

Founding members of Sober Squad — Colin Cash, Bradley Harrington, Gary Benjamin, Lynelle Northbird, and Billie Jo Boyd — participated in a sobriety walk in Brainerd on October 21.

Sober Squad Brings Message of Healing, Hope, and Sobriety to Brainerd

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

The Sober Squad movement that started in Mille Lacs is sending ripples throughout Minnesota, and not just on reservations. The city of Brainerd was the latest to catch the wave with a gathering at Lum Park and a march through the east side of town on October 21.

The enthusiasm was infectious from the start of the festivities at the picnic shelter, where Sober Squad members and supporters donned free t-shirts, listened to music, made new friends, and heard a rousing motivational speech from founding member Colin Cash.

A crowd of about 200 set off at noon for a long stroll, accompanied by regular shouts of “Squad!” and drum songs from a troupe of musicians in the back of a pickup.

The event was organized by Squad member Britany Egan and supported by the Mille Lacs Band and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

Britany is admittedly new to sobriety, but she was inspired to plan the event by her participation in the Walk for the Recovery in Minneapolis on September 15 — where the Sober Squad was the top fundraiser and brought a record number of

walkers — and a smudge walk the following day on the Mille Lacs Reservation, where friends and family of those affected by addiction and violence walked to remember their loved ones and call for justice.

“People want to feel like they’re a part of something, and that there’s hope,” said Britany, who said she took part in the drug scene on the Mille Lacs Reservation before making the decision to turn her life around — with help from Sober Squad.

According to Squad members Curtis Sam and Darryl Smith, Sober Squad has given people in recovery a support network and community to help their recovery take hold.

During a rest stop at a local school, Randell Sam led participants in a recitation of the Serenity Prayer and a chant of “There is hope! Ask us how!” while children swarmed the playground equipment.

Founding members Billie Jo Boyd, Lynelle Northbird, Gary Benjamin, and Bradley Harrington also took part in the Brainerd walk, spreading their healing message to a new community.

For more photos and a Q&A, see page 15.



Walkers paused at a playground in Brainerd to join hands and recite the Serenity Prayer led by Band member Randell Sam.

St. John Reflects on First Four Months

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Wally St. John has been preparing for a life in leadership for a long time, and that preparation has paid off during his first months as District III Representative.

“Thirty years ago I decided I wanted to do something for the people, so I started shaping and molding my life, meaning I had to shed the old skin, so to speak, and put on a new way of caring and loving,” said Wally. “It takes time for that to happen. It doesn’t happen overnight.”

For Wally, that meant learning his traditions, with an emphasis on obedience to spiritual teachings. That focus on the spiritual life is what made the Anishinaabe ancestors happy and gave them long lives, Wally said.

Wally’s spirituality is intertwined with his duties as a leader and his method of addressing problems.

“I’ve seen a lot of danger coming with drug abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse in our communities, and as these things progressed, I pushed even harder to be given the means and the ability to see the answer,” Wally said. “Every problem has a solution, and sometimes your spiritual beliefs will reveal the answer to you.”

At the top of his agenda as District III Representative is the problem of addiction, and the solution for Wally is spiritual as much as physical. “The biggest problem facing us now is the heroin, the methamphetamine, the opioids, and all the abuse that comes with that,” he said. “You’ve heard me say it before, but love is the key. The love we know is limited. It comes with limitations, expectations, conditions. And it isn’t working, so you gotta rise above it and think beyond the physical realm. That is where the answers lie.”

As representative, Wally hopes to create transitional housing to help keep people safe and sober when they leave treatment. “Addicts have triggers, and we need to remove those triggers and put them in a safe home,” Wally said. “It will take time, but it can be done. It’s a matter of people working together. The only thing stopping us is us.”

He believes addressing the problem will take a unified effort from the elected leaders and government officials in every department, because they are all affected, from education to community development, health and human services to tribal police. “Everyone wants our people to be better — the Chief Executive, the district representatives, commissioners, and non-Natives as well.”



Wally St. John

Wally St. John continued on page 4

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin, Boozhoo! When this edition of the Inaajimowin arrives in Band member mailboxes, we will be just days away from one of the most important elections in our lifetime, even though this is a mid-term election rather than a Presidential race. It is more important than ever that every Mille Lacs Band member and Native person in Minnesota who can vote gets out and votes.

Why is this election so important? There are many reasons. First, in January, a new Governor and Attorney General will take office in Minnesota, and both of these positions will be responsible for policies that directly impact Native people. Congressman Tim Walz and State Representative Peggy Flanagan have visited the reservation many times and are strong supporters of tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Republican candidate Jeff Johnson has made statements about our treaty rights and co-management of Mille Lacs Lake that are cause for grave concern.

Second, we have a state legislative race that impacts District I and IIA, where Emy Minzel is challenging Sondra Erickson, who is widely considered to be the most anti-Indian lawmaker in the Minnesota Legislature. The ballot box is the opportunity for Band members to speak out against the politics of racism.

Third, the outcome of the national congressional races will determine whether the Democrats or the Republicans are in control of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. Each of these bodies has the power to halt or give the green light to federal policies impacting Indian tribes and people.

On that note, our own Eighth Congressional District, which is represented by retiring Democrat Rick Nolan, is in the national spotlight right now because ours is the only race in the United States which Republicans believe they might flip from Democratic to Republican. A recent New York Times article focused on this race, stating, "No battleground district in America had as big a swing from Barack Obama to Mr. Trump as this one, Minnesota's Eighth...which Mr. Obama won by six percentage points in 2012; Mr. Trump won it by 16 points in 2016." The paper called our district a chance for a Republican "to do something no other Republican might do next month: win a Democratic House seat." The Band has endorsed State Rep. Joe Radinovich, a strong environmentalist who has been a friend to tribes, but no matter who Band members decide to vote for, the stakes are very high and millions of dollars have been spent by both national political parties wanting your vote.

For all of these races, read this edition of the November Inaajimowin for an informative election guide, and if you're on Facebook, check the Mille Lacs Band's page for ongoing info leading up to Election Day.

There is another reason why every Band member who can vote should vote: because historically, we are people whom others have worked very hard to block from voting, and there are those who are still fighting to stop us from voting today.

Mary Sam wrote an excellent piece several years ago about voter suppression of Native people, and described a Minnesota Supreme Court case in 1917 (Opsahl v. Johnson) which ruled that Indians did not have the right to vote because they lived on reservations and were not part of the "civilized" population. The court determined that "civilized" referred to American Indians who were living off reservations

and pursuing the customs and traditions of white Americans.

Women were granted the right to vote in 1919, but it was not until 1924 that the Congress passed the American Indian Citizenship Act which provided American Indians the right to vote, mainly because of our high rate of military service during World War I. Imagine that – our ancestors fought and died in World War I when they legally were not even U.S. citizens!

"This is yet another reason why Mille Lacs Band members should exercise their right to vote: to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in North Dakota who want to vote, but will be denied the right to vote."

But that act was not the end of attempts to suppress the Indian vote. While the act gave American Indians voting rights, states governed their own voting requirements and often passed laws that limited this right. In 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, which prohibited states from using discriminatory voting practices (further enforcing the 15th Amendment).

Unfortunately, the Act has been slowly eroded in recent years, with some states passing voter ID laws which are designed as barriers to stop Native people, people of color, and low-income people from exercising their right to vote. In Minnesota, we had our own battle years ago when a former Secretary of State tried to prevent Native people from voting by refusing to accept tribal IDs for those registering to vote for the first time. But we won that battle and tribal government IDs are accepted under Minnesota law as legitimate proof of citizenship.

In a travesty of justice, there have been recent successful efforts to erode that act by giving back to states the power to prevent us from voting. These battles are happening throughout Indian Country, and right next door in North Dakota.

Just weeks ago, on October 9, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of a North Dakota law requiring that in order to vote, people must have an ID with a street address. Many reservations in North Dakota do not use street addresses, and tribal members instead have PO boxes, which may stop thousands of tribal members from voting this year. These actions by the State of North Dakota are widely perceived to be pay-back for tribal opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). Tribal governments in North Dakota are furiously working to do what they can by issuing new IDs, but it is an uphill battle that will result in many Native people being denied the right to vote. This is yet another reason why Mille Lacs Band members should exercise their right to vote – to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in North Dakota

who want to vote, but will be denied the right to vote.

Under Band law, it is the role of the Chief Executive "to conduct external relations with all other governments and their political subdivisions" (MLBSA Title 4, Section 6 (c)). As Chief Executive, much of my work is spent dealing with federal agencies and members of Congress, because that is where the big decisions are made that impact us at the federal level, and in St. Paul with state officials.

Over decades, we have worked very hard as a Band to ensure that the Mille Lacs Band always has a seat at the table, regardless of who sits in the White House or the State Capitol. As a Band government, we have a tradition of having friends on both sides of the aisle, and regardless of the outcome of these elections, we will continue to fight to ensure we have a seat at the table. We support those who support the Mille Lacs Band.

This election season, there are many close races that will impact us as Band members. We have a chance to make a huge impact and make history. I urge everyone to please get out and vote on November 6 in honor of our ancestors and to protect the future of our children. Miigwech!

Melanie Benjamin



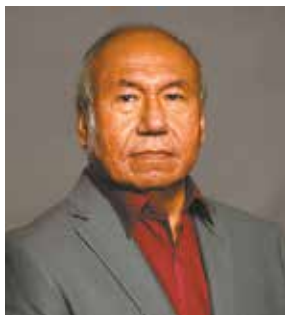
Way to Go, Monte!

Congratulations and well done to Monte Fronk, Emergency Services Coordinator for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, for receiving the National Weather Service's Joe Strub Award at the recent Minnesota Association of Emergency Managers' Conference at Breezy Point. Presenting his award was Dan Luna, Meteorologist in Charge of the NWS office in Chanhassen.

Secretary-Treasurer Reports on First 100 Days in Office

By Sheldon Boyd Mille Lacs Band Secretary-Treasurer

Aaniin, Mille Lacs Band Members! It's been about 100 days since taking office July 10, 2018, and it's best to provide an update about the progress being made within this newly staffed Legislative Branch.



I would like to thank Parliamentarian Darcie Big Bear, DI Representative Sandi Blake, and DII Representative Marvin Bruneau and staff for their cooperation and patience while passing on their knowledge and experience, and newly elected DIII Representative Wally St. John as we continue with this, the 18th Session of the Mille Lacs Band Assembly.

The learning curve has been steep, but staff members Wendy Merrill, Christine Jordan, Valerie Harrington, Semira Kimpson, Brianna Boyd, and Kiana Morrison are hugely responsible in continuing the tradition of carrying out the duties of the Legislative Branch per Mille Lacs Band Statute.

We are proceeding with the purpose of creating transparency in government, doing what we can to assist the District Representatives in the performance of their duties in Band Assembly Sessions, and will be proposing statutory changes to improve the functions of the Legislative Branch for years to come.

Mille Lacs Band Statute Title 26 Compensation of Elected Officials was made public online the second week in the term of this Legislature, after almost six years of not being a matter of public record.

To make the best use of the time allotted in this term of office, we will be dividing the term into quarters and will do our best to deliver a product to the people in these coming four years.

It is a race against time.

The three goals I see clarifying within these past 100 days are transparency, lawmaking, and the fiduciary responsibility of the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer to administer the financial affairs of the Mille Lacs Band.

Transparency

People in power should not be allowed to be comfortable. People in power need to be watched and constantly evaluated by those not in power to guard against the tendencies of human nature.

The live streaming of Band Assembly sessions is a priority of this Legislature, and as the Speaker of the Assembly, I plan to exercise the power and duty to require the prompt recording of the Assembly's acts and deeds under Band law. This is to be a representative government, and it is time to shine a light on the most powerful branch, whose principal duty is to act on behalf of the people.

Vendor bids are currently being evaluated for equipment to retrofit the Band Assembly chambers and mobile counterpart equipment intended to live stream all sessions of Band Assembly where internet connectivity permits. We want to get this right.

