

# OJIBWE INA AJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! I hope everyone enjoyed time with their families over this Thanksgiving. With the Presidential election over, and work with a new Presidential administration about to begin, these next several months will be challenging for Indian country.

Miigwech to our Government Affairs Team and our Commissioners for an outstanding Get Out The Vote effort in those last 10 days before the election. These efforts require everyone's help and work to be effective. With Band Member votes, Congressman Rick Nolan is returning to the U.S. House of Representatives, which is wonderful news for the Mille Lacs Band and all Indian tribes.

There is significant concern among Indian tribes about how the Trump Administration will work with us, whether tribal sovereignty will be respected, and whether he will appoint individuals to Cabinet positions whose goals are to improve the many agencies which serve Indian tribes or dismantle them. Our work will be cut out for us, but I am confident we are up to the challenge.

We also need to work with the Legislative Branch of federal government (the Congress), to ensure that our Representatives and Senators use their legislative authority to try to stop any initiatives that could harm Indian tribes. Just yesterday, I was on a conference call with the Department of Justice's Tribal National Leadership Council, and in discussing these concerns, a federal official singled out the Mille Lacs Band as having strong capabilities "working both sides of the aisle" so we will be a key player.

The third branch of the federal government, the Judicial Branch, is also of significant concern. Indian tribes have lost the vast majority of cases that have gone up to the Supreme Court over the past 15 years. The few cases we have won have generally been decided by only one vote; tribes have been one vote away from losing our rights and sovereignty for quite some time. We will be carefully monitoring any new nominations to

the Supreme Court along with all of Indian country. This is a dangerous time for tribes to be litigating Indian cases in the federal court system.

This federal system of checks and balances is very similar to what we currently operate under here at Mille Lacs. The Executive Branch is responsible for administering programs authorized under Band law with funds appropriated by the Legislative Branch (Band Assembly); the Band Assembly is responsible for enacting laws and appropriating funds; and the Judicial Branch is responsible for interpreting Band law.

This system is unique to the Mille Lacs Band, which is the only Band in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe which operates under this 3-branch system of government. Generally, the Reservation Business Committees (RBC's) that govern the other Bands serve as one body that performs both Executive and Legislative functions. They make decisions as a group and share responsibility.

One current example is that I recently nominated Joe Nayquonabe, Jr. to another four-year term as Commissioner of Corporate Affairs. However, it is the Band Assembly's responsibility to decide whether or not to ratify (approve) his nomination, after holding a hearing to determine whether they believe the nominee is the right person for the job. In an RBC form of government, the entire RBC would make this decision as a group. This is a good example of how our checks and balances system works with both branches having a key role, but separate duties.

Our leaders who created this system ensured it complied with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, including the Chief Executive and Speaker of the Assembly serving as the Band's two representatives on the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC). However, our processes for how we participate as the two representatives on the TEC are governed by Band Statutes and separation of powers, versus the RBC model

of governance.

In recent meetings of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, members of other Bands in attendance have been confused about our system and made inaccurate statements about how they expect us to function. This has made me think that we need to do more to explain our system of governance to our own Band Members, so that all Band Members know how our government operates and understand the critical role of Band Members in influencing our government from the grassroots level. You will be hearing more about this in the upcoming year.

In addition to many one-on-one meetings with Band Members, I've attended scores of other meetings and conferences on critical topics, including a Band-County Summit to educate local officials about the Band, a State-Tribal Opiate Summit hosted by the Governor, meetings with our representatives and senators, the Indian Law Resource Center, the National Congress of American Indians, a Cabinet Meeting, Executive Branch meetings with Band Members in each district, and Housing meetings in each District.

Additionally, I presented testimony to a group of federal agencies at Mystic Lake about our experience with the Army Corps of Engineers consultation process on pipeline issues, and requested specific reforms.

I know Band Members are closely watching events unfold at Standing Rock, and as a Band, we will continue to do everything we can to support Standing Rock, including keeping pressure on the President and our representatives to intervene. Like you, I have been alarmed by what I'm seeing on the ground there. Please keep the Water Protectors in your hearts and prayers in upcoming days and weeks. Miigwech!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Benjamin".

## Executive Branch Hosts Meetings to Share Information and Gain Feedback

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Band members recently had the opportunity to learn more about the Band's programs and services and to share their input during a series of meetings sponsored by the Executive Branch.

The meetings were held in all districts and the urban area during early November and drew dozens of people who wanted to understand more about how the Band does business.

The intent of the meetings was to "spark a dialogue with the community, drive conversations and interactions," said Sam Moose, the Band's Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

Though there are commonalities in each of the districts and the urban area, there are also different needs.

For example, Elders who live in the Twin Cities would like to see the Band offer housing in the area. In one district the need for more grocery stores was a topic of discussion.

"In District I transportation is a topic that has been discussed," said Percy Benjamin, the Band's Commissioner of Community Development. "People wonder if it could be a small business opportunity or how transportation could be improved."

There's also a desire from many Band members to see where

and how the Band spends its money as well as how much the Band actually has in its budget and savings accounts, according to some who attended the meeting in the urban area.

One Elder suggested that there should be a referendum so that Band members could vote to decide how resources should be spent.

"That's a healthy dialogue, and if the community wants to have that dialogue about what's being spent and how, then they should begin having those conversations," said Sam, during the meeting held in the urban area.

One of the goals of the meetings was to encourage Band members to continue to meet and perhaps prosper into community focus groups. The Executive Branch will continue to offer opportunities to meet if there is a desire from the community.

A question posed to the attendees was whether the government should be responsible to fund all problems. The answer was "not always" and that strong communities should seek to be a voice in problems and understand what the financial responsibilities are of the Executive Branch.

Other topics raised during one meeting included: whether the Band is spending its education dollars as wisely as it should

be, how much should be spent on permanent infrastructure, if there were ways to reallocate the funding spent on programs and services, and if it was possible for grant money to be used in different ways.

"It's important for Band members to advocate for funding and what's important," Sam told the attendees.

One suggestion that Urban Site Manager Barb Benjamin-Robertson had was to allocate funds for students in the urban area to attend camps or other enrichment programs.

Other topics that were open for discussion included housing, emergency services, policing/community support, culture/language, health and human services and board participation.

The Executive Branch is committed to understanding the differences and would like to see meetings continue if that is what is desired by Band members.

Executive Branch meetings will take place bi-monthly beginning in 2017. Meetings will be held in January and March in Districts I and II and in February and April in Districts III and IV and the Urban Area. See future issues of *Ojibwe Inajimowin* and the Mille Lacs Band Facebook page for details.

## Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu Announces the Distribution of Ramah Settlement Funds to Adult Band Members on December 1, 2016



Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu announced last month that Ramah settlement funds would be distributed to Adult Band Members on December 1, 2016.

The entire amount equal to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Band's settlement has been distributed as part of the economic supplemental payment.

The Federal government reached an agreement to pay more than \$940 million in the Ramah Navajo contract support costs. The settlement resolves underpayments in self-determination contracts at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tribes fought for many years to be fully paid. The Obama administration stepped in and agreed to resolve the case. The settlement is being distributed to over 699 tribes and tribal organizations.

The Band government provides essential services to members in the spirit of self-determination. This action is a significant win for Indian Country and the Band, and validates the Federal Government's trust obligations to Tribes across the country as Tribes seek to provide essential services to their members. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe applauds the efforts of those who worked hard to secure the Ramah settlement.

The decision to distribute was unanimous between the elected leaders from Band Assembly and the Chief Executive. The economic supplemental distribution scheduled for December will include the amount equal to the Band's Ramah settlement funds as well as other revenue sources, and will be made to adult Band members.

The Band's share of the Ramah settlement, reached in the class action case of Ramah Navajo Chapter, et.al. v. Sally Jewell, is approximately \$1.9 million. The funds will not be subject to imposed deductions other than normal federal/state taxation. Taxation will depend on each band member's individual situation.

"All elected officials were on board with releasing the funds immediately," Secretary Beaulieu said. "The Band's Elected Leadership recognizes that many people in our communities lack basic necessities which others may take for granted, and we hope this economic supplemental distribution will help to make their lives better. This action is in the best interests of our Band members and their families, and in the best interests of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as a whole."

*For more updates on the Legislative Branch, see page 12.*

## MCT Tribal Executive Committee Meets at White Earth

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

At the November meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, business and discussion ranged from pipelines to enrollments to salaries for Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) members.

Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, District II Rep. David 'Niib' Aubid, District I Rep. Sandi Blake and Legislative staff attended the meeting, along with Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and members of her staff.

Kevin Dupuis of Fond du Lac chairs the TEC. Dupuis was elected chairman of Fond du Lac Band earlier this year and was elected to the MCT TEC chairmanship in August.

The two-day session began with subcommittee meetings on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 2, and concluded on Thursday, Nov. 3, with a meeting of the TEC followed by a work session. The TEC is made up of the Chief Executive or Tribal Chair and the Secretary-Treasurer of each member band. Subcommittees have one representative of each Band. (See sidebar for more on the MCT and TEC.)

### Subcommittees

At the Natural Resources subcommittee the Dakota Access and Line 3 pipelines were a topic of discussion, including a resolution brought by the Mille Lacs Band asking the Attorney General to intervene to address human rights violations at the Standing Rock protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Winona LaDuke of Honor the Earth and attorneys Joe Plummer and Frank Bibeau, representing the 1855 Treaty Authority, addressed the group about the Line 3 pipeline, which Enbridge Energy wants to build in a new corridor through the Mississippi headwaters and Mille Lacs Band District II region around East Lake and Sandy Lake.

Plummer asked the subcommittee to support a TEC resolution requesting that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe be the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the environmental impact study for the Line 3 pipeline. Normally the RGU is a state agency. "It would be unprecedented, but I think we have the horsepower to do it," said Plummer.

The resolution would also require Chippewa Tribe approval of any large infrastructure project in all ceded territories — not just tribal lands and reservations.

The Legislative Subcommittee approved the minutes from the last meeting, the financial report and the operating budget, but most of the discussion concerned pay for TEC members. Some subcommittee members favored doing away with pay, since MCT duties are part of their duties as leaders of member Bands. A motion to do away with pay died for lack of a second.

The Education Subcommittee also met on Wednesday afternoon.

### Tribal Executive Committee

The TEC meeting on Thursday, Nov. 3, included an approval of the Mille Lacs resolution on the Dakota Access Pipeline. It was approved unanimously and wholeheartedly by the entire committee.

