

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

OCTOBER 2020 | VOLUME 22 | NUMBER 10

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

PREPARED TO SERVE VIRGIL WIND TAKES OFFICE AS DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE



By Makadegwanebiikwe Mikayla Schaaf

Mille Lacs Band Descendant and Community Member

District 1 Representative Virgil Wind was sworn into office at the Biidaabinookwe Government Center on September 8, 2020. In the race for District 1 Representative, Virgil received 57.12 percent while incumbent Sandra Blake received 42.88 percent of the 646 ballots cast for District 1 Representative.

Although Virgil has been in office for a little less than two weeks, he has hit the ground running. "It's been a learning curve, but there has been a lot of good ongoing work behind the scenes," said Virgil. "I was really pleased with the amount of work happening within Legislative already to revise statutes, which I wouldn't have seen from the outside looking in. This is one of the highlights that keep me going, knowing that we don't have to reinvent the wheel, and with the great Legislative staff, you can see that these things were already happening. It feels as if there was a leap forward in that whole process that I didn't know about, and the assistance in my transition has been amazing. I wouldn't know where I would be without the staff here. I don't know how I would have picked up the pieces without the people that have helped."

Aside from his dedication to Mille Lacs Band members and the community, Virgil is also dedicated to his family. He enjoys time with his life partner Nicole and five kids: Dionne, Josh, Keenan, Jacob, and Emma. They spend time on outings at the lake and also engage in physical activity. "On Sundays, I dedicate that one day to my family," said Virgil. "We used to call it 'Keenan's day.' We enjoy doing things that we all love as a family, and it helps keep us strong and keeps us grounded."

Virgil continues to maintain his steadfast collaborative approach to get things accomplished for the betterment of band members. "I'm going in knowing that my personal feelings and biases really don't count at all compared to the needs of 4,800 Band members who want to leave a better world for our future generations. If we take a collaborative approach mentality and

maintain the willingness to have hard conversations as a team and as a family, we will be worlds ahead of where we are today."

Virgil has served as the Onamia Public School Board Chairman, local Indian parent committee member, businessman, and independent contractor. He is running for School Board once again this fall.

"As the Onamia Public School chairman, I have learned

"IF WE TAKE A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH MENTALITY AND MAINTAIN THE WILLINGNESS TO HAVE HARD CONVERSATIONS AS A TEAM AND AS A FAMILY, WE WILL BE WORLDS AHEAD OF WHERE WE ARE TODAY."

valuable lessons on leadership," he said. "One of the most important aspects of this work has been empowering people and bridging communities, something I hold in high regard. I value every lesson I have learned along the way as they made me who I am today, a resilient and compassionate leader. I pledge to always have the best interest of the Band at the heart of every decision and will always have an open door. I am ready to listen to the Band members and get to work for the community."

Under the Legislative branch, the Band Assembly consists of the Secretary-Treasurer, who serves as Speaker, and one representative from each of the reservation's three districts: District I — Mille Lacs; District II — Minisinaakwaang, Sandy Lake, Minnewawa, and Chiminising; and District III — Aazhoo-mog and Hinckley.



Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd hosted the swearing-in ceremony on September 8. Chief Justice Ramona Applegate administered the Oath of Office to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and District I Representative Virgil Wind.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, REPRESENTATIVE TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

As usual in 2020, everything is unusual, including the September 8 swearing-in ceremony for Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and District I Representative Virgil Wind.

Instead of the usual warm setting of the Band Assembly chambers, the ceremony took place on a chilly fall day in the Government Center parking lot.

The location and weather did not deter a large crowd of Band members and employees from witnessing the ceremony, as Justice Ramona Applegate administered the oath of office first to Virgil and then to Melanie.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be here today. I really am humbled by everyone's support from the beginning of this," said Virgil. "This campaign was really a lot about connection, a lot about comfort, and a lot about knowing you can come to me with whatever you need, and I'll try to meet those needs."

He said he was anticipating hard conversations ahead but looked forward to tackling the difficult task of making life better for Band members. "Together we can and will change the world, our world," he concluded.

Melanie also had a few words for those in attendance and watching via Facebook live streaming and YouTube recording provided by Band Assembly. "I appreciate each and every one of our Band members for what you bring, your talents, your commitment, and all you bring forth to make our reservation better as we move forward," said Melanie.

She also spoke of the hard work ahead as the Band faces lawsuits and issues related to housing, family services, and substance use. "We have a lot of tasks and big jobs to do, but when I look at everyone out here, I know that we're built for it. We can make it happen," Melanie added.

She said she appreciated the wisdom and advice of Band members and praised them for their response to the pandemic. "I'm really proud and honored to serve as Chief Executive for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe," she concluded. "I'm really excited about the next four years and all we can accomplish for our children and all the generations going forward."

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

Boozhoo! On September 8, I was humbled to be sworn into office as Chief Executive for another four-year term. I was proud to share this moment with our new District I Representative, Virgil Wind, who is already doing a great job representing District I on the Band Assembly.

In the past, I have always provided an Inauguration Address, and several people have asked when I'm going to provide the address this year. With the current pandemic, I will be sharing a video address with Band members and through the Band newspaper. Miigwech to everyone who participated in our election this year!

The COVID-19 pandemic is suddenly spreading rapidly through our three districts and Minnesota, which is of grave concern. As of September, nine Band members have passed away from COVID-19. The number of Band members testing positive for COVID-19 has continued to increase. Minnesota had its highest one-day record of positive COVID-19 cases very recently, and this past weekend the death rate in Minnesota reached 2,000. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) just designated Minnesota as being a state where the coronavirus spread is now "Uncontrolled," which is the worst rating possible.

I want to remind all Band members and employees that under no circumstances is anyone allowed to enter a Band-owned building or business or be inside the building without a mask. This mandate was issued by Commissioner's Order 20-02, which was signed by Commissioner Nicole Anderson and upheld by the Band Assembly. This Order carries the weight of the law on all Band lands and property and is valid until it expires, and was just recently extended.

This means that no one is exempt from following these requirements, no matter who they are. Also keep in mind that once inside a Band-owned building or business, masks must continue to be worn when walking through office suites or the building, and when meeting with any other person. This is not just for employee protection, but for protection of our entire community.

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES BAND RECEIVES ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANT

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund for Coronavirus (MDRF) to study entrepreneurship in the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy and the feasibility of a business incubator program. The MDRF is a private fund administered through the Minnesota Council on Foundations, which was designed to support the recovery and resilience of Minnesota's nonprofit sector, including tribal nations.

Over the past the Band has come to recognize that the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy is too reliant on specific industries that were unevenly disrupted by the pandemic. The Mille Lacs Band has long worked to build a secure economic future for its Band members, and this grant provides an opportunity to study new ways to do so.

"Through diversification of our businesses and tribal economy, the Mille Lacs Band has made great progress toward achieving economic self-sufficiency through Band-owned businesses, but we also have to support Band member entrepreneurs," said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "We have so many talented Band Members who have an entrepreneurial spirit who just need additional support and training so that they can realize their dreams of running their own businesses. This is a great step in that direction."

It is absolutely critical that all Band members and community members wear your masks when in any public setting, abide by vigorous and frequent hand-washing, and avoid all public gatherings that are not essential. If you must attend a public gathering, it is imperative that you wear a mask. Minnesota health officials have confirmed that public gatherings are now one of the top causes of outbreaks in Minnesota. At one funeral in rural Minnesota at the end of September, 33 attendees became ill with COVID-19 because mask-wearing and social distancing were not enforced. If this were to happen at a gathering in our Mille Lacs Band community, the entire reservation could become infected because we are all so closely related and connected, and the consequences would be devastating. If you see anyone without a mask on Band property, please kindly remind them to put on their mask because this mandate carries the weight of law.

We are still conducting the majority of our government meetings on-line using Zoom or by conference call, which in my case included meetings with the Band Assembly, weekly Cabinet meetings with the commissioners, weekly staff meetings, and many meetings on specific issues involving our COVID-19 response as well as many other topics.

There was one in-person meeting, however, that was the highlight of September. On September 18, I was invited to greet former Vice President Joe Biden at the Duluth International Airport at the end of his visit to northern Minnesota. I had a chance to speak with him one-on-one, and I brought up the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the United States. Vice President Biden acknowledged the importance of maintaining that relationship, and has a strong record of supporting tribal sovereignty. I was very honored to have been asked by the Biden campaign to attend this event. Also in attendance were Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, and Quinn Nystrom, who is the DFL candidate for our congressional district. Quinn discussed her work fighting for insulin for diabetic Minnesotans. I also had a great conversation with Mayor Emily Larson of Duluth.

A business incubator is designed to help create, foster, and grow young businesses by providing them with affordable shared space, resources, and technical assistance during their startup years. The goal of the business incubator would be to rebuild the tribal economy stronger through jumpstarting entrepreneurship; thereby offering all community members living in the tribal economy an additional tool to build wealth and community resiliency.

As a part of this grant award, the Mille Lacs Band will be engaging Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) as its Agent to study the feasibility of a business incubator. During the study MLCV will engage numerous stakeholders, including community members from underrepresented groups, key public leaders, business professionals, nonprofit leaders, emerging entrepreneurs, and small business owners.

"The ideals of self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship are closely related — they go hand in hand," said Joe Nayquonabe Jr., CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. "Our hope is to be able to launch a business incubator as a tool to help tribal economy citizens, with a focus on American Indians, to pursue economic self-sufficiency in ways that are rewarding to them, as individuals, while strengthening the collective economic vitality of the region."

An on-line highlight during September included an invitation from NCAI to serve as a panelist during a virtual roundtable discussion with Senator Tina Smith, who serves on the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. My question dealt with Public Law 280 and the importance of the federal government intervening when a county or state refuses to provide adequate law enforcement. I was very excited when she answered that she would work with us to develop a legislative fix in the event this ever happens again to any tribe.

Early in September, I submitted testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples regarding the federal Bureau of Indian Education's advice about schools reopening. Congressman Pete Stauber is now the Ranking Minority Member of that Subcommittee, and we worked closely to provide the Subcommittee with information for this hearing.

We had a great turnout on September 15 in the urban area to discuss the new Band housing complex that will also include community meeting and office space for the Urban Area Office. This is only the first step in the planning process, and it was great to see Band members in person and feel their excitement about this new complex.

The Commissioner of Administration and I also spent two days in strategic planning meetings to begin mapping out goals for the next four years, and on September 23, a representative of the Governor and Lt. Governor's office visited the reservation to tour and discuss tribal-state relations. These are just a few of the highlights from September.

Finally, I want to ask every Band member to mark your calendars for November 3, which is the state and federal Election Day. I urge every Band member to vote early, which you can do right now. If you are voting by mail, please get your mail-in ballot into the mail now. Every election is important, but this election will have far-ranging implications for Indian tribes and people.

To assist Band members in making your decisions, we will be sending an Election Guide to each household. This guide will be a little different this year. Rather than just including the names of each candidate and a sample ballot, we will be providing a profile of each candidate's policy and record regarding tribal nations, so that Mille Lacs Band voters can consider these issues in deciding who will get their vote.

In closing, I ask all Band members to continue to keep yourselves and your family safe, and please vote! Miigwech.

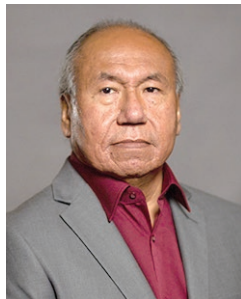


BAND MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

October 23 is the deadline for entries in the Mille Lacs Band's 2020 photography contest. Twelve winners will receive \$200 and have their photographs published in a 2021 calendar. One entry per Band member. Submit your entries to the Band's Instagram page ([milbonremovable](https://www.instagram.com/milbonremovable)) with the hashtag #2021mlbphotocontest AND email your photo to news@millelacsband.com. Include a written message about your photo. For complete rules, see <https://millelacsband.com/news/2021mlbphotocontest>. Photograph must be high resolution (400dpi is ideal; 300dpi is acceptable).

