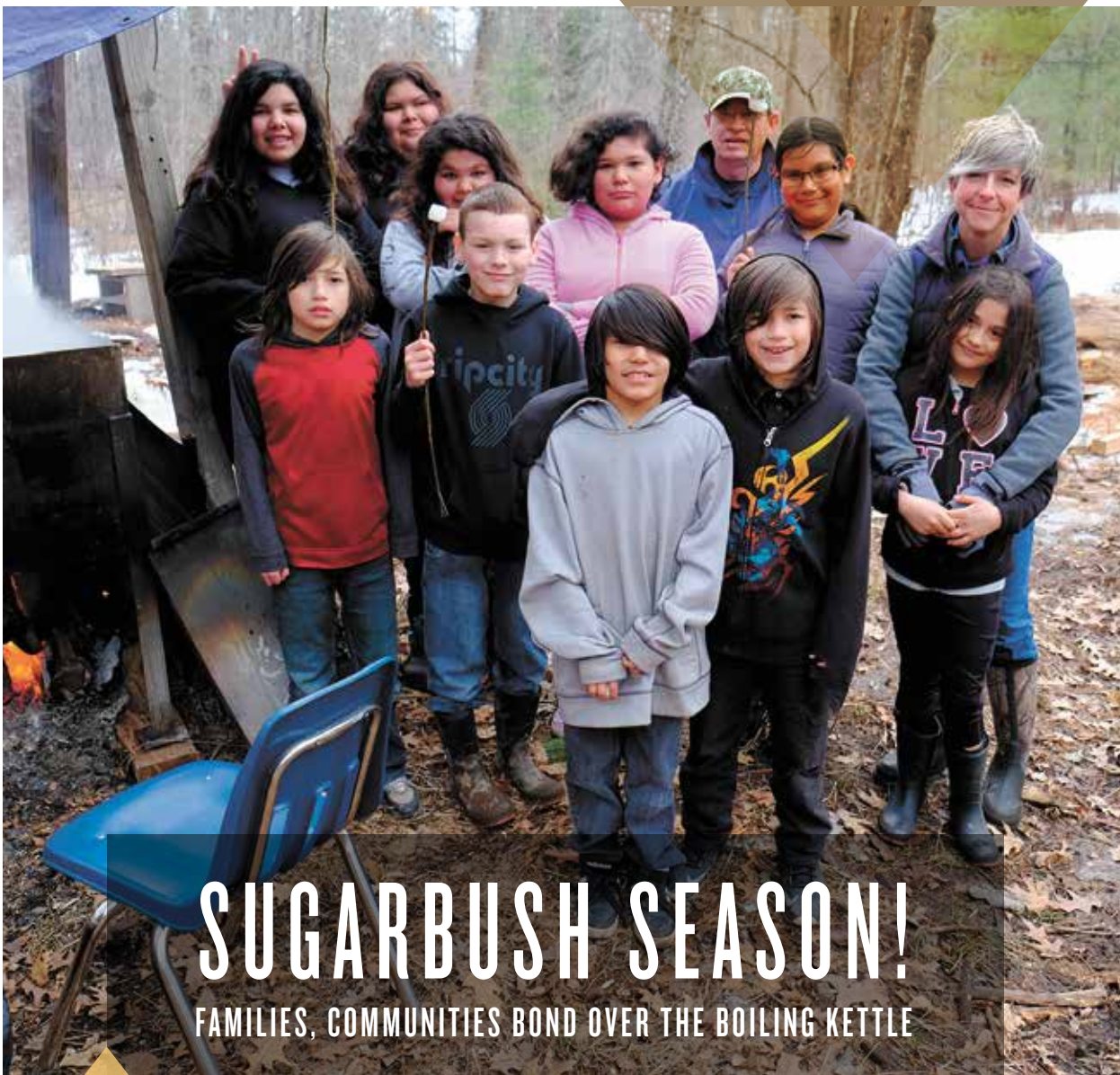


O J I B W E

# I N A A J I M O W I N

MAY 2019 | VOLUME 21 | NUMBER 05

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



## SUGARBUSH SEASON! FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES BOND OVER THE BOILING KETTLE

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Ziinzibaakwadwaaboo — maple sap — flowed fast and furious in reservation communities in late March and early April, and Band members of all ages busily tapped trees, emptied containers, cut wood, and boiled sap during the month named for sugar-making: Iskigamizige-giizis.

At Pine Grove Learning Center in District III, Duck White has an old school sugar camp for the kids to learn everything from putting out tobacco to splitting wood to making taps out of sumac. No fancy blue plastic bags to collect the sap; Duck's students use coffee cans that hang on a nail.

March 28 was a typical morning, with a blazing fire and 10 kids chopping, sawing, gathering, carrying, emptying, learning — and roasting a few marshmallows.

As Duck sent them out to check the cans for sap, he reminded them to be careful not to spill. "Ziinzibaakwadwaaboo is medicine," he told them.

Kids went off in teams to collect wood in a plastic sled or empty cans into five-gallon pails. (Being kids, they filled them full and had a hard time carrying them back.). Others stayed behind to get a wood-splitting lesson from teacher Amber Lenz.

The end result: dozens of jars of syrup that Duck passed out to Elders at the District III community meeting April 17.

In District I in late March, Nay Ah Shing students emptied



buckets with the Department of Natural Resources crew at the sugarbush by the powwow grounds — also named for sugar-making.

Farther out on the point, Band members Carol Hernandez and Crystal Weckert spent their lunch break emptying buckets at Dave and Mary Sam's sugarbush.

Back at the school, Curt Kalk taught students about sugar-bushing at a bubbling kettle over an open fire.

Not to be outdone, Travis Zimmerman's staff at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum tapped trees for a demonstration of syrup and sugar-making on Saturday, March 30.

Members of the public visited with Travis outside at the kettle. In the warm kitchen space inside, guests watched Linda Ulrick make sugar and sampled the final product.

For more sugarbush photos, see page 10

## MILLE LACS FLAG FLIES AT FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS

By Bradley Roache Jr. Mille Lacs Band Member

The Minneapolis American Indian Center played host to a flag ceremony on Thursday, March 28. Members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Red Lake Nation presented their tribal flags to judges from Minnesota's first and fourth districts. The first district includes Dakota, Scott, Goodhue, Sibley, Le Sueur, and McLeod counties, while the fourth district consists solely of Hennepin County.

Drums from Mille Lacs and Red Lake were on hand to open and close the event, and Hennepin County American Indian Community Relations Specialist Terri Yellowhammer emceed. Terri stressed the need for unity: "Now more than ever, we need this partnership. We need allies. With what is going on in our country, with the racism, with the so-called nationalism, we need to come together," she said.

Sharon Day, Native American artist, musician, writer, and founding member of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force, added, "We are in a time where there's much healing that needs to take place. All across the country, we need to have healing."

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin presented flags to Judge David Piper (Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Hennepin County), Judge Charlene Hatcher (Assistant Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Hennepin County), Judge Kathryn Messerich (Chief Judge of the First Judicial District), and Judge Jamie Cork (Dakota County District Court).

Judge David Piper read a brief statement of thanks and congratulations from Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Anne K. McKeig and added, "We are very, very honored and humbled to be able to receive these flags."

Judge Charlene Hatcher spoke about the significance and symbolism of having tribal flags in court. She said, "We want to make sure that every Native person who enters our courtroom understands that they are important. They belong. They are welcome within our doors, and their voice will be listened to and heard. We will fly these proud flags as a tangible and visible sign that our court system recognizes the government-to-government relationship between the state court system and our state's Native community."

Beyond the symbolic gesture of visual representation, many judges now understand the importance of cultural traditions like smudging and allow it in their courtrooms. The flags are meant to be seen as acknowledgment of the government-to-government relationship between the United States and tribal nations. The purpose of displaying them is for families to see that acknowledgment, and the respect that the courts have for tribal nations, their laws, and their citizens.

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a federal law that was enacted in 1978 to protect Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families by establishing minimum federal requirements for the removal and placement of Indian children in state child protection and custody proceedings. The ICWA does not apply in Tribal Court.

Flags continued on page 5

# 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! Finally, Spring has arrived and the snow seems to be behind us. As I write this column, the spring spearing and netting harvest has begun, and has been going very well. It is inspiring to see Band members engaging our youth in the harvest, so that these traditional ways can be passed on. Spring also means that graduation season is around the corner, so I am looking forward to all the graduation celebrations this spring, from Head Start through college.

April was a busy month for planning. In the Housing arena, the Band is currently exploring a partnership with Native American organizations to create new housing opportunities for Band members in the urban area, which is very exciting. Providing more housing options is always a top priority, and I look forward to continued work with Community Development and the Band Assembly on this initiative.

On April 7-8, I held a Cabinet meeting with Band commissioners, and we spent our time discussing program priorities and updates about each area. During our Cabinet meeting, we focused on discussing current programs and progress, as well as strategizing about challenges and future opportunities. The Executive Branch has been planning community meetings to provide budget information to Band members and discuss the Net Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) with the community, which is the plan that designates exactly how gaming revenue is spent by the Mille Lacs Band. We need your input, so please look for more information about these meetings. My office is also in the process of scheduling Elder meetings in each district, so keep an eye out for information about those meetings as well.

We were joined at our Cabinet meeting by our newest member, Commissioner Joycelyn Shingobe, who was ratified by the Band Assembly as our Commissioner of Education to complete the remainder of the current term vacated by Rick St. Germaine. As a lifelong educator, Joyce has previous experience as Commissioner of Education and valuable expertise to share, so we were grateful for her willingness to serve in this position.

On the legislative front, the State Legislature is currently

in session, and we have been busy working to advance legislation that will benefit Mille Lacs Band members as well as fending off the occasional legislative proposals that could be problematic for tribes, as well. One issue we are working on is protecting funding for Ojibwe-Dakota Language Preservation program, which is a grant program administered by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). The Band has benefited from this program and is partnering with other tribes to protect this funding.

On the topic of law enforcement, we are working closely with the Prairie Island Indian Community, which has put forward legislation that would empower tribal governments to continue to enforce state criminal codes and maintain law and order in our tribal communities whether or not a cooperative law enforcement agreement is in place with a county government. This legislative push grew from concern by Prairie Island and other tribes that they could also find themselves with a law enforcement crisis similar to that which the Mille Lacs Band experienced, unless the law is changed. This will be a wonderful accomplishment if we can get it done this year.

Another exciting development is that Governor Walz has signed Executive Order 1924, which strengthens a previous Executive Order signed by Governor Dayton requiring that state agencies consult with tribal governments and engage in Tribal State Relations Training. The New Executive Order 19-24 expands the number of state agencies that must comply with the order and also expands the pool of state employees that are required to participate in the training. This order ensures that state leadership and agencies consult with all tribal governments in Minnesota prior to undertaking activities that could impact us.

The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) held its annual convention and trade show in early April, which included informative sessions about new economic development opportunities. Ernie Stevens Jr. was re-elected to another term as NIGA Chairman, and I was honored to be his nominator and share remarks about his many accomplishments and service to Indian country over the past two decades.



Maria Costello, Shannon Porter, Shelly Diaz, Kelly Sam, and Melanie Benjamin were some of the Mille Lacs Band members who attended 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 Native American Finance Officer's Association (NAFOA) also held its annual conference April 15-16, which was packed with very valuable information and training for tribal officials on such topics as investments, taxation, Opportunity Zones, economic development and so much more. The level of information we gain through NAFOA has been outstanding. I've served as Secretary on the NAFOA Board of Directors over the past two years and was humbled to be re-elected to another two-year term.

As I write this column, we are preparing for our first Elder trip this spring, and I'm very much looking forward to spending time with our Band Elders as they relax, unwind, and enjoy social time together. For Elders who were unable to join us on this trip, a second trip is being planned and you will hear more about this soon. I hope Band families are getting outside to enjoy our beautiful spring weather, and look forward to seeing families at our graduation ceremonies in the coming weeks!

*Melanie Benjamin*



## FARM MARKET CAFE WELCOMES ONAMIA STUDENTS WITH NATIVE FOODS

Onamia students took a trip to the Farm Market Cafe on April 4, where Barb Eller and company served them a feast that included healthy Indigenous foods. On the menu were manoomin meatballs with spicy sauce, marinara meatballs, veggie wraps, micro greens, cheese and bacon bites, and homemade peanut butter and local blueberry jam on housemade bun bites. The event was made possible by the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership grant and the Onamia Schools ALC. Among the students' comments: "I learned various benefits to organic and local foods, including biodiversity and economic and environmental sustainability" and "I learned there are lots of organic foods out there that taste good." Miigwech to Barb, Cyndy Rudolph of Onamia Community Ed, and Colleen McKinney of Mille Lacs Band Public Health.



# BAND ASSEMBLY SEEKS INPUT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STATUTES

The Mille Lacs Band Assembly is considering several amendments to Title 1 and Title 5 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes. Pursuant to 3 MLBS § 16 (a), “the Band Assembly shall conduct formal public hearings on any bill which alters, amends, or repeals Titles 1, 3, 4, and 5, Chapter 1 of Title 2 and Subchapters I to III of Chapter 3 of Title 24 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes Annotated. The Band Assembly may conduct public hearings on any or all other bills at their discretion. Public hearings shall be held in all appropriate districts of the Mille Lacs Reservation prior to the time that the Band Assembly seeks to formally act upon said bill. Additionally, each bill shall be posted in a conspicuous location for ten calendar days after said bill has been introduced at a public hearing.”

