

PHOTO BY BRETT LARSON

### Joining Hands

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd presented a staff given to him by Dorothy Sam with feathers representing the three branches of Mille Lacs Band government and symbolizing how the branches should work together. The theme of the ceremony was "maamawinikeniwin," which means "joining hands."

## Native Votes Needed in Crucial Primary

Jamie Edwards of the Band's Government Affairs Department has been following local, state, federal, and tribal politics for decades, so his assessment of this year's primary election should be taken seriously.

"The August 14 primary is the most important election the Mille Lacs Band has seen in many years," said Jamie.

He cites several crucial races that will affect the Mille Lacs Band and its members for years to come:

**Minnesota Governor:** Mark Dayton has been relatively friendly (but inconsistently so) to Band interests and tribal communities in general. His retirement opens the door to candidates who may be ignorant, unsympathetic, or even hostile to the Band and other tribes.

The Mille Lacs Band has endorsed Democrat Tim Walz and his running mate Peggy Flanagan, a White Earth Band member who would be the highest-ranking Native woman in Minnesota government history.

Attorney General Lori Swanson and her running mate Rick Nolan are running against Tim and Peggy. Swanson, like her

political mentor Mike Hatch, who preceded her as Attorney General, believes the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation was disestablished — a position directly contradicted by the U.S. government's Department of the Interior.

On the Republican side, former governor Tim Pawlenty is running against Jeff Johnson. Neither is a friend to tribes. During Pawlenty's eight years in office, he made numerous attempts to expand gambling in ways that were contrary to tribal interests.

**Mille Lacs County Attorney:** For the first time ever, a Native American is running for the position. Richard Osburn is a member of the Cherokee Nation who has worked for the Mille Lacs Band as a deputy solicitor general and district court judge.

In 2014, in another three-way primary for Mille Lacs County Attorney, the winner had just over 1,000 votes. There are 1,200 registered voters in District I and District IIa, so Band members could easily swing the election with a strong turnout.

Primary continued on 12

## Band Assembly Members Sworn In

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Justice Rayna Churchill swore in three new members to the Band Assembly July 10 in front of hundreds of Band members gathered at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Sheldon Boyd is the new Secretary-Treasurer, Marvin Bruneau is the District II Representative, and Wallace St. John Sr. is the District III Representative.

"Our new Band Assembly members are bringing momentum for positive change to our government and our communities," said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "The discussions we've already had about working together give me hope and confidence that we will accomplish a lot over the next four years. That's why theme of this inauguration is Maamawinikeniwin — putting our hands together!"

The Band Assembly consists of one Representative from each of the reservation's three districts and the Secretary-Treasurer, who presides over the Band Assembly as speaker. All four members serve four-year terms.

### Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Ray Boyd

Sheldon Boyd split his childhood between the Mille Lacs Reservation and the West Bank area of Minneapolis, where he graduated from Minneapolis South High School and Northwestern Electronics before attending the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Boyd has four children and four grandchildren who inspire him to do his part to help create a better future for all Band members. He recently served as the Site IT Manager for Nay Ah Shing Clinic. While Boyd has made electronics and technology his profession, he says his Anishinaabe culture and spirituality have always been the most important part of his life.

Boyd has been a Drum member since 1985, serving as a pipe carrier. He believes it is everyone's responsibility to set good examples for Band youth and take care of their health as well as their spirits. A self-described "casual runner," Boyd has run half-marathons with his coworkers at the clinic.

### Representative Marvin Ray Bruneau

Marvin Bruneau is a lifelong resident of District II on the Mille Lacs Reservation. He is the father of three daughters, Erin, Amanda, and Amber. He graduated from McGregor High School and attended the College of St. Scholastica.

Bruneau served as the Mille Lacs Band's District II Representative from 1990 to 2014 and was re-elected in 2018. He has also served the Band as a member of the Housing Authority Board of Directors, a Community Health Representative, and a Drum Society member. In addition, Bruneau has been an Emergency Medical Technician and a factory worker in the McGregor area.

Swearing In continued on 2

For more on the August 14 primary, see our Primary Election Guide on pages 9–12!

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin, Boozhoo! July 10 was a very important day for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, as three new Band Assembly members and new school board members took their oath of office and began new terms serving the Band.

For those of you who were unable to be present, please take time to read Speaker Boyd's inaugural remarks in this issue of the Inaajimowin. This was one of the most inspiring speeches I have ever heard. With a theme of Maamawinikeniwin, or "putting our hands together," Secretary-Treasurer Boyd spoke about the responsibility of making law, and about responsibility, humility, unity, and moving forward for the good of the People.

I have already had the privilege of participating in two Band Assembly meetings, and have appreciated the positive energy, open dialogue, and exchange of ideas. Our two offices even already enjoyed a potluck lunch together last week in our office, which was wonderful. We are off to a great start of collaboration that will benefit Band members.

A very important reminder — please remember to get out and vote in the Primary Election on August 14! This election will have a direct impact on the Band, because it will decide who the candidates are for the positions of Governor, Attorney General, the 8th U.S. Congressional seat, Mille Lacs County Attorney, and many other races in the November elections. A letter was sent to all households endorsing specific candidates, and it is also printed on page 12. No matter who you support, please get out there and exercise your right to vote!

My schedule in July included meetings of the Minnesota

Chippewa Tribe, when Secretary-Treasurer Boyd was sworn in as a member of the Tribal Executive Committee. A key issue at this meeting was consideration of an Executive Order issued by Governor Dayton creating a Wild Rice Task Force comprised of 12 members that only included two tribal representatives, with all other positions being reserved for industrial special interest groups like municipal wastewater dischargers, electric utilities, labor organizations, and two seats for the mining industry. Other seats went to scientists and state agencies.

This was unacceptable because it did not respect the sovereignty of each tribe, and the majority of representatives were from industry and other special interests, which was upsetting to many. We voted unanimously against participation on this task force, and conveyed that decision to Governor Dayton. The tribes instead intend to create our own task force and provide findings to the State.

I was invited to attend a Tribal Leader Discussion hosted by the Democratic Senate Outreach Committee on July 18. It was organized by Senator Amy Klobuchar and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. Along with the Mille Lacs Band, three other tribal leaders and three intertribal organizations were represented. The issues I raised were law enforcement and public safety. In conversations with staff of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, I encouraged them to do a site visit or hold a field hearing at Mille Lacs, and I am in the process of following up on that request.

While in Washington D.C., Senator Warren invited me to

meet in her office for a one-on-one update on issues impacting the Mille Lacs Band. We also discussed law enforcement, the opioid crisis, Farm Bill provisions for Indian tribes, and tribal sovereignty. Finally, the day ended with a meeting with Senator Schumer along with seven other tribal leaders. At this meeting, I also brought up law enforcement legislation. These trips to D.C. are always busy, but this one was a whirlwind of activity — I was in D.C. for less than 24 hours, and all of these meetings took place over the course of five hours!

July also included many meetings with Band members, a Drum Keeper meeting, an open house for the new Government Affairs building in Wahkon, a board meeting of the Minnesota Board on Aging, and many others.

In his remarks, Secretary-Treasurer Boyd made a statement about how leadership is not just about the elected officials, and I couldn't agree more. Chi miigwech to the many, many Band members who have stepped into community leadership positions, whether formal or informal, and are making positive change in our community. There are too many to name without risk of leaving some groups out, which is a very good thing because it means many good things are happening in our Band community! As Chief Executive, I deeply appreciate the efforts of these amazing Band members who have stepped up into leadership positions.

## Swearing-In from page 1

He enjoys fishing, reading, and spending time with his family. He looks forward to coming back to serve as a member of Band Assembly and making positive changes for the tribe.

District II includes Band member communities in Minisinaakwaang (East Lake), Sandy Lake, Minnewawa, and Chiminising.

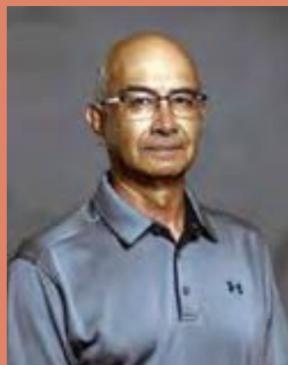
## District III Representative Wallace St. John Sr.

Wallace St. John Sr. has worked for the Mille Lacs Band government and resided in District III of the Mille Lacs Reservation since 1999. District III includes the Aazhoomog (Lake Lena) community near the St. Croix River east of Hinckley, as well as a large community of Band members living in Hinckley.

Most recently, St. John worked in land maintenance and wildland for the Band's Department of Natural Resources for seven years. Previously, he held housing and public works positions for the Band, as well as at Black Bear Casino as a floor person, pit boss, and shift supervisor, and in public works for the Fond du Lac Band. His volunteer service includes 10 years on the Nay Ah Shing School Board and 11 years on the Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission.

St. John is the proud father of six children and twelve grandchildren. He is a graduate of Flandreau Indian School, where he was active in student government. He intends to integrate the Ojibwe cultural values of peace, harmony, and balance with nature into his work for the community.

Chief Justice Churchill also swore in newly re-elected Nay Ah Shing School Board members Joe Nayquonabe Sr. and Rick Dunkley. The next Band election will be held in 2020, when the District I Representative and Chief Executive positions will be up for election.



Marvin Bruneau



Wallace St. John Sr.

## Welcome New Mille Lacs Band Legislative Branch Staff

Christine Jordan, Legislative Legal Counsel, 320-532-7421, Christine.Jordan@millelacsband.com

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Wendy Merrill, Legislative Office Manager, 320-532-7536, Wendy.Merrill@millelacsband.com

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Michelle Pomerleau, District III Administrative Assistant, 320-384-6240 ext. 3224, Michelle.Pomerleau@millelacsband.com

## Elected Official Contacts

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Mr. Marvin Bruneau, District II Representative, 320-532-7425, Marvin.Bruneau@millelacsband.com

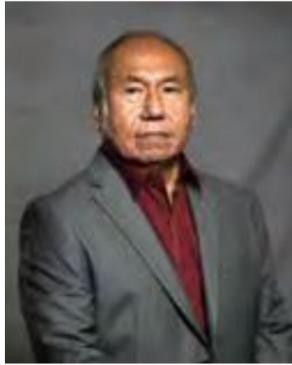
Mr. Wally St. John Sr., District III Representative, 320-532-7426, Wally.Stjohn@millelacsband.com

# New Secretary-Treasurer Sets Agenda for Band Assembly

## Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd

The following speech was delivered by Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd at the swearing-in ceremony at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on July 10.

Good morning and thank you all so much for coming today — Mille Lacs Band members, community members, elected officials, Mille Lacs Government Center employees, and HHS employees (where I just spent the last nine years).



Thanks to the staff in Legislative, current and future, for coordinating the wonderful event.

Congratulations to Wally and Marvin, Joe and Rick for being supported by the people who instilled their trust to work on their behalf for the next several years.

You know it was quite the experience this spring participating in the elections, and we all have to encourage and support those who show the courage to step up and stand in front of the people like this. It's a scary thing for most people. Behind the scenes in the waiting room during this particular campaign, sitting with Carolyn and Bruce, we three put ourselves in a vulnerable position, and that takes courage (and some measure of stupidity on my part).

And we should also congratulate former Secretary Treasurer Beaulieu and Bruce Harrington on campaigns well run and encourage them to keep trying to help the people of the Mille Lacs Band in their own individual ways.

The evening of the primary election on April 3 was an experience I will never forget. Hearing the news that you people made a decision by majority vote was unreal. That reality, because there comes a moment when it then becomes reality, takes time to sink in.

In a way, a piece of you will never be yours again. A piece of the voter and a piece of the elected person. Every one of these elected people today, myself included, will be judged in the minds of many people and remembered for these next four years.

When the vote is cast, a little bit of control is handed to a single individual, and with that the expectation, hope, and trust that person is tasked with continuing to move a piece of our communities along.

And with that vote, that act of assigning control over some matters of our collective lives, a bargain occurs. And based

on that person's behavior, words, and movement over the next four years, that person has agreed to be judged. By the people.

And that is the right, the power, and the duty of you the people.

The work of the people in elected offices and the people who voted is ongoing. Don't just vote and forget about things until the next election expecting a person to make things better. Before this, my personal duty as a citizen in between elections has been, first of all, to pay attention. Try my best to make a stable home. Act in a way you hope the next generation, the young ones watching you, will act. To be kind. To enjoy life.

As a young man, I remember seeing my Uncle Jess Boyd standing on the shore of the bay with a walking stick. Just watching the bay. He would wave as we drove by.

My Dad would later mention that Jess would tell him how the lake moved and the effect it had on the beach and how the water changed. He observed that the waves would move in different directions against the shore and make things in the lake move.

Many of you have the skills to watch the change in leadership and observe how things are affected.

Many of you have the power and the initiative to make changes.

There are so many examples within the community of people getting out and making changes on their own, and one that deserves mentioning is the Sober Squad.

What a brave bunch of people we all have the opportunity to witness during our time here.

Born out of times of drug and alcohol abuse and community heartache, this group has shown that this community will not take things lying down and will take matters into their own hands and stand in defiance to a world of drug trafficking, human trafficking, and senseless death. All with smiles on their faces and compassion in their hearts. I salute you, and your work stands in comparison to any government program, federal, state, or tribal, on having a positive effect on this community.

The younger ones will watch and find their place in our communities. They will take your place. We all take our turn, and like each wave against the shore, we move in different directions. As time moves along, we as individuals change things.

And that brings us to today and the next four years. Secretary-Treasurer and Speaker of the Assembly.

As Secretary-Treasurer, the duty entrusted is now to "manage and superintend" the amassed wealth of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. And during the campaign period this

spring, the way I read and understand the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution and laws of the Mille Lacs Band I will perform these duties to allow the people of the Mille Lacs Band to be more financially aware than we are today, and by following the clear mandate to make all expenditures a matter of public record.

As Speaker of the Assembly I also plan to make the actions of our Legislative body a matter of public record by live streaming and archiving the legislative process or Sessions of Band Assembly.

And most importantly as leader of the Legislative Branch I will make every effort to promote the lawmaking process. This is so important and the most abstract power of our people. The power to make law. That power is vested solely in each of the District Representatives and the Legislative Branch. The Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band, by your vote, is the single most powerful voice in government and by signature, is the last step in the lawmaking process here in Mille Lacs.

**"We all take our turn, and like each wave against the shore, we move in different directions. As time moves along, we as individuals change things."**

— Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd

Federally recognized Indian tribes have the inherent power to make law.

That little piece of power you hand over when you vote for a candidate in each election, part of it is the power to make law.

