

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

AUGUST 2017 | VOLUME 19 | NUMBER 08



GI-ISHKONIGEWAG

“WHAT THEY LEFT FOR US”

DISTRICT II CELEBRATES WITH ANNUAL POWWOW

CHIPPEWA TRIBE
SCHEDULES
CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION

NEW DNR
COMMISSIONER
EMPHASIZES
CULTURE

CORPORATE
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AT SWEARING-IN

BAND MEMBER
PARTICIPATES
IN INDIGENOUS
GAMES

Meetings Prepare Band Members for Constitutional Convention

Hundreds of Band members attended informational meetings in July to learn about the Constitutional Convention scheduled by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Tribal Executive Committee.

At a special meeting on June 29 at Northern Lights Casino in Walker, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) scheduled three constitutional convention meetings to be held around the state in August, September and October (see page 3).

After that meeting, Band members requested more information on the issues in preparation for the conventions.

The informational meetings were led by Syngen Kanasatega, legal counsel for the Chief Executive's office, with help from consultant Tadd Johnson, and were held at Aazhoomog Community Center July 17, District I Community Center July 18 and All Nations Church in the urban area July 20. A meeting scheduled for East Lake Community Center July 19 was postponed due to scheduling conflicts.

At the Aazhoomog meeting, Syngen explained the reason for the sessions: "We wanted to put together a presentation

to answer questions about where the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) came from, the relationship between the Mille Lacs Band and the MCT, the proposed constitutional convention, and to answer questions about what Band members need to know and what they can do."

Syngen's presentation began with the history of the MCT, which was formed as part of the Indian Reorganization Act in 1934, and the Constitution, which was approved in 1936 by a vote of tribal members. However, as Syngen explained, many people didn't vote, and their votes were counted as 'yes' votes by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The MCT is governed by a Tribal Executive Committee composed of the Chair or Chief Executive and the Secretary-Treasurer of each of the six MCT Bands: Mille Lacs, White Earth, Leech Lake, Bois Forte, Fond Du Lac and Grand Portage. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu represent Mille Lacs.

As self-governance expanded over the last several decades, MCT member bands have dealt more directly with the federal government, reducing the MCT's role in distributing federal funds and running programs.

Urban Area

About 20 people attended the July 20 meeting at All Nations Church in Minneapolis.

Syngen was not available that evening, so the presentation was given by Tadd Johnson, who is Director of the Master of Tribal Administration and Governance (MTAG) program at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Tadd informed the group that Syngen had created the presentation.

"The Mille Lacs Band has written its own statutes — which are two books thick," said Tadd. "In a lot of things Mille Lacs was way ahead of its time. Mille Lacs was the first tribe to negotiate self-governance. Self-governance changed everything for the Mille Lacs Band."

One Band member in attendance wondered aloud, "Where does the Band go from here?"

Tadd replied, "The future of the Band is in your hands right now. It depends on if you get involved.

The constitutional conventions will impact your future."

Band members were also urged to participate in the meetings that are being held on Aug. 21 and 22. The first meetings are critical because they will help impact what could happen, so it's important that Band members attend to have a strong voice in the process.

Another Band member wondered what leaders wanted and if the elected officials would take the time to share their position on the matters that are on the table.

Others added that a statement from elected officials would be beneficial for all Band members so they know the points of view of those representing them at the meetings.



New Commissioners Sworn In

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's cabinet is nearly full after the Band Assembly ratified several new commissioners in late June and early July.

On June 30, Joe Nayquonabe Jr. was sworn in for a second term as Commissioner of Corporate Affairs and Bradley Harrington was sworn in as Commissioner of Natural Resources. Bradley had been serving in an interim capacity since late May.

On July 27, after this issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* went to press, three new commissioners took the oath of office: Commissioner of Administration Shelly Diaz, Commissioner of Health and Human Services Rebecca St. Germaine and Commissioner of Education Rick St. Germaine.

See page 9 for an article on Bradley's vision for the DNR and page 10 for Joe's remarks at the swearing-in ceremony.

See next month's *Inaajimowin* for interviews with Shelly, Rick and Rebecca.

New District II Associate Justice is Excited by New Role

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Band member Ramona Applegate is taking on a new role as the District II Associate Justice for the Court of Appeals. Ramona was sworn in by Chief Justice Rayna Churchill on June 26.

The appointment is for the remainder of a six-year term, which ends in August 2022.

"I felt very honored that Chief Melanie nominated me for the position," said Ramona, who is 74. "I am as happy as I could be... I'm thrilled."

Throughout her lifetime Ramona has worked in a variety of roles. She spent 18 years working at a company called Control Data where she did assembly work and tested circuit boards. She has also worked at the casinos in Hinckley and Mille Lacs doing a variety of jobs.

In her new role she will work part-time. Ramona will hear cases and will offer insights "based on my experience and my upbringing," she said. She plans to learn the rules and regulations that govern her work so that she will be able to make

decisions with the help of others.

Gilda Burr, a Court Administrator for the Band Tribal Court, said the District Associate Justice mainly hears cases appealed from the lower court (District Court) to the Court of Appeals.

The justices also hear unlawful detainee cases from their respective districts to remove individuals from the Band's Housing Authority.

"The Justices meet several times a year or as needed to review case precedence, discuss improvement of the Judiciary and administer oaths to individuals as required by Band Statutes," Gilda added.



Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Will Hold Constitutional Convention

First meetings to be held at Mille Lacs August 21-22

Brett Larson Staff Writer

At a special meeting on June 29 at Northern Lights Casino in Walker, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) scheduled three constitutional convention meetings to be held around the state in August, September and October.

The meetings will be held Aug. 21 and 22 at Mille Lacs, September 25 and 26 at White Earth and October 23 and 24 at Bois Forte.

The constitutional convention was called to address several issues and questions raised by TEC members and other MCT members who have spoken up in recent months.

The current Constitution was adopted by members of the six MCT Bands as part of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, and several TEC members and other Band members stressed that it is out of date and was created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs — not by tribal members.

Leech Lake Chairman Faron Jackson said, “It seems bizarre that we have to operate under a constitution that was designed by the federal government.”

Secretary-Treasurer Ferdinand Martineau of Fond Du Lac said, “The Constitution was made to get rid of Indian people. It was made to dissolve us, our sovereignty, our history and everything that goes along with it. I’ve never agreed with the enrollment requirement. One-quarter blood is going to destroy the Indian people.”

Questions also arose about the power of the Tribal Executive Committee to interpret the Constitution. Much of the discussion at the June 29 meeting centered around Interpretation 1-80, passed in 1980, which set the stage for creation of tribal courts.

Secretary-Treasurer Tara Mason of White Earth said she believes Interpretation 1-80 is unconstitutional and that the TEC overreached its authority.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin thanked the Band members in attendance and pointed out that the TEC’s decision to call a Constitutional Convention was made without formally consulting the 41,000-plus members of the MCT. “There is a huge population that are not up to date on these issues,” Melanie said. “They’re working during the day, so they don’t come to these meetings. How do we include those members as well?”

She said the TEC operates as representatives of the MCT membership. “When we’re sitting here it’s not just our opinion. It is

about what the people have requested or demanded.”

Kevin Dupuis, who is President of the MCT and Chair of the Fond Du Lac Band, agreed that Band members should be the decision makers, but he said they were not consulted about the secretarial election planned for 2018.

He said if the TEC has the authority to interpret the Constitution, then there’s no need for the secretarial election, and that the TEC picks and chooses arbitrarily — which is why a Constitutional Convention is needed. “I’ve waited for this day for 21 years: To actually sit down in a room and talk about the Constitution and the interpretations that exist,” he said. “We have the opportunity to do it right now. If you don’t like this document, then why don’t you change it?”

Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu said she agreed with Kevin that the election is unnecessary and asked for the opinion of Phil Brodeen, the new legal counsel for the MCT.

He said there are two competing modes of thought. A strict interpretation of the Constitution says the TEC’s interpretations are void, but that view limits the inherent sovereign authority of the individual Bands.

He recommended going forward with the constitutional convention process in order to clarify the issues. He said a lot has changed since the Constitution was written and the Bands have come a long way. “We have to think about how to move forward from this document to something that works better.”

Band member Christine Costello addressed the TEC about the importance of educating MCT members about the issues, which she said are “confusing as hell.”

“If the Constitution is outdated, maybe the MCT is as well,” she said, calling for a “real dialogue” on the issues. “If we don’t educate our young people, we won’t be sitting here talking about what’s right and what’s wrong because there won’t be anything left.”

The secretarial election, which was scheduled to be held in conjunction with the general election in June 2018, was canceled at the July 10 TEC meeting (see sidebar). The first resolution involved language on whether or not to change enrollment requirements to include Canadian First Nations blood. The other resolution asked if MCT members want other Ojibwe blood from federally recognized tribes in the United States to be included in blood quantum.

Another issue that arose is a moratorium on enrollment transfers passed by Mille Lacs and Fond Du Lac Bands. Archie LaRose of Leech Lake said there’s no point holding an election on enrollments if two Bands don’t allow transfers. “I have a big, big problem with having that secretarial election. We have to lift the moratoriums from Mille Lacs and Fond Du Lac. If we’re prejudiced against ourselves, it makes no sense to have a secretarial election. Hopefully those two reservations change that moratorium. We don’t have that authority under the MCT Constitution anyway.”

Over 50 Mille Lacs Band members attended the meeting. A discussion followed with Executive Branch Legal Counsel Syngen Kanassataga,

TEC Cancels Secretarial Election; Band Member Seeks Censure

At its regular quarterly meeting on July 10, the TEC passed a motion to rescind holding the Secretarial Election in 2018. They gave two reasons. First, the TEC and those in attendance thought it wouldn’t make sense to make changes to the Constitution via a Secretarial Election when the tribal members may subsequently decide to change enrollment again during the Constitutional Convention process. Second, some TEC members felt that there simply wasn’t enough time to properly inform the tribal members of the enrollment issues before the Secretarial Election.

