

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

JANUARY 2018 | VOLUME 20 | NUMBER 1



PER CAP PATROL

BAND MEMBERS CONFRONT CRIME, OFFER HELP.
PHOTO BY MIKAYLA SCHAFF

HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
BUILDING TAKES
SHAPE

BAND MEMBERS
CELEBRATE
AT HOLIDAY
PARTIES

ONAMIA
SCHOOL BOARD
CHAIR IS A VOICE
FOR THE PEOPLE

COMMISSIONER
LEARNS FROM
INDIGENOUS TRIBES
OF THE AMAZON

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Dear Band Members,

Boozhoo! As I write this column, we are in the midst of a very bitter cold snap with temperatures well below zero. Many of us remember hearing our parents or grandparents tell us special stories as children that could only be told in the winter months, and visiting with family and friends. In that tradition, I hope Band members have been spending quality time with good food, good company, wonderful stories, and lots of laughter.

December is usually a very slow month in tribal government, but quite the opposite was true this year. In early December, I attended a meeting of the National Indian Gaming Association in Washington D.C. where we discussed and planned strategies for addressing internet gaming; pending legislation called the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act, introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN), which protects tribal

sovereignty from outside threats; and I also spent an additional three days on Capitol Hill meeting with congressional offices about the opioid crisis we are facing. We also met with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Indian Country Unit to discuss federal law enforcement.

I also attended board meetings of the Native American Finance Officers Association and Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN), a Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), and held many meetings with Band members, commissioners, and staff. This included a strategy meeting on December 27 with a physician from the University of Minnesota who specializes in addiction treatment. This meeting involved every department head from our Health and Human Services Department. Commissioner St. Germaine and our HHS staff are

working tirelessly on a coordinated response to prevention and treatment, and there is a great deal happening on that front which Band Members will hear more about at the State of the Band Address on Tuesday, January 9.

There are of course a number of other developments on current issues, challenges, and opportunities we are facing as a Band which will also be discussed at the State of the Band Address, which is a time we spend reflecting on the year we've just finished as well as looking ahead to what 2018 may bring for us as a community. I strongly encourage all Band members and their families to attend this event. As a bonus, it always involves a wonderful meal shared together as well! I wish all Band families a safe and happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you on January 9. Miigwech!

Melanie Benjamin



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE INDIANS

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

*Cordially Invites You to Attend
The 34th Annual
State of the Band Address
10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 9, 2018*

*Grand Casino Mille Lacs
Events & Convention Center*

*Dignitaries and Non-Band Member Guests are Warmly
Welcome & Encouraged to R.S.V.P. to (320) 532-7486*

Band Members need not R.S.V.P.

New License Plates Available from DMV

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Motor Vehicles has the newly designed vehicle plates available that were designed by Mille Lacs Band member Simone Boyd-Evans. If you wish to trade the old Band plates for the new ones, please bring in your old plates that you are transferring over for an \$8.25 transfer fee. If you do not wish to transfer your plates to the new designed plates, you are not required to do so!

Personalized plates can also be transferred to the newly designed plates, and there will be a \$25 fee for “duplicate” personalized plates; otherwise, new requests are still \$50. Personalized plates take approximately 6–8 weeks to come in after you place order. Again, the old personalized plates need to be returned when you pick up the new ones.

Mille Lacs Band vet plates will also be available for the same registration fees that are set for regular Band plates. You must show proof of veteran status (for example: Form DD214) at time of registration.

The new utility/boat trailers, motorcycle, ATV, RV, and handicap plates will also be available.

We would also like to mention that the purchase of 2018 tabs are only pro-rated for new registrations, not for vehicles that are

already registered.

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



Constitutional Convention Heading to Grand Portage in January

An initial round of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitutional Convention meetings will conclude January 22 and 23 at Grand Portage Lodge and Casino.

The meetings will be the seventh round in a series that started last August at Mille Lacs. Each reservation was scheduled to host a two-day meeting, and an additional meeting was held December 14 and 15 in St. Paul at the InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront.

The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) voted last summer to hold a series of meetings to consider changes to the Constitution, which was originally ratified in 1936, revised in 1963, and amended in 1972.

At the first meeting, hosted by the Mille Lacs Band at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, the Native Nations Institute and the Native Governance Center facilitated. Native Nations Institute staff gave

a presentation on tribal governments and constitutions across Indian Country.

Each two-day meeting included a presentation titled “The Development of the MCT Constitution” by MCT Attorney Philip Brodeen, followed by group discussion designed to help participants think strategically about the MCT’s future.

The second day of each meeting looked at why some Native nations have been more successful than others, which included discussion of what is and is not working well in the MCT and Band governments. The meetings finished with sharing of ideas on how to strengthen the MCT and Band governments.

See millelacsband.com and future issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* for updates on additional Constitutional Convention meetings.

Band Members Celebrate the Season

District III

Chad Germann Photographer

District III Band members attended their annual Holiday Party on December 22, sponsored by Representative Harry Davis. Great food and hilarious entertainment by Auntie Beachress (aka Tonia Jo Hall) made it an evening to remember.

See page 8 for more holiday party photos.



2018 Election Dates

Elections will take place in 2018 for Mille Lacs Band Secretary-Treasurer, District II Representative, and District III Representative. Watch for the official MCT Election Announcement on January 8, and see millelacsband.com for details and updates.

- **January 12:** Period for filing for office begins at 8 a.m.
- **January 22:** Close of filing period
- **April 3:** Primary Election
Polling places open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **June 12:** General Election
Polling places open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Legislative Update

The Mille Lacs Band Assembly has passed the following resolutions and bills since the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1.

Resolutions

JOINT RESOLUTION 17-04-06-18: A Joint Resolution Approving the Relicensing of Bohlman, Incorporated for the Operation of Drop-in Child Care Centers at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley.

JOINT RESOLUTION 17-04-11-18: A Joint Resolution Amending Joint Resolution 17-04-86-17 Which Approved the Submission of a Tribal Child Support Enforcement Grant to the United States Administration for Children and Families: Office of Child Support Enforcement for FY18.

JOINT RESOLUTION 17-04-13-18: A Joint Resolution Approving the Participation Plan for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe’s use of the Minnesota State ARMER Radio System.

JOINT RESOLUTION 17-04-14-18: A Joint Resolution Adopting the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Hazard Mitigation Plan.

JOINT RESOLUTION 17-04-32-18: A Joint Resolution approving the Submission of an application, on behalf of the Nay ah Shing Schools, to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for the FY18 AGRI Farm to School Grant Program.

JOINT RESOLUTION 17-04-33-18: A Joint Resolution Approving the Joint Powers Agreement between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the State of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to Participate in the Minnesota Internet Crimes against Children Task Force.

JOINT RESOLUTION 17-04-35-18: A Joint Resolution Approving the Submission of a Grant Application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Highway Safety Program for the FY18 Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Child Passenger Safety Seat Program.

JOINT RESOLUTION 17-04-52-18: A Joint Resolution Approving the Submission of a Liquor Permit Application with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for the Sale and Consumption of Alcohol at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Bills

Band Assembly Bill 17-04-53-17: A Bill of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Athletic Regulation, Supplemental Income Program for Elders (“SIPE”), and Tribal Employment Rights Office of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal years ending September 30, 2018 and September 30, 2019.

Band Assembly Bill 17-04-01-18: Legislative — Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy Donation FY18.

State and Local News Briefs

PUC Rejects Line 3 Environmental Review: The Public Utilities Commission, by a vote of four to one, declared the state's Environmental Impact Statement "inadequate" in three areas. The PUC is asking for (1) more information on whether an alternative route could avoid sensitive geologic formations, (2) more clarity on how it weighted environmental outcomes in its review of five alternative routes, and (3) better identification of impacts of two alternative routes that roughly parallel the current Line 3. Representatives of the Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac bands criticized the EIS as lacking a formal tribal cultural resource study. *Source: startribune.com.*

Band Receives Home Visit Grant: The Minnesota Department of Health awarded the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Pine County, and Mille Lacs County more than \$1.3 million to increase home-visiting services to American Indians. The grant is part of a \$4.87 million expenditure to 19 counties and two tribal nations. Home visits are shown to improve health and reduce costs of other services for at-risk families. *Source: Brainerd Dispatch*

Former Employee Honored: Mary Sam, a long-time Mille Lacs Band employee and former Onamia School Board member, is the recipient of the 2017 Ron McKinley All My Relations Award from the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership. The award recognizes a volunteer who has contributed to the MnEEP mission. "Mary is a strong advocate for racial justice in central Minnesota. We are proud to award Mary this distinguished award for service and commitment to education equity for her inspiring and impactful work over the years," stated Carlos Mariani, Executive Director, and Jennifer Godinez, Associate Director with MnEEP, in a news release. Sam is the Dean of Students, Equity, and Inclusion at Central Lakes College. *Source: Brainerd Dispatch*

New State Guidelines to Cut Opioid Addiction: On December 2, Lt. Gov. Tina Smith announced new guidelines designed to cut the risk of opioid addiction. The guidelines are designed to reduce the number of unnecessary opioid prescriptions, encourage monitoring of prescription opioid use, and encourage compassionate care for long-time users to help them decrease their use. "These new guidelines build on the important steps we have taken in Minnesota to address the opioid epidemic. But we cannot expect to make meaningful progress without a significant and sustained investment in prevention, treatment, and recovery," said Lt. Governor Smith. "I thank the health care providers and other experts who developed these new guidelines. I look forward to working with them and a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers next session to find a solution to this crisis, and save lives." *Source: stl.news*

Ojibwe 'Netflix' Launches on Apple Store: The world's first Indigenous language TV streaming app launched in the App Store Tuesday, allowing people to access Ojibwe education and entertainment programming through an Apple TV device. The Winnipeg-based developers jokingly call it "the Ojibwe Netflix" and say it is part of a high-tech push to keep Canada's Indigenous languages from disappearing. "This tool brings the exclusive Ojibwe language into the classroom, into the living room, into the home with the young kids," said Darrick Baxter, founder and CEO of Ogoki Learning Inc. He's originally from the Sandy Bay Ojibwe First Nation in Manitoba. *Source: cba.ca*

Third Annual Public Health Cooking Contest: The Public Health SHIP Program and Tobacco Prevention are sponsoring their 3rd Annual Cooking Contest Thursday, January 18, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the District I Community Center. This year manoomin (wild rice) will be the main ingredient. Please contact Darla Roache at 320-532-7760 or email: Darla.roache@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov to register.