I see the primary duty of the Speaker of the Assembly is to promote and facilitate the legislative power vested in the District Representatives by you the people and to prepare documents for consideration by the Chief Executive when necessary.

Current Sessions of Band Assembly are recorded and will be made available. All sessions of Band Assembly are planned to be live streamed when possible and executive sessions are planned to be recorded and archived.

We are doing the business of the people.

It is the right and duty of the people to comment, agree, disagree, second guess, and discuss amongst themselves the actions of their representatives in government. This change in relationship will hopefully empower the people and promote a greater understanding of the difficulties of leadership and the road ahead of us.

I trust the people more than I trust the government.

Lawmaking

There are federal, state, and county courthouses across the land where people who go there can almost feel the rule of law. The exercise of tribal government lawmaking and tribal courts and courthouses, in some small way, revives a time when Indigenous tribes were the supreme rulers of this land.

The current Legislature has no permanent infrastructure to provide continuity of expertise when new elected officials take office every two to four years, except for the position of Parliamentarian. When new officials take office, there can be a wholesale change in staff and a relearning of the procedures and concepts starts again. We need to fix that.

Also, a department established under Band law that is dedicated to drafting bills, resolutions, and maintaining the health of the existing laws does not exist. Almost every long-range strategic plan within Mille Lacs Band tribal government over the years had among the top priorities, updating existing Band law.

Therefore, among the top three priorities of this four-year legislative term will be the establishment of such a department, a Revisor of Statutes Office.

This department will be responsible for making the lawmaking process a service to all, including Commissioners, Chief Executive, District Representatives, and most importantly the people of the Mille Lacs Band. A true Legislature.

This department will be tasked with establishing procedure for updating conflicts in existing laws, publishing laws with updates regularly, printing laws, drafting bills and resolutions for consideration by the Band Assembly, and drafting and cataloging all legislative material.

The plan is to have this department become the permanent core of the Legislative Branch to provide institutional expertise to incoming elected officials who are put into office by the people.

Fiduciary responsibility and investments

Our leaders from years past were long-range thinkers. They thought generations ahead, and we are the beneficiaries of that thinking.

The position of Secretary-Treasurer is tasked with administering the financial affairs of the Band and is delegated certain powers and duties to complete this task. These powers will be used to ensure the financial prosperity of the Band, including thoroughly evaluating the management of the Band's investments.

The Mille Lacs Band Statutes are presently inadequate to properly manage the now significant investments the Band has accrued in over 25 years of gaming. Bills must be drafted for consideration for passage into law that will clearly establish the government's fiduciary role in investment oversight.

Therefore, an investment board within Band government is presently being researched and financial consultants sought to help establish such a body needed to replace vague processes that have been in place for more than 20 years.

This particular aspect of the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer was not anticipated due to lack of transparency. I didn't see this coming.

Institutions like the University of Minnesota have a Board of Regents that manage investment portfolios, and there exists the same fiduciary relationship.

With the approval and foresight of the current elected officials, we hope to make this investment board entity a reality within the four-year term the people of the Mille Lacs Band have entrusted to me and the fine staff who have been assembled.

So after 100 days, these three principal projects have come to clarity as priorities, and we will work towards completing these by the end of the four-year term.

As Speaker of the Assembly, I will work towards improving my understanding and performance during sessions of Band Assembly to create a clear record for future generations.

Legislative staff are encouraged to pursue personal and professional career paths during these four years so the Mille Lacs Band will have a larger pool of experienced, qualified leaders to draw on for service in the coming years.

Again, I am truly humbled by the vote of confidence by you, the people of the Mille Lacs Band, who working alongside the legislative staff and elected leaders of the Band, will be able to make changes that will empower the people and change forever the relationship to our tribal government.

Miigwech.

Band Assembly Meets in Urban Area

The Legislative Branch held a Band Assembly meeting at All Nations Church in Minneapolis on Thursday, September 27, from 10 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. This was the first time a Band Assembly meeting was held at this location.

The meeting was well-attended, and Band Assembly members said "miigwech" for a warm welcome. They look forward to holding additional meetings in the urban area for the convenience of urban tribal members.

All Band Assembly meetings are open to the Band community except in the case of a sensitive issue that would need to be discussed in an executive session. Band members

are encouraged to sit in at the meetings and listen to Band business that is being discussed.

If you have any questions, please call Darcie Big Bear, Parliamentarian/Band Assembly Clerk, at 320-532-7420 or email Darcie.bigbear2@millelacsband.com.

Right: The September 27 Band Assembly meeting at All Nations Church had a good turnout of Band members who came to listen to the proceedings.



State and Local News Briefs

Minneapolis approves plan to move homeless camp to Red Lake land:

In late September, leaders of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa made an offer to the city of Minneapolis to provide land to use as a "navigation center" to relocate about 300 people living at a homeless encampment in the area. The site would shelter people in the camp through winter while more permanent housing is found. Sam Strong, the Red Lake tribal secretary, said, "Today, I'm very hopeful. You see governments coming together, tribes, local units of government, community leaders. And it's a powerful thing."

Source: mprnews.org.

Worst-case pipeline spill would cost \$1.4 billion:

A worst-case scenario provided by Enbridge Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) states that an oil spill from the Line 3 pipeline could cost \$1.4 billion, a little more than a huge spill in Michigan eight years ago. The PUC conditionally approved construction of the new Line 3 pipeline in June. Source: startribune.com.

Glynn Crooks journeys to the spirit world:

A long-time leader of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Glynn Crooks, passed away on October 10 at the age of 67. Crooks was a graduate of Shakopee High School and a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Navy for six years. He was vice chairman of the tribe for 16 years and chairman of the Shakopee Wacipi (powwow) for more than 25. "Glynn was a big personality with a big heart," said Rebecca Crooks-Stratton, secretary-treasurer of the tribe. "He really was the face of our community in many different ways."

Source: startribune.com.

Minneapolis considers supervised injection site:

The city of Minneapolis is considering a government-sanctioned injection site to allow people to use heroin or other drugs in the presence of health care workers who can ensure their safety. Several cities are considering such an option although federal authorities have said they would take action against them for doing so. More than 150 people died from opioid overdoses in Hennepin County in 2016, up almost 60 percent from the previous year. Source: minnpost.com.

Native Americans celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day:

Native American residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul came together on October 8 to celebrate the holiday formerly known as Columbus Day but renamed in honor of American Indian tribes. In St. Paul, marchers walked in the rain from the American Indian Magnet School to Indian Mounds Regional Park. Activists also threw a red dress over a statue of Columbus at the Minnesota State Capital to draw attention to the plight of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Source: mprnews.org.

State agency files to stop Line 3:

The Minnesota Department of Commerce has asked the Public Utilities Commission to reverse its decision granting Enbridge Energy a permit to build a new Line 3 oil pipeline across northern Minnesota. The Commerce Department said the PUC's decision to grant the permit was "affected by legal error and is unsupported by the evidence." The Commerce Department has said Enbridge failed to show that the new pipeline is needed by submitting a long-range energy demand forecast. The Sierra Club, Honor the Earth, Youth Climate Intervenor, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe also filed petitions. Source: startribune.com.

Band Reaches Out to Mille Lacs Friends

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Given all the conflict and controversy in the District I area, with some non-Indian neighbors continually challenging the Band's sovereignty, rights, and reservation, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that the Band has non-Indian friends and allies in Mille Lacs County.

With that in mind, the Government Affairs Department, led by Director Katie Draper, invited some of those neighbors to an event at Eddy's Resort on October 16 to show appreciation and get some ideas on how the Band can work together with the non-Indian communities for the benefit of all.

Katie welcomed about 50 community members who had responded to an invitation to dinner and conversation. "We value you and your role in changing the conversation around Mille Lacs Lake," said Katie. "We all know that it isn't just about the walleye. We need to have open dialogue and mutual respect. We need to keep growing the positive relationships."

Following an invocation by Commissioner of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington, folks enjoyed a chicken dinner at diverse tables of Band members, employees, and neighbors while discussing everything from history to health care and brainstorming ways to improve the community.

After dinner, Bradley gave a synopsis of 500 years of the Band's history, blending content from history books with the oral traditions he's learned in 30-plus years in the community.

The event concluded with a few minutes of questions and answers. Band member Dave Sam responded to a question about some of the positive developments in the area. He talked about the difficulty of growing up in Isle as the only Native in his class and pointed to the wastewater treatment facility, where he is the manager, as an example of improvements since his youth.

He also pointed to the efforts of his wife Mary Sam as a former Government Affairs employee and Onamia School Board



Bradley Harrington gave a heartfelt and personal synopsis of Mille Lacs Band history to a group of non-Indian friends at Eddy's Resort on Oct. 16.

member who helped bring some of the people in the room together through Voices of Unity and the Mille Lacs Human Rights Commission.

One participant asked if the Ojibwe language is related to other languages.

Bradley told the story of how the manidoog (spirits) looked down in pity on the Anishinaabe and decided to give them the language of the spirits to help them out.

Tom and Kathy Jackson of Wahkon said, "We were honored to be included in the Mille Lacs Band's get-together. It was very informative. Meeting and dialogue are keys to understanding in every community. Miigwech!"

Additional community outreach events will be held in the Mille Lacs area in the future. If you'd like information or to participate, call Katie Draper at 320-515-0846 or email katie.draper@millelacsband.com.

Wally St. John continued from page 1

"When we unite as a people, we become a well-oiled machine. We can really make things move. We can move mountains when we understand the full spiritual potential of the people."

He also wants to put land into trust as a legacy that will help today's young people in the future. "These young people coming up need hope, and they need a template to follow," he said. "The people in power today need to have that template, which includes love and hope and caring."

Formative years

Wally's childhood and youth helped him learn compassion, spirituality, and love. He was raised by an abusive father, and his older brothers and sisters bore the brunt of excessive discipline. "I felt so sorry for my brothers and sisters," he said. "I always tried to help them with their chores when they got hollered at, and I foolishly tried to step in to help protect them when they got into fights. From a young age, I had a lot of compassion."

As a younger man, Wally toured the U.S. and Canada with a mentor and learned about the connections among tribal people. "When I got older, I realized that all Natives are my family," he said.

"Up there," he added, indicating the spirit world, "we're one people. There's no tribes, just one spiritual people governed by the Great Spirit."

Wally's years of work experience have also helped prepare him. "Way back in 2000, I got onto the school board because I wanted to know about procurement and policy," said Wally. "I wanted to learn all the aspects of the tribe, so I would be ready one day."

Since then he has worked in housing, natural resources, and athletic regulation. Wally said he also learned a lot from his predecessor, Harry Davis, including the importance of listening to others' opinions. The two visited regularly during Harry's terms as District III Representative, and Wally was honored to learn from him.

That preparation has not made Wally arrogant, however; he knows he still has a lot to learn about Band policies, procedures, laws, and other topics. "I might have understood 70 percent of it, but now I'm still learning the remainder."

"I look forward to coming into the office every day and trying to make things work for the people."

Wally enjoys the challenge of learning, and as it often does in conversations with Wally, it all comes back to his spirituality. "The Creator gives you tests repeatedly to back up what you say," said Wally. "I said one time I wanted to sacrifice my life for the people, and Creator communicated to me by adjusting my life to fulfill my words. The life I once knew had to be left behind."

The sacrifice has been well worth it, and he sees his new role as the fulfillment of a promise made long ago. "I am enjoying everything about it," he said. "At first people were saying it was going to be stressful, it was going to be hard, but it's not. It's second nature to be in a position to provide for the people. I look forward to coming into the office every day and trying to make things work for the people, and it's rewarding to see people smile, to know somebody wants to help them."



A group of hearty Band members and friends braved the wind and cold on October 15 to march for an end to domestic violence.

Annual Walk to End Domestic Violence

In recognition of Domestic Violence Prevention Month, the Mille Lacs Band's Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) held its annual March for Family Peace on October 15, followed by a chili dinner, an inspiring speech, and a balloon release (100 percent biodegradable, of course).



