

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

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GIKINOO'AMAAGOZID A'AW ANISHINAABE

OBIZAAN: "IT'S IMPORTANT THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION."

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Dear Band Members,

Aaniin, Boozhoo. I want to begin with an update about the public safety crisis in District I. In last month's newspaper, we informed Band Members about a letter from Governor Dayton in which he issued an ultimatum to Mille Lacs County; either sign the previous 2008 agreement by a deadline of Sept. 29, or he would consider all other measures available to him, including entering into a law enforcement agreement with the Band through the State Patrol.

At the end of the day on Sept. 29, no action was taken by the Governor. On Oct. 19, we received a brief letter from Governor Dayton in which he urged the Band and County to return to mediation. It is very disappointing that he has not provided us with next steps about entering into an agreement with the state patrol or any other options, as he committed to doing in his September letter. The Band is considering our options at this point for how to move forward in a way that protects our Band Members and community.

By the time you receive this newspaper, we may have additional updates to report via the Band's Facebook page or the Chief Executive Office Facebook page at facebook.com/ChiefExecutiveMelanieBenjamin

Other meetings in November included many individual meetings with Band Members, meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, a meeting of the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), a board meeting of the Indian Law Resource Center, and the annual convention of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), just to name a few. NCAI is the oldest and largest national Indian organization in the country. Several of our Band commissioners were in attendance and we all worked non-stop, each day, from 7:15 a.m. through the early evening hours. I had the opportunity to attend a public Listening Session with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and testified about our law enforcement issue with Mille Lacs County; an Associate Attorney General was in attendance along with several other DOJ officials.

While I presented at or moderated different break-out sessions, the most important benefit of NCAI comes from just attending the sessions and actively participating each day in the many breakout sessions offered. Several of our newest commissioners attended this year. They learned how to harness the advocacy strength of NCAI to support us on our most critical issues as well as how to navigate the hundreds of federal agencies that

serve tribes. We participated in many strategy sessions on topics we have in common with other tribes (the opioid crisis, out of home placement of Native children, public safety, etc.) and gained information about new funding opportunities across the federal system and non-profit world. This was an outstanding conference and my hope is to bring a delegation of youth and elders next year as well.

Finally, we also elected new leadership into key positions at NCAI, while retaining strong leaders from the last Administration. Former NCAI President Brian Cladoosby could not run again due to term limits, so our new President is Jefferson Keel (Chickasaw). Other officers elected include Aaron Payment (Sault St. Marie) as First Vice President, Juana Majel (Pauma-Yuima Band of Mission Indians) as Recording Secretary; and our good friend W. Ron Allen (Jamestown) was re-elected Treasurer by acclamation. In our region, Roger Rader (Pokagon) was re-elected as our Midwest Area Vice President, and my friend Shannon Holsey (Stockbridge-Munsee) was elected as Alternate Area Vice President.

There are always too many events and issues to cover well in this column, so I want to say a few words about some of the most important developments this past month, done by the most effective advocates for our Band: the Band Members. For the past few months, we have seen Band Members stepping up into community leadership roles on so many critical topics, speaking out passionately about the issues they believe in and advocating for our rights as Anishinabe people and as a Band. From the MCT constitutional conventions to the pipeline hearings, from the Percap Patrol and Smudge Walks to those working to end domestic violence and attending county board meetings — the list goes on and on of Band Members taking the reins to bring about change as strong, empowered people. It is amazing to see this activism happening nearly everywhere we look! The ones who came before us would very proud of that warrior-ism that has re-emerged from our people. Chi Miigwech!

Melanie Benjamin



Left: Attendees at the NCAI General Assembly meeting raised their fists in solidarity with ending domestic violence.



Right: Melanie Benjamin spoke in a breakout session called "Strengthening Tribal-State Relations and Sovereignty through Education and Training."

Band, Pine County Work Together to Hire Community Coach

The Mille Lacs Band matched a \$25,000 investment by Pine County to hire a "community coach" to help reduce the incidence of truancy and improve relationships between Band members and schools.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Government Affairs Director Katie Draper and students from the WiiDu program delivered the donation to Pine County officials at the government center in Pine City on Friday, Oct. 6.

Pine County Commissioner Steve Hallan welcomed the guests, saying, "I'm pretty excited about this day." He gave credit to Probation Director Terry Fawcett for the community coach idea. "It seemed like a good idea, so we sold it to our board," said Commissioner Hallan. "I think it's a great thing. We're looking for good results, and we know that might not happen right off the bat. We're in this for the long run."

Terry thanked the County Board and the Band for supporting the project. He said he worked with community coaches in the

Arrowhead region, where the positions were funded by the federal government. "This to me is not only the first of its kind but really the best model, a partnership between the County and the Band," he said.

Melanie talked about the Band's focus on "7 generations" and "minobimaadiziwin" — living a good life. She said the goal of the project is to keep young people out of "the system." Early brushes with the law, she said, can label a person for life.

"I see our kids, how talented they are, how intelligent they are, how gifted they are," Melanie said. "But sometimes they get on the wrong path."

Working together, she said, can get them back on track, adding that the Anishinaabe are very powerful people.

"When you take all that power and you work together with everybody — Wow! It's amazing what can happen."

Pine County is encouraging Band members to apply for the community coach position.



'Pericap Patrol' Leads to Discussion, Organization, Action

An anti-drug gathering at Grand Market on Thursday, Oct. 5, turned into a series of demonstrations at suspected "drug houses," where Band members sang, drummed and offered tobacco to persuade dealers to either quit selling drugs or leave the reservation.

Over the following week a group of community members calling themselves "Protectors Not Protesters" planned additional activities and met to discuss the best ways to address the drug crisis in the community.

The "Pericap Patrol" was designed to discourage drug sales in the parking lot of Grand Market because drug sales are common in the area on the day per capita payments are distributed.

It was reported that several people overdosed on the morning of the gathering, including one in the Grand Market parking lot.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and District I Rep. Sandi Blake both showed up at the beginning of the event and offered their support and encouragement. Also in attendance, along with about 40 Band members, were members of the group Natives Against Heroin from the Twin Cities.

Early in the day, two women in the group interrupted what they believed was a drug sale, prompting organizers to call the event a success, since averting a single sale could save a life.

After a pipe ceremony in the parking lot by Terry Kemper, some of those present decided to drive to the home of a suspected drug dealer on Virgo Road, and from there the caravan visited other suspected dealers' residences on Ojibwe Drive, Bugg Hill and Atooban Drive.

Outside the first home, the group brought out a drum, sang a healing song and offered tobacco.

James Cross of Natives Against Heroin spoke through a megaphone asking any dealers in the homes to give up selling drugs, leading the crowd in chanting "Shut it down! Shut it down!"

"We care about you," James said. "We know it's an addiction that is causing you to do this. We love you, but we don't like what you're doing."

At some homes, Band members addressed the residents directly by name, accusing them of pushing drugs on children, resulting in addiction and death.

One woman spoke to her sister through the megaphone: "Please look around you. Look at the kids! Enough is enough. We're here to help you. . . . Look out your window and see how many people are out here trying to help you. We love you. That's why we're here."

Questioning methods

Several of the participants and other District I Band members

met on Oct. 10 at the community center to consider creating a local chapter of Natives Against Heroin. Some of those present at the pericap event had become uncomfortable with the confrontational approach of Natives Against Heroin, and they wanted to make certain they could go their own direction if they align with the group.

Consensus was that smudge walks should continue, but using a megaphone to directly call out suspected dealers or users should not.

District I Rep. Sandi Blake recommended that the group stick to positive messages of hope, help and healing.

Mick Davis said he liked the slogan, "We're not protesting, we're protecting."

Bob Eagle talked about a poster contest he had organized on Facebook, reporting that \$400 had been pledged for prizes and that Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin had agreed to use the State of the Band address to promote the contest and/or winners. "That is the biggest platform we have as Band members," Bob said.

Kim Sam informed the group that the Public Health Department had also sponsored a poster contest, and the winners were in the hands of Steve Premo to create posters to be handed out at State of the Band and sent home to households.

Health and Human Services Commissioner Rebecca St. Germaine talked about developments at Four Winds, the treatment center in Brainerd that the Band took over from the State this spring. She said the program is being revised with the help of Elders.

"We want to be respectful of our people," she said. "The treatment at Four Winds is a cultural approach. It's not just western medicine where they give you more drugs or make you go through a 12-Step program. We've been up there so they know how to work with our people."

From there the conversation turned to the importance of aftercare. Sandi said the Band is planning a family resource center for young women focusing on recovery and aftercare.

Luther Sam said he has been living at the halfway house. "It's an amazing program," he said. "Staff are amazing. I have nothing bad to say about it." He said there are many opportunities available to Band members in recovery — even those with felonies.

Bradley Harrington agreed, telling his story about riding his bike to work until he could get his license back. "I just kept on applying myself and didn't let that felony get in my way," he said. "It is unbelievable the assistance we get from the tribe."

Kim said the Band can do more to help those in recovery

to transition out of the halfway house, including peer recovery coaches and a recovery section of the community where people can feel safe together and recover together.

Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin said there are plans in the works for Band members to transition from the Minobimaadiziwin Hotel to a loop of eight transitional units with a zero tolerance policy.

Sandi said, "These positive stories need to be put out there for the community."

Bob said, "That's what this group is about. We want to bring people up. I haven't been an angel myself. It's best to be positive. If we spend one moment in the darkness, it can really crush an entire group."

The "Protectors Not Protesters" group joined in the Walk for Family Peace on Oct. 16 and held another meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 25, after this issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* went to press. See next month's paper or millelacsband.com for updates, and see page 9 for more on the initial meeting.



Legislative Staff Receives Training

On Sept. 27, the Legislative staff attended a naloxone (brand name Narcan) training class by Dr. Greg Braaten. Due to the opioid crisis in our community, the staff found it to be very informative, and a lot of questions were answered. There was a lengthy discussion regarding prevention, and numerous ideas as to how to help. One idea was a 24/7 crisis line. Another was improved access to Rule 25 assessments so Band members don't need to wait weeks to enter treatment.

Band Members, Officials Present at NCAI Convention

Mille Lacs Band elected officials, staff and commissioners attended the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 74th Annual Convention in Milwaukee Oct. 15-20.

Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu was one of the panelists at the Native American Voting Rights Coalition Field Hearing on Monday, Oct. 16. Panelists testified regarding the many obstacles that Native voters face in today's non-tribal elections.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin attended a Department of Justice Listening Session and testified about our public safety crisis in District I.

Melanie held a strategy meeting the first day where Executive Branch staff reviewed the agenda and divided up break-out sessions and committee assignments to make sure everything was covered.

All commissioners and staff, including Commissioners Shelly Diaz, Tiger Brown Bull, Bradley Harrington and Rebecca St. Germaine, and Government Affairs staff Jamie Edwards and Shena Matrious, were required to attend the regional caucus at 7:15 each morning, all General Assemblies and two breakout sessions every day, as well as committee meetings in the evening,

some of which lasted until 6:30.

Monday afternoon was the First General Assembly, where the new Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, John Tahsuda (Kiowa), introduced himself to Indian Country. District I Rep. Sandi Blake and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin were among a small group of tribal leaders who had already met with Tahsuda in Washington D.C.

Health and Human Services Commissioner Rebecca St. Germaine was a panelist on a roundtable discussion titled "Implementing the Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda in a Culturally Relevant Manner."

Mille Lacs Band Member and Government Affairs staff Jamie Edwards and Melanie presented in a breakout session about the Band's efforts to promote indigenous-to-indigenous commerce, alongside a tribe from New Zealand.