Towards the end of the meeting, a Band member requested that the TEC pass a motion to censure Chief Executive Benjamin because of a 2009 criminal proceeding against Benjamin in the Band’s Court of Central Jurisdiction. The Band member argued that the Band and MCT improperly certified Benjamin to seek election in 2012 and 2016 because of the stayed criminal proceeding. MCT legal counsel Phil Brodeen advised the TEC and the Band member that the TEC could not take action against Benjamin because she was never convicted in any court. Instead, he advised that the issue is a certification issue that cannot be addressed until the 2020 election cycle. Secretary-Treasurer Archie LaRose of Leech Lake argued that this is a matter that must be addressed internally at the Band level. Secretary-Treasurer Beaulieu then stated that she would take the issue back to the Band’s leadership.

The Band member also argued that Benjamin’s offer to enter an “Alford” plea in the state criminal proceeding amounts to a conviction. The county district court did not accept Benjamin’s Alford plea, and instead instructed Benjamin to remain law-abiding for a period of two years before dismissing all charges, with an option to dismiss all charges after one year of remaining law-abiding. Benjamin ultimately followed the district court’s instructions, and the district court dismissed all charges against her in 2013.

where it was decided to hold meetings in all three districts and the Urban Area to inform Band members about issues related to the Constitutional Convention.

The TEC met again on July 10 for its regular quarterly meeting.



Left: Syngen Kanassataga spoke with Band members after the June 29 meeting. Right: MCT attorney Phil Brodeen, seated beside MCT Executive Director Gary Frazer, offered his legal opinions to the Tribal Executive Committee.



Community Picnic
District I Band members enjoyed good food, fun and friendship at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds on July 19.

National News Briefs

Recent Grad From Pine Ridge Reservation Accepted to Seven Ivy League Colleges: Nineteen-year-old Jacob Rosales beat the odds in South Dakota where less than 50 percent of Native Americans graduate high school. He attended a high school over an hour away from his home and lived on his own in a trailer that his family rented near a bus route during the school week. With hopes of pursuing a career in Marine Biology, Rosales has the choice of attending Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, or Dartmouth.

Pascua Yaqui Tribe is the First to Prosecute Non-Indian Using VAWA: The Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court recently became the first to prosecute a non-Indian of domestic abuse on tribal lands when it prosecuted Frank Jaimez. The prosecution was made possible due to a provision of the Violence Against Women Act which allows tribal courts to prosecute domestic violence cases as criminal cases. Jaimez was already on probation for strangling his wife.

Supreme Court Ruling Says Disparaging Trademark Names are Protected: A recent 8-0 ruling by the Supreme Court has declared that it is an unconstitutional violation of free speech for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to deny a trademark to an applicant on the grounds of the trademarked term being offensive. The case, which was brought by an Asian-American band called "The Slants," has ramifications in the battle to remove the Washington NFL team's offensive use of the R-word as a team name.

Bill Advanced to Make Native Tribes Eligible for Amber Alert Grants: U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs approved a bill that would make Native tribes eligible for Amber Alert grants and trainings to establish and operate their own Amber Alert systems. The bill now advances to the entire senate for a vote. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), the sponsor of the bill, said that FBI data currently shows 7,724 Native American children listed as missing in the U.S.

Los Angeles Moves Forward with Replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day: The fight for the replacement of Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day may soon be voted on by the Los Angeles City Council after a subcommittee recently approved the change. The proposal is met with opposition from Italian-American groups claiming they turn to Columbus Day to recognize their heritage. Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, a member of the Wyandotte Nation, says the change would be a "restorative justice" to Native Americans by providing a public acknowledgment that Columbus' arrival in the 15th century set in motion the harsh history of the indigenous people.

National Congress of American Indians Opens Mid-Year Conference: Hosted by the Mohegan Tribe in Uncasville, Conn., the theme of this year's National Congress of American Indians mid-year conference was Sovereign Infrastructure: Building our Communities through our Values. The conference touched on sovereignty, economic development, healthcare, education and other key priorities. Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said "As Secretary, I am committed to giving more latitude and decision-making power to the front lines, which includes our tribal communities."

New Bill Introduced to Give Tribal Leaders Equal Access to Social Security: U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-SD) and U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) have introduced the Tribal Social Security Act – a bill that would allow tribal governments to contribute to and access Social Security benefits. Thune said passing this bill should be a "no-brainer" and he is hopeful the bill will be considered in the Senate as soon as possible. The legislation is supported by the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, the National Congress of American Indians, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and the Quinalt Indian Nation.

Band and Pine County Continue Collaboration on Important Issues

Jim Koppel, the Minnesota Department of Human Services Assistant Commissioner for Children and Family Services, came to Pine County July 12 to meet with the Mille Lacs Band-Pine County Leadership Team, state Sen. Tony Lourey, and Rick Olseen, Regional Representative for Congressman Rick Nolan.

Assistant Commissioner Koppel discussed 2017 Indian Child Welfare Act legislation and child protection challenges.

Also in attendance were professionals from Pine County Health and Human Services, education and law enforcement.

The group discussed 2018 legislation and collaborative

work among the county, tribe and Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Representing the Band were Jamie Edwards and Katie Draper of the Government Affairs Department, Briana Michels of Grand Casino Hinckley and Monica Haglund of the Health and Human Services Department.

Pine County and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe members also participated in one of their regular meetings to discuss ongoing and future collaborations.



Back row, from left: Rick Olseen, Regional Representative for Congressman Rick Nolan; David Minke, Pine County Administrator; Jamie Edwards, Government Affairs, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Children and Family Services Assistant Commissioner Jim Koppel; state Sen. Tony Lourey; County Relations Director Wendy Underwood, Minnesota Department of Human Services; Pine County Commissioner Steve Hallan; Pine County Commissioner Steve Chaffe; Becky Foss, Pine County Health and Human Services Director.

Front row, from left: Ben Baglio, Association of Minnesota Counties; Risk and Safety Director Briana Michels, Grand Casino Hinckley; Monica Haglund, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Alcohol and Drug Abuse division; Katie Draper, Government Affairs, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Rochelle Westlund, Association of Minnesota Counties; Kathy Filbert, Department of Public Health.

State of Minnesota Working Family Tax Credit 2017 Update

Recently, the State of Minnesota updated its individual income tax rules which now allows eligible Band members who live and work on the reservation to take an additional refundable working family tax credit starting in 2017. Under prior law, those members whose wages were exempt from state tax were not eligible for the Minnesota Working Family Credit.

The Minnesota Working Family Credit is a refundable credit for working individuals whose income is below a certain level. It is similar to the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Both credits are refundable, which means you can receive a refund even if you

don't owe tax.

Under the new rules, Band members are eligible even though their wages are exempt from state taxation. In order to claim the credit, Band members must qualify for the federal income tax credit.

You must file a Minnesota income tax return in order to claim this credit. This change is effective for tax year 2017. The tax returns are due on April 17, 2018.

Band members are highly encouraged to talk to their tax preparer or advisors before filing their returns to ensure they are getting the full benefit of this recent change.



Hometown Hero

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk was honored as "hometown hero" at this year's Isle Days celebration for decades of service as Boy Scout leader, volunteer, consummate professional, and all-around good guy. Friends and colleagues joined him in the July 8 Isle Days Parade.

Treuer Addresses Cultural Continuity, Cultural Change

Brett Larson Staff Writer



Dr. Anton Treuer came to Mille Lacs June 28 for a thought-provoking presentation on culture, language and traditional tobacco.

The event was sponsored by the Tribal Tobacco Prevention Grant through the Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department.

Anton, a Leech Lake Band member and professor at Bemidji State University, shared stories from his childhood on the Leech Lake Reservation near Bena. His father was a Jewish, Austrian Holocaust survivor and his mother the first female Native American attorney in Minnesota.

He also talked about what he learned from Elders like Archie Mosay, Tom Stillday and Jim Clark as he pursued an education in Ojibwe language and culture.

Anton said he once asked Jim Clark why the Mille Lacs Band was able to retain its traditions, even though it was a small, poor tribe close to the Twin Cities. Jim gave credit to tobacco.

"The Mille Lacs Band had a really tenacious belief in cultural practice," Anton said.

"When we make a request, harvest a plant, or take life of animal, we need to pay it forward. We can't just be takers. Tobacco is our tool for paying it forward. That's how we are supposed to live: not like we are the masters of the web of life, but like we are part of the web of life. And that's why we use tobacco."

One theme of his talk was the balance between cultural continuity and cultural change, and the lack of a "rule book" for Anishinaabe culture. He said it's difficult to talk about a "right" or "wrong" way to use tobacco or conduct a drum ceremony.

That "spiritual empowerment" can be liberating and beautiful, but it also causes confusion, he said. "The Ojibwe people, we're really libertarian. We place a high value on being free and not having a rule book, so much so that if someone became too bossy, someone else was moving down the river and saying 'They're not my chief.' We're tolerant within the community but not tolerant about being told what to do."

The importance of politeness can make it difficult to ask others not to smoke, he said, but he recommended that "pleasure smoking" be done outside of ceremonial buildings.

He also advocated for the use of traditional tobacco made from

red willow or red dogwood.

"Our tobacco use has been colonized and commercialized," he said. "We have to get it from the white man, and it has hundreds of addictive, cancer-causing chemicals. Our indigenous tobacco has no tar, no nicotine, no addictive properties, no toxins, it grows everywhere, and it's easy to access."

He said it has more significance when you offer tobacco to the plant before harvesting it, and it has more meaning when you put work into it. "As a matter of spiritual power, we have to do a little decolonizing," he said. "We've been trained to do things the cheapest, fastest, most convenient way. What would happen if we turned our thinking around?"

"Tobacco is our tool for paying it forward. That's how we are supposed to live: not like we are the masters of the web of life, but like we are part of the web of life."

— Anton Treuer

Anton introduced himself in Ojibwe and stressed the importance of language preservation, but said it's important to note that no one is trying to "out-Indian" anyone by using the language. "We have to make space to use it, or it won't be used. We have to make space for kids to hear it, or they won't hear it."

He cited the example of Hawaii, where language use had dwindled until there were only 1,000 native speakers, but now there are 22,000 speakers, 3,000 of whom learned Hawaiian in the home as their first language.

Preservation of language and culture can create a healthy environment, which can help fight addiction and other negative behaviors.

Anton emphasized how remarkable it is that Anishinaabe culture and language have survived genocide, boarding schools and government policies of termination. "It's pretty impressive that we're still speaking Ojibwe and doing these ceremonies," he said. "What we don't talk about enough is that we are more than the sum of our tragedies. It's not just the bad things that got passed forward; it was the good things that got passed forward too."