Joe Plummer asked for approval of his resolution from the Natural Resources Subcommittee, but it was tabled until more information could be gathered.

Much of the morning was devoted to the issue of enrollments and a possible Secretarial Election to change blood quantum requirements. In 2015 the TEC agreed to move forward with the process to allow the adult membership of the Tribe to

vote on whether other federally recognized Anishinaabe blood and Canadian First Nations Anishinaabe blood should be counted for current enrolled members. The election requires review by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Lack of action from the BIA in the time frame allowed may have nullified the request for the Secretarial Election. TEC members questioned BIA staff at length about the Secretarial Election process and discussed among themselves the pros and cons of changing enrollment requirements, and the wording of the resolutions.

The blood quantum issue is a contentious one and is still unresolved. In a time of decreasing revenue, a huge rise in the MCT population could cause severe problems. Allowing others of Anishinaabe descent would result in financial and service impacts for current members, but without changes, enrollment in the six member bands is expected to decline over time.

The subcommittee and TEC committee meetings were interrupted many times by audience members posing questions, seeking clarification, or raising concerns. Dale Greene Jr. addressed the various committees several times, including a pointed response to the Bureau of Indian Affairs: "It's offensive to hear this word 'sovereignty' and have the BIA come in here and say how things are gonna go, because then that sovereignty is not real."

Former Mille Lacs Band Education Commissioner Dennis Olson spoke to the TEC as Minnesota's Indian Education Director, but it was announced that he would be leaving the post to become Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

## MCT History and Duties

Mille Lacs is one of six members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, which was formed by the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The other member bands are Fond du Lac, Leech Lake, White Earth, Bois Forte and Grand Portage.

The MCT Constitution was recognized by the Secretary of the Interior on July 24, 1936. (The Red Lake Band chose not to participate and has its own Constitution.)

The MCT Mission Statement says it is "a federally recognized tribal government that, through unified leadership, promotes and protects the member Bands while providing quality services and technical assistance to the reservation governments and tribal people."

The MCT is governed by a 12-member Tribal Executive Committee (TEC), which meets four times per year at rotating locations. The TEC is made up of the Chief Executive/Tribal Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer of each member band. Chief Executive Melanie

Benjamin and Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu represent Mille Lacs on the TEC.

Among the most significant responsibilities of the MCT are the following:

- **Enrollment:** The MCT carries out duties associated with tribal enrollment in keeping with the Constitution.
- **Elections:** The MCT sets the election calendar and eligibility rules and certifies results on behalf of the six member bands.
- **Education funding:** MCT provides funds to 14 school districts through the Johnson O'Malley Program.
- **Human service programs:** MCT operates elder services, employment services and SNAP programs.
- **Finance:** MCT operates a finance corporation to provide mortgages and other loans to Band members.

Executive Director Gary Frazer oversees operations of the MCT and its staff.

## National News Briefs

### Trump Trumps Clinton in Presidential Contest:

Defying polling predictions and shocking the world, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in the presidential election on November 8th. While Clinton won the national popular vote, Trump won key states including Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio and claimed victory. He will become the 45th president of the United States when he is sworn in on January 20th, 2017. Trump will have Republican majorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives to work with to advance his agenda. Since winning the election, he has said his top priorities will be repealing Obamacare, investing in infrastructure and restricting immigration.

**Standing Rock Struggle Continues:** Protests in North Dakota and across the country have continued as the fate of the Dakota Access Pipeline remains unclear. Militarized police have repeatedly used water cannons and tear gas to try and disperse protestors; hundreds of protestors remain encamped near Cannon Ball, North Dakota. In an interview, President Obama said that alternate routes for the pipeline were being reviewed and the Army Corps of Engineers announced a new policy for consulting with Native American tribes. Pipeline advocates hope that a Donald Trump administration will side with them in the dispute over the Dakota Access project.

**Chicago Cubs Break the Curse:** The Chicago Cubs captured their first world series in 108 years, breaking the longest championship drought in professional sports history. They won a dramatic game seven over the Cleveland Indians after falling behind three games to one in the series. The final game lasted 10 innings and spanned nearly five hours, including a 20-minute rain delay after the 9th inning. An estimated five million Cubs fans celebrated the win with a parade and rally in Chicago.

**Hurricane Matthew Pummels Caribbean, Florida:** Hurricane Matthew became the first Category Five hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean since 2007. The slow-moving, powerful storm battered Cuba and Haiti and other Caribbean nations with winds over 150 miles per hour. It made landfall on the eastern coast of Florida and moved up the eastern seaboard causing severe flooding and property damage. The storm reportedly killed more than 1,000 people in Haiti and at least 40 in the U.S.

**Bundy Militia Acquitted in Oregon:** Seven people who participated in a 41-day armed takeover of a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon in early 2016 were acquitted of all charges by a jury on October 28th. The group, led by Ammon Bundy, had occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to protest federal land management policies. Bundy and several others remain in custody as they face other charges related to a different confrontation with federal officials in Nevada in 2014.

**Wells Fargo CEO Out as Scandal Grows:** John Stumpf, CEO of Wells Fargo, stepped down from his position as public outrage over the bank's actions grew. Wells Fargo employees are accused of creating more than two million fraudulent accounts to meet aggressive sales targets; more than 5,300 employees were reportedly fired over the past several years when they failed to meet company goals. Before resigning, Stumpf was grilled by lawmakers from both parties at Congressional hearings. Stumpf will be replaced by Timothy Sloan, who was previously a senior official at the company.

# Government Affairs Brings Tribal, County Officials Together at Summit

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Band's Government Affairs Division hosted a County/Tribal Summit on Nov. 16 in order to work toward a cooperative and productive relationship between the Band and neighboring county governments.

Katie Draper, who was asked by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin to put the summit together, welcomed 21 Band officials, employees and contractors, 13 Pine County elected and appointed officials, Mille Lacs County Attorney Joe Walsh and Aitkin County Commissioner Laurie Westerlund (the lone representatives from Mille Lacs County and Aitkin County). Also present were Hinckley News Editor Steve Klumb, Susanne Hinrichs of the University of Minnesota Extension, and Rochelle Westerlund, a policy analyst with the Association of Minnesota Counties and the coordinator of its Indian Affairs Committee.

Elder and Traditional Healer Herb Sam gave an invocation in the Ojibwe language and shared his thoughts on the importance of cooperation between communities and understanding of cultural differences. He said that in his prayer he asked for help and protection for the children and families of all those in attendance.

Melanie Benjamin also welcomed the guests, saying she was thankful and happy that so many thought it was important to come to the event. "We need to talk about what all of our citizens need, Indian and non-Indian, in order to live their lives in peace, health and hope. Together, we have a responsibility as public servants to protect our people, protect the environment, preserve the peace and prosper in a healthy economy."

After those in attendance introduced themselves, the rest of the morning was dedicated to an outline of tribal government by Jamie Edwards and an introduction to federal Indian policy by Tadd Johnson.

Jamie spoke about the separation of powers form of government that was adopted by the Band when the reservation business committee model did not meet the Band's needs or the vision of its leaders.

Tadd's history lesson began with a definition of sovereignty and explained how governments prior to the founding of the United States treated Indian tribes as sovereigns. He talked about how the U.S. Constitution recognized that status and how the Marshall Trilogy in the 1800s affected Indian policy. Tadd summarized several legal cases that determine how tribes work with other governments, as well as the legal basis for tribal gaming.

After a break for lunch, Mille Lacs Band Commissioners introduced themselves and explained their duties in the Executive Branch of the government.

Commissioner of Administration Catherine Colsrud spoke about the Band's food sovereignty project and ways the communities might work together to find markets for local goods.

Corporate Commissioner Joe Nayquonabe talked about the Band's new residential initiatives in Pine County and the Band's desire to support tourism in order to improve the tax base and provide jobs for local residents.

Samuel Moose talked about his broad duties as Commissioner of Health and Human Services, which includes supervision of medical clinics, the public health department, foster care, violence prevention, emergency services, the wrap-around program and elder services.

Percy Benjamin focused on his housing-related duties as Commissioner of Community Development, and the Band's changing focus from rental to home ownership. Percy said the Band and surrounding communities face similar "people

problems" related to crime and addiction, and the question that guides him each day is "How do I make the community better?"

Education Commissioner Ed Minnema shared the importance of language and culture in the Band's schools, as well as the scholarship program, which reflects the tribe's commitment to higher education.

DNR Executive Director Susan Klapel gave an update on the Band's fisheries programs and also spoke about the importance of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Finally, Solicitor General Todd Matha talked about his duties overseeing six attorneys, Band Member Legal Aid and the Tribal Police Department, while remaining "on call" to answer a variety of legal questions that arise in other departments.

The afternoon concluded with Pine County officials speaking about their roles and responsibilities.

County Commissioner Steve Hallan brought gifts of maple syrup, honey and other goods, and spoke about the contributions the Band has made to Pine County, including the seed money to start the county's economic development program. "I heard the passion that all the commissioners have for serving their people and our people," said Steve. "We have the same issues."

Health and Human Services Director Becky Foss highlighted the valuable partnership that exists between her department and the Band's family services. She said they meet every month and collaborate every single day to provide services for kids, both native and non-native. She expressed concern about the dramatic increase in child protection cases over the years and noted that the majority of these cases were moving through the tribal court system, which she called an example of tribal sovereignty.

Pine County Sheriff Jeff Nelson said his department has "more good interactions with the tribe than bad." He said law enforcement can't fix the bigger problems but asked attendees to encourage the community to interact with law enforcement.

Brent Johns of the Pine County jail said the size of the jail has increased, and he has tripled programming to attempt to help people leave jail better than they were when they were booked. One successful program is a talking circle program, and he invited health and human services and education to get involved in programming at the jail.

Reese Frederickson, Pine County Attorney, said his office is seeing a record number of cases. He said he has worked with the Band in a restorative justice program with victim consultations and highlighted the need for ongoing collaboration. "We need to grab people, especially children, and pull them off the cycle of crime," said Reese.

The afternoon ended with a commitment to continue to work together, with ideas generated around cultural training for county staff and collaboration to create specific goals in areas like human services and jail programming.

