie Rancour and Pamela Spears visit each Mille Lacs Band District on a monthly basis. Through these outreach visits, the Benefit Coordinators hope to connect with Band members who would otherwise not be able to obtain health care coverage and utilize Circle of Health benefits. Band members, especially those in the outer districts, face several barriers to insurance coverage that can be eliminated through the outreach program. Barriers include lack of transportation, no internet and/or phone service, and misconceptions about eligibility and the Affordable Care Act.

One of the major benefits of meeting Band members during outreach is that it makes future interactions more personal. As staff members learn about members' unique situations, they are able to identify other resources offered by the Mille Lacs Band or the surrounding communities that could also benefit them.

COH services available during outreach include: Updating enrollment forms (including first time enrollees and adding new dependents), MNsure applications and enrolling in Delta Dental. If you have any bills or documentation that needs to be submitted to Circle of Health, you can give them to the Benefit Coordinators during these visits.

Upcoming Circle of Health Outreach Days:

Urban Office:

April 6, May 4 and June 1
12 – 3 p.m. each day

East Lake Community Center:

April 13, May 11 and June 8
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each day.

Chiminising Community Center:

April 13, May 11 and June 8
2 – 4 p.m. each day

Aazhomog Clinic:

April 20
10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Suggested checklist for meeting with COH:

- Tribal ID
- Birth certificates for dependent children
- Marriage certificate
- Social Security Numbers for all dependents
- Proof of income (Social Security Awards Letter, per cap stubs, paystubs)

'Construct Tomorrow' Event at Hinckley

The Mille Lacs Band's Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) hosted its second Construct Tomorrow event at Grand Casino Hinckley on Friday, March 3.

According to TERO Director Craig Hansen, last year the event drew 403 students from 15 schools; this year over 500 kids came from 17 schools. Congressman Rick Nolan was in attendance, meeting with educators, students and the trades that were in attendance.

Construct Tomorrow is a hands-on opportunity for area high school students to learn about careers in the construction industry. Fourteen different trades showcased job skills, education, and life-long career opportunities.

Throughout the day, attendees got to explore the trades through hands-on activities, learn about apprenticeship programs, and meet potential employers.

Construct Tomorrow in Hinckley was hosted by:

- The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, a federally recognized Indian tribe in central Minnesota, partnering with:
- Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc., a nonprofit employment and training agency and partner in the Minnesota Workforce Center System.
- Construct Tomorrow, a collective of apprenticeship instructors, prime and sub-contractors, government representatives from labor and workforce development, and youth educators. Learn more at bit.ly/1nyQJ2l.



Congressman Rick Nolan with Band members from L to R: Bonnie Dorr, Lisa Ballinger, Craig Hansen, Kevin Sutton. Both Bonnie and Kevin are working on the renovations at the Hinckley property through PCL.



Congressman Nolan with youth from Nay Ah Shing and Hinckley schools at the Construct Tomorrow Event.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Financial Report

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2017	Expenditures through 2/28/2017	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	15,365,437	5,705,810	37%
Department of Labor	22,922,358	2,865,224	12%
Judicial	2,169,267	414,572	19%
Department of Justice	6,673,503	1,987,666	30%
Education	17,105,807	6,501,450	38%
Health and Human Services	23,584,680	7,495,136	32%
Circle of Health Insurance	9,981,504	2,164,829	22%
Natural Resources	7,553,190	3,018,498	40%
Community Development	65,085,737	10,668,963	16%
Gaming Authority	5,465,107	1,799,529	33%
Bonus Distribution	20,912,335	18,048,036	86%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,742,161	3,740,585	99%
Total	200,563,086	64,390,298	32%

- (1) Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- (2) Casino operations are not reported above, however they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
- (3) The Financial Statements of the Band are audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.
- (4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997.