Road Project Raises Concerns over Artifacts, Remains

The DNR's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) is concerned about a road project just west of Mille Lacs in Crow Wing and Aitkin Counties.

Terry Kemper, the Band's Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, said the Band heard about the project from the Army Corps of Engineers, who were brought in due to the waterways crossed by the road.

The counties want to move 215th St. eight feet, which will likely result in disturbance of artifacts and/or remains, according to Terry. A map of the area created by archaeologist Jacob Brower in 1900 shows the area dotted with 11 mounds. Trails joined Round Lake to Mille Lacs and Borden Lake.

It's possible that those mounds were already disturbed when the road was originally built. From the Tribal perspective, Terry said, it would be better to leave the road where it is and build on top of it rather than disturb what lies beneath the existing road.

When Hwy. 169 was built, many of those mounds were disturbed, bulldozed and used for fill. "Highway 169 is full of our bones," said Terry. "All the way from the junction of 27 up past Garrison."

"These are sensitive areas. Even if they've been bulldozed over, they're still historical to us."

The Mille Lacs Band is being proactive on the issue in hopes of avoiding what happened in Duluth in May and June, when a

tribal graveyard was disturbed during reconstruction of Hwy. 23. The Fond du Lac Band was aware of the presence of the graveyard there, but the Band was not consulted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation before construction commenced. A historian who knew of the graveyard noticed the construction while driving past the site and informed the Band. Construction was halted May 26. The remains were found June 6.

MnDOT has since apologized, but the damage cannot be undone. Fond du Lac Chairman Kevin Leecy was quoted in the Duluth New Tribune: "Do I believe our ancestors are spread all over the road somewhere? Probably," he said solemnly. "But we can't change that now. What we can change is that this doesn't happen again. . . . If I were to drive a backhoe through your cemetery, I would be arrested, I would be in jail. That's the bottom line."

Minnesota Statute 307.08 protects all human skeletal remains and known burial sites, even on private land. It's a felony to intentionally disturb those sites. When remains are discovered, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and State Archaeologist are brought in to determine the course of action.

When a federal project might impact a state or tribal historic site, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is triggered, which means the State and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Office needs to be notified and brought in to consult.

State and Local News Briefs

Walleye Fishing Closes on Mille Lacs and Sparks Protests: The DNR announced that walleye fishing will be temporarily closed July 7–27 to prevent hooking mortality as the water warms. While promoting fishing for bass and other species on a fishing trip on July 8, Governor Dayton's fishing boat was surrounded by approximately 25 boats carrying protesters. After remaining on the lake for 90 minutes, Dayton canceled his meetings with several Lake Mille Lacs business owners and said "he didn't want to reinforce that kind of destructive behavior." Dayton said the state will conduct a new survey of the walleye population and, based on the results, will possibly ease some of the fishing restrictions.

Bassmaster Names Lake Mille Lacs Best Bass Fishing Lake in the Country: Rising from 6th place on last year's list of best bass fishing lakes, Lake Mille Lacs was ranked number one in the nation this year by Bassmaster Magazine. The small-mouth bass production in the Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship last September was a big reason why. The tournament will return to Lake Mille Lacs this September. The DNR is trying to promote bass fishing while they study the decline in the walleye population.

Mammoth Muskie Found Dead on Lake Mille Lacs Almost Breaks State Record: Gary Gilbert found a would-be state record 59 ½ inch Muskie floating belly up while recently fishing for walleye on Mille Lacs. The Muskie was at least 2 inches longer than the current state record. DNR Fisheries Biologist Steve Mero says the fish could be between 18 and 25 years old and is the biggest he's ever seen. "People may not realize that not every Muskie can grow to this size," Mero said.

Enbridge Line 3 Public Comment Sessions Come to a Close: After 22 meetings taking place across Minnesota to discuss the replacement of Enbridge Line 3, skeptics are wondering if this could turn into another Standing Rock. According to the Star Tribune, State Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein (DFL-New Brighton), who is of Standing Rock Lakota descent, said "If a new line is really [built], shouldn't those tribal councils decide where it goes, not a foreign corporation? This pipeline threatens our sacred land in Minnesota lake country." More public hearings are scheduled this fall in front of an administrative law judge.

Native American Input is Asked for Grand Mound Reopening: Native Americans from around the region are being asked their opinion about reopening the Grand Mound historic site west of International Falls. It was closed after 30 years in 2007 due to a lack of visitors and concerns about treating the burial site as a tourist attraction. The process to reopen the burial site has been ongoing for two years and the director of American Indian Initiatives at the Minnesota Historical Society hopes a decision can be made by spring of 2018.

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 September issue deadline is August 15.

Protecting Wisdom Keepers — Elder Abuse in Tribal Communities

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Bonnie Clairmont, a citizen of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and Victim Advocacy Program Specialist with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, gave presentations in all three districts in June on the topic of Elder Abuse.

At the District III presentation at the Lodge in Hinckley on June 20, Bonnie was introduced by Elder Abuse Advocate Dave Stumpf and Kevin Brennenstuhl of the National Criminal Justice Training Center in Appleton, Wisc.

Bonnie shared her story about being raised by her grandmother in St. Paul and working for decades as a victim advocate. She talked about how pre-colonization values prevented Elder abuse in Indian communities, but with the disruption of Native cultures it has become a widespread problem.

"It should be all of our business to look after all of our elders," said Bonnie. "There's so much of that denial, sweeping it under the rug, as with domestic violence or sexual abuse. People don't want to deal with it."

Elder abuse can take many forms: financial abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation and neglect. Of these, Bonnie said neglect, financial abuse and exploitation are the most common.

One prevalent form of abuse is unreasonable imposition on an Elder's time, such as leaving children in the Elder's care for an extended period. Neglect can include denial of food and medicine, companionship or bathroom assistance.

Those at highest risk include Elders who have recently become dependent, those with memory loss or dementia, and those living with caregivers who are overburdened, chemically dependent, or psychologically disturbed. Women are also at higher risk than men, Bonnie said.

Often the perpetrator is a family member or other caregiver.

Signs of abuse include unusual or unexplained injuries, unkempt appearance, pressure or bedsores, confinement against their will, dehydration, fear, anxiety, depression, helplessness, hesitation to talk openly, and sudden change in finances.

One study estimated that there are over a half million abused Elders in the country, and that three-fourths of abuse cases go unreported.

The reluctance to report abuse is one of many barriers that make it hard to address the problem. Others include shame and embarrassment, the fear of implicating a family member, taboos against discussing sexual abuse, fear of social services or other authorities, fear of confrontation, and the inability or unwillingness to recognize abuse.

Bonnie led the group through several scenarios, asking if each one should be reported. Her main point was that it's best to report when you suspect something in order to let the professionals conduct an investigation.

"We want to become investigators, to make sure it's happening before we report," she said. "But that's dangerous" — not just for the potential victim, but also for the would-be "investigator."

Bonnie concluded her presentation by calling on tribes to make Elder abuse a priority by allocating resources to build programs and facilities to care for Elders in a traditional cultural setting.

"It should be all of our business to look after all of our Elders," said Bonnie. "There's so much of that denial, sweeping it under the rug, as with domestic violence or sexual abuse. People don't want to deal with it."

She talked about the importance of honoring Elders by involving them in education programs, language preservation and other meaningful activities, and she asked those in attendance to advocate for culturally appropriate services.

Bonnie's presentations were made possible in part by the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College, which works with tribes to strengthen tribal justice systems and promote collaboration.



Bonnie Clairmont spoke to groups of Band members in all three districts in June in recognition of Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

Getting Help

If you have witnessed or suspect abuse of an Elder or a vulnerable adult, contact law enforcement immediately.

The Mille Lacs Band Family Violence Prevention Program has a crisis line and shelter along with community advocates and family services. Abuse 24/7 Crisis Line: 1-866-867-4006. During work hours or for non-emergency calls, you can contact Elder Abuse Program staff at 320-532-4780.

Other resources

Eldercare Rights Alliance: eldercarerights.org, 1-800-893-4055

Minnesota Board on Aging: mnaging.org

National Center for Elder Abuse: elderabusecenter.org

National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: ncepa.org



Gearing Up

Kids got some fishing pointers from DNR and Tribal Police officers July 20 in preparation for a youth fishing tournament held at Eddy's on July 28. (See next month's *Inaajimowin* for coverage.)

Dentists Bring Experience, Empathy to Ne-la-Shing Clinic

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Clinics in all three districts have had regular dental service since the arrival of doctors Ravi and Preeti Gupta last February.

The India natives moved to the U.S. in 2011 to seek the best possible education for their two sons, and after living in the Twin Cities area for three years, they were ready for a change.

"We wanted to get away from the Cities," said Ravi. "It seems too crowded as you get older, and we had heard that the Mille Lacs Band clinics were well managed, and they were in need."

Both Ravi and Preeti practiced dentistry in India. Ravi was trained in general dentistry as well as orthodontics in Mumbai and Chennai — two of the country's biggest cities.

Preeti was from a smaller town, but studied in Mumbai, and is accustomed to a rural environment. She says small-town dentistry is much different in the U.S. than in India, where small towns often don't have access to the same facilities for care.

Upon arriving in the U.S., Ravi chose the path to direct licensure as a General Dentist, whereas Preeti decided to attend the U of M's dental school and graduated last year, "with distinction, don't forget," Ravi added "in a class of 109."

Ravi and Preeti rave about the facilities at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. "The building is older, which might convey the impression that we have older equipment," said Ravi, "but this is not like a community clinic. We are equipped like a private clinic, with all the most up-to-date technology such as a CBCT (3D X rays), Dental Operating Microscope, and Lasers."

Because the clinic is so well equipped and because both doctors have such broad skills, they are able to complete most care in house, making it convenient for Band members.

Both doctors are accustomed to working with diverse populations. India has many different ethnic and linguistic groups, and they also worked with immigrant populations in the Twin Cities who had little experience with dentistry. "The most important thing is empathy," said Preeti. "I think we can relate to people."

They also work hard to make a visit to the dentist as comfortable as possible. "Going to the dentist is not the moment anyone is waiting for," said Ravi. "But we both have experience working with patients with anxiety, as well as children and those with special needs."

