



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



COVID-19 REACHES BAND COMMUNITIES

Protocols are in place as more cases are likely to arise in districts

Band health officials confirmed on May 18 that a Band member living in District I had tested positive for COVID-19. On May 27, officials announced that a person living in District II had tested positive. As federal, state, and local leaders have said since the U.S. outbreak began, it is likely that more Band members living in reservation communities will test positive, so it is more important than ever that we all take precautions to minimize risk.

Now that COVID-19 is in two of our districts, the Band has protocols in place to protect the communities and to assist those who test positive, along with their household members. These steps have been followed in the first cases and will be followed in other cases as well:

Assistance to Band members/families: Persons testing positive will be monitored by medical professionals and will receive medical assistance from local hospitals if necessary. All members of the household will be quarantined for two weeks and expected not to leave their homes for any purpose except to receive medical attention. Public Health staff will work with

Band members and their families to assist them throughout their two-week quarantine. At the end of the quarantine period, Band members will be re-tested to ensure they are negative and no longer carrying the virus. Two negative results are required in one 24-hour period to be considered negative. The Band will provide a two-week food supply to Band members during their quarantine so they do not need to leave the home. Spiritual leaders will be available by phone to provide assistance to the affected Band members.

Limiting Community Spread: Our Band Public Health staff will work with Band members who test positive to identify anyone they have come into contact with for two days prior to becoming symptomatic or testing positive for COVID-19. These are the guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health. Community members who are confirmed to have been in contact with the person testing positive will be contacted and notified about testing options.

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BAND, MAYO CLINIC PARTNER FOR TESTS

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health and Human Services (HHS) has successfully entered into a partnership with the Mayo Clinic, which has offered to provide Band-wide testing to anyone who wants a test, whether or not the person has any symptoms. Mayo will also offer an antibody test, which will show if a person has already had COVID-19 in the past, and may have developed some immunity.

Mayo's goal is to begin testing of Mille Lacs Band members in early June. More detailed information will be provided about this testing in upcoming days as logistics are firmed up.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said, "I want to say Miigwech to Commissioner Nicole Anderson and her staff. The Mayo Clinic said we are one of the most prepared and organized community partners they have worked with, so a shout-out to our team. Miigwech."

STAY-HOME ORDER STILL IN PLACE

Although Minnesota Governor Tim Walz moved the state from a "Stay Home" to a "Stay Safe" order on May 18, the Mille Lacs Band's Stay Home order — Executive Order 2020-5 — remains in place in Reservation communities.

The Stay Home executive order was implemented to keep Band members living on the reservation safe — especially those who are most vulnerable, including our Elders, those living at our ALUs, and those who have underlying health conditions that make them more vulnerable to the virus.

While the Executive Order applies specifically to Band members living on reservation lands, Band leaders recommend that Band members living off reservation do the same if possible — stay home and stay safe.

Governor Walz's decision to loosen restrictions in Minnesota should not be viewed as a suggestion that we are now safe from the virus. We have not yet hit the peak of this infection, and the toughest days are likely still ahead.

The best way for Band members to protect themselves from this virus is still to stay home when you can, to practice regular, thorough hand-washing, and when you must go out, to practice social distancing and to wear masks.

No matter where you live, doing your part to prevent the spread of this virus is your duty, because when you protect yourself, your Elders, and other relatives, you also protect our culture.

The Chief Executive's Stay Home order went into effect on March 27, the same day Governor Walz implemented the State's order.

Because Mille Lacs is a sovereign nation, the Governor's order does not apply to the reservation and tribal trust land.

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THE TRIBAL PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9 — SEE PAGE 3



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

Dear Band Member,

We are living in a time that is unprecedented. Preventing the spread of COVID-19 throughout our Band has been the top priority these past months, and most of my time in May has been devoted to doing everything possible to secure federal and state resources for the Band to use in our fight against the pandemic. This included advocating for a fair formula for funding relief for the Band with the Department of Interior and the U.S. Treasury Department.

While COVID-19 has spread north and is impacting our Band community, some good news is that we have entered into an agreement with the Mayo Clinic, and will be able to offer Band-wide testing for COVID-19 during the first week of June. Testing sites will be set up in each of the three districts for Band members and their immediate families to be tested for COVID-19. Also, we are the first tribe in Minnesota that will be able to test for COVID-19 antibodies as well, which is a test that will show if someone has already had COVID-19 and may have developed some immunity.

Something we also achieved was obtaining professional training for our health experts to conduct our own "contact tracing." This means that immediately after our Public Health Department is notified of a positive case, a trained contact tracer can follow up with the sick individual the same day the Band is notified, and begin the process of determining how many others might have been exposed to the virus. I've received reports that other tribes are having to wait several days before contact tracing can begin, and with this virus, each day is critical. Miigwech to Commissioner Nicole Anderson for her hard work this month to get these measures in place.

Our Education Department has also done a remarkable job of working with Band families throughout this crisis to help meet the needs of our children. The most recent numbers are that Early Education has delivered over 2,500 meals to Band

families, and close to 2,000 bag lunches. Through the Corporate Commission, the Band provided more than 13,000 meals to local school aged children and 1,800 Elders. Overall, I hope Band members are proud of our Band government's response to this emergency.

Due to the pandemic, we have had to adjust to conducting business through video-conference or phone conferencing. The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) held our quarterly meeting using video-conferencing through Zoom on May 1. Arrangements are being made for MCT members to be able to watch or listen to future TEC meetings, and that information will come from the MCT. Please note that the MCT primary elections were delayed until June 9, and the general election will now be held on August 18.

One interesting MCT development I want to update you about involves an issue that was widely discussed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which involves some parcels of federal trust lands under our jurisdiction. Earlier this year, certain MCT members filed suit against some of the TEC members regarding whether or not the TEC could move forward with legislation that would restore title of lands held in trust by the United States for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to the individual Bands that exercise jurisdiction over those lands. Band members may recall that the Mille Lacs Band has strongly supported removing the MCT from the title of Band lands throughout each of our three districts. In fact, the majority of MCT-titled trust lands are Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe tribal lands, so this matter impacts Mille Lacs more than any other Band.

Some MCT members from other Bands strongly opposed this legislation and claimed that they have rights on these MCT-titled lands, which the Mille Lacs Band also strongly disagrees with. On May 4, the White Earth Tribal Court issued a decision on this matter. Among other things, the court decided that individual MCT members from other Bands do not have a

property interest in these lands, which is a good decision.

Also, in mid-May, a brief survey was made available online for Band Members to take regarding their thoughts about reopening the casino. Four hundred and twelve Band Members responded to the survey, and 81 percent of all respondents were in favor of reopening the casinos, and 83.9 percent of all respondents who are over 60 years old were in favor of reopening casinos.

As of this printing, the decision has not been made yet to reopen the casinos. Commissioner Nayquonabe will address this matter with the Band Assembly on May 27, so this issue will have been decided when you receive this newspaper in the mail. Miigwech to all the Band members who shared their opinions on this important matter. When the casinos eventually do reopen, the recommendations will still be that those who are Elders and those with underlying health conditions remain home where they are safe.

I want to give a special congratulations all our children, youth, and adults who have graduated this spring. Whether you are graduating from Head Start, 5th Grade, high school, technical college, community college, four-year college, or graduate school, you have reached a milestone worth celebrating! I'm so proud of all our graduates and am looking forward to a time when we can celebrate in person.

While there have been many changes, one thing that has not changed is the strength of our Anishinaabe culture and traditions, and our devotion to our families and loved ones. Relying upon our Anishinaabe values and traditions will always bring us strength. Eventually, a vaccine will be found and this pandemic will pass. In the meantime, miigwech to all Band members for doing your part to help protect our community. You are each warriors in this fight, and I am grateful for all that you do. Miigwech!

Stay Home order continued from page 1

As the state was planning for a Stay Home order, Mille Lacs Band leaders were forming the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's executive order for the reservation and trust land, which was similar to the Governor's order.

The Mille Lacs Band order will remain in effect until Band officials determine it is safe to lift it, and even then, the decision to reopen will take into consideration the health and welfare of all employees, associates, patrons, Band members, and the communities in which the Band does business.

The original order for the State was set to expire on April 10; however, the Governor extended that order until May 4 and again until May 18, when the new Stay Safe order took effect.

Like the original Stay Home order, the new order does not apply on the Mille Lacs Reservation, where the Stay Home order is still in effect.

On May 13, Governor Walz issued four new Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the gradual loosening of restrictions:

Emergency Executive Order 20-53: Extending the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency Declared in Executive Order 20-01. "I have determined that the COVID-19 pandemic, an act of nature, continues to endanger life and property in Minnesota, and local resources are inadequate to address the threat. The COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency must therefore continue," the order states. The emergency is extended through June 12, 2020, until the Executive Order is rescinded, or until it is terminated by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature.

Emergency Executive Order 20-54: Protecting Workers from Unsafe Working Conditions and Retaliation During the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency. This order ensures that employers cannot discriminate or retaliate against workers who raise questions about health and safety procedures at work or who choose to wear personal protective equipment.

Emergency Executive Order 20-55: Protecting the Rights and Health of At-Risk Populations during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency. This order strongly encourages those at risk to continue to stay at home and provides guidelines for government and other organizations to adopt procedures that help those at risk to remain in their homes. "At-risk persons" are defined as those 65 or older, those with underlying medical conditions, and residents of long-term care facilities.

Emergency Executive Order 20-56: Safely Reopening Minnesota's Economy and Ensuring Safe Non-Work Activities during the COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency. This "Stay Safe" order rescinds Executive Order 20-48, which extended and modified the Stay Home order that went into effect March 27.

The order started the process of reopening the economy May 18, but bars and restaurants remained closed with a target date of June 1 for reopening under certain conditions.

Among the other key points:

- "I strongly encourage all Minnesotans to wear a manufactured or homemade cloth face covering when they leave their homes and travel to any public setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) and to follow face cov-

ering guidelines issued by MDH and the CDC until this Executive Order is rescinded."

- All persons currently living within the State of Minnesota who are at risk of severe illness from COVID-19, as defined by Executive Order 20-55, are strongly urged to stay at home or in their place of residence and follow the provisions of Executive Order 20-55.
- Consistent with federal guidance and to protect our neighbors, Minnesotans are encouraged to stay close to home and are strongly discouraged from engaging in unnecessary travel.
- All gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited.
- Any worker who can work from home must do so.

Like the original Stay Home order, the Stay Safe order does not apply on tribal lands. However, the Mille Lacs Band's Stay Home order, which is more restrictive than the new state order, remains in place in reservation communities. Tribal members who travel off the reservation and trust lands are subject to the new state order.

Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan said, "As we slowly and cautiously move the dial, we are centering Minnesota workers in our decisions. Minnesotans with underlying conditions can and should continue staying home to protect their health, and those who return to work can and should raise concerns about the health and safety practices of their workplaces without fear of discrimination or retaliation. That's how we stay safe together."

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A person can carry the virus for 3 to 13 days without having any symptoms, and some people who test positive never develop symptoms but can still spread the disease. That is why testing is so important. Our goal is to limit continued spread by identifying other community members who should immediately go into quarantine to protect our community. It is critical that anyone testing positive fully cooperate with Band Public Health staff to help identify anyone else who might be at risk, so their families can be protected as well.

Safety Recommendations: It is more important than ever

that all Band families engage in rigorous hand-washing, wear masks whenever you leave the home, and practice social distancing. Anyone who has underlying health conditions should stay home and restrict contact with others who do not live in your home. Any Band members who begin to feel ill and are concerned should call the Nurseline at 320-630-0855 to report your symptoms.

Health officials and tribal leaders will keep Band members updated if other cases arise among our Band community in any of the three Districts.

BAND ASSEMBLY SUMMARY — MAY 2020 MEETING ITEMS

By Valerie Harrington, Chief Communications Officer

Honorable District Representatives, Speaker of the Assembly, Parliamentarian, Chief Executive, Legislative Staff, Commissioners, and other Mille Lacs Band leaders attended tLegislative conference call meetings held on Zoom during the monty of May.

A majority of the agenda the Representatives had to work through were the tabled Band Assembly Records. Those items were handled through a special meeting.

A report and presentation were given by Becky Houle, Executive Director, Office of Gaming Regulation & Compliance pertaining to a contract.

Band Assembly Bills pertaining to Mille Lacs Band Title 8 were discussed. Band Assembly decided to slow down and have work sessions on Title 8.

Band Assembly Bill pertaining to Title 16 was taken from the agenda and denied.

A contract presented by Administration was discussed with a concern that it did not include the District II area. After further discussion the service will be available to all Band members. The District I and III area were included due to the health facility availability.

A report and presentation were given by Joseph Nayquonabe Jr., Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, for emergency capital, thermal monitoring equipment, followed by discussion of entries that would be open, availability, and installation.

Band Assembly Bills 19-01-40-20 and 19-01-41-20 providing supplemental appropriations were discussed and approved.

Mille Lacs Corporate Venture Capital Project noted. There was no vote to stay the project, so the project will proceed.

Motions were made and carried to take from the table Band Assembly Bills 19-01-37-20 and 19-01-38-20 and to deny the two bills amending Mille Lacs Band Statute Title 8, Children and Families.

Reports and presentation were given by Baabiitaw Boyd, Commissioner of Administration, on a Joint Resolution Approving the Revised Public Law 102-477 Master Plan for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the Time Period Beginning October 1, 2019 Through September 30, 2022

Joint Resolution 19-01-110-20 was approved pertaining to the 477 program.

Approval of foster care licenses and hardship loans were discussed. The processes of both applications were discussed.

A secretarial order was discussed regarding part of the investment assessment.

