

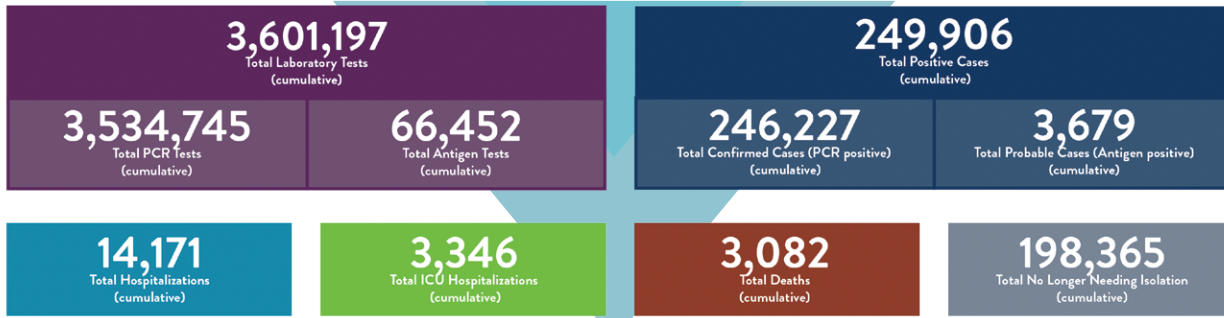


OJIBWE

IN AAJIMOWIN

DECEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 22 | NUMBER 12

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



Joe Biden

Kamala Harris

BIDEN PREVAILS, BUT REPUBLICANS REIGN IN RURAL MINNESOTA

Wind returns to school board; Harrington comes up short

Although President Donald Trump held a narrow lead in nationwide voting and most swing states on November 3, a predicted shift occurred as absentee ballots gave challenger Joe Biden substantial leads in Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Nevada. Major news outlets on Saturday, November 7, declared that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris would be the next President and Vice President of the United States.

On Monday, November 9, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin sent her congratulations: "The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe congratulates President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-Elect Kamala Harris on their election victory, and are excited to work with them. This is also a day of celebration because this is a profound moment in history. The glass ceiling is forever shattered, and our little girls now know their dreams can come true. I'm excited for the day when I meet Senator Harris again and get to say, 'Madame Vice President.'"

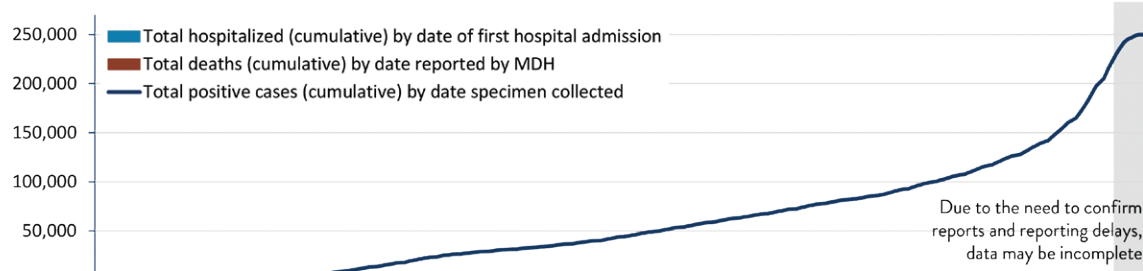
The slow ballot-counting process and delayed declaration of victory were predicted by state and federal election officials, due to the large number of absentee ballots. With COVID-19 infections increasing throughout the fall, many voters chose to vote early in person or by mail-in absentee ballot, and some state laws would not allow counting of absentee ballots until Election Day or after.

In Minnesota, Biden and Harris won 52.6 percent of the vote to 45.4 percent for Trump and Pence. U.S. Senator Tina Smith was reelected over Jason Lewis, and the delegation to the House of Representatives will be split, with four Democrats and four Republicans. In our rural communities, voters chose Republicans by wide margins.

Community members

Several of our Band and community members were on the ballot, but unfortunately only one emerged successful. Virgil Wind was reelected to the Onamia School Board.

Election see page 8



MMWR Week	Week ID	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24	Week 25	Week 26	Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31	Week 32	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38	Week 39	Week 40	Week 41	Week 42	Week 43	Week 44	Week 45	Week 46	Week 47
	31/12-31/17	31/18-31/24	31/25-31/31	31/32-31/38	31/39-31/45	31/46-31/52	31/53-31/59	31/60-31/66	31/67-31/73	31/74-31/80	31/81-31/87	31/88-31/94	31/95-31/101	31/102-31/108	31/109-31/115	31/116-31/122	31/123-31/129	31/130-31/136	31/137-31/143	31/144-31/150	31/151-31/157	31/158-31/164	31/165-31/171	31/172-31/178	31/179-31/185	31/186-31/192	31/193-31/199	31/200-31/206	31/207-31/213	31/214-31/220	31/221-31/227	31/228-31/234	31/235-31/241	31/242-31/248	31/249-31/255	31/256-31/262	31/263-31/269	31/270-31/276
MM Phases of Reopening	Stay Home MN 3/26-5/17						Phase 1 5/18-6/1		P2 6/1-9		Phase 3+ 6/10-present																											

COVID SURGES, TERC RESPONDS

VIRTUAL SERVICE DELIVERY WILL ENHANCE SAFETY

A dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases throughout rural Minnesota — and in the District I community — led the Mille Lacs Band's Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) on November 12 to call for enhanced safety measures to protect our communities while continuing to provide necessary services to Band members.

The TERC voted unanimously to transition to virtual service delivery of all Band government, health, and education services that can be delivered in a virtual environment.

"COVID-19 continues to spread unchecked throughout much of Minnesota and is a growing threat to our reservation communities," said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "Maintaining government services is critical to our Band members, but we must do so in a way that keeps everyone healthy and in the fight against this virus."

All Mille Lacs Band government buildings have been closed to the public, and essential employees have been ordered to work from home whenever possible. Staff who have critical work functions that must be performed in the office will be

scheduled with staggered shifts, have separate dedicated offices to work from, or will otherwise socially distance. Sanitization of workspaces for anyone working in the office is being emphasized.

Tribally operated schools will operate through distance learning only, and in-school daycare services and before and after school programs are on hold or being conducted via Zoom conference.

The new orders went into effect on Monday, November 16, with no specific end date.

In a letter to Band member heads of household dated November 13, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared the TERC's decision while assuring Band members that their needs will still be met.

"The most critical services our Band members count on will continue to be provided," they said. "Our Ne-la-Shing clinic will continue to operate as well as all services of HHS and Aanjibimaadizing."

Enhanced safety see page 5

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS — STAY SAFE BY STAYING HOME

From Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd's letter to Band members: "We are asking all Band members to again shelter in place as much as possible over the next several weeks. This is the most dangerous phase of COVID-19 we have experienced to date in Minnesota, and health experts are predicting this phase will get worse over the next several weeks. State health officials report the disease's rampant spread is being fueled by informal gatherings and get-togethers with family and friends, transmitted unknowingly by people who have the virus but do not have symptoms."

SEE PAGE 14 FOR IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS TO REACH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES DURING VIRTUAL SERVICE DELIVERY.

MESSAGE
FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Boozhoo, Band members. Miigwech to everyone who voted in the November 3rd election, especially with new processes in place and health and safety issues that had to be considered. Like many of you, I am relieved this election season is behind us. Normally at this stage after the election, other tribal leaders and I would be busy working closely with the incoming President's transition team to ensure a strong government-to-government relationship is at the core of the new administration's federal-Indian policy.

At the time I'm writing this column, the current president has yet to admit he lost the election and is stopping President-Elect Biden's transition team from getting the work done that is necessary to ensure a smooth transition. This state of uncertainty in the midst of a global pandemic is unfortunate, but it hasn't stopped us from conducting all outreach we can. It is imperative that the Biden Administration appoint people who understand and support tribal sovereignty and our priorities as the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and assuming that President Biden follows through on his commitments, that is what will happen.

"ACCORDING TO STATE DATA, COVID-19 IS IMPACTING AMERICAN INDIANS THREE TIMES MORE THAN IT IMPACTS THE REST OF THE POPULATION."

The spread of COVID-19 is still out of control in Minnesota. Across all three districts, we have had more than 60 positive cases. According to state data, COVID-19 is impacting American Indians three times more than it impacts the rest of the population. We are also three times more likely to end up in an ICU with a ventilator, and three times more likely to pass away from COVID-19-related complications. This is why we continue to urge you to wear masks and to stay home if possible.

The State's data shows that the primary cause of spread has been happening around family dinner tables and in restaurants, when people must remove their masks to eat. This is why the Governor has closed all indoor dining and is asking Minnesotans not to invite anyone to their homes to dine who are not already living in the household.

One of the greatest difficulties we face right now is that many Band members who are sick are not getting tested, and spreading the disease to others. Another major issue is that some Band members are getting tested at outside facilities, where tests can take up to eight days to get back. During this time, infected people are spreading the virus throughout their families because they do not know they are positive. Please, Band members, go to our Ne-la-Shing Clinic where you can get same-day test results, and the Band can coordinate in getting you quarantine packages and other assistance.

We also need everyone to get your flu shots. The outcome for someone contracting both coronavirus and the virus which causes seasonal flu could be deadly, so flu shots are as important as wearing masks and social distancing.

One bit of good news: According to State officials, data shows that tribal casinos have not been a source of large COVID-19 outbreaks in Minnesota, due to the health and safety precautions we have taken to protect our employees and guests. On a Zoom call with other tribal leaders on November 16, Governor Walz informed us of this. He said that if the rest of Minnesota were handling the pandemic the way the tribal governments and tribal casinos have been handling it, Minnesota would not have an uncontrolled outbreak today. This is one reason we have elected to keep our casinos open to the public. Our Corporate team has put tremendous planning and thought into safeguards for casino guests and employees, and that is why casinos have not been a source of major outbreaks.

The Band is committed to continuing to do whatever we can to protect our Band members, including transitioning nearly all our Band services to an online environment so that Band members and employees can safely interact without danger of spreading the disease. On January 12, 2021, we will even be holding the State of the Band online, so please mark your calendars for that date and look for your invitation in the mail.

NCAI also held an all-virtual fall conference this year, and I participated as a guest panelist during a session on how the Federal Reserve can better support tribal economic development. Usually when a bank invests in an economic development project for a non-Indian entity, the land and the buildings on it are used as collateral. This means if a project fails, the Bank can seize the land and buildings, then sell it to another buyer. That is impossible with federal trust land. Oftentimes, the big banks are reluctant to do business with Indian Country

because trust land is forever protected by the federal government. I shared some of our ideas about how the Federal Reserve could work better with banks and Indian Country.

On November 9-10, I attended a meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), which is comprised of 10 of the 11 tribal governments of Minnesota. MIAC is a state advisory agency, and we hold quarterly meetings to exchange information with state agencies and elected officials.

I also participated in several meetings with Band Assembly this past month and continue to be impressed by the efforts of Secretary-Treasurer/Speaker Sheldon Boyd to shift all business to an online environment and to make the meetings so accessible for Band members. The Band Assembly's use of technology for virtual meetings has been impressive and has not slowed down business a single bit. As a government, we have been working to ensure that Band members continue to be served during these difficult times.

My favorite meeting in November happened on the 6th, when nearly 60 Band Elders from the three districts, the urban area, and even out-of-state joined me for a Zoom meeting to talk about our current issues and to answer questions. I was so pleased that very many Elders were able to join this call, and that it worked so well. This is new technology for me, as well, and to be able to see so many of you and talk with you was wonderful. I hope to hold more meetings like that in the near future.

With the pandemic and the near constant stream of concerning issues that we are bombarded with every time we turn on the news or even just look at our phones, it can be easy to get stuck in a doom-and-gloom state of mind. This can be especially hard when families are used to celebrating the holiday season together. It is important to remind ourselves that we are resilient people who have been through worse. It is important to rely on our culture, ceremonies, and whenever possible experience nature's gifts to help us.

Even though the holiday season will be very different this year, there are many opportunities to keep closely connected with family and friends through phone and video calls, cards, and gifts left outside a front door. In the meantime, your Band government will continue doing everything we can to protect Band members. If we all work together, we can all be together again for many more holidays to come. Miigwech.