Band Assembly is including this explanation of the proposed changes and survey of Band members in order to receive as much input as possible before amending the statutes.

In the proposed amendments below, new or altered language is in red.

Miigwech for your time and attention to this matter. This process could not take place without the participation of dedicated Band members. Please check off your selection and send this page, along with any written comments you may choose to include, to Chief Legislative Counsel Ms. Christine Jordan, 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359, or email your responses and/or comments to christine.jordan@millelacsband.com.

If you have questions, please call Ms. Jordan at 320-532-7421.

## TITLE 1 – CIVIL RIGHTS CODE

### § 2. Searches and seizures

All persons within the territories under the jurisdiction of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians have the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable search and seizures. Any warrant shall be issued by a Justice of the Court of Central Jurisdiction and shall be founded upon probable cause supported by oath or affirmation, shall describe with particularity the place to be searched and the person or thing to be seized.

#### Proposed Amendment:

All persons within the territories under the jurisdiction of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians have the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable search and seizures. Any warrant shall be issued by a **judge of the District Court** of the Court of Central Jurisdiction and shall be founded upon probable cause supported by oath or affirmation, shall describe with particularity the place to be searched and the person or thing to be seized.

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to clarify that the District Court trial judges, not the justices of the Court of Appeals, are responsible for issuing warrants.

- I agree with the proposed amendment.
- I disagree with the proposed amendment.

## TITLE 5 – JUDICIAL BRANCH

### § 4. Composition of District Court

The District Court shall be composed of one District Court Judge.

#### Proposed Amendment:

The District Court shall be composed of one District Court Judge **and such other Associate District Court Judges as necessary.**

This proposed amendment’s purpose is to allow for the appointment of one or more Associate Judges to assist in hearing and deciding the great number of pending District Court cases. Appointing an Associate Judge will also free up time for the District Court Judge to devote to the development and operation of the proposed future Healing to Wellness Court.

- I agree with the proposed amendment.
- I disagree with the proposed amendment.

### § 7. District Court Judge; appointment and term of office

(a) The District Court Judge shall be nominated by the Chief Executive who shall submit the nomination to Band Assembly. Band Assembly shall upon receipt of the nomination confirm or reject the nomination within 30 days.

(b) The District Court Judge shall serve a six-year term expiring August 15, 1996 and on this date every six years hence. The District Court Judge may be disciplined or removed for cause pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 25.

#### Proposed Amendments:

§ 7. District Court Judge **and Associate Judges**; Appointment and Terms of Office

(a) The District Court Judge **and the Associate Judges** shall be nominated by the Chief Executive who shall submit the nominations to Band Assembly. Band Assembly shall upon receipt of the nominations confirm or reject the nominations within 30 days.

This amendment requires the Associate Judges, in the same manner as the District Court Judge, to be nominated by the Chief Executive and for the nominations to be confirmed or rejected by Band Assembly.

- I agree with the proposed amendment.
- I disagree with the proposed amendment.

**(b) The District Court Judge shall serve a six-year term expiring August 15, 1996 and on this date every six years hence. The District Court Judge may be disciplined or removed for cause pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 25.**

This amendment omits the language regarding disciplining or removing the District Court Judge and is incorporated in the new added amendment of 5 MLBS § 7(d).

- I agree with the proposed amendment.
- I disagree with the proposed amendment.

**(c) The Associate Judges shall each serve a four-year term expiring August 30, 2024 and on this date every four years hence.**

This amendment sets the terms of the Associate Judges at four years. The Associate Judge(s) terms will be staggered with the District Court Judge’s term so that there is always an authorized active judge to preside in the Court.

- I agree with the proposed amendment.
- I disagree with the proposed amendment.

**(d) The District Court Judge or Associate Judges may be disciplined or removed for cause pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 25.**

The amendment makes it clear that the Associate Judges are subject to the same discipline and removal process as the District Court Judge.

- I agree with the proposed amendment.
- I disagree with the proposed amendment.

### § 10. Qualifications of District Judge

(a) Shall have graduated from an accredited law school, and be a member of a state bar association, and

(b) Shall have never been convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor and if convicted of such while a judge that person shall be subject to removal pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 25.

#### Proposed Amendment:

§10. Qualifications of **the** District Court Judge **and Associate Judges**

(a) Shall have graduated from an accredited law school and be a member **in good standing** of a state bar.

(b) Shall have never been convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor and if convicted for such while a judge that person shall be subject to removal pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 25.

This amendment’s intention is to require the Associate Judges to have the same qualifications as the District Court Judge. It also makes clear that the individual must be in good standing (not under any sort of discipline or suspension) in the bar. The amendment clarifies that the judge has been admitted to practice by a state — not that he or she be a member of a “bar association,” which is a dues-paying association/club of attorneys.

- I agree with the proposed amendment.
- I disagree with the proposed amendment.

## Please share additional comments or suggestions below:

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### Send completed surveys to:

Christine Jordan

Legislative Office

43408 Oodena Drive

Onamia, MN 56359

Email christine.jordan@millelacsband.com.

Questions? Call 320-532-7421

## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Mankato's Reconciliation Park gets comprehensive design:

The site of the 1862 hanging of 38 Dakota men was dedicated as a park in 1997, but it wasn't until this year that a comprehensive design was drawn up. A walkway, a moccasin sculpture, and other improvements will be made to complement an exiting memorial scroll, a limestone sculpture of a bison, benches, and plantings. The tragedy did not end with the hanging; more than 1,200 Dakota Elders, women, and children were marched to an internment camp, and the next year were exiled to reservations in South Dakota. Hundreds died during the trip or from starvation and exposure. *Source: startribune.com.*

### Anishinaabe talk treaty rights in Duluth:

Tribal officials, including Mille Lacs Commissioner of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington, gathered at the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth for a public forum to talk about the biology, management, history, and practices of tribal off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering. "It's not just the ability to get something to eat, to sustain our bodies. It's about sustaining our identity," said Jason Schlender, vice chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board. Tribal leaders conceded they are facing similar issues as the non-Indian community where fewer young people are pursuing traditional outdoor activities. "We're having a hard time passing it on," Schlender said. "We're competing with McDonald's and Walmart with their fast food and technology." *Source: duluthnewtribune.com.*

### Students battle park board over maple tapping:

Students at Minneapolis South High took on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, after being told by park officials to refrain from tapping the boulevard trees around their school for a class project. Tapping trees violates a city ordinance, but the Park Board backed down and let the students continue tapping the trees. Social studies teacher Vincent Patton, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said, "If I can bring these cultural teachings to our youth then I'm honoring our ancestors. Maple syrup has always been an essential component of our culture, and we're the ones that introduced it to the European settlers that came here." *Source: startribune.com.*

### Band member is panelist at journalism conference:

Band member Cole Premo, who works for WCCO-TV as a web producer, is the only Native reporter in the mainstream Twin Cities media, and he was one of the panelists at "Covering Indian Country: How is Indian Country being covered in mainstream media in 2019?" during the 2019 Midwest Journalism Conference at the Crowne Plaza Aire in Bloomington last month. *Source: Aitkin Age.*

### Senate votes to block Line 3 lawsuit:

The Republican-controlled Minnesota Senate voted 34-30 to prohibit Minnesota's Department of Commerce from spending money from its budget to appeal a decision by the Public Utilities Commission to grant the pipeline a Certificate of Need. Gov. Tim Walz supports the legal challenge, and the Senate's vote is seen by some Democrats as an unprecedented political move to control the Governor. *Source: minnpost.com.*



Band members Jamie Edwards, Shena Matrious, Shelly Diaz, Arlyn Sam, and Baabiitaw Boyd represented the Mille Lacs Band at the 2020 Census kickoff event at the State Capitol on April 1. They strongly encourage participation in the census in order to make sure the Band receives the federal funding it deserves, which is based on census information.

## ONE YEAR OUT, CENSUS PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED

We're one year away from the 2020 census, and tribal leaders are pushing for full participation for one simple reason: "The money follows the numbers," according to Urban Liaison and Project Coordinator Shelly Diaz, who has been tasked by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin with ensuring a high participation rate. "Everybody deserves to be counted, especially now."

Shelly was one of several Mille Lacs Band members who traveled to the capitol in St. Paul April 1 to bring attention to the importance of the census.

Citizens from around the state heard from several speakers, including Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan.

### "EVEN A SINGLE MISSED PERSON IN THE CENSUS COULD MEAN A FORFEITED \$28,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDING OVER THE COURSE OF 10 YEARS."

— LT. GOV. PEGGY FLANAGAN

Peggy pointed out that the federal government uses the census to determine how to dole out federal funds and how states are represented in Congress.

"Let me put it into perspective," Peggy told the crowd. "Even a single missed person in the census could mean a forfeited \$28,000 in federal funding over the course of 10 years. Those are real dollars that affect real communities across the state."

Minnesota nearly lost a seat in the House of Representatives in 2010, and the state is currently ranked behind Mon-

tana and California for the final House seat. Minnesota had the second-highest response rate in 2010, which probably helped save its House seat. Officials hope an equally strong showing may have the same effect next year.

Tribal Nations and minority groups have been historically underrepresented in the census. Members of Tribal Nations and minority groups sometimes mistrust the government, given their historical mistreatment, so they are reluctant to participate in the census.

Less than half of Mille Lacs Band members were counted in the last census, which has a dramatic effect on funding for health, education, social services, and the environment.

Shelly stresses that census information is strictly confidential and cannot be shared.

"Get the message out there that it's OK to share your information with the census because those numbers are important and we need to be counted," Shelly concluded.

### Are my answers safe and secure?

Yes. The Census Bureau collects data for statistical purposes only. They combine your responses with information from other households or businesses to produce statistics, which never identify your household, any person in your household, or business. Your information is CONFIDENTIAL. They never identify you individually. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information, and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act, reinforce these protections. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both. It is against the law to disclose or publish names, addresses (including GPS coordinates), Social Security numbers, or telephone numbers.





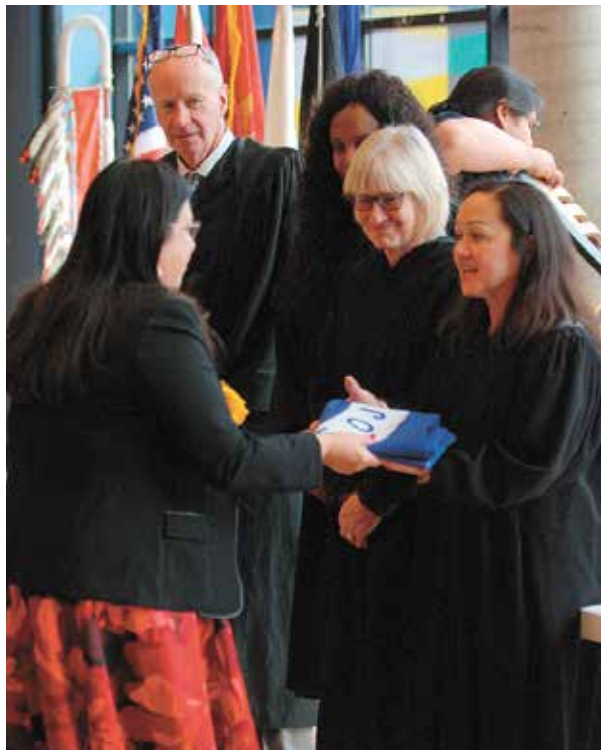
Red Lake and Mille Lacs Color Guards, Red Willow drum group, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin took part in the March 28 ceremony.

Flags continued from page 1

The Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) is the state's equivalent to the ICWA.

The flags will be flown at the ICWA courtroom at the Juvenile Justice Center in Minneapolis, the family courtroom at the Family Justice Center in St. Paul, and at the main entrance of the Dakota County Judicial Center in Hastings.

Mille Lacs and Red Lake flags will join those of White Earth and Leech Lake, which were presented at a ceremony in November of 2018. The ultimate goal is to have all 11 of Minnesota's tribal flags flown in these courtrooms.



## WALZ ISSUES ORDER ON TRIBAL CONSULTATION

On April 4, Governor Tim Walz signed Executive Order 19-24, affirming the government-to-government relationship between the State of Minnesota and Minnesota's 11 tribes. The order builds on and replaces a previous executive order signed by Gov. Mark Dayton. Governor Walz's order applies to all state agencies and was made in consultation with both agencies and tribal governments as it was written.

"This order ensures the State of Minnesota and the 11 tribes engage in true government-to-government relationships built on respect, understanding, and sovereignty," said Governor Walz. "We are committed to meaningful consultation with the tribal communities in our state."

"This order builds on the important work Governor Dayton did with his executive order," said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. "But we also acknowledge today there's still a lot of work to do, and that work must never stop. For too long, policy has been done to our tribal communities, instead of with them. That order changes that."

