

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

OCTOBER 2017 | VOLUME 19 | NUMBER 10



## STEPPING UP, COMING TOGETHER

COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN BATTLE AGAINST DRUGS

CONSTITUTIONAL  
CONVENTION  
COMES TO  
WHITE EARTH

LINE 3  
PIPELINE  
BATTLE  
CONTINUES

ASSISTANT  
COMMISSIONER  
BRINGS NEW  
PERSPECTIVE

MANOOMINIKE!  
BUMPER  
CROP OF  
RICE, RICERS

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



## Dear Band Members,

Aaniin. September was a busy month, including many meetings with Band Members, meetings in Washington D.C. with the Departments of Interior and Justice, and also with state officials on many matters. Band Assembly and I also met recently to address many issues, but the most pressing issue before us right now is the opiate crisis.

Band member families speak to me every day about the devastating impact drugs have had on their lives and their family. The opiate crisis has become magnified over the past 15 months since Mille Lacs County revoked our law enforcement agreement.

By now, many Band Members have heard about Governor Dayton's September 18 letter to Mille Lacs County and the Mille Lacs Band, in which he called the county's refusal to recognize the police authority of our tribal officers as "dangerously irresponsible" and "morally indefensible." The Governor gave Mille Lacs County an ultimatum: Either the County resigns our old 2008 Law Enforcement Agreement by September 29, or the State will enter into an agreement with the Band through the State Patrol and take other necessary actions. That letter is reprinted in this edition.

The day after the Governor's letter arrived, Band Assembly and I snapped into action. We re-signed the 2008 agreement, passed it again, and sent it to the County and the Governor. Now the ball is in the County's court. By the time this paper lands in your mail boxes, we will know the outcome of the September 29 deadline. At this time, it would appear the County has no intentions of signing the 2008 agreement. It remains to be seen how this issue will end, but our team is working non-stop on this matter.

Regardless of what happens after September 29, I want Band Members to know we have done and will continue doing everything we can to find a solution with the County. The challenge is that Mille Lacs County officials have consistently put politics ahead of public safety. Prior to the county ending our agreement, we had 32 police officers in comparison to the County's 22 deputies. Our officers were 2/3 of the police force in this county, and it did not cost the County one dime.

Last summer, after the Philando Castile shooting in St. Paul, the federal mediator working with St. Paul came up to the reservation and invited us and the county to enter into federal mediation. We immediately agreed. The County flat out refused. Later in the summer, Governor Dayton came up to visit. He offered state mediation. We immediately agreed. Weeks later, the county very reluctantly agreed.

We spent months over the winter in mediation. But the county continued to request that we give up many of our inherent sovereign powers, and allow the county almost total control over our police. One example of a demand they made: They wanted us to agree that we would not have any communication with the federal government about law enforcement without first notifying Mille Lacs County and including them. Almost every Tribe in Minnesota has a law enforcement agreement with their county, but we know of no other tribe that has had to make those kind of ridiculous concessions in order to get a law enforcement agreement.

The bottom line is that our police should be arresting and handcuffing the drug dealers – instead, county officials are handcuffing our officers from doing their job, threatening to arrest them for impersonating police officers if they enforce criminal law. We will keep Band Members updated on any new developments.

On a related note, a few weeks ago, Commissioner Rebecca St. Germaine and I attended the White House Opiate Summit for tribal leaders. We developed recommendations on ways the White House could support to assist us with this opiate crisis. The President did not attend, but many of his staff attended in addition to Cabinet members. When invited to speak, I requested more support for health services and prevention, funding for Narcan; and informed White House staff how Mille Lacs County is preventing our tribal police from doing their jobs.

In other developments, the Band was forced to severely cut back our program budgets this year to ensure per capita payments would not need to be immediately reduced. While our enrollment is increasing, like most other tribes, our casino revenues are decreasing.

One cut that many Band Members have talked with me about involves the recent Secretarial Order issued by Secretary-Treasurer Beaulieu that cut off our Scholarship Program for descendant Band Members. In many cases, it is the Band Member parent that is experiencing the hardship and needing to search for immediate help via savings or parent loans. Since the decision came after many students had already begun their college academic year, we are hearing that several students might have to withdraw from college or already have.

The Band Assembly and I discussed this issue at a joint meeting last week. At the request of many Band Members, I have requested that this issue be addressed again, because I don't believe this was the only option we had in order to balance the budget. There are significant state and federal scholarship funds available to enrolled tribal members in Minnesota, and several colleges and universities across the country provide tuition remission for enrolled tribal members.

In fact, last spring, the Administrative Policy Board did propose to Band Assembly that First-Generation descendants would continue to be eligible, but only if they applied with their parent's home Reservation first, must permanently reside in Minnesota while attending college, and only after demonstrating unmet need. Further, all students – including enrolled tribal members – would be required to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as a condition of being eligible for our Band scholarship. Too often, enrolled Band students are not applying for other scholarships they are eligible to receive and relying exclusively on the Band scholarship. This proposal was sent to the Legislative Branch on May 12, but rejected. At the request of Band Members, that policy is available for review on the Chief Executive Office Facebook page.

If our students were required to apply for other state and federal aid first, it is likely that Band students would obtain much more additional support, requiring less dependency on Band Scholarship money. If our Scholarship program were only accessed after other outside scholarships have been secured, this could result in significant savings for more students to

access the funding. I have asked that the elected officials revisit this issue, and hope to work cooperatively to find a better solution.

Another proposal from the Secretary-Treasurer on September 15 was the creation of a Waste, Fraud and Abuse office, which is described as an entity to enforce the Band Ethics Code. I support the creation of such an office, but I strongly believe that in order to be credible, it must be an independent entity and not housed within either the Legislative or Executive Branch. This is the only way to ensure objectivity in investigating complaints against not just employees, but all appointed officials, elected officials and their staff.

Additionally, while the Code of Ethics currently states that it applies to staff of the Chief Executive, it does not state that it applies to Legislative staff. So one important amendment is that Legislative staff must be added to the list of those required to adhere to the Code of Ethics.

Another change I would like to see is a requirement that all elected officials and their staff submit to periodic random drug testing, to ensure we are setting an example for the community and living up to our statements about a drug-free workplace (staff in my office are drug-tested). I also have proposed that the Ethics Code be amended to hold appointed officials, elected officials and their staff accountable for respectful behavior on social media. I believe that we should be held to a higher standard than other employees when it comes to how we interact with others on social media — especially other Band Members. We and our staff represent the Band 24/7, not just while at work.

Finally, after the Commissioner of Administration was made aware of concerning information involving management of the Department of Labor, I immediately requested that the Solicitor General conduct an investigation. The Band Assembly and I discussed this matter recently as well, and they will also be hiring a forensic auditing firm to look into this matter. Our goal is to ensure that any deficiencies in this program be immediately addressed.

Despite the challenges facing our community, Band Members came together in many inspiring ways this month. Over 200 Band Members participated in the Smudge Walk to take a stand against drugs. A group of Band Members drove to St. Joseph, Missouri, to watch the solar eclipse, and those of us at home adjourned our meetings to go outside and watch together. By far, the best part of my month was spending a long weekend with 73 Elders on a bus trip to Iowa. While we didn't make it to the flea market, we had a wonderful time together, and I received an abundance of great feedback and ideas from Elders that have already been acted upon. I hope the new school year is going well for all our students, and hope kids of all ages had a safe and happy Halloween!

# Secretary-Treasurer Explains Scholarship Order

## MEMORANDUM

TO: BAND MEMBERS  
 FROM: SPEAKER OF THE BAND ASSEMBLY *yrb*  
 SUBJECT: SECRETARIAL ORDER 43-17  
 DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2017  
 CC: DARCIÉ BIG BEAR, PARLIAMENTARIAN



I would like to explain how this came about. First, this decision was based on consensus of the entire Band Assembly. For the past several years, the scholarship program has experienced significant budget shortfalls consistently, hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Band Assembly has repeatedly requested that the Executive Branch, Education Department and the Higher Education Office come up with a revised policy (limiting amount awarded to descendants and grant awards on a needs basis only). They were also asked to ensure Annual budgets that were proposed were sufficient to cover all the scholarships processed. This has not happened. Instead, they continued to allow deficits and unfortunately take net revenues from other programs that are supposed to fund services for enrolled Band members.

We also have a Revenue Allocation Plan that provides the percentage of net revenues we can spend on government operations. Scholarships are funded by net revenues. Until we gain approval from the Federal government to revise this, we must adhere to what we are allocated. We have a duty to serve the needs of enrolled members first.

Band Assembly agreed that we had given the Executive Branch enough time and opportunity to assess the program, address the shortfalls and communicate to descendants any necessary changes. The latest higher education policy provisions proposed by the Executive Branch in May of 2017 were not acceptable. It was at that time, Band Assembly made the tough decision to end funding for descendants by supporting the Secretarial Order.

The Band newspaper, has been updating Band members regarding the significant decline in our gaming net revenue distributions. The number of enrolled band members is on a steady increase and we are forced to revise spending accordingly. Every department has been asked to reduce expenses. We are not discriminating against anyone, we are ensuring Band funds are focused on the needs of the Band membership. That is what we were elected to do.

If you like, you are more than welcome to express your thoughts to the Band Assembly at

any of our upcoming meetings. Or if you choose, you may want to reach out to each District Representative directly. Please contact Legislative Parliamentarian, Darcie BigBear, so she can add you to an agenda should you decide you want to address Band Assembly in person. We meet officially Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, alternating between the three districts and Band businesses.

### SECRETARIAL ORDER 43-17

#### A SECRETARIAL ORDER AUTHORIZING MILLE LACS BAND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BE AWARDED TO BAND MEMBERS ONLY

WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 7(a), the Secretary-Treasurer has the authority and duty to superintend and manage all fiscal operations, planning and budgeting of the Mille Lacs Band as authorized by the Band Assembly; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 7(g), the Secretary-Treasurer is authorized and has the duty to issue Secretarial Orders to implement decisions concerning matters of the fiscal affairs of the Band; and

WHEREAS, the Band Scholarship program currently awards educational scholarships to Band members and non-Band members; and

WHEREAS, revenues from Band gaming and non-gaming businesses have declined and Band membership has steadily increased; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary-Treasurer believes it is in the best interest of the Band to limit scholarship funds to Band members only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the Mille Lacs Band scholarship funds are to be awarded to enrolled Mille Lacs Band members only effective FY2018.

Dated this 8th day of August, 2017.

*Carolyn Beaulieu*  
 Carolyn Beaulieu, Secretary-Treasurer

Effective Date: October 1, 2017  
 Expiration Date: September 30, 2021

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND

## Legislative News — License Plates, TERO, Ethics Code

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Motor Vehicles would like to announce that the newly designed vehicle plates will be available by the first week of November! If you wish to come in to trade your plates for the new ones, please bring in your old plates that you're transferring over. There will be a \$8.25 transfer fee. If you do not wish to transfer your plates to the new designed plates you're not required to do so!

Personalized plates can also be transferred to the newly designed plates for a \$25 fee if you already have personalized plates; otherwise, new requests are \$50. The personalized plates will take approximately 6 – 8 weeks to come in after you place your order. Again, the OLD Personalized Plates would need to be returned when you pick up the new ones.