I believe we get that inherent power by being the descendants and survivors of our long past mothers and fathers, grandparents and their grandparents who somehow survived history, all to make it possible for each of us to be here at this time. When you look around the room you see the product of intelligence, good fortune, and the luck of surviving a millennia of time, of perseverance to overcome thousands of years of weather, war, battles, and disease on this great island.

That series of events is what brings us here this morning to turn the page and start a new chapter in our time here. Please applaud elected leaders of the Mille Lacs Band past and present. They have taken their turn and take their place in history.

Be kind and enjoy life. Thank you.



PHOTOS BY BRETT LARSON

## Taking the Oath

Left to right: Sheldon Boyd, Marvin Bruneau, Wallace St. John Sr., Joe Nayquonabe Sr., and Rick Dunkley took the Oath of Office at the swearing-in ceremony July 10. The oath, which was administered by Chief Justice Rayna Churchill, reads as follows: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby swear that I will support, honor and respect the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the laws of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, and I will protect the rights of Band members and others under the jurisdiction of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office to the best of my judgment and ability so help me gi chi ma ni do."

## State and Local News Briefs

**A good new home for Natives:** A planned 42-unit supportive housing project on University Avenue in St. Paul geared toward homeless, young American Indian adults is nearing the construction phase. The \$11.3 million “Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung” is intended to help young adults reconnect with their culture and learn to live independently. Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung means “good new home” in Ojibwe. “Everything about the building is designed specifically to support creating a place where these young people can regain their sense of identity,” said Deb Foster, Ain Dah Young Center’s executive director. “We are hoping it will be a model project that can be duplicated in other areas of the country.” *Source: finance-commerce.com.*

**County legal fees are rising:** Mille Lacs County taxpayers (including many Band members) are out over \$400,000 thanks to legal fees generated by the County’s decision to rescind its law enforcement agreement with the Band. The Band filed suit against the county in 2017. In July, the Mille Lacs County Board approved payment for legal fees in the amount of \$19,294 to Kelly, Wolter and Scott P.A. for legal fees on behalf of Mille Lacs County Sheriff Brent Lindgren. That brings the total dollar amount for legal fees to \$420,500.69, including:

- \$133,150.76 on behalf of the county as a whole,
- \$140,576.43 on behalf of County Attorney Joe Walsh, and
- \$146,773.50 on behalf of Sheriff Brent Lindgren

*Source: Mille Lacs Messenger.*

**Arbitrator calls for reinstatement of cop who mistreated Band member:** The Duluth Police Department is appealing an arbitrator’s decision to reinstate Officer Adam Huot after Huot was caught on video dragging a Mille Lacs Band member through the downtown skywalk system in May of 2017. Huot, who has been an officer for nine years, has a history of excessive force complaints. Police Chief Mike Tusken said, “The passive resistance offered by the citizen in this incident did not justify this level of use of force . . . Officer Huot’s actions were contrary to his training and department policy, and officer Huot violated our mission, vision, and core beliefs by betraying public trust and our social contract with our community.”

*Source: duluthnewtribune.com.*

**Leech Lake girls win five-state tournament:**

The Leech Lake eighth grade girls’ basketball team won the Pacesetter Great Five-State Championship title game at Target Center in Minneapolis on Saturday, June 30. Leech Lake players — who will play for Cass Lake-Bena High School — are Keonna Johnson, Taryn Frazer, Amira LaDuke, Krisalyn Seelye, Mya Reyes, Jessica Brunelle, Antavia Bowstring and Jenni Wind. The team’s coaches are Tate Frazier, Kristin Brown and Michael Reyes. Leech Lake defeated three teams that had won their respective state tournaments: Dakota Valley (S.D.) 27–23, Linton (N.D.) 32–22 and Lake City.

*Source: mprnews.org.*

**VA denies kidney transplant to Native veteran:**

Frank Sherman’s doctors say he will die without a kidney transplant, yet the Veterans Administration has refused to put the former Marine on the transplant waiting list. Records obtained by KARE 11 raise questions about whether tests used to evaluate veterans like Frank for transplants discriminate against Native Americans.

*Source: kare11.com.*

# State Approves Line 3; Opponents Regroup and Plan for the Next Phase

**Brett Larson** Inaajimowin Staff Writer

On Thursday, June 28, opponents of the proposed Line 3 pipeline received the news they had been dreading: The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), in a 5–0 vote, approved the project’s certificate of need.

The commissioners were quick to point out that they didn’t come to the decision lightly. Deliberation on the route selection took the rest of the day. The final decision by a 3–2 vote approved a new route that passes between the District II communities of Minisinaakwaang (East Lake), Sandy Lake, and Minnewawa.

The route proposed by Enbridge Energy, a Canadian pipeline company, transports oil from Alberta’s tar sands through the Sandy Lake and Rice Lake watersheds, home to some of the most productive wild rice beds on earth and the Anishinaabe communities that have relied on that rice for generations.

Opponents have vowed to keep fighting. Brent Murcia, of the group Youth Climate Intervenors, said, “We will not let this stand.”

Gov. Mark Dayton said that even with the certificate of need, Enbridge has many more hoops to jump through before construction can start in the state.

“Many people hold passionate views on this project. I urge everyone to express themselves peacefully. The PUC’s decision is not the final approval of this pipeline. Rather, it only allows Enbridge to begin to apply for at least 29 required federal, state, and local permits.

“Those regulatory reviews, which address numerous issues not considered by the PUC, will take several months. Approvals are by no means assured, and they would require any such project to meet Minnesota’s highest standards, protecting all our state’s earth, air, water, natural resources, and cultural heritage. I assure that state agencies will fully uphold those high standards, as they review these applications. Construc-

tion cannot and will not begin, unless Enbridge receives all required permit approvals.”

PUC Commissioners were visibly emotional during the hearing but said their hands were tied. “Sometimes we have to make decisions we don’t aspirationally agree with, because of the rule of law,” Commissioner John Tuma said.

PUC Chair Nancy Lange said she could not live with the possibility of the old pipeline leaking if it were to remain in the ground.

Commissioner Dan Lipschultz said the oil delivered by Line 3 is needed to meet state transportation needs. “It’s addressing demand so that pipelines aren’t needed anymore,” he said. “At some point demand is going to go down permanently. We aren’t there yet.”

Enbridge proposed a new corridor because the old Line 3 passes through Leech Lake and Fond du Lac Reservations, and both tribes were opposed to a new pipeline on reservation lands.

Although the new corridor avoids reservations, it does pass through areas where Band members harvest rice, fish, and game. The state of Minnesota does not recognize off-reservation treaty rights in the corridor, but many Band members believe those rights are guaranteed under federal treaties.

Furthermore, the new corridor passes within miles of the Mississippi headwaters, creating a new contamination threat to virtually everyone downstream on the river.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce argued that the pipeline is not needed due to declining demand for oil and petroleum products.

Among the groups that spoke out forcefully against the PUC decision were the Sierra Club, the Minnesota Council of Churches, MN350, the Northern Water Alliance, Youth Climate Intervenors, and Honor the Earth.

## First Homes Finished at Lady Luck Estates

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) announced July 20 that it has completed the first construction phase of its latest economic development project — Lady Luck Estates — in Hinckley. Along with project partner Travois, investor Red Stone Equity Partners, and elected officials of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, MLCV held a grand opening ceremony on Friday, July 20, to showcase the 28 townhome-style development that will provide quality, affordable housing for hardworking families. To commemorate this milestone, a Princeton Elm tree was planted to signify growth of this neighborhood.

Lady Luck Estates includes 12 two-bedroom, 1.5-bath units and 16 three-bedroom, two-bath units. All homes have a one or two-car attached garage. The development includes two units with universal design features, fully adaptable to accommodate tenants with physical disabilities.

The development is located just a mile west of Grand Casino Hinckley, which is the largest employer in Pine County. Lady Luck Estates is also strategically located close to important community resources and services to minimize transportation costs for future residents, a Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures economic focus.

“This development is the culmination of the hard work and commitment by many partners including the Mille Lacs Band, the city of Hinckley, Travois, Red Stone Equity and the dedicated staff of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures,” said Joe Nayquonabe, chief executive officer of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. “We’re proud to meet the demand for affordable housing, which is a foundation to further economic development in the region.”

“We are proud partners of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe,” said Elizabeth Glynn, chief



**The Band celebrated the completion of the first construction phase on Friday, July 20. Pictured (left to right) are Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of MLCV; Dustin Goslin, Economic Development Director of MLCV; Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band; Sara Treiber, Property Manager, MLCV; Zach Atherton-Ely, Associate General Counsel, MLCV; Wally St. John, District III Representative, Mille Lacs Band; Sheldon Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer, Mille Lacs Band.**

executive officer of Travois. “The Band is focused on building its community in a smart way, fostering economic development through diverse businesses and strategically planning this new housing development and future developments.”

# BIA Agent Discusses Opioid Epidemic

**Brett Larson** Inaajimowin Staff Writer

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Drug Enforcement Division has been active in Mille Lacs Reservation communities since the Band's request for federal law enforcement help under the Tribal Law and Order Act was granted in 2016. After Mille Lacs County rescinded its law enforcement agreement with the Band later that year, the BIA stepped up its efforts to help with law enforcement in the region.

On July 10 at Grand Casino Hinckley, Special Agent Tim Proctor, who is based in Sioux City, Iowa, gave a presentation on opioids and heroin in Indian Country to a small but engaged group of Band members — including Sober Squad and Natives Against Heroin members.

Proctor is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation and was a "street cop" for 11 years before joining the BIA six years ago. He is one of only 30 agents in the Drug Enforcement Division, and his region covers seven reservations — the furthest of which is a 3-1/2-hour drive from Sioux City.

The agency is clearly understaffed, Proctor said, especially given the effect of the nationwide opioid epidemic on reservations, but fortunately the BIA is adding another 15 agents — a 50 percent increase.

Proctor's presentation covered the science of opioids, their history as prescribed medicine and illegal drugs, warning signs of drug abuse, short-term and long-term effects, withdrawal, and the dangers of new opioids like carfentanil.

Proctor also talked about naloxone (brand name Narcan), the overdose-reversing chemical that has become an important life-saving tool, but he warned that new varieties of fentanyl and carfentanil are resistant to naloxone.

He concluded by talking about the importance of community action and willingness of individuals to turn in dealers.

"People ask me what I'm doing about the drug problem," Proctor said. "Whatever I can do about the drug problem, it's not going to be enough. It's going to take the entire community."



**"Whatever I can do about the drug problem, it's not going to be enough. It's going to take the entire community."**

— Agent Tim Proctor

Somewhere along the way we went from being Native tribes, one big family, helping everybody who's in need, to this 'no-snitch' culture. And this no-snitch culture is killing our people because nobody wants to say 'That's the drug dealer.'

Natives Against Heroin member Luther Sam said the community has begun to turn away from that "no-snitch" culture, but it is difficult to get convictions given due process.

Proctor said due process is guaranteed by the Constitution, so people need to be willing to testify and give their names to help police get search warrants and evidence.

After his presentation, Proctor showed the video "Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict." Search the title at youtube.com to watch the video.

Proctor also shared the number of the SAMHSA National Helpline, a free, confidential, 24/7, 365-days-a-year referral and information service: 1-800-662-4357 (HELP) or TTY: 1-800-487-4889.

# ClearWay Tribal Tobacco Grant Ends

## Successful Partnership Recognized

In 1994, the state of Minnesota brought a lawsuit against the tobacco companies. The suit accused them of deceiving Minnesotans about the harmful nature of their products. The case uncovered tens of thousands of secret documents revealing what the tobacco companies had hidden about the link between cigarettes and cancer, the addictiveness of nicotine, and other dangers of commercial tobacco.

In May 1998, the tobacco companies settled, and in August of that same year, a new nonprofit organization called ClearWay Minnesota was approved to administer a 25-year grant funded by the settlement. ClearWay would provide free commercial tobacco education, information, and cessation services to all Minnesotans.

For several years, ClearWay Minnesota supported Minnesota's traditional tobacco and public health advocates in their work to advance smoke-free policies on tribal lands. ClearWay Minnesota funded Tribal Tobacco Education and Policy Initiative (TTEP) grants on several Minnesota reservations, including the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. These grants promoted the goal of preparing tribal communities to develop and enact commercial tobacco-free tribal policies.

After many years of serving Minnesota tribal communities, the TTEP projects are coming to an end. Earlier this year, ClearWay CEO David Willoughby presented a commemorative print to MLBO Health and Human Services Commissioner Rebecca St. Germaine. The presentation and gift highlighted the long-term collaboration between ClearWay Minnesota and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Colleen McKinney, ClearWay Outreach Coordinator; HHS Commissioner Rebecca St. Germaine; ClearWay CEO David Willoughby; Robin Garcia, HHS; Noya Woodrich, HHS; and ClearWay Community Development Director Jaime Martinez.**

## National News Briefs

**Feds recognize Bde Maka Ska:** At its meeting in June, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names approved the name Bde Maka Ska for the Minneapolis lake formerly known as Calhoun. The decision follows county and state approval of the name. Bde Maka Ska (beh-DAY' mah-KAH' skah) means "White Earth Lake" or "White Banks Lake" in Dakota, referring to the light-colored sand of its beaches. Federal surveyors renamed it in the 1800s for John Calhoun, the secretary of war who later served as vice president. Calhoun was an architect of the Indian Removal Act and defended slavery as a "positive good" that benefited slaves and slave owners alike. *Source: mprnews.com.*

**Senate committee considers Leech Lake allotments:** A bill to return nearly 12,000 acres to the Leech Lake Band received its first hearing on Capitol Hill July 11. The tribe lost the land when the Bureau of Indian Affairs transferred it to the Chippewa National Forest between 1948 and 1959. S.2599, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act, would transfer the allotments back to the tribe and place them in trust. Sen. Tina Smith (D-Minnesota) is the sponsor of S.2599, one of the first bills she introduced when she was appointed to the seat vacated by Al Franken, who resigned due to sexual harassment allegations. *Source: indianz.com.*

**Record number of Native Americans running for office:** Mark Trahan, the editor of the news site *Indian Country Today*, has been keeping track of Native American candidates for the last six years. "There really is a record year this year. It's extraordinary," Trahan says. "You see folks running for such a variety of offices." There are two Native American men in Congress now — both Republicans — and Trahan expects as many as 10 Native Americans will be on the congressional ballot this fall. He says that's double the number in 2016. Among the candidates:

- Deb Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, running for the U.S. House in a strongly Democratic district in New Mexico,
- Peggy Flanagan, a state representative in Minnesota now running for lieutenant governor,
- Paulette Jordan, making a Democratic bid for governor in the conservative state of Idaho, and
- Sharice Davids, an ex-MMA fighter and lesbian who's running for Congress in Kansas.