The Elected Officials work hard to discuss and make decisions every day. They have to do a large amount of reading and research to prepare for the agenda items. The Legislative Office would like to thank the Mille Lacs Band Leaders for providing all the information needed to make decisions during Band Assembly.

Also a special thank you to Darcie Big Bear, Mille Lacs Band Legislative Branch Parliamentarian. She does a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes and during Band Assembly. The meetings run smoother with her assistance.

Miigwech Mille Lacs Band members. #StayHomeMLB

COMMISSIONER'S ORDER REQUIRES MASKS

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson signed Commissioner's Order 20-01 on May 27 requiring individuals to wear masks or cloth face coverings in Mille Lacs Band government facilities and Band-owned businesses.

"We know masks can help reduce the risk of spreading the disease, not just for those wearing them, but for others in our communities as well," said Commissioner Anderson. "Although masks are one of the best tools we have, they are not 100 percent effective, so it remains essential that we stay at home whenever possible, especially those of us with underlying health issues."

In light of recent develops outside of the Band's control, including the loosening of state restrictions and the increased traffic coming north, Band officials decided it was necessary to put new measures in place to protect our Elders and other vulnerable community members.

Commissioner Anderson also reminds Band members to

wash their hands often and to practice social distancing when they need to leave the home.

The order, which goes into effect immediately and expires on August 31, applies to anyone over two years old who can medically tolerate a face covering, and it also requires that government personnel wear gloves when entering Band member residences to provide public services.

Government personnel and employees of Band-owned businesses are required to wear masks or cloth face coverings whenever they are in face-to-face contact with the public.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, wearing cloth face coverings in public settings can help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's May 13 executive order to begin safely reopening Minnesota's economy also strongly recommends that Minnesotans wear masks and face coverings whenever they leave their homes.

PRIMARY ELECTION IS TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Absentee voting encouraged for safety during COVID-19 pandemic

The Mille Lacs Band Election office will remain open until Primary Election Day on June 9, 2020.

Band members are encouraged to vote early or by absentee ballot this year to reduce the possibility of COVID-19 infection, but polling places in all districts will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Polling places are community centers in Districts I, II, IIa, and III (Aazhoomog), and All Nations Church in Minneapolis for urban Band members.

The official ballot for the primary election was released February 20 by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Certified candidates who will be on the ballot for Chief Executive are Tania Aubid, Melanie Benjamin, Carolyn Beaulieu, Ronald Davis, Curtis Kalk, and Wanetta Thompson.

Certified candidates who will be on the ballot for District I Representative are Sandra Blake, Valerie Sam-Harrington, Nicolas Shaw, Ginger Weyaus, and Virgil Wind.

The general election will be held on August 18, 2020.

Staff will be in the election office at the District I Community Center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. You can still stop by to vote early! Previous ballots that were submitted early will still count for the new election dates.

If you do need to vote at the polling place on June 9, please continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands, and use hand sanitizer.

On March 24, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) voted to postpone the tribal primary election until June 9 and the general election until August 18 due to coronavirus.

Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin voted against the change after Sheldon consulted with the Election Board members, who wanted the primary to go ahead as planned on March 31.]

The TEC met March 24 by Zoom video-conference with the sole purpose of deciding how to handle the upcoming MCT elections in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All absentee ballots that have been cast already are still valid. The MCT is requiring that each Reservation Election Board store all ballots received under lock and key until the June 9 primary.

If you have questions or would like an absentee ballot request form, please call Deanna Sam at 320-532-7586 or 320-279-0178, or email deanna.sam@millelacsband.com. Time is running out, so call right away!

DISTRICT I REP. HOSTS VIRTUAL UPDATE JUNE 10

Join District I Representative Sandra Blake at 5 p.m. on June 10 for a "virtual update." Watch Facebook for details.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Mille Lacs gift helps Bois Forte with food distribution:

The Bois Forte Band received a donation of 5,000 pounds of ham from the Mille Lacs Band, left over from their own giveaway, and Bois Forte staff and volunteers distributed the windfall to members in Nett Lake, Vermilion, Indian Point, and elsewhere. Willie King, who works as a maintenance technician for the Nett Lake tribal government offices and also is on the fire department, said, "Our greatest concern is for our Elders. They're the ones most susceptible to the virus. We like to try to take care of our Elders. We care for each other and lend a hand when we can." *Source: timberjay.com.*

First COVID-19 case confirmed on Leech Lake Reservation:

On Monday, May 11, 2020, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) Tribal Health Officials received notification of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the boundaries of the reservation. LLBO Tribal Health and Indian Health Service, with guidance from the State of Minnesota Department of Health, conducted contact tracing to identify anyone who has had contact with the infected person. The individual had known travel history with an infected family member. Any individuals identified to have come into contact with the infected person were asked to quarantine for 14 days. *Source: redlakenationnews.com.*

Minnesota COVID-19 deaths surpass influenza deaths:

Minnesota reached a landmark May 5 when deaths from COVID-19 exceeded influenza deaths in every year since 2010 — the year that case-based counting for flu deaths started. Minnesota's coronavirus death count rose to 452 almost exactly two months after the first case was confirmed in the state and six and a half weeks after the first death. The most severe flu season in recent memory was 2017/18, in which 440 people died in Minnesota. With flu seasons typically lasting six months, COVID-19 caused more deaths in a much shorter time frame, and deaths continued to rise, with 748 reported on May 19. *Source: bringmethenews.com.*

Native nonprofit expands farm, aims to scale up production amid pandemic:

Dream of Wild Health, a Twin Cities-based Native American nonprofit, has expanded its farm in Hugo from 10 to 30 acres, and they plan to scale up production. "The high rates of poverty and health disparities in Native communities heightens the effects of COVID-19," the group said in a news release. Executive director Neely Snyder said they will farm their existing acres more intensively as they work to prepare the newly acquired land, which was previously conventionally farmed, for organic farming. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Tribes receive CARES Act funds after delays:

The CARES Act, signed into law on March 27, designated \$8 billion for Native American tribes, but tribal leaders in Minnesota and across the country said the money was delayed because of confusion about how it should be distributed. In early May, the federal government began distributing \$4.8 billion to tribal governments. On May 6, White Earth Nation in northern Minnesota said it received \$20.6 million from the law. Tribal leaders said in a statement they are still deciding how to best use the funds. *Source: mprnews.org.*



Grand Casinos have developed a plan to ensure that when the doors open, the Associates and Guests will be as safe as possible.

GRAND CASINOS ISSUE SAFETY PLAN

Grand Casino has been temporarily closed since March 16, and since then, casino management has developed a health, safety, and sanitation plan that spells out operational procedures at the casinos. Grand Casino released the plan to the public in advance of their reopening, which has not yet been scheduled.

The plan governs every aspect of how Grand Casino will operate to ensure that when the doors reopen, the properties are as safe as possible.

Grand Casino will deploy a multi-phase reopening strategy, during which casino Guests will notice several procedural and physical changes at Grand Casino.

"We looked at every human touchpoint at our properties to develop a 'phase one' plan for reopening our casinos while keeping our communities, associates, and guests safe," said Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, the parent company of Grand Casino. "Our commitment to executing this plan gives us the confidence to welcome Guests and Associates back to our properties."

"OUR GOAL WITH A PHASED REOPENING IS TO BE METHODICAL AS WE REOPEN DIFFERENT AMENITIES TO ENSURE WE CAN MAINTAIN A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND ADJUST OPERATIONS AS NEEDED BASED ON REAL-WORLD FEEDBACK."

— COMMISSIONER JOE NAYQUONABE

A phased approach to reopening

Grand Casino is phasing its reopening based on the latest guidance from the CDC as well as the on-the-ground situation in the communities in which the properties are located. Here is what will be different when the casinos reopen:

- During phase one, most of the gaming floor will reopen with some changes to accommodate social distancing, such as limiting the seating at card tables and minor changes to layout. Bingo, poker, and pull tabs will not be open during phase one.
- Every Associate entering the casino will be provided a mask and required to wear that mask while on property. Guests will also be required to wear masks while at Grand Casinos.
- Both casinos will have some 24/7 food options available, such as Plums at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Provisions To-Go at Grand Casino Hinckley. Other restaurants, like 1991 Kitchen, Grand Cup and Cone, Stories Diner, and Silver Sevens will be open with reduced hours.
- Dine-in restaurants, including the Grand Buffet, The Winds Steakhouse, Rival House, and The Grille House will remain closed until a future phase.

• In-room dining, banquet, and convention services also will remain closed.

• There will be no valet or shuttle services provided in phase one, and the bell desk, pool operations, fitness center, and Grand Arcade will remain closed.

• The casinos will be smoke-free upon reopening. Outdoor spaces for smoking will be provided in the interim, and indoor smoking lounges will be developed for the future.

"Our goal with a phased reopening is to be methodical as we reopen different amenities to ensure we can maintain a clean and safe environment and adjust operations as needed based on real-world feedback," said Nayquonabe.

New procedures for visiting Grand Casino

One of the biggest things we can do to protect everyone's safety is to not have people who feel ill come to the casinos. To help with this, Grand Casino has changed its entrance procedures. Grand Casino wants its Guests to be aware of some key changes before coming to the casino:

- All Guests must enter through designated Guest entrances. Casino Associates will use separate entrances for employees only.
- Grand Casino will be using non-invasive thermal cameras to scan the temperature of all arriving Guests. Associates will also have their temperature taken prior to the start of each shift. Anyone with a temperature over 100°F will be given secondary screening. Nobody with a confirmed temperature of 100°F or higher will be admitted.
- We are asking all Guests and Associates who know they are not feeling well to stay home.

Increased cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing

Another big area of change is with the enhanced cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitation of the two casinos.

- Grand Casino has implemented a heightened cleaning schedule in all public spaces with an emphasis on frequently contacted surfaces such as front desk/check-in counters, entrances, elevators, door handles, public restrooms, slot machines, table games, dining surfaces, and seating areas.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are located at Guest entrances and in other high contact areas such as the hotel lobby, at elevator landings, near cashiers, at Grand Rewards, at restaurant entrances, in meeting and convention spaces, and at key areas on the casino floor.
- Sanitizing wipes are available on the casino floor for Guests who wish to do additional sanitizing of the machines and surfaces they are touching.
- In addition to the visible changes we already mentioned, Grand Casino has also implemented additional less visible policy changes, including increased guidance on hand washing frequency and social distancing of Associates — all aimed at keeping our communities, Associates, and Guests safe.

HHS GEARS UP FOR MOVE TO NEW BUILDING

This month, the Mille Lacs Band's Health and Human Services (HHS) department will begin the move to a beautiful new headquarters in District I.

The building will bring most HHS programs and staff under the same roof, providing more convenient service to Band members as well as more effective collaboration within the department.

"We're so excited to start providing services to Band members in our new building," said HHS Commissioner Nicole Anderson. "Not only will it provide state-of-the-art health care, but it is also a warm and welcoming environment for our Band members working with Family Services, the Substance Use Program, Public Health, and Community Support Services. The vision was to provide a 'one-stop shop' for the Health and Human Services Department, and we're close to making that a reality."

The move will begin June 18 with the pharmacy, dental services, clinic, administration, Circle of Health, and Family Services. The next day, the Community Support Services programs will move, including commodities and Emergency Services, although the food warehouse will remain in its current location near the powwow grounds.

On June 22, the department will have a "soft go-live" for troubleshooting IT, phones, and processes in the new space.

HHS staff ask that clients and patients be patient during the transition. Completing such a major move during a pandemic is a tremendous challenge.

Hannah Hollenkamp, who coordinated the transition, is grateful for the support of the HHS team during the process. "Through and through, the foundation of great teamwork made this possible," said Hannah.

Her team determined deliverables and established milestones, and although they missed some, they pressed on. "There have been several extraordinary moments, but we stayed focused and delivered. I would like to take the time to thank Commissioner Anderson for believing in us to get this task accomplished, and I am grateful to be working for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community."

The 85,000-square-foot facility in District I is situated on the west side of Timber Trail Road across from the Bugg Hill neighborhood. Construction began in 2017 after a dish-setting ceremony to start the project off in a good way.

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



The new Health and Human Services building in District I will house most of the department's staff, programs, and services.

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

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

The wing opposite will accommodate all other HHS services and will include offices, collaborative work areas, conference rooms, and a pharmacy.

The HHS building is adjacent to the new District I Community Center, and a housing development has also been started in the vicinity.

The project began under former HHS Commissioner Sam Moose and was approved and funded by the previous Band Assembly, composed of Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu and Representatives Sandra Blake, David 'Niib' Aubid, and Harry Davis.

HEALTH SERVICES REMAIN AVAILABLE

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health and Human Services (HHS) department continues to provide Band members with quality care you can count on. During these uncertain times of constant change, Commissioner Nicole Anderson reminds Band members that the following services are still available:

- Provider appointments
- Mental health care
- Substance use counseling and assessments
- Commodities and food shelf
- Pharmacy
- Dental emergencies

Jenna Kuduk, who manages the after-hours nurse line, encourages Band members to call at any time about their needs, whether they are feeling symptoms or need assistance with ongoing health care concerns. Call 320-630-0397 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 320-630-0855 after hours and on weekends. And of course, call 911 first in the event of a medical emergency.

Dr. Mark Bostrom ensures Band members that the clinic has implemented processes that will maintain your safety if you need to come in for COVID-19 symptoms or general medical problems. Call the nurse line first to make sure a visit is necessary before coming in, but don't neglect medical problems that

need attention.

Dr. Bostrom also reminds Band members to promote their own safety and that of their loved ones, especially our Elders who are potentially more vulnerable. Social distancing, staying home, hand-washing, and facial coverings may be inconvenient, but they are proven methods of keeping people safe.