Cathy Chavers, Chairwoman of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, said, "This executive order is Minnesota's strongest yet, and I'm excited to continue building strong government-to-government partnerships to accomplish and achieve even more together. I appreciate Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan for their continued commitment to engaging in meaningful tribal consultation and for recognizing how critically important it is to work closely together with the 11 Tribal Nations in Minnesota."

Robert Larsen, President of the Lower Sioux Community, said, "Meaningful tribal consultation is foundational to recognizing and supporting the sovereignty of Tribal Nations. Executive Order 19-24 expands the framework established by the Dayton Administration to build positive and lasting relationships with Tribal Leaders, and further strengthens the state's commitment to working with Tribal Nations on a government-to-government basis. I look forward to exploring new ways that our tribes and the State of Minnesota can partner together, and the new opportunities we can create."

Executive Order 19-24:

- Affirms that the State of Minnesota recognizes and supports the unique status of the Minnesota Tribal Nations and their right to existence, self-govern, and possess self-determination.

- Directs state agencies to recognize the unique legal relationship between the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Tribal Nations and respect the fundamental principles that establish and maintain this relationship.

- Requires all state agencies to designate Tribal Liaisons that will be able to directly and regularly meet and communicate with the Agency's Commissioner and Deputy and Assistant Commissioners in order to appropriately conduct government-to-government conversations.

- Mandates tribal-relations training for all state leaders and other employees whose work may impact Tribes.

## DNR REAL ESTATE CONDUCTS PHOTO LOG

The DNR Real Estate Department will be conducting a bi-annual Building Photo Log update. We will be photographing every single structure located on tribal lands in each district, including but not limited to: homes, garages, businesses, pole sheds, barns, etc. These photos will be used for mapping and inventory purposes only. Please do not be alarmed if you see someone taking a picture from your driveway or street. The DNR employees tasked with this project will be easily identifiable by the Tribal DNR license plates and their ID badges. We appreciate your cooperation! Please contact Jim Kalk at 320-532-7897 or LaDrake Powell at 320-532-7552 if you have any questions.



## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Trump signs order making it harder to block pipelines:** President Donald Trump signed two executive orders last month designed to speed up oil and gas pipeline projects. Business and fossil fuel interests lobbied for the change, saying the environmental review and permitting process for energy projects "has become a target for environmental activists and states that oppose the production and use of fossil fuels." Brett Hartl of the Center for Biological Diversity said the orders would mark the fourth time Trump has taken steps to streamline permits for fossil-fuel infrastructure. *Source: startribune.com.*

**Warriors' Circle of Honor on track to open in 2020:** A \$15 million memorial honoring Native American and Alaskan Native military members and veterans is set to open next year in Washington, D.C. Design details for the "Warriors' Circle of Honor" are still being finalized. In 1994, Congress passed legislation mandating the memorial be built at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, but it wasn't until 2013 that funds were raised for the project. A dedication ceremony for the steel and stone structure is set for Veterans Day 2020. *Source: startribune.com.*

**North Dakota legislator faces criticism from conservatives:** North Dakota State Rep. Ruth Buffalo, a citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation, is being compared to U.S. Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar for one simple reason: She drives conservatives crazy. Mike Jacobs, former editor of the Grand Forks Herald, said, "What they're really agitated about is that a woman, Native, Democrat managed to get elected in Fargo." Buffalo defeated a Republican representative who authored a law that attacked tribal voting rights. Buffalo has been very effective, with four bills passed in four months, including one creating a database for missing Indigenous people. *Source: Indian Country Today.*

**U.S. House hears testimony on Native vote suppression in Dakotas:** The U.S. House Elections Subcommittee held a field hearing April 16 entitled "Voting Rights and Election Administration in the Dakotas" at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council Building in Fort Yates, N.D. In South Dakota, the American Civil Liberties Union has filed seven lawsuits since 1999 alleging that Native Americans had been discriminated against and their voting power diluted in state and local redistricting. In North Dakota, a voter ID law requires residents to show at their polling location identification listing a current street address, even though many Native Americans have post office boxes for their mailing address. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge to the law. *Source: argusleader.com.*

**Native Americans making a difference in Congress:** Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho Chunk, D-Kansas, sat in the speaker's chair last month presiding over the floor debate on reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Rep. Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, D-New Mexico, introduced amendments that could make the law more effective in Indian Country, and Rep. Tom Cole, Chickasaw, R-Oklahoma, told fellow Republicans about the big picture significance of the bill while urging Democrats to find a compromise that will ensure the bill becomes law. The House passed the bill, but it faces an uphill fight in the Republican-controlled Senate. *Source: Indian Country Today.*

# CRAFTING SERIES CONCLUDES WITH CELEBRATION

Beaders, seamstresses, chefs, and jewelers gathered at Grand Casino Mille Lacs March 29 to celebrate a successful series of “Crafting to Heal” classes offered by the Behavioral Health Department.

Those in attendance weren’t all experts, but they had all participated as teachers or students in dozens of classes offered in all districts. They had made everything from earrings and ribbon skirts to wild rice hot dish and fry bread.

Kitty Johnson recruited teachers, reserved rooms, scheduled classes, and sent out flyers to promote the events, and the response was terrific. There is a clear desire among Mille Lacs Band women to learn the art of traditional crafts and foods.

After a delicious buffet lunch, they listened to inspirational talks from Band members Suzanne Wise, Melanie Benjamin, and Valerie Harrington, who were introduced by emcee Crystal Weckert, the Director of the Behavioral Health Department.

Suzanne shared some of her memories of growing up in District I and focused on the theme of community. “We cannot heal, we cannot move forward without each other, without that sense of community,” said Suzanne.

She challenged the attendees to ask themselves a question: “Are we being that community person we were meant to be as Anishinaabe?”

Suzanne said her mom, Carol Nickaboine, told her there used to be a community garden where the ALU stands today.

“Nobody went hungry,” said Suzanne. “A lot of our people did not know there was a Great Depression going on because we were community people. We shared what we had. And that is exactly what these classes did for me. The people in this community shared their knowledge because they care about our community, they care about each other, and they care where we’re going.”

Suzanne said she enjoyed a wild rice class taught by Winnie Davis, a fry bread class taught by Dawn Day, and a bracelet class taught by Dawn Chosa. “I wanted to let you know how grateful I am for the opportunities, not just to learn new crafts, but for your memories, for your laughter, for the fun that we shared. Those are the things we take away when we get involved with something. The only way we’re going to move forward is together.”

Melanie thanked Suzanne for her service as Commissioner of Education and District I Representative, when she initiated

monthly community meetings. She congratulated her on finishing her master’s degree and stressed the importance of education.

Melanie talked about the need for professional women to support each other, which inspires her involvement with Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN). She said she was envious of those who had taken the crafting classes. Melanie had too many other commitments and could not participate, but she admired posts on Facebook showing participants’ work. She thanked the teachers and organizers for providing the opportunity.

“It was really an excellent program, from what I heard from the participants,” Melanie said, and she encouraged participants to bring initiatives forward to the tribal government.

“Our Elders always tell us that we each have a gift, and it is up to us to find out what that gift is and to utilize it for the betterment of the community,” she said.

Valerie introduced herself in Ojibwe and thanked the teachers and organizers of the classes and the luncheon. She said she was grateful to all the strong female role models she had growing up in District I, including her mom, grandmas, aunts, cousins, tribal leaders, and Elders.

“I learn a lot from other women, and I get a lot of support from the women in the community,” Val said. “I think the most powerful women in our community are the ones who are taking initiative and learning, and also teaching and sharing.”

She talked about how helpful the Healing through Writing class with Li Boyd was, and she confessed that she was still struggling with fry bread even after experience in Dawn Day’s class.

“Women are the backbone of our communities and our families,” said Val, “and sometimes we forget to take care of ourselves. We need to take care of ourselves because I don’t think we can take care of others if we’re not okay.”

Val encouraged the women present to pursue their dreams, and she said she was grateful for her struggles and setbacks because they made her a stronger person. “I am happy, and I humbly say I am strong, resilient, Indigenous, educated, sober, caring, loving, hard-working, and a dedicated Native leader that loves to volunteer and help in our community, and I encourage you to keep teaching and sharing so we all can take part in our community.”



Nearly everyone wore a proud smile after learning traditional crafts! Miigwech to Kitty Johnson for the photos!

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

## AS LONG AS WE HEAR THOSE DRUMS

By Jim Clark

*This article by the late Jim Clark was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to help preserve his teachings for the next generation.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

The first drums were given to the people out West. They brought the drums east, and then the Dakota people had drums. At that time, the Ojibwe and Dakota people were warring against each other. That’s because we were crowded from the encroachment of non-Indians. Eventually the Dakota moved further south and the Ojibwe stayed up north.

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

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

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

BARB BENJAMIN-ROBERTSON

# A LEGACY OF HELPING OTHERS

By Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member



Barb Benjamin-Robertson's friends, family, and colleagues held a surprise party for her at the urban community meeting in March. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin (below left) presented Barb with a plaque, and Barb "passed the torch" to her replacement, Wahbon Spears (below right). For more on Wahbon, see next month's issue. Photos by Bradley Roache Jr.

Barb Benjamin-Robertson was only planning to work at the Mille Lacs Band's Urban Office for two years when she became the program administrator in 1998.

Back then, the office had only been open for a couple of years and was mostly a service center for Band members who needed to pick up forms or fax paperwork to other Band offices.

Barb knew she wanted the office to be something more. She wanted a place that created a sense of community for the Band members who lived in the Twin Cities, so she set out to make it happen.

She started her job in November of 1998 and that same month created the first newsletter to mail out to urban Band members.

A month later she hosted the urban area's first holiday party. Hundreds showed up at All Nations Indian Church, and there was barely enough space to accommodate them.

"I wanted to energize the Urban Office, and I wanted to offer programs that would help our community," said Barb on a recent morning as she sipped coffee at a Dunn Bros located in her neighborhood.

Barb, who retired in November, spent two decades creating new programming and leading the efforts of connecting the urban Band members and their families to the reservation as well as each other.

"It seemed there was always more to be done and better ways to help the urban constituents," said Barb, whose title when she retired was urban site manager.

During her 20-year tenure, Barb made a point to get to know local organizations and learn about programs so she could connect them with folks in the urban area. In turn, representatives of those groups would attend the monthly community meetings to share whatever resources they had to offer.

"It helped the community to get to know organizations — both Native and non-Native organizations — so they knew what resources were out there," she said. "I love helping our people."

Sharing information was a big part of her job, and everyone knew that they could call Barb for assistance and information any time and she would usually find resources for what they needed.

"Sharing information was a big part of it and so was bringing awareness to and about the urban community," said Barb.

"This is our community. Anything I could do to help, I did."

## Early Career

Before assuming her role at the Urban Office, Barb worked at Goff and Howard (now Goff Public) for five years as a senior account executive. While there, she helped create the Band newsletter and served as the editor of the publication. She was also a registered lobbyist and said that wasn't her favorite part of her job at Goff.

Barb also had a long career working for the Minneapolis Arts Commission, an organization that focused on minority, ethnic, and neighborhood arts. She started as an intern and by the time she left 13 years later was the arts manager.

She helped write grants and worked with different groups to develop art pieces such as music, videos, and murals.

"I loved talking to people about their cultures and sharing my culture with them," said Barb, who does beadwork and

**"I LOVED TALKING TO PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR CULTURES AND SHARING MY CULTURE WITH THEM. LEARNING ABOUT DIFFERENT CULTURES HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND WHO YOU ARE AND WHO YOUR PEOPLE ARE."**

— BARB BENJAMIN-ROBERTSON

quilts. "Learning about different cultures helps you understand who you are and who your people are."

Besides feeding her artistic soul, the role helped her "get to know people and what makes them tick."

Barb came out of retirement for a few months to help the new Urban Office site manager, Wahbon Spears, get acclimated to the job.

When asked what Barb was most proud of during her tenure, her reply was quick: "Helping the Band members and communicating as much as possible on behalf of them."

Though the Urban Office staff was small, they were mighty. They offered fun activities throughout the year like annual Halloween parties, the holiday party — which continued to draw

several hundred people — and an end-of-the-school-year barbecue.

At any event that the Urban Office held, Barb's family members were always there to help do whatever was needed, such as set up tables and chairs, cook and serve food, and at least once her son played the role of Santa at a holiday party.

While leading the Urban Office, Barb created two programs to honor the academic and athletic achievements of urban students, called Anangoog Nandoné and UHOPS (Urban Honoring Our Pre-Schoolers).

Jim Clark, who was Barb's mentor, helped her come up with the name Anangoog Nandoné, which means "search for the stars."

Barb would often accompany Jim to schools where he would share stories about Ojibwe culture and help educate non-Native people. They had contributed to a traveling trunk filled with cultural items that was sent to public schools to help them learn more about Ojibwe people.

It was a time that Barb is grateful for and that she treasures.

Another thing Barb is thankful for is the strong and long-lasting collaborations she helped establish with other urban tribal offices.

"We combined our resources and shared the responsibilities, such as a dinner to honor the American Indian veterans," she said. "I worked with the other urban directors on behalf of Elders and helped revive the Urban Elders Networking and Providers meetings."