Melanie's statement in her introductory remarks sums up both the purpose and the success of the summit:

"For the good of all of our people, we need to communicate well, and try to work together in health care, education, emergency services, human services, environmental protection, housing, economic development, law enforcement — the list goes on and on. Together we need to build strong relations for all of the people... We occupy the same territory with several other townships, cities and counties. Our goal should be to prosper together in a peaceful and productive way. I'm hoping today can be a launch-pad for continued progress!"

# Casino Projects Offer Opportunities for Band Members

Brett Larson Staff Writer



Among the Band members working on the Hinckley renovation are Bonnie Dorr, Gary Kuntz, Rueben St. John (pictured on cover), Dione Davis, Ron Audie, George LaFave, Tim Boyd, Wallace St. John and Terry Smith.

One of the benefits of the remodeling projects at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Hinckley is that they are bringing a number of quality jobs to the area, and the opportunity for Band members not just to earn a paycheck but to explore careers in construction.

PCL, the general contractor for the projects, has hired many members from Mille Lacs and other bands and tribes. PCL superintendent Andy Forsberg has high praise for the workers and for the TERO staff who work with contractors to enforce laws requiring them to hire Indians on casino jobs.

In return, workers at the sites give high marks to PCL. The company has been understanding of workers' family obligations and has created a fun and respectful atmosphere for workers.

Ron Audie has been working as a laborer on the Hinckley job since August, and he's hoping to stay with the company for the duration of the project — and possibly longer if he can relocate to other job sites. "I like the work, and it's a really great group of guys," said Ron. "The bosses are cool, and we have a really good foreman." So far he's done everything from building forms and cutting concrete to removing floors and demolition — lots of demolition.

It's not all fun-and-games, though. "The biggest challenge is that it's physically demanding," said Ron, who is 53. "When I go home at night, yeah, I'm a little tired."

Gary Kuntz is known as a "jack of all trades" around the Hinckley site, with a lot of construction experience. He worked for Ebert on the powwow grounds and has also worked for Shingobe and Olympic Drywall. "I'm hoping to keep working until they tell me I'm physically unable to do it," said Gary. "I absolutely love these jobs, but we need some younger people."

One younger co-worker is Rueben St. John, who says construction is "good hard work, and honest money." He laments that too many young men don't seem to want to work. "You

see these young kids who want this handed to them," he said. "Yes, there are girls who like you, mostly for your money, so don't get carried away." He likes the satisfaction he gets from seeing a job well done. "What we're doing here is gonna be great. Things that needed to be done are getting done."

George LaFave has also been bouncing around the site from job to job, getting experience in everything from drywall to carpentry to electrical to kitchens. "The pay is great, and I'm working close to home," said George. "Construction is something good to get into, and here you can learn about the different trades. I would like to get on with main PCL crew and keep working permanently."

Tim Boyd is at the other end of that story. He started working construction when the Mille Lacs ALU was being built. "I thought 'I kinda like this stuff,' so that spring I went and joined the union." He's been a union plumber ever since, and is working for subcontractor Egan on the Hinckley project. "I like that it's not monotonous, not doing the same thing day after day," said Tim. "You might be setting fixtures one day, then we'll be digging, putting in underground pipes the next."

Other Band members working on the site are Wallace St. John, who works as a laborer, Terry Smith, an electrician for Hunt Electric, and Dione Davis, an administrative assistant at the PCL trailer.

And then there's Bonnie Dorr, who does a variety of jobs at the Hinckley site (including giving tours to journalists). She's worked on the Mille Lacs hotel remodel, the Eddy's project, and at Mystic Lake. "PCL is so good to me," she said. "I want to retire, but they just keep calling me back. They're such a good employer, and they hire more Natives than they need to. We have close to 30 Native Americans at this site."

See future issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* for more on casino renovations.

## State & Local News Briefs

**Leader Passes On:** Doug Sam, one of the Mille Lacs Band's most influential government officials, passed away in November. Doug was District I Representative and Secretary-Treasurer during the 1980s and '90s when major changes were taking place for the Band: conversion to a separation of powers government, the development and expansion of gaming, and the historic battle for 1837 Treaty Rights.

### GOP Dominates State Elections, Rep. Nolan

**Hangs On:** Republicans prevailed in many state elections on November 8th. The GOP will control the Minnesota House and Senate when the new legislature convenes in January, setting up a showdown with DFL Governor Mark Dayton over issues like healthcare, taxes and infrastructure. The last time Republicans controlled the legislature, a budget impasse with the governor led to a 20-day government shutdown. In Minnesota's 8th Congressional District, incumbent Rick Nolan narrowly defeated challenger Stewart Mills, III. in one of the closest elections in the country; Nolan won by just 2,000 votes out of 35,000 ballots cast.

**Red Lake Goes Big on Solar:** The Red Lake Band has announced an ambitious plan to produce enough solar electricity to be fossil-fuel free in the coming years. The multi-phase, \$40 million project will feature solar arrays installed on top of tribally-owned buildings and homes, as well as ground arrays. The Band is partnering with Twin Cities-based Olson Energy Corp., and other partners to finance the project through investments and tax credits. Tribal members will be trained and employed to install the solar arrays.

### Minnesota Elects First Somali Lawmaker:

Minnesota made history by electing a Somali-American lawmaker for the first time anywhere in the country. Ilhan Omar was elected as a state representative from a district in Minneapolis after winning a bruising primary contest between veteran incumbent Phyllis Khan and former School Board member Mohamud Noor. Omar will represent the Cedar-Riverside and Marcy-Holmes neighborhoods near the University of Minnesota.

### Officer Charged in Killing of Philando Castile:

St. Anthony police officer Jeronimo Yanez was charged with three felonies in the shooting death of Philando Castile in July, an incident that prompted weeks of protests in the Twin Cities. The charges, second-degree manslaughter and two counts of dangerous discharge of a firearm, were announced by Ramsey County Attorney John Choi. The trial is expected to garner national and international media attention when it begins in 2017.

### Bob Dylan Wins Nobel Prize for Literature:

Minnesota Native Bob Dylan was awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature. The Swedish Academy, which selects the winners, cited his long and dynamic musical career and influence on songwriting as reasons for the award. Dylan caused a stir by initially refusing to acknowledge the award and later announcing that he will not travel to Stockholm to receive the award in person. The Academy called Dylan's actions "impolite and arrogant."

### Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Myles Gorham at [myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com](mailto:myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-465-0653. Band members can receive pay for stories and photos that are used in the paper. The January issue deadline is December 15.

# Brother — and Sister — in Arms

*During the peak of the Vietnam War, Carol and Donivon volunteered to serve.*

It was the smell that struck him first, as the doors of the plane opened in Da Nang, in the spring of 1969. He never did forget the awful smell of Vietnam.

That night, as shrapnel fell around him from the explosion of a 2,000-pound bomb at a munitions dump, Donivon Boyd was a world away from Onamia. He and a couple others were on guard duty, lying on the ground while watching and feeling the fireworks. When they got up in the morning, they could see the outline of their bodies on the ground. Everything was covered in a quarter inch of dust. "Welcome to Vietnam," an officer wisecracked.

For Donivon, the youngest of Charles Boyd's big family, military service seemed a natural choice. His brothers Raining and Russell had served, and his older sister Carol (now Mojica) had recently left the Army to start a family with her husband, a career military man.

His war experience left him permanently disabled, but as he looks back from his room at the St. Cloud Veterans Administration, he has no regrets. "If I had to do it again, I'd do it again," he said. "It was a bad experience, and it was a good experience. I learned what war is, and that's why I don't want anyone else to have to go through it."

His sister Carol added, "Back then women didn't carry guns, but if I had orders to go to Vietnam, I would've gone. I wouldn't have gone to Canada."

## A sister to look up to

Donivon and Carol grew up on the Iron Range, where their dad worked for the railroad. Eventually they moved to McGregor, and then to Cove on the south side of Mille Lacs Lake. Carol finished school at Onamia in 1964, and Donivon followed in 1968, after playing football and hanging around with friends like Floyd Ballinger, Brad Roache, Kathy Littlewolf, Myrna Garbow and Donnie Sam.

Carol spent two years at Haskell Institute where she met a friend from Alaska, and the two decided to join the Army together. "I signed up, but I never saw her again," said Carol. Carol went to basic training in Fort McClellan, Alabama, making it through on her first try, even though many got "recycled" through the program again.

From there she went to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and Fort Gordon in Georgia, where she met her husband. During that time, when she was pregnant with her first of two sons, Donivon came to visit. "She showed me around the Army base and some of the other businesses around town," said Donivon. "Segregation was really bad back then. It was shocking for me."

The military was different for women then. They didn't bear arms, but they did learn to march, to follow orders, and to understand military history and customs. Carol's MOS (military occupational specialty) was clerk/typist, but in addition to job training, the military gave her a series of adventures and the confidence to succeed in civilian life.

In 1968, Carol flew with her five-month-old son to Bad Kreuznach, Germany, to be with her husband, who was stationed there. That December, when her husband received orders for Vietnam, she came home to Onamia, until he returned the following year.

In 1970 they were assigned to Goppingen, Germany, until her husband received orders for a second tour in Vietnam. While he was gone, she lived in Washington state with her two sons. When he returned, he was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, until his retirement in 1977. During that time, Carol worked as a clerk-typist for the Department of the Army.

During her husband's first tour, Carol lived alone in Germany with her baby. "There I was, a young wife with this baby — you know, scared, but it was a good time." Carol got her

international driver's license, drove on the Autobahn, and traveled to the Swiss Alps, a sight she's never forgotten. "I was just amazed," she recalled. "You didn't see that in Minnesota."

The experience she gained helped her throughout her career, as a typist for the Army, a purchasing agent at the Indian hospital in Cass Lake, and later as an employee of the Mille Lacs Tribal Police. The GI bill also helped her pay for additional education and for a home once she moved back to Minnesota to raise her two boys.

## In a war zone

Donivon's active duty began on September 6, 1968, when he was shipped to the Marine Corps base in San Diego. Donivon's MOS was artillery, also known as a "cannon cocker."

"It was quite a shocking experience to be a young person away from home and not seeing any family members," he said. "At that time some of the drill instructors were pretty brutal in the things they taught us, what we were doing, and where we were going to go. Out of 77 in my platoon, and the whole company of 300, about 90 percent would end up in Vietnam."

At Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Donivon and 13 others signed voluntary drafts to go to Vietnam.

After criss-crossing the continent a couple more times for combat training, he ended up on a plane to Hawaii, Okinawa, and finally Da Nang.