Mille Lacs Band Vet plates will also be available at the same registration fees that are set for regular Band plates. You would need to show proof of Veteran status (for example: Form DD214).

The utility/boat trailers, motorcycle, ATV, RV and handicap plates will also be available to trade in if you wish by the end of year.

Please check the Mille Lacs Band November Newsletter for the dates when we will be coming out to the outer districts for the 2018 Tab Renewals! *Only 2018 Tab Renewals will be done at this time.* Also, a letter with the dates for outer districts will be sent with your 2018 Vehicle Registration Cab Cards.

If you have any questions please contact Deanna Sam, Deputy Registrar at 320-532-7498.

### Tribal Employment Rights Statute Approved

Band Assembly passed a new Tribal Employment Rights Statute making the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) an autonomous entity within tribal government and creating a commission to oversee operations and supervise the TERO Director.

The preamble to the new ordinance states, "It is enacted by the Band Assembly of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the purpose of amending Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes Annotated (MLBSA) to establish the Tribal Employment Rights Office as an autonomous entity within the government of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe."

TERO was formerly part of the Department of Administration and supervised by the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Administration.

The new TERO commission will be composed of seven members with at least one from each district. Members will be nominated and ratified by Band Assembly and the Chief Executive. They will serve staggered four-year terms.

The entire ordinance can be found at [millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com).

### Band Members Encouraged to Read Ethics Code

Band Assembly makes decisions ensuring we adhere to the Band's Code of Ethics. This Code also guides us in overseeing tribal government operations. It's the goal of the Secretary-Treasurer to establish a Fraud, Waste and Abuse Office where Band member complaints and information in regards to perceived fraud, waste, abuse and corruption and can be followed up on if validated.

This office will officially keep records of individuals who are found guilty of violating the Band's Code of Ethics. There is currently no way to keep track of individuals or hold them accountable for violating this code.

Furthermore, all elected and appointed officials take an Oath of Office to uphold the laws of the non-removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and that is what we, the Band Assembly, will continue to do.

The Preamble of the Ethics Code states: "It is enacted by the

Band Assembly of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the purpose of establishing a body of law governing ethics and conduct of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe officials. The Band Assembly determines that it's in the best interests of the Band to provide protections and safeguards for our resources and people by enacting restrictions and requirements for officials and establishing a safer drug-free work place."

The code requires gifts be recorded, officials treat all with respect and honesty, and that complimentary services may occur only under certain conditions. The code also requires officials to promote unity, demonstrate personal integrity, promote open communications in a professional manner, and serve with respect and concern.

The Code of Ethics can be found in Title VI of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes at [millelacsband.com/government/statutes-policies](http://millelacsband.com/government/statutes-policies).



State of the Art Photo by Bill Jones

The Hinckley Community Center is taking shape! District III Rep. Harry Davis, who was instrumental in guiding the project through Band Assembly, took the opportunity to tour the facility last month. Stay tuned for news on the grand opening this fall.

## State and Local News Briefs

### **Tribal PD Has State Law Enforcement Authority:**

Mille Lacs County District Court Judge Sarah H. Hennesy stated on August 17 that the Mille Lacs Band Tribal police have concurrent jurisdictional authority with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff if certain requirements are met. Judge Hennesy is satisfied those requirements are being met and stated: "as a law enforcement agency, tribal police have the authority to arrest... Nothing in the language of Minnesota statute 626.90 makes these powers contingent upon the existence of a cooperative agreement between the Mille Lacs Band and the Mille Lacs County Sheriff."

### **Otter Tail County Votes to Require an Environmental Impact Study for Star Lake Casino:**

The Otter Tail County board voted unanimously to require an environmental impact statement for the Shooting Star Casino and Resort planned by the White Earth Nation. Opponents worry that the project would permanently damage Star Lake's environment because of the potential harm increased traffic will have on wetlands. The attorney for the White Earth Nation indicated the possibility of the tribe taking legal action against Otter Tail County regarding rules applying to Indian trust land.

### **Governor Dayton Meets with Business Owners About Walleye Restrictions:**

After business owners protested and surrounded Gov. Dayton's boat on Lake Mille Lacs in July, he met privately with the group to discuss the walleye ban and its effects on the local economy. Dayton said "We all have the same intentions — to restore the walleye population. We may have disagreements on how to do that, but myself and my staff are looking for ways to find some answers."

### **Leech Lake Tribe Unveils Solar Panels to Help Low-Income Families:**

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe unveiled a solar panel array at the Prescott Community Center as one of five walls of solar panels on the reservation. Leech Lake partnered with the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance with a goal of making energy more accessible for low-income communities. The project is the first 100 percent low-income community installation in the state and the first in the country to be on tribal lands.

### **Minnesota Releases Environmental Review on Enbridge Pipeline:**

Regulators released an updated and expanded review of Enbridge's proposal to replace the Line 3 pipeline. The new version includes additional discussions of the potential impact on tribal resources, the socioeconomic impact of the project, the potential impact of oil spills, and public comments. The document is used to inform the Public Utilities Commission to help them decide whether the project is needed and what route it should take. The commission is scheduled to decide on Dec. 11 if the review meets legal requirements. On Apr. 30, they will announce if the pipeline and route are approved.

### **Federal Grant Awarded to Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office:**

A \$28,661 federal grant was awarded to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office as part of a \$285,766 grant awarded to nine other offices around Minnesota. The U.S. Department of the Interior granted \$4.6 million to 169 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. The U.S. Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt said, "these grants highlight the Department and the National Park Service's commitment to preserving U.S. and tribal history and heritage."

# Governor Pressures County to Sign Law Enforcement Agreement with Band

Tribal government officials are hopeful that a strongly worded letter from Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton may help end an impasse over law enforcement that has tied the hands of tribal police.

The absence of a law enforcement agreement with Mille Lacs County has made it more difficult for the Tribal Police department to fight the drug problem on the reservation.

In his letter (printed below), Gov. Dayton called the county's refusal to reach an agreement "dangerously irresponsible and morally indefensible" and urged the County to approve the 2008 agreement, which had functioned well for seven years.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said, "We are grate-

ful to Governor Dayton for taking a stand and defending the right of Mille Lacs Band members to adequate police protection. Still, this is not yet 'mission accomplished.' Yesterday, the Band Assembly and I approved a new agreement with Mille Lacs County that is identical to the 2008 agreement, as the Governor requested. It has the signatures required from the Band, and is now in the hands of Mille Lacs County officials. We await news of whether the County intends to sign this agreement prior to the Governor's September 29 deadline, or whether it intends to relinquish its law enforcement responsibility to the State of Minnesota or possibly even the federal government. Continued on page 5



## STATE OF MINNESOTA

### Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol • 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard • Saint Paul, MN 55155

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Joe Walsh  
County Attorney  
Mille Lacs County Justice Center  
225 6th Avenue SE  
Milaca, MN 56353

Dear Chief Executive Benjamin, Administrator Oman, Chief Rice, Sheriff Lindgren, Mr. Matha, and Mr. Walsh:

I write to express my most serious concerns with your inability to come to a new cooperative law enforcement agreement after the prior agreement was revoked by Mille Lacs County well over a year ago. This situation is intolerable and needs to be resolved.

The lack of a cooperative law enforcement agreement has severe consequences for the people of Mille Lacs County and the officers who protect and serve area residents. I am told that Mille Lacs County hired six new county deputies, but that they cannot possibly assume the workload of thirty-two tribal police officers. I have heard that average response times to reports of criminal activity have increased significantly. Further, several recent police reports reveal that arrests involving drug paraphernalia and drug possession have not resulted in drug charges. This inaction only emboldens drug dealers, who continue to bring deadly substances into Mille Lacs County and onto the Mille Lacs Reservation.

Chief Rice has shared with me how dire the situation has become. In the last three weeks, there have been a total of fourteen overdoses on the Reservation, one of them resulting in a victim falling into a coma and being placed on life support. In the last year, there have been a total of forty-five overdoses on Mille Lacs Reservation. This is a public safety emergency, yet Mille Lacs County has been unwilling to recognize the authority of tribal police officers or truly engage with Tribal Leaders to resolve the situation.

Voice: (651) 201-3400 or (800) 657-3717  
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A special county board meeting is scheduled for September 26, so perhaps a decision will be made then."

### Background

Mille Lacs County rescinded the agreement in June of 2016, citing several reasons.

- The Band's attempt to modify Minnesota Statute, section 626.90, which establishes the authority of the Tribal Police Department to enforce state law.
- The Band's ability to self-refer cases to the U.S. Attorney's Office under the Tribal Law and Order Act.
- The Band's participation in an Intertribal Violent Offenders Task Force Joint Powers Agreement under its "inherent tribal authority," which the County says violates state law.
- The Band's alleged "exercise of law enforcement authority outside of its jurisdiction" and "failure to cooperate and coordinate with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office, which has jurisdictional authority throughout all of Mille Lacs County" according to Public Law 280.

The Band has argued that none of these reasons has any merit, but attempts at negotiation and mediation have proven unsuccessful.

The law enforcement agreement was required by Minnesota Statute, section 626.90, as a condition for the Band to appoint peace officers under state law. It was passed in 1991 by the State Legislature as an alternative to retroceding State criminal jurisdiction within the reservation to the United States. The statute applies throughout the Band's trust lands and the entire 61,000-acre Mille Lacs Reservation as established by the Treaty of 1855.

Because Minnesota is a Public Law 280 state, the state has criminal jurisdiction on reservations, with the exception of Red Lake and Bois Forte.

The agreement functioned well until 2007, when the Band pulled out of the agreement because the county was demanding to see all Tribal Police reports — not just those involving enforcement of state law. The Band said its officers could enforce Band law throughout the 61,000 acres, but the County said it could not. A new agreement was signed giving the county attorney responsibility for prosecution of any person arrested by Band officers under section 626.90, but conceding that tribal police may act independently of section 626.90, and that in those cases, no report to the county attorney is required.

Mille Lacs County and Mille Lacs Band  
September 18, 2017  
Page 2

Mille Lacs County Leaders, when we met in December, you shared a presentation that asked the Governor's Office to "do nothing." You wrote, "Allow good government to do its job." If this assessment is correct, "Good government is not doing its job." An inadequate response to serious crimes being committed in your county, when you have insisted on taking complete responsibility for the law enforcement previously provided by tribal police, is dangerously irresponsible and morally indefensible.

Lack of a cooperative agreement is clearly a severe impediment to effective law enforcement in Mille Lacs County. Because mediation failed to produce a new cooperative agreement, and recent offers of revised draft cooperative agreements continue to be unacceptable to the other party, I urge you to take immediate action and reinstate your 2008 cooperative law enforcement agreement. While this might not be the preferred option, continuing to operate without a cooperative agreement is not tenable.

Should you fail to re-sign your 2008 cooperative agreement by September 29<sup>th</sup>, I will pursue all other options available to me as Governor of the State of Minnesota to address this situation. This could include a Joint Powers Agreement between the Minnesota State Patrol and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to jointly provide law enforcement services on state trunk highways, and other remedies.