STATE OF THE BAND WILL BE HELD ONLINE ON JANUARY 12



Mille Lacs Band statutes require that on the second Tuesday of each January the Band Assembly will call a special joint assembly for the purposes of a State of the Band address. This year, pursuant to an executive order signed by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, the State of the Band will be a virtual event.

We want to make it as easy as possible for Band members to attend this year's virtual State of the Band. Please go to <https://millelacsband.com/services/sotb-2021> to sign up today, and we will send you reminders about State of the Band as well as information about how to attend online. Please note that we will also add you to the Mille Lacs Band email list to receive periodic emails with important news about your Mille Lacs Band government.



SECRETARY-TREASURER SHELDON BOYD

THE LAWS OF THE NON-REMOVABLES

Band Assembly publishes updated version of Band statutes

The Mille Lacs Band Assembly has shared a digital copy of the updated Laws of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians. A book version of the document will be published in coming months. Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd wrote the following forward to the document:

The Legislative Branch is pleased to provide an updated publication of the Laws of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians. These statutes belong to the People and are the result of many years of hard work by dedicated individuals in collaboration with elected leaders. The lawmaking process is one of negotiation, review, rewrites, deliberation, and, yes, politics. But these statutes lay the foundation to govern independently and promote our sovereignty as a People.

The Legislative Branch is taking on the task of regular publication of statutes, routine notification to Band membership, and the creation of a Revisor's Office. Since the most recent publication of Band Statutes in 2006, one title has been repealed (Title 25), two titles have been adopted (Titles 26 and 27), and several titles have been amended by way of ordinance. Thus, Band Statutes are fluid in nature and will need constant review by Band members and elected leaders.

According to 4 MLBS § 18(e), only the Band's Solicitor General may "certify to the ordinances of Band government and codify said ordinances into Band Statutes." The Solicitor General has recently issued Certificates of Correctness for Titles 5, 6, 16, 18, 24, 26, and 27. As of November 9, 2020, the titles contained herein are the most current versions known to the Legislative Branch. As more laws are passed and Certificates of Correctness are issued, official titles will be uploaded to the Band's website.



"WE ALL HAVE A DUTY TO READ AND KNOW THESE WORDS, TO DISAGREE AND SECOND-GUESS, TO RECOGNIZE AND ABIDE BY, TO MAKE ONGOING CHANGES, AND TO PROPOSE THE CREATION OF ENTIRELY NEW BODIES OF LAW TO MEET THE TIMES WE LIVE IN."

— SECRETARY-TREASURER SHELDON BOYD

"We all have a duty to read and know these words, to disagree and second-guess, to recognize and abide by, to make ongoing changes, and to propose the creation of entirely new bodies of law to meet the times we live in. Thank you to all Legislative staff, past and present, who have been instrumental in the exercise of our tribal sovereignty. But the ultimate thank you is to the People of the Band from whom the Legislative Branch derives its power. We must never forget that the inherent power to make law comes only from the People."

Miigwech, Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly
November 9, 2020.

The searchable document can be viewed or downloaded at <https://millelacsband.com/news/band-assembly-announces-publication-of-updated-laws-of-the-mille-lacs-band>.

REPRESENTATIVES PROVIDE GROCERIES

Band members from Districts I and II and the urban area were invited to pick up a bag of Thanksgiving groceries on Friday, November 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Grand Market in District I. District I Representative Virgil Wind and District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, in collaboration with Wewinabi Inc., provided 702 bags of groceries to complete Band members' Thanksgiving meals. "Even though we are unable to share a meal together, we wanted to make sure you could have a meal safely at home with your family," the representatives said. In lieu of the annual Fall Feast, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures provided turkey and pie for Band members in the casino parking lot.

And congratulations to Representative Wind for his reelection to the Onamia School Board.

TRIBAL ATTORNEY ELECTED TO COUNCIL

Legislative Staff Attorney Hanna Valento was elected to the Forest Lake City Council on November 3.

Hanna was one of four candidates running for two open seats, and she came in second with 25.89 percent of the vote. She said her top priority is to increase communication with community members and empower the younger generations to become involved in local government. She also said she wants to see the city grow and produce more jobs and revenue.

"Though I haven't lived in Forest Lake my whole life (I grew up in Hugo — the city south of Forest Lake), Forest Lake has always felt like my community because I went to the Forest Lake area public schools, volunteered in Forest Lake, and continue to attend the Career Day that the high school puts on for the students," said Hanna. "I enjoy being involved in my community and love seeing it improve! I also decided to run because I felt like the skills I have gained from working for the Band could be beneficial to the local government."

Contratulations to Hanna, and best of luck bringing positive changes to your community!

Hanna's main focus as Legislative Staff Attorney has been to format all the Mille Lacs Band statutes and put them into one document.

"In that process, we were finding old ordinances that weren't codified into Band statute, so I was updating old statutes and sending the appropriate documents to the Solicitor General so he could codify those updates, ensuring everything was accurate," said Hanna. "All in all, we are trying to make sure everything is updated so Band members and employees have the most current statutes."

See the article by Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd at the top of this page for more information on statute updates.



Hanna Valento

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Band Assembly continued to meet via Zoom and phone conference in November, holding pre-Band Assembly meetings on Tuesdays, regular meetings on Wednesdays, and work sessions on Thursdays, with some exceptions due to holidays.

Wednesday, November 4: Band Assembly heard a donation request from Brendan Fairbanks, Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota, for an Ojibwe Immersion House at the University of Minnesota.

Commissioner of Administration Baabitaw Boyd came to the meeting to discuss the suspension of the Grievance Committee and the Early Elder Retirement Option.

The following bills and resolutions were introduced and approved:

a) Band Assembly Bill 19-02-04-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the Health & Human Services, Natural Resources and Education Departments for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2020 and September 30, 2021.

b) Band Assembly Bill 19-02-05-20: A Bill enacting the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act, to be known as Leasing of Trust Lands, and numbered in the Mille Lacs Band Statutes as Chapter 7 of Title 21.

c) Resolution 19-02-12-21: A Resolution Approving the Continuance of the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Non-Gaming, and Gaming Fiscal Operations Until December 31, 2020.

Contracts were approved for home repairs, fire rehabilitation, development of a chronic pain clinic, and technical assistance and training for Guardians Ad Litem.

Formal notifications and requests from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures were approved for services and capital improvements.

Thursday, November 12: Due to the Warriors' Day holiday on Wednesday, November 11, Band Assembly held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 12, after a preliminary meeting on Tuesday, November 10.

A formal public hearing was held at 10 a.m. regarding a proposed statute establishing a Revisor's Office. On October 29, 2020, the Band Assembly provided notice to the public of the formal public hearing. The notice was distributed via email and posted on the Legislative Branch's Facebook page. All efforts were made to comply not only with Band statute, but also with a binding Solicitor's Opinion. The meeting was conducted between 10 and 11:15 a.m., as scheduled, and the Band Assembly therefore considers all legal requirements with respect to formal public hearings to have been met.

A Joint Session was held at 11:15 a.m. with all members of Band Assembly and the Chief Executive in attendance.

The Joint Session approved resolutions approving membership in the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Gaming Association.

Resolutions to cancel residential leases were approved, along with resolutions authorizing Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures to expend funds on computer equipment, infrastructure hardware/software replacement, a surveillance video project, and HVAC.

See millelacsband.com/news for complete updates.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Rare Ojibwe woven mats relocated from Isle Royale to Grand Portage: In September, the entire tribal council for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa gathered on a dock jutting into the lake as staff from Isle Royale National Park transported five hand-woven mats, called anaakanan in the Ojibwe language, made from cedar and sweetgrass. Their destination was Grand Portage National Monument. Several of the 100-year-old mats were made by Helen Robinson Linklater, or Tchi-Ki-Wis, an Ojibwe woman who lived on Isle Royale in the late 1920s and early 1930s with her husband John Linklater, a game warden. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Wakan Tipi Center aims for spring groundbreaking: Community supporters in St. Paul and at Minnesota's four Dakota communities are still raising funds and making plans with their sights set on a spring groundbreaking for the Wakan Tipi Center that is envisioned as a great Dakota heritage preservation and learning center. With a recent \$1 million appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature and additional financial help from the Prairie Island Indian Community, backers of Wakan Tipi have now raised \$6.4 million of the \$7.7 million needed to start work on the center. *Source: thecirclearnews.org.*

Prairie Island Indian Community gets FCC telecom license: The Prairie Island Indian Community near Red Wing received a wireless telecom license from the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau granted 154 applications to close the digital divide and provide broadband and other advanced wireless services to rural tribal communities. In Minnesota, there were three licenses granted. The other two went to the Red Lake Nation and Upper Sioux Community. *Source: postbulletin.com.*

ACLU Sues Minneapolis for Raiding Encampments of Unhoused People: The city of Minneapolis is accused of violating the constitutional rights of people who are homeless in a lawsuit filed in federal court on October 19. The lawsuit, brought by the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota and Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, alleges that the city, Hennepin County, the police, and the Parks and Recreation department violated the Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights of the people targeted. It seeks a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against further evictions, plus damages for property losses. *Source: filtermag.org.*

Art museum criticized for not returning Native American objects: The Weisman Art Museum faces criticism for delay in the inventory of the Mimbres Collection, which includes human remains and burial belongings excavated by the University of Minnesota in the 1920s. Despite repeated attempts by affiliated tribes to return the collection to New Mexico, the objects remain at the Weisman. Under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), institutions that receive federal funding must create an inventory of any Native American cultural objects or funerary remains as a part of the repatriation process. The museum said their full inventory of the objects should be complete by March 2021. *Source: mndaily.com.*

TRIBAL COURT

JUDGE OSBURN SWORN IN FOR 6-YEAR TERM

Richard Osburn returns as Mille Lacs Band District Court Judge

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Judge Richard Osburn stepped into the challenging role of District Court Judge for the Mille Lacs Band's Tribal Court this fall, but with a prior six-year term under his belt, it is a challenge he is familiar with and well prepared to meet.

Judge Osburn wants Band members to know that if they come to Tribal Court, they are going to receive a fair hearing. "My job is to be neutral, to look at the facts alleged, apply the law, and make an impartial decision," he said.

Judge Osburn places a high priority on timely resolution of cases. He recently heard of a child welfare case in State Court that took 90 days for a motion to transfer to be granted. "My goal is to get orders out the day of the hearing or the next business day. Seven days is the longest you will wait here. If you have a hearing, and the facts are clear and the law is clear, you should get a decision in a timely fashion and not have to wait four, five, or six weeks.

When Judge Osburn served his first term with the Band, there was a big backlog of cases, which he and his Tribal Court colleagues cleared up in a couple of months. This time, they've already dealt with the backlog. "We're caught up now, and the goal is to stay caught up," he said.

In addition to timely resolution of cases, Tribal Court is far less expensive for Band members in most cases. "State court is going to cost you a lot more money and take a lot more time," said Judge Osburn. "In Tribal Court, we can get somebody's situation resolved a lot quicker with minimal costs, and sometimes zero out-of-pocket expenses."

The majority of cases heard in Tribal Court are child welfare cases, along with guardianships, adoptions, and custody. Judge Osburn can also perform weddings.

Violations of the Band's criminal code (Title 24, Chapter 2) are also heard in Tribal Court.

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began, Chief Justice Court Orders 53, 54, and 55 were issued to establish procedures so that hearings, trials, filings, and affidavits would not need to occur in person.

Judge Osburn is currently working from home three days a week while coming in for courtroom hearings on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Band members can rest assured that Judge Osburn is well qualified for the position of District Court Judge. He graduated from law school at the University of Oklahoma, and in addition to his previous work for the Band and the Cherokee Nation, he has spent the last six years as an unemployment judge with the State of Minnesota. He has also earned three professional development certifications — one of the first judges in the nation to complete three trainings with the National Judicial College.

He is also an Appeals Officer for the Courts of Indian Offenses, which, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, "operate where tribes retain jurisdiction over American Indians that is exclusive of state jurisdiction, but where tribal courts have not been established to fully exercise that jurisdiction."