Mediation Continues, County Responds

The Band and Mille Lacs County engaged in mediation efforts in December while both sides also prepared for a legal battle over law enforcement and the status of the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation.

The two sides met with retired federal Magistrate Arthur Boylan, but neither side has announced an agreement that would allow Tribal Police officers to enforce state criminal law in cooperation with the County.

"We signed a confidentiality agreement on mediation which we will continue to honor," said Tadd Johnson, Senior Advisor on Government Affairs. "All I can say at this time is the mediation will continue."

The County rescinded the existing law enforcement agreement in June of 2016, and prior mediation efforts aimed at reaching a new agreement were unsuccessful.

On December 21, the County responded to a lawsuit filed by the Band in November with a counterclaim against Police

Chief Sara Rice, Sergeant Derrick Naumann, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, and District Representatives Sandra Blake, David 'Niib' Aubid, and Harry Davis.

In the counterclaim, the County repeatedly states that the 1855 Reservation has been disestablished and denies that the Band's inherent sovereign authority and federal Special Law Enforcement Commissions (SLECs) give its officers the right to exercise state law enforcement powers throughout the reservation.

The counterclaim includes an extensive legal and historical argument claiming that the 1855 Reservation was disestablished. The argument directly contradicts the longstanding federal position that the reservation is still intact, an opinion reiterated in 2016 in an M-Opinion, M-37032, by Department of Interior Solicitor Hilary Tompkins.

For more on this developing story, see below.

County Board Approves Contracts for Legal Defense of Sheriff, Attorney

On December 12 The Mille Lacs County Board approved contracts for attorneys who will defend Sheriff Brent Lindgren and County Attorney Joe Walsh in a federal lawsuit filed November 17 by the Mille Lacs Band, Chief of Police Sara Rice, and Sergeant Derrick Naumann.

After County Administrator Pat Oman read resolutions aloud in their entirety, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the contracts.

Walsh will be represented by Scott Knudson of Briggs and Morgan. A letter to Walsh from Knudson states, "it is likely that the County, the Sheriff, and you will enter into a joint defense agreement in connection with the lawsuit." According to the letter, Knudson will charge \$450 per hour, a 25 percent reduction from standard fees.

Lindgren will be represented by Doug Kelley of Kelley, Wolter, and Scott. The firm will be paid \$400 per hour for Doug Kelley, \$325 per hour for Wolter and Scott, \$275 for Brett Kelley, \$225 for investigators, and \$190 for paralegals, which Kelley said in a letter is a reduction based on the fact that Lindgren is a public employee. The firm will also bill for expert witness fees, online research charges, court reporter charges, and other expenses.

According to Kelley's letter, "The suit seeks a declaratory judgment from the federal court to recognize the authority of the Mille Lacs Band to apprehend suspects within the Mille

Lacs Indian Reservation for detention and prosecution by county law enforcement, and that you be enjoined from taking any actions to interfere with the exercise of that authority. At this point, the Complaint does not seek damages, but the plaintiffs are seeking attorney fees."

The County Board tabled the item on November 30 to allow Lindgren and Walsh time to find counsel and finalize contracts. Also at that meeting, the Board hired attorney Randy Thompson to represent the County.

The complaint alleges that the County, County Attorney Walsh, and Sheriff Lindgren have prevented Band police officers from exercising police powers within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation, violating federal law and contributing to an epidemic of drug-related overdoses and deaths.

Since July 2016, when Mille Lacs County revoked a Joint Powers Agreement under which Band police held authority to enforce state law on the Mille Lacs Reservation, County officials have threatened Band police with arrest if they attempt to carry out law enforcement duties outside of lands held in trust for the Band.

The County has exacerbated the public safety void created by those threats by refusing to arrest certain offenders, or prosecute certain cases against those arrested, in situations involving Band officers.

Leech Lake Band Sues Opioid Companies

On December 19, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe approved the filing of a lawsuit in federal district court against six of the nation's largest opioid manufacturers—including Purdue Pharma, Cephalon, Inc., and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and the three largest distributors of prescription drugs—McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., and AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation. The Leech Lake Band alleges that these companies used deceptive marketing tactics that minimized the addictive nature of these drugs and the health risks to patients, with the intent to maximize profits.

The highly addictive nature of opioids, which are powerful painkillers, has led to a major public health crisis in Indian Country. Data from the Centers for Disease Control show that in 2014, Native Americans had the highest rate per 100,000

people of opioid overdoses. In the four-county area containing Leech Lake's tribal lands, the number of opioid-related deaths has increased dramatically.

"The opioid epidemic has taken the entire United States by storm," said Leech Lake Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. "Its impact has been particularly heavy here in Indian Country. Our tribal communities have endured many challenges and adversities in our history and found a way to survive. The crisis caused by the proliferation of opiates throughout our communities is the newest threat to our way of life. We hope this lawsuit will help to bring further attention to this major issue and ultimately make sure the major opioid manufacturers, who have put their corporate profit margins over the lives of our people, are held accountable for their actions."

Enbridge Obstacles Can't Stop Protectors

Li Boyd Guest Writer

Mille Lacs Band member Tania Aubid, from the East Lake community, has been opposing oil pipelines for years, and not without personal risk. Aubid's house has been a target of suspicious activity, she's been publicly harassed, and there have even been death threats. Aubid has even been recognized for her dedication, receiving a Water Protector Award at the Manidoo-Giziisoon Gala, or Feast of the Little Spirit Moon, held by Honor the Earth on December 21 in Duluth. She was in the company of four other Anishinaabe women who were awarded for their courageousness, resilience, and leadership as *nibi genawendangig* (water protectors) for our region.

PUC hearing outcomes

In November, as part of the ongoing battle, Aubid and many other tribal members from all over the state attended the evidentiary hearings the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission held concerning Line 3. The hearings lasted twelve days, during which a legal team representing the White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, Mille Lacs, and Red Lake bands intervened on their behalf. Also attending and participating were concerned landowners, environmental groups, and the Youth Climate Intervenors, a group of young individuals who have told the state and Enbridge that they don't want dirty oil in their future — for their own sake, their children's, and the sake of all life.

What they and the rest of Minnesota face is the largest pipeline project in the U.S., backed by a foreign oil company that has the advantage of billions of dollars, dozens of lawyers, and a system designed to work for them. But Enbridge has been defeated before, when communities of both Native and non-Native allies forced Enbridge to give up on the Sandpiper project. Line 3 is the next wave, maybe the last, in this legal and regulatory battle which is redefining the role of indigenous peoples as environmental stewards. Gone are the images of a sad, solitary man asking people not to litter; Indigenous peoples have become fierce protectors who stand in the path of great monsters and demand recognition of our rights.

The November hearings were history being made, with the amount of testimony from tribal Elders and experts so unprecedented that the hearings went a week beyond what the state initially scheduled. It would have been preferable for everyone to have a chance to witness that history and even ideal to have made a durable multimedia record of it. Yet although they were part of a public process and a matter of public record, an administrative law judge otherwise uninvolved in the case ruled that there was to be no photography, audio recording, or video recording of the evidentiary hearings allowed. All record of what happened at the hearings is dependent entirely on the court reporter, a state employee, and whatever written testimony was filed. It made it all the more imperative for Aubid to be there as a witness.

"The State of Minnesota and Enbridge are putting our Manoomin at risk," Aubid said. "I do not want the Manoomin beds to be a science petri dish when that pipeline breaks. Already quite a few Manoomin beds have died off. Enbridge already has more than enough pipelines running through our treaty territories."

Others, such as the Youth Climate Intervenors, also reported on what they saw in the hearings at the end of each day, sometimes through internet videos or blogs. It was a statement of defiance to Enbridge, that it can try, but it won't stop the voices of resistance. Enbridge has also tried to leverage power in the court of public opinion with recent advertising campaigns. The ads have been misleading, if not outright false, highlighting the company's good safety record, good corporate citizenship, and interest in public welfare. This coincided with the company rolling in busloads of non-local employees during public comment hearings to speak in favor of the project, to make it appear popular, and to edge out local community mem-

bers who might have wished to speak out against this pipeline in public. Enbridge stayed true to form at the evidentiary hearings, where its team of lawyers held witnesses for intervening parties to expert standards while accepting what can best be called pseudo-science from its own witnesses.

"I do not want the Manoomin beds to be a science petri dish when that pipeline breaks. Already quite a few Manoomin beds have died off. Enbridge already has more than enough pipelines running through our treaty territories."

— Tania Aubid

Pipeline leaks anticipated

So while Enbridge and the state circle the wagons with attempts to limit public participation in the approval process, our people continue to let nothing stop them. On the heels of the recent South Dakota Keystone spill of 210,000 gallons, it is more important than ever for indigenous communities to stay engaged in the fight. The Keystone Pipeline is only 10 years old, and it has already had three leaks greater than 16,000 gallons. This proves the adage that all pipelines leak, no matter how new and sophisticated they are, and reignites questions about the adequacy of the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's ability to monitor U.S. pipeline operations. Nebraska's approval of the Keystone XL project days after the Keystone spill is an indicator of how much bias exists in favor of these pipeline projects.

Part of the upcoming battle must take place at home, with the responsibility falling on tribal governments to organize and take further action. Legal advisors assert that now is the time for tribes to create resolutions against the pipeline projects and lobby state representatives to pull their support from or even actively denounce these industries. Furthermore, a document called the Anishinaabe Cumulative Impact Assessment (ACIA) was prepared on behalf of the intervening tribes in Minnesota and is available for review on the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe website. There are also opportunities for the draft to be formally presented to reservation communities so that band members can be better informed about the impacts of the Line 3 project and how infrastructure projects affect indigenous communities.