This impasse has continued for far too long, to the grave detriment of public safety. I await your prompt response. Let us work together to create a safer Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Roger Tellinghuisen, Chair, Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners  
Timothy Wilhelm, Vice Chair, Mille Lacs Board of Commissioners  
Genny Reynolds, Member, Mille Lacs Board of Commissioners  
Phil Peterson, Member, Mille Lacs Board of Commissioners  
David Oslin, Member, Mille Lacs Board of Commissioners  
Commissioner Ramona Dohman, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

## National News Briefs

### Opioid Epidemic Considered a National

**Emergency:** With over 180,000 additional deaths predicted by 2020, the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis recommended President Trump to declare a national emergency. Public health declarations typically focus on rapidly spreading infectious diseases and humanitarian disasters, but the traditional model is beginning to change and could include the opioid epidemic. The declaration authorizes public health powers, mobilizes resources and facilitates innovative strategies.

### Group that Tampered with Enbridge Pipeline

**Felt they had No Choice:** Four people were arrested and appeared in court after being accused of trespassing and tampering with Enbridge's pipeline valves. The group asked to present a jury with a necessity defense upon trial which is used to shield people who must break the law in order to prevent greater harm. There is pushback from Clearwater County prosecutors who argue that the group did not tamper with the valve to avoid immediate harm. Arguments were submitted by Sept. 15 and the judge is now deciding whether to allow a necessity defense.

### Tribes Fight for Clean Water on Reservations:

According to Environmental Protection Agency data, tribal water systems average 60 percent more water-quality violations compared to non-tribal water systems. Data from the Center for Native American Environmental Health Equity shows that roughly 600,000 Native Americans live within 6 miles of an abandoned mine, resulting in more quality violations in water. Although the EPA regulates water on tribal lands, its representatives' offices are often in a different state. Some tribes are taking matters into their own hands and are driving hundreds of miles to bring back clean water.

### Trump Administration Abandons Tribes Regarding Reservation Boundaries in

**Wyoming:** Two Wyoming tribes, the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and the Northern Arapaho Tribe, seek to protect their homelands against reservation diminishment. The National Congress of American Indians and a group of Indian law professors are hoping to convince the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to reconsider the dispute. Attorneys of the NCAI wrote: "At stake for American Indian nations in reservation diminishment cases is not just a legal framework, but tribal self-determination and self-governance — essential cornerstones of tribal sovereignty."

### The Fight for Indigenous Prisoners' Religious

**Freedoms:** There has been a call for improved conditions since 2013 regarding indigenous inmates' religious rights on both the state and local level. Huy, a national non-profit, submitted comments to U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to call attention to the ongoing violations of incarcerated indigenous people. National Congress of American Indian President Brian Cladoosby stated, "We continue to hope and pray for national intervention against state and local government violation of indigenous prisoner religious freedoms."

### Most American Indian Tribes Opt Out of Federal

**Death Penalty:** For decades, American Indian tribes can decide if they want a death sentence considered for certain crimes on their land, and nearly all of them have rejected the option. This decision is based upon culture and tradition as well as the past treatment of American Indians and fairness in the justice system. Robert Anderson, a member of the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, said that because Indians were mistreated in the past under federal policies, there is historical trauma in cases associated with the execution of Native people, and this allows tribes to choose in certain circumstances when there should be a federal death penalty.



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

## Ojibwe Names Are Spiritual Names

By Larry "Amik" Smallwood

*This column by the late Larry 'Amik' Smallwood was originally published in the Moccasin Telegraph series in the Mille Lacs Messenger and is reprinted in order to help preserve his teachings.*

Ojibwe names are much more complicated and harder to receive than English names. They are more meaningful, and different from when we pick a name for our children based on our favorite uncle, favorite actor or actress, or a name we saw in a book. Our names are spiritual names that we are given.

The tradition of giving Ojibwe names began a long time ago. When a child is born, the parents know that he or she has to be named right away. So they would choose a name giver to provide their child with his or her Ojibwe name. Not everyone is able to be a name giver. Certain people are chosen to give names by a vision, a dream they had while fasting, or by a significant event in their life. For example, a person may have a dream or vision while fasting. In that dream, an animal or spirit may appear and talk to him or her in Ojibwe, telling them to remember their name and to use it when it is time to give a name to a child.

After the parents have chosen a name giver, they also choose a couple of representatives to attend the name-giving feast for their child. These representatives will be the child's "we-ehs," and are like godparents.

At the feast, everyone sits in a certain place, with the name giver at the head of the table. Then, the parents hand their child to the name giver and say, "We are giving you our child to give them an Ojibwe name."

The name giver then thanks the parents for honoring them, and accepts a gift of tobacco that is traditionally given to them to do the name-giving ceremony. Then, the name giver talks about how and where they got the authority to give this name. They talk about the dream, vision or event that provided the name so that the people will know they're being honest. The name giver must do this in the Ojibwe language.

Then, the name giver names and kisses the baby, and passes them to the first we-eh. That person kisses and welcomes the baby, and calls them by their Ojibwe name. At this time, the name giver asks if any of the we-ehs would like to give the baby another name. If the representatives would like to give the baby another name, they must do so at that time. When that is complete, there is a feast in honor of the baby's new name.

A we-eh's role, which is lifelong, is to advise, watch over, and protect the child. A person may always go to any of his or her we-ehs, and they will make time to listen to their problems and will sometimes offer advice. Also, a we-eh always has the right to approach their namesake's parents if they feel they are neglecting or mistreating the child. When parents give tobacco to their child's we-eh, it gives the we-eh permission to confront them in this kind of situation.

Another part of the we-eh's job is to brag and stick up for his or her namesakes at all times. The job of the we-eh's spouse is to tease or provoke the child. This teaches the child a lesson, and everything Ojibwe people do is a teaching or a lesson. To share a humorous example, my we-eh's wife would tease and chase me as a child, and say she wanted to marry me. My we-eh would tell her to leave me alone. I dreaded going to see them because of her teasing, but I still wanted to see my we-eh.

It was not until I got much older that I realized she was trying to teach me about the strong bond between my we-eh and me. She wanted to show me that I could go to my we-eh for help and he would protect me. She actually did like me — it was just part of the teaching.

# Assistant Commissioner Brings New Perspective to Government

When Darrell "Tiger" Brown Bull was sworn in as Assistant Commissioner of Administration on Sept. 5, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin told the story of his nickname. "When he was a baby, instead of crying, he growled," she said.

His grandmother dubbed him "Tiger," and it stuck.

Tiger is a member of the Oglala Lakota nation and was raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Pine Ridge is the eighth largest reservation in area in the nation, and there are over 40,000 enrolled Oglala Lakota.

To put it in perspective, Pine Ridge is larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined, which gives Tiger an understanding of the distance separating Mille Lacs from Minisinaakwaang (District II) and Aazhoomog (District III).

"I was from 'the districts,'" said Tiger. "I had to drive an hour to work. From the tribal office on southern side of the reservation to the farthest village it's 2-½ hours, so we face some of the same issues getting services to people."

Tiger knows the issues well. Prior to taking the job with Mille Lacs, he served as Executive Director of Pine Ridge, operating 80 programs and working closely with the tribe's elected officials.

Tiger's hometown of Kyle is the headquarters of Oglala Lakota Tribal College, where Tiger spent his first year of college. From there he attended the University of Minnesota at Morris before transferring to the University of Minnesota Duluth and graduating with bachelor's degrees in American Indian Studies and Psychology.

That's where he first learned about Mille Lacs, when he took classes from Tadd Johnson, Chair of the American Indian Studies Department.

While Tiger was an undergrad, Tadd was putting together a Master's program in Tribal Administration and Governance. Tiger was part of the original cohort, along with Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, Corporate Commissioner Joe Nayquonabe and other Mille Lacs Band members.

"The MTAG program was just what I needed," Tiger said. "What I liked most was the diverse mix of tribal perspectives. At Pine Ridge we think all our problems are unique, but that's not the case. To hear other tribal members and leaders with the same issues, that was revealing."

While Tiger was in the MTAG program, he was working in the education department at Pine Ridge, attempting to get nine reservation schools to adopt a uniform curriculum as part of an attempt to deal with high transfer rates, truancy, behavior problems and expulsions.

If you're getting a sense of Tiger's credentials, you haven't heard half of it. He has also been a Udall Intern in Washington D.C., attended the pre-law summer institute at the University of New Mexico, and spent a year in law school at Michigan State before heading home to Pine Ridge to help his tribe.

After finishing MTAG and starting law school, Tiger went home for summer, feeling burned out from school. His reservation was in crisis, with an epidemic of suicides and problems with child protective services.

Tiger decided to throw his hat in the ring for the Executive Director position at Pine Ridge. "I'm young and educated; they're not gonna pick me," Tiger thought. They did, and he became the youngest person to ever serve in that position.

One of Tiger's goals at Pine Ridge was to make it more like Mille Lacs. Instead of directly managing 80 departments, Tiger brought in six associate directors to serve in roles like Mille Lacs Band commissioners. It took two years to get the restructuring approved.

Tiger doesn't hold back when talking about the challenges of Pine Ridge government. The reservation has nine districts with two or three representatives from each, plus a five-member executive council. They all serve two-year terms, which aren't staggered, so every two years there's a whole new government with new priorities and relationships.

By comparison, Mille Lacs' government, with its five elected officials and separation of powers, is simple and stable, Tiger said.

"There's no separation of powers, and it's just chaotic without that," Tiger said. "Micromanaging by the council or any member of the executive board is rampant."

After three years, with another new council, Tiger could see the writing on the wall. His advice wasn't being heeded, his accomplishments were being undone and elected officials were going behind his back.

When he heard about the opening at Mille Lacs, it seemed like a good opportunity to experience a new environment while bringing some of his knowledge to another tribe.

As Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Tiger will manage Human Resources, IT, grant writing, the Department of Labor, Child Support Enforcement and Government Affairs, in addition to managing three Mille Lacs District Community Centers and the Urban office.

One of his short-term goals is related to his experience growing up in "the districts" at Pine Ridge: to ensure that Band members everywhere have easy access to programs and services.

At Pine Ridge, he implemented monthly "program fairs" in each district to bring those services to the people, and he thinks something similar might work well at Mille Lacs.

Tiger's office is on the upper level of the Government Center in the Administration Department. He will work closely with Commissioner of Administration Shelly Diaz, assisting in supervision of the Department of Education, Natural Resources, Community Development and Health and Human Services.



Tiger Brown Bull, third from left, was sworn in Tuesday, Sept. 5. Also pictured: Chief Justice Rayna Churchill, Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Elders Joe Nayquonabe and Lee 'Obizaan' Staples.

# Newest Pipeline Developments Encouraging, But Not Resolved

**Li Boyd** Mille Lacs Band Member

In a month of multiple significant developments in the pipeline controversy, the most important story again lies with our indigenous youth. In early July, thirteen young Minnesotans were granted full status as a formal intervening party in the Public Utility Commission's Line 3 Approval process after demonstrating to a judge that no one else could adequately represent them. In their words, "we're the most qualified to articulate and defend our rights, and describe Enbridge's infringement upon them."