Melanie also spoke in a breakout session called "Strengthening Tribal-State Relations and Sovereignty through Education and Training." She introduced a panel consisting of Linda Aitken of Leech Lake, Tadd Johnson of Bois Forte and Leroy Staples Fairbanks, Leech Lake District III Representative.

Mary Sue Anderson, Director of Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy, was scheduled to be a panelist on a listening session with the Bureau of Indian Education on tribal sovereignty in education. Mary Sue was unable to attend and was replaced by Minisinaakwaang School Board member Michaa Aubid.

The Mille Lacs Band was the Communications Sponsor of the event.



Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, left, was a speaker at a panel discussion on native voting rights Monday, Oct. 16.

State and Local News Briefs

Minnesotans Celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day

Day: Indigenous Peoples' Day has been celebrated on the Columbus Day federal holiday in Minneapolis since 2014 and St. Paul since 2015. On Oct. 10, 2016, Gov. Mark Dayton proclaimed Indigenous Peoples' Day statewide for the first time. This year, festivities in the Twin Cities included a morning ceremony at Bde Maka Ska (Lake Calhoun), a parade from the American Indian Magnet Pre-K in St. Paul to Mounds Park, and another parade across the river beginning at Cedar Field Park near Little Earth. The Minneapolis American Indian Center hosted a community feast and festival in the afternoon followed by a dance and rally from 4 to 7 p.m. including speakers from Stop Line 3 and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women campaigns. *Source: citypages.com.*

Lake Superior Island Returned to Chippewa:

Susie Island off the northeast tip of Minnesota in Lake Superior is back in tribal hands after a gift from the Nature Conservancy to the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The Nature Conservancy acquired the island from various landowners. Peggy Ladner, director of the Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, said, "It was at risk... There were some plans to either develop the site or use it for commercial boat excursions. We wanted to protect it in its entirety." *Source: startribune.com.*

Gashkibidaaganag Are Subject of New Book:

Marcia Anderson, who has been researching Ojibwe bandolier bags for more than 30 years, has published a book on the topic: *A Bag Worth a Pony — The Art of the Ojibwe Bandolier Bag*. A review published in the Twin Cities Pioneer Press cites three Mille Lacs artists — Maude Kegg, Batiste Sam and Cheryl Benjamin Minnema. Anderson was the Minnesota Historical Society's liaison to its Indian Advisory Committee before her retirement in 2011. *Source: twincities.com.*

County Board Schooled About Mille Lacs

Fishery: Representatives of the Minnesota DNR attended the Mille Lacs County Board meeting Oct. 3 to inform commissioners about the status of walleye fishing on Mille Lacs Lake. Fisheries Chief Don Pereira and Regional Supervisor Brad Parsons said data clearly show a decline in the species — despite the skepticism about the data from members of the resort and angling communities around the lake. *Source: messagemedia.ca/millelacs.*

'Ganawenjiige Onigam': Symbol of Resilience

in Duluth: A new mural in downtown Duluth is said to be the first piece of public art in the city by and for Native Americans. The colorful painting is considered a symbol of the resilience of Native American women in the face of issues like violence, sex trafficking and environmental racism. The mural, a collaboration between the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) and Honor the Earth, was painted by Mayan artist Votan Ik with assistance from Derek Brown of the Dine or Navajo tribe. 'Ganawenjiige Onigam' is Ojibwemowin for "Caring for Duluth." *Source: Rewire.news.*

White Earth Chair Seeks Censure:

Chairman Terry Tibbetts of the White Earth Band brought forward a motion for the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to censure Secretary-Treasurer Tara Mason. Tibbetts charged that Mason undermined and overruled the Tribal Executive Committee's constitutional convention process; took action to pursue the construction of the Star Lake Casino; took actions related to the construction of the Bagley Casino; engaged in abuse and interference with tribal courts; and rescinded separation of power clauses related to courts, allegedly giving her authority over court decisions. The TEC will conduct a hearing at White Earth to consider the motion. *Source: dl-online.com.*

Micronesian Canoe Comes to Mille Lacs

Li Boyd Guest Writer

Long before there were massive ships and steel hulls in our waterways, canoes were traveling the world over. Not every canoe was built exactly like our birchbark *jiimaan* or even made out of the same things, but the basic canoe design has been crossing vast oceans longer than galleons and tankers even existed.

At the University of Minnesota in the Department of American Indian Studies, Dr. Vicente (Vince) Diaz teaches a course called *Canoe Cultures of Oceania and the Great Lakes*. At the invitation of DNR Commissioner Brad Harrington, in collaboration with Mille Lacs Band member Artist Steve Premo and Professor Brenda Child of Red Lake, Dr. Diaz brought his class to Mille Lacs Lake on September 30 for a day on the beach at Eddy's Resort. Dr. Diaz also brought along his friend and colleague Mario Benito, a master navigator from Polowat Atoll in Micronesia, and a Micronesian outrigger sailing canoe called a *waa herak*.

For Mario, Mille Lacs was almost like coming home, as it was the closest thing he'd seen to open water since traveling to Minnesota. The shoreline on the opposite side of the lake reminded him of the other side of the lagoon from his home. In Polowat, located in a member state of the Federated States of Micronesia, Mario underwent a traditional ceremony called "pwo" (pronounced "poh") last summer to become a master navigator. This tradition is thousands of years old and has been kept alive and in-practice only in the Central Carolines region of Micronesia in the Pacific Islands. Fortunately, the knowledge is being revived across the entire Pacific region. Indigenous peoples are relearning how to build and sail large, open ocean vessels, and how to embark on long distance voyages using only their knowledge of the stars, waves, clouds, sea creatures, and other natural signs.

The single-hull outrigger sailing canoe that Dr. Diaz and Mario brought to Mille Lacs was built in Guam, where Dr. Diaz was born and raised. The doctor identifies as Pohnpeian (Micronesian) from Guam and was eager to share his culture with Mille Lacs Band members who wanted to take a ride. The *waa herak* is a deep, narrow single-hulled canoe with an outrigger supporting it from the middle on the left side. It also has a sail, so can be outfitted for sailing or a paddle about. Mario and the doctor in Mille Lacs meant to put the sail up that day, but time was too short to cover every aspect of the sophisticated Micronesian sailing vessel.

Getting on board the ship was a practice in steady footwork and meant getting used to one's feet not necessarily touching the floor. (This was mainly only a concern for the short folks who participated.) Paddlers were taught to lean one way in the canoe to keep the outrigger lifted to the optimum level. As long as the top of the outrigger stays above the waterline, the canoe is traveling well. Because of the outrigger, all of the paddling must take place off the right side of the boat. Developing a rhythm

with fellow paddlers is one of the most basic and important tasks while on the water, as paddlers in a full boat will be sitting near enough together to knock their paddles against each other. There is a beautiful rhythm to working in sync with four other people to cross the water, especially with someone as experienced as Mario at the stern, safely steering the voyage.

Dr. Diaz' class at the University of Minnesota compares Micronesian canoe culture with Anishinaabe and other indigenous people's canoe culture. The doctor likes to examine how indigenous peoples and their watercraft relate to the environment through practices and traditions. It's a class based partly in academic lecture and partly in practical experience. Dr. Diaz believes the use of traditional watercraft, including our own birchbark *jiimaan*, fosters good community relationships and also provides an access point for indigenous peoples to reconnect to their culture. This includes local indigenous people such as the Anishinaabe, but it also extends to such dislocated indigenous groups as the Micronesian population of Milan, MN who make up to 33 percent of the town's residents.

Dr. Diaz relates that the last 500 years have been a story of containment for indigenous communities. It started with the colonial notion that islands were isolated places, and the communities on islands traveled little and experience limited cultural exchange. The truth, Dr. Diaz says, is that there was no such thing as an isolated island in traditional indigenous ocean cultures. It can be similarly said that Anishinaabe cultures were well-traveled due to their canoe culture as well. Behaviors that reinforce being stuck in one place and isolated are an imposition of colonialism. Dr. Diaz strongly believes in bringing this truth to indigenous, and other, communities through teaching.

The University of Minnesota Native Canoe Program focusing on community engagement and relations brought Dr. Diaz, Mario, and their *waa herak* to Mille Lacs this September, and they hope it will bring them to visit again, perhaps with different watercraft from their comparative indigenous studies course to share with our community. The program does not have its own *jiimaan* yet, and that is something Dr. Diaz hopes to rectify soon, either through purchase or donation. If you or anyone you know can help connect Dr. Diaz with a *jiimaan* for purchase or to be gifted, he can be reached at vmdiaz@umn.edu.

For Dr. Diaz, Mario, and his students, our big water was a gift, and our communities were blessed with the experience of sharing cultures on our shores. In knowing one another, and knowing our relatives from around the world, we draw wisdom and strength. I give thanks to all those who make these events possible.



Mario Benito (top left) and Vicente Diaz of the University of Minnesota (bottom right) brought students to Mille Lacs to launch a traditional micronesia canoe.

Let Our Voices Be Heard

Li Boyd Guest Writer

Enbridge clearly felt the pressure after the Department of Commerce submitted testimony that the Line 3 expansion project is not needed early in September. As the joint Certificate of Need and Route Permit public comment hearings began, Enbridge chartered buses and paid their employees to flood these meetings and drown out indigenous and other anti-project voices. This tactic was used throughout the second comment period in the process, which was the last time the public was able to submit comment to the Public Utilities Commission, in person, on the Line 3 project. Written comments will still be accepted through Nov. 22. The evidentiary hearings, which will include testimony by expert witnesses and individuals for each party legally recognized in the approval process, will begin on Nov. 1 and take place at the Public Utilities Commission's offices in St. Paul.

The fourth hearing in this step of the process was held at the St. Paul Intercontinental Hotel, following a demonstration and march from the state capitol to the venue. Hundreds of water protectors, both indigenous and non-indigenous allies, gathered together on the capitol steps to speak against the progress of this pipeline and then marched together more than a mile, with songs and chants that shut down streets in downtown St. Paul. While some Standing Rock alumni were disconcerted by the news helicopter that hovered over the march, reminding them of the constant air surveillance at the camps in North Dakota, the march had a positive and determined air. Many chanted "This is what democracy looks like!" on their way to the hearing.

Democracy itself seemed less transparent once the hearing started. Pipeline supporters were already in the building when participants for the rally arrived at the Intercontinental, leading some to believe that Enbridge bought rooms in the hotel to allow their supporters to arrive to the hearing first. When it was nearly time for the meeting to start, rally participants were escorted into the hotel and down to the event room where they were funneled through a door one at a time, as they needed to sign-in and submit their names to the judge if they wished to comment.

The hearing went well into its second hour with a barrage of pro-pipeline commentary. Finally, an indigenous woman stood from the crowd and asked why the names of the people coming in weren't being added to the box from which the judge was selecting speakers. The judge claimed that all those still coming in were late arrivals and would therefore not be added until after halfway through the hearing for the night. As a group, protectors stood and objected, making it clear that everyone had arrived at the meeting at the same time. They persisted until the judge added the names to the comment pool, and only then were water protectors given the opportunity to speak.

Though some were allowed to speak after this and the judge went past the time of the scheduled hearing end to accommodate as many commenters as possible, many found the St. Paul hearing to be an uneasy experience at best.

This translated to other hearings around the state, such as in East Lake, where Enbridge admitted to busing in its own supporters and employees, some of whom were getting paid to be there. In Hinckley as well, Band members at the afternoon hearing sometimes did not have seating due to the numbers of attending Enbridge employees and interest groups.

Tensions came to a head at the evening session of the Duluth hearing when Enbridge supporters again flooded the venue before the arrival of water protectors. This even extended to area parking and access, as tractor-trailers with loads of pipe and other pieces of heavy equipment were used to block parking areas and intimidate other participants. Venue security at the Duluth

Entertainment Convention Center tried to block some indigenous people from entering the hearing, including jingle dress dancers, claiming the venue was full at capacity. Individuals were also told not to drum and pray inside the building. Those who were able to get inside the hearing were quickly dismissed by the judge for having already spoken at previous meetings.