He also served in the military, enlisting in the Air Force Reserve in high school and then transferring to Naval ROTC in college. His military career gave him the opportunity to visit Thailand, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain as he served active duty on two destroyers as an Ensign, followed by eight years in the Reserves. "Being in the Reserves was a lot more fun than active duty," he said.

Judge Osburn got his first job out of law school thanks to his mother, who knew the General Counsel for the Cherokee Nation. She introduced the two, and Richard had a job waiting for him as soon as he passed the bar. "Sometimes success is being in the right place at the right time," he said.

Judge Osburn served as District Court Judge from 2008 to 2014. He had come to work for the Band as Deputy Solicitor in 2007 and was nominated by the Chief Executive and confirmed by the Band Assembly.

Judge Osburn is married to Kristie Vance, who works as a full-time substitute teacher at Nay Ah Shing High School. He has three adult children and one who is a student at Onamia



Richard Osburn was joined by his family when he was sworn in October 13 by Justice Ramona Applegate.



High School.

The Judicial Branch is the smallest of the Tribal Government's three branches. There are nine employees in the branch, which is overseen by three Appeals Court Justices and Court Administrator Gilda Burr.

According to Judge Osburn, judicial employees prefer to remain under the radar while doing their jobs. "Our goal is to stay in the basement and not make it into the newspaper," he joked.

Judge Osburn replaces Judge David Christensen, who did not seek another term.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

The judicial branch of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe preserves and maintains justice and accords equal rights, equal protection, and equal opportunity for Band members under Band laws and statutes. The Band's Court of Central Jurisdiction is made up of a District (or trial) Court and a Court of Appeals.

The Appeals Court consists of an Associate Justice from each of the reservation's three districts, one of these being the Chief Justice. The Appeals Court handles any appeals from the District Court, which is presided over by the District Court Judge. The District Court hears all civil cases, including traffic and natural resource violations, small claims, family cases, juvenile justice cases, and more. All justices are appointed by the Band's Chief Executive and ratified by the Band Assembly to serve six-year terms.

The Interim Chief Justice is Ramona Applegate, who represents District II, and the District I Associate Justice is Elmer Nayquonabe. The District III Associate Justice position is currently vacant.

Enhanced safety from page 1

"Our snowplows and garbage services will continue. Our Tribal Court services will continue virtually, and our Tribal Police will still be patrolling our roads. Staff will continue to provide services online, by phone and by appointment. A list of important contact numbers is included in this mailing and is also available online and on Facebook." See page 18 for the list of important numbers.

Rural hot spots

The Chief and Secretary-Treasurer went on to describe the current COVID-19 surge and ask Band members to do their part to slow the spread.

"East-central Minnesota is now ground zero for the most rapidly spreading outbreak of COVID-19 in Minnesota, with Mille Lacs County having the highest rate of spread per capita in the entire state. Locally, 168 Band members, employees, and community members are now in quarantine due to having contracted COVID-19 or being exposed to someone with COVID-19. All three Band Districts are within 'hot spots' according to the State and the Centers for Disease Control."

The Mille Lacs Band took the virus very seriously since the start of the pandemic and responded swiftly with a stay home order and a mask mandate in government buildings. The state of Minnesota also acted quickly, but as initial efforts were successful and numbers improved, anti-mask disinformation and conspiracy theories spread, and residents became less careful about social distancing, mask-wearing, and hand-washing.

The upper Midwest has become a nationwide breeding ground for COVID-19 due to lackluster government response in some areas and blatant disregard of local, state, and federal guidelines in others.

The predictable result has been a growing wave of cases that are overwhelming rural hospitals and resulting in tens of thousands of infections and hundreds of deaths in the state in recent weeks.

In mid-November, Minnesota continued to set records for daily new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

States that resisted imposing mask mandates for months, like North Dakota and Iowa, reversed course as cases surged and health care systems couldn't keep up.

Operations plan

The Chief Executive and Secretary-Treasurer informed Band members of changes that went into effect beginning November 16:

- Entry to all Band buildings will be restricted,

- All Band functions will continue to be available online, by phone, and by appointment.
- Health and Human Services will continue to be available, with most health services being virtual, but also in-person by appointment with greater safety restrictions in place. Pharmacy pickup will remain the same.
- Early Education and K-12 Mille Lacs Band Education programs will move to all-distance learning.
- Daycare services will be closed.
- All Band government employees who are able to fully carry out their duties remotely will shift to a remote work environment.
- Housing Maintenance will continue on an emergency basis only, such as heating, water, and wastewater issues.
- The Office of Management and Budget will continue to provide essential services with further increased efforts toward a virtual and paperless environment.
- Additional furloughs may go into effect.

The letter concluded, "The Band government will continue embracing technologies to empower our workforce to work remotely while still engaging with Band members, delivering virtual services, and ensuring continuity of Band operations as much as possible. We are focused on delivering innovative solutions to support essential services because your safety and wellness is our top priority."

YOUTH: KEEP ELDERS SAFE

"The State has reported that asymptomatic youth, teens, and young adults aged 18-35 are currently the largest spreaders of this disease to their elderly parents and grandparents. These younger people are not sick, they do not have symptoms, and so they are unlikely to know they are positive for COVID-19, but they are infected and highly contagious. This is why Governor Walz is requiring the closure of bars and restaurants after 10 p.m. when these businesses are mainly visited by young adults.

"Please, continue to socially distance, wear masks, wash hands, and stay home as much as possible. Your safety is our top priority."

— Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin
— Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd.

GRA UPDATE

SELF-EXCLUSION FOR GAMBLING PREVENTION

The holiday season is filled with celebrations and family gatherings. However, for those fighting gambling addiction, it can be a time of added temptation. These could include strain on budget, family "poker" parties, dangerous gifts (scratch-offs), alcohol, and extra time off from work causing feelings of boredom and loneliness. Try to avoid these triggers, if you are struggling with gambling addiction. However, if you are finding the holiday season difficult or just need someone to talk to about gambling temptations, please call the Problem Gambling Hotline: 1-800-333-4673 (HOPE).

For those with a strong urge to gamble beyond your means and feelings of regret about gambling, you can pursue a self-exclusion with the GRA to give yourself some time away from the casinos for as little as six months at a time. Please text or call our office (320-384-4811) or visit the Grand Casino MN website (Resources tab) to obtain a copy of a self-exclusion form to help streamline your request for exclusion.

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

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

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Turtle Lake casino closes for 30 days: St. Croix Casinos announced last month that its Turtle Lake location had closed and would remain so for the next 30 days. The St. Croix Chippewa of Wisconsin said they decided the closure was necessary for the safety of guests, workers, and the Chippewa community. The closure comes as coronavirus cases surge in Wisconsin and across the Midwest. *Source: minnesota.cbslocal.com.*

Native Farm Bill Coalition receives funding to continue D.C. advocacy efforts: The Native American Agriculture Fund and MAZON, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit, have distributed \$1.1 million in grants to the Native Farm Bill Coalition and the newly formed Native American Food and Nutrition Resources Alliance. The effort will help fund Native American food and agricultural advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill. The Native Farm Bill Coalition's chief goal is to continue increasing the presence of Native agriculture in federal Farm Bill legislation, which is enacted approximately every five years. *Source: tribalbusinessnews.com.*

Tribes continue opposition to Dakota Access Pipeline: Native American tribes opposed to the Dakota Access Pipeline once again have asked a federal judge to stop the flow of oil while the legal battle over the line plays out. The Standing Rock Sioux and other tribes succeeded on their first attempt, only to have an appeals court overturn a U.S. District judge's shutdown order earlier this year. Now, they're asking the judge to clarify his earlier ruling to satisfy the appellate judges and then to again order the line to cease operations, the Bismarck Tribune reported. *Source: startribune.com.*

Tribal business leaders expect difficult economic recovery: New findings from the Federal Reserve's Center for Indian Country Development suggest that many tribal businesses don't expect a quick or easy recovery from business losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Just 16 percent say that their business has kept operating at normal capacity, returned to its normal level, or will get back to the norm within three months, the report said. Nearly half expect that it will take more than six months to return to normal operations, and more than a quarter expect that their business will effectively never return to its pre-pandemic baseline. *Source: forbes.com.*

New memorial recognizes generations of military service by Native American veterans: After 25 years in the making, a new monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., opened on Veterans Day — the National Native American Veterans Memorial. "It's an article of faith in Indian country that Native Americans serve at a greater rate than basically any other group," said Kevin Gover, the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and a citizen of the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. He said the steel ring sculpture over a carved stone drum will become hallowed ground. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Native American vote crucial to Biden's success in Arizona: President-elect Joe Biden edged out President Trump by around 12,000 votes in Arizona, a state with 67,000 registered Native American voters, who chose Biden by a wide margin. Every vote was critical, and Native American voters may have played a role in pushing Biden to victory in the state. About 17,500 more people from Navajo and Hopi reservations voted this year than in 2016. *Source: cbsnews.com.*

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH GAMBLING ADDICTION? CALL 1-800-333-4673 (HOPE).

COVID HOUSING GRANT DEADLINE

The deadline is December 30 to apply for the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program, which provides housing assistance payments to help prevent eviction, prevent homelessness, and maintain housing stability for eligible renters and homeowners.

The program is available in all districts and the urban area.

Eligibility

Are you a Minnesota resident? Do you have a housing-related payment with a due date of March 1, 2020, or later that is past due? Is the housing issue due to unemployment, illness, or another issue that happened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? If so, contact Aanjibimaadizing for assistance.

Eligible expenses include rent, mortgage, utilities, and other housing-related payments (association dues, manufactured home lot rent, etc.) Eligible renters or homeowners must have a household income at or below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines. (Preference is given to households at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.)

Aanjibimaadizing can help you with the required Common Housing Application, which requires personal identification, household certification, release of information, and income documentation.

If you have questions about the program, call Tammy Moreland at 320-292-1942. Call Gladys at 320-532-7407 or email gladys.sam2@millelacsband.com to schedule an appointment with someone to walk you through the application.

COVID-19

GOVERNOR TO MINNESOTANS: DIAL BACK

Dial Back, Minnesota is a temporary pause of most social activities, in-person dining, sports, and indoor fitness activity in group settings. This four-week pause will be in place between November 20, 2020, through December 18, 2020. While some businesses can continue to offer goods and services in a safe manner, many others will again have to weather the challenge of adjusting their operations to "to-go" or virtual means. We hope these temporary changes will reduce the number of infections while safely supporting our schools, hospitals, and economy.

Although the recommendations do not apply in Indian Country, the Band has adopted similar restrictions, and they are important guidelines for all of us to follow to keep ourselves and our communities safe.

Among the changes that went into effect at midnight on November 20:

- Do not gather with people from other households.
- No indoor or outdoor gatherings, except with immediate household members.
- No person from outside your immediate household should enter your home.
- Restaurants and bars are closed to the public except for delivery and takeout.
- Up to five customers at a time may be inside the establishment to pick up orders.
- Gyms, personal fitness and yoga studios, martial arts are closed to the public.
- Indoor and outdoor events and entertainment are closed.
- Schools will continue to follow the state's safe learning plan.
- Organized sports are on pause.
- All indoor facilities at outdoor recreation sites will be closed.
- Gathering outdoors is allowed with immediate household members ONLY
- Reception spaces for celebrations or private parties are closed.
- Pools and swim parks are closed.

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE

If you are getting tested somewhere other than the Ne-la-Shing Clinic and you test POSITIVE, please call the nurse line at 320-630-0855 as soon as possible. This is extremely important for our public health department in order to conduct accurate and complete contact tracing.

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

If you are experiencing ANY symptoms, please stay home and monitor yourself. If your symptoms worsen, or do not get better for a few days, then call the nurse line at 320-630-0855.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
 Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
 Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

cdc.gov/COVID19



MIIGWECH FOR MIIGWECH DAY MEALS!

On November 13, MLCV opened the holiday season of thanks by distributing turkeys and pies to Mille Lacs Band members. This giveaway was held in place of MLCV's annual Fall Feast, which was canceled this year due to the pandemic. "We look forward to the Fall Feast every year because it's our opportunity to thank the community for all of the support they show to our businesses and Associates. This year's version had safety at the forefront, and we hope everyone enjoys the gifts," said Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. In total, 1,004 Turkeys and 1,013 pies were distributed. "We appreciate and thank all those who have celebrated with us over the years at the Fall Feast, and we look forward to continuing this celebration and tradition in 2021."