SHELDON BOYD

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S MIDTERM UPDATE



All, I hope this midterm update finds you well. The four-year term of office granted me by membership in April of 2018 is past the midway point, and last two years will be wrapping up soon. I again thank the people for the opportunity to serve in the dual capacity of Secretary-Treasurer and Speaker of the Assembly of the Mille Lacs Band.

Allow me to note accomplishments concerning the duties of the Speaker of the Assembly. This past week the Band Assembly — consisting of Marvin Bruneau, Sandra Blake, and Wally St John — passed a Legislative Order defining procedures of Band Assembly Sessions that included a start date of June 1, 2021, for the live-streaming of sessions of Band Assembly.

This order carries the force of law within the Legislative Branch and starts a new era of accountability in tribal government. This decision weighed a political climate where at times the actions of tribal governments can be unduly scrutinized and a right of membership's need to know. Please join me in commending this Assembly in taking this correct and bold step.

Additionally, contracts were also ratified authorizing retrofitting the Band Assembly Chambers with state-of-the-art technology to more efficiently record the acts and deeds of the Assembly electronically, making sessions available for online retrieval by constituents.

Additional Legislative Orders were passed creating permanent positions to provide future leadership with knowledgeable staff, institutionalize the lawmaking process, and make public notice of all pending legislation the standard.

There is currently draft legislation for the creation of a Revisor of Statutes Office that will be responsible for the care and periodic publication of the laws of the Mille Lacs Band.

A framework for transparency currently exists in draft legislation named The Data Practices Act sponsored by District III Representative Wally St John that was distributed at the State of Band in January 2019. Please contact your District Reps and support this legislation.

Per the duties entrusted as Secretary-Treasurer, a first-ever independent evaluation of the Band's non-gaming financial entities is currently underway. This Band Assembly ratified a contract that is a result of a nationwide request for proposal process to find the proper level of expertise in finance and experience of assisting tribal governments with best practices of managing financial wealth.

A report will be provided concerning the Merrill Lynch in-

vestment portfolio, Morgan Stanley Minor Trust Account portfolio, Woodlands Bank, and St Paul Trust Foundation.

The financial assets belong to the People of the Mille Lacs Band and our descendants. Great care must be taken to ensure long-term financial security.

The accomplishments to date and planned projects are the result of collaboration and the hard work of all staff who work within the Legislative Branch and are the characteristics of a work in progress that is moving towards being more responsible and representative.

In addition to the elected officials, please recognize current legislative staff Darcie Big Bear, Valerie Harrington, Brianna Boyd, Adam Candler, Hannah Valento, Semira Kimpson, Deanna Sam, and Kiana Morrison.

These individuals are the core of the Legislative Branch, provide support for the members of Band Assembly, and are the caretakers of the lawmaking process.

This report would not be complete without mentioning Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle and the OMB staff. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer are carried out every day by this group of people, and Band government is provided financial integrity by these long-time employees.

"THE FINANCIAL ASSETS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MILLE LACS BAND AND OUR DESCENDANTS. GREAT CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO ENSURE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SECURITY."

Mel is the first Mille Lacs Band member overseeing our tribal finances in over 15 years and provides comment and financial perspective to Band Assembly uniquely based from a Band member perspective.

The historic dollar figures, the names of Band members, employees, and the ebb and flow of over 25 years of financial expansion have been witnessed by the staff within the Office of Management and Budget. I take this moment to really, really thank them all.

This four-year term so far has been life changing and humbling to have been entrusted with these huge responsibilities. I will focus on these and other achievable goals and seek to have a product for membership at the end of my term as Secretary-Treasurer.

Miigwech, stay safe.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Band Assembly held weekly meetings via Zoom conference call on Wednesdays during September, as well as other meetings and work sessions.

On September 2, Band Assembly passed a Legislative Order Establishing Band Assembly Agenda and Live-Streaming Procedures. (See story on this page.)

Band Assembly also passed a bill enacting the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act (HEARTH Act), to be known as Leasing of Trust Lands, and numbered in the Mille Lacs Band Statutes as Title 25. The statute will grant the Band the authority to negotiate and enter into leases without further approvals by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Specifically, the Act authorizes the Band to execute agricultural and business leases of Band trust lands for a primary term of 25 years and up to two renewal terms of 25 years each. Leases of Band trust lands for residential, recreational, religious, or educational purposes may be executed from a primary term of up to 75 years. The bill was sponsored by District III Representative Wally St. John and will not go into effect until it is approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Outgoing District I Representative Sandi Blake was congratulated and thanked for her years of service.

On Tuesday, September 8, Band Assembly hosted the swearing-in ceremony for Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and District I Representative Virgil Wind. (See page 1.)

Band Assembly received an update on the Rosetta Stone Ojibwe language project, including a video and a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the project from the staff, language specialists, and Elder advisors.

The Child Protection Subcommittee met for the second time to review Title 8, Chapter 13, Subchapter 3.

On Thursday, September 10, Legislative held a work session for Band Assembly members, Legal Counsel, Staff Attorney, OSG Attorneys, Housing Attorney, and Commissioner of Finance on Title 12 and Title 21.

On September 16, Band Assembly approved Bill 19-02-59-20: An Appropriation Bill for disbursement of Coronavirus Relief Fund ("Cares Act") Funds for an Adult Band Member Economic Support Payment for the month of October 2020 in the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2020.

Band Assembly also approved formal requests from Joseph S. Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, to open capital projects related to Kiosk Upgrades at Grand Casino Hinckley and HVAC upgrades at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, and approved a formal notification of intent to open a Digital Signage and Equipment project at Grand Casino Hinckley.

On Saturday, September 19, Band Assembly approved Resolution 19-02-158-20: A Resolution Approving Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Cares Act Expenditures for Submission to the U.S. Treasury for the Reporting Period March 1 – June 30, 2020.

On Wednesday, September 23, Band Assembly confirmed the nomination of Richard Osburn to serve as District Court Judge.

For complete summaries of Band Assembly meetings, see the Legislative Branch Facebook page or email valerie.harrington@millelacsband.com.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

BAND ASSEMBLY ORDER ESTABLISHES LIVE-STREAMING AND AGENDA PROCEDURES

The Mille Lacs Band Assembly passed Legislative Order 30-20 on September 2 establishing Band Assembly agenda and live-streaming procedures.

The Order states that agenda items need to be received by the Parliamentarian five complete calendar days in advance of a meeting.

The Parliamentarian is ordered to publish the agenda no later than 36 hours in advance of a meeting.

The Order also requires that beginning on June 1, 2021, all Band Assembly sessions that are not reserved for executive session shall be live-streamed on the Band's website and stored in an online repository available to the public.

The Order does not apply to joint session of the Band Assembly. Joint sessions include the Chief Executive along with the four members of the Band Assembly — Secretary-Treasurer and three District Representatives.

Due to COVID-19, Band Assembly is currently only meeting once per week on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., so per the order, the

BEGINNING ON JUNE 1, 2021, ALL BAND ASSEMBLY SESSIONS THAT ARE NOT RESERVED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION SHALL BE LIVE STREAMED ON THE BAND'S WEBSITE AND STORED IN AN ONLINE REPOSITORY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

deadline to submit items for those meetings is 10 a.m. on the preceding Friday. Anything received after the deadline will be held for the following meeting.

An announcement will be made when Band Assembly resumes its normal Tuesday/Thursday meeting schedule.

For the complete order, see millelacsband.com/news.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

State's largest agency faces allegations of racism: People of color and Native Americans working at the Minnesota Department of Human Services are sometimes the targets of racial slurs and harassment, are denied promotions and raises, and are isolated without support from senior management, several current and former employees say. "The atmosphere there is so blatantly racist," said Shirley Cain, a Native American who left the DHS in June after six years. "They need to do something big to make that place fair for people." DHS employs 7,300 workers and serves more than 1.1 million Minnesotans. *Source: startribune.com.*

Newspaper lauds Bois Forte for COVID-19 response: Northern Minnesota's *Timberjay* newspaper praised the Bois Forte Band for being out front locally in their efforts to inform, test, and respond to outbreaks of COVID-19 on the reservation. The editorial pointed to strict protocols for slowing the spread, including instituting a mask requirement at their facilities long before Gov. Tim Walz issued such an order statewide. The Band has also used temperature checks at the entrance to the Fortune Bay compound, and they've set up community testing for both Band members and the general public. *Source: timberjay.com.*

Minnesota town considers changing name of festival: The annual town festival in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, has been called the "Pow Wow" since its inception in 1923, but that may change soon. The event's sponsoring organization, the Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce, is considering a request to rename the town's celebration. T Carter, who grew up in Mountain Lake in Cottonwood County, explained that the "Pow Wow" is an example of cultural appropriation and an inaccurate use of the term. *Source: newsbreak.com.*

White House COVID-19 coordinator visits Fond du Lac: Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator, met with Fond du Lac tribal leaders August 28 to learn about the tribe's efforts surrounding COVID-19. Tribal leaders including Chairman Kevin Dupuis told Birx the COVID-19 pandemic has brutally swept through Indian Country. "The visit from Dr. Birx was a good time to reflect on the things we've done right and what we can work on to continue to keep our community safe," Dupuis said. Dupuis recognized the tribe's Public Health Emergency Preparedness team who has been meeting daily since COVID-19 hit the U.S. *Source: kbjr6.com.*

State anglers stay within walleye quota on Mille Lacs: Minnesota's planned shutdown of Mille Lacs walleye fishing for the month of July created more than enough cushion under the lake's quota system to ensure a full season of fall fishing, according to a report from the Department of Natural Resources. The report projects that state-licensed anglers will finish the year 15 to 20 percent under the annual walleye allotment set by the DNR and eight Chippewa bands. The results stand in contrast to previous years when Minnesota exceeded or barely stayed under the safe-harvest cap. *Source: startribune.com.*

Find links to local, state, and national Indian Country news at millelacsband.com/news.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COMMISSIONER'S MASK ORDER EXTENDED

Commissioner's Order has the force of law on Mille Lacs Band properties

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson has extended an order requiring masks in government facilities and Band-owned businesses. This Order has the force of law on Mille Lacs Band properties.

Commissioner's Order 20-02 was signed on August 31 and will expire on November 30. The requirements of the order are as follows:

- Any individual who is over the age of two and able to medically tolerate a face covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a cloth face covering or medical-grade mask when in Band government facilities and Band-owned businesses within the Band's territorial jurisdiction.
- All government personnel entering government facilities and employees of Band-owned businesses within

the Band's territorial jurisdiction shall wear a cloth face covering or medical-grade mask when engaged in face-to-face contact with the public.

- All government personnel who enter Band member residences for the purpose of providing any public services shall wear a cloth face covering or medical-grade mask and disposable gloves.
- All government personnel who enter Band vehicles for the purpose of providing transportation services shall wear a cloth face covering or medical-grade mask when there is more than one person in the vehicle.

The new order extends Commissioner's Order 20-01, which was signed on May 27. See millelacsband.com/news for a link to the order.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin introduced urban Band members to her new deputy assistant, Maria Costello, at a meeting on September 15. Left to right: Tawnya Stewart, Shelley Diaz, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, and Maria Costello.

COMMUNITY MEETING PROVIDES UPDATE ON URBAN AREA HOUSING PROJECT

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

At a meeting in Minneapolis hosted by the Chief Executive on Tuesday, September 15, urban Band members learned about a new Mille Lacs Band housing complex that will include office and meeting space.

The dinner meeting took place on the land the Band purchased for the housing complex, which is located across the street from All Nations Church.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin wanted to kick off the planning for this new building with a fun dinner and conversation with Band members about the project.

Band members will have an opportunity to weigh in on the new housing development. "We want urban Band members to have their voice and ideas incorporated into the new building," said Melanie.

The plans for the new space are yet to be determined but it's likely there would be a community space and future home of the Mille Lacs Band Urban Office.

Assistant Commissioner of Administration Pete Nayquonabe said there are other details that need to be determined before construction can begin, including hiring an architect and gathering community input.

"We're in a very early planning stage, and we hope to break ground next summer," he added.

Another step would be a needs assessment to determine the type of housing that is needed, Pete said.