When questioned by what method the judge was determining who had already spoken and who had not, the judge threatened to have the questioners removed from the meeting. After having gone unheard for so long and being once again told to go to the back of the line, water protectors confronted the judge, questioning the legitimacy of the hearing process altogether. The judge closed the hearing, leaving the venue, and the dia-



Middle Right: Algin Goodsky testified at the East Lake hearing Oct. 11 in front of green-shirted Enbridge supporters.

A rally at the state capitol on Sept. 28 preceded the public hearing at the InterContinental St. Paul-Riverfront.

logue was suspended in Duluth.

Enbridge released a statement condemning the actions of the water protectors at the Duluth hearing, accusing them of being "extremists" and using intimidation tactics. Water protectors released their own statement pointing out that intimidation is the same tactic Enbridge and its supporters used that very day and has been using all along. In the words of water protectors, "We are not the 'extremists' in the room."

Water protectors are simply tired — tired of being marginalized and not heard. While it's unfortunate that an opportunity for public comment on this project was cut short, it is also worth noting that this occurred partially because citizens felt they were not being given the opportunity to speak. Activists are hopeful for the opportunity to be heard in Cross Lake and St. Cloud at the final two public comment meetings, but they are also aware that written comments may be the only avenue left available. These written comments can be submitted to publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or online at mn.gov/puc/line3/participate/comment by 4:30 on Nov. 22.

National News Briefs

Trump Makes No Mention of Indigenous Peoples' Day

President Donald Trump, in his remarks on the Columbus Day holiday Oct. 9, praised Columbus, who started genocide against American Indian people, but failed to mention the growing movement to recognize Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day. Four U.S. states (Minnesota, Vermont, Alaska and South Dakota) and 53 cities have chosen to mark the day as Indigenous Peoples' Day. *Source: metro.us.*

Standing Rock Sioux Chair Voted Out

David Archambault, who led the Standing Rock Sioux tribe in their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline, lost his bid for reelection after receiving 37 percent of the 1,700 votes cast, compared to 63 percent for tribal councilman Mike Faith. Faith said he opposes the pipeline but thinks the pipeline battle took the focus from other important issues the tribe faces. *Source: usnews.com.*

Sex-Trafficking in Indian Country is a Significant Problem

Tribal women and children are victims of sex trafficking at higher rates than the general population, according to a panel of experts who testified before a Senate committee Sept. 27. "All too often they are kidnapped, sold and transported to remote places like Asia and the Middle East," said Cindy McCain, co-chair of the Arizona Governor's Human Trafficking Council, in a prepared testimony. "You may be asking yourself, 'What happens to these girls?'" she said. "Sadly, they are treated as disposable. They disappear at the hands of these despicable traffickers." Sen. Tom Udall, D-New Mexico, said, "The federal government could be doing more now to help Native victims who are slipping through the cracks." *Source: Navajo-Hopi Observer Online.*

Film Tells Story of Storyteller

An "Oklahoma Treasure" is the subject of a new feature film produced by the Chickasaw Nation. "Te Ata" tells the story of the childhood and career of the legendary storyteller "who took her people's stories from her small community in Indian Territory all the way to Franklin Roosevelt's White House." *Source: newsok.com.*

Oneida Nation Donates Indian Country Today Assets to NCAI

Indian Country Today Media Network, a vital source of Indian news for many years, recently halted operations in the face of challenges in the media industry. The Oneida tribe, which owned the company, announced Oct. 4 that the company's assets had been donated to the National Congress of American Indians. "NCAI's Executive Officers and I are humbled by this donation from ICTMN and the Oneida Indian Nation," said NCAI President Brian Cladoosby. "Their love for Indian country carries through their every word and has inspired our tribal communities to tell their own stories. This is an immense responsibility; NCAI will approach this responsibility thoughtfully and deliberately with an eye towards strengthening Indian country's voice."

Native Educator is Keeping Tribal Language Alive

Only about a dozen fluent speakers of Umonhon (Omaha) remain, making the work of teacher Vida Woodhull Stabler of crucial importance to the Omaha Reservation in northeastern Nebraska. Stabler is working with elders in the community to develop a curriculum and lesson plans and to bring culturally relevant information into the classroom at Umonhon Nation Public Schools in Macy, Nebraska. Only a few students are opting to take the class, including 15-year-old Kyleigh Merrick, who said, "I hope to become one of the fluent speakers. To me it is really important for everyone to learn the language and to teach our kids, because there aren't that many fluent speakers. If I can become a fluent speaker, I can teach everyone else and help the language not die." *Source: huffpost.com.*



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

Teaching People About Anishinaabe

By Jim Clark

This column by the late Jim Clark was originally published in the Moccasin Telegraph series in the Mille Lacs Messenger and is reprinted in order to help preserve his teachings.

I have spent much of my life trying to help people learn more about the Anishinaabe, because I think if everybody understood each other, we'd all get along so much better.

For a while, I taught at an elementary school down in Minneapolis. I would also go out to other schools and organizations to talk about Anishinaabe people.

I found that kids were shy at first, sometimes because they didn't know what to expect from an Indian. Some of them had never met an Indian in person before. They thought that all Anishinaabe wear feathers and run around half-naked and ride horses.

I remember one time as I talked to a group of children, I noticed that one little boy kept turning around and looking at the door. Finally, I asked him what he was looking for, and he said, "I'm waiting for that Indian to get here!"

Well, that Indian was sitting right there in front of him — it was me.

That's a funny feeling. They looked at me sitting there and didn't say anything. I talked to them about our people and our traditions. And when I got done, those kids were all around me asking questions. Before I had talked to them, they wouldn't touch me with a 10-foot pole. But after I was done talking to them, they were all over me. Someone finally had to chase them away and say leave him alone so I could go home.

Besides talking to the children, I would ask them to draw pictures. When I first got to a school, I'd ask them to draw a picture of Indians on one side of a sheet of paper, and they'd usually draw people living in tipis and wearing feathers.

Then when I was done talking, I would ask them to draw a new picture of Indians on the other side of their paper. This time they'd draw people wearing baseball caps and t-shirts. It made me happy that they started to understand Anishinaabe are real people who are alive today, not just people from old cowboy movies. And that would be after only 45 minutes of talking to them that they'd change their minds.

I wish we had a way to talk to adults like that, too, so they could learn more about us. Because I remember many times when Anishinaabe have not been understood by non-Indians. That has made Anishinaabe afraid, or even feel ashamed to be Indian.

When I was a kid, people were afraid to speak Ojibwe in public. And I remember when you'd walk into a store, like those department stores in Minneapolis, an employee would start following you around. I've seen that a lot of times.

I remember one time my wife and I were trying to get something for the kids for Christmas, and we walked into a store, and the people started looking at us. Maybe they figured we were going to steal something. We were embarrassed, so we left.

I think if we all understand each other more, there wouldn't be so much fear or shame. That's why I hope more non-Indians will learn about Anishinaabe people.

HHS Meets with U of M on Drug Courts, Precision Medicine

The Health and Human Services Department hosted distinguished guests from the University of Minnesota Duluth and Twin Cities campuses on Oct. 11 to learn about drug courts and a smoking cessation study that will be conducted with the cooperation of Ne-la-Shing Clinics.

Commissioner Rebecca St. Germaine introduced Dr. Laura Palombi of the UMD College of Pharmacy, who presented to HHS staff about the drug court in Carlton County.

"The drug court in Carlton County was an innovation that Dr. Palombi organized and invigorated with a pharmaceutical approach," said Commissioner St. Germaine. "It has been widely successful, with better consequences than jails. Here at Mille Lacs, a community steeped in tradition and culture, this is a better model."

Dr. Palombi described the collaborative approach of the drug courts, bringing together social services, medical personnel, attorneys and probation officers to determine the best course of action for offenders with drug problems.

The drug court team offers support, but also accountability, with rewards for staying clean. If they complete the four phases of the program, which takes over a year, felony charges will be dismissed or reduced.

Dr. Palombi's presentation was followed by questions from HHS staff and a wide-ranging discussion about the difficulties faced by those in recovery, including peer pressure when they return to the community from jail or treatment.

She said cultural resources — smudging, sobriety walks, sobriety feasts — have been very successful, so much so that even some non-Indian drug court participants have found them helpful.

Commissioner St. Germaine invited Dr. Palombi to return to

the community to speak with others about drug courts and other topics. "I'd like you to come and speak with our Band Assembly and Tribal Police," she said. "We'd like to pursue this relationship in our community. The points you've brought to us are things we are passionate about and committed to."

In the afternoon, HHS staff met with professors and graduate students from the Twin Cities campus to discuss a memorandum of understanding and collaborative agreement between the Mille Lacs Band and University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

The U of M group will conduct a "precision medicine" study to determine the most effective smoking cessation medications for Mille Lacs Band members based on their unique genetic makeup.

Researchers will meet with volunteers in all districts to conduct interviews, take samples and conduct tests.



Dr. Laura Palombi of the University of Minnesota Duluth met with District I Rep. Sandi Blake and HHS staff on Oct. 11.

Wraparound Staff Attend Homelessness Conference

Several employees in the Health and Human Services Wraparound Program attended the annual conference of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd Sept. 26 and 27 — and they were accompanied by two Band members who have experienced homelessness.

Curtis Sam and Brad Jones shared their stories and insight on homelessness while attending breakout sessions, the keynote forum, and the awards presentation with Wraparound Coordinator Tammy Moreland and Wraparound Facilitators Carol Hernandez and Pete Charpentier.

Brad talked about living in a tent for 18 years in the Twin Cities, Brainerd and Walker. He has been living at Mille Lacs for a year — the first time he's lived on his home reservation.

Curtis said transportation is a major barrier for those on the reservation experiencing homelessness — especially those with disabilities. Curtis suffered heat stroke, which affected his speech. "It's more difficult to gain employment when people think there's something wrong with you," said Curtis.

Curtis thinks the Band and Casinos would benefit from hiring more people with disabilities because it would show they believe in equal opportunity and can see past a person's physical condition.

Unfortunately, people without transportation are often taken advantage of, Carol said. Those with cars will charge \$60 for a trip to Brainerd, and if you give them money to pick up some groceries, they may not come back.

Both Curtis and Brad now live at the Minobimaadziwin Hotel, which is several miles from the government center and casino. There's a shuttle, but it doesn't run very often.



At lunch on Sept. 26, Brad, Curtis and the Wraparound team heard from Bois Forte Housing Director Gordon Adams Jr., who talked about homelessness on Indian reservations and in urban Indian communities.

Gordon said homelessness on reservations can include people living outside or in condemned buildings, but it often means "doubling up" with friends or family. "Indian families very welcoming to friends, neighbors and especially family when they need help," said Gordon. "You'll find two or three families under one roof, people sleeping in basements, keeping one step ahead of social services."

He said homelessness has a long-lasting impact on children. "It breaks my heart to see these kids feeling they're not wanted, that they don't have what other children have: a place of their own."

Curtis and Brad have high praise for the Minobimaadziwin staff as well as the Wraparound program. Curtis said, "I'm glad they've got these gals in the Wraparound. They go beyond their duties."

To contact the Wraparound program, call 320-532-8923.

The 33rd Annual Minnesota Homeless Memorial March and Service will take place on Thursday, Dec. 21, to honor those who have died while homeless in Minnesota. The event begins with a vigil and silent march at the Hennepin County Government Center, followed by a Service of Remembrance at Simpson United Methodist Church, and a community meal at Simpson Shelter. A shuttle will take marchers to the government center from Kmart at Lake St. and 1st Ave. at 4 p.m.