HALLOWEEN FUN IN DISTRICT I

The District I Outdoor Halloween event was held Saturday, October 31, from 4-6 p.m. at the old District I Community Center. About 200 attendees came through to take photos and pick up some treats. About 150 entered the costume contest. It was a cold, windy day, but fun was had by all! Miigwech to those who came out and to our volunteers who helped make this happen.

GE-NIIGAANIZIJIG

TRADITIONS, FITNESS — AND UKULELES! YOUTH PROGRAM ADJUSTS TO COVID-19

Ge-niigaanizijig, the Mille Lacs Band's youth program, which operates in all three districts as part of Aanjibimaadizing, has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with unique programming and a shift from face-to-face meetings to Zoom conferences.

According to Carlos Merrill, who directs the program, students are responding well and staff have stepped up to the challenge.

Cheyenne Peet is the program coordinator for Minisinaakwaang (District II) Ge-niigaanizijig. She said the programming looks a lot different now than a year ago. "Normally we get to see the youth four to five times a week and interact with them," she said. "This helps us get a sense of what they need. It has definitely been a challenge not seeing them on a regular basis."

In regularly scheduled Zoom meetings, Cheyanne has covered voting, resiliency, and the story of the jingle dress, among other educational topics. "Sometimes we will be using this time to play games and have fun, get some laughs in, mainly to help build the relationships between staff and youth."

New clubs

Recently, several clubs have kicked off via Zoom, focusing on art, books, fitness, cooking, and music. Each district has the same clubs led by local leaders, with the exception of the music club, which is open to youth in all districts and led by Justin Eich, a multi-instrumentalist who is teaching kids to play the ukulele. The first 10 youth to sign up received a free ukulele, and due to the popularity of this class, another may follow. Plans are in the works to teach music differently once the pandemic is over.

Ojibwemowin

Ge-niigaanizijig has also started Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe language) classes with Memengwaakwe (Samantha Peet). For now, she will teach twice a month, once for elementary age youth and the other for teens. "It is our goal to include Ojibwemowin into our lessons and activities," said Cheyanne.

Youth Assembly

A youth assembly has been organized and is open to youth ages 9 through 20. "This assembly was created to gain young Band members' perspectives about the planning and building of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe," said Cheyanne. "They will share their ideas and recommendations on how they would like to build the community and the Ge-niigaanizijig Program. The main goal is to hear and empower the voices of our future leaders."

All positions have been filled for District II, and two positions have been filled for District Ila. The assembly is broken down into three age groups: 9-11, 12-14, and 15-20. There will be two seats for ages 9-11 and 12-14 and four seats for ages 15-20. Two members from the oldest group will be chosen by their peers to sit on the all-district assembly and will represent their districts by sharing ideas, plans, and needs.

Buckanaga Social Club Experience

A series of activities will be taught via Zoom by Amber Buckanaga, the founder of Buckanaga Social Club. There will be six different activities:

- Making tobacco pouches (November 28 — 10 spots)
- Wood slice painting (November 29th — 10 spots)
- Ribbon skirt classes (December 5-6 — 5 spots, December 12 — 5 spots)
- Canvas beading (December 19 — 10 spots)
- Q&A with Amber Buckanaga (December 20)

All materials for these classes will be provided and delivered. Sewing machines are limited and will be loaned to youth on a first-come, first-served basis.

Support services

Ge-niigaanizijig provides a variety of support services that help youth to reach the goals that they have set with their mentors.

Watch for more coverage of Ge-niigaanizijig programming in upcoming issues of *Ojibwe Inajimowin*.

NAY AH SHING UPDATE

Nay Ah Shing Schools are continuing distance learning instruction due to rising COVID-19 rates within our community.

Students and staff are adjusting well to distance learning; in fact, in the month of October, 6th through 12th grade students showed the highest reading level growth among all BIE schools in the country, according to Lexile measures.

Distance Learning information for families:

Nay Ah Shing sent out the following information to families on November 16 as schools went entirely online.

School Hours: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday – Friday

- Teachers are available during the regular and extended school hours 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Friday.
- Teachers will send meeting details to families and/or students as applicable.
- School offices are limiting visitors; call ahead if you need in-person assistance from school personnel.
- Students may be allowed to come into the school building for interventions or additional support during distance learning.
- Transportation will be provided for students who may need additional support.

Learning Expectations: Students will be expected to participate in their specific distance learning platform daily. Classroom instruction will take place through various methods throughout the school day.

Technology: Kindergarten – 12th Grade students have been sent home with their individually checked out district Chromebook and/or iPad and charger.

Health: Please continue to report illnesses and quarantines related to COVID-19 to the contacts below:

- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) Nurse Line (320) 630-0855
- Nay Ah Shing School Nurse Laura (320) 532-4690 ext. 2282

Meals: Meals will be delivered daily for ALL students continuing on Monday November 16th, 2020 - TBD.

- Nay Ah Shing Nutritional Services will continue to provide Nay Ah Shing Students breakfast and lunch through this distance learning period.
- Nay Ah Shing Transportation will deliver meals and additional instructional materials starting at 10:30am M-F.

Follow Nay Ah Shing on Facebook: The Nay Ah Shing Facebook page has been more active with posting dual language posts. Recently Waabishkigaabaw/John P Benjamin posted an update on grammar that is currently being taught at the 6th-12th level, and that post has reached over 4,000 people.

HIGHER EDUCATION INFORMATION

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the team at Study.com has created a comprehensive guide to college for Indigenous students available for free at <https://study.com/resources/indigenous-student-college-guide>. The goal is to inform students about critical information regarding their college education and share different resources that will help set them up for success.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.



TRUNK OR TREAT IN DISTRICT II

The Ge-niigaanizijig program sponsored safe Halloween activities in all districts in October. District II kids got into the spirit!

CARAVAN RAISES AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Rhonda Mitchell Mille Lacs Band Member



Band member Dan Wind organized a Domestic Violence Awareness Caravan on Wednesday, October 28, and a strong turnout of Band members showed a passion for ending violence in our communities.

"The caravan was a way to bring awareness to the community during COVID-19," Dan said. "The turnout was better than expected. I thought we'd only have seven or eight cars, but we had 25."

Dan decided he wanted to do something to help when he was going through Batterers' Intervention Project classes. "This was kind of making amends for me also because I couldn't talk directly to the women without triggering something."

Dan said his partner has helped him understand that everyone in the family is affected by domestic violence because "The pain of one is pain for all," and children who are exposed to violence are more likely to keep the cycle going.

He wants the community to reach the point where women don't have the extra burden of being afraid and continuously watchful, and he wants men in the community to be more respectful of women and to avoid the kind of talk that shows disrespect.

As he went through domestic violence court and was required to take classes, Dan realized that he could no longer blame the violence he had perpetrated on drugs and alcohol. "The facilitator taught me a lot about myself," said Dan. "The drinking and drugs only loosened my inhibitions. The belief was already there, and the drinking and drugs unlocked it."

Although his parents didn't fight, he had seen his aunts

experience abuse. "I remember it was impactful on my life somehow and gave me the belief it was okay to abuse in some twisted way. Now I know it's not."

Dan thanked the Red Lake Band for giving him the idea for the caravan, Adrienne Benjamin for providing art work, Bradley E. Harrington and Wenji-bimaadizing Media for the t-shirts, and a host of other volunteers: Joe Nayquonabe, George Morrow, Tribal Police, Mille Lacs Conservation Officers, District I Representative Virgil Wind, the Substance Use Disorders Program, and Four Winds Lodge.

Dan is hoping to follow up with a march (once the pandemic passes) and other events to raise money for Mille Lacs Band programs and the women's shelter.

See next month's *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* for thoughts and reactions from caravan participants.



Dan Wind organized the caravan to bring awareness of domestic violence and to make amends for past behaviors.



Election from page 1

Three others fell short in very difficult races against popular incumbents: Band member Bradley Harrington lost to David Oslin in the race for Mille Lacs County Commissioner; Band employee and Turtle Mountain Ojibwe member Gaylene Spolarich lost to Dale Lueck in the race for State Representative in Aitkin County; and Becky Clitso-Garcia came in fourth in the race for Onamia School Board, missing one of two open seats.

Native Americans nationwide

Six Native Americans won seats in the U.S. House of Representatives:

- OK-4: Rep. Tom Cole (R—Chickasaw Nation) 67.8% v. Mary Brannon (D) 28.8%
- OK-2: Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R) 75% v. Danyell Lanier (D) 22%. Both candidates are members of the Cherokee Nation
- KS-3: Rep. Sharice Davids (D—Ho-Chunk) 53.4% v. Amanda Adkins (R) 43.8%
- NM-1: Rep. Deb Haaland (D—Laguna Pueblo) 58.1% v. Michelle Garcia Holmes (R) 41.9%
- NM-2: Yvette Herrell (R—Cherokee Nation) 53.9% v. Rep. Xochitl Torres Small (D) 46.1%
- HI-2: Kaiiali'i Kahele (D—Native Hawaiian) 64.1% v. Joe Akana (R) 29.9%

Four Native Americans lost their bids for Congressional seats:

- ID-1: Rudy Soto (D—Shoshone-Bannock) 28.6% v. Rep. Russ Fulcher (R) 67.8%
 - UT-1: Darren Parry (D—Northwestern Band of Shoshone) 31.8% v. Blake Moore (R) 68.2%
 - WI-7: Tricia Zunker (D—Ho-Chunk) 39.2% v. Tom Tiffany (R) 60.8%
 - WY-At-Large: Lynette Grey Bull (D—Northern Arapaho/Hunkpapa Lakota) 24.6% v. Rep. Liz Cheney (R) 68.7%
- One Native American, Paulette Jordan of Idaho, (D—Coeur

d'Alene), lost her race for U.S. Senate with 33.2% of the vote compared to 62.6% for incumbent Republican Jim Risch.

U.S. Senate

U.S. Senator Tina Smith (DFL) prevailed with 48.84% of the vote to 43.44% for former Congressman Jason Lewis (R) to win a full six-year term to the U.S. Senate. Smith's U.S. Senate seat won't be on the ballot again until 2026.

U.S. House of Representatives

In the Eighth Congressional District (including Mille Lacs, Aitkin, and Pine Counties, along with others in northeast and east central Minnesota), Congressman Peter Stauber (R) won re-election to a second term with 56.69% to 37.61% for Quinn Nystrom (DFL).

In the Fourth Congressional District (St. Paul area), Congresswoman Betty McCollum (DFL) won re-election to an 11th term with 63.18% of the vote over her Republican challenger's 28.97%.

In the Fifth Congressional District (Minneapolis area), Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (DFL) won re-election to a second term with 64.34% of the vote over her Republican challenger's 25.81%.

Other winners of Congressional seats were Republican Jim Hagedorn (First District), Democrat Angie Craig (Second District), Democrat Dean Phillips (Third District), Republican Tom Emmer (Sixth District), and Republican Michelle Fischbach (Seventh District).

State Senate

The Minnesota Senate will remain in Republican control. Republicans won all races in the Senate districts that include Mille Lacs Band communities.

District 15 — Mille Lacs Area/District I/Onamia/Chiminising. Republican Andrew Mathews defeated Democrat Brent Krist 74.71% to 25.17%.

District 11 — Hinckley/Aazhoomog. Republican Jason Rarick

defeated Democrat Michelle Lee 56.57% to 43.34%.

District 10 — Crow Wing/Aitkin Area/East Lake: Republican Carrie Ruud defeated Democrat Steve Samuelson 67.42% to 32.50%.

State House

The Minnesota House of Representatives will remain in Democratic control. Republicans won all races in the House districts that include Mille Lacs Band communities.

In District 15A, which includes the Mille Lacs Area and Districts I and IIa, Republican Sondra Erickson defeated Democrat Cal Schmock 74.22% to 25.62%.

In District 11B, including Hinckley and Aazhoomog and surrounding areas, Republican Nathan Nelson defeated Democrat Jack Frechette 65.34% to 34.61%.