On Aug. 12, the indigenous contingent of these courageous young people embarked on a 250-mile canoe trip from the headwaters of the Mississippi, where the proposed Line 3 corridor will first cross the water, to Big Sandy Lake and the site of another proposed crossing. They were joined by additional indigenous youth and supporters who traveled from Canada and various places in the United States to take part. The river near the headwaters was low, making for difficult paddling conditions in the first few days, but by the time of the closing ceremony at Sandy Lake Recreation Area on Sept. 2, the water was so high that the Army Corps of Engineers had to increase the output of Libby Dam.

The paddlers were assisted along the way, especially in East Lake territory, by Harvey and Morningstar Goodsky of the Mille Lacs Band. At the Sept. 2 closing ceremony, East Lake Mille Lacs Band member Tania Aubid offered a prayer for our young water protectors. The youth then spoke. Nina Berglund, a Lakota participant recently graduated from high school, said, "This isn't just something that we're saying because it sounds cool to everyone else. This is something that we know. Line 3 is just one thing they're doing, but it's a part of many different projects, many different proposals that they're bringing up to our people, that we're not even being consulted about. We need to let them know that we're sick of just letting them put that through, we're done. We're not letting this happen no more. We're not afraid to speak up."

Other activism in the state of Minnesota also gained media attention as the Fond du Lac resistance camps began to engage in nonviolent direct actions (NVDA) against the 13-mile segment of Line 3 currently under construction in Wisconsin. Construction in Wisconsin and Canada has already been approved, so Line 3 is being built right to Minnesota's borders in anticipation of the line's approval here. Direct action organizers have remained dedicated to NVDA tactics that involve no destruction of property or violent confrontation, though there was a single incident of equipment damage by a group not affiliated with the action

organizers. These actions have stalled work on the line several times and resulted in multiple arrests, creating the need for legal funding in support of the water protectors. It has also increased attention to the camps and made them a target for harassment. Water protectors have reported several incidents of attempted sabotage, and both camps in Cloquet have recently been put on notice by Saint Louis County that, though they're on private land, they do not have permits for camping. The frontline camp, called Camp Makwa, has tripled in size in the past week. The camp is open and has NVDA training available on an ongoing basis.

The most surprising development this past month was the Sept. 11 release of testimony from the Department of Commerce which urged the denial of the Certificate of Need for the Line 3 project. Citing several issues with the project as proposed, including a basic lack of need for the capacity to transport more oil, the DOC testimony not only recommended against construction of a new line but stated that all exposed segments of the old line should be removed.

This came as a validation to Line 3 opponents but does not signify the end of the battle with Enbridge. While the testimony confirms much of what water protectors have been saying all along, the Minnesota Department of Commerce lacks the regulatory authority to block the approval of the project, and many of the recommendations outlined can only be enforced at the federal level. Federal pipeline regulation is profoundly underdeveloped, and denial of the project still lies solely at the discretion of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Furthermore, the in-depth nature of the 300-page testimony has given Enbridge the opportunity to fix many of the things that may have been found objectionable in their proposal.

Moving forward, public comment hearings for the Final Environmental Impact Statement begin on Sept. 26 in Thief River Falls. The PUC is sticking to its accelerated 280-day approval schedule, even though there's no regulation that mandates this timeframe for an EIS proceeding. Some, like Winona LaDuke, feel that the state is rush-

ing a delicate process that deserves much more research, transparency and examination.

Due to the rush, the FEIS comments are due by Oct. 2 with public hearings in only nine locations around the state. The FEIS comment period is meant to focus on legal discrepancies within the document, but the inadequacy of the responses to the first round of comments can be argued to be enough legal justification to warrant further comment.

The certificate of need and route proceedings are also underway with intervening parties, including the Mille Lacs Band and the youth intervenors, preparing to call expert witnesses to testify before an administrative law judge. While the filing date for expert witness testimony has passed, there's still an opportunity to make rebuttal or surrebuttal testimony in response to testimony filed by Enbridge or other parties in the case. Additionally, the certificate of need proceedings are subject to a public comment period much like the EIS process. These comments are due Nov. 22.

As the reality of the pipeline looms and grows closer, so too does the process of fighting it become more complicated and difficult. However, there are resources in many places to get further information, such as [stopline3.org](http://stopline3.org), [honorearth.org](http://honorearth.org), and even [mn.gov](http://mn.gov). Follow Honor the Earth's Facebook page for quick daily updates as well.



**Top Right: Atquetzali Quiroz, Rose Whipple, Nina Berglund, and Cherokee Senevisai were among the youth who paddled 250 miles to Big Sandy Lake in protest of the proposed Line 3 pipeline.**

**Left: Tania Aubid spoke at the closing ceremony at Big Sandy Lake.**

## New Beginnings Women's Gathering

**Baabitaw Boyd** Mille Lacs Band member

On Sunday, Sept. 16, nearly 40 Ikwewag (women) met in District 1 at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum to participate in the third annual New Beginnings Women's Gathering. Women of all ages, from preschool to grandmother, participated in the occasion. T-shirts were provided and a beautiful brunch buffet was served.

We heard from Kim Sam, a chemical dependency counselor and a leader in women's wellness from our area. She shared a powerful video about her life and the battle she had with alcohol. Her video focused on the importance of understanding addiction and how it affects our loved ones. She told about the healing that can come from addressing our wrongdoings and how we can be supported in our life path when we use our tobacco and begin to relearn what it means to be an Anishinaabe women.

The importance of this video is immeasurable because we as Anishinaabe people have all been affected by drugs, alcohol and addiction for so long and by many around us. The open and honest conversations we have can bring us to a place of clarity, empowering one another to adjust our behavior so that our children and grandchildren can experience less trauma and hopefully have a higher quality of life. Miigwech to Kim for sharing her story with us.

After the video presentation, we had a crash course in "bageese" (The Dish Game, pronounced "bug-gay-say"). There are 100 thin cedar sticks that are the points that can be won, several shapes carved out of bone that resemble Wyaawiyeminagakin (4 points), mookomaanan (15 points), giigoonh (30 points) and

the game winner, the almighty ikwe (50 points). One side of each flat bone shape is marked red. As the dish goes around from player to player, each has a turn to shake the dish and see how the bones land. Depending on how they fall, players accrue the cedar sticks. This would force a winner!

At the gathering, several tables were playing at once, and before long the tables roared with laughter at everyone receiving points and even getting skunked and knocked out of the game. I look forward to playing more of the ancient "bageese."

Later that afternoon, the women enjoyed Ojibwe language bingo and drawings of all kinds. The afternoon concluded with dinner prepared by Chef Tony Buckanaga. Everyone left pleased.

As a special treat, Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu provided attendees movie passes to see Wind River, a movie playing at the Grand Makwa Cinema telling a sad tale of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women epidemic (#MMIW).

The day left us feeling empowered, informed, refreshed and most importantly, connected to one another. This special event gave many women an opportunity

to get to know one another beyond our work and school and a much needed day of visiting, laughing and eating delicious meals — without washing dishes!

Miigwech to Dawn and Stephanie Day, who made the Brunch, and Chef Anthony Buckanaga, who made the dinner. Miigwech to the Legislative staff for putting on this event and giving women a chance to spend time together. Gizhawendaagozim.



## It's Time for Action

Kevin Stobb Guest Writer

My name is Kevin Stobb. I'm a Mille Lacs Band member and I currently work for the Band's DNR department. I've worked and lived in the area for pretty much my entire adult life. I recently moved away from the reservation and bought a home thanks to the housing loan program.

My choice to live away from the reservation wasn't a hard one. The drug epidemic happening as we speak is taking a toll, not just on our young people but on everyone in the community, from children born exposed to drugs, to the children of addicted parents who are being raised in traumatic conditions in their own homes, and even to the grandparents of those children who are forced by common decency to take care of their grandchildren as if they were their parents.

My guess is pretty much every family in every district has firsthand knowledge of what drugs do to those that become addicted to them, whatever their drug of choice is.

I had a brother who got addicted to meth. I watched him go from a healthy adult to a thin, unhealthy addict. I watched as he made more and more bad choices that hurt him and his family. He eventually died from an accident that probably was preventable. A contributing factor according to the autopsy report was meth use. So yes. The drug didn't kill him outright, but it was a factor.

But I don't want to make this about me. It's about everyone that has gone through this. We can't begin to accept the fact that overdoses are a part of life on this reservation. It's like regular news these days and it has to stop. We need to act now so we can start getting these drugs off the reservation.

I can't sit silent anymore. I want to be part of the solution. I don't want to be an enabler. We have way too many of those right now. It's time for all those who want change, who talk about change, to step up and show the elected officials we mean business.

This isn't a call to arms. This isn't a witch hunt. This isn't a time to attack others. This is a time for everyone who wants to see this drug epidemic dealt with to come together and find real solutions. We need more than meetings. We need action.

By coming here today, I hope to accomplish a few things. One, I wanted to show those out there that they can have their voices heard by you. There are many out there who think you as a group are unapproachable. Two, I wanted to take a step for myself towards being a part of the solution. Three, I wanted to start a discussion with you about what I personally feel needs to be done. I'm not saying I have all the answers to this epidemic. I'm just saying that I want to be an active part of the solution.

This can be an exciting time for us and for you. You can be the Band Assembly that took a stand against drugs and crime and changed the reservation in a positive way. People would be proud of you and your accomplishments.

I and others have great ideas to share. Right now that's all they are, ideas. These ideas need guidance from those that have the power to make changes.

In short, we need your help.

*This is an edited version of Kevin Stobb's testimony before Band Assembly on August 31 and is published with his permission. The entire testimony is available on the Legislative Branch Facebook page.*

# Band Members Seek Answers, Action After Surge in Overdoses

The opioid crisis plaguing the nation is having a dramatic impact on tribal communities across Minnesota, and Mille Lacs is no exception.

In 2014, the Band became aware of a dramatic increase in babies born addicted to opioids, and steps were taken to address the problem. Narcan has been made available to clinics and police, a Prescription Monitoring Program and a needle exchange program have been implemented, Tribal Police have installed a prescription drug disposal site, and the Band made an agreement with the State of Minnesota to take over operation of Four Winds treatment facility in Brainerd.

In late August, the opioid epidemic once again took center stage after a surge in overdoses in the District I community. According to Interim Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice, there were 14 overdoses between August 18 and September 1. Over the last year, the department responded to 44 overdoses.

According to the Midwest Medical Examiner's office, which contracts for service with Mille Lacs and 20 other counties, there have been seven overdose deaths in the county so far this year, compared to a total of four in 2016 and four in 2015.

Band member Kevin Stobb appeared before Band Assembly on Aug. 31 to share his concerns and plead for action from the tribal government (see sidebar).

Band Assembly responded by dedicating a meeting to the issue and inviting Health and Human Services Commissioner Rebecca St. Germaine, Executive Director Noya Woodrich and Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice to speak.

"The Mille Lacs Band is actively working with national Federal and State officials to initiate and continue with a working partnership in how we address the health care of our shared communities," said Rebecca.

The Health and Human Services Department has re-opened Four Winds, and more beds will become available with a new culturally-specific program put in place dubbed "Noojimowigamig — The Healing Center."