Between now and February, the most important thing the tribes can do is insist that a Tribal Cultural Resources Survey be completed and taken into consideration before any final decision is made on permits granted to Enbridge. Currently, the survey is only required to be complete before construction starts and therefore has no impact on any actual permitting decisions. Band members are encouraged to let their tribal administrations know that they support the fight against Line 3 and hope their leaders will support and engage in the battle as well.

Comment period remains open

To view the Draft Anishinaabe Cumulative Impact Assessment (ACIA), go to mnchippewatribe.org/impact_assessment.html. A wealth of data is presented in the ACIA, and it provides support for the proud claiming of Anishinaabe heritage and the opportunity for band members to speak for themselves. The ACIA takes a long view, both historically and seven generations ahead, and honors the Nibi, the water, as the first Anishinaabe medicine. Input and comments are welcome and can be submitted to ACIAcomments@mnchippewatribe.org. The comment period will remain open until February 1, 2018.

National News Briefs

What the End of Net Neutrality Means for Native Communities:

In a Huffington Post op/ed, Gyasi Ross of the Blackfeet Nation argued that Native Nations will be hard hit by last month's decision by the Republican-controlled Federal Communications Commission to overturn a "net neutrality" rule put in place by the Obama administration. Even before the decision, American Indians' access to the Internet lagged behind the population as a whole, since only 41 percent of Tribal lands have broadband access. "Now, in these rural communities where there are very few — if any — broadband options, the FCC has ostensibly given the Internet providers the absolute ability to charge whatever they want," Ross said. "The market does not protect areas where there is no competition, and in most Native communities there is no competition for Internet service providers." *Source: huffpost.com*

Indian Country Law Enforcement Flawed:

An audit issued by Department of Justice (DOJ) inspectors last month said Indian Nations are being short-changed on crime fighting because federal agents, prosecutors, and tribal police have failed to develop a coordinated system mandated by Congress. The DOJ Office of Inspector General review says the failure to establish an overall plan or controlling agency for law enforcement has created a "lack of DOJ-level accountability." As a result, tribes and their members deal with crimes that are not properly investigated or prosecuted, and victims go unprotected. *Source: azcentral.com*

Tribes React to Cuts to Bears Ears Monument:

President Donald Trump's decision to cut the size of Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent was met with anger and dismay by members of Native American tribes. A coalition of five Utah tribes with ties to the land — the Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute, Ute Indian Tribe, Hopi, and the Pueblo of Zuni — oppose the decision and plan to take legal action. Shaun Chapoose, councilman of the Ute Indian Tribe business committee, said, "It's another slap in the face in the overall relationship between the federal government and the tribes, and local people." Bears Ears was designated by Barack Obama days before he left office, as the first national monument to be requested by tribes. *Source: theguardian.com*

Native Advocates Create Spoof Announcing Name Change for Washington Football Team:

A Native advocacy group called "Rising Hearts" created a social media campaign including a series of spoof websites announcing that the Washington NFL team would now be called the RedHawks. The group said they did it "to show the NFL and the Washington Football franchise how easy, popular, and powerful changing the name could be." Spoof webpages included "fake news" stories from the Washington Post, ESPN, and Sports Illustrated. The group apologized for any confusion people might feel upon learning about the hoax: "We are sorry for the disappointment and confusion many will feel learning that Snyder has not changed the name yet. The purpose of this action is to show that the need for a new mascot is real and immediate. This online campaign is one of many direct and confrontational tactics that we as Native people have to use to demand our human dignity."

Source: indiancountrymedianetwork.com.

Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Ellen Heidel at ellen.heidel@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8017.

The February issue deadline is January 15.



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

Keeping the Ojibwe Language Alive

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.

When I was a kid, it was hard to keep our Indian languages alive in the schools I attended. I was sent to two Indian schools run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The first was in Hayward, Wisconsin, where I spent four years, and the other was in Wahpeton, North Dakota, where I went for one year.

In Hayward, most of the kids were Ojibwe, but most of them could not speak our language. It seems like a lot of the kids from Minnesota were able to speak Ojibwe more so than the kids who lived deeper into Wisconsin. In Wahpeton, there were kids from other tribes, so this is where I heard different Anishinaabe (Indian) languages — Lakota/Dakota, Cree, and Cheyenne.

When we first went to Hayward, we were not allowed to speak Ojibwe or speak of our religion. We were told everything in Indian was just imagination and “hogwash.” I had a hard time with English, so a lot of the boys used to laugh at me because my English was so horrible. I used to say to myself, “Someday I will speak as well as anyone.” Been trying ever since.

We Ojibwe speakers used to get together on weekends. We were allowed to play out in the woods, so we played like we were home and talked in our language. We wouldn't let non-Ojibwe speakers go with us because they would tell on us for speaking Ojibwe, and we were punished.

We were encouraged to write a letter to our parents once a month and were given a stamped envelope. The letters were censored before mailing. Cars were scarce and so was money, so we didn't get many visits from our parents. My father was fortunate to have a car, but then there was the money part. But he did come for visits about three times a year, which was a lot better than some of the other students. Some stayed at the school year-round from kindergarten through the eighth grade. I know that's where they lost their language.

In the classroom, it seems to me we were forced to learn. I kept misspelling “arithmetic.” The second time I had to write it a hundred times. The third time, Mr. Scott had me in front of the class while he slapped the palm of my hand with a ruler. I'd hate to see him again because I still misspell arithmetic!

Another time I was sent to the principal's office. I was asked a question, and I was to answer “no.” But I answered, “gaawiin,” which is how we say ‘no’ in Ojibwe. So I had to wash the blackboards in the classroom for five days after school in addition to my regular assigned dormitory job.

After two years in Hayward, the BIA relented on the language, so we spoke a lot of Ojibwe after that. The only thing I am sorry about is that I was at school and didn't get to attend any of the traditional Ojibwe ceremonies performed during spring and fall, so I was and am naive about a lot of traditional ceremonies used now.

But I never did lose any of my language. When we tried to practice our English, my grandmother told us, “You are not a chi-mokomaan (white person). You were given a language to use, so use it.”

I hope I have not offended anyone by writing this — that is not my intent. These are just my thoughts. Miigwech (thank you).

District I Health Clinic Is Taking Shape

Construction is underway on an 85,000-square-foot Health and Human Services facility in District I. The building will be situated on the west side of Timber Trail Road across from the Bugg Hill neighborhood.

The footings and foundation were completed this fall, and structural steel started arriving in December. Above-ground masonry work commenced in December, and the building structure will continue to go up over the winter months. Construction is expected to be complete in early spring of 2019. Hy-Tec Construction of Brainerd is the general contractor.

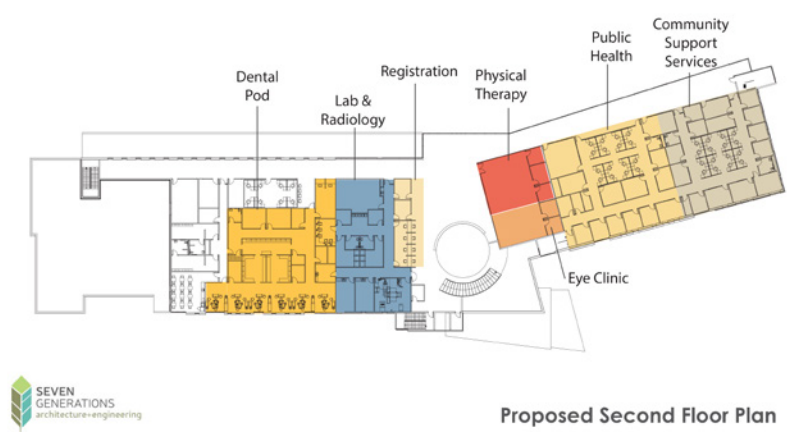
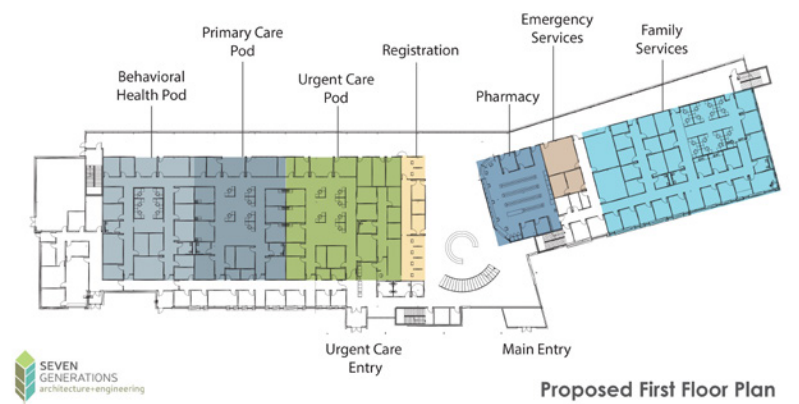
The Mille Lacs Band commissioned Seven Generations Architecture and Engineering to provide full design services for the clinic, which will also house Health and Human Services administration and all HHS departments: Health Services, Family Services, Public Health, Community Support Services, and Behavioral Health Services.

The facility will provide a “one-stop shop” for Band members to access medical care formerly housed in Ne-la-Shing Clinic: general practice health services, dental, pharmacy, imaging/radiology, lab, and physical therapy. The clinic has also been built to accommodate urgent care in the future if the need arises.

The building will be divided into two wings to separate clinic functions from other HHS services. The clinical wing will accommodate general health clinic functions on the first floor and specialty services (i.e., imaging, lab, and dental services) directly above on the second floor.

The wing opposite will accommodate all other HHS services and will include offices, collaborative work areas, conference rooms, a pharmacy on the first floor, and a physical therapy gym on the second floor.

The HHS building is being developed on a large parcel of land known as the Sher Property. A housing development has also been started on the parcel and a new District I Community Center is also being planned on the property.



Insurance Deadline Is January 14

The Mille Lacs Band's Circle of Health program reminds Band members that January 14 is the deadline to apply for insurance through MNsure, Minnesota's health insurance exchange.