Barb grew up in Onamia and attended the elementary and high school. She loved school and excelled academically. She attended the University of Minnesota and studied arts administration.

Since retiring, Barb has enjoyed having some down time to read books and magazines, spend time with her granddaughter, Erika, and tries to exercise for an hour a day.

She visits or calls Elders, has more time to go up north with her husband, Barry, and continues to be involved with Wisdom Steps, a preventive health program for American Indian Elders across the state. Barb and Barry have two children, Aarik and Tara.



MARY AND ROSA COLTON

# A SISTERHOOD OF LIFELONG LEARNERS

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer



Rosa and Mary Colton will graduate with their master's degrees from Augsburg University on Friday, May 10.

When most people enroll in college or graduate school, they do it for personal enrichment or professional advancement. But for Rosa and Mary Colton, who finished their master's degrees in special education last fall, those reasons were secondary. Even though both sisters work in schools, their primary motivation for pursuing advanced degrees was to be better moms.

In working with her children's teachers, Rosa kept hearing the term "IEP" — Individual Educational Program — which is a requirement for students enrolled in special education courses.

"I wanted to know what they were talking about," said Rosa.

For Mary, it was similar. She was told that some of her children had learning disabilities, and she wanted to understand how to help them do better in school.

For Mary, it's personal, too; she was a special ed student in high school. "I graduated from high school on the B honor roll without knowing how to read or write," she said. "My special ed teacher said, 'I'm gonna have you tested. I think you're very smart but can't read.' She found out I had dyslexia."

According to Mary, it was her sister who convinced her to pursue her master's — just like she had talked Mary into going to college several years earlier.

"I wasn't planning to go to college, but my sister made me," said Mary. "I said it was going to be too hard with my dyslexia, but she said they would have ways to help me. If it wasn't for her saying 'Come on, come on,' I surely wouldn't have gone back to college. I would've been happy being a nurses' aid."

Books on tape were a godsend, as well as speech recognition software (the "magic dragon" Mary calls it) that would help Mary write her papers. Sometimes Rosa would read to Mary.

Mary returned the favor with her exceptional memory, which she attributes to her dyslexia. "I'm a real keen listener," she said. "When one of your senses doesn't work right, the others will pick up."

"I'm glad she has such a good memory because if I didn't know, she would remind me," Rosa said. "I'd ask her 'What were we working on last time?' and she'd remember."

They also did most of their studying together on Sundays. "We would either meet at her house or my house and work until all the homework for the week was done," Mary said. Sometimes one sister would get frustrated and go home, but eventually the phone would ring, and they'd get back to work.

Rosa's mom initially encouraged her to go to college. "After high school, I tried to go to college off and on, but I drank a lot, so it didn't work out. After I sobered up, my mom said, 'Why don't you go to college?' so I did."

At the time, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College had a program in East Lake, so Rosa and Mary started on their A.A. degree with a group of friends, relatives, and neighbors, including Raina Killspotted, Amanda Bruneau, Tabitha Boyd, and Marysue Anderson.

After completing their associate's degrees, Rosa and Mary started taking classes for the bachelor's degree from St. Scholastica.

When that program was finished, Mary was satisfied, but once again, Rosa talked her into continuing.

## Applied knowledge

They enrolled in the Naadamaadiwin ("Helping one another") tribal special education cohort, a partnership between the Augsburg University Master of Arts in Education program and the University of Minnesota Duluth Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Language Revitalization.

The program offers a special education license with a focus on tribal communities and learning styles.

The classes are all online, but students meet face-to-face with faculty for orientation and two meetings each semester.

Students also have the option of earning the Master of Arts in Education by taking four additional graduate level courses — the option Rosa and Mary chose.

Even though professional development wasn't their primary motivation for earning their master's degrees, Mary and Rosa are using what they learned at work every day.

Rosa, who taught for years at Nay Ah Shing, is now work-

ing at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy. She misses Nay Ah Shing, but the drive from her home in Minnewawa was too taxing. And now, instead of working on those IEPs as a parent, it's part of her job as a teacher.

Mary has worked for over 12 years at McGregor, first as an Indian education liaison paid by the Band, but now as an employee of the school district. She's seen her efforts pay off as children's grades and confidence improve — both her students and her own kids.

**"I WASN'T PLANNING TO GO TO COLLEGE, BUT MY SISTER MADE ME. I SAID IT WAS GOING TO BE TOO HARD WITH MY DYSLEXIA, BUT SHE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE WAYS TO HELP ME. IF IT WASN'T FOR HER SAYING, 'COME ON, COME ON,' I SURELY WOULDN'T HAVE GONE BACK TO COLLEGE."**

— MARY COLTON

Mary encourages others to pursue higher education, even if they're getting older. "Just go, because you're never too old to learn something, and you can always teach something new to someone else."

For Mary, her accomplishment hit home as she completed her final assignment: a portfolio of her work. "It felt pretty good because I could look at it and say, 'This is all my work right here in this portfolio.' It has all my educational background, every class I took. And I thought 'Yup, I did it now.'"

Rosa agrees that the feeling of accomplishment was worth the effort. It became real when her class got together for a ceremony at Black Bear after completing their certificates, but she's even more excited about May 10, when she and her sister will attend the Augsburg graduation at US Bank Stadium.

## SUPPORT OUR GRADS!

Support our scholars by attending their graduation ceremonies this spring!

**Nay Ah Shing:** Thursday, Thursday, June 6, 5 p.m.

**Onamia:** Friday, May 31, 7 p.m.

**Isle:** Friday, May 24, 7 p.m.

**Hinckley-Finlayson:** Sunday, June 2, 2 p.m.

**McGregor:** Sunday, June 2, 2 p.m.

**East Central:** Friday, May 31, 7 p.m.

**Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College:** Thursday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.

If you have a family member graduating from high school or higher education this spring, send us a photo with their name, school, and degree, and we'll run them in next month's paper!



## SPRING COLORS

Nay Ah Shing's 8th grade students visited with Renee Bruneau and the Elders at the Assisted Living Unit in District I on April 15. After a fun time coloring eggs, students and Elders exchanged seasonal gift baskets. There are already plans for one more get together in May before the school year ends.





# EDUCATION COMMISSIONER RATIFIED

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

When it comes to education, not many Mille Lacs Band members are more experienced or more committed than Joycelyn (Joyce) Shingobe, the new (and former) Commissioner of Education.

"I have a long history on the reservation, and I've seen all the changes we've gone through, the ups and downs," said Joyce. "I think education is the way forward. I really do."

In February, Joyce was sworn in to serve as interim commissioner, but after considering other applicants, the Band Assembly and Chief Executive agreed that they wanted Joyce to stay on.

Joyce had been ready to pass the torch to a younger commissioner, but her commitment to education led her to accept. "I wanted to make sure Band members seeking out educational opportunities are supported," said Joyce.

It made a lot of sense, given Joyce's experience. She has served two terms as Commissioner of Education, she has been Executive Director of Education for the last six years, and she has held several positions at Nay Ah Shing Schools.

For Joyce, education has always been central, since she started working as a Head Start teacher right out of high school. She took her first college classes at Brainerd (now Central Lakes) Community College, and after taking time off to raise her kids, she also earned a technical college degree in accounting. (Joyce and her uncle, Andy Mitchell, decided to attend tech school together.)

Prior to working in the Education Department, Joyce spent 20 years at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, starting out as a clerk and an interpreter and eventually becoming site manager. She served as liaison between the Minnesota Historical Society and the Mille Lacs community and was instrumental in creating the exhibits that still draw visitors today.

While she was working at the museum, Joyce heard about a bachelor's program at Metro State that catered to working adults, so she completed her degree in Indian studies.

Joyce enjoyed the museum, but after she earned her bachelor's, she had a desire to help her community by working for the Band.

Her education didn't stop there, though. As she taught at Nay Ah Shing, she took graduate classes in education at St.



Joycelyn Shingobe, third from left, was sworn in as interim Commissioner of Education in February and as permanent Commissioner in April. She is pictured with Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, Justice Ramona Applegate, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.

Mary's, and after becoming Commissioner of Education she completed UMD's Master of Tribal Administration and Government Degree, along with her daughter LeAnn.

"Once you know what education can do for you and how it can help you move your life forward, you get the bug," said Joyce.

Joyce gives Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin credit for stressing the importance of education and providing support to students, and she looks forward to working with Melanie as commissioner again, as well as with Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, who was Commissioner of Administration when Joyce first served as Commissioner of Education.

As a lifelong student, Joyce knows the importance of higher education, but as a mom and grandma, she also emphasizes preschool, K-12, and after-school programs. "Our children are going to be our future leaders, and we need to build their character and instill a sense of pride and community responsibility," she said.

Joyce has seen the high quality of education Nay Ah Shing schools provided to her children, but she also sees the importance of public schools for many Band members and their families. She will be a supportive commissioner for students and families whether they attend tribal or public schools.

Most of all, Joyce just wants to help her fellow Band members to see the importance of education and receive the support they need as they move through life.

"I love my job," said Joyce. "Everybody I've ever worked with, I encourage them to stay in school and come back and help their people. I just love to see Band members succeed!"

You can find Joyce at her office in the District I Community Center or out and about in the communities.

## SUPERHEROES

A Gathering of Native Americans Community Mobilization and Planning Event took place April 22-24 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The training was hosted by Mille Lacs Band's Health and Human Services Department with assistance from the Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Center of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Participants discussed resiliency, community strengths, historical trauma, and shared visions. Among many team-building activities were shields and songs, affirmations, and the outfitting of team "superheroes." For more on the event, see next month's issue.

## LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

### DISTRICT IIA LEARNS ABOUT MEDICAL RESEARCH

Carol Hernandez of Ne-la-Shing Clinic gave District Ila Band members an update April 18 on medical research studies being conducted at Ne-la-Shing Clinic in conjunction with the University of Minnesota.

Three studies are in the works: one on nicotine metabolism, one on lung cancer screening, and one on precision medicine.

Carol said the nicotine metabolism study aims to determine how Native Americans are affected by nicotine in order to determine the best methods of smoking cessation.

The study provides incentives of \$25 for the initial one- to two-hour office visit plus \$25 for keeping track of smoking for a week.

The precision medicine study intends to determine how to cater treatment of illness specifically toward Native Americans.

The lung cancer screening study will help researchers spot lung cancer in its earliest stages in order to treat it as effectively as possible.

Carol stressed the importance of research on Native Americans, since most medical research has focused on people of European descent.

She assured Band members that any information gathered by the study would be strictly confidential.

If you would like to participate in these studies, call Carol at 320-443-4205.

Also addressing the District Ila community on April 18 were Assistant Commissioner of Administration Baabiitaw Boyd, who shared department goals for 2019, and Kevin and Brad Harrington, who invited everyone to their Sober Night Memorial event May 16 (see page 16).

### DISTRICT REP SHARES BAND ASSEMBLY UPDATE

District I Rep. Sandi Blake summarized recent Band Assembly meetings at the District I community meeting on April 10 at the community center.

She said Band Assembly had received updates from financial advisor Peter Eckerline, Band Member Legal Aid, AanjiBimaadizing, and law firm Lockridge Grindal Nauen, which provides lobbying services to the tribe.

She also talked about the Band Assembly's interview of candidates for Commissioner of Education. She said all candidates performed well, but the Assembly eventually decided to ratify the Chief Executive's nomination of Joycelyn Shingobe (see story on this page).

Band Assembly approved the reappointment of Joanne Whiterabbit to the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Board. Band Assembly is also considering nominations for Commissioner of Administration.

Sandi said she is hoping Commissioner of Finance Adam Valdez will be renominated. "I don't think we could find a better commissioner to replace him," said Sandi.

Also on the agenda were Carol Hernandez (see above), Jim Ingle (see page 14), and Judge David Christensen, who talked about proposed changes to Band statutes (see below and page 3).

### BAND ASSEMBLY CONSIDERS CHANGES TO STATUTES

The Band Assembly is seeking input from Band members on amendments to Title 1 and Title 5 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes. To see the proposed changes and make your opinions known, see page 3.



# THE SWEETEST TRADITION — BAND MEMBERS BOND AT THE SUGARBUSH



Top: Amber Lenz and Duck White taught Pine Grove students sugarbushing skills and also the importance of respecting the medicine. Middle: The Sam family had help from Carol Hernandez, the DNR invited Band members and students to their camp, and Curt Kalk shared a lifetime of skill and knowledge with Nay Ah Shing kids. Bottom: Tony, Cailen, and Alex learned the art of iskgimizige from Sandi, Benji, and Max Blake at their family's sugar camp.

# SHARING AND CELEBRATING CULTURE AROUND THE REGION



## CHIMINISING ZIIGWAN YOUTH POWWOW

The Chiminising Youth Powwow has become a favorite spring tradition for dancers, singers, and spectators. This year was as exciting as ever with ribbon skirt, side step, and hand drum contests and the crowning of royalty. Community members Sherraine White and Ian Braveheart were impressive head dancers, and Brad Harrington and Colin Cash served as masters of ceremonies. Congratulations to Princess Nevaeh Merrill (right) and Brave Jaden Sayers (center), who will serve his second term. A dinner of traditional foods including bison was catered by First Nations Kitchen.