The doctors caution that lack of fluoride in the water can be a concern in Mille Lacs Band communities, so Band members should come in for preventive treatments. The Guptas have also seen the effects of inconsistent staffing at the clinics, which has resulted in some Band members missing checkups and cleanings.

"We encourage people to put aside their fears and give it a try," said Ravi. "You can't undo time, but when something needs to be fixed, it needs to be fixed. We are not judgmental. We are here to serve."

"We are very happy to be here," said Preeti. "It's a good fit. We've been to many places in India and here in the U.S., but this place is special."



Drs. Ravi and Preeti Gupta practiced dentistry in India before moving to the U.S. in 2011.

Business Development Assistance

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Judi Helmin, Business Development Specialist, will be at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center Upper Media Room Monday, August 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No appointment necessary. Are you looking to start your own business, purchase an existing business or expand your current business? We can help. The MCT Business Development Center is able to provide FREE assistance with Business Plan Development, General Business Counseling, Financial Counseling, Business Loan Packaging and Minority Certification Assistance. Contact Judi at 218-335-8582, ext. 118 or jhelmin@mnchippewatribe.org

Stroke Danger Threatens MN Tribes

Mille Lacs Band Public Health

The Minnesota Department of Health is alerting tribal members and tribal medical providers that stroke is an important issue for Minnesota tribal communities.

Comparisons of Minnesota with other states show that for both heart disease and stroke, American Indians in Minnesota die at higher rates than the rest of the country.

The stroke death rates are 23% higher for American Indians than for whites in Minnesota. And American Indians also have persistently higher heart disease mortality rates than whites (39% for men and 34% for women.)

If you think someone is having a stroke, ACT FAST!

- FACE: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- ARM: Ask the person to raise both arms, palms up. Does one arm drift downward?
- SPEECH: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?
- TIME: Call 9-1-1 immediately if you see these symptoms. People often choose to drive their loved ones to a

medical center or urgent care provider for treatment of a possible stroke.

If you think someone had or is having a stroke, experts say it's much better to call 9-1-1.

That way, treatment can get started before the person even leaves home.

Every second counts!

EMT's and Paramedics can give the hospital a heads-up about what is happening and advise them they are bringing in a stroke victim. This gives the hospital time to prepare so they can treat the patient as soon as they arrive.

Stroke experts use the phrase, "time is brain," meaning that the sooner treatment is started, the better. This is crucial for stroke patients.

It is important to determine the last time the person was feeling and behaving normally. It makes a difference as to what type of treatment is best.

Information provided by the Minnesota Department of Health Stroke Program or adapted from the Minnesota Department of Health website at health.state.mn.us.

GRA Supporting the MLCV Special Bonus Program

In mid-July, Commissioner Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, mailed Band members regarding a special bonus program in an effort to recruit new Band members into employment. The Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) wants to help Band members who may be hesitant to apply for casino positions, due to their history. GRA Licensing Offices are always happy to assist Band members with questions regarding backgrounding for casino opportunities.

We encourage Band members who may have faced licensing issues in the past to talk with one of our staff to see if they are now eligible or will be soon. Please don't hesitate to contact one of our Licensing offices to help you with your licensing questions for casino positions. Call Deanna Blesi at 320-384-4470 (Hinckley) or Rebecca Lee at 320-532-8835 (Mille Lacs) for assistance.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post August Events

Woodland Pottery 2-Day Workshop: Aug. 12 & 13, Sat. 12 – 4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Indian Museum. On Saturday, learn how to dig clay, harvest the tempering agents and construct a clay vessel then let the pots dry overnight. On Sunday, finish the surface details and temper the clay vessel in a firing pit. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. A minimum of five participants is required. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required 3 days prior to workshop. \$60/\$55 MNHS members. Reservations required, call 320-532-3632.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum Fun Run: Aug. 20, 9 a.m., MLBO Powwow Grounds, Onamia. Join us at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's 51st Annual Powwow for our annual Fun Run. Registration begins at 9 am. Run or walk a mile across the Powwow grounds to claim your free t-shirt. Please note that this event does not take place at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. Free and open to the public. For more information call 320-532-3632.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post Open House: Aug. 20, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Indian Museum. Explore the Indian Museum and Trading Post during the annual Open House when the historic site offers free admission. Visit the exhibits including the popular Four Seasons Room with life-size dioramas then head next door to shop for Ojibwe arts and crafts at the Trading Post.

Minisinaakwaang Celebrates at Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

Chad Germann & Nicole Terrance Photographers



Commissioner Stresses Natural Resources are Gifts from Manidoo

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Bradley E. Harrington, Nazhike-awaasanang, was reappointed Commissioner of Natural Resources in late June to serve a full four-year term. He had been appointed in May to finish out the previous commissioner's term.

"I looked at the first 30 days as a test run, to see if I could handle it — not just in my work life, but my family and ceremonial life," said Bradley. "It gave me a different perspective, one I wouldn't have had if I started with a four-year term."

During those 30 days he learned how demanding the job is, whether meeting with Band members in East Lake and Lake Lena, or sitting at the table with state officials and other tribes.

"I had to learn how to adapt to different environments fairly quickly. I knew it was coming, but sometimes even though you know the water's cold, that doesn't change the temperature when you jump in."

As Bradley has seen first hand the breadth of the DNR's responsibilities — from fish and game, to air and water, to cultural and historical preservation — he has also been impressed with the talent the department has attracted. Among his top priorities is retaining those employees.

"We have some really strong biologists here," Bradley said. "Some have over 20 years of experience, some over a decade. They're really smart, passionate people. My job is harnessing their knowledge and ideas to continue the DNR's role as a strong scientific partner in the region, and getting the information out about what we're doing. Some of that information often gets overlooked when we focus on fishing and treaty rights. Having access to clean water and air are also treaty rights. If we only focus on fish, we could lose those other things."

Bradley became familiar with the DNR while working as a field technician from 2012 to 2014. Since that time, he has worked in the private sector and as a language apprentice and recovery coach — while volunteering with powwow committees, the Onamia Local Indian Education Parent Committee, and other nonprofits.

He has studied at Fond Du Lac and Central Lakes, graduated from the Blandin Reservation Leadership Program, and facilitated drug abuse conferences at the local and state levels.

He has received certification from Native Nations Institute, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, White Bison/Wellbriety, and other organizations.

Bradley's vision for the DNR has been shaped by his immersion in Ojibwe language and culture during the last six years.

"The cultural component is one of the things I want to bring to the DNR. What would an Anishinaabe natural resources department look like? How can we best mirror ourselves based on how our ancestors viewed the world? I listen to the old guys talk, and when they reference the land, or the air, or the water, they don't reference it as just things. They go as far as to say every rock has a Manidoo in it — deer, fish, plants, trees. The sun is a Manidoo that goes over the world and offers his hand. What the Anishinaabe see as natural resources are all the things the Manidoo have given them, including ceremonies, traditions, and the language. That was something specifically given to us by the Manidoo. To forget that as Ojibwe people would be a very sad thing."

Bradley is grateful to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and the four members of the Band Assembly — Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu and District Representatives Sandi Blake, David 'Niib' Aubid and Harry Davis — for putting their faith in him.

As part of his application, he put together a comprehensive five-year plan for the DNR, touching on everything from renewable energy to real estate purchasing to language reclamation to harvesting. He submitted the plan to Melanie, who sent his nomination to Band Assembly, who in turn interviewed Bradley



Bradley Harrington volunteered to help serve meals at the District I Community Picnic on July 19.

and confirmed him as commissioner.

"That was a tough crowd," he said. "They do their jobs very, very well. I'm glad I was able to experience it first hand, and I'm also humbled that they believe in me to do this job. They've been here a while and they know how tough this job is. For Melanie, Carol, Niib, Harry and Sandi to all believe in me, that gives me confidence. I'm really thankful for them."

He's also thankful to the mentors he's made over the years who helped shape his vision for the DNR: Doug Sam, Lee Staples, Amik and Joe Nayquonabe Sr.

"Those are the people who gave me the idea, added to the idea, and now I'm here. So what goes on now is putting the boots to the ground, not just learning but providing an opportunity for others to take in information and cultivate their own ideas.

"Joe (Nayquonabe) Jr. gave good remarks at our swearing in, about how this is not just a title I'm wearing for me. At the end of the day we're just Band members serving the people the best we can, as fathers, brothers and sons." (See page 10 for Joe's remarks.)

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin — Learn the Ojibwe Language

Wenji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan

Melvin Eagle

This story by the late Melvin Eagle is reprinted from Living Our Language: Ojibwe Tales & Oral Histories: A Bilingual Anthology. Edited by Anton Treuer. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001.

Mii gaye akiwenzii gaa-wiindamawid: "Mii ingoding, mii ezhi-gikendaman igo gegoo, maagizhaa gaye ji-giiwaadiseyan," gii-ikido a'aw akiwenzii. Mii sa gaye, mii sa apane wii-inendamaan i'iw gegoo. Gegoo niwii-izhaanendaan sa go gegoo. Wii-wanichigeyaan ji-wanigiizhweyaan gaye ayaapii, gaawiin igo ingotaayisiin, eta go bangii niizhaan eta, gaawish gegoo. Gegoo gaa-izhid a'aw akiwenzii. "Gego, gego gaye. Gaawiin gaye gidaa-giiwanimosiin gegoo," ikido. Ingii-wiindamaagoz i'iw gaagiigidod i'iw, "Gego agajiken gaye da-gaagiigidoyan." Mii gaa-izhid a'aw akiwenzii. Moozhag go ingii-paa-wiindamaagoog ingiw akiwenziiyag i'iw. "Gego babaamendangen gegoo ji-wanigiizhweyan gaye," gii-ikido.

