

O J I B W E I N A A J I M O W I N

ONNAABANI-GIIZIS 2021 | VOLUME 23 | NUMBER 3

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



A YEAR-LONG EMERGENCY PANDEMIC ANNIVERSARY NOT CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, BUT BAND'S RESPONSE IS WORTH REMEMBERING

March 13, 2020 — Friday the 13th — was the day the pandemic got real for Minnesotans when 14 cases of the disease were reported in the state and Governor Tim Walz declared a State of Emergency.

The Mille Lacs Band's Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) had already been activated, and the group — which is composed of Commissioners and other high-level employees — met all day on March 14 to plan the Band's response.

On March 15, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin declared a State of Emergency after Band Assembly passed emergency legislation authorizing her to do so.

On March 16, Grand Casinos were closed — the first tribal casinos in the state to take such serious measures to protect employees and guests.

On the same day, tribal government staffing levels were reduced, and on March 17, schools were closed and the Chief Executive delivered her first video update on the crisis.

On March 24, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe postponed the

primary election scheduled for March 31 until June 9.

On March 25, 2020, the Chief Executive signed a "stay-at-home" order for Band members and other tribal members living within the Band's territorial jurisdiction.

Amid a blizzard of information, the TERC continued to meet on a daily basis — transitioning quickly from in-person to Zoom conference — to receive the latest updates and discuss ways of keeping the community safe while providing necessary services.

Core services were identified, public events were canceled, and departments created operations plans to shift services online when possible. Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and the Education Department developed strategies to deliver food to Elders, children, and families.

Dozens of essential tribal employees continued to work in the face of uncertainty to ensure that Band members remained safe and had the food and other essentials needed to survive.

Pandemic see page 8



Joycelyn Shingobe first served as Commissioner of Education in the early 2000s. She was reappointed in 2019.

COMMISSIONER REMEMBERED FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE

*Joycelyn Shingobe — mother,
Drumkeeper, lifelong learner*

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Commissioner of Education Joycelyn Shingobe passed away on January 25, 2021, at the Saint Cloud Hospital.

In addition to being a Commissioner, Joycelyn was a Drumkeeper, an accomplished traditional artist, and a mother of four.

Her contributions to the community over the decades were significant. After high school, she worked for the Band's Head Start program while working toward an accounting degree from Brainerd Community College (now Central Lakes), which led to a job with the Band's bingo program.

Later, she earned a bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies from Metropolitan State University in St. Paul.

Always hard-working, she had jobs at Band-owned resorts and the electronics plant that employed dozens of Band members in District I prior to the casino era.

In the 1980s and '90s, she worked at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, taught history at Nay Ah Shing, and was instrumental in producing a history book about the Band: *Against the Tide of American History: The story of the Mille Lacs Anishinabe*.

Commissioner see page 5

STATE SIDES WITH BAND IN LAWSUIT AGAINST COUNTY

The State of Minnesota petitioned the U.S. District Court on February 8 to file an amicus curiae ("friend of the court") brief in the Band's lawsuit against Mille Lacs County, the County Sheriff, and the County Attorney.

An amicus curiae brief allows an individual or organization that is not a party to a particular litigation to advise the court on a matter of law that affects the case.

The request from Attorney General Keith Ellison makes two points: (1.) That the Mille Lacs Reservation remains intact, as supported by *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, and (2.) that the State of Minnesota can accommodate a federal court decision recognizing the 1855 Reservation boundaries.

The State's brief also supports the Band's request for a summary judgment on the boundary issue, which is only one part of the Band's lawsuit against Mille Lacs County.

Lawsuit see page 3

SAVE THE DATE! TREATY RIGHTS DAY IS FRIDAY, MARCH 19.

The DNR will be hosting a virtual celebration with contests and prizes! Stay tuned for more information.



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

Boozhoo. This month, the United States reached a tragic milestone, with over 500,000 deaths of Americans due to COVID-19. The Mille Lacs Band has lost several Band members to this terrible disease. President Biden has ordered all U.S. flags be flown at half-staff in honor of those who have passed from COVID-19. Likewise, I have also ordered that all flags flown on Band property be at half-staff to recognize the tragic passing of our loved ones and community members.

In early February, I signed Executive Order 2021-01, authorizing the gradual reinstatement of public access to government buildings and restoration of services provided that certain safety criteria are in place, and which encourages Band members to continue remaining at home whenever possible to minimize spread of COVID-19. This Executive Order revises the previous Executive Order 2020-05 which I signed last March and which required that all within Band jurisdiction stay home except for certain activities and restricted public access to all Band buildings. I strongly encourage Band members to continue wearing masks and observe social distancing even if you have been fully vaccinated.

With the Biden Administration taking office, there has been a lot of activity at the federal level that has been a focus of my work as Chief Executive. I was heavily involved in an effort to support the selection of Congresswoman Deb Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo, as President Biden's nominee to the position of Secretary of Interior.

Indian Country celebrated when President Biden announced Congresswoman Haaland as his nominee for this position that serves as Trustee for Indian tribes and Indian people, in addition to overseeing national parks and public lands as well as many other duties and agencies. As I write this column, Congresswoman Haaland is going through her Senate confirmation hearing process. If confirmed, she will be the first American Indian to ever serve in a Cabinet-level position in the history of the United States.

This past month I participated in numerous grassroots efforts led by Native women, tribal leaders, and environmental organizations to build support for Congresswoman Haaland. By the time this issue arrives in your mailboxes, I am hoping a vote will have been scheduled in the U.S. Senate to confirm Congresswoman Haaland as Secretary of Interior.

The beginning of a new President's administration means that most political appointees are expected to step down so the new President can appoint people to these positions that reflect his views. This month, I was honored to be asked by Senator Tina Smith and Senator Amy Klobuchar to serve on the Selection Committee to choose the next federal U.S. Attorney and U.S. Marshal for the State of Minnesota. This was a very

intensive responsibility that required a series of many meetings held over a two-week period. I viewed my role on the Selection Committee to ensure that applicants for both the U.S. Attorney and the U.S. Marshal positions were asked questions that addressed their understanding of how they would serve and protect public safety for tribal communities in Minnesota.

A new round of federal assistance to support communities in fighting COVID-19 is moving through the Congress, which we are carefully monitoring to ensure that the Mille Lacs Band receives our fair share of federal funding. Last spring, during the first round of COVID relief funding, there was some confusion in the Congress and Administration regarding the status of each of the six MCT Bands as separately sovereign Indian nations entitled to our own independent share of COVID relief funds, which could have resulted in the six Bands having to share one very small allocation of COVID funds that would go to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

This confusion was due to the way the Bureau of Indian Affairs listed the six Bands in the Federal Register. If we had not taken notice of this matter and notified our Senators, our six Bands could have collectively been short-changed hundreds of millions of dollars in federal COVID relief. I worked closely with Senators Smith and Klobuchar as well as Congresswoman Betty McCollum to make sure Mille Lacs was treated as a separate sovereign nation independent of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for purposes of receiving this funding, along with the other five MCT Bands. During this current round of COVID relief discussions in the Congress, we have again taken a leading role in ensuring there is no confusion. We are hoping the Senate passes the House version of this bill in upcoming weeks.

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) met in February. Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan spoke with MIAC about the State's priorities and collaboration with tribes in numerous areas, and we also heard from state commissioners about their work. At the state level, we have been working to get a bill through the State Legislature that would make it a requirement that future Governors and state agencies consult with tribal governments, as the Walz-Flanagan Administration has been doing. We also hope to make the Tribal State Relations Training permanent, which is a two-day training that Mille Lacs helped create that state employees are required to go through to learn about federal-state-tribal history and laws.

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan also invited Speaker Boyd and I to have a Mille Lacs-only consultation meeting with them about our biggest priorities in February, which included a good discussion about COVID collaboration, making tribal consultation a state law, and other issues. We

have greatly appreciated this collaborative relationship with the State.

Two important updates regarding our federal lawsuit against Mille Lacs County. First, the development of historic significance is that Attorney General Keith Ellison filed an amicus brief, often called a "friend of the court" brief, in the case, telling the Court that it is the position of the State of Minnesota that our reservation boundary was never disestablished. This means the State has formally agreed with the Band and the federal government that our Reservation continues to exist. Band members should have received information about this in your mailboxes in February.

Although this does not change the status of our lawsuit, and we are still proceeding in federal court, it is very good news which is exciting for the Band. The State's position is based on legal research that the Attorney General's Office conducted after Mr. Walsh and Sheriff Lorge sued the State of Minnesota demanding reimbursement of their legal fees in our case. In that lawsuit, Mr. Walsh and Sheriff Lorge argued that the State should pay their legal fees because they were representing the official position of the State of Minnesota in our case.

In February 2020, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office responded that Mr. Walsh and Sheriff Lorge were not representing the official position of the State because the State agrees with the Band that the boundary was never disestablished. The State's position was recently reflected in the erection of highway signs on the borders of our Reservation.

Second, the U.S. Department of Justice recently informed us that the United States is also filing an amicus brief in support of the Band's position. This is welcome news and consistent with the federal government's position that the Mille Lacs Reservation was never disestablished.

In addition to holding a Zoom meeting for Elders this week on the topic of enrollments, there have been many other meetings this month that I've participated in, including weekly cabinet meetings and non-stop Zoom meetings most days. The Elders meeting is in preparation for a Special TEC meeting on March 4 to discuss the topic of enrollment across the MCT and two existing resolutions regarding that matter. Our Mille Lacs Constitutional Delegates are also involved with examining this issue, and I thank them for their work.

I try to keep Band members updated several times each week via a video message on the Band's Facebook page, so please visit that page or connect with the Band's YouTube channel to view those updates. I hope all of you remain safe and well, and are able to enjoy the warmer weather that should be coming our way. Miigwech.

COMING NEXT MONTH — MEKWENIMINJIG

Beginning with the April 2021 issue, Ojibwe Inaajimowin will publish memorial tributes (obituaries) as requested for Band members to celebrate the lives of loved ones and share the news of their passing.

If you have lost a loved one recently, send your submission, along with a photo if desired, to news@millelacsband.com or Government Affairs, 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359.

MEKWENIMINJIG — THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

LEGISLATIVE ORDER ESTABLISHES PROCEDURE FOR CRITICAL NOMINATIONS

On January 20, the Mille Lacs Band Assembly passed Legislative Order 31-21, establishing procedures for when the Band Assembly receives a critical nomination from the Chief Executive.

“Critical nominations” are defined as “any nomination by the Chief Executive for any Commissioner, Judge, Justice, Corporate Board Member, or the Solicitor General.”

The order requires the Chief Executive to include a nomination letter, a copy of the nominee’s resume, and the nominee’s contact information.

When those materials are received, the Parliamentarian will request a background check from the Solicitor General’s office.

Upon completion of the background check, which will be paid for by the Office of the Solicitor General, the Parliamentarian will place the nomination on the Band Assembly agenda. (Background checks of Judges and Justices can run concurrently with the placement of the nominee on the agenda.)

The background checks must be completed within 14 days and paid for by the Solicitor General’s office, the order states.

Lawsuit from page 1

The lawsuit alleges that the County, County Sheriff, and County Attorney restricted Band police officers from exercising police powers within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation, in a manner that was inconsistent with federal law defining the Band’s law enforcement authority.

The lawsuit asks the U.S. District Court to declare that the Band has inherent sovereign authority to establish a police department and to authorize Band police officers to investigate violations of federal, state, and tribal law within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation as established under the Treaty of 1855.

The lawsuit also seeks a declaration that under a Deputation Agreement between the Band and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as Special Law Enforcement Commissions held by some Band police officers, those officers have federal authority to investigate violations of federal law within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation and to arrest suspects for violations of federal law.

Finally, the Band’s complaint requests that the Court stop the County from taking any actions that interfere with the authority of the Band’s police officers.

Lawsuit background

The lawsuit followed the Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners’ resolution on June 21, 2016, revoking the law enforcement agreement that addresses the manner in which the Tribal Police Department executes law enforcement services under Minnesota law.

The county’s resolution also stated that “Mille Lacs County rejects the conclusions of the M-Opinion” — a legal opinion issued in November 2015 by the Department of the Interior concluding that the 1855 Reservation boundaries are still intact, contradicting claims by the County (and, at times, the State) that the reservation was diminished and disestablished by subsequent treaties and laws.

On February 19, 2020, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, with the support of Governor Tim Walz, affirmed the federal government and Band position, saying the official position of the State of Minnesota is now that the 61,000-acre reservation exists and was never diminished or disestablished.

The County’s obsession with the boundaries, which have little effect on non-Indian residents of the County, led to a lawsuit filed in 2001 by the County against the Band. The suit was ultimately dismissed (after the County and Band spent over two million dollars on the case) because the County could not show that anyone had been harmed in any way by the Band’s position regarding the boundaries.

The Band’s lawsuit, on the other hand, claims that the Band and its police officers have been harmed by restrictions imposed on the Band’s police officers by the County Attorney and County Sheriff. Those restrictions were based in large part on the County’s repeated claim that the Reservation no longer exists. The restrictions placed severe limits on Tribal Police officers’ ability to fight crime during a period when drug trafficking was causing great harm to Band members and their families.

Timeline

June 21, 2016: The Mille Lacs County Board votes to withdraw from the law enforcement agreement, and for the next two years the County Attorney and County Sheriff refuse to

recognize the authority of Tribal Police to investigate violations of state law on the Reservation, at a time when the opioid crisis is resulting in a rash of overdoses and crime. (The Band and County approved a new agreement in September of 2018, but the County insisted on a provision in the new agreement providing that the agreement will terminate 90 days after the lawsuit comes to an end. Thus, if the Band were to drop its lawsuit, the law enforcement agreement would terminate, and things would be right back where they were from July 2016 until September 2018.)

November 17, 2017: Band files suit in U.S. District Court.

December 21, 2017: Mille Lacs County responds to the lawsuit filed by the Band with a counterclaim against Police Chief Sara Rice, Sergeant Derrick Naumann, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, and District Representatives Sandra Blake, David ‘Niib’ Aubid, and Harry Davis. In the counterclaim, the County repeatedly states that the 1855 Reservation has been disestablished and denies that the Band’s inherent sovereign authority and federal Special Law Enforcement Commissions (SLECs) give its officers the right to exercise state law enforcement powers throughout the reservation.

May 18, 2018: Judge Susan Richard Nelson hears the Band’s motion to dismiss the counterclaim.