He also said it is important to go outside for exercise, fresh air, and sunshine, and he asked us to reach out to those more vulnerable, more in need, and more lonely. "Be smart, but also be kind, and just know that we at the clinic are doing everything we can to help you through this time," said Dr. Bostrom. "I just encourage you to do what you can, and we'll do our best to continue to take care of you."

- Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option 2
- Nurse line clinic: 320-630-0397
- Nurse line (after hours — Jenna Kuduk): 320-630-0855
- Mental Health appointments: 320-532-4163 option 2
- Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385
- Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773
- Pharmacy: 320-532-4770
- Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779
- Commodities and food shelf: 320-630-2432

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Casinos opening in Washington with coronavirus precautions: The Puyallup, Suquamish, Squaxin Island, and Nisqually tribes reopened their facilities on Monday, May 18, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation opened its Twelve Tribes facility in Omak, Okanogan County, on Tuesday, May 19. Precautions vary by facility, but include reduced capacity, temperature checks, limited hours, and mandatory masks and gloves for all customers. Hotels and many restaurants remain closed. Plastic shielding and social-distancing tape help prevent customers from being in close contact, and if big crowds turn out, customers have to wait their turn in a virtual line tracked by cellphone. *Source: seattletimes.com.*

Kurt BlueDog passes on after dedicating life to Indian Country: Throughout his 43-year career as an attorney, Kurt BlueDog, who passed away May 12, was always a proud and supportive member of the Sisseton-Wapehton Sioux Tribe. BlueDog was a Staff Attorney with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and assisted in drafting legislation to include the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and other acts. He served as a Chief Judge for the Fond du Lac, Lower Sioux, and Prairie Island Tribes Tribal Courts and taught federal Indian law at the William Mitchell and Hamline University Schools of law. He served for over 20 years as Legal Counsel to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, and at the time of his passing he was serving on the Board of Directors for the National Indian Gaming Association. *Source: indianz.com.*

Muscogee case goes to Supreme Court: During a lengthy hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court on May 11, the state of Oklahoma asserted that the Muscogee (Creek) Tribe's homelands, which were promised by treaty in the late 1800s, no longer existed as Indian Country. The argument deprives the Creek people of the ability to exercise their inherent rights over their own territory. The Trump Administration sided with Oklahoma, where the sovereign status of millions of acres are at stake in the Republican-friendly state. *Source: indianz.com.*

Oglala Sioux "ready to stand against foreign intrusion": Oglala Sioux Tribe President Julian Bear Runner reacted strongly to South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem's letter last month in which she threatened legal action against the Oglala Sioux Tribe if 10 checkpoints into the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation were not removed within 48 hours. "Governor Noem miscalculates our level of dedication to protect our most vulnerable people from crony capitalism's thrust to force us to open our economy as they choose to do," Bear Runner wrote. "The Oglala Band is ready to stand against foreign intrusion into our daily lives. We have a prior and superior right to make our own laws and be governed by them. We don't go into their homes and make threats against them." *Source: nativenewsonline.net.*

Deputies make arrest after spear-fishers take fire: Authorities in Vilas County, Wisconsin, have arrested a person suspected of opening fire on Ojibwe spear-fishers. The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission said in a statement that the incident took place Saturday night, May 2, on Little Saint Germain Lake. The spear-fishers reported they had been harassed and shots were fired. *Source: wral.com.*

AN ELDER'S PERSPECTIVE

SPEARING AND NETTING SEASON

By David 'Amik' Sam Mille Lacs Band Elder

Boozhoo, Aaniin, my name is David 'Amik' Sam, and I am a member of the Awaasisii Clan. I live here in District 1, Nay ah Shing. I would like to take this opportunity to share an experience I had this spring and also some thoughts on gathering in general. I was honored by Commissioner Katie Draper to serve on the Harvest Committee for the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources 2020 spring harvest for netting and spearing, as the Elder Representative.

I came to learn that Commissioner Draper is a conscientious, safety-minded decision maker who kept the safety of our Band foremost. One significant example is evidenced by her request to the Signatory Bands of the 1855 Treaty decision to not come to our shores because of the COVID-19 pandemic that is happening here, on our Mother Earth. Understandably, she knew that they have the right to come here to harvest, so she could only request that the other Bands harvest in their own areas this year.

Fond du Lac and Lac du Flambeau harvesters chose to come to our shores to spear and fish because they can. I understand that not only did our Chief Executive along with Commissioner Draper request all the other Bands stay home, Drumkeepers sent asemaa and a gift per cultural protocol to request Tribal Councils step in to ask spearing and netting tribal members not to come to our shores because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several of the Bands' Tribal Councils chose to honor that request and did not come to harvest this year. Kudos to those Councils who chose safety over entitlement. Fond du Lac and Lac du Flambeau communities chose to come to our shores, showing selfishness and disregard to those of us who live here by not honoring the asemaa and blankets that were presented.

I know that coronavirus is real, having experienced the loss of my older sister to this illness just a few weeks ago. None of us want to experience more loss or having to go through a burial process unlike anything we have ever experienced with distance-drive-by funerals. We all want to do our part to keep this sickness away, which is all we were requesting. Honoring



cultural requests is who we are as Anishinaabe people.

When we took the 1855 Treaty Issue to the Supreme Court, we did so with honor. We argued that our rights to harvest within the Ceded Territory were sacred, and we argued that we did so with ceremonies and respect. We were taught by our ancestors to use asemaa and to treat our nets and spears with as much regard as we give to our pipes and drums, to treat the Ogaa we harvest equally as respectful.

During recent years, I have had a chance to observe the harvesting practices of some of our netters and those of the other Signatories of the 1855 Treaty. I am appalled at the disregard of the nets and the Ogaa for which we so valiantly struggle with climate conditions to gather each spring. I have seen nets and Ogaa tossed on the ground. I don't see that practice as ceremonial.

I was taught by the late Henry Sam and James Clark that our children must go through a ceremony prior to pulling their first net, spearing their first fish, or taking their first deer. My youngest son went through these ceremonies with Henry and Jim; what wonderful teachings Ben and our family use to this day. I know and now assist with those ceremonies, shared with me by Henry and Jim, to help our young people learn about being a hunter, a gatherer, not being greedy, sharing our fish with others, caring for our nets, our fish, our deer, and each other. These are the messages I carried to Commissioner Draper and the DNR team, as emotions ran high during this unprecedented time of COVID-19 and spring fishing.

Commissioner Draper always based her decisions on safety considerations from information she was able to obtain from



weather apps that are available to the public through our phones and computers, and the expertise of the Spring Harvest Team. Oftentimes her decisions were met with harsh criticism, but she put herself out there because she remains true to our Anishinaabe values and her concern for the safety of our Band membership. For this, I am grateful and proud to have been a part of this group.

In closing, I would like to make the point that our Anishinaabe Culture and ceremonies cannot be pushed on those that do not want to understand. I know that we are not complete people when we disregard each other. I too have not always been respectful to the needs of others and I hope that Gze-Manitou can be gracious enough to continue to teach me what I need to learn.

Miigwech bizindawiiyeg!
David 'Amik' Sam

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

SHARING

By Beatrice Taylor

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

In the Anishinaabe culture, it is our custom to help one another. This is true not just of relations, but of anyone, maybe somebody you don't even know. Because we believe that when you do good for someone who needs help, some day you will be helped.

As a child, I remember that all Indian women used to call each other "Ni-dong-gwaesh," which means "my friend" or "my cousin." These women were always helping each other. Maybe someone didn't have any maple syrup. As hard as it was to come by, they were very generous with each other. If one didn't have syrup, the other would give it. If somebody had fish, she would share it. They would know what each other needed, and they would give it if they had it.

I'm this way with my sisters today. We're always helping each other. I've tried to pass this on to my children. My son does the fishing and hunting in the family and we get enough for ourselves. But I have sisters who don't have husbands, so when my son gets meat or fish, he gives them some of what we have.

We also teach our children that they must never be afraid to ask a fellow Indian for help. Because if he's a good Indian, he will help you to the best of his ability. And some day you

will be able to do something for him.

That is our custom. If you give to someone who needs something, one way or another you will be rewarded. I think non-Indians have a custom just like ours, because they say "share and share alike" and "in giving you will receive."

If there is a difference in how Indians and non-Indians view sharing, I think it might be in the expectation of being paid back. In our culture, we are not supposed to give because we expect something back. We should give out of the goodness of our heart, because we want to do it. I was taught that if I can help someone, I must never ask if they can pay me back. I just say, "Okay, I'll give it to you. Make good use of it. I'll help you as long as I know you're trying to help yourself, or help your family."

I had a dream once. One of the Elders that had passed on came into my locked house, right into my room, and there was a glow around him. I was thinking to myself that this must be my time to pass. I held my hand out, and he touched my hand with both of his and told me in Ojibwe, "This is what you should do. Never argue with your fellow Indian, don't take anything of his, respect his feelings, and help those you can. And in this way, you will live a good life." That is what I've tried to do, and I've seen the results. That's why I'm in the position I'm in now. I'm a very satisfied person. I believe I'm fulfilling my destiny.

TELEHEALTH TAKES OFF DURING PANDEMIC — AND MAY BECOME THE 'NEW NORMAL'

In times of crisis, people come together to develop new strategies that become commonplace after the crisis has passed. Many of the technologies we take for granted today arose during difficult circumstances.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in dramatic changes in health care around the world — and right here at home — as medical professionals have made a quick pivot from traditional face-to-face care to “telehealth,” including “virtual visits” using computer and cellphone technology.

Dr. Lacey Running Hawk has been immersed in those changes, and along with professionals in education and other fields, she has learned on the fly, doing her job while simultaneously mastering the technology and developing the skills to work in a different way.

“COVID-19 really changed our clinic workflow,” said Dr. Running Hawk. “We started seeing patients via telehealth in early April. This has really been the new standard for how to safely delivery primary care in the United States.”

To protect patients and clinic staff by limiting physical contact and reinforcing recommendations to stay close to home, the clinic has started recommending that almost all visits start as a telehealth visit.

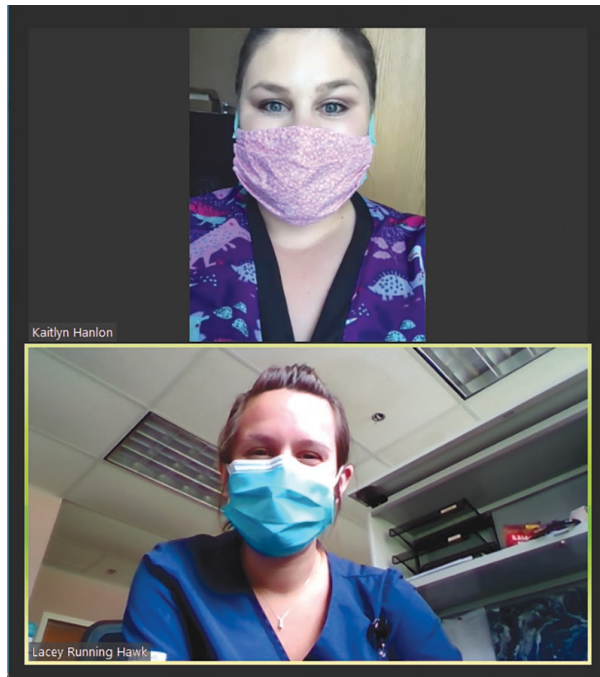
“When patients call our client access team to schedule an appointment, they are given the options of Zoom video visits (like Skype or FaceTime) or telephone visits. If patients then need an in-person service like lab, x-ray, vitals, or an exam, they are scheduled for a time to come in to clinic that will allow for quick and streamlined service.”

When the virtual visits started, Dr. Running Hawk was concerned about losing that face-to-face connection with patients and wondered how it would be received and what it would mean for communication and care for patients.

“I have been pleasantly surprised by how well-received the visits have been,” Dr. Running Hawk said. “It’s actually amazing how much of a patient visit, diagnosis, and treatment can be determined just by conversation. The Zoom video visits also allow for visual physical exam.”

The big advantage to virtual visits has been the ability to meet patients where they are — literally — Dr. Running Hawk added. They can be at home, on their break at work, or in their car in the parking lot.

“I think patients have appreciated the convenience of having access to providers and clinic care via phones or devices. Our no-show rates have been much lower because there isn’t the barrier of transportation to get to appointments.”



Dr. Lacey Running Hawk consults via computer with patients and colleagues, like nurse Kaitlyn Hanlon.

The clinic has been able to accommodate all same-day visits by having providers from outer districts or remote providers see patients in any and all districts. “It has been a cool use of technology that I think will transform how we deliver care to the community even as we move beyond the pandemic,” Dr. Running Hawk said.

When the Stay Home order was first signed, Dr. Running Hawk sensed a fear of scheduling any non-emergency medical visits. The clinic saw a lot of cancellations and decreased primary care visit numbers in the month of April. But as they settle into the “new normal,” professionals and patients alike are realizing that life must go on, and so must chronic disease management, well-child exams, and primary care.

“We have started to see our visit schedules slowly fill up, but we are encouraging patients to schedule visits that need to be scheduled,” Dr. Running Hawk emphasized. “This includes health maintenance exams, well-child visits, diabetes visits, OB care, chronic pain visits, etc. The visits may be structured a little differently now and into the foreseeable future using telehealth, but we are confident in our ability to provide quality and safe care to the community!”

FOOD SUPPORT AVAILABLE IN ALL DISTRICTS

Kristian Theisz, the Band’s Director of Community Support Services, reminds Band members that food programs are available to help those who may be in need during the pandemic and any other time as well.

Community Support Services operates three programs that can help Band members meet nutritional needs for themselves and their families:

Emergency loans: Those with unforeseen needs can apply for an emergency loan.