In District 10B, which includes Aitkin County and District II, Republican Dale K. Lueck defeated Gaylene Spolarich 69.37% to 30.59%.

County Commissioner Races

Aitkin County Commissioner, District 2: Laurie Westerlund defeated Gene Miller. District 4: Brian Napstad defeated Bill Pratt.

Mille Lacs County Commissioner, District 5: David Oslin defeated Bradley E. Harrington.

Pine County Commissioner, District 3: Terry Lovgren defeated Steven D. Chaffee. District 4: J.J. Waldhalm defeated B. Mikrot Jr.

Minnesota Supreme Court

Justice Paul Thissen won his election to continue serving on the Minnesota Supreme Court with 59.12% over his challenger's 40.54% for a six-year term. Thissen was appointed to the Court by then-Governor Mark Dayton in 2018.

Visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website to find more municipal, school boards, local, state and Federal Information at: <https://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/20201103>.

AANIINDI WENJIKAMAGAK GEKENDAMAAN EZHICHIGED I'W NIIMI'IDIKED A'AW ANISHINAABE HOW I LEARNED ABOUT CEREMONIAL DANCES

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

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

A'aw akiwenziyiban Ogimaawabiban gii-izhinkaazo gaa-nitaawigi'id, ogii-kanawenimaan inow gimishoomisinaan. Mii imaa gii-naadamaageyaan apii gaa-paapaakoshimaawaa-jin inow gimishoomisinaan. Ingii-ashi-niizho-biboonagiz apii gii-asigooyaan imaa da-dibendaagoziyaan a'aw Manidoo-dewe'igan. Mii iwidi eshkwebid eko-niwing bedakideg i'w mitig, mii iwidi gii-asigooyaan da-abigizigewiniiniwiyaan.

The old man that raised me, John Benjamin, took care of a ceremonial drum. I was there to help each time he had a ceremonial dance. I was twelve years old when I was put on the drum as a drum member. I was put on as a drum warmer, and sat at the last position on the fourth stick.

Weweni-go ingii-kikinoo'amaag a'aw Akiwenziyiban naa gaye inow owii'ayaawaaganan Nazhikewigaabawiikwebanen gii-izhinkaazowan eni-izhichiged niimi'idiiked a'aw Anishinaabe, biinish gaye ge-ni-izhichigeyaan abigizigewiniiniwiyaan. Mii gaye endaso-dagwaagig miinawaa endaso-zaagibagaag gii-aayaabajichigaazowaad ingiw Manidoo-dewe'iganag, mii i'w apane nayaano-giizhigakin naa apane eyishkwaajaa-nokii-giizhigakin apii gaa-niimi'idiwaad.

That old man and his wife, Sophia Churchill-Benjamin, thoroughly taught me what was involved when the Anishinaabe had their ceremonial dances, and they taught me my responsibilities as a drum warmer. There are ceremonial dances held every fall and every spring, with the ceremonial dances held every Friday and Saturday.

Mii-go apane gii-naazikaagewaad ingiw gaa-nitaawigi'ijig



aaniindi-go gii-ni-aabajichigaazowaad ingiw Manidoo-dewe'iganag. Mii dash imaa apane gii-paa-wiijiwagwaa. Mii dash iwidi iko gii-naazikaageyaan iwidi Neyaashiing endazhi-niimi'idiwaad ingiw Anishinaabeg, mii iwidi gaa-izhaayaang. Biinish igo gaye iwidi Minisinaakwaang gii-tanakamigiwaad, mii gaye iwidi Gwaaba'iganing gii-aabajichigaazowaad ingiw Manidoo-dewe'iganag, mii gaye iwidi gaa-izhaayaang.

The old people that raised me always attended these ceremonial dances on a regular basis. They always took me with. We went to ceremonial dances that were held at Neyaashiing. We also attended ceremonial dances in East Lake. We also went to ceremonial dances held in Sawyer, Minnesota.

Aano-go gii-aya'aansiyiwaan i'wapii gii-paa-wiijiwagwaa gii-naazikaagewaad endazhi-niimi'iding, nebowa igo nizezikwendaan gaa-izhichigewaad gii-niimi'idiwaad. Mii dash i'w wenjikaamagak a'aw mindimooyenyiban ingii-wiindamaag, "Gego anooj omaa gidaa-wii-izhichigesiin megwaa omaa ayaayang endazhi-niimi'idiikeng." Ingii-ig, "Bizaan omaa nanaamidabin da-ganawaabandaman eni-izhichigewaad naami'idiikejig. Mii eta-go apii ge-bazigwiyaan wii-niimiyaan, maagizhaa gaye waakaa'igaansing wii-ni-izhaayan." Mii iw nebowa wenji-gezikwendamaan gaa-inaabishinaan gii-paa-wiiji'iweyaan endazhi-niimi'iding.

Even though I was young when they took me with, I do remember what I saw and heard when we went to these ceremonial dances. It is then that the old lady told me, "Do not be messing around while we are at these ceremonial dances." She said, "Just sit there quietly and watch what is being done while the ceremonial dance is going on. The only time you should get up is when you get up to dance or have to go to the bathroom." It is because of that, that I remember what I saw as we attended these dances.

Ingooji-go apii gii-ashi-niso-biboonagiziyaan, mii owapii gii-maajii-aakozid a'aw mindimooyenyiban. Mii iw okanaapined ezhi-wiinjigaadeg gaa-wenda-aabiinji'igod, biinish gii-ni-gashkitoosig gegoo wii-ni-izhichiged. Mii dash imaa gii-naadamaageyaan gii-maajitaayaan gii-chiibaakwaadamaan a'aw akiwenziyiban ge-biindigadood imaa azhigwa apii gii-niimi'idiiked. Mii dash a'aw nizigosiban Nechii'awaasang a'aw ge-wiin gaa-naadamaaged gii-kashkigwaadang iniw waa-booyaanan ge-aabajitood a'aw akiwenziyiban da-bagijiged owapii gii-niimi'idiiked.

I was about thirteen years old when that old lady started to get sick. She came down with arthritis, and it got so bad for her that she was not able to do things. It was then that I had to start helping and cook the food that the old man brought to the ceremonial dances. It was also at the time my aunt, Mary Churchill-Benjamin, started to help out by sewing the blankets the old man put for his offerings.

Azhigwa dash gaa-ishkwaa-ayaad a'aw akiwenziyiban, mii imaa gii-inaakonigewaad wenjida ingiw ogichidaakweg gii-onaabamigooyaan da-mamooyaan imaa gaa-ondabid a'aw akiwenziyiban da-ganawenimag dash a'aw gimishoomisinaan. Mii iw ashi-zhaangaswaak miinawaa niizhwaasimidana ashi-niwin owapii imaa gii-asigooyaan.

When the old man passed away, it was then that the women on the drum made the decision for me to take the position the old man held as the drum keeper. That was in 1974 that they placed me in that spot.

Obizaan see page 11



Biboon—It is Winter

Gigiikiibingwash ina? Biboon anwebiwag gemaa nibaawag gakina awiia. Nibaawag ingiw mitigoog. Zoongingwashiwag ingiw makwag. Madwengwaamoog ina? Amanj iidog. Naanibaayawewag. Ninaanibaayawe. Gaye nimbizindam aadizookewaad ingiw gichi-aya'aag. A'aw a'aw giuwedin. Ani-Onaabani-giizis gii-piboonagad.

(Are you sleepy? When it is winter they rest or they sleep everybody. They are sleeping those trees. They are in a deep sleep, those bears. Do they snore? I am not certain. They yawn. I yawn. Also, I listen when they tell traditional stories, those elders (great-people). S/he is here, that north wind. When it is coming up to in time, Crust on the snow moon (March), a year, it has passed.)

Bezhiġ—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

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

—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Dash—as in about
Biboon—as in tin
Ojibwemq—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.

Biboon— Izhitwaawinan Winter Customs VAI

Aadizooke.—S/he tells sacred stories.

Nindaadizookemin.—We tell sacred stories.

Manidooke./Nimanidookemin.—S/he conducts ceremonies. We conduct ceremonies.

Wanii'ige./Niwanii'igemin.—S/he traps./We trap.

Giiyose./Ningiiyosemin.—S/he hunts./We hunt.

Gashkigwaaso./Ningashkigwaasomin.—S/he sews. We sew.

Niizh—2

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

A. Ojibwemodaa! Gidojibwem ina? Howah!

B. Ningii-noondam Ojibwemowag Onigamiinsing.

C. Ojibwemowin adoopowin. Onandagikendaanaawaa.

D. Biboon gekenoo'amaaged ojaanimiziwag. Ondamanokiwwag.

E. Giigidog! Bizindang! Biindigeg! Nisidotang!

F. Bidoon mijim! Dadibaagimog! Maada'ookig!

G. Minik gikichi izhitwaamin.

B G G B
M I N I K H
N D D B I O N
S O S O I G T V
A J O O O E I F L
P I T N X N M D I Z
Z B I G D O Y C O G N
B W H O W A H E N G O K
Q E C I D L M I I J I M
J M E A D O O P O W I N
D A D I B A A G I M O G

Niswi—3

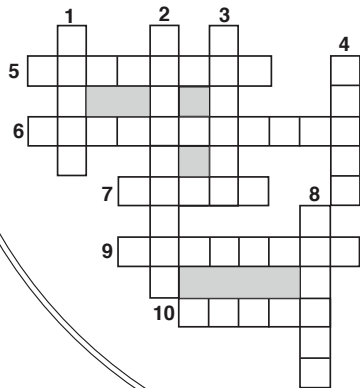
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- so many
- S/he conducts ceremonies.
- every
- or
- bears

Across:

- They sleep.
- I listen.
- Wow, alright!
- S/he spears fish through the ice.
- those (animate)



Niiwin—4

VIA—Verbs-Intransitive-Animate Root/Command VAI, then conjugated VAIs.

Anokii. Nindanokii. Gidanokii. Anokiiwag. S/he works. I work. You work. They work. Bamoozhe. Nimbamoozhe. Gibamoozhe. Bamoozhegag. S/he takes care of a child. Akwa'waa. Nindakwa'waa. Gidakwa'waa. Akwa'waaag. S/he spears fish through the ice.

Naagaj—later. Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

- _____akwa'waa na zaaga'iganing imaa?
- Eya, _____akwa'waa imaa noongom.
- Gaye _____wanii'ige. Noondamikwe.
- Ninoshe dash nimishoome bamoozhe _____.
- _____giiyose dash _____gashkigwaas.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Let's all speak Ojibwe! Do you speak Ojibwe? Alright! B. I did hear they are speaking Ojibwe in Duluth. C. Ojibwe language table. They seek to learn it. D. When it is winter, those who teach they are busy. They are busy with their work. E. Speak! Listen! Come in! Understand! F. Bring food! Tell stories! Share something! G. So many we all have of certain traditions.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Minik. 2. Manidooke. 3. Gakina. 4. Gemaa. 8. Makwag.

Across: 5. Nibaawag. 6. Nimbizindam. 7. Howah! 9. Akwa'waa. 10. Ingiw

Niiwin—4 1. Are you spearing fish through the ice on the lake there? 2. Yes, I am ice fishing there now. 3. Also I trap. I trap beavers.

4. My aunt and my uncle they take care of a child. 5. You hunt and you sew.

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

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BILL SCHAAF

A HALL OF FAME COURT CAREER

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor



Bill Schaaf was joined by friends and family when he accepted an award from the National Indian Athletic Association.

When William “Bill” Schaaf was six years old, his teacher at the little schoolhouse in Ball Club, Minnesota, was a Red Lake Band member who also happened to play basketball for the Deer River veterans team. Every Friday night, they’d play at the Memorial Arena, and one night, he brought a group of his students along to play a warm-up game before the main event.

Young Bill’s first taste of competition on the court was something he would savor for the next 14 years — but all he could do was dream of another chance to play.

“After that was over I never got to play again as a young guy,” he said.

Bill never played basketball in grade school because there was no gymnasium in Ball Club.

He never played football in high school because it was during ricing season, so he had to work.

And he never played basketball because he didn’t get along with the guys on the team. They treated him poorly because of his race.