There are two Native American men in Congress now, both Republicans. *Source: mprnews.org.*

**Award named for children's author changed due to racist content:** The Laura Ingalls Wilder award, reserved for authors or illustrators who have made "significant and lasting contribution to children's literature," is now the Children's Literature Legacy Award. In the original 1935 version of *Little House on the Prairie*, the character called Pa says he wanted to go "where the wild animals lived without being afraid." Where "the land was level, and there were no trees." And where "there were no people. Only Indians lived there." After years of complaints, the Association for Library Service to Children said, "This decision was made in consideration of the fact that Wilder's legacy, as represented by her body of work, includes expressions of stereotypical attitudes inconsistent with ALSC's core values of inclusiveness, integrity and respect, and responsiveness." *Source: Washingtonpost.com.*

## Fall Ricing

Ken Weyaus Sr.

*The late Ken Weyaus wrote this for the Moccasin Telegraph series published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted to help preserve his teachings and pass them on to the next generation.*

Ricing is a very important seasonal activity for the Ojibwe, because wild rice was traditionally the main source of food for our people. Wild ricing begins in August and runs through October — about three months. In the fall, the rice is not on the big lakes — it's on the shallow lakes with the muddy bottoms. So people would move from the large lakes, where they had been in the summer, to the smaller lakes.

First they would send certain people out to the lakes to see which ones were best that year for ricing. Wild rice depends on Mother Nature. It does not grow on the same lake each year — there may be too much or too little water. So the Ojibwe wouldn't go to the same place each year. They would find a good lake where they could stay all season, and they would set up camp there. They wouldn't let the people go out and start ricing until the rice was ripe and ready.

Back in those days, each person had a section on the lake. They would tie their section off and kind of make boundaries, and they wouldn't go in another section. They would go out in canoes. One person would move the canoe forward by pushing off the lake bottom with a long pole, and the other would use two shorter sticks to knock the rice into the canoe. When they got enough rice to fill up their canoe, they came back in and started processing the wild rice right away. First they would dry out the rice. After it was dry, they would start parching it over heat. They would parch it in big metal kettles to get all the moisture out.

Wild rice has got a kernel and a husk around it. You also parch the rice so the husk will come off. After the parching, they dig a pit in the ground. This is the men's job. They dig the pit about one and a half feet deep and fill it with wild rice kernels. Then they stand in the pit and move their feet up and down to get the husks off of the kernels. However, this can easily break the kernels. So you have two poles to lean on. You have to know how much weight to put on the kernels without breaking them. It takes about 30 to 45 minutes to do one pit.

Then, after that is finished, the men give the rice to the women to winnow it. The women put the rice in a winnowing tray and gently toss it in the air. The wind catches the husks and blows them away, and the kernels fall back into the tray.

This whole process for one canoe load of rice takes maybe three to four days. Once one load of rice is finished, you go back out again. By that time, the plants that had been knocked down the last time are standing up again.

Once ricing season was over, the people would go back out to untie their boundary markers. They would shake those markers into their canoes and get more rice that way.

The Ojibwe gathered enough wild rice to last year-round, because it was their main food source. They would figure out what they needed for the winter, and the rest they would take out to the spring sugarbush camp and store in the ground. That supply would be enough to last them from the spring through the next fall.

Ricing is something Mille Lacs Band members still do today. It is one of our most important traditions.



The Healing Circle Run came through District III on Thursday, July 19, with a stop at the Meshakwad Center in Hinckley.

## Band Participates in Healing Circle Run

Mikayla Schaaf Inaajimowin Guest Writer

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe participants were proud and honored to run in solidarity with other Ojibwe tribes for the first time in the history of the Healing Circle Run, an annual tradition for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

This year, members of Ojibwe tribes from Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin set out on a weeklong healing journey starting at Lac Courte Oreilles reservation, heading east for a 700-mile loop.

On Thursday, July 19, Mille Lacs runners finished the last leg through the Hinckley/Aazhoomog area, where participants stopped in for a meal provided by Mike Christensen Catering and a ceremony at the Meshakwad Center in Hinckley.

The Healing Circle Run has been going for over 30 years. Originally called "the peace and solidarity relay," the run came about because of tensions that were rising during the after-

math of treaty rights reaffirmation. At that time, violent protests were directed towards tribal members exercising their treaty rights off reservation, and fear for safety was a major concern. In response to these protests, Ojibwe tribes sought out to break down barriers and spread peace and wellbeing throughout communities through the "solidarity relay."

Mille Lacs became involved when Brad Harrington attended a meeting with GLIFWC and agreed to participate; he hit the ground running to organize runners in the community to make it happen. Dylan Jennings, a member of the Bad River Ojibwe of Wisconsin, has been collaborating with Brad on the run. "As the next generation, it is our responsibility to keep it going," said Dylan. "In order for healing to occur, healing must start within an individual, and from there a group can heal, and eventually healing will spread to a community."



## Women's Gathering

June 28 was a great day of unity and camaraderie as over 60 indigenous ladies attended a workshop at the Mille Lacs Band Events Center. After the opening ceremony and invocation by Terry Kemper, Shirley Cain from Red Lake presented a PowerPoint about women's leadership, and Eric Gahbow and Crow Bellecourt sang some great sidestep songs for the ladies to enjoy. Also included was a break-out session about traditional tobacco. The ladies received a great meal, door prizes, and a light jacket. In breakout groups, they talked about issues in our community and developed methods to solve problems. There will be another gathering during the winter of 2018-19 after the first snowfall.

# Grassroots Groups Are Changing Minds and Changing Lives

**Brett Larson** Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Two grassroots anti-addiction groups — Sober Squad and Natives Against Heroin — have sprung up in Mille Lacs Band communities in recent months.

Although the two groups have different missions, each believes in the importance of the other — as evidenced by a friendly volleyball showdown on July 22 (see below).

At the "Per Cap Patrol" event at Grand Market on July 5, members of both groups were present to discourage drug trafficking and offer support to those struggling with addiction.

Luther Sam, a member of the Minneapolis-based Natives Against Heroin, has been instrumental in organizing the Per Cap Patrol and inviting community members to share lunch in support of the group's anti-drug efforts.

Natives Against Heroin (NAH), founded by James Cross, sometimes takes a confrontational approach with dealers, calling them out and pressuring them to leave Native communities. They brought their methods to several District I homes during the fall of 2017 with chants of "Shut it down!"

Luther met James at the first Per Cap Patrol event at Grand Market October 5. The two hit it off and started talking about a Mille Lacs chapter of NAH.

The Per Cap Patrol caught on, and in July dozens of Band members stopped by for lunch, honked support from their cars, or spoke with passers-by about drug addiction and recovery.

Fent VanWert started attending Per Cap Patrol events after several months of getting sober on his own. He is well aware of the significance of what the group is doing. "Every drug dealer around here is responsible for at least one death," he said.

Colin Cash, who also helped organize the first Per Cap Patrol, came by to show support. "I consider Luther a member of Sober Squad," said Colin. "He wants to take the Natives Against Heroin route, and I want to support him and his vision. That's Luther's avenue. They're more about driving the drug dealers out; we're more about sobering them up."

Luther clarified: "We don't want to have to drive them out. We first want to offer help. Most of the time it's family or close to family. It's someone we know. So it's not about driving them out."

## Sober Squad

When Colin got out of treatment, there weren't many options for support in District I. "I did not want to come back to Mille Lacs, but this is where the path took me," said Colin. "There was just one support group, and my whole first year, nobody showed up. I was poring through Facebook, trying to find others in recovery. When I was a year clean, another person showed up, and then another, and then another. I wanted to



**Above: Cousins Luther Sam and Colin Cash are friendly rivals in fighting drug trafficking and addiction. Right: Randell Sam credits Sober Squad with his recovery and is now trying to help others get clean.**



get us t-shirts, and we were talking about what to put on them. Somebody said, 'Sober Squad.'

The name stuck, and a movement was born. Now there are 111 people in their group chat, with about 15 active members who attend regular meetings in District I, Brainerd, and Crosby. Chapters have sprung up in Grand Rapids and Fond du Lac, and they're attracting non-Indians as well as tribal members.

"It's not just a Native thing," Colin said. "It's mending bridges with outside communities, helping each other no matter where you come from or what you look like."

Two dozen members marched in the Onamia Days parade. Squad member Gary Benjamin is doing weekly groups at Four Winds Lodge treatment center in Brainerd, and other members speak at Four Winds monthly.

Colin has been in high demand as a speaker. He's been to events around Minnesota and recently traveled to Utah to share the story of Sober Squad. Squad members will attend the Tribal Opioid Summit at Fond du Lac August 7–8 and present at the Annual Minnesota American Indian Mental Health Conference at Shooting Star August 14–17.

"What we have is unique," Colin said. "It's working here in Mille Lacs in the worst possible environment, and it's setting a precedent. If it can work here, it can work anywhere."

Sober Squad members give rides to detox and treatment, host sweat lodges, attend sobriety feasts, or just enjoy hanging out with other sober people — eating pizza after a meeting,

going tubing in the winter, or watching the fireworks.

"There's no excuse for you not to get better because we will help you," Colin said. "When somebody asks us for help, we just go crazy. Transportation used to be a huge barrier, but now you have a group of addicts in recovery filling those gaps."

"The one thing we offer is hope. When people see hope in someone's eyes, it empowers them."

Elaine Rea, a Mille Lacs Band member with many years of sobriety, is proud to be affiliated with the group. "It's good just to be sober and socialize," she said. "A lot of people stop us and say 'So you're Sober Squad.' We're getting to be well known, which is pretty great."

## Difference makers

Two of those in attendance at the July 5 Per Cap Patrol event — Jaime and Randell Sam — credit Sober Squad with helping them stay clean.

Jaime said, "I've been with Sober Squad for coming up on six months now. I was clean about three or four months before Randell reached out and asked for help..."

Randell finished her thought: "...And she pointed me in the right direction. I owe Sober Squad everything I've got going on right now."

Randell was taking drugs to deal with the pain and lack of energy caused by diabetes. "On March 17 I woke up and said, 'I'm tired of that shit.' I started getting that urge again, so I messaged my cousin (Jaime) and said 'How did you do it?' She said 'Sober Squad.'"

As of July 5, Randell was 108 days clean. "I don't have the urge to use anymore, but after 33 years of using, trying to fix it in 108 days, it's impossible. I'm going to spend the rest of my life fixing those problems."

Fortunately, he has help this time. He points to Fent, who is manning the grill. "When I found out he's seven months sober, I couldn't believe it. We used to use together, and now he's happy. He's out here smiling and spreading the word. I never thought I'd see this. I go to sleep happy now. I notice a butterfly and say, 'Oh, how pretty!'" He paused to consider the strangeness of what he was saying. "What the hell am I thinking?" he said with a grin.

Randell gestured to the Grand Market parking lot, where there wasn't a dealer in sight. "Without Sober Squad and Natives Against Heroin there would be all kinds of action going on here," he said. "I saw one of the main players and asked him how he was doing. I gave him an ear beating for a half hour, then gave him a hug. If we could get this dude on our side, that would show we're doing something."



**Above: Our two local grassroots anti-drug groups came together at the District I Community Center July 22 for a friendly volleyball contest and smudge walk.**

**Right: Elaine Rea and Jaime Sam took part in the smudge walk around District I July 22.**



# Native Americans Are Important Partners in Prevention

**Brett Larson** Inaajimowin Staff Writer

For many years, the Mille Lacs Area Partners in Prevention (MAPP) have been toiling away behind the scenes to encourage young people to make healthy choices.

Band members and employees have played important roles in the group since its origin in 2011. Byron Ninham and Amanda Nickaboine served on the board in the past, Nay Ah Shing staff have participated since the first day, and there are now five active Native American members: Megan Ballinger, Semira Kimpson, Billie Jo Boyd, Darla Roache, and Mikayla Schaaf.

The current co-chairs of the group are Semira, a Mille Lacs Band member who works in the Legislative office, and Mikayla, an enrolled member of the Wichita tribe (and daughter of Mille Lacs Band member Bill Schaaf) who works for Health and Human Services.

Darla has participated in the MAPP Coalition for about three years. She was invited to participate by a former colleague, Amy Maske, who was the Drug-Free Communities Coordinator at the time. "In my previous grant work with the Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department, it made sense for me to be a part of this group," said Darla. "I feel that the MAPP Coalition does good, positive work in our communities in creating awareness, providing education, and collaborating with others that support their mission."

Darla is now working in the Band's Government Affairs Department. "I'm glad to continue as a member of the coalition," she said. "You have to be involved if you want to see change in your community. As a parent, it also provides me with information and resources available to our youth. I've learned a lot about underage use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in our community. My favorite event so far has been our Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit."

The exhibit, which has been on display at conferences at Nay Ah Shing and other schools, is a room set up as a teenager's bedroom that adults can explore. The room includes signs that children may be using — eye drops, breath mints, incense, lighters — and interesting hiding places: a computer mouse that isn't really a mouse but has a hidden compartment; a pop can that weighs the same as a full can of pop but actually opens up and has a hiding place; or a stuffed animal with a zipper in the back.

**"The more our voices are heard, the more we can change our communities."**

— Billie Jo Boyd



## Natives Are More Likely to Abstain from Alcohol

A study that came out in 2016 also shows the difference between perceptions and reality: In contrast to stereotypes about high rates of alcohol misuse among Native Americans, University of Arizona researchers found that Native Americans' binge and heavy drinking rates actually match those of whites. The groups differed regarding abstinence: Native Americans were more likely to abstain from alcohol use than whites.



**Five Native women — Megan Ballinger, Semira Kimpson, Mikayla Schaaf, Darla Roache, and Billie Jo Boyd (pictured below) — have taken an active role in the Mille Lacs Area Partners in Prevention.**

Darla encourages others to get involved in MAPP or other community groups. "If you're interested in joining, come to a meeting and check it out. No obligations! We're a fun, friendly group!"

Semira became involved with MAPP a year ago when she and her friend Megan Ballinger decided to get more involved with prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse. Megan found the group online and asked Brian Miner (the coordinator of Onamia's Drug-Free Communities grant program) for more education on the effects of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

"Brian welcomed us to join the meetings so we can bring back education to the community, so that's what we did," Semira said. "I'm the co-chairperson for MAPP. Currently, MAPP has put together a National Night Out committee, which I'm a part of (see page 17). This has been a very exciting project! We have invited all law enforcement agencies and emergency responders from Mille Lacs County to collaborate with the event. It's been fun putting this together, especially since the revocation of the law agreement by the Mille Lacs County Board. It's nice to show we can collaborate together and to appreciate all law enforcement and emergency responders."