We WILL be allowing applications to be submitted via email. If you need an application, we will send you one. Simply send a request to one of the emails above and you will be guided on the process.

Any request for direct emergency funds that is approved will be direct deposited or transferred electronically to your bank account if you have that set up currently.

If you DO NOT have DD/EFT set up, the check will be mailed to you at the address you place on the application.

Food shelf: The food shelf is fully funded by the Band with a warehouse near the powwow grounds. Although the warehouse is located in District I, Band members in Districts II and III can arrange for food to be delivered to community centers or other locations close to home. All Band members can visit the food shelf or order a delivery once a month.

Our food shelf is still able to assist you, and with limited staff we ask that you call to schedule the pick-up. Pickups can be scheduled in District I on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays, in District II on Wednesdays or Fridays, and in District III on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

For ALL districts, please call:

Dean Reynolds, 320-362-4672, dean.reynolds@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov

Kevin Pawlitschek, 320-630-2432, kevin.pawlitschek@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov

Kristian Theisz, 320-630-2687, kristian.theisz@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov

Commodities program: This is an income-based program, but Kristian said that those who have experienced a change in income may find that they have become eligible. To apply, you will need to provide income information.

Applications for programs can be found at millelacsband.com. Click on the drop-down Services menu at the top of the page, and then click on “Community Support Services.” You can also call Roberta Sam at 320-630-8362 or email roberta.sam@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

Commodities applications and order requests will be handled by email as well. If you are already certified and are requesting an AUTOFILL option, you can simply send your name and state that you are requesting an AUTOFILL. These orders will follow the standard FDPIR Commodities delivery schedule. Contact Robert Sam at the number and email above:

The Band has several months’ worth of food, so don’t hesitate to apply if you are in need. The food shelf also has toilet paper, diapers, products for newborns, hygiene products, and limited supplies of dog and cat food and kitty litter.

Thank you and stay safe!

— Mille Lacs Band Emergency Services



PINE GROVE NEWS

Although students have been off campus since March, the gardens at Pine Grove Learning Center are going strong, thanks to Tim and Teri’s hard work. New this year: potatoes planted in 5-gallon buckets. The relative quiet around the building has resulted in visits from waagosh!



VOLUNTEERS NET OGAA FOR ELDERS

Photos by Chad Germann Mille Lacs Band Member

Elders who received food distribution packages in May were pleased to find a favorite dish: fresh Mille Lacs ogaa (walleye).

Mille Lacs Band harvesters share their catch with family and Elders every season, but this year the DNR decided to make an additional effort for those Elders who may not have received ogaa otherwise.

Teams of volunteers braved the cold and wind to set nets at the powwow grounds May 6 and at Garrison May 7. They spent the early morning hours May 7 and 8 pulling and painstakingly picking their nets, then brought the fish to the DNR building in District I for cleaning and packaging.

Although the catch had slowed from the week before, there were still enough nets and netters to harvest 192 pounds. It wasn't enough for every Elder to get a taste, but the DNR has collected names of Elders who didn't receive fish, and they will slowly work on getting fish to all who asked.

Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper thanked the volunteers and her staff for their efforts. "It's been a challenging year for us all, and we at the DNR are trying to do what we can by providing traditional foods such as manoomin and ogaa."

Volunteer Brad Kalk was glad everyone stayed safe and had a good time. "It's kind of a different time, and we want to make sure to share our harvest. It was a good cooperative effort."



Volunteers and staff included those pictured. Top row: Virgil Wind, Brad Kalk, Keith Wiggins, Carla Big Bear, Todd Moilanen. Middle row: Jordan Williams, Jamie Short, Ashley Burton. Bottom row: Perry Bunting, John Aubid.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE CONTACT LIST

Due to the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19, on March 17, 2020, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe took a proactive approach to voluntarily reduce staffing levels. For the safety of the communities and the employees of the Mille Lacs Band, the day-to-day Government operations will be reduced to the following critical staff only until further notice. Future updates can be found at www.millelacsband.com or [facebook.com/millelacsband](https://www.facebook.com/millelacsband).

Tribal Emergency Response Committee

The **Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC)** will continue to meet daily to evaluate the situation and provide updates to the community.

Tribal Police will continue to operate as normal 24/7. The dispatch number is 320-532-3430. In an emergency, call 911.

The **Election Office** will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until further notice.

Department of Administration

Commissioner of Administration Baabiitaw Boyd, 218-670-0745. Under the Department of Administration, essential staff include Director of IT, Director of Human Resources, Safety Risk Specialist, Benefits Administrator, Employee/Labor Relations Specialist, Director of Tribal Child Support Enforcement, Director of Grants, and Government Affairs.

Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom, 320-364-9511

Aanjibimaadizing Case Managers: Director Candace Benjamin, District I, 320-362-0014; Renee Allen, District III, 320-591-0559; Donna Churchill, District III, 320-207-0907; Dawn Paro, Urban, 612-368-9417; Winona Spaulding, Urban, 612-360-7219; Kaari Weyaus, District I, 218-316-2437; Ann Stafford, District I, 320-630-5769; Winona Crazy Thunder, District II, 320-364-3049.

Department of Community Development

Assistant Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe, 320-630-3118. Peter is also Acting Commissioner of Community Development and will oversee the following core services that will continue to be provided by Community Development/Housing: Emergency Construction, Funerals, Furnace Calls, Loan Servicing, Minobimaadiziwin, Power Supply, Roads Maintenance, Sanitation (Garbage Removal), Sewer, Water, Snow Plowing, Housing Emergency on Call Maintenance.

Department of Education

Commissioner of Education Joyce Shingobe, 651-354-4900. All Education Staff remain on duty, including the Early Education management team, Kitchen Staff, Bus Drivers, and Custodi-

ans.

Department of Natural Resources

Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper, 320-515-0846, will oversee Conservation Officers, the Office Manager, Director of Environmental Programs, Director of Resource Management, and Director of Cultural Resources.

Office of Management and Budget

Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle, 320-532-7475. Critical staff areas are as follows: Payroll & Accounts Payable, 320-532-7471. Per Cap, 320-532-7472.

Department of Health and Human Services

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson, 320-364-9969, will oversee the following HHS critical staff:

Director of Public Health Lisa Blahosky-Olivarez, 320-362-0423

Executive Director of Health Services Jan Manary — Clinic contact, 320-532-4761

Executive Director of Human Services Carmen Kalk, 320-364-9116

Director of Community Support Services Kristian Theisz, 320-630-2687

Director of Family Services Tabatha Boyd, 320-362-4258

Under Community Support Services, the following remain on duty:

Family Violence Protection Program, Kate Kalk, 320-532-7793

Elder Services Coordinator Denise Sargent, 320-532-7854

Wraparound Coordinator Tammy Mooreland, 320-292-1942

Elder/Disability Social Worker Peter Charpentier, 320-292-2283

Other HHS Phone Numbers:

Pharmacy: Jessie Godding, 320-532-2548

Maintenance: Curt Kalk Jr., 320-362-1657

Four Winds Lodge: Lindsay Misquadace-Berg, 218-454-8905

Substance Use Disorders programs: Mark Watters, 320-630-4791

Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4384

Medication Assisted Recovery line: 320-362-0892

SCHOOLS MAKE ADJUSTMENTS, PLANS FOR SUMMER AND FALL

By Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

Educators who scrambled to create a springtime distance-learning plan due to the coronavirus outbreak are now looking ahead to the summer term and the next school year.

Determining what school will look like in the coming months is no easy feat. Right now, decisions are still being made about whether classes will be held in person or if distance learning will continue.

For the summer term, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) informed school districts that they could continue to offer distance learning or offer a hybrid model that allows for staggering schedules so students are dispersed in buildings at different times. Students and staff would have to adhere to public health guidelines, which include physical distancing among other practices to keep them safe.

"We're really proud of what we've done because it's been tough," said Byron Ninham, the Nay Ah Shing Assistant Principal for grades 6 through 12. "But for now, all options are on the table. We're looking at our plans and, at the same time, knowing that they may change."

At Nay Ah Shing, summer term will be held from June 15 through July 16 for students in the third through the eighth grades. There is also interest in summer school for younger grades, said Lehtitia Weiss, Principal of grades K-5 at Nay Ah Shing. Students in grades 9-12 will focus on credit recovery in a combination of in-school and distance learning.

"We would limit the number of staff and students who are in the building," she said, adding that educators will also continue to incorporate language and culture into the learning.

Some of the changes would be that all students and staff would have to wear masks, wash their hands when they enter the building, and sign-in so there can be contact tracing,

if needed.

Some of the considerations the educators have to think about include transportation, staggering school days, the point of entry into buildings, how to serve meals, and other steps to keep students and staff safe. They may also have to explore whether educators can teach outside of their licensure.

"We are leaving no stone unturned and being proactive in the process," Byron said. "We're all thinking about August and what the fall will look like. We know that it will look different."

In an email to education leaders, MDE Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker wrote that because of the unpredictability of the virus, the state is offering the hybrid instructional model. She said MDE would continue to work with the state's Department of Health to monitor the public health situation and then will offer additional guidance for school districts on how to safely begin the 2020-21 school year.

"We know how important it is to ensure that students are receiving the education that they deserve," she wrote in the May 14 email. "Distance learning has been hard on everyone — students, their families, and educators, and especially children of color, Indigenous children, immigrant children, low-income families and communities, and people who have disabilities.

"We hope that by offering a model where schools will be able to safely provide at least some in-person instruction will be an opportunity to better support students who have been struggling with distance learning."

Commissioner of Education Joyce Shingobe said she is proud of the work that is happening on behalf of the students. There has been a lot of collaboration, teamwork, and maintenance of good relationships with MDE and the Bureau of Indian Education.

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, NAY AH SHING SCHOOLS WAS RANKED NUMBER SIX IN THE NATION AMONG BIE SCHOOLS FOR STUDENT SCORES AND PERCENTAGE ACTIVE ON ACHIEVE 3000, A LITERACY PROGRAM UTILIZED K-12TH GRADE.

"In the age of doing things differently (because of the pandemic) we'll probably never go back to how we ran a school before," said Joyce. "We'll have to plan fast for what schools will do, and having staggered schedules is a real possibility."

There are 160 students enrolled in the three Band-operated schools. To ensure that families have a change to weigh in on how distance learning is working for them, the schools will ask them to participate in a survey. Some of the questions will ask how they are using technology, what issues they've encountered, and how they are doing mentally and emotionally.

On a positive note, for the month of April, Nay Ah Shing Schools was ranked number six in the nation for BIE schools for student scores and percentage active on Achieve 3000 — a literacy program that is utilized K-12th grade. The BIE officials noted that Nay Ah Shing was "on their radar and should be acknowledged as a bright spot for the gains and access students are making during distance learning," Byron said.

"Things will look different, but we'll be here for the students and families," said Byron. "We're taking it day-by-day, and we're being safe."

BAND MEMBER CARES FOR THE COMMUNITY THROUGH WORK

By Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

Band members and others who are craving culturally specific foods along with other fresh and healthy options have an oasis in St. Paul that has become even more necessary in recent months.

The Department of Indian Work's "super food shelf" is tailored to the Native American community, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has increased its services. The program exists within the Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul — an organization that works to relieve the effects of poverty and address its root causes.

Led by Band member Kelly Miller, who is the director of the Department of Indian Work (not to be confused with the Minneapolis-based Division of Indian Works), the organization partners with American Indian families to revitalize culture, education, and wellness. The organization's mission is to provide a safe, Indigenous space to empower Native families towards self-determination, while respecting cultural and spiritual diversity.

"Since the pandemic, we have seen an increase of 312 percent of households served," said Kelly. "We've also expanded our service areas because there's a need."

The organization has been able to do that thanks to a new partnership with Metro Mobility, which delivers food to families across the metro area. Typically, the food shelf services families in the east metro part of the Twin Cities.

According to Randi Ilyse Roth, the executive director of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, a \$12,000 grant from the Minneapolis Foundation helped the organization increase its culturally specific food shelf. With the need growing substantially, the food shelf distributes all food in two days' time. It costs about \$15,000 a month to maintain.

"We look like a mini grocery store," Kelly said. "We have fresh and frozen produce, greens, canned vegetables and fruit, baking goods, cereal, meat, chicken, and fish."

These days the food shelf isn't open for walk-in service due to the pandemic, but food is being delivered every two weeks instead. When the building is open, families are welcomed in



Band member Kelly Miller is the director of the Department of Indian Work.

three languages: Ojibwe, Dakota, and English.

Working within an organization that focuses on Native American families has been a great experience, Kelly said.

"We treat families with respect and like they are our relatives," she said. "It takes a tremendous amount of courage to ask for help and we're here to help. We're more than a food shelf; we also work with partners to offer resources, and we offer youth enrichment."

They work with families who represent 55 tribes and have 110 households who are affiliated with Mille Lacs. Between March 16 and May 14, the organization served 667 households and delivered more than 24,000 pounds of food. Since the new fiscal year began (July 1 through now), the food shelf has given out over 111,000 pounds of food.

"In the Native community, we take care of each other," she said. "It is rewarding work."

Kelly took over as the program director in 2019. Prior to that, she was the organization's Emergency Services Coordi-



nator — a role she began in 2016. She was also the Intake and Referral Specialist for two months after completing an internship that she got through the Band's workforce program, Aanjibimaadizing.

Kelly graduated from Onamia High School in 2006 and is taking classes at Saint Paul College for her Associates of Applied Science in Non Profit Management. She plans to attend Augsburg or St. Kate's for her bachelor's degree. The mom of two children — a five-year-old daughter and two-year-old son — lived in District I before moving to the Twin Cities.

As the director, one of Kelly's goals is to build stronger relationships with tribes. She would also like a mobile food shelf now that she has seen how well the partnership with Metro Mobility has worked.