Officials from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures said they are excited about the Twin Cities project because based on past experience they know what works, and this is an opportunity



Joe Nayquonabe Jr., Tawnya Stewart, and Jamie Edwards attended the Chief Executive's meeting in Minneapolis September 15.

to apply their knowledge.

Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, said new funding resources from companies looking to do "impact investing" could help cover costs of the new building.

"We will build a beautiful and sustainable project," said Joe. "We want to get a firm that understands and is grounded in the needs of the Band."

For now, the focus is on getting community input and support. Urban Band members who wish to be a part of a small committee to help with the planning should contact the Chief's office.

DARCIE BIG BEAR

THE UNSUNG HERO OF LEGISLATIVE

By Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne M. Benjamin)
Mille Lacs Band Member

For the past five years, Darcie Big Bear has been dictating and safeguarding the business of the Band through her job as the Legislative Parliamentarian.

Each week, Darcie is responsible for the organization of meeting minutes, official roll calls, new or reviewed statutes, daily agendas, and the recording of all discussions and orders of business that occur within Band Assembly meetings. She schedules meetings, and also keeps the Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Administration, and Commissioners updated on meeting agendas and any other info that is pertinent to them or their departments during upcoming Band Assembly sessions. After meetings are completed, Darcie keeps the official records for the Band by proofing and finalizing all meeting records and changes that may occur to Band statutes. Seems like a pretty important job, huh?

It most definitely is!

This position is one that does not move with that changing of the guard that can happen with elected offices, and this is for a specific purpose. It ensures that the person who holds this position is well trained, confidential, and unbiased, and thoroughly understands Robert's Rules of Order, which are essential to the success of the Band Assembly meetings as they are run through those processes. About Robert's Rules of Order, Darcie said, "You would not believe how many rules there really are to follow for a proper meeting!" As Parliamentarian, Darcie is essentially the glue that holds the Legislative meetings together. If there is a misstep in process, Darcie is there as the referee, in a sense, to maintain proper order.

"One thing that I have learned is that everyone has different perspectives, outlooks, and goals," said Darcie. "I try learning as much as I can from those around me. In this job, I sometimes have those 'Ahh, I didn't think of it like that' moments."

When asked what the most rewarding part of her job is, she stated, "I enjoy seeing projects being presented and then watching them come to life, like the new District I Community Center, the new Health and Human Services building, and the HAWK project on 169."

The HAWK Project is a project that will add a crosswalk and "HAWK" light that warns vehicles of pedestrians on the connection of the frontage road near the old community center



Darcie Big Bear has worked for the Band for 20 years — the last five as Legislative Parliamentarian.

to the entrance road to the Grand Market and Grand Makwa Cinema where people often cross the road on foot. "It takes a lot of different departments doing their part to take these ideas or suggestions and turn them into projects from start to finish."

When asked about the most difficult part of the job, Darcie said, "Remaining neutral in decisive situations or discussions at times is difficult because as a Band member, I do have an opinion, and I care just as much as the governing body about the interests and people of the Mille Lacs Band, but in my position, it is not my place to insert that opinion, so sometimes that gets tough. I have learned through time and experience to trust those making the decisions and to stick to the record, as they have been elected to make those tough calls."

Darcie has worked for the Band for a total of 20 years. Mi-gwech, Darcie, for your continued incredibly important service to the Band!

"I HAVE LEARNED THROUGH TIME AND EXPERIENCE TO TRUST THOSE MAKING THE DECISIONS AND STICK TO THE RECORD, AS THEY HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO MAKE THOSE TOUGH CALLS."



ANISHINAABE VALUES RIDE

Joe Nayquonabe Sr. gave an inspiring message to riders during the Third Annual Anishinaabe Values Motorcycle Ride August 31.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Savanna's Act passes House: A bipartisan bill aimed at addressing the tragic issue of missing and murdered Native Americans passed the U.S. House last month and is headed to the desk of President Donald Trump. Savanna's Act, named for Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind of Fargo, North Dakota, a pregnant 22-year-old Spirit Lake tribal member who was killed in 2017, would establish national law enforcement guidelines between the federal government and American Indian tribes. The bill unanimously passed the U.S. Senate in March after Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, reintroduced the bill after former Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-North Dakota, had proposed it in 2017. *Source: usatoday.com.*

Dakotas are coronavirus hotspot: During the first half of September, Coronavirus infections in the Dakotas grew faster than anywhere in the nation. North Dakota and South Dakota led the country in new cases per capita, according to Johns Hopkins University researchers. South Dakota also posted some of the country's highest positivity rates for COVID-19 tests — over 17 percent — an indication that there are more infections than tests are catching. Infections have been spurred by schools and universities reopening and mass gatherings like the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. The GOP governors of both states have eschewed mask requirements. *Source: startribune.com.*

First Native American racer in Tour de France: Last month, Neilson Powless became the first tribally recognized Native North American to race in the 117-year-old Tour de France. Powless grew up in Roseville, California, but his grandfather was a citizen of the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin. "My main hope is that I can be a positive role model for young Indigenous kids who have a lot going against them," said Powless, who turned 24 during the race. "I think finishing the Tour de France is a testament to years of hard work and dedication to a lifelong dream. Hopefully I can help drive kids to setting their mind to a goal and going after it." *Source: startribune.com.*

Artwork in England challenges myth of Mayflower: A new art installation in Plymouth harbor, on England's southwestern coast, says "No new worlds" in 20-foot-tall letters. The installation at the site of the Mayflower's departure for America is one of several commemorations erected to mark the 400th anniversary of the voyage. The artists want to challenge the mythology around the Mayflower's search for a "New World" by emphasizing people already lived in North America for millennia. "It just feels extraordinary to me that 400 years later, it seems like the state that most of us are in is denying that history," Léonie Hampton, one of the three artists behind the project, said. "That needs to shift." *Source: nbcnews.com.*

Montana Native Americans face voting challenges: Western Native Voice collects and takes ballots to election offices. They picked up over 850 ballots in 2018. That almost changed when Montana passed the Ballot Interference Protection Act in 2018, limiting the number of ballots individuals can collect. In March, Western Native Voice, ACLU of Montana, and other organizations sued the Montana Secretary of State, claiming that BIPA disenfranchises the Native American vote. In May, a judge granted a restraining order stopping BIPA. Now there's a preliminary injunction, but it's only temporary. If the injunction is lifted, hundreds of Native American votes in Montana could be lost. *Source: nbcmontana.com.*

MARIE AND OLIVER BENJAMIN

INVESTMENTS

By Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne M. Benjamin)
Mille Lacs Band Member

In my story last month, I talked about my Grandma Marie's health condition and her ongoing battle with Dementia/Alzheimer's. Due to this, our family has been helping her husband sort through her things and CLOTHES! The woman has always been a sharp dresser, and her seeing her closet, you would understand why. She must not have ever worn the same outfit twice!

In all of this sorting, her husband Jack found and delivered to me a most precious and unexpected gift. There was a tattered envelope that said "Age" (my nickname) on the front in my Grandma's elegant cursive handwriting. With the waves of emotions that I have been feeling about her condition, I paused before opening it. Was it a letter? Photographs? What would I find?

I carefully opened the envelope and found two more envelopes stuffed inside. Two \$100 United States Savings Bonds in my name: one from my Grandma Marie, and one from my Grandpa Oliver. Instantly tears were running down my face.

I thought back to my childhood days and how "poor" we were. How "poor" everyone was. Better yet, how "poor" we THOUGHT we were. (I used the quotes to denounce the idea of poor as a colonized ideal. As I've gotten older, I have realized that as a family and as spiritual beings, we lacked nothing. We had a home, we had love, and we had each other.) This made this gift all the more special and meaningful.

Immediately upon opening the envelope, I felt their immense love. I thought to myself; these two people, with six children of their own, found it in their heart — and in their finances — to set aside a little bit of money for me. Back then, this was not a little bit of money either, considering their backgrounds. My Grandmother made it to the 5th grade, my Grandpa even less than that, and they both worked hard and secured a "decent" (colonized standards) life for themselves and their family in a world and broader community that did not want them to succeed.

I thought back on the way that they took care of me. I



Marie and Oliver Benjamin invested in their granddaughter's future — planting seeds in a garden they would never get to see.

thought about the ways that they always made me feel loved. How they showed up when I needed them. How they were there to talk me through the hard times of growing up. This was just another layer to that love. Though my Grandpa passed on over 17 years ago, I am still in awe and brightly aware of their effects on my life as I grow older and realize their lessons. Never did I think that they would have had the means to give to me in this way, but they most definitely did.

So here I am, at 36 years old with two savings bonds worth about \$1,000 each. I pondered to myself what to do with this extra money. I still haven't cashed them. Then it came to me: I am not in a place of major financial stress at the moment, and I wanted to pay their love forward. So in the next few weeks, I plan on getting new savings bonds with that money in my children's names. What better way could I continue their care and love and nurture that small seed they planted over 30 years ago?

I wonder what they hoped for when they went to the bank that day. I wish I could ask my Grandma that question now, but her condition doesn't really make that possible. I wonder if they thought that I would be in a position to appreciate it as deeply as I do. To treasure their small investment in the way that I am able. To spend it on another loving investment instead of desperation, addiction, or foolishly. I'm sure at points in my

growing up, I definitely made them think that might happen. Now, I just hope they're proud.

In some ways, this almost feels like caring for a seed and then a plant entrusted to me in a way. There is a line in the musical "Hamilton" that talks about legacy, and it says, "Legacy. What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see." More than 30 years after the small monetary seeds that my grandparents planted for me, I will now, in their honor, replant them and help them blossom and flourish further with the hopes and wishes for the future they hoped for me, but now sharing the love further down our family line.

"I THOUGHT BACK ON THE WAY THAT THEY TOOK CARE OF ME. I THOUGHT ABOUT THE WAYS THAT THEY ALWAYS MADE ME FEEL LOVED. HOW THEY SHOWED UP WHEN I NEEDED THEM. HOW THEY WERE THERE TO TALK ME THROUGH THE HARD TIMES OF GROWING UP. THIS WAS JUST ANOTHER LAYER TO THAT LOVE."

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

MY LIFE

By Beatrice Taylor

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

My life is a big mix of things, like a beef stew. A little bit of everything.

Mostly, my life revolves around my children and grandchildren. I want to teach my grandchildren things I never taught my own kids. They pick up on things. If you keep talking to them, they will listen. Sometimes they come back at me with something I told them, and then I know they are listening.

I have one grandchild who stays over with me, and we tell stories to each other. We make up our own stories. Some of my other grandchildren try to sew like me, but they say it's too hard and takes a long time. I tell them, "Everything takes a long time. It took me 60 years to be able to sew like this!"

I try to talk Ojibwe to my grandchildren. Sometimes I read to them, and they always want me to read the same story about a turtle. Some of them are starting to understand Ojibwe.

All kids are good kids, they just need a role model. They need the time you can devote to listen to them. Sit down and talk with them. My grandchildren are my pride and joy.

I tell my grandchildren about the old days. We were poor, but we didn't know it. We had a roof over our head, and we had a big airtight heater so we were warm even in the coldest winter. We always had wood by the house for the fire.

We used to sit on the beds and make little rag dolls. We never had TV, but every once in awhile we would listen to the radio. My mother would listen to soap operas.

Most of the time we were outside. In the summertime, we were gone all day, playing in the woods and all over. It's funny that we never got lost, because we were always exploring. But we always managed to get home before the evening to do our chores. We stayed close enough to hear my mom hollering for us.

Kids these days are so modernized. We used to read by a kerosene lamp! But I had no worries, and we were one big happy Indian family. I think that was the happiest time of my life.

When I'm not spending time with my grandchildren, I like to go to meetings in our community. I know what's going on and if I don't like it, I can say something about it. I don't just sit at home and complain. If you want something done, you have to tell someone. There's nothing I like more than a good argument!

Before my health started to go, I was also a certified nursing assistant. I liked waiting on the old folks at the extended care facility. We got along really well. I never had an argument with any of them. Everyone used to say that old people were crabby, but I got along with all of them.