Walk for Family Peace Brings Awareness of Domestic Violence

A perfect fall day was the setting Oct. 16 for the annual Walk for Family Peace organized by the Family Violence Prevention Program with help from Band members who have taken the initiative to fight drugs in the District I community.

On Monday, Oct. 16, marchers caught a shuttle bus at the community center that took them to the powwow grounds, where they smudged, offered tobacco and listened to an inspiring message from Terry Kemper.

Terry talked about how traditional Anishinaabe values related to family and nature have been threatened by the Western worldview. He asked walkers to speak with the spirits of the woods as they walked and had them repeat the names of birds and plants and the sun, ending with “minobimaadiziwin” — a good life.

Luther Sam passed out asemaa, which Bob Eagle asked those in attendance to offer to the spirits in the lake, Misi-zaa-ga-iganing.

Terry, Bob and three young men rode on a trailer behind Bob’s truck to sing and drum while walkers made their way to the community center behind a banner that read “March for Family Peace: Stop the Violence.”

At the center, Kate Kalk of the Family Violence Prevention Program welcomed walkers and introduced Bonnie Clairmont of the HoChunk nation, who spoke about the definition and solutions to domestic violence.

“October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but every day should be Domestic Violence Awareness Day,” said Bonnie. She explained that Native women experience the highest rates of domestic violence of any group in the nation, and she defined domestic violence as “a pattern/series of behavior that may include physical, emotional, economic and sexual abuse as well as intimidation, isolation and coercion.”

She dispelled myths about domestic violence, saying it is a learned behavior, not something caused by genetics, illness, drugs or alcohol abuse. “It’s something we learn how to do because we see it and think it’s normal or acceptable,” she said.

Bonnie said that when you hear people say “Why does she stay?” you should instead ask, “Why does he batter, and why is his behavior tolerated?” to put the focus on the perpetrator, not the victim.

She also suggested the following guidelines to combat the problem of domestic abuse:

- Teach children good values
- Support nonviolent solutions to problems
- Speak out about domestic violence
- Reject myths about domestic violence
- Support traditional roles and relationships
- Be good to your relatives

She concluded by saying domestic violence was rare or non-existent in traditional communities and that native cultures have

always held women in high esteem.

Following the feast and Bonnie’s presentation, those in attendance released hundreds of biodegradable balloons after writing messages of remembrance for those affected by domestic violence.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, please contact the Family Violence Prevention Program’s 24-hour crisis line at 866-867-4006.



Zumba Dances Its Way Into District II

Adrienne Benjamin (Amikogaabawiikwe) Guest Writer and Photographer

Charmaine Shivers’ love for Zumba (pronounced Zoom-Bah) started when she moved from Arizona to Minnesota and took her first Zumba class with family in 2012. She’s been hooked ever since. “I couldn’t believe just how freeing it was,” Charmaine said. “Then I got a Zumba DVD set for Christmas and just like that it snowballed, and I was doing Zumba more than twice a week with friends.” Her family surprised her soon after and paid for her Zumba certification class as a surprise birthday present. “In April 2016 I completed my Zumba certification course, and I’ve been teaching Zumba ever since.”

So...what is Zumba?

Zumba is a cardio fitness class. Basically, you come to class, dance your butt off, and then go home. Zumba is an hour of exhilarating, high energy, Latin and multicultural inspired dancing, with rhythms from around the world. In class we are crouching, we are jumping, we are sweating and we are still smiling, and it’s exercise in disguise. It’s like going out dancing with your friends only it’s 6 o’clock on a Tuesday, and you have to go back home to make dinner for your family. The Zumba craze is in over 180 countries, 200,000 locations and is practiced by 15 million people around the world.

What are the benefits of Zumba?

There are so many! There’s the obvious benefits: it strengthens your heart and lungs. Zumba is a full body cardio workout that

builds endurance and coordination in ways many other fitness classes can’t. It promotes weight loss, stronger muscles, bone strength, endurance, circulation and flexibility. Zumba has a high caloric burn — 500 to 800 an hour depending on intensity. The best part about it is the student controls the intensity.

And there are the not so obvious benefits

Social interaction — Zumba is a healthy group activity, and it’s a great stress relief. You gain confidence and a sense of achievement. You get to explore your creative side, it boosts your memory, it’s your “me” time, it boosts your mood and you can step out of your comfort zone.

What is required of you to do Zumba?

Commitment! That’s the only thing required. Rain or shine, snow or ice. One Zumba class is FUN, but for someone who doesn’t already or never has had an exercise regime, it can be challenging to find the time you need for yourself. Stick with it! It’s fun!

The District II Legislative Department was looking for a healthy community initiative to sponsor, and they thought Charmaine and her Zumba moves would be a great class offering for the District II communities. It has since

taken off, and Charmaine has a committed following both in Chiminising and Minisinaakwaang.

District II class-goer Aanii Aubid said, “Zumba makes me happy, healthy, confident and strong. Plus, it gives me a nice butt!”

Her classes are currently held on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. at the East Lake Community Center, and on Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. at the Chiminising Community Center in Isle. All ages and abilities are welcome to this free class.



Pictured behind instructor Charmaine Shivers are Chiminising siblings Jackie Moltaji, Julie Benjamin, and Johnathan L. Benjamin. Julie and Jackie are both elders who go to Zumba!

Band Members, Employees Chosen for Leadership Training

Three organizations honored Mille Lacs Band members and employees last month by inviting them to participate in leadership training cohorts.

Change Network Minnesota

Former District Representative and Education Commissioner Suzanne Wise was selected for the first cohort of the Change Network Minnesota leadership program, a partnership between the Cultural Wellness Center and the Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, supported by the Bush Foundation.

According to the website, "Change Network Minnesota is a new leadership program aiming to support individuals as they go about their work and create change in a way that is more equitable and inclusive of all Minnesotans."

This latest honor is one of several Suzanne has received in recent months. During the past three months she has been a National Endowment for the Humanities Scholar, spending two weeks in Cape Cod researching and learning about and from the Wampanoag people about their history and development. She also spent nine days in Vermont as a National Arts Strategies Creative Community Fellow utilizing art as a strategy in her work.

"As Change Agents we are asking ourselves what it takes to make positive and inclusive changes within our communities for sustaining our futures," said Suzanne. "I would like Band members to not sit back and wait for their ship to come in, but swim out to it. I applied for these by looking into other ways to stretch my learning. I believe our tribal members do not need to be dependent on their work place to assist their learning. Seek it out themselves and apply for scholarships. If we truly believe that Manidoo guides us to where we need to go, then we will be there."

The Change Network website states the following about

Azhinangookwe, Suzanne Wise:

"Suzanne, from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, is a long time advocate for Indian families through her work in Indian Education, ICWA, Advocacy and Social Work. She recently finished her Masters in Social Work from the University of Minnesota and has a bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University. Suzanne is currently working with Mille Lacs Band Family Services in Family Preservation. Some of her previous work has been as the Commissioner of Education, Director of Family Services, Child Protection Supervisor, ICWA Social Worker, elected District I Representative and Indian Education Liaisons at both Onamia and Isle Public Schools. She has been on the Tribal Nations Education Committee and is current Chair of the Board for Minnesota Indian Education Association. She was also a National Endowments for the Humanities Scholar and a Creative Community Fellow through National Arts Strategies.

"Suzanne wants to empower community partnerships that form a positive arena for healing. She envisions the formation of a grass roots non-profit resource center in the heart of the Mille Lacs Indian reservation assisting tribal members to regain their livelihoods and traditional family structure utilizing a cultural and respectful approach. This approach would embody grace, harmony and Ojibwe culture, traditions and language utilizing various methods including art strategies for healing and revitalization."

For more information on Change Network Minnesota, see changenetnetworkminnesota.com.

Blandin Reservation Leadership

Colin Cash and Jeremiah Houser of the DNR's Land Maintenance program, Commissioner of Administration Shelly Diaz, and Shena Matrious of the Government Affairs Department were admitted to the Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Program, which has provided training to more than 600 leaders from 11 Minnesota reservations since 2001.

The Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Program (BRCLP) is a training opportunity that provides deeper learning about individual and community strengths, and techniques for building social capital and mobilizing resources and power within the framework of Native American cultures, both Ojibwe and Dakota. It aims to leverage leaders' personal strengths and community assets they can rely on and grow forward from.

Colin was encouraged to apply by DNR Commissioner Bradley Harrington, and Jeremiah was recommended by his supervisor, Andy Boyd. Both Bradley and Andy have attended the Blandin program.

Native Nations Rebuilders

The Native Governance Center and Bush Foundation announced that Band members Katie Draper and Bradley Harrington, along with Assistant Commissioner of Administration Tiger Brown Bull, were among 25 individuals selected for the ninth cohort of the Native Nation Rebuilders Program.

The Bush Foundation launched the Native Nation Rebuilders Program in 2009 in response to the guidance of Tribal leaders. In early 2016, the Bush Foundation transitioned delivery of the Rebuilders Program to the newly-created Native Governance Center, a Native-led nonprofit that delivers nation building support to Tribes.

Rebuilders will convene for four structured sessions during which they will also develop action plans to share knowledge with peers and their respective Tribal governments. The sessions involve partner organizations and individuals with expertise in nation building, organizing, and issues specific to Indian Country.

Katie Draper is Director of Government Affairs for the Band. Bradley E. Harrington is Commissioner of Natural Resources. Tiger Brown Bull is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and was named Assistant Commissioner of Administration for the Mille Lacs Band in September.



Left: Jeremiah Houser and Colin Cash
Center: Azhinangookwe, Suzanne Wise
Right: Tiger Brown Bull, Katie Draper and Bradley Harrington

DAR Inducted into Minnesota Boxing Hall of Fame

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Athletic Regulation was inducted into the Minnesota Boxing Hall of Fame in its class for 2017. New members were inducted at the Hall of Fame's annual banquet Oct. 13 at Mystic Lake Casino.

The Department was recognized for its support of boxing in the state and for its promotion of numerous professional cards over the last decade.

The DAR was also named Promoter of the Year.

The event was attended by DAR commissioners, Executive Director Matt Roberson, and many of the Band's inspectors. Matt and DAR Commissioner Wallace St. John spoke at the event.



The program at the Hall of Fame ceremony stated, "Already staging amateur shows including the Upper Midwest Golden Gloves tournaments, the Band elected to add the professional element, keeping the sport alive at a time fight shows in the Twin Cities and throughout the rest of the state had diminished considerably."

Former Executive Director Jim Erickson was quoted about the history of the DAR: "(District III Representative) Harry Davis was one of our elected officials and had gone to the (tribal) legislative attorney to get direction on setting up our own boxing commission. They did some research and also visited the Mochican Sun (Casino) and others to find out how they did it. Then the Mille Lacs Band passed the legislation to put it in place."

Harry had already started Upper Midwest and other Golden Gloves tournaments, including a World tournament that involved the Band and Puerto Rico.

Erickson also gave credit to Wally St. John and other boxing commissioners for helping establish professional boxing at Grand Casino.

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Athletic Reg-

ulation licenses combatants, trainers, managers, matchmakers, ringside physicians, and officials, and also regulates combative sports on the Mille Lacs Reservation according to the rules and regulations of the Department. It is a member of the National Association of Boxing Commissions and International Association of Combative Sports Commissions.

In addition, the DAR has helped other tribes learn how to stage boxing competition at their casinos.



Executive Director Matt Roberson and Ezra Sam celebrated the Band's award, along with an enthusiastic group of Mille Lacs Band boxing inspectors.

Grants Department Responds to Community Needs

It's easy to assume that most of the Band's programs and services are funded by casino revenue. Easy, but not accurate.