"Noojimowigamig, the Healing Center, utilizes the Anishinaabe cultural approach, Bimaadiziwin, to clarify our beliefs in healing the whole person," Rebecca said. "It lays the foundation for rewriting best practices in therapeutic treatments within health policy and standard of care for our Native clients. It is abundantly clear we must make a stand as tribal members, band families and health practitioners that our community must spread the knowledge that we can demand change in defeating further addictions and overdose. Changing our behaviors and making good choices to say 'no to drugs' is a key position to being healthy. It is true Narcan may give a one-time break for the overdose condition, but a better choice is to seek treatment at the Noojimowigamig, Healing Center, if a person is battling addiction. Make that call to us. Miigwech."

A proposal is also being developed for a "Hope, Health and

Healing Campaign" to promote a public health approach to the tragic events that have affected the community.

### Tribal police encourage vigilance, cooperation

Interim Police Chief Sara Rice encourages anyone who witnesses an overdose to call 911 immediately. She also asks for help in fighting opioids and other drugs.

Sara reminds community members that they cannot be prosecuted if they report an overdose. "Steve's Law" provides immunity to those who call 911 in good faith to save a life.

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department also operates an anonymous drug tip line. The number you can call is 320-630-2458. This number is not monitored 24/7, so feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and number. This line is not an emergency number. In case of emergency, dial 911.

Things to watch for, Sara said, are needles, snort tubes, and "bindles," small folded pieces of paper used to distribute heroin and other drugs. Tribal Police have found evidence that naloxone (brand name Narcan), which counteracts the effects of an overdose, has been used by private parties in response to overdoses, but this is far from foolproof.

For one thing, Sara said, the naloxone may wear off before the overdose symptoms are gone. In other words, someone treated with naloxone may still die of an overdose.

Second, a person treated with naloxone may respond aggressively, potentially harming others on the scene.

Sara is also concerned about myths circulating among heroin users, like the belief that an ice bath can counteract an overdose.

The opioid fentanyl has become more of a problem than heroin in many parts of the country, Sara said. Fentanyl can be hundreds of times stronger than heroin and can be absorbed through the skin. Inhalation of a few grains can result in death.

Anyone who finds a suspected bindle should not handle it, but should call 911.

Fentanyl is also being mixed with other drugs, including marijuana.

Addicts will do anything to avoid withdrawal, like telling friends and family not to call 911 in the event of an overdose, but continuing to use is far more dangerous than quitting. The best thing you can do for an addict is to get them help from medical professionals who can manage their withdrawal.

Tribal Police have a difficult job, Sara said, and she encourages Band members to see the police as allies. "We have compassion for people who are addicted," she said. "It's a tough thing to watch and deal with. With these overdoses — these are things we take home with us. We have children, we have families, we have struggles in our own lives. We're all human beings. None of us are perfect, but it's a tough job."



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin (left), Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice (center) and Executive Branch Legal Counsel Syngen Kanassatega (right) traveled to Washington in September for a tribal opioid summit. They are pictured with James Cason and John Tahsuda from the Department of Interior.



# Community Members Step Up, Come Together to Fight Addictions

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer



Bob Eagle and Bradley Harrington are first cousins with a lot in common. Their fathers were brothers, and the sons are now neighbors. Both men teach their children traditional skills they share: ricing, fishing, singing and drumming.

Both have risen to respectable positions, Bob as the owner of a contracting business and Bradley as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Their similarities are not all positive. Both men have been addicts, and both have been to jail.

But both found their way to sobriety through Anishinaabe culture — Bob as keeper of a drum once kept by his grandfather, Melvin Eagle, and Bradley as a dedicated student of the Ojibwe language and ceremonies.

Both Bob and Bradley have also seen what addiction has done to their community, so it's no surprise that they've been talking about what they can do to help — especially after a rash of overdoses hit the community in August.

"Brad actually messaged me one night and said 'Let's do a smudge walk. Let's smudge our community,'" Bob said. "That sort of clicked. There's a physical side to addiction, but there's a spiritual side, too. We use sage to ward off bad spirits."

They put a notice on Facebook, and the interest was strong.

A week later they were leading a procession of 200 Band members, friends and family in a loop beginning at the community center, past the water tower, and around to the schools, the clinic, the ALU and the government center.

As they marched, Luther Sam played a hand drum and Bradley told his story through the megaphone: "I was an addict, I was a user, I was a criminal," he said. "But I got healthy through our culture, our language and our ceremonies."

Back where they started, volunteers dished up a feast, and Bob took the microphone and welcomed attendees to share their stories.

It didn't come easy for him. Bob introduced himself in Ojibwe and said, "I'm not a very good person to be up here speaking, but you gotta start somewhere, just like we're doing here today. We're starting here."

He led those in attendance in a moment of silence to remember a young Band member who is in a coma following an overdose.

Bob introduced Dorothy Sam, who gave the invocation, and several Band members spoke of the negative impact heroin and other drugs have had on their lives and families.

One of those was his 23-year-old daughter Starla, who was addicted to heroin before quitting a year ago.

Before Starla got clean, Bob thought of her as he put out his asemaa every day. "I said I would do anything to help her," Bob recalled.

Last September, Bob fell ill with a life-threatening infection, and Starla came to the hospital to see him. While she was there, people noticed she wasn't looking well. It turned out she had a blood infection that was affecting her heart. She spent 78 days in the hospital.

"I think my getting sick, I had to go through that in order to help her," said Bob. "My prayers were answered. The spirits work in mysterious ways." (For more on Starla, see sidebar.)

Bob speaks openly about his own addiction and recovery — how a DWI five years ago earned him a six-month sentence, but also gave him the wake-up call he needed to finally quit drinking.

"When I saw those flashing lights in my mirror, I decided to tell the truth to that cop and never drink again," he said.

He's lived up to that promise, with help from his culture. When he was in jail, he wrote a letter to his grandfather, and when he was released, he went to see him. "I read your letter," said Melvin. "I was waiting for you to come and see me."

Melvin told Bob that he would someday take the chief's position on that drum. "You gotta promise me that you're not ever gonna drink again," he said.

Bob promised, and after Melvin passed away, Perry Benjamin came to Bob and said the drum society wanted him to be head drum chief. "I accepted immediately," said Bob. "Being in that position as a drum keeper for the past few years I've learned that it's my duty to help my people. I believe wholeheartedly that our spirituality, our culture, our heritage is the solution to any issue."

Bob doesn't miss the drinking. "I've filled my life with ceremony, my kids, my work... We go to Big Drum, sweat lodges, mide, ricing, sapping. There's no time to even think about drinking."

Bob has also made himself available to anyone who needs help with addiction. He listens, gives advice and tries to get them the help they need.

He also shares his story. "It feels great to be out in the open about it," he said. "If I can help one person with the struggles I've faced, then by all means I'll tell them about it. I was an alcoholic for many years. I've hurt family members, friends, significant others. That I'm not proud of, but I have made amends, and I did that in a good way, from my heart. I'll be five years clean and sober in December, and I'm proud of how far I've come. I'm a better role model for my children, my family, my community as a whole. I don't want to experience this alone; I want the community to come with me and experience this gratefulness for being sober."

In order to do that, Bob is ready to bring community involvement to the next level, and the smudge walk was the first step. Like many Band members, Bob has seen the devastating impact of opioid addiction. He has siblings who have been addicted, as well as his daughter.

For Bob, the users and dealers alike are in need of connection and compassion. "For a long time I've combatted this with anger. I was pushing people away that I felt would do harm to my well being. Supporting my daughter in her addiction, I learned a lot," he said. "I learned that compassion and love and caring is the ultimate ticket to helping people reconnect with their family."

"We've talked about making appearances at drug dealers' houses, singing prayer songs outside their houses, not to shame them, but to tell them we know what they're doing, we know who they are. This is a spiritual movement we're going for here. We want to help people the best way we know how as Anishinaabe people, and that's through prayer."

They've already held a second smudge walk, and they've offered to help out in other communities that want to fight drugs and drug-dealing. Their Facebook page, "Millelacs Band Community issues and information," is a source of inspiration and positive conversation.

For Bob, and for his cousin Bradley, it all comes back to tradition and spirituality.

"A lot of times our folks get disconnected from their spirit," Bob said. "We want to set up a united front of compassion, love and caring, to bring people back to our culture and spirit. Working hand-in-hand is the way to go forward. We have to try to stand united as a community to face this problem."

"I've grown up in this community, and there's been a sense where everybody was afraid to tell on anybody. It's time to take a stand on stuff like that. Violence in our community, bullying, violence against our women, our children — we can't be afraid to stand up and say no — to be the one to make it stop."

## Starla's Story

**Starla Eagle** Guest Writer

One year ago today I was hospitalized and wasn't expected to make it. I was fighting to stay alive. I extremely damaged my body from shooting heroin and meth into my veins. That was the day I got sober, and since then I went through treatment/halfway house and open heart surgery all because of my drug use.

I have endured many obstacles and struggles that made me feel like giving up, but that would have been the easy way out. I am so blessed to have a second chance at life. I cherish every moment, the good and the bad, because I took life for granted for years, and life is too short to just waste it away on a high.

I wouldn't have gotten this far in my journey without my family and my huge support system I've made.

Now I'm a full-time college student at Fond Du Lac Tribal College. My major is chemical dependency and minor is American Indian studies. I live in Duluth, and my next goal is to obtain my driver's license and get a vehicle. I've made it out of the drug-using lifestyle, and so can anybody else. It's not easy by any means, but I can honestly say my worst day sober is better than my best day using!

*Starla Eagle posted this story on her Facebook page on Sept. 13 and gave us permission to reprint it. She also shared her story at the District I Community Center after the smudge walk in District I on Sept. 8.*



Starla Eagle (with "Drug Free" sign) joined the smudge walk in District I on Sept. 8.



# District I Welcomes Teachers and Staff of Onamia Schools

District I Rep. Sandi Blake hosted a community feast with staff of Onamia schools at the District I Community Center on September 20.

A huge turnout of school personnel and families created a friendly and fun atmosphere.

Sandi gave a warm welcome to those in attendance and expressed the community's appreciation for the work not just of teachers but support staff like bus drivers and food service as well.

Joe Nayquonabe Sr. gave an invocation in Ojibwe after explaining the importance of spirituality in the culture and the significance of asemaa.

School Board Chair and Band member Virgil Wind spoke with passion and humor about his experience in school and his gratitude for those teachers and staff who supported him and never gave up on him. "I believe that we as a team can reach any goal in front of us," said Virgil.

Superintendent Jason "J.J." Vold talked about the importance of cultural competency and the value of Ojibwe culture in the school environment.

Fifty-two percent of the 640 students in the district are Band members, descendants or members of other tribes.

J.J. asked the entire staff to introduce themselves to the community prior to a delicious Indian taco feast provided by Dawn Day.



## Game On at Nay Ah Shing

Nay Ah Shing Schools in District I held an open house for parents, students and community members on Aug. 28. New fourth-grade teacher Matt Sell met his students and their families. On the first day of school, Aug. 29, the schools kicked off the year in a good way with a pipe-and-dish ceremony.