Contact Information for Band Members

Housing on call
320-630-2498

Emergency food, shelter, gas services (after hours)
Kristian Theisz or Coleen Luack: 320-630-2687

Emergency Services office
320-532-7880

Elder Services office
320-532-7543

Food Distribution Program
320-532-7510

Legal Aid
320-532-7799 or 800-709-6445 (toll-free)

Department of Labor
800-922-4457 or 320-532-7407 (toll-free)

Urban Area Office
800-746-4888 or 612-746-4800

Family Violence Prevention Program Advocates
24-hour crisis line at 866-867-4006

Criminal Justice Intervention Coordinator
320-630-6708 (cell)

Domestic Violence Community Advocates
District I
800-709-6445, ext. 4780, 320-630-2691 (cell)
District II
218-768-4412, 320-630-2678 (cell)
District III
320-394-7400, 320-630-2676 (cell)

Sexual Assault
320-630-2426

Newspapers Reported Destruction of Mille Lacs Band Villages

Part 2 of 2

Ten years after Mille Lacs Band members' homes were destroyed by the Mille Lacs County Sheriff in Isle, another burning of a village was reported. In June of 1911, the Brainerd Dispatch reported that an Indian village at Wigwam Bay was destroyed by fire. The *Little Falls Herald* summarized the story as follows: "The village which has been here for almost half a century, contained a substantial frame house, five wigwams and several log cabins. With the dwellings of the Indians went all their household goods, their family relics treasured from one generation to another, their fishing nets, guns and all their food supplies."

"The Indians have lived there all their lives and claim they have never molested anybody nor stolen anything. On the east side of the lake, an elder was reportedly tied to a tree and forced to watch as his wigwam and belongings burned."

The *Princeton Union* claimed that the stories were untrue, that the fire was accidental and the story about the old chief was "purely imaginary." County Commissioner Dr. O.S. Swennes of Wahkon said "if anything of the kind had happened he certainly would have heard of it."

The *Princeton* paper's position on the Mille Lacs Band indicates that it may not be the most trustworthy source. The article states, "The settlers around Mille Lacs lake are not savages and they have never dealt harshly with the Indians. There is no land left for the Indians at Mille Lacs and it would be far better for them if they were to join their brethren at White Earth where they would be comfortably cared for by the government and could in time become self-supporting and independent."

Those who did move to White Earth found that promises of homes, annuities and farmland were not kept by the federal government, and many returned to Mille Lacs.

According to research by historian Bruce White, Congressman C.B. Miller of Duluth also wrote in 1910 that Jack Boyd, an Indian who lived on the north side of Wigwam Bay, had his

belongings and those of his brother destroyed by the Sheriff, who threatened to come back and burn his house down.

In the winter of 1911, the *Princeton* paper had reported that five female Indians (called "squaws" in the paper) were arrested for attacking a settler, L.M. Dinwiddie, at Wigwam Bay when he tried to remove them from his land. The five women — Tah-bas, Way-won-de-be-ta Ay-yah-bince, Eh-quay and Naugh-baugh — claimed that during the winter their houses had been burned in an attempt to drive them from their homes.

Dinwiddie suffered a broken rib when Tah-bas hit him with a neck yoke.

At around the same time, according to the *Princeton Union*, nine families living around Mozomanay Point were forced by Sheriff Harry Shockley to leave their homes to make way for a development. The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* later reported that Shockley's men tore down frame structures and set fire to the remains of the village.

Ten years later, in 1921, Shockley once again destroyed Indians' homes. Again, they were being forced out to make room for a resort development, according to the *Little Falls Herald* and *Milaca Times*.

The Aug. 11, 1921, *Princeton Union* reported that Sheriff Shockley forcibly ousted "a large number of Indians" from Norway Grove, near Cove, and moved their wigwams and possessions across the highway "while the Chippewas stood and sat around and watched proceedings in dismay."

According to the Nelson Act of 1889, Mille Lacs Band members were to receive allotments within the 1855 Reservation before whites were allowed to settle there. As the years went by, many whites received title to lands, while most Indians received no allotments until the majority of the Reservation had been claimed by non-Indians.

As a result, they were considered "squatters" on land that had been promised to them by the U.S. government.



This photo of Chief Wadena is from the September 8, 1904, *Princeton Union*.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin — Learn the Ojibwe Language

Reprinted from *Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwe Childhood*, by the late Maude Kegg, edited and transcribed by John D. Nichols. University of Minnesota Press.