September 19, 2018: Judge Nelson grants the Band’s motion, meaning that the Band’s elected officials, as well as Chief Rice and Sgt. Naumann, are no longer defendants to a counterclaim in their individual or official capacities.

January 17, 2020: Mille Lacs County and the Mille Lacs Band file cross-motions regarding the County’s demand to see a confidential 2014 law enforcement report prepared by attorneys for the Band.

February 19, 2020: In response to a claim by County officials that the State must pay their attorney fees because the County was supporting the State’s position that the reservation boundaries no longer exist, Attorney General Keith Ellison, with the support of Gov. Tim Walz, reaffirms the boundaries of the Mille Lacs Reservation, clarifying what had previously been an inconsistent State position.

April 13, 2020: Judge Leo Brisbois rules that the Band does not need to share the 2014 law enforcement report with the County.

July 8, 2020: The County Attorney and Sheriff and the Band file cross-motions regarding the court’s subject matter jurisdiction to hear the Band’s case, whether the Band was harmed by the County Attorney and Sheriff’s interference with Band police authority, and whether the County Attorney and Sheriff are immune from the Band’s claims.

December 21, 2020: Judge Nelson grants the Band’s motion and denies the County Attorney and Sheriff’s motion. She rules that the court has subject matter jurisdiction to hear the Band’s case, that the actions of the County Attorney and Sheriff harmed the Band, and that the County Attorney and Sheriff are not immune from the Band’s claims.

January 19, 2021: The County Attorney and Sheriff file a notice of appeal of Judge Nelson’s December 21, 2020, decision.

February 1, 2021: All parties file cross-motions on the question whether the 1855 Reservation continues to exist. Judge Nelson is scheduled to hear oral arguments on the motions via zoom on March 15, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Wednesday, January 27: Band Assembly occurred through conference call and Zoom on Wednesday, January 27.

The following bills were approved:

Band Assembly Bill 19-03-21-21: A Bill of supplemental appropriation and budget revisions/transfers for Administration, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources, and Education for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2020, and September 30, 2021.

Band Assembly Bill 19-03-22-21: A Bill amending Title 17 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes (“MLBS”) for the purposes of establishing the Advisory Committee to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Foundation.

Band Assembly Bill 19-03-23-21: A Bill of supplemental appropriation for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021.

Two resolutions, three foster care licenses, and eight contracts were also approved:

Wednesday, February 3: A compromise hearing was held regarding Band Assembly Bill 19-03-22-21. Two issues were discussed, and a compromise was made on the bill.

Band Assembly approved the following:

— Resolution 19-03-46-21: A Resolution Adopting the FY2021-2024 Mille Lacs Band Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan and FY 2021 TTP Retained Services Addendum.

— A contract for Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. to provide the FY2020 audit of the basic financial statements of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Contract end date is June 30, 2021.

Formal requests dated January 26, 2021, from Joseph S. Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, were received to open capital projects at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley.

At a Joint Session with Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Cheryl Miller was appointed to the board of the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO).

Wednesday, February 10: Band Assembly approved minutes from meetings that occurred between September 2 and October 14, 2020. The following were also approved:

Band Assembly Bill 19-03-24-21: A Bill of supplemental appropriation for Health and Human Services for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021.

Band Assembly Bill 19-03-25-21: A Bill amending Title 17 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes (“MLBS”) for the purposes of establishing the Advisory Committee to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Foundation.

Resolution 19-03-47-21: A Resolution Authorizing Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures to Expend Funds from FY2021 Capital Budget for Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley IGT Bonusing and Grand Casino Mille Lacs Event Center Roof.

A Joint Session occurred through conference call and Zoom. Joint Session records were approved, and Briana Michels was approved as Department of Athletic Regulation Chairperson.

Wednesday, February 17: Legislative hosted a swearing in for Cheryl Miller, who was appointed to the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) board.

For more, see millelacsband.com/news.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Court rejects bid to halt Line 3 construction:

The Minnesota Court of Appeals last month denied a petition from two Ojibwe bands to halt construction of Enbridge's controversial Line 3 replacement project across northern Minnesota. In December, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa and the White Earth Band of Ojibwe petitioned the appellate court to suspend state regulators' approval of Enbridge's new \$2.6 billion pipeline and stop construction. The tribes claimed that without a stay of Line 3's construction "their treaty-protected interests in the land, waters, plants, animals, and environment" would be destroyed or damaged by construction — as would their cultural and religious rights. *Source: startribune.com.*

Native mortician keeps ceremonies alive during pandemic:

Robert Gill of Buffalo, Minnesota, a citizen of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate tribe, is among the only Native American morticians in the country. Before the pandemic, Gill was being asked to arrange three to four burial ceremonies a month for Native families. Now, the 50-year-old mortician is receiving that many funeral requests every week. Many tribal families are being left with no choice but to turn to white-owned funeral homes with morticians who do not understand their language and customs. Without ceremonies rooted in their culture, Gill says, tribal members are disconnected from their history and unable to mourn properly. *Source: startribune.com.*

Tribal chair named to board: Faron Jackson Sr., the Chairman of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs. Jackson, who is also Vice President of the unified Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, is a long-time foster parent and was a member of Boys & Girls Clubs while growing up on the Leech Lake Reservation and in North Minneapolis. *Source: leechlakenews.com.*

Minnesota Ojibwe director's film debuts at Sundance:

"Wild Indian," a film by Lyle Mitchell Corbine Jr., a member of the Bad River Band from Garrison, Minnesota, debuted at the Sundance Film Festival last month. The film stars Michael Greyeyes and Chaske Spencer as two Anishinaabe men who share a traumatic secret. Corbine is one of Variety's "10 directors to watch for 2021." "I explore the idea of trauma and how trauma tends to perpetuate itself throughout communities. Traumatized people often traumatize other people," Corbine said. "In this case, it's about two Native characters who are bound together by a murder that was committed when they were teenagers." *Source: mprnews.org.*

Lower Sioux to get land back from state:

Lower Sioux Indian Community tribal leaders say that land with historical significance will be returned to the Community from the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society. According to Community Council President Robert Larsen, plans are being finalized for the land acquisition, with the closing date of the transfer expected on Feb. 12. The land includes MHS parcels at the site where the U.S. Dakota War of 1862 started, which eventually led to the "largest single day, mass execution in U.S. History." *Source: minnesota.cbslocal.com.*

COVID-19

EXECUTIVE ORDER REFLECTS PROGRESS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to positive changes the Mille Lacs Band has made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin signed Executive Order 2021-01 on February 4, which will begin the process of restoring regular hours, staffing levels, and access to tribal government buildings and services.

The new order replaces the stay-at-home order issued last year with a stay-at-home recommendation: "All persons enrolled within the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians or any federally-recognized tribe residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians are encouraged to continue remaining at home or place of residence, whenever possible, so as to minimize community spread of COVID-19."

The order also authorizes the Commissioners to begin gradually expanding operations and services as long as they have implemented COVID-19 Health and Safety Procedures that Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson has approved.

Commissioner Anderson may still require and enforce additional safety procedures for any department.

The order does not apply to Assisted Living Units or the Mino Bimaadiziwin, where previous restrictions on public access remain in effect.

On March 15, 2020, the Chief Executive issued Executive Order 2020-03, declaring a State of Emergency, after Band Assembly passed emergency legislation authorizing the Chief Executive to "control the movement of persons subject to the jurisdiction of the Band on all lands under the territorial jurisdiction of the Band" only when the Band is in a State of Emergency.

On March 25, 2020, the Chief Executive signed Executive Order 2020-05, a "stay-at-home" order for Band members and other tribal members living within the Band's territorial jurisdiction.

Mask order extended until May 31

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson signed a Commissioner's Order in February extending the requirement for individuals to wear masks or cloth face coverings in Mille Lacs Band government facilities and Band-owned

businesses until May 31, 2021.

The previous extension expired February 28, and the new order went into effect March 1.

The initial order, Commissioner's Order 20-01, went into effect on May 27 and expired August 31. Commissioner's Order 20-02 extended the order through November 30, and Commissioner's Order 20-03 extended it through February.

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

"ALL PERSONS ENROLLED WITHIN THE NON-REMOVABLE MILLE LACS BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS ... ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE REMAINING AT HOME OR PLACE OF RESIDENCE, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, SO AS TO MINIMIZE COMMUNITY SPREAD OF COVID-19."

Commissioner Anderson also reminds Band members to wash their hands often and to practice social distancing when they need to leave the home.

The order applies to anyone over two years old who can medically tolerate a face covering, and it also requires that government personnel wear gloves when entering Band member residences to provide public services.

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

According to the Centers for Disease Control, wearing cloth face coverings in public settings can help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE NAMED TO SELECTION COMMITTEE BY MINNESOTA SENATORS

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has been chosen to participate in a selection committee formed by U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith to assist them in making recommendations to the President for candidates to serve as U.S. Attorney and U.S. Marshal for Minnesota.

It is an important step toward giving tribal members a voice and a seat at the table to find candidates who will keep our communities safe while upholding the fundamental value of equal justice for all Minnesotans and Americans.

The Committee will be chaired by John Choi, Ramsey County Attorney, with the following members: Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Amran Farah, attorney at Greene Espel and former President of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers; David Lillehaug, former Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court and a former U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota; Cecil Naatz, Managing Attorney of the Public Defender's Office in Marshall, Minnesota; Thomas Smith, Training Director for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and former Chief of Police for the St. Paul Police Department; and Patricia Tototzintle, Chief Executive Officer of Casa de Esperanza.

"These distinguished Minnesota leaders will come together to help select the next U.S. Attorney and U.S. Marshal for our state who will work to uphold justice and protect all Min-



Sen. Amy Klobuchar



Sen. Tina Smith

nesotans," said Senator Klobuchar. "These positions are critical to keeping our state and communities safe. I am confident that this committee will find candidates who are committed to the promise of equal justice under law for all."

"These Minnesota community leaders will help run an inclusive and fair selection process to name top federal law enforcement candidates in Minnesota," said Senator Smith. "I'm grateful for their assistance in this important task. Identifying highly qualified candidates who are committed to fulfilling the promise of freedom and equality will help uphold our most fundamental value of equal justice for all Minnesotans and Americans."

MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE TRIBAL LEADERS DISCUSS ENROLLMENTS

The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) is discussing how to proceed with two resolutions on enrollments that were passed several years ago. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has been meeting with Elders to receive their input on the enrollments issue, and the Mille Lacs delegates to the MCT Constitutional Convention are also discussing the matter.

The TEC will consider the issue at a special meeting on March 4.

In 2015, the TEC recognized that members of the MCT may possess other Chippewa, Ojibwe, Anishinaabe, or First Nations Anishinaabe blood and decided to let the membership decide whether that blood should be included when determining eligibility for membership. As the first step in the process, the Tribal Executive Committee adopted two resolutions to put the questions before the MCT Membership:

Resolution 31-15 would have amended the MCT Constitution by adding this paragraph: "The Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood of persons enrolled on the effective date of this amendment shall be corrected on the membership rolls of the Tribe by including the verified First Nation Anishinaabe blood possessed by the member."

Resolution 32-15 would have amended the Constitution by adding this paragraph: "The Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood of persons enrolled on the effective date of this amendment

shall be corrected on the membership rolls of the Tribe by including the verified federally recognized Anishinaabe/Ojibway/Chippewa blood possessed by the member."

Article II, Membership, of the Revised Constitution and By-laws, requires that persons born after July 3, 1961, possess at least one quarter (1/4 degree) Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood. MCT blood has been defined as blood derived from one or more of the six constituent Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: Bois Forte, Mille Lacs, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, White Earth, and Fond du Lac.

As required by federal law, the Resolutions were forwarded to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for technical review in 2015, but the Secretarial Election never occurred, but the TEC is once again considering whether the resolutions should be put to a vote.

Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention, which like many things was put on hold early in 2020, reconvened in January with delegates from all six Minnesota Chippewa Tribe bands meeting via Zoom conference.

Mille Lacs delegates to the convention reconvened last fall and have been meeting regularly since December.

For an update on the Constitutional Convention and the Mille Lacs delegates, see next month's issue.



Commissioner from page 1

Joyce was first appointed Commissioner of Education in December of 2002. In that role, she was involved in the creation of two charter schools: Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II and Pine Grove Leadership Academy in District III.

In 2000, she served on a committee that developed the cultural immersion grounds in Rutledge.

In 2003, Joyce was featured in a Mille Lacs Band calendar making a statement that would come to define her remaining years: "The message I would want Band members to hear is that you can accomplish anything you set your mind to if you have the initiative and determination to make it happen. Good things happen to those who pursue their education. Personally, I take pride in meeting my educational goal. Now, I am at a point in my life where I can truly help tribal members realize their own dreams."

Later, Joyce served as Executive Director of the Department of Education, once again taking a lead role in restructuring Pine Grove as a satellite of Nay Ah Shing Schools.

In 2019, Joyce once again heard the call of her tribe to serve as Commissioner of Education. During the last year, Joyce showed her dedication to maintaining educational excellence in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, overseeing the



transition to online learning and the complex safety requirements needed to bring students back to campus.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who twice nominated Joyce to serve as commissioner, remembered meeting Joyce in 1989, when Melanie was confirmed as Commissioner of Administration under the late Chief Executive Art Gahbow. "Joyce was one of the first to come up and introduce herself, and when I think of her I remember that courtesy and respect she showed to someone new to the community."

Melanie pointed out her quiet eloquence as a spokesperson, her strong family orientation, her unforgettable laugh, and her deep commitment to education for Band members — "from the little bitty ones, all the way up to adults."

"She was my mentor and supporter, my advisor, and most importantly she was my friend," said Melanie. "If you had cultural concerns or questions, you could always go to Joyce for help."

A model of life-long learning, Joyce received a Master's Degree in Tribal Administration and Governance in 2016. In an interview with the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*, Joyce once again expressed her commitment to the Band and to education: "We need Band members to continue their education so they can lead. It will benefit them, the Band, and our government."

