



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

George Morrow III, Damon Paneck (working with the Band through a partnership with the Park service), Jordan Williams, Jamaal Baird, Nathan Pendegayosh-Tulenchik, Jacob Horbacz, Daryl Aubid, Elijah Staples, Azhibik Aubid. Not pictured: Matthew Hatfield.



By Brett Larson InaaJimowin Editor

Eli Staples was helping DNR Commissioner Katie Draper at 11:40 on April 6 when he heard the radio chatter about a wildfire in District I. Jordan Williams had received the report of a wildfire near the Band's wastewater treatment plant on Timber Trail Road, and from the weather that day and the information being exchanged, Eli knew it could get bad.

"The conditions that day were close to red flag," said Eli. "I knew what potential it had, so I called for backup on my way there."

The state's forestry office in Onamia sent five to the scene, and a DNR helicopter was also brought in.

Eli took charge as Incident Commander — a role he's been trained for. "When I got there, it was 10 to 15 acres, but it grew quickly to 20-25 acres," said Eli.

"I gave them their assignments and told them to be safe, because it was going to move."

"IT WAS A GOOD TEAM EFFORT. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THE ENTIRE CREW."

— LEAD WILDLAND TECHNICIAN ELI STAPLES

The fire had started by the road — probably a cigarette butt or sparks from a vehicle — and spread through the dry grass and scattered trees up a large hill toward a tree line.

Beyond the trees was a grassy swamp, and past that, a residence.

With the crew's efforts — and a little help — they stopped it before it reached the tree line.

"We were flanking it pretty good and got the head fire down," said Eli. "Then the winds switched and worked in our favor, so we were able to put guys in position to work in tandem to lay it down. By then it was already about 34 acres."

Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper, who oversees the forestry department and wildland crew, was proud of their efforts. "The Wildland Crew goes above and be-

yond working for the Band, not only during fire season, but 365 days of the year," she said. "Their hard work and dedication to our communities does not go unnoticed."

"It was a good team effort," said Eli. "We couldn't have done it without the entire crew."

Trained and tested

Jacob Horbacz, the Band's forester, oversees the wildland crew, which normally has five members in District I, three in District III, and two in District II.

During fire season, the Band's crew headquarters in District I as the initial response team in the area, while the state covers initial response in District II and District III.

During the rest of the year, the wildland crew assists Jake with everything from forest inventory to land maintenance to trail work, logging, and snow plowing.

"We're basically the muscle for the DNR," joked Eli.



The wildland crew is highly trained and certified. "The basic introduction is a pretty intense week-long course," said Eli. "That's how you get certified as a wildland firefighter."

Jake added, "We have to pass health exams every three years, and every year we have to pass a fitness exam." The exam includes a

three-mile hike with a 45-pound vest. The hike needs to be completed in less than 45 minutes.

Some of the learning is on the job. Under the supervision of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the crew helps with prescribed burns for wildfire mitigation and habitat restoration (as they did on April 20, where the fire photos on the cover and above were taken).

Eli said he owes a lot to former fire crew leader Dean Staples. "A lot of the knowledge I have come from Dean, and it allows me to know what to do when it comes to dealing with large fires at Mille Lacs," said Eli.

BOATING ACCIDENT RESULTS IN TRAGEDY

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community is mourning the loss of a tribal community member due to a fatal boating accident that occurred on Wednesday evening, April 14, on Mille Lacs Lake.

"This is a tragic event for our community," said Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper. "Our hearts are heavy. This is a time for our communities to come together and be respectful to those who are grieving."

At approximately 7:07 p.m., Mille Lacs Tribal Police received a report of a capsized boat off Iskigamizigan landing on Shaw Bosh Kung Drive with two people hanging onto the boat and two people afloat in the water. Tribal Police responded to the scene and requested an ambulance, Garrison Fire Department, and a rescue boat from state or tribal conservation officers.

The capsized boat belonged to John Holmquist, 35, of Garrison, who was setting nets with three others when the boat took on water and became partially submerged approximately 200 yards offshore.