"We're not conveniently located, so sometimes it's hard for families to get to us," she said. "While we have this pandemic, I don't see us going back to families being able to walk-in and get food. We might have to have a trunk model where we put food in the trunk or adopt an appointment-only model."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!



MCKELLEN BEARHEART
Isle High School



PRISCILLA BONILLA
Isle High School



LANICIA FRONK
Isle High School



JACOB PALOMAKI
Isle High School



ASHLYNN EAGLE
Fond du Lac Ojibwe School



CEDAR LAFAVE
Hinckley-Finlayson H.S.



CEDRIC LAFAVE
Hinckley-Finlayson H.S.



CHRISTINE WILLIAMS
Hinckley-Finlayson H.S.



SOPHIA MUSHKOUB
McGregor High School



JORDAN MISQUADACE
McGregor High School



GEORGE BOYD IV
McGregor High School



MICHAEL JOHNSON
McGregor High School.



AUSTIN VIETH
Onamia High School



FRANCES DAVIS
Onamia High School



GINIW BUCKANAGA
Onamia High School



JONATHAN IAQUINTO
Onamia High School.



JOSHUA NAYQUONABE
Onamia High School



CODY CONBOY
Onamia High School



DANTE JAMES BOYD
Onamia High School



ROMEO BENJAMIN-GARBOW
Onamia High School



JOSEF BOYD
Onamia High School



MADELINE BOYD
Onamia High School.



COREY BUSH
Onamia High School



KYLE BUSH
Onamia High School



NOLAN SUND
Onamia High School



JASMINE SCHWENSEN
Onamia High School



KRISSY DAHL
Onamia High School



TAYSHAUN FAHEY
Onamia High School.



JAEDEN KING
Onamia High School



ELI SAM
Onamia High School

DO YOU KNOW A GRADUATE WHOSE PHOTO IS NOT IN THIS ISSUE?
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO NEWS@MILLELACSBAND.COM AND WE'LL RUN THEIR PHOTO NEXT MONTH!

YOU MADE IT!



KAITLIN WIND
Onamia High School



JUSTIN ZABINSKI
Onamia High School

Some of our high school graduates' families sent additional information about their grads' successes and plans. We celebrate all graduates — Band members, descendants, and community members enrolled in other tribes — and we look forward to hearing from you all in years to come! If you would like to send a congratulatory message or more information about your graduate, we can include it in the July Inaajimowin or on the Tribal Noteboard in future issues! Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com.



BRANDON NICKABOINE
Onamia High School grad Brandon was senior brave and a star basketball player.



ELDAYSHUN BIG BEAR
Isle High School grad Eldayshun plans to attend Central Lakes College to pursue Sociology.



BLAKE ALEXANDER FORD
Blake Alexander Ford graduated from Twin Cities Academy and is planning to attend Columbia College in Chicago.



SETH R. PREMO
Seth made the 3rd quarter A honor roll at Barnum High School (pre-COVID), played trombone in the jazz and pep bands, and participated in the Math-lete Group.



ERIC AMIR HAWKINS
Eric Amir Hawkins (Shaugobay) completed his high school diploma at the St. Paul Community College Gateway Project, while taking college courses for welding. The Shaugobay family is very PROUD of him.

BAND MEMBER COMPLETES NEW PROGRAM

The University of Minnesota Duluth celebrated the first graduating class in the Master of Tribal Resource and Environmental Stewardship (MTRES) program — and among the graduates was Mille Lacs Band member (and former Commissioner of Natural Resources) Susan Klapel.

"It was an amazing two years. It really was," said Susan.

She especially enjoyed a class taught by UMD professor and Mille Lacs Band consultant Tadd Johnson, where she learned about some of the fishing rights cases from Alaska and Washington — cases that influenced Minnesota and Wisconsin treaty rights cases that Susan dealt with routinely as Commissioner.

"Sometimes we think we're the only ones going through something and forget that other tribes have experienced the same thing," Susan said.

She also gave high marks to Professor Jim Zorn, a Wisconsin treaty rights lawyer and former director of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Wendy Smythe.

Susan received a lot of help from Michele Berger in the Band's Scholarship Program. "She was fantastic," Susan said. "Encouraging and right on top of things."

Ironically, Susan was a consultant during the planning stage for the program. When she was commissioner, UMD came to natural resource managers for their input. She was at the table with former Mille Lacs Band Commissioners Don Wedell and Curt Kalk.

Several years later, she received a call saying, "Okay, we finally go the program off the ground, now you should come and take it," Susan joked. She took the bait and is happy she did, although finishing up during the pandemic was a challenge.

It was difficult to stay motivated, Susan said, but her professors and fellow students provided support. "Tadd and Wendy Smythe were absolutely fabulous, and the others in the cohort kept each other going," Susan said.

The adjustment to Zoom meetings wasn't too hard, since students had the option of "zooming in" for face-to-face meetings prior to the pandemic. They had class one Saturday a month but had regular assignments that kept them busy.



Susan Klapel graduated with a Master's Degree in Tribal Resource and Environmental Stewardship.

Susan is still exploring her options, but she highly recommends the program for anyone seeking a career in tribal natural resource management. Although the focus is natural resource management and tribal ecological knowledge (TEK), much of the information is applicable to tribal government across the board — from legal issues to budgets to human resources.

About the program

According to Tadd Johnson, "MTRES is a program designed by Indian tribes for Indian tribes."

The program is led by Professors Kekek Jason Stark, a Turtle Mountain Ojibwe, and Wendy F. Smythe, Alaska Native Haida. Kekek is an alumnus of Hamline University School of Law.

The Master of Tribal Resource & Environmental Stewardship (MTRES) is an applied degree designed to meet the professional and leadership needs of tribal natural resources and environmental programs.

The curriculum consists of 36 credits and is based upon the interrelationship of biological, physical, and cultural systems. Required courses address program operations, sustainability, and integrated ecosystems studies. Elective courses and the capstone project provide opportunity for personalized areas of focus.

For more information, go to <https://cla.d.umn.edu/departments/ais>.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGHER ED GRADS!



BIANCA MOOSE
Bianca graduated from St Catherine University with a major in Exercise and Sports Science and a minor in Coaching.



JAMMIE THOMAS-RASSET
Jammie earned her Master of Science in Data Analytics from Colorado State University.



JENESIS FONDER
Jenesis graduated from Carleton College with a degree in Political Science.



BRIANNA BOYD
Brianna completed her Associate of Arts Degree from Central Lakes College. She graduated with High Honors on May 14.



JULIUS AUBID
Julius Aubid, pictured with daughters Waawaatesi and Memengwa, is a 2020 graduate of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.



JAMES CLARK
Proud descendant James Clark graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a bachelor's in American Indian Studies and Public History.

HOWAH TO MORE GRADUATES!

- Zhaawanookwe Smith, Nay Ah Shing
- Gabrielle Jellum, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winstead H.S.
- Cam'ron Staples, Empower Learning Center, Hinckley
- Cinquez Pindegayosh, Brainerd HS 2020
- Jai-Lee Hanson, Onamia High School
- Sean Mello, AA-Central Lakes College
- Steven Scott Mello, AA-Northern Virginia Community College
- Paul Maurice, 5-year pipefitter apprenticeship completed. Advance to journeyman
- Morningstar Goodsky, Micheala Leecy, Steven Aubid, Megan Ballinger, Mary Greene, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
- Tammy Smith University of Minnesota Duluth BA in Tribal Administration and Governance
- Susan Klapel Master's in Tribal Resource and Environmental Stewardship, University of Minnesota Duluth

SUMMER CAMP AT NAS

"Things That Fly" Summer Camp is the summer academic program at Nay Ah Shing School. The camp runs from Monday through Thursday, 9 to 11 a.m. June 15 to July 16. The program is open to all students entering grade 3 through 8 fall 2020.

Students will participate in online learning activities with a reading, math, and science focus. There will be delivery of weekly hands-on STEAM activities, assignment of two Achieve 3000 articles, and daily Zoom meetings.

The summer food program will run in conjunction with the academic program. Lunches will be delivered Monday through Thursday with summer school supplies and materials.

Sign up your students no later than June 5. Call 320-532-4690 or email lweiss@nas.k12.mn.us or mballinger@nas.k12.mn.us.

FREEDOM FROM SMOKING FACILITATOR TRAINING

Do you want to master techniques used to help people quit using commercial tobacco?

Learn How to Help People Quit Smoking With the American Lung Association

Freedom From Smoking Online Facilitator Training

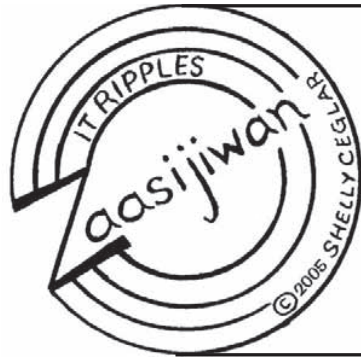
- Module 1 - Tobacco Basics (40 minutes)
- Module 2 - How to Help People Quit (60 minutes)
- Module 3 - Freedom From Smoking Facilitator Training (3 hours) June 16, 1 to 4 p.m.

FREE To Mille Lacs Band Members and Staff.

To register or with questions, email colleen.mckinney@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.



Niibin

Gizhaate na? Izhaadaa zaaga'iganing! Eya, niibin nindizhaamin zaaga'iganing. Dagoshinaang, nimboozimin. Gaye niibowa bebaamaadizijig. Gijiime na? Gidayaawaa na a'aw akikoons? Gidayaana ina waasamoo-jiimaan? Gakina-awiya baapinakamigiziwig. Niminwendam jiimeyaan agaaming. Inashke! Bizaan! Maang mookibii.

It is Summer

(Is it hot weather? Let's go to the lake! Yes, when it is summer we go to the lake. When we arrive, we get in the boat. Also there are plenty of tourists (those who travel about). Do you paddle? Do you have her that outboard motor? Do you have a powered boat? Every-body they are excited. I am glad when I paddle across the lake. Look! Quiet! A loon emerges from the water.)

Bezhiq—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
 —Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
 Gaawin—as in father
 Miigwech—as in jay
 Wiidige—as in seen
 Nookomis—as in moon
 —Short Vowels: A, I, O
 Idash—as in about
 Imaa—as in tin
 Omaa—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.

Changing the meanings

- 1) Verbs can change to nouns.
- 2) Nouns can change to verbs.
- 3) To "each other."

Wiidige.—S/he get married.
 Wiidigewin(an)—Marriage(s)
 Wiisini.—S/he eats.
 Wiisiiwin(an)—Food(s)
 Manoomin—Wild Rice
 Manoominike.—S/he makes wild rice.
 Wiigwaas—Birchbark
 Wiigwaasike.—S/he gathers birchbark.
 Bimose.—S/he walks.
 Bimosediwag.—They walk to each other.
 Giigido.—S/he speaks.
 Giigidodiwag.—They speak to each other.

Niizh—2

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

A. Giwiidige na? Niwiidige. Wiidige na Amber?

B. Gaawiiin niwiidigesii. Eya, Amber wiidige.

C. Sam idash Amber gii-wiidedigediwag gii-niibinong.

A J B P

X N N I L A

W K I T M R W

I Y I N A I B O

I I B M D Q W O K

D N I W I I D I G E

I N N S C I N O J C A

G Z O I K G A A W I I N

E E N I E E T O A S G I

R I G N O O K O M I S E

F V H O W A H U G O V H

D. Zaagi'idiwig. Amber bimiiwigige. Mashkikiwinini gii-ikido. "Ikwezens a'aw."

E. Giin Nookomis! Howah! Gibaapinakamigizi na?

F. Eya, nindinaa. "Gego zagaswaaken!"

G. Nindinaa, "Gego minikweken!"

Niswi—3

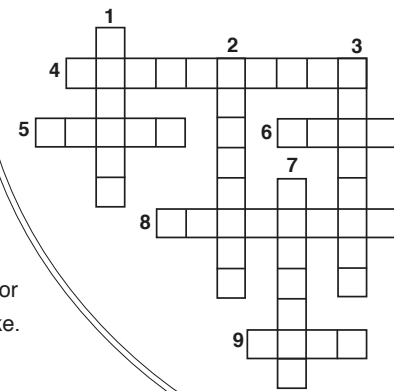
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. Quiet!
2. Outboard motor
3. Across the lake.
7. You paddle.

Across:

4. You have him/her (animate).
5. Loon
6. That (animate)
8. Emerges from the water.
9. Here



Niiwin—4

Changing the Meanings

Ondaadizi.—S/he is born.
 Ondaadiziiwin(an)—Birth(s)
 Izhinikaazo.—S/he is named so.
 Izhinikaazowin(an)—Name(s)
 Bakwezigan—Bread
 Bakweziganike.—S/he makes bread.
 Ojibwemo.—S/he speaks Ojibwe.
 Ojibwemodiwag.—They speak Ojibwe to each other.
 Ojibwemowin.—Ojibwe language.

Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

1. Waabang Nookomis bawezhigan_____.
2. Bijiinaago, miikanaang, ikwezensag bimose_____.
3. Ziigwang Nimishoomis wiigwaas_____.
4. Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan? Daga ozhibii'igen gidizhinikaazo_____ omaa.
5. Ninzaagitoonan niibowa wiisini_____. Mii'iw.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Are you married? I am married. Amber, is she married? B. No I am not married. Yes, Amber she is married. C. Sam and Amber were married to each other last summer. D. They are in love with each other. Amber is expecting. The doctor said, "That is a girl." E. You Grandma! All right! Are you excited? F. Yes, I said, "Don't smoke!" G. I said, "Don't drink!"