So it was a long wait for that next taste of competition, which came at Haskell Institute, where Bill played intramurals. “That’s where I learned to play,” he said.

Over the next 60 years, there would be no more breaks, no more lulls, and no need to dream — because Bill was busy with one tournament after another after another.

In the 1960s, Bill moved to the San Francisco Bay area on the Relocation program. “They wanted to make Indians like everybody else to deal with the ‘Indian Problem,’” Bill recalled (with a note of sarcasm).

In addition to attending the University of California Berkeley and taking part in the occupation of Alcatraz Island, Bill was pursuing his love of the game, playing in tournaments around the Bay Area and beyond — northern California, Reno, and up to Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Montana.

When he started his career working with tribes in the Pacific Northwest, the games continued on weekends. “I think there are 23 reservations in the state of Washington, and I think I’ve played basketball on all 23,” he said.

He’s won tournaments in every age group, from his 20s and 30s to his current group of over 65s. He won state and national championships with the Onigum Nighthawks in the 1970s. He won 3-on-3 championships in the 30-40 age group in Washington. His teams won the NIAA championships in the 40-and-over class in 1987 and ‘88, and Bill was named MVP in both.

He played with NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. in the 40-50 age group and won NIAA championships seven years in a row.

His accomplishments have made the pages of USA Today, and he once saw a guy score 113 points in a game. “I scored 40 and thought that was pretty good,” Bill recalled.

He often competes with and against players he met more

than 50 years ago. “It’s really all about the friendships,” he said. “I go to tournaments and see guys I met when I was 25 years old. It’s like a reunion.”

In recent years, Bill has played in the National Senior Games and the 70-plus exhibition at Fort Hall, Idaho, one of the tournament locales he’s returned to again and again.

Hall of Famer

On November 13, Bill was inducted into the National Indian Athletic Association Hall of Fame at a ceremony at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center, where Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin also received an award for her life-long support of athletics.

Bill was nominated by Dan Ninham, who entered the Hall last year and was aware of Bill’s accomplishments. Dan and his wife Susan have been lifelong educators and role models around Indian Country.

“When I was nominated, I thought, ‘Somebody else that is worthy is Bill Schaaf,’ so I addressed it with the main organizer, Ernie Stevens Jr.,” said Dan. “I’ve known about Bill for a few decades. About 10 years ago I was at a legends game in Red Lake, and Bill was playing at an outstanding level.”

As Bill was growing older, he kept outgrowing the tournaments, Dan said. The oldest age group used to be 40 and up, so when Bill and some of his peers kept playing, more age groups were added — 50 and up, 60 and up, 70 and up. “Bill would just keep going, and playing at an outstanding level. He was MVP in a number of those tournaments.”

Ernie Stevens Jr., who now runs the NIAA, came to Mille Lacs to present Bill with his Hall of Fame plaque on October 13, as friends, family, teammates, and colleagues showed their support. Ernie has played and coached with Bill and knows how much he has contributed to the game of basketball in Indian Country.

“Bill is a role model,” Ernie said in a phone interview after the event. “Everything we’ve strived to do — work hard, be active, help people, make the world a better place — at 80, he’s still doing it. There’s a lot of great athletes out there (and believe me, the older we get, the better we were) but the key thing is what you do with your athletic capability, how you help others grow, to be a better business person, a better activist, or a better school teacher. We’ll tell you forever how great we were, but in the end it’s not how many points you scored, but how many people you helped.”

Ernie was a National Indian Heavyweight Boxing Champion who rubbed shoulders with Sugar Ray Leonard and Tommy Hearns back in the day, with support from the National Indian Athletic Association. When the organization started to falter, Ernie and others stepped in to save it so the annual championship tournaments could still be held, and athletes would con-

tinue to be recognized.

“Bill Schaaf is a gentleman and a statesman,” Ernie concluded. “What he’s done as an athlete is way better than most, but what he’s done as a person to move his community forward is really the highlight. Using your talents to make the community a better place — Bill is a role model of that, a role model to me. The real strength of what we do is asking ‘Who are we gonna help next?’ That’s our goal, to create more winners, more activists, more people helping people. We want to encourage our younger folks to be the next Bill Schaaf, the next Dan Ninham, the next Susan Ninham.”

Role model

Not only is Bill still playing ball; he’s still working, too. He is a youth mentor for Pine County, sharing his love of sports and learning with Hinckley and Aazhoomog students.

Byron Ninham, Assistant Principal of Nay Ah Shing Schools, was one of those youth who looked up to Bill back in the early 2000s, when Byron was a student at Bemidji Middle School and Bill would play pickup games with a group of men called “The Timberwoofs.”

“I admired these men that still gave back to the game and committed their time to the camaraderie of the sport,” said Byron. “Bill has won at every level and age group throughout the ‘tourney trail.’ He is a legend on the hardwood. His understanding of the game and how I have personally seen him give back to his communities is amazing. When you see Bill in the stands or communicating with a young athlete, you know he is going to share knowledge from learned experience that is meant to guide and support.”

Byron tells a story about playing with Bill at a tournament in District I organized by Bill’s daughter, Makadegwanebiikwe/Mikayla, in the fall of 2018 through Health and Human Services. “I remember a play in transition when Bill and I sprinted back on defense, and Bill secured the rebound and was fouled. We called a timeout and gathered our group. On the previous play, our younger teammates had been jogging back on defense and were not an active part of the play, so Bill shared the importance of playing hard and giving your all. ‘I am 77 years old, and I am out-rebounding some of you on the defensive end,’ he said. ‘We need to do this together to give ourselves a chance to win.’ Bill didn’t allow the heads to hang and was an uplifting voice for the team and young student-athletes.

“Bill Schaaf is a multi-generational leader and innovator for Indigenous athletics and wellness throughout the country,” Byron concluded. “He continues to be an example for wellness and an advocate for young people. Although many of us throughout Indian Country see Bill as a Hall of Famer for his contributions to community, his ‘official’ induction into the NIAA hall of fame is well deserved.”



Bill Schaaf’s love for basketball has remained consistent for 60 years. Left: Bill, left, with his Oakland, California, team in 1963. Center: The 1970 Oakland Red Hawks, champions in Bishop, California. Right: Bill and Ernie Stevens Jr. were teammates on a few championship teams, and they also coached together. Cover: Bill was a member of the Onigum Nighthawks in 1978 when they won the Southwest All-Indian Tournament in Phoenix and Bill was named Most Valuable Player. The new community center at Leech Lake is named for the Nighthawks, who won state and national championships. For more photos, see this story on millelacsband.com.

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES GRAND MAKWA AWARDED \$10,000 GRANT

By Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

The Grand Makwa Cinema was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Small Business Relief Grants Program (SBRG). The SBRG program awarded \$62.5 million in grants worth up to \$10,000 each, to businesses owned by Minnesota residents that experienced financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent Minnesota Governor's Executive Orders.

Of that total, \$60 million comes from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund with \$2.5 million from the State. Businesses interested in this program were asked to apply to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) between June 23 and July 2, 2020. Awards were chosen using a random selection process with set asides for various targeted groups, including those owned by military veterans, women, and ethnic or racial minorities.

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) submitted applications for a number of its small businesses, including the cinema. Although the cinema could demonstrate an 82 percent decline in revenue this past spring from the required closures, MLCV ran into issues proving eligibility because the business is owned by MLCV, incorporated under tribal law, and located on tribal land.

Throughout the more than 3-month verification dispute, MLCV submitted numerous legal and financial documents, including a letter outlining the unique social mission of MLCV. In the end, though, the effort was worthwhile as DEED ruled that tribal entities are eligible and created new tools to ensure



Grand Makwa Cinema demonstrated an 82 percent decline in revenue this spring from required closures.

other tribal entities have no issues in the future.

"We appreciate the support of our state and nonprofit partners and believe this is an excellent demonstration of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work that needs to be done to dismantle inequitable systems," said Dustin Goslin, vice president of business and economic development for MLCV. "Tribal entities are often unique in design compared to peers in similar industries due to our tribal owners, our organization under tribal law, or geographic location on Indian land. However, just because that design is different, does not mean that we should be excluded from participating in important programs."

Obizaan from page 9

Ishke dash gomaapii a'aw nizigosiban ingii-wiindamaag gaa-onji-onaabamigooyaan da-mamooyaan gaa-ondabid a'aw akiwenziyiban. Gii-ikido, ogii-minwendaanaawaa gii-kikendamaan i'iw gidinwewininaan miinawaa gana-go ingii-maji-izhiwebiz ingii-mino-wiiji'aa a'aw niwiji-bimaadziim. Aano-go gii-tazhiikamaan owapii i'iw minikwewin wenda-inigaa'igod a'aw Anishinaabe, gii-ikido a'aw nizigosiban, "Gigii- kikenimin booch da-boonitooyan i'iw giminikwewin gomaapii."

After a period of time, my aunt told me why they decided to put me in the spot that the old man held. She said they liked that I knew how to speak Ojibwe and that I was not a very angry person, and that I usually got along well with other people. Even though I was still drinking at the time, my aunt said, "I knew you would sober up eventually."

BAABIITAW BOYD

BAND MEMBER NAMED TO NORTHLAND BOARD

Northland Foundation News Release

The Northland Foundation's Board of Trustees has elected three new Trustees, including Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Administration Baabiitaw Boyd. The newly elected Trustees may serve up to three 3-year terms.

Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Baabiitaw spent her career working with fluent Ojibwe language speakers to become an Ojibwe language teacher and advocate. She is a Bush Fellow who studied behavior design and indigenizing systems and is a Native Nation Rebuilder with the Native Governance Center. Boyd earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and Bachelor of Arts Degree from The College of St. Scholastica, as well as a Certificate in Contemporary Indigenous Multilingualism and a Certificate in Tribal Administration and Governance.

Baabiitaw is joined by two other newcomers to the Board: Lori Rothstein, Grand Marais, a Leadership and Civic Engagement Educator with University of Minnesota Extension, and Roy Smith, Hibbing, the Director of Education and Talent Development, Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation/Minnesota State Colleges & Universities.

Gaawiin igo wenipanasinooon wii-ni-ganawenimaad inow Manidoo-dewe'iganan awiya. Ishke nebowa omaa niwiji'anokiimaanaanig imaa eginzozig eni-niimi'idiikeng. Booch igo maamawichigewin da-ayaamagak, gaawiin omaa majayi'ii daawii- ayaamagasinoon. Gaawiin gaye awiya oada-wii-maji-inaasiin imaa eginzonijin. Gida-ni-giige'anaaanig ingiw Anishinaabeg giniigaaniiminaang ge-ni-ayaajig wawiiingeziyang da-ni-bimwinang a'aw gimishoomisinaan.

It is not easy for someone to take care of a ceremonial drum. There are several people that we work with as we put on these ceremonial dances. It is important that we all work together in a good way and not have negativity. People should not talk bad about their fellow drum members. It is our Anishinaabe of the future that will benefit from us doing a good job taking care of the ceremonial drum.

Tony Sertich, Northland Foundation President, said, "Our Board began Trustee recruitment in February. Due to COVID-19, they had to work through process and timeline challenges. I have to thank them and the slate of candidates for their perseverance. It was worth the wait — Baabiitaw, Roy, and Lori bring a terrific array of personal, professional, and community experiences to the Board that will serve the foundation and region well."

The Northland Foundation is a publicly supported foundation serving the northeastern Minnesota counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis and all or parts of five Tribal Nations in the region: the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Through grant-making, small business assistance, KIDS PLUS Program, and special initiatives, the foundation invests in people and communities for a thriving northeastern Minnesota.

See <https://northlandfdn.org/about-us/staff-board-contact.php> for more information.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

Fall and winter events are canceled: The Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) on October 27 announced the cancellation of in-person fall and winter events, including the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Fall Feast, District holiday parties, and the State of the Band Address. A notice signed by six Commissioners who are members of the TERC said the approaching flu season and lack of abatement of the COVID-19 crisis made the decision necessary. Note: The State of the Band Address will be held virtually. See page 2 and watch Facebook and millelacsband.com for more information.

History videos available on YouTube: The Band's Legislative Branch invited former Commissioner (among other roles) Don Wedll to present a detailed history of the Mille Lacs Band for Legislative and Executive Branch staff. Five videos of Don's presentations are available to the public at youtube.com/millelacsband.