Circle of Health is not insurance; it is a benefit provided by the Band to enrolled Band members and descendants under 18 years of age.

Before Circle of Health can pay any fees on their behalf, Band members must have health insurance — either Medicare, Medical Assistance, an employer plan, or a privately purchased plan. Circle of Health is the ultimate payer of last resort.

Circle of Health is a certified navigator for MNsure and can help Band members and others with insurance questions and applications. Call 800-491-6106 for assistance or stop by the Circle of Health office at Ne-la-Shing Clinic in District I. Circle of Health staff also make regular visits to Districts II and III and the Urban Office.

Circle of Health supplements Band members' primary insurance coverage by paying or reimbursing premiums, co-pays, and deductibles for insurance-covered services. One policy per family/household is allowed.

Circle of Health also pays for specific items such as hearing aids, eyeglasses, orthodontia, and durable medical equipment for enrolled Band members only. All enrolled members are eligible for Circle of Health benefits, no matter where they live.

How to sign up for MNsure

If you have computer skills and Internet access, go to mnsure.org to sign up for insurance. You will need to create an account and provide information about your income, employment, family, and tribal affiliation (if any). The website will prompt you through a process to determine your eligibility.

If you prefer to sign up via phone, call MNsure for assistance at 855-366-7873 or 651-539-2099.

You can also apply over the phone by calling Circle of Health staff, who can complete the application for you.

Circle of Health also has an office in Hinckley at the Corporate Ventures building, 503 Weber Avenue Room 103. Call Trisha Moose at 320-384-4603 for information or help with insurance questions. For more information on Circle of Health, call 800-491-6016 or visit millelacsband.com/services/circle-of-health.

From the Pain, to the Game

Amikogaabawiikwe Adrienne Benjamin Guest Writer **Darcie BigBear** Guest Photographer

Recently I was contacted by a community member who said that their son, Eldayshun Big Bear (DayDayz) wanted help to tell his story about losing his dad. This is his story. I am grateful to have been asked to help him tell it. It is his mother's hope and Eldayshun's hope that this story can help others who are dealing with loss to find the sunshine after the rain. Eldayshun is a 15-year-old sophomore at Isle High School and starting point guard for the Isle Huskies basketball team. He has grown up in Chiminising and is actively involved in the MLB WiiDu program.

On September 25, Eldayshun Big Bear had just gotten home from school and was playing video games when his mom called and told him to stay off Facebook. "I didn't think anything at the time, but when she came home, she sat me down and told me that my dad had unexpectedly passed away," Eldayshun said. "I don't know how to explain how I felt. It's not every day you hear something like that at 15." His dad was only 37.

There was captain's practice that night, and he told his mom that all he wanted to do was play basketball, so he went to captain's practice, like he would have any other day. "All of my team knew, but they waited until the end to console me, and they were all very comforting," Eldayshun said. "My coach reached out and told me that if I needed someone to talk to, I could go to him. My teammates and coaches checked on me constantly and asked me how I was doing, and that meant a lot."

The day after his father passed away, his family and friends put on an open gym at the Chiminising Community Center. "We just played basketball. I got to do what I love the most with my friends and the people that I care about the most," Eldayshun recalled.

Trevor Oswald, an Isle High School alumni, and the first per-

son that Eldayshun ever looked up to in basketball, texted him and told him that he was proud of him and the basketball player that he is becoming and that he inspires him. Eldayshun was grateful. "It's crazy getting a text message from someone like that saying that I inspired them," he said. "There's a lot of people that have your back when you need it and support you, and that's a big factor that has helped me."

A shot of positivity

Eldayshun thought a lot about continuing his basketball season and life after such a tragic event. A shot of positivity came from his friends Cedric, Quentin, and Dion a week later. "I told them that I wanted to do something great in my dad's memory, and they agreed that making a goal for my basketball season was a good and reasonable idea," Eldayshun said. His friend Cedric likes to think out of the box, and he knew that it was already Eldayshun's goal to break the assist record for the season, so he suggested that he do it for his Dad. "In that moment, they really made me think that I could do it." Eldayshun said happily about his friends.

He has now made it his goal to break the Isle High School single-season assist record. "I'm trying to break the assist record at my school for my dad. It was my goal before, but now that he's not here, it made me want to try harder and strive for it," he added. As of today, Eldayshun has played four games and has 20 assists. He needs 126 to tie the record and 127 to break it, with 23 games remaining to do it.

Eldayshun reflected on a moment that occurred before the season started. "Before my first game my mom took me to visit my dad's grave, and I talked to him out loud. I asked to have him guide me with any problems that I have on and off the court. I showed him my shoes, and I told him that every time I take a step, dribble, or take a shot, it's for him."

Every time Eldayshun scores a basket, he points upward to acknowledge his dad, and when he is announced in the starting lineup, he has a special handshake with another teammate where he also points up and acknowledges his Dad before every game. When asked about keeping his focus and drive on the court during tough times, Eldayshun said, "When I'm playing, I'm all about basketball, getting my teammates involved and finding them open shots. That's what I love about assists: it's team play."

You can come and cheer Eldayshun on during the 2017-2018 Isle Huskies basketball season. A game schedule can be found on the Isle Public Schools website: isle.k12.mn.us.

Focus on the goal

Eldayshun also had this message for any young person who may



Photo by Mille Lacs Messenger.

be going through tough times: "You have to put your mind to the goal, and do it for yourself and make yourself happy through your goal. Whether it's playing football or writing music, you need to do it with everything you have. Some things that have helped me get through it are basketball, my friends, my family, and listening to my favorite rapper, Montana of 300, going to school every day, and writing about my feelings."

"I wanted to share my story because I wanted people to know how my dad really was; he was really loving and caring with a huge sense of humor. You couldn't talk to him without having him joke around at least once. If you lose someone that you really love, if they were proud of you for something, you should keep up with that. At the end of the day, if you're doing what you love and what they loved watching you do, they're most likely smiling down and proud of you. If you have an on-and-off relationship with one of your parents, you should hang out with them more, because you don't know how much you'll miss them or what they meant to you until they're gone."

Good luck Eldayshun! We hope you shatter that record and many more in the future!



Elders Attend Holiday Party at Grand Casino Hinckley

Laughter and smiles filled the room December 16 as Mille Lacs Band Elders took pictures with Santa, exchanged gifts, and danced the evening away to the band "Eagle and Hawk." Paul Sam emceed the event, and the invocation was provided by Darrell Sam. Timber Trails also sang to open the evening. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin joined in the fun and boogied to a line dance, while two-step contest winners Michael Davis and Carol Hernandez won by unanimous audience vote. Hats off to the Mille Lacs Band Elders program for facilitating a fun well organized event.



Band Members Celebrate the Season at Holiday Parties

District I

Makadegwanebiikwe Mikayla Schaaf Guest Writer/Photographer

It was a family affair at the District I Holiday Party, as families came together to enjoy a wonderful meal and great entertainment. Comedian Tatanka Means provided the entertainment for the evening. Means represents the Navajo, Oglala Lakota, and Omaha Nations and is an award-winning actor, stand-up comedian, and motivational speaker. He has been on the National Geographic Channel, TNT, and several other movie projects and was also written about in a novel by Judy Blume. Watch for him soon as he will be starring in season one of "The Son" on AMC with Pierce Brosnan. With his impressive background and his down-to-earth Native American humor, Tatanka had the Mille Band District I community members roaring with laughter.



Urban Area

Nici Frnk & Toya Stewart-Downey Guest Photographers

A visit with Santa is always a part of the festivities at the urban area holiday party. This year the party was held on Saturday, December 9 at the American Indian Center. The party also included an invocation by Herb Sam, catering by Dan and Angel Oehrlein, and lots of presents for kids of all ages. Miigwech to Minneapolis police, firefighters, and EMTs who helped dish up the meal.



District II

Adrienne Benjamin Guest Photographer

The District II Adult Holiday Party was held on December 14 at Grand Casino Hinckley. DJ Rushline kept the party hopping with karaoke and plenty of holiday classics. The dance floor was occupied most of the night by Jordan Buffalo, and plenty of community members got up and tested their singing chops on the microphone during karaoke! A great time was had by all!



Program Fair Comes to District II

Mille Lacs Band government employees brought information about programs and services to East Lake Community Center December 6 for the first of what is expected to be an ongoing series of "program fairs." The fairs also provide easy access to job and program applications.

Assistant Commissioner of Administration Tiger Brown Bull brought the idea from his home on the Pine Ridge Reservation, where he served as Executive Director prior to his move to Mille Lacs. Like Mille Lacs, Pine Ridge encompasses a huge region, so it

makes sense to help members get the services they need without driving a long distance.

Among the programs represented were Health and Human Services, Education (including Niigaan and Early Ed), Child Support Enforcement, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Human Resources, Housing, Aanjibimaadizing (Department of Labor), and Government Affairs (including the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* newsletter).

The next program fair will take place at Aazhoomog Community Center in District III on February 14.



Band's Broadband Efforts are Model at Statewide Conference

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Information Systems Director Keith Modglin joined more than 150 broadband leaders from across rural Minnesota last month to compare approaches to expanding access to, and use of, high-speed Internet. The Border to Border Broadband: Bridging the Gaps — Expanding the Impact conference, co-hosted by Blandin Foundation and the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development, highlighted the many ways broadband is creating new opportunities for rural communities.

Research unveiled at the conference found that Minnesota could see nearly \$1 billion in economic benefits over 15 years if broadband access and use improved. Tech expert Robert Gallardo, assistant director at the Purdue Center for Regional Development, produced profiles of all Minnesota counties using his Digital Divide Index.

As leaders in rural broadband work, Modglin and the Mille Lacs Band were central to the conference sharing and learning. A past Blandin Broadband Community, Mille Lacs Band leaders have invested in projects such as building wi-fi sites in three districts and providing computers and training to 100 low-income families.