Behind the scenes at the government center is a dedicated group of employees who bring in revenue from a variety of federal, state and local sources: the Grants Department.

"A lot of the work we do is with the front-line departments who work firsthand with tribal members," said Grants Director Ramona Bird.

The department consists of Ramona, Grant Writer Mike Fahey and Compliance Officer Brittany Wind.

The Grants Department is part of the Department of Administration, which is under the leadership of Commissioner of Administration Shelly Diaz and Assistant Commissioner Tiger Brown Bull. (For a story on Tiger, see page 4.)

Most tribes have a single grant writer if they're lucky, but Mille Lacs Band leaders decided to create the Grants Department to ensure that the tribe was in compliance with existing grants and also to pursue additional funding.

Ramona has been Grants Director for two and a half years and was a grant writer before that. She is Ojibwe/Cree originally from Manitoba, Canada, and is a tribal member of the Peguis First Nation. She spent 10 years as a senior policy analyst with the Manitoba Department of Conservation working on aboriginal and treaty rights, where she honed her writing skills preparing briefing notes, speaking notes and advisory notes for the Minister of Conservation — the equivalent of the DNR Commissioner in Minnesota.

Mike is a MLBO Band member who brings experience from years of employment as the Band's AanjiBimaadizing Youth Program Manager. His expertise includes developing youth programming that is high quality, safe and operated in accordance to grant award. The AanjiBimaadizing Youth Program is designed to help youth deal successfully with the challenges of adolescence and prepare them for the independence and responsibilities of being an adult, and one day becoming parents.

Brittany is also a MLBO Band member who brings to the Grants team years of experience from her previous position with the Soo Line Trail Campground as the Site Manager. Her expertise include property management and operations, continued profitability of the resort, administrative activities, marketing, leasing and sales of sites, property maintenance, budgeting, human resource management and, most importantly, resident and guest relations.

The list of programs funded by grants is a long one.

In the public safety arena, grants fund emergency services,

tribal officer training, purchase of new tribal police vehicles, the child seat program and courtroom safety enhancements.

In community development, grants fund home awareness programs, renovations, financial literacy courses and emergency generators for MLBO Community Centers. Grant funds will soon be used to extend sidewalks around District I to enhance safety for school kids and create a more walkable community.

In the field of education, grant funds supplement the Niigaan Youth Program and the 21st Century Grant funds after-school programming, regalia making, tutoring and summer school.

Most of the grants are in health and human services. Traditional tobacco promotion, family violence prevention and batterers intervention are just a few of the HHS programs funded by grants. Another is the diabetes program, which helps fund fitness instructors in all districts as well as nutrition education.

To determine what grants to go after, the department consults with program managers and directors as well as the Band's strategic plan. They look at needs in the community and keep their eyes peeled for opportunities to meet those needs.

The work they do in the Grants Department can be stressful since staff may be working on grants in several areas at the same time. "The way we need to multi-task is just crazy," said Ramona.

Writers need to be detail-oriented and well organized. They need to know the expectations of the grant funding agency, as well as the workings of tribal government, since many grants require signatures of commissioners, a resolution from Band Assembly, or consultation with attorneys from the Office of the Solicitor General.

Once all the t's are crossed and i's dotted, it's time to submit. The staff goes through the checklists, double-checks and triple-checks the application materials, and finally someone hits "enter" on a keyboard.

"It gets intense as we sit and wait for confirmation," said Ramona. "When it comes, we sit back and go 'whew.'"

When a grant application proves successful, it's cause for celebration, with high fives all around. "And then we keep going, because we have another grant due."

Once a grant is awarded, it becomes the responsibility of the compliance officers, who make sure all the necessary reporting is done and the conditions of the grant are met.

Adding to the stress is the fact that many grants are in response to problems in the community. That can mean researching and compiling data on issues like addiction, crime, illness and poverty. "When we're writing, the programs are to meet a need that's not entirely positive," said Ramona. "The things we need to

Child Support Enforcement Update

Due to a holiday on Nov. 10, the Child Support office will be distributing Per Capita Child Support checks on Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. to noon. Checks not picked up by 1 p.m. on Nov. 9 will be mailed out unless a client has called to have it held or are on the Do Not Mail List.

Wage checks will also be distributed on Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. to noon. Checks not picked up by 1 p.m. will be mailed out unless a client has called to have it held or are on the Do Not Mail List.

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

- Lindsey Reuter, District I Case Manager at 320-532-7453
- Tammy Smith, District II, IIa, III and Urban Case Manager at 320-532-7752

The Child Support office will be closed all day on Nov. 10, Nov. 23, and Nov. 24.

If you have any questions or concerns contact our office directly at 320-532-7755.



Mike Fahey, Ramona Bird and Brittany Wind.

write about really hit home."

However, the work grant writers and compliance officers do makes a difference in the community while developing skills that will serve them well throughout their careers.

"I'm fortunate that in my department, my co-workers are all young Band members, so all the work they're doing is for their community," Ramona said. "They'll be doing this longer than I will, and they'll be doing it for their kids, their community. I always try to build them up because they do an incredible job. I tell them, 'Remember what you're doing to make things better. You're really providing for a positive change in the community. You have a hand in developing something that is going to be positive, not just now, but seven generations ahead.'"

Protectors Not Protesters Meeting — Initial Meeting Notes

Mikayla Schaaf Guest Writer

Members met Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to discuss and determine next steps for new community actions concerning the drug epidemic that is plaguing the Mille Lacs Band Reservation, Band members and our community.

Topics addressed:

- Four Winds looking to suspend Rule 25 immediately for new native clients
- Request to write a formal statement to the community regarding the Percap Patrol event
- MLB Tribal Police tip line 320-630-2458
- Discussion about the possibility of declaring a "State of Emergency" for Mille Lacs Band
- Discussion about an initiative to petition out current county commissioner
- Develop a monthly sober/healing events calendar for community members
- Facebook page
- Success in Sobriety — sharing their positive stories
- Develop some curriculum or educational classes for com-

munity around drug use and opiates

- Create a support group for family members or loved ones who are addicts

Brainstorming session included:

Names or meaningful words:

- Protecting, Anishinaabe, Strength, Strong, Rebuilders, Unity, Modeling, Community, Healing, Warriors, Reclaiming and Indigenous

Goals or mission statement:

- Move forward in a positive way
- Be helpful and encouraging
- Meet with tribal police
- Protect our community members from drug dealers
- Elder abuse awareness
- Take back our community
- Positive messaging in or around the community
- Let the community know we care and will not give up
- Find more volunteers (community service time for employees)

- Address the drug issue at the market and casino

Actions to take:

- Keep it positive through ceremonies, events and teachings
- Spread the message through our events
- Post positive signs in our community
- Develop a resource book with a monthly newsletter about good things happening in the community or healing calendar events for our community
- Keep "Percap Patrol" open

How often:

- Twice a month
- Open for emergency meetings

Meeting place:

- ALU
- Community Center
- Is the ceremonial building an option?

Who is in charge or will lead:

- Will address in the next meeting

Immersion Teacher Receives Teaching License, Second Degree

Nay Ah Shing teacher Amanda Nickaboine-Meyer received her K-6 Minnesota teaching license earlier this fall and is working in the new kindergarten immersion classroom.

Amanda became an Ojibwe language teacher trainee four years ago and decided to pursue a teaching license and second bachelor's degree through an online teacher training program offered by Bemidji State University. During her education, Amanda worked in Nay Ah Shing classrooms with Elaine Sam, Bonita Nayquonabe and Linda Stevens.

Now she's back with Bonita in the immersion classroom, and the two have been joined by Aanakwadoons Aubid.

The three-year teacher training program followed a cohort model, with meetings in Coon Rapids three times per year for testing and introductions to the next set of classes.

"It was very valuable," said Amanda. "I liked the cohort experience. There was a lot of good information, and it was good to be with the same group of people. It was a supportive environment for sure."

Now Amanda is facing the dual challenge of being a first-year teacher in a brand-new program, but so far the class is going well. "It's been challenging but manageable," she said. "The students are catching on very quickly. It's really neat to see."

The staff receives help from Waadookodaading immersion school on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation in Wisconsin, including lesson plans, weekly conference calls, classroom obser-

ventions and emotional support.

"We've come a long way since LeAnn (Benjamin) has been in charge," Amanda said. "She's very supportive of our program and the staff."

Amanda, who is a Mille Lacs Band member, has been working for the Band for over a decade. She spent six years as a chemical dependency counselor before deciding to follow her original dream of becoming a teacher. "No matter what I did, I knew I wanted to come and work for the Band, because they paid for my education."

Amanda completed her first bachelor's in Applied Psychology while raising her two older children, now ages 14 and 12. When her youngest daughter, now 6, was born, Amanda decided it was time to change careers.

"I had made some friends here in the school," Amanda said. "We had been in groups together, like Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention, and I thought it would be a cool move to go to the school. Now I'm back where I originally wanted to be."

Amanda's grandfather, Alvin Nickaboine, worked in maintenance at the school but also helped in classrooms.

"I was a first-generation college student," Amanda said. "After my first two kids were born, I knew I wanted to finish college. I didn't want to drop out."

When her daughter, now 14, was four years old, she watched her mom graduate from Bemidji State the first time.



"Now she's watched me graduate two times," said Amanda. "And she wants to go to Bemidji State."

No surprise, with a role model like her mom.

Pine Grove Update: Safety, Weather and New Books



It has been another exciting and fun month at Pine Grove. Sept. 27 was safety day, and we were lucky to have visitors from many different area first responders. The first visitor, who was a huge hit, was Smokey the Bear and the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources. After they were here, Pine Ambulance department brought out one of their rigs for the students to explore and get acquainted with the ambulance crew. After lunch, East Central Energy came and showed us the dangers of live power lines using a model that had almost 3,000 volts of electricity in it. The students learned how to duck walk out of a car that has live power lines on it.

In science we started a unit on weather. We have been doing labs almost every day. The labs include making rain gaug-

es, barometers, testing whether air has weight, used water to demonstrate what a weather front looks like and will continue with wind socks and eventually each student will be Meteorologists and film their own weather reports on their chrome books. During our rain gauge lab, our principal, Lehtitia Weiss, and Commissioner of Education Rick St. Germaine got in on the lab fun. Rick was also able to join the students during our reading buddy program.

We were lucky enough to be the recipients of 180 books from the Children's Literature Collections from the University of Minnesota. The books will be leveled by staff and added to our library. Each student will also be writing a thank you to Lisa Von Drake, the curator of the collection.

Tribal Nations Opioid Summit

Dates and Times:
 Day 1: Monday, November 13th, 2017 from 9a-5p
 Day 2: Tuesday, November 14th, 2017 from 9a-5p

Location:
 Shooting Star Casino Hotel & Event Center
 777 South Casino Road - Mahnomon, Minnesota 56557

Fee:
 Participant Registration: \$50.00
 Booth Registration: \$75.00

Please make checks payable to: The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Please Print:
Name: _____

Reservation/Agency: _____

Work Phone#: () _____

Email Address: _____

Please send registration form to:

EMAIL: Ashley Gale, agale@mnchippewatribe.org OR Drew Annette, dannette@mnchippewatribe.org

FAX#: (218) 335-8080, Attn: Ashley/Drew

Tribal Cultural Surveys in Progress on Proposed Pipeline Corridor

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), a division of the Department of Natural Resources, has trained 30 members of several bands and tribes to conduct “tribal cultural surveys” along the proposed Line 3 pipeline corridors.

The surveys will be conducted over the course of the next year to determine the extent of cultural resources that exist along the route.

The training came about after the Army Corps of Engineers contacted the tribes in 2015 to consult with them about the proposed Sandpiper pipeline. That led to meetings with tribes and a plan to conduct a tribal cultural survey of the corridor.