With no rescue boat available, Band members Curt Kalk and Luther Sam launched a privately owned boat to assist with search and rescue. Kalk and Sam found three of the boaters and brought them to the landing where they were taken by ambulance to Mille Lacs Health System in Onamia.

After continued searching, Kalk and Sam later found Holmquist, who was not responsive or breathing. At the landing, tribal police and tribal community members began CPR on Holmquist until emergency medical services arrived and took over care. Holmquist was transported to Mille Lacs Health System in Onamia where he was later pronounced dead.

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police, Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office, Mille Lacs Health System Emergency Services, and Cuyuna Regional Medical Center Ambulance services responded to the scene.

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government offices were closed on Friday, April 16, and Friday, April 23, out of respect for the many who were in grief over the tragedy.

PROCEEDINGS STAYED IN LAWSUIT AGAINST COUNTY

Judge Susan Richard Nelson entered an order on April 14 staying further proceedings in the law enforcement litigation pending resolution of an appeal by Mille Lacs County Attorney Joe Walsh and Sheriff Don Lorge. The effect of this order is that Judge Nelson will not make a ruling on the reservation boundary issue until after the appeal is decided, which is expected to take about a year.

NEW HOUSING PROGRAM, RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH AANJIBIMAADIZING. SEE PAGE 10.

MESSAGE
FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Boozhoo, Band Members. We have now been living in a global pandemic for one year. COVID-19 has changed so many things about how we interact as a community and how we serve the people as a Band government. Elders who had never heard the word “zoom” before are now experts at zooming, and I’m working toward becoming an expert. Many people who had never used telehealth before now prefer telehealth visits with their doctor over driving long distances to a clinic office. Technology has allowed us to continue functioning as a government, and it is what has allowed many people to remain connected with their family members.

The problem is that during this pandemic where technology has been the only way to receive many services and remain in contact with one another, the lack of technology means that some of us have been left behind, either through very poor internet connections or no internet. Most of us depend on the internet in our daily lives, but all three of our districts are underserved when it comes to broadband internet. After schools shifted to distance-learning from home, many kids struggled to keep up because of poor internet. Millions of people in rural America, including out-state Minnesota, have not been able to receive the same services as those who live in urban communities with strong broadband.

The Band has been advocating for rural broadband for our communities for many years, but it took a pandemic for Congress and the Administration to do something about it. Finally, there are significant federal dollars set aside for bringing technology to rural America through the recent COVID-19 relief bill, the “American Rescue Plan Act” of 2021. Even more assistance for technology will be coming in a new bill that will target supporting infrastructure in America with a heavy focus on rural America and Indian tribes. The Executive Branch and the Corporate Commission are teamed up with other community organizations and federal agencies and working hard on this project, but it will not happen overnight. I just want you to know this is a top priority and I am hoping all our communities

might be better served within a year.

Like last month, my April calendar was filled with almost daily consultation sessions with the federal government. I’ve mentioned before that President Biden issued an executive order in January requiring all 67 federal agencies to complete government-to-government consultation with tribal governments by April. These are critical opportunities to tell the federal government what we need. It seemed that most agencies waited until late-March to schedule these, so our priority has been to make sure that every consultation is covered so that our Band has a say in these discussions.

In early April, a three-branch meeting was held where we heard an outstanding presentation from the Judicial Branch about the need for what is called a healing-to-wellness court. This is a very important project that could play a key role in helping families navigating the judicial system to stay together. It would require changes to Band Statutes through our legislative process, but the concept was received very favorably by all three branches at this meeting. I am committed to working with the Legislative and Judicial branches on this matter

On April 6, I was one of about 10 tribal leaders from across the country who were invited to attend a special White House meeting with Gene Sperling, an economist who was appointed by President Biden to serve as the “COVID-19 rescue plan czar.” His job is to oversee distribution of the \$1.9 trillion dollars in federal relief money going out to communities. My key points focused on fair treatment for tribes when it comes to distribution of relief money and support for important projects at Mille Lacs.