## WIIDOOKADAADIWAG POWWOW

Central Lakes College and Brainerd Schools hosted their annual Wiidookadaadiwag (We Are Helping Each Other) Powwow on April 19. Students, staff, and community members enjoyed dancing, music, the makazin game, the bagese game, and a free meal. Photos by Mille Lacs Band member Rhonda Mitchell.

## EARLY-SEASON NETTING

As soon as open water appeared off Neyaashiing ('the point' in Ojibwe), Curt and Carmen Kalk had their nets set, and students had a chance to learn to set, pull, pick, and clean. Above: William netted a nice ginoozhe as Edgerrin and Alvin picked walleyes from the net. On the cover: Gretchen brought in a net full of walleyes, with one big surprise.



## SHARING THE GIFT

Red Willow drum group and dancers Shianna Smallwood and Tyson Killspotted performed at Isle Schools on April 15. Aaron "Vito" Buckanaga of Red Willow introduced the performers, spoke about Anishinaabe culture, and answered questions from the enthusiastic audience, who joined in an intertribal dance. Shianna shared the origin of the jingle dress, and Tyson talked about grass dancing. Left: Shianna Smallwood, Tony Buckanaga, Courtney Hayes, Scott Matrious, Vito Buckanaga, and (front) Tyson Killspotted.

# A SOBER NIGHT MEMORIAM — EVENT PLANNED TO RAISE AWARENESS OF OPIOIDS

By Vivian LaMoore Director of Public Relations

"The ultimate solution to ending the [opioid crisis] lies with my generation," 15-year-old Kevin Harrington said. And he is going to do everything he can to see it happen. With the help of his grandfather Brad Harrington, Kevin is in the process of organizing a night of music, memories, and education to honor the lives lost to overdoses and to celebrate the survivors of opioid drug addiction.

Kevin is a student at Onamia High School. He said he frequently goes out jogging or for walks in his neighborhood and at a local golf course. "I watch everything," Kevin said. "A lot of the times I find used needles laying on the ground. It happens all the time. It is so sad."

Kevin reports the found needles to the police department for proper disposal. He said he has seen the local opioid drug issues rapidly evolving over the past few years. "And it is not just opioids. It's other drugs. It is everywhere."

"I have many friends — Native Americans and non-Native — who are addicts. I have seen both whites and Indians die from overdoses," Kevin said. "This has to stop. People think it is a problem just on the reservation, but it is way past that. Everybody is touched by this problem."

While driving into town one day recently, Kevin and Brad were having a conversation about life as they normally do. The drug problem came up, and Kevin decided right then he was going to do something about it. The two of them put their heads together and came up with an event to draw more attention to not only those who have died, but also to the survivors.

Both Kevin and Brad are musicians who sing and play a variety of instruments. They decided the event should be music-related to draw a younger crowd.

"We will perform as a band on stage and are inviting other local musicians and singers to join us. Anyone who can play or sing is invited to participate on stage," Brad said. The music portion can either be an open mic jam session format or, for those who would like to practice ahead of time, contact Brad to coordinate rehearsal times.

"We will have food of course," Brad said with a smile. "We will be serving Indian tacos that everybody loves. Especially the



Kevin and Brad Harrington

young kids."

In addition to the music and food, members of the law enforcement and health care communities have been asked to attend so they can answer questions and give informational speeches.

People are encouraged to bring framed photographs of loved ones who have lost their lives to overdoses.

"I think it will have a big impact if all of the photographs are displayed and set out on a table in the front of the room. Then people can see faces and not just numbers," Kevin said.

Brad realizes not everyone who has a loved one gone from an overdose will be emotionally ready to bring a photograph out in public, but he is encouraging people to do so. "It may help people heal," he added.

Kevin feels his generation can put a stop to the crisis and help the community to heal from addiction. "We need to say no to drugs, but also say no to the doctors who want to prescribe painkillers," Kevin said.

In addition to the music, food, and education portion of the event, the grandfather/son duo are hoping people will share

## SOBER NIGHT MEMORIAM

**DATE:**  
May 16<sup>th</sup> 2019

**TIME:**  
5pm – 9pm

**PLACE:**  
District I Community Center

A SPECIAL EVENT to honor the memory of all the loved ones who lost their lives to this horrible opioid epidemic and to celebrate the ones who survived.

There will be guest speakers and live musical performances. If you would like to perform please contact the Event Coordinators: Brad Harrington 320-455-2353 or Kevin Harrington 218-251-1110

**ALL AGES EVENT**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Please bring a photo of your loved one.

**Dawn Days Fry bread Indian Tacos**

**PLEASE COME AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.**

their personal stories with the group on how they survived and give testimony on how the opioid crisis has affected their life and their family.

The Sober Night Memoriam is planned for May 16 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the District I Community Center. The event is free and open to the public.

"Everyone from the entire community is welcome," Brad said. "We want everybody — non-Native and Native — to come and enjoy the music and sharing of information."

For more information or to sign up to sing or be a part of the band contact Brad Harrington at 320-455-2353.

*This article was originally published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. The author, Vivian LaMoore, is the former editor of the Messenger and the new Director of Public Relations for the Band. See next month's issue for more on Vivian and her new role.*



## PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

Nay Ah Shing staff and students helped Health and Human Services professionals prepare for a medical emergency with a "point of dispensing" (POD) exercise on April 16. In the event of an outbreak requiring dispensing of medicine, the schools would be used as a POD, with trained staff setting up tables for registration, screening, and dispensing of medicine. In place of medication, students were given Skittles and M&Ms, which made them happy to help out. Annual preparedness exercises with the Health and Human Services Department are required as part of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant that Tribal Emergency Management oversees. Last year the team completed a sheltering workshop with the Red Cross at the District I community center.



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe			
Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2019	Expenditures through 3/31/19	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	20,696,617	8,598,431	42%
Department of Labor	20,762,535	2,148,431	10%
Judicial	2,392,725	578,891	24%
Department of Justice	7,268,288	2,563,524	35%
Education	18,453,729	7,993,532	43%
Health and Human Services	33,745,210	13,551,802	40%
Circle of Health Insurance	5,720,000	2,550,224	45%
Natural Resources	10,175,324	5,352,050	53%
Community Development	51,382,996	17,835,023	35%
Gaming Authority	5,332,641	2,203,024	41%
Bonus Distribution	32,204,126	21,971,343	68%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,299,000	3,295,332	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>211,433,191</b>	<b>88,641,607</b>	<b>42%</b>

- (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.

# GIKENDANDAA I'IW OJIBWEMOWIN — LEARN THE OJIBWE LANGUAGE

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

## Inwewin Meshkawiziimagak

Mii eta go zhaaganaashimowaad, eta go aanind igo gaye, maagizhaa gaye ingoding go besho. Mewinza ko gaawiin igo aye awiia omaa, gaawiin gaye awiia omaa gii-shaaganaashimosiin gaye, mii eta go. Mii gaye gii-pi-agaahsiinyiyan igo eko-giiaan igo iidog gaye niin gii-anishinaabe-ganoozhiyaang ingitiziimag miinawaa go akiwenziyag. Gaawiin wiikaa gii-shaaganaashimosiwwag ongow akiwenziyag. Gaawiin sa ogii-kikendanzinaawaa ji-chimookomaani-gaagiigidowaad.

Gegoo giga-wiindamoon i'iw. Ingii-ingodwaaso-biboonagiz omaa gii-maajiitaayaan ji-gikinoo'amaagooyaan. Gaawiin gaye, gaawiin gaye ingii-kikendanzin i'iw chimookomaan gaa-izhid. Gaawiin gegoo ingii-kikendanzin. Mii gaa-izhi-bwaanawiziyaan awenesh ge-izhid a'aw indinendam. Miish a'aw isa niitaawis gaa-wiijigimag o'ow dibishkoo. Mii a'aw gaa-aaniikanootawid waawiindamawid. Jiigeaabaw gii-izhinikaazo. Mii gaa-wiin-

damawid i'iw gaye ikidowin indig. Aanish go ingii-kopaji'ig a'aw gwiizens, niijakiwenzii dibishkoo go. Mii gaa'izhi-izhid ko ji-wiindamawag i'iw gikinoo'amaagewinini. Ingii-wiinigiizhwe gomaa omaa gaye ji-bazanjiwid ko a'aw gikinoo'amaagewinini. Miish a'aw bezhig igo miinawaa bezhig niitaawis gaa-pi-izhi-wiindamawid, "Gego bizindawaaken Jiigeaabaw. Niin omaa bizindawishin gaye." Mii a'aw weweni. "Gaawiin miinawaa inga-bizindawaasiin wiikaa." Wewiib igo ingii-kikendaan igo i'iw wiinigizhweyaan akina gaa-izhi-ikidoyaan gaye. "Eko-bi-wiijiiyan," ingii-ig gaye; mii a'aw Jiigeaabaw gii-izhinikaazod. "Miinawaa go gii-wiijii'in," indig. "Enh," indinaa gaye wiin igo, ongow oshki-ininiwag gaye miinawaa ingiw. Gaawiin gaye, aanish sa gaawiin gaye owii-kikendanzinaawaa ji-anishinaabe-gaagiigidowaad. Gaawiin ogii-kikendanzinaawaa. Miish i'iw gaa-izhid. "Gegoo aanawewiziyan," indigoo. Gii-tagwaagig gii-maaji-gikinoo'amaagooyaan, azhigwa ani-ziigwang, mii azhigwa ani-izhi-gikendamaan i'iw chimookomaani-gaagiigidoyaan. "Anishinaa go awenesh ge-bonezid," indinaag gwiizensag. "Niizh ingikendaan. Inga-ayetoonan," indinaag gaye. Bizaaniyaawag. "Gaawiin imbaapi'igoosiin geyaabi. Gaawiin geyaabi imbagosen-

imigoosiin," ingii-inaag, baa-baapi'agwaa ingiw sa go weweni, weweni gii-kashkitooyaan ji-gaganoonagwaa ingiw chimookomaanag dash.

## The Power of Language

They only speak English, and only some [speak Indian], but maybe sometime soon [it will be different]. A long time ago there wasn't anyone here, nobody spoke English here. And when I was small too growing up myself, my parents and those old men talked to me in Indian. These old men never talked English. They didn't know how to talk American [English].

I'm going to tell you something about that. I was six years old here when I started going to school. And I didn't know what the white people were telling me. I didn't know anything. I would be unable to process whatever he was telling me, I thought. Then there was my cousin that I accompanied. He was the one who translated for me what the [whites] told me. He was called Jiigeaabaw. He talked to me and told me a word. Well that boy would trick me, just like my fellow elder [today]. He told me to tell that [word] to the teacher. I swore and that teacher made me stand in the [corner]. Then another one of my cousins came and told me, "Don't listen to Jiigeaabaw. Just listen to me here." He was nice. "I'm never going to listen to him again." Quickly I learned about my swearing and everything I should say too. "You come with me," he had told me, that was that Jiigeaabaw as he was called. "I'll accompany you again," he tells me. "Sure," I tell him and all those young men. And no, well they didn't want to know how to talk Indian. They didn't know how. That's what he told me. "You're inadequate," I was told. It was fall when I started going to school, but now, by the springtime, I already knew how to talk like an American. "Well who is going to forget," I tell the boys. "I know two [languages]. I'm going to use them," I told them too. They were quiet. I wasn't getting laughed at any more. "I'm not getting wished for any more," I told them, and I laughed at them in a good way, as I was able to properly converse with the white people.



## Ziigwan—It is spring

Ninjiibaakwewikwew. Ninjiibaakwemin. Ziigwan, Anishinaabeg iskgamizigewag. Mii dash ombigamizigewaad. Giizhigamizigewaad, nase'igewag naseyaawangwaaning. Mii dash na'enimowaad izkgamizige-makakong. Gemaa ziiga'iganikewag. Anishinaabe-zinzibaakwad wiishkobipogwad.

(I am a female cook. We cook. When it is spring, Ojibwe people they boil down maple sap. And then they boil the sap to sugar. When they finish boiling, they stir to form sugar in a sugaring trough. And then they store it away in a sugar-basket. Or they make sugar cones/cakes. Maple sugar tastes sweet.)

### Bezhig—1

### OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.  
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO  
Waaboo—as in father  
Bindiggen—as in jay  
Giizhik—as in seen  
Nabooob—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O  
Dash—as in about  
[maa—as in tin  
Endasg—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

### Noun Locatives

Adding a suffix ang, ing, or ong to a noun will denote location; to the, at the, from the, in the....

waakaa'igan—(an house) (s)  
Waakaa'iganing—to the house  
adoopowin (an)—table (s)  
adoopowining—at the table  
adaawewigamig (oon)—store (s)  
adaawewigamigong—to the store  
dewe'igan (ag)—drum (s)  
dewe'iganing—at the drum  
oodena (wan)—town (s)  
oodenaang—in the town

### Niizh—2

Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Endaso giizhik jiibaakwewigamigong nimbigozige.