In September, trainees canoed and hiked around Mille Lacs Kathio State Park to learn to identify cultural resources. Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Terry Kemper and archaeologist Jim Cummings facilitated the training.

The Army Corps has jurisdiction where the proposed pipeline would cross waterways — and there are hundreds of waterway crossings on Enbridge’s preferred route through northern Minnesota. The Corps has wide latitude in its surveys, which can range up to a quarter mile from a waterway, or even further.

Enbridge conducted an archaeological survey along the proposed corridor, but according to Terry Kemper, the Bands were not represented in the process.

“They found no sites, which is the outcome they wanted,” said Terry.

Now the Army Corps is requiring that Enbridge pay for the tribal cultural surveys, and the Band has trained the surveyors on how to identify locations of cultural importance — ranging from burial sites to medicinal plants to animal dens.

Surveyors are also encouraged to record their feelings — the sense that an area is speaking to them, or has something to offer them.

The project is the first of its kind and may lead to a new model for tribes to follow in protecting their lands from pipelines and other disturbance.

“Our voices, our spirituality, our connection to these things doesn’t fit into their rules and guidelines,” Terry said. “We’re attempting to put those things into our surveys under the assumption that they’ll be thrown out, but we’re seeing a little bit more acceptance. There’s the possibility of changing the rules and having our voices heard.”

The field of archaeology has traditionally not been friendly to Indians, Terry said, but the tribal cultural surveys may give tribes new power to protect historic, cultural and natural resources.

Language is important as well, Terry points out. “They refer to them as ‘mounds,’ but they’re graves,” Terry said. “If they refer to them as mounds, they’ll always be an archaeological ‘find.’ When

they become graves, people realize that you have houses and roads sitting on our graveyards. It’s been detrimental to us that they continue to call them ‘mounds.’ That is not what they truly are to us.”

When sacred sites are identified along the proposed corridor, Elders will be brought in for consultation to determine if the site or its resources are still used today — if a “cultural corridor” exists in the path of the pipeline.

If the tribal cultural survey uncovers sites missed by Enbridge’s archaeological survey, that survey will be discredited, and tribes will seek to conduct a cultural survey of the entire corridor, potentially delaying construction for months or years.

Mille Lacs Band is Designated a Heart Safe Community

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has become the first tribe in Minnesota to receive “Heart Safe Community” designation from the American Heart Association.

According to Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk, who is also an American Heart Association certified CPR and Basic First Aid instructor, credit for the award goes to Tribal Police leaders who have promoted training in CPR and the use of automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs) to respond to cardiac events and save lives.

“In her emphasis on community policing and emergency preparedness, interim Police Chief Sara Rice has shown leadership by offering this life-saving class for community members in all districts and the Urban area,” said Monte.

Because of her support and the number of CPR classes Monte has taught, the Band was recognized as a Heart Safe Community.

Most Mille Lacs Band facilities have AEDs, and Tribal Police, Tribal Conservation Officers, and Tribal Emergency Management carry AEDs in their vehicles.

If you are in need of a CPR/AED class or Basic First Aid call Monte at Tribal Police at 320-532-3430.

Minor Trust Training Nov. 13

On Nov. 13, a Financial Education training session and workshop will be presented to the invited youth of Mille Lacs Band. The material covered is authored by the National Endowment for Financial Education with a stated goal of “...how to help young people develop smart spending and saving habits that lead to self-sufficiency.”

The participating youth generally will be of high school age, looking to plan for the next step in education or workplace on their own. The informal format will be discussion based, looking to assist with individual planning.

Topics include, “Smart Spending and Saving Habits,” “Identifying Values, Beliefs and Traditions,” “Creating a Spending Plan,” and similar strategies designed to take some of the mystery out of the financial landscape.

This event is sponsored by the Band Assembly and coordinated by the Commissioner of Finance, Adam Valdez, with coordination of Jana Sam, Minor Trust/Per Capita office. These non-commercial educational sessions are offered without cost to participants and are facilitated by experienced financial professionals.

For further information please contact Jana Sam at 320-532-7466.

Onamia Teachers Learn Ojibwemowin

Adrienne Benjamin Guest Writer

As part of an ongoing effort of Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe (Indian Education Coordinator), Onamia Public Schools and the Onamia Indian Education Department, I was recently asked to teach a beginner’s Ojibwe language class after school for the Onamia Public Schools faculty.

Over the month of October for two nights a week, the faculty at Onamia Public Schools, voluntarily and unpaid, gave their time to learning basic Ojibwe language terms and classroom phrases. Together, they stumbled through every double A, I and O sound like champs. They learned months, numbers, seasons and common classroom phrases.

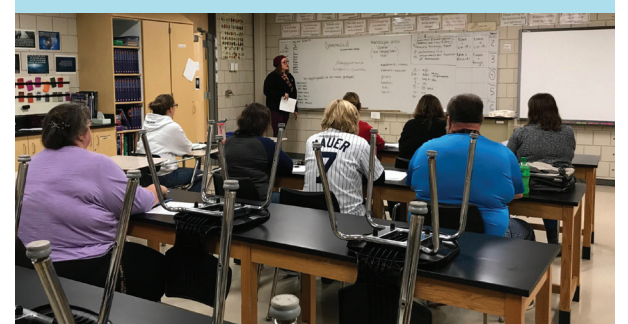
Great conversations were spurred in the process, such as the realization that the towns of Biwaabik and Niswawabik sounded like they probably were derived in some way from the Ojibwe language. Many laughs were shared, and after every class, each teacher and staff member left excited to use the words they had learned the next day with their students. They then came back to the next class and shared the stories of how their language speaking attempts went for them and how students chimed in when they mispronounced words, or how students would even start to teach them words on their own. They all agreed that the students were pleasantly surprised by their newfound knowledge.

There was even a request to continue holding the class into the future, which was truly moving. To see our non-native neighbors in the community excited about learning Ojibwemowin to strengthen the connection they have with their students is extremely heartwarming and hopeful.

I’m always hesitant to teach classes, though I’m often asked. I don’t consider myself a master teacher; at best, I’m barely even mastering beginner level stuff. I understand the basic mechanics of the language, pronunciation, and learned a majority of what I know the old-fashioned way from some great knowledgeable elders. In high school, I learned from the incredible handwritten worksheets with phonetic spelling by Zhaawan’iban (Millie Benjamin). I also spent much time deciphering Amikogaabaw’iban’s (Larry Smallwood) old written phonetic works as well. I don’t feel comfortable speaking sometimes, as I share the fear that many do of being shamed for my lack of knowledge or perfection.

I’m always down to help out a good cause, though, so when I was asked, as every other time I have been, I heard my old teachers in my head saying, “You can always teach what you know.” “It doesn’t have to be perfect, but the little bit that you can pass along is a lot.” That little bit is exactly what happened, and I’m so glad that I got to be a part of something that was so joyful to watch, experience and teach.

Miigwech Onamia School faculty for your willingness to learn the Anishinaabe language and culture for the students at your schools!



Notices from Community Development Department

Waste removal service cost increase

Due to an increase in cost for waste disposal and transporting, effective January 1, 2018, waste removal service will increase from \$17.00 per month to \$25.00 per month. If you currently have payroll or tribal deduction for this service, you will need to submit an updated deduction form for the increase.

Housing emergency loan program change

In an effort to eliminate duplication of assistance programs, effective January 1, 2018, Housing will no longer fund utility payments (electric, gas, water, sewer) under its emergency loan program.

HHS Emergency Loan Services will continue to accept your applications for funding of utility bills. Emergency Loan Services phone number is 320-532-7880, ext. 22.



Gikinoo'amaagozid A'aw Anishinaabe Education for Anishinaabe

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

Mii omaa wii-ni-ayaangwaamimag a'aw Anishinaabe weshki-bimaadizid enigok da-biminizha'ang da-wii-kiizhiikang gikinoo'amaagozid. Ishke imaa ishkwaaaj gii-ni-giizhiitaawaad gekinoo'amaagozijing imaa Neyaashiing, gaawiin gii-ayaasiwag gaa-kabe-giizhiikangig gikinoo'amaagoziwaad. Nebowa booch gii-ayaadogenag ge-gii-kiizhiikangibaneg imaa gikinoo'amaagoziwaad.

This is where I want to encourage our young people to actively pursue the completion of their education. At the completion of the school year last year at Neyaashing school they did not have any graduates. I am sure that there had to be those who could have graduated.

Booch da-wii-kabe-giizhiikang awiya gikinoo'amaagozid. Mii imaa ge-ondinang da-ni-bami'idizod oniigaaniiming. Amanj wenji-noonde-ishkwaataawaagwen imaa megwaa gikinoo'amawindwaa. Maagizhaa mii imaa wenjikaamagak i'iw ishkwyaang miinawaa-go geyaabi ani-ayaamagak ani-wiindamaagozid a'aw Anishinaabe da-ni-goopadenindizod miinawaa ani-aanawenindizod. Mii-go nebowa weshki-bimaadizid ani-debwetang gii-kiwanimotawind a'aw Anishinaabe miinawaa geyaabi-go akeyaa ezhi-noondang ani-dazhimind.

It's important that our young people complete their education. It is from there that they will have the ability to support themselves in the future. I don't know why we have those that drop out. Maybe this comes from our past and still happens today where we as Anishinaabe were told that we were inferior and incapable. A lot of our young people believe the lies that we were told that we as Anishinaabe were not capable, and it is a message that they continue to hear today.

Ishke a'aw Anishinaabe geget nibwaakaa. Gaawiin oada-debwetanziin gii-kiwanimotawind aanawenimind. Mii iw ge-izhichigepan a'aw weshki-bimaadizid, mii imaa da-ganawaabandizopan waabamojichaagwaning da-wiindamaadizod, "Ninibwaakaa. Indaa-gashkitoon igo da-ni-giizhiikamaan beminizha'amaan." Biinish anooj i'iw akeyaa da-ni-aabajitood da-ni-mamiikwaanindizod megwaa ganawaabandizod. Mii imaa da-ni-miigaadang da-debwetanzig gii-aanawenimind. Ishke mashkawaamagadini odinendamowining a'aw bemaadizid. Eni-debwetang apiitenindizod, mii-go ge-ni-inaadizid oniigaaniiming. Miinawaa oada-wiikwajitoon da-baa-wiijiwaad inow ge-gagaanzomigojin da-aangwaamitood gikinoo'amaagozid, gego wiin inow oada-wiijiwaasiin ge-aanishimigojin. Booch oada-ikowebinaan biinjina gii-tebwetang gii-kiwanimotawind gii-wiindamawind goopadendaagozid.

There is no doubt that Anishinaabe is smart. We cannot believe the lies that we were told that we are not up to par. What our young people can do is stand before a mirror and tell themselves, "I am smart. I am capable of finishing whatever it is I want to pursue." He or she can go on to say other positive things about themselves as well as he is standing there looking at themselves in the mirror. They are discarding all the negative things that has been told about themselves as Anishinaabe. The mind is powerful. Once you plant those positive images of yourself in your mind, that is the way you're going to live your life. They should hang around the people that are supportive of him or her continuing their education, not around those who may discourage him from going on with his education. They need to

discard those negative messages that they have internalized and believed saying that they are inferior.

Odaa-naazikawaan inow ge-babizindaagojin. Mii iw ge-naadamaagod ani-dazhindang wenishkwe'igod. Mii-go i'iw da-maajaamagakiban. Miinawaa oada-wii-mikwenimaan odasemaan da-asaad da-naadamaagoowizid da-ni-wawiingezid da-ni-giizhiikang beminizha'ang. Mii-go gaye ge-izhichiged da-aangwaamizid da-naazikang aaniin igo enikamigizid a'aw Anishinaabe ani-biindaakoojged. Mii gaye i'iw ge-chi-naadamaagod da-ni-chi-apiitendang anishinaabewid.