"It was quite a different experience I'll tell you that," Donivon said. "They opened the front of the plane and you could see guys almost puking. When they opened the back to unload our sea bags, it finally hit us, the worst smell you can think of. It was terrible. After five or six months it soaked right into your skin."

Within a few days he was sent by truck to Hill 55, where he was assigned to Golf Battery, Gun 4, on Hill 10. "We were in the transit barracks when the Vietnamese threw a couple mortar rounds at us," he said. "One blew up the chapel, and one hit another area where a guy was killed. I had to stay in a trench all night long, ready for an attack. I thought, 'Wow, I'm a warzone, now.'"

Next it was a helicopter ride, his first, to Landing Zone Rat-tlesnake, and then further out to support a battalion in another area. He found out later that the Marines had passed into Cambodia, where they blew up a hospital.

The next few months are a flurry of names and images in Donivon's memory — LZ Baldy, LZ Pony, Bullwhip, Rider, desert, mountains, jungle, rain, sickness.

Finally, he was sent to Hong Kong for R and R, but on his way back to his unit, he fell off a truck and hurt his back. They didn't know how to treat him, and a doctor said, "For you, the war is done."

"What do you mean?" asked Donivon. "I'm not hurt that bad." "Well, we think you are," the doctor said.

It was not a glamorous end to his military career, but Donivon had done his duty, unlike many at the time.

Before he knew it, he was heading home on a trip that took him back to Da Nang, and on to the Philippines, Guam, Japan, and Anchorage, Alaska, where he saw snow out the window of the plane — the first time in a year. It was Christmas Day, 1969.

It wasn't an easy adjustment, with damaged hearing, an



injured back, a divided nation, and post-traumatic stress, but one thing helped with the transition.

"I was on convalescent leave at home, and I asked my mom and dad if I could go up and see one of the veterans from World War One that I respected," said Donivon. "I wanted to tell him what it was like. I went over to his house and told him about the fighting, and I said that without his blessing, I probably wouldn't have made it home. He told his wife to cook something and make some bread, and we had a feast on the floor, with blankets and a tablecloth, and a dish of food we were all supposed to eat out of. He told me to go ahead and eat, so I ate, and told him I didn't think I'd ever eat wild rice and fry bread again. I ate as much as I could, that whole dish of wild rice, and a couple pieces of bread. They asked if I wanted more, and I said 'No, I'm full. Thank you very much.' That was my welcome home."

The old couple was Sam and Ada Yankee, revered elders of the Minisinaakwaang community.

## Elder warriors

Donivon and Carol continue to honor those who served in Vietnam. Donivon was in Washington, D.C., when the Vietnam Wall was dedicated, and he and Carol have traveled there several times since. Carol said, "Every time, they welcome each other home, because they didn't get that welcome home."

Donivon has been to Australia six times, where he has met with other vets from the Allied forces in Vietnam. He and Carol have attended reunions of Minnesota Vietnam vets in Minneapolis, Fergus Falls and Fort Snelling.

"We participate because we're veterans, and we were proud to serve our country," said Carol.

She points to the American flag on Donivon's wall. "When people desecrate the flag, we get upset, because every morning when we were in the military, they raised that flag, and we saluted. It means a lot to us to live in this free country that we love."

# Food Sovereignty Project Plants Seeds During Growing Season

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Food Sovereignty Project, which started last spring, has wrapped up its first growing season with a list of accomplishments and a plan for moving forward.

The project, championed by Commissioner of Administration Catherine Colsrud, was operated by the Emergency Services Department (part of Health and Human Services) with help from Honor the Earth, an organization that contracted with the Band to get the program off the ground.

Emergency Services Director Kristian Theisz said, "We laid the ground work, did some of the heavy lifting, located sites for agricultural projects, and built the skeleton of what we'll need going forward."

Kristian, Catherine and Winona LaDuke of Honor the Earth have been attending community meetings to update Band members on the projects and will continue to do so as plans develop next spring.

Among the goals of the project are to employ Band members in rewarding careers, heal problems caused by an unhealthy food industry, and create a sustainable local food economy.

Ten strategies were identified that will be implemented in three phases, assuming the support of tribal government and availability of resources.

Phase 1, Food Production, includes three strategies: victo-

ry gardens, district community gardens and a farm-to-school support program. Progress was made on all three, with 150 growboxes and starter plants delivered, sites chosen for community gardens, and applications completed for the farm-to-school program.

Phase 2, Marketing and Consumption, is divided into two parts. Part A will include development of an agricultural research station in District II, a tribally supported agriculture model, and corporate food purchases. Progress was made in all three areas.

Phase 2-B will include recruitment of tribal family growers, a possible cattle operation, and farmers markets.

The project is guided by three Anishinaabe values: Wiidookodaadiwag (We will help each other), Madaookiwin (We will share these things equally) and Zhawenididaa (We will love and respect one another).

Partnerships have been developed with the First Nations Development Institute and the University of Arkansas, with more in the works.

I'm impressed with what we were able to accomplish," said Kristian. "We did a lot of great work, and seeds were planted." — Literally and figuratively.

## Vision Statement

"The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe embraces a future for our Nation in which our language, cultural values, teachings, traditions and spirituality are the foundation of all that we do. In our vision, our children dream. Our elders protect our culture and they share. Our leaders lead. Our members participate fully and constructively in our communities. Our economy is vibrant, and our band is financially secure. Our communities are safe. Our Members work in careers and jobs that they choose. We are healthy. We respect and nurture our land and its importance in our lives. Our relationships with others strengthen our Band and leverage resources that contribute to achieving our greatest potential. Our band members have the skills and education necessary to ensure the highest quality of life. We are a proud, strong Anishinaabe community."

## HHS Hosts Health Fairs in Four Communities

Health and Human Services personnel put an impressive effort into planning and hosting annual Health Fairs in Districts I, II, II-A and III in October.

The fairs were busy and fun events, with door prizes, goodie bags, games, and lots of information about Band programs.

Among the departments and other agencies represented were the following: Family Violence Prevention, Ne-la-Shing Clinics, Circle of Health, Child Support, Diabetes Program, Health Heart Program, Tribal Police, Family Services, Early Education, Wraparound, GLIFWC, St. Cloud Veterans Administration, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Elder Services, Housing and Emergency Services.

Miigwech to all who participated and attended!



## Caring for Baby's Teeth Starts Before Birth

Jaimy Davis Guest Writer

A child's dental health begins at the time of conception. The mother's dental health affects her overall health as well as her baby's teeth. Mothers with poor oral health are at risk for premature and underweight births, according to statistics.

A baby's 20 primary (baby) teeth are already present in the jaw under their gingiva (gums). A baby's front four teeth usually push through the gums at about 6 months of age, although some children don't have their first tooth until 12 or 14 months. Baby teeth are very important to your child's health and development. Cavities can progress rapidly and have a lasting impact on a child's health and well-being. Untreated cavities in baby teeth can damage their adult teeth and cause the child pain. The 1999 Oral Health Survey of American Indian and Alaska Native Dental Patients found that 79 percent of children ages 2-5 years had experienced dental caries, and 68 percent of this age group had untreated decay at the time of the dental examination.

Cavities are contagious. Mothers and other family members will unknowingly transfer cavity causing bacteria to the

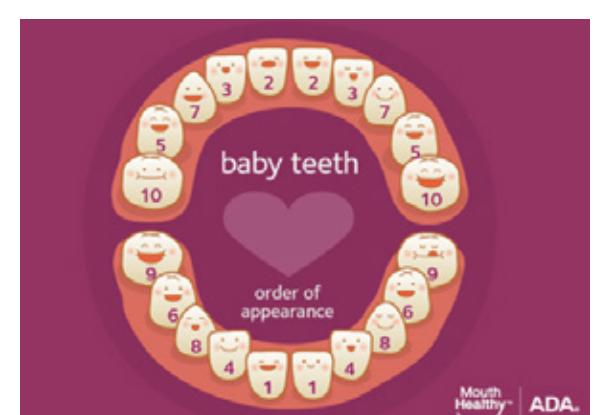
baby. It is important to care for your baby's teeth from the start.

### Here's what to do:

- Begin cleaning your baby's mouth during the first few days after birth by wiping the gums with a clean, moist gauze pad or washcloth. As soon as teeth appear, decay can occur.
- For children younger than 3 years, caregivers should start brushing their teeth as soon as they begin to come into the mouth by using fluoride toothpaste in an amount no more than a smear or the size of a grain of rice. Brush teeth thoroughly twice per day (morning and night) or as directed by a dentist or physician. Children in this age group must always be supervised when using oral care products and are not capable of completing a sufficient brushing.
- For children 3 to 6 years of age, use a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste. Brush teeth thoroughly twice per day (morning and night) or as directed by a dentist or physician. Supervise children's brushing and remind

them not to swallow the toothpaste.

- Until you're confident that your child can brush on his or her own, continue to brush your child's teeth twice a day with a child-size toothbrush and a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste. When your child has two teeth that touch, you should begin flossing their teeth daily.



Primary (baby) teeth eruption chart. Image from the American Dental Association.

## Pine Grove Learning Center

Karrie McCurdy PGCL Director



Aaniin from staff and students of Ga-shing-wak-kokaag (in the pines). It's been a great start to our 2017 School Year. New this year is our Experiential Learning Days. These are days when we get the children out of the classroom to learn through experiences. In September, we had a visit from the Danbury Fire Department to speak on fire prevention. The children were able to check out the fire truck, take turns spraying the hose, and were each given a coloring book and a fire hat. Thank you firemen George and Brad!

In October we joined Nay Ah Shing at the Rutledge Immersion grounds for a pipestone demonstration as well as a session on Ojibwe language and dance style. The Art and Gifted and Talented programs teamed up to show us Art & Robotics!

We also went on a field trip to Pine Haven Farms in Wyoming, Minn. We had the experience of learning about different animals as well as petting and feeding them. They also took us out to the pumpkin patch where each child was to pick a pumpkin. We will also be able to do some apple art with apples we purchased there.

On Oct 14 we visited the Nelson Dairy Farm, located in Cloverdale, Minn. The children were able to milk a cow, feed baby calves, climb in a combine, and go on a hay ride. Thank you Nelson Family for allowing us to visit.

Picture day was November 22, and two more experiential learning days will be held in December.

On an ending note, we are still short a teacher. If anyone knows one that needs a job, please have them contact the Mille Lacs Band Human Resource Department. Miigwech until next time!