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Bizaan 2. Akikoons 3. Agaaming 7. Gijiime Across: 4. Gidayaawaa 5. Maang 6. A'aw 8. Mookibii 9. Omaa

Niiwin—4 1. At dawn, my Grandma she makes bread. 2. Yesterday on the trail the girls walked to each other. 3. When it is spring my Grandpa he gathers birchbark. 4. What is your name? Please write your name here. 5. I love them, many foods. That's it.

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. Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Summer 2005. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.



A RAFT OF CRAFTS

Elders at the District I ALU continue to find ways to stay active during the stay-at-home order. The DI ALU ladies tried their hands at dangly quill earrings, watercolors, diamond art, and corn husk dolls. The ladies also learned to add porcupine quills to birch bark earrings. According to ALU manager Carol Hernandez, they did a great job and plan to make more for gifts. Top: Marilyn Gunneau, Bonnie Neeland, and staff member Kathy Paulson. Right: Alvera Smith. Far right: Virginia Davis, Penny Peltier, Marilyn Gunneau, Alvera Smith.



DAGA MINAWAANIGOZIDAA BIMAADIZIYANG LET'S BE HAPPY IN OUR LIVES

By Lee Staples Gaa-anishinaabemod Obizaan and Chato Gonzalez Gaa-anishinaabebii'ang Ombishkebines

This article was originally published in the June 2015 issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.

Mii dash waa-tazhindamaan aaniin ge-izhichigepan a'aw Anishinaabe da-ni- minawaanigwendang bimaadizid. Ishke noongom a'aw Anishinaabe gaawin odani- mikwenimaasiin naa gaye gaawin odani-apenimosiin inow Manidoon i'iw iko akeyaa gaa-izhi-bimiwidood i'iw bimaadizid a'aw Anishinaabe ishkweyaang gaa-ayaad.

What I want to talk about is what Anishinaabe can do to live a happy life. Today Anishinaabe does not think about or does not rely on the Manidoog as Anishinaabe way back used to.

Ishke imaa wiigiwaaming gii-kabeshid mewinzha a'aw Anishinaabe, nawaj imaa besho ogii-wii'ayaawaan naa gaye apane gii-noondawaad inow Manidoon imaa eyaanin bagwaj. Mii-go apane gii-asemaakawaad inow Manidoon. Mii imaa weweni gii-noondawaad gii-pagakitawaad inow Manidoon, onji imaa biinji-wiigiwaaming gii-kabeshiwaad. Mii dash imaa gaa-onjikaamagak moozhag gii-asemaakawaad inow Manidoon. Ishke dash noongom biinji-waakaa'iganing ayaayang, gaawin igo gidaabaji-noondawaasiwaanaanig ingiw Manidoog bagwaj imaa eyaajig eshkam gidani-wanenimaanaanig da-apenimoyan-giban.

Long time ago when Anishinaabe used to live in wigwams they lived much closer to the Manidoog and constantly heard them. They constantly put tobacco for the Manidoog. They were able to hear the Manidoog clearly, because they lived inside of these wigwams. As a result of the ability to hear the Manidoog, they put their tobacco for them often. Because we live in houses these days, we do not always hear the Manidoog that are outside, and as a result we are forgetting about the Manidoog and that they are a source of help for us.

Ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe ishkweyaang apane gii-noondawaad inow Manidoon imaa bagwaj miinawaa apane gii-asemaakawaad gii-kanoonaad inow Manidoon da-naad-amaagod. Gaawin igo aapiji nebowa imaa biinjina ogii- ayaanzi- in ge-wanishkwe'igod iko awiya ondamendang gegoo magizhaa gaye niizaanendang gegoo.

Long time ago since the Anishinaabe always heard the Manidoog out in the wild they in turn always made tobacco offerings to them asking for their help. They did not have all of the inner turmoil of being worried or being fearful of anything.

Ishke iko a'aw Anishinaabe gii-tazhindang i'iw wasidaawendamowin, mii i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gagaanzomindwaa gaa-kag-waadagitoojig, "Mii imaa bagwaj izhaag da-o-nisanaamoyeg ogii-izhi-wiindaanaawaa. Mii ingiw Manidoog bagwaj eyaajig gida-noondaagowaag gida-zhawenimigowaag miinawaa gida-naadamaagowaag." Ishke mii imaa gii-wiindamaageng, nebowa ingiw Manidoog ayaawag imaa bagwaj ge-naadamaago-jin a'aw Anishinaabe.

When our Anishinaabe spoke of emotional difficulties they were having such difficulties were told, "Go out into the woods, scream, cry, and holler to release your emotions. The Manidoog will hear you, they will take pity on you, and they will help you." Because of this teaching, we know that there are a lot of Manidoog out there that will help the Anishinaabe.

Ishke dash noongom a'aw Anishinaabe eyaad, gaawin omoonendanziin i'iw inagokwekamig Manidoon imaa eyaanin imaa megweyaak. Ninoondawaag sa wiin igo aanind a'aw Anishinaabe ani-dazhindang ezhi-naadamaagoowizid imaa megweyaak baa-ayaad.

Nowadays the Anishinaabe does not realize the abundance of Manidoog out in the woods. I do however hear of some Anishinaabe talk about the help they get by being out in the woods.

Mii imaa noongom ge-izhaapan a'aw Anishinaabe ani-gag-

waadagi'igod gegoo. Ishke ingiw mitigoog imaa naabawijig imaa bagwaj manidoowaadiziwag Mitigwaabiwininiwan izhi-wiinjigaazowan inow Manidoon gegigaabawiwaajin. Mii a'aw bezhig a'aw Manidoo eyaad ge-naadamookiban. Maa-gizhaa gaye besho gidaa- naaniibaw da-minjiminad a'aw mitig. Mii imaa azhigwa gaa-asemaakawad, mii imaa ge-biindigesh-kaagoyamban i'iw menidoowaadak gegigaabawiwaad ingiw mitigoog da-ni-naadamaagoowiziyang dash da-ikowebinigaadeg wenishkwe'igoyan.

That is where the Anishinaabe can go when he is having a difficult time. The trees that stand out in the woods are spiritual beings and the Manidoog within them are known as Mitigwaabiwininiwag. That is one Manidoog that could help you. What you could do is stand close and hang on to a tree. With your tobacco being offered, the spiritual energy from the tree can go into your spirit and knock out whatever is bothering you, helping you as a result.

Ishke gaye ingiw bineshiinyag, nebowa gaye imaa ayaawag imaa bagwaj. Ishke geget manidoowaadiziwag gaye wiinawaa. Ishke niminewendaan iko "nishiimedog" izhi-wiinagwaa bineshiinyag. Ishke mii a'aw Manidoo eniwemag a'aw Wenabozho ezhi-wiinaad. Mii gaye inow ge-naadamaagopanen a'aw Anishinaabe ani- asemaakawaad. Aano-go agaashiinyiwaad nebowa ingiw bineshiinyag, gaawin gidaa-aanawenimaasiwaanaanig geget mashkawaadiziwag naa gaye geget manidoowaadiziwag.

There are also the birds that are plentiful out in the woods. These birds also have spiritual powers. I love addressing the birds "nishiimedog". That is the way Wenabozho addressed the birds as his little brothers and sisters. These are the ones that also help the Anishinaabe when they put their tobacco. Even though these birds are small in size, we cannot underestimate their strength and spiritual powers.

Ishke dash nebowa omaa ayaawag gaye ingiw awesiinyag bebiwaabaminaagozijig, mii-go dibishkoo ezhi-manidoowaadiziwag gaye wiinawaa. Ishke ingiw akiwenziiy-ibaneg ogii-tazhindaanaawaa mewinzha gii-moonenimind a'aw Anishinaabe gaa-izhi-manezid i'iw bimaadiziwag. Gii-pi-azhegiwe a'aw Niigaani- Manidoo gii-nandwewemaad inow owiiji-manidooman da-naadamawindwaa ingiw Anishinaabeg gaa-izhi-gidimaagiziwaad. Ishke dash mii ingiw gakina ingiw awesiinyag ingiw mesoosaabewabaminaagozijig biinish gaye bebiwaabaminaagozijig wayeshkad gaa-nakodangig wii-naad-amawaawaad inow Anishinaaben. Ishke dash gaa-ni-inaajimong, mii imaa ani-wiindamaageng gaa-izhi-zhawenimaawaad inow odanishinaabemiwaan ingiw awesiinyag, mii-go dibishkoo ezhi-zhawenimaawaad odanishinaabemiwaan noongom.

There are many animals that are small in size, but yet who are also powerful beings. The old men told about the time that when it was realized that the Anishinaabe was lacking spiritual energy in their lives. The creator or the head Manidoog came back to where the people were and called on his fellow Manidoog to help the Anishinaabe who were really pitiful. It was all of the animals, from the largest beings to the tiniest of them who were the first to answer the request of the head Manidoog to help the Anishinaabe. That story tells us how much compassion the animals had for the Anishinaabe at that time, and they still carry the same compassion for the Anishinaabe today.

Mii gaye imaa nibiikaang ani-dazhimindwaa ayaawaad ingiw Manidoog. Ishke gaa- izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyaan gii-kwiwizensiwiyaan, asemaa weweni akawe indaa- asaa imaa nibiikaang dabwaa-dazhitaayaan imaa. Nigii-wiindamaagoo, aniindi-go ani-waasaabikideg i'iw nibi, Manidoog imaa ayaawag imaa zaaga'iganiing miinawaa ziibiing. Nigii-igoo, da-ni-manaaj'ag Manidoo imaa eyaad. Gego anooj indaa- baa-izhichigesiin imaa nibiikaang. Dabwaa-bagizod imaa nibiikaang maagizhaa gaye



azhigwa wii-wewebinaabiid maagizhaa gaye wii-manoominiked dabwaa- bagidaabiid, akawe asemaan oada-asaan a'aw Anishinaabe, ingii-igoo. Ishke gaye ingiw giigoonyag imaa eyaajig imaa nibiikaang gii-miigoowizi a'aw Anishinaabe da-ondanjiged. Manidoowaadiziwag gaye wiinawaa ingiw giigoonyag.

There are also the Manidoog who exist within the bodies of water who are talked about. When I was a young boy I was taught to put my tobacco in the water before going into the lake. I was told that wherever there were bodies of water, such as lakes or rivers, there is a Manidoog within. I was told to respect that Manidoog in that body of water. I should not fool around while I am in the lake. Before Anishinaabe swims in the lake, maybe prior to fishing, ricing, or netting, I was told that Anishinaabe should put their tobacco first. There are also fish in the lake that Anishinaabe were given to eat. Those fish too are spiritual beings.

Ishke awiya ani-ganawaabandang iniw anishinaabewinikaazowinan eyaang noongom a'aw Anishinaabe, mii-go omaa nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe apinikaazod inow awesiinyan, bineshiinyan, naa-go wawaaj inow giigoonyan. Ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe ani-waawiindaawasod, mii imaa gii-pi-naazikaagod inow Manidoon gegishkawaawaajin inow awesiinyan, bineshiinyan, naa-go gaye giigoonyan. Mii- go imaa miinawaa wiindamaagoowiziyang ezhi-manidoowaadak gakina gegoo omaa eyaamagak omaa akiing.

If someone were to take a look at the Anishinaabe names that people have, they will see that many of these names come from the animals, the birds, and even the fish. When someone is going to give a child an Anishinaabe name, it is the spirit within these animals, birds, and the fish that approach the name giver. Here is another example of a teaching where we are told that everything on this earth has spiritual energy.

Geget nebowa ayaamadag ge-naadamaagod a'aw Anishinaabe ani-gagwaadagitood. Ishke mii i'iw mewinzha a'aw gidanishinaabeminaan gaa-onji- minawaanigwendaagozid gii-pimaadizid, mii imaa gii- apenimod inow Manidoon bagwaj eyaanin gaye. Ishke ani-biminizha'amang miinawaa ani-gikinawaabamang a'aw gidanishinaabeminaan mewinzha gaa-izhi-bimiwidood obimaadiziwag zakab gida-izhi-ayaamin imaa biinjina miinawaa da-ni-minawaanigoziyang.

Without a doubt there is a lot to help the Anishinaabe when he is having a hard time. That is why our Anishinaabe from way back enjoyed life, because he relied on those Manidoog in the wild to help him. If we go after and learn from the Anishinaabe in the past how they carried their lives, we will be at peace with in and as a result be happy with our lives.

CREATING BEAUTY IN THE CRISIS

By Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought anxiety, fear, and panic to many communities across the country, including our own. During this time, it is important to ensure a sense of normalcy, no matter how different that normal may look. The pandemic has influenced many day-to-day job duties, whether it is adding on tasks and responsibilities for some or shifting focus to what is truly important to a business. For MLCV, our businesses exist to serve and benefit the districts in our communities.

The Creating Beauty in the Crisis Plan (or CBC) was created with a goal in mind — to demonstrate tribal resilience and to show that our community will stay strong together. Additionally, the program aims to demonstrate that our community is committed to rebuild.

To achieve the program's goal, CBC will utilize the available workforce from around the tribal economy to help beautify several community assets owned by MLCV and MLBO. The CBC was funded in part by the forgivable Payroll Protection Plan Loan (PPP Loan) that Wewinabi, Inc. recently received through the CARES act. As a result, a few Associates were able to be brought back on to become a part of this team. While practicing social distancing and other recommended safe practices, the CBC team will repair and repaint the exterior of structures and clean up surrounding sites and buildings. For this initiative to work, MLCV and its businesses have dedicated Associates and resources to assist with the CBC plan.