Communities are starting to see the direct economic impact of broadband investments like those on Mille Lacs Reservation. Blandin Foundation-commissioned research released at the conference analyzed these impacts in five rural Minnesota communities. Findings indicate that economic benefits in each community will surpass public broadband investment in one to six years. Information and resources on how these counties are making the most of their broadband investments can be found at mnbroadbandcasestudies.org.

All the conference proceedings, including the county-by-county Digital Divide Index for Minnesota, are online at blandinonbroadband.org.

"Mille Lacs Band leaders have a lot to be proud of," said Dr. Kathleen Annette, president and CEO of Blandin Foundation. "Local leaders are creating a broadband-enhanced future themselves when others wouldn't do it for them. Their vision will propel the community forward!"



Band, Pine County Share Local Government Innovation Award

The Pine County Board of Commissioners welcomed Mille Lacs Band employees to their board meeting December 19 to recognize their work on the C5 Restorative Justice Program, which received a Local Government Innovation Award from the University of Minnesota.

Pine County Attorney Reese Frederickson and Probation Director Terry Fawcett thanked Ramona Bird, Michael Fahey, and Brittany Wind of the Grants Department and Katie Draper of the Government Affairs Department for their work on the project.

Grants Director Ramona Bird said, "The Grants team works hard every day on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Mike and Brittany are two young Band members who genuinely care about their home. It has truly been an honor to work alongside them, and it was great to see them recognized by the Pine County Board."

Frederickson spoke to the Board about the award and the program. "What this says is that one of the major universities in the world is recognizing Pine County as an innovator, and we're especially being recognized because of our collaboration with the Mille Lacs Band," he said.

On December 7, the Band and County accepted the award at a ceremony sponsored by the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and the Bush Foundation. Ramona and Katie represented the Band at the ceremony.

"Tonight was a moment I will always cherish," Pine County Attorney Frederickson said after the event. "It was a true honor to accept this award alongside county colleagues and

Know Your Government

The Department of Administration is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Mille Lacs Band tribal government, including administering grants and contracts and overseeing all personnel issues and lobbying activities as directed by the Chief Executive.

The department is supervised by Commissioner Shelly Diaz, who was appointed by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and ratified by the Band Assembly.

The Commissioner oversees the Assistant Commissioner of Administration, the Commissioner of Community Development, the Commissioner of Health & Human Services, and the Commissioner of Natural Resources. The Commissioner serves as chief of staff to the Chief Executive and oversees day-to-day operations of the tribal government, including fiscal responsibilities, human resources, and grant development and oversight.

The Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Tiger Brown Bull, acts in a deputy-level capacity to the Commissioner of Administration to help manage the day-to-day operations of the tribal government. Duties include managing human resources, finances, and contracts for the executive branch. The Assistant Commissioner also acts as Commissioner of Administration when the Commissioner is absent and assists other commissioners with day-to-day operations as needed.

our friends and counterparts from the Mille Lacs Band. We're looking forward to future collaborations and innovations."

The event program described the C5 initiative as follows: "Pine County and the Band co-developed the C5 Juvenile Restorative Justice Program to produce meaningful change in juveniles facing criminal charges using the proven concept of restorative justice. C5 is focused on community, collaboration, culture, change, and choices. Since its inception in 2015, it boasts a 100 percent success rate of its graduates and has reduced the number of Native American children on county probation and in out-of-home placement while instilling tribal cultural values."

The C5 Program was featured during the Association of Minnesota Counties' Annual Convention held recently in St. Cloud. Pine County received a lot of positive feedback after the session and many questions about how the C5 model could be adapted in other counties.



Receiving recognition from the Pine County Board on December 19 were Ramona Bird, Brittany Wind, Terry Fawcett, Reese Frederickson, Michael Fahey, and Katie Draper.

Virgil Wind — School Board Chair Extraordinaire

Amikogaabawiikwe Adrienne Benjamin Interviewer

Q: Tell me about yourself.

A: I have three jobs. First, I'm a dad, my most important job and my own investment into the world. Second, I'm a school board member (the chair) investing my energy into the future. Third, I have my construction job; a home is the biggest investment that anyone will make in their life. I'm extremely proud to be a part of all of those things. I have a beautiful life-partner, Nicole, and five kids: Dionne, Keenan, Josh, Jacob, and Emma. They are my driving force in trying to be the best person and making the right decisions all the time. I am currently in the Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Program. I enjoy spending time at the lake, playing volleyball, and a lot of time with my family. On Sundays, I dedicate that one day to my family, doing things we all love, and it helps keep my family strong and keeps me stress free.

Q: What made you want to run for Onamia School Board?

A: At first I was actually brought in to fill an interim position. After that I realized that I could make an impact and that there was so much to the job that I didn't understand yet. I wanted to give back to the school. I was a hellion of a kid, and because of teachers' belief in me, I believe that I turned into a better kid than I would have had I not had those adults that believed in me while I was in school. I also wanted to have an active role in my own kids' education. At the time I had four kids attending school in the district, so it seemed like the right thing to do.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge for you?

A: This year has been interesting getting to know everything. There's so much to this position — overseeing vision and trying to make the right and best decision in thinking about all the kids. If you help only kids who are struggling, then you're not doing right by the kids who are thriving, so the hard part is finding a balance between the two. Another challenge is trying to make sure that everyone's voice is heard. When you're the board chair, you're the voice of the rest of the board members and you represent them, so you have to make sure that everything you're saying is good for the group. Even though we don't always agree, there is a cohesive bond that holds us all together.

Q: What are you most surprised to have learned in your experience?

A: I was honestly really surprised that we have so many Native kids at Onamia. This year the Native student population is at 52 percent. I was also really surprised at how behavior and family connection are really tied to the educational experience. It takes so long to see the results of your decisions; it's slower over time

to see any difference that we are really making. I think in general, people think that as a school board these changes can happen automatically. I may have even thought that, but it doesn't work that way, not even close.

Q: What impact do you hope to have during your time in this position?

A: I hope to bridge the gaps between Native and non-Native staff, students, and board members. I've always had to ride that line myself, and I want to be a part of moving that forward. As a board, we're trying to foster togetherness and look at everything through the kids' eyes before kids get confused by the extra things happening in their lives. When you have more than a 50 percent Native population, sooner or later, somebody from one side is going to become friends, and it molds together with kids. Prejudice is hard to break, but this school provides a great place for it to break. I hope that we in the district can all come together for the best of the kids. As a parent and as a board member, we have the responsibility to get our kids ready for the WHOLE world. We want them to be ready for any challenge and for them to believe that they can be anything and go anywhere, not just on the reservation or this area, but anywhere.

Q: What is an average school board meeting like? What types of things are discussed?

A: It always changes; it honestly depends on the time of the year. There's a lot of budget discussion. We have a work session every month when we work on policies, budgets, and committee meetings, and that's where the majority of the hard work is done. The actual board meetings are our rollout to the public forum, to listen to suggestions of the public, and make any changes at that time. Every meeting is open to the public, because we are technically spending public tax funds.

Q: Why do you feel that it is important for more Band members to run for school board or other outside elected positions?

A: We are a part of the world that surrounds us, and the more that we can be involved, the more impact we will have in our surrounding communities if we're out there representing them. It also helps to alleviate some of the angst that goes along with existing in both of the worlds we navigate as Native people. The more we are out in the community, whether it's business or education, we're always needing the community to come together. The more people who we can educate about who we are and what we are about, the better. It will make this community better. We all want the same things, specifically when it comes to our children in the

school district.

Q: How can Band members get directly involved in what is happening at Onamia Schools?

A: LIEPC is held once a month at the ROC, and it's an avenue where Native families can be involved in decision-making practices involving Indian education.

We have school board meetings, family fun nights, extra-curricular activities, and sports. Anyone can volunteer at any time. It is fulfilling to the volunteer and to the students in the school. We are trying to foster a family feeling at the school, and the more people who get involved, the more it helps the cause.

Q: How do you deal with the stress of the position?

A: This is kind of a transition period for me. It's a good lesson in how to get along with others. In my normal job in construction, I can swear and say what I think. In this position on the school board, that obviously isn't acceptable. I have had to learn quickly how to function in group settings, and it has made me a better person. I honestly don't really get stressed about it. We all work as a team, so that makes it easier. If you put your heart into it and believe in what you're doing, even if you screw up, there's nothing to feel bad about. You know you tried your best.



Winter Storytelling Event Focuses on Keeping Tobacco Sacred

Makadegwanebiikwe Mikayla Schaaf Photographer

Band members of all ages attended the Winter Storytelling Event at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum December 20. It was a fun-filled night of stories about asemaa (traditional tobacco) and the protocols around respecting the use of tobacco. Invitees and honorable guests included Migizi Sullivan (LCO) and Terry Kemper (Mille Lacs Band). Onamia youth helped facilitate the event and performed an improvisational skit to kick off the eventing. Timber Trails singers provided the song for the event, which concluded

with dinner and a raffle.

This event was sponsored by the Tobacco Prevention Grant through the Minnesota Department of Health and Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services. Collaborating partners included Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), Clearway, and Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention (MAPP).



Pine Grove Update

Amber Lenz Pine Grove Teacher

This month at Pine Grove, the students skinned and processed another deer, making that four this fall. Our culture teacher, Duck White, has been teaching students how to process the hide. Duck and the students have been working hard on scraping the hair off the hide. It is now drying, and in the spring, we will use brain paste to soften and stretch it out.

Pine Grove got a new student just in time to learn about flight. They made parachutes and launched them off the outdoor playground equipment.

One morning, we went out in the forest and cut down our Christmas tree. We spent the morning decorating it. We will continue making ornaments the students can take home.

We just had conferences and lunch with our parents and a game of bingo afterwards. Everyone was able to go home with at least one prize. The most popular prizes were games and food. Our Christmas party was December 19.



Treuer Presents an Honest History of Thanksgiving



Band members, employees, and students gathered November 29 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs to hear a presentation by Dr. Anton Treuer titled “The Real Story of Thanksgiving: An Honest History.” Dr. Treuer is a Professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University and the author of 14 books.

His presentation provided historical context rarely considered, beginning not with Colum-

bus or the Mayflower, but with the early days of the Catholic church, when the “divine right of kings” and the Doctrine of Discovery were established.