B. Gigizheh nookomis gii-paakwezhanike.

C. Mewinza mindimooyeyag ogii-wawinge'aawaa' abwaajiganan.

D. Noongom jiiwaaakwewikweg ozaasakokwaanaawaa' zaasakowaanan.

E. Gibakade na? Biindigen! Namadabin!

F. Niwii-miijin i'iw nabooob.

G. Giwii-minikwe na makade-mashkiki-waaboo?

I ' I W  
B G T A U R  
G I I Z H I K  
N B M G C N N V  
V A ' Q I L O A S  
O K P K W Z P O B E  
M A K A D E H ' N O B  
X D J T X C Z E A G O Y  
M E W I N Z H A B F O B  
A H O I W A A B O O G M  
A N I M B I G O Z I G E

### Niswi—3

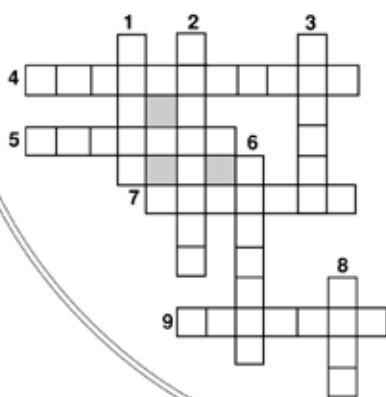
### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

#### Down:

- Or
- You are hungry.
- Egg
- Frying pan
- And

#### Across:

- They stir to form sugar.
- Dish
- In the morning
- It is spring.



### Niiwin—4

### Locative Usage

Gizhaabikizigan (an)—stove (s),  
Gizhaabikiziganing—at the, on the stove  
Mikwamii-makak (oon)—Fridge, ice-box (es)  
Mikwamii-makakong—in the, to the fridge  
Ishkode—fire  
Ishkodeng—in the, to the fire  
Abwewin—frying pan  
Abwewining—in the frying pan  
Onaagan—dish  
Onaaganing—in the dish

### Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

- Nimiijanmiinan adoopowin \_\_\_\_\_.
- Nimaamaa obiina'aanan waawanoon abwewin \_\_\_\_\_.
- Waabang ina giwii-izhaa oodena \_\_\_\_\_?
- Bijinaago Sue ogii-chiibaakwe'aanan wiiyaas ishkode \_\_\_\_\_.
- Rob idash Tony anokiwwag adaawewigamig \_\_\_\_\_.

—ing

—ong

—ang

—ng

## Word Find and Matching

Find these words in the Ojibwe passage above 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>akiwenziyag</i>           | <i>and then</i>        |
| <i>ingodwaaso-biboonagiz</i> | <i>white person</i>    |
| <i>gii-izhinikaazo</i>       | <i>my fellow Elder</i> |
| <i>chimookomaan</i>          | <i>boys</i>            |
| <i>miish</i>                 | <i>in a good way</i>   |
| <i>niijakiwenzii</i>         | <i>quickly</i>         |
| <i>wewiib</i>                | <i>my cousin</i>       |
| <i>gwiizensag</i>            | <i>old men</i>         |
| <i>niitaawis</i>             | <i>six years old</i>   |
| <i>weweni</i>                | <i>he was called</i>   |

## More Fun and Games!

*Ojibwe Inaajimowin* has a new feature this month: Ojibwemowin exercises and games that are fun and informative for language learners of all ages. The lessons were developed by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission for the quarterly newsletter, *Mazina'igan*. Miigwech to GLIFWC and author Shelly Ceglar for permission to reprint the lessons!

### Translations:

**Niizh—2** A. Every day in the kitchen I bake things. B. In the morning my Grandmother she made bread. C. A long time ago elder women made bread over an open fire. D. Today cooks they fry fry bread. E. Are you hungry? Come in! Sit down! F. I want to eat that soup. G. Do you want to drink black-medicine-liquid (coffee)?

**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Gemaa 2. Gibakade 3. Waawan 6. Abwewin 8. Dash Across: 4. Nase'igewag 5. Onaagan 7. Waabang 9. Ziigwan

**Niiwin—4** 1. I eat blueberries at the table. 2. My mother put in eggs in the frying pan. 3. Tomorrow do you want to go to the town? 4. Yesterday Sue she cooked meat in the fire. 5. Rob and Tony are working at the store.

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

## District News Briefs

### DISTRICT III HEARS RAP PRESENTATION

Chris Waite of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) gave a presentation April 17 at the District III Community Meeting at Grand Casino Hinckley. The topic: the Band's Revenue Allocation Plan, or RAP.



District III Rep. Wally St. John

The RAP, which is required under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, sets the percentage of gaming revenues that go towards per capita payments.

Currently the Band allocates 35 percent of casino revenue for per capita payments, but that is not enough to cover the \$933 per month payments that Band members receive. The shortfall is made up by drawing from long-term savings.

Band Assembly and the Chief Executive are planning to come up with a new RAP in the near future.

Also on the agenda were Kevin and Brad Harrington who invited those present to attend their Sober Night Memorial event May 16 at the District I Community Center. See page 12 for more on the event.

Sharon Raiche informed the community about the teen pregnancy prevention program, Baabiitaw Boyd shared commissioners' goals for 2019, and Monica Haglund invited people to help out with the Aazhoomog and Hinckley community cleanup organized by Sober Squad. The cleanup events took place in late April.

### SAVE THE DATE! ADOPT-A-SHORELINE MAY 29

Join your neighbors, family, and co-workers to help clean the shoreline around Mille Lacs Lake from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29. Watch Facebook for more information to come!

### PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On May 8 at the Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley and May 9 at the Rolf Olsen Center in Onamia, the Family Violence Prevention Program presents a discussion of human trafficking in our communities. The presentation provides a look at what is happening within our communities, what traffickers look for when grooming victims, and how the community can protect our youth. The event is geared toward parents, caregivers, employers, and youth leaders. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the presentation from 6 to 8 p.m.

### HOUSING BOARD MEETS IN AAZHOOMOG, CHIMINISING

The Housing Board will meet from noon to 4 p.m. May 2 at Aazhoomog Community Center and May 17 at Chiminising Community Center. The meetings are open to all Band members. If you would like to be on the agenda, contact Community Development Receptionist Priscilla Boyd at 320-532-7448.

### SUBMISSIONS WELCOME — GET PAID TO WRITE!

*Ojibwe Inaajimowin* is always looking for submissions from Band members! Compensation is available for stories and/or photographic coverage of tribal events. If you're interested in submitting a story or covering an upcoming event, please call 320-237-6851 or email [brett.larson@millelacsband.com](mailto:brett.larson@millelacsband.com). If you'd like to join us at our May meeting at the Government Affairs office in Wahkon, call Darla at 320-495-5006 or email [darla.roache@millelacsband.com](mailto:darla.roache@millelacsband.com).

## YOU'RE INVITED TO THE MINNESOTA SENIOR GAMES!

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Anyone who knows District I Fitness Coordinator Jim Ingle will tell you he's passionate about the Senior Games.

Jim, who turns 70 this year (but doesn't look it), will compete in the 50, 100, and 200-meter dash at the Senior Games Minnesota in St. Cloud August 1-4.

But this year, he has another goal beyond a top-8 finish: Jim wants to bring 100 Native Elders, including Mille Lacs Band members, to the event. (For the Senior Games, anyone over 50 qualifies.)

The idea came to Jim when he was at the National Senior Games in Minneapolis several years ago. "There was a group of Native Americans absolutely having the best time, hooting and hollering and cheering their team on," Jim recalled.

He asked where they were from, and they said they were a contingent of Native Elders from New Mexico. "I thought, 'This is something we need to do to get our Native Elders active,'" Jim said.

To drum up interest in the Senior Games, Jim and Diane Grooms, a Senior Games participant from the Twin Cities, organized a Minnesota Native Elder Games Day April 26 at the American Indian Center in Minneapolis giving Native seniors a chance to try out some of the events. (The event occurred after this issue went to press, but watch for coverage next month.)

Last year, a team of eight Elders from the Minneapolis Native community competed at the Senior Games Minnesota in Mankato on August 16-19. The team brought home eight gold medals, two silver, and two bronze, qualifying each team member for the Nationals in Albuquerque June 14-25 of this year.

The Team was sponsored by the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors, Bald Eagle Erectors, Loeffler Construction, Absolute Commercial Flooring, David Alban, Phil and Becky Alban, Carol Thies, Tiffany Hand, and Jim Ingle.

The Minnesota Council on Aging has agreed to send the eight Elders to Albuquerque, thanks in part to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who is on the Board of Directors.

Jim is hopeful that funding will come together to help pay for the Native Elders team to compete at the Senior Games Minnesota.



Jim Ingle came to the District I Community Meeting in April to invite Elders to participate in the Minnesota Senior Games in St. Cloud August 1-4.

### MINNESOTA SENIOR GAMES AUGUST 1-4

The Senior Games Minnesota will be held in St. Cloud August 1-4.

Events include archery, badminton, 3-on-3 basketball, bowling, cycling, golf, horseshoes, pickleball, walking, racquetball, running, shuffleboard, softball, swimming, tennis, table tennis, track & field, and volleyball.

RSVP at [www.mnseniorgames.com](http://www.mnseniorgames.com) or stop and see Jim at the District I Community Center.

Anyone over 50 can participate!

## DECOLONIZE YOUR DIET WITH INDIGENOUS FOODS

The Indigenous foods movement has taken off in recent years, and Native Americans from Minnesota have been at the forefront.

It turns out that the best foods for everyone — and Native people in particular — are those that our ancestors ate long before multinational corporations started force-feeding us processed, packaged, and pesticide-soaked junk foods.

The Mille Lacs Band has launched its own food sovereignty initiative and is planning small- and large-scale agricultural projects while encouraging foraging and traditional harvesting and hunting.

On Friday, March 29, Dr. Martin Reinhardt and Tina Moses came to Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley to give a presentation titled "Decolonizing Your Diet with Indigenous Foods."

The presentation was made possible through the Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department's SHIP grant.

Martin is an Anishinaabe citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians from Michigan and an assistant professor of Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University. He and Tina are the co-owners of Reinhardt & Associates.

Martin presented a summary of the results of his Decolonizing Diet Project (DDP), an exploratory multi-dimensional study of the relationships between people and Indigenous foods of the Great Lakes Region.

The study was intended to connect or reconnect people with foods that are Indigenous to the Great Lakes Region and were part of Indigenous diets prior to colonization.

Indigenous people are at higher-than-average risk of diabetes, heart disease, and addiction, and it is believed that unhealthy diets forced on them by colonization contribute to those health problems.

Study subjects adopted an Indigenous diet and exercise plan for one year and used journals, photos, and audio to record their experiences.

Common foods included wild rice, corn, maple, sunflower,



Tina Moses and Dr. Martin Reinhardt presented on "Decolonizing Your Diet" March 29 at Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley.

pumpkin, squash, berries, wild leeks, beans, sweet potatoes, pecans, sunchokes, turkey, venison, bison, and fish.

Participants also received regularly scheduled health checks, and the results were impressive, showing significant reductions in weight, girth, and body mass index (BMI), as well as noteworthy reductions in blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood glucose levels.

Participants also learned a lot about foraging, hunting, shopping for, and preparing indigenous foods.

Martin is currently on sabbatical working on a follow up to the DDP study.

For lunch, participants feasted on a buffet of Indigenous foods, a menu developed by SHIP grant coordinator Colleen McKinney with help from Daggett's Foods in Hinckley.

If you're interested in learning more about Dr. Reinhardt's work or in purchasing the DDP cookbook, visit <http://reinhardtassociates.net/5494.html>.



The exhibit was curated by Brenda Child with artwork by Mille Lacs Band member Steve Premo. Assisting Brenda were students Lillian Nunno, Kai Pyle, and Agleska Cohen-Rencountre.



## ZIIBAASKA'IGANAGOODAY JINGLE DRESS EXHIBIT OPENS

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

The story of the origin of the jingle dress is well known around Mille Lacs — especially after a film featuring the late Larry Amik Smallwood's retelling of the tale, *The Jingle Dress Tradition*, aired on public television stations.

However, a new twist on the tale has been added by historian Brenda Child, which has resulted in an impressive new exhibit at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum — Ziibaaska'iganagooday: The Jingle Dress at 100.

The story says the dress and the dance came to a Mille Lacs man in a dream as a way to heal his sick daughter. The jingle dress and its healing properties spread quickly through Ojibwe country, and eventually to the Dakota and beyond.

A few years ago, Brenda wrote a book called *My Grandfather's Knocking Sticks*, exploring the themes of family and work on the Red Lake Reservation, where Brenda was born.

"I started to think about healing as a kind of labor," said Brenda. "We don't think of it as labor, but it is. And then I started thinking about the history of the jingle dress tradition."

Brenda researched photographs of jingle dresses and couldn't find a single photo taken before 1920. That got her wondering: What happened at that time that led to a whole new healing tradition?

The answer: The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-1920.

"People died in great numbers, thousands in the U.S. and Canada, and what was tragic was that young people were killed," said Brenda. Influenza is normally most fatal for the very young and very old, but the Spanish Flu targeted children and adults in the prime of life.

Despite the historic proportions of the tragedy, which killed more people than World War I, it doesn't get much attention among historians. "Maybe people wanted to forget about it, but there's no strong historical memory of the epidemic — except for Native Americans," Brenda said, referring to the jingle dress. "That's who has the strongest historical memory."