Gegoo ingoding, ingoding igo gaye gaa-ani-bimiwinagwaa dewe'iganag, ingii-igoog ingiw akiwenziiyag. Gayesh igo geget, gayesh bimiwinagwaa ingiw dewe'iganag, wii-dookaazoyaan ji-bimiwinag wa'aw dewe'igan. "Onjida go noondaagozi ji-bimiwinaad ji-gikendang iniw dewe'iganan." "Da-zhawinendaagoziyan sa go, giyaw da-zhawendaagwad. Miinawaa giniijaanisag, goozhishenyag, gidaanikobijiganag, gegoo akina giijikiwenyag, miinawaa go gidinawe-maaganag sa go akina — mii akina ingiw ge-zhawendaa-

goziijig gagwejiimaadwaa ongow manidoog miziwe eyaajig ganawendangig o'ow aki. Mii sag aye, gaawiin giinawind gidibendanziiimin o'ow aki. Gaawiin sa go gidaa-debendanziiin. Giganawendaamin eta go. Gayesh wiinawaa chi-mookomaanag, 'Hey indibendaan o'ow aki.' 'Hey, gaawiin gidibendanziiinaawaa. Maagizhaa gaye, maagizhaa gaye niisininig da-dibendamowaad. Gaawiish odaa-debendanziiin. Gaa odaa-ikidosiin owidi da-dibendang. Anishaa gidabiitaan mino-aki. Gizhe-manidoo gigii-izhi-igoonaan ji-ganawendamang o'ow, ji-ganawendamang o'ow aki ji-ganawenimangwaa ongow, weweni ji-ganawaabamangwaa ongow awe-siinyag, miinawaa ingiw binisiwag, miinawaa giigoonyag, miinawaa zaaga'igan, mitigoog, akina sa ingiw." Mii gaa-izhid a'aw ani-igooyang ji-ganawendamang.

Why we take care of our Earth

That old man told me this too: "One time as you come to know about things, maybe you will have that kind of fortune too," that old man said. That too, I think about all the time. I want to let my thoughts go to a certain place. If I'm going to make a mistake or misspeak at times, I'm not scared, only a little bit, but not really. That old man told me other things, too. "Dos and don'ts. You shouldn't lie about things," he said. I was told that when he gave a speech, "Don't be bashful to

speak." That's what the old man said. Those old men always used to come around telling me that. "And don't worry about things like making a mistake while speaking," he said.

One time, one time when I was starting to [help] carry these Drums, I was talked to by those old men. That's for sure, it's when I was just starting to [help] carry those Drums, helping out and then carrying that one Drum myself. "He is being heard on purpose so that he'll carry these Drums and know about them." "You will be blessed, your body will be blessed. And your children, your grandchildren, your great-grandchildren, all your friends and all your relatives — they will all be blessed when you ask the every-present Spirits that take care of this earth. And also, we don't own this land. You can never own it. We only take care of it. But those white people, "Hey I own this land." Hey, you guys can't own it. Maybe, maybe the ones who lowered it here shall own it. But he can't own it. He can't say that he will own it. You live on this good earth but for the grace of God. And that Kindly Spirit told us to look after this here, to take care of this earth and look after these creatures, so that we can take good care of these animals, and these birds, and the fish, and the lake, the trees, all of these things." He said that we've been told to be caretakers.

Equine-Assisted Therapy Helps Band Members Heal, Recover

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Most people who own pets will say that their animals sense their emotions or can tell when they aren't feeling well. They may also say that their pets make them happy, can comfort them and bring them a sense of joy.

It's no wonder why animal assisted therapy is becoming more common and accepted as a way to help humans feel better.

Beginning in May, the Band's Behavioral Health Department began offering Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy as another way to assist their clients.

"Initially, we provided services as an adjunct to our Batterer's Intervention Program," said Kate Theisz, who is a licensed Psychologist and Clinical Supervisor for the Band's mental health department. "Currently, we are bringing horses in on Tuesdays and offering group and individual sessions."

In July, about 40 people attended the department's open house to learn more about the Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy Program and how it could benefit those who participate in it.

"I think it went very well," said Kate. "We had community members as well as departments come with lots of questions and curiosity."

"Some went in and interacted with the horses and some observed from outside the corral. We received a lot of positive feedback."

Equine-assisted psychotherapy can be used to address trauma, addiction, anxiety, depression, relationship issues and more. It can be done individually, in a family setting or in group therapy.

The idea of using horses for treatment isn't uncommon, but it's not widely practiced either.

"It's gaining speed in the therapy world, but we are definitely in the forefront," said Kate. "There are several tribes across the country who utilize this type of therapy. And there are places in the Twin Cities who specialize in it, but it's not accessible to everyone."

Currently, the therapy is only available in District I, but if there is an interest in other districts then the department will begin to provide it. However, they are limited in the number of certified staff who can offer it, and this is just one small part of the department's mental health programming responsibilities.

The department would like to offer the therapy as long as the community is receptive to it and finds it beneficial to the

Mille Lacs Band. So far, the interest is great, and while it's only offered one day a week they are considering expanding to add an additional day.

The therapy happens outside, and in the colder months it will likely be limited due to the extreme temperatures that come with winter, Kate said.

Though it is a successful therapy method, some may not be convinced of its value or may not find it beneficial.

"I think, like many things, you have to believe in the therapy you are providing," said Kate. "If someone doesn't believe this is beneficial they likely won't refer people to us."

The method that is being used by the Behavioral Health Department is called the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) model. It is the global standard for Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. The program currently has three providers who are certified in EAGALA: Kate Theisz, Desiree Montonye and Shaylor Alley.

The four components of EAGALA are:

- Team approach which includes a mental health professional (primary responsibility is for the people), an equine specialist (primary responsibility is for the horses), and the horse(s).
- Focus on the ground which means people don't mount the horses. This has been shown to be more effective with clients and is safer.
- Solution-oriented which means clients have their own best solutions if just given the opportunity to discover them.
- Code of Ethics is followed and means that all members of the team are expected to maintain professionalism and work toward the overall health and wellness of the client.

Working with horses, or other animals, offers a lot of positives that can't often be quantified, but does prove to be therapeutic, say experts in the field. This kind of therapy is an "experiential process" and is different than sitting in an office, Kate said.

Horses are calming and intuitive, and help people recognize things in themselves, relationships and surroundings that they may not have recognized before. It can be an opportunity to connect with a horse and develop a healthy relationship, which some people have not experienced previously.

"In order to interact with horses, we have to trust them, and they have to trust us," said Kate. "That doesn't just happen



Top: Shaylor Alley, Connie Aase and Kate Theisz work in the Equine-Assisted Therapy program along with Desiree Montonye (not pictured).

Bottom: Chandell Boyd attended the open house at the red brick building in District I on July 7.

immediately — it is something that develops."

"Sometimes people can talk to the horses when they can't talk to people," she continued. "Some clients share things with horses that they have never talked to anyone about."

Finally, horses are prey animals and because they always have to be on alert, they are very in tune with people's behavior. Because of this, it helps make people aware of how they are approaching the horses, which is also often how they are approaching people. Clients often state that they feel like horses are mirroring what they feel, Kate said.

Those who are interested in exploring this type of psychotherapy can contact Kate or anyone on the Behavioral Health team to schedule an appointment for a diagnostic assessment. As part of the diagnostic assessment they will create a treatment plan to understand what the client wants to accomplish in their work with horses. If an assessment has been done by an outside agency within the past year, then it can be used with the Band's behavioral health department, Kate said.

What Defines Me as a Mille Lacs Band Member

Joe Nayquonabe Guest Writer



Corporate Commissioner Joe Nayquonabe made the following comments after he was sworn in for a second four-year term at the District I government center.

First of all, I wanted to start out by saying Miigwech to Melanie for trusting me with this responsibility, always believing in me, always having my back and always pushing me to do things well and be a part of helping the Band grow and move forward. It's

an honor for me to serve the Band these last four years and be given this opportunity.

Four years flies by really fast. When I think back to the mandates of the first term — create jobs — create more non-gaming jobs for the community, five years ago — we started with 50 non-gaming jobs available for Band members and now we're getting close to 250 jobs for Band members in a short amount of time.

The mandate from Melanie and the Assembly was also to create new revenue streams. We've been able to go from losing hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to our non-gaming portfolio that is not only worth several millions of dollars but it

also produces several millions of dollars for the Band each year. I didn't do that alone. I did it with a great team — let's give them a round of applause for all the work that they've done.

I wanted to thank the Band Assembly for confirming me. I did want to address the timing of this a little bit. The last six months have been a really humbling experience for me as a Band member and as a public servant for the tribe. When you get in these Commissioner roles — doesn't matter if you've been in it for a month like Brad (Harrington) has, or 16 years like Sam (Moose) has, they are really hard roles. It's a lot of work, time and effort. Pretty soon you start to convince yourself that the job is what defines you as a Mille Lacs Band member.

The last six months — we've sort of been in limbo — I think you guys know that — it was a great experience for me to really think. It helped me so much, because it made me realize that this job — the jobs that we do as Commissioners — that really isn't what defines us as Mille Lacs Band members.

My job on the two drums that I am on — I was honored to be put on another drum this past season — those jobs mean more to me than this job right here. That's a lifetime job and that's what defines me as a Mille Lacs Band member.

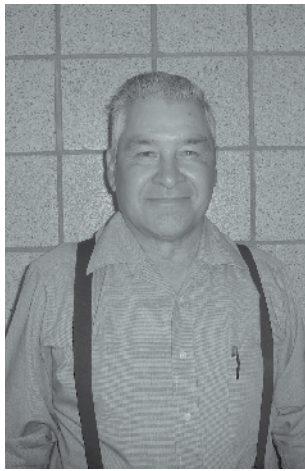
The job I have as a role model in this community for young men — I've always encouraged, instead of picking up a gun; pick up a basketball. Instead of running to the Twin Cities to pick up a bag of pills or a pound of weed; go to the Twin Cities to pick up a college degree. That role that I play for the tribe is more important than this job.

My role as a husband to my wife, my role as a father in this community for my three daughters — that's more important and that's what defines me as a Mille Lacs Band member. My role as a son to my father and as a brother to my sisters and my brothers — that's a job. That's more important than this job and that's what defines me as a Mille Lacs Band member — more than this title and more than this position.

So if today never happens — if my name is not on the door that says "Commissioner of Corporate Affairs" — that doesn't matter. What matters to me is that I'm a Mille Lacs Band member and there are many ways to be a Mille Lacs Band member. And I'm a proud Mille Lacs Band member.

Through the work that I do for you guys, my goal is that you feel that pride and that you feel that pride forever. Thank you very much.

Leonard Sam Ricing and Fishing



This story by Leonard Sam was first published as part of the Moccasin Telegraph series in the Mille Lacs Messenger.

When we were young, we were taught to harvest wild rice. After my mom got done ricing, she would let us go out on a boat. Eventually we turned into pretty decent ricers. My sister soon turned into one of the best ricers around. Ricing even became a contest for all of us. I still rice today, although I don't do it as quickly as I used to.