MIREYE MOOSE

TAKING A STAND BY TAKING A KNEE

By Makadegwanebliikwe Mikayla Schaaf
Mille Lacs Band Descendant and Community Member

During the national anthem prior to her varsity season opener for the Cloquet Lumberjacks soccer team, Band member Waasecamigookwe (Mireye Moose) decided to kneel in solidarity with those who seek justice and equality. She has continued to take a knee for all of her season games and will continue to do so throughout the season.

"I knelt because it is a peaceful way to show support and bring light to the social injustices and inequalities that People of Color have faced," said Waasecamigookwe. "We as humans should want justice and equality for all people. But historically and with recent events, that is not the case. Those that choose to sit in silence are seen as continuing to support inequality and injustice, which is not something I want to be a part of. It's important that people use their voice to show support and protest peacefully to invoke change."

Waasecamigookwe, who proudly sports the #13 jersey as a right center defender for the Lumberjacks, is a senior at Cloquet High School. She has proven to be a leader on and off the field. As a two-sport athlete, she has received several awards for soccer, including Rookie of the Year, Coaches' Choice (dependability), Defensive Player of the Year, and All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Waasecamigookwe also is currently ranked in the 2nd percentile of her class, with a cumulative GPA of 4.111, and is currently in National Honor Society, Link Crew, Student Council, and Senior Executive Board. She plans to attend college to either study medicine or forensic science but hasn't officially committed to a specific institution.

Waasecamigookwe currently resides in District II (East Lake). Her parents are Samuel and Laura Moose. Her grandparents on her father's side are Archie and Brenda Moose.

As an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Moose has taken a strong stance that kneeling has empowered her because she is standing up for what she believes in. "My respect for the flag and those who have served should not be questioned," she said. "Kneeling during the National Anthem is not intended to disrespect military personnel but instead to honor the sacrifice they made so that we could have the freedom of speech, the freedom to protest and defend those that have been oppressed. Lastly, it's important to acknowledge



Waasecamigookwe Mireye Moose, number 13, takes a knee to show her support for People of Color. Photo by Dave Harwig / Pine Journal.

that the act of kneeling brought forth the opportunity to communicate in an open and free manner, which is the first step to moving towards change."

Although she has received a lot of support from her teammates, including two who have knelt beside her in solidarity during the anthem, the responses from others have been mixed. She has felt both pushback and support, especially on social media.

You can show Waasecamigookwe support by attending her upcoming in-season games on October 6 at 4:45 p.m. in Proctor, or October 8 at 7 p.m. in Esko.

"KNEELING DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM IS NOT INTENDED TO DISRESPECT MILITARY PERSONNEL BUT INSTEAD TO HONOR THE SACRIFICE THEY MADE SO THAT WE COULD HAVE THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THE FREEDOM TO PROTEST AND DEFEND THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN OPPRESSED."



BAND PROVIDES ANTIBODY TESTS

Kat Garbow, left, and Ryan O'Brien, right, were among the Band members, employees, and others who were given free COVID-19 antibody tests at Grand Casino Hinckley on September 23. Also pictured are (left) Care Manager Jenna Kuduk, HHS Executive Director Jan Manary, Circle of Health Benefits Coordinator Ann Mitchell, and (right) Lab Technician Lance Roeschlein. According to Health and Human Services Facilities Manager Curt Kalk Jr., events were held in District II on September 22, Aazhoomog and Hinckley on September 23 and 24, and District I on September 29 and 30. Urban area testing was planned for the first week in October. Watch Facebook or call HHS for details.



AROUND THE RESERVATION

COVID-19 is hitting American Indians hard:

American Indians are 1 percent of Minnesota's statewide population, yet they account for well over 1 percent of COVID-19 infections. In fact, American Indians now have the highest percentage rate of testing positive for COVID-19 of any other racial group in Minnesota. American Indians also have a higher death rate from COVID-19 than any other ethnic group, and a higher rate of needing to be admitted to ICUs for COVID-19. "This is because as a population, we tend to have more underlying health conditions like diabetes than any other ethnic group," said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "Those numbers are concerning, which is why it is so important for our Band members to continue taking extra measures to protect ourselves and our families."

Struggling with addiction? HHS can help!

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, the Mille Lacs Band's Health and Human Services Department can help. They are there to serve Band members in a compassionate and non-judgmental way. HHS offers rule 25 assessments, outpatient and inpatient treatment, medication-assisted recovery, and peer support. Please contact us at 320-532-4163 #2 for medication-assisted recovery and mental health services. Call 320-532-7773 for our Substance Use department. If you have questions, you can also contact Mark Watters, Substance Use Program Director, at 320-630-4791, or Nicole Anderson, HHS Commissioner, at 320-364-9969, who will be happy to walk you through options and discuss programs.

Veterans are eligible for COVID-19 relief:

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is accepting applications from Minnesota Veterans who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. MDVA will be awarding one-time financial relief grants in the amount of \$1,000. Eligible applicants must be:

1. A Veteran as defined by MN Statute 197.447, or the surviving spouse (who has not remarried) of a deceased veteran, and
2. A Minnesota resident, and
3. Have been negatively financially impacted by COVID-19.

Funding is available for both Disaster Relief Grants and Special Needs Grants. Both grant applications may be submitted through your County Veterans Service Officer. The Disaster Relief Grant may also be submitted directly online by a Veteran or surviving spouse. For more information, you can contact Luke Johnson, Tribal Veteran Service Officer/Senior Claims Rep, Central Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, at 507-837-2761, or visit MinnesotaVeteran.org/COVIDRelief.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk taught CPR at Isle High School on September 23. Staff at the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II also took a First Aid and CPR/AED course on Monday, September 14, and staff at Four Winds Lodge received their training on Tuesday, September 15.

AANJIBIMAADIZING PROGRAM A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

Pine Tech courses provide practical training for Band members

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

The camaraderie between students, support staff, and instructors was evident when eight Mille Lacs community members received certificates and toolboxes after completing an introductory course in auto mechanics.

Inside jokes and reminiscences (“Remember when the ceiling fell in?”) filled the Pine Technical and Community College classroom on September 11 and traveled a hundred miles via Zoom to Aanjibimaadizing Director Tammy Wickstrom and Transporter Roger Klassen.

Karen Pagnac, Aanjibimaadizing’s Training Coordinator, was instrumental in building the partnership between Pine Tech and Aanjibimaadizing.

“With each class, we try to have someone from our staff on hand to greet the students, serve meals, and help with whatever is needed,” said Karen. “Roger helped a lot with hosting the Auto Tech class.”

The students were joined in person at the ceremony by Karen and Aanjibimaadizing Lead Instructors Jen Gabrio and Donita Odden.

Pine Tech President Joe Mulford attended the ceremony to congratulate the students, along with instructor Brian Rosenberger and Customized Training Program Manager Kathy Reid, who worked on the partnership with Aanjibimaadizing.

Brian told the students they were one of the best classes he’s had in 13 years of teaching.

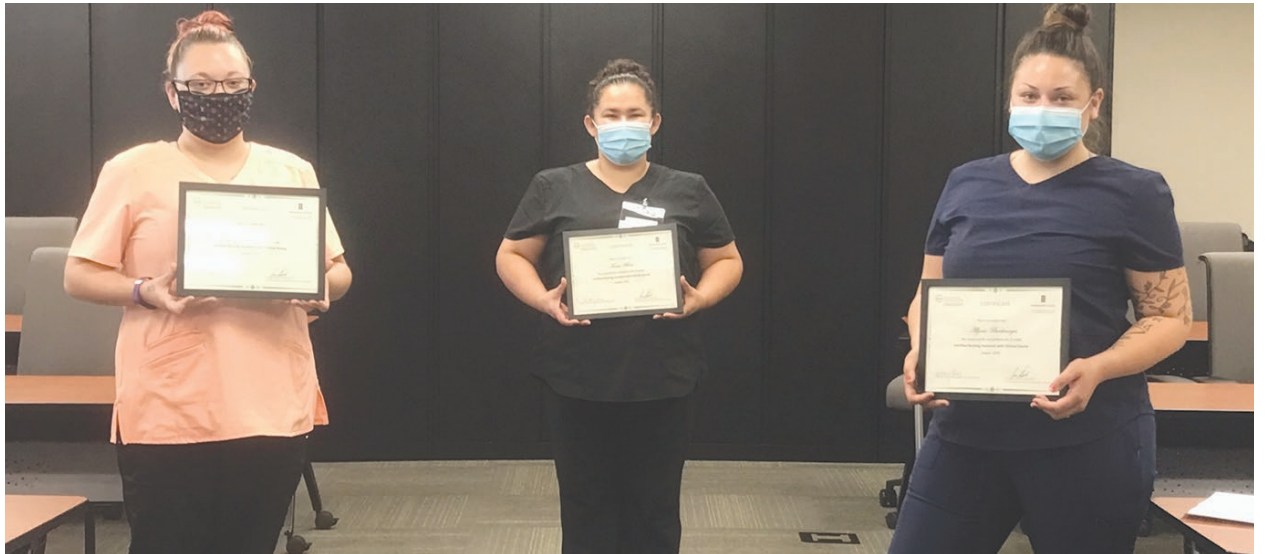
James Frederick, a White Earth Band member who lives in District I, enjoyed working on his Silverado in the class and is planning to enroll in the two-year auto mechanics program in the spring.

Likewise for Owen Sargent, a Mille Lacs Band member from Onamia. He enjoyed the hands-on learning in the program and hopes to turn the class into a career.

Other graduates were Candace Hill, Carly Shedd, Keenan Weyaus, Morningstar Goodsky, Randy Hill, and Tim McGregor.

The partnership developed through a Pathways to Prosperity grant from the State of Minnesota. Pathways to Prosperity was developed by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to make Minnesota more competitive by meeting the common skills needs of businesses and individuals.

Three other courses were offered this summer in partner-



ship with Pine Tech — Commercial Driver’s License training in District III, Certified Nursing Assistant Training in District II, and Career Exploration/Small Business Certification in District I.

Dawn Aubid and Josh Mitchell completed classroom training for their commercial driver’s license, passed the permit tests, and are working on completing the behind the wheel portion of their training. They’ve both started employment in occupations where the training will benefit them.

Michale Lewis-Pagh completed the Career Exploration and

Small Business Certificate course and is preparing to continue training to expand her business skills.

Rochelle Olivarez, Taria White, Alyssa Buckanaga (left to right, in photo above), and Opitee Mushkoob (not pictured) all took the Certified Nursing Course, completed clinicals, and passed the CNA exams.

SPEAKING OF MANOOMIN...

Manoominike: S/he harvests wild rice.

Gaandakii’ige: S/he poles a canoe around.

Bawa’am: S/he knocks wild rice.

Izhinikeni: S/he moves her/his arm a certain way.

Biiwaabiko-jiimaan: Aluminum canoe.

Wiigwaasi-jiimaan: Birch bark canoe.

Bawa’iganaak: A rice knocker.

Gaandakii’igan: A push pole.

Mii’iw gii-oshki-manoominikeyaang dagwaagong: We went ricing for the first time last fall.

Ogii-pawaanaan manoominikenid oosan: He dreamed about his father ricing.

To hear these sentences pronounced by native speakers, go to ojibwe.lib.umn.edu and search for “manoominike.”



AKAWE BIINDAKOOJIGEN!

Left, John Benjamin and his niece Adrienne started a day of ricing last month in a good way: by offering tobacco first. Center and right: The Department of Natural Resources hosted a presentation on manoomin production at the Cultural Grounds in District I on September 26 and 27. Photos by Bob Pearl, Red Circle Agency.