We had a big victory last month as well, when the Environmental Protection Agency partially rejected the list of “impaired waters” that Minnesota submitted to EPA. The partial rejection was due to the state refusing to list any waters loaded with sulfate where our manoomin grows. Grand Portage is most impacted right now by sulfates in their waters due to mining, and has been leading all Minnesota tribes in coming

together to fight this issue. EPA held a consultation with tribes in mid-April and we provided our input about next steps. The point I made during one of our consultations was that manoomin is critical not just for food, but for our ceremonial life — and the state’s refusal to list any polluted waters where manoomin grows is discrimination against manoomin, which is discrimination against American Indian people. I was told this environmental justice argument made an impact in EPA’s decision, which shows how important it is that we are always part of these discussions. Tribes have been fighting this battle for many, many years, and this is the first time EPA has taken action against the State. Grand Portage led the way, and we are all very happy about this victory.

April was full of daily meetings on critical topics. Some of those include attending Band Assembly sessions, a Cabinet meeting with our commissioners, a meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Executive Board, MCT Finance Committee discussions, meetings with state commissioners, and as I write this column we are closing the month with a regular quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. I will update Band members about this meeting next week in one of my video updates. Please look for those on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe’s Facebook page.

I want to close this month’s column with a message to all who have been impacted by the unexpected loss of loved ones and to those impacted by the tragic boating accident that occurred in April. Our community has experienced so much loss this year. So much grief and loss can feel unbearable at times, but as a community we are all here for you. We have excellent counselors through our Department of Health and Human Services whose job is to help Band members in times of crisis. If you are someone who is wondering whether or not you should call and ask for help, that means you are someone who absolutely does need to call. Support is available at 320-674-4385. Band members, please take good care of yourselves and watch out for one another. Miigwech.



WEWIN BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

The women of WEWIN — Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations — hosted a breakfast fundraiser on April 1 at the old District I Community Center. Miigwech to all for their time and effort, and to Val Harrington for the photos. WEWIN is a group of Native women committed to the following purposes: To strengthen and sustain tribal cultures for the benefit and destiny of the children; To educate about tribal cultures, the history of native people, the inherent rights we exercise for the good of our people and others, and of current issues that affect our well being; To promote honest, dignified tribal leadership who reflect pride for those we represent; To support and encourage tribal leadership; To install a balance between service and solitude and between fulfilling responsibilities and devotion to loved ones; To express encouragement, understanding, and joy to others dedicated to following the guidance of our creator and serving our communities as role models.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

2020 OFFICIAL ACTS PUBLISHED ONLINE

Revisor's Office compiles resolutions, orders, ordinances, and more

Revisor of Statutes Hanna Valento has compiled all 2020 official acts of the Mille Lacs Band tribal government into a single document that is available on the website at millelacsband.com/government/legislative-branch#OfficialsActs.

Publication of the Official Acts is required by Title 25, Section 8 of Band Statutes. The new law was established in December of 2020 by Ordinance 08-21.

"The Official Acts is the first of its kind, which makes them pretty special," said Hanna. "However, as a note, the first time they printed the statute book in 1996, the book had two volumes, the first being the Constitution and Titles 1-15 and the second volume being Titles 16-25 and Executive Orders and Commissioner's Orders."

The Official Acts document is over 1,000 pages long and is summarized in the Introduction: "In Fiscal Year 2020, the Band Assembly approved 160 Resolutions and four Legislative Orders. The Band Assembly also approved 64 Ordinances, 54 of which were signed into law by the Chief Executive. The Secretary-Treasurer issued one Secretarial Order; the Chief Executive issued four Executive Orders; the Chief Justice issued four Chief Justice Orders; the Commissioner of Health and Human Services issued two Commissioner's Orders; and the Solicitor General issued one Opinion of the Solicitor. Each of these records are included in the 'Official Acts' for 2020."

Three Legislative Orders made significant changes in the operations of the Legislative Branch, including staff continuity (Order 27-20), establishment of procedures for drafting legislation (28-20) and establishment of agenda and live-streaming procedures (30-20).