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Stauber letter opposing Haaland nomination gets little support:

Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber found relatively little support in the U.S. House for his controversial effort to derail the nomination of the first Native American member of a presidential Cabinet. The Republican Stauber had hoped to convince the Biden administration to withdraw the nomination of New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland, a Democrat, as Secretary of the Interior. But Stauber couldn't even convince other GOP members of the Minnesota congressional delegation to sign on to a letter he issued opposing Haaland's nomination. Stauber has come under fierce criticism from tribal officials across the country, and particularly those within the Eighth District of Minnesota. *Source: timberjay.com.*

Goade is first Native American to win Caldecott Medal:

Illustrator Michaela Goade became the first Native American to win the prestigious Randolph Caldecott Medal for best children's picture story, cited for "We Are Water Protectors," a celebration of nature and condemnation of the "black snake" Dakota Access Pipeline. "I am really honored and proud," the 30-year-old Goade told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I think it's really important for young people and aspiring book makers and other creative people to see this." *Source: mprnews.org.*

After slugger's death, a call for name change:

As his adopted hometown mourned Hank Aaron's death in January, some fans called on the Atlanta Braves to change their name to the Hammers in his honor. "Hammerin' Hank" died Friday at age 86, drawing praise from all segments of society — including the current and former presidents — for his Hall of Fame career and providing inspiration to Black Americans by overcoming intense racism in his pursuit of baseball's home run record. *Source: apnews.com.*

USDA awards walleye contract to Native American seafood business:

The US Department of Agriculture awarded Minnesota-based Red Lake Nation Fisheries a contract for \$466,903.62 to distribute 43,800 pounds of frozen walleye fillets to federal programs in Kansas City, Missouri, part of the agency's aggressive contract purchasing policy over the past year. The product will be used for distribution to the child nutrition and other related federal food assistance programs for fiscal year 2021. *Source: intrafish.com.*

Native copper mine declared a national landmark:

A 200-acre site where Indigenous people extracted copper ore for thousands of years has been given an important historic designation. The National Park Service recently approved an application to name the Minong Mining District — on what's now known as Isle Royale — a National Historic Landmark. "Minong" is the Ojibwe word for Isle Royale. People began extracting copper on Isle Royale at least six millennia ago, starting around 4500 BCE. In the 19th century, European immigrants noticed the evidence of that mining activity and commenced another significant mining era at the site around 1870. Lake Superior copper has been found at prehistoric sites around the eastern United States, illustrating its value for trading, and the extensive networks that could transport goods halfway across the continent. *Source: queticosuperior.org.*

Follow Indian Country news at millelacsband.com/news.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

REGARDING THE

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE RESERVATION

The Mille Lacs Indian Reservation was established in an 1855 Treaty as the “permanent home” of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. According to the Treaty, the Reservation “embrace[s]” four fractional townships on the south and southwest sides of Mille Lacs Lake (specifically, Isle Harbor, South Harbor and North and South Kathio) as well as three islands in the southern part of the lake.

The State of Minnesota recently clarified its position regarding the Reservation. Responding to a lawsuit filed by Mille Lacs County officials, the State said that its “position is that the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation has never been diminished or disestablished.”

The State’s assertion has raised questions regarding the meaning of the Reservation’s boundaries for non-Indians within the Reservation. The Band has prepared answers to some frequently asked questions.

Can non-Indians own land and reside within the boundaries of the Mille Lacs Reservation?

Yes. Most lands within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation and most other Reservations in Minnesota are today owned by non-Indians. The State itself is one of the largest landowners within the Mille Lacs Reservation as the owner of Kathio State Park and other lands.

Does the existence of the Reservation limit access to or regulation of fisheries in Mille Lacs Lake?

No. Non-Indians have access to the lake through public access sites and private lands (such as resorts). As noted above, the existence of the Reservation does not affect land ownership and so has no affect on lake access. Nor does existence of the Reservation affect regulation or management of fisheries. Nothing has changed.

Can the Mille Lacs Band tax non-Indian land or non-Indians who live or work within or visit the Reservation?

No. Although the Band has some taxation authority on its own lands, the Band has no authority to tax non-Indian lands within the Reservation or the activities of non-Indians on non-Indian lands within the Reservation. This restriction on tribal taxation authority was recognized by the Mille Lacs County Attorney in a 2000 opinion published in the *Mille Lacs Messenger* and confirmed in a 2001 United States Supreme Court decision (*Atkinson Trading Co. v. Shirley*), in which the Court held that “[a]n Indian tribe’s sovereign power to tax - whatever its derivation - reaches no further than tribal land.”

Does the federal government have authority over non-Indians within the Reservation?

Yes, to a limited extent. The federal government administers certain environmental laws within Indian reservations. This has been the case within the Mille Lacs Reservation for many years.

Can the Mille Lacs Band prosecute non-Indians in the Band’s court?

No. The United States Supreme Court held in 1978 that tribes have no criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians. Congress has since authorized tribes to exercise limited authority to prosecute non-Indians for domestic violence offenses, but the Band has not exercised that authority. The Band does have authority to investigate violations of law by non-Indians within the Reservation under federal, state and tribal law, but offenders can only be prosecuted in state or federal court.

Misinformation and rumors abound on what the existence of the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation means for Band members and non-Indians who live inside the borders. Please take the opportunity to learn the facts and share them with friends and neighbors at every opportunity. <https://millelacsband.com/news/faqs>.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CURT KALK JR. — THE RIGHT FIT FOR HHS

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

"Everything happens for a reason" can sometimes seem like an empty cliché, but once in a while someone's life story confirms the truth in the old adage.

In the case of Curt Kalk Jr., life experience and a variety of jobs gave him the exact set of skills required for his current role of Facilities Director for the Health and Human Services Department.

As Facilities Director, Curt is in charge of shipping and receiving, building maintenance, operations, security, grounds, and cleaning at the new HHS building in District I as well as the clinic in District III, the Assisted Living Units, the men's halfway house, the red brick house in District I, and the food distribution warehouse.

If that sounds like a challenge, consider this: A year ago, there were 17 in the department; today there are six.

And in case you've forgotten, we're in a pandemic.

HHS Commissioner Nicole Anderson is appreciative of Curt's work ethic and attitude. "We here at HHS are so grateful to have Curt's positive outlook as part of the team," Nicole said. "No matter what the challenge is, Curt shows up with a smile and willingness to help.

Not only is Curt's team in charge of maintaining a safe and sanitary health care environment, they're also involved with setting up mobile testing and vaccination sites. They coordinate with shipping companies to receive COVID-19 vaccines, and they work with the pharmacy and nurses to make sure the vaccines are handled and distributed properly.

"Now that I've stepped into the director role, I've gone from running from place to place to coordinating," said Curt. "It's my job to make sure the long-term isn't forgotten. It's less day-to-day and more week-to-week and month-to-month."

For Curt, the road to Facilities Director started down on the farm — the family farm in Deerwood where his parents raised cattle. When he wasn't at the farm, he was helping at the resorts his family members ran, learning another set of skills.

"When it comes to property management, a lot of it is kind of second nature," said Curt. "From a very young age, I learned how to trim trees, how to maintain the lawn, and what to do when a pipe burst."

After high school, he took a job at Ruttger's as a busboy and worked his way into conference services, learning the logistics required to coordinate events — another skill that comes in handy in facilities management.

"Once I had done that for a year, I entered the TERO program and went to work for a construction company, operating heavy equipment," said Curt. He spent three and a half years laying pipe at Bugg Hill, where he learned about the infrastructure required for public developments, as well as the need for industry standards and government inspections — more knowledge that Curt uses in his current job.

When he turned 21, Curt decided to go to school and took a new job at Ruttger's, this time as shipping and receiving manager. And guess what? Shipping and receiving is another responsibility of the Director of Facilities.

Not that there haven't been some bumps along the way. Physical labor led to injuries and chronic pain, and Curt took refuge in alcohol and drugs — eventually landing in jail and treatment.

"I was in and out of jail and jobless from 23 to 26," said Curt. "I tried to deal with the problem myself, but I ended up



Curt Kalk Jr., pictured with his family, is the Facilities Director for the Health and Human Services Department.

in jail the third time for a probation violation. I had almost finished when it was reset again, and I knew that next time, it's not gonna be 90 days and treatment; it's gonna be prison."

After treatment, with a new partner and a baby on the way, Curt went back into road construction. He worked as a laborer for a few months and was promoted to foreman's assistant. Again, he was learning skills that paid off later: setting up a job site with a focus on safety — something Curt has done a lot of in the last year.

But after two four-year stints with the same company, and a second child, Curt found himself working too much with no vacation, no sick days, and not enough time with family.

That's when he saw an opening for Environmental Services Technician with the Band. "I didn't even know what an Environmental Services Technician was, or if I was even qualified," said Curt. "Buy my dad and uncles have worked for the Tribe, as well as my cousins and my aunts. I had tried once previously, and it didn't work out at that time, but I decided to apply."

Curt said on his resume that he wanted to help the community — even if just in a supportive role. "Everything I do, I try to do my best," said Curt. "Every job is important. When you look at base level techs, without them doing their jobs, the people who support the community in other ways can't do their jobs."

"WE ARE ALL WORKING TOWARD THE SAME GOAL HERE, TRYING TO BRING THE COMMUNITY A SERVICE, SO INSTEAD OF TALKING ABOUT PROBLEMS, LET'S FIND SOLUTIONS."

— CURT KALK JR.

Curt was hired and quickly made an impact with his willingness to work hard and his serious approach to safety and sanitation, which led to promotions to Maintenance Manager and his current job as Facilities Director.

Curt calls himself a "Type A" personality, which can lead to a lot of stress in a challenging environment — especially during a pandemic. He credits growing up with a mom who did foster care with helping him learn to cope with uncertainty and change — and he credits the leadership at HHS with helping the staff remain positive and productive during the pandemic.

"When Jan and Nicole came in, they found a way to strike a balance between following policy and rules while helping with some of the chaos and strife we face in our jobs," said Curt. "Seeing that gave me some of the courage or initiative to step forward and suggest changes. I'm not saying things are perfect every day — we have less staff today in this great big building than we ever had in the other building — but we find a way to make it work as a team. We're all working toward the same goal here, trying to bring the community a service, so instead of talking about problems, let's find solutions."

HHS leaders are equally complimentary toward Curt. Executive Director Jan Manary said, "Curt is like a breath of fresh air! This has been a challenging year — community COVID testing and vaccines. I have gone to Curt on short notice, and with a smile and nod he and his team are all in to support our efforts. He is great to work with."

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BRIEFS

VACCINES FOR BAND MEMBERS

Any Mille Lacs Band members wanting the COVID-19 vaccine, please call 320-532-4163 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to be put on a list to be contacted.

DIABETES PROGRAM IS HERE TO HELP

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Health and Human Services Diabetes Program is eager to help those with diabetes to manage their care so they can live full and healthy lives. The program offers the following services:

Regular Doctor Visits: Appointments with your primary care provider, podiatrist, and optometrist.

Physical Activity: Meet with a Fitness Coordinator and Lifestyle Coach to help set and achieve goals.

Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME): Gain the knowledge and skills needed to manage diabetes and prevent complications.

Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT): Work with a registered dietitian to learn how food affects your blood sugar.

Ongoing Diabetes Support: Meet others who have the same concerns you do.

To learn more about the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Diabetes Program:

- Ask your doctor if a referral for diabetes education is right for you.

District I, Ne-la-Shing Clinic: 320-532-4163

District II, East Lake Clinic: 218-768-3311

District III, Aazhoomog Clinic: 320-384-0149

- Contact the Diabetes Program Coordinator at 320-532-4163, ext. 2591.

MONTHLY SAFETY CLASSES FOR BAND MEMBERS, STAFF, FOSTER FAMILIES

The Health and Human Services Department will be offering a full-day First Aid and CPR/AED class the last Wednesday of every month for Band members and employees at the Family Services training room.

Beginning in March, the Safe Native American Child Passenger (SNAP) curriculum will be offered on the first Tuesday of every month from 1 to 5 p.m. Band members, employees, and foster families are invited to attend at the Family Services training room.

Unintentional injuries continue to be a leading cause of death and the leading cause of years of productive life lost for American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) ages 1-44 years. Furthermore, the AI/AN child mortality rate for ages 1-19 years is 40 percent higher than the US rate. Specifically, motor vehicle traffic injuries are the leading cause of unintentional death among AI/AN with a rate 1.5 times greater than that of the general U.S. population.

NEED HELP WITH INCOME TAX PREPARATION?

The Grand Casino Income Tax Preparation Program Appointment Hotline opened February 8, 2021. Call 1-800-626-5825, extension 8500. Please leave a message, and someone will return your call.

DEAN REYNOLDS

MOVING UP THROUGH THE RANKS

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Dean Reynolds understands how the Band's programs and services can help Band members through difficult times. A few years ago, he found himself between jobs and living at the Minobimaadiziwin transitional housing unit after the home he had been living in was vandalized.

"Since that low point, I've done everything I could to provide for my family and get back on my feet," said Dean. With help from Aanjibimaadizing's work experience (WEX) program, he was able to start a new career in the Emergency Service Department, first in the food warehouse and then as Eligibility Technician.

Now, as the new Coordinator of Emergency Services, Dean is in a position to give back to his community by helping other Band members who hit a rough patch. Whether the need is food, heat, electricity, or other services, Dean and his team are ready, willing, and able to lend a hand.

"I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A FAST LEARNER, AND AFTER THEY SHOWED ME EACH STEP, I TOOK IT FROM THERE."

— DEAN REYNOLDS

Carmen Kalk, the Executive Director of Human Services, said, "Having Dean as the Emergency Services Coordinator is an asset to Health and Human Services, due to his community awareness and the knowledge he gained going up the ranks of the program. Dean is open to new ideas and is always willing to help."

Dean oversees three programs (FDPIR, food shelves, and emergency services) and six employees — two in each program.

FDPIR stands for Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and is commonly known as the commodities program. This program provides food support for Band members who apply and meet the qualifications. Dean encourages Band

members to contact the program to see if they are eligible. Every month, deliveries of commodities are made to Districts II and III.

The food shelves are open to anyone who is in immediate need of food assistance. Normally, clients can come in and shop for what they need, but during COVID-19, they are required to call and make an order, which will be packaged and brought to their car.

"The food packages are set up to feed a family for three to four days until they find another program like FDPIR or SNAP" (a county-run food program), Dean said. Lately, the food shelf has been receiving a lot of donations, so it is well stocked. In addition to the main food shelf in District I, Dean oversees food shelf locations in Districts II and III.

Emergency Services is a loan program to help Band members who have fallen behind on electricity, heat, or other bills, or who need help with emergency expenses, like visiting a family member in the hospital. The loans are usually paid back out of Band members' per capita payments.

Born leader

Dean always knew he had the ability to supervise others, even back in high school, when he was the one on the football and wrestling teams who would pump up his teammates.

"I've always been more of a leader than a follower," he said. "It's just the way I am."