OSHKI-NITAAGED A'AW ABINOOJIINH A CHILD'S FIRST KILL

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

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

Geget a'aw Anishinaabe omanaajitooon gakina gegoo wen-jida i'iw gaa-miinigoowiziyang ge-inanjigeyang anishinaabewiyang. Ishke ingiw awesiinyag mii ingiw nitam gaa- nakodangig wii-naadamawaawaad inow Anishinaaben ishkweyaang gaa-ayaanijin i'iwapii gii-moonenimind a'aw Anishinaabe ezhi-gidimaagizid i'iw bimaadiziwin. Mii owapii a'aw Niigaani-manidoo gii-pi-azhegiwewed gii-moonenimaad ezhi- gidimaagizid iniw odanishinaabeman. Mii dash gii-nandwewemaad iniw Manidoo da-bi-naadamawind a'aw Anishinaabe. Mii dash ingiw nitam ingiw awesiinyag gaa-pi-zaagewejig gii-pi-waakaabiitawaawaad iniw Niigaani-manidoo. Mii dash iwapii gii-nakodamowaad wii-naadamawaawaad iniw Anishinaaben miinawaa gii- nakodamowaad ge-ondanjiged a'aw Anishinaabe iniw awesiinyan.

The Anishinaabe treats everything respectfully especially the foods we were given to eat as Anishinaabe. It was the animals that first came forward and agreed to help the Anishinaabe when they realized how pitiful the Anishinaabe were. It was at that time that the Creator realized how pitiful his Anishinaabe were and came back. It was then that he called on the Manidoo to come help the Anishinaabe. It was the animals that first appeared and sat around the creator. It was at that time that they agreed to help the Anishinaabe and be a source of food for the Anishinaabe.

Mii gaye ingiw akiwenziyibaneg gaa-inaajimowaad iwapii a'aw Niigaani-manidoo gii-nandwewemaad iniw Manidoo da-bi-naadamawind a'aw Anishinaabe, mii a'aw gaa-pi-zaagewed a'aw gimishoomisinaan. Geget gii-mindido. Mii ingiw Anishinaabeg imaa gaa-ayaajig i'iwapii ogii-noondawaawaan ani-bimi-ayaanid iwidi giwedinong ani-ditibishing a'aw gimishoomisinaan. Mii dash owapii iniw zaaga'iganiin miinawaa ziibiwan gii-izhichigaadeg da-onda'ibiid a'aw Anishinaabe. Mii



dash owapii wii- gitigaazod a'aw giigoonh miinawaa i'iw manoomin. Mii dash i'iw wenji-manaajitooon gaa-miinigoowizid a'aw Anishinaabe da-inanjiged, ingiw Manidoo gii- miinigoonaanig miinawaa gii-shawenimaawaad odanishinaabemiwaan. Ishke dash mii iw wenji-asemaaked naa zagaswe'idid oshki-nitaaged awiya.

The old men also said that while the creator was there calling upon the Manidoo to help the people, a large Manidoo also appeared. That Manidoo was really big. The Anishinaabe that were there at that time heard that Manidoo rolling in the north. It was at that time that the lakes and the rivers were created giving the Anishinaabe a place to get their water from. It was at that time that the fish were planted along with the wild rice. That is why the Anishinaabe treats those foods respectfully, because it was a gift to us from those Manidoo and a reflection of their compassion for us. So this is why the Anishinaabe does a tobacco and food offering at the time a young person kills his first animal or deer, or catches their first fish.

Ishke dash gii-kwiizensiwiyaan, mii a'aw wayeshkad a'aw giigoonh gaa-tebibinag gaa-agwaawebinag, mii a'aw namebin ezhi-wiinind. Azhigwa gaa-pi-giiweyaan, mii a'aw mindimooyeyiban gaa-nitaawigi'id mii iw gaabige gii-ozhiitaad gii-chiibaakwed gii-sagaswe'idiyaang weweni gii-toodawaawaad iniw giigoonyan gaa-oshki- debibinimagin.

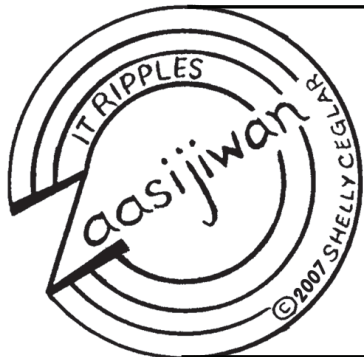
When I was a young boy the first fish that I caught was a sucker. When I came home the old lady that raised me started to do her cooking so that we could feast as a way to treat the fish that I first caught respectfully.

Akawe sa wiin igo ogii-nandomaawaan inow nizhishenyibanen, mii inow gaa- nitaa-wewebanaabiinjin. Mii dash gaa-ikidowaad, "Mii imaa ge-ondinaman da-wenda-nitaa-wewebanaabiyan giniigaaniiming miinawaa apane da-wenda- waanaji'adwaa giigoonyag." Mii dash a'aw akiwenziyiban gii-mooshkina'aad iniw odoopwaaganan, gaa-ni-giizhiitaad ani-naabishkaaged iniw asemaan, mii dash iwidi gii-apagizom-aad iniw asemaan miinawaa i'iw wiisiniwin enabiwaad ingiw Manidoo gii-miigwechiwitaagozid gii-miinigoowiziyang anishinaabewiyang a'aw giigoonh da-amwang miinawaa da-ni-naad-amaagoowiziyaan gaye niin da-wenda- nitaa-wewebanaabiyaan niniigaaniiming.

Before we feasted they called on an uncle of mine who they considered to be a good fisherman. It was then that I was told, "It is from there that you will get your ability to be a good fisherman and that you will never be lacking for fish." That old man filled his pipe, once he had smoked it he then offered the tobacco and food to where all the Manidoo sit thanking them for giving us as Anishinaabe the fish to eat and for me to be helped to be an especially good fisherman in my future.

Mii dash gaye gaa-izhichigewaad i'iw wayeshkad gii-ni-tooyaan gegoo. Mii a'aw akiwenziyiban mitigwaabiin naa bikwak nigii-ozhitamaag da-aabaj'ag da- giuwooseyaan. Mii dash a'aw wayeshkad gaa-nisag mii a'aw bineshiinh. Mii-go dibishkoo gaa-izhichigewaad. Weweni asemaa miinawaa wiisiniwin gii-atoowaad miinawaa gii-nandomaawaad netaa-giiwosenijin. Mii-go imaa miinawaa weweni gii- toodawindwaa ingiw Manidoo miinawaa a'aw bineshiinh gaa-nisag.

A Child's First Kill see page 11



Dagwaagin—It is Fall

Jiimaan i'iw. Jiimedaa! Nindayaan biwaabiko-jiimaan. Apegish eyaayan gete-wiigwaasi-jiimaan gemaa mitigo-jiimaan. Aaniin eyaan abwi? Ambe omaa, boozin! Daga ojjiingwanabin gemaa namadabin! Bekaa! Gego niibawiken! Ninga-jiigewe'aamin. Nimbiindaakoojige. Inashke! Maangwag, nikag, miskwaadesiwag, idash giigooyag. Awedi, zhashagi dash migizi. Howah, miigwech. Gaye, miigwech wiyaasi-dakoniwewiniwag.

(This is a canoe. Let's all go canoeing! I have an aluminum canoe. I wish I had an old time birchbark canoe or wood canoe. Where is the canoe paddle? Come here, get in! Please kneel or sit! Wait! Don't stand! We will paddle along shore. I offer tobacco. Look! Loons, geese, painted turtles, and fish. Over there, a heron and bald eagle. Wow, thank you. Also, thank you conservation workers.)

Bezhiq—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Jiimaan—as in father
Miigwech—as in jay
Jiimaan—as in seen
Noongom—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Gaye—as in about
Migizi—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.

Participles: VAI's One who does something.

The first vowel undergoes a sound change, then suffix "-d" or "-g" for singular, "-waad" for plural. a changes to e, aa to ayaa, e to aye, i to e, ii to aa, o to we, oo to waa, ji, ga to ge.
VAI: Anokii.—S/he works.
Enokiid.—One who works—Worker
Jiime.—S/he canoes.
Jaamed.—One who canoes—Canoer
Maazhise.—S/he has bad luck.
Mayaazhised.—One with bad luck.
Minose.—S/he has good luck.
Menosewaad.—Those with good luck.

Niizh—2

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

A. Izhaadaa zaaga'iganing! Babaamizhaakaadaa!

B. Jiigew niwaabamaag ingiw niizho-zhiishuubag.

C. Jiigi-ziibing, niwaabamaa mooshka'osi imaa.

Z J B O

M I I J I M

C Z I I W Z A

A H A B M O N D

K A V U I E P I O

M A K W A I Y Y M X

O D J E T O N A A A Q

O A P A N E Z G A I A H

Z A L E S A M G E N I R

F Z H I I S H I I B A G

M I K I N A A K W A G I

D. Apane dagwaaging megwaayaak makwa ogranawaabandaan miijim.

E. Dagwaagong, mooz ningii-waabamaa gaa-minikwed omaa.

F. Mikinaakwag ninzegi'igog. Ninzaagi'aag miskaadesiwag.

G. Niminwedam jimeyaan!

Niswi—3

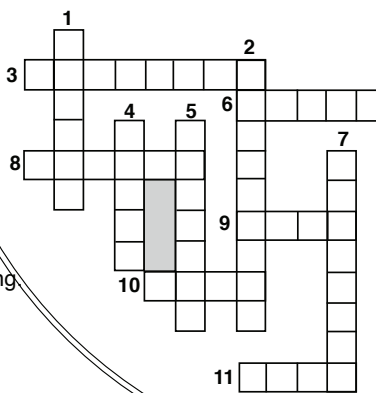
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- where
- fish (plural)
- S/he goes canoeing
- canoe
- blue heron

Across:

- loons
- S/he goes there.
- bald eagle
- here
- please
- paddle



Niiwin—4

VAI: Participles Practice

Giiyose—S/he hunts.
Giiyosewinini(wag).—Hunter(s).
Gaayosed.—One who hunts.
Nandawishibe.—S/he hunts ducks.
Nendawishibewaad.—Duck hunters.
Googii.—S/he dives. Gwaagiid—diver
Ojibwemo.—S/he speaks Ojibwe.
Wejibwemod.—One who speak Ojibwe.
Wejibwemowaad.—Ojibwe speakers.
Minwendam.—S/he is happy.
Menwendang.—One who is happy.

Goojitooon! Try it!
Translation below.

1. Wewiib! Maajaa j_____me_____.

2. M_____nose_____ minwendamoog endazhi-ataading.

3. Awesiyan onisidotawaawaa' _____jibwemo_____ giigidowaad.

4. Oodenaang waabang izhaa _____nokii_____.

5. Daga Ojibwemog! Mikaw _____jibwemo_____.

we...waad

e...waad

e...d

aa...d

we...d

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Let's all go to the lake! Let's all paddle about. B. Near the shore I see them those two ducks. C. Near to the river, I see a shypoke (American bittern) there. D. Always in the fall in the woods a bear looks for food. E. Last fall a moose I saw when he was drinking here. F. Snapping turtles they scare me. I love painted turtles. G. I am happy when I go canoeing.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Aaniin 2. Giigooyag 4. Jiime 5. Jiimaan 7. Zhashagi Across: 3. Maangwag 6. Izhaa 8. Migizi 9. Omaa 10. Daga 11. Abwi
Niiwin—4 1. Hurry up! She is leaving the canoer (jaamed). 2. Those with good luck (menosewaad) they are happy at the casino. 3. Wild animals understand those who speak Ojibwe (wejibwemowaad) when they speak. 4. To town at dawn he goes the worker (enokiid). 5. Please speak Ojibwe! Find him/her the one who speaks Ojibwe (wejibwemod).

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. Some spellings and translations from *The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 pio@glifwc.org.

Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Fall 2007. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.

INSIDE-OUT HALLOWEEN AT WEWINABI EARLY EDUCATION

This year the annual Mille Lacs Early Education Halloween parade will look a bit different. We are asking for your help and participation to make Halloween fun for our children from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 29.

Our idea is to have YOU dress up (nothing scary) and “parade” around the outside our building, passing by the classroom’s windows and doors, handing out candy and waving to the children. Feel free to go all out with dressing up (nothing scary) and decorating a wagon if you wish.

Before you are able to pass out candy, you must go through the COVID procedure of getting your temperature checked, sanitizing your hands and wearing gloves. Masks MUST be worn the whole time while maintaining social distancing. Please bring UNOPENED packages so they can be opened and distributed after you pass our COVID screenings. WE ARE A NUT FREE FACILITY. We have about 150 children in the building and distant learning.