Naseyaawangwaan

Gii-agaashiinyiwaan iko omaa nookomis gii-pi-iskigamiziged. Mii eta go gii-pezhigoyaan, gii-ikwezensiwiyaan, gii-ikwezhen-zhishiwiyaaan. Miish iko ayi'ii, nibaawaad ayaangodinong maa-gizhaa gaye naadoobiwaad, mii ezhi-gimoodiyaan i'iw ayi'ii naseyaawangwaan. Imaa ayi'ing waanashkaag imaa gii-wenda-nibiikaa mewinza ezhi-gimoodiyaan naseyaawangwaan. Miish iidog, gaawiin dash iidog ingii-mindidosiin.

Gaawiin michaasinoon i'iw naseyaawangwaan. Mii ko azhi-booziyaan imaa babaamishkaayaan imaa ayi'ing waanashkobiyaag i'iw naseyaawangwaan. Azhigwa madwe-ombigamizigewaad madwe-wanitoowaad iko aandi i'iw, ezhi-gaazoyaan. Ayaangodinong igaye imbakite'igaaz giishpin mikigaadeg imaa gimoodiyaan naseyaawangwaan, baamishkaayaan imaa megwejiishkiwag.

The Sugaring Trough

When I was small, my grandmother used to come over here to boil sap. I was the only one when I was a little girl, when I was a naughty little girl. Sometimes while they were sleeping or maybe while they were hauling sap, I'd steal the sugaring trough. Long ago there was a puddle there with lots of water in it, so I stole the sugaring trough. I must not have been very big.

The trough wasn't very big. I used to get in that trough and paddle it around in the puddle. Then when I heard them boiling sap down and wondering where they had misplaced it, I'd hide. Sometimes I got a licking when it was found out that I'd stolen the sugar trough for paddling around there in the mud puddle.

INDIAN VILLAGE BURNS.

According to the Brainerd Dispatch, fire recently destroyed the Little Chippewa settlement at Wigwam Bay, situated on the West shores of Mille Lacs, between Garrison and Vineland. The village which has been here for almost half a century, contained a substantial frame house, five wigwams and several log cabins. With the dwellings of the Indians went all their household goods, their family relics treasured from one generation to another, their fishing nets, guns and all their food supplies.

The Indians have lived there all their lives and claim they have never molested anybody nor stolen anything. On the east side of the lake it is said an old chief of the Chippewas was strapped to a tree and his wigwam and all belongings burned to the ground in front of his very eyes. While the tears coursed down his cheeks and as he begged for pity the fire ate up his home and chattels.

These Indians may be considered trespassers by some and some of them should probably be at the White Earth reservation where the government has ordered them, but it seems a hard problem to settle satisfactorily. The Indians are now said to be roaming the country, perfectly destitute and trying to eke out a most precarious existence by hunting and fishing. Some are intent upon making appeals to Washington for assistance, or relief from their troubles.

Sheriff Ousts Indians.

Sheriff Shockley, Deputy Sheriff Fred Young and others swooped down upon a large number of Indians at Norway grove, near Cove, last Thursday and ousted them from land upon which they were trespassing. The redmen's wigwams and everything else they possessed were removed by the officers to a point on the opposite side of the highway while the Chippewas stood and sat around and watched proceedings in dismay. We are informed that they are moving to a point near Vineland.

MOVING THE INDIANS

Exciting Time at Mozomonie Point but Sheriff Shockley and His Posse Win the Day.

Indians, Posted Behind Trees With Guns, Threaten to Exterminate Invading Forces.

Sheriff Shockley, assisted by 19 stalwart men armed cap-a-pie, succeeded last Thursday in driving the Indians—40 bucks with their squaws and families—from the land which they occupied at Mozomonie Point. When the sheriff and his posse arrived at the place the bucks were prepared for war. They had taken up positions behind trees on an eminence and were resting their gun barrels between the forks apparently awaiting the order of Chief Wadena to pour forth a volley of lead.

Undaunted by the hostile reception the sheriff ascended the eminence and gathered Wadena into his clutches. He dragged the old chief down into the valley and, upon his refusal to order his warriors to drop their firearms, clapped the manacles onto him. But not a shot was fired—the redmen evidently awaited the word of command. After parleying with Wadena for upwards of an hour, the grizzled old scalper, who had previously declared that he and his two sons would never leave the land alive, decided that discretion was the best part of valor and weakened. He commanded his men to throw down their arms and promised that he and his tribe would vacate.