# Community Mental Health Forum

- it's time we all talk

**Tuesday, Oct. 17 | 5-8 pm**

**| Grand Casino, Hinckley |**

guest **Speakers** including **Congressman Nolan & more**

**Free Dinner and Childcare**

**Q & A Resources**



Registration is preferred by Oct. 9 for dinner count.  
[www.resourcetraining.com/Event/12789](http://www.resourcetraining.com/Event/12789)

**Sponsored by:**



Region 7E Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI)  
[AdultMentalHealth.ORG](http://AdultMentalHealth.ORG)



**Essentia Health**

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
 College of Pharmacy

# Reservation Students Learn the Art of Manoominike

As school got rolling in early September, Nay Ah Shing, Minisinaakwaang and Pine Grove students learned the ancient and sacred art of manoominike — harvesting and processing of manoomin, wild rice.

Nay Ah Shing Upper School students spent six days ricing on Lake Onamia, with help from DNR employees and teachers. Ninety-five percent of the students went out on the water, some as many as three times.

Back at school, science and writing teachers made wild rice part of the curriculum. The seniors supervised a rice camp, where students parched, jigged and winnowed the rice they'd harvested. The finished rice will be given to Elders and used for graduation gifts.

Students also made knockers, wild rice dishes, a wild rice cookbook and wild rice Power Point presentations.

On Friday, Sept. 15, the ricing unit concluded with a fun day

of cultural activities. Students learned lacrosse from Byron Ninham, the dish game from Ruth Garbow, and the moccasin game from John Benjamin.

Up at Minisinaawaang Leadership Academy in District II, students welcomed peers from Waadookodaading Immersion School of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in Wisconsin.

The rice crop was not very good in Wisconsin this year, but the visitors found a bumper crop at Rice Lake. District II Rep. David 'Niib' Aubid said it was the best rice he'd seen in many years.

The students were able to participate in what Niib calls "a community of ricers" on a lake that has drawn Anishinaabe people from far and wide for centuries.

Students at Pine Grove Leadership Academy in Aazhoomog (District III) also took part in manoominike with culture teacher Duck White.

## Manoomin — Sacred Food in Need of Protection

**Li Boyd** Mille Lacs Band member

Generations ago, the Anishinaabeg were given a message. We were told to go into the west and travel until we found the place where food grows upon the water. That is how we came to live in the unique watersheds of Minnesota and Wisconsin. This is the only place in the world where our sacred grain Manoomin grows. It is precious to us, and a legacy that we must protect for not only our children and grandchildren, but for our non-human brothers and sisters as well. In our territory, everyone lives by the rice.

Farmers have been trying to replicate it for a long time, and many non-native people are not aware there's a difference between cultivated wild rice and the real deal. Cultivated wild rice comes from paddies in California and other distant places and is an imposter with nowhere near the nutritional or flavor value of Manoomin. The stuff passed off as wild rice in mainstream grocery stores is a long black grain that is difficult to cook and harshly flavored. I've often heard people say they don't like wild rice, and I always ask, "Have you ever had real wild rice?" It usually sparks some curiosity, and agriculture experts know that the demand for the real thing is there. The University of Minnesota proposed a project to map the genome of our Manoomin recently, and the tribes rejected the idea, knowing that this would only open the doors for non-native agriculture to study and attempt to replicate and modify our Manoomin.

The truth of Manoomin is that it is wild. It grows naturally, without cultivation, in clean, mineral rich waters. The responsibility to make sure it flourishes falls on us. We fought for our treaty rights to this sacred food, and it is our duty to protect it, through both harvesting and environmental stewardship. Our traditional hand harvesting methods using canoe and knocking sticks ensures that Manoomin is reseeded back into the water. It also supports local wildlife. Often, fish will follow the ricing canoes to eat the rice worms that fall, and muskrats will follow to eat the fish, and eagles will follow to eat the fish and maybe even the other small predators. The entire food chain sways into motion in the wake of a ricing canoe.

According to state DNR reports, we have already lost 70 percent of our Manoomin. Our efforts to protect our existing rice and honor our traditions are more important than ever. Whether the threat is from pipelines, agricultural runoff, water infrastructure, depletion or disturbance, we must do our best to look after what we have left. The Manoomin nurtures us, and we must protect and honor it in return. After all, we came here for this sacred food, and this is the only place it grows.



**Top Right:** Nay Ah Shing students and staff spent six days ricing on Lake Onamia this fall. Photo courtesy of Nay Ah Shing.

**Above:** Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy students brought their guests from Waadookodaading in Wisconsin to Rice Lake this fall. Photo by Mikayla Schaaf.

**Left:** Iyawbance and Mandy YoungBear set out into a sea of manoomin on Rice Lake in District II Sept. 13.

## Fun Start at Pine Grove

It has been a busy and exciting first month at Pine Grove Learning Center. The students went out ricing on Hay Creek numerous times. For most of the students, this was their first time ricing. Not a lot of rice was harvested, but the experience was priceless.

The two classrooms spent a week participating in apple-related science experiments together. There are about 10 apple trees near the school where the students were able to pick an abundance of apples. One of the experiments consisted of reading "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" by Dr. Seuss. The students discussed the properties of solids and liquids and then they created their own oobleck with applesauce, corn starch, water and cinnamon. The week continued with the students peeling and measuring apples, spices and water to create crockpot applesauce. Each student was able to take a container home to share.

The first art project they participated in was creating a

self-portrait on canvas, with temper paints. The whole school, including staff, participated, and the paintings are now displayed in our up-and-coming art gallery.

The teachers at Pine Grove will continue to collaborate and team teach hands-on experimental science as a whole group, grades K-6, as well as continue expanding the wonderful creations in our art gallery.





# Gego Awakaanaaken Giwiji-Bimaadiziim Don't Bully Your Fellow Human Being

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Melissa Boyd Baabitaawigiizhigookwe Gaa-anishinaabewibii'ang

**Mii dash waa-ni-dazhindamaan a'aw abinoojiinh ezhi-gagwaadagi'igod awakaanigod awiya miinawaa miikinzomigod awiya. Ishke mii iw eni-izhiwebak aaniindi-go gekinoo'amaagozid a'aw abinoojiinh, mii iw eni-doodawind. Ishke mii-go gomaapii ezhi-debwetang enind a'aw abinoojiinh goopazomigod iniw waajigikinoo'amaagojin.**

What I am going to talk about is the difficulty that a child goes through when he is abused, picked on and teased. This bullying type of behavior is happening to children in most schools. What happens is that the child eventually believes what he is told by his schoolmates, that he is inferior.

**Ishkemii iw ezhiwebak inigaachigaazod a'aw abinoojiinh imaa endaad. Maagizhaa gaye inow ogitiziiman maagizhaa gaye netaawigi'igojin inigaamigod miinawaa ini-aanawenimind imaa endazhi-ganawenimind. Mii-ko enind, "Aaniin ezhiwebiziyen?, Mii-go apane wanichigeyan. Daga aabaakawizin. Gaawiin gegoo gidinaabidizisiin. Mii-go apane ezhi-zhazhiibitaman., Geget gimaji-gwiiwizensiw/ikwezensiw."**

This is also what happens when a child is verbally abused in the household that he is raised in. It can be his biological or foster parents that tell him that he is inferior. The child usually hears things like, "What is the matter with you?, Why can't you do anything right and always seem to mess up?, Straighten up!, You're useless!, You never listen., You're a bad boy/bad girl!"

**Ishke dash a'aw abinoojiinh oniigaaniiming mii-go ezhi-debwetang mii iw gaa-pi-noondang. Mii dash i'iw izhi-goopadenindizod. Mii dash dibishkoo imaa baataashing, mii-go gaawiin gegoo ogashkitoosin wii-ni-izhichiged. Mii iw enendang, "Gaawiin ninde-nibwaakaasiin da-giizhiikamaan i'iw endazhiikamaan."**

The child, in his future, goes on to believe what he has heard about himself. As a result, he has low self-worth. This becomes a barrier and prevents him from succeeding in whatever he is doing. The child believes "I am not smart enough to complete what I am doing."

**Mii-go gaye imaa da-gozigwaninig ge-ayaamagadinig odinendamowining ge-wasidaawishkaagod. Ishke ingiw abinoojiinyag iko eni-izhichigewaad imaa baadaminowaad miinawaa minawaanigoziwaad, gaawiin wiin a'aw abinoojiinh gaa-inigaa'ind izhichigesiin i'iw keyaa.**

The child as a result goes on to suffer from depression that makes his life difficult. Normally what children do, they enjoy playing and are happy as they do so. For those children who have been abused, they do not play and enjoy life as others their age.

**Mii-go gaye oniigaaniiming i'iw ge-ni-bitakoshkang, gaawiin wawingezisiin awegodogwen igo eni-dazhiikang. Baanimaa gashkitood da-**

**zaagamomagadinig inigaayenindizod, mii iw bijinag da-mino-ayaad. Maagizhaa oada-ni-waabamaan awiya ge-babizindaagojin awegonen i'iw gegwaadagi'igod.**

The result of this abuse prevents a person from being efficient in whatever they are working on. That person will not be healed until those feelings of low self-worth are released. They could possibly talk with a counselor or therapist as a way to release that negative view of themselves.

**Mii-ko a'aw Anishinaabe gaa-izhi-wiindamawind da-izhichiged iwidi bagwaj gidaa-izhaa da-nasanaamoyan. Gidaa-noondaagoog dash ingiw Manidoog eyaajig imaa bagwaj. Mii dash o'ow gomaapii da-moonendang gii-kiiwanimotawind, gaawiin geget goopadizisiin.**

What Anishinaabe was told to do was to go out into the woods and release those emotions. They were told that the Manidoog out there in the woods would hear them and help them. Eventually the person would realize that he had been lied to all of these years and he is not inferior like he was told.

**Geget igo maazhichige a'aw bemaadizid ini-wiindamawaad awiya goopadenimaad. Ishke mii iw ge-izhi-debwetangiban iniw ayaanawenimigojin. Mii-go ge-izhi-nisidizopan a'aw enigaamind. Geget gidaa-wenda-gagwaansigendam gikendaman gii-nisidizod a'aw gaa-wenda-inigaamad.**

It is harmful for someone to cut down another person and tell them that they are inferior. That person that is being verbally abused would believe what he is being told. They could even commit suicide being convinced that they are no good. You would really feel bad if you realized that someone you had teased went on to commit suicide.

**Ishke ayaawag ingiw abinoojiinyag wenjida ingiw gwiiwizensag nechiiwenimogig bebaa-inigaa'aajig iniw waaji'aawaajin. Ishke dash a'aw akiwenziyiban gaa-nitaawigi'id ingii-wiindamaag, gaawiin ginwenzh ini-bimaadizisiwag ingiw nechiiwenimogig. Niizh inow gwiiwizensan ogii-tazhimaan gaa-izhi-bimaadiziniin i'iw akeyaa. Ishke dash gii-tebwe a'aw akiwenziyiban, gaawiin ginwenzh gii-ni-bimaadizisiwan iniw gaa-tazhimaajin.**

There are children, especially boys, who really believe they are tough and go around bullying their playmates. The old man that raised me told me, those that think they are tough do not live long. He pointed out two boys that lived their lives that way. What the old man said was true, those boys he pointed out did not live long.