We are inviting the community and Wewinabi families to help make this possible, please let us know if you are able to participate!

STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Every October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), advocates and communities across Indian Country and the United States rally together to honor survivors of domestic violence and support abuse prevention. In 2020, StrongHearts Native Helpline again calls on advocates, tribal leaders, reservation and urban Indian community members, service providers and Native organizations to support the movement to prevent and end domestic violence, which disproportionately affects millions of Natives every year.

Violence against Indigenous peoples began with European contact and has continued to this day. Domestic violence, which continues as a tool of colonization, represents a lack of respect for Native peoples. Domestic violence has many faces: physical, sexual, emotional, cultural, financial, and digital. It doesn’t discriminate and includes violence against children, Elders, and LGBTQ2S individuals. There is also a strong connection between domestic violence and thousands of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Native nations in the Lower 48 and Alaska Native Villages continually go underfunded for life-saving domestic violence services. This year during the COVID-19 pandemic, alarming increases in domestic violence have been documented worldwide.

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a safe, anonymous, and confidential domestic, dating, and sexual violence helpline that offers culturally appropriate support and advocacy for American Indians and Alaska Natives. For one-on-one advocacy, click on the Chat Now icon at <https://www.strongheartshelpline.org/> or call 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483). Advocates are available daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT.

GRA UPDATE

LICENSURE BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Gaming Authority Licensing Investigations Department is here to help all license applicants, put them at ease, and answer any questions. The gaming licensing process can be daunting and confusing for applicants. We hope this overview of the investigation process will de-mystify and de-stress the process.

Once you apply for employment at the casino and have been interviewed and offered a job, the gaming license background process begins. With summary information the Licensing Investigator receives from the casino Talent team about you, the applicant, the Investigator will check a few different things: (1) whether or not you are on the exclusion list, (2) if the GRA previously denied or revoked your gaming license, (3) if you were previously licensed and/or employed with Grand Casinos, and (4) whether or not you are a Mille Lacs Band member. All of this is reviewed before you have filled out an application or stepped foot in our offices, but it is critical in knowing how to proceed and best help you.

Now, for the rest of this walk-through, let’s assume you have never held a gaming license before and you are applying for a Class A license (a key employee with access to cash such as a Cashier or a Security Officer). You will fill out the gaming license application online via our secure, paperless database system, Merydyan PRYME. If you do not have access to a computer or smart phone, or if you just need extra help in the process, you can come to our offices for computer access and assistance.

Information required on the gaming license application includes, but is not limited to: residential history since you were 18 years old (city and approximate years, at a minimum), job history for the previous 10 years, criminal history since you were 18 years old (criminal history public access websites are provided to help), and personal references based on your residential history (example: a co-worker who knew you when you lived in Michigan).

Then we set up an appointment to meet you! The Investigator will review your application with you, verify your identity by checking some form of ID, and in this case, fingerprint you.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

We verify the information provided in your application in a few different ways. We contact the references provided and ask some questions about you, we receive a criminal history RAP sheet from the FBI based on your fingerprints, and we verify local criminal history and some credit history with a third-party company.

Once the Investigator verifies all the information you provided, we issue you a gaming license number, and casino Security creates your badge (your casino photo/access badge is your gaming license). That’s it. Licensees are responsible for their ongoing license eligibility, and the Licensing Investigations office reviews criminal history reports for all licensees annually in order to renew the gaming license.

Please visit the Gaming Regulatory Authority’s page on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe website for licensure regulatory requirements (Detailed Gaming Regulations 7 & 7a) and contact information.

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is 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.



DNR HOSTS HUNTING MEETING

The Mille Lacs Band’s Department of Natural Resources hosted a meeting on September 3 at the Iskigamizigan powwow grounds in District I to provide information and answer questions about the fall hunting season. Commissioner Katie Draper welcomed Band members and told them hunting is “in her blood.” She praised the many aunties and uncles who mentored her and also shared the wisdom of her grandmother, Cecilia Dunkley, who told her to take only as much as needed to feed herself and her family. Kelly Applegate, Director of Resource Management, went through a list of frequently asked questions about hunting seasons, regulations, and chronic wasting disease. Attendees went home with smiles, not only because they were better informed, but also from the generous supply of door prizes.

For the Frequently Asked Questions shared at the meeting, see <https://millelacsband.com/news/frequently-asked-deer-harvest-questions>.



A Child's First Kill from page 9

They did the very same thing when I had my first kill. The old man made me a bow and arrow to use when I hunted. The first thing that I had killed was a bird. They did the very same thing. They put tobacco and food and invited a person who was considered a good hunter to the feast. It was there that the Manidoog were treated respectfully and also the bird that I killed.

Ishke a'aw gwiiwizens owapii oshki-nisaad iniw waawaashkeshiwan, mii gaye imaa apii a'aw asemaa naa wiisiniwin gii-achigaadeg. Mii i'iw aanind a'aw Anishinaabe ezhichiged, mii imaa okaakiganaaning a'aw waawaashkeshi mii imaa wendinigaadeg i'iw wiiyaas eshangeng iwapii zagaswe'idid. Mii i'iw aanind gaye a'aw Anishinaabe ezhichiged, mii a'aw gwiiwizens gaa-nitaaged mii-go ezhi-miigiwed gakina i'iw waawaashkeshiwi-wiiyaas ashamaad iniw gechi-aya'aawinijin.

When a young man kills his first deer, a tobacco and food offering is also made. What some of our Anishinaabe do, they get the meat from the chest of the deer and that is the meat that is offered up in the feast. What some Anishinaabe do also, is that the young man who just killed his first deer gives all the deer meat away to the Elders.

Ishke dash gaye aanind a'aw Anishinaabe gaa-izhigikinoo'amawind i'iwapii oshki-nisaad iniw waawaashkeshiwan, mii-go imaa gaabige zhakamoonind a'aw gwiiwizens i'iw wiiyaas imaa gaa-ondinigaadenig o'ow ode'ing a'aw waawaashkeshi.

What some of our Anishinaabe also do is soon after a young man kills his first deer is a piece of the meat is cut from the heart of that deer and is given to the young man to eat.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

MARIA COSTELLO NAMED DEPUTY ASSISTANT

District III Band member Maria Costello has been hired to serve as Deputy Assistant in the Office of the Chief Executive. This position has signatory authority for official and financial purposes within the Office of the Chief Executive. Maria's place of work will be on-site in the Government Center, in the Office of the Chief Executive. She can be reached at 763-260-0164. Please join the Office of the Chief Executive in welcoming Maria to this appointment.

GUTHRIE OFFERS CLASSES FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

Starting in October, the Guthrie Theater will offer classes in Acting taught by Ernest Briggs (White Earth Band of Chippewa) and Playwriting team-taught by Marisa Carr (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe) and Morgan Holmes. In December, Ernest is offering an on-camera acting intensive for two weeks.

All of the classes are:

- open to high schoolers and older
- held on Zoom
- free of charge
- only for Native community members
- for Indigenous people everywhere (not just the Twin Cities)
- for all experience levels and interest
- Guaranteed to bring joy

If you'd like to register or learn more, go to <https://www.guthrietheater.org/education/classes> and scroll down to Classes for the Native Community.

BAND MEMBER NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT ROBBINSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mille Lacs Band member Toya Stewart Downey has been named as the new Executive Director of Strategic Communication, Equity, and Inclusion for Robbinsdale Area Schools. She began her new duties Monday, August 31, 2020.

Stewart Downey previously worked at Saint Paul Public Schools in the Office of Communications, Marketing and Development and at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts as the Director of Communications and Inclusion. Prior to that, Stewart Downey was a journalist and worked for several major metropolitan newspapers across the country, as well as the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

"I am excited to join Robbinsdale Area Schools and look forward to serving the students, families, and staff during this important and pivotal time in our lives," said Stewart Downey. "I grew up in Robbinsdale and have great memories of my time as a student. It's great to come back to a community and a school system that has meant so much to me."

EARLY EDUCATION SEEKS POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS

MLEE is seeking parents and community members to serve on the 2020-2021 Policy Council. This is an opportunity to learn more about MLEE including the policies, procedures and programming. Meetings are held once a month on Wednesdays at noon via ZOOM. Occasionally, a second meeting is required for special circumstances. Members are required to attend a 2-hour MLEE Governing Body Orientation in October. If you are interested in serving on the MLEE Policy Council, please submit your name via email by Monday, September 28, 2020 to Berd.Przybillla@berd.przybillla.com.

Aazhawaakwasing ikidowinan



ACROSS

- 1. I will see you.
- 7. GEEWEZZZ!!
- 8. S/he is hungry
- 9. Greeting/Hello.
- 10. Bear
- 14. Pig
- 16. No.
- 18. Poop
- 19. Go to the Bathroom
- 20. Rabbit

DOWN

- 1. Ask h/her!!
- 2. Go on!! (GWON)
- 3. Come in!!
- 4. S/he is mad
- 5. Drum
- 6. Eat!!
- 8. S/he walks
- 11. A hat
- 12. Milk
- 13. Greeting/Hello
- 15. Dog
- 17. Ear

Need help? Use the wordbank on page 12 and the Ojibwe People's Dictionary at ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

FALL 2020 CEREMONIAL DANCE DATES

Miigwech to Dale and Vince and Niib and Iyawbance, who hosted their dances in East Lake September 26 and 27.

October 2–3: Mick and Syngen, Mille Lacs

October 9–10: Ralph and Andy, Mille Lacs

October 16–17: Lynda and Joyce, Mille Lacs

October 30–31: Joe and George, Mille Lacs

November 6–7: Elmer and Sheldon, Mille Lacs

November 13–14: Darrell and Skip, Lake Lena

November 20–21: Lee and Mike, Lake Lena

November 27–28: Tim and Tom, East Lake

December 4–5: Bob and Zhooshk, Mille Lacs

Around the region:

October 2–4: Mike and Francis, Sand Lake, Wisc.

October 9–11: Louis, LCO

October 16–17: Maabin and Dan, Round Lake, Wisc.

October 30–31: Donna and Becky, Round Lake, Wisc.

December 11–13: Jim, LCO

LOOKING FOR WORK? SEE MILLELACSBAND.COM/JOBS

The Mille Lacs Band's website, millelacsband.com, is a great place to start for those seeking work or career advancement.

The Jobs page currently lists several jobs with October deadlines, including Ge-Niigaanizijig Youth Mentor, Health Screener, Program Assistant to the Higher Education Program, Certified Nursing Assistant, Facilities Coordinator, Surveillance Technician, and Elder Abuse Advocate.

For openings at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Hinckley properties or Eddy's Resort, visit: grandcasinomn.com/careers.

For openings with Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, visit mlcv.com/career-opportunities.

For openings at Grand Market, Grand Makwa, Super Stop, Taco John's, and East Lake Convenience Store, email sbayliss@grcasinos.com or call 320-532-8143. For openings at Grindstone Laundry or Crossroads Convenience Store, email enelson@grcasinos.com or call 320-384-4722. Applications are also available at the main receptionist desk of the Corporate Commission building at 700 Grand Avenue, adjacent to the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events and Convention Center.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE WORDBANK

Use these words to complete the puzzle on page 15.

GIGAWAABAMIN

TAYAHIH

BAKADE

AANIIN

MAKWA

GOOKOOSH

GAAWIIN

MIIZ

ZAAGA'AMOO

WAABOOZ

GAGWEJIM

AWAS

BIINDIGEN

NISHKAADIZI

DEWE'IGAN

WIISININ

BIMOSE

WIWIKWAAN

DOODOOSHAABOO

BOOZHOO

ANIMOSH

TAWAG.

COMMUNITY VOICES

ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON NOVEMBER 3



By Becky Clitso-Garcia

District I Community Member

Yá'át'ééh! ("Greetings," in Dinè—Navajo) Aaniin! ("Hi" in Anishinaabe—Ojibwe). Hi! My name is "Becky" Rebecca Clitso-Garcia. My clan is Todich'í'ni (Bitter Water; my mother's clan) and my father's clan is Bit'áhnii (Folded Arms People). I am originally from Kayenta, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation.