When my mom got older, she knew she had to pass down everything she knew about ricing to the next generation. I'll never forget the day she broke down and told us she couldn't rice anymore. She admitted she was too old.

Today it's difficult to find someone to continue the ricing tradition. The younger generation is busy with their jobs, so I guess they just don't have the time. Ricing is not being passed down from one generation to the next anymore. Back in the early days, we did ricing as an income. Now we do it to keep the culture alive.

Ricing is hard work. It's dirty, but it's good. After you get done, you really feel like you accomplished something. Ricing has become a part of my life, a part of who I am. Even when I was in the service, I would come home to rice. I missed it.

Ricing is very strenuous. It usually takes two people: one

to push the boat around and one to knock the rice. One can do it, but it's hard work. You get off the lake, sack it all up, and take it home, where you dry it out and get it ready for parching. To parch the rice the old-fashioned way, you need a fire and a kettle, stirring the rice constantly. Rice always tastes better if it's done by hand. Depending on how hot the fire is, you parch the rice about 20 minutes a batch. Usually I can do about 24 to 28 batches a day by myself, so parching takes time. The old-fashioned way is difficult, but that's how we did it when I was growing up. When we were old enough to thrash the rice, we would tie a piece of cloth on a stick or thrash it with our feet. Now most thrashing is done mechanically since it's more economical. After the thrash, the final step is to winnow the rice by throwing it up and down in a basket.

It takes time to learn how to rice properly. Kids have to watch grown-ups to learn how to do it. Just like any other tradition, you have to pass it on. Today I sell the rice to our tribal people as much as I can, since I know a lot of them don't pick rice. It's a way to keep our culture alive.

Another important tradition is fishing. My father taught me how to fish, and I still do all my own fishing today. When I go fishing, I usually fish with a net instead of a rod and reel since that's how I learned to do it with my dad. After I get my fishing permit, I try to throw out my net as early as possible in the evening and pull it out early in the morning. For the best catch, you have to spread your net close to shore.

Fishing and ricing will always be a part of my life. My mother taught me how to rice, and my father taught me how to fish. Back then, we did everything as a family. I hope I can pass on what I learned from my parents to the next generation to keep our traditions alive.

Pipeline Risks and the Next Steps

Li Boyd Guest Writer

Imagine the smell of wood smoke and the sound of someone singing in the distance — a little ways off but not too far. Mix in the whinnies and murmurs of horses talking to each other from all around. There's also laughter. Always.

Then add the sound of a helicopter. This sound isn't like the others. Sometimes it's far away. Easy to ignore. Sometimes it's so close that people shout to be heard and everything thrashes in the downdrafts. Either way, it's a constant sound. The only escape would mean being driven away from this place, and then there would be no more woodsmoke, singing, horses, or laughter.

This is what it was like to be at Standing Rock during the fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline. This fight is ongoing, and while the Oceti Sakowin camp no longer exists, bulldozed under by the State of North Dakota, other camps have sprung up all over the country to resist pipelines wherever they try to snake through. The pipeline fight is just getting started, and it has come home to Minnesota.

Canadian oil company Enbridge is trying to get state approval for its Line 3 expansion project, a new 36 inch pipeline that you've probably heard at least a little about. It would cut through the pristine watersheds and prime wild rice country of our home territory. People from across many different communities in Minnesota, including all our tribes, have spoken out against this project.

We, the indigenous people, know what the costs of poorly regulated industrialization can be, especially in our historically disadvantaged communities. The State of Minnesota knows too. The draft Environmental Impact Statement released by the State proves this in places like Chapter 11, where it reads: "the proposed Project and its alternatives would be an additional health stressor on tribal communities that already face overwhelming health disparities and inequities" and "any of the routes, route segments, and system alternatives would have a long-term detrimental effect on tribal members as a result of crossing treaty lands." Yet the State

also writes, "A finding of 'disproportionate and adverse impacts' does not preclude selection of any given alternative."

It's telling of our relationship with the State that this DEIS acknowledges the negative impacts but admits that the government will approve this pipeline knowing it's going to hurt us. To them, our sacrifice is worth their gain.

Foremost on our minds is our water, but in Minnesota, we must also consider Manoomin, wild rice, our sacred food staple. It only grows here in our pristine waters. The heavy crude oil that will be transported through this pipeline is not like any other oil we've seen before. It comes from the toxic Alberta Tar Sands, and it's essentially asphalt-tar cut with chemicals to make it fluid enough to push through a pipe. During a spill, the diluting chemicals quickly evaporate, leaving the heavy petroleum materials to stick to or sink in whatever environment they encounter. There is currently no technology available to clean up heavy crude oil that spills in water. The threat to our water, our marine life, and our manoomin is nothing short of disastrous.

The threat to our communities is just as great. Construction of the pipeline would bring in more than 4000 construction workers from all over the country (while employing very few, if any, local workers.) This workforce would be cash rich and have low oversight. They'd live in "man camps," the unofficial name for the temporary trailer complexes that house pipeline workers. In North Dakota, man camps coincided with a 163% increase in sex crimes on the Fort Berthold Reservation. Young women and girls in that community are afraid of being taken right off the street and sold. Drug trafficking also increased.

The DEIS suggests that Enbridge can have "awareness campaigns" that could prevent these issues from happening here. It's safe to say we're all aware of the disproportionate amount of sexual violence already suffered by indigenous women. The measures briefly mentioned in the DEIS are woefully insufficient, and even

So, You Want to Go Ricing?



Kevin Stobb

Ricing is easier than ever since Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton declared last year that members of Minnesota Indian tribes can rice for free with their tribal ID card.

However, the Mille Lacs Band still requires Band members to purchase a \$5 license to rice within the 1837 Ceded Territory, including Lake Onamia.

The opening date for Lake Onamia will be posted at the landing before the season opens.

According to Lead Licensing Agent Kevin Stobb, the opening of the state season is not a good indication that rice can be harvested. "They usually open it way too early, so you have to go by if the rice is ready or not," Kevin said.

Ripening varies from lake to lake, so if you're not familiar with ricing, the best way to determine if it's ready is to consult a local expert or call the DNR's licensing agent in your district.

A license can be purchased from the following licensing agents:

- District I, Kevin Stobb, Lead Licensing Agent: 320-532-7896, kevin.stobb@millelacsband.com
- District II, Randi Harrington, Licensing Agent: 218-768-3311, randi.harrington@millelacsband.com
- District IIa, Carmen Green, Program Administrator: 320-676-1102, carmen.green@millelacsband.com
- District III, Vanessa Gibbs, Licensing Agent: 320-384-6240, ext.230 vanessa.gibbs@millelacsband.com
- Urban Office, Barb Benjamin-Robertson, Urban Program Administrator: 612-872-1424, barb.br@millelacsband.com

one case of sexual violence is one too many. This is a life and death issue in indigenous communities, but Enbridge and the State seem to feel that it's a problem that can be easily controlled. The DEIS repeatedly emphasizes that impacts would be "short term and temporary," but we in tribal communities know better.

Historical trauma is something we're all familiar with in Indian Country. What Enbridge and the State need to recognize is that the extraction industry across North America is inflicting trauma on native peoples right now. They can call these traumas different names, like stressors or impacts, but they are still traumas. They are wounds in the earth and wounds to our spirits, as damaging to us as their guns and knives were in the past. Those of us who were at Standing Rock experienced intimidation, humiliation, vilification, and physical injury at the hands of state agencies acting on behalf of petrochemical companies. We know this threat, and this is our time to speak and act against it.

Tar Sands extraction in Canada is decimating First Nations, a pipeline leak here would decimate us, and in the end, the continued use of fossil fuels hurts everyone on the planet. There are so many alternatives to petrochemicals, and new technology in renewable energy is being developed every day. We must show the world that there are other ways. We are protectors, genawendangig, and we are done sacrificing our land.

The Public Utilities Commission will release a final EIS for comment in mid-August, according to mn.gov. When the comment period begins, I encourage everyone to write something to the State, even just a few lines. There will also be more public comment meetings, where we can demonstrate our sovereignty and strength. The schedule for these meetings has not yet been released.

For more information, visit stopline3.org. If you'd like to read my full comments to the State of Minnesota, visit ndn4earth.wordpress.com.

Indigenous Games Are a Family Tradition for Reuben Gibbs

Brett Larson Staff Writer

District III Band member Reuben Gibbs represented the Mille Lacs Band and Minnesota at the Indigenous Games in Toronto in July.

Reuben was also representing his family, who have a history at the Indigenous Games. Reuben's mother and aunt, Vanessa and Deloris Gibbs, both participated in the Indigenous Games in the 1990s.

Reuben's grandma, Diane Gibbs, said, "We've been doing this for a long time. It's in his blood."

Reuben has been playing basketball as long as he can remember, and he started organized ball in elementary school. His uncle, Ed St. John Jr., and his Aunt Deloris were among his role models.

As a kid he played with Uncle Ed and his buddies, who towered over young Reuben. "He said, 'If you want to play, you gotta hang with the big dogs,'" Reuben recalled. "That's how I developed a shot."

In eighth grade Reuben developed a "chip on his shoulder" when another player was promoted ahead of him. By the end of the year, he realized his scoring was improving. "Okay, I'm actually pretty good," he realized. Teammates' parents started encouraging him to keep playing.

He's been improving his skills ever since, playing in tour-

naments on reservations as well as on the school team. Next year Reuben will be a senior point guard and shooting guard with the Hinckley-Finlayson Jaguars. This year the team had 22 wins and four losses, enough to win the conference championship.

He describes himself as a good shooter whose speed is his greatest asset. He's been a big fan of LeBron James. "He was like my Michael Jordan growing up." Since 2012, he's modeled his game after Russell Westbrook, this year's NBA MVP.

Reuben started dreaming about the Indigenous Games when he was a kid and watched three of his uncles participate.

When the tryouts were announced this year, people shared it on Facebook and Reuben's grandma asked him if he wanted to try out. He did, and was eventually notified that he made the team — the only Mille Lacs player on a team composed mostly of Red Lakers.

Prior to departure, he was eager to get to know his teammates, travel out of the country for the first time, and see Toronto, the home of Drake, one of Reuben's favorite musicians.