These young people need to approach those that will give them a listening ear, like a counselor, a therapist, or a supportive person. This is what will help them if they let it out. It will no longer have control over them. On a cultural level, they will want to remember to put their tobacco out and ask for help so that they do a good job and complete whatever they are pursuing. They can also attend and participate in our Anishinaabe ceremonies. This is what will especially help them have pride in their Anishinaabe identity.

Mii dash omaa wii-tazhindamaan gaye niin i'iwapii gii-gikinoo'amaagoziyaan. Ishke ingiw gaa-nitaawigi'ijig gii-wawiinge-anishinaabewiwag. Gaawiin ogii-gikendanziinaawaa da-zhaaganaashiimowaad, mii-go booch gii-kagaanzomiwaad da-aangwaamitooyaan gikinoo'amaagoziyaan. Ishke a'aw akiwenziyiban nigii-ig, "Gego babaamendangen da-wii-piindigeniseyan miinawaa da-nibinaadiyan miinawaa anooj imaa da-anokiiyan, mii eta-go da-wii-aangwaamitooyan da-agindaman da-dazhiikaman inow mazina'iganan ayaabajitooyan imaa gikinoo'amaagoziyan."

It is here that I want to talk about my schooling. Those old people that raised me were traditional Anishinaabe. They could not speak English, but still they encouraged me to aggressively pursue my education. At that time, that old man told me, "Don't bother bringing in wood, hauling water, or other chores around the house. I want you to work hard at studying your books."

Mii gaye gaa-izhichigeyaan. Mii iw endasonibing gii-o-mawinzoyaan ingiw miskodesiminag. Ishke dash a'aw zhooniyaa imaa gaa-kashki'ag, mii imaa mindimooyenyiban gaa-aangwaami-ganawenimaad da-adaawetamawid ge-biizikamaan azhigwa gaa-maajii-gikinoo'amaagozing. Gaawiin gaye gii-piitaabiigisijigaadesinooon endaayaang, mii iw gaa-aabajitooyaan waazakonenjiganaboo-waazakonenjiganan gii-waabiyaan niibaadibik da-dazhiikamaan iniw mazina'iganan. Ishke gaye nigii-nisomin imaa gii-nitawigi'igooyaan. Mii iw gakina gaa-izhi-giizhiikamaang gii-gikinoo'amaagoziyaang. Mii dash gaawiin wiikaa nigii-pabaamendanziin da-wii-ishkwaataayaan gikinoo'amaagoziyaan.

What I also did every summer was pick beans. The old lady that raised me held on tightly to the money I earned, so she could buy me clothes to wear in the coming school year. We also did not have electricity at the time. What I used was Kerosene lamps for light so I could do my studying during the night. Also, there were three of us that were raised in that family. All three of us completed our education. As a result, it never occurred to me to drop out of school.

Mii-go gakina gaa-wiiji-gikinoo'amawagig gii-chi-mookomaanensiwiwaad, mii eta-go bezhig gii-anishinaabewid. Ishke dash ingiw chi-

mookomaanensag gaawiin nigii-maji-igosiig i'iw Anishinaabewiyaan. Gaawiin nigii-aanawenimigosiig. Aaniish naa apane nigii-aazaabanda'aag gii-aada'wagwaa gii-tazhiikamaang inow mazina'iganan. Nigii-zhawendaagoz, nigii-nibwaakaa. Nigii-wenda-minwendam gii-aada'wagwaa. Nawaj niin nigii-wenda-ishpibii'igaaz gii-tibaabanjigaadeg gaa-ozhibii'igeyaang.

All my classmates were white with only one other Anishinaabe. These white classmates never said anything derogatory about me being Anishinaabe. They did not talk down to me. That was because I always showed them up in the classroom and I

"Those old people did me good by placing such a high value on the importance of an education to Anishinaabe. It is from there that I am able to support myself in a good way."

always had better marks than they did. I am grateful to say that I was smart. I really enjoyed outdoing them in the classroom. My grades came back higher than the rest of them.

Ishke gaye gaa-izhi-apiitendamowaad ingiw gaa-nitaawigi'ijig a'aw Anishinaabe da-gikinoo'amaagozid. Azhigwa a'aw nisayenh gii-kiizhiikang eko-ishwaaching gii-kikinoo'amaagozid, gaawiin i'iwapii gii-ayaasiin a'aw chi-odaabaan da-bi-maamiginigod imaa Aazhoomog gii-ayaayaang nawaj da-ni-gikinoo'amaagozid eko-zhaangaching. Mii dash ingiw nigitiziiminaanig gaa-izhi-mikamowaad i'iw abiwini imaa Gaa-zhiigwanaabikokaag gii-tiba'igewaad imaa da-ayaayaang. Mii dash imaa agaamikana gii-ayaamagak i'iw chi-gikinoo'amaadiiwigamig imaa nisayenh gii-izhaad imaa eko-zhaangaching da-gikinoo'amaagozid biinish gii-kiizhiitaad. Ishke dash geget nigii-mino-doodaagoog gaa-nitaawigi'ijig gii-wenda-apiitendamowaad i'iw da-ni-giizhiikang a'aw Anishinaabe da-gikinoo'amaagozid. Ishke dash mii imaa wendinamaan gashkitooshaan da-bami'idizoyaan weweni.

I have another example that points out how those old people that raised me valued the importance of education. I had an older brother that completed eighth grade when we were living out in Aazhoomog. At that time there were no buses that came out there to transport children to go to ninth grade. As a result, those old people found a place in Hinckley to rent. Across the street from there was the high school that my older brother went to the ninth grade and eventually went on to complete his high school education. Those old people did me good by placing such a high value on the importance of an education to Anishinaabe. It is from there that I am able to support myself in a good way.

Doctor's Story Shows Strength, Potential of Anishinaabe People

Baabiitaw Boyd Guest Writer **Ivy Vainio** Photographer

Dr. Arne "Ogimaabines" Vainio M.D., an Anishinaabe healthcare provider, is a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. He is proud to mention that his maternal family came from East Lake and his wenh'enh was Jack Misquadace. He currently lives and works on the Fond Du Lac Reservation. Like many Indian children at that time, Arne was raised in poverty and around alcoholism. His father committed suicide when he was a young child, and Arne was reminded of that from time to time as he grew older. Starting from a young age, he has had hurdles that would seemingly keep many in a dark place, but Arne needed more from the world.

In the 1980s, Arne got his start as a firefighter and Emergency Management Technician (EMT). Early in that career he saved a woman's life. She was in a car accident and was struck by a dumptruck. He laid her still, removed blood from her airway and kept her calm until an ambulance arrived. After that, his only desire was to go to college and try for medical school. He gave up his most important and rewarding job to date — being an EMT — to pursue being a medical doctor.

Being from an underserved, poor Indian community, Arne was challenged by many things that minorities still deal with today. He had great uncertainty of the process to get through the Pre-med Program and Medical School because coming from that poor Indian community meant he wasn't exposed to any mentors of that kind. He relied on close friends to endure the rigorous process. He had a very different experience at school than his white schoolmates, some of whom were raised in medical families. "It was almost like they were always ten steps ahead of me," Arne exclaimed.

When he and his fellow students would go to Pre-med Club, he was ignored by the leadership. They wouldn't even speak to him! He experienced direct and indirect racist discrimination at every turn in his life — from boyhood, to his teenage years, to his first jobs. As a young man in his early employment, he learned quickly that the harder he worked, the more he would get, whether it be money, praise or more responsibility. This was the cause for his studious work efforts. All throughout his schooling he was the top of his class. He worked around the clock so that he could prove that he deserved to be there and that someone wasn't "checking a box by having an Indian in the program."

Since John F. Kennedy issued the Executive Order creating the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity in 1961, many people and organizations have challenged it, and although there had been many systemic changes in the decades leading to Arne's higher education, he couldn't with all his integrity let the reason that he got into Medical School be only because he was Indian. He strived for excellence in every class and did everything in his power to be a good student — even if it meant being on campus

until 2 o'clock in the morning!

In reservation communities, especially in the areas of health and education, there is this large-scale "depression" crisis happening where sizeable parts of the population continue to suffer still from historical trauma and oppression. Many of our people cannot or will not try to pursue such an endeavor like being a medical doctor. Indigenous communities suffer from great poverty, and although treaties were written to ensure education and healthcare covered in return for land forfeiture, there have been enormous gaps in the equity and performance of these services for Indian people and almost no creation of an academic pipeline so that Indians can be successful in these institutions both in the health and education fields. Arne Vainio made his own pipeline.

One adverse experience played a major role in shaping his medical career and how he would carry himself culturally. He had to decide whether it was worth being publicly humiliated or passed over for jobs based on the physicality of his cultural identity. Dr. Vainio stated, "My braid was two and a half inches long, and I wasn't even sure that I should try to keep my hair long." He went on to tell a story about when he was a firefighter. "The Fire Chief was this little guy from Texas. He used to have a paper gauge that he would put on someone's collar, and he would make it a point to only check the length of my hair and nobody else's. He would do it in front of everybody and make those stupid Indian claims from the movies and the war-whoops right in front of everyone. But ya know, he was the Fire Chief and I couldn't say the things I wanted to say, and I couldn't do the things that I wanted to do. I just had to suck it up. So, when I started Medical School, I wasn't sure that I wanted to grow my hair long or if I wanted to learn how to tie a tie, and wear black shoes for interviewing for things. Finally, I did it. I interviewed for Medical School and other [jobs], and did my residency wearing cowboy boots and things that I liked to wear." He continued to uphold who he was and was his most authentic self. Dr. Vainio carried his traditional worldview through school and into his present-day practice on the Fond Du Lac Indian Reservation.

He claims that his traditional beliefs got stronger during Medical School and when he did his residency at Seattle Indian Health Board in 1994. There in Seattle, he met a traditional Indian Healer and they became fast friends. He shares, "I got to go to ceremonies with him and sit and talk with him, and he would ask me about patients, and I would ask him about things and we actually collaborated..." He explained that he would spend time with him during holidays if he couldn't make it home to Minnesota. It was like an extended Indian family.

Another fact that he was sure to mention was that he himself is not a healer in the traditional Anishinaabe sense. Anishinaabe have their own healers and rituals that pertain to the Anishinaabe Spirit. They have been passed down for generations. Arne speaks



about knowing some of these folks and being a lifelong learner. "I luckily am in a job where I get to interact with a lot of traditional people and I have the respect of people who are willing to teach me things."

When asked about what it might take to get more Anishinaabe people to work in the medical field, he replied, "It's going to take more of us. We need more Native people standing at every juncture that students must go through. Some of those junctures aren't all that attractive. College systems are still weighed to weed out minority people. If you look around, there are not a lot of minority faculty. Those systems make it hard for people in small ways that they might not even understand themselves. We need to tell our children they are smart and that they can do things! We need us [Indians] to be in Medical School and other places. If we see someone with a talent, we need to be supporting that. Not everyone is cut out to be a doctor. We all need to be looking for those kids. We need to take them by the arm and walk them through this whole thing." His message of hope and being engaged with our children is inspiring and contagious.

The most significant idea that came from our interview is that Anishinaabe people can achieve incredible tasks with perseverance. When everything seemed harder for him because he was Indian, he still moved forward with his passion and intuition. This aligns with traditional Anishinaabe teachings here at Mille Lacs. The old men say that you wouldn't be here on this Earth if you didn't have a purpose. Everyone has something that they must do while they're here. You can tell what it is because it makes you feel good and it involves helping your fellow Anishinaabe.