Part 1, Video 1, covers the early days of the Band, beginning with the migration west to the land "where food grows on water" and covering the treaties that led to the creation of the Mille Lacs Reservation, as well as the 1862 conflict between the U.S. and Dakota.

Part 1, Video 2, covers 1862 to 1900, including the Treaties of 1863 and 1864 and the Nelson Act.

Part 2 covers 1900 to 1970.

Part 3, Videos 1 and 2, covers 1970 to 2008, the time period Don worked for the Band.

Mille Lacs Band member shares message for Warriors' Day: On Wednesday, November 11, Tony Pike, a proud member of the non-removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, shared a message for Warriors' Day that is available at <https://youtu.be/hRGZ8DMu6f0>.

Tony served in the United States Army and is a retired Iraq War Veteran. In his video message, Tony honored his fellow Veteran brothers and sisters who have served and are currently serving with a special message. Native Americans have always answered the call to serve with patriotism and a deep commitment to this country. According to the Department of Defense, more than 23,000 of the 1.2 million men and women on active duty in the U.S. military today are American Indians or Alaska Natives.

The Mille Lacs Band honors not only our Native American Veterans, but all veterans. Let Veterans Day/Warrior Day, serve as a reminder of the service and sacrifice of our brothers and sisters — Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and All veterans, past and present. Miigwech for your service.

Foundation offers grants to Native nonprofits for pandemic relief efforts: Back in April, the Nota Begay III Foundation launched the NB3 Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund to help provide food, supplies and other resources to Native American communities being hardest hit by the pandemic. At the time, they were focused on getting these critical supplies directly to Native communities, as quickly as possible. Now, with the remaining funds, NB3 will be providing support through grant awards to Native-led organizations who are working to alleviate the impacts of the ongoing pandemic in Native communities. Grant awards of up to \$10,000 will fund pandemic relief efforts. To apply, go to <https://forms.gle/9uuJCbak7E9hEeMMA>. Questions? Please email grants@nb3f.org.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

AANJIBIMAADIZING SNOW CREW NUMBERS

Support for Elders, including sidewalk shoveling, is available through Aanjibimaadizing. Contact your local Community Service leader if you need help.

District I: Dale Day — 218-513-9615

District III — Hinckley: Ron Garbow — 320-630-4258

DIII — Lake Lena: Thomas Skinaway — 320-362-4082

District II: Crew leader vacant. Call Kristian at 320-630-2687.

NARCAN TRAINING VIDEO

If you or someone you know is currently taking a prescription opioid such as Percocet or OxyContin or illegal opioids such as heroin, then you should know about accidental, life-threatening overdoses. Narcan (naloxone HCl) nasal spray can save a life until help arrives from trained emergency medical professionals. Please take a few minutes to watch a Narcan use training video message. Knowing what to do can save a life. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGdUFMrCRh4>.

LOOKING FOR WORK?

You can find many current job openings at <https://millelacsband.com/jobs>, including chemical health counselor and enrollment specialist.

You can request information about jobs by emailing hr@millelacsband.com or calling 320-532-7460. To apply for a job, please submit an application, cover letter, and resume to the HR email by the closing date.

For openings at our 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.

MILLE LACS INDIAN MUSEUM SEEKS APPLICANTS

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum seeks applicants to provide direct supervision for site interpretive staff and volunteers, develop site public programming, coordinate the daily operations, and participate in community outreach.

Competitive salary, great benefits, full-time year round position. Must apply through the Minnesota Historical Society website.

Please visit the MNHS jobs page for more information: <https://www.mnhs.org/jobs>.

Send story ideas, articles, briefs, photos, shout-outs, birthdays, or calendar items to news@millelacsband.com, or call 320-237-6851. Band members can be paid for submissions in many cases.



Dawn Aubid and Sadie Marjorie Lemon (left) and Gia Sam (right) brought their faithful friends to the clinic at the old District I Community Center on November 15.



A WELLNESS CLINIC LIKE NO OTHER

Pet clinic was different this year — but just as important

As with so many things in 2020, the 11th annual pet wellness clinic in District I was a little different this year. Instead of the large crowd of pet lovers gathered in the gymnasium, watching from afar as their pets were given a nose-to-tail exam, this year the dogs and cats were looked after in multiple rooms, and their owners had to wait patiently in their vehicles outside the old District I Community Center.

The spay and neuter surgeries were also on hold this year in keeping with COVID-19 protocols.

But some things remained the same: the District I community came together to make their community safer and their pets happier, and the student volunteers from SIRVS (Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Services) were on hand to make sure the furry friends went home happy and healthy.

"WE'RE HOPING THAT NEXT YEAR IT WILL BE JUST LIKE BEFORE, AND EVERYBODY WILL BE INSIDE WITH HEALTHY, HAPPY PETS."

Monte Fronk, who helped bring SIRVS to District I 11 years ago, thanked District I Representative Virgil Wind for sponsoring the event, the SIRVS team, and the Band members who cooperated with the new set of procedures.

Hillary Hooberman, a third-year veterinary student who is President of SIRVS, oversaw the procedure, which began outside, where pet owners were interviewed about their pets'

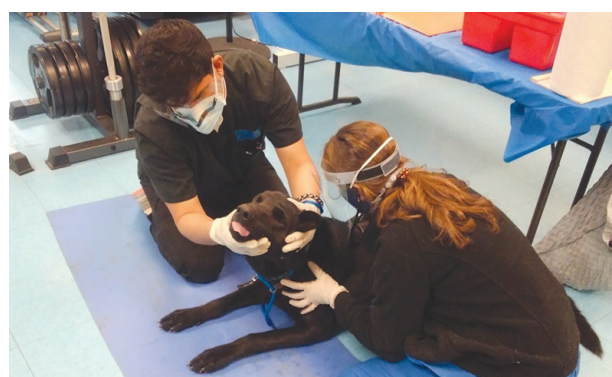
health. From there, volunteers led the dogs and cats to a scale to get their weight and then to an exam station for a thorough checkup as well as rabies, distemper, and parvo vaccines.

A lab station was set up for student volunteers to check for mosquito and tick-borne illnesses, and if necessary, pets were sent home with any necessary medications to treat a variety of illnesses.

"Next year, we hope to have all of our full services available again, including spay and neuter services," said Hillary. "Because of COVID, we haven't been able to offer those this year."

Lauren Bernstein, the SIRVS faculty advisor, is an assistant professor of community medicine. "Part of why I love SIRVS, and part of what makes SIRVS unique is that in normal times, pet owners can be inside of this space and watch the whole process. As people are waiting, usually we have five or six tables, and everybody can see what happens in the clinic. People can listen to their pets' hearts, and we teach them how to administer medications. They can watch their pets' spay or neuter surgery, and they can sit with their animals as they're waking up from anaesthesia. This is also a very important part of the process, not just for the well-being of the pet, but to also take some of the mystery out of what veterinarians do."

Monte pointed out that the clinic is a social event for the District I community. "We really hope that next year things will be back the way they were," said Monte. "We'll have people sitting in here with their animals. We can share stories, we can share coffee, we can share companionship with not only our animals, but our neighbors and friends. So we're hoping that next year it will be just like before, and everybody will be inside with healthy, happy pets."



HISTORY

THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON, 1855

By Andrew B. Stone Minnesota Historical Society

The Treaty of Washington (1855) is a milestone in the history of Ojibwe people in Minnesota. The agreement ceded a large portion of Ojibwe land to the U.S. government and created the Leech Lake and Mille Lacs reservations.

The U.S. government acquired most Ojibwe land in eastern Minnesota in the Treaties of St. Peters (1837) and La Pointe (1854). In early 1855, it began planning a new treaty to buy most of the remaining Ojibwe land in the territory's north-central woods.

Traders like Henry Rice supported a new treaty because it would help pay off the debts they claimed the Ojibwe owed. Rice had invested in the lumber industry and stood to profit from logging on Ojibwe land. He claimed, however, that the treaty would mostly benefit the Ojibwe. According to Rice, they were "starving" as hunters and gatherers and needed government aid to become farmers.

Thousands of Ojibwe, from different bands and with different interests, had attended the 1854 negotiations at La Pointe, making it difficult for U.S. representatives to get what they wanted. Commissioner of Indian Affairs George Manypenny did not want to repeat this situation in 1855. He instructed agent David Herriman to invite only a handful of Ojibwe leaders to Washington, DC, including Bagone-giizhig (Hole-in-the-Day the Younger) and Eshkibagikoonzh (Flat Mouth). They were not told the purpose of the visit—only that the government wished to discuss their lands in Minnesota.

The Mille Lacs Band were upset about not being invited to the negotiations and sent their own delegation. Though it is unclear if they arrived in time, the terms of the final treaty applied to them.

Negotiations took place during three meetings held February 17–20. The U.S. government named Bagone-giizhig and Eshkibagikoonzh "head chiefs" and negotiators for the Ojibwe as a whole. Despite this, the delegations met separately and defended unique interests.

Manypenny argued that when the Ojibwe became farmers, they would have more land than they needed—land that the government wanted to buy. Bagone-giizhig and Eshkibagikoonzh replied that the Ojibwe would need support to transition to a farming economy and tried to negotiate a higher price.

They finally agreed that the Mississippi bands (including the Mille Lacs Band) would be paid \$20,000 for 20 years. They would also receive \$50,000 to pay debts and \$10,000 in goods. The Pillager and Lake Winnibigoshish bands agreed to similar terms. Both parties assumed that the Ojibwe would continue to hunt and fish in the ceded territory.

Although the Mille Lacs Band already lived on land ceded in 1837, they wanted their own permanent reservation, like those set aside in the 1854 Treaty of La Pointe. The 1855 treaty created this reservation on the southern side of Lake Mille Lacs. It set aside a second reservation at Leech Lake for the Pillager band.

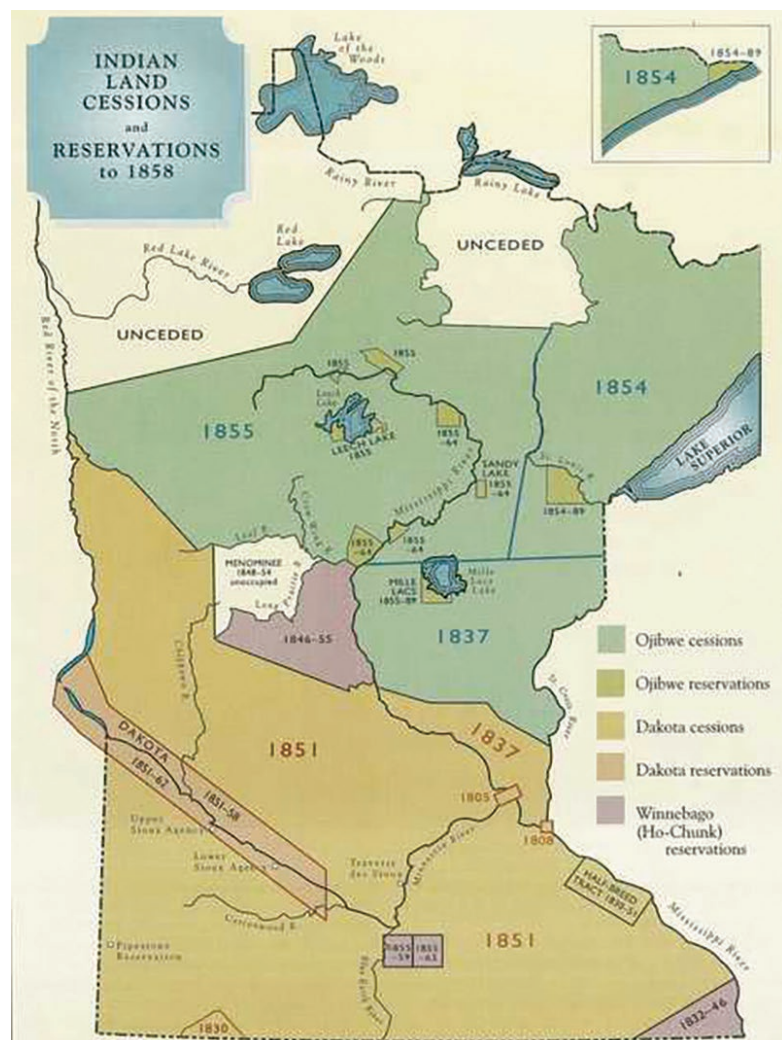
To the Ojibwe negotiators, the treaty may have seemed the best of a limited number of options. Treaty payments had become crucial for the Ojibwe economy. Reservations reduced Ojibwe land but came with a promise that the people would not have to abandon their homes. Some Ojibwe leaders saw the reservation system as a way to protect a small part of their land from whiskey sellers, immigrants, and lumber companies.