According to the Catholic church, only a Christian king or queen had a right to rule, and land ownership came into existence through “discovery” by Christian nations. That meant any lands outside of Europe were there for the taking, which led colonizers and imperialists to claim Indigenous people’s lands in Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas.

Even though the Doctrine of Discovery is Christian in origin, and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution bans the establishment of a national religion, President Thomas Jefferson and the Supreme Court used the Doctrine to justify the taking of Indian lands.

Dr. Treuer emphasized the difference between European and Indigenous attitudes toward Mother Earth, and the devastating effects of colonization — from deforestation and pollu-

tion to extinctions and climate change.

The belief taught in schools that the Americas were sparsely populated by roaming nomads is false, he said. At the time of Columbus, about 50 to 90 million Indigenous people lived in the Americas — a dense population of elaborate societies with well-developed agriculture systems. In fact, the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan had three times the population of London, the largest city in Europe at the time.

But that myth of “roaming nomads” is a “get out of guilt free card,” Dr. Treuer said — a way to justify the colonization of North and South America.

Colonialism lives on in American schools

He also shared his own story and that of his children, including a son who loves to sing but is forced to learn Christian songs in choir at the local public school. “If he wants to be in choir, he has to sing the praises of Jesus,” he said.

As a parent, he is left with a difficult choice: encourage his son to use his gift while immersing him in Western Christian culture, or take him out of public schools and deny him the ability to sing in a choir. “What kind of parent should have to make a choice like that?” he asked.

“We are still colonial,” Dr. Treuer said. “The federal government passes legislation that requires each state government to develop standards of education, and each state develops standards that teach colonialism... and will deny any meaningful chance for anybody who is not white or Christian to be fully validated through their educational experience even though 51 percent of students are students of color. The curriculum is a white-empowering curriculum that succeeds in empowering

white children and succeeds at disempowering everyone else.”

The Thanksgiving story itself is largely fiction — emphasizing cooperation between colonizers and Indians while glossing over the real story. Dr. Treuer separated fact from fiction regarding historical figures like Papsaheg (Powhatan), Pocahontas, Patuxet Tisquantum (Squanto), and Wampanoag Chief Massasoit.

He also shared little-known history about the kidnapping of Chief Tatobem, the Battle of Mystic River in which 700 Pequot were killed, the reduction of the Pequot population from 16,000 to 500, and King Philip’s War, in which 5 percent of British were killed compared to 40 percent of Natives.

Whites and Indians are both victimized by the false narratives of Thanksgiving and the colonization of the continent. “Oppression dehumanizes everyone,” Anton said.

Native resilience

He stressed the strength and resilience of Native people and cultures in the face of massacres, exile, broken treaties, boarding schools, smallpox blankets, poisoned rations, religious persecution, alcohol, prisons, and hazardous waste.

“We are more than the sum of our tragedies,” Dr. Treuer concluded. “We have many blessings. Miigwech.”

This was the second of two DNR-sponsored educational events to mark Native American Month in November. The first was a presentation by Dr. John Gonzalez, a professor of psychology at Bemidji State University, titled “Two Sides of the Same Coin: Race Relations and Economic Disparities.” (See the December issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin or millelacsband.com for more on that presentation.)

Charlie Lippert — Engineer by Day, Language Learner by Night

By day, Charlie Lippert is the Air Quality Specialist for the Mille Lacs Band DNR, but in his off hours, Charlie has a side gig helping to preserve the Ojibwe language.

Charlie is a non-Indian, but as a mixed-race kid in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, he bonded with mixed-race Ojibwe families from the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation.

When he started college, Charlie flunked freshman English — probably because his Jewish father spoke Yiddish at home, and his Japanese/Ainu mother spoke Japanese.

Charlie moved back and forth with his father, a ship captain, between Ladysmith and exotic locales like Hong Kong, Tokyo and Busan, South Korea.

His English grammar suffered, so his teacher recommended he take a foreign language to improve his understanding of grammar. German would have been too easy, since it’s close to Yiddish, and Ojibwe was the only other offering.

After a year, Charlie joined the Navy and took his Ojibwe books and interest along for the voyage — having no idea that he might someday end up working for an Ojibwe tribe.

His hitch complete, Charlie enrolled in a chemical engineering program, having developed an interest in air quality while maintaining submarines. With children to feed, Charlie took a job in Environmental Chemistry with the Fond du Lac Band, where he continued learning and using Ojibwemowin — the Ojibwe language.

A few years later, in 2002, Charlie was hired at Mille Lacs, and his work on Ojibwe continued in a new community.

“As a non-native taking Ojibwe, that was unusual in the 1980s,” Charlie said. “Now here I am with 30 years of Ojibwe, and I’m at a point where I need to share what I’ve learned.”

And share he has. A few years ago Charlie discovered a free language site, appropriately called “Freelang.” Charlie sent a list of 1,500 Ojibwe words, followed by another list of 3,000 a few months later, compiled from dictionaries, books, and his hand-written notes from his Navy days. Eventually, the operator of the site gave Charlie control of the Ojibwe data-

base, which he continued to expand.

Dr. John Nichols, one of the foremost authorities on the Ojibwe language, is familiar with Charlie’s work. “The work Charlie has done on the Freelang Ojibwe dictionary has been very helpful to many students as he put together all of the older written sources, many of which are hard to access,” Dr. Nichols said.

Dr. Anton Treuer is equally appreciative of Charlie’s work. “Charlie Lippert is bright, hardworking, and deeply passionate about Ojibwe language and history,” said Dr. Treuer. “In some ways he’s been hiding in plain sight, doing heavy lifting out of the public eye, developing Ojibwe entries on Freelang, doing map work for the Mille Lacs Band and lending his expertise to the development of vital resources that support the ability of Ojibwe people to learn more deeply about their part of the planet. He’s an unsung hero.”

Charlie has assisted on several map projects recently, researching place names for the online Decolonial Atlas. He’s worked on maps of Chicago, St. Louis, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Headwaters, and he is working on a Twin Cities map.

How does he characterize his Ojibwe skills? “Speaking, pretty poor,” Charlie admits. “But reading and writing? Excellent.” Charlie can look at a 19th century transcript of Ojibwe and translate it into English without too much difficulty.

Charlie’s language skill has also helped him in his job. He has become a resource for DNR employees and others in tribal government to help integrate Ojibwe language into their programs.

He doesn’t think of himself as a teacher, though. “I see myself as a cultural assistant, an ally,” he said. “It would be presumptuous of me to step into the role of active teaching rather than facilitating.”

Call him what you will, Charlie Lippert is certainly a friend to those working on language preservation and restoration.



Air Quality

Charlie Lippert recently passed the 15-year mark as the Band’s Air Quality Specialist.

The Band’s air quality program operates an ozone monitoring site and is part of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s monitoring network. The MPCA validates the data and sends it to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“Air quality management is a group effort,” Charlie said. The Band partners with many state, federal, and provincial (Canadian) agencies.

Charlie’s responsibilities can be divided into five areas:

- Ambient air quality monitoring: collecting and analyzing data from the ozone site and other sources.
- Ambient air policy: studying, proposing, and implementing local, state, and federal air quality rules and regulations.
- Air Quality modeling: looking at pollution plumes and trends and seeking solutions.
- Indoor air: monitoring and improving air in Band-owned buildings, in partnership with Human Resources, Housing, and Public Health.
- Personal air quality: improving individuals’ health through smoking cessation, asthma education, and lung health programs.



Gaa-izhi-ina'oonwewizid A'aw Anishinaabe-abinoojiinh

What the Manidoog Gave Us as Anishinaabe to Help Our Babies

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

Geget a'aw Anishinaabe wenda-chi-ina'oonwewizi i'iwapii miinigoowizid inow abinoojiyansan, weweni dash oada-doodawaan. Mii dash imaa wii-ani-dazhindamaan gaa-izhi-mino-doodawiwaad ingiw gechi-aya'aawijig gaa-nitaawigi'ijig. Gii-niyo-giiziswagiziyaan, mii iwapii gii-maajiganawenimiwaad. Mii dash o'ow noongom wezhibii'amaan, mii imaa ani-dazhindamaan gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amawiwaad ingiw gaa-nitaawigi'ijig biinish gaye i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-mino-doodawiwaad gii-abinoojiinyiwiyaan.

It is a wonderful gift for Anishinaabe to be given a baby; therefore, they need to treat him or her with love and respect. I am going to talk about how well I was treated by those old people who raised me. Those old people started taking care of me when I was four months old. I am going to talk about what they taught me and how they took care of me as a baby.

Geget ingiw Manidoog ozhawenimaawaan inow anishinaabe-abinoojiinyansan. Gii-miinigoowizi a'aw Anishinaabe ge-ani-izhichiged gaabige an-ininamawindwaa ingiw Manidoog inow asemaan ge-onjikaamagadinig dash a'aw abinoojiinyens ani-niigaaninid gaye inow odasemaan eni-inaabasonid inow Manidoon enabinid. Mii imaa ge-ondinigid a'aw abinoojiinyens da-ni-naadamaagoowizid oniigaaniiming.

The Manidoog have a lot of compassion for our Anishinaabe babies. The Anishinaabe were given ceremonies where the tobacco goes out soon after the birth of a child to the Manidoog. That tobacco goes out to wherever those Manidoog sit. That is where the baby will be given spiritual support in their future.