Led by MLB member Corey Wind, the CBC team will work on distressed community assets located in different areas of the tribal economy. Alongside Corey, the CBC team includes



Local workers are helping to beautify assets owned by Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and the Mille Lacs Band. Back: Corey Wind, Sonny Vizenor, and Royce Sam. Front: Dan Smith

Royce Sam, Sonny Vizenor, and Dan Smith. The program began in late April with the CBC team targeting the community assets in District I, including the Grand Market and the Grand Makwa.

Interim Project Manager and MLB member Corey Wind shared, "I like that we saw a need — a need for our Associates to keep working, a need to maintain our properties — and put together a plan to take care of both needs. Often times, we overlook the need to keep our buildings beautiful; this simple act of maintaining our buildings brings pride to community members when they see our buildings well taken care of. By

getting this plan off the ground and into a program, we benefit by sharing knowledge to other Band members and providing them the opportunity to learn new skills they can always use, whether it is painting, maintenance, or equipment operating. Not to mention, we get to enjoy the company of each other."

Creating Beauty in the Crisis will continue their efforts through the end of June. If you see the CBC team out in the community, be sure to say hello!

CENSUS SWAG FOR ELDERS — COVID-19 PANDEMIC WILL NOT STOP THE COUNT

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has created change in our daily lives. Social distancing guidelines and preventive measures to stop the spread of the virus have resulted in many events that have been canceled or are yet to be determined to be canceled. But it did not stop the 2020 Census from being conducted.

2020 Census activities and events involving public contact have been temporarily halted to reduce any public contact until the Executive Orders have been relaxed more. That has not stopped Shelly Diaz, Urban Liaison and Project Coordinator, and Coordinator of the Minnesota Tribal Coalition (Hub) for the 2020 US Census, in her efforts to get the message about the census out to Mille Lacs Band members.

"The next best way to get the message out there to our Band members is to begin with the Elders," Shelly said. "They are our teachers and guides in our communities. We listen to their wisdom and follow their direction. I want to be sure to convey the importance of being counted in the census and that they are sharing this message with their families and friends."

In order to accomplish this goal, Shelly set out to distribute Census swag at the Elder food distribution points. She handed out water bottles, chip clips, note pads, pens, sticky notes, and other items at the Elder food distribution in Hinckley and at the Urban Office during the week of May 13.

There are roughly 120 Elders served in each location. Shelly is taking her responsibility of liaison and coordinator very seriously and is planning to distribute more items in the other districts of Minisinaakwaang and Nay Ah Shing to partner with the Elder meal distribution in the Census swag giveaway.

Minnesota leads the nation with 70 percent of households having completed their census forms.

An estimated 35 percent of Mille Lacs Band households



have completed their forms.

"We need to get everyone counted," Shelly said. "We have some work to do. You can exercise your sovereignty by being counted in the census. This will affect you, your family, Elders, and children for the next 10 years."

By now, any household that has not completed the 2020 census form online should have received a paper form in the mail. Please be sure to complete the form and send it back in the self-addressed envelope, go online at my2020census.gov, or complete by phone by calling 1-844-330-2020. If you don't want to wait on hold, you will have the option to leave a message and have someone call you back at your convenience.

"Whichever way you decide to make sure your household is counted, just be sure to be counted," Shelly said.

"YOU CAN EXERCISE YOUR SOVEREIGNTY BY BEING COUNTED IN THE CENSUS. THIS WILL AFFECT YOU, YOUR FAMILY, ELDERS, AND CHILDREN FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS."

— SHELLY DIAZ

DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT IS THE RAP?

A Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) is required under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act for tribes that allocate per capita payments to individual members from revenue derived from tribal gaming activities. The current RAP allocates net gaming revenues as follows: government spending (25%), per capita distributions (35%), long-term savings (15%), economic development (8%), permanent initiative (7%), housing initiative (5%), Circle of Health endowment (5%).

For several years, 35 percent of casino revenues no longer covers the per capita payments given to Band members, so the Band has had to allocate money from other revenue sources to meet its funding obligation while working on a new Revenue Allocation Plan to present to the Department of the Interior.

With the closure of the casinos in March, casino revenue could no longer cover any portion of per capita payments, so Band Assembly and the Chief Executive approved stimulus payments from other revenue sources to take the place of per capita payments.

IMAGEN PROGRAM SEEKS TO EMPOWER BAND MEMBER GIRLS

Imagine IMAGEN — an Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network.

That's what Kala Roberts did when she heard Kelly Hallman speak at a Women Are Sacred conference. As Kelly spoke, Kala imagined how such a program might empower young women in our Mille Lacs Band communities.

Kelly Hallman, Ph.D., is a health policy researcher who focuses on girls' empowerment, Indigenous empowerment, violence prevention, HIV prevention, adolescent sexual health, and equity in access to opportunities and services.

She is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma and received her Ph.D. in economics from Michigan State University.

The IMAGEN program started in 2017 and has expanded to the Twin Cities, South Dakota, and Oklahoma.

A year after the conference, IMAGEN put out a Request for Proposals (RFP), and Kala, who is the Direct Services Coordinator with the Family Violence Prevention Program, submitted a successful application with funding that will last until November.

Meetings had begun in partnership with Onamia Community Education when COVID-19 hit. Kala immediately began considering ways to keep the ball rolling with the help of technology.

She held her first virtual information meeting last month and plans a second for Wednesday, June 10, from 4 to 5 p.m.

"We're looking for girls age 12 to 16 who are interested in participating and girls 16 to 21 would be interested in being youth mentors and helping run the program in each district," said Kala. "We're also looking for Elders interested in mentoring the empowerment group."

Kala hopes to start groups in Districts I, II, III, and IV. Once those are up and running, a group may be formed for Twin Cities Band members. Each district's program will be unique, with members setting the agenda and choosing the focus within the broad guidelines of the IMAGEN program.

The objective of the program is to provide a positive, safe environment that provides support and community to young girls. The goal is to help the participants discover who they are as individuals, learn new skills, and contribute to a group.

"In providing a space to learn cultural values, valuable life skills, and building relationships, we will be reducing the risk factors faced by the participants through caring and connec-

WHAT: A virtual information meeting on girls' empowerment

WHEN: June 10, 4-5 p.m.

WHERE: <https://zoom.us/j/94570925944>

WHO: Young women 12-21 and Elders who want to help

tion," said Kala. "We will be building self-esteem and skills to help young girls become strong women."

Because this program will be run by a youth programming team composed of Elders and others, a benefit of the programming would be the building of a supportive "sister network" that can bring their newfound skills to others, resulting in a caring environment where girls can grow and support each other to bring power and possibilities to their community.

When COVID-19 hit, IMAGEN was planning a training in Rapid City for all of the grant recipients. Instead, the groups that have been funded have been meeting virtually every two weeks since first of March.

"We've been feeding off of each other's ideas on how to make it work when we can't meet in person," Kala said.

She decided a virtual informational meeting was a way to bring interested girls and Elders from all districts together at the same time.

She also plans to work with school districts in the hope that older girls can earn credit to work on the program.

The IMAGEN program encourages groups to meet weekly. Kala envisions meetings on various topics of interest, with cultural activities and life skills training.

To learn more about IMAGEN, visit <https://www.popcouncil.org/research/the-indigenous-adolescent-girls-empowerment-network-imagen>. With questions about the Mille Lacs Band's IMAGEN efforts, email Kala at Kala.Roberts@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov or call 320-336-0214 or Cell 320-360-2691.

ABOUT IMAGEN

The Indigenous Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Network (IMAGEN) seeks to equip Native-serving organizations with tools to reach and empower adolescent Native American girls through programs that are intentionally designed for girls instead of merely for young people more broadly.

IMAGEN was conceived as a means to bring together Native American-serving organizations that have the willingness and ability to adopt, document, and share evidence from programs that build on Native girls' innate talents, while addressing the multiple challenges they face.

IMAGEN aims to plan, design, and undertake Native-led adolescent girl programming by adapting, testing, and utilizing existing community assessment and intentional design tools to support this underserved group.

The first step towards building this network occurred during IMAGEN's workshops in 2017, at the GIRL Center headquarters in New York City and within the Rosebud communities South Dakota, in which seven organizations covering different parts of Indian Country participated.

Tools were shared that allow program staff to simply and accurately assess the realities of adolescent girls in their communities and ways to tailor programs accordingly.

IMAGEN is now providing intensive training to the White Buffalo Calf Women's Society through tribal visits and extensive remote support.

Source: popcouncil.org.

For more information, email Kala.Roberts@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov or call 320-336-0214 or Cell 320-360-2691.

SPRING CLEANUP CONTINUES IN DISTRICT III

Old golf clubs, TVs, appliances, bikes, fishing rods, and tools were among the items dropped off at the Vineland area transfer station during the District I Public Works Community Spring Cleanup, which began Monday, May 11, and ran through Friday, May 22.

The cleanup moved to District II during the last week of May and continues in District III during the first two weeks of June.

Over 200 loads were dropped off at the transfer station by Band members in District I, and Public Works picked up over 100 piles at Band members' residences. With two days remaining, that contributed to a total of 19 roll-offs hauled away from the Vineland transfer station.

"It is great to see so many people taking the time to help clean up the community," said Assistant Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe. "It is just so cool to have so many people involved in making a difference. We have been working hard, and residents have been working hard, and it shows. The community is looking good."

The Public Works department was assisted by members of Public Health to collect and contain the clean-up operation — all with safety and social distancing guidelines encouraged.

Cleanup continued May 23 through May 29 in District II, including East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake, and Isle.

The District III cleanup will be held at two locations for two weeks:

The Lake Lena cleanup begins on Monday, June 1, and con-

tinues until Sunday, June 7. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center and at the cul de sac at Wise Owl.

The Hinckley cleanup will take place Monday, June 8, to Sunday, June 14. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the Earthworks building located on Hwy. 48, 2 miles east of Grand Casino Hinckley.

If you have questions about the spring cleanup and requests for pickup service for Elders, veterans, and those with disabilities, please email brian.scheinost@millelacsband.com.

Community Development update

Assistant Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe is overseeing the Community Development Department. He said the Public Works staff and Project Management staff are still on duty. Half of the Housing staff has been furloughed, but the rest are still available for emergency calls for health and safety issues.

Project Manager Ryan Jendro said his team is continuing to work on unoccupied buildings during the pandemic as well as Elder emergency projects.

For Housing on-call services, please call:

- District I: 320-630-2498
- District II: 320-630-2492
- District III: 320-630-2497



LOOKING FOR WORK?



CareerForce can help — at no cost to you!

Connect with Minnesota employers hiring right now, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CareerForce can help you online or over the phone.

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Visit [CareerForceMN.com](https://www.CareerForceMN.com) or call **651-259-7501** — and get on the road to rewarding work.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

IMPORTANT CHILD SUPPORT UPDATE

For the safety of Child Support staff, MLB government employees, clients, and community members, ALL Child Support checks will now be mailed until further notice. Contact the Child Support office at 320-532-7461 or 320-532-7752 with any updated addresses.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Scholarship Program Counselor Michele Berger wants Band members to know that during the COVID-19 Stay-At-Home Order, the most reliable and preferred method of communication is email at mlb.scholarships@millelacsband.com.

HELP AVAILABLE FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Family Violence Prevention Program is still providing advocacy for domestic violence, sexual assault, Elder abuse, and human trafficking. If you need help, don't hesitate to call one of the numbers below.

24/7 Crisis Line: 1-866-867-4006

Shelter Manager: 320-630-2677

FVPP Administrator: 320-630-2499

CSS Director: 320-630-2687

Elder Abuse Advocates:

Cynthia Guernsey: 320-362-4941

Mike Davis: 320-630-7666

Sexual Assault Program:

Kala Roberts: 320-630-2691

Petra Mauricio: 320-362-4995

Victims of Crime:

Melissa Sanvig: 320-364-3568

Community Advocates:

Nanette DesJarlais: 320-362-0642

Winnie Davis: 320-674-0790

Kris Sheppard: 320-630-3811

The Family Violence Prevention Program staff are ensuring the health and safety of everyone during this time. Transports and advocacy will be provided on an emergency basis only. All staff are available by the numbers provided.



**WANT TO SAVE
\$600 A YEAR?
CUT OUT VAPING**

Text "Start My Quit" to 855-891-9989 or call. Free, confidential help. Just for teens.

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MYLIFEMYQUIT.

MIIGWECH TO BAND FROM ONE SOGGY PADDLER

By Brett Larson, Inaajiwon Editor

I read with interest the article in the *Mille Lacs Messenger* last month about the Band's involvement in breaking up cattail bogs that had drifted down the Rum River from Lake Onamia and created a dam at the railroad trestle in town. (See the story on the next page.)

A week earlier, my brother had sent me a safety warning from Mille Lacs County Sheriff Don Lorge, who was advising against canoeing that stretch of the Rum.

The Sheriff's warning came too late for one unfortunate kayaker. He's fine, but he had a little adventure a couple weeks ago thanks to those cattail bogs.

The guy was taking a couple days to paddle his kayak from Mille Lacs to his home south of Milaca, and after snaking his way through the floating cattails on Lake Onamia, he thought he was home free, having reached the river, where he'd have the current in his favor for the next two days.

But then, dam! No, not "damn," but "dam" — a cattail dam at the trestle! It appeared that the river was 3-4 feet higher where he was than it was below the dam, with no clear path through the mass of mud and vegetation.

He had to think fast to decide whether to portage around the obstruction or find a way through. He chose the latter, picking a spot where he could stand on the cattails and lower his kayak full of camping gear over the dam and down to the river below.

All was going smoothly until he tried to climb back into his flimsy packable kayak. As he got in behind the seat, he briefly considered staying put until he could find a safer spot to climb back into the seat.

"Heck, I'll be fine," he thought. Famous last words, for as he stepped over the back of the seat, the boat rocked to the left, and he shifted his weight, and it rocked back to the right, and back to the left, and "Man overboard!"