**Ishke gaye nebowa ayaa a'aw Anishinaabe gekinoo'amawaasijig inow oniijaanisan da-minaajitoonid gakina gegoo eyaamagak omaa akiing wenjida giwiji-bimaadiziiminaan. Nigii-igoo gii-kwiiwizensiwiyaan, "Giishpin zhazhiibitaman i'iw keyaa ezhi-gikinoo'amaagooyan da-ni-manaajitooyan gakina**

**gegoo; ishke ani-gichi-aya'aawiyen, mii-go gegapii gaawiin gida-minaaji'aasiin giwiji-bimaadiziim."**

There are many Anishinaabe who do not teach their children to be respectful to everything that exists on this Earth, especially our fellow human beings. I was told when I was a little boy, "If you don't listen to what you are being taught to respect everything; when you get older, you will go on to not have respect for your fellow human beings."

**Ishke nigii-igoo gakina awiya imaa bemaadizid odayaawaan inow Manidoon zhewenimigojin, mii eta-go wenji-ayaad omaa akiing. Ini-maazhi-doodawad awiia, miinawaa inigaamad, mii inow Manidoon genawenimigojin eni-maji-doodawad. Mii gaye gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyan ingiw bebakaan eni-inaadizijig bemaadizijig, gaawiin gidaa-baapi'aasiwaanaanig miinawaa gaawiin gaye gidaa-maji-inaasiwaanaanig. Ogii-inenimigowaan inow Manidoon i'iw akeyaa da-ni-izhi-bimaadiziwaad miinawaa gegoo-go omaa gigikinoo'amaagonaanig bakaan enaadizijig. Ishke ingiw niizhoowaadizijig ogii-inenimigowaan inow Manidoon o'ow akeyaa ge-ni-izhi-bimaadiziwaad. Gaawiin gidaa-baapi'aasiwaanaanig, gaawiin gaye gidaa-inigaamaasiwaanaanig. Mii-go gaye wawaaj ingiw mekadewazhejig ingiw makade-wiiaasag, gaawiin gidaa-inigaamaasiwaanaanig gaye wiinawaa. Gidaa-wii-mikwendaamin gaa-toodaagooyang miinawaa geyaabi endoodaagooyang Anishinaabewiyang inigaa'igooyang bakaan inazheyang. Ishke dash gaawiin aazhita gidaa-doodawaasiwaanaan giwiji-bimaadiziiminaan.**

I was also told not to make fun or to hurt those that are different. We need to respect that the Manidoog put them on this Earth that way and they were put here on this Earth to teach us something. We need to respect those who are Gay or Lesbian, that it was the Manidoog who decided that they should live their lives that way. We cannot make fun of them, or put them down. The same applies to black people, we need to have respect for them also. We as Anishinaabe should remember how we were mistreated and are still mistreated to this day, because our skin color is different. We should not turn around and mistreat our fellow human beings in the same fashion.

**Ishke gidaa-aangwaamitoomin da-bimiwidooyang gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-manaajitooyang gakina gegoo omaa akiing eyamagak. Gidaa-gikinoo'amawaanaanig giniijaanisiminaanig. Gaawiin anishaa gii-miinaasiin a'aw Anishinaabe gii-gikinoo'amawind da-manaajitood gakina gegoo.**

We should continue to carry on our teachings to respect everything on this Earth. We need to teach our children the same. There is a reason we were given these teachings of respect as a people.

## Welcome to Pine Grove!

Pine Grove Leadership Academy in Aazhoomog (District III) welcomed teacher Kelly Griffith to the faculty this fall. Kelly came from Rochester, Minn. to join teachers Amber Lenz and Duck White and Director Karrie McCurdy (who fills in as lunch lady when needed).



# Chief Executive Hosts Meet-and-Greet with New Commissioners

On Sept. 5, with the swearing-in of Assistant Commissioner of Administration Tiger Brown Bull, the Executive Branch cabinet was once again complete after several months of transition.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin hosted an end-of-summer picnic at Grand Casino Mille Lacs for Band members and employees to meet the new commissioners: Tiger, Shelly Diaz (Administration), Rick St. Germaine (Education), Rebecca St. Germaine (Health and Human Services) and Bradley E. Harrington (DNR).

The newcomers joined Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe and Commissioner of Finance Adam Valdez, who is supervised by the Legislative Branch.

Melanie introduced "Famous Dave" Anderson, who catered the picnic, before handing the microphone to Joe Nayquonabe.

Joe introduced Percy and the new commissioners, each of whom said a few words of introduction.

Percy talked about his duty "to build our people — not just roads and houses" as Community Development Commissioner.

Bradley told his story of going to prison before turning his life around through immersion in culture and ceremonies. As DNR Commissioner, Bradley said he is advocating for an Anishinaabe perspective on natural resources, which includes "all the life-giving things we have here on earth," including language

and traditions.

Shelly introduced herself as an urban Band member. "When Melanie called me, I felt like I was coming home, even though I never lived here," said Shelly, adding that her goal is to keep the community strong and help everybody live a good life.

Tiger said he owes a big debt of gratitude to the Chief Executive and Band Assembly for hiring him, and he is looking forward to doing the best he can for the Mille Lacs Band. (For more on Tiger, see page 4.)

Rebecca talked about her long career in health care, from a nursing degree to a Master's in Public Health, to a Ph.D. in Pharmacy. "What I bring to the Mille Lacs Band is long experience of what education and health and welfare mean to our people," she said.

Rebecca's husband Rick, the new Education Commissioner, expressed appreciation for the hospitality and talked about his career not just in education but also in tribal government as Chair of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band in the 1970s, when he got to know Art Gahbow and other Mille Lacs leaders. "I believe we have the potential to do great things," he said.

Joe finished the introductions with a brief summary of developments in Corporate Affairs. In five years, he said, Corporate Affairs non-gaming jobs have increased from 50 to 250, and

wages have increased to \$15 for all Band members at any business. "We were losing money on non-gaming businesses for 20 years," he said, "but in the past five years, we've distributed substantial funds to the Band."

Joe concluded with some thoughts about what it means to be a commissioner for the Mille Lacs Band. "We work for you," he said. "We are a reflection of what you want the community to be. It's not a popularity contest. We want to do the right thing."



Joe Nayquonabe, Bradley Harrington, Shelly Diaz, Tiger Brown Bull, Melanie Benjamin, Rick St. Germaine, Percy Benjamin, Rebecca St. Germaine.

# Bassmaster Brings Anglers, Crowds Back to Mille Lacs

An unprecedented return trip to Mille Lacs for the Bassmaster Angler of the Year tournament Sept. 14–17 resulted in a second straight year of great fishing, big crowds and positive publicity for the Mille Lacs region.

Bassmaster had never scheduled its Angler of the Year tournament at the same location two years in a row, but rave reviews of the 2016 tournament — made possible by a hefty investment from Grand Casino — motivated the organization to return.

The end result was the crowning of 2017 Angler of the Year Brandon Palaniuk and the weekend tourney winner Keith Combs — who caught over 72 pounds of bass in three days, an average of nearly five pounds per fish.

But more important to locals was the attention 50 professional anglers and their entourages brought to Mille Lacs. After last year's tourney, the Bassmaster organization named Mille Lacs the top bass lake in the country.

That recognition has done a lot for a local economy suffering from a decline in walleye numbers and the ensuing controversy, as resorters have attacked the DNR's

walleye assessments.

At the weigh-ins on Thursday, Friday and Sunday, anglers raved about the fishing, many saying they have never fished a better smallmouth lake in their lives.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs General Manager Tracy Sam said this year's tournament went well, and she thanked her staff for their hard work and welcoming attitude. "It was a whirlwind of a week. From start to finish, all of our Associates were incredible — and because of their dedication and hard work, the 2017 Bassmaster Angler of the Year Tournament was a great success," said Tracy.

Sarah Barten of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures was busy all week (and months in advance) making sure the Bassmaster organization was well served and the tournament came off without a hitch.

Corporate Commissioner Joe Nayquonabe said, "We were incredibly proud to be hosting this tournament for the second consecutive year. We have seen just how important this tournament has been to bringing new visitors to the region."



Hundreds of fans and media members attended morning launches from Eddy's Resort.



Anglers pulled hundreds of huge bass from their live wells and showed them off for fans at daily weigh-ins.



## Grand Casino Mille Lacs Celebrates the Opening of 1991 Kitchen

Grand Casino Mille Lacs unveiled its latest guest amenity as a part of the Grand Casino renovation project on Tuesday, Sept. 5 — a new 6,000-sq. ft., 260-seat, sit-down casual dining restaurant called 1991 Kitchen.

1991 Kitchen is the latest property improvement to come online as a part of Grand Casino's exciting revitalization project to celebrate its 25th anniversary.



## Grand Casino Associates Lend a Hand

Milaca resident Phylis Krueger's home received much deserved repairs from Grand Casino Mille Lacs' Lend a Hand program. Now in its thirteenth year, the program annually awards a one-day home makeover to an individual who meets criteria based on income, physical limitations, medical issues and other challenges. The Lend a Hand committee includes Grand Casino Mille Lacs Associates Todd Christopherson, Craig Nass, Shirley Weyer, Cameron Wind, Tom Trail, Alyssa Enno and Sarah Barten.

Additional Associates who volunteered their time to help include Christine Anderson, Robin Bruckhoff, Ed Polinder, Ronald Krueger, George Libera, Mike Renfro, Scott Hoffman, Jim Hutchinson, McKinley Brown, Curt Neumann, John Rensinbrink, James Meister, Joel Molash, Jason Bauer, Steve Meredith, Nathan Shore, Felix Jackson, Matt Conn and Margaret Herzog.

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## Happy October Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diana Marie Anderson  
Mary Ann Bedausky  
Sheldon Ray Boyd  
Vivian Ann Bruce  
Marvin Ray Bruneau  
Donna Marie Dorr Cartwright  
Archie Dahl Cash  
Albert Abner Churchill Jr.  
Steven Lawrence Churchill  
Ervin Wayne Crown  
Harold William Davis  
Darlene Marie Day-Beaulieu  
James F. Dowell Jr.  
Joycelyn Marie Brumbeater  
Rhonda Leigh Dunfee  
Jack Leo Dunkley  
Gary Richard Garbow  
Helena Graikowski  
Lucy May Hnasen  
Marene Hedstrom  
Delores Mae Hegland

William Robert Hemming  
Steven Blane Hensley  
Sherry Lynn Herrick  
Charles Allen Houle Jr.  
Robert Lee Keggs  
Doreen Lorraine Knutson  
Valerie Marie LaFave  
Terrance Steven Leyk  
Joan Littlewolf  
Marcella Jean Maurice  
Jacqueline Applegate McRae  
Betty Mae Mondeng  
Brenda Joyce Moose  
Beverly Marie Nayquonabe  
Linda Jean Nickaboine  
Joni Jayne O'Brien  
Terese Lynn Packard  
Bernice Pawaush  
Jacqueline Ellen Redearth  
Dorothy Sam  
Ruth Anne Sam  
Virginia Louise Sam  
James Robert Schroeder

Terrance Wayne Shaugobay  
Merle Skinaway  
Beverly Jean Smith  
Charlene Marie Smith  
Nancy Jean Spittel  
Montgomery Jay Staples  
Jay Star  
Russell Ernest Towle  
Jill Marie Valentino  
Darlene Almeda Warren  
Earl Ellsworth Whitney  
Nancy Marie Zeleznik

## Happy October Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Harvey Dennis Mattinas** on 10/8! Happy 1st Birthday Baby Boy! Love, Mommy, Dad & Sissy Ria  
• Happy 1st birthday to our **Harvey Dennis** on 10/8! Love, Gramma B, Papa, Cedez, Levin, Aunty B, Levi & We'eh Wade, Grant, Rico, and Uncle Sean

• Happy birthday to **Harvey Dennis** on 10/8! Love, Aunty KC, Hayden, Cayleigh, and your buddy Rowan Wade • Happy birthday **Harvey Dennis** on 10/8! Happy 1st Birthday my We'eh! I love you so much. Love, We'eh B & Uncle Levi • Happy birthday **Harvey Dennis** on 10/8! Love, Elias, TANK, and Alizaya • Happy birthday **Bacon Harvey Dennis!** Love, Rico • Happy birthday **Snooki Boswell Lopes** on 10/10! Love, Mom, Gram Fran, Baby Antwaun, Laila, Reirei, Lil Ricki, Justin, Riley, Carter, Chrysta, Bro, Elaine, Shannon, Crudd  
• Happy 25th birthday **Eric** on 10/25! Love, Dad, Melissa, Braelyn, Payton, Wes, Brynley, Waase, Bianca, Henry, Papa Brad, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle,

Auntie Val, Tyler, Pie, Kev, Auntie Randi, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Jay, Taylor and Adam • Happy 5th birthday to my daughter **Leighnah Marie Garbow** on 10/25! Love • Happy birthday **Melodie** on 10/31! Our little Halloween baby! Love, the Harrington Family •

## Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a message **20 WORDS OR LESS** to [katie.workman@redcircleagency.com](mailto:katie.workman@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-465-8014.