One of the challenges Semira sees is youth involvement. "Mikayla has thought of incentives to get youth involved through her program," Semira said. "We're hoping those incentives will get more youth involved next school year."

Billie Jo Boyd, who works in District I Representative Sandi Blake's office, was recruited by her friend Semira and is now a member of the subcommittee on alcohol. She said she enjoys bringing attention to the issues faced by youth in our community.

"Our kids need to know we care about their future," said Billie. "I'm hoping by getting involved in positive messages to our youth they can find a positive future."

The group is always in need of more members, more input, and more funding, so Billie Jo encourages others to get involved. "Don't be shy to come to the meetings!" she said. "The more our voices are heard, the more we can change our communities."

## Accomplishments

MAPP's list of accomplishments is extensive.

The alcohol committee has brought Project Northland anti-drug curriculum to local schools, designed and purchased radio ads and billboard ads on Highway 169, sponsored responsible beverage server trainings and compliance checks, and shared "positive community norms" messages at parades, schools, the powwow, and health fairs.

The tobacco committee has brought curriculum to Onamia schools, worked with local businesses on tobacco prevention, posted signs at Isle and Onamia schools, and coordinated with Mille Lacs Band and County public health departments on tobacco efforts.

The committee on other drugs has installed a prescription drug take back box at the Onamia Police Department, promoted Prescription Drug Take Back Day, sponsored community presentations on opioids, hosted "coffee with a cop" with Onamia and Tribal officers, brought marijuana curriculum to the District I Community Center, and applied for grants to address opioid, heroin, and methamphetamine use.

Youth involved in MAPP have performed at the winter storytelling event, developed an anti-smoking video, and joined MAPP adults in many other activities.

That's just a sampling of what the group has accomplished, with many more plans in the works, including National Night Out at Eddy's Resort on August 7. See page 17 for more on National Night Out.

## Positive Community Norms

The MAPP coalition and others like it around the state operate according to the Positive Community Norms model. The main focus is on changing misperceptions in the community about teen alcohol and drug use. The hope is that kids will be less likely to engage in those behaviors if they know the facts: that most kids in the community don't drink and use drugs and would prefer not to use them, and they would support their friends in their decisions to avoid alcohol and drugs.

MAPP was founded in December 2011 through a grant awarded to Rum River Health Services of Princeton. When that organization dissolved, the project was picked up by Onamia Schools. The Mille Lacs project began with a series of extensive surveys to determine patterns of alcohol and drug abuse in the area.

In addition to showing that students overestimate the amount their classmates drink, the surveys also showed other misperceptions. For example, law enforcement and parents both underestimate the other group's interest in combatting underage drinking. Both groups — just like students — also overestimate the amount of underage drinking in the community.

The results of the surveys are used to fashion messages and promote activities that will help to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol use among teens.

The focus on delaying onset is based on science. If a student drinks at the age of 15, they are four times more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs as an adult. The longer you can delay it, the greater the chance they will never have a problem.

# PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE

Together we can make a  
difference on August 14!



## Peggy Flanagan Hopes to Make History as Lieutenant Governor

Peggy Flanagan, a White Earth Nation member who is running for Lieutenant Governor on Tim Walz's ticket, has already broken ground as one of only four Native Americans in the Minnesota Legislature.

But if Tim Walz wins the election for Minnesota governor in November, Peggy would break new ground as the first Native American to hold statewide office.

Walz and Flanagan are running in the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party's August 14 primary against the ticket of Erin Murphy and Erin Quade and the ticket of Lori Swanson and Rick Nolan.

The winner of the DFL primary will face the winner of the Republican primary in the November 6 general election.

Peggy is a longtime advocate for Minnesota's children and families. She has served in the Minnesota House of Representatives since 2015 representing the communities of St. Louis Park, Golden Valley, Plymouth, and Medicine Lake.

Peggy is a graduate of St. Louis Park Public Schools and the University of Minnesota, graduating in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in American Indian studies and child psychology.

The principle of Peggy's professional, political, and personal life is giving back, particularly to children, families, communities of color, American Indians, and low-income and working people. A noted community and political organizer, Peggy is a partner with The Management Center, an organization dedicated to helping leaders working for social change. She formerly served as the executive director of Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota (CDF), a non-profit child-advocacy organization working to level the playing field for all children in our region and state. While at CDF, Peggy co-chaired the Raise The Wage campaign, the successful fight to raise Minnesota's minimum wage for the first time in nearly a decade.

Before joining Children's Defense Fund, Peggy also worked for almost a decade at Wellstone Action, the organization founded to carry on the work of the late Senator Paul Wellstone, first as director and founder of the Native American



**Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan are running in the August 14 Democratic gubernatorial primary, hoping to represent the party in the November 6 general election.**

Leadership Program, then as director of external affairs. As one of the original trainers of Wellstone Action's signature program Camp Wellstone, she has trained tens of thousands of progressive activists, community and campaign organizers, future candidates — including Tim Walz! — and progressive officeholders to make effective, sustainable, progressive change around the country.

Since her election in 2015, Peggy has continued building coalitions and working on behalf of children and families. Peggy serves as the DFL lead on the Subcommittee on Child Care Access and Affordability. She also serves on Health and Human Services Policy, State Government Finance and Rules committees. During the 2017 session she joined with other DFL

legislators to form the POCI (People of Color and Indigenous) caucus. The caucus aims to improve the education, health, and economic opportunities of people of color and indigenous communities across the state.

A citizen of the White Earth Nation of Ojibwe, Peggy lives in the Bronx Park neighborhood of St. Louis Park with her 4-year-old daughter Siobhan and her dog Reuben.

Tim Walz served southern Minnesota in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 until this year. He is the highest-ranking enlisted service member ever to serve in Congress, an award-winning high-school teacher, and a champion football coach.

Among Walz and Flanagan's priorities are fair wages, fully funded public schools, affordable healthcare as a right, environmental protection, renewable energy, and maintenance of our roads, bridges, and transit across the state.

### Other candidates

Although Murphy and Quade won the DFL endorsement, they do not have Peggy and Tim's close relationship with the Mille Lacs Band.

Lori Swanson, who left her post as Attorney General to run for Governor, has directly opposed Band interests by supporting her predecessor Mike Hatch's belief that the 1855 Reservation was disestablished.

The continued existence of the Reservation was made clear in a 2015 M-Opinion by the Office of the Solicitor in the Department of the Interior.

In the Republican primary, the race is likely to come down to former Governor Tim Pawlenty and his running mate, Michelle Fischbach, and Jeff Johnson and Donna Bergstrom.

When he was governor, Pawlenty sought to expand gambling through new metro casinos, with the state sharing revenue with tribes. Johnson is a fundamentalist Christian, an extreme conservative, and a supporter of President Trump and his policies.

### Felons who are 'off paper' can vote in Minnesota

Your criminal record does not affect your right to vote in Minnesota unless you are currently serving a felony conviction sentence, including probation, parole, or supervised release. You can vote after you finish all parts of your sentence, including any probation, parole, or supervised release.

As soon as you finish (once you are 'off-paper'), you can vote. You will need to register to vote. *It is best to register before Election Day, but it is not required.*

You can vote if...

- you were charged with or convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor.
- you are in jail, but are not currently serving a felony sentence.
- you have been charged with a felony, but you haven't been convicted.
- you have been given a stay of adjudication.
- you finished all parts of your felony sentence.

You cannot vote if you are currently serving a felony sentence or your stay of adjudication was revoked and you are currently serving a felony sentence.



**District I Representative Sandi Blake invited Peggy Flanagan, right, to the District I community picnic July 18 to visit with Band members.**

# Osburn's First Priority: Fix the Band/County Relationship

Richard Osburn says the most important duty of a county attorney is to work within the law to make our communities safe.

What separates him from the other candidates in the race for Mille Lacs County Attorney is that he understands how the County's repeated challenges to the Mille Lacs Band's sovereignty have made all county residents less safe.

"County elected officials have had an unhealthy obsession with the Mille Lacs Band for a few decades," Richard said. "The first priority that I will have if elected will be to fix the relationship between the Band and the County."

A primary August 14 will narrow the field from three candidates to two. He is running against incumbent Joe Walsh and Jan Jude, who held the post until 2014. The two candidates with the highest vote totals in the primary will face off in the general election November 6.

"The law enforcement agreement allowed the Band to provide over 30 fully trained, qualified officers to patrol the north end of the county at no cost to the county," said Richard. "With the cancellation of the agreement, the county had to provide officers and had to cover any additional costs. Effectively, the residents of the north end of the county now have less enforcement, and the entire county is paying the costs. Any negative impacts of the cancellation fall on the county and the residents. Whatever authority the Band had before and during the agreement did not change with the cancellation. The county only hurt itself and the taxpayers with its action."

## Veteran, Prosecutor, Judge

Osburn also has more breadth and depth of experience than his competitors. Walsh and Jude have worked in private practice and as county attorney. Richard has been a tribal prosecutor in Oklahoma, an assistant Mille Lacs Band Deputy Solicitor General, a Mille Lacs Band District Court Judge, and a Minnesota Unemployment Judge. He also served his country in the military.

Richard's second priority will be to review the status of all



**Richard is a Native American veteran with a deep understanding of the law and the Native community.**

pending charges. "An overloaded docket is a waste of resources," he said. "We will work to make sure that all pending cases are properly pursued."

His next priority will be to meet with and listen to the concerns of the constituents, whether they be residents or private or public entities. "If I am county attorney, everyone will be treated with equal respect and attentiveness," he said.

In summary, Richard said, "I am qualified to serve as the county attorney based on over 18 years of public service as a prosecutor or a judge. I have spent the last ten years listening to both sides of the argument and making the best decision based on the facts and the law. I do not owe anyone any political favors. If I am county attorney, no one or entity will get special treatment or unfair treatment. I am committed to working with everyone who wants to make a positive change in the county. The voters can vote for more of the same type of behavior we have seen for years or the voters can vote for me and I will work towards making changes that benefit the county and the taxpayers."

## Walsh and Jude — Opponents of Sovereignty

Walsh supported Mille Lacs County's decision to rescind its law enforcement agreement with the Mille Lacs Band. As a result, Mille Lacs Tribal Police officers have been unable to enforce Minnesota law on the reservation.

Although Tribal officers still enforce tribal law and are deputized by the BIA, Walsh and the County Board's decision to rescind the agreement, which had been in place since 1991, has severely hampered the Tribal Police Department's ability to keep Band members safe.

Walsh also attempted to turn other counties against Mille Lacs and other tribal police departments.

Jan Jude was also an opponent of the Band during her long tenure as Mille Lacs County Attorney. She opposed trust land applications and the Band's application for federal law enforcement help under the Tribal Law and Order Act. She repeatedly claimed that the 1855 Reservation had been disestablished.

Jude lost in a primary in 2014 to Walsh and Mark Herzing, and Walsh won the general election in November.

Jude had easily won elections in 2002, 2006, and 2010, but in 2013, Jude was investigated after an underage male nearly died of alcohol poisoning at a drinking party on her property, where she lived with her husband, former Tribal Police Investigator Russ Jude.

The Judes denied knowledge of underage drinking at the site a short distance from their home, although witnesses said dozens of youth were consuming alcohol while she and her husband were socializing with friends.

Underage youth in attendance said they were told by Jude's daughter that Jude was aware of the underage drinking. During the investigation, Jude's daughter said her mother was unaware of the drinking.

Jude was not formerly charged or convicted of any wrongdoing.

# Minzel Brings Her Message to District I Community Picnic

Emy Minzel is running for Minnesota House of Representatives in District 15A, a seat held for 18 of the last 20 years by Sondra Erickson, a long-time vocal opponent of the Mille Lacs Band and its members.

Emy attended the District I community picnic on July 18 to meet Band members and share her message.

Although she is not being challenged in the August 14 primary, she is seeking support in the November 6 general election.

Emy is a wife, mother, writer, and small business owner. She is a native Minnesotan, born on the Iron Range in Virginia, and now lives in Princeton. "I believe in living in service, showing it by living compassionately and volunteering in our community," she said.

Emy says she would bring all sides together to restore Mille Lacs Lake and its regional economy. Her other priorities are health care, education, and the minimum wage. She believes affordable health care should be a right, a strong educational system is crucial to the future, and all jobs should pay a living wage.

She is an animal lover and member of the Sherburne County Wildlife Refuge Advocacy Committee. "I enjoy spending time outdoors, relishing in Minnesota's beautiful lakes, forests, and natural resources," she said. "My husband Jason calls me 'The Queen of the Hydration Nation' because I am so passionate about clean water. I believe that we inherited our beautiful natural resources from our parents and we borrow it from our grandchildren; therefore, we should preserve it so."



**Emy Minzel, left, visited with Band members at the District I community picnic July 18. Emy is unopposed in the August 14 primary but hopes to unseat Sondra Erickson in the November 6 general election.**

Among the issues she highlights:

- Health care for loved ones struggling with addiction, not punishment,
- Stronger background checks for gun purchases (although she has a carry permit and supports the 2nd Amendment),
- Taxpayer dollars to support people, not corporate subsidies and tax breaks,
- Sustainable, renewable energy in Central Minnesota,

- Affordable, reliable internet for rural areas,
- A sustainable agriculture economy that leads us into the next century,
- Unrestricted access to birth control and family planning services
- Expansion of medical cannabis provisions and decriminalize minor offenses for recreational use.

"I seek to live my life in service and represent the greater good of our ENTIRE district, 15A," she concluded. "I truly cherish my community and the families it supports. I take personally the drive for prosperity that we need in central Minnesota. This is my first campaign for public office and I take this opportunity with gratitude, humbleness, and genuine determination to help our district prosper and flourish. For everyone!"

## Sondra Erickson

Sondra fought the U.S. Supreme Court's decision affirming the Band's 1837 Treaty rights, and she has continued to side with groups that oppose tribal netting and spearing. She even fought against the Band's attempt to build its wastewater treatment facility.

She denies the existence of the 1855 Reservation, and she challenges the Band's sovereignty regularly by attempting to insert herself and her followers into the government-to-government meetings between the State and the Bands over treaty management.

Sondra was also criticized by Democrats in the House during the last Legislative session for racist comments about Indians.

# What's on My Primary Election Ballot?

A primary election determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election.

For example, five candidates from one political party might run for governor. Only one candidate can be on the ballot in November. The winner of the August primary election will represent their party on the November election ballot.

There may be two kinds of offices on your primary ballot: partisan offices and nonpartisan offices.