The water was over his head, and as he surfaced, he sputtered aloud through chattering teeth, "That wasn't supposed to happen!"

Sunk were his new glasses and his old birdwatching

binoculars, which he'd cherished for 30 years. Floating away were his rain coat, rain pants, extra kayak seat, coffee cup, and other odds and ends.

He dumped the water out, climbed back aboard, and caught up to his floating possessions. Fortunately, it was a warm and sunny day, so he found a spot to pull to shore and dry off his gear and clothing.

If you haven't guessed, "he" was actually "me." I've paddled a lot of miles by canoe and kayak in 57 years, but that was the first time I've tipped — at least by accident.

After my icy bath below the cattail bog, I'm very grateful on behalf of all Rum River paddlers that the Band helped dismantle the dam.

The bogs come back from time to time, so if you find a cattail dam at the trestle, I suggest you paddle ashore and take the portage.

If you're interested in submitting an article or photo, or you have a story idea, email brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.



GRA ON DUTY FOR BAND MEMBER QUESTIONS

If you have any questions for the Gaming Regulatory Authority regarding gaming licenses, exclusions, or reopening of the casinos, please contact us.

- Becky Houle, Executive Director, [bhoul@grcasinos.com](mailto:bhoule@grcasinos.com), 218-591-0435
- Teresa Kozumplik, Assistant Executive Director, tkozumplik@grcasinos.com, 651-492-3557
- Becky Majzner, Director of Compliance, bmajzner@grcasinos.com, 320-310-8508
- Kevin Cheesman, Director of Surveillance, kcheesman@grcasinos.com, 320-385-0290
- Cassey Veith, Director of Licensing Investigations, cveith@grcasinos.com, 218-821-5707
- John Weiers, Director of Internal Audit, jweiers@grcasinos.com, 218-513-9280
- Jennifer Tretter, Executive Administrative Assistant and GRA Board Secretary, jtretter@grcasinos.com, 320-630-8671

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



Dedicated to providing protection, value, and regulatory excellence in gaming for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises. More information and contact numbers can be found at <http://www.millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom.

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO NEWS@MILLELACSBAND.COM OR CALL 320-495-5006 OR 320-237-6851.



In response to a request from the Minnesota DNR, the Band contracted with Chad Milton to remove vegetation that had dammed the Rum River at the Sioux Line Trail trestle in Onamia. The dam was creating a safety hazard and causing flooded basements.



DNR ASSISTS WITH ONAMIA BOG CLEANUP

The bogs of Onamia have been a problem for years. They're actually clumps of cattails that lose their grip on the bottom and float across Lake Onamia, often blocking the outlet where the Rum River exits the lake.

The bogs can create a dam that raises the water levels on the lake, which can be detrimental to the manoomin. This spring, some clumps of bog floated down the river and created a dam at the Sioux Line Trail trestle in the town of Onamia.

As the level of the river rose above the dam, some residents in Onamia were reporting issues with flooded basements.

At the request of the Minnesota DNR, the Band implemented an emergency contract with local excavator Chad Milton, who on May 4 used a track hoe to break up the bog pieces and allow a smooth and free flow of water, which resulted in the

water levels dropping upstream.

It was tricky work because the river had scoured out some deep holes, and some of the bays of the trestle had cross braces that impeded the use of the hoe to remove material. Once the bog was pulled out, water levels began to rise downstream, so he had to exit the river quickly.

In the future, the Band and Minnesota DNR plan to work together to do preventative work in Lake Onamia using equipment the state is purchasing to grind up some of the sediment parts of the bog to allow the vegetative parts to safely flow downstream.

If additional bog material makes its way down from the lake, another round of clean-up may be needed.



CAUGHT AND RELEASED

Band member Chris Matrious and DNR Commissioner Katie Draper were surprised to find a muskie in Katie's net this spring. "We gently picked the net from its mouth and immediately released it," said Katie.



TREE GIVEAWAY

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources has been distributing tree seedlings to members for many years, but the need this year to practice social distancing meant a new strategy might be in order. Trees were first distributed to Elders who wanted them as part of the food distribution program. The leftovers were then offered to Band members and distributed at the powwow grounds in District I May 15-18. Beth Gruber of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, pictured, assisted with the tree giveaway. The DNR had 1,300 trees available, and the leftovers will be planted by Jacob Horbacz, who manages the DNR's forestry program.

BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2010

Work began on the Wise Owl development in District III. Barbara Cole was sworn in as Solicitor General to fill out the remainder of former Solicitor General Rjay Brunkow's term, which expired April 30, 2011. Chief Executive Marge Anderson spoke at the DFL Convention. Tony Pike was back from a 342-day tour in Iraq with the Red Bulls. Jen Waugh talked about her roles as foster mom and administrative assistant to the District II Representative. To celebrate the Nay Ah Shing Fun Run, Elder Linda Mitchell presented a special quilt to Athletic and Activities Director Bugs Haskin. The quilt was made from shirts of previous Fun Runs. Linda's daughter Bridgett helped unveil the quilt at the Fun Run.

15 years ago — 2005

The Band took the first step toward purchasing the 705-acre St. Croix Girls' Camp in Lake Lena. The camp was the original site of the Aazhoomog village where Mille Lacs Band members lived, hunted, and fished for many years. When Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Curt Kalk informed the Band that this land was for sale, the Band Assembly immediately passed an appropriation bill to purchase it, and sent the bill to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who signed the appropriation the same day.

Don Wedll was presented the Taimi Lynne Hoag Award for environmental stewardship in recognition for his more than 30 years of work in preserving the natural resources for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and other Native American tribes across the country. "No single person in the modern history of the Mille Lacs Band has done more to protect and preserve our natural resources, as well as those of other tribes," said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "I am happy to see him recognized for this honor."

Lucy Hansen, a Band member from Danbury, Wis., was welcomed as a Grand Dutchess of the Wisconsin Women's Bowling Association.

Darren Moose Sr. played the Native American flute at the National Indian Gaming Association's 14th Annual Membership Meeting and Trade Show in San Diego.

20 years ago — 2000

Leroy Thomas was named to the Corporate Commission Board of Directors. Nathan Dorr, son of Band member Robert Dorr, interned at the Capitol in St. Paul with Senator Tony Kinkel. Among the District II walkers who completed the Walk Around Mille Lacs were Renee Bruneau, Mary Sue Bohanon, Mark Watters, Mary Dalquist, and Melissa Pierce. Sam Moose graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a major in Community Health and a minor in Indian Studies. Bobby Anderson was crowned karate Champion of Champions. Graduates from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College included Dawn Aubid, Raina Aubid, Rueben Aubid, and Jammie Thomas. Elaine Miles, who played Marilyn Whirlwind on the television show "Northern Exposure," planned to attend the Grand Celebration Rodeo and Powwow. Tammy Miller was representing the Band as an intern in Washington, D.C.

The information above is from the June 2000, 2005, and 2010 issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin and the Summer 2005 issue of Mazina'igan. Many back issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin are available at millelacsband.com/news. Click on "Inaajimowin Archive." Back issues of Mazina'igan can be found at <http://www.glifwc.org/Mazinaigan>.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

JUNE ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Ann Ailport
 Donald Ray Anderson
 Randall Wayne Anderson
 Ronald Dale Anderson
 Ronald Roger Audie
 Von Shane Aune
 Shirley Ann Beach
 Angela Jo Benjamin
 Sharon Lee Benjamin
 Rhonda Marie Bentley
 Bonnie Kay Boyd
 Shirley Jane Boyd
 Curtis Bradley
 David Bradley
 Gilda Elsie Burr
 Clifford Kenneth Churchill
 Sherry Elaine Colson
 Mary Louise Colton
 Simon Eugene Day
 Leana Kay DeJesus
 Ellagene Diane Dorr
 Peter Jerome Dunkley
 Pamela Jean Eagle
 Rosetta Marie Eagle
 Steven Richard Firtko
 Bruce Wayne Frye
 Peter James Gahbow
 George Allen Garbow
 Kat Anne Garbow
 Melanie Raemel Garbow
 Marilyn Ann Gurneau
 Monica Louise Haglund
 Steven Jerome Hanks
 Bruce Duane Hansen
 Devona Lee Haskin
 Cheryl Renee Hietanen
 Shirley Ann Hillstrom
 Dorothy Jean Hofstedt
 Darryl Joseph Kalk
 Robert Dwaine Kegg
 Connie Lou Kevan
 Coleen Marie Lueck
 LeRoy Joseph Mager

Robert Wayne Mayotte
 Kevin William Moose
 Barbara Jean Mulhall
 Dana Lou Nickaboine
 Joel Jay O'Brien
 Atof Andrew Olson
 Gordon Gail Parr
 Patricia Pindegayosh
 Brian Keith Pippett
 Alan Duane Ray
 Donald Gregory Shabaiah
 Charlene Ann Shingobe
 Charles Duane Shingobe
 Warren Skinaway
 Edward James St. John
 Pearl Anne St. John
 Wallace Ervin St. John
 Dean Ray Staples
 Francine Wanda Staples
 Julie Ann Staples
 Elvis John Sutton
 Judy Ann Swanson
 Ann Marie Thalín
 Arlene Rene Weous
 De Etta Marie Weyaus
 Judy Jo Williams
 Robin Lee Williams

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Booty** on June 9, love your best cousin • Happy birthday **Galli** June 16, love Mom, Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Henry, Binesiikwe, Grannie, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Montana, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor and Adam • Happy birthday **Aidan James** June 20 love Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, and Montana • Happy birthday **Kevin** June 23 love Mom, Dan, Dad, Sister, Myla, Montana,

Gram, Papa, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Bianca, Henry, and Binesiikwe • Happy birthday **Ravin** June 30, The Harrington Family

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

The Tribal Noteboard welcomes Band member submissions, including birthdays, congratulatory messages, and memorial tributes. For birthday messages, send name, birthday, and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to news@millelacsband.com or **320-237-6851**. The deadline for the July issue is June 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please contact the Government Affairs office at 320-237-6851 or email news@millelacsband.com before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday. Send calendar items to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

#MASKUPMLB!

The staff of the Early Education program shared photos of themselves on Facebook to encourage others to wear their masks. "We wear masks for our safety and yours!" Send your mask selfies to news@millelacsband.com.



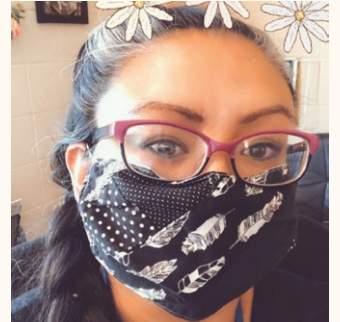
CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Brianna Nicole Boyd for completing her Associate of Arts, Sociology Transfer Pathway, AA Degree from Central Lakes College. She graduated with High Honors on 05/14/2020. We are all so proud of you Brianna! With love, Mom, Troy, Alexis, Ryan, Brekkin, Grandma Jodie, Papa, and the Brady Bunch (Auntie Nikki's family).



WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

Lindsay Misquadace writes: Jordan Misquadace graduated from McGregor high school class of 2020. I am so proud of you Jordan. Your family loves you! Congratulations!



MILLE LACS BAND RECOVERY GROUPS

See page 19 for information on recovery groups during the COVID-19 Stay Home order.

District I Mille Lacs

Community Drumming

Mondays, 6 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (brown building next to the Halfway House).

Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition

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

Wellbriety Migizi Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel, 777 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

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Hosted by Mille Lacs Band Halfway House, 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 IIa Chiminising

Bi-mawadishiwén
 Fridays, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Chiminising Community Center.

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.

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.



WIC PROVIDES REMOTE SERVICE

The Mille Lacs Band's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program holds a telephone clinic every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WIC benefits are loaded directly to the WIC card. No in-person contact is needed.

Certifications and re-certifications will be done over the phone, along with nutrition and breastfeeding information.

Documentation of ID, residence, and income (or automatic eligibility) can be sent via text.

WIC serves pregnant women, infants, and children age 1 through their 5th birthday. WIC serves about half of all infants born in the U.S.

If you would like more information or assistance, call Donna Sutton R.N. at 320-630-2443.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>The deadline for the July issue is June 15. Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.</i></p>	<p>1 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>2 Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>3 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>4 Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>5 Tim and Tom's Ceremonial Drum East Lake</p> <p>Deadline for NAS summer school signup <i>See page 12</i></p> <p>Deadline for Ge-niigaanizijig <i>See below</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>6 Tim and Tom's Ceremonial Drum East Lake</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>
<p>7 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>9 Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10 District I virtual update 5 p.m. Watch Facebook for details.</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>11 Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>12 Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>13 AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>14 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>16 Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>17 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>18 Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>19 Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>20 AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>21 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>22 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>23 Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>25 Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>26 Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>27 AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>28 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>29 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>30 Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS ARE HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE</p> <p>All recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. ID 601 532 2869 Password 456 267.</p> <p>GE-NIIGAANIZIJIG ENROLLMENTS AND RE-ENROLLMENTS DUE BY JUNE 5</p> <p>Ge-niigaanizijig Enrollments and re-enrollments began May 26 and extend through June 5. All youth must enroll or re-enroll. No youth will be serviced after June 5 unless a new application is completed. Two months of income is required for grant purposes.</p> <p>Contact Information</p> <p>Cheyenne Peet (D1 & D2) (320)362-1608 cheyenne.peet2@millelacsband.com Stanley Nayquonabe (D2a & D3) (320)364-3858 stanley.nayquonabe@millelacsband.com</p>			



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UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-495-5006. 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.



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



FISHING FOR ELDERS

Tribal netters hit Mille Lacs for a good cause last month. See page 8.
Photo by Mille Lacs Band member Chad Germann.

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