Deadline for Nov. issue is Oct. 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., Mino Bimaadiziwin (Budget Host Hotel) 40847 US-169, Onamia  
Contact Mino Bimaadiziwin 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  
Tuesdays, Aug. 15–Sept. 26, White Earth Urban MOMS and WESAP (212 W. Franklin Ave) Call 612-872-2398 for more info  
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

## Anonymous Drug Tip Line

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department's anonymous drug tip line is (320) 630-2458. Feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and number. In case of emergency, dial 911.



## Upcoming Health Fair Events 2017

### Tuesday, October 17

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
District III, Aazhoomog Community Center  
45471 Grace Lake Rd  
Sandstone, MN 55072

### Wednesday, October 18

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
District II, East Lake Community Center  
46666 State Highway 65  
McGregor, MN 55760

### Thursday, October 19

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
District I, Mille Lacs Community Center  
43500 Virgo Rd  
Onamia, MN 56359

### Friday, October 20

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
District IIA, Chiminising Community Center  
2605 Chiminising Drive  
Isle, MN 56342

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b>  <b>Watch the Vikings or Shoot Baskets</b>                      DI Community Center</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>Sewing Circle</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting</b>  <b>DII AA Group</b>  <b>DIII NA Meeting</b>  <b>Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>3</b>  <b>DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group</b>  <b>Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>DI NA/AA Welcome Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>DIII Wellbriety Meeting</b>  <b>Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Mick Mille Lacs  <b>Healer Herb Sam</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>Kid Crafts: Shoulder Bag</b>                      11 a.m. – 3 p.m.                      Indian Museum  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Mick Mille Lacs</p>
<p><b>8</b>  <b>Watch the Vikings or Shoot Baskets</b>                      DI Community Center</p>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>Indigenous Peoples Day</b>                      Gov't Offices Closed  <b>Sewing Circle</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting</b>  <b>DII AA Group</b>  <b>DIII NA Meeting</b>  <b>Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>10</b>  <b>DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group</b>  <b>Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>11</b>  <b>MN Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee Meeting</b>                      Black Bear, Fond Du Lac Reservation  <b>DI Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>DI NA/AA Welcome Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>12</b>  <b>MN Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee Meeting</b>                      Black Bear, Fond Du Lac Reservation  <b>DIII Wellbriety Meeting</b>  <b>Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>13</b>  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Ladies Drum Round Lake  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Ralph &amp; Andy Mille Lacs  <b>Healer Herb Sam</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Ladies Drum Round Lake  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Ralph &amp; Andy Mille Lacs  <b>Firearms Safety Class</b>                      8 a.m. – 5 p.m.                      DI Community Center</p>
<p><b>15</b>  <b>Watch the Vikings or Shoot Baskets</b>                      DI Community Center  <b>National Congress of American Indians Convention</b>                      Wisconsin Center Milwaukee, WI  <b>Firearms Safety Class — Field Day/Qualify Shoot</b>                      9 a.m. – 1 p.m.                      DI Community Center</p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>National Congress of American Indians Convention</b>                      Wisconsin Center Milwaukee, WI  <b>Basic First Aid Training</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>Sewing Circle</b>                      4 – 8 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting</b>  <b>DII AA Group</b>  <b>DIII NA Meeting</b>  <b>Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>17</b>  <b>National Congress of American Indians Convention</b>                      Wisconsin Center Milwaukee, WI  <b>Free Mammograms and Pap Tests</b>                      9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.                      Lake Lena Clinic  <b>DIII Health Fair</b>                      10 a.m. – 2 p.m.                      Aazhoomog Community Center  <b>DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group</b>  <b>Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>National Congress of American Indians Convention</b>                      Wisconsin Center Milwaukee, WI  <b>DIII Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      Hinckley  <b>Free Mammograms and Pap Tests</b>                      10 a.m. – 3 p.m.                      East Lake Clinic  <b>DII Health Fair</b>                      10 a.m. – 2 p.m.                      East Lake Comm. Ctr.  <b>DI NA/AA Welcome Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>National Congress of American Indians Convention</b>                      Wisconsin Center Milwaukee, WI  <b>Free Mammograms and Pap Tests</b>                      9 a.m. – 4 p.m.                      Ne-la-Shing Clinic  <b>DI Health Fair</b>                      10 a.m. – 3 p.m.                      Mille Lacs Community Center  <b>DIII Wellbriety Meeting</b>  <b>Open Gym</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>National Congress of American Indians Convention</b>                      Wisconsin Center Milwaukee, WI  <b>8th Annual Tobacco Prevention &amp; Wellness Symposium</b>                      9 a.m.                      DoubleTree by Hilton, St. Paul  <b>DIIa Health Fair</b>                      10 a.m. – 2 p.m.                      Ne-la-Shing Clinic  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Niib &amp; Iyawbance East Lake  <b>Healer Herb Sam</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>Beading 101 2-Day Workshop</b>                      11 a.m. – 3 p.m.                      Indian Museum  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Niib &amp; Iyawbance East Lake</p>
<p><b>22</b>  <b>Watch the Vikings or Shoot Baskets</b>                      DI Community Center  <b>Beading 101 2-Day Workshop</b>                      10 a.m. – 2 p.m.                      Indian Museum</p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>Constitutional Convention</b>                      Fortune Bay, Bois Forte Reservation  <b>DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting</b>  <b>DII AA Group</b>  <b>DIII NA Meeting</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>24</b>  <b>Constitutional Convention</b>                      Fortune Bay, Bois Forte Reservation  <b>DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>DII Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      East Lake Community Center  <b>DI NA/AA Welcome</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>26</b>  <b>DIIa Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      Chiminising Community Center  <b>DIII Wellbriety Meeting</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Linda &amp; Joyce Mille Lacs  <b>Healer Herb Sam</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>Ceremonial Dance</b>                      Linda &amp; Joyce Mille Lacs</p>
<p><b>29</b>  <b>Watch the Vikings or Shoot Baskets</b>                      DI Community Center</p>	<p><b>30</b>  <b>DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting</b>  <b>DII AA Group</b>  <b>DIII NA Meeting</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>31</b>  <b>DI Halloween Party</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>Sobriety Feast</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center  <b>DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group</b>  <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p><b>Want Your Event Here?</b>                      Email <a href="mailto:katie.workman@redcircleagency.com">katie.workman@redcircleagency.com</a> or call 612-465-8014. Visit <a href="http://millelacsband.com/calendar">millelacsband.com/calendar</a> for additional MLB events.</p> <p><b>Band Assembly Meetings</b>                      Band Assembly meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other info, call the Legislative office or visit <a href="http://millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com">millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com</a>. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.</p> <p><b>More October Events</b>  <b>Ribbon Skirt/Moccasin Making:</b> October 2, 9 &amp; 16 at 12 p.m. at the Chiminising Community Center  <b>Men's Strength Training:</b> October 3, 10 &amp; 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the District I Community Center  <b>Sewing 101:</b> October 5, 12 &amp; 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the District I Community Center  <b>Cooking 101:</b> October 5, 10, 12 &amp; 17 at 7 p.m. at the District I Community Center  <b>Zumba Fitness:</b> October 3, 10 &amp; 17 at 6 p.m. at the District I Community Center  <b>Women's Strength Training:</b> October 5 &amp; 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the District I Community Center</p>			

# Band Members Compete in Triathlon

**Baabitaw Boyd** Guest Writer    **Lisa Skjefte** Photographer

Although it was a misty morning on Aug. 26, 215 Indigenous women came together at 9 a.m. at Bde Maka Ska (Lake Calhoun) in Minneapolis for the 6th Annual Kwestrong Triathlon. More and more Mille Lacs Band members have taken the opportunity to participate in the contemporary indigenous women's race. The triathlon included a 5K (3.1 Miles), a 9-mile bike ride, and a paddle across the lake and back.

Women of many colors and nations came together to cheer each other on and see one another through to the finish line. Some women finished the triathlon with children on their backs or strapped to the back of their bikes while others had their children packed into life-jackets going for the paddle.

Miskwaanakwadookwe, Lisa Skjefte (Red Lake/Minneapolis), is one of the many co-founders and agents of the Kwestrong organization. She spoke at the welcoming about how women will be able to do great things together when we hold one another up and when we make our health and well-being a priority. Her dream is, as Kwestrong grows, that women can say individually "I am Kwestrong! That is me!" She wants indigenous women everywhere to be the creators of their good life through indigenous health and wellness practices.



## Ceremonial Dance Dates Fall 2017

**Mick:** Mille Lacs, October 6 & 7

**Ladies Drum:** Round Lake, October 13 & 14

**Ralph & Andy:** Mille Lacs, October 13 & 14

**Niib & Iyawbance:** East Lake, October 20 & 21

**Linda & Joyce:** Mille Lacs, October 27 & 28

**Elmer & Sheldon:** Mille Lacs, November 3 & 4

**Skip & Darrell:** Lake Lena, November 10 & 11

**Joe & George:** Mille Lacs, November 17 & 18

**Lee:** Lake Lena, November 24 & 25

**Vince & Dale:** East Lake, November 24 & 25

**Bob & Perry:** Mille Lacs, December 1 & 2

**Tim & Tom:** East Lake, December 8 & 9

**Jim & Lewis:** LCO, December 8 – 10

### 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, 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 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 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](mailto: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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 43408 Oodena Drive  
 Onamia, MN 56359  
[millelacsband.com](http://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 [brett@redcircleagency.com](mailto:brett@redcircleagency.com) or [katie.workman@redcircleagency.com](mailto:katie.workman@redcircleagency.com) or call Katie at 612-465-8014 or Brett at 320-237-6851.

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