"I just want to win and have fun," Reuben said. "I'm glad I got this opportunity to play on the team and represent Minnesota."

"I just want to win and have fun. I'm glad I got this opportunity to play on the team and represent Minnesota."

— Reuben Gibbs



School's IN for Summer!

Nay Ah Shing students didn't take much of a breather after school let out this year. They were drawn back to campus by a variety of engaging summer camp opportunities offered June 13 to 29.

All-day sessions included fishing/canoeing, gardening/cooking, and quilting.

Students who wanted a change after lunch could take two of the following: birch bark, reading club, STEAM, outdoor games, theatre and ecosystem.

A healthy lunch was included in each day's activities.

The canoeing/fishing classes were led by Noah Johnson and Pete Braith and included canoe races and skills tests, and fishing from a pier and a launch.

The birch bark class taught by Ruth Garbow and Elaine Rea included harvesting techniques, birch bark applique and wiigob stitching.

The gardening and cooking classes taught by Megan Nelson and Danielle Borcher studied plant care, plant identification, garden maintenance, food safety, snacks and recipes.

Blenda Hagberg and Noel Kegg led the theatre class, teaching kids to create scripts from books, build props and scenery and practice for a final performance on the last day of summer school.

Rita Fairbanks and Matt Petty led the outdoor games classes, which ranged from beanbag, whiffle ball and kickball to water polo, volleyball, soccer and golf.

Bonita Nayquonabe and Aanii Aubid taught the quilting class, which included safety procedures, colors and patterns.

The ecosystems class taught by Kayla Nelson, Kristie Vance and Ace Collie explored local habitats to discover organisms and learn about the natural world and its parts.

Bugs Haskin and Sandi Jellum taught the reading club, which helped students develop a love for books and words while studying spelling and vocabulary to develop strong hab-

its to help kids become effective readers.

The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) class was led by Gregg Rutter and Kathy Syverson. Students learned to ask, imagine, plan, create and improve while having fun with marshmallow launchers, bubbles, coding, robot chariots, solar ovens, gliders, race cars and marble runs.

Students also took part in field trips and special events, like the Chameleon 5K at Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge on June 15.



The 1855 Reservation: M-Opinion Says Boundaries Are Intact

No “clear Congressional intent” to diminish or disestablish the reservation

The 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation, which comprises three northern Mille Lacs County townships totaling 61,000 acres (including the cities of Isle, Wahkon and part of Onamia), is an ongoing source of controversy in the region.

In 2002, Mille Lacs County filed suit in federal court seeking a declaratory judgment that the reservation had been disestablished, but the case was thrown out, after the County spent over a million dollars on legal help. Judge James Rosenbaum said the County failed to show that there was any harm done by the disagreement, and the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal.

Most recently, a disagreement over the reservation contributed to the County’s decision to rescind a law enforcement agreement with the Mille Lacs Band, first reached in 1991, that authorized Mille Lacs Tribal Police to enforce Minnesota law on the reservation.

The County’s resolution rescinding the agreement stated in part: “Mille Lacs County rejects the conclusions of the M-Opinion and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe’s use of the criminal justice system to address the disputed boundary of the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation.”

The “M-Opinion” is a legal opinion by the U.S. Department of Interior that the reservation is still intact, a position the Band has always held, but which the County and the State of Minnesota have disputed.

The M-Opinion (M-37032) was released in January of 2016 as part of the Department of Justice’s decision to grant the Band’s request for additional federal law enforcement help under the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA).

That decision played a part in the County’s decision to pull out of the agreement. Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Todd Matha said in 2016 that the County had begun threatening to pull out of

the agreement as soon as the Band applied for concurrent federal jurisdiction under TLOA.

The County and Band have been in state-led mediation for several months but announced in June that mediation had come to an end with no agreement.

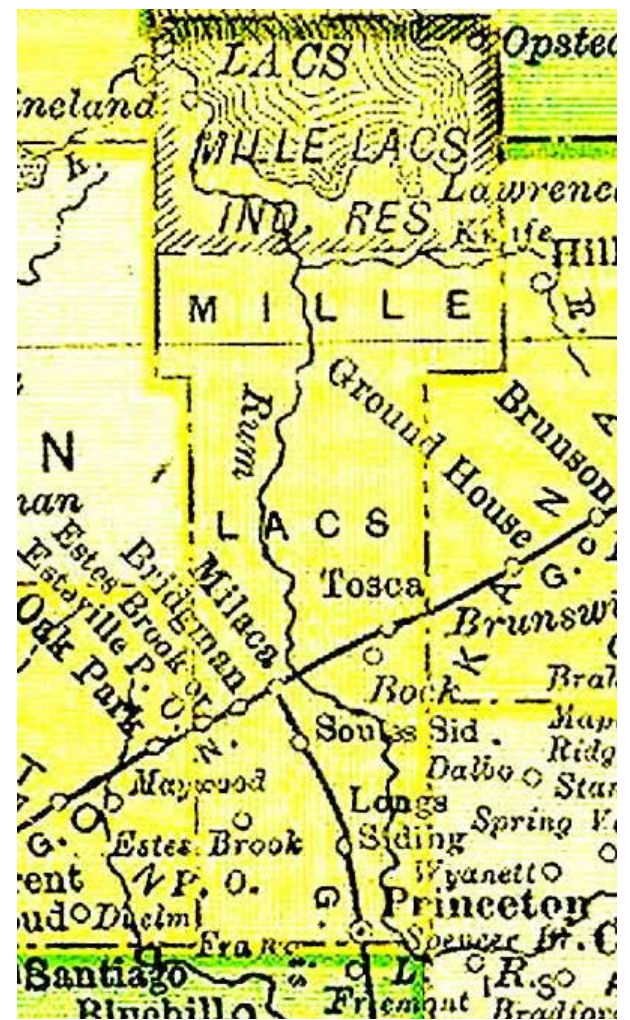
Although the details of mediation between the County and the Band remain confidential, it can be assumed that disagreements over the Reservation played a role in the failure of the two sides to agree — just as the Reservation was the main sticking point when the agreement fell apart in 2007.

During the next several months, *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* will review the “M Opinion” and the history of the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation, beginning with the negotiations of the treaty itself and continuing with stories about the Treaties of 1863 and 1864, the Nelson Act of 1889, and further attempts to disestablish or deny the existence of the Reservation.

The main point of the M Opinion is that the 1855 Reservation still exists and was not diminished or disestablished by subsequent treaties or acts of Congress.

In the introduction to the M Opinion, the author, Solicitor Hilary C. Tompkins, presents an outline and lays out the argument:

“This opinion first provides a summary of the factual history surrounding the Mille Lacs Reservation and explanations of the Supreme Court jurisprudence on diminishment or disestablishment of Indian Reservations. The opinion then analyzes the relevant treaties, congressional acts, legislative history, and factual circumstances regarding the Mille Lacs Reservation in light of the diminishment/disestablishment framework and ultimately concludes that the Mille Lacs Reservation boundaries, as established by the 1855 Treaty, remain intact. The 1863 and 1864 Treaties, as



1895 map of Mille Lacs County. Source: lakesnwoods.com
well as the 1889 Nelson Act, fail to evince a clear Congressional intent to disestablish the Reservation and, in fact, guaranteed the Band continuing rights to its Reservation.”

All We Have is Each Other

Arnie Vainio, M.D. Guest Writer Stephan Hoglund Photographer



I was at a two-day medical conference a few weeks ago getting caught up on my continuing education credits. Some of these can be done online, but some are required to be done in a group setting. I was in a

group with a geneticist and we discussed the inherited basis of some diseases and the pitfalls that can come with genetic testing that can be ordered online. One of the sessions covered how climate change is allowing some diseases to survive in other parts of the world and how some insect borne diseases are moving north and what our role as physicians will be in that change.

There were sessions on mental health and I was able to be in a group with a psychiatrist leading the discussion on the approach to this difficult problem. The common problems of heart disease and diabetes had sessions of their own and I was able to gain insight from other doctors and the way they handled some of the issues all of us see on a day to day basis.

The very last session I attended had to do with gratitude and the relationships we form. There is a 75 year (so far) Harvard study that has followed over 700 men since they were young boys. Only a little over 60 of them still survive. Some of them started poor and stayed poor, some started poor and became wealthy and some of them started wealthy and became poor. One of the findings of the study was that one of the best predictors of longevity, or how long someone will live is the relationships we form. Those with strong relationships, whether marriage, family or friends, tend to live the longest.

Another study found that one of the best markers for happiness is gratitude. All of us have stressful lives and the number of things aggravating us seems endless. Work, kids, neighbors, bills...all of these things weigh on us and are sometimes the things we think about as we are falling asleep at the end of the day. It turns out, if you think of negative thoughts as your last thoughts of the day, this affects your dreams and imprints your brain to live in a negative framework. Some people always live in that frame of mind and we all know people like that. We may even be those people. Positive thoughts whisper. Negative thoughts scream.

If thinking negative thoughts at the end of the day can imprint your subconscious mind to live in a state of negativity, then it follows that thinking positive thoughts can imprint your mind to live in a positive state.

Is it really that easy?

It turns out there is quite a bit of truth to that and there is a project called three good things and it’s a relatively simple thing to do. For one week, at the end of the day and just before you go to sleep, you write down three good things that happened to you that day. Just thinking it isn’t enough and it has to be written down and it helps to detail what made those good things go well. Your subconscious mind will incorporate that into your dreams and will turn your outlook more positive. It seems simple and laughable and there are those who won’t even try it because it seems so simple. There are those who hold tight to their negativity and are afraid to let it change.

Whatever your thoughts and beliefs are on the afterlife, the existence we have right now is the only one we are aware of. That means we get one go around and one shot at making this life worthwhile. One week. Three good things. This is a relatively easy thing to do and I just finished my week last Friday. Sometimes I would forget and just before I actually fell asleep I would remem-

ber and have to get up and write them down.

Gratitude toward others is also important and when we express it, we often get more in return than we give. Who do you know who could call you at four o’clock in the morning and you would always answer that call? Who do you know that you could make that same call and they would always answer? Are they the same people?