The manacles were removed and, after a short pow-wow, the Indians made rapid preparations for their exodus. And, true to his word, late in the day the old chief and his tribe, with their personal effects, moved silently along in single file down the trail until they found another tract of land which suited their fancy. There they settled down and will remain until such time as the paleface owner again drives them forth.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy April Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Roland Lee Anderson
Susan Mary Antonelli
Dorothy Ann Aubid
Terry Louis Beaulieu
Donivon Leroy Boyd
Wayne Theodore Boyd
Debra Lynn Ceballos
Sharon Lee Chavarria
Rayna Joyce Churchill
Raymond Charles Daly
Wesley Dorr Jr.
Rhonda Kay Engberg
Nancy Mae Foster
Duane Wallace Haaf
Gwendolyn Marie Hanold
Douglas Happy
Darryl Vernon Jackson
Evelyn Kegg
Leroy Duane Kegg
Raymond Kegg
Victoria Jean Kroschel
Bruce Marvin LaFave
Glenda Marie Landon-Rosado
Ada Mae Merrill
Louis Kevin Merrill

Gregory Allen Mishler
Bonita Louise Nayquonabe
Russell Daniel Nayquonabe
Donald John Nelson
Gloria Jean Nickaboine
Sherry Marie Nielson
Jeannette Oswaldson
Ricky Harold Pardun
Gregory Allen Pawlitschek
Kim Miles Peet
Solita Efigenia Reum
Laurie Jean Rogerson
Lorraine Diane Sam
Darlene Rae Savage
Ruth Anne Schaaf
George Augustus Sharlow Jr.
Perry Don Skinaway
Debra Ann Smith
Rodney Wayne Smith
Marvin Lee Staples
Carmen Marie Tyler
Gail Marie Tyson
Brandon Lynn Vainio
Robert Duane Wakanabo
Deanna Louise Weous
Duane Lee Wind
Eloise Alice Yanez

Happy April Birthdays:

Happy 90th birthday Mom (**Jeanette Oswaldson**) on 4/1! Love, Ozzie and Ericka. • Happy birthday **Beth "Govi" Mitchell** on 4/2! Love ya sis! From Debbie, Mataeo, Carmelena, Jade, Sean, Brandon and Jessica. • Happy birthday **Amy "Mal" Mitchell** on 4/2! Love you goofball! From Debbie, Mataeo, Carmelena, Jade, Sean, Brandon and Jessica. • Happy 10th birthday **Elias Wagner** on 4/4, with love from Grandma Tammy. • Happy birthday **Dad/Kevin Stobb** on 4/8! Love Marie, Rylee, Blake, Caleb, Stina and Gabby. • Happy birthday **Nathan Bugg** on 4/13! Love you lots!! From, Debbie, Mataeo, Carmelena, Jade, Sean, Brandon and Jessica. • Happy 1st birthday **Henry** on 4/14! Love, Dad, Mom, Braelynn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Bryley, Bianca,

Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Tyler, Kev, Pie, Montana, Auntie Randi, Austie Rachel, Waylon, Ror-Dawg, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor and Adam. • Happy birthday **Olivia Deck** on 4/14. Love, your mom. • Happy birthday **Juice** on 4/14 with love from your lil sister Tam. • Happy birthday **Deb Smith** on 4/14 with love from your lil sister Tam. • Happy birthday **Rylee Stobb** on 4/24! Love, Marie, Dad, Blake, Caleb, Stina and Gabby. • Happy birthday **Blake Stobb** on 4/25! Love, Marie, Dad, Blake, Caleb, Stina and Gabby. • Happy 10th birthday **Aiva Lea** on 4/26! Love, Auntie Val, Tyler, Kev, Pie and Montana. • Happy birthday **Justin Mitchell**! From Auntie. Love ya! From Debbie, Mataeo, Carmelena, Jade, Sean, Brandon and Jessica. • Happy 13th birthday to **Ms.**

Laila Mitchell! From Debbie and family.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday to **TANK Wagner** with love from Grandma Tammy.