## Partisan offices

Partisan offices will list a political party next to a candidate's name on the ballot. All state and federal offices — such as U.S. representative or Minnesota senator — are partisan offices.

Partisan candidates will be listed in two columns on the front side of the primary ballot. One column will list the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party candidates. The other column will list the Republican Party candidates.

**You can only vote for candidates from one political**

**party. For instance, if you vote for Democrats Walz/Flanagan for Governor/Lieutenant Governor, you must vote for Democratic candidates on the rest of your ballot. If you vote for candidates from both political parties, your vote will not count.**

## Nonpartisan offices

Nonpartisan offices will not list a political party next to a candidate's name on the ballot. For example, county, city, township, and school board offices are nonpartisan. Nonpartisan offices will be listed on the back side of the primary ballot. You can vote for any candidate. The candidates who get the most votes will be on the November general election ballot.

## Your ballot

See below for information about the primary races on your ballot. The "Statewide" box shows races that will be on all ballots. The other boxes show races unique to each district.

## Statewide

### Governor/Lieutenant Governor

Democrats: Walz/Flanagan, Murphy/Quade, Swanson/Nolan, Savior/Edman

Republicans: Kruse/Loeffler, Johnson/Bergstrom, Pawlenty/Fischbach

### Attorney General

Democrats: Keith Ellison, Tom Foley, Matt Pelikan, Mike Rothman

Republicans: Doug Wardlow, Robert Lessard, Sharon Anderson

### U.S. Senate

Democrats: Amy Klobuchar (incumbent), Steve Carlson, Stephen Emery, David Groves, Leonard Richards

Republicans: Roque De La Fuente, Rae Hart Anderson, Jim Newberger, Merrill Anderson

### U.S. Senate Special Election

Democrats: Tina Smith (incumbent), Christopher Seymore, Gregg Iverson, Nick Leonard, Richard Painter, Ali Ali

Republicans: Nikolay Bey, Bob Anderson, Karin Housley

## District II

### County Commissioner District 3 (non-partisan)

Donald Niemi, Todd Johnson, Robert Marcum.

### US Representative District 8

Democrats: Joe Radinovich, Jason Metsa, Soren Sorensen, Kirsten Kennedy, Michelle Lee

Republicans: Harry Welty, Pete Stauber

## District III

### US Representative District 8

Democrats: Joe Radinovich, Jason Metsa, Soren Sorensen, Kirsten Kennedy, Michelle Lee

Republicans: Harry Welty, Pete Stauber

**There are no primaries in other races in Hinckley or Aazhoomog (Lake Lena)**

## Urban Area — Minneapolis

### US Representative District 5 (Minneapolis)

Democrats: Patricia Torres Ray, Frank Drake, Margaret Kelliher, Ilhan Omar, Jamal Abdulahi

Republicans: Bob Carney, Jennifer Zielinski, Christopher Chamberlin

### US Representative District 4 (St. Paul)

Democrats: Betty McCollum (incumbent), Muad Hassan, Reid Rossell

Republicans: Greg Ryan

*There are too many other primaries in the Twin Cities to list for county commissioner, state representative, school board, judge, city council, and other offices, so please go to [myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us](http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us) and type in your zip code and address to view your sample ballot.*

## Voting in Minnesota: Frequently Asked Questions

**Who can vote?** To vote in Minnesota, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence

You can vote while under guardianship unless a judge specifically has revoked your right to vote.

You cannot vote if a court has ruled that you are legally incompetent.

**Can felons vote?** Your criminal record does not affect your right to vote in Minnesota unless you are currently serving a felony conviction sentence, including probation, parole, or supervised release. You can vote after you finish all parts of your sentence, including any probation, parole, or supervised release.

As soon as you finish (once you are 'off-paper'), you can vote. You will need to register to vote. It is best to register before Election Day, but it is not required.

**You can vote if...**

- you were charged with or convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor.
- you are in jail, but are not currently serving a felony sentence.
- you have been charged with a felony, but you haven't been convicted.
- you have been given a stay of adjudication.
- you finished all parts of your felony sentence.

**You cannot vote if...**

- you are currently serving a felony sentence.
- your stay of adjudication was revoked and you are currently serving a felony sentence.

**How do I register?**

1. You can register online or download paper forms at [sos.state.mn.us](http://sos.state.mn.us). You will need your Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota identification card number, or the last four numbers of your Social Security number.
2. You can register or update your registration when you vote, whether that is at your polling place on Election Day or at an early voting location. You will need proof of residence to register. Learn more at [mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us](http://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us).

**How do I vote early or by absentee ballot?** You can vote early at your county courthouse. Many cities and towns, especially in the urban area, also have early voting. You can see a list of early voting locations or request an absentee ballot online at [mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us](http://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us).

**Need help?** Call the Minnesota Secretary of State's office at 1-877-600-VOTE (8683) or contact your county election office.

Aitkin County: 218-927-7354

Mille Lacs County: 320-983-8302

Pine County: 320-591-1670

Hennepin County: 612-348-5151

Ramsey County: 651-266-2171

To view your sample ballot, go to  
[myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us](http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us)!

# Chief Executive Encourages Band Members to Vote August 14

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin addressed the following letter the Band members encouraging them to vote in the Minnesota primary election.

July 27, 2018

Dear Mille Lacs Band Member:

The Primary Election in Minnesota is only a couple of weeks away. On Tuesday, August 14, you will have the opportunity to VOTE in one of the most important primary elections in history. Now, more than ever, we must exercise our right to vote. I encourage each of you to make your own decision about who to vote for — and most importantly, I urge each of you to GET OUT AND VOTE!! If you are undecided, I am writing to make you aware of the candidates supported by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

You may ask yourself, “How does the Mille Lacs Band determine if a candidate is supported?” The answer is simple: If a candidate supports our treaty rights, our sovereignty, and our government-to-government relationships, the Mille Lacs Band will support them. Our voice and our vote can make positive change in our local, state and federal government!

A couple of federal candidates who will be on the August 14 ballot and have the support of the Mille Lacs Band are Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith. Amy understands our issues and meets with tribal leaders on a regular basis. Tina made a visit to us during our annual pow wow, addressed the crowd, and visited with members of the community.

Below are the important Primary Election Day candidates (✓ = supported candidate):

## Mille Lacs County Attorney

✓ Judge Richard Osburn  
Jan Jude  
Joe Walsh

## Minnesota Governor and Lieutenant Governor

✓ Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan (DFL)  
Erin Murphy and Erin Maye-Quade (DFL)  
Lori Swanson and Rick Nolan (DFL)  
Tim Holden and Ole Saviar (DFL)  
Tim Pawlenty and Michelle Fischbach (R)  
Jeff Johnson and Matt Kruse (R)

## Minnesota Attorney General

✓ Keith Ellison (DFL)  
Tom Foley (DFL)  
Debra Hillstrom (DFL)  
Matt Pelikan (DFL)  
Mike Rothman (DFL)  
Sharon Anderson (R)  
Robert Lessard (R)  
Doug Wardlow (R)

## Eighth U.S. Congressional District (Includes: Reservation Districts I, II and III)

Kirsten Kennedy (DFL)  
Michelle Lee (DFL)  
Jason Metsa (DFL)  
✓ Joe Radinovich (DFL)  
Soren Sorensen (DFL)  
Pete Stauber (R)  
Harry Welty (R)  
Ray Skip Sandman (I)

## Fifth U.S. Congressional District (Minneapolis Band members live in this district.)

✓ Patricia Torres Ray (DFL)  
Jamal Abdulahi (DFL)  
Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL)  
Frank Nelson Drake (DFL)  
Ilhan Omar (DFL)  
Bob Carney Jr. (R)  
Christopher Chamberlin (R)  
Jennifer Zielinski (R)

## How to vote on or before Primary Election Day — August 14

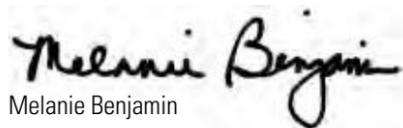
Election day, in person: To vote in person on August 14, find your polling location at [mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us](http://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us) and search for “polling place.” The site will prompt you to fill in a portion of your address. If you’re not registered, bring a photo ID with your current address.

**Vote early (absentee):** You may also vote every weekday by absentee ballot on or before August 13. Just visit [mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us](http://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us) and search for “absentee voting” to get instructions based on where you live. If you have questions or need to schedule a ride to VOTE early via absentee ballot, please call Jamie Edwards at 612-850-2124, Katie Draper at 320-515-0846, or Shena Matrious at 320-279-3132 (Government Affairs) for more information.

There will be rides to the polls leading up to Election Day, Election Day activities, and other information shared through social media, *Inaajimowin*, and other communication channels to inform you about Primary Election Day.

Please vote, and encourage your friends and family members to vote.

Miigwech,



Melanie Benjamin  
Chief Executive

## Primary from page 1

Current County Attorney Joe Walsh supported the Mille Lacs County Board's decision to rescind its law enforcement agreement with the Band. He has continued to oppose a new agreement while also attempting to prevent other counties and tribal agencies from working with Mille Lacs Tribal Police.

Former County Attorney Jan Jude was also an opponent of tribal interests. She repeatedly argued that the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation had been disestablished, and she opposed trust applications as well as the Band's application for federal law enforcement help under the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA).

The valuable assistance from the BIA drug enforcement division under TLOA has taken many drug dealers off the streets and deterred countless others from endangering Band members' lives.

**Minnesota Attorney General:** The Band has endorsed Keith Ellison for Minnesota Attorney General (see sidebar). Ellison decided to leave his seat as 5th District U.S. Representative to run for Attorney General. The other Democrats in the race are Tom Foley, Debra Hillstrom, Mike Rothman, and Matt Pelikan, who was endorsed by the state DFL. On the Republican side, the candidates are Sharon Anderson, Robert Lessard, and Doug Wardlow.

**Eighth U.S. Congressional District:** This one-time Democratic stronghold has grown more conservative in recent years, with Republican Chip Cravaack defeating Jim Oberstar in 2010 and Republican Stewart Mills the Third nearly defeating Democrat Rick Nolan (who beat Cravaack in 2012) in 2014 and 2016. With Nolan retiring, five Democrats, two Republicans, and Independence Party candidate Ray Skip Sandman are hoping to replace him. The Democrats in the race are Kirsten Kennedy, Michelle Lee, Jason Metsa, Joe Radinovich, and Soren Sorensen. The Republicans are Pete Stauber and Harry Welty.

**Fifth U.S. Congressional District:** Keith Ellison's decision to run for Attorney General threw open the race for his seat representing Minneapolis in the U.S. House of Representatives. Six Democrats and three Republicans are seeking to represent their parties in the general election November 6. The Mille Lacs Band has endorsed Patricia Torres-Ray in this race.

## Band endorses Keith Ellison for Attorney General

The Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe hereby endorses Keith Ellison for Attorney General of Minnesota. As a sovereign tribal nation, the Mille Lacs Band supports local, state, and federally elected leaders who believe in respectful government-to-government relations between tribes and honor the inherent rights of tribal self-governance and tribal self-determination. Keith has been a leader on social justice issues and understands the importance of respecting the reserved rights of American Indian tribes negotiated via treaty and is an advocate for policies that ensure the health and well being of Indigenous peoples and all others. Through the leadership of Keith Ellison, the Mille Lacs Band looks forward to a continued commitment of addressing racial disparities and efforts to improve the health and well-being of our communities.

# FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL

**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE TRADITIONAL POWWOW**

**AUGUST 17, 18, & 19, 2018**

**ISKIGAMIZIGAN**  
Est. 1966

**MC**  
**Mike Sullivan** LCO

**Co-MC**  
**Bradley Harrington Jr.** MLB

**Host Drum**  
**Pipestone** LCO

**Invited Drums**  
**Battle River** Red Lake  
**Stonebridge** Grand Portage

**Arena Directors**  
**Troy Sam** MLB  
**Dino Downwind** MLB

**Specials**  
**Womens Old Style Jingle Dress**  
**Men Woodlands**  
**3 on 3 Basketball Tournament**  
**Moccasin Tournament**  
**Horse Shoe Tournament**  
**Funrun** Hosted by the Mille Lacs Indian Museum

**Royalty**  
**Sr. Princess**  
**Jr. Princess**  
**Sr. Brave**  
**Jr. Brave**

**Grand Entries**  
**Friday - 7 p.m.**  
**Saturday - 1 & 7 p.m.**  
**Sunday - 1 p.m.**

**Food & Craft Vendors Contact:**  
**SPUD GAHBOW: 320-362-4935**

**Website "Coming Soon"**  
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**ISKIGAMIZIGAN Powwow Grounds**  
WEST SIDE OF LAKE MILLE LACS  
12 MILES NORTH OF ONAMIA, MN.  
ON HWY 169, FOLLOW SIGNS!

## Teen Pregnancy Program Completes Live It! Curriculum Implementation

The Mille Lacs Band HHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program has successfully completed the implementation of the Live It! curriculum at Nay Ah Shing, Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy, and Pine Grove Leadership Academy for the 2017–18 school year.

Taught by Health Educator Mikayla Schaaf, and organized/taught by Maternal and Child Health Coordinator Sarah Andersen, Live It! offers culturally specific sexuality education for American Indian youth and their families. The curriculum was created by the Division of Indian Work using community guidance and has the unique ability to be modified to fit traditions of all tribes.

The program is designed to teach youth ages 11 and up about sexuality, using conversations and activities that help make talking with parents or other adults easier.

"We are making strides in improving both community and clinical efforts to promote sexual education, safety, positive self-image, and healthy relationships to our youth," said Sarah.

The pre- and post-test scores have shown a significant increase in knowledge pertaining to sexual health, self-respect, and cultural teachings around mental, spiritual, physical, and emotional health. One student responded "Live It! taught me about self-respect."

The program closed out the year with a grand prize drawing for those students who participated in the curriculum. "I appreciate all the support from the school staff, community, parents, HHS, and clinic staff," said Sarah. "I look forward to seeing this program expand and develop in the future."

## New Ojibwe Children's Show

Ojibwemotaadidaa! is a children's show highlighting Ojibwemowin and Anishinaabe culture. Go on an adventure with the Waasabiik Ojibwemotaadiwin Immersion Program in Red Lake, meet artist Jonathan Thunder, and visit kids from the Leech Lake Head Start, and Cass Lake Elementary.

This program is made possible by the Minnesota Legacy Amendment and members of Lakeland PBS.