Azhigwa gaa-niyo-gonagizid, mii iwapii asemaa naa wiisiniwin etamawaawaad oniijaanisiwaan wegitiizimijig. Mii dash i'iw ezhi-wiinjigaadeg Oshki-daangishkang i'iw aki a'aw abinoojiinh. Azhigwa gaa-kiizhiitaang apagizomind a'aw asemaa miinawaa i'iw wiisiniwin, mii dash imaa agwajiing ezhiwinind a'aw abinoojiinh atamawind inow ozidensan imaa mitikamig. Mii dash i'iw oshki-daangishkang i'iw aki a'aw

abinoojiinh miinawaa imaa ojichaagoshing imaa akiing. It is on the fourth day after birth that the parents put down tobacco and food for their child. This ceremony held four days after the birth of the child is called, "Oshki-daangishkang i'iw aki a'aw abinoojiinh." After the food and tobacco have been offered and sent to the Manidoog, the baby is then taken outside and his or her little feet are placed directly onto bare ground. This is where the child has first contact with the earth and where his or her spirit leaves an impression on the earth. Ishke dash gayat imaa gii-apagizondamawaa inow asemaan a'aw Manidoo imaa eyaad omaa akiing. Ishke dash imaa azhigwa inow ozidensan a'aw abinoojiinh oshki-daangishkamawind imaa akiing, mii dash inow Manidoon omaa akiing wenjiniketaagojin ininamaagod i'iw menidoowaadak biindigeshkaagod a'aw biibiiyens i'iw ge-naadamaagod oniigaaniiming.

At that point, the tobacco has already gone out to the Manidoo within the earth. So, when the baby's little feet are placed on the ground, it is at that time that the Manidoo within the earth extends her hand gifting the baby with the spiritual energy that will assist the child in his or her future.

Mii gaye owapii ingiw wegitiizimijig wewiingeziing owiiyawen'enyikawaawaad inow onjiiniseniwaan. Mii dash owapii miinind a'aw abinoojiinh odizhinikaazowin. Mii imaa weweni ani-doodawind inow ojichaagwan enishinaabewinijin, mii imaa biinjina bemiwinaajin.

Also at that time, conscientious parents will give namesakes to their child. The baby is given an Anishinaabe name at this time. By giving the baby an Anishinaabe name, you are nurturing the Anishinaabe spirit within that child.

Ishke ingiw anishinaabebaneg gaa-ikidowaad, "Mawishkid a'aw abinoojiinh, mii imaa nandwewedang da-miinind da-anishinaabewinikaazod". Mii gaye owapii ge-ni-miinigoowizid i'iw menidoowaadak ge-ni-naadamaagod oniigaaniiming miinawaa ge-ni-ayaawaajin wenjida inow Manidoon ge-niganawenimigojin oniigaaniiming. Mii imaa ge-ondinang a'aw abinoojiinh gaa-onaabaminjig ge-owiiyawen'enyijin. Ishke ingiw akiwenziyibaneg

gaa-ikidowaad, "Gakina a'aw Anishinaabe odayaawaan inow Manidoon geniwenimigojin. Gaawin da-bibizhaagiisiin omaa akiing ayaawaasig Manidoon zhewenimigojin a'aw Anishinaabe.

The elders said, "When a child cries a lot, they are asking to be given an Anishinaabe name." It is through this ceremony that the baby is given spiritual nourishment for his or her future, and also at this time the baby is given Manidoog who will take special care of them. These Manidoog will be made available to the child by those selected as namesakes. Those old men said, "Every Anishinaabe has a Manidoo or Manidoog that watch over them. They would not exist on this earth without them."

Ishke dash ingiw wewiiyawen'enyikawinjig, mii imaa inow asemaan miinawaa wiisiniwin gaa-atamawindwaa enaasamabiwaad. Ishke dash ingiw bebezhiig gaa-onaabaminjig dawiiyawen'enyiwaad inow abinoojiinyansan, mii dash owapii gii-kashkitoowaapan da-gii-apagizondamawaawaapan inow asemaan miinawaa iw wiisiniwin inow Manidoon genawenimigowaajin, da-gii-nanaandodamawaawaapan, "Daga ganawenimik miinawaa zhawenimik a'aw niwiiyawen'enh gaye."

Those who have been selected as namesakes are given tobacco and a plate of food placed in front of them. Each of those chosen as namesakes for the child, if they were able to speak Ojibwe, would offer the tobacco and food placed in front of them to the Manidoog who take care of them asking, "Please take care of my new namesake and have compassion for him or her as well."

Mii-go minik waa-ozhibii'igeyaan. Nawaj-igo ayaamadag i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-miinigoowizid a'aw Anishinaabe ge-ondinigenid inow oniijaanisan da-ni-naadamaagoowizid oniigaaniiming. Ishke dash inendaagoziyaang inga-giizhiibii'amin nawaj i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-miinigoowizid a'aw Anishinaabe.

This is all I am going to write for now. There are additional ceremonies that Anishinaabe were given to help their children in their future. If it is meant to be, we will finish writing about the other ways that Anishinaabe was helped.

DNR Program Receives Award for Fish Hatchery

The Mille Lacs Band's Brownfields Program and Department of Natural Resources team received an award for outstanding site redevelopment from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the 2017 Brownfields Conference in Pittsburgh December 5-7.

The award recognized the Band's fish hatchery program developed by the DNR in 2016, which redeveloped the old wastewater treatment ponds into a fish nursery.

Walleye eggs taken from speared and netted walleyes were hatched in an indoor facility and transferred to the ponds, where they grew into fingerlings that were used to stock lakes in the region.

The conference exhibit describes the project as follows:

"The Mille Lacs Tribe was seeking a reuse opportunity for a 45-acre former wastewater treatment plant with six waste lagoons, which had been sitting idle since 2004. Several ideas were proposed, but a walleye fish hatchery had the greatest merit in bringing economic opportunities to the region's lakes, which are a favorite of sport fishermen.

"EPA and the Mille Lacs Brownfield 128(a) coordinator (Todd Moilanen) worked together to request EPA Land Revitalization

Technical Assistance (TA) funds. This TA was utilized to determine the feasibility and cost of converting the six lagoons into a fish hatchery. EPA's contractors developed conceptual plans and costs for this conversion, providing a practical how-to guide to Mille Lacs.

"With only a \$10,000 budget, along with technical assistance and donated tanks from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mille Lacs scoured the area hatcheries to acquire surplus equipment to create a pilot-scale hatchery, which produced 12,000 walleye fingerlings during the summer of 2016. These fingerlings have been released into area lakes, providing future source of food and economic vitality for the tribe and the Region."

Congratulations to Brownfield Coordinator Todd Moilanen and others who have been instrumental in the development of the hatchery, including former Commissioner Susan Klapel, current Commissioner Bradley Harrington, and DNR biologists Chad Weiss, Carl Klimah, and Kelly Applegate.

The EPA's Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and others to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse contaminated properties.



Jan Pels, EPA Region 5 Brownfields Coordinator, and Todd Moilanen, Mille Lacs Band DNR Brownfields Coordinator.

GLIFWC Officials Study Resource Management in Peru

Commissioner of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington traveled to Peru in early December as part of a delegation from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) to exchange ideas and knowledge with representatives of Indigenous tribes in the Amazon region.

GLIFWC was invited by CONAP, Confederacion de Nacionalidades Amazonicas del Peru, which is “like the GLIFWC of Peru,” Bradley said.

The trip began with three flights just to get to the Amazon region, followed by shuttle bus rides, boat trips, and more flights into remote areas. It was a whirlwind of activity that included traditional ceremonies, meetings with biologists, and a visit to the Intercultural University of the Amazon, where 40 tribes representing 800 villages and 50 languages collaborate to educate their people in subjects like science and math, but also Indigenous knowledge, art, and language.

Bradley also learned about the tribes’ need to grow fish in corrals in the river in order to feed their people. “They’re in more dire straits than we are,” he said. “A lot of the water is contami-

nated, and the housing is like it used to be here. Seeing what they have is helping me determine which battles I choose to fight.”

Accompanying Bradley on the trip were Dylan Jennings of Bad River, Mic Isham and Jason Schlender of Lac Courte Oreilles, Melanie Montano of Red Cliff, Chris Caldwell and Greg Gauthier from the College of Menominee Nation, and three tribal members from an Indigenous natural resources organization in Panama.

Representatives of CONAP first came to North America in 2011 to meet with First Nations in Canada. The group has also partnered with the U.S. Forest Service. Last year, they came to the Menominee Reservation and also visited GLIFWC offices in Odenah, Wisconsin.

Bradley brought birch bark baskets as gifts as well as raw manoomin. Bradley said he gave a few grains to a child, who tasted it and ran to get his friends. “They felt the power from the manoomin,” he said.



Pet Health Clinics Return to Districts I, II, and IIa

Nici Fronk Guest Photographer

Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Service (SIRVS) brought their third annual vet clinic to the District I Community Center on November 18 and 19, sponsored by District I Representative Sandy Blake.

The veterinarians and veterinary students performed 22 spay and neuter surgeries on Saturday and 67 wellness checks on Sunday, which helped the health of the community by preventing more than 1,300 unplanned litters of puppies and kittens.

Monte Fronk of the Tribal Police Department oversees Tribal Emergency Management and helped organize the event. He stressed that healthy pets represent healthy families. Monte’s daughter Nici, who photographed the event, said the event “improves the health of the community, one paw at a time.”

SIRVS is a nonprofit student group from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. The group provides free veterinary care to rural communities in Minnesota.

East Lake and Chiminising MNSNAP Clinic

Spay and neuter clinics will be held January 8 at East Lake Community Center and January 23 at Chiminising Community Center, with services provided by the Minnesota Spay and Neuter Assistance Program (MNSNAP) and sponsored by District II Repre-

sentative Niib Aubid. Vaccinations will also be available, and the costs for surgeries and vaccination will be covered by the District II Representative’s Office.

The deadline to reserve a slot at East Lake Community Center was December 29, but you can call Renee at 218-768-3311 to see if there are additional spots.

For Chiminising, stop by or call the front desk at 320-676-3101. Please be prepared to provide information about your pet.

Any spots not filled by East Lake and Chiminising Community members are open to other district members at the following costs for services:

- Dog Spay or Neuter under 40 lbs: \$70
- Dog Spay or Neuter 40-70 lbs: \$80
- Dog Spay or Neuter over 70 lbs: \$90
- Cat spay: \$50
- Cat neuter: \$40
- Rabbit spay: \$60
- Rabbit neuter: \$50
- Rabies vaccine: \$10
- DHPP (dogs) vaccine: \$10
- PRC (cats) vaccine: \$10
- Microchip: \$20

The MNSNAP fully equipped veterinary clinic on wheels delivers low-cost, high-quality spay and neuter surgeries for animals belonging to shelters, rescues, and low-income pet owners in Minnesota.