The end of the 1st quarter powwow was held at the Nay Ah Shing Abinooyjiiyag school on November 4. The drum group Timber Trails, along with some Nay Ah Shing students, provided the music. The staff and students played musical chairs, and the students enjoyed many side steps and intertribals. Nay Ah Shing celebrates the end of each quarter with a powwow. The next one is scheduled for 10 a.m. January 27, 2017, at the High School. The public is welcome!

## Full STEAM Ahead at Nay Ah Shing & Pine Grove

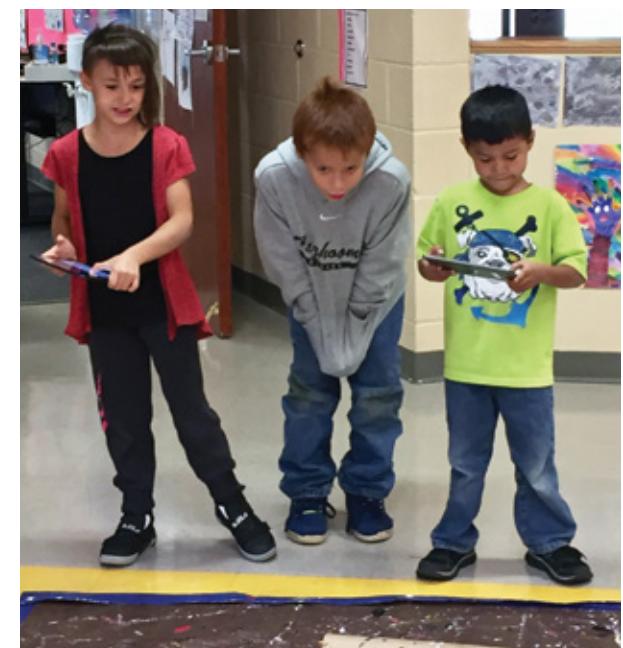
There is a lot of excitement about the new STEAM emphasis at Nay Ah Shing. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. There is a new class at the upper school called STEAM Labs. Students in this class are learning computer coding skills and 21st century competencies with hands-on learning activities aligned with computer science (CS) standards.

Gregg Rutter is also emphasizing coding skills in the gifted education program appropriate for students at all age and grade levels. One of the exciting aspects of the STEAM programs is the use of iPads and Sphero SPRK+ robots; the students are enthusiastic and fully engaged, while at the same time learning new concepts, skills and creative problem solving.

For the fourth year in a row, Nay Ah Shing students are participating in an after-school robotics program. Students participate in the FIRST Lego League (FLL) Challenge with a tournament scheduled in December. This program emphasizes the values of teamwork and collaboration along with programming, engineering, and problem solving.

Every year the FIRST Lego League Challenge has a theme; this year's theme is "Animal Allies." In addition to the robotics aspect of FLL, there is a project; our students this year chose stray dogs for their Animal Allies project. Govinda Budrow and Gregg Rutter are the co-coaches for the after-school robotics program and FLL Team.

At Pine Grove, Jeannie Gross, Gregg Rutter and Amber Lenz have been collaborating to develop a unit of study combining art and technology. Students at Pine Grove learned about the mid-20th century abstract expressionist artist Jackson Pollock, and using iPads, Sphero SPRK+ robots, student-created programs and remote control, created a Jackson Pollock-inspired piece of art.



Further collaboration with Roger Neiboer, these teachers plan to extend this unit to encompass more content areas (English Language Arts, Geography, Social Studies, Culture, Math) and introduce it to more students at Nay Ah Shing. The goal is to engage students with meaningful hands-on activities and increase achievement. It's full STEAM ahead at Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove Schools!

## Nay Ah Shing Aims to Increase Achievement Through Professional Learning Community

The Nay Ah Shing Leadership and Instructional Teams spent the past year investigating proven ways to increase student achievement. One powerful transformational way to do this is developing collaborative teams within a Professional Learning Community (PLC). A trait of successful schools is structured time designed for teaching staff to collaborate, work together, share instructional strategies, access and analyze assessment data, share resources, and reflect on teaching practices; a PLC provides this capacity, and Nay Ah Shing Schools has adopted the PLC as an essential element with the goal of increasing student learning and achievement.



A PLC provides the opportunity for deep, meaningful change where teachers are expected to share their data and practices with one another in collaborative teams on an intimate level, allowing for the possibility of making transformational change in the school and in student learning outcomes.

The PLC construct engages every teaching professional in the school in the ongoing exploration of four essential questions:

1. What do we expect our students to learn? (Goals/Expectations)
2. How will we know they are learning? (Assessment)
3. How will we respond when they don't learn? (Intervention/Differentiation)
4. How will we respond if they already know it? (Enrichment/Differentiation)

The goal that all teaching professionals share at the school is to ensure growth for ALL students and ensure that ALL students learn. We embrace the belief and hold the shared commitment, that all children can learn and, in fact, deserve to learn every day. The PLC supports a culture of collaboration with a focus on results. The PLC provides the structure for teachers to collaborate around data to improve instruction and improve student learning.

# Karrie's Path Leads Her Back to Aazhoomog

"I would like to call this story 'My Path,' as it is the story of how I came to be just where I belong," said Karrie McCurdy, who is the new director of Pine Grove Leadership Academy (a satellite of Nay Ah Shing schools) in Aazhoomog.

Karrie has found herself coming full circle. She grew up in the Lake Lena community. Just down the road was her grandmother's house, where she boarded the bus to graduate from Hinckley High School. But after she graduated, Karrie took off for the Cities where she married and had two children, Kennedy and Jordan.

Years later, as a single mom, she came back to the reservation area and decided to pursue a degree. For five years, she shuttled her kids to and from daycare and school, while taking classes in Business Administration at Pine Technical College.

In the evening after making dinner, doing the housework, and helping her girls with their homework, she would put them down for the night, before tackling her own academic responsibilities.

Her education complete, she spotted an ad in the Hinckley newspaper announcing that the Band was starting charter schools in District II and District III, and anyone interested in being a part of this effort should show up at the next meeting. Karrie showed up attempting to hide in the back, but Joycelyn Shingobe spotted her and asked her to introduce herself.

"I kept going to those meetings because I thought, how perfect to work for a school in this community!" Karrie recalled. "Ms. Shingobe eventually asked if I would like to work as their Course Coordinator. Of course I accepted!" That position led her to also becoming a math tutor at the Mille Lacs Tribal College.

Eventually as the two schools received their charters, and had to form separate school boards, she was offered the position of business manager at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy, a position she held until funding cuts resulted in

the elimination of her position. Undaunted, Karrie applied for a position with the Band's Head Start program.

"I put in my application on a Friday — my last day being employed — was called for an interview on Monday, interviewed on Tuesday, was offered the position on Wednesday, and started my new job on Thursday, so I was unemployed for a total of three days," Karrie said.

It was supposed to be a one-year position, but during that time former Head Start director Tammy Wickstrom noticed Karrie's math skills and found her a job as Fiscal Coordinator for the Band's Head Start program, a position she held until this summer, when she decided to apply for the job as Director at Pine Grove.

"I went home and talked to my husband and said, 'I think I can do it,'" Karrie said. "I've worked for the tribal college, an elementary school, and Head Start, and I've worked all three districts. I think I've gained enough insight and knowledge to do it. My initial desire was to work here in the Aazhoomog Community."

Karrie was ready for the financial responsibilities in running the school, but she's still learning about other aspects of the job. She's been a good promoter and communicator, attending monthly District III community meetings to keep Band members up to date. Still, the new position is not without its challenges.

"It's a new environment, very different from early ed," said Karrie. "There were a couple times I thought 'What did I do?' But now I'm over the scary part, and I'm getting comfortable."

Enrollment is currently capped at 18 until Pine Grove finds another full-time teacher. The school is working closely with



**Karrie McCurdy worked as Fiscal Coordinator for the Early Education program before taking the job as Director of Pine Grove Leadership Academy.**

the District I Nay Ah Shing Abinooyiyag to give students equal access to field trips and other learning opportunities.

Her new job at Pine Grove is just across the road from her old one at Head Start, where there hasn't been a lot of collaboration in the past.

When Karrie first took the job, someone joked to her, "Welcome to 'our side,'" meaning K-12 instead of early ed. But to Karrie, all the programs have the same goal: educating the children of the community. "It's not early ed versus the elementary school. It's all the same kids, so why can't we all work together? When I was sitting over at Head Start, sometimes it seemed like we were alone. I now look outside and see the whole area — both schools, Head Start and Pine Grove. It's like a bigger world."

## Early Ed Director Knows Where She Belongs

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer



**Mary Fletcher has worked for the Early Education Department for 11 years.**

If anyone was ever well prepared for a new job, it was Mary Fletcher, who took over as Early Education Director in June. Mary had worked for the department for 11 years, most of that time as Head Start Education Specialist.

Mary describes herself as a "late bloomer" who went back to school after raising a family. After a few years at Nay Ah Shing Abinooyiyag (where she worked with her sister Lehtitia Weiss), Mary found her true calling in Early Education — specifically the Head Start program.

"I had a couple opportunities to work in Lehtitia's classroom, and I knew I wanted to come back here at some point," said Mary. "Sometimes you kind of know where you belong." Mary graduated in December of 2005 and took a job with the Band in January of 2006.

As education specialist, Mary did a lot of teacher training and classroom observation. She also supervised the Ameri-

corps program and worked on early literacy.

The Early Ed Department serves about 220 children in all three districts. About 88 of those are in Early Head Start (0-3) and the rest in Head Start (3-5). The program also offers child care for school-age kids.

"What I like about Head Start is that we take care of the whole child as well as the parents," said Mary. "We look at the health of the child, their development, dental, hearing and vision, and we also work to educate families. That's a big part of Head Start and a big part of what we do at Wewinabi — the family engagement piece. We want the family to be supported as well as the children."

Mary also stresses the importance of culture and language at Wewinabi. "The Elders visit classrooms and talk to kids using the Ojibwe language, and classroom staff also teach cultural lessons as well," she said. "This is in addition to our monthly powwows and pipe."

Wewinabi holds monthly family activities, like a royalty powwow in September, a fire safety day in October, and a carnival at the end of the year. Parents and family are also welcome at the school for the monthly powwow, pipe ceremony and other regular activities.