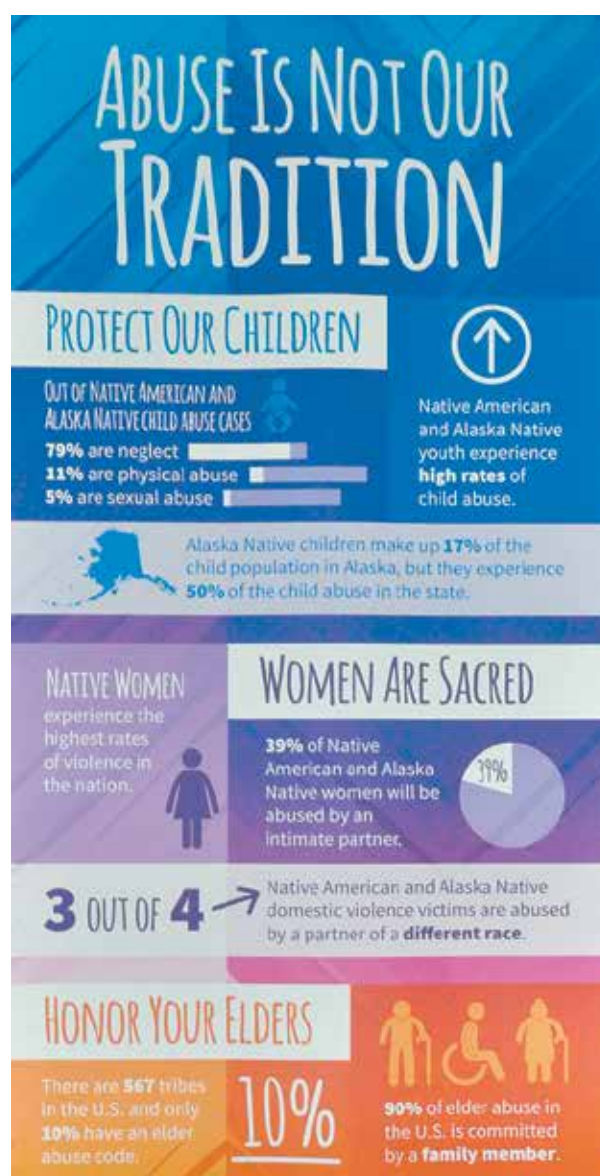
A bitter autumn wind did not deter about 20 activists from taking to the streets in solidarity with victims of domestic violence. The group met at Shawboshkung landing and marched to the District I community center, where they were met by additional supporters and welcomed by FVPP Coordinator Kate Kalk.

Joe Nayquonabe Sr. gave the invocation and encouraged the community to respect women as life givers.

The keynote speech was delivered by Sarah Curtiss of Men as Peacemakers in Duluth. After introducing herself in Ojibwe, Sarah spoke of her experience as a survivor of abuse and as the mother of a young boy.

The theme of her talk was "toxic masculinity" — the dominant society's hidden messages that too often lead boys to become abusers and women to become victims.

She left the group with a message of hope, specifically complimenting the men who came to the event to be part of the solution to the problem of domestic violence.



A biodegradable balloon release offered hope, healing, and remembrance to victims of domestic violence.

National News Briefs

North Dakota tribal leaders hope to overcome voting barriers: After the United States Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge to North Dakota's voter ID law, Chairman Jamie Azure of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa signed an executive order to provide free tribal IDs. The state's restrictive law was pushed by Republicans to require a residential address rather than a mailing address — a move widely believed to unfairly target Native Americans. Senator Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat, is facing reelection. She won by a narrow margin in 2012 with strong support from tribal members. *Source: Brainerd Dispatch.*

Warren's DNA claim receives mixed reviews: In answer to Donald Trump's repeated attacks and jeers over her claim to Indian ancestry, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren released a DNA test showing she had an Indian ancestor, as she has stated. While many Native Americans applaud her for standing up to Trump, who has mocked her with the name "Pocahontas," others point out that DNA results have nothing to do with tribal membership or identity. *Source: startribune.com.*

Texas judge declares Indian Child Welfare Act unconstitutional: U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor said in an October 4 ruling that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 violates the Fifth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection. Indian rights attorneys say the ruling will jeopardize Indian children as well as decades of legal precedent affecting tribal sovereignty. Dan Lewerenz with the Native American Rights Fund said, "As far as I know this is the first time ever that a federal statute enacted to benefit Indians has been found to be unconstitutional on the grounds of equal protection." Tara Sweeney, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, said, "The Department of the Interior strongly opposes any diminishment of ICWA's protections for Indian children, families, and tribes." *Source: startribune.com, indianz.com.*

Native American Hall of Fame inducts inaugural class: An inaugural induction ceremony was held October 13 at the National Native American Hall of Fame in Phoenix. The Hall's mission is "To recognize and honor the inspirational achievements of Native Americans in contemporary history." Inductees were Lionel Bordeaux, Elouise Cobell, Vine Deloria Jr., LaDonna Harris, John Herrington, Allan Houser, Wilma Mankiller, Billy Mills, N. Scott Momaday, Lori Piestewa, Maria Tallchief, and Jim Thorpe. *Source: nativehalloffame.org.*

Alaska declares emergency for Native American languages: Alaska Governor Bill Walker signed an order last month declaring an emergency for Native American languages and aiming to promote and preserve the state's 20 recognized Indigenous tongues before they die out. The order directs the state education commissioner to work with partners to promote indigenous languages in public education. It also directs the state to use traditional Alaska Native place names on public signs and instructs commissioners to designate a tribal liaison tasked with producing a plan to boost collaboration with Alaska Native partners. Walker thanked the state Legislature, which urged the decision, and acknowledged the state's role in undermining and discouraging the use of Indigenous languages generations ago. *Source: theguardian.com.*

As Long As We Hear Those Drums

By Jim Clark

The late Jim Clark 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.



When people think of Indians, one of the first things that comes to mind is often drums, and Indians singing and dancing to drum music.

Our ceremonial drums were given to the Anishinaabe people for our protection. How did that come about? The story goes that the drums came into being when the Plains Indians out West were being harassed by white soldiers. The cavalry was trying to drive the Indians off the land and chase them onto reservations.

An Indian woman had a vision that the Anishinaabe people should build a drum. In her vision, a spirit told her that the Anishinaabe would never hear any more guns against them as long as the drum was around.

So the drum was given to those Anishinaabe. They were shown how to build it, how to use it, and what they should do.

The day they started using the drum, the soldiers were supposed to go in and chase some people, either to kill them or get rid of them some other way. The soldiers went to where the Anishinaabe were, and they saw this drumming and dancing and all these people having a good time. And the soldiers dropped their guns and went over there and joined the people.

That's the way the story goes. We were told we are supposed to tell this story at least once a year — that as long as we can hear the drum, as long as the Great Spirit can hear that drum here among the Anishinaabe people, there won't be any aggression against our people with guns. You'll never hear guns being fired at the Anishinaabe people as long as we keep our drums.

The first drums were given to the people out West. They brought the drums east, and then the Dakota people had drums.

At that time, the Ojibwe and Dakota people were warring against each other. That's because we were crowded from the encroachment of non-Indians. Eventually the Dakota moved further south and the Ojibwe stayed up north.

But when the Dakota found the drum, they brought it back and gave it to the Ojibwe people to use. And they're still giving us messages of some kind for our protection.

So that's why we use the drums. As long as we hear those drums, we say, we will be protected.

Incidentally, the cavalry soldiers from back then were the reason for our word for white people. When the soldiers first came to our land, they had big swords called sabers. In Ojibwe, a knife is called "mookomaan." The word for big is "chi." So when the Indians saw those soldiers with those big sabers, they called them "chimookomaan" — "big knife." "Chimookomaan" is still what we call white people today when we speak in our language.

For ceremonial drum dates and locations, see the calendar on page 19.

Ricing Is Always Worthwhile for Alicia

Makadegwanebiike (Mikayla Schaaf) Mille Lacs Band Descendant and District I Community Member

Despite the sparse year for ricing, Alicia Skinaway and her grandson Michael Christensen managed to get out and harvest wild rice for their family this season.

"When I riced on Lake Onamia this year, the rice was scarce, scattered, and the wind pushed us back," said Alicia. "We haven't riced much this year due to some of the events that have happened in the community lately."

Next year Alicia plans to go ricing for a bit longer. She hopes the rice is good and she will be able to harvest for two weeks. "This year it seemed like the season opened a little later. By then the rice was all gone and picked. I was always taught to be gentle on the rice stalks when I was knocking the rice into the canoe — don't hit the rice stalks too hard, just tap them enough so only the ripe rice falls in."

Alicia plans on harvesting rice again next year, but may try to find a lake other than Lake Onamia. "You have to find the right day and the right ricing lake." Alicia chuckled as she said, "It was so windy, we 'webaashk' in the lake. My mom used to tell us to stay close to the shore or out of the open water or we will get pushed back by the wind, which is the meaning of the word 'webaashk' (way-bosh-shk)."

Due to the poor season, many harvesters might have to buy rice this year. With a smile, Alicia said, "I will have to go get rice from the East Lakers. They always have good rice. It is always important to have wild rice on hand for special occasions, but most of all for ceremonial feasts and our ceremonial dances. It's our traditional food and way of life."

In the past, Alicia and her family didn't rice for a year because of a death in the family, "You can't rice after a death in the family unless you get fed that rice. We didn't get fed, so we didn't rice that whole year."

"On Highway 47 past Isle about three years ago, me and my niece riced on a lake for about a week. We put our tobacco out on the lake. We always put our tobacco out before we go out to rice, and we came in with over 1,000 pounds. We were really happy then. We had fun, taking coffee breaks, lunch breaks, when we riced." Vanessa Weyaus used to be her other ricing partner. Alicia was the knocker and Vanessa was the poler.

Alicia reminisced about the "old days," speaking of her family and her ricing experience when she was young. "A



District I Elder Alicia Skinaway enjoys her time on the water, even when the ricing isn't great.

bunch of us used to go ricing. We were only about 10 or 12 when our mother brought us out, around the '50s and '60s. The boys were just teenagers, and my sister was a bit older. Everybody riced except the little tiny ones. It was economics! It is how we got our school clothes. We riced Mallard Lake — there was so much rice and such a big lake. We camped there along the second landing on the field. I think there is a lot of weed and bush now, though. Old days were a lot of fun! All the kids went ricing. Everyone had cars. Cars were like a hundred dollars apiece, and gas was only 25 cents. There were boats on top of cars, and everybody followed each other to the lake. That was the fun days; it's different now. You just try to find people to rice and usually go out alone with them. People just aren't ricing much anymore."

She laughed while she reminisced about a ricing story of her two brothers, who had her old four-door Buick and hit the ditch, and the car never ran after that. "My brothers and I had so much fun ricing back then," she said. Her brothers were Reginald and Myron Garbow, old ceremonial Drumkeepers. Later on in life Myron became the Mille Lacs Band District I Representative. With a beautiful smile and laugh, Alicia softly said, "Those were the good old days."



District I smudge walk seeks justice for victims of violence

The family of Benji Blake Jr., who was killed in a drive-by shooting on September 9, invited community members to join them in remembering and seeking justice for those lost to violent crime.



Left: William Schaaf and Troy Sam demonstrated ricing techniques. Middle: Trisha Moose and Carol Kapinos debuted the new lactation station. Right: The Health Fair team included (left to right) Rachel Boyd, Mark Bruske, Donna Sutton, Michelle Beaulieu, Jolene Gansen, Jackie Pike, and Colleen McKinney.

Health and Human Services Hosts Annual District Health Fairs

By Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

On October 9, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health Fair 2018 kicked off at Aazhoomog Community Center in District III. In the following days, it visited the District II East Lake Community Center, Grand Casino Mille Lacs Event Center, and District Ila Chiminising Community Center. The theme of this year's fair was Da Apiitendamang Gimino Ayaawininaan, As We Value Our Health. The fair was open to all community members, including non-Band members.

The fair hosted anywhere from 40 to 55 booths depending on the event location, and vendors came from all corners of the state with health information and free promotional products for fair attendees. Many of the booths were for Mille Lacs Band services and programs such as Aanji Bimaadizing (Department of Labor) and the Community Support Services program Wraparound, a process designed to help families define their goals and build themselves to their greatest potential.

Other booths included Circle of Health, Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources, and non-Band services such as Essentia Health, Planned Parenthood, and Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention. Displays highlighting traditional cultural practices were also present, including a manoomin booth where Bill Schaaf provided samples of a hit wild rice dish.

The Emergency Management Service booth was a popular stop on the tour through the fair. Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk gave visitors a crash course in firefighting before handing them an extinguisher and letting them fight a virtual fire with special simulation equipment. Participants learned how to pull the pin on an extinguisher, aim for the base of the fire, and sweep the extinguisher nozzle back and forth until the virtual flames on the screen went out.

The Department of Natural Resources hosted ethnobotanist and traditional plant medicine expert Linda Black Elk along with cultural teacher Chato Gonzalez. The pair made an all-purpose medicinal salve from medicines gathered within the District I area and offered them for free to Health Fair attendees. All that was asked in return was an offering of asemaa for the medicines gathered. Those who weren't carrying asemaa could often find others willing to share so that no one would leave empty-handed.



Monte Fronk showed District III Elder Lucy Hansen how to use a fire extinguisher.

On debut was the lactation station, a collaboration between the Band's Public Health Department, WIC (Women Infants and Children), and SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program). This service is a new setup for events and includes a cozy private space for nursing mothers to breastfeed their infants or rest as needed. The station is equipped with soft lighting, reclining chairs, privacy walls, and blankets and supplies for mothers who need a break. Expect to see the lactation station in full service at future Band events.

The Health Fair was funded in large part by the Statewide Health Improvement Program. The Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention also supported the fair, specifically with donations of water for fairgoers. The custom bottles carried a message reminding people that most Onamia area youth don't misuse tobacco products, and it's important for adults to talk to kids about substance abuse. The fair was also sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Planning for this event typically begins in May. The team responsible for putting it together was pulled from various departments in the Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services Department. It included Michelle Beaulieu, Rachel Boyd, Mark Bruske, Jolene Gansen, Cassie Hill, Colleen McKinney, Bob

Mitchell, Jackie Pike, and Donna Sutton. The team reported getting a lot of positive feedback from the event and some very helpful suggestions for events in the future.

The Health Fair brought health information to all three districts, gave away prizes (some of which were donated by generous vendors), and even provided services like blood typing. Support and information were available for every stage of life and health — from the lactation station to Sober Squad and Natives Against Heroin — and all of it came with smiles and handy freebies.

Medicare Open Enrollment

Circle of Health, in cooperation with the Ne-la-Shing pharmacy, is working diligently to assess the Medicare plans of Band members to ensure that each individual plan provides the best, most affordable coverage. In addition to getting better coverage, having the most cost-effective plan available helps ensure that Medicare benefits are utilized efficiently, which saves tribal dollars. These savings can then be passed on and used to expand and improve services for tribal members.

There will be Medicare events throughout the districts in the coming weeks. Watch for announcements on the MLB Elder page and at your local community centers. These events will be fun and informative. Please contact Circle of Health if you have any questions regarding these events or if you would like to schedule a time to discuss your Medicare options.

The Circle of Health office in Hinckley has a new number: 320-336-0224. To contact the Circle of Health office at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, call 800-491-6106.



Left: Joe Nayquonabe Sr., Chato Gonzalez, and Linda Black Elk shared knowledge of language and traditional healing plants. Right: Bob Eagle represented Four Winds Lodge treatment center.

Early Education Students Crunch Their Way to Healthier Eating

Mille Lacs Early Education (MLEE) recently received a \$5,000 grant to start a Farm to Head Start initiative to connect their children with healthy, locally grown foods and support farmers in the community. What better way to celebrate local, healthy foods than having everyone bite into crunchy apples all at once? On October 11, Wewinabi students did just that.

MLEE participated in a multi-state event called the "Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch." During this event, teachers are encouraged to engage students and families in a full day of apple activities. Following activities, children count down with their peers and teachers, and then bite into a crisp, locally grown apple to make the GREAT CRUNCH! Wewinabi students and teachers crunched with more than 211,000 other Minnesota students and participants from 540 different locations in the official Great Apple Crunch at noon on October 11.

Students in the Waawaashkeshi classroom painted apples, created apple volcanoes, made their own apple playdough, and of course ate local apples. The previous week, Kris Kantorowicz, Head Start teacher in Waawaashkeshi classroom, decided to make applesauce with the students. The children cut the apples and cooked them in a pressure cooker. Students experienced the pleasant fall aroma of apples and cinnamon before eating the delicious snack.

Farm to Head Start is being introduced to help Mille Lacs Early Education teach students about their local food system and serve more fruits and vegetables grown by their neighbors at central Minnesota farms. A different locally grown food item will be featured every week, with an educational lesson and opportunity to taste it. Examples of foods to be featured in upcoming menus and lessons include apples, butternut squash, carrots, and potatoes.

"The children have really enjoyed learning about nutrition and cooking with new foods," said Kris. "We want to expose children to new tastes and expand their palates. We also want to make healthy choices fun and easy."

Children who participate in Farm to Head Start are more willing to try new foods and have been shown to eat more servings of fruits and vegetables per day. Early Education is a critical time to help children develop healthy eating habits, as taste preferences and eating patterns set at this age can carry forward for the rest of their lives.

Mille Lacs Early Education received the Farm to Head Start grant to partner with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy to launch and refine their initiative over 2018. It is the goal for MLEE to continue Farm to Head Start lessons and local purchasing even after the grant ends, so that healthy, locally grown foods remain a focus. Another goal for Mille Lacs Early Education is to incorporate healthy traditional foods into the curriculum.

"We focus on the whole child," said Kris. "Farm to Head Start is another way for us to encourage the start of lifelong healthy choices."

Mille Lacs Early Education concluded the apple fun with a trip to Gilby's Apple Orchard in Aitkin on October 17, where students saw firsthand how apples grow. Each child received an apple grown in the orchard.



PHOTOS BY DARLA ROACHE

Students in the Head Start classrooms at Wewinabi Early Education in District I participated in the Great Apple Crunch October 11.



DNR Involves Nay Ah Shing Students in Fishery Research

Students in Kayla Nelson's class at Nay Ah Shing High School learned fisheries science from the pros on Friday, October 5. Kayla developed a unit to teach kids about fish population estimation and received assistance from Fisheries Biologist Carl Klimah and Aquaculture Biologist Keith Wiggins of the Mille Lacs Band DNR.

For their day in the field, they met at the DNR lab near the powwow grounds in District I. Fish caught in Shakopee Lake were transferred to the lab in a boat tank, and kids broke up in groups and recorded species, length, weight, and gender on data sheets. Those who wanted to could remove scales from the fish to determine their age using a microscope.

"It gave the kids firsthand experience in creeling fish," said Carl. "This type of experience can be used to obtain part-time jobs in the future with GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission)."

Next, Keith showed the students how to tag fish for mark/recapture studies, which are used in population estimation. The kids released the tagged fish into Mille Lacs Lake, becoming part of authentic scientific research conducted by the Mille Lacs Band DNR.

The final event was electrofishing. Electrofishing is a common scientific method of encouraging fish to swim towards an area where they can be easily caught, using electricity flowing between two submerged electrodes. The wind was roaring, Carl said, so they stayed in the shelter of the boat landing pond. Even so, there were enough fish present for each student to take a turn. The field day was just one part of a longer unit on fish science. Students will take part in additional fish-related activities throughout the fall.



Nay Ah Shing students received a hands-on education in aquatic biology on October 5, thanks to Nay Ah Shing teacher Kayla Nelson and Department of Natural Resources biologists Carl Klimah and Keith Wiggins.



November 6 Is an Important Day Locally, Regionally, Nationally

Election Day 2018 is November 6, and Band members are urged to go to the polls and cast a ballot that reflects their values and beliefs.

Following is a brief explanation of what Band members in Minnesota can expect to see on their ballots.

Remember: You don't need to vote in every race if you do not have a preference, disapprove of both/all candidates, or don't know enough about the candidates to make an informed decision.

You can only choose one candidate in each race unless the ballot says otherwise. In some school board races, for example, you may be able to vote for multiple candidates.

Federal races

U.S. Senator: It's unusual for both of the state's U.S. Senators to be on the ballot the same year, but that is the situation in 2018 due to the resignation of former Senator Al Franken. **Tina Smith** was appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to replace Franken, and she now must run in a special election to complete the term, which expires in January 2021.



Tina Smith

Senator **Amy Klobuchar** is seeking a third six-year term as Minnesota's senior senator, challenged by Jim Newberger of the Republican Party, Dennis Schuller of the Legal Marijuana Now Party, and Paula Overby of the Green Party.



Amy Klobuchar

U.S. Representative: The winners of these races will represent their region in the U.S. House of Representatives, the lower house of Congress, which has 435 members, including eight from Minnesota.

Mille Lacs Band districts I, II, III, and IV fall within Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District. Congressman Rick Nolan, a Democrat, won the seat in 2012, 2014, and 2016 but decided to step down this year. Seeking to replace him are Democrat Joe Radinovich, Republican Pete Stauber, and Independ-



Joe Radinovich

dence Party member Ray "Skip" Sandman. The Band has endorsed **Joe Radinovich**.

Urban area Band members may be in District 4, which includes St. Paul and suburbs, or District 5, which includes Minneapolis and suburbs. Band members in other parts of the state may live in other Congressional districts. Before you go to the poll, make sure you know your candidates. You can view your ballot at myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us. The Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs Team is also happy to answer your election-related questions. Please call 320-495-5006.

State races

State Representative: Like the U.S. Congress, Minnesota's Legislature also has two houses: the State Senate and the House of Representatives. State senators are not up for reelection this year, but representatives are.

Republican Representative Sondra Erickson has represented the Mille Lacs area (including Mille Lacs Band Districts I and IIa) since 1998 with the exception of the years 2008–2010, when her seat was held by Democrat Gail Kulick, who is now a judge. Sondra has been a strong opponent of the Band's interests. She opposes treaty rights and believes the Mille Lacs Reservation does not exist.

This year Sondra is being challenged by Democrat **Emy Minzel**, who has been endorsed by the Band and shows a strong interest in representing Band members by attending powwows and other events in Band communities.



Emy Minzel

Governor/Lieutenant Governor: The Mille Lacs Band is supporting the team of **Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan** for Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota. If they win, Peggy will be the first Native American elected to the office and one of the nation's highest-ranking Native Americans. Tim and Peggy have released a detailed description of their Indian policy titled "Your Team for Indian Country."



Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan

Secretary of State: The main responsibilities of the Secretary of

State include overseeing statewide elections; the review, approval, and filing for all businesses and organizations operating in the state; and administering the state's address confidentiality program to help protect those who fear for their safety. Incumbent Steve Simon, a Democrat, faces John Howe from the Republican Party and William Denney from the Independence Party. **State Auditor:** The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. Incumbent Rebecca Otto is not running for reelection.

Attorney General: The Attorney General is the chief legal officer of the State of Minnesota, providing legal representation to more than 100 state agencies, boards, and commissions and representing the State of Minnesota in state and federal court and administrative hearings. The Band supports Democrat **Keith Ellison** in this race, believing he will be a strong advocate for American Indians.



Keith Ellison

Judicial Offices: Judges in Minnesota are appointed by the Governor but then must be reelected every four years. In most cases they are unopposed, but Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Margaret Chutich and Court of Appeals Judge Lucinda Jesson are being challenged this year. Voters can vote for incumbents or write in candidates, or they can choose not to vote in these races.

Local races

In addition to these races, ballots will include candidates for county positions (sheriff, attorney, commissioner, auditor), city positions (mayor, council member), school boards, and soil and water conservation districts.

In Mille Lacs County's District 4, long-time commissioner Roger Tellinghuisen, who has supported the county's positions on law enforcement and boundaries, is being challenged by Michael "Sy" Anderson, who has met with Band officials and attended events hosted by the Band.

The Band has not endorsed any candidates in Mille Lacs County or local races.

Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan: Your Team for Indian Country

Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan, who are running for Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota, released a statement on Indian issues that was introduced with a quote from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin: "Peggy as Lt. Governor, what a benefit to Indian women in our state and across the country."

Tim and Peggy have said Native communities will always be a priority for their administration, and they have vowed to ensure that Native nations are treated with dignity and that tribal sovereignty is truly honored.

They promise to fully fund BIE and tribal schools, ensure healthcare access for Indigenous communities, fund public housing and other social services, and address systemic racism and implicit bias.

Peggy, a member of the White Earth Nation, has been a lifelong advocate for Indigenous communities, especially children. She trained Native leaders to run for office through Wellstone Ac-

tion and has done outreach in Native communities in a variety of roles.

Tim's first job as a teacher was on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and he has been committed to learning from and championing issues facing Native children and families ever since.

In Congress, Tim fought for the passage of permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. He also supported tribal housing, law enforcement, and violence against women legislation, and he recently worked to get nuclear waste removed from Prairie Island.

In the Minnesota House, Peggy led efforts to advance and improve child care for Native children and increase education and health resources for Indigenous communities. She is also a strong voice in the fight to protect wild rice from sulfate and other pollution.



Peggy Flanagan, pictured with District I Rep. Sandra Blake, made Mille Lacs one of her first stops on the campaign trail with Tim Walz.



WHY I VOTE

"It's our right to vote! I believe in our United States of America, and it should and can be still the best. Freedom and our right to speak can make it the best nation to live, no matter a person's color, race, or what we believe in. Take back our country!"

— Bette Sam



"I vote because it's important for me to be instrumental in deciding who will represent me, make decisions, and take votes on items that affect me and my area. If someone doesn't vote, that also has an effect on us. Voting is important! People fought for the right to vote!"

— Val Harrington (pictured on primary election day with Joyce Drumbeater and Baabiiyaw Boyd)

Reasons to Vote

1. To protect our treaty rights
2. To honor the sacrifices of our ogichidaag and ogichidaakweg
3. To say "miigwech" to our Elders
4. To set an example for our abinoojiiyag
5. To preserve a healthy planet for the 7th generation
6. To say no to pipelines
7. To stand in solidarity with other native people
8. To act on our seven values
9. Because our ancestors gave their lives for our citizenship
10. Because Native votes count!

Emy Minzel Seeks to Oust Erickson

Emy Minzel has become a familiar face in the District I and IIa communities of the Mille Lacs Reservation since she was endorsed by the DFL to run against Sondra Erickson for the Minnesota House from District 15A.

She has attended powwows, forums, and community meetings to get to know the Band and its members, and she has made Mille Lacs Lake a centerpoint of her campaign.

"Mille Lacs Lake fishery is a vital part of our community and economy," said Emy. "It is imperative we work on healing the lake and the tourism industry that helps sustain this area. We knew the lake had fish population issues in the early 2000s, and we are still spinning our wheels trying to find workable solutions."

Emy promises to facilitate respectful conversations with the DNR, tribal leaders, business owners, and residents to work together to rebuild mutual trust and heal community relations. "Things get done when people work together," she said. "We must stop pointing fingers and get to work. DNR studies have indicated that it is NOT fishing that is decreasing the walleye supply in Mille Lacs. We should be talking about invasive species, increase in pike population, and the warming of the lake."

Emy believes affordable health care should be a right for all Minnesotans, and she supports a \$15 statewide minimum wage.

Emy's opponent, Sondra Erickson, has sided with anti-treaty and anti-netting groups and has declared that the 1855 Reser-



Emy visited with Band members at the District I community picnic in August.

vation has been disestablished — a position that directly contradicts the United States of America's position, as laid out by the Department of the Interior.

For more on Emy, see emyforhouse.com.

Radinovich Hopes to Win Nolan's Seat

Joe Radinovich is a 4th Generation Cuyuna Iron Ranger, a hunter, and a fisherman. He was raised in a family of miners, electricians, and health care workers. He experienced personal tragedy when his mother was shot and killed in their kitchen by another family member. But with the support of his family, Joe soldiered on.

Joe believes strongly in tribal sovereignty and looks forward to representing Indian tribes.

"In Congress, it would be my great honor to represent five sovereign Indian nations in my District," Joe said. "I will respect the self-governing authority of the tribes and fight for better health care, housing, and educational opportunities for American Indians."

Joe got involved in politics because of cuts to rural schools, like Crosby-Ironton. Since then he's been on the front lines fighting for public education, better pay, and benefits for working families. Joe is running for Congress because working people need health care, childcare, good education, and the support system that comes with those things.

"That's why I've always fought for working people," Joe said. "It's why we've got to take on the special interests that have rigged the system against us. And why we need Medicare for all."

As a state legislator, Joe Radinovich helped pass funding and policy to help Minnesota meet our reduction targets for CO2 emissions, and he continues to work around fighting the devastating impact of climate change and moving us to a clean energy economy.

Joe is a strong supporter of the Clean Water Act, and he believes having access to clean, healthy water to drink and play in is a basic human right. It's essential for human life.

Joe believes we need to do more to guard our federally protected wilderness areas, National Parks, and sacred places from



Joe has been endorsed by former Vice President and Senator Walter Mondale, as well as President Barack Obama.

special interests looking to destroy our country's natural beauty in the name of profit.

Joe also believes in universal health care and wants to overturn Citizens United to get big money out of politics. He is not accepting donations from corporate political action committees. He promises to protect Social Security and Medicare and equal pay for women.

For more on Joe, see joeradinovich.com.

ELECTION GUIDE

Together we can make a difference



This is an unofficial sample ballot. All Minnesotans will vote for the offices below, but ballots will also include candidates for Minnesota House, county, city, and school district positions, as well as Minnesota Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and District Court judges.

WHY I VOTE

State General Election Ballot

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:

Federal Offices	State Offices
U.S. Senator For term expiring January 3, 2025 Vote for One	Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One Team
<input type="radio"/> Jim Newberger Republican	<input type="radio"/> Jeff Johnson/Donna Bergstrom Republican
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Amy Klobuchar Democratic-Farmer-Labor	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Tim Walz/Peggy Flanagan Democratic-Farmer-Labor
<input type="radio"/> Dennis Schuller Legal Marijuana Now	<input type="radio"/> Chris Wright/J. Schwartzbacker Grassroots - Legalize Cannabis
<input type="radio"/> Paula M Overby Minnesota Green Party	<input type="radio"/> Josh Welter/Mary O'Connor Libertarian
<input type="radio"/> write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> write-in, if any
U.S. Senator Special Election for term expiring January 3, 2021 Vote for One	Secretary of State Vote for One
<input type="radio"/> Karin Housley Republican	<input type="radio"/> John Howe Republican
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Tina Smith Democratic-Farmer-Labor	<input type="radio"/> Steve Simon Democratic-Farmer-Labor
<input type="radio"/> Sarah Wellington Legal Marijuana Now	<input type="radio"/> William Denney Independence
<input type="radio"/> Jerry Trooien Unaffiliated	<input type="radio"/> write-in, if any
<input type="radio"/> write-in, if any	State Auditor Vote for One
U.S. Representative District 8 (includes MLB districts I, II, III) Vote for One	<input type="radio"/> Pam Myhra Republican
<input type="radio"/> Pete Stauber Republican	<input type="radio"/> Julie Blaha Democratic-Farmer-Labor
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Joe Radinovich Democratic-Farmer-Labor	<input type="radio"/> Michael Ford Legal Marijuana Now
<input type="radio"/> Ray Skip Sandman Independence	<input type="radio"/> Chris Dock Libertarian Party
<input type="radio"/> write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> write-in, if any
U.S. Representative District 4 (includes Minneapolis) Vote for One	Attorney General Vote for One
<input type="radio"/> Jennifer Zielinski Republican	<input type="radio"/> Doug Wardlow Republican
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ilhan Omar Democratic-Farmer-Labor	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Keith Ellison Democratic-Farmer-Labor
<input type="radio"/> write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/> write-in, if any



"It's important because it's my right and we have a voice."
 — Darrell Sam (pictured with District 15A House candidate Emy Minzel)



"I vote because if I want to change policies within the government, then I need to have a speaker who is going to speak for me and what I think needs to be changed."
 — Bille Jo Boyd



"I vote because the United States gave me a voice in American elections, and in order for my voice to be heard there, I need to get out and go through the process of voting."
 — Bradley Harrington

Election Day Events

On November 6, polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The Government Affairs team will provide rides to the polls in each district. Call the office at 320-495-5006 or Katie Draper, 320-515-0846; Jamie Edwards, 612-850-2124; Shena Matrious, 320-279-3132; or Darla Roache, 320-443-5351.

Before or after voting, come for free brunch between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at District I, East Lake, Chiminising, and Meshakwad community centers. In the urban area, come to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Urban Building at 1508 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis.

If you would like to help with Election Day activities, please call Government Affairs staff members listed above for more information.

To view your complete sample ballot, go to <https://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/>

ELECTION GUIDE

Together we can make a difference



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?

Online registration ended on October 16, but 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.

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.

Need help? Call the Minnesota Secretary of State's office at 1-877-600-VOTE (8683), the Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs Team at 320-495-5006, 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

Dear Mille Lacs Band Member:

The General Election is quickly approaching – so, let's get out our Native vote on Tuesday, November 6! I encourage each of you to make your own decision about which candidates deserve your vote. If you are undecided, I am writing to make you aware of the candidates supported by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. If a candidate supports our sovereignty, treaty rights, and government-to-government relationships, the Band supports them.

Watch the November Inaajimowin for an informative election guide, and if you're on Facebook, check the Mille Lacs Band's page for ongoing info leading up to Election Day. There will be teams in each district and urban area that will provide rides to the polls on Election Day. Also, Election Day brunch will be served in each district, including the MCT office off of Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis.

How to vote on or before Election Day

Election day, in person: To vote in person, visit the county government office you reside in, or you can find your polling location at mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us. If you are a Mille Lacs County resident, a free shuttle to vote early will depart the Government Center in District I at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 1.

On the reverse side of this letter, I've listed the candidates who many of us will see on our ballots. (Depending on where you live, your ballot will feature different candidates and issues.) Band-supported candidates are shown with a ✓. **Feel free to bring this resource with you when you vote!**

Please vote on or before November 6, and bring friends and family members with you! If you have any questions leading up to Election Day, please call the Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs Team at 320-495-5006 for more information.

Miigwech,

Melanie Benjamin
Chief Executive

Candidates supported by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe – 2018

Minnesota Governor and Lieutenant Governor

✓ Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan (DFL)
Jeff Johnson and Donna Bergstrom (R)

Minnesota Attorney General

✓ Keith Ellison (DFL)
Doug Wardlow (R)

United States Senate – Minnesota

✓ Amy Klobuchar (DFL)
Jim Newberger (R)

United States Senate – Minnesota

✓ Tina Smith (DFL)
Karin Housley (R)

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

✓ Joe Radinovich (DFL)
Pete Stauber (R)
Ray Skip Sandman (I)

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

✓ Ilhan Omar (DFL)
Jennifer Zielinski (R)

Mille Lacs County Attorney

The Band does not support either candidate and recommends writing in "Equal Justice."

Steve Premo Becomes a Full-Time Artist

Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

During the recent Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures garage sale, people were welcome to purchase almost anything in the corporate building, including some of the things that were nailed down. Even pictures came off the walls, and at least one savvy buyer was overheard saying, "Grab that one! It's a Steve Premo!"

Steve Premo is probably the Mille Lacs Band's most well-known artist, and his works are community fixtures throughout the ceded territories. Between painting, photography, and graphic design, Steve can be found woven into just about everything visual the Mille Lacs Band has displayed in recent years. Earlier this year, however, Steve announced he was hanging up his hat.

"On March 10, I got married, and on March 22, I had heart surgery," Steve says.

It was open-heart surgery, and he's still recovering from it. But he's doing well, adjusting to a life where he keeps telling people he's retired while coming up with new projects and polishing off a few that aren't quite finished. His new marriage to Brenda Child, Chair of the American Studies Department at the University of Minnesota, keeps him busy, too. Steve frequently travels with Brenda as she discusses ethnohistory, presents papers, and accepts awards all over the world. Her work has given Steve the opportunity to see how Anishinaabe history interacts with the development of current public policy. Steve compares it to being on the crest of a wave, seeing just what happens before the waters settle into newly made American Indian policy. It's definitely thought-provoking and almost unavoidably a source of inspiration.

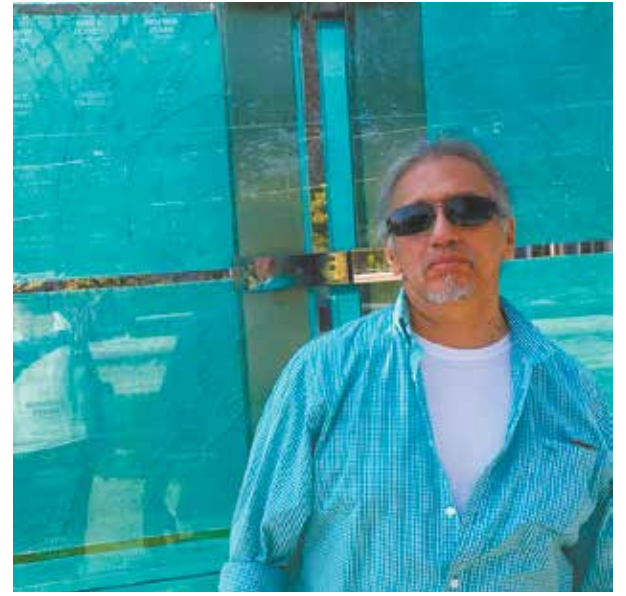
Inspiration started early for Steve. As a boy, he sustained a serious leg injury that almost resulted in amputation. He was scheduled to be moved to Gillette Children's Hospital for the procedure, but his mother Rose took him to traditional healer Jim Hanks first. Using traditional medicine, Hanks healed Steve's leg, and the amputation was no longer required. Full recovery was still a long journey, though, and to pass his time during it, Rose gave him art supplies. He learned to draw at the same time he learned to walk again, and it became something he just did.

It wasn't until third grade that Steve realized that the way he drew was different. As the class was doing art projects for Valentine's Day, Steve drew the best heart he could draw. It was an anatomical heart, and it got a little attention. The guys all thought it was pretty cool, but the girls weren't too impressed. The secret was out, though. Steve was always asked to draw things and remembers going around to microscopes in science class to draw his classmates' amoebas for them. In sixth grade, he got his first graphic design job producing the poster for his mother's quilting circle.

Steve's first trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Art was a revelation. He found he liked Rembrandt and other classics. He equated them to "footprints in history" and was taken with the idea that these images were given a special place on the wall and would be taken care of for a long time to come. Steve thought that he would like that for his work. It still wasn't until his brother Bill Jr. went to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design that Steve began to look past high school and understand that he could actually be an artist as a profession. That understanding led to a career in art and design that spans decades. Steve has done a lot of independent work, but in his words, "Painting feeds the soul; design feeds the kids."

Art has always been a way to start conversations for Steve, and it still is. His works tend to pose questions for the

"I am nothing without the Mille Lacs Band. It is my muse, my inspiration."



Steve Premo announced his retirement last spring, but that doesn't mean he won't be working.

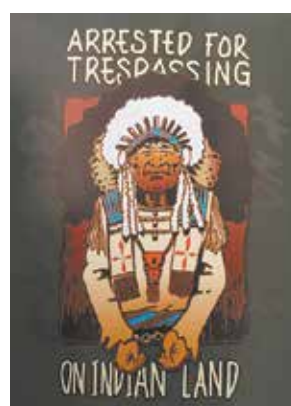
viewer. Look closely at the details and you'll find angles you might never have thought about. Is that person in the mural putting an obstacle in someone's path or moving it out of the way? It could be either. Steve's all about the questions, not the answers.

Look almost anywhere in Mille Lacs Band territory, and you'll see products of Steve's design. From the two-inch square panel of a comic book to a powwow flyer to a wall mural spanning the front of the District I Government Center, "Steve Premos" are everywhere.

If you ask Steve himself about legacy, he quips, "I'm not dead yet." But with a little reflection, Steve points out that he drew the first Grand Celebration poster, and he recently drew the poster for the 26th Annual Grand Celebration.

"I am nothing without the Mille Lacs Band," Steve says. "It is my muse, my inspiration."

For Steve, his legacy is simply contributing to the legacy of the Mille Lacs Band. His other goals were just to have fun and stay viable. As Steve shifts away from the jobs that feed the kids and focuses full-time on the work that feeds his soul, it is safe to say that he has stayed relevant and well-loved. He can even be assured that his work earned that special place on the wall many times over, and it will be taken care of for many generations to come.



Some of Steve's favorites. Left: 'We are the Custodians.' Middle: 'Brenda,' 'Casino Hair,' 'Going to Town,' 'Shawl,' 'Mmm, Cake' and 'Arrested.' Right: 'Waiting.'

HHS Building, Community Center on Schedule in District I

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Elected officials and staff got a sneak peek October 16 at the new Health and Human Services building and community center that are under construction in District I.

The word “impressive” floated around several times amid the dust and paint fumes as Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, District III Representative Wally St. John, and Legislative staff members were given a tour of both projects by Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin, Planning Director Mike Moilanen, and Project Manager Ryan Jendro.

The HHS building is scheduled for completion next spring, and the new District I Community Center should be finished in the fall of 2019.

The HHS building has two wings stretching out from a central atrium. One wing is dedicated to office space for HHS administration, Family Services, Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Community Support Services. The other wing will house the new medical clinic, pharmacy, radiology, labs, and a dental clinic.

The building is almost entirely enclosed, with walls going

up, flooring going down, and miles of electrical cable being strung to transmit the reams of data on which health care depends in the 21st century. Corridors lined with windows provide a view of the beautiful Sher property, which is also being developed for housing and the community center.

Around the outside of the building, a paved walking path will further emphasize health and will connect to the fitness facilities next door at the community center.

The community center will include three pools (a lap pool, a kiddie pool, and a therapy pool) along with an outdoor splash park. At the other end of the center, a gymnasium will be built with a wood floor and an elevated running track. Between the gym and pools on the upper level is a state-of-the-art fitness center, and on the lower level is a group of multi-purpose rooms, a commercial kitchen, and a public meeting area.

The clinic was designed by Seven Generations Architects and Engineering, a Michigan-based firm owned by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. The community center was designed by Negen and Associates of St. Cloud.



Left: The fitness center on the second floor of the new community center provides a view of the Health and Human Services building. **Center:** The community center pool room will have three pools. **Right:** Mike Moilanen showed District III Representative Wally St. John the new clinic atrium, pictured in the drawing in the lower right.

Band Member Wordsmith Gives Reading in Minneapolis

Tricia Nissen Director of Public Relations

Mille Lacs Band member Li Boyd was one of four poetry and fiction writers to give a reading in Minneapolis on October 10 as part of The Birchbark Books Reading Series. This was Li’s first formal public reading, and she read excerpts from her award-winning short story as well as her novel project, which is still in the works.

Li, who works as an environmental technician for the Band’s DNR, led off with a reading from her self-described “speculative fiction” story about Native Americans traveling together. “It’s never point A to point B,” Li said before she began reading her story of Rita, Rusty, and Vern.

“Anywhere you wanna stop before we pick up Auntie Rita?” Rusty asked when Vern seemed to settle for good.

“Pick up?!” Vern said. “We’re going to Auntie Rita’s!”

“Well yeah, but she won a weekend fantasy bingo package at White Shells. She needs a ride home.”

“When were you going to tell me?”

“Now.”

From futuristic travel to casino bingo to a beloved rez dog that is bilingual in Ojibwe and Dakota, it’s easy to understand after listening to Li read her story how “Everyday Strays” made her a co-winner of the eighth annual Imagining Indigenous Futurisms short story contest. The story is unpublished, but she is interested in the right publication opportunity.

Li’s second reading came from her novel project, with the working title *Caged*. “It came to me after I was at the Standing Rock camp,” she told the audience of 40, which included Li’s parents, Janet Boyd and Jim Boyd, as well as her aunt, Phyllis Boyd.

Motivated by the growing Native movement against pipe-



Li Boyd received a warm reception at Birchbark Books October 10.

line expansion, *Caged* is set in the near future in a “corporatocracy” scenario in which oil companies have divided up the country into districts, and they are fighting each other for control of the oil fields. “This is a worst-case nightmare of what could ever happen,” Li said. The upper class would go on with life, while everyone lower than that would be servants to the corporate oil machine.” She hopes to finish the novel in 2019.

Li’s passion for writing

Li was introduced at the reading series event by Ardie Medina, who she met through the TGIFrybread writing group made up of Minneapolis-based and greater Minnesota writers. Li says she is “in a long-distance relationship with the Twin Cities arts and writing communities” — having been born in Minneapolis, but growing up close to her Anishinaabe family up north. In 1998, she moved to the Mille Lacs Reservation full-time.

Li began telling stories before she learned how to write. “I remember as a kid admiring people as they wrote out checks, even,” said Li. “I wanted to make curly Qs so bad!”

So her grandmothers wrote for her or made audio recordings of her stories on cassette tapes. Li’s paternal grandmother, the late Grace Boyd, helped her work on the curly Qs. “She had really bad arthritis, but still she would write for me what I’d want her to. She was one of the most inspiring women I’ve ever known.”

The late Helen Stewart was Li’s maternal grandmother, and they spent a lot of time together when Li was a young girl. “Almost every afternoon, we’d set up a fort on the living room floor. We’d put a blanket over an umbrella, we’d gather up some of her little knick-knacks, and I’d tell stories about the knick-knacks while she recorded me. Those were golden times,” Li said.

Her writing is also influenced by her passion to protect our waters, the joy she gets from building things with her hands, and her love for the Band’s homelands at Mille Lacs and her 14-year-old dog Maddie (affectionately called “Puppy” much of the time).

“Right now I’m focusing on generating material,” said Li, who is a regular *Inaajimowin* contributor as well, but she is interested in doing readings at Birchbark Books (located near Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis) or elsewhere.

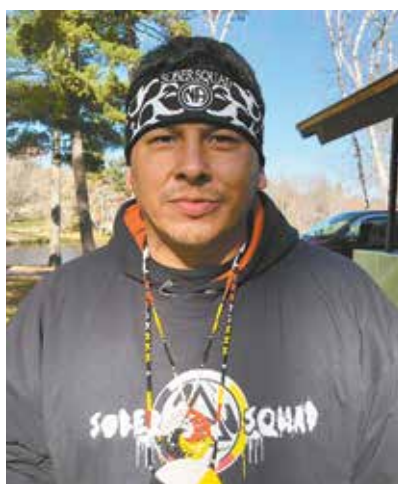
She also encourages others to write. “You don’t need to write *War and Peace*,” she said, referencing the daunting thousand-page novel. “All you need is a pen and a legal pad from the dollar store.”



Native Plant Knowledge Shared at Meshakwad Community Center

More than 50 community members and staff attended a day-long presentation by Linda Black Elk, left, at the Meshakwad Community Center in District III on Friday, October 19. Participants like Gilda Burr, right, learned about wild plants that can be used to make home remedies, including elderberry elixir, hot cider, teas, and hand sanitizer.

What's the best thing about sobriety?



"I'm happy, I get to be there for my family sober, and I get to help my people."

— Dan Wind



"Reconnecting with my family and the community."

— Lynelle Northbird



"A second chance, a new life, good friends, and a relationship with my family."

— Gary Benjamin



An enthusiastic group of 200 marched through Brainerd to celebrate sobriety on October 21. Natives and non-Natives in communities around Minnesota have been inspired by Sober Squad's message of hope and healing.



Weweni Inaabaji'aw Asemaa Basketball Tournament

An intergenerational basketball tournament will be held at Nay Ah Shing High School November 3 and 4 with teams consisting of at least one Elder, two adults, one female, and two youth. Awards include N7 jackets, Nike gym bags, and Nike t-shirts. Rooms provided upon request.

For more information, contact:

Mikayla Schaaf, mikayla.schaaf@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov or 320-532-7776, ext. 2413.

Byron Ninham, byron.ninham@millelacsband.com.

This is a drug and alcohol-free event. Please use tobacco in a good way.

Watch for Videos Showcasing Our Culture at Work



Every Friday for five weeks beginning on November 9, be watching the Band's Facebook page for the release of new videos showcasing people and places around our Mille Lacs Reservation communities. Produced by the Ge-niigaanizijig Project, the videos range in topic from regalia creation and the Nay Ah Shing Royalty Powwow to youth leadership, red willow arts, and basketball.

"These videos show the community engaged in the Ojibwe language and culture while having fun," said Ge-niigaanizijig Co-Manager Byron Ninham. "They celebrate and tell our own stories, and we hope people will be inspired to get involved and focus on the positive things happening around us."

The Ge-niigaanizijig Project, through the Band's Department of Education, received a grant from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to focus on initiatives that inspire young people to think, teach and act in Ojibwe. The videos, which are further supported by the Clean Water Land and Legacy Fund, are one of the initiatives.



Alex 'Bagwajinini' Kmett and Tony Buckanaga are among those featured in the Ge-niigaanizijig Project's new videos.

Interested in submitting to Ojibwe Inaajimowin?

Email brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. The December issue deadline is November 15.



Pine Grove Students Go to Safety School



Safety Day is always a hit at Pine Grove Learning Center in Aazhoomog (District III).

On October 6, students learned from firefighters, EMTs, electricians, forest rangers, and our own Mille Lacs Band DNR, who brought the most popular guest of all: Smokey Bear.

The kids learned about the importance of wearing life jackets and staying away from powerlines, and they even got to spray a fire hose and apply bandages.

East Central Energy brought a model of a house that shows what can happen when a metal ladder gets too close to a power line.

The DNR crew talked about preventing wildfires and taking care of natural resources.

Students at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiiyag also had a safety day on October 11. These learning activities are made possible through many volunteers, school staff, and the Tribal Police Department's Emergency Management program.



Gigitigemin Anishinaabewiyang

Story and photo by Makadegwanebiike (Mikayla Schaaf) Mille Lacs Band Descendant

On September 27, more than 50 Chiminising participants enjoyed an educational evening about gardening and harvesting vegetables from self-sustained elevated gardens.



Laughter filled the room when avid wild mushroom harvester David Morneau presented on a variety of mushrooms located around the Mille Lacs area.

Melanie Garbow and Michele Wanless, who have been organizing the garden club since this summer, prepared a hearty meal of potato and wild rice soup. All of the vegetables from the soup were prepared from garden to table and harvested from gardens nearby.

Gigitigemin Anishinaabewiyang (We all plant vegetables) is sponsored by the Tobacco-Free Communities Grant Program and will continue to provide classes and educational information about organic gardening, canning, and harvesting throughout the year.

A community readiness assessment was distributed among participants to determine interest in gardening. The questionnaire also gathered requests to gauge what gardeners would like to grow in their boxes next year. Those who filled out a garden assessment received a complete garden tool kit for their gardens.

Seeding for all gardens will begin in the spring of 2019.



Homemade, homegrown, and healthy foods were on the menu at Chiminising Community Center September 27.



Pet clinic in District III

Mission Animal Hospital and Second Hand Hounds provided spay/neuter and wellness services at Aazhoomog Community Center on October 13 and 14. They performed 57 surgeries and 30 wellness checks. Michelle Pomerleau organized the event with assistance from Tribal Emergency Management. A clinic is planned for November 17-18 in District I. Contact Pam Eagle at 320-532-7585 for more information.



Car seats save lives

On Sunday, September 23, the Urban Office hosted a Child Safety Seat clinic. Certified Passenger Safety Technician Monte Fronk of Tribal Emergency Management distributed 22 car seats to our urban members. Car seats were distributed and training was offered in all districts and the urban area after the Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department received 10 car seats from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety Grant and 50 seats from a BIA Indian Highway Safety Program Grant. Miigwech to Early Ed and district and urban staff who helped coordinate the trainings.



CPR training provided

Four Winds Lodge staff in Brainerd (pictured) learned CPR on September 23, and foster care providers in District I followed suit at the community center on October 17.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE MLCV
19TH ANNUAL
FALL FEAST
TAILGATE PARTY
FOR MILLE LACS BAND MEMBERS**
GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS EVENTS & CONVENTION CENTER

**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER
15, 2018**

**DOORS - 5 P.M.
INVOCATION - 5:30 P.M.
DINNER - 6 P.M.**

**WEAR YOUR FAVORITE
TEAM GEAR!**

KIDS COLORING CONTEST!

PRIZE GIVEAWAYS!

**ADULTS WILL RECEIVE A
SKOLDEN T-SHIRT!**

**TOY FOOTBALLS
FOR THE KIDS!**

Screening of *The People's Protectors* at Indian Museum

Come to the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on Tuesday, November 13, for a screening of *The People's Protectors*, a new film directed by Leya Hale.

6:30 p.m.: Doors open, light snacks

7 p.m.: Welcome and screening of *The People's Protectors* begins

8 p.m.: Q & A with filmmaker and film participants

9 p.m.: Event ends

About *The People's Protectors*: Four Native American Vietnam War veterans reflect on the agony of war and how their communities helped them carry their warrior legacy proudly. From the Marine Corps to the Navy to the U.S. Army veterans Valerie Barber, Art Owen, Sandy White Hawk, Vince Beyl, and civilian eyapaha (announcer) Jerry Dearly recall their memories of one of the most controversial wars in United States history. Even as they struggled with their relationship to the United States government from genocidal policies and government oppression, the Dakota, Lakota, and Ojibwe warriors still felt compelled to honor their duty to their people as Akichita | Ogichidaag | Warriors — protectors of the people. A lifetime later, these soldiers meet us in the studio as they begin to tell their stories. Directed by Leya Hale. Funded by Vision Maker Media and the Mark and Mary Davis Foundation.

The People's Protectors is part of the Twin Cities PBS Honors Native Cultures initiative, presented in part by QuitPlan.

Gathering for Our Children and Returning Adoptees Powwow

On November 3 at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, join adoptees and formerly fostered individuals and birth families for the Gathering for Our Children and Returning Adoptees Powwow.

10 a.m.–1 p.m.: Meet and visit in the auditorium on the second floor of the American Indian Center

1 p.m.: Grand Entry

3 p.m.: Wablenica Ceremony — The Wablenica Song (Orphan Song) will be sung for returning adoptee and fostered individuals and their families. A ceremony will be offered to heal the grief caused by separation from family and heritage.

5:30 p.m.: Feast

6–7 p.m.: TBA

7 p.m.: Grand Entry

8 p.m.: Honor Song for foster and adoptive parents.

Dancers! Please come dance and welcome our relatives back to our circle.

MC: Jerry Dearly

ADs: Kirk Crow Shoe, Barry Hand

Host Drum: Oyate Teca

Vendors contact: Tina Knafka, 612-348-9662

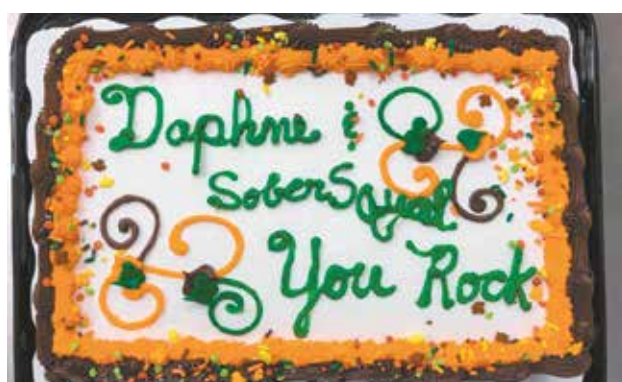
Sponsored by Hennepin County, Bois Forte Urban Office, First Nations Repatriation Institute, and Department of Human Services.

For more information, contact Jacque Wilson at 612-747-5247 or urbanoffice@boisforte-nsn.gov or Sandy White Hawk at 651-442-4872 or sandywhitehawk@gmail.com.



Smudge Walk in District III

The Hinckley community in District III was the latest to hold a smudge walk to bring positive healing energy to the community. About 20 residents from the community and guests from Sober Squad brought sage, music, laughter, and love to the area on September 30, followed by a picnic at the Meshakwad Community Center. Daphne Shabaiah and Sober Squad were honored with a cake for their help in organizing and promoting the walk.



TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

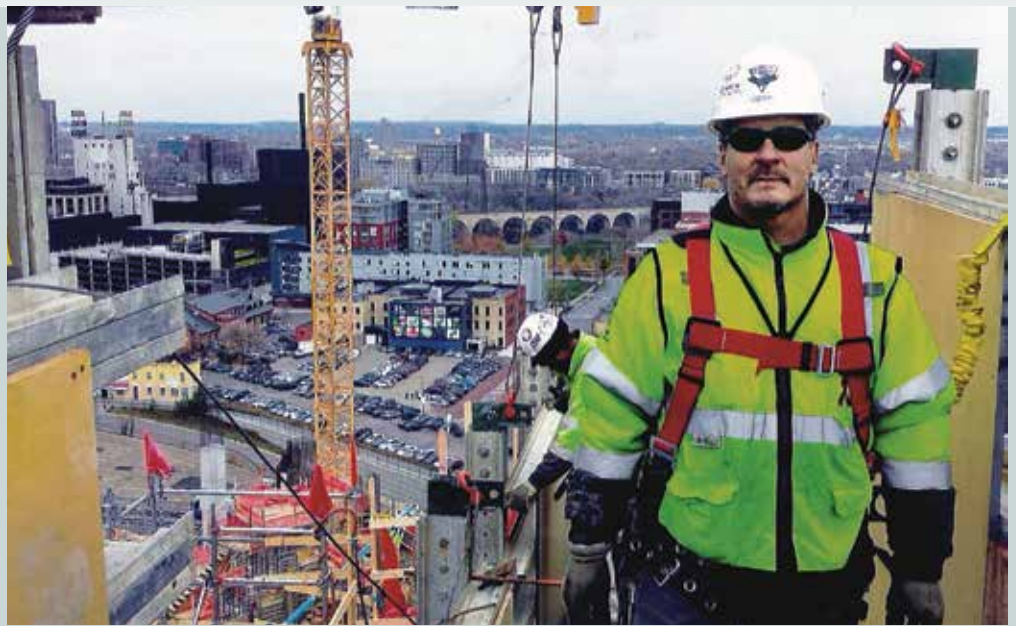
Happy November Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Cherie Jean Ambrose
Robin Darrell Anderson
Floyd Monroe Ballinger
Franklin James Benjamin
Carleen Maurice Benjamin
Irene Bernice Benjamin
Clifford Wayne Benjamin
Barbara Jean Benjamin-Robertson
William Boyd
Alice Elizabeth Carter
Mary Maxine Conklin
Mary Ann Curfman
Richard Thomas Dakota
Michael Roger Dorr
Douglas Duane Dunkley
Donald Ross Eubanks
Thomas Rodney Evans
Terrance Wayne Feltmann
Roger Granger
Eileen Marjorie Johnson
Bridgette Marie Kilpela
Christopher James Kuntz
George Virgil LaFave
Barbara Ellen Lobejko
Sidney Ray Lucas
Mary Ellen Meyer
Darlene Doris Meyer
Marie Linda Nahorniak
Judith Marie Nickaboine
Bernadette Norton
Elizabeth Anne Peterson

Ralph Pewaush
Dale William Roy
David Wayne Sam
Leonard Sam
Karen Renee Sampson
Mary Ann Shedd
Kenneth Daryl Shingobe
Ronald Eugene Smith
Maria Ellena Spears
Nora Grace St. John
David Le Roy Staples
John Henry Thomas
Donald Gerard Thomas
Jerry Lee Torgerud
Joyce Laverne Trudell
Lawrence Eli Wade
Natalie Yvonne Weyaus
Sylvia Jane Wise
Patricia Beatrice Xerikos

Happy November Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Shawntel** on 11/18 love The Harrington Family • Happy third birthday **Christine Nadeau** on 11/30 from Mom, Gramma, Mick, Papa, Phil, Whitney, Nadine, Taylor, and Brandon • Happy second birthday **Taylor Wade** on 11/24 from Grandma, Mickey, Papa, Phil, Whitney, Cory Jr., Mom and Dad



Band Member Retires after 36 Years in the Electrical Industry

Wesley Dorr Jr., an electrician, put away his tools after a long and successful career. He worked on many projects that today make up the Minneapolis skyline. He helped build some of the largest buildings in town, including those that top off at 31, 37, and 51 stories high. These are in addition to his leadership on the Vikings' new home, US Bank Stadium. He also worked on many other projects large and small in Minneapolis and the surrounding area. Wes was a long-time supervisor for Parsons Electric of Minneapolis and a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Enjoy your retirement, Dad! You deserve it. We are very proud of you. Angela, Brian, Maria, and wife Carmen.

Correction

The October issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* incorrectly named Winnie LaPrairie as an employee of Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy. Winnie LaPrairie does not work at the school. We apologize for the error.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday, and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Brett Larson at brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

The deadline for the December issue is November 15.

Mille Lacs Band Recovery Groups

District I Mille Lacs

Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition

Mondays, 5:30–7 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (Next to the Halfway House — Brown Building)
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768

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

Wellbriety Talking Circle

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.

CEREMONIAL DRUM

Tim and Tom Ceremonial Drum: November 2–3, DII.

Elder and Sheldon Ceremonial Drum: November 2–3, DI.

Darrell and Skip Ceremonial Drum: November 5–6, DIII.

Vince and Dale Ceremonial Drum: November 9–10, DII.

Joe and George Ceremonial Drum: November 16–17, DI.

Lee and Mike Ceremonial Drum: November 16–17, DIII.

Bob and Perry Ceremonial Drum: November 30–December 1, DI.

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

Corporate Ventures Fall Feast: November 15, Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Bus leaves Urban Office at 3 p.m., departs for return trip at 7:30 p.m. Call 612-872-1424 to sign up.

Meshakwad Community Center Grand Opening: December 3, Hinckley.

Elders Christmas Party: December 8, Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Call 320-532-7532 or 320-532-7854 for information. Room sign-up deadline November 16.

Midwinter Holidays: December 24 and 25. Government Offices Closed.

GASHKADINO - GIIZIS FREEZING - OVER MOON NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Celebrating Baby Event! All pregnant women and mothers with children from 0 to 12 months are invited to celebrate their babies at the East Lake Community Center in District II November 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be food, gifts, guest speakers, education, community resources, and grand prizes. For more information or to RSVP, call or text Renee Bayerle at 320-362-4988 or Kathy Nelson at 320-630-2468.</p> <p>Urban Family Drum and Dance Join other urban area families at the Indian Health Board, 1315 East 24th Street in Minneapolis, every Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. beginning November 7. For information or to register, call Frankie (Animikii) Graves at 612-721-9827 or Victoria (Animikii-binesiiik) Swain at 612-721-9811.</p> <p>Native American Fellowship of the Spirit Conference On November 8–11 at the Double Tree Bloomington Hotel, the NAFOTS conference convenes to share a message of hope, recovery, and freedom. Register at tinyurl.com/y7hpfzgh or call 719-495-6378.</p>				<p>1 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Aazhoomog</p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step Meshakwad Community Center, 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>2 Tim and Tom Ceremonial Drum District II</p> <p>Elmer and Sheldon Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>Nay Ah Shing Powwow 10 a.m.–noon District I</p> <p>Noon Closing</p>	<p>3 Tim and Tom Ceremonial Drum District II</p> <p>Elmer and Sheldon Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>Basketball Tournament Nay Ah Shing HS <i>See page 15</i></p>
<p>4 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Basketball Tournament Nay Ah Shing HS <i>See page 15</i></p>	<p>5 Darrell and Skip Ceremonial Drum District III</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>6 Darrell and Skip Ceremonial Drum District III</p> <p>Band Assembly 10 a.m., Nayahshing</p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Election Day Brunch 10 a.m.–2 p.m. All Nations Church</p>	<p>7 NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Urban Family Drum and Dance 6 p.m. Indian Health Board <i>See above</i></p>	<p>8 Band Assembly 10 a.m., Nayahshing</p> <p>Fellowship of the Spirit Conference Double Tree Hotel Bloomington <i>See above</i></p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step Meshakwad Community Center 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>9 Vince and Dale Ceremonial Drum District II</p> <p>Fellowship of the Spirit Conference Double Tree Hotel Bloomington <i>See above</i></p>	<p>10 Vince and Dale Ceremonial Drum District II</p> <p>Fellowship of the Spirit Conference Double Tree Hotel Bloomington <i>See above</i></p>
<p>11 Fellowship of the Spirit Conference Double Tree Hotel Bloomington <i>See above</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>12 Warriors' Day Government offices closed</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>13 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Chiminising</p> <p>The People's Protectors movie screening 6:30 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 17</i></p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>14 DI Community Meeting DI Community Center 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Urban Family Drum and Dance 6 p.m. Indian Health Board <i>See above</i></p>	<p>15 Corporate Ventures Fall Feast 5 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs, <i>See page 17</i></p> <p>Band Assembly 10 a.m. Big Sandy Lodge</p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step Meshakwad Community Center 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>16 Joe and George Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>Lee and Mike Ceremonial Drum District III</p> <p>Honoring Our Veterans 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. MCT building, Mpls.</p>	<p>17 Joe and George Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>Lee and Mike Ceremonial Drum District III</p> <p>District I Pet Clinic <i>See page 16</i></p>
<p>18 District I Pet Clinic <i>See page 16</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>19 Sobriety Feast East Lake Community Center 6 p.m.</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>20 No Band Assembly Meetings canceled during the week of Miigwech day</p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinkley</p>	<p>21 NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Urban Family Drum and Dance 6 p.m. Indian Health Board <i>See above</i></p>	<p>22 Band Holiday Government offices closed</p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step Meshakwad Community Center 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>23 Miigwech Day Government offices closed</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>26 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p>	<p>27 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Meshakwad Community Center Hinckley</p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>28 NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Urban Family Drum and Dance 6 p.m. Indian Health Board <i>See above</i></p>	<p>29 Band Assembly 10 a.m. All Nations Church</p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step Meshakwad Community Center 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>30 Bob and Perry Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>Welcoming Baby Event 11 a.m.–2 p.m. East Lake Community Center <i>See above</i></p>	<p>December 1 Bob and Perry Ceremonial Drum District I</p>

Want your event here?

Email brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.

More events: See page 18 for Recurring Events, Upcoming Events, and Recovery Groups.

Band Assembly meetings

Band Assembly meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

Co-ed Volleyball and Basketball at Meshakwad in Hinckley: Volleyball, Tuesdays, 6–8 p.m. Basketball, Wednesdays, 6–8 p.m.



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OF OJIBWE**
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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.

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 or call 320-237-6851. The December issue deadline is November 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.

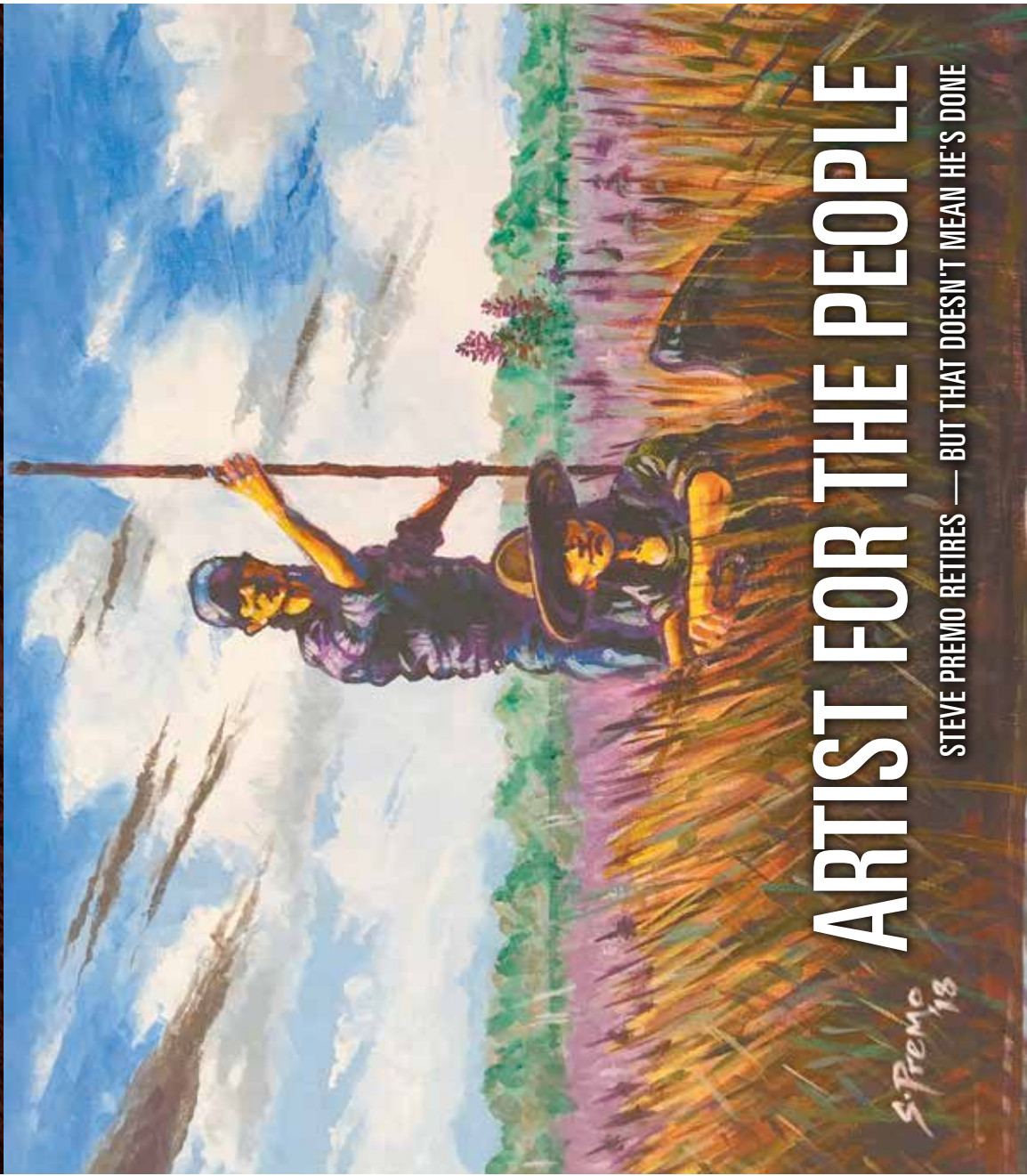
Women's Shelter: 866-867-4006.

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.

INAAJIMOWIN
THE STORY AS IT'S TOLD
OJIBWE
NOVEMBER 2018 | VOLUME 20 | NUMBER 11



ARTIST FOR THE PEOPLE

STEVE PREMO RETIRES — BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S DONE

SECRETARY-
TREASURER'S
FIRST 100 DAYS

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WORDSMITH
GIVES READING IN
MINNEAPOLIS

YOUR GUIDE
TO THE 2018
ELECTION