The mobile surgical unit travels to a pre-scheduled destination for the day. Staff admits each pre-scheduled animal, collects fees, and performs pre-operative physical exams. During the day, all the patients are cared for by MNSNAP’s highly qualified, licensed veterinarian and her team of experienced and caring veterinary technicians; patients are anesthetized and surgically sterilized using the most current anesthesia medications, equipment, and surgical techniques. All animals are discharged the same day.



TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy January Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mark Raymond Anderson
Debra Lou Bellamy
Mary Anne Bellonger
Art Benjamin
Gladys Marie Benjamin
Karen Marie Boyd
Rodney Dean Boyd
Edith Ruth Bush
Patricia Jean Clark
Ronald James Crown
Leroy Henry Day
Lorna Jean Day
Bonnie Jean Dorr
Gary Lee Dorr
John Charles Dowell
Dora Ann Duran
Brian Allen Eagle
Isabel Eubanks
Denise Le Rae
Michael Gerard Gagne
Janet Lee Gahbow

Ella Reine Garbow
Evelyn M. Granger
Rose Marie Holmquist
Katherine Ann Jackson
Charles Ted Johnson
Grover Joseph Johnson
Patty Jo Johnson
James Ernest Kalk Jr.
Marty Kegg
Richard Duane Kegg
David Henry Kost
Lucille Kuntz
Carmen Marie Lone
William Joseph Losh
Priscilla Joann Lowman
Gloria Jean Lowrie
Curtis Lee Martin
Thomas Tecumseh McKenney
Temperance Yvonne McLain
Michael Samuel Merrill Jr.
Cora Lucille Nelson
Diane Lynn Nickaboine
Rosalie Ann Noonday

Dorothy Marie Olson
Donna Jean Pardun
Steven Lee Pewaush
Karen Lynne Pike
Shelley Ann Pindegayosh
Patricia Marie Potter
Henry Sam Jr.
Dora Ann Sam
Elaine Bernadette Sam
Janice Marie Sam
Ruth Ann Shaugobay
Joycelyn Marie Shingobe
Bonnie Shingobe-Neeland
Jewell Fay Skinaway
Steven Ralph St. John
Joseph Alex Staples
Kathleen Marie Vanheel
Lori Ann Vinz
James Edwin Wind Jr.
Nancy Lee Wood

Happy January Birthdays:

Happy birthday to **Janice** on 1/8! Love, your daughter Jamie and grandkids Dennis, Anthony, & Georgia. • Happy Golden birthday to my first born **Dennis Michael** on 1/10! Love, your mom Jaime, little brother Anthony Charles, and your little sister Georgia Raine • Happy birthday to my big sister **Tiffany Jane** on 1/18! Love, your little sister Jaime and your niece Georgia and nephews Dennis and Anthony! •

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday, and a message **20 WORDS OR LESS** to ellen.heidel@redcircleagency.com or call **612-465-8017**.
Deadline for Feb. issue is Jan. 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

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

Tiwahe Foundation Accepting Applications

Tiwahe Foundation is currently accepting applications for the American Indian Family Empowerment Program (AIFEP). Grants range from \$500 – \$2,500. The deadline to apply is January 6, 2018.

To be eligible to apply an applicant must be:

- 18 years of age
- A member of a Federally Recognized tribe or prove tribal lineage
- A resident of the seven-county area; Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, Ramsey, and Washington counties only

*Applicants who have been funded within the past 3 years will not be considered for funding.

Tiwahe AIFEP Funds in three areas:

- Cultural Preservation (Learning Native languages, learning traditional/cultural practices, developing kinship ties)
- Educational Achievement (Expenses related to college degrees, certificates, vocational training, GED, etc.)
- Economic Self-Sufficiency (Employment, business, entrepreneurial opportunities, home ownership, etc.)

To submit your application electronically, go to: tiwahfoundation.submittable.com/submit

For more information about the AIFEP fund, please contact Deanna StandingCloud, Program & Community Network Director at dstandingcloud@tiwahfoundation.org or by phone at 612-722-0587.

Anonymous Drug Tip Hotline

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.



Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post January Events

Loom Beading Workshop: Jan. 13, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Learn the art of loom beading through hands-on experience. Create a design, put it on a loom, and learn how to apply the loom work to leather or cloth when it is finished. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Cost is \$40. Contact 320-532-3632.

Kid Crafts Storybook Time & God's Eye: Jan. 13, 12 – 3 p.m. Enjoy Native American stories from 12 – 1

p.m., then from 1–3 p.m., children can weave a god's eye to take home. Allow an hour to make the craft. Light snacks will be available. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Cost is \$4/god's eye kit.

Appliqué Quillwork 2-Day Workshop: Jan. 27 & 28, Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Before trade beads, the Ojibwe used quillwork to adorn their dwellings, clothes, and tools. Learn how to work with porcupine quills by dyeing them and applying them to a small leather pouch. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided both days. Cost is \$75.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>DIII Community Meeting The date for the January District III Community Meeting has not been determined as of press time. Watch for postings or mailings, or check millelacsband.com/calendar.</p> | <p>1 Zumba Fitness 5:30 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>2 Language Tables 6:30 p.m. DI Community Center DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>3 Zumba Fitness 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center DI NA/AA Welcome Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>4 Housing Board Meeting 1 p.m. Chiminising Community Center Community Fisheries Meeting 1 – 3 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley DIII Wellbriety Mtg. Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>5 Healer Herb Sam <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>6</p> |
| <p>7 DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition 1 p.m. Red Brick Building</p> | <p>8 MnSNAP Vet Clinic 8:30 a.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. Gaming Regulatory Authority Board Mtg. 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Zumba Fitness 5:30 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>9 Mille Lacs State of the Band Address 10 a.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Language Tables 6:30 p.m. DI Community Center DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>10 Pine County North STARS Symposium 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Ballroom DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Zumba Fitness 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center DI NA/AA Welcome Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>11 DIII Wellbriety Mtg. Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>12 Healer Herb Sam <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>13 Loom Beading Workshop 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum Kid Crafts Storybook Time & God's Eye 12 – 3 p.m. Indian Museum</p> |
| <p>14</p> | <p>15 Zumba Fitness 5:30 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>16 Language Tables 6:30 p.m. DI Community Center DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group Open Gym <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>17 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>18 HHS Cooking Contest 11 a.m. DI Community Center Housing Board Mtg. 1 p.m. Mille Lacs Gov't Ctr. Kekek Jason Stark Speaks About Sovereignty & Conservation Codes 1 – 4 p.m. Eddy's Resort DIII Wellbriety Mtg. <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>19 Healer Herb Sam <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>20</p> |
| <p>21</p> | <p>22 Constitutional Convention 12 p.m. Grand Portage Lodge & Casino DII Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>23 Constitutional Convention 8:30 a.m. Grand Portage Lodge & Casino DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>24 DII Community Meeting East Lake Community Center DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>25 DIIA Community Meeting Chiminising Community Center Dr. Rebecca Webster Speaks About Blood Quantum 1 – 5 p.m. Eddy's Resort Urban Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church DIII Wellbriety Mtg. <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>26 Healer Herb Sam <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>27 Appliqué Quillwork 2-day Workshop 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum</p> |
| <p>28 Appliqué Quillwork 2-day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Indian Museum</p> | <p>29 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>30 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>31 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See page 14</i></p> | <p>Want Your Event Here? Email ellen.heidel@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8017. 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>East Lake Community Center Events Pucker-Toe Moccasin & Skirt Making: January 4 & 11, 5 p.m. Ribbon Skirt/Shirt Making: January 4 & 11, 5 p.m.</p> | | |

Per Cap Patrol and Tribal Police Offer Mutual Support

The Per Cap Patrol — a grassroots effort of Band members and allies to combat drug abuse and drug trafficking — set up a tent in the Grand Market parking lot December 5 to discourage drug sales and offer help to anyone seeking healing from addiction.

A crackling fire and free coffee from Grand Market helped keep participants warm, and many Band members showed their support with honks, waves, and food donations.

Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice, Deputy Chief James West,

and Sergeant Derrick Naumann also came to offer thanks, support, and encouragement, while asking the group to stay safe in their anti-drug activities. They were invited by Luther Sam, who said the group wanted to show appreciation to Tribal Police.

Band member Terry Kemper talked about working at White Earth, where officers would sometimes join Band members at the drum, and he asked if the officers would like to join them for a song. Bob Eagle brought out his drum and welcomed the

officers and DNR biologist Carl Klimah to the drum. Terry talked about the importance of the drum and the pipe in bringing healing to the community.

Chief Rice said, “Everyone knows I’m the Band member on the Tribal Police force, but I want you to know that all of these guys share the values I have as an Anishinaabe.”

After the song, she told the group how much it meant to her to see the officers welcomed. “These guys are my family,” she said. “They’re my brothers.”

Q/A What brings you out on a cold morning like this?

Join the Movement!

To find help and support or to stay up-to-date on anti-drug events, search for these Facebook pages:

- Mille Lacs Band Community issues and information
- Sober Squad
- Natives Against Heroin



Allen Weyaus: The big heroin problem out here, it’s affecting not only the people who use it, but the family also. It’s real important that we address that as a community and for community members to come together to support one another.



Ashley Diver (Fond du Lac Band, Natives Against Heroin): I saw on Facebook that the Mille Lacs Band was going to do a Per Cap Patrol, and that’s what we do on our reservation, too. We come out and support our brothers and sisters, and fight addiction. We’re just out here to show that we care about them and we want them to come back into our community in a positive way.



Danielle Houle: I’m out here because I care about our people. I know this drug epidemic is serious. It’s taking our people, and I don’t want to see another funeral. Seeing us out here helps people. It gives people hope. And that’s what Sober Squad’s about: Giving people hope and letting people know that we’re out here, that we will support you, we will help you.

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 ellen.heidel@redcircleagency.com or call Ellen at 612-465-8017 or Brett at 320-237-6851.

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