Mary's new job has had its challenges. She misses being in closer contact with the kids, and sometimes when she's having

a rough day, she'll pop into a classroom just to soak up some of their positive energy.

Staffing can also be a challenge, as it was for her predecessor, Tammy Wickstrom. Shortly after Mary started, fiscal coordinator Karrie McCurdy transferred to Pine Grove Leadership Academy (see above). "I had never been involved in the fiscal part of the department, so I had to take on all of that," said Mary. "There was a bit of a learning curve."

The Early Ed Department is currently short of seven assistant teachers and two early Head Start teachers, which requires a constant juggling of staff.

The challenges are real, but the rewards outweigh them for Mary. "When I get bogged down, I get up and go into a classroom," she said. "That's my greatest reward."

Mary is also hoping to work with Anishinaabe College to develop a teacher training program to bring additional qualified staff on board. "I learned a lot from Tammy (Wickstrom)," Mary said. "She took a great program and made it even better, and I hope to do the same."

If you or someone you know is interested in working in Early Ed, call 320-532-7590. The Band pays all fees — about \$2,000 worth — needed for teachers to get their Child Development Certificate. Those who stay and become Americorps members can receive an additional \$6,000 education stipend.

# Corporate Ventures Hosts 17th Annual Fall Feast

Steve Premo Photographer

Great food, friendship and entertainment were equally abundant at the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures 17th Annual Fall Feast at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on Nov. 17. Band members were welcomed by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and received updates on the Band's businesses from Corporate Commissioner Joe Nayquonabe Jr.



## Corporate Ventures Offers a Unique Opportunity to Employees

Band members who are interested in learning more about business or becoming a better leader have a new chance to do so, thanks to a partnership between Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) and St. Cloud State University.

MLCV is offering an exclusive opportunity to 35 participants to build their business knowledge and leadership skills. The series is called Introduction to Casino Leadership and is hosted at St. Cloud State University.

Participants will receive the latest information, tools and support to manage complex issues within the casino business environment. Best of all, MLCV is paying the cost — a \$750 value (books included), completely free for all 35 participants.

### Here is what the series will cover

#### – **Module 1: Fundamental Competencies**

Saturday, January 7

10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This class will cover oral communication, written communication and interpersonal communication.

#### – **Module 2: Business Acumen**

Saturday, January 14

10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This class will cover managing human capital, legal consequences, financial management and problem solving.

#### – **Module 3: Leading People**

Saturday, January 21

10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This class will cover conflict management, building organizational diversity, team building and change management.

#### – **Module 4: Casino Management**

Saturday, January 28

10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This class will cover customer service, operations management and revenue generation.

#### – **Module 5: Coach Follow-up**

January – May 2017

This follow-up will cover students' personal development plan.

All classes will take place in the Outreach Building Welcome Center and will be taught by St. Cloud State University professors and business partners. Transportation will be provided to and from the University. Lunch will be provided as well. After participants successfully complete the series, a celebratory luncheon will be held in their honor.

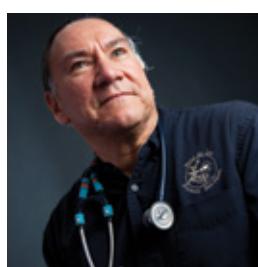
#### **How to apply**

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, possess a winning attitude and show interest in learning about the casino business industry.

Applicants need to fill out the application, including a one paragraph essay on why they should be selected for this series and submit it to Tawnya Stewart ([tstewart@mlicorporateventures.com](mailto:tstewart@mlicorporateventures.com)) by Friday, December 2, 2016. All selected participants will be notified by Monday, December 5, 2016. Contact Tawnya for an application or go to <http://bit.ly/2geuGLN>

# I Thought I Had More Time

Arne Vainio, M.D. Guest Writer Stephan Hoglund Photographer



He looked so much older since Donnie died. A year earlier I saw them together hauling wood and they were drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes in the cab of Brian's old pickup truck. We never talked about happiness, and they swore

at each other and they swore at their chain saws and they smoked even as they were cutting wood.

Donnie was in his mid-twenties and Brian had been taking care of him since Cecelia died when Donnie was five. Donnie barely remembered her, and the only parent he ever knew was Brian. Brian was rough and always had a couple days of gray whiskers, and they lived in an old motorhome that quit running years ago. They built a porch on it and just stayed with the motorhome.

They went through a lot of firewood in the winter and were always looking for more. They sold parts from old junk cars that just seemed to find them, and when all the usable parts were gone, they hauled the car bodies to one of the bigger junkyards and they got between forty and fifty dollars if they were having a good day. The driveway was lined with old cars and bathtubs and windows and anything else they could collect. I first met them when I put an ad in the paper looking for some old tractor parts, and they were the only ones who called. I drove my rusty old truck there and pulled up next to the porch. Brian told Donnie to pull the starter I needed from an old tractor and we leaned against my truck as Brian smoked and drank coffee and we watched Donnie bringing his tools out to the tractor.

He got the starter off with minimal of swearing and set it in the back of my truck. The starter was covered in grease, and he wiped a clean spot with his sleeve and hooked a battery to it. It spun freely and he looked up and said, "Forty dollars. A new one is over a hundred if you can even find one."

I pulled two twenties out of my wallet and we shook hands and I left. The starter worked fine and I ended up going back off and on to get other parts for the tractor. One time I brought them an old lawn tractor that needed too much work to be worth fixing and they unloaded it from my pickup and parked it almost reverently next to an old Buick. "You're sure you don't want nothing for it, then? It looks like it still has lots of good parts."

One day I went there and they were clearly arguing. Donnie was taking the fenders off an old car and he was banging tools around and Brian finally yelled at him, "That's not going

to help! You know you have to take that stuff or you're going to get sick again!"

Brian looked at me and he shook his head. "He was real sick a couple of weeks ago and I finally had to take him to the hospital. He was in there for four days and they told him he has sugar diabetes and he has to take insulin shots or he'll die. He doesn't want to take them, and it's been hell around here ever since."

Donnie came walking over to visit and he was still settling down. "What kind of diabetes did they say you have?" I asked him.

"I don't know. The worst kind, they said. I can't take pills for it and I have to give myself these damn shots every time I eat something. I don't know what they're trying to tell me and I don't know when this is going to go away."

"It sounds to me like you have Type 1 diabetes. That means your body doesn't make insulin at all and you need the insulin to get sugar into your cells for energy. If you don't have insulin and the sugar in your blood can't get into your cells, then the blood sugar keeps going higher and higher and that's why you were so sick when you went into the hospital."

"How would you know that?"

"I'm a doctor."

They were both looking at me like I said I was the governor. "Really?"

"Yeah, really."

"Then why do you drive that old truck?"

"I don't know, I just like old trucks. You do need to take your insulin and this is going to be lifelong. People are always either afraid or mad at the things they don't understand and that's just human nature. Checking your blood sugars isn't that hard, and the needles for the insulin are small. Once people get used to it, it isn't a big deal at all, it's just something you need to do. Do you have any questions?"

"They said I could get kidney problems if my sugars are high."

"That's right. You can also get eye problems and heart disease and be at risk for amputations if your sugars are too high."

"I didn't want this."

"Nobody does, but you need to keep it under control to avoid complications."

They had lots of questions after that and we leaned against my truck and I answered question after question.

I stopped in briefly every few months and for the most part, Donnie was trying hard and he was mostly good about taking his insulin.

I saw his obituary in a Sunday paper that was almost a year old. I had it wrapped around an old carburetor and his name

caught my eye and I felt terrible for finding out so late. I drove out to the old motorhome on the edge of the swamp and Brian came out when he heard my truck.

"Donnie drove way out in the woods to cut some firewood and he didn't tell me where he was going. He didn't take his insulin with him, and his truck slid off the road and he was stuck there. He must have been confused, because he left his phone in the truck and he was walking in the wrong direction. They found him a couple miles from his truck and they figure he died the day before. God, I hope he didn't suffer. He was a good kid, wasn't he Dr. Vainio?"

"He was, Brian. I'm going to miss him and I'm really sorry I found out so late. What are you going to do?"

"I'll just stay here. I can still cut wood and I'll be alright." I could see the hurt in his eyes and I could hear the empty space in his voice. I took out my pocket tool and I held it out to him.

"I've given away over two hundred of these things, Brian. They're good tools and I use them all the time and I always give the one I'm carrying. They might have nicks and scratches and they might have been sharpened, but I want this tool that was in my hands to be in yours and I want you to use it and I want you to think of respect when you do. I'm always grateful for the goodness of the people surrounding me and I want us all to be connected. I want you to know you're respected, and I want you to know you did the best you could."

"I remember the day we found out you were a doctor. We were both real happy you ever wanted to come and see us, and Donnie really liked that you drive that old truck when you could have a brand new one. Most don't give us a second look and they want to be done talking to us as soon as they start. They don't think we have feelings just like everybody else, but we do. When his mother died, we didn't have anybody else and I didn't want someone to come and take him away. He went to school every single day, and he was respectful to his teachers. I should have told him I loved him, but those words don't come easy to an old man with a hard life. I thought I had more time. Ain't nobody supposed to bury their own kid, Dr. Vainio."

He put the pocket tool into his pocket and went into the motorhome and came back out with two cups of strong black coffee.

We leaned against the truck and watched the sunset in silence.

Arne Vainio, M.D. is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, Minnesota. He can be reached at [a-vainio@hotmail.com](mailto:a-vainio@hotmail.com).

## Second Annual SIRVS Clinic

Ninety-one dogs and cats were spayed, neutered, registered and/or given wellness checks Nov. 12 and 13 at the District I Community Center, thanks to cooperation from the District I Legislative Staff, the Emergency Management Department and Tribal Police. SIRVS, Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Service, is a group of veterinary students from the University of Minnesota who have recognized a need for veterinary services in underserved Reservation communities in Minnesota. Their mission is to train future veterinarians by serving communities in need. Vet clinics in other districts will also continue on a regular basis.



## Legislative Briefs

**MLBO Foundation:** Did you know the Mille Lacs Band has a foundation that supports important local and regional causes? In recent months, the Band Assembly has supported donations for the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Immersion School at Lac Courte Oreilles, Duluth Legal Aid, and the City of Isle's Fire Department.

**Circle of Health:** Band Assembly is awaiting a draft of articles and bylaws for the Circle of Health Financial Board. The proposal will then be reviewed by Band Assembly.