Other

Announcements:

Emma Darlene Wind Mayotte Compelube, aged 92, died February 22, 2017 in Standish, Maine. Emma was born June 24, 1924 in Ogema, Minnesota, the daughter of Frank (Kay Bay Aush) Wind and Annie Helen (Che Gah Wainz) Benjamin of the Chippewa nation.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a message **20 WORDS OR LESS** to myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call **612-465-0653**.

Deadline for May issue: April 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 – 8 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

Wellbriety Red Road Meeting

Saturdays, 6 – 7 p.m., MinoBimaadiziwin (Budget Host Hotel) 40847 US-169, Onamia
Contact MinoBimaadiziwin at 320-532-3911

Wellbriety Sons of Tradition

Sundays, 1 – 3 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

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

Ojibwe Language Tables

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

DI Open Gym

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

DI Women's Group (Strength & Support)

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

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

Pool League Night: Wednesdays, 5 p.m., Onamia

B-Ball League Night: Thursday Nights

EARNING \$12/HR
IS EASY AS
1, 2, AND 3!

YOU PICK
PROGRAM

1

Check for available jobs each week at GrandCasinoMN.com/Careers.
Or, call the You Pick hotline at 320-384-4545

2

Pick your position, day and shift.

3

Work your desired shifts, and get paid weekly!

Would you like to receive the Inaajimowin?

Band members who want to be added to the Inaajimowin mailing list can call Myles Gorham at 612-465-0653 or email him at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.</p> <p>Band Assembly Meetings Band Assembly Meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other information, call the Legislative office or visit millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.</p>			<p>Upcoming Event SAVE THE DATE! 3rd Annual Chameleon 5k run/walk Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 11 a.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m. at Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Any questions, please contact Darla Roache, SHIP Coordinator at 320-532-7760.</p>		<p>1 God's Eye ML Indian Museum 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</p> <p><i>Bagida'waa: S/he fishes with a net</i></p>	
<p>2 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 – 4 p.m. Red Brick House, District I</p> <p><i>Imbagida'waa: I fish with a net</i></p>	<p>3 Living Well with Dementia Conference 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Northern Lights Events Center, Walker</p> <p>Language Tables 6:30 p.m., DII-A Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>4 Onamia Schools Local Indian Education Parent Committee 12 p.m. Rolf Olsen Center, Onamia</p> <p>Language Tables 6:30 p.m., DI District I Community Center</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Jiimaan: a boat, a canoe</i></p>	<p>6 Language Tables 4:30 p.m., DII East Lake Community Center</p> <p>Listening Session 5:30 p.m., DIII-ALU <i>See page 11</i></p> <p><i>Jiime: S/he canoes, paddles</i></p>	<p>7 Listening Session 1 – 3 p.m., DIII-ALU <i>See page 11</i></p> <p><i>Asab: a net</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Asinaab: a net sinker</i></p>
<p>9 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 – 4 p.m. Red Brick House, District I</p> <p><i>Agonjooaagan: a net float</i></p>	<p>10 Language Tables 6:30 p.m., DII-A Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><i>Giigoonyike: S/he fishes</i></p>	<p>11 Language Tables 6:30 p.m., DI District I Community Center</p> <p><i>Wewebanaabii: S/he fishes with a hook and line</i></p>	<p>12 Wisdom Steps Conference 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., White Earth</p> <p>DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Language Tables 4:30 p.m., DII East Lake Community Center</p> <p>Wisdom Steps Conference 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., White Earth</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Noojigiigoonyiwe: S/he goes fishing</i></p>	<p>15 Spring Clean Up District I – Vineland 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Old Transfer Station, off U.S. HWY 169</p> <p><i>Anit: a fish spear</i></p>
<p>16 Spring Clean Up District I – Vineland 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 10</i></p> <p><i>Bazhiba'ige: S/he spears things</i></p>	<p>17 Language Tables <i>See page 14</i> Spring Clean Up <i>See page 10</i></p> <p><i>Giigoonh: a fish</i></p>	<p>18 <i>See page 14</i> Language Tables <i>See page 10</i> Spring Clean Up DII-A Executive Branch Meeting Chiminising CC</p>	<p>19 Spring Clean Up District I – Vineland 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 10.</i></p> <p>DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m., Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>20 Language Tables <i>See page 14</i> Spring Clean Up <i>See page 10</i></p> <p>DIII Executive Branch Meeting Hinckley ALU</p>	<p>21 Spring Clean Up District I – Vineland 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 10</i></p> <p><i>Gaaski-giigoonh: smoked fish</i></p>	<p>22 Sweetgrass Basket 2-Day Workshop Noon – 4 p.m. Spring Clean Up District III – Lake Lena and Hinckley 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. <i>See page 10</i></p>
<p>23 Sweetgrass Basket 2-Day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Spring Clean Up District III – Lake Lena and Hinckley 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. <i>See page 10</i></p> <p><i>Bakazhaawe: S/he cleans fish</i></p>	<p>24 Language Tables 6:30 p.m., DII-A Chiminising Community Center</p> <p>Spring Clean Up District III – Lake Lena and Hinckley 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 10.</i></p> <p>DIII Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Hinckley Corporate Building</p> <p>DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Center</p>	<p>25 Language Tables <i>See page 14</i> Spring Clean Up <i>See page 10</i></p> <p>DI Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI CC</p> <p><i>Ogaa: walleye</i></p>	<p>26 Art Gahbow Day — Government Offices Closed DII-A Community Meeting 5:30 p.m., Chiminising Community Center</p> <p>Spring Clean Up District III – Lake Lena and Hinckley 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 10</i></p> <p><i>Asaawe: perch</i></p>	<p>27 Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 p.m., All Nations Church</p> <p>DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m., East Lake Community Center</p> <p>Language Tables <i>See page 14</i></p> <p>Spring Clean Up District III – Lake Lena and Hinckley 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 10</i></p> <p>DII-A Sobriety Feast Chiminising CC</p>	<p>28 Spring Clean Up District III – Lake Lena and Hinckley 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 10</i></p> <p><i>Namebin: sucker</i></p>	<p>29 Spring Clean Up District II – East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake, and Isle 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 10</i></p> <p><i>Ginoozhe: northern</i></p>
<p>30 Spring Clean Up (through 5/5) District II – East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake, and Isle 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 10</i></p>			<p>Upcoming Event Opioid and Heroin Community Forum ADDICTION affects our families, friends and community – but HELP and HOPE is available. Learn more and join the discussion. Tuesday, May 16th Grand Casino in Hinckley. 5:00 Dinner (FREE!) 6:00-7:30 Presentation 7:30-8:00 Q&A. FREE Childcare Provided</p>			