Not only did the jingle dress keep those memories alive; it also showed the central role of women as healers in Anishinaabe society, and it connected Indians in North America to the global community.

"It shows how people were part of the making of the modern world," said Brenda. "The global epidemic being experienced in Africa, France, and Mexico was happening in Indian Country, and this is how they responded."

Brenda, who has been a professor at the University of Minnesota for more than 20 years, taught a course on the jingle dress and recruited three students who helped her put together the Ziibaaska'iganagooday exhibit: Agleska Cohen-Rencountre (Lower Brule Lakota-Dakota), Lillian Nunno, and Kai Pyle (Metis-Sault Ste. Marie Ojibwe).

## CHIMINISING YOUTH BOWLERS COMPETE AT DISTRICTS

By Chilah Brown Mille Lacs Band Member

Two Chiminising youth, Jordan Sayers and Alex Pendegayosh, represented Isle Bowl and Pizza youth bowling league and qualified to advance to the 2019 Take MN by STORM and Pepsi Youth Bowling Championship.

Jordan, 10, a fourth-grader at Nyquist Elementary, placed second in the Pepsi Championship U10 with a total score of 292. She also placed third in the U10 Take MN by Storm Youth Bowling Championships.

Alex, 14, attends Isle High School and competed with the Storm boys U15. Alex scored a 604 and 266 in the Pepsi Youth Bowling Championships.

So what does it mean for youth bowlers to qualify and compete at the district level? It means that bowlers are one step away from the 2019 State Finals. In order for youth bowlers to compete in the State Finals, contestants must be a part of a local youth bowling league, be a member of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC), and qualify to participate in the Pepsi Youth Bowling Championship and/or the 2019 Take Minnesota By STORM Youth Bowling Championships.

In each tournament, one out of five bowlers from each division in each district earns a right to advance to the State Finals held in South St. Paul May 4-5.

### Benefits of bowling

Bowling is beneficial for youth and adults in many ways, and anyone can compete, not just the big, strong, or fast. Bowlers feel a sense of accomplishment and enjoy the satisfaction of mastering a new game.

Bowling can help with balance and coordination, muscle building, and hand-eye coordination while burning calories. Social health is also a benefit as bowlers make new friends or bond with family in a fun and rewarding environment. Bowling can also help with emotional health by relieving stress. Bowling can strengthen the heart muscles and increase longevity.

Being a part of the USBC youth membership is an opportunity to earn scholarships for youth to pursue their dreams. More than \$6 million in annual scholarships are awarded to youth bowlers each season based on academics, leadership, and lane performance.

Although they didn't make the State Finals this year, Jordan



Jordan Sayers and Alex Pendegayosh.

and Alex made their families proud while representing their community and schools, and we look forward to seeing them compete again next year. Great job, Jordan and Alex!

For more information about the USBC or scholarship inquiries see [www.bowl.com/scholarships/](http://www.bowl.com/scholarships/).

# MISI-ZAAGA'IGANING BASKETBALL TOURNEY PROMOTES YEAR-ROUND FITNESS FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

The Minnesota State High School Champions were crowned in March, but that doesn't mean the season is over for young basketball players. In fact, their game often gets better between seasons — if they take advantage of spring and summer programs.

The Misi-Zaaga'iganing basketball tournament, a joint venture between Onamia Public School's Indian Education Department and the Mille Lacs Band's Niigaan Program, was held again at Onamia Public Schools March 30-31, giving players an incentive to stay in shape and keep developing their skills.

Tournament Director Chris Nayquonabe reflected on the event. "Every year I look forward to our basketball tournament for a number of reasons, 1. Building our high school athletes' skills and confidence. 2. Bridging our Native communities as well as our non-Native communities. 3. Our love for Rez Basketball."

The High School boys' division was opened up to include all competitors. In the previous years the tournament was "All Native," but after good dialogue between Chris and Games Manager Byron Ninham, that division was opened for all.

This year's high school division featured new competitors from around the region, including Pierz boys' basketball program, Lower Sioux Community, Lake Traverse (South Dakota), students from Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe (Wisconsin) and a team of local talent, Get Live, a combined team of student athletes representing Onamia and Isle schools.

On Saturday, Sota Boyz (Cass Lake-Bena) and Pierz stayed close throughout with hard-nosed defense and clutch shot making on both sides before Sota Boyz closed the game out to win by 7.

Championship Sunday saw the two-time defending tournament champion, Bago Boys of Winnebago, Nebraska, bested by team Get Live, who put together a 25-2 run to send the game to overtime and eventually win.

Sota Boyz and Lower Sioux met in the semifinals with Sota Boyz using timely defense and transition baskets to take a double-digit win. Team Get Live met up with Pierz for a chance to make it back to the third-place game, another game that went into overtime with some clutch shot making by Eldayshun Big Bear, who tied the game in regulation. Team Get Live met Lower Sioux for a chance to get back to the first-place game, but Lower Sioux prevailed due to hot shooting from three as well as some tired legs from Get Live.

The high school boys' championship game between Sota Boyz and Lower Sioux was a tale of two halves. Lower Sioux capitalized on cold shooting from Sota Boyz and lackadaisical defense to gain a 14-point halftime lead. The second half proved a much different story as Sota Boyz ramped up their defense, along with clutch shooting from Ethan Brown and Brady Raph. The Sota Boyz used a 20-4 run to take the lead with 15 minutes remaining and eventually won the championship.

Congratulations to all of the teams who competed as well as to parents. Without their support, none of this would be

possible.

The men's division featured new teams from South Dakota, Red Lake, and Cass Lake. The men's tournament continued the All-Native Division in hopes of encouraging wellness and physical activity well beyond organized sports. Games Manager Byron Ninham explained his view of the significance of a tournament in Mille Lacs: "If you are physically fit and still love the game, it is a great opportunity to have, to travel around Indian Country competing against top-level athletes. I really appreciate seeing the game develop, and this tournament, along with camps we've been involved in, are examples of the pride we have here in Mille Lacs for people of all ages, to stay physically fit and active in a game that has given so much."

The men's division had strong competition throughout. Da Fam (Red Lake) started the tournament with a 30-point win over The Reaperz, who three weeks prior had taken third place at Ho-Chunk Nation's March Madness Tournament. Iron Boy, two-time tournament champions, shot the ball well and defended strongly against Lower Sioux to get to the tournament semi-finals. Da Fam and Rainmakers (Cass Lake) met in the quarterfinals, a close game through the first half with a lot of back and forth scoring, but when the Rainmakers needed some rain, it wasn't coming down, and Da Fam moved on.

The men's semifinal between Iron Boy and Da Fam was close for the first half with Da Fam taking a 7-point lead into halftime. The second half saw an MVP performance from Iron Boy's JR Gunville, who finished with 42 points and a comeback win. (JR also won the 3-point contest prize of \$200 and a tournament backpack sponsored by Joe and Chris Nayquonabe.)

Da Fam and Rainmakers met for third place, with Da Fam moving on to the rematch with Iron Boy. Tired legs and cold shooting from Da Fam turned out to be the difference. Iron Boy used their shooting and spacing to capitalize on open shots, which ultimately led to the three-peat championship in the men's division.

The tournament weekend serves many purposes for the communities in and around Mille Lacs. All fundraising efforts support Onamia Public School's Native Youth Council, with many students volunteering their time before, during, and after the tournament to assure a well-run operation.

Mille Lacs Band departments provided many activities and resources throughout the weekend, including, but not limited to, tournament prizes for both divisions (Nike N7 and Nike Elite products), fruit and water for all participants courtesy of The State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), and a catered breakfast from Dan's Catering for all attendees Saturday morning.

The Health and Human Services Department, Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin sponsored t-shirts for Mille Lacs Band youth, and the Band Assembly sponsored the men's tournament cash prize purse.

Next year's tournament will be held at the new community center in District I, and tournament organizers hope to add female and adult women divisions as well.



## PATIENT PETS AND VETS

Dogs and cats got special treatment at Chiminising Community Center April 20 and 21 thanks to the community center staff, the Emergency Management Department, Mission Veterinary Clinic, and Second Hand Hounds. Mark your calendar for pet clinics coming to your community: East Lake, fourth weekend in June; Aazhoomog, second weekend in October; District I, second weekend in November; Chiminising, fourth Weekend in April. The District I clinic is conducted by SIRVS (Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Services) and the rest by Mission Veterinary Clinic and Second Hand Hounds. The next clinic will be held June 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at East Lake Community Center. Wellness exams are first come, first served. Surgery spots are limited. To register, call the center at 218-768-3311. To request a surrender appointment, email outreach@secondhandhounds.org.



## GRAND CASINO EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# BAND MEMBERS SHARE WHAT THEY LOVE ABOUT WORK

**Name:** Reine Garbow (AKA) Memengwaa

**Clan:** Maiingan

**Length of service with Grand Casino:** 27 years

**Position:** Receiving Supervisor

**Education:** College Graduate

**Family:** One son, two dogs.

**Hobbies:** Going to family children's sport games, gardening, cooking, hiking.

**First Job:** Cleaning person in high school, 14 years old.

**Other than your current position, what would be your dream job?** To be a grandmother.

**What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday?** It depends on the season of the year. I like walking and hiking in the woods.

**What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino?** I am a hard worker. I never miss a day of work, and I actively participate in casino events.



**Name:** Dean Lawrence Taylor/Manido Gabo (Standing Spirit)

**Clan:** Eagle

**Length of service with Grand Casino:** 14+ years

**Position:** Slot service manager

**Family:** Wife (Jessica Taylor), three daughters: Janeeka Fisher, 19, Dominee Taylor, 14, Destanee Taylor, 9.

**Hobbies:** Cooking, spring spearfishing, fishing, hunting, ricing, snowmobiling, berry picking, and most of all spending time with my family.

**Previous Job:** Table games Dealer/Supervisor

**First Job:** At 16 years old I did ground maintenance at the Lake Lena government center for a summer job.

**Other than your current position, what would be your dream job?** My own restaurant cooking with wild fish and game, along with a lot of Native foods I've grown to know and enjoy, like FRYBREAD! I believe I make the best, but everyone says that (lol).

**What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday?** Family fishing trip or spring spearing with my brother Dennis.

**What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino?** That I'm doing my part in trying to keep this casino running smoothly and efficiently, and love the support I get from my current (Slot) department. I feel right at home.



## 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>.

## LT. GOV. JOINS TRIBAL COLLABORATIVE MEETING

Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan have made housing a priority in their budget and in their actions. In March they attended Homeless Day on the Hill where over 800 individuals advocated for affordable and quality housing across the continuum. When speaking to the advocates, they made it clear that individuals experiencing homelessness have the most powerful voice when talking to lawmakers about what homelessness looks like in Minnesota.

Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan continued to push for affordable housing solutions as she joined the Tribal Collaborative meeting and Homes for All spring recess event on April 17, at the Fond du Lac Reservation, along with Commissioner Jennifer Ho (Minnesota Housing), Commissioner Tony Lourey (Department of Human Service), and Ravyn Gibbs, Native American Outreach Director from the Office of U.S. Senator Tina Smith. The group listened to stories and concerns, and started a plan for how we will partner together toward solutions for homelessness in our state.

The Minnesota Tribal Collaborative (MTC) is an innovative approach to addressing housing and homelessness of American Indians in Minnesota. In 2014 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Tribal Councils of five reservations: Bois Forte, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Red Lake and White Earth (and most recently Fond du Lac) allowing us to plan together and collectively problem solve. The vision

of The Collaborative has been to "address historical barriers and unique needs" of Tribal members experiencing housing instability and homelessness through collaboration with one another. MTC members have leadership roles across the state on the HMIS Governing Board, Heading Home Alliance, and Coordinated Entry Prioritization Tool Committee to name a few. "As board chair, I think we are moving in the right direction with the leadership of the two commissioners and the lieutenant governor to change policies to find solutions to homelessness," said Tribal Collaborative Chair Tammy Moreland. "I feel like this is a good move forward because of the growing homeless population on the reservations. Collectively we need to do something more for our communities."

In the past few years MTC has advocated for statute language changes to both the Long Term Supportive Services Fund and the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistant Program Grant. Both statutes were changed allowing Tribes to be eligible applicants. Currently, Tribes lack administrative funding and they are not eligible for funding from HUD Continuum of Care. In the meeting Lt. Governor Flanagan, Commissioner Ho, and Commissioner Lourey committed to work together moving forward to change the eligibility and make it more accessible for Tribes to apply and receive funding.

Read more about the Collaborative's largest agenda yet at: [www.homesforallmn.org](http://www.homesforallmn.org).



Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, Commissioner of Housing Jennifer Ho, and Commissioner of Human Services Tony Lourey discussed housing and homelessness in Tribal communities with the Tribal Collaborative at Fond du Lac on April 17.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY EVENTS AT MILLE LACS INDIAN MUSEUM

**Saturday, May 4, noon – 5 p.m. Loom Beading Workshop:** Learn the art of loom beading through hands-on experience. Create a design, put it on a loom, and learn how to apply the loom work to leather or cloth. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required three days prior. A minimum of five participants is required to host the workshop. \$40, MNHS and Mille Lacs Band members save 20 percent, \$15 supply fee. Online registration required.