**Housing Audit:** An audit of the Housing Department was conducted this year, and the Band Assembly is reviewing the findings to determine how improvements can be made to housing programs.

**Statute revisions:** One of the Legislative Branch's duties is to pass new laws and amend old ones. The Band Assembly is in the process of reviewing Title 8, Chapter 13, the Band's Child/Family Protection statute and Title 18, Chapter 5, the Indian Employment Rights statute.

**Community Center:** The Band Assembly, and especially District I Rep. Sandi Blake, is taking an active role in planning of the District I Community Center, which will be relocated to the Sher Property development.

**Chime in!** The Band Assembly invites input from Band members. Contact your local representative or the Band Assembly office at the District I Government Center.

## Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness



Students at Nay Ah Shing Abinooyiyag learned about fire prevention, safety, and emergency preparedness from a group of volunteers on Monday, Oct. 17. Community Service Officer Spenser Stack came to the Kindergarten class and dressed up in his fire gear to help kids learn about firefighting and not be afraid of those masked men. Second graders learned about wild land fire fighting from DNR firefighters Ernie Boyd and Tyler Rosnau. They got to hide under fire blankets

and even spray a fire hose. Third graders learned about safety around power lines from Mille Lacs Electric employees. Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk did a pillow case project with fourth and fifth graders to help them learn about emergency preparedness. Miig-wech to these volunteers for helping teach kids about safety!



### Nay Ah Shing Fun Run

October 20 was a chilly day for being outside, but Nay Ah Shing students and staff warmed up quickly as they competed in their annual Fun Run.

### District I Halloween Party

The District I Halloween party on Oct. 27 was great fun! Princesses, monsters and Pokemons enjoyed music, treats, costumes, and even dancing dinosaurs.



### Wewinabi Halloween Parade

Wewinabi Early Education students and staff got in the Halloween spirit for their annual parade on Monday, Oct. 31. Government employees also got into the act as they met the kids at the District I Community Center to distribute treats and toys.



# TERO Update

Craig Hansen TERO Director

We will be participating in the 3rd round of the MNDOT/Tribal/Cement Mason Union Training. This training is an intensive 12-week course that will be held at the Local 633 Training Center in New Brighton from January 30 to April 21, 2017.

Candidates that are selected must pass a construction physical and have a valid MN Driver's License. MNDOT is providing 95 percent of the funding for this training including the lodging at the AmericInn hotel, half a mile from the Training Center. The tribes pay the students a weekly stipend of \$300 to earn while they learn.

Selection begins with a screening process in Mille Lacs on Wednesday, Dec. 7, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Lower Media Room and on Friday, Dec. 9, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley in the Events Center. If you are unable to attend either screening, the final two screenings will be held at the MCT Building in Minneapolis on Thursday, January 5 and Friday, January 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Applications can be downloaded from the TERO page on the Mille Lacs Band's website or picked up directly at the TERO Office.

In late September, TERO Director Craig Hansen presented MNDOT Commissioner Charles Zelle a plaque from the tribes participating in the MNDOT/Tribal/Cement Mason Union Training program.

Construct Tomorrow 2017 is an event that is geared toward students that may be interested in a career in the construction field. Last year we held this event, and 16 different trades from the Twin Cities and Duluth made hands-on presentations/exhibits and information about their trades to share with the students. Fifteen schools brought 403 students from across East



(L) Craig Hansen, MLBO TERO Director presenting MNDOT Commissioner Charles Zelle a plaque for the support of the Cement Mason Training.

Central Minnesota to this event. We look forward to hosting this event again at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events Center on Friday, March 3, 2017. It will be open to the public from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m., and exclusively for participating schools from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

## Project updates

Both Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley are being remodeled by PCL and have job trailers on-site. If you are interested in working at either casino, please stop by the PCL job trailer for an application.

Jorgensen Construction is general contractor for the District III Community Center project in Hinckley. They will not be hiring directly but are having interested Band members contact their sub-contractors directly. We also have that information at the TERO Office. If your contact information has changed, please update your Job Skills Bank Application at the TERO Office.

The TERO Office at the Government Center has moved



(L) Moke Eaglefeathers of the Cement Mason Union presenting a cement Minnesota to MNDOT Commissioner Charles Zelle.

across the hall into AanjiBimaadizing's (formerly DOL) office area. We look forward to working with the AanjiBimaadizing staff and coordinating more career-oriented training in the near future.

Our contact information is still the same: 320-532-4778 (Office)/320-532-7505 (Fax). Craig Hansen, TERO Director 320-630-2617 (Cell)/Lisa Ballinger, TERO Compliance Officer 320-630-8777 (Cell). Also, we are out in Hinckley twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays), Room 204 at the Corporate Commission Lodge building (behind Tobie's). Our Hinckley office number is 320-384-4664. If you have any questions, please give us a call or stop by the offices.

## Band Representative Resigns from Fisheries Committee

Jamie Edwards of the Government Affairs Division has resigned from the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee, a group set up by Gov. Mark Dayton to provide input to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

In a letter to Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, Jamie said the group had "devolved into an anti-science, anti-treaty rights forum subsidized by state resources."

Jamie was the only tribal member on the 17-member panel, which was formed after state anglers reached their quota of walleyes in July 2015, resulting in a shutdown of walleye fishing on the lake.

This year, anglers once again reached their quota by late July, but Gov. Mark Dayton allowed walleye fishing to remain open through Labor Day.

Jamie's resignation follows that of Paul Venturelli, a University of Minnesota fisheries biologist who was also disillusioned by the political nature of the group.

In his resignation letter last May, Venturelli wrote "the DNR is effective at communicating the science, but the majority of the committee is steadfast in the belief that the science is inherently flawed."

The Minnesota DNR has listened closely to Mille Lacs anglers and resort owners since the 1999 Supreme Court decision recognizing the bands' 1837 Treaty rights, holding meetings twice a year to receive input regarding regulations. That input group, which was disbanded when the new group was formed, also became a forum for anti-treaty and anti-netting sentiments.

Members of that original input group consistently lobbied for regulations that would bring anglers as close as possible to their allocation while opposing measures like smaller bag limits or restrictions on bait and gear.

# Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources Update

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources has been busy on a number of projects in October and November.

- Fisheries:** The fisheries staff have completed a successful first season of hatching and stocking the Mille Lacs strain of walleyes. One and a half million fry were hatched and planted in rearing ponds in District I. Approximately 50,000 were transplanted to lakes in Pine, Crow Wing, Morrison and Aitkin counties. Others were planted in a Band-owned lake to preserve a pure strain of Mille Lacs walleyes. The fisheries department also conducted electrofishing surveys in conjunction with GLIFWC.
- Forestry:** Forester Jake Horbacz and Lead Forestry Technician Dean Staples have been working on a mowing

project near Crooked Creek in District III. The crew is also conducting inventories and planning limited harvest to provide habitat for golden-winged warblers on Band lands in Morrison County.

- Enforcement:** Conservation officers conducted four firearms safety trainings in all three districts and the urban area, and they have been busy keeping hunters and anglers safe and legal during the fall harvest season.
- Enrollments:** The Department is in the process of seeking a new Enrollments Manager. Some Band members may be receiving letters from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe regarding increases or decreases to their blood quantum.



The fisheries crew was busy all summer and fall netting walleye fingerlings from rearing ponds and stocking them in area lakes.



Mille Lacs Band Conservation Officers Lean Kampa, Jared Rosati and Taylor Hochstein made the rounds teaching firearms safety certification classes to about 100 youth this fall in all four districts and the urban area. They closed out the season Sunday, Oct. 30, in Onamia.

## TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

### Happy December Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Beaulieu, Judith Louise  
Bender, Gayle Marie  
Bixby, Pamela Jean  
Bonga, Henry Benjamin  
Boyd, Loann Dana  
Boyd, Phyllis Ann  
Burton, Vicki Marie  
Cash, Kyle Matthew  
Churchill, Lawrence  
Davis, Frances  
Davis, Marilyn Ann  
Davis, Winifred Marie  
Day, Delsie Louise  
Day, June Louise  
Diver, Norma Bea  
Dorr, Randy James  
Dorr, Rodney John  
Garbow, Ruth Elaine  
Gibbs, Diane Marie  
Gopher, Rosalie Marie  
Granger, David Darryl

Greene, Dale Herbert Sr.  
Hawk, Angeline  
Hendren, Viola Mary  
Hensley, Michael Ray  
Higgins, Carole Anne  
Hill, Frank Jr.  
Johnson, Esther Marie  
Keller, Cheryl Ann  
Koeppe, Larry Allen  
Leslie, Renda Lynn  
Mager, Michael Allen  
Matrious, Daniel Rae  
Matrious, Gordon Wayne  
Modaff, Kim Alane  
Morrison, Debra Jean  
Mortenson, Richard Raymond  
Moxness, Linda Lou  
Nickaboine, Maureen Cynthia  
O'Brien, Jay Jay  
Parker, Anita Rose  
Pindegayosh, Dale John  
Premo, William Richard Jr.  
Sam, Herbert  
Sheff, Corrina Marie

Shingobe, Susan M.  
Shingobe-Garbow, Laura Ruth  
Todd, Vanette Louise  
Turner, Carol Ann  
Upegui, Anita Louise  
Wade, Kenneth Laverne Sr.  
Winiecki, Yvonne Cecelia  
Wistrom, Douglas Alan  
Woyak, Lucille Mabel

### Happy December Birthdays:

A very happy birthday to My  
Lil Sis, **Deb Morrison** on 12/3  
from her Big Sis, "Nan-nee". •  
Happy 10th birthday **Leland  
Sam** on 12/8 with love from  
Mom & family. • Happy 1st  
birthday **Unique Beaulieu**  
on 12/11 with love from Mom  
and family. • Happy birthday  
**Damian Smith** on 12/13 from  
"Auntie, Auntie"! • Happy  
birthday **Wesley** on 12/16, love

Dad, Melissa, Braelyn, Peyton,  
Eric, Bianca, Henry, Papa  
Brad, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle,  
Auntie Val, Pie, Kevin, Auntie  
Randi, Auntie Rachel, Uncle  
Waylon, Rory, Uncle Jay, Taylor,  
Adam, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, and  
Lileah. • Happy birthday **Tyler**  
on 12/19 from Val. • Happy  
birthday **Brittany Beaulieu**  
on 12/24 with love from Mom  
and family.

### Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated 17th birthday  
**Joseph Bastedo Jr.** with love  
from Mom and family. • Happy  
belated birthday **Grandpa John  
Stately** with love from Mom  
and family. • Happy belated  
7th birthday **Philip Benjamin**  
with love from Mom and  
family. • Happy belated 11th

birthday **Blade Bastedo** with  
love from Mom and family. •  
Happy belated birthday **Vincent  
Beaulieu** with love from Mom  
and family.

### Other Announcements:

Congratulations to **Joseph  
Bastedo Jr.** for earning his  
GED on October 14th. With love  
from Mom and family. • Happy  
Holidays from **Dani Beaulieu  
& family!**

### Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief  
message that is **20 WORDS OR  
LESS** to Myles Gorham at  
[myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com](mailto:myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com)  
or call **612-465-0653**.  
The deadline for the January  
issue is December 15.



### Early Voting, Election Day Events Increase Turnout

The Mille Lacs Band government put a lot of emphasis on voting this fall — hosting a Get out the Vote rally and providing rides to the polls for early voters and on Election Day. Over 60 government employees voted early on Monday, Oct. 31. Among those who voted at the Mille Lacs County Courthouse in Milaca were Tammy Smith (with Rico Harvey), Chris Weyaus, Ginger Weyaus, Joanne Boyd and Tes Sam. On Nov. 8, Carmen Green, Dana Skinaway-Sam and David Sam got their "I Voted" stickers at Kathio Township Hall. Nay Shing Students also got into the act, creating posters to encourage voting.

### Food Shelves Open in All Districts, Surrounding Area

As part of the ongoing battle to combat the opioid crisis, the tribal government decided to eliminate the Food Voucher portion of the Emergency Services Loan Program effective Thursday November 3, 2016.

The Band continues to operate food shelves in each district, as well as the FDPIR Commodities Program, ensuring anyone in a true food emergency has access to it. Additionally, neighboring communities also operate food shelves that can be accessed if anyone does find themselves in need of short-term food support.

For information on Mille Lacs Band food shelves and the commodities program, call 320-532-7880.

Mille Lacs Band Food shelves:

- District I Emergency Services Building
- District II East Lake prior Assisted Living Units
- District III Lake Lena Health & Human Services Clinic

For another listing of food shelf sites based on your town, please see:  
[foodpantries.org/st/minnesota](http://foodpantries.org/st/minnesota)

### RECURRING EVENTS

#### District I Dream Catcher Making

Monday, December 5, 12, and 19: 5:30 – 8 p.m. at the DI Community Center

#### District I Yoga

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at the DI Community Center

#### District I Open Gym

Open Gym is held at the DI Community Center

Mondays and Tuesdays: 3:30 – 9 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14, 21, and 28 with Pool League Night: 3:30 – 9 p.m.

Thursdays with Basketball League Night: 3:30 – 9 p.m.

#### District II-A Ojibwe Language Classes with Niib

Mondays, 6 p.m. at the Chiminising Community Center

#### Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds (1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.)

#### Mino Minwaadizii Ikewewug (Lead a Good Life Women)

Fridays, 6 p.m. at the Mino Bimaadiziwin Hotel (Old Budget Host)

#### Ojibwe Language Tables Classes with Niib

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. at the District I Community Center

Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Aazhoomog Community Center

Thursdays, 6 p.m. at Hinckley Corporate building

Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Division of Indian Work (1001 East Lake St., Mpls.)

## MANIDOO-GIIZISOONS LITTLE SPIRIT MOON

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Want your event here?</b> Email <a href="mailto:myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com">myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com</a> or call 612-465-0653.</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://millelacsband.com/calendar">millelacsband.com/calendar</a> for additional Mille Lacs Band events.</p> <p>Also see below for recurring events.</p>				<p><b>1</b> <b>Urban Area Circle of Health Outreach</b> 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Urban Office</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Bob &amp; Perry Ceremonial Dance</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>Bob &amp; Perry Ceremonial Dance</b> <b>Storybook Time and Shoulder Bag</b> Noon – 3 p.m. <b>Birch Bark Ornament Workshop</b> Noon – 4 p.m. ML Indian Museum <b>Urban Area Holiday Party</b> 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Mpls. American Indian Center</p>
<p><b>4</b> <b>Sons of Tradition</b> 1 – 3 p.m. Red Brick House</p>	<p><b>5</b> <i>Izhaa: S/he goes to a certain place</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>DIII Wellbriety Meeting</b> 12 p.m. Aazhoomog Clinic</p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>District I Christmas Dinner</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>DII-A Circle of Health Outreach</b> 1 – 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Aazhoomog Community Meeting/Holiday Celebration</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center <b>ADULT (18+) District III Band members and spouse only</b> Call Monica at 320-384-6240, ext. 3224 to RSVP</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>Ojibwe Mitten 2-Day Workshop</b> 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. ML Indian Museum</p>
<p><b>11</b> <b>Ojibwe Mitten 2-Day Workshop</b> 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. ML Indian Museum</p> <p><b>Sons of Tradition</b> 1 – 3 p.m. Red Brick House</p>	<p><b>12</b> <i>Iwidi: Over there</i></p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>DIII Wellbriety Meeting</b> 12 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>DII-A Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b> <i>Ji: In order to</i></p>	<p><b>16</b> <i>Iniw: those inanimate things</i></p>	<p><b>17</b> <i>Waamaating: Walmart</i></p>
<p><b>18</b> <b>Sons of Tradition</b> 1 – 3 p.m. Red Brick House</p>	<p><b>19</b> <i>A'aw: that animates being</i></p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>DIII Wellbriety Meeting</b> 12 p.m. Aazhoomog Clinic</p>	<p><b>21</b> <i>Imaa: There</i></p>	<p><b>22</b> <i>Miinawaa: and</i></p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>MLBO Noon Closing</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> <i>Adaawe: S/he buys</i></p>
<p><b>25</b> <i>Azhigan(an): Sock(s)</i></p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>MLBO Government Offices Closed</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>District I Healthy Heart 12</b> <b>DIII Wellbriety Meeting</b> 12 p.m. Aazhoomog Clinic <b>Healthy Heart Class with Cyndy Travers</b> 12 – 1 p.m. DI Community Center <b>Sobriety Feast with Behavioral Health</b> 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p><b>28</b> <i>Waabam: See him</i></p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>DII-A Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>30</b> <i>Ayaa: S/he is in a certain place.</i></p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>DI New Year's Eve Sobriety Feast</b></p>

# Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College Course Offerings

Spring 2017: January 9, 2017 – May 16, 2017

\*Prerequisite – refer \*\*\*ON CAMPUS

Course #	Course Name	Instructor	Room	Time	Days	Cr.
<b>American Indian Studies</b>						
AMIN 1050	01 Anishinaabeg of Lake Superior	Dan Jones	ITV	1:00-2:15	MW	3
AMIN 1050	20 Anishinaabeg of Lake Superior	Candi Aubid	ONLINE			3
AMIN 2001	01 Federal Laws and the American Indian	Matt Northrup	ITV	4:00 – 5:15	TH	3
<b>Anishinaabe</b>						
ANSH 1002*	01 Anishinaabe Language II	Dan Jones	ITV	11:00-11:50	MTWH	4
ANSH 1002*	90 Anishinaabe Language II	Dan Jones	ITV	6:15-7:55	MW	4
ANSH 2002*	01 Anishinaabe Language IV	Dan Jones	ITV	12:00-12:50	MTWH	4
<b>English</b>						
ENGL 1101*	03 College Composition (Blended)	Staff	ITV	2:00-3:15	TH	3
ENGL 1101*	20 College Composition	Rain Newcomb	ONLINE			3
ENGL1102*	20 Advanced College Composition	Darci Schummer	ONLINE			3
ENGL 2200	01 American Indian Children's Literature	Staff	ITV	3:00 – 5:45	W	3
<b>Geography</b>						
GEO 2010	20 Disasters	Elizabeth Jones	ONLINE			3
<b>History</b>						
HIST1051	01 American Indian History II	Staff	ITV	4:00-5:40	MW	4
<b>Mathematics</b>						
MATH 1025*	Intro to Contemporary Mathematics	Connie Wappes	ITV	9:00-10:15	TH	3
<b>Music</b>						
MUSC 1035	American Indian Music	Lyz Jaakola	ITV	9:00 – 10:15	MW	
<b>Psychology</b>						
PSYC 2002	01 Indigenous Psychology	Candi Aubid	ONLINE			3

## Tab Renewal

### MLBO Department of Motor Vehicles

Aaniin,

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Motor Vehicles will be coming out to Aazhomooq and Hinckley on Thursday, December 1, 2016, and to East Lake on Friday, December 2, 2016 for the 2017 Tab Renewals. We will **not** be registering any new

vehicles; this will be for **2017 Tab Renewal only!** Please bring your registration card with.

#### MUST HAVE PROOF OF CURRENT INSURANCE

#### District III: Thursday, December 1

- Aazhomooq Community Center  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Hinckley — The Lodge-Corporate Bldg  
1 – 4 p.m.

#### District II: Friday, December 2

- East Lake Community Center  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call 320-532-7498 or 800-709-6445, ext.7498.

Miigwech,  
Deanna Sam  
Deputy Registrar

## Reporters Wanted, Submissions Accepted

The Mille Lacs Band and Red Circle Agency are seeking Band members in all three districts to cover events and provide content for the *Inaajimowin* newsletter, millelacsband.com, and the Facebook page. If you or someone you know enjoys being out in the community, is active on social media, likes taking photos, or has an interest in writing, send an email to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. No experience necessary. Hours and pay will depend on work experience, education and availability. You can also simply submit articles or photographs, and if your work is used you will receive reimbursement.

## Aazhomog Clinic Hours

Providers are at the Aazhomog Clinic in District III from Monday through Thursday. The dentist is in the office on the last Friday of every month, and the foot doctor is available the first Wednesday of every month. Call 320-384-0149 to make an appointment or ask a question.

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## Commissioners and Staff on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Susan Klapel, *DNR Executive Director*,  
320-362-1756

Ed Minnema, *Commissioner of Education*  
320-630-0674

Sam Moose *Commissioner of Health & Human Services*, 320-630-2607

Percy Benjamin, *Commissioner of Community Development*, 320-630-2496

Michele Palomaki, *Assistant Commissioner of Administration*, 320-630-7415

Catherine Colsrud, *Commissioner of Administration*,  
320-292-0258