Not all Ojibwe were happy with the treaty, which had been signed far away by a handful of leaders. Because it promised payments and land to these few, some Ojibwe felt the leaders had put personal gain ahead of their people. A group of Pillager warriors became so angry with Eshkibagikoonzh that they killed the horse he had ridden to the negotiations.

The 1855 treaty marked a turning point for the Ojibwe in Minnesota. Afterwards, having lost the majority of their land, they lived mostly on reservations. They relied more than ever on treaty payments that were often late or even stolen by Indian agents. More land was opened to logging, making it harder to survive by hunting and fishing alone.

Reservations were divided into individual plots that were supposed to become family farms. Many Ojibwe, however, were forced to sell their land to survive, or lost it to dishonest traders and officials. The Leech Lake and Mille Lacs bands faced an ongoing struggle to hold onto their lands that continued into the twentieth century.

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"ALTHOUGH THE MILLE LACS BAND ALREADY LIVED ON LAND CEDED IN 1837, THEY WANTED THEIR OWN PERMANENT RESERVATION, LIKE THOSE SET ASIDE IN THE 1854 TREATY OF LA POINTE. THE TREATY OF 1855 CREATED THIS RESERVATION ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF LAKE MILLE LACS."

Map of Native American Land Cessions and Reservations to 1858. In "Territorial Imperative: How Minnesota Became the 32nd State," by Rhoda Gilman (Making Minnesota Territory 1849-1858; Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1999).

BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2010

Angela Heikes was sworn in as Commissioner of Corporate Affairs. Band member Brenda Moose was appointed and sworn in as the District II Associate Justice for Court of Appeals. Katie Draper was the newest addition to the District III office as administrative assistant for District Representative Diane Gibbs. A public service announcement featuring several Nay Ah Shing students hit Minnesota's airwaves and television screens last month. The ad, which is titled "Wiisiniwin- Mino-Bimaadiziwin" (meaning "food-good-life" in Ojibwe), encourages students and their parents to make healthy food choices.

15 years ago — 2005

Mel Towle was named Commissioner of Corporate Affairs (see photo below). Catherine Colsrud was named to replace Mel as General Manager of Grand Casino Hinckley. Mary Sue Bohanon was sworn in as the Band's Assistant Commissioner of Administration. Mille Lacs Band Police Officer Jason Rice received a MADD award for giving the most DWI citations in Mille Lacs County in 2004. Bill Schaaf was part of the first all-Native American senior basketball team to participate in the World Senior Games Basketball Tournament. Native Report, a television program featuring stories affecting Minnesota's 11 tribal entities, was set to debut on January 5. Tadd Johnson, Special Counsel on Government Affairs for the Band, and Stacey Thunder, a member of and legal counsel for the Red Lake Nation, were the show's co-hosts.



20 years ago — 2000

Herb Weyaus was reelected as the Band's Secretary-Treasurer with 311 votes compared to 245 for challenger David Matrious. He had resigned to run for Chief Executive, but after losing, he ran in a special election for Secretary-Treasurer. Ruth Sam, Mary Sue Bohanon, and Bea Mitchell were elected to the Nay Ah Shing School Board. Sharon James accepted an award from Harvard University honoring the Band's small business development program. New hires in the Chief Executive's office were Bonnie Sam and Mary Iron Necklace. Dawn Northrup was the new Program Administrator in District II.

25 years ago — 1995

In December 1995, after negotiations with the Band, the Minnesota Department of Transportation reduced the speed limit on Highway 169 in front of Grand Casino from 55 to 45 miles per hour. Other safety measures were also taken. Chief Executive Marge Anderson was a founding member of the first Native political action committee, the National Unity Caucus, to advance the causes of all Indigenous people in the country.

The information above is from the December 2000, 2005, and 2010 issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*, and the Winter 1996 issue of *Woodland Voice*. Many back issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* are available at millelacsband.com/news.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

DECEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Michael Robert Aubid
Judith Louise Beaulieu
Gayle Marie Bender
Lisa Ann Benjamin
Henry Benjamin Bonga
Loann Dana Boyd
Phyllis Ann Boyd
Terry Lee Bradley
Vicki Marie Burton
Kyle Matthew Cash
Lawrence Churchill
Frances Davis
Marilyn Ann Davis
Winifred Marie Davis
Delsie Louise Day
June Louise Day
Norma Bea Diver
Randy James Dorr
Rodney John Dorr
George Steven Edgington
Ruth Elaine Garbow
Colleen Margaret Garcia
Diane Marie Gibbs
Rosalie Marie Gopher

Corwin John Graikowski
David Darryl Granger
Dale Herbert Greene
Angeline Hawk
Viola Mary Hendren
Michael Ray Hensley
Julie Ann Hernandez Corado
Carole Anne Higgins
Frank Hill
Esther Marie Johnson
William Reinhardt Keg
Christine O'Madwe
Kegwedose
Cheryl Ann Keller
Larry Allen Koeppe
Renda Lynn Leslie
Michael Allen Mager
Daniel Rae Matrious
Gordon Wayne Matrious
Vincent Edward Merrill
Colleen Gay Minger
Kim Alane Modaff
Connie Rose Moose
Debra Jean Morrison
Richard Raymond Mortenson
Linda Lou Moxness
Maureen Cynthia Nickaboine

Jay Jay O'Brien
Anita Rose Parker
Dale John Pindegayosh
William Richard Premo
Doreen Ellen Sam
Corrina Marie Sheff
Susan M. Shingobe
Minta Marie Thomson
Vanette Louise Todd
Carol Ann Turner
Anita Louise Upegui
Arlene Louise Victor
Kenneth Laverne Wade
Kevin Duane White
Yvonne Cecelia Winiecki
Douglas Alan Wistrom
Lyle David Woyak

HAPPY (BELATED) NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Railei** on 11/4 with love from Grandma and Grandpa, Mom, Uncle Richard, Aunti Candy, Cyrell, Camdyn, Carmelo, and Kelia! (On last month's noteboard, we forgot

Kelia's name in the Happy Birthday message for Railei. We apologize for the error!)

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Anita Upegui** on December 12 with love from Mom/Nana! We love you so much! • Happy birthday **Tiny** on December 16 with love from Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Brynley, Trinity, Bianca, Henry, Binisiikwe, Papa Brad, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Auntie Val, Dan, Pie, Myla, Kevin, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, and Lileah

SHOUT OUT

Mackenzie Osburn won \$250 for a pencil drawing of a guitar she entered in an art contest through the Ge-niigaanizijig program! Well done, Mackenzie!

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, call 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.

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

On November 12, the Mille Lacs Band implemented enhanced safety procedures, which means government services will still be available although some Band employees will be working from home or on furlough. While these measures are in place, please refer to the following list to find answers to your questions or to reach the individuals or departments you need.

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Commissioners:

Commissioner of Administration Baabiiaw Boyd: 218-670-0745

Asst. Commissioner of Administration/Community Development Peter Nayquonabe: 320-630-3118

Commissioner of DNR Katie Draper: 320-515-0846

Commissioner of Education Joyce Shingobe: 651-354-4900

Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Commissioner of HHS Nicole Anderson: 320-364-9969

Chief Executive Office

Maria Costello: 763-260-0164

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

Brianna Boyd, Legislative Affairs Director: 320-532-7536 (work); 320-630-8702 (cell); 320-532-7506 (fax)

Band Assembly Inquiries

Darcie Big Bear, Parliamentarian/Clerk of the Assembly: 320-532-7420; Darcie.bigbear2@millelacsband.com

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

Deanna Sam at 320-279-0178 or 320-532-7498 to make an appointment.

Aanjibimaadizing

District 1 — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case management, 320-362-0014; Kari Weyaus, Case Manager, 218-316-2437

District 2 — Winona Crazy Thunder, Case Manager: 320-364-3049

District 3 — Renee Allen, Case Manager: 320-591-0559

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

Brian Schienost, Public Works Director: 320-630-2624

Tony Pike, Roads/ Solid Waste Supervisor: 320-980-5367

Sean Racelo, Waste Water Supervisor: 218-838-8391

Mike Moilanen, Director of Planning: 320-630-2623

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Station: 320-532-4163 ext. 2555

Mental Health appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance Use assessments and Counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental Emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities and food shelf: 320-630-2432

Emergency Services after hours utility line: 320-362-4672 or 320-630-2432

Office of Management and Budget

Economic Support and Per Cap: Email address updates to: kathy.heyer@millelacsband.com or call Danni Jo Harkness 320-532-7592

NOTE: The Office of Management and Budget will continue to provide essential services with further increased efforts toward a virtual and paperless environment.

DNR WANTS YOUR OPINION ON MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) was first developed over 30 years ago, and in order to update the plan and comply with grant regulations, DNR is seeking input regarding our lands and other natural resources of importance to us as Anishinaabe. Our natural resources and the management of those resources are important not only to us now, but for our future generations to come. Please complete the survey online and feel free to provide additional feedback by calling our main DNR Headquarters at (320) 532-7439. Miigwech! To fill out the survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mlbdnrimp>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 1: New Year's Day. Government offices closed.

January 12: State of the Band. See page 2;

January 18: Civil Rights Day. Government offices closed.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

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.

To sign up, go to 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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS</p> <p>Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800.</p> <p>ELDER FOOD DISTRIBUTION</p> <p>Wednesday, December 2, 1–3 p.m. DI and IIa, Grand Casino Mille Lacs; DII, Minisinaakwaang Community Center; DIII, Grand Northern Inn.</p> <p>Thursday, December 3, 1–3 p.m. Urban Office.</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left.</i></p> <p><i>Check out these materials for kids (and adult learners) from GLIFWC: https://www.glifwc-inwe.com</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Elder Food Distribution 1–3 p.m. District I, IIa, II, III. <i>See left.</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left.</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left.</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Elder Food Distribution 1–3 p.m. Urban Office.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left.</i></p> <p><i>Check out Indigenous online films at www.nfb.ca/indigenous-cinema</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bob and Zhoosk's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery Speaker Night 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left.</i></p> <p>NA meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bob and Zhoosk's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left.</i></p> <p><i>Check out these materials for kids (and adult learners) from GLIFWC: https://www.glifwc-inwe.com</i></p>
<p>6</p> <p>All Recovery meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p><i>Watch "The Woodlands: The Story of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe" at https://youtu.be/p29pYyOkW3g</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p><i>Look up words or practice your Ojibwemowin at https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p>NA meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p>	<p>12</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>13</p> <p>All Recovery meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p><i>Play Indigenous educational games at www.7generationgames.com</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>District III Community Meeting – TENTATIVE 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></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>18</p> <p>NA meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Check out Indigenous online films at www.nfb.ca/indigenous-cinema.</i></p>
<p>20</p> <p>All Recovery meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p><i>The deadline for the January issue is December 15. Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>Midwinter Break Government offices closed.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Midwinter Break Government offices closed.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p>NA meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p>	<p>26</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>27</p> <p>All Recovery meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p><i>Do you need sobriety support? Search Mino Miikana (A good path) on Facebook!</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></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 320-237-6851.</p>	



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UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. The January issue deadline is December 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.



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



FOR LOVE OF THE GAME

Bill Schaaf (back row, third from left) is honored for hard work and a healthy lifestyle. See page 10.

NEW SURGE IN COVID-19 CASES LEADS TO CHANGES
page 1

ELECTION RESULTS: LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL
page 1

BAND ASSEMBLY PUBLISHES UPDATED STATUTES
page 3

CARAVAN BRINGS AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
page 8