In addition to his innate leadership qualities, Dean also received support from his parents, Rosa Sam and Gene Reynolds, who always encouraged him to speak his mind.

Dean spent many years as a chef at Izatys — working his way up to head chef — and although he still has a passion for cooking, restaurant work got old.

From there, he went into construction, but eventually felt the need to get back into year-round work, so he applied for the WEX program, where he got a lot of help from Kaari Weyaus, Katye Simonsen, and Dan Pawaush.

It was WEX that helped Dean get his foot in the door at Emergency Services as a warehouse aid packing up commods. A few months later, in June of 2015, Dean was offered the



Dean Reynolds is the Coordinator of Emergency Services.

position of Eligibility Technician, which he held for four years. "I gained a lot of knowledge of this department, since I filled in at the food shelf and commods whenever needed, so it gave me the knowledge I needed for this position," he said.

Dean is grateful to Carmen Kalk for giving him the opportunity to lead Emergency Services. "She has taught me a lot about the position and been very supportive and helpful adjusting to the position," said Dean. "She is just awesome."

The former Coordinator, Kevin Pawlitschek, and his old boss, Kristian Theisz, were also helpful in teaching Dean about the programs. "They gave me a lot of support, walked me through step by step," said Dean. "I like to think of myself as a fast learner, and after they showed me each step, I took it from there."

As he advanced through the ranks in the department, Dean's leadership qualities were recognized, and he was selected for the Blandin Leadership Program in 2018, which he found valuable.

Commissioner Nicole Anderson said, "It is super cool to see Band members rise to new levels of responsibility as they gain hands-on experience. Dean will do great in his new role as he is always willing to help with genuine care and a smile."

Hard work — and a little help from the Band — has resulted in a good life for Dean, his wife Melissa, and their four kids. "It's been a complete 180 since I started here in 2015," he said.

And with his leadership and experience, Band members who find themselves in need know they have someone they can count on.

REPORT SHOWS NATIVE AMERICANS' PERSPECTIVES ON COVID-19 VACCINE

Data will be used for nationwide education efforts

The Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) released a study last month with the first-ever national data regarding American Indian and Alaska Native peoples' knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about a COVID-19 vaccine.

The study surveyed American Indians and Alaska Natives across 46 states — representing 318 different tribal affiliations — to gather information ranging from individuals' willingness to receive a COVID-19 vaccine to the hurdles they face in accessing health care and resources.

"This data will be important to all organizations conducting COVID-19 vaccine education efforts," said Abigail Echo-Hawk, director of UIHI. "Native communities have unique challenges and needs that usually are not considered in public health campaigns."

American Indian and Alaska Native people continue to be disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 incidence and mortality rates are 3.5 and 1.8 times that of non-Hispanic Whites, respectively.

While there has been worry about vaccine participation in Native communities, 75 percent of study participants claimed

they would be willing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, higher than the national average according to an Ipsos survey from October 2020, which indicates that 64 percent of the U.S. general population was willing to receive a vaccine.

"Willingness to receive a vaccine and hesitancy are not mutually exclusive," said Echo-Hawk. "Fear and distrust of government and medical systems still exists in our community, which are hurdles that we have to overcome."

Echo-Hawk hopes the report can start to create a better understanding of the unique perspectives of Native people.

"The data indicates that most Native people willing to be vaccinated feel it is their responsibility for the health of their community," Echo-Hawk said. "This shows what motivates our community when it comes to decision-making."

75 PERCENT SAID THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO RECEIVE A VACCINE — HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

Pandemic from page 1

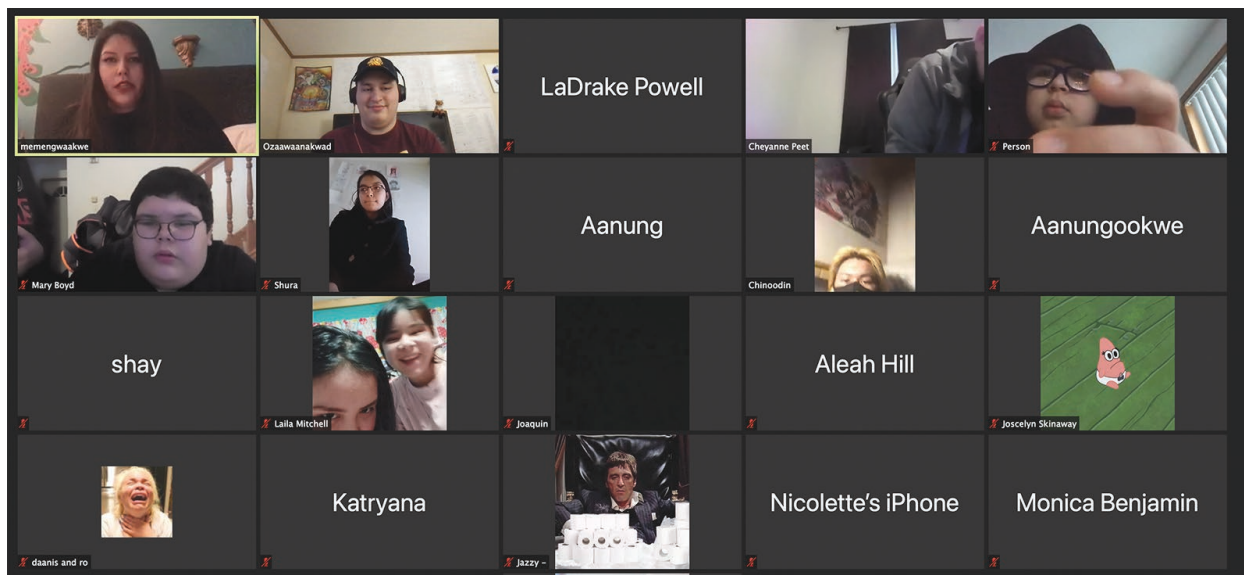
In late May, Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson signed an order requiring masks in tribal buildings.

As the weeks and months wore on and summer approached, cautious moves were made to reopen businesses — but as more and more Minnesotans became infected, the State and Band were forced to step back efforts to return to normal.

Through it all, the Mille Lacs Band proved ready and able to handle the uncertainty — in large part due to the TERC, a committee that has existed for years, had already responded to weather-related emergencies, and had routinely participated in trainings to prepare for tornadoes, wildfires, food-borne outbreaks, and even pandemics.

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk has been at the center of those efforts during his decades of service to the Band. Never one to take credit for himself, however, Monte points to the tribal leaders who have seen the importance of emergency management and made necessary investments.

"During the State of the Band speech by the Chief Executive, it was mentioned how tribes were calling her for best practices because they saw how well prepared we were to respond to the pandemic," said Monte. "To me, that reflects the 21 years that Band leadership has supported tribal emergency management, including the plans and trainings to help make the Band prepared for all hazards, as well as the community risk reduction efforts they have embraced in the Districts."



GE-NIIGAANIZIJIG LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Youth hold the key to long-term success of language revitalization

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Band members have been hearing a lot about language revitalization in recent years — from immersion classrooms in Wewinabi Early Education and Nay Ah Shing Schools, to the publication of books made up of stories authored by Elders, to the development of a Rosetta Stone app that will make language lessons accessible to anyone with a smartphone.

None of these projects will save the Ojibwe language without help from willing learners — and the staff of the Ge-Niigaanizijig youth program know that young people hold the key to the long-term revitalization of Ojibwemowin.

With that in mind, the youth mentors were determined to make Ojibwe language classes available to students in the program. District II mentor Cheyanne Peet said the team recognized the importance of the language, and with a declining number of fluent speakers, it's time for younger Band members to step up.

"Kids are at a critical stage of their life, so I think it's important to stress the importance of Ojibwe language so it becomes a regular part of their adult lives," said Cheyanne. "It's part of our identity, and for our kids to grow up as healthy adults, we need to instill the language and culture into their lives."

Memengwaakwe (Samantha Peet) works with Aanjibimaadizing as the Project Manager for the Ojibwe Language Strategic Initiative. In addition to teaching classes for staff and clients of Aanjibimaadizing, Memengwaakwe is also teaching the Ge-Niigaanizijig classes.

"We've already started to see the positive effect the classes have on the kids," said Memengwaakwe. "When we started they were very timid, but now they're becoming more comfortable and outgoing."

For now, the classes are held twice a month, but as Memengwaakwe develops curriculum, they will become more frequent. She's also keeping the classes short to keep students who are overwhelmed with Zoom classes from tuning out.

As time goes on, the staff hope to build the curriculum, develop language and culture videos, and introduce youth to important coming-of-age ceremonies — with help from Lee Obizaan Staples and his cultural apprentice, Dan Wind.

The language course is geared toward beginners, although some of the students have learned the basics already in school. "It's very much starting from scratch," said Memengwaakwe. "The main focus is to have them walk away with a couple simple words so they're not overwhelmed, and they're able to retain something."

Memengwaakwe is assisted in the language classes by Ozaawaanakwad (James Clark). Cheyanne said Memengwaakwe and Ozaawaanakwad have made the classes attractive for students. "They've made it an inviting environment," said Cheyanne. "They keep the conversation going, so the kids are really opening up and having fun."

Ozaawaanakwad said they understand that kids are growing tired of Zoom meetings, so they are working to make the language classes different. "When you've been sitting in Zoom classes all day, who wants to go to another stale meeting?" he said. "Memengwaakwe and I have been to those classes, and we know how stale it can be. But if you bring the right dynamic, it can be a great way to learn."

OJIBWEMOWIN WITH MEMENGWAAKWE

Ge-Niigaanizijig is offering Ojibwe language classes twice a month for elementary students and teens. This month, classes will be held on March 8 and March 22, with the elementary class beginning at 5 p.m. and the teen class (ages 12 and up) beginning at 5:45.

Students need to be enrolled in the Ge-Niigaanizijig program to participate. If you'd like to enroll, call the Aanjibimaadizing office at 320-532-7407 or 800-922-4457. The forms are available for download at <https://millelacsband.com/services/ge-niigaanizijig-program>.

Memengwaakwe (Samantha Peet) is a District II Band member who serves as Project Manager for Aanjibimaadizing, which operates the Ge-Niigaanizijig youth program. She is assisted by Ozaawaanakwad (James Clark), who is the great-grandson of the late Naawigiizis (Jim Clark), a respected Band member, teacher, and author. Ozaawaanakwad is working with Aanjibimaadizing through a two-year fellowship with Lead for Minnesota, which puts young adults in rural and tribal communities to do work that would not be possible otherwise. James graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth last year with a degree in American Indian Studies.



The Ge-Niigaanizijig staff will also be learning from Memengwaakwe and Ozaawaanakwad so they can become language-learning resources for the students.

Cheyenne said the staff have four goals in mind as they develop the language program: Normalize Ojibwe language use in the community, create lifelong learning opportunities, develop resources, and support the daily use of language and culture.

Ge-Niigaanizijig Director Carlos Merrill said, "I've heard nothing but good things about the class from the people attending. Memengwaakwe and Ozaawaanakwad are doing a great job. They make it easy and fun to learn the language. We are fortunate to have these resources, and we look forward to seeing more and more young people participate in learning and helping to preserve the Ojibwe language."

AROUND THE RESERVATION

SPRING CEREMONIAL DANCE DATES:

Mic & Syngen, Mille Lacs, April 2 & 3, 2021

Andy, Mille Lacs, April 9 & 10, 2021

Lynda, Mille Lacs, April 16 & 17, 2021

Joe & George, Mille Lacs, April 23 & 24, 2021

Elmer & Sheldon, Mille Lacs, April 30 & May 1, 2021

Skip & Darrell, Lake Lena, May 7 & 8, 2021

Lee & Mike, Lake Lena, May 21 & 22, 2021

Tim & Tom, East Lake, May 21 & 22, 2021

Bob & Zhooshk, Mille Lacs, May 28 & 29, 2021

Dale & Vincent, East Lake, TBA

Niib & Iyawbance, East Lake, TBA

AROUND THE REGION:

Maabin & Dan, Round Lake, WI, March 5 & 6, 2021

Terry & Vince, White Earth, March 19 & 20, 2021

Donna, Round Lake, WI, March 26 & 27, 2021

Frank & Adrian, White Earth, March 26 & 27, 2021

Giniwgiizhig, Cass Lake, April 30 & May 1, 2021

Jim & Louis, LCO, TBA

NIIBAA-AATISOOKE — SACRED TEACHINGS IN NIGHT

TIME STORY

Join Maajigwaneyaash Dr. Gordon Jourdain on March 3 from 6 to 7 p.m. for Niibaa-Aatisooke — Sacred Teachings in Night Time Story, sponsored by Nay Ah Shing Schools — Ojibwemowin Enokiijig.

Aatisookaanan gidoonji-gikendaamin gikendaasowin, inaadziwin, miinawaa gizhewaadziwin. Aki, bimigingin, awesiinyang, bimaadziwin miinawaa manidookaanag ginigawi-ayaawag dibaajimowining.

Traditions shared in story express a way of knowing, a way of being, and a way of living. The interconnectedness of people to the land, plant life, all living creatures, the mysteries of life, and the spirit world come to life in oral tradition.

To register, go to millelacsband.com/news/niibaa-aatisooke and click the link to the Google document. The event will also stream live through Nay Ah Shing School's Facebook page.

FREE CEMENT MASON TRAINING

The Cement Masons, Plasterers & Shophands Local 633 Journeyman & Apprentice Training Trust Fund is offering an 11-week cement masons trade orientation training in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

This is a FREE opportunity for Band members to receive on-the-job technical training. The program includes a hotel room during the course and a weekly stipend. Upon completion of the course, you will receive all the tools you need to start your career as a cement mason. In addition, there is free job placement assistance throughout the state.

The program will begin Monday, May 24, 2021, and run through July 30, 2021. Classes will be held Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Lori Trail, Tribal Employment Rights Director, at 320-532-4778, 320-630-2617, or lori.trail@millelacsband.com.

See the flyer on page 15 for details.

SHERRAINE WHITE

FIRST RUNG ON THE CORPORATE LADDER

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor



Chiminising Band member Sherraine White is enthusiastic about her new role as Executive Administrative Assistant.

Like many of us, Sherraine White was glad to put 2020 in the rearview mirror. But unlike many, the challenges she faced were far more serious than wearing a mask or staying home.

In addition, those challenges came on the heels of four difficult years. In 2016, Sherraine lost her cousin to a hit-and-run accident. A year later, she lost her grandpa on her mom's side, and two months later her grandma passed away.