I am the oldest of five. My siblings all work with or for the Mille Lacs Band in one way or another. My sister Chris is the American Indian Education Director for Onamia Public Schools. My brother, Sonny, is a Head Start Teacher for Wewinabi Early Education; my sister Charmaine-Xiana is the American Indian Arts and Culture Coordinator for Onamia Public Schools/community education; and my youngest sister, Alex, is currently on furlough from Behavioral Health. All of my brothers-in-law work in the public/private sector, having community ties. My father, Edward, is currently retired, but worked for Peabody Coal Company and was a member of the United Mine Workers of America for 44 years; my mother, Lena, was a stay-at-home mother and worked various jobs (i.e. tax consultant, census worker, chapter house secretary [town council secretary] etc.). As I was growing up, my parents emphasized the importance of family, education, and hard work. That lesson follows me today in my personal and professional life. My passion for family and education is a huge reason why I am running for Onamia School Board.

For the past 14 years, I have worked with Mille Lacs Band youth ages birth to 5 years old and families at Mille Lacs Early Education as an Early Head Start/Head Start teacher. I under-

stand the importance of Early Education and Head Start. When I was 18-19 years old, I would volunteer at the Head Start in my hometown. Most importantly, I am a Head Start graduate.

Currently, I am an Education Specialist/Coach for Mille Lacs Early Education. In my role as Education Specialist/Coach, I work directly with curriculum (a guide on what skills to teach to students), assessment (a measuring tool used to see where children are at), kindergarten readiness (a plan to get preschool children ready for kindergarten), collaboration with teachers by doing class observations, reviewing paperwork, and coaching them on best teaching practices.

I feel I am a good candidate for the school board at Onamia Public Schools because I want to serve our Native community and be part of the decision-making process on how to best prepare our children for their adult lives. I want our public schools to be successful for our youth, and I want parents to feel confident that our local district is providing the best education and opportunities for their children.

I also have nieces and a nephew that attended Onamia. I think diversity, representation, and being well rounded is important. I have lived in several states — Arizona, Missouri, North Carolina, and Minnesota — and abroad, in Germany. I also think the health and safety of children/teaching staff is important, especially in this time of COVID-19.

I am so grateful for the education that I have received throughout my life, and the caring adults who nurtured/advised/mentored/inspired me. I want that for every child and look forward to working with others with Onamia Public Schools to ensure it is the best learning environment for our children. When you are going to the polls in November, please consider me for your choice as an Onamia School Board candidate. Ahéhee ("thank you," in Dinè), Miigwech ("thank you," in Anishinaabe), and thank you.

TOUGH DECISIONS SHINAABS MAKE

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member



Tough decisions made by the Anishinaabe have always been for the greater good of the whole. The decision to leave the lands of the East in search of the food that grows on water was huge. We were leaving the land we were currently occupying in search of something that we didn't know existed, but we knew to the very center of our spirit that we would be saved if we found it. That decision wasn't made in the moment;

it lasted hundreds of years until the food that grows on water was found. It's a decision that still impacts us yet today, a few hundred years later, and will continue for the foreseeable future. Instead of thinking of themselves in the present, they were thinking of saving the group's existence in the future.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the decision was to leave or not leave. Several times our villages were burnt to the ground by the newly formed governmental authority known as Minnesota. Should we leave and face unknown hardship or stay and face known hardship? The reliance on the Manidoog is evident, knowing that someday the wrong will be made right, even though it was not within the lifetime of the Anishinaabeg that were making the decision. They were thinking of saving the group's homeland for the future as opposed to saving themselves in the current present.

Commods, which I do LOVE, are another choice. Take the rations. Moldy. Bugs. Does not feed the spirit. Barely enough to feed the community. Or, risk being arrested for gathering the gifts from the manidoog. Countless stories I have heard of the arrests. I remember hearing a story about an Ikwezens that was playing in the yard. The clothesline was up and had sheets flapping in the breeze. She looks up at the sheets and sees, in-between, a muzzle of a rifle being aimed toward the lake. She looks at the lake. She sees her male relative, I can't

remember who, wading in the water pulling his boat to shore. He was out checking a net. In the boat is a state game warden with his gun aimed at the back of her relative pulling the boat. More rifles from between the sheets, the sunlight reflecting off of the barrels. A tough decision was made, a decision for the group to save the individual. The warden ended up leaving somehow, and the relative brought the catch to shore. No shots were fired.

Our People have demonstrated over and over again that tough decisions need to be made for the good of the group regardless of the threat to the individual. What decisions are we making today? Our interaction with the American government is never going to end. We are not a race but hold a political identity in relation to the U.S. Government. We also were given the right to vote on who our elected leaders are. Blessing or curse or both in one? With America, it is rare that things are ideal. The Americans like to make things tough for each other and especially tough for anyone that is different. The Anishinaabeg are a popular scapegoat. Never has it been more important to vote for a president than the times of Andrew Jackson; wait, we couldn't vote anyway. Having to vote for the lesser of two evils is something that can happen only in America. Most times it's nothing more than an inconvenience if a less than favorable president holds rank. It is different this time. Our ways of life as Americans and Native Americans are no longer threatened; they are being dismantled. Divided. The slow steps toward social justice taken over the decades have now been reset.

As individuals, it is ok to hold personal views. In times like this, it is important to have those views align with what will be good for our descendants. We have a choice, and our lives, our children's lives, along with their children's lives, will be affected. The two-party system is NOT ideal, but America wants it that way. Avoiding to vote or voting third party is a vote for the current destroyer of American Society and will negatively impact Our People for a hundred years.

HISTORY

ANISHINAABE VIEWS OF THE PAST

Chippewa oral tradition tells of the relationship between individuals and families of the Anishinaabe and the living earth. One of these traditions tells of how the people came to organize themselves into several grand families or clans. In the traditional way of life, every Anishinaabe person was born into a particular clan or doodem. Each clan tied its members to common ancestors of past generations and to other individuals throughout the whole of the Anishinaabe. Each child, male or female, belonged to the same clan as their father. Those of the same clan were considered to be closely related. Members of the same clan could not marry. They had to marry a person from a different clan.

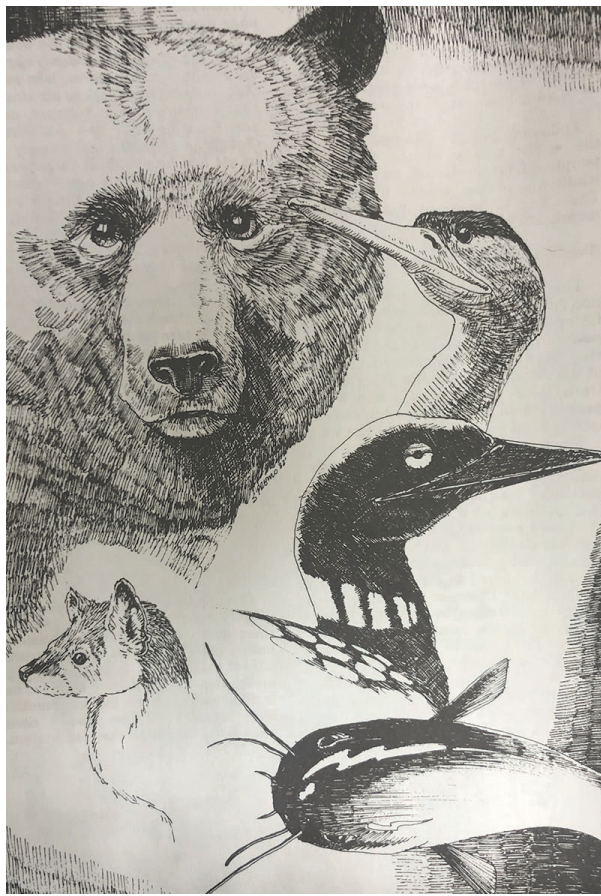
According to the Elders, the Chippewa were given the clan system long ago:

"When the earth was new, the Anishinaabeg lived congregated on the shore of a great salt water. From the bosom of the great deep there suddenly appeared six beings in human form, who entered their wigwams. One of the six strangers kept a covering over his eyes, and he dared not look at the Anishinaabeg, though he showed great anxiety to do so. At last he could no longer refrain his curiosity and on one occasion he partially lifted his veil, and his eye fell on the form of a human being, who instantly fell dead as if struck by one of the thunderers. Though the intentions of this dread being were friendly to the Anishinaabeg, yet the glance of his eye was too strong and he inflicted certain death. His fellows, therefore, caused him to return into the bosom of the great water from which they had apparently emerged.

"The others, who now numbered five, remained with the Anishinaabeg and became a blessing to them; from them originate the five great clans or Totems (doodem), which are known about the Ojibwes (Chippewa) by the general terms A-waus-ese, Bin-en-si, A-chi-chek, Noka, Moosance or Wau-bi-shas-she." (Warren, History of the Ojibway People).

The names of the five original clans are not always the common names for the animals they symbolize. Some are names associated with some characteristic of that animal. "Noka," for example, means "bear." The common term for bear is "mak-wa," and Noka means something like "tender." These special names were used only with the clan system.

In 1852, the Chippewa historian William Whipple Warren recorded a list of 21 clans that were in Chippewa communities at the time. All came from the first five. The list which follows may not be complete: Aj-e-jauk (Crane); Ma-nain-ej (Catfish); Mank (Loon); Makwa (Bear); Wau-bi-shas-she (Mar-



Anishinaabe clan symbols by Steve Premo.

ten); Addick (Reindeer); Mah-ee-n-gun (Wolf); Ne-baun-aub-ay (Merman); Ke-noushay (Pike); Be-sheu (Lynx); Me-gizee (Eagle); Che-she-gwa (Rattlesnake); Mous (Moose); Muk-ud-a-shi-shib (Black Duck); Ne-kay (Goose); Na-may-bin (Sucker); Na-may (Sturgeon); Ude-kumig (Whitefish); Amik (Beaver); Gy-aushk (Gull); Ka-kaik (Hawk).

According to the oral traditions collected by Warren, there were reasons for the clan system of the Anishinaabe. Clans not only set the ties of kinship and regulated marriage; each clan also had a special purpose in village life. The Crane and Loon clans, for example, produced civil chiefs and great speakers. Members of the Bear Clan produced great war chiefs. Because they were first in battle, they camped on the outer edges of the village or camp circle. The Wolf Clan produced scouts. Members of the Marten Clan served as pipe bearers and message carriers for the chiefs.

This passage is taken from 'Against the Tide of American History: The Story of the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe,' published in 1985 by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2010

Nine students from Nay Ah Shing competed in the fourth annual triathlon on Wednesday, September 8. The triathlon consisted of three events: a 100-yard swim, 12-mile bike ride, and 1.5-mile run. Students who participated include Sage Boyd, Marquis Fisher, Tommy White, Jason Boyd, Shaina White, Jennie Mitchell, Amanda Eagle, Daja Barnes, and Dove Boyd. Dr. Arne Vainio and his family traveled to Finland to screen his documentary, "Walking into the Unknown," and to explore his Finnish heritage. Band members Harry Davis and his son Weylin Davis, 27, won first place in the Grand National Golf Course Men's League. The annual Men's Health Fair was held on September 1, 2010 at the District I Community Center. This year's event was focused on positive Native American role modeling and how to be healthy Native American men.

15 years ago — 2005

Kenny Weyaus Sr. and Allen Weyaus Sr. were elected Public Provost and State Second Vice Commander of the Minnesota AMVETS organization. Maid's Approval, owned by Gordon and Kathy Matrious of Running Home Farms near Sandstone, was crowned grand champion mare and grand champion brood mare at the Wissota Appaloosa Horse Futurity in Winona, Minnesota. Winners of the Best Looking Yard contest were Merlin Anderson (District I), Julie Graikowski (District II), Debra Morrison (District II), and Roy Shabaiash Jr. (District III). In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Mille Lacs Band Women's Project was planning its fifth annual March for Family Peace and a feast to follow.