For more information, see [lptv.org/category/local-shows/ojibwemotaadidaa/](http://lptv.org/category/local-shows/ojibwemotaadidaa/)

## Mille Lacs Band Graduates Invited to Luncheon August 6 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs

To honor high school graduates and those who have earned a certificate, diploma or degree, the Mille Lacs Band Higher Education Division is pleased to invite students to a luncheon August 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Grand Casino Mille Lacs Event Center.

The keynote speaker will be Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, with the invocation by Elder Dorothy Sam. Timber Trails will provide the Drum and Honor Song.

Please share this event with graduates you know.

RSVP at the MLB Higher Education Division Facebook page or by calling 1-800-709-6445, ext. 4775.

## Baby Moccasin Class for Young Mothers

Young mothers learned moccasin-making skills July 18 at the new Government Affairs building in Wahkon.

The class was sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Program and made possible with help from the Wraparound program, ClearWay, the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), Trisha Moose, and Carol Hernandez

MCH Coordinator Sarah Andersen welcomed young mothers and other friends with food, drinks, and moccasin kits.

Clarissa Wilson and her daughter Braylynn, Anna Pflapsen, Rachel Boyd-Vogt, Trisha, Carol, and Sarah enjoyed their day together and went home with new moccasins — and new moccasin-making skills.



# Band Conducts First Telemetry Study of Mille Lacs Walleye

While many factors likely impeding the success of Lake Mille Lacs walleye are known, such as increasing water clarity and temperature and the rise of aquatic invasive species like spiny water flea and zebra mussels, there are yet-unknown factors that may increase the mortality of juvenile walleye between their first and second winters.

Using sophisticated underwater listening equipment and fish-implanted tags, the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources is about to launch a first-of-its-kind telemetry study on Mille Lacs Lake to gain valuable data they hope will unlock the mystery of why so many of the lake's young walleye are dying.

## Testing a hypothesis

According to Carl Klimah, fisheries biologist for the Band's DNR, walleye are cold-water fish that like a water temperature of around 68 degrees Fahrenheit for optimal growth and survival.

"As water temperature increases, the optimal thermal habitat becomes more constrained, forcing more walleye into a smaller area," Klimah said. "One hypothesis we will test with this study is whether the environmental conditions of the lake are bringing adult and juvenile walleye into closer proximity, potentially leading to higher predation of juvenile walleye by adult walleye."

To test the hypothesis, Mille Lacs Band DNR is conducting the telemetry study in partnership with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). The study is made possible by a \$199,075 grant to the Mille Lacs Band from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. GLIFWC, the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe, and USFWS are collaborators on the grant.

## Telemetry study

A telemetry study uses fixed location receivers in the lake to listen for signals from tags implanted in fish. To conduct this study, the Band will install 61 receivers in a grid pattern spaced approximately 3,000 meters apart throughout the lake. Based on previous, published research experience, the study team expects the Mille Lacs Lake receivers to register a tagged fish approximately every 30 minutes.

The study will include 70 juvenile walleye from 8–10 inches and 70 adult walleye from 18–26 inches long. Researchers will capture these fish, implant transmitter tags in their bellies, observe them to make sure they are healthy, and return them to the lake for study. The adult fish will be tagged and released into Mille Lacs Lake in July. This fall, 35 juvenile walleye will



**Above: George Big Bear of the Mille Lacs Band Fisheries Department showed kids how the tracking devices are inserted.**

**Right: Dr. Aaron Schultz (right) and intern Brandon Johnson of GLIFWC inserted tracking devices in walleyes as part of the Mille Lacs Band's groundbreaking new study on Mille Lacs.**



be tagged and released, and another 35 juveniles will be tagged next spring.

Receivers will immediately begin to log data whenever tagged fish are within range. The tags will transmit a unique identifier for each fish, as well as data about water temperature and water pressure to help biologists track the depth of the fish and their movements around the lake.

"As biologists, we develop a lot of scientific hypotheses about what is happening in the lake, but it is really exciting to deploy this type of technology to gather rich data about walleye movement and behavior in Mille Lacs to ultimately uncover meaningful insights," said Dr. Aaron Shultz, inland fisheries climate change biologist for GLIFWC. "We hope that this data can inform future management and conservation plans for Mille Lacs Lake."

This telemetry study is planned to through next spring. Juvenile walleye will be tracked for one year due to limited battery life of the tags used on smaller fish. The adult tags may

last for 3 or more years, providing ongoing opportunity to learn from the activity of the fish. If future telemetry tagging studies are conducted in subsequent years, the data will continue to build a more complete picture of fish movement over time.

"I think it's important for people to understand that the mystery of juvenile walleye mortality is solvable. First, we will figure out what is happening, and then we will figure out what can be done about it," Klimah said.

Researchers from the Mille Lacs Band and GLIFWC will compile data into a findings report at the conclusion of the study period.

The Mille Lacs Band hopes to continue to use this technology after conclusion of the grant study. The Band also may explore collaborations with other managing agencies.

# Family Fun at District I Community Picnic

District I Representative Sandi Blake remembers the school picnics of her childhood with old-fashioned egg tosses and greased pigs.

The games may have changed, but the fun, friendship, and food were timeless at the District I community picnic July 18 at the powwow grounds.

Kids (and grownups) played on inflatables, adults visited with old friends, and politicians shook hands and talked with voters.



# Brawn, Brains, Beauty, and Determination

*Minneapolis Band member Jenesis Fonder is working hard to succeed in lifting and life.*

**Toya Stewart Downey** Mille Lacs Band Member

In October, Jenesis Fonder will take center stage in a national powerlifting competition where it's very likely she will be the only Native American woman to participate.

Jenesis, a 20-year-old Band member, is excited to show her competitors, and others, that powerlifting is a sport that attracts people of different backgrounds, different ages, and different cultures.

"There are not many Indigenous people who are into powerlifting," said Jenesis, whose mom is Mille Lacs Band member Rina Reese Fonder. "There are not many big names in the sport, and it's mostly dominated by white males. I hope to change that."

When she goes to the 2018 USA Powerlifting Raw Nationals in Spokane, Washington, Jenesis will have the opportunity to show off her hard work and her passion for the growing sport of power lifting at the annual event.

The competition spotlights the top power lifters in the country as they seek to be selected for international-level teams and events. Over the past three years, more than 1,000 athletes have participated in the Raw National event.

## Getting started

Jenesis has come a long way in her goal to become a renowned athlete in a sport that used to be considered a hobby just a few decades ago.

She grew up in south Minneapolis and saw her dad, Bud Fonder, work out every day and participate in the three local meets held in the Twin Cities. Back then, powerlifting wasn't considered a career or a sport where people could earn money — a change that has been realized as its popularity has grown.

Determined that she wanted to take on powerlifting, Jenesis started working out with her dad when she was 12 years old. "It was all for fun back then, and I didn't do too much other than lifting."

While she was in middle school, Jenesis decided that powerlifting made her too strong and her physique too boyish, so she gave it up. She wanted to conform to what she thought a girl's body should look like — not too strong, but "slender and shapely."

She took up other sports — volleyball and softball — and gave up on powerlifting. However, when she was 15, Jenesis decided to recommit to her passion and took up the sport again. This time it stuck, and she set goals she wanted to achieve.

Though she continued to play volleyball until she graduated from South High in 2016, she also started working out four days a week along with participating on her school's track team as a sprinter and pole-vaulter. Though she ran and did cardio workouts, she still worried about her weight.

"It's hard to get strong when you're trying to be thin," said Jenesis. "I gained weight from the muscle mass."

But that didn't deter her, and as a high schooler she earned second place in a powerlifting meet. Since then she's done six meets, but won't do more than two per year.

Jenesis recently hired a personal trainer to help her advance in her powerlifting career. She has a regimented diet to help with her program and focuses on meal preparation to help keep her on track — even when she's busy.

To prepare for the Raw competition, she trains six times a week for 90 minutes to 2 ½ hours. She's also spending the summer working with youth through the city's park and recreation program — a job she loves.

"I want to qualify for the national meet and plan to get good experience from Raw," she said. "I have numbers that I want to get in my lifetime, and that's my own goal. I could break a record, but someone else can come behind me and break it. So I focus on the numbers I want to get."



**Jenesis Fonder is one of a small number of Native power lifters.**

Jenesis, who can lift 333 kilograms — 732 pounds — is more than a dedicated athlete, she's also a dedicated student.

## Student life

In the fall, Jenesis begins her junior year at Carleton College in Northfield, but will be able to finish all of her required credits to complete college in three years.

Not an easy feat, but the young lady who has paid her own college tuition out of pocket isn't looking for easy.

Instead, she's looking towards her future and the goals she wants to accomplish. Jenesis is majoring in political science and is anxious to finish college and move on to the next thing.

"I want to study tribal policy and the intersection between tribal and federal governments," she said. "I take every class I can that has a native perspective, but there aren't that many at Carleton."

In the meantime, Jenesis is involved with language preservation, working with other students on a Dakota language linguistics book.

## Next steps

Jenesis, who is a stellar scholar, is ready to advance toward whatever is next.

One day she hopes to use what she's learning to give back to her community, "especially since we've lost footing with this current president," she added.

While she's not sure if she will go to law school or pursue a master's degree in one of her interests, such as tribal governance, sovereignty, and the Supreme Court, she knows that higher education beyond her undergraduate degree will happen.

She'll also keep pursuing physical fitness, possibly by owning a gym someday.

For now, she'll finish up a college, continue to spend time with her family and friends, and train for the upcoming powerlifting event.

"I want little girls to look up to me and know that they can make it happen," Jenesis said.

## August Events at Mille Lacs Indian Museum

**58th Birthday Celebration** Saturday, August 4, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Help celebrate the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post's 58th birthday! Explore the exhibits, including the popular Four Seasons Room with life-size dioramas, then head next door to shop for American Indian arts and crafts at the Trading Post. Refreshments will be provided. Cost: Included with \$6-10 museum admission. MNHS members free.

**Kid Crafts: Bead a Ring**, Saturday, August 4, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Learn a basic stringing technique while beading a ring to take home. Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Cost: \$3/kit, museum admission not included.

**Annual Fun Run**, Sunday, August 19, 9–10:30 a.m. Head to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's 52nd Annual Powwow to join the Mille Lacs Indian Museum's annual one-mile Fun Run. Run or walk a mile across the powwow grounds to claim a free t-shirt. Registration begins at 9 am on the powwow grounds. Cost: Free!

**Open House**, Sunday, August 19, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Explore the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post during the annual open house when the historic site is open for special Sunday hours and offers free admission. Visit the exhibits, including the popular Four Seasons Room with life-size dioramas then head next door to shop for American Indian arts and crafts at the Trading Post. Cost: Free!

**Woodland Pottery 2-Day Workshop**, Saturday, August 25, and Sunday, August 26. On Saturday, learn how to dig clay, harvest the tempering agents, and construct a clay vessel. On Sunday, after allowing pots to dry overnight, finish the surface details and temper the clay vessel in a firing pit. A light lunch will be provided on Sunday only.

The workshop runs Saturday from noon–4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cost: \$75/ MNHS and Mille Lacs Band members save 20 percent. Registration is required three days prior to workshop. A minimum of five participants is required to host the workshop. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounted hotel rooms are available for workshop participants on Saturday night at Grand Casino Mille Lacs with 10 days' advance registration.

*For more information on these events, call 320-532-3632 or email [millelacs@mnhs.org](mailto:millelacs@mnhs.org).*

## 2018 Tribal Opioid Summit

The Fond du Lac Band will host the 2018 Tribal Opioid Summit August 8–9 at Black Bear Casino Resort. The summit runs from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. on August 8 and from 9 a.m.–noon on August 9. Participant registration is \$75 and vendor booths are \$100. To register, email [opioidsummitinfo@fdlrez.com](mailto:opioidsummitinfo@fdlrez.com). For hotel reservations contact Black Bear Casino Resort Hotel at 1-888-771-0777. Rooms are blocked under "Opioid Summit" for \$65.

## Interested in submitting to *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to [brett.larson@millelacsband.com](mailto:brett.larson@millelacsband.com) or call 320-237-6851. *The September issue deadline is August 15.*

# Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin — Learn the Ojibwe Language

By the late Miskwaanakwad (Melvin Eagle). Reprinted from *Living Our Language: Ojibwe Tales & Oral Histories, A Bilingual Anthology* Edited by Anton Treuer.

## Zhimaaganish Ezhinikaazod

Bezhiig oshki-gwiizens gaa-wiijiwag apane — niwii-jii'idiimin sa go, ingikinoo'amaagoomin gaye. Aabiding imaa naaniibawiyaang jiiigikana, haa imbaapi'idimin, gaagiigidooyaang imaa imbaapi'idimin. Aanish bimosed a'aw Zhimaaganish gii-izhinikaazod a'aw akiwenzii, haa sa naa miinawaa imbaapi'idimin maanoo ji-ikidooyaang. Wa, bimosed a'aw akiwenzii, wa gwashkibagizo imaa gaa-waabamiyangid. Zaka'onan, miish iniw dekonang gaye. Ezhi-waabamiyangid i'iw, ingii-inenimigoonaan gii-paapi'angid. "Aaniin dash wenji-baapiyeg," indigoonaan a'aw akiwenzii. Waa-ayiiizhi-no'wiyangid i'iw, ingii-segizimin sa go. Gaawiin ingii-inaasiin a'aw akiwenzii i'iw apane gaa-inaabamiyangid i'iw, gaa-pi-izhi-maajii-apa'iweyaan daa-awi-giiweyaan. Gaawiish. Wiindamawagaa indedeban nimaamaam eyaawaad, "Wiin a'aw akiwenzii, niinawind a'aw Biindige-gaabaw ingaagiigidomin jiiigikana. Imbaapi'idimin miinawaa bimosed a'aw Zhimaaganish, a'aw ingii-inenimigoonaan ji-baapi'angid, gii-ikido. Gaawin gidaa-baapi'aasiig gichi-aya'aag; mii gaa-inendamaan i'iw. Miish, ingii-nishki'igoonaan a'aw akiwenzii. Miish miinawaa waabamiyangid mitigong." "Gaawiin dash," wiindamawid nimaamaam. "Ambe wewiib, wewiib asemaan iwidi awi-miizh a'aw akiwenzii wiindamawad gii-paapi'aasiwad. Wewiib igo. Maajaan igo. Wii-piiskaayan igo dash, maajaan igo endaad igo. Biindigen," gii-ikido.