What if you called one of those people and told them that? I did that last week. I have a friend in Seattle who retired 10 years or so ago and he is one of the best mechanics I have ever known. We worked on projects together when I was in residency and I have many times called him from Minnesota when I have something I’m working on that just isn’t going right. Right now my father in law and I have an old tractor torn apart and I can’t get the hydraulic system working again. I spent many nights looking online for tutorials on fluid dynamics and hydraulic theory, but to no avail. I finally called John and told him everything I’d done to that point and over the phone he guided me through his recommendations and I will be working on it again soon.

Before we hung up, I told him about that Harvard study and about gratitude. I thanked him for being my friend and my teacher for all these years and I told him if he ever called me at four o’clock in the morning, I would always answer the phone. He was quiet for a moment before he answered and his voice had a slight crack in it when he told me he would always answer the phone and he was glad we were friends.

I think about all the people who worked so hard to make sure I was able to become a physician and those who never gave up on me. Gratitude? I live it every day.

All we have is what this earth has given us. And each other.

Arnie Vainio, M.D. is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, Minnesota. He can be contacted at a-vainio@hotmail.com.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy August Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diane Marie Barstow
Barbara Jo Bearheart
Frances Jean Benjamin
Wendy May Benjamin
Clarence Roy Boyd
Clayton Jay Boyd
Debra Elaine Brooks
Marlys Louise Bushey
Myrna Joy Ceballos
Karen Marie Clark
John Dewey Colstrud III
Geraldine DeFoe
Shelly Arnell Diaz
Faith Ruby Dorr
Edward Ernest Dunkley
Roxanne Julie Emery
Gary Dean Frye
Samuel Garbow Jr.
Dorinda Fay Garbow
JoAnne Sue Garbow
Barbara Maxine Goodman
Diana Guizar
Rosalie Noreen Hallaway
Mary Jean Harpster
Bradley Harrington

Robert Martin Houle Jr.
George Ben Jackson
Patricia Clarise Jones
William Allen Jones
Doris Kegg
Lorraine Marian Keller
Joseph Franklin Knudtson
Carol Elizabeth Kornkven
Andy Mitchell
Lynda Lou Mitchell
Gerry Warden Mortenson
Delia Ann Nayquonabe
Duane James Pawlitschek
Margaret Rose Premo
Bruce Anthony Ray
Terry Lee Ray
Sharon Marie Rogers
Bradley Thomas Sam Sr.
Kimberly Ann Sam
Alexander Laverne Schaaf Jr.
Theresa Joy Schaaf
William David Schaaf
David Duane Shaugobay
Janice Marie Shaugobay
Daniel John Staples
Connie Jean Taylor
Janice Louise Taylor

James Martin Thomas
Richard Henry Thomas Jr.
Sylvester W. Thomas Jr.
Barbara Ellen Toth
John Wayne Towle
Michael Laverne Wade
Alrick George Wadena Jr.
Carmen Denise Weous
Donna Jean Wind
Eloise Betsy Wind
Franklin John Woyak

Happy August Birthdays:

Happy birthday to my sweet little granddaughter **Kaylee Paige** who turns 1 this year! Grandma sure loves you! • Happy birthday to **Bridget** on 8/5! • Happy birthday to **PJ** on 8/5! Love, the Harrington Family • Happy birthday my Smallfry **Cathryn Sam** on 8/6! I love you with all my heart to Pluto and back! Love, Bert. • Happy birthday to **Cathy** on 8/6! With love, from Auntie Anna & Family. • Happy birthday to **Sharon** on 8/6! Love, the

Harrington Family. • Happy birthday to my son **Erik** on 8/7! Love, Bridget. • Happy birthday **Theresa** on 8/10! With love, from Auntie Anna & Family. • Happy birthday to my sister **Leslie** on 8/13! Love, Bridget. • Happy birthday to my handsome grandson **Jesse James** who will be 3 on 8/14! Love you bunches my boy! From, Grandma Anna. • Happy birthday **Mom & Dad** on 8/15! Love, Val. • Happy birthday to **Gram Kim & Papa Brad** on 8/15! Love Pie and Kev. • Happy birthday **Jay** on 8/16! Love, your brothers and sissys. • Happy birthday to **Gabbi** on 8/20! Love, the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday to **Mickey** on 8/20! Love, the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday to my sister **Karen** on 8/25! Love, Bridget. • Happy birthday to **Sam and Dan Shingobe** on 8/28! From, Grandma June

& Papa Gushy, Elvis, Hunter, Sunshine, Caden, Shyla, Chuck and Amber. • Happy birthday to **Ethan Smith** on 8/29! From, Grandma June & Papa Gushy, Elmo, your brothers, the Smith & Shingobe Families, and Dylan & Liz Sam family. • Happy birthday to my mom **Sammy** on 8/30! Love, Bridget. •

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated 1st birthday to **Rowan Wade** on 7/16! Love, Gramma B, Papa, Cede, Aunty S & Uncle S. • Happy belated birthday **Elliot Smith!** From, mom, dad, brody, alex, and family.

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 Sept. issue is August 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, 7 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

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 Noopiming Lane)

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds
(1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.)

B-Ball League Night: Thursday Nights

Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post August Events, cont.

Kids Crafts — Bead a Ring: August 5, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Indian Museum. Learn a basic stringing technique while beading a ring to take home. Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 8 and up. \$3 per kit, not including museum admission.

57th Birthday Celebration: August 5, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Indian Museum and Trading Post. Help celebrate the Indian Museum's 57th birthday! Refreshments will be provided. Explore the exhibits, including the popular Four Season Room with life-size dioramas, then head next door to shop for American Indian arts and crafts at the Trading Post. Also visitors will receive 10% off purchases for the day. Included with site admission of \$10 adults, \$8 seniors/college students, \$6 ages 5-17, free ages 4 & under/MNHS/MLBO members.

Continued from page 4

National News Brief

First Nations Protest Canada's 150th Birthday:

First Nations People in Canada set up a teepee on Parliament Hill to protest Canada's birthday as a celebration of colonialism and used a hashtag #Resistance150. The residential school crisis and access to clean drinking water are two main issues Indigenous Canadians are concerned with. Toronto Star Reporter Tanya Talaga, who covers indigenous issues, said, "A lot of indigenous people look at how much money is spent on the birthday party and wonder why couldn't that have been given back to the people that actually need it?" The Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, asked Canadians to respect indigenous peoples' decision not to participate in Canada Day events.

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
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Want your event here?

Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.

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>1 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>2 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>3 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> Circle of Health Outreach 12 – 3 p.m. Urban Office</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Kids Crafts Bead a Ring 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum 57th Birthday Celebration 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Indian Museum DI Wellbriety Red Road Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7 Business Dev. Assistance 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. <i>See page 7</i> DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>8 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>9 DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Community Ctr. DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>10 Circle of Health Outreach 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. 2 – 4 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>11 Urban Elder Luncheon Meeting 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. All Nations Church</p>	<p>12 Woodland Pottery 2-day Workshop 12 – 4 p.m. Indian Museum DI Wellbriety Red Road Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>
<p>13 Woodland Pottery 2-day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Indian Museum</p>	<p>14 DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> MCT Business Dev. Specialist 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. <i>See Page 7</i></p>	<p>15 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>16 Aazhoomog Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Ctr. DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>17 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> Circle of Health Outreach 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Aazhoomog Clinic</p>	<p>18 51st Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow <i>See page 16</i></p>	<p>19 DI Wellbriety Red Road Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> 51st Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow <i>See Page 16</i></p>
<p>20 Mille Lacs Indian Museum Fun Run 9 a.m. Powwow Grounds Open House 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Indian Museum 51st Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow <i>See Page 16</i></p>	<p>21 Constitutional Convention 12 – 4 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>22 Constitutional Convention 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>23 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>24 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 DI Wellbriety Red Road Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 DIII Wellbriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Hinckley Corp. Building DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>29 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i> DI Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>30 DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>31 Urban Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>		



Home of the Jingle Dress
ISKIGAMIZIGAN
 Est. 1966

51ST ANNUAL

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE TRADITIONAL POWWOW
AUGUST 18-20, 2017

LOCATION:
ISKIGAMIZIGAN POWWOW GROUNDS
 WEST SIDE OF LAKE MILLE LACS,
 12 MILES NORTH OF ONAMIA, MN,
 ON U.S. HIGHWAY 169,
 FOLLOW SIGNS

CO-MC'S
 NAZHIKE HARRINGTON JR & MIKE SULLIVAN

CO-HOST DRUMS
 TIMBER TRAILS & PIPESTONE

INVITED DRUMS
 STONE BRIDGE - GRAND PORTAGE
 HIGHLIFE - EAST LAKE
 RAINING THUNDER - CUMBERLAND, WI

GRAND ENTRIES:
FRIDAY - 7PM
SATURDAY - 1 & 7PM
SUNDAY - 1PM

EVENTS:
 OLD STYLE JINGLE DRESS CONTEST
 OLD STYLE GRASS CONTEST
 PRINCESS & BRAVE CONTEST
 BEST PARADE FLOAT CONTEST
 BEST REZ CAR CONTEST
 HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT
 MOCCASIN GAME

FUN RUN (SPONSORED BY THE MILLE LACS INDIAN MUSEUM)

FREE:
 ADMISSION, CAMPING,
 SHOWERS, AND FIREWOOD
 (OFF-SITE FIREWOOD PROHIBITED)

FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS WELCOME:
 LIMITED SPACE-RESERVE EARLY
 CONTACT: TAMMY SMITH
 320-532-7752

FACEBOOK.COM/ISKIGAMIZIGAN

DRUM MONIES:
 DRUMS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 5 SINGERS. ALL SINGERS MUST PERSONALLY REGISTER WITH THEIR DRUM. AT LEAST 5 REGISTERED SINGERS MUST BE PRESENT AT THE DRUM DURING EACH ROLL CALL IN ORDER TO BE PAID FOR THAT SESSION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 TONY PIKE: 320-980-5367
 CARLA BIG BEAR: CARLA.BIGBEAR@MILLELACSBAND.COM
 NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR FIREWORKS ALLOWED
 SECURITY AND MEDICAL STAFF ON PREMISES
 NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR LOST/STOLEN ITEMS

ALL DANCERS MUST BE IN APPROPRIATE REGALIA AT EACH GRAND ENTRY AND EXHIBITIONS IN ORDER TO BE PAID

Commercial tobacco use in designated areas only. Miigwech!
 Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health

Weweni Inaabaji'aw Asemaa! Use tobacco in a good way!

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.

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



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.

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch.