

BAND CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY RIGHTS VICTORY!

Each year, on or near March 24, the Mille Lacs Band celebrates a holiday recognizing the 1999 Supreme Court decision affirming Anishinaabe rights to hunt, fish, and gather in the territory ceded by the Treaty of 1837.

But this year, Commissioner of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington decided to mark the 20th anniversary of that historic occasion with a three-day festival.

On Wednesday, March 20, DNR staff devoted their day to educating the next generation — who weren't yet born in 1999 — on the importance of the case, as well as the cultural practices and knowledge that underlie the exercise of treaty rights.

Students from Nay Ah Shing, Isle, Onamia, Minisinaakwaang, and Pine Grove schools came to Grand Casino Mille Lacs for fun and learning. They heard stories told by Elder Natalie Weyaus, practiced casting with Biologist Carl Klimah, played the moccasins game with Archivist Mike Wilson, drank cedar and rose hip tea prepared by Ethnobotanist Linda Waataa'b Bishop, learned about hemp with Agriculture Coordinator Jonathan Houle, and built wind generators with Andy and Li Boyd of the Environmental Program. Jordan Williams worked with the kids to make spearing decoys, and Perry Bunting and Chad Weiss showed off their wood duck houses.

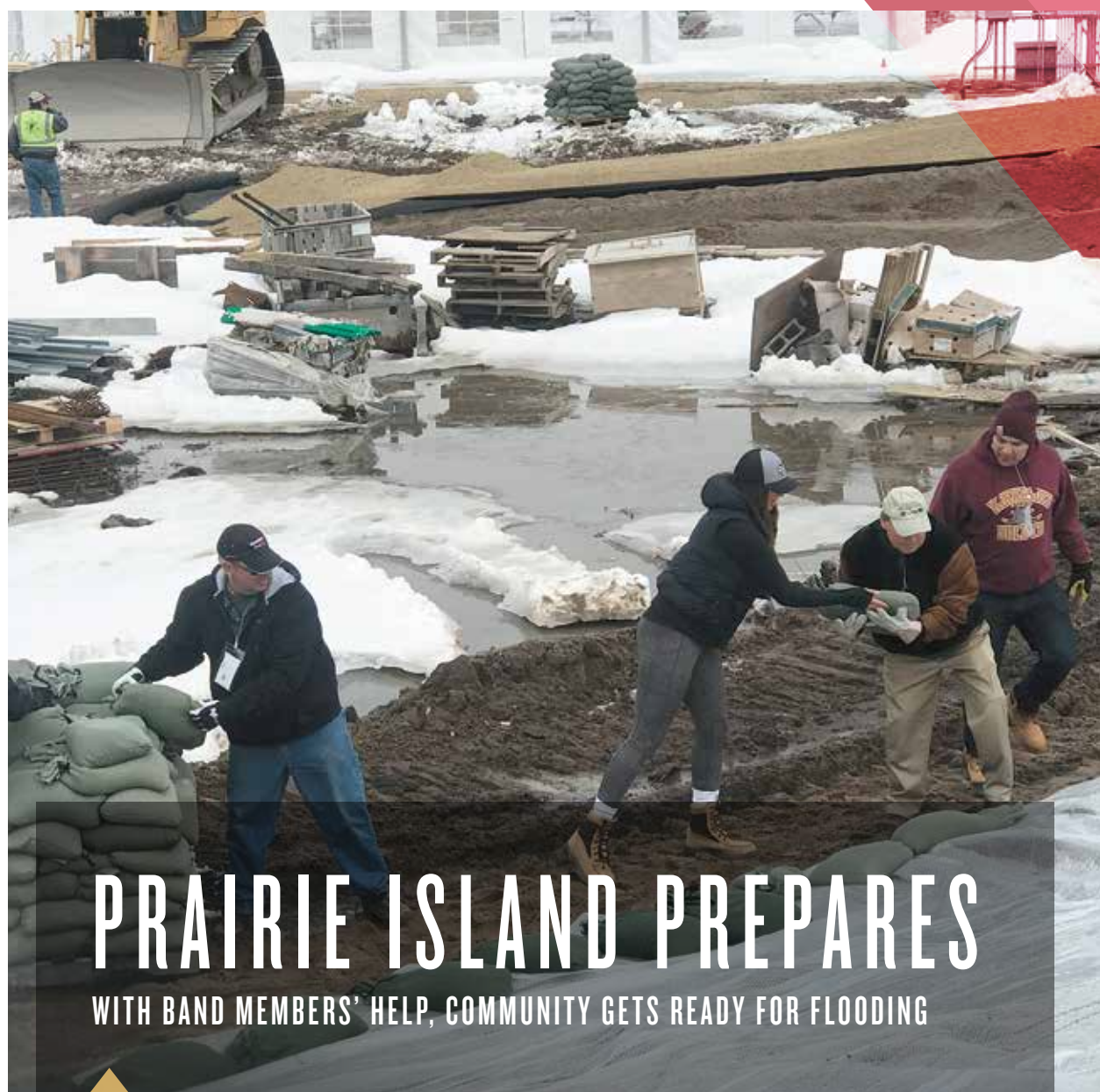
The tribal DNR was joined by Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission staff, Erin Fallon of the Minnesota DNR, master carver Jerome LaBarge of Lac du Flambeau, and vendors selling traditional artwork.

On Thursday, March 21, Jason Schlender, Vice Chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band and Chairman of the Voigt Task Force, gave a fascinating presentation titled 'Gaa-Pazagwadinijig: The Ones That Are Stood Up.'

Jason spoke of how the 1999 5-4 Supreme Court decision paved the way for a "cultural renaissance." He cited several examples:

- Language revitalization efforts through GLIFWC and tribal schools,
 - The Sandy Lake Mikwendaagoziwig (We remember them) ceremony commemorating the Sandy Lake Tragedy of 1850,
 - The Healing Circle Run/Walk held each summer to bring together the region's Ojibwe bands,
 - Writing and artistic expression by Anishinaabe including Anton and David Treuer, Brenda Child, Steve Premo, Sarah Howes, Lee Obizaan Staples, and Chato Gonzalez.
- He emphasized the importance of Obizaan and Chato's work on funerals and drum ceremonies, saying it is crucial to document those traditions.

Jason also summarized the history of treaty rights decisions that led to the Mille Lacs case, from legal challenges to citations in the 1960s and '70s, to the Voigt Decision in 1983 affirming the rights of Ojibwe to harvest in ceded territories in Wisconsin.



PRAIRIE ISLAND PREPARES

WITH BAND MEMBERS' HELP, COMMUNITY GETS READY FOR FLOODING

Forty-seven Band member employees and community members headed to Prairie Island Reservation on Wednesday, March 20, to help fill sandbags in preparation for expected spring floods.

The effects of a record snowfall don't end on the first day of spring. Those massive drifts and piles are melting fast and may result in another record — record floods.

One of the hardest hit areas is expected to be Prairie Island Indian Community on the Mississippi River near Red Wing. Given the likelihood of major flooding this spring, the community started filling sandbags in mid-March, and on Wednesday, March 20, 47 Mille Lacs Band employees and community members helped out.

University of Minnesota Professor Tadd Johnson, who also works in the Band's Government Affairs Department, heard that Prairie Island was looking for volunteers, and when he passed the word on to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, she was certain a contingent of Band members and employees would step forward, and she tasked the Government Affairs department with publicizing the event and arranging transportation.

The bus from UMD stopped in Hinckley to pick up nine people, and the rest — government workers, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures employees, and private citizens — took their own cars to Prairie Island.

From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 7,000 sand bags were filled at the site to help shore up an 11-foot high berm that protects the commu-

nity from flood waters.

Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin decided the effort would also help Mille Lacs prepare for potential emergencies. "We had a major flood in District II several years ago, so it's good to see what other communities are doing to prepare," he said.

Members of the Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) not only volunteered but also took note of Prairie Island's preventative measures.

Monte Fronk of Tribal Emergency Management met with Prairie Island's Emergency Management Department to learn about their flood prevention efforts.

Roads and Public Works staff also gained valuable knowledge of sandbagging operations that will prove useful in the event of a similar emergency.

Beth Gruber of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures was amazed at the challenge faced by the community. "The area where we were working is right behind the hotel and is close to the river. Sand bags are really heavy, and one sand bag doesn't take up much square footage. It's a massive undertaking!"

M E S S A G E F R O M T H E C H I E F E X E C U T I V E

Boozhoo! After one of the coldest and snowiest winters in recent memory, the sounds of spring have finally arrived. Robins, which are among the first birds to return from the south, can now be heard filling the air with their song in the early morning.

On February 26, we held our quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) at the Band's Intercontinental Hotel in St. Paul, followed by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's annual Legislative Dinner. This MIAC meeting was one of the best I have ever attended. Both Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan attended the meeting along with most state commissioners.

Tribal leaders had lunch with Governor Walz and discussed several key issues, including the Wild Rice Task Force as well as strengthening of Executive Order 13-10, first issued by Governor Dayton. Executive Order 13-10 required that state agencies consult with Indian tribes on matters impacting tribes, develop formal consultation policies, and require that employees interacting with tribes attend the two-day Tribal-State Relations training. Executive Orders are only in effect as long as any sitting governor chooses for them to remain in effect, so during this state legislative session, we are working on making this policy part of state law.

The dinner included a moving tribute by MCT President Cathy Chavers and Governor Tim Walz honoring the late Chairman Norman Deschampe, of Grand Portage, who served as President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for 22 years.

Sadly, we experienced another loss of a great leader with the recent passing of Chairman Terrance "Terry" Tibbetts, of White Earth. Chairman Tibbetts served on the tribal council at White Earth since 2006 and was elected Chairman in 2016. He was a strong leader, a very kind man, and a good friend who will be missed.

On March 5-7, Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd and I attended the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Impact Week in Washington D.C. Also in attendance were HHS Commissioners Nicole Anderson and DNR Commissioner Bradley Harrington along with other Band staff. (See page 3 for a photo of our group.)

The purpose of this meeting was to talk with key members

of Congress as well as federal agency officials with jurisdiction over Indian programs about our collective needs in the Midwest region.

This meeting is very important because, historically, our Midwest region has been one of the most under-funded in the country when it comes to the Indian Health Service and BIA programs. When tribes come together as a group, we have more strength in numbers to advocate for issues we have in common. I had the chance to speak with BIA Assistant Secretary Tara Sweeney about our need for more aggressive federal prosecution of violent crimes committed on the reservation, and she agreed to take the message to the Department of Justice and White House that the federal trust responsibility is not just with the Interior Department, but extends to the Department of Justice as well as all federal agencies.

"TO THOSE HARVESTERS WHO ALWAYS MAKE A POINT OF SHARING WITH OUR ELDERS, CHI MIIGWECH FOR YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS AND FOR LIVING OUT OUR VALUES."

I was invited on March 8 to serve on a panel at the "Indigenous Women Have Always Been Leaders" event held on International Women's Day by the Native Governance Center, the Tiwahe Foundation, and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. The auditorium was filled with American Indian women and youth, and the energy was incredibly inspiring. All of the panelists had powerful messages to share with and were so inspiring: Minnesota State Rep. Mary Kunesch-Podein (Standing Rock), Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Anne McKeig (White Earth), North Dakota State Rep. Ruth Buffalo (Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara) who appeared via Skype, and former Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs Karen Diver (Fond du Lac). Finally, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan also spoke and gave a

very inspiring speech that motivated the entire room to become change agents in their communities. It was very exciting to see other Mille Lacs Band women at this event, and Miigwech to Jayme Davis and everyone who made this day possible!

On March 12, the Band Assembly and I met to discuss our Net Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP). This is the plan that determines what percentages of our net gaming revenue are spent on various needs. Currently, our RAP allocates 25% to government programs and services, 35% to per capita, 15% to Long-term Savings, 8% to economic development, 7% to Permanent Initiative, 5% to Circle of Health, and 5% to Housing Initiative. Discussions are underway to make possible changes to this plan. In general, implementation of the RAP is one of the smartest moves Band government has ever made. During the recent federal government shutdown, Band Members did not experience cuts in services because due to our RAP, we had funding available that could float our programs until federal funding resumed.

As a Board Member of the Minnesota Board on Aging, I attended a Board meeting on March 15. The Tribal Executive Committee of the MCT has a number of concerns about funding for elder daycare programming being cut, which I addressed with the Board. MCT President Cathy Chavers and I also held a meeting with MBA officials in Duluth on March 20 to discuss these same issues.

Two interview committees that were established to review candidates for the positions of Commissioner of Administration and Commissioner of Education concluded their process in March. These committees included representatives from both the Executive and Legislative branches. There were a number of strong candidates who applied for both positions, all of whom brought unique strengths to the table, so this was a difficult decision for both interview committees. Based on their decision, I recently sent nominations for both positions to the Band Assembly. As of the print deadline for this edition, the Band Assembly has not yet made a final determination on these two candidates.

At the request of the Mille Lacs Band Members who are serving as delegates on the MCT constitutional reform process, on March 21, I brought an appropriation bill to the Band Assembly to request that they authorize the Mille Lacs Band member delegates to continue their work on behalf of the Band. The bill authorized appropriation of funds to support the work of the delegates during this process, as well as officially sanctioning their work as an independent body on behalf of the Band. The appropriation was adopted by the Band Assembly, although there are technicalities that we are meeting about in a compromise hearing which should be resolved by the time you receive this in the mail.

I held many meetings with Band members throughout the month of March, including an excellent District III community meeting as well as an urban area meeting. It is always great to speak with Band members and get your feedback and ideas. As a reminder, my office is still taking applications for the New Warriorism Grants (see page 4). Remember that budgets must be submitted along with the applications in order to be considered for funding. Elder Meetings are being scheduled in each District, so please look for information about those meetings.

I hope everyone makes time to get out and enjoy warmer weather and participate in our spring harvest activities as they are able; to those harvesters who always make a point of sharing with our Elders, chi miigwech for your thoughtfulness and for living out our values. Happy Spring to all!



OFFICE OF SOLICITOR GENERAL RECEIVES PATRIOT AWARD

Sergeant Major Bob Boone, above right, presented a Patriot Award on March 14 to Managing Attorney Angel Daher, center, of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Solicitor General's Office. The OSG's office was nominated by Attorney Adam Candler, above left, who is a National Guard member. Employees serving in the National Guard or Reserve, or the spouse of a Guard or Reserve member, may nominate individual supervisors and bosses for support provided directly to the nominating Service member and his or her family. The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed. Also pictured above are Band member veterans Allen Weyaus, second from left, and Tony Pike, fourth from left. Right: Joining Angel and Adam for the presentation were OSG staff members Tasha Schmitz, Elizabeth Murphy, Barb Johnson, Michael Hogan, Amy Weisgram, and Kaitrin Vohs.

BAND ASSEMBLY REVIEWS RAP

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH CONSIDERS UPDATE TO REVENUE ALLOCATION PLAN

The Mille Lacs Band Assembly — with three new members who took office last summer — is once again considering changes to the Band's Revenue Allocation Plan, or RAP.

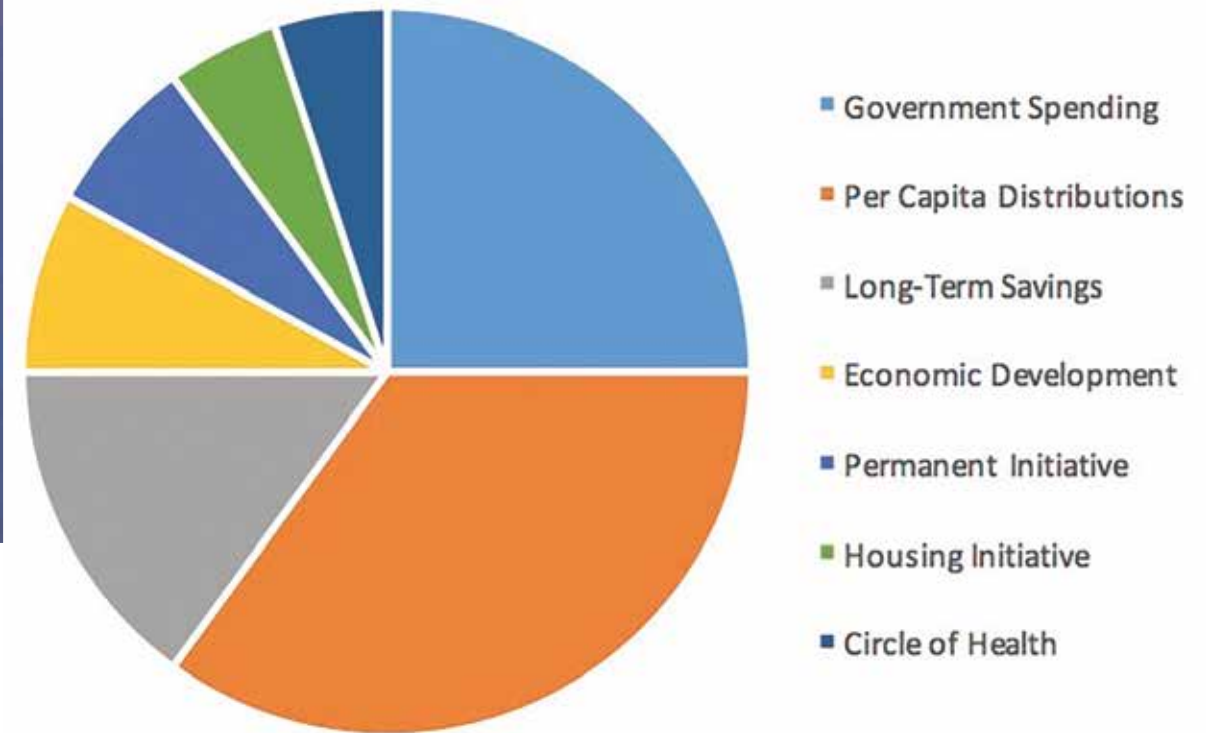
The RAP, which defines how tribal governments spend gaming revenues, is required under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act if tribes intend to allocate per capita payments to individual members from revenue derived from tribal gaming activities.

Mille Lacs Band's current RAP plan allocates net gaming revenues as follows: government spending (25%), per capita distributions (35%), long-term savings (15%), economic development (8%), permanent initiative (7%), housing initiative (5%), Circle of Health endowment (5%). The current RAP plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Interior on September 1, 2010.

In 2010, Chief Executive Marge Anderson and the Band Assembly (Herb Weyaus, Sandra Blake, Marvin Bruneau, and Harry Davis) increased the per capita percentage of the RAP from 25 to 35 percent and decreased long-term savings from 25 to 15 percent. In addition, adult Band members were allocated 25 percent more than minors with the understanding that the extra percentage would allow adult Band members to provide the necessities required to adequately support their households. The goal of the higher percentage to adults vs. minors was to eliminate ongoing loans, donations, and other financial emergencies experienced by adult Band members.

When per capita payments were introduced, they were intended to fluctuate based on casino revenue, as defined by the RAP. The amount available for per capita distributions would be 35 percent of available net revenue for any given month.

Several years ago, the Band Assembly set the payments at \$933 per month, and since then they have not tracked with casino revenue. On an annual basis, OMB conducts a true-up calculation to ensure that the Band does not pay out more than the 35 percent designated in the current RAP. Any shortfalls have to be made up from other revenue streams not associated with the Band's net gaming revenue.



The Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP), which is required by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, currently allocates 35 percent of gaming revenue to per capita distributions, but the \$933 per month payments no longer track with gaming revenue. Watch for more information on the RAP review in future issues and at community meetings.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN D.C.

A contingent of Mille Lacs Band members and officials attended the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Impact Week in Washington D.C. March 5-8. The group lobbied on Capitol Hill supporting legislation on four issues: (1.) Upholding the treaty and trust responsibilities by authorizing advance appropriations for programs serving Indian Country, (2.) Increased funding for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) and competitive grants to develop GIS tools in state and tribal historic preservation offices, (3.) The Native Behavioral Health Access Improvement Act of 2019, and (4.) The Violence Against Women Act, which has expired and needs reauthorization. MAST, founded in 1996, represents the 35 sovereign tribal nations of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan. Pictured are Bradley Harrington, Sam Moose, Jamie Edwards, Sheldon Boyd, Valerie Harrington, Emily Johnson, Camryn Towle, Melanie Benjamin, Shena Matrious, and Nicole Anderson.



LEGISLATIVE LADIES LEND A HAND

Semira Kimpson, Wendy Merrill, Brianna Boyd, Kiana Morrison, and Darcie Big Bear spent Wednesday, March 20, filling sandbags at Prairie Island. Wendy said they tried to make it fun, but it was hard work resulting in sore muscles.

Prairie Island continued from page 1

Shelley Buck, President of the Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council, was quoted on KARE 11: "We are on an island, literally an island. And back in the 1930s when Lock and Dam 3 was built, it flooded over half of our land — which to this day remains in the flood plain. So every year, we're susceptible to flooding. This year, unfortunately, is a bad year. We're worried about high levels of flooding, record levels that we haven't seen since maybe 1965 or 2001. If it gets bad enough, there will be a time that we will have to evacuate, have mandatory evacuations down here. And if it gets to that point, then it's going to be tough for us."

As of March 21, there was an 88 percent chance of the river reaching major flood stage, which would trigger an evacuation of Prairie Island out of concern that roads could be flooded and the island cut off.

Staff from the state's major sports teams have also been helping out, along with volunteers from across the state. "It's absolutely amazing the help we're getting," said Buck.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Please watch for information on proposed changes to Mille Lacs Band Statutes Title I: Civil Rights Code and Title 5: Judicial Branch.

Band members will be given the opportunity to review and comment on proposed changes at community meetings in April.

If you have questions, contact the Legislative office at 320-532-7421.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

White Earth Nation Grieves Death of

Chairman: Chairman Terrence "Terry" Tibbetts, 60, of the White Earth Nation, died Sunday, March 17, at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo. Nii-Gah-Nii-Mosay ("Walks First") was elected chairman of the tribe in 2016 and was a lifelong resident of Naytahwaush. Tibbetts worked for more than 20 years as a public works employee for the tribe, and he served on the tribal council from 2006 to 2014 before being elected chairman. Tibbetts is survived by his wife of more than 40 years, Carol, seven children, and 15 grandchildren. Vice chairman Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts will take over the chairman's duties until further notice, the tribe said. *Source: startribune.com.*

State sees increase in death by suicide,

alcohol, opioids: The Minnesota Department of Health reported last month that 422 Minnesotans lost their lives from opioids in 2017, 636 from alcohol, and 783 by suicide. All three numbers have increased steadily since 1999: by 79 percent for suicide, by 94 percent for alcohol and by 681 percent for opioids. Dr. Amy Greminger, an Essentia Health physician and assistant professor on the Duluth campus of the University of Minnesota Medical School, wonders if the deaths indicate a lack of interpersonal connection and said we need to do a better job of providing people with access to mental health services. *Source: startribune.com.*

State anglers can keep some Mille Lacs

walleyes: For the first time since 2015, Minnesota non-Indian anglers will be allowed to keep some walleyes on Mille Lacs Lake. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will allow anglers to keep one walleye between 21 and 23 inches long from the fishing opener on May 11 through May 31. After that, walleye fishing will revert back to catch-and-release only. The DNR says the walleye population has recovered enough to allow some harvest, especially thanks to a good 2013 year class of young walleyes. *Source: startribune.com.*

Cass County joins Leech Lake Band in seeking

larger tax return from state: Cass County Commissioner Neal Gaalswyk and Leech Lake Tribal Chair Faron Jackson testified before a state legislative committee March 11 in an effort to increase from 10 percent to 20 percent the share of tribal sales taxes paid to counties. The state collects a sales tax from sales made at Indian casinos on tribal lands. Under current law, only 10 percent of the money the state collects is paid back to the area from which it was collected as a way to offset costs incurred from having the casino. *Source: brainerddispatch.com.*

Nelson defeats Burkhardt in special election:

Republican Nathan Nelson defeated Democrat Tim Burkhardt March 19 in a special election to fill a vacant state House seat representing most of Pine and eastern Kanabec counties, including the Band's District III. Nelson will fill the seat previously held by Jason Rarick, who was elected to the state Senate last month. Rarick, a Republican from Pine City, replaced Democrat Tony Lourey, who left the Senate to become Gov. Tim Walz's human services commissioner. Nelson is a farmer from Clover Township near Hinckley and president of the Pine County Farm Bureau. *Source: mprnews.org.*

NEW HHS COMMISSIONER IS READY TO SERVE

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Nicole Anderson wasn't looking for a new job; she was happy in her role as Director of the Band's Four Winds Lodge Healing Center in Brainerd.

But one day she received a call asking her to meet with Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin because Nicole was being considered for the position of Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

"It was a very humbling experience," said Nicole. "Whether I'd been confirmed or not, I was humbled that my name would be put forward."

From there things moved quickly. Next she was asked to appear before Band Assembly, which ratifies nominations by the Chief Executive. "I put a lot of preparation into it, but you're always nervous when you have to go in front of that panel," she said. "They were all really welcoming, and I guess it went well because I'm sitting here today."

Having worked for the Band in various capacities for years, Nicole came in with a wealth of knowledge about tribal government and the Health and Human Services Department. As Four Winds Director, she had attended many meetings with other HHS directors and knew them well — Behavioral Health Director Crystal Weckert, Community Support Services Director Kristian Theisz, and Medical Director Dr. Donald Gunderson.

Still, the first few weeks had a few surprises — including a trip to Washington D.C. her second week on the job.

"In my old job I was used to traveling around that state, but that was a huge change," Nicole said. "But the biggest surprise was just how fast-paced it is. There's always something going on. I'm a planner and a structure person, but I'll often get a call and have to run somewhere."

As a result, she has to prioritize, delegate, and lean on staff like her Executive Assistant, Michelle Beaulieu, and her Executive Director, Jan Manary.

"Michelle runs my calendar and reminds me of a lot of things I need to be doing," said Nicole.

Jan, who is "phenomenally smart," helps Nicole keep things in perspective. One day she asked Nicole "How does one eat an elephant?" Nicole didn't know. "One bite at a time," said Jan.

"I know things aren't going to move as fast as I want," said Nicole. "I'm a micromanager, but I'm trying not to be. You have to trust your employees to do their jobs. I believe in servant leadership. If you support the team, give them tools, and empower them, you'll see them continue to grow."

At the top of her agenda is planning a move later this year to the new health center in District I — a "one-stop shop" that will bring most of the department's programs, including the clinic, under one roof.



Nicole Anderson has worked for the Band in various capacities for years.

At present, HHS staff are scattered among several buildings: Ne-la-Shing Clinic, the Family Services office in Onamia, and the old Public Health building two miles north of the casino.

The new location will be a huge benefit to staff and Band members, but getting moved and situated will require a significant effort.

Nicole and her staff will be visiting community meetings in coming months to get ideas and keep Band members informed on the progress of the relocation.

Well prepared

Nicole moved around as a child, attended Brainerd High School, and graduated from Onamia. She has worked at the casino, in the Behavioral Health Department, and in the Human Resources Department — experience that comes in handy as supervisor of a large staff in the Health and Human Services Department. Nicole earned degrees in management and criminal justice on her way to a master's in human services.

"I've always liked the human side of the working world," said Nicole. "In this role I might not be helping the individual, but if I can move HHS forward in a good way, that will help individuals, too."

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFERS GRANTS TO NEW WARRIORS

Band members and groups of Band members are eligible for up to \$5,000

Following through on a commitment she made at the 2019 State of the Band address, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has announced The Mille Lacs Band Warriorism Grant funded by the Office of the Chief Executive. All Mille Lacs Band members or groups of Band members are eligible to apply for these small grants of up to \$5,000 to support community activism.

At the 2019 State of the Band Address, Chief Executive Benjamin made the following statement:

"There are many new warriors who have come forward this past year. Band Members have been organizing in their Districts, holding meetings about their local concerns, even doing research and sharing information with other Band Members. Many times in the past, the Band government has tried to get community advisory councils off the ground in each district, but these never took hold for very long.

"What is different with these new groups is that, just like Sober Squad, these new groups were started by Band Members, not the Band government.

"First Lady Michelle Obama wrote, 'Do we settle for the

world as it is, or do we work for the world as it should be?' All over, Band Members are getting busy in our community, as activists, working for the world we want and know we should have.

"This year, small grants will be available to Band community groups, which they can use to support their work. Look for more information about these grants in the coming months, and Chi Miigwech to all our community activists!"

To be considered for a grant, all applicants must fill out the application form in its entirety. The application is available from the Chief Executive's office or at <https://millelacsband.com/news/chief-executive-announces-warriorism-grants>.

Grant applications should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Executive. Ten grants for up to \$5,000 may be awarded. Applications will be scored based on applicant's ability to demonstrate that the Mille Lacs Band community in one or more districts or the urban area will directly benefit from community activism supported by the grant project.

ZAAGIBAGAANG USES FACEBOOK, WEB TO EDUCATE TRIBAL MEMBERS ON MCT CONSTITUTION

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

As the historic Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitutional Conventions move forward, a group of Anishinaabe people from around the state have stepped forward to help educate their fellow tribal members on the past, present, and future of the MCT Constitution.

The Zaagibagaang website (zaagibagaang.com) describes the purpose of the organization:

Zaagibagaang is a grassroots effort focusing on governance and nation building within the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), designed to encourage everyone to share their gifts and work towards mino-bimaadiziwin by empowering people to GET INFORMED and GET INVOLVED in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

We are living our Anishinaabe values and working towards wholeness in spirit, mind, body, and in balance with all of creation including applying our knowledge and values to exercise our sovereignty, which will secure the future for the next seven generations and beyond.

"Zaagibagaang" describes the buds of trees and flowers as they blossom in springtime. We envision this process for our people, where their individual voices and gifts burst forth.

Band member and Special Projects Coordinator Al Olson has been involved with Zaagibagaang for about two years.

What appealed to Al about the group was its educational mission. He watched videos on the Zaagibagaang website and knew they were doing something important. "We need to get younger Band members involved, and in order to do that, they need to know the history of the MCT and other issues, like how the Relocation Act affected people," said Al. "This should be taught in our schools, but a lot of our kids don't know any of this."

As the constitutional convention meetings got underway, Zaagibagaang hosted question-and-answer sessions about the constitution, legal topics, and MCT history with video "watch parties" on each reservation.

After that they decided to switch gears and post the sessions on Facebook Live and save the videos on their website for easy access. The Zaagibagaang website now hosts many videos on sovereignty, elections, history, and other topics. Simply go to zaagibagaang.com and click on "media" to see what's available.



Al Olson

To check out the Facebook Live videos and stay up to date on the group's activities, go to www.facebook.com/zaagibagaang to like or follow the group's Facebook page.

The Constitutional Conventions were authorized by the MCT's Tribal Executive Committee in 2017. Last year, meetings were held on each of the six MCT reservations and in the Urban area to gather Band members' ideas about how the convention should proceed and what issues are of greatest concern.

It was decided that each reservation should choose 10 delegates to participate. The Mille Lacs Band's tribal government chose delegates from a pool of interested Band members, with two from each district (including District IIa, Chiminising) and two from the urban area.

District I: Curt Kalk and Danielle Smith
District II: Tom Benjamin and Michael Davis
District IIa: Michele Palomaki and Todd Sam
District III: Maria Costello and Birdie Roberts
Urban area: Al Olson and Dawne Stewart

Convention Update

The first Constitutional Convention meeting was held in November at Fond du Lac, and according to Al it was mainly about establishing ground rules — where and how often to meet, how to vote, and who would facilitate.

They decided to hold monthly meetings that would be open to all MCT members at rotating locations across the six reservations.

The January meeting, which the Mille Lacs Band hosted in Hinckley, had a more formal agenda and was facilitated by Al. At that meeting, delegates agreed that future meetings should focus on examining each article of the Constitution and discussing possible changes.

It was also determined that each reservation would caucus together to reach consensus on each issue and cast a single vote. A spokesperson was chosen from each reservation.

The meetings have not been without some controversy. The Sandy Lake/Rice Lake bands have chosen delegates and want official recognition and a vote, but that has not been granted by the other six bands.

Since the TEC authorized the conventions through a vote, delegates believe the MCT should take an active role, especially in funding the conventions, but that has not yet occurred. Delegates will continue to request the presence of and feedback from MCT Director Gary Frazier.

Mille Lacs Band delegates have attended community meetings to update fellow Band members on the Constitutional Convention. They want to hear from Band members about their ideas for constitutional reform and their opinions about possible changes.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution: Preamble and Article I

PREAMBLE: We, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, consisting of the Chippewa Indians of the White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte (Nett Lake), and Grand Portage Reservations and the Nonremovable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, in order to form a representative Chippewa tribal organization, maintain and establish justice for our Tribe, and to conserve and develop our tribal resources and common property; to promote the general welfare of ourselves and descendants, do establish and adopt this constitution for the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota in accordance with such privilege granted the Indians by the United States under existing law.

ARTICLE I — ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is hereby organized under Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended.

Sec. 2. The name of this tribal organization shall be the "Minnesota Chippewa Tribe."

Sec. 3. The purpose and function of this organization shall be to conserve and develop tribal resources and to promote the conservation and development of individual Indian trust property; to promote the general welfare of the members of the Tribe; to preserve and maintain justice for its members and otherwise exercise all powers granted and provided the Indians, and take advantage of the privileges afforded by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, and all the purposes expressed in the preamble hereof.

Sec. 4. The Tribe shall cooperate with the United States in its program of economic and social development of the Tribe or in any matters tending to promote the welfare of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe of Indians.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Flooding threat grows as snowpack recedes:

Officials in Fargo, North Dakota, started early to prepare for potential flooding on the Red River, seeking 200 volunteers to fill a million sandbags beginning March 19 — before much of the region's snow had begun to melt. Experts were predicting a crest at 40.3 feet, just short of the record of 40.8 in 2009. In Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas, flooding had already caused severe damage. Hundreds of homes were flooded after rivers breached at least a dozen levees following heavy rain and snowmelt in the region. The flooding was expected to linger. *Source: startribune.com.*

'Sioux Chef' wins prestigious Beard award:

Sean Sherman, the founder and CEO of The Sioux Chef, was awarded a James Beard Foundation Leadership Award, which "spotlights the important and complex realms of sustainability, food justice, and public health." The award is the second for Sherman from the prestigious group this year. In April, it honored his cookbook *The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen*, which is devoted to indigenous foods in Minnesota and the Dakotas. Sherman co-authored the book with Beth Dooley. The book won the James Beard Award for best book in the American category. Sherman, who is originally from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, runs a Minneapolis-based catering business and works as a chef and educator across the country. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Court hears case on Indian adoption: A federal appeals court in New Orleans last month heard testimony on the Indian Child Welfare Act, a 1978 law giving preference to American Indian families in foster care and adoption proceedings involving Indian children. A federal district judge in Texas last year struck down the Indian Child Welfare Act. Backers of the law, including numerous tribes and the federal government, say that if the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upholds that decision, many Indian children will be lost to their families and tribes. In briefs filed ahead of the hearing, the tribes accused the law's opponents of "paternalistically contending that they know better than Indian families and tribes what is best for their children." *Source: startribune.com.*

South Dakota state senators reject request to amend outdated law: South Dakota senators turned down a request from Sioux tribes asking the state to send resolutions to Congress supporting the amending of the 1863 federal law that led to their removal from Minnesota to reservations elsewhere. Crow Creek Tribal Chairman Lester Thompson said his tribe was "forcibly banished" to South Dakota following the Dakota conflict in 1862. The conflict resulted in the hanging of 38 Dakota men in Minnesota. The conflict and reasons for it are no longer an issue today, but the 1863 Dakota Removal Act is still in effect, Thompson said. The resolution isn't ceding land or requesting money, but is cleaning up federal language stating "these Dakota people have no place in Dakota Territory or in Minnesota," explained resolution sponsor Sen. Troy Heinert, D-Mission. The resolution also calls for the United States to issue a formal statement of reconciliation to the tribes affected by the act. The Senate State Affairs Committee didn't ask any questions of tribal representatives, discuss the resolution, or state their opinions about it before it voted 5-4 to kill the legislation. *Source: argusleader.com.*



DAR IN HIGH DEMAND!

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Athletic Regulation (DAR) Inspectors regulated Rage in The Cage 64 March 22 in Clinton, Oklahoma, on behalf of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation. The DAR licenses combatants, trainers, managers, matchmakers, ringside physicians, and officials, and also regulates combative sports on the Mille Lacs Reservation according to the rules and regulations of the Department. It is a member of the National Association of Boxing Commissions and International Association of Combative Sports Commissions.



DNR TREATY RIGHTS CELL PHONE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

Congratulations to First Place winner MorningStar Goodsky, Second Place winner Jeff Aubule, and Third Place winner Kim Big Bear for their submissions to the DNR's cell phone photo contest. MorningStar said, "This is myself, MorningStar Goodsky, reseeding a little after ricing with my husband, Harvey Goodsky, on Rice Lake." MorningStar won a canoe and two paddles. Jeff's photo is of a sturgeon caught a couple years ago on the St. Croix River. "My clan name is Namae (sturgeon)," said Jeff. "I've been fishing the St. Croix River all my life. Thanks to the treaty, I can fish both sides of the St. Croix." Jeff won a "CLAM" spear and a \$100.00 gift card to Reed's. Kim's photo is of her first time ricing on September 7, 2018. She won two bags of manoomin. The judges said, "We chose Kim's submission because we thought, that's a really great haul, for her first time ricing, and exercising her treaty rights! We chose Jeff's submission, as he has been fishing all his life on the St. Croix River, and is exercising his treaty rights to fish, and what a great catch! We chose MorningStar's submission because we felt like she is being proactive in exercising her treaty rights, harvesting manoomin and reseeding some as well. What respectful harvesting techniques! Miigwech to everyone for their submissions!"

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

THE MIGRATION STORY

By Beatrice Taylor

This article by the late Beatrice Taylor was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to help preserve her teachings for the next generation.

I'd like to tell you the story of how the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe came to live in this part of the world. We've been here for a long time, so it's an old, old story.

Many years ago, our ancestors lived on the East Coast. One day, one of our Elders had a vision that we were supposed to come west. We were supposed to travel until we came to the place where the food grows on the water. That was the mahnomen (wild rice).

So our ancestors migrated west. Some migrated up into Canada, some migrated over to Wisconsin and Michigan, some went to Iowa, and some came here.

The ancestors who went to Canada traded with the people there. In our Indian language, these ancestors were called the O-dow-wa. But I guess the English tongue couldn't get that tongue twister, so the people there called these Indians the Ottawa. That's the name that's still used today.

In Wisconsin, there was a group of Indian people who said to some of the other Indians who were migrating, "We're going to settle here, and we will keep the fire burning until you come back." And those people were called Bu-da-wa-da-mi, or keepers of the fire. But again, that's a tongue twister, so they were called the Potawatomi.

Another group went a little further south and settled. These were called Mahnomen people — Menominee. Some other people who were migrating went west into Iowa and settled there. And their name was Mis-co-a-kee, but again that was shortened to Meskwaki, the red earth.

And some came to this part of Minnesota. They came to be near the big lake where the food grows on the water. And they stayed. These people were the ancestors of today's Mille Lacs Anishinaabe.

My family lived in Aazhoomog. That's our name for the area near Hinckley. Other Mille Lacs Anishinaabe lived around Onamia, Isle, McGregor, and other places.

There has been much that has happened to us since then and many reasons why some of us have had to move away from our home. Sometimes Anishinaabe moved away to find work because they couldn't find any here. Some were sent away to schools against their will. But still we hung onto our traditions, and our language, and our culture, and we kept on working together for the betterment of our children.

I moved away from Aazhoomog for a while, but I came back for ceremonial powwows. But that wasn't enough for me. I missed my home, my language, my relatives, being with my people. Then I moved back to Aazhoomog. And I felt good about it — I was home.

Now I teach my grandchildren about our culture. I talk the language with them. I use the words with them constantly. When we go to a sacred ceremony, we make our tobacco offering, and we ask the Great Spirit to take care of our children, our grandchildren, and their children coming up.

I am glad to live in Aazhoomog, where my people have lived. My mother lived here. My four sisters are around here. When I moved back, I said this is the last move I'm ever going to make, and I still feel that way. I'm back home.

NATALIE WEYAUS — WORKING THROUGH THE CHANGES

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Natalie Weyaus has seen a lot of changes over the course of her lifetime. She wasn't just a bystander, however; as a life-long working woman, she participated in the transformation of the Mille Lacs Band from poverty to undreamed-of success.

Natalie grew up on Ataage Drive in a board house with no insulation. The house was covered in tar paper to keep the wind out. When she was little, she remembers walking to her grandma's house when it was still light out. After the sun went down, her grandma would wrap her in a blanket and carry her home.

Much of the food came from her father's traps, nets, and gun — rabbits, partridge, ducks, deer, and walleye. "We lived off the land," said Natalie. "We didn't go to the grocery store as we do today. My dad worked part time for the resorts as a launch driver and guide, but it was seasonal. He did a lot of trapping and hunting and brought home meat for us to eat. We were never hungry."



Natalie didn't care for fish, but she liked the mizay (eel) pout) eggs. She also had a taste for duck brains. "They were good!" she swears.

"My older sister Letitia raised me," Natalie said. "My mom and dad were always busy driving people around since a lot of people didn't have a driver's license."

Her parents, John Garbow (also known as John Makwa) and Nancy Ann Benjamin, came from two of the families that never moved to White Earth. Her mother went to boarding school in Pipestone and had the opportunity to come home early but stayed in Pipestone to help care for her younger siblings.

Her parents spoke Ojibwe with each other when they didn't want the kids to know what they were saying, but they didn't teach their children the Ojibwe language. "My mom said we didn't need that," Natalie recalled. As an adult, she has studied the language through classes and by listening to Elders.

Natalie attended the Vineland Elementary school through sixth grade, along with her siblings. She remembers the way the snow would chafe her legs as she trudged to school in her

dress. She remembers singing Ojibwe songs into the microphone at Sherman Holbert's Fort Mille Lacs tourist attraction on Highway 169. She also remembers her trips to Aazhoomog and East Lake to see relatives, attend ceremonies, and visit medicine men.

Working Girl

By age 12 or 13, Natalie was already a working girl, raising money for school clothes by ricing in late summer and early fall. They would process enough in the traditional way to feed those who had lost a loved one that year.

Natalie graduated from Onamia High School in 1965 and moved to the Twin Cities, where she cleaned and pressed white shirts in a laundry.

She had met her husband, Robert Howard Weyaus, at a drum ceremony, and after two years in the Cities, Natalie be-

"THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO SEE — OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING LEADERSHIP ROLES AND MOVING OUR RESERVATION FORWARD ON A SOBER NOTE. IT SHOWS THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO DEPEND ON OTHER PEOPLE TO COME AND FIX OUR RESERVATION; WE CAN FIX IT OURSELVES."

came pregnant with her first child. Natalie and Robert didn't want to raise their child in the Cities, so they moved back to the reservation.

By then, big changes were already coming. The Reservation Business Committee became more active after the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution was revised in 1964. Head Start was implemented during the Lyndon Johnson administration in 1965. Reservation business enterprises included resorts and manufacturing.

Natalie stayed home until her kids were old enough for Head Start. By then she was ready to get back to work. She took a job as a teacher's aid, and then a library aid, but her job was cut.

Natalie saw that as an opportunity. "I said, 'If they're gonna get rid of me, I can go to school and become a teacher.' So I went to college to get my bachelor's degree."

As she was working on her A.A. at Central Lakes, the walk-out at Onamia High School occurred, and Natalie taught math and science on the reservation for several years as Nay Ah



Natalie Weyaus told traditional stories and sang songs about esiban (raccoon) and mikinaak (snapping turtle) at the Treaty Rights Celebration on March 20.

Shing High School was founded.

When she graduated with her B.A. in 1989, there was an opening for a tribal court judge, so instead of seeking a teaching job, she ran for the position and won. Natalie served as judge for two terms until judicial elections were replaced by appointments.

When the casino opened in 1991, Natalie became a blackjack dealer, but after a few years, she grew tired of working the swing shift and took a job with a drug prevention program.

In 2000, Natalie started working in the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Natural Resources — a job she still holds.

After 19 years, she still finds it interesting and challenging. In recent years, the THPO has been active in the Line 3 pipeline debate — arguing for an extensive cultural survey of the proposed pipeline corridor.

"We want a survey that looks at how we deal with nature, taking into consideration how everything is affected if they put in a pipeline — water, rice, animals, insects," Natalie said. "We know there were a lot of tribal trails before the highways, and we know that along the way people died and they were buried right where they passed. There are laws in Minnesota that if there's a cemetery or burial, you have to avoid that area."

Throughout her life, Natalie has been a role model not just as a working woman, but also as a responsible and traditional member of the community. She thinks that's why she was chosen to be a judge and a drum society member by her Elders Art Gahbow and Marge and Merlin Anderson.

"They're the ones who appointed me to be one of the first judges on the reservation," said Natalie. "I suppose they had that respect for me, since I stayed out of trouble and graduated from high school. They put me on a drum because I didn't party and go out to bars and drink. My dad was an alcoholic, and I didn't want to bring my kids up in an environment like that."

She's glad to see young Band members embracing the same kind of work ethic and sober lifestyle.

"I went to a celebration of people finishing training on leadership this past Saturday," Natalie said. "They were speaking out, projecting, speaking from their heart. That's what I like to see — our young people taking leadership roles and moving our reservation forward on a sober note. It shows that we don't have to depend on other people to come and fix our reservation; we can fix it ourselves. That's what me and my sister (Alicia Skinaway) are always telling each other. All the answers are here, we just need to find them."

Natalie and many others have provided that leadership and those answers throughout their lives, and their positive influence as Elders will be felt by younger generations for many years to come.

CHRISTAL MOOSE

SHARING CULTURE THROUGH ARTS AND EDUCATION

By **Toya Stewart Downey** Mille Lacs Band Member

Some people are born to teach. They find quiet ways to share a story or a few facts sprinkled throughout a casual conversation. Or, if they are like Mille Lacs Band member Christal Moose, Babi-wash-ikwe, they make teaching others part of their life's work.

"My personal goal is to unite people through understanding," said Christal, 47.

Christal, who does a lot of this through her work with Larry Yazzie and Native Pride Dancers, has been a teacher most of her life.

"I always loved school and was an 'A' student. I love learning and love people," said Christal, adding that she was extremely shy as a young girl and "didn't say a peep."

Eventually, music helped her overcome her shyness and helped her grow. So did her father, Mille Lacs Band member Leroy "Dennis" Moose Sr., who told her she could overcome anything she wanted to.

"Having someone who truly believed in me helped," said Christal, who grew up in Fond du Lac and attended Carlton Public Schools.

Though her mom, Laura (Shaugobay) Ashcroft, is also a Mille Lacs Band member, it was still difficult to grow up in another reservation community "because people don't let you forget that you're not a Band member."

Still, Christal persevered. She spent many summers in District I with relatives and was grounded in Ojibwe culture.

At Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Christal took

American Indian history, literature, and language classes, and those courses helped her see beyond where she lived. She also found work at Black Bear Casino working in a variety of jobs for almost a decade.

Later, she worked for the Carlton School District in a few different roles ranging from paraprofessional to media specialist. She held high standards for all students — something that is proven to help improve student success — as she created a safe space for learning in the Media Center.

Native Pride

It was through her work at the school that she first experienced a Native Pride program and met Larry Yazzie.

"It helped the Native kids and it instilled pride in them about who they were," she said. "It changed the energy of the middle school and changed how the non-Native kids treated them."

Because the district was on the border of a city and the reservation, there is a lot of racism towards Native people, and it greatly impacted the students at times, she said.

After experiencing Native Pride's presentation at the school, Christal started volunteering and doing special projects for Native Pride.

Christal officially joined Native Pride in 2011. Since then, she has handled bookings and technical matters along with singing, moderating, and engaging in question-and-answer sessions with audiences around the world. She also helps with stage management and produces many shows in venues from school theaters to performing arts centers like the Ord-

way Center for Performing Arts in Saint Paul, MN, the Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington D.C., and as far away as the Republic of Moldova and the Kingdom of Jordan.

The work that happens through Native Pride is to "unite cultures together" while bringing education, history, contemporary issues, and understanding about Native Americans.

"It's how we operate. We show where we come from and where we're going," she said. "Our work is educating and uniting."

The group does about 200 shows per year, and they travel far and wide to share their artistry. Still, in spite of the beauty and majesty of the culture they have been met with ignorance in the most public of places — including the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, with attendance of 3.5 million and a worldwide television audience of 50 million.

"People yelled, 'Indians, I thought you were extinct.'"

"There are a lot of people who don't know we're alive and that we are here, so we talk about where we've been and that we've been all over the world," she said. "It's most important to share our stories, our history, and that our people are still here."

For the past 17 years, the group has held audiences of thousands as they've performed at the Minnesota State Fair.

Christal, who is a vocalist, is a member of a women's hand drum group (Oshkii Giizhik), was a cultural advisor on a movie (No Blood of Mine) filmed in Duluth, and is an associate producer for another film, "Coyotaje," that's scheduled to come out in April 2019. She is a board member at the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and is a Community Advisor for the Ordway Center for Performing Arts.

Christal relocated to the Twin Cities several years ago. She has five kids and five grandchildren.



STUDENTS LEARN WINTER TRADITIONS AT NAY AH SHING

It's been a long, cold, snowy winter, but that didn't keep Nay Ah Shing students indoors! High schoolers experienced snowshoeing at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, and they also took an overnight trip to the Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Language and Culture Center in Rutledge.

WHAT IS PURCHASED AND REFERRED CARE?

By Donita Odden Circle of Health

Health care can be difficult to understand and to navigate and we know that. This month, Circle of Health is continuing its series of articles to help take the confusion out of health care so that you may be empowered to take control of your own health care.

What is PRC? PRC is Purchased/Referred Care. Purchased/Referred Care is a federally funded program designed to provide comprehensive health care services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Indian Health Service recognizes that many local tribal clinics cannot provide all the services a patient may need.

The general purpose of PRC is for IHS and tribal facilities to purchase services from private health care providers in situations where: 1) no IHS or tribal direct care facility exists; 2) the existing direct care element is incapable of providing required emergency and/or specialty care; 3) the local need for medical services exceeds the existing local clinic staffing.

Since Purchased/Referred Care is not a program where the government fully pays for Indian Health, the supplementation of alternate resources (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance) is required to provide comprehensive health care to eligible American Indian/Alaskan Native.

This means that a patient must have health insurance, or put forth a good-faith effort to obtain health insurance, before the PRC program can help pay for medical costs.

You are eligible for PRC if:

1. You are a member or descendent of a federally recognized Tribe, or have close ties acknowledged by your tribe.
2. You live on the reservation or the defined CHSDA (Contract Health Service Delivery Area). Currently, the CHSDA is Aitkin, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine Counties.

3. You get prior approval for each case of needed medical services or give notice within 72 hours.

Payment may be approved if:

- The health care or service you receive is medically necessary, and
- The service is not available at an accessible IHS or Tribal facility, and
- The facility's PRC staff determines that your case meets current medical priorities of the facility.
- PRC funds are available and sufficient to pay for the services.

Approval, Billing, and Payment:

You must have primary insurance, or be willing to apply for any alternate resources for which you may be eligible.

A PRC purchase order is issued to a provider authorizing payment for services.

IHS or Tribal staff and the authorized provider will coordinate your medical care.

The provider will bill and collect from your primary insurance or resource.

The provider will bill any unpaid balance to the PRC program.

The IHS is the payer of last resort and requires patients to exhaust all health care resources available to them from private insurance, state health programs, and other federal programs before the PRC program can provide payment. The PRC program continues to negotiate contracts with providers to ensure competitive pricing for services provided, in spite of the limited number of providers available in many rural communities.

If you have questions regarding Purchased/Referred Care, contact Rosanne Molitor at 320-532-4163, extension 2538.

STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE INCREASES HOURS

CULTURALLY-BASED SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN INDIAN COUNTRY AND ALASKA

On its second year anniversary, the StrongHearts Native Helpline (1-844-7NATIVE) announced the expansion of its hours of operation, which are now 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CST, seven days a week, in order to better serve those impacted by domestic violence and dating violence in tribal communities across the U.S. Callers reaching out after hours have the option to connect with the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE) by selecting option 1. To date, the helpline has received more than 2,100 calls from victims, survivors, concerned family members and friends, service providers, and more, helping to close a gap in culturally-appropriate resources for those facing abuse.

With the support from the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, StrongHearts has established its first call center located in Eagan, Minnesota. StrongHearts has increased its staff of advocates in order to respond to callers, many of whom are seeking support as they navigate difficult barriers to justice and safety. Trained with a strong understanding of tribal cultures, sovereignty, and law, advocates offer free, peer-to-peer support and a connection to local, culturally appropriate resources.

"After hearing from so many tribes and advocates about their community needs, we are so pleased to expand our operating hours to better serve Native victims of relationship abuse," said StrongHearts Assistant Director Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). "Domestic violence impacts our relatives every hour of every day, so it's critical for us to be available as much as possible. Yet, we also understand we can't do this work alone. We are honored to be working alongside tribal advocates and programs doing this good work to help Native people seek lives that are free of abuse."

Domestic violence remains a severe issue in tribal communities, where half of Native American women and a third of Native men have experienced physical abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime, according to a study by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The study also found for those who had experienced violence, more than a third of Native women and more than one in six Native men were unable to access the services they needed, such as shelters, legal advocacy, and medical services.

"When victims can't access services, more specifically, services that understand their unique worldview and culture, it leaves little room for healing and restoration," Jump said. "Our people are strong and resilient, but it is crucial that we create spaces where survivors of violence feel safe and empowered to make the best decisions for themselves and their families along their healing journey, wherever it leads. We are here for our relatives. No one should have to face violence alone."

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT

SURVIVORS RETREAT

The Family Violence Prevention Program is hosting a retreat for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Join us for a day of honoring your journey and healing your soul.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019
9AM - 5PM**

**OPTIONAL OVERNIGHT STAY ON FRIDAY,
APRIL 12, 2019**

**ANISHINAABE IZHITWAAWIN
OJIBWE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CENTER
7201 HWY 61 RUTLEDGE MN**

Register at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/survivors-retreat-tickets-56590324183>
or by calling
Kala Roberts @ 320-384-4613

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STAFF SHARED WHAT DO TREATY RIGHTS MEAN TO ME?

"Having my treaty rights means my culture is alive, and our younger generation has the ability to hunt, fish, and gather like our ancestors did. It shows we are strong, we will persevere, and we can continue the traditions that our ancestors and Elders fought so hard for."

— Keith Wiggins,
Aquaculture Biologist



"The right as an Indigenous person to harvest for my family, for ceremonies, and for people who cannot harvest for themselves. It brings me great joy to be able to do these things for my people."

— George Big Bear,
Fisheries Technician



"My inherent rights, which were affirmed by the Supreme Court in 1999, entrust me with the responsibility to teach traditional values to the next generation."

— Todd Moilanen,
Brownfield Coordinator



"Treaty rights are part of a way of life — not just harvesting but learning our history and taking part in ceremonies, seeking out everything Anishinaabe should get life from."

— Bradley Harrington,
Commissioner of Natural Resources



"Treaty rights affirm our sovereignty. Sovereignty is a word our non-Indian neighbors frequently interpret incorrectly when it's related to American Indians. It has nothing to do with money, border security, or passports. It's the ability to control our own destiny without state interference or restriction. Regarding harvest seasons, limits, and methods, we're able to influence our own leadership at a grassroots, local level. We give strong consideration to our elders' and ancestors' teachings. We respect our fellow tribal members' input when discussing harvest issues. We don't always reach a complete agreement. Sometimes we have to wait and see what the next season brings. Treaty rights are not for sale and will be here long after everyone alive today is no longer here. Now get out there and boil sap! Spear a walleye! Share the bounty! Set a dish!"

— Jim Kalk, Real Estate Clerk/Acquisition Specialist
(pictured with Brandi Sam, Realty Researcher)

ARTICLE 5. The privilege of hunting, fishing, and gathering the wild rice, upon the lands, the rivers and the lakes included in the territory ceded, is guaranteed to the Indians, during the pleasure of the President of the United States.



THE NEXT GENERATION

On Wednesday, March 20, students from area schools were invited to learn about Treaty Rights and Anishinaabe culture from DNR staff at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The moccasin game, wind generation, traditional stories, medicinal plants, and fishing were some of the topics covered.



COURT RULES 5-4 IN FAVOR OF MILLE LACS

FACTS OF THE CASE

Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians ceded land in present-day Minnesota to the U.S. in an 1837 treaty. In return, the U.S. recognized the Mille Lacs Band's inherent hunting, fishing, and gathering rights on the ceded land. An 1850 Executive Order by President Taylor ordered the removal of the Mille Lacs Band and revoked their usufructuary rights. An 1855 treaty set aside reservation lands for the Mille Lacs Band, but did not mention their rights. The Mille Lacs Band sued, seeking a declaratory judgment stating that they retained their usufructuary rights and an injunction to prevent the state's interference with those rights. The District Court ultimately ruled that the Mille Lacs Band retained their usufructuary rights under the 1837 Treaty. The Court of Appeals affirmed. The courts rejected arguments that the 1850 Executive Order abrogated the usufructuary rights guaranteed by the 1837 treaty and that Minnesota's entrance into the Union in 1858 extinguished any Indian treaty rights under the "equal footing doctrine."

QUESTION

Does the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians have usufructuary rights on land now part of the state of Minnesota?

CONCLUSION

Yes. In a 5-4 decision, authored by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the Court ruled that the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians does have usufructuary rights that were guaranteed to them by the 1837 Treaty. After an examination of the historical record, the Court held that the 1850 Executive Order was ineffective to terminate Mille Lacs Band's usufructuary rights, that the Mille Lacs Band did not relinquish its 1837 Treaty rights in the 1855 Treaty, and that the Mille Lacs Band's usufructuary rights were not extinguished when Minnesota was admitted to the Union. *Source: oyez.org.*

Treaty Rights continued from page 1

On Friday, March 22, the Band government closed at noon so employees could attend lunch and an afternoon celebration.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin recognized the anniversary by remembering those who fought long and hard in the treaty lawsuit, which was filed in 1990 and finally resolved in 1999.

"March 24, 1999 is a date the Band will never forget," said Melanie. "On this day, we are reminded of our courageous leaders who fought this battle all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, showing generations to come that our tribal sovereignty and inherent rights must never be compromised. Twenty years later, Mille Lacs Band members proudly exercise our treaty rights, and we will continue to teach our youth our traditional ways for many years to come."

When the news of the verdict came out, the Band held a news conference in District I. "Today, the United States has kept a promise," Chief Executive Marge Anderson said, "a promise that agreements are meant to be honored, not broken."

Mille Lacs Band Secretary-Treasurer Herb Weyaus said, "Today my sadness is gone. As a sovereign nation, we accept the responsibility that comes with the Supreme Court's decision. We have preserved these resources for centuries because they are central to our culture, and we are ready to work with our Band members and our neighbors to protect the natural environment."



A DAY TO REMEMBER

Friday, March 22, was a half-day holiday for tribal government employees, the annual Treaty Day holiday commemorating the March 24, 1999, Supreme Court ruling affirming the Band's right to hunt, fish, and gather under the 1837 Treaty. Many Band members and employees attended a buffet lunch followed by a raffle with dozens of prizes for attendees young and old. DNR Commissioner Bradley Harrington kept the crowd laughing, and DNR staff passed out the loot. Photos by Mille Lacs Band Member Bradley Roache Jr.



WIIDOOKODADIWAG POWWOW APRIL 18

Central Lakes College, along with Brainerd Public Schools, invites you to their Wiidookodaadiwag Powwow (We Are Helping One Another)! Please join in bringing people together to celebrate American Indian culture through music, games, and dance! Food will be served at 5 p.m. This is a FREE event! Hope to see you there!

SPRING CEREMONIAL DANCE DATES

Tim & Tom, East Lake, March 29 & 30, 2019

Mic & Syngen, Mille Lacs, April 5 & 6, 2019

Ralph & Andy, Mille Lacs, April 12 & 13, 2019

Niib & Iyawbance, East Lake, April 19 & 20, 2019

Lynda & Joyce, Mille Lacs, April 26 & 27, 2019

Elmer & Sheldon, Mille Lacs, May 3 & 4, 2019

Skip & Darrell, Lake Lena, May 10 & 11, 2019

Dale & Vincent, East Lake, May 17 & 18, 2019

Lee & Mike, Lake Lena, May 17 & 18, 2019

Joe & George, Mille Lacs, May 24 & 25, 2019

Bob & Perry, Mille Lacs, May 31 & June 1, 2019

MCT FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER CLASS

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation's First-Time Homebuyer Class is coming Saturday, April 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Building, 15542 State 371 NW, Cass Lake, Minnesota. First-time Homebuyer Education is a requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation for qualified buyers. Please reserve your spot in this free class with Cyndi Cwikla at 218-335-8582, extension 150 or ccwikla@mnchippewatribe.org. No childcare is provided, so please make other arrangements.

BIG SANDY LODGE HIRING FAIR IS APRIL 6

The Mille Lacs Band's Big Sandy Lodge and Resort in District II is preparing for another great season and seeking motivated individuals to join their staff.

The Lodge is hosting a hiring fair on Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the resort, 20534 487th Street, McGregor, MN 55760.

They have openings in a variety of positions, including housekeeper, front desk, server, bartender, events, line cook, prep cook, dishwasher, busser, food runner, host/hostess, maintenance, and dock attendant.

Bring your application or resume and receive an on-site interview.

Applicants can also download and print a paper application on the website at <https://www.bigsandyloodgeandresort.com>, fill out an application online at <https://www.bigsandyloodgeandresort.com/contact-us/apply-now/>, or e-mail their resume to info@bigsandyloodgeandresort.com.

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 8-12

Are you and your family prepared for the severe storms that spring and summer bring? If not, stay tuned to the Mille Lacs Band's Facebook page (facebook.com/millelacsband) April 8-12 for messages about Severe Weather Awareness! Statewide tornado drills will be held April 11 at 1:45 and 6:45 p.m. That's a good day to make sure you're prepared for tornadoes. In the meantime, learn more at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>.



Band member Terry Kemper and others spoke at the annual Local Indian Education Parent Committee public hearing February 27.

ONAMIA HOSTS ANNUAL CONCURRENCE HEARING

By Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin)

Mille Lacs Band Member

On February 27, Onamia Public Schools hosted their annual LIEPC (Local Indian Education Parent Committee) public hearing to cast their concurrence/non-concurrence vote to the Minnesota Department of Education.

The Red Road Drum group provided an honor song for all those in attendance, and dinner was served — delicious Indian Tacos prepared by Dawn Day. After the meal, the event was emceed by School Board Chair and LIEPC Vice Chair Virgil Wind.

The night started with Onamia Public Schools Superintendent J.J. Vold talking to the group about positive things that are happening at Onamia Schools. He started out by saying how proud he was that the school has had a successful powwow now for five years running. He also pointed out a new American Indian Studies class offering this past semester, which was taught by Chris Nayquonabe. The class focused on traditional art practice, treaty law, and indigenous history.

Another offering that Superintendent Vold was extra proud of was the college-level ITV Ojibwe language class taught by Anton Treuer that is now in its second semester in collaboration with Bemidji State University. Students who attend this class receive college credit for their efforts. Vold also talked about credit recovery classes offered by the Onamia ALC in collaboration with the Indian Education Program. Many students who were behind in credits have been able to get back on track due to this new initiative.

Next on the microphone was Chris Nayquonabe, who talked about a future vision for the school and Indian Education. Chris talked about her current plans to enact a UNITY Youth Council chapter within the Onamia School District. "This opportunity will be a great way to keep youth current on events that are happening on a national scale and allow them more of a voice on a local level as well," Chris said. UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth) is a national organization whose mission is "to foster the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through involvement of its youth." They hold a yearly and mid-year conference that allows youth to learn about, discuss, and vote on relevant topics in Indian Country.

The microphone was then opened up to others in attendance to talk about their own vision for the future of Onamia Schools. Community member Terry Kemper spoke about the importance of incorporating the natural world into Ojibwe language learning. "It's not only important to teach youth the language, but they have to experience the reasons that we do things as well, and why we have always done things in these ways."

The hearing is held yearly by law to allow the school to hear

community input, concerns, and suggestions. Individuals then have the opportunity to vote concurrence, which means they believe that the school is doing the best they can to serve the Native American population within their school district, or they can vote non-concurrence, which means they don't believe that the school is doing all they can to provide Native American students with the best education possible. This year, the group voted for concurrence with a vote of 28-2. These results and the suggestions that were put forward will then be sent to the Minnesota Department of Education for recording and to keep the school accountable to the needs of Native American students in the district.

My View

I wasn't just an objective reporter at this meeting; I also shared my vision about the future of Onamia Schools and issued a challenge to the school's leadership as part of the public hearing.

Specifically, I challenged the school to hire staff that matches the ethnic makeup of the students. With a 54 percent Native population, there are only two Native American employees at the school, one being Chris Nayquonabe, the Director of the Indian Education Program.

"Children need to see themselves in the school in that way," I told the group. "They need to see people every day who look like them to look up to and who deeply understand them culturally."

I encourage other Indian parents to participate in their Local Indian Education Parent Committee, attend public hearings, and share your thoughts and concerns with your local school board, as this is the only way that our concerns are heard and taken into consideration.

— Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin)



The Red Road drum group opened the hearing with an honor song.

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ANISHINAABEMOWIN

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

As a child, Band member Samantha Peet didn't hear or speak Ojibwemowin — the Ojibwe language — but she always had a burning desire to learn.

"I grew up hearing tales of my ancestors — Grandpa Jeyaag and Grandma Maanaan — and all the amazing things they could do as healers," said Samantha. "I always wanted to know more about them and know where I came from as an Anishinaabe person."

Wanting to learn isn't always enough, however. "Even though I had always been interested in learning, I didn't have the resources or family members who knew the language," she said.

In 2010, after graduating from Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II, Samantha saw an opening for a teacher trainee with the Band, and she applied.

Finally she had access to books, teachers like Obizaan and Chato Gonzalez, and peers who were also learning the language.

"We'd have language tables, where I was introduced to the picture method — ways you can talk about a picture," Samantha said. "I learned a lot that way."

Samantha also studied on her own, reading bilingual texts and listening to recordings of Elders.

It wasn't all easy. Study sessions with Obizaan and Chato could be overwhelming as Samantha and the other trainees examined texts that the language masters were working on together.

She also attended ceremonies to hear the language, which was also tough.

"I couldn't understand a thing they were saying," she said. "I didn't know what they were doing or why. It was really draining

at first, making my mind work overtime."

Ironically, it got easier as she stopped trying so hard. "Pretty soon I learned to just let it go, pick up one word if I could, and save it for next time. When I let off the internal pressure, I started to learn faster and feel more comfortable."

The turning point came when she signed up for the winter cohort at Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang immersion program hosted by Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

"It was so intense — recording elders, making lesson plans, studying with peers, grammar sessions that would go until midnight. None of us wanted to stop!" Samantha recalled.

The following year, Samantha was asked back as a language specialist.

"That's where I got a lot better, being around it from the time you wake up until you go to bed at night."

As time went on, Samantha found herself thinking in Ojibwe and even imagining that she was hearing Ojibwe in strange places, like shopping at Walmart.

The result was life-changing. "Before I started, I was very closed in. I didn't open up to people. Having a conversation gave me a lot of anxiety. Learning the language opened me up and gave me confidence that I never had before. It helped me build relationships and learn new things I never thought I'd be doing. I'm such a different person than when I started. I just kind of found out that this is something I need to do for myself and others."

Samantha said she got off her path a few years ago after her father passed away, but now she is ready to get back on track and share her gift. She's done some teaching with the Niigaan program, and for the last two months, Samantha has been help-



Memengwaa-ikwe Samantha Peet

ing prepare the language lessons in *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*, the Mille Lacs Band's monthly newsletter.

Samantha's story shows that anyone who has that same desire to learn can become a speaker if they are willing to put in the time and energy — and if they take advantage of the assistance that's available.

"All these amazing people came together to help me, and that's what I want to give back," Samantha said. "People took pity on me, were compassionate with me, and were patient. I want to help show others that they can do it too. We're all Anishinaabe in our hearts; we just need to unlock it. It's there for us, and we just need to find it."

GIKENDANDAA I'IW OJIBWEMOWIN — LEARN THE OJIBWE LANGUAGE

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

Prepared by Memengwaa-ikwe Mille Lacs Band Member

Mawadishiwewin

Mewinzha ko gaa-izhichigewaad gii-mawadisidiwaad gichi-anishinaabeg gii-paa-nanibendaadiwaad. Mii go gaye awiia wii-maajaad. Mii go mawadishiwed ingoji gemaa gaye waa-boowayaan ogii-maajiidoon. Aanawi go ogikendaan ingoji jinibe'ind. Mii dash igo gaa-izhi-biidood i'iw konaas igaye ji-agwazhed. Gaawiish memwech inime'odisaajin memwech akina gegoo oadaa-ondinamaagosiin o'ow wiin gaa-izhi-bimoondang gaye wii-agwazhed miinawaa go iniw apikweshimod igaye. Mii eta go gii-waabanda'ind aandi ji-nibaad miinawaa a'aw gegoo gii-miinind ji-apishimod. Mii imaa wiinawaa gii-mawadisidiwaad. Akina gegoo ogii-tazhindaanaawaa.

Inashke giinawind noongom mawadisidiyaang, gegoo maa-gizhaa ingo-diba'igan, niizho-diba'igan mawadisang awiia. Mii go i'iw. Gemaa go gaye gaa ingii-kaganoonaasiwaanaan. Mii i'iw mazinaatesijiganimakak genawaabandamaang. Mewinzha ko wiinawaa gii-tadibaajimotaadiwag akina gegoo ezhiwebadinig. Gayesh wiin noongom gaawin geyaabi gidizhichige-siimin. Inashke go owidi noongom gabe-niibin o'ow ayaayaan, mii imaa ayaad a'aw besho igo a'aw niitaa. Miish naa gayesh iwidi go ingii-o-naanaa indawemaagan. Miish imaa nazhikewid jiigi-ayaawid niitaa. Giishpin ezhaayan imaa endaad awi-mawadisag, mii eta go i'iw mazinaatesijiganimakak genawaabandamaang. Mii go, gaawin gegoo indinaajimotaadisiimin. Gaye wiin igo bi-izhaad giishpin gegoo wii-inaajimotaadiyaang, mii i'iw giigidowin ayaabajitooyaang. Mii gaa-kanoozhid ganawaabanda'iyaamagak gaganoonidiyaang giigidowining ge-

goo waa-inaajimotaadiyaang. Mii eta go apii mewidisidiyaang, i'iw giigidowin aabajitooyaang dibaajimotaadiyaang gegoo. Mii imaa akeyaa. Imbaapimin igo. Agwajing igo niibing ayaayaang eniwek waa-kanoozhid inaaajimotaading.

Visiting

This is about what our ancestors used to do a long time ago when they visited one another's homes. Say someone wanted to leave. So he goes visiting somewhere and he brings a blanket along. Anyway he knows he'll be offered a place to sleep somewhere. And so he thus brought that blanket to cover up with. It wasn't necessary for those hosting him to furnish him with everything, as he would carry with him what he wanted to cover up with and use for a pillow, too. He was just shown where he would sleep and given something to lie down on. So they visited one another there. They talked about everything.

When we visit one another today, it's maybe one hour or two that we visit someone. That's it. And maybe we don't even talk to him. We just watch that television set. Long ago they used to talk to one another about everything that was going on. But today, however, we no longer do that. You see I've been staying over here all spring now, near where my brother-in-law is there. Then I'd go over there and get my relation [of sorts]. So my brother-in-law is there by himself next door. If I go to his house to visit him, we only watch that television set. So we don't really talk to one another. And instead of coming over, if we want to talk to one another, we use that telephone. It was he who informed me of this, revealing how we converse on the telephone when we want to talk to each other about something. So that's the only time we visit one another, we use that telephone to discuss things. That's how it is there. We laugh about it. We go outside a little more in the summer when he wants to talk to me, making conversation.

Word Find and Matching

Find these words in the Ojibwe passage on the left and try to determine their meaning by looking at the translation. Match the Ojibwe word in the left column with the English in the right, or look up their meaning at <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu>.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Ko</i> | <i>blanket</i> |
| <i>Gichi-anishinaabeg</i> | <i>if</i> |
| <i>Konaas</i> | <i>used to</i> |
| <i>Maagizhaa</i> | <i>We laugh about it</i> |
| <i>Mazinaatesijiganimakak</i> | <i>our ancestors</i> |
| <i>Giishpin</i> | <i>television</i> |
| <i>Akina gegoo</i> | <i>maybe, perhaps</i> |
| <i>Imbaapimin</i> | <i>everything</i> |

Grammar

A VTI or "verb transitive inanimate" is a verb interacting with an inanimate object.

1. Waabooyaan ogii-maajiidoon.

He brought along a blanket.

Waabooyaan — *blanket (object of the verb)*

Gii — *[past tense]*

o — *s/he to it vti*

maajiidoon — *carry, take away* —

2. Akina gegoo ogii-tazhindaanaawaa

They talked about everything.

Dazhingan — *talk about it (VTI)*. With the "ogii" prefix, the 'd' changes to 't.'

o-aanaawaa — *they to it*

gii — *[past tense]—ed, did, was*

akina gegoo — *everything (object of the verb)*

GRAND CASINO EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BAND MEMBERS SHARE WHAT THEY LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT GRAND CASINOS!

Name: Laikora Mae Thompson, Zhawanigeezhigookwe

Clan: Bear

Length of service with Grand Casino: 6 months

Position: Audio-Visual Coordinator Intern

Education: Recording Arts BAS

Hobbies: Music, Video Games

Previous Job: Event Promoter at Venue 578, Orlando, Florida

First Job: Youth Worker at Mille Lacs Band Youth Program

Other than your current position, what would be your dream job? Touring with bands as a FOH (front of house) Engineer.

What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on "your Monday"? My Mondays are load-in days, and I don't like missing being able to set the stage (microphones, cables, board) up for the band.

What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino? I'm the Soundgirl, and it's great to be a female Band member in a hugely male-dominated industry. I'm so glad to represent our tribe!



Name: Patty O'Brien, Bamosa Ishbanima Eqway, Mis-wa-ban, Ish, Mish, Patty, Pot

Clan: Bullhead (mom)/Loon (dad)

Length of service with Grand Casino: 7 years

Position: Manager CRS

Education: Two years at university

Family: One sister, two brothers

Hobbies: Bicycling, reading

Previous Job: DIII Community Center Maintenance Supervisor

First Job: A&W root beer stand car hop

Other than your current position, what would be your dream job? EVS! LOL! If they paid me what they pay me to manage I would gladly clean all day!

What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on "your Monday"? Yoga. I love fresh squeezed fruit and vegi-juices and make them almost every day. I have been a Vegetarian for 45 years and take good care of my health by practicing yoga and following practical disciplines and having fun daily, like going to work and taking care of my animals.

What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino? The other Band members. I love to see us all here working together, providing opportunities for jobs and entertainment, holding our own in this world.



Name: Samantha Dunkley, Bagwajikwe

Length of service with Grand Casino: 11 years (between casino and GRA)

Position: GRA vendor licensing manager. (Although I don't work directly for the casino, I work closely with all departments at both properties.)

Education: Certificate in Medical Administrative Assisting from Everest Institute, Certificate in Nursing Assisting from Pine Tech.

Family: Husband Brian Dunkley, son Calvin, parents Scott and Winona (Thomas) Evens, 4 sisters, 3 brothers-in-law, 3 nephews, 1 niece.

Hobbies: Sewing, painting, designing and creating baby busy boards, various crafty things, disc golf, baking, hunting

First Job: Concessions at Roosevelt Zoo

Other than your current position, what would be your dream job? Billionaire Philanthropist

What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on "your Monday"? Sleep in, then spend the day playing and hanging out with my little guy.

What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino? Besides my directors, I am the only Band member in a leadership role in the GRA. I try to encourage and show other Band members what is possible to achieve when you work hard.



Looking for work?

If you're interested in a job at Grand Casinos, visit <http://mlcvjobs.com/careers/>. For tribal government jobs, see <https://millelacsband.com/jobs>.

LOYALTY PROGRAM PROMISES \$15 PER HOUR TO BAND MEMBER CASINO EMPLOYEES!

ANISHINAABE STRONG!

Because we understand how hard it can be to juggle a career and raise a family on a minimum wage, we've made some exciting changes to the Band Member Loyalty Program.

As of June 1st, 2017, eligible Band Members who are currently employed by MLCV who make less than \$15 an hour (including tips) will receive a bonus award based on your current hourly wage every 500 hours worked. Bonus awards will vary.

Eligible Band Members are defined as those who make less than \$15 an hour (including tips). You will be paid the difference of \$15 an hour (including tips) for every 500 hours worked.

| Current Wage (with tips) | Wage Cap | Diff | Hours | Bonus* |
|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|------------|
| \$9.65 | \$15.00 | \$5.35 | 500 | \$2,675 |
| \$10.00 | \$15.00 | \$5.00 | 500 | \$2,500.00 |
| \$11.33 | \$15.00 | \$3.67 | 500 | \$1,835.00 |
| \$12.21 | \$15.00 | \$2.79 | 500 | \$1,395.00 |
| \$13.75 | \$15.00 | \$1.25 | 500 | \$625.00 |
| \$14.60 | \$15.00 | \$0.40 | 500 | \$200.00 |
| \$14.99 | \$15.00 | \$0.01 | 500 | \$5.00 |

* Minus applicable payroll taxes

And the best part is that once you receive this award – the clock immediately starts ticking towards another 500 hours and another bonus award.

To remain enrolled in this program, all you have to do is come to work on your scheduled shifts and continue to do your job. If you choose to leave your employment with MLCV, your enrollment in this program is null and void. If at any point you decide to return to work at MLCV, the clock starts over at zero, you will begin accumulating new hours when you work your first scheduled shift.

BMS who earn over \$15 with tips included will not receive the incentive based on their PTO hours used that are paid less than \$15 an hour.

VINCE BEAULIEU

'BIG RIG VINNY' — A DRIVE FOR CHANGE



By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

When Vince Beaulieu returned home last December after a three-year prison term, he knew he was ready to walk a better path. "In prison, I kept getting emails from my baby's mother," Vince recalled. "I was watching him grow up through emails."

He talked with a fellow inmate who had a commercial driver's license (CDL) and told stories about being on the road. That sounded interesting to Vince. "It all just fell on me, like it was meant to be," he said.

Knowing what he wanted didn't mean he knew how to get there, however.

Vince finished up a long-term treatment program and decided he needed to live somewhere with structure, so he moved into the Band's halfway house in District I. That's where he heard about AanjiBimaadizing.

"I was going to pay for CDL training out of my own pocket, but I came across this program that would set it up and pay for it," Vince said. "That was a real big help, because I didn't know where to start. I didn't take it for granted."

Formerly known as the Department of Labor, or DOL, AanjiBimaadizing helps Band members and other Native Americans in the service area to develop the skills they need to find gainful employment.

The name comes from "Aanji" — to change — and "Bimaadizing" — one's life. Together the word means "life-changing."

AanjiBimaadizing staff members help people come up with a plan, identify barriers, and work towards self-sufficiency.

The one thing they can't do is force anyone to take advantage of the support that's offered.

That's why Vince has become a kind of "poster boy" for AanjiBimaadizing, according to Training Coordinator Nick Sciacia.

"People like Vince show that if you take the initiative, great things happen," said Nick. "He's a go-getter. Others might say 'Do that for me,' but Vince does it all on his own."

Employment and Training Director Michael Fahey agrees. "In the beginning, we stayed on him, but as he progressed and built up his confidence, we took a step back. Now he knows what he needs to do next, and if he needs help, he knows we're here for him."

Vince's parole officer is happy, too. "There's an appeal to this program with the parole officers," Vince said, "because you're bettering yourself, just like the DOC (Department of Corrections) is trying to do. It goes hand in hand."

From GED to CDL

In February, Vince completed a two-week certification in equipment operation, and in March, he jumped right into a two-week CDL training. During his free time, he works on his General Education Diploma (GED) in the AanjiBimaadizing classroom and studies for four tests he'll need to take for the CDL endorsements he plans to get.

AanjiBimaadizing provides incentives for accomplishing goals related to education or employment, and individuals who attend off-site trainings may receive help with things like transportation and living expenses.

"In the past, people looked at us as a handout — 'Go to DOL to get a check,'" said Michael. "But it's not about giving you stuff; it's about us collaborating with you when you're ready to make changes."

"What I got from the program was the guidance to get my life back on the right path, all the way from getting my driver's license, to going back to school, getting my CDL, and all the positive influences that come from me doing my best," said Vince.

Asked what his dream is — where he sees himself in a year — Vince hesitates before sharing. "Going down the road in an 18-wheeler, hopefully." With a shy smile, he adds, "Big Rig Vinny."

Vince highly recommends the AanjiBimaadizing program to others looking to make a change. "Come and get the guidance, and the rest is up to you," he said.

Nick added, "We'll point you in the right direction, but you gotta walk."

"PEOPLE LIKE VINCE SHOW THAT IF YOU TAKE THE INITIATIVE, GREAT THINGS HAPPEN. HE'S A GO-GETTER. OTHERS MIGHT SAY 'DO THAT FOR ME,' BUT VINCE DOES IT ALL ON HIS OWN."

— TRAINING COORDINATOR NICK SCIACIA

Michael agreed. "That's what I envision our program doing: helping people out of a difficult situation. You may not have a resume or any experience, but if you go into an interview with some certifications and a GED, that can make a big difference."

Vince is living proof that assistance plus effort equals success. "After being in prison for so long, you see your kids start to grow up, and you get that drive for change inside you," he said.

That drive — along with guidance from AanjiBimaadizing — has put Vince in the driver's seat, and a rough road in the rearview mirror.

AANJIBIMAADIZING — CHANGING LIVES

AanjiBimaadizing (formerly known as the Department of Labor) provides a comprehensive system of employment assistance, counseling, training, and education to promote healthy life choices, appropriate work habits, and relevant skills for success in tribal or non-tribal, public or private work places.

These services require that clients work with staff to develop the skills to balance their life and finances. Although some services have income requirements, most Band members and their families qualify. Services are available in Aitkin, Benton, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Hennepin, Anoka, and Ramsey counties.

Services include career training and development, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance, emergency assistance, food support, medical assistance, childcare assistance, adult support services, and the Mille Lacs Band's Elder Needs-Based Supplemental Income Program.

The AanjiBimaadizing Youth Program includes regularly scheduled meetings and activities designed to inspire and motivate our youth to embrace a traditions-based, pro-social lifestyle free of chemicals, anti-social or risky behavior, promiscuity, and dependency. These activities are offered to all eligible reservation service area youth ages 12 through 20. There are no income eligibility limits for this component of the youth program.

AanjiBimaadizing is part of the Department of Administration and is overseen by the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Administration. The Assistant Commissioner is Baabitaw Boyd, and the interim Executive Director is Tammy Wickstrom. Please stop by to see how we can help you today. LET'S CHANGE LIVES!



Vince Beaulieu is well on his way to a rewarding career with help from the AanjiBimaadizing program.

I WANT TO BE LIKE RICK — THE IMPORTANCE OF ROLE MODELS

By Chad Germann *Mille Lacs Band Member*

On Saturday, February 24, a dozen young Ojibwe men, basketball players age 12 to 17, traveled from the Mille Lacs Reservation to visit my company's downtown Minneapolis offices and attend a Timberwolves game together.

This event came about because Joe and Chris Nayquonabe believed I could serve as a positive role model to these young basketball players. It was nice and sweet of them, Joe and Chris, to think that of me. As Commissioner of Corporate Ventures and Director of Onamia Indian Education, they are strong role models in their own right.

It was also nice of the boys to humor me by listening to my story, which I was happy to tell, because I know from my own life that having good role models is crucial to our healthy development as human beings — and specifically as Anishinaabe men.

Charles Barkley, one of my sports heroes, famously once said, "I'm not a role-model," which I always thought was a silly thing to say. People look up to and admire whomever they choose! Could be a dad or mom, or older sibling, or a famous athlete, or a Kardashian, or the older cool kid at school. It's their choice, and even if Charles doesn't want to be one, he is. That's how growing up works.

Kids look at others for clues and model their behavior according to what they see and learn from others, which is something I think we all should keep in front of us: Our kids will follow and emulate the behaviors of those they admire, and they will choose their role models from the options available. Having good options for our kids is important.

When I was young, I had several good, positive role models in my life. My dad and mom, both truly amazing human beings, were the most influential. My high school basketball coaches were others.

But one who stands out is my older cousin Rick Dunkley. Rick is a Mille Lacs Band member, like me, and when we were young our families were very close. We spent a lot of time together. Rick was charming, popular, a straight-A student, and a terrific high school athlete. And when I was young I wanted nothing more than to play ball with my older cousin Rick and his buddies.



Chad Germann, right, shared his story and attended a Timberwolves game with basketball players from Mille Lacs.

Baseball, football, basketball — I didn't care. Whether we were playing together in the backyard, or I was watching him play town-team ball on a Saturday night at Brennan Field in Hinckley, I just wanted to be around him. Rick was just so damned good at everything, but especially sports. Everyone looked up to him, everyone wanted to be on Rick's team in whatever sport we were playing, and I followed along behind him every chance I got, hoping to be picked on his team.

I'm an adult now, 46 years old, and I've thought a lot about how I arrived at the place I'm at now. All those years following along behind Rick — wanting so badly to play ball alongside him, to be captain of the varsity basketball team, to be the guy whose picture is in the local town paper, to be a good student so I could go to college like Rick — all of this 'wanting to be' is what made me become the person I am today. And whatever success I can claim to have, much of it can be credited to Rick, to my parents, to my first/best basketball coaches.

The physics of it are so very simple: Close proximity to positive role models, like my cousin Rick — a successful student athlete, a positive role model — pulled me in the direction of



success, created a path for me to become a successful student athlete in my own right.

So when Joe and Chris reached out to ask me if I would talk to some young Band member basketball players, to stand in front of them for an evening and be a role model for them, I was happy to do it. Because I know how influential a positive role model can be for a young person. I owe so very much to mine that — damn right — I'm going to try and give some back.



RISK REDUCTION AROUND THE RESERVATION!

The Emergency Management program was busy last month providing First Aid and CPR/AED training at Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley, Four Winds Lodge Treatment Center in Brainerd, the Early Education building in Minisinaakwang, and Chiminising Community Center. For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

| Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses: | Approved Budget for FY 2019 | Expenditures through 2/28/19 | % of Budget Expended |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Administration (1) | 19,947,538 | 6,560,691 | 33% |
| Department of Labor | 20,707,828 | 1,763,299 | 9% |
| Judicial | 2,392,725 | 466,220 | 19% |
| Department of Justice | 7,268,288 | 2,091,077 | 29% |
| Education | 18,373,366 | 6,609,275 | 36% |
| Health and Human Services | 33,147,687 | 11,098,381 | 33% |
| Circle of Health Insurance | 5,720,000 | 1,997,364 | 35% |
| Natural Resources | 10,170,724 | 4,160,257 | 41% |
| Community Development | 50,781,199 | 14,133,241 | 28% |
| Gaming Authority | 5,332,641 | 1,808,018 | 34% |
| Bonus Distribution | 21,774,091 | 14,744,092 | 68% |
| Economic Stimulus Distribution | 3,299,000 | 3,295,332 | 100% |
| Total | 198,915,087 | 68,727,247 | 35% |

- (1) Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- (2) Casino operations are not reported above; however, they do include government operations funded by casino operations.
- (3) The financial statements of the Band are audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.
- (4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997.

"ZIBAASKA'IGANAGOODAY: THE JINGLE DRESS AT 100" WILL OPEN APRIL 3 AT MILLE LACS INDIAN MUSEUM

One hundred years ago in 1918-1919 when the global influenza pandemic killed millions worldwide, including thousands of Native Americans, a revolutionary new tradition of healing emerged in Ojibwe communities in North America: the jingle dress dance. Oral histories vary on where exactly the jingle dress first appeared, but some origin stories point to the Mille Lacs Ojibwe community.

Opening Wednesday, April 3, the new exhibit "Zibaaska'iganagooday: The Jingle Dress at 100" at Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post explores the story of the zibaaska'iganagooday, or jingle dress, its connections to healing, and how it has spread across Native communities in the last century. Today jingle dress is a popular dance form on the competitive powwow circuit and is performed by Native women with a variety of tribal affiliations.

Visitors will be able to examine jingle dresses — many from the Minnesota Historical Society collections — from a variety of eras and communities and see how Native women have handcrafted garments or transformed store-bought dresses by adding decorative cone-shaped jingles, originally created from snuff tobacco cans.

The jingle dress dance is an Ojibwe tradition, one that empowered women a century ago, during a global health crisis. This exhibit looks at the history of the tradition and how its meaning has evolved over the past century, including changes to the dresses. "The jingle dress dance is an Ojibwe tradition, one that empowered women a century ago, during a global health crisis. This exhibit looks at the history of the tradition and how its meaning has evolved over the past century, including changes to the dresses," said curator Brenda J. Child, Red Lake Ojibwe and Northrop professor of American studies and American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota. "Until recent decades, it remained primarily an Ojibwe and Dakota tradition. When visitors see the exhibit, they will appreciate the jingle dress dance as a modern tradition, but one with a foundation in Ojibwe song and dance."

Exhibit content is presented in both English and Ojibwe and is curated by Child and her students. The exhibit is a partnership between the Minnesota Historical Society, the University of Minnesota Department of American Studies, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community.

"Zibaaska'iganagooday: The Jingle Dress at 100" will be on display through Oct. 31, 2020. A symposium on the jingle



Traditional and contemporary jingle dresses will be on display, like this sleeveless jingle dress assembled in the 1930s by Mary Bigwind of the White Earth Reservation.

dress and its history will be held at the museum in June 2019.

A community breakfast will be served beginning at 7 a.m. on April 3 to mark the opening of the exhibit.



ANOTHER TRIP TO STATE!

Grant Hendren, the son of Band member Joe Hendren, made his fourth straight trip to the state wrestling tournament at Xcel Energy Center February 28 to March 2 — and he had to overcome some major obstacles to make it. Grant, who attends Lakeville South High School, fractured his shoulder on the second day of practice this year, and it looked at the time like a season-ending injury. In January it was feeling better, and his doctor said he could give it a try. Grant decided to test out his shoulder in an early-season tournament, and when he won, he figured he could keep going. Grant went on to post a 27-1 record and won Section 2AAA — his third Section championship and 4th trip to state. Over his career he fought through many injuries to win a total of 142 matches in what is regarded as the toughest conference and section in the state. This year Grant was able to get past his demons at state and wrestled much closer to his potential to earn 4th place. Congratulations Grant and Joe!



GET READY FOR SPRING CLEANUP!

District I, Vineland — Saturday, April 20, through Friday, April 26. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday through Friday. All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Transfer Station located at 43188 Timbertrails Rd.

District II, East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle — Saturday, May 4, through Friday, May 10. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the East Lake Maintenance facility for District II and Isle Community Center for District IIA.

District III, Lake Lena and Hinckley — Saturday, April 27, to Friday, May 3. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Earthworks building located on Hwy 48, 2 miles east of Hinckley Casino, Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center and at the Cull de sac at Wise Owl.

Mille Lacs Band Elders in all Districts will receive free curbside pickup for their community cleanup items. Elders must call the Public Works office at 320-532-7433 by Friday, April 19, to be placed on the list for pickup. Elders receiving curbside pickup must have their pile at the end of their driveway.

SURVIVOR'S RETREAT IS APRIL 13

The Family Violence Prevention Program is hosting a retreat for survivors of domestic and sexual violence Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an optional overnight stay on Friday, April 12, at the Anishinaabe Izhitawaawin Language and Culture Center, 7201 Highway 61 in Rutledge.

Join other survivors for a day of honoring your journey and healing your soul.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/survivors-retreattickets-56590324183> or by calling Kala Roberts at 320-384-4613.

SAVE THE DATE — A SOBER NIGHT MEMORIAM

On Thursday, May 16, come to Grand Casino Mille Lacs to honor the memories of those who lost their lives and to celebrate the survivors of the opioid epidemic. Speakers, food, and entertainment are being planned.

CHIMINISING PET CLINIC APRIL 20-21

An Animal Outreach Clinic will be held at Chiminising Community Center April 20 and 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with \$10 spay/neuter surgeries, \$10 wellness exams, and animal surrenders. Surgery spots are limited, and you must register ahead of time at 320-676-1102 to register. Wellness checks are first come, first served. To request a surrender appointment, email outreach@secondhandhounds.org.

FREE INDIGENOUS SPORTS EVENTS

Participate in a day of training with Dan Ninham on Saturday, April 27, at the District I Community Center. "Indigenized Physical Activity in the Classroom and Community" is the morning session from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is required. The afternoon session, "How We Play the Game as a People" runs from noon to 3 p.m. and is open to the public. To register, email colleen.mckinney@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov. Fees paid by Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health Department SHIP grant.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO MILLE LACS BAND ELDERS!

Roland Lee Anderson
 Susan Mary Antonelli
 Dorothy Ann Aubid
 Terry Louis Beaulieu
 Russell Edward Boyd
 Donivon Leroy Boyd
 Wayne Theodore Boyd
 Debra Lynn Ceballos
 Sharon Lee Chavarria
 Rayna Joyce Churchill
 Raymond Charles Daly
 Wesley Dorr
 Rhonda Kay Engberg
 Nancy Mae Foster
 Duane Wallace Haaf
 Gwendolyn Marie Hanold
 Douglas Happy
 Darryl Vernon Jackson
 Raymond Kegg
 Leroy Duane Kegg
 Victoria Jean Kroschel
 Bruce Marvin LaFave
 Glenda Marie Landon-Rosado
 Laura Ann MacClean
 Ada Mae Merrill
 Louis Kevin Merrill
 Gregory Allen Mishler
 Russell Daniel Nayquonabe
 Bonita Louise Nayquonabe
 Donald John Nelson

Gloria Jean Nickaboine
 Sherry Marie Nielsen
 Dianne Renee Olsen
 Penelope Ann Olseth
 Jeannette Oswaldson
 Ricky Harold Pardun
 Gregory Allen Pawlitschek
 Kim Miles Peet
 Elaine Mary Rea
 Solita Efigenia Reum
 Laurie Jean Rogerson
 Lorraine Diane Sam
 Denise Fay Sargent
 Darlene Rae Savage
 Ruth Anne Schaaf
 George Augustus Sharlow
 Perry Don Skinaway
 Debra Ann Smith
 Rodney Wayne Smith
 Marvin Lee Staples
 Carmen Marie Tyler
 Gail Marie Tyson
 Brandon Lynn Vainio
 Robert Duane Wakanabo
 Deanna Louise Weous
 Eloise Alice Yanez
 Myron Jay Benjamin
 Kateri Lynn Boswell
 Donald James Boyd
 Connie Lynn DeMarsh
 Dana Rachelle Fahrlander
 Denise Renee Foxx
 Karen Nina Moe
 Walter Charles Sutton

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

April 14 Happy Birthday **Henry** love Dad, Mom, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Montana, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Ror-Dawg, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, and Adam.

April 26 Happy Birthday **Aiva Lea** love Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, and Montana.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Join the Inaajimowin team at 11 a.m. on April 2 at Meshakwad Community Center in Minneapolis to share your thoughts and ideas. If you have an interest in writing for the newsletter, please come and introduce yourself! Band members are paid for submissions. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to darla.roache@millelacsband.com or 320-495-5006. If you're interested in writing for the newsletter, please email brett.larson@millelacsband.com.



TRAINING HELP AVAILABLE FROM 3-TIME CHAMP!

Mille Lacs Band member Bobby "The Warrior" Anderson — a three-time kickboxing champion — is now a three-time weight loss champion as well. Bobby signed up for Meshakwad Community Center's first-ever eight-week weight loss challenge and dropped 38 pounds — his third victory in the last 10 years. Bobby enjoys helping others reach their health and fitness goals. "I know how to train and what to eat and drink to lose weight, and I do not slack when it comes to working out," said Bobby. Bobby is also interested in training others, so anyone who is serious about losing weight, losing inches, gaining muscle, or just being healthy can contact Bobby at 320-385-0262 or warriorsfp@yahoo.com.

NOTEBOARD GUIDELINES

The Tribal Noteboard welcomes Band member submissions, including birthdays, congratulatory messages, and memorial tributes. For birthday messages, send name, birthday, and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS**. To congratulate a friend or family member on a milestone or accomplishment, send a message that is **50 WORDS OR LESS**. For a memorial tribute to a Band member who has passed on, send a message that is **100 WORDS OR LESS** to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or **320-237-6851**. The deadline for the May issue is April 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

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, 6 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.

RECURRING EVENTS

Co-ed Volleyball: Tuesdays, Meshakwad Community Center

Co-ed Basketball: Wednesdays, Meshakwad CC

Volleyball: Thursdays, noon, District I CC

Zumba: Wednesdays, noon, District I CC

Open Gym: M-Th 5:30-8:30 p.m., Saturday, District I CC

To add your event to the calendar, email brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

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

Ceremonial Dance Dates: See page 12.

District III Community Cleanup: April 27-May 3. See 17.

District II Community Cleanup: May 4-11. See page 17.

Nay Ah Shing/Pine Grove Royalty Powwow: May 17

Memorial Day Powwow: May 27, Indian Museum

Adopt-a-Shoreline: May 2, Mille Lacs

Grand Celebration Powwow: June 14-16, Grand Casino Hinckley

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>March 29-30: Tim and Tom's Ceremonial Dance, East Lake. See page 12</p> <p>Saturday, March 30: Chiminising Ziigwan Youth Powwow at Chiminising Community Center</p> | <p>1 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>2 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Meshakwad Community Center Inaajimowin Meeting 11 a.m. Meshakwad Community Center Wellbriety District I, III. <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>3 Jingle Dress Tradition Exhibit Opening Pancake Breakfast 7 a.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum <i>See 17</i> NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>4 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Aazhoomog Community Center Wellbriety 12-Step 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>5 Mic and Syngen's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs <i>See 12</i></p> | <p>6 Mic and Syngen's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs <i>See 12</i> Big Sandy Lodge Hiring Fair 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Big Sandy Lodge <i>See page 12</i></p> |
| <p>7 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I. <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>April 8-12 is Severe Weather Awareness Week! See page 12.</p> | <p>8 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>9 Band Assembly 10 a.m. District I Government Center Wellbriety District I, III. <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>10 NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i> District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Community Center</p> | <p>11 Band Assembly 10 a.m. District I Government Center Statewide Tornado Drills 1:45 p.m., 6:45 p.m. <i>See page ??</i> Wellbriety 12-Step 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>12 Ralph and Andy's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs <i>See 12</i></p> | <p>13 Ralph and Andy's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs <i>See 12</i> Survivor's Retreat 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Immersion Grounds Kids Craft – Bead a Ring 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p> |
| <p>14 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I. <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>15 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i> District II Sobriety Feast 6 p.m. DII Community Center</p> | <p>16 Wellbriety District I, III. <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>17 NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i> District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley District IIA Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> | <p>18 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Big Sandy Lodge Wellbriety 12-Step 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i> Wiidookodaadiwag Powwow 5 – 7:30 p.m. Central Lakes College <i>See page 12</i></p> | <p>19 Niib and Iyawbance's Ceremonial Dance East Lake <i>See 12</i></p> | <p>20 Niib and Iyawbance's Ceremonial Dance East Lake <i>See 12</i> First-Time Homebuyer Class Cass Lake <i>See 12</i> Animal Outreach Clinic 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Chiminising CC. <i>See page 17</i> DI Community Cleanup is April 20 - 26. See page 17 for details!</p> |
| <p>21 Animal Outreach Clinic 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Chiminising Community Center. <i>See page 17</i> Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I. <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>22 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>23 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Chiminising Community Center Wellbriety District I, III. <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>24 NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i> District II Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p> | <p>25 Band Assembly 10 a.m. District I Government Center Urban Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church Wellbriety 12-Step <i>See page 18</i> Nay Ah Shing Quiz Bowl Grand Casino Mille Lacs</p> | <p>26 Art Gahbow Day Government offices closed. Linda and Joyce's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs <i>See 12</i></p> | <p>27 Linda and Joyce's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs <i>See 12</i> Indigenous Sports Events 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. District I Community Center <i>See page 17</i> District III Community Cleanup is April 27 – May 3. See page 17 for details!</p> |
| <p>28 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I. <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>29 Minor Trust Training 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs <i>See right</i> District III Wellbriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Hinckley Corporate Building Wellbriety, AA, NA <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>30 Band Assembly 10 a.m. All Nations Church, Minneapolis Wellbriety District I, III. <i>See page 18</i></p> | <p>BAND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS Band Assembly meetings are open to all Band members and are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other info, call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181. Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.</p> <p>MINOR TRUST TRAINING IS APRIL 29 AT GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS "Planning for Your Future" is a seminar to help young Band members about making the most of their money. Parents and minors are encouraged to attend. Call Jana Sam at 320-532-7466 to reserve a spot.</p> <p>WANT YOUR EVENT HERE? Email brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.</p> | | | |



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
millelacsband.com

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UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

If your address on file with the Enrollments Office or Office of Management and Budget 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 (320-532-7730) and OMB. 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 May issue deadline is April 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.

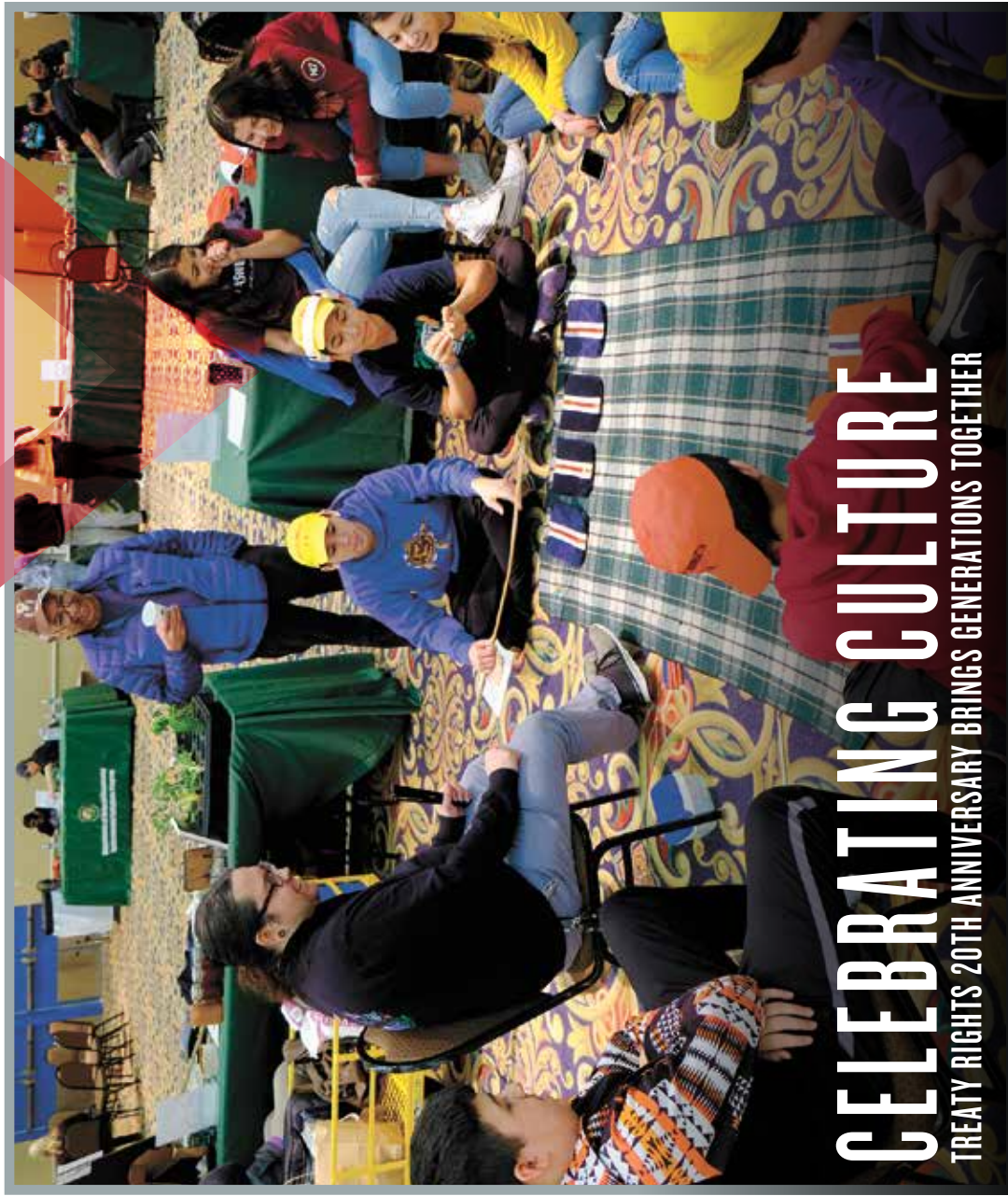


OJIBWE

INAAJIMOWIN

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T H E S T O R Y A S I T ' S T O L D



CELEBRATING CULTURE

TREATY RIGHTS 20TH ANNIVERSARY BRINGS GENERATIONS TOGETHER

BAND MEMBERS HELP
PRAIRIE ISLAND GET
READY FOR FLOODS
page 1

NEW HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSIONER
page 4

NATALIE WEYAUS —
LIFELONG WORKING
GIRL REMEMBERS
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SHARING CULTURE
THROUGH ARTS AND
EDUCATION
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