"Through all of this, I never gave myself a chance to grieve," said Sherraine. "I had to be strong for my mom and siblings."

She suffered from depression and mental illness as she was trying to finish high school, but she stayed on a good path and made it to graduation in 2017.

Then came 2020, when she lost another cousin she was close to. In November, Sherraine faced perhaps her greatest challenge when her mother, Jaylene, passed away. Jaylene was a single mom, so Sherraine, the oldest of six, would need to hold her family together — while starting a new job with a high level of responsibility at Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

"I'm proud of myself for being here now, still doing what

I'm doing after losing my mom, and not falling back into those negative thoughts," she said.

Sherraine is soft-spoken but clear and direct. And she smiles a lot. She exudes confidence, but not cockiness. She's strong, but not calloused.

"I always knew I was different," said Sherraine. "Growing up, I didn't have anyone I wanted to be like, but I realized at a young age who I didn't want to be like." She avoided the drama of teenage friendships and learned to enjoy her own company. "I wanted to do great things," she said.

Sherraine was involved in the Band's youth programs her entire childhood. "CYS, Boys and Girls Club, Niigaan, WiiDoo — I was there for all the name changes," she joked. Those activities helped Sherraine avoid some of the pitfalls faced by some of her peers. "I've been around that stuff and even from a young age, seeing people drink, I'd think 'Why would you want to be like that?' I've always known right from wrong."

After graduating from high school in 2017, it was a smooth transition to take a job with the youth program. But when COVID-19 hit and she was furloughed, it seemed a good time to try something new. "My mom encouraged me to get my feet wet in different waters," Sherraine said.

In August, she was offered an internship at MLCV working for the Chief of People and Culture. "I always knew I wanted to work in a corporate environment, but I didn't know where to start, so I was grateful the internship came up," she said. "I fell in love with the corporate side."

The feeling was mutual: In November, she received a call to

apply for her current job as Executive Administrative Assistant to Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe Jr. She started on her 22nd birthday, December 14, 2020.

In her new role, she serves as office manager, maintains Joe's calendar, and assists Joe's other direct reports with their needs, from scheduling meetings to taking notes. She also helps Band members who need hotel reservations at the Band's properties. "I'm available for anybody and everybody who might need to get in touch with Joe or who needs something from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures," said Sherraine.

For now, Sherraine does most of her work remotely, but she's eager to experience office life at MLCV. "I'm introverted, so I like to be home, but MLCV is like a big family, so it's really comfortable," Sherraine said. "The overall environment isn't what I expected. I thought it would be a serious, stern environment, but everybody's fun, in their element, always cracking jokes, and that's helping me be more talkative and vocal with other people."

She loves learning about economic development, how projects move from plan to completion, and how the "big dogs" at MLCV have built their careers.

The next step for Sherraine is applying for custody of her siblings, and now that she's older, Sherraine has found inspirational figures to emulate. "One is my Auntie Darcie Big Bear — the drive she has for bettering her life and reaching her goals. Another is Wendy Merrill. She shows me I can reach my dreams — even while raising a family."

DID YOU KNOW?

ONAABANI-GIIZIS

From the March 2011 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

March is Onaabani giizis (walk on top of snow moon). It is also time to Nando ta wik binay she yag gay be do jig ziiigwan (listen for the birds who will bring the spring)!

Editor's note: The Elders used to talk about this time of year, of hearing a bird or birds — usually a crow — not heard of for a while and, as they step outside, would say, "Ahn day gwag day go shin awad me ni se gwang!" which means "When the crows get here, spring is here!" Or they would say, "Me a zhi gwa wa ba ni shi yung" which means "We're through the dark (time) and we are getting into another season" — as in the dawn of summer or into light of a new day or time.

Our friend Nazhike (Bradley Harrington) took a stab at writing these phrases in the double-vowel alphabet while admitting, "These translations are loose. I don't know how to talk like that."

Nandotawik bineshiinyag ge-biidoojig ziiigwan. Listen for the birds that bring spring.

Aandegwag degoshinowaad mii ni-ziiigwang. When the crows arrive is when it's moving toward spring.

Mii azhigwa waabanishiyang. That's when the dawn is upon us.

COLSRUD WINS COMPETITIVE ARTS GRANT

Catherine Colsrud, who lives in District III, is a fiscal year 2021 recipient of a Creative Support for Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB). This was a competitive process, and Catherine competed against many other artists from across the State of Minnesota.

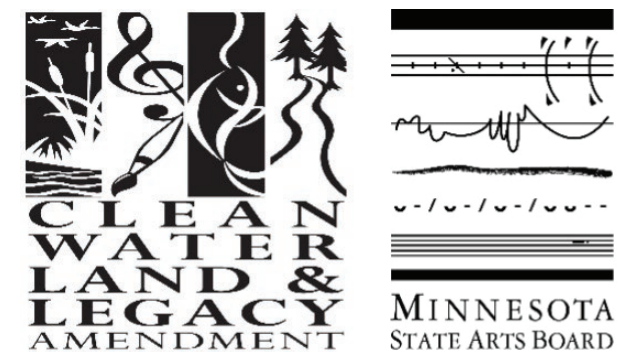
Catherine has been an active artist for many years, and she submitted an application along with samples of her work in September 2020. Now she will be able to share her love of the creative process with others using online methods and plans to offer a handful of painting classes to participants.

"This is a very humbling experience," said Catherine. "I am honored to be selected for this grant. I know many of our Band members are voters and taxpayers, so I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for making these vital funds available for the arts."

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

According to The Minnesota State Arts Board website, the MSAB relies on the generous involvement of Minnesota citizens to evaluate artistic activities and review grant applications to help determine which will be recommended to receive funding. This involvement, and the insights advisory reviewers bring, are the vital foundation for the Arts Board's grant decisions each year.

The website goes on to further state: For this reason, hundreds of people — ranging from individuals who don't work in



the arts, but have knowledge or passion for the arts, to individuals who have experience with Minnesota nonprofits in paid or volunteer positions, to professionals working in the arts — are needed to experience arts activities and review applications remotely, ongoing.

A number of reviews are completed on a project at each step of the review process. Using a scoring system, an art project requires a minimum score to move onto the next review cycle. After an application has been through the mandatory review stages, it is presented to the MSAB for final consideration. This is the final step in the competitive process, and approval from the MSAB is not guaranteed.

As an added challenge in this already highly competitive process, with the contraction of the state economy, the funding for the arts also contracted significantly. With fewer dollars available to extend grants, the review process was even more intense.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS



DNR COMMITTED TO E-WASTE RECYCLING

The Department of Natural Resources collected nine pallets — 4,543 pounds — of electronic waste last month, including computer towers, monitors, TVs, and printers. Andrew Boyd coordinates the recycling for the DNR, working with Mercury Tech to haul away the waste. Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper said, “We host these events a couple times a year because properly disposing of and recycling e-waste is important to protect the environment for future generations to come. Miigwech to all who help make this event a success!”



AIR QUALITY NEWS

On January 29, the DNR Air Quality Program, in coordination with the US EPA Region 5 and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) transferred the custody of MPCA's unused Air Monitoring Shelter from the Anoka-Blaine Airport to the temporary location of the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds. In the coming months, the Air Monitoring Shelter will be moved into the Band's Compound. The Air Quality Program hopes to have the shelter in use beginning with the 2022 Ozone Monitoring Season.

TREATY DAY SPECIAL

In recognition of Treaty Rights Day, celebrated this year on March 19, the Department of Natural Resources is sharing the Treaty Rights poster as an insert in this month's Inaajimowin. Miigwech to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission for creating this excellent educational timeline and to the DNR and Government Affairs Department for covering the costs of printing and mailing it. Watch millelacsband.com and social media for information on the Treaty Rights Day virtual celebration.

INDIAN COUNTRY NEWS

Ojibwe writer pens script for Netflix mystery:

Wenonah Wilms is an overnight success, if by “overnight success” you mean that it took two decades. The Native writer from Minneapolis has been announced as co-writer of the pilot for “Firekeeper’s Daughter,” a murder mystery with a bunch of heavy hitters involved. The series will adapt the upcoming young adult novel by buzzed-about Ojibwe writer Angeline Boulley. It’s for Netflix. And it’s produced under the Higher Ground banner of Barack and Michelle Obama, whose production “American Factory” won an Oscar last year for best documentary. Wilms, a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, was pitching a project to Netflix when execs mentioned “Firekeeper’s Daughter,” which seemed like a good fit since its title character is both Native and white (Wilms also is part white as well as part Dakota). With several short films under her belt, Wilms has spent 20 years carving out space for herself in the Minnesota filmmaking community — winning awards such as a McKnight Media Artist Fellowship through FilmNorth and a Nicholl Fellowship through the Motion Picture Academy, both in 2018 — so she’s ready. “I’ve been afraid to go to L.A. and give that a shot — I have kids and a dog — so being able to do it from Minnesota is my ultimate dream.” *Source: startribune.com.*

STRONGHEARTS HELPLINE EXPANDS TO 24/7

StrongHearts Native Helpline (1-844-7NATIVE) announced last month that it would expand operations by offering advocacy services 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. The expanded service launched on February 19, coinciding with the additional expansion of text advocacy.

“Our goal is to make caring support available to as many Native American and Alaska Natives as possible,” said StrongHearts Director Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). “Victim-survivors need to be able to reach out when it’s safe for them, around-the-clock, through a variety of means.”



Ashigan/Ginoozhe Apanjigan Miinawaa Gebozang Bass/Northern Pike Marinated and Baked

Dagonigan (Ingredients):

- 3 lbs bass or northern pike filets
- 2 bell peppers
- 2 Shallots
- Salt/pepper to taste
- Marinade:
 - 2 Tbsp Dry Oregano
 - 2 Tbsp Coriander
 - 2 Tbsp Paprika
 - 10 freshly minced garlic cloves
 - 15 fresh sliced basil leaves
 - 4 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
 - 6 Tbsp olive oil

Directions:

1. Prepare the marinade by mixing oregano, coriander, paprika, garlic, basil leaves, lemon juice and olive oil. Salt and pepper the fish to taste. Submerge the fish in the marinade and place in the refrigerator for at least one hour.
2. Preheat Oven to 425 degrees F. Meanwhile, slice shallots and bell peppers. Arrange in a 9x13 baking dish.
3. Add fish on top of the vegetables.
4. Bake uncovered for 15-30 minutes or until the fish is fully cooked and flakes easily. Internal temperature of the fish should register 145 degrees F.
5. Serve on a bed of lemon manoomin or lemon white rice.



AMANISOD AWIYA — WHEN SOMEONE IS SPOOKED

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

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

Moozhag iko nimbi-noondaan amanisod endaad a'aw Anishinaabe noongom. Ishke dash mii imaa wendingang a'aw Anishinaabe ganawaabandang i'iw mezinaatesenig. Ishke a'aw chi-mookomaan nebowa imaa odatoon ge-zegi'igod ge-ni-ganawaabandang a'aw bemaadizid.

Nowadays I often hear about Anishinaabe people being spooked in their homes. A lot of this results from what Anishinaabe watch on television and in the movies. The white man puts things in these movies that can scare people.

Ishke bezhig i'iw genawaabandang a'aw bemaadizid imaa mazinaatesijiganing, mii imaa ani-mazinaakizowaad ingiw gaa-nibojig gaa-ishkwaa-ayaajig. Mii-go wawaaj mazinaakizondwaa ingiw gaa-nibojig gaa-aabiziishingig waabamindwaa babaamosewaa omaa akiing bimidaabaadamowaad bezhig okaadiwaan megwaa babaamosewaa. Mii dash imaa wendingang a'aw Anishinaabe ani-zegendang gegoo imaa noondang

wenjida niibaa-dibik.

One of the television programs that a lot of people watch focuses on people who have passed on or ghosts. Some of these programs even go on to show people that have died and come back to life who are able to walk on the earth and drag one of their legs as they walk, zombie like. It is from there that the Anishinaabe has his fears when he hears something at night.

Ishke mii imaa wenjikaamagak gaye inigaanaapinemind a'aw gookooko'oo ganawaabanjigaadeg i'iw mazinaatesijigan, biinish gaye ani-gikino'amaawind a'aw bemaadizid ani-mazi-naakizond a'aw gookooko'oo naadamaaged da-zegi'ind a'aw bemaadizid i'iw jiiibayi-giizhik ezhiiwiinjigaadeg. Mii imaa wendingang a'aw Anishinaabe wenda-gosaad.

It is also from these television programs and movies that uncomplimentary things are said about the owl. People are also taught in these movies that it is the owl that helps scare people at Halloween. It is from watching all of this that the Anishinaabe is scared of the owl.

Ishke geget a'aw gookooko'oo manidoowaadizi a'aw binesi.



Ishke mii a'aw binesi gaa-nakodang wii-naadamawaad inow Anishinaaben nising medewiniin. Gaawiin odaa-gosaasiin awiya. Ishke a'aw Anishinaabe nebowa ogii-pi-gotaan gegoo. Ishke mii a'aw gookooko'oo gaa-anaamimind da-bimiwidood i'iw maji-mashkiki awiya wii-maazhi-doodawaad inow owiiji-anishinaabeman. Namanj i'iw wenji-izhiwebizid a'aw Anishinaabe, mii naakonaa gegoo ani-gotang. Maagizha mii imaa wenjikaamagak gii-inigaachigaazod ishkweyang a'aw Anishinaabe.

The owl is viewed as being sacred in our community. It is the bird that consented to help our Anishinaabe who are third-degree Midewin. There are no reasons to fear the owl. A lot of our Anishinaabe have fear-based thinking. The owl was considered to be a carrier of bad-medicine so that Anishinaabe could hurt their fellow man in this manner. I do not know why it happens, but it seems like Anishinaabe is scared of a lot of things. Maybe this is all a result of historical trauma.

Ishke a'aw Anishinaabe gegoo ani-noondang ani-amanisod imaa endaad, gaawiin memwech maji-ayi'iiwanzinoon nwaandamowaad, wayaabandamowaad, miinawaa inow wayaabamaawaajin, nwaandawaawaajin imaa endaaawaad. Ozhawenimigowaan inow Manidoon eni-waawaabamaawaajin imaa, mii imaa wenji-dazhitaawaad gaye wiinawaa imaa endaad a'aw Anishinaabe. Ozhawenimigowaan onadamaagowaan inow Manidoon.