20 years ago — 2000

Tammy Miller participated in the first-ever American Indian caucus at the Democratic National Convention. Band Elder and Veteran Richard Thomas was presented with an eagle feather at the Wild Rice Powwow in Danbury, Wisconsin. Helena Moose Graikowski and Brenda Moose Boyd visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. to honor the memory of their brother, Paul Moose, who died at the age of 20 from injuries suffered in combat during the Korean War. September 11, 2000, was the 50th anniversary of his passing. Marissa Churchill, 18, was an intern for the Corporate Commission. Tony Weous, A.J. Nickaboine, and Dan Boyd participated in the Elders Golf Tournament September 1, 2000, at Izatys Golf and Yacht Club.

The information above is from the September 2000, October 2000, October 2005, and October 2010 issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin. Many back issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin are available at millelacsband.com/news. Click on "Inaajimowin Archive."



SCHOLARSHIP TOURNEY

Eloise Weous, Ruth Sam, and Carmen Porter competed in the women's division of the Third Annual Marge Anderson Youth Golf Scholarship Tournament. More than \$12,000 were raised to provide new opportunities for Band youth.



Isabel Gahbow, Batiste Gahbow, and Agan das in front of a Mille Lacs wigwam around 1925.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

OCTOBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Diana Marie Anderson
 Beverly Jean Bearheart
 Mary Ann Bedausky
 Kevin Alan Benjamin
 Sheldon Ray Boyd
 Marvin Ray Bruneau
 Donna Marie Dorr Cartwright
 Albert Abner Churchill
 Steven Lawrence Churchill
 Darlene Marie Day-Beaulieu
 James F. Dowell
 Joycelyn Marie Drumbeater
 Ronda Leigh Dunfee
 Jack Leo Dunkley
 Angeline Marie Eagle
 Gary Richard Garbow
 Helena Graikowski
 Lorna Mae Hanks
 Lucy May Hansen
 Delores Mae Hegland
 William Robert Hemming
 Steven Blane Hensley
 Sherry Lynn Herrick
 Kevin Scott Karsjens
 Robert Lee Kegg
 Doreen Lorraine Knutson
 Valerie Marie LaFave
 Terrance Steven Leyk
 Joan Littlewolf
 Marcella Jean Maurice
 Jacqueline Applegate McRae
 James Dion Mitchell
 Betty Mae Mondeng
 Brenda Joyce Moose
 Beverly Marie Nayquonabe
 Joseph Wade Nickaboine
 Linda Jean Nickaboine
 Joni Jayne O'Brien
 Debra Jayne Otten
 Teresa Lynn Packard
 Bernice Pawaush
 Jacqueline Ellen Redearth

Dorothy Sam
 Marsha Colleen Sam
 Ruth Anne Sam
 Virginia Louise Sam
 James Robert Schroeder
 Terrance Wayne Shaugobay
 Starry Lynn Silva
 Steven Loren Silva
 Amanda Lynn Skinaway
 Christine Marie Smith
 Nancy Jean Spittell
 Montgomery Jay Staples
 Jack Russell Thomas
 Russell Ernest Towle
 Jill Marie Valentino
 Darlene Almeda Warren
 Earl Ellsworth Whitney
 Vernon James Woyak

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Eric** on 10/25 with love from Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Tiny, Bryn, Bianca, Henry, Binisiikwe, Granny, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Myla, Pie, Rachel, Rory, Randi, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor, and Adam Parker • Happy birthday **Melodie** on 10/31 love the Harrington Family

ELDERS NEEDED!

The Government Affairs Department is seeking Elders to tell their stories for a new Moccasin Telegraph series as well as to preserve video and audio in the Mille Lacs Band archives for future generations. If you are willing to participate in a two-hour video interview to share your memories, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

NOTEBOARD GUIDELINES

The Tribal Noteboard welcomes Band member submissions, including birthdays, congratulatory messages, and memorial tributes. For birthday messages, send name, birthday, and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to news@millelacsband.com or **320-237-6851**. *The deadline for the November issue is October 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.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send weekly news summaries and breaking news updates to Band members.

Don't worry — we will not share your email or overwhelm you with emails. This will be used for weekly news summaries and important updates that need to be shared immediately.

Send your email address to news@millelacsband.com so we can add you to the list!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 11th birthday my Brownie! Love you baby girl, Mom, Gram Sharon, and Papa.



BIINDIGEN!

Ayaana Rose Lea was born on June 25, 2020, at Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby, Minnesota to Shaniah Leslie of Onamia. She weighed 8 lbs. 9oz and was 22 Inches. Ayaana is Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Blackfeet and Wichita. Her grandparents are Mikayla Schaaf, Onamia and Mike Leslie Marysville, WA. Her Great grandparents are William Schaaf, Onamia, and Marsha Lamar, Anadarko, Oklahoma. Biindigen Miikawadiz Abinoojiyenz!

Send your shout-outs to news@millelacsband.com!


ELECTION QUESTIONS?
 WATCH YOUR MAILBOX FOR THE 2020 ELECTION GUIDE, AND IN THE MEANTIME, VISIT MYBALLOTMN.SOS.STATE.MN.US TO SEE WHAT'S ON YOUR BALLOT!

**WANT BAND NEWS IN YOUR INBOX?
 JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!**

The Government Affairs Department's communications team has started sending email updates to Band members who have expressed an interest in receiving important information via email. To sign up for emails, fill out the form at <https://millelacsband.com/services/mailling-list>.

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.



#millelacsvotes
FOR OUR FUTURE
2020 VOTE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE</p> <p>All recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. ID 601 532 2869 Password 456 267.</p> <p>CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!</p> <p>Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in <i>Ojibwe Inaajimowin</i>. For stories of 500 words or more, compensation is \$400. The deadline for stories is the 15th of each month. If you have a story to submit or would like more information, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-495-5006.</p>				<p>1</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p><i>Check out Indigenous online films at www.nfb.ca/indigenous-cinema</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Mick and Syngen's drum District I</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA <i>See below.</i></p> <p><i>Check out these materials for kids (and adult learners) from GLIFWC: https://www.glifwc-inwe.com</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Mick and Syngen's drum District I</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>4</p> <p>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>5</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pine County food distribution 1–3 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Great Lakes Apple Crunch Nay Ah Shing Schools</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>8</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Look up words or practice your Ojibwemowin at https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Ralph and Andy's drum District I</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ralph and Andy's drum District I</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>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>12</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>The deadline for the November issue is October 15. Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pine County food distribution 1–3 p.m. Pine Technical and Community College</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>14</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><i>Thunderbird Strike is an online video game with an Indigenous theme www.thunderbirdstrike.com</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>"When Rivers Were Trails" is an adventure game about the impact of colonization on Indigenous communities: indianlandtenure.itch.io/when-rivers-were-trails</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lynda and Joyce's drum District I</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Learn about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's history with the Student Government Handbook: https://millelacsband.com/news/mct-student-handbook</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>Lynda and Joyce's drum District I</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Play Indigenous educational games at www.7generationgames.com</i></p>
<p>18</p> <p>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>19</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pine County food distribution 1–3 p.m. Askov Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>21</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>22</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Zaagibagaang: Anishinaabe Values in Action shares all kinds of useful information about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: https://zaagibagaang.com</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Deadline for Mille Lacs Band photo contest <i>See page 2</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Watch "The Woodlands: The Story of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe" at https://youtu.be/p29pYyOkW3g</i></p>
<p>25</p> <p>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>26</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pine County food distribution 1–3 p.m. Hinckley Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>28</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>29</p> <p>Inside-Out Halloween Party 9:30–11:30 a.m. Wewinabi Early Ed, District I. <i>See page 10.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Joe and George's drum District I</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Do you need sobriety support? Search Mino Miikana (A good path) on Facebook!</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p>Joe and George's drum District I</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>



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

millelacsband.com

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO 30308

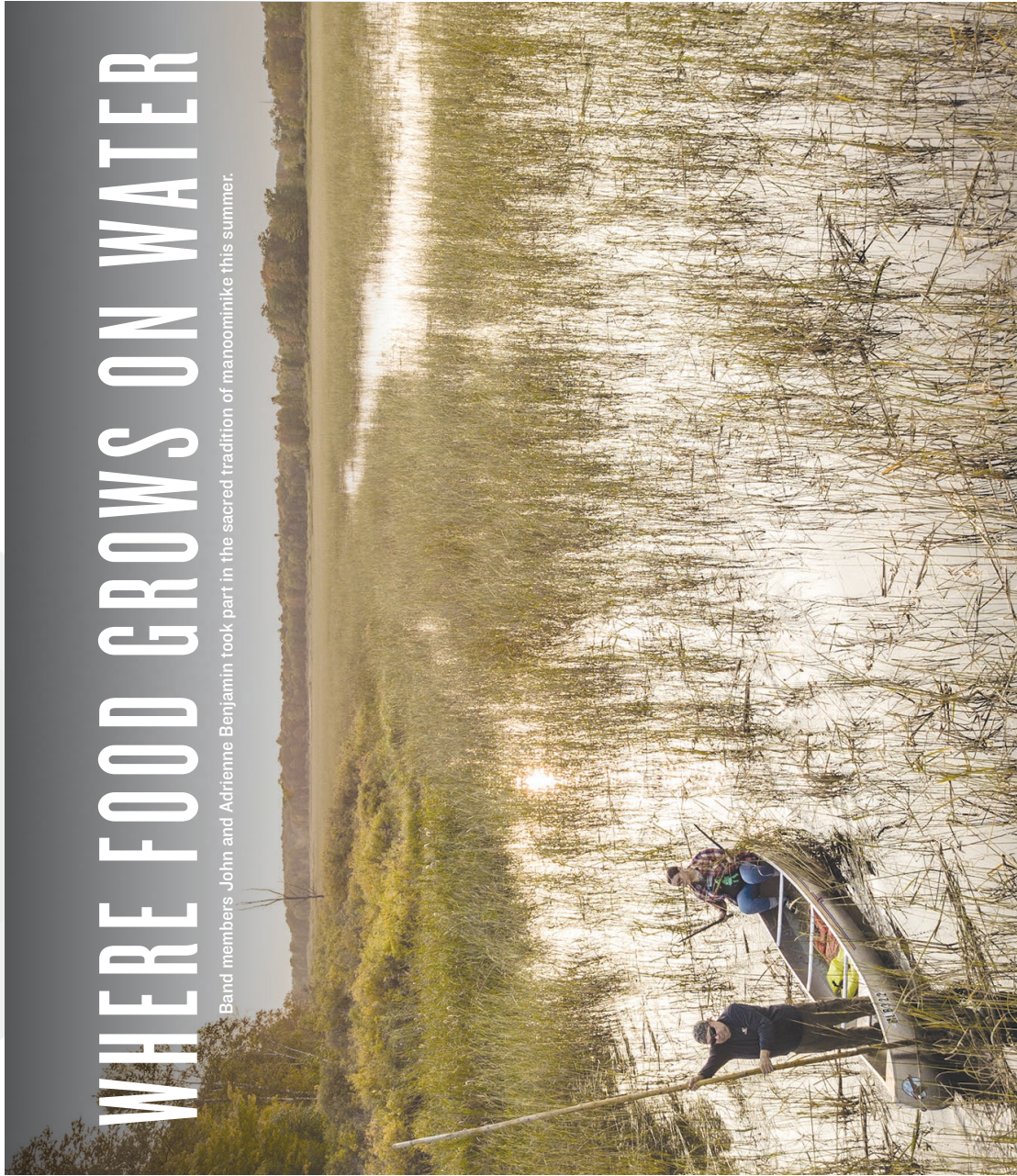


OJIBWE

INAAJIMOWIN

OCTOBER 2020 | VOLUME 22 | NUMBER 10

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



WHERE FOOD GROWS ON WATER

Band members John and Adrienne Benjamin took part in the sacred tradition of manoomniké this summer.

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 320-237-6851. The November issue deadline is October 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 at one of the following on-call numbers:

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497.

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.

REPRESENTATIVE HITS THE GROUND RUNNING
page 1

PARLIAMENTARIAN IS UNSUNG HERO OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
page 5

BAND MEMBER TAKES A STAND BY TAKING A KNEE
page 7

CERTIFICATES EARNED THROUGH PINE TECH PARTNERSHIP
page 8