When we go on to change worlds, we have a long journey. The old man says, "Can you imagine how good it must feel knowing that when you are leaving this world you know that you finished what you were supposed to accomplish? That is Anishinaabe success." Dr. Arne Vainio is setting an incredible example of what it means to be Anishinaabe. We are very happy to have him. Gizhawendaagoz, Arne!

Community Mental Health Forum

The Mille Lacs Band was the host and co-sponsor of a Community Mental Health Forum at Grand Casino Hinckley on Oct. 17. Kelly Sam served as emcee, introducing featured guest speaker Congressman Rick Nolan as well as community members who have suffered from mental illness and experts who work in the field. The 200 attendees learned about adult and child mental health, corporate initiatives and community initiatives. One of the highlights was a talk by an EMS worker who suffered post-traumatic stress after witnessing a horrific accident. "You come to realize you aren't 10 feet tall and bulletproof," he said. "You are — like everyone else — a human being." If you or someone you know needs help with mental illness, call the Behavioral Health Department at 320-532-7773 or toll-free at 800-709-6445, ext. 7776.



Urban Area Events

Native American College Fair: Speak with reps from a variety of post secondary institutions, careers, job training and community programs, learn about college life and apply for financial aid. Thursday Nov. 16 from 5:30-7:30 East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center 2315 S. 17th Ave. Mpls. Door Prizes and light healthy snack provided for first 200 attendees. Free and Open to the Public. Everyone is welcome.

Tradition Not Addiction: Come learn about Traditional Tobacco and the Truth about Commercial Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs. Now recruiting ages 12-18. Monday's & Wednesdays from 4:30-7:30 at All Nations Church 1515 E. 23rd St. Mpls. Call Suzanne Nash 612-722-6248 or Curtis Kirby 612-428-7692 for more info.

Ceremonial Dance Dates Fall 2017

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

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy November Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Cherie Jean Ambrose
Robin Darrell Anderson
Floyd Monroe Ballinger
Carleen Maurice Benjamin
Clifford Wayne Benjamin
Franklin James Benjamin
Irene Bernice Benjamin
Barbara Jean Benjamin-Robertson
Charles Alvin Boyd
William Boyd Jr.
Alice Elizabeth Carter
Mary Maxine Conklin
Mary Ann Curfman
Richard Thomas Dakota
Michael Roger Dorr
Douglas Duane Dunkley
Donald Ross Eubanks
Thomas Rodney Evans
Terrance Wayne Feltmann
Roger Granger

Eileen Marjorie Johnson
Bridgette Marie Kilpela
Christopher James Kuntz
George Virgil LaFave
Barbara Ellen Lobejko
Sidney Ray Lucas
Darlene Doris Meyer
Mary Ellen Meyer
Marie Linda Nahorniak
Judith Marie Nickaboine
Bernadette Norton
Elizabeth Anne Peterson
Ralph Pewaush
Dale William Roy
David Wayne Sam
Leonard Sam
Karen Renee Sampson
Mary Ann Shedd
Kenneth Daryl Shingobe
Ronald Eugene Smith
Maria Ellena Spears
Nora Grace St. John
David Le Roy Staples

Donald Gerard Thomas
Jerry Lee Torgerud Jr.
Joyce Laverne Trudell
Lawrence Eli Wade II
Linda Marie Wade
Natalie Yvonne Weyaus
Sylvia Jane Wise
Patricia Beatrice Xerikos

Happy November Birthdays:

Happy birthday to **Lance Dorr** from your aunties in Legislative

- Happy 1st birthday **Taylor Wade** on 11/24! Love, Gramma Mickey, Papa Phil, Whitney, PJ, Charlotte, Cory Jr., and Chrissy
- Happy 1st birthday to **Taylor Douglas Wade** on 11/24! Love, Mom, Dad, Bineshiinh, Zhaawin & Brandon Jr. • Happy 2nd birthday to **Christine Nadeau** on 11/30! With love, from Mom & Brother Cory Jr. • Happy 2nd

birthday to **Chrissy Nadeau** on 11/30! Love, Gramma Mickey, Papa Phil, Mom, PJ, Cory Jr., and Whitney •

Correction:

We apologize for misspelling Joycelyn Marie Drumbeater's name in the Elders' birthday list in the October issue. Happy belated birthday, **Joycelyn!**

For Doug Sam

Passed away November 20, 2016. It has been a year since you passed. I will love you forever. From, your daughter Mickey Sam.

You Are Missed So Very Much

"I often sit and think about the years that have passed by, and of the happiness and joy that was shared by you and I. I think of all the laughter, the smiles, and all the fun and before I even know it, my tears have once again begun. For, although it brings my comfort to walk down memory lane, it reminds me how, without you, life has never been the same."

Submit Birthday Announcements

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

Deadline for Dec. issue is Nov. 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 Sons of Tradition

Sundays, 1 – 3 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-7773, ext. 2419

District II East Lake

AA Group

Mondays, 5 – 6 p.m., East Lake Community Center
Contact Rob Nelson at 218-768-2431

District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog

NA Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Aazhoomog Community Center

Wellbriety 12 Step Group

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

Wellbriety Meeting

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

RECURRING EVENTS

Ojibwe Language Tables

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., DI, District I Community Center
Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., DII, East Lake Community Center (3:30 p.m. on last Thursday)

DI Open Gym

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

DI Women's Group (Strength & Support)

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

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

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

B-Ball League Night: Thursday Nights

Upcoming Events

District II Holiday Party

The District II Holiday Party will be on Dec. 7 at Grand Casino Hinckley Convention Center from 6 – 10 p.m. A room block will be available for community members and rides will be available from community centers.

Urban Holiday Party

The Urban Holiday Party will be on Dec. 9 from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Minneapolis American Indian Center.

All District Elders Christmas Party

The Urban Holiday Party will be on Dec. 16 at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post November Events

Ojibwe Moccasin 2-Day Workshop: Nov. 3 & 4, Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Learn techniques of working with leather to make a pair of Ojibwe-style moccasins to take home in this 2-day workshop. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided both days. Registration is required 3 days prior to workshop. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounted hotel rooms are available for workshop participants on Saturday night at Grand Casino Mille Lacs with 10 days' advance registration.

Storybook Time and Corn Husk Doll: Nov. 4, 12 – 3 p.m. Enjoy stories and light snacks from noon to 1 p.m., then from 1 to 3 p.m., children can learn how to make a corn husk doll to take home. Cornhusk dolls were traditionally made during the fall out of the outer covering of an ear of corn. Please allow one hour to make the craft. This project is recommended for ages 8 and up.

Ojibwe Mitten 2-Day Workshop: Nov. 18 & 19, Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Learn techniques of leatherworking to make a pair of Ojibwe-style mittens to take home. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided both days.

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 phone number. In case of emergency, dial 911.

Native Art Sign Contest

Rules and regulations:

- Minimum size of sign: 24"x30" quality art canvas
- Must have creative anti-drug slogan featuring your native art talents
- Must be a Mille Lacs Band member
- Signs are due Dec. 22 between 1 – 5 p.m. at the District I Community Center
- Winner will be announced at the State of the Band Address in January 2018

Questions/Concerns? Please go to the Facebook event "Native Art Sign Contest".

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Want Your Event Here? Email katie.workman@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8014. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.</p> <p>Band Assembly Meetings Band Assembly meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other info, call the Legislative office or visit millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.</p> <p>Urban Area Events Urban Elder Luncheon Meeting & Bingo The next Urban Elder Luncheon Meeting & Bingo is Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017 at All Nations Church, from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lunch is provided, and a review of the upcoming year will be up for discussion. Time to whip up your best homemade dessert! The 1st Prize is \$30, 2nd is \$25, 3rd is \$15, in CUB gift cards. Bingo follows and fun door prizes called throughout the session.</p>			<p>1 DI NA/AA Welcome Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>2 Cooking 101 7 p.m. DI Comm. Center Sewing 101 5:30 p.m. DI Comm. Center DIII Wellbriety Meeting Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>3 Ceremonial Dance Elmer & Sheldon Mille Lacs Healer Herb Sam <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>4 Gathering for Our Children and Returning Adoptees Powwow 10 a.m. MN American Indian Center Ojibwe Moccasin 2-Day Workshop 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum Storybook Time & Corn Husk Doll 12 – 3 p.m. Indian Museum Ceremonial Dance Elmer & Sheldon Mille Lacs</p>
<p>5 Daylight Savings Time Ends Ojibwe Moccasin 2-Day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Indian Museum</p>	<p>6 CPR/AED Training 4 p.m. DI Comm. Center Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>7 Zumba Fitness 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center Language Table 6:30 p.m. DI Comm. Center Cooking 101 7 p.m. DI Comm. Center DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>8 DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Comm. Center DI NA/AA Welcome Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>9 Cooking 101 7 p.m. DI Comm. Center Sewing 101 5:30 p.m. DI Comm. Center DIII Wellbriety Meeting Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>10 Band Holiday Gov't Offices Closed Ceremonial Dance Skip & Darrell Lake Lena Healer Herb Sam <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>11 Urban Elder Luncheon 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. All Nations Church Ceremonial Dance Skip & Darrell Lake Lena</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13 Minor Trust Training Grand Casino Mille Lacs Sewing Circle 5:30 p.m. DI Comm. Center DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>14 DII Miigwech Feast/Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>15 DIIa Miigwech Feast/Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DI NA/AA Welcome Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>16 MLCV Annual Fall Feast 5 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs DIII Wellbriety Meeting Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>17 Honoring Native American Vets Dinner 2017 4:30 p.m. Minneapolis American Indian Ctr. Ceremonial Dance Joe & George Mille Lacs Healer Herb Sam <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>18 DI 2-Day Healthy Pet Clinic 8 a.m. DI Comm. Center Ojibwe Mitten 2-Day Workshop 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum Ceremonial Dance Joe & George Mille Lacs</p>
<p>19 DI 2-Day Healthy Pet Clinic 8 a.m. DI Comm. Center Ojibwe Mitten 2-Day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Indian Museum</p>	<p>20 Constitutional Convention 12 p.m. Black Bear Hotel Casino & Event Ctr. DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>21 Constitutional Convention 8:30 a.m. Black Bear Hotel Casino & Event Ctr. DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>22 DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>23 Band Holiday Gov't Offices Closed DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>24 Band Holiday Gov't Offices Closed Ceremonial Dance Lee Lake Lena Healer Herb Sam <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>25 Ceremonial Dance Lee Lake Lena</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 DIII Wellbriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>28 DI Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>29 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>30 DIIa Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See page 14</i></p>		



Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Invites You

18th Annual Feast for all Mille Lacs Band Members

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Doors open & seating starts at 5 p.m.

Invocation/welcome at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Entertainment at 7 p.m.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center, seating on a first come first served basis

GREAT FOOD PRIZES ENTERTAINMENT GOOD CONVERSATION

Attn: MLBO Members

The Nay Ah Shing Parent Action Committee is a group of Parents and Guardians dedicated to preserving culture and supporting high quality education for all NASS Students.

Parent engagement means parent input! It means parent feedback! It means parent involvement! We are seeking representatives who have the availability to attend monthly meetings to discuss and support our parent advisory program. This meeting will be open to all Parents and Guardians who are interested.

Contact for Questions: Ace Collie 320-532-4695, ext. 2160 or email acollie@nas.k12.mn.us.

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 and the urban area to cover events and provide content for the *Inaajimowin* newsletter, millelacsband.com and the Facebook page. If you or someone you know enjoys being out in the community, is active on social media, likes taking photos or has an interest in writing, send an email to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. No experience necessary. Hours and pay will depend on work experience, education and availability. You can also simply submit articles or photographs, and if your work is used you will receive reimbursement.

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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 or katie.workman@redcircleagency.com or call Katie at 612-465-8014 or Brett at 320-237-6851.

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