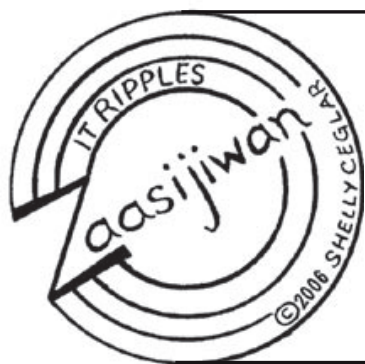
When Anishinaabe hears anything in his house, it does not necessarily mean that it is something bad. He could be hearing things and seeing things that are not necessarily bad. These could be Manidoog that intend to help them and assist them, which is the reason that they hang around their homes. What they have to offer is good.

Ishke gaye ayaawag ingiw emanisodawaajig inow Anishinaaben. Gaawiin wenaajiwang obimiwidoosiinaawaa ogigishkanziinaawaa. Ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe giishpin apane ani-maji-inendang, ani-maji-inaad inow owiiji-bimaadziiman, miinawaa meji-ayi'iiwang imaa endaad, mii iw waakobinigoowaad ingiw baandigejig imaa waakaa'iganing ani-amanisod a'aw Anishinaabe. Mii-go dibishkoo gaye ani-aabajitoowaad i'iw minikwewin naa anooj enigaa'igod a'aw Anishinaabe aniaaamagak imaa endaad, mii-go imaa da-biindigemagak i'iw mayaanaadak. Ishke mii eta-go mayaanaadak ge-ayaamagak imaa endaad a'aw Anishinaabe, mii-go imaa ani-maajaawaad ingiw Manidoog zhewenimaajig inow Anishinaaben nayaadamawaajig.

There are also other spirits that they may hear in their house. These are the spirits that carry that which is bad. If Anishinaabe should always have bad thoughts, talk bad about their fellow man, and have a lot of negativity in their house, it is that negativity that draws in the bad spirits into the homes of Anishinaabe. The same applies also if alcohol or drugs are always being used in the house, that will also draw in the bad spirits. There will only be bad spirits within the house when this happens, then those Manidoog who have love and compassion for the Anishinaabe will leave that home.

Ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe ge-izhichiged ani-oshki-bi-indigegozid imaa waakaa'iganing, odaa-zagaswe'iw inow asemaan naa wiisiniwin da-atood da-nandodamaaged eta-go imaa wenaajiwang da-ayaamagak imaa biindig i'iw waakaa'igan baandigegozid. Mii gaye imaa da-abaabasigaadeg i'iw waakaa'igan da-nandodamaageng da-maajaamagak imaa gishpin meji-ayi'iiwang eyaamagak.

AMANISOD AWIYA see page 14



Ziigwan — It is Spring

Oshkayi'iiwan, gikinoonowin! Apegish ezhi-minoseyeg. Ziigwan, ganawaabandaamaan dazhiikewinan, niiskinaagwan. Noongom, azhigwa, gidaa-biinichigemin. Ambe omaa biinichigewiniinwag idash biinichigewikweg, biinichigedaa! Gakina'awiya, nanaa'ichigedaa! Zhizhoobii'igedaa! Niwii-zhizhoobii'aan, Nimaamaa. Gichi-miigwech.

(It is new, the year! So I wish you all good things. In the spring, when I look at the villages, it looks messy. Now, at this time, we should clean things. Come here, men cleaners and women cleaners; let's all clean things up! Everyone, let's all fix things up! Let's all paint things up! I will paint something for my mother. Great-thanks.)

Bezhig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

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

—Short vowels: A, I, O
Dash—as in about
Imaa—as in tin
Endasoo—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

Verbs Intransitive Inanimate-Negation

The "It is" verbs are spoken in negation by first saying, GAAWIIN. Suffix with forms of "sinoon."
Aabawaa—It is mild, warm weather. Gaawiin aabawaasinoon.—It's not mild.
Gimiwan.—It is raining. Gaawiin gimiwanzinoon.—It isn't raining.
Niiskaadad.—It is bad weather. Gaawiin niiskaadasinoon.—It isn't bad...
Miskwaa.—It is red. Gaawiin miskwaasinoon.—It isn't red.
Zanagad.—It is difficult. Gaawiin zanagasinoon.—It isn't difficult.

Niizh—2

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

- A. Boozhoo. Aaniin ezhichigeyan? Gaawiin got.
B. Daatagaadakamig! Ningiziibiibinige noongom.
C. Niikan omaa. Nindoodaapinige. Eya, nimamige.
D. Miikawaadad ina? Nininwedam, giziibiiginigeyaan.
E. Izhinikaazo "onaabani-giizis" a'aw giizis.
F. Ningizo goon. Aabawaa!
G. Aaniin endasoo-biboonigiziyaa? Ningitiz...eh.

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

Niswi—3

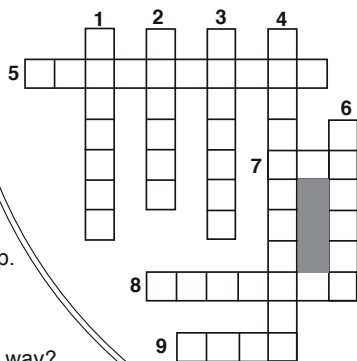
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- It is running sap.
- It is messy.
- village
- How or in what way?

Across:

- It is budding.
- question marker
- It is raining.
- snow



Niiwin—4

VII Negations

Makadewaa.—It is black. Gaawiin makadewaasinoon.—It isn't black.
Bakaanad.—It is different. Gaawiin bakaanasinoon.—It isn't different.
Majigaa.—It starts running with sap. Gaawiin majigaasinoon.—It isn't running.
Zaagibagaa.—It is budding leaves. Gaawiin zaagibagaasinoon.—It isn't budding leaves.

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

- Gaawiin. ____-sinoon. Waabishkaa.
- Gaawiin ____zinoon. Aabawaa dash waaseyaa.
- Gaawiin ____zinoon. Ziigwan!
- Gaawiin ____sinoon imaa. Omaa majigaa.
- Giwedonong gaawiin ____sinoon. Niiskaadad.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Greetings. What are you doing? Nothing much. B. What a chore ahead! I am cleaning things now. C. It is messy here. I pick things up. Yes, I pickup. D. It is beautiful. I am happy when I wash things. E. She is called "crust on the snow" moon (March) this moon." F. She is melting, the snow. It is mild weather. G. How many winters old are you? I am older...eh.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Majigaa. 2. Niikan. 3. Aabawaa. 4. Dazhiikewin 6. Aaniin Across: 5. Zaagibagaa. 7. Ina. 8. Gimiwan 9. Goon.

Niiwin—4 1. No it is not black. It is white. 2. No it is not raining. It is mild and sunny. 3. No it isn't snowing. It is spring! 4. No it isn't running sap there. Here it is running. 5. To the north it isn't budding leaves. It is bad weather.

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation.

This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN. P.O. Box 9. Odanah. WI 54861.

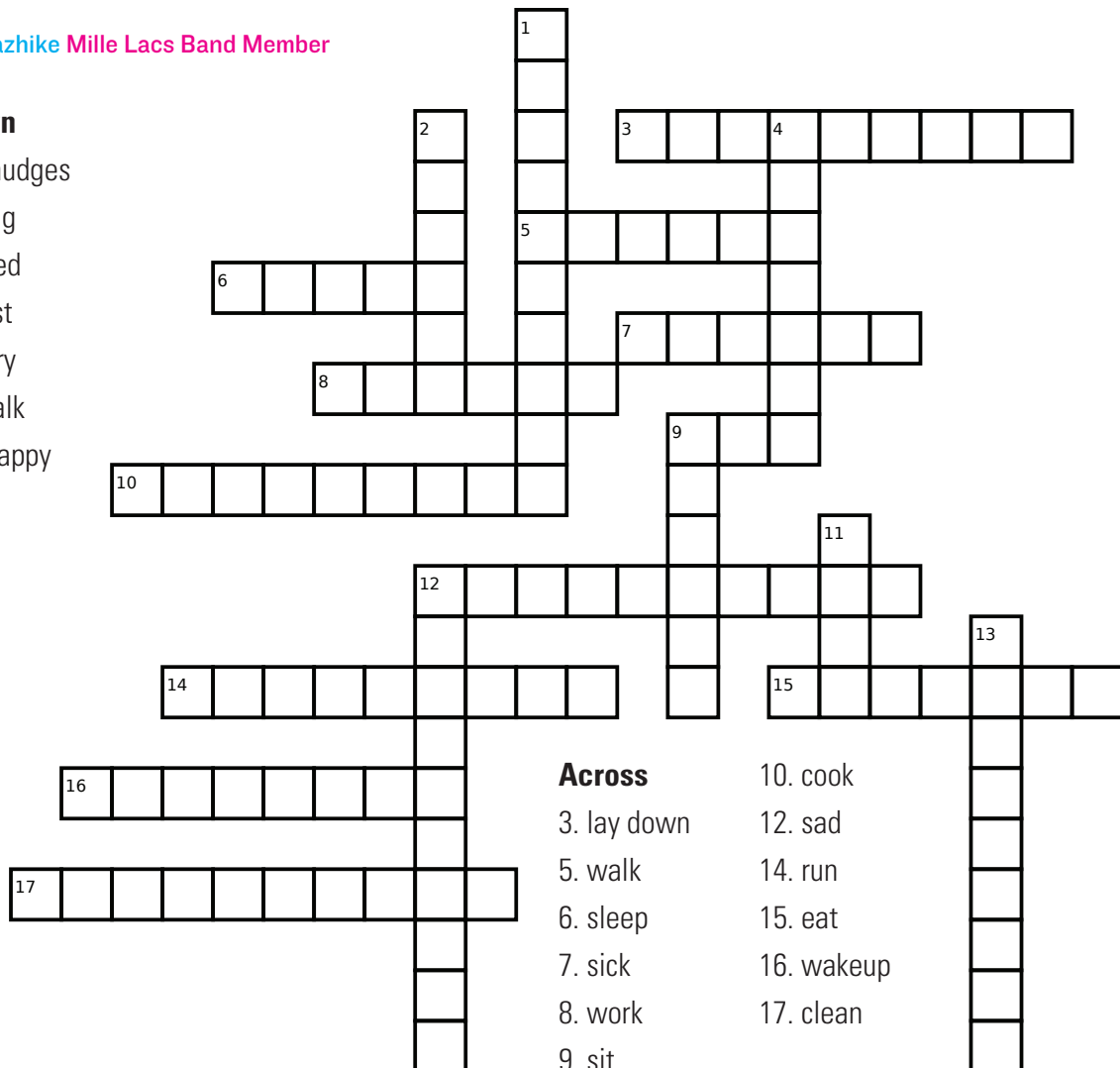
Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Spring 2006. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.

AAZHWAAKWASING ONAABANI-GIIZIS 2021

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Down

- 1. smudges
- 2. sing
- 4. tired
- 9. rest
- 11. cry
- 12. talk
- 13. happy



Across

- 3. lay down
- 5. walk
- 6. sleep
- 7. sick
- 8. work
- 9. sit
- 10. cook
- 12. sad
- 14. run
- 15. eat
- 16. wakeup
- 17. clean

AMANISOD AWIYA from page 13

When the Anishinaabe first moves into a home he needs to do a feast, offering food and tobacco asking that only that which is good and positive is in the home. It is also at that time that the house can be smudged removing anything negative if it were to exist.

Ishke ingiw nwaandawinjig imaa waakaa'iganing, mii iw ezhi-misiwendamowaad wiisniwin asemaan da-ininamawind-waa. Ishke gaye aanind gaawiin weweni gii- maajaa'aasiwag apii gii-ishkwaa-ayaawaad. Mii iw wenji-noondawindwaa wenji- waabamindwaa omisawendaanaawaa da-maajaa'ind-waa da-ni-izhaawaad iwidi eni-izhaad gidinawemaaganinaan gaa-gwiiniwaabaminaagozid omaa akiing. Ishke nebowa a'aw gidanishinaabeminaan gaagiiwozhitoo, gaawiin ingoji gii-izhaa-siin bakaan akeyaa gii-izhi-maajaa'ind a'aw Anisinaabe.

Those spirits that are heard in the house usually make themselves known for a reason; they want to be remembered with food and tobacco. A lot of those spirits were not sent off in a proper way when they died. This is a reason why a lot of them

are seen or heard within the house, they want to be sent off so they can go to where our people go when they are no longer seen on this earth. A lot of the spirits of our Anishinaabe are stuck and have not gone anywhere, because they were not sent off in a proper traditional Anishinaabe funeral.

Ishke dash giishpin geyaabi ani-zeg'i'ikwaa ingiw Manidoog eyaajig imaa endaayan, enigok gidaa-biibaagimaag da-ikwaa-naazha'wadwaa imaa ayaayan. Ishke giishpin eta-go bizaan nanaamadabiyang gego inaasiwadwaa eshkam giga-ni-zegendam giga- ni-nishwanaadendam gidinendamowining. Bangi-go noondaman gego mii imaa da- zegiziyambam.

If there are bad spirits in your home that continue to scare you in your home, you will want to take control of the situation, and holler at them to leave you alone and to go away. If you just sit there in your paranoia, your mind is going to play tricks on you and you will be scared. The slightest noise you hear will trigger your fears.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Pronunciation of Ojibwemowin is important. Ojibwemowin is syllable specific, and different variations of what may look like the same word can really be something totally different.

Examples: Giigoo, Gegoo, and Gego. These three words are different and non-related. One means "Fish," one means "Something," and the other means "Don't." Can you guess which is which?

Pronunciation is directed by the use of vowels. In the Double Vowel Alphabet of Ojibwemowin, there are seven vowels. For the most part, they are pronounced the same way regardless of the consonant in front of them. See the list below:

Pronunciation

- 1. A=Uh - Bakade
- 2. Aa=Aah - Aaniin
- 3. E=Ayy - Bekaa
- 4. I=Ih - Migizi
- 5. Ii=Ee - Miigwech
- 6. O=Oh - Ojibwe
- 7. Oo=Ooh - Oodena

As we continue to work on Gidinwewininaan, we have plenty of rules to learn and unlearn. Shall we be expected to understand and follow the rules right away? Definitely not. There are phases of growth we should seek, meet, and celebrate. Unlike in English where we have words like wear, ware, and where that mean different things, the syllables in Ojibwemowin refer to different things. In the long run, learning what syllables mean would help us internalize the words — to "see" from a new perspective.