Minisinaakwaang kids weren't the only ones working at the sugarbush last month (see cover and page 9). Nay Ah Shing students were also tapping trees and boiling sap near the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I (with help from DNR employees like Chad Weiss).



Congratulations!

On March 21, Band member Baabiitaw (Melissa Boyd) was one of 24 residents of Minnesota and the Dakotas to be awarded a Bush Fellowship. For more on the story, see page 2.

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

The *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* is looking for Elder stories for upcoming issues. Send your name, contact information and a brief description of the Elder you would like to feature. Email toya@redcircleagency.com, brett@redcircleagency.com or myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call Myles at 612-465-0653 or Brett at 320-237-6851.

Need Help?

- If you or someone you know is injured or in danger, call **911** first.
- **Tribal Police Department dispatch:** 888-609-5006; 320-532-3430
- **Emergency Management Services:** 24-hour fire, disaster and emergency management response: Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator: 320-362-0435
- **Community Support Services:** For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, emergency loans, sexual assault or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.
- **Domestic violence:** (c) 320-630-2499
- **Women's Shelter:** 866-867-4006
- **Heating, water or other home-related maintenance problems:** If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call for housing maintenance service in your district. During regular business hours, please call our Customer Service Representative at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained

by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please contact: After Hours Emergency Service: 866-822-8538. (Press 1, 2 or 3 for respective districts.)

- **Mille Lacs Band Family Services:** Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444, Toll-free: 800-709-6445, ext. 7588.
- **Family Violence Prevention:** District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-7400; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 1-866-867-4006.
- **Batterers' Intervention:** 320-532-8909
- **Behavioral Health:** 800-709-6445, ext. 7776

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.

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.

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 Inaajimowin 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.

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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