**Saturday, May 11, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Kid Crafts — Corn Husk Doll:** Learn how to make a corn husk doll to take home. Corn husk dolls are made from the outer covering of an ear of corn and are typically made during the fall. Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 8 and up. \$6/kit, museum admission not included.

**Saturday, May 25, noon – 4 p.m. American Indian Music Festival:** Enjoy a day of music performed by some of Minnesota's premier Native musicians. Featured performers include Mille Lacs flutist Max Blake, Red Lake hip-hop artist Thomas X, and Navajo blues singer Corey Medina. Free, museum admission not included.

**Sunday, May 26, 4 – 5 p.m. Ziibaaska'iganagooday: The Jingle Dress at 100 Reception:** Help us celebrate the new Jingle Dress exhibit, enjoy a jingle dress dance exhibition and stay for a picnic-style dinner. Guest curator Brenda Child will talk about the exhibit, jingle dress dancers are invited to come in regalia and help "dance-in" the dresses on exhibit, and everyone is invited to stay for buffalo burgers and wild rice brats afterward! Free and open to the public.

**Monday, May 27, noon – 5 p.m. Memorial Day Powwow:** Bring the family and join museum staff and community members in this social gathering honoring veterans past and present. Experience firsthand the excitement and joy of a contemporary powwow. This event is sponsored by the Mille Lacs Band and AMVETS Post 53 & Ladies Auxiliary. Free, museum admission not included.

### SPRING WOODLAND CONFERENCE MAY 3-4

Learn to find and use wild plants for traditional food and medicine with ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk. Come to Big Sandy Lodge and Resort Friday, May 3, for a 6:30 p.m. buffet supper and a 7:30 p.m. presentation, demonstration, and question/answer session. On Saturday, May 4, at 9:30 a.m. come to Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge for a plant walk. Space is limited. For more information or to register, email [colleen.mckinney@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov](mailto:colleen.mckinney@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov). Please remember to bring tobacco/asemaa for ceremonial use. This event is a collaboration of the Mille Lacs Band, the Minnesota Department of Health, and Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge.

### MIDWEST NATIVE FITNESS EVENT JUNE 16-19

The Mille Lacs Band and Native American Fitness Council are hosting a Midwest Native Fitness Event July 16-19 at Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley. Participants have the opportunity to earn their Exercise & Aging Specialist Certification July 16 and 17 and their Medical Conditions & Exercise Certification July 18 and 19. Cost of each session is \$445. The All Access Pass, which includes both certifications, costs \$825. For more information or to register, call 928-774-3048 copy or email [info@nativeamericanfitnesscouncil.com](mailto:info@nativeamericanfitnesscouncil.com).

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS TO MILLE LACS BAND ELDERS!

Lorraine Farah  
John Sutton  
Geraldine Ann Germann  
Clarabel Kruse  
Herbert Weyaus  
Anthony Joseph Davis  
Elisse Joanne Aune  
James Roger Mitchell  
Alvina Mae Aubele  
Pauline Veryl Mitchell  
Lorraine Marie Nickaboine  
Virginia Joyce Davis  
Victoria Joy Verkennes  
Larry James Wind  
Allen Wayne Hemming  
Edna Mae Day  
Robert Tibbetts  
Gertrude Inez Hanson  
Maurice James Boyd  
Brenda Lee Beaulieu  
Dale Allan Garbow  
Janelle Arlene Meehl  
Winona Evens  
Dominic Walter Mayotte  
Beverly K Sutton  
Patricia Regguinti  
Harry Lee Granger  
Donald Eugene Olson  
Dale Wesley Day  
Robert Lewis Heinze  
Sarita Inez White  
Sharlene Anita Fisher  
Denise Lorette Chamblin  
Molly Sam Judkins

Cynthia Lee Lester  
James Daniel Davis  
Mitchell Lee Matrious  
Gina Louise Anderson  
Frederick Raymond Shingobe  
Ginette Marie Zustiak  
Debra Ann Contreras  
Eugene Raymond Staples  
Terrance John Hendren  
Gerald Duane Beaulieu  
Richard Dean Anderson  
Robert Patrick Benjamin  
Victoria Lea Smith  
Theresa Marie Williams  
Beverly Gay Fairchild  
Gary Lynn Haglund  
Jeffrey Wayne Matrious  
Lorna Jayne Weous  
Thelma Emma Baker  
Valerie Jean Matrious

### HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS:

May 2, **Kinsley Rose Benjamin**, love Dad  
May 5, **Jarvis**, love baby Jarvis, baby girl Keira'le, Miranda, Mom, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Montana, Shelby, Max, Aidan, Baby Jacob, Jacob, Aiva, Markie, and Emery  
May 6, Happy 5th Birthday to **Quelly Quel** from Auntie Cilla.  
May 8, **David Smith aka Manny**, from Mom, Dad, Elliot, Elvis, Hunter, Shyla, Caden, and Amber  
May 9, **Brother Jarvis**, love Big

Bro, Candace, and Nephew  
May 9, **Sister Shelby**, love Big Bro, Candace, and Nephew  
May 9, **Shelby**, love Baby Jake, Baby Dusty, Aidan, Max, Auntie Val, Kev, Pie and Montana  
May 10, **Ronnie**, from Mom, Dad, brothers, and sisters  
May 12, **Sissy**, love your brothers and sissys  
May 12, **Markie G**, love Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie and Montana  
May 12, **Mark Gerald William Dust**, love Dad, Candace, and little brother Camdyn  
May 12, **Val** (Auntie Mom), love your nephew, Candace, and Baby  
May 12, **Little Sis Mariah**, love Big Bro, Candace, and Baby  
May 13, **Chinoodin**, from Mom, Dad, brothers, and sisters  
May 14, **Little Dust Jr.** love Uncle, Auntie and Cam  
May 14, **Richard and Rachel**, from Candace and family  
May 16, **Camdyn William Dust**, love Mom, Dad, brothers and sisters  
May 19, my sissy **Vicki Smith**, love Tam  
May 19, **Taylor**, love Dad, Adam, Papa Brad, Grannie, Papa Kyle, Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Montana, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce,

Jayla, Lileah, Brad, Baabitaw, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, and Henry  
May 20, **Keirralah**, love Uncle, Auntie and baby Cam  
May 20, **Sunshine Shingobe**, love Gramma June, Papa Gush, Elliot, bro Elvis, Chuck, Amber, Hunter, Shyla, Caden, and all the Smith and Shingobe family  
May 21, **Kimberly Rose BigBear**, love Percy  
May 23, **Vato**, love Vato  
May 26, **Brynley**, love Dad, Baabitaw, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Henry, Brad, Kim, Kyle, Val, Kev, Pie, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor and Adam  
May 27, **Jasmin**, love Gramma June, Papa Gush, Dad, Elliot, Elvis, Sunshine, Chuck, Amber, Hunter, Shyla, Caden, and all the Smith and Shingobe family  
May 27, **Mom**, love Pie and Kevin  
May 31, **Baby Girl**, love mom  
May 31, **Pie**, love Mom, Dan, Kev, Montana, Gram Kim, Papa Brad, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor Paige, Adam, Brad, Baabitaw, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Henry

May 31, **Pie**, love Gram Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Jacob, Aidan, Max, Jarvis, Baby Jarvis, Kiera'le, Miranda, Jacob, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melodie, Nicole, Chris, Cordell, and Buddy  
May 29, **Cyrell Boyd**, love Mom, Pooh Bear, Camdyn, Grandma Marlys, Papa Tony, Richard, Rachel, Kelia, RaiLei, and the rest of the Shaugobay family  
**Matthew Jordan**, from Candace and the Shaugobay family  
**David Jordan**, from the Shaugobay family

### HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAYS:

April 4, **Elias John Wagner**, love grandma Tammy  
April 20, **Kelia**, with love from Mom and Dad, Auntie Candy, Cyrell, your baby Cam, Pooh Bear, Grandma and Grandpa  
April 20, **Lil' Harv**, Happy 4th Birthday from Mom, Dad, brothers, and sisters  
April 24, **Ryker Donald Wiedewitsch**, love grandma Tammy  
April 26, **Baby Girl Aiva Lea**, love Dad, Candace, and little brother Camdyn

## 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](mailto: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 or noteboard, email [brett.larson@millelacsband.com](mailto: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

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

**District II Animal Outreach Clinic:** June 29-30, East Lake Community Center. See page 16.

**Midwest Native Fitness Event:** July 16-19, Meshakwad Community Center. See page 17.

**Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow:** July 26-28, District II Powwow Grounds

**Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow:** August 16-18, Iskigamizige Powwow Grounds, District I

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>DISTRICT III SPRING CLEANUP CONTINUES THROUGH MAY 3</b></p> <p>District III spring cleanup in Lake Lena and Hinckley take place Saturday, April 27, to Friday, May 3. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Roll-offs will be placed at the Earthworks building located on Hwy 48, 2 miles east of Hinckley Casino, Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center and at the cul de sac at Wise Owl.</p> <p><b>DISTRICT II SPRING CLEANUP IS MAY 4-10</b></p> <p>District II spring cleanup in East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle takes place 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.</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>NA/AA Welcome</b> District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center (Rescheduled from April 24)</p> <p><i>District III spring cleanup continues through May 3. See above.</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> 10 a.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><b>Housing Board</b> Noon – 4 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety 12-Step</b> 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Elmer and Sheldon's Ceremonial Drum</b> District I</p> <p><b>Spring Woodland Conference</b> 6:30 p.m. Big Sandy Lodge and Resort <i>See page 17</i></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Elmer and Sheldon Ceremonial Drum</b> District I</p> <p><b>Spring Woodland Conference</b> 9:30 a.m. Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge <i>See page 17</i></p> <p><b>Loom Beading Workshop</b> noon – 5 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum <i>See page 17</i></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><i>District II spring cleanup is May 4-10. See above.</i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety, AA, NA</b> District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Inaajimowin Meeting</b> 11 a.m.– 1 p.m. Wahkon <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>NA/AA Welcome</b> District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>District I Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Community Center</p> <p><b>Human Trafficking Presentation</b> Meshakwad Center <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety 12-Step</b> 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>Human Trafficking Presentation</b> 5:30 p.m. Rolf Olsen Center <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Darrell and Skip's Ceremonial Drum</b> District III</p> <p><b>Government Offices Close at Noon</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Darrell and Skip's Ceremonial Drum</b> District III</p> <p><b>Kids Craft – Corn Husk Doll</b> 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 17</i></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Mother's Day Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety, AA, NA</b> District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> 10 a.m. District I Government Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>District III Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><b>NA/AA Welcome</b> District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>A Sober Night Memoriam</b> 5 – 9 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 12</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety 12-Step</b> 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Dale and Vince's Ceremonial Drum</b> District II</p> <p><b>Obizaan and Migizi's Ceremonial Drum</b> District III</p> <p><b>Nay Sh Shing Royalty Powwow</b> 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Upper School</p> <p><b>Housing Board</b> Noon – 4 p.m. Chiminising CC <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Dale and Vince's Ceremonial Drum</b> District II</p> <p><b>Obizaan and Migizi's Ceremonial Drum</b> District III</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety, AA, NA</b> District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><b>District II Sobriety Feast</b> 6 p.m. DII Community Center</p> <p><b>District III Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m. Aazhoomog CC</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> 10 a.m. District I Government Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>District IIA Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><b>NA/AA Welcome</b> District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> 10 a.m. East Lake ALU</p> <p><b>Head Start Graduation</b> 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>Wellbriety 12-Step</b> <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Joe and George's Ceremonial Drum</b> District I</p> <p><b>Government Offices Close at Noon</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Joe and George's Ceremonial Drum</b> District I</p> <p><b>American Indian Music Festival</b> Noon – 4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 17</i></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Ziibaaska' iganagooday Exhibit Opening Reception</b> 4 – 5 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 17</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition</b> 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Memorial Day</b> Government Offices Closed</p> <p><b>Memorial Day Powwow</b> 12 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p> <p><b>Wellbriety, AA, NA</b> District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> 10 a.m. Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Adopt-a-Shoreline</b> 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. District I <i>See 14</i></p> <p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p> <p><b>NA/AA Welcome</b> District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Band Assembly</b> 10 a.m. All Nations Church, Minneapolis</p> <p><b>Urban Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church</p> <p><b>Wellbriety 12-Step</b> 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Bob and Perry's Ceremonial Drum</b> District I</p>	<p><b>June 1</b></p> <p><b>Bob and Perry's Ceremonial Drum</b> District I</p>

**WANT YOUR EVENT HERE?** Email [brett.larson@millelacsband.com](mailto:brett.larson@millelacsband.com) or call 320-237-6851. Visit [millelacsband.com/calendar](http://millelacsband.com/calendar) for additional MLB events. See page 18 for Recurring Events, Upcoming Events, and Recovery Groups.

**BAND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS** are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other info, call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181. **Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.**



**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE**  
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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](http://millelacsband.com/services/tribal-enrollments).

## ABOUT US

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



## GICHI-GINOOZHE!

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LEADER RECOGNIZED  
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**A SOBER NIGHT  
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