I do encourage you to focus more on accepting the language rather than learning the language. Bring forth within your spirit rather than bring in from book or written words. The language was already given to you by the Manidoog; all we need to do is accept, and just like the events that placed barriers around our language, we can have events that knock the barriers down.

Over the course of these monthly lessons, we will walk you through the 100 most common everyday words in order to build your daily library. Using what we say every day to build our foundation will allow us to recognize the language used in other forms.

At the conclusion of this first lesson, I would like for you all ask yourself "Why shall I learn the Ojibwe Language?" Whatever answer you give yourself is your motivation, your contribution to our society. We all have our own personal reasons, every Anishinaabe does, that contributes to us as a whole. We all have the capability to know the language. We have been told that the language is tough to learn. That may be the case, for non-anishinaabe.

As Anishinaabe, we are gifted with the language so we don't need to learn it, we need to accept it. It is already within us, so we need to learn how to accept it. For that, we need to show gratitude every day for the language. Put out tobacco, set a dish, reach out with your spirit every day and tell the Manidoog that you are grateful for the language. We can establish a communal transmission of energy as individuals, just like Anishinaabe.

GUEST SAFETY MEANS HOUSE RULES... AND A LOT OF SANITIZING.

Check out all we're doing at grandcasinomn.com.





Let your story begin.[™]

GRANDCASINOMN.COM

© 2021 Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwa. All rights reserved.



INDIAN COUNTRY NEWS

OPEN CALL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND EMERGING ARTIST SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) is pleased to announce its open call for two new award programs: SHIFT, a two-year program designed to support artist and community-driven projects responding to social, environmental, or economic justice issues through a Native lens, and LIFT, a one-year award and early career support program for emerging Native artists to develop and realize new projects.

SHIFT is a monetary award totaling \$100,000 for two years, with \$50,000 of the award earmarked for the lead artist or artist collective. Up to ten projects will be selected to receive SHIFT awards. For a full description of the award, eligibility requirements, and to apply, please visit <http://bit.ly/NACF-shift>. The deadline to submit the online Letter of Interest form for SHIFT is Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 5 p.m. Pacific time.

LIFT is a monetary award of \$10,000 for a proposed project with \$2,500 earmarked for the artist's benefit and wellbeing. Up to twenty artists will be selected to receive LIFT awards. For a full description of the award, eligibility requirements, and to apply, please visit <http://bit.ly/NACF-lift>. The deadline to submit the online application form for LIFT is Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 5 p.m. Pacific time.

FREE STREAMING OF NATIVE WOMEN'S FILMS

This year, Vision Maker Media — founded in 1976 as the Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium — is marking its 45th anniversary with a yearlong celebration of free commUNITY events, including thematic online film screenings, online virtual programs, and more. The Cherokee Nation Film Office is a sponsor of the 45th anniversary events.

In March, Vision Maker Media recognizes Women's History Month with "commUNITY: Herald Native Women," a free showcase of six films for 24/7 streaming all month at visionmakermedia.org.

An online moderated panel discussion will feature Native women leaders, in partnership with Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO).

NEW BOOK BY INDIGENOUS CANADIAN AUTHOR

February 9 was the U.S. release of *Noopiming: The Cure for White Ladies* by Indigenous Canadian author Leanne Betasamosake Simpson. Her new book is a poetic world-building journey into the power of Anishinaabe life and traditions amid colonialism. In fierce prose and poetic fragments, the book braids together humor, piercing detail, and a deep, abiding commitment to Anishinaabe life to tell stories of resistance, love, and joy.

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson is a Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg writer, scholar, and musician. A member of Alderville First Nation in Ontario, she is the author of several books.

For more information on the book, visit: <https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/noopiming>. Noopiming book trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zA70--wlbQ>. Album of 4 readings from the book: <https://gizhiwe.bandcamp.com/album/noopiming-sessions>.

AANJIBIMAADIZING NEWS

DIRECTOR PRESENTS AT HUD CONFERENCE

The Band's Tammy Moreland, who works with the Aanjibimaadizing Facilitated Services (formerly Wraparound) Program, was a featured speaker on the National Webinar Series of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD'S) Office of Native Programs. The National Webinar Series features best practices from across the country.

Tammy is the Chair of the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent and End Homelessness (MTC), which includes six tribes who first came together to participate in the Wilder Research Reservation Homeless Study, recognizing that the State-wide Homeless Study was not meeting the needs of tribal communities.

Tammy and her colleagues discussed how MTC combines sovereignty, advocacy, and tribal control and use of data to pursue policy and fundraising goals aimed at preventing and ending homelessness in tribal communities. MTC has created relationships with the state and other partners, expanded the funding programs that Minnesota tribes are eligible for, and brought more than \$4 million in grant funds into tribal communities to serve homeless tribal members as each coalition member organization determines.

The Minnesota Tribal Collaborative includes the Bois Forte Band, the Fond du Lac Band, the Leech Lake Band, the Mille Lacs Band, the Red Lake Band, and the White Earth Nation.



Tammy Moreland

The MTC's mission statement is: "While honoring Tribal sovereignty, we will work together to maximize resources and obtain sustainable housing options through innovative efforts of our Tribal governments and communities."

The vision statement is: "Through revisiting traditional values, we will address historical barriers and unique needs of our Tribal members and families to prevent and end homelessness."

Tammy's presentation included descriptions of member communities, the challenges faced by tribes when it comes to homelessness, and the reasons for the MTC's successes, which include a grant to address opioid addiction, a reservation homelessness study, legislative changes at the state and federal levels, and use of the research by tribes and the state to address the root causes of homelessness.

Tammy's presentation will be available to the public at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/bp.



FIRST AID, CPR/AED CLASSES

As part of the Band's Community Risk Reduction or CRR efforts, Aanjibimaadizing staff received First Aid and CPR/AED training on February 11. Family services staff attended a full day of training on January 27. For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

HOUSING DEPARTMENT UPDATES DRUG POLICY

The Housing Department updated their existing Drug Policy to fortify and expand the Housing Department's position against illegal drugs.

It is the hope of the Housing Department that this revised Drug Policy will increase the health, safety, and welfare of the Band and contribute towards the long-term goal of a drug-free Reservation in all three districts.

Although the previous drug policy was technically a zero-tolerance drug policy, there were two areas that needed to be addressed: (1) the "use" of illegal drugs, and (2) clarification that illegal drug activity occurring both on or off Band-owned

rental properties would result in immediate eviction.

The revised drug policy, applicable to all Housing Department rental units, now prohibits the "use" of illegal drugs in addition to possession, distribution, and manufacturing of illegal drugs. Therefore, if a tenant or invitee overdoses in their rental unit, the Housing Department could terminate that tenant's lease and evict all people living in that unit.

The revised drug policy also expanded its scope allowing the Housing Department to evict a tenant if the tenant engaged in illegal drug activity in their rental unit OR anywhere off the property.

OPEN CALL
NATIVE ARTS & CULTURES FOUNDATION
ACCEPTING LETTERS OF INTEREST
TWO-YEAR AWARD OF \$100,000 for NATIVE ARTISTS
DEADLINE MARCH 16, 2021
SHIFT
Transformative Change & Indigenous Arts
<http://bit.ly/NACF-shift> nativeartsandcultures.org
2017 Mentor Artist Fellow
Jack Rabbit and Cottontail, photograph (detail), Cara Romero (Chemehuevi), 2016.

GRA UPDATE

HOW TO ASK FOR REVIEW OF LICENSURE

The Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) wants to help Band members who may not be comfortable in applying for casino positions due to their criminal history. GRA Licensing Employees are always happy to assist Band members with questions regarding their background. Band members who have faced licensing issues in the past are encouraged to contact our staff about eligibility and options.

Don't hesitate to reach out for confidential assistance: Krista at 320-532-8253 (Mille Lacs) or Lori/Sally at 320-384-4742 (Hinckley).

You can find Employee Gaming License Background regulations on the GRA page of the Mille Lacs Band website at <https://millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority>. See Detailed Gaming Regulations (DGRs) 7 and 7b.

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises. More

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

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. This month's meetings are at 9 a.m. on March 11 and March 25.

BAND MEMBER VOICES ZIIGWAN ENERGY

By Nazhike



As spring approaches, the Anishinaabe prepare for the beginning of new life. Spring is the time of the East and signifies the awakening of the world. The snow blanket will fade away, the grass will grow, and trees will create the breath needed for the beings to live. The Anishinaabe prepare to gather the first gift, maple sap. The Manidoog wanted to give a boost to the Anishinaabe as they come out of the winter. Nothing like a good dose of spiritual sugar to get the Anishinaabe into a busy time of year. There is the Aadizookaan that talks about why the sap is so watery. Please seek out an Elder while the snow is still here or next winter when it comes back.

The maple sap camp is a form of gratitude to honor the maple trees and accept the gifts they have brought to our ancestors and continue to give today. The spiritual energy transferred as the Anishinaabe collect and boil the sap is ancient energy. The actions will build your physical being to be strong due to the amount of work involved. Your muscles will be toned, and breath will get stronger as you put in the "labor of love" (Brenda Child). Your mind will be tuned into being aware of what the environment is doing. What is the pattern of the temperature? What is the snow doing? Watching the sap boil brings time to reflect. What can I do as an Anishinaabe for my people? If you concentrate, you will be able to sense your ancestors as they have done the same for thousands of years. You will feel the energy of the past and future.

Spiritually, spending time with the trees, you will feel good. The trees agreed to give life to the Anishinaabe and take away your grief. The Chimookomaan call it "phytoncides." Shinaabe call it "bimaadiziwin." Our people knew that giving gratitude for the trees will continue the cycle of spiritual energy. We are still receiving the gifts from gratitude expressed generations ago. We need to add to that cycle in order for our relatives yet to live to receive life.

This is an "Us" lifestyle. What one does affects us all. Deep down we feel the pain when we come across ailing Anishinaabe. Over the years we got used to it and it feels normal. Pain is our normal. In order to relinquish the current way of living as a group, we need to give the gratitude to the spirits. Every day, the gratitude will pile up amongst the Manidoog, and they will see that the gifts they are giving are being well received. It's like if you always give someone \$5. If they are grateful and do well by your gift, you will be more willing to gift. If the person doesn't accept or does bad by your gift, will you gift them again? Be like the Manidoog; it is a gift to the future, and they will be grateful. Miigwech.

Do you have thoughts or a story to share? Band members can be paid for their submissions. For more information, write to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

CEMENT MASONS MNDOT/TRIBAL 10 WEEK TRAINING

Sponsored by the Cement Masons, Plasterers & Shophands Local 633 Journeyman & Apprentice Training Trust Fund & The Minnesota Department of Transportation

FREE TRAINING

THERE IS NO COST TO YOU. THE MNDOT GRANT WILL HANDLE ALL EXPENSES.....

COMPLETE THIS PROGRAM DEBT FREE!

LODGING & STIPEND

HOTEL ROOM WILL BE PROVIDED DURING YOUR TRAINING SESSION.....

STIPENDS ARE AVAILABLE EACH WEEK!

TOOLS PROVIDED

ALL TOOLS THAT ARE NEEDED TO START YOUR CAREER AS A CEMENT MASON.....

PROVIDED TO YOU FREE OF CHARGE!

JOB ASSISTANCE

WE WILL ASSIST WITH JOB PLACEMENT THROUGH LOCAL 633.....

CONTRACTORS THROUGHOUT THE STATE!

WHAT TO EXPECT

During the duration of the training you will learn both related and on-the-job technical training. Some of the topics covered will be:

- Highway Heavy Industry
- Layout/Setup
- Tool Introduction
- Concrete Repairs
- Construction Math
- Work Ethics
- Chemistry of Concrete
- Safety Certifications

WHERE & WHEN

Cement Masons Local 633 JATC Training Center
2180 Old Highway 8 NW New Brighton MN 55112

Monday, May 24, 2021 through July 30, 2021, held Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

CONTACT YOUR TRIBAL AFFILIATION FOR YOUR NEXT STEP!

The Cement Masons, Plasterers & Shophands Local 633 Journeyman & Apprentice Training Trust Fund is offering a 11 Week Cement Masons Trade Orientation Training. The goal of this program is to train Native Americans from several tribal nations in the cement mason trade enabling them to qualify for apprenticeship with the Union and work on MNDOT projects. This program is funded in whole as part of a \$223,100.00 grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

SEE PAGE 9 FOR TERO CONTACT INFORMATION.

GRAND CASINOS WELCOME DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS!

*Congratulations to Band members on their new leadership roles.
See future issues for more on new directors.*



Pat Sam, Associate Director of IT,
Grand Casino Hinckley and Mille Lacs



Kate Davis, Director of Finance,
Grand Casino Hinckley



Craig Beaulieu, Director of Gaming,
Grand Casino Hinckley



Arielle Shaw, Director of Finance,
Grand Casino Mille Lacs



Nate Sutton, Director of Special Projects,
Grand Casino Hinckley



Chris Staples, Director Of Hospitality,
Grand Casino Hinckley



Charlie Sam, Director of Hospitality,
Grand Casino Hinckley



Ezra Sam, Director of Operations,
Grand Casino Hinckley



Shannon Porter, Director of Special Projects,
Grand Casino Mille Lacs



Kate Kalk, Director of Operations,
Grand Casino Mille Lacs



Jereck Weyaus, Director of Gaming,
Grand Casino Mille Lacs



Ginger Weyaus, Director of Hospitality,
Grand Casino Mille Lacs



RIVALRY MEET ON THE HARDWOOD

The Isle Huskies and Onamia Panthers revived their annual rivalry on February 5 at Isle High School, but this year, there are extra precautions, and the athletes have to wear masks while playing. The teams were evenly matched, and the game was destined to be a battle. Onamia started out with a 10-point lead, but the Huskies came back and tied the score 18-18, eventually beating the Panthers 46-40. Onamia and Isle will meet again on March 8 at Onamia High School for the last time this season. Isle Senior Derek Smith scored 10 points. Onamia Junior Cayden Eagle scored 10 points, Sophomore Seth Benjamin scored 6 points, and Junior AJ Drift scored 6 points. Photos by Aiyanna Mitchell.

TREATY RIGHTS DAY IS MARCH 19

TREATY OF 1837 — WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY

By Don Wedll Former Natural Resources Commissioner

The Treaty of 1837, an agreement between the United States and the Ojibwe tribe, is still valid today.