Naa miinawaa-sh biindigeyaan wii-paabaagoo'igekeyaan biindigeyaan igo jiishkimag namadabid a'aw akiwenzii. Wa,

apane ge-inaabamid a'aw, o'ow debaabandang ozaka'on. Aan wiidamawag, "Hey Zhimaaganish. Gaawiin gibaapi'igoosiin iwidi. Miinawaa ingii-paapi'idimin." Imaa go miinind asemaan a'aw, "Gaawiin ji-maanenimigooyaan igo gibaapi'isinoon i'iw." Wa, mii a'aw akiwenzii gii-paapid gaye. "Ho, ho, ho, ho, noozis. Weweni, weweni gaye weweni wii-pi-izhichigeyan," ikido. "Gaawiin gigikenismisinoon. Weweni giinawaa gii-paapim, indinendam," gii-ikido a'aw akiwenzii. Mii bijiinag gii-minwendamaan gii-ani-giiweyaan. Wa, naa imbaabaapi'aa miinawaa nagamoyaan ani-maajaayaan. Mii go bijiinag gii-minag asemaan. Gaye go, miish imaa gii-wiindamawid a'aw indedeban miinawaa nimaamaaban, "Gego wiikaa aapiji gaye ingoji niibawiyan baapi'aaken ingiw akiwenziiyag miinawaa mindimooyenyag," gii-ikido. "Gichi-apiitenimad gichi-aya'aa," gii-ikido. "Gaye ingoding igo gigaganawenimigoog gichi-aya'aag. Gegoo giga-ganawenimigoog," ingii-ig. Miish i'iw gaa-izhi-debwewaad.

## The One Called Zhimaaganish

There was one young boy whom I accompanied all the time — we were always together, and we went to school together too. One time we were standing around near the road, laughing with one another, as we were talking and laughing together there. Well that elder man named Zhimaaganish came walking by, and we were laughing together, letting ourselves say whatever [came to mind]. Wa, as that old man was walking, he turned around just startled there when he saw us. And he was holding onto those canes too. As he saw us, he thought we were laughing at him. "So why are you guys laughing," that old man says to us. As he pointed at us with [his cane], we were scared. I didn't tell that old man anything as he

just stared at us the whole time, so we started to run away to go home. But no. I told my father and mother where they were, "That old man, Biindige-gaabaw and I were talking by the road. We were laughing together and that Zhimaaganish walked by. He thought we were laughing at him, he said. You shouldn't laugh at elders; that's what I was thinking. Then that old man got mad at us. Then he saw us again by the tree." "Oh no," my mom tells me. "Come quick, hurry up, go over and give that old man tobacco telling him you were not laughing at him. Hurry up. Go on. As fast as you can, go over to his house. Go inside," she says.

And so I went inside, wanting to be as timid as possible. As I entered I nudged that old man where he was sitting. Boy, he just stared at me, and kept an eye on his cane. So I told him, "Hey Zhimaaganish. You weren't being laughed at over there. We were just laughing at one another again." He was given tobacco then, "So I won't be thought of in a bad way because I wasn't laughing at you." Boy, then that old man laughed too. "Ho, ho, ho, ho, grandson. It's good, in a good way that you come to do this," he said. "I don't know you. But I think you guys were laughing in a good way," that old man said. So for the first time again I was happy when I prepared to go home. Golly, I laughed [with] him and I was singing again as I left. That was the first time I gave him tobacco. Then my father told me, and my mother too, "Never ever laugh at those old men and old women when you're standing around someplace," he says. "Hold the elder in high regard," he said. "One time the elders are going to watch over you. They'll take care of you in various endeavors," he told me. And they spoke the truth.

*Material in brackets was added by the translator for clarity.*

# Nay Ah Shing Summer School Has Something for Everyone

School is normally the last place children want to be once summer rolls around. But with all the fun learning activities offered at Nay Ah Shing schools, District I kids are happy to put off vacation for an extra month.

At this year's summer school in June, Megan Nelson and Danielle Borchert taught the cooking class, where kids learned to make French toast, banana bread, macaroni and cheese, scones, and other delicious dishes. Brittany Wold and Suzanne Terry taught a "fun science" class with units on dinosaurs, space, and the ocean. Bugs Haskin and Noel Kegg taught the Adventure Club, where kids made bouncy balls, hunted fossils, went on a safari, called dinosaurs, and searched for "Liver Eye."

Gregg Rutter's STEAM lab students made paint from plants, built a "bubble bot," worked with magnets and microscopes, and learned about robotics, circuits, and coding. The students in Jeannie Gross's art room also learned about circuits and the relationship between art and engineering.

On the last day of summer school, June 28, Blenda Hagberg and Sandi Jellum's theater students performed for parents, friends, and community members, who were also invited to come for lunch. The younger kids performed nursery rhymes, including some in Ojibwe, and the older kids put on a stage version of *Where the Wild Things Are* — and a wild rumpus it was!



# Cheyenne Peet — A Warrior Fighting an Invisible Enemy

Story and Photo by Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin) Mille Lacs Band Member

Cheyenne Peet is a District II Band member who works for the Niigaan Youth Program in Minisinaakwaang. She has been a miraculous and inspiring community member who courageously shares her joy for living with tribal youth. Now Cheyenne has decided to share her heartwarming story with the larger community through this article.

"The disorder that I have is called myasthenia gravis," said Cheyenne.

Cheyenne began experiencing strange neurological symptoms in July of 2009 at 19 years old.

"My first symptom was when I was trying to eat," she said. "Normally you are able to move food around in your mouth with your tongue, but I couldn't get the food from the sides of my mouth. The food was getting stuck in my cheek, and it felt weird. I knew something was wrong, and it started happening more often, which became scary."

It wasn't until February 2010 that Cheyenne was fully diagnosed. "Over the next six months it started to get worse, and it got difficult to do simple things. My hand would drop forks,

**"I have stopped judging and opened my heart to empathy, realizing that people don't always know how to deal with their own emotions. It has helped me be able to work far better with people."**

— Cheyenne Peet

and I went through so many doctors. I couldn't swallow or spit, and I would sleep with my eyes open because my eyelids wouldn't shut." By the point that she was fully diagnosed, she was gravely ill in the intensive care unit, wondering what was causing her rapid decline of health, and fearful for her future.

Cheyenne is now 28 years old and has come a long way physically and especially emotionally and spiritually thanks to her unique diagnosis. She has taken amazing strides to not just survive but thrive.

"So basically, my immune system is creating antibodies that

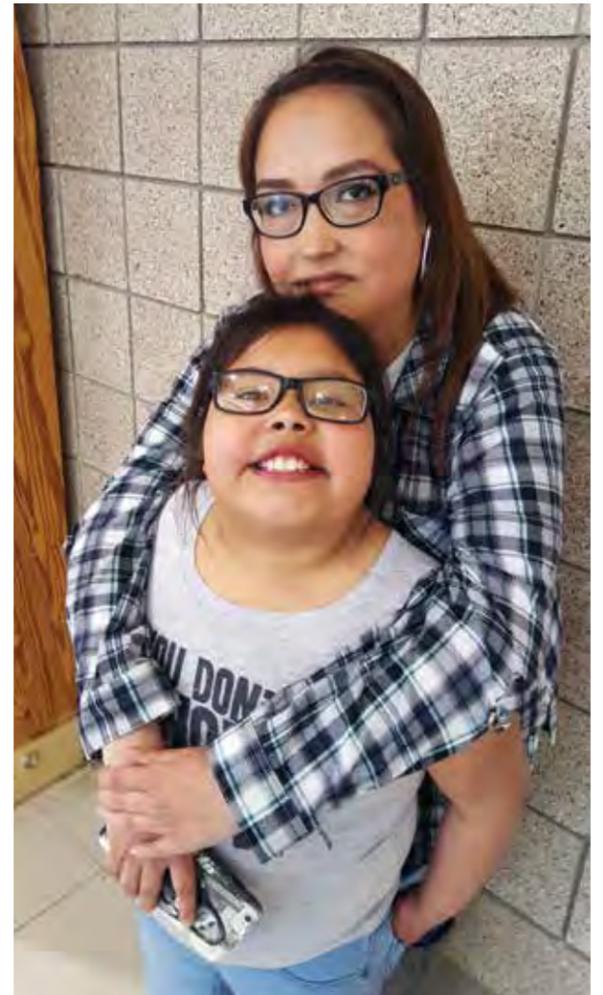
are blocking the nerve receptors that go from my brain to my muscles," Cheyenne said. "Myasthenia gravis is an autoimmune disease. My speech gets slurred, chewing sometimes is difficult, my lips even fatigue, swallowing becomes an extremely hard task, my eyes get droopy, it's hard to hold my head up, and even smiling is hard. When it's really bad, it'll get to my arms and legs, and little things like doing the dishes, which would be normal activity for other people, will cause me to have to sit down and rest."

Although much of this sounds taxing and hard, Cheyenne doesn't see it that way. "Some people are in wheelchairs with what I have. It's called a snowflake disease because everyone is different. The voluntary muscles are what gets really bad for me, but when it gets really bad the scariest thing is when my involuntary system is involved and my breathing becomes affected."

Cheyenne has chosen to look at the bright points of her illness and remain thankful and grateful throughout its ups and downs. "It's taught me to appreciate EVERYTHING. I appreciate being able to go to the bathroom and being able to shower. It caused me to be happy and not question things anymore. It taught me to remember that I don't know what everyone else is going through. I don't always look sick, but inside I can feel miserable. When I do try and help people and they have a bad attitude, I have stopped judging and opened my heart to empathy, realizing that people don't always know how to deal with their own emotions. It has helped me be able to work far better with people," Cheyenne said.

"For a long time I would think about the worst things and that I wouldn't make it and who would take care of my daughter, but I just had to accept it. I couldn't let it determine everything that I do, but I had to allow it to be only a part of what I do. It took a whole lot of mental hard work to be okay with it. It was rough for a while, but once my mindset changed, my doctor said that my bloodwork is the best that he has seen it in three years!"

Cheyenne's daughter Shay has become a source of healing and inspiration throughout her journey. There is no cure, because it's so different for everyone. There are only treatments that help provide quality of life in living with its effects. Cheyenne began to worry about how she would care for her young daughter, and whether she would be able to deliver an acceptable quality of life for her because of her diagnosis. "At first I felt terrible because I wasn't able to read to her because I couldn't finish the books when my mouth would get tired. She helped me realize that I was looking at it the wrong way. Instead of thinking that I was doing this horrible thing to her and



Cheyenne and her daughter Shay are partners in the fight against myasthenia gravis.

giving her this awful life, she will see that and know that you can get through the hard stuff. I would think about how I would want her to handle it and so I started handling it that way, with pride and strength," Cheyenne proclaimed. "I'm hoping that she learns strength and sees me as strong and that this isn't something that stopped me from living my life. If she can see me overcoming this hard thing, then that's what she will do with anything that comes into her life as well."

Cheyenne had this beautiful ending to share: "I hope that people realize that you really can get through anything but that it takes hard work. There was a time where I cried every single day, but now I love my life. Yeah, I wish it was different, but now I realize how much I learned and what it's taught me about life."

"I want people to know that there's always light no matter how dark it is."

## Corporate Ventures Hosts Family Golf Outing August 12

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is currently accepting registration for its fifth annual family golf outing.

This 9-hole scramble will take place on Sunday, August 12 with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. at the Grand National Golf Club in Hinckley.

Registration is free and is limited to the first 36 teams. Teams must be comprised of two adults and two youth players. Youth players are considered those 17 years of age and under.

Prizes include games, cash, and beanies.

To register your team, please contact Beth Gruber at 320-532-8810 or bgruber@mlcv.com.



## Nay Ah Shing Staff Earn First Aid Certification

Nay Ah Shing School staff completed their First Aid and CPR/AED class last month. All staff of the lower and upper schools completed the courses during the year to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students, staff, and visitors.

## National Night Out

Join the community and law enforcement for National Night Out in the Eddy's parking lot on Tuesday August 7, from 5–8 p.m. This free event includes inflatables for kids, a DJ, hotdogs, and refreshments. Bring your own lawn chairs.

Visit with friends from the Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department, Mille Lacs Tribal DNR, Mille Lacs Area Partners in Prevention, Tribal Government Affairs, Onamia Police Department, the Onamia Fire Department, the Mille Lacs Band Wildland Fire Fighters, Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Department, Niigaan, and more.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## Happy August Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

James Monroe Ballinger  
Diane Marie Barstow  
Barbara Jo Bearheart  
Frances Jean Benjamin  
Wendy May Benjamin  
Clarence Roy Boyd  
Clayton Jay Boyd  
Debra Elaine Brooks  
Marlys Louise Bushey  
Myrna Joy Ceballos  
Karen Marie Clark  
John Dewey Colsrud  
Geraldine DeFoe  
Shelly Arnell Diaz  
Edward Ernest Dunkley  
Roxanne Julie Emery  
Gary Dean Frye  
Dorinda Fay Garbow  
JoAnne Sue Garbow  
Samuel Garbow  
Diana Guizar  
Rosalie Noreen Hallaway  
Mary Jean Harpster  
Bradley Harrington  
Robert Martin Houle  
George Ben Jackson  
Patricia Clarise Jones  
William Allen Jones  
Doris Kegg  
Joseph Franklin Knudtson  
Carol Elizabeth Kornkven

Andy Mitchell  
Lynda Lou Mitchell  
Robert James Mitchell  
Gerry Warden Mortenson  
Delia Ann Nayquonabe  
Duane James Pawlitschek  
Denise Mavis Pike  
Margaret Rose Premo  
Linda Christine Quaderer  
Bruce Anthony Ray  
Terry Lee Ray  
Sharon Marie Rogers  
Bradley Thomas Sam  
Kimberly Ann Sam  
Alexander Laverne Schaaf  
Theresa Joy Schaaf  
William David Schaaf  
David Duane Shaugobay  
Janice Marie Shaugobay  
Daniel John Staples  
Connie Jean Taylor  
Janice Louise Taylor  
James Martin Thomas  
Richard Henry Thomas  
Sylvester W Thomas  
Barbara Ellen Toth  
John Wayne Towle  
Michael Laverne Wade  
Alrick George Wadena  
Carmen Denise Weous  
Donna Jean Wind  
Eloise Betsy Wind  
Franklin John Woyak

## Happy August Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Heather Provo**. We love you and hope you have an awesome day. • Happy birthday **Peter Gahbow** from your brothers and sisters and the rest of the family. We love you and miss you every day. • Happy 1st birthday **Isaiah Boyd** 8/19. We love you, Papa and Gram and all the kids. • Happy birthday **PJ** 8/5, love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **Sharon** 8/6, love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **Mom and Dad** 8/15, love Val. • Happy birthday **Gram Kim and Papa Brad** 8/15, love Pie and Kev. • Happy birthday **Jay** 8/16, love your brothers and sistys. • Happy birthday **Gabbi** 8/20, love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **Mickey** 8/20, love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **Grandma Caryn** 8/25, love from your granddaughter Leighnah. • Happy birthday **Great Grandma Lynda** 8/30, love from your great granddaughter Leighnah. • Happy birthday **Jaylene Rose White** 8/10, from your mama Barbara Jo. • Happy birthday **Naomi Ann Cardenas** 8/25, from Auntie Barb. • Happy

1st Birthday **Terrence II "Baby T."** Lots of love, Mom, Dad, Ella & Kitty Callie.

## Other Announcements:

**Summer Food Program:** Nay Ah Shing Middle/ High School will serve free breakfast and lunch to all kids 18 and under Monday–Friday through August 16. Breakfast 8–9 a.m., lunch 11 a.m.–noon. Busing for children ages 5–18 provided by Nay Ah Shing and Niigaan. Call 320-532-4690 to register your child(ren) for the bus.

## Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to [brett.larson@millelacsband.com](mailto:brett.larson@millelacsband.com) or call 320-237-6851. *The deadline for the September issue is August 15.*



Monte Fronk and Sarah Andersen helped Band members learn proper car seat installation at the District I bus garage July 17. The next car seat clinic will be in District III at the Early Ed building August 30 during their open house. If you are in need of a car seat, contact Tribal Police at 532-3430 and ask for Monte.

## 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 320-532-4768

#### 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

### NA/AA 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 320-532-4768

### District II East Lake

#### AA Group

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

### District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog

#### NA Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Aazhoomog Community Center

#### Wellbriety 12 Step Group

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

#### Wellbriety 12 Step Group

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Meshakwad Community Center

**Please send changes and additions to [brett.larson@millelacsband.com](mailto:brett.larson@millelacsband.com).**

## RECURRING EVENTS

**Ojibwe Language Table:** Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., District I Community Center. Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., East Lake Community Center (3:30 p.m. on last Thursday).

**Urban Language Tables at the Minneapolis American Indian Center:** Youth intro, Tuesdays 5–7 p.m.; intermediate, Wednesdays 5–7 p.m.; adult intro Thursdays 5–7 p.m. For more information, see [tworiversarts.com/events](http://tworiversarts.com/events).

**Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area:** Fridays, 10 a.m.–noon. Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds (1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.).

## 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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**National Night Out:** August 7. *See page 13.*

**Labor Day:** Monday, September 3. Government Offices Closed.

**Wisdom Steps Golf Tournament:** September 7, Black Bear Golf Course. Email [dannette@mnchippewatribe.org](mailto:dannette@mnchippewatribe.org) or call 888-321-7886 for information or to register.

To add your event to the calendar, email [brett.larson@millelacsband.com](mailto:brett.larson@millelacsband.com) or call 320-237-6851.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Want your event here?</b>                      Email <a href="mailto:brett.larson@millelacsband.com">brett.larson@millelacsband.com</a> or call 320-237-6851.                      Visit <a href="http://millelacsband.com/calendar">millelacsband.com/calendar</a> for additional MLB events.</p> <p><b>Band Assembly meetings</b>                      Band Assembly meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other info, call the Legislative office or visit <a href="http://millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com">millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com</a>. Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.</p>			<p><b>1</b>  <b>NA/AA DI</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>District II Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      East Lake Community Center</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>Wellbriety DIII</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>Circle of Health Outreach</b> 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Urban Office</p> <p><b>District IIA Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p><b>3</b>  <b>Healer Herb Sam</b>                      10 a.m.–noon                      Powwow Grounds</p> <p><b>Early Voting Shuttle</b>                      11 a.m.                      District I Government Center</p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>58th Birthday Celebration</b>                      10 a.m.–5 p.m.                      Mille Lacs Indian Museum  <i>See page 15</i></p> <p><b>Kids Craft, Bead a Ring</b> 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum  <i>See page 15</i></p>
<p><b>5</b>  <b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b>                      1 p.m.  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>MLB Graduates Luncheon</b>                      11 a.m.–3 p.m.                      Grand Casino Mille Lacs  <i>See page 13.</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety, NA, AA</b>                      DI, II, III  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>National Night Out</b>                      5–8 p.m.                      Eddy's parking lot  <i>See page 17</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety DI, III</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>8</b>  <b>Tribal Opioid Summit</b>                      9 a.m.–4 p.m.                      Black Bear  <i>See page 15</i></p> <p><b>NA/AA DI</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>Tribal Opioid Summit</b> 9 a.m.–noon                      Black Bear  <i>See page 15</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety DIII</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>Community Fisheries Meeting</b> 2:30 p.m.                      Upper media room at the government center in DI</p>	<p><b>10</b>  <b>Healer Herb Sam</b>                      10 a.m.–noon                      Powwow Grounds</p> <p><b>Early Voting Shuttle</b>                      11 a.m.                      District I Government Center</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b>  <b>Corporate Ventures Family Golf Outing</b>                      9 a.m.                      Grand National Golf Club  <i>See page 17</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b>                      1 p.m.  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>13</b>  <b>Wellbriety, NA, AA</b>                      DI, II, III  <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>District II Sobriety Feast</b>                      6 p.m.                      East Lake Community Center</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>Wellbriety DI, III</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>Primary Election</b></p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>District III Community Meeting</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><b>NA/AA DI</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>Wellbriety DIII</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>17</b>  <b>DI Powwow</b>                      Grand Entry 7 p.m.                      Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds  <i>See page 13</i></p> <p><b>Healer Herb Sam</b>                      10 a.m.–noon                      Powwow Grounds.</p> <p><b>Early Closing</b>                      Government offices close at noon</p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>Powwow Parade</b>                      10 a.m. DI Powwow grounds.</p> <p><b>DI Powwow</b>                      Grand Entry 1 and 7 p.m.                      Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds  <i>See page 13</i></p>
<p><b>19</b>  <b>DI Powwow</b>                      Grand Entry 1 p.m.                      Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds  <i>See page 13</i></p> <p><b>Indian Museum Fun Run</b> 9–10:30 a.m.                      Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds  <i>See page 15</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1 p.m.  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>Wellbriety, NA, AA</b>                      DI, II, III  <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>Mille Lacs Day</b>                      Government Offices closed</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>Wellbriety DI, III</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>NA/AA DI</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>Wellbriety DIII</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>24</b>  <b>Healer Herb Sam</b>                      10 a.m.–noon.                      Powwow Grounds</p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>Woodland Pottery 2-day Workshop</b>                      Noon–4 p.m.                      Mille Lacs Indian Museum  <i>See page 15</i></p>
<p><b>26</b>  <b>Woodland Pottery 2-day Workshop</b>                      10 a.m.–2 p.m.                      Mille Lacs Indian Museum  <i>See page 15</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b>                      1 p.m.  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>Wellbriety, NA, AA</b>                      DI, II, III  <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>DIII Sobriety Feast</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      Hinckley Corp. Bldg.</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>Wellbriety DI, III</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>DI Sobriety Feast</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      DI Community Center</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>Onamia Schools Open House</b>                      5:30–7 p.m.  <b>NA/AA</b>                      DI  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>30</b>  <b>Urban Community Meeting/Commissioners Roundtable</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      All Nations Church</p> <p><b>DIIA Sobriety Feast</b>                      5:30 p.m.                      Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety DIII</b>  <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>DIII Car Seat Clinic</b>                      Early Ed building  <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>31</b>  <b>Healer Herb Sam</b>                      10 a.m.–noon                      Powwow Grounds</p> <p><b>Early Closing</b>                      Government Offices close at noon</p>	<p><b>Labor Day is Monday, September 3</b>                      Government Offices will be closed.</p>

**More events:** See page 14 for Recurring Events, Upcoming Events, and Recovery Groups.



**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE**  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

[millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com)

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### Update Your Address

If your address on file with the Enrollments Office is incorrect, you may not be receiving important mail from the Band. Each time you move, you need to fill out a Change of Address form from Enrollments at 320-532-7730. You can download a Change of Address form at [millelacsband.com/services/tribal-enrollments](http://millelacsband.com/services/tribal-enrollments).

### About Us

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to [brett.larson@millelacsband.com](mailto:brett.larson@millelacsband.com) or call 320-237-6851. The September issue deadline is August 15.

### Need Help?

If you or someone you know is injured or in immediate 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.

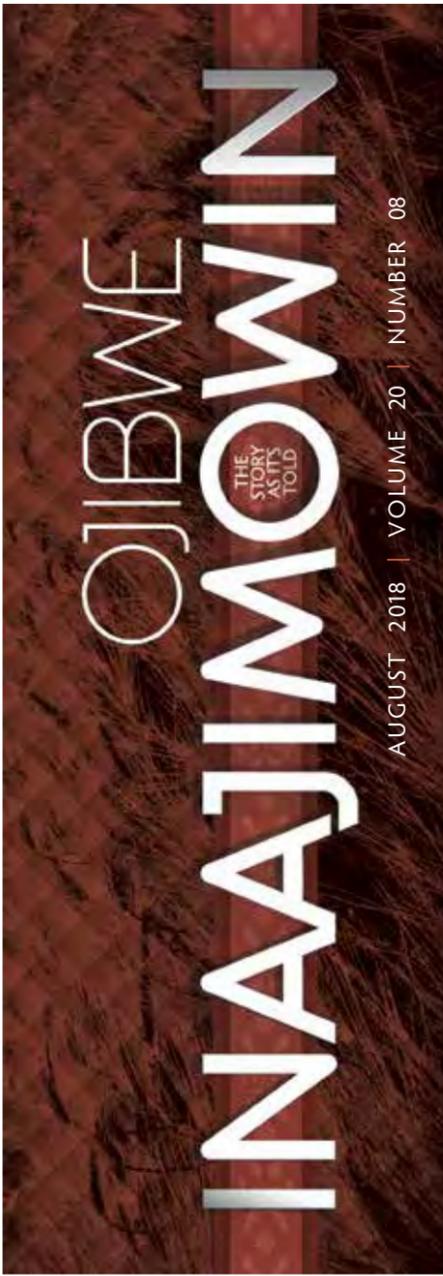
**Addiction/Behavioral Health:** 800-709-6445, ext. 7776.

**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.

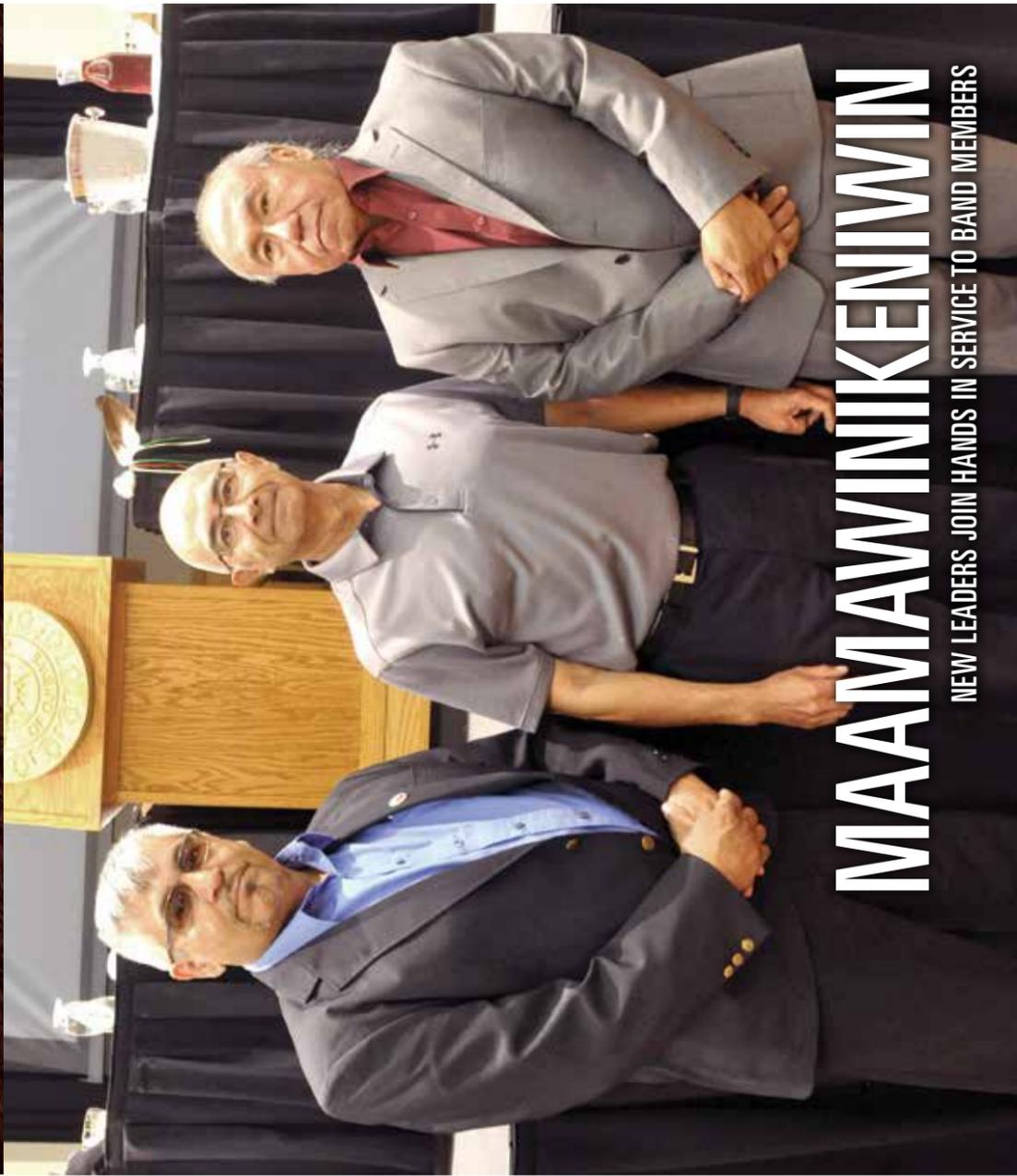
**Domestic violence:** (c) 320-630-2499. **Women's Shelter:** 866-867-4006. **Batterers' Intervention:** 320-532-8909.

**Heating, water, or other home-related maintenance problems:** If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call our Customer Service Representative during regular business hours 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: 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; 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.



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# MAAMAWINIKENIWIN

NEW LEADERS JOIN HANDS IN SERVICE TO BAND MEMBERS

NATIVE VOTE  
CRUCIAL IN  
AUGUST PRIMARY

GRASSROOTS  
GROUPS ARE  
CHANGING LIVES

NATIVE WOMEN  
LEAD PREVENTION  
EFFORTS

FIRST-EVER  
WALLEYE  
TELEMETRY STUDY