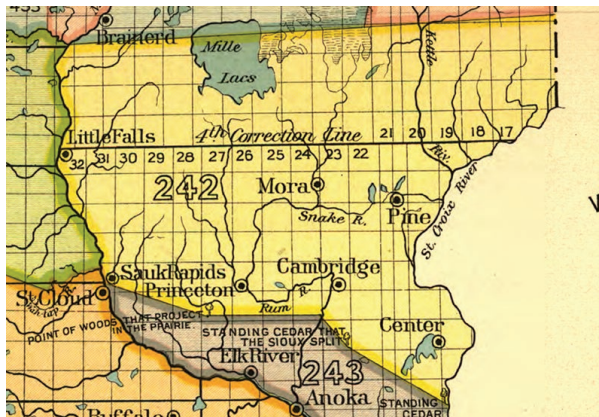
A lot has been written about what happened after the treaty, especially the treaty's impact in modern years. But little has been said about the events that led up to the treaty. Maybe if people knew more about what happened and why, they would see this area's past — and its future — in a new light.

In the early 1800s, this area of Minnesota was still controlled by the British. After the War of 1812, it became part of territory possessed by the United States, and explorers like Zebulon Pike and Lewis Cass searched the upper Mississippi looking for the river's source. Based on the explorers' reports, American fur traders and land speculators saw opportunities to expand. White settlers then followed the traders and speculators, leaving the Eastern seaboard and pouring into the Middle West, where they hoped to enhance their lives by having land to farm and timber to build their homes.

The Ojibwe people's homelands, significant stretches of territory with dense forests, were tremendously appealing to non-Indian eyes. The allure of acres of trees and land was coupled with the settlers' view of the Ojibwe as nomadic people roaming aimlessly. This view was inaccurate — the Ojibwe moved deliberately with the seasons to the best places to pick berries or hunt game or fish or harvest wild rice — but it gave some settlers a sense of entitlement to the land and lumber because they felt they would use the natural resources better than the Indians.

Since the late 1700s, the United States had adopted the European method of using treaties to acquire Indian land, and from 1836 to 1854, the U.S. would seek and get much of northern Michigan, northern Wisconsin, and northeastern Minnesota this way. The Treaty of 1837 was one of these treaties. Through it, the U.S. acquired a tract starting where the Crow Wing River enters the Mississippi River just south of present-day Brainerd, then extending down the Mississippi to just north of St. Cloud, then east to the Wisconsin-Michigan border. This area encompassed about 12 million acres of land, lakes, and rivers.

Interestingly, many of the Ojibwe leaders who signed the treaty were from lands that lay outside this ceded territory. A few of them hesitated to sign an agreement giving up the lands of others, knowing that this was going to start a major change in the Ojibwes' lifestyle. But the majority agreed to the treaty terms: a series of payments of money, goods, farm tools and seed, and tobacco, plus help in establishing blacksmith shops. And, of course, the now-famous provision about retaining the



The 1837 ceded territory, from *Indian Land Cessions in the United States*, compiled by Charles C. Royce and presented as Part 2 of the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, 1896-97.

rights to hunt, fish, and gather wild rice.

The Indian leaders were also influenced by non-Indian fur traders who attended the treaty negotiations. According to the Treaty of 1837, the fur traders were to receive payments for the Ojibwes' supposed debts to them, which motivated the traders to press for passage of the treaty.

But more interesting for people in this area, the Mille Lacs Band's lands were included in the 1837 ceded territory. This occurred because the maps used in 1837 did not accurately show how certain geographical points were located in relationship to other points. The maps showed the Crow Wing River entering the Mississippi River below Mille Lacs Lake, not on the north end of Mille Lacs Lake as it is correctly shown today. This error was corrected with later revisions of maps.

The error wasn't presented to Mille Lacs Band leaders until they negotiated the Treaty of 1855, which created the Mille Lacs Reservation. They were surprised by the change in the maps. The change illustrates how hard it was for Indian leaders to make treaties in a language they did not read or write, forcing them to rely on the interpretation skills and honesty of others.

The Treaty of 1837 became one of many misunderstandings between the Mille Lacs Ojibwe government and other governments over land and treaty rights. But maybe the passage of time and the Band's careful management of its treaty harvests — with some historical background for good measure — can end those misunderstandings.

Source: This article was published in *The Moccasin Telegraph Collection: Memories and History of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe*. Don Wedll worked in a variety of roles for the Mille Lacs Band for more than 35 years.

BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2011

Dr. Arne Vainio received the 2011 Mark Rathke, M.D., Medical Leadership Award from the Arrowhead Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Association during its annual conference. Senator Al Franken spoke at the awards ceremony. Molly Judkins began serving a four-year term on the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Chief Executive Marge Anderson nominated her for the position. The Dirty Moccasin Crew, made up of Band members Ryan O'Brien, Gordy Davis, Shorty Buff, and Jon Buchanan, as well as Caleb Edmond and DJ Pseudonym, performed at Froggy's Bar in Pine City. Nancy Saboo and Suzanne Merrill were among the new staff members with the family services department.

15 years ago — 2006

Seven candidates were certified to run for Secretary-Treasurer against incumbent Herb Weyaus: Archie Dahl Cash, Rayna Joyce Mattinas, Bahwahsung Merrill, Suzanne Beatrice Merrill, Meskwanakwad, Tracy Lynn Sam, and Arlene Weous. Heather Benjamin took first place in the Nay Ah Shing Middle School Spelling Bee. Amber Benjamin-Dorr took first place in the third grade Spelling Bee. Reuben St. John won a kickboxing match at the Grand Portage Lodge and Casino. On March 25, Bobby "The Warrior" Anderson was set to challenge Minnesota kickboxing champion Tim Runquist in a title match at Grand Casino Hinckley. John Mojica, Jenny Gahbow, Connie Kevan, Marge Anderson, and Sylvia Wise were sworn in as new members of the Band's Housing Board. Congressman Jim Oberstar got a tour of the wastewater treatment plant from Facility Engineer David Sam.

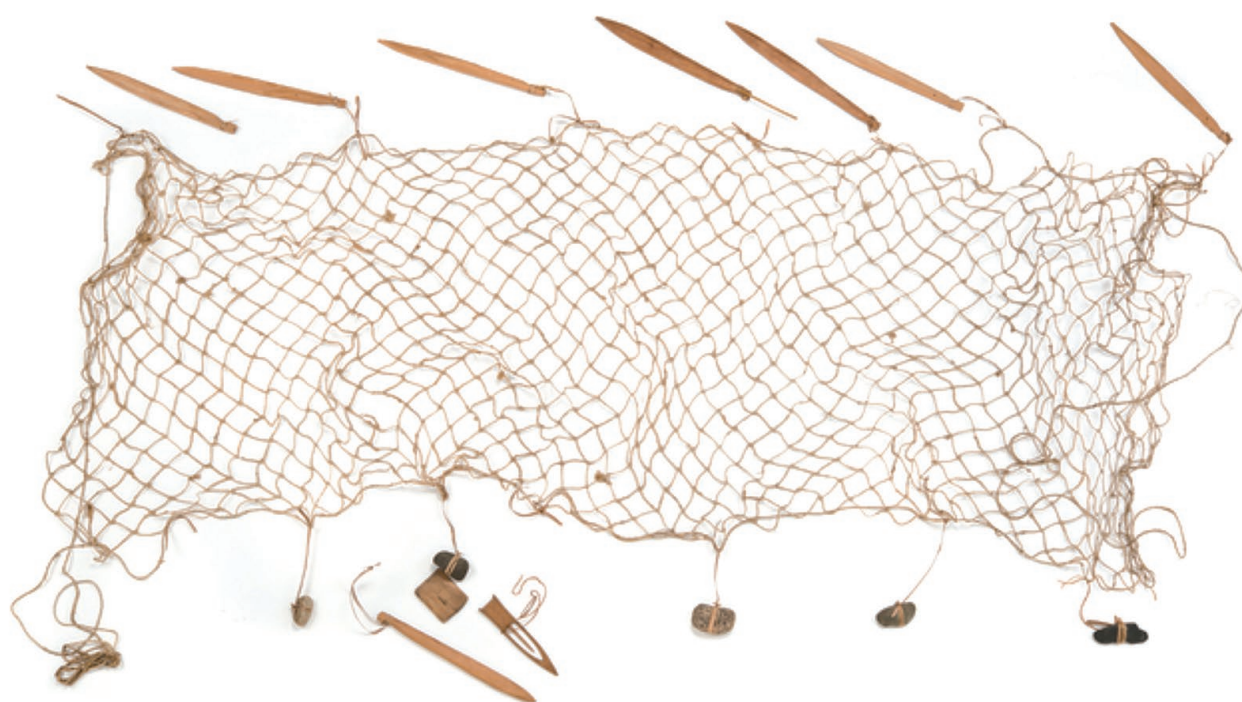
20 years ago — 2001

Band member Christine Costello was sworn in as the Band's new Assistant Commissioner of Administration. Band member Desiree Smith came to the aid of an injured woman outside Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Desiree was leaving the casino when she heard a cry for help and discovered a woman who had slipped and broken her leg. Desiree summoned help, then returned to the injured woman and made her as comfortable as possible until casino security and an ambulance arrived. Don Eubanks was named Director of the Chemical Health Division of the Human Services Department for the State of Minnesota. Woodlands National Bank announced that Band member and Grand Casino Hinckley Financial Analyst Peggy Klapel was elected to the bank's Board of Directors. Grand Casino Mille Lacs was preparing to celebrate its 10-year anniversary on April 5, 2001.



Grand Casino Mille Lacs when it first opened in 1991.

The information above is from the March 2001, 2006, and 2011 issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.



Seine-style fishnet model constructed of handmade nettle cord with local river stone weights, basswood stakes for holding the net in place, and a basswood spacer for making net repairs. Made by Grace Boyd, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

MARCH ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Gerald Applegate
 Ramona Anne Applegate
 Debra Rose Barge
 Cynthia Eileen Beaulieu
 Marie Ann Bengtson
 Laurie Marie Benjamin
 Randy Elmer Benjamin
 Robert Patrick Benjamin
 Patricia Lorayne Christofferson
 Curtis Anthony Cody
 Francis Charles Colton
 Dean Russell Davis
 Laureen Gay Davis
 Lucille Deborah Doffing
 Robert Allen Dorr
 Bonnie Elaine Dumler
 Darrell James Erickson
 Dawn Renee Fahrlander-Peel
 Mary Flores
 Terry Duane Frye
 Cheryl Darlene Garbow
 Donald Anson Graves
 Marie Jane Gudim

Kathleen June Hill
 Bradley Allen Kalk
 Curtis Leroy Kalk
 Leslie Roger Karsjens
 Sandra Arlene Kegg
 Jeffrey Jay Keller
 Gary Wayne Kuntz
 Barbara Jane LaBlanc
 Lorelei Lee LaFave
 Mert Elaine Liebgott
 Wanda Roxane Mendoza
 Anita Ann Misquadace
 Wanda Kay Misquadace
 Lester Lee Nelson
 Jeffrey Sheldon Nickaboine
 Michael James Nickaboine
 Marie Esther Paschke
 Marlene Ruth Poukka
 George Wilbur Premo
 George Wayne Rea
 Debra Jo Sam
 Fred L. Sam
 Kathryn Mary Sam
 Francis Dean Schaaf
 Susanna Lee Schaaf

Thomas William Schleeve
 Merle Lee Skinaway
 David Smith
 Terrance Lee Smith
 Gloria Ann Starkey
 Sami Thomas
 Robert Tibbetts
 Bernard Leroy Weyaus

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Mom** on March 26, from Ree, Julian, Breanna, MaKayla, Man Man and Jaylen! • Merry Birthday on March 15 **Mary Flores!** Love you long time, Pokemon

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



URBAN RECOVERY

Meetings for Urban Band members in recovery are held on Zoom Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 6:30.

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

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 April issue is March 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

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 Baabiitaw 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 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 I — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case Management: 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus, Case Manager: 218-316-2437

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

District III — 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 Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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: 320-630-8362

Emergency Services: 320-532-1755 or 320-532-1756. After hours: 320-630-2432 or 320-362-4672

Family Violence Prevention 24/7 Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

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.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

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

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

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

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.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE WORD LIST

Use these words to complete the crossword puzzle on page 14.

mawi	abi
wiisini	nibaa
minwendam	abaabasige
gawashimo	gaaggiigido
anwebi	ayekozi
bimibattoo	goshkozi
gashkendam	bimose
aakozi	anokii
nagamo	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services. The homepage has links to all of those pages as well as government departments, programs, and services.</i></p>	<p>1 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>2 Sa Miikana 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See page 18.</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>3 Niibaa Aatisooke Storytelling Event 6–7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See page 9.</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>4 Wellbriety 6–8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>5 On the Red Road 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 18.</i></p> <p>“The Rez” NA meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>6 AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>
<p>7 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8 Ojibwemowin with Memengwaakwe 5 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See page 9.</i></p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>9 Sa Miikana 7 p.m. <i>See page 18.</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>11 Wellbriety 6–8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>12 On the Red Road 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 18.</i></p> <p>“The Rez” NA meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>13 AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>14 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>16 Sa Miikana 7 p.m. <i>See page 18.</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>17 District III Community Meeting (subject to cancellation) 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>18 Wellbriety 6–8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>19 Treaty Rights Day Government offices close at noon.</p> <p>On the Red Road 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 18.</i></p> <p>“The Rez” NA meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>20 AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>21 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>22 Ojibwemowin with Memengwaakwe 5 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See page 9.</i></p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>23 Sa Miikana 7 p.m. <i>See page 18.</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>24 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>25 Wellbriety 6–8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>26 On the Red Road 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 18.</i></p> <p>“The Rez” NA meeting 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>27 AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>28 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>29 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See right.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See right.</i></p>	<p>30 Sa Miikana 7 p.m. <i>See page 18.</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See right.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See right.</i></p>	<p>31 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE</p> <p>Most 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>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. For more information, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-495-5006.</p>		



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

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

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 April issue deadline is March 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.



ONAABANI-GIIZIS 2021 | VOLUME 23 | NUMBER 3



UNPRECEDENTED

One year later, we look back at the Band's response to COVID-19. Above: Members of the Tribal Emergency Response Committee met in the early days of the pandemic, before masks and social distancing became the norm.

STATE SIDES WITH BAND IN LAWSUIT AGAINST COUNTY
page 1

REMEMBERING JOYCE — COMMISSIONER, DRUMKEEPER, ARTIST
page 1

BAND MEMBERS TAKE ON NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES
See pages 7, 8, 10, 16

OJIBWE LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION STARTS WITH YOUTH
page 9