The longest chapters are Chapter 3: Ordinances, at more

than 350 pages, and Chapter 4: Resolutions, at nearly 800 pages. Many of the Ordinances are appropriations and supplemental appropriations for government departments. Others are amendments to Statutes — some of which were approved and some vetoed by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Among the most significant was Ordinance 27-20 establishing Title 27 — Emergency Management, which laid the legal groundwork for the Band's response to COVID-19. Resolutions included enrollment approvals and denials, lease cancellations and authorizations, spending authorizations for Corporate Ventures and government departments, grant and membership approvals, joint powers agreements, and other actions.

Executive Orders issued in 2020 include the State of Emergency declaration (2020-03) and the Stay at Home Order (2020-05). The two Commissioner's Orders issued were the original mask requirement and the first extension of the requirement. The Solicitor's Opinion came in response to former Rep. Sandra Blake's request for clarification as to the use and authorization of the new District I Community Center. Chief Justice Orders allowed for continued Tribal Court service during the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing electronic courtroom appearances and document filings.

"The Official Acts, though long, will help the Band keep record of all the ordinances, resolutions, orders, and opinions that flow through the government and create transparency from all branches of government," Hanna said. "We also plan on compiling ordinances, resolutions, orders, and opinions all the way back to the 1980s and adding those to the website. Moving forward, the Official Acts will be on the Band's website and printed once a year."

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

For complete updates, see millelacsband.com/news.

April 5-8 — Band Assembly participated in a three-branch meeting hosted by the Judicial Branch on Monday, April 5.

Band Assembly occurred through conference call and Zoom on Wednesday, April 7. Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe presented on Hotel Project Refresh.

A formal public hearing was held on proposed Title 3 revisions and Rules of the Band Assembly.

Band Assembly approved several contracts and agreements and Band Assembly Bill 19-03-33-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Revisions for Education, Natural Resources, Health & Human Services, Administration and Community Development for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021.

A Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting occurred through conference call and Zoom to approve and deny enrollment applications.

On Thursday, April 8, Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly members, Legal Counsel, Revisor of Statutes, Staff Attorney, Legislative Staff, and Commissioner of Finance. On the agenda was a workshop on Title 3 and Band Assembly Rules.

Wednesday, April 14 — Band Assembly occurred through conference call and Zoom. After approval of the agenda and minutes, several contracts for individuals to serve on the Aanjibimaadizing Ojibwemowin Strategic Committee were taken from the table and denied. In a note for the record, Band Assembly said they are supportive of language revitalization and would like the amount of the contracts to be fiscally responsible by grant guidelines and follow procurement process, with a complete plan in place.

The following were approved along with one contract and one agreement:

— Band Assembly Bill 19-03-34-21: A Bill amending Title 15 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes ("MLBS") for the purposes of clarifying and correcting § 804(i). On March 24, 2021, the Chief Executive signed into law Ordinance 31-21 for the purposes of clarifying and correcting Chapter 2 of Title 15. As an unintended consequence, Ordinance 31-21 superseded Ordinance 02-19, which was signed into law on October 22, 2018. This bill is designed to reconcile Ordinance 31-21 and Ordinance 02-19. Sponsor: District II Representative.

— Resolution 19-03-52-21: A Resolution Approving the Revised Public Law 102-477 Master Plan for the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the Time Period Beginning October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2022. The resolution was approved with a waiver of the formal reading.

Two land lease resolutions were tabled, and one was approved. Four foster care licenses were approved.

April 21-22: There was no Band Assembly meeting on April 21, but District III Representative Wally St. John held a District III Community Meeting.

On Thursday, April 22, Legislative held a work session on Band Assembly Rules and Title 3.



CLEANING UP THE COMMUNITY

District I community members joined forces to clean up the park on March 28, led by District I Representative Virgil Wind. Virgil posted photos and a message of thanks on his Facebook page: "Sending a huge shout out to everyone that came out today and helped with the District I park cleanup/sweep today. You are all awesome! Lots of great people helping to keep our communities safe! Was nice to see you all. I want you all to know how much you are appreciated!" Photos by Luther Sam.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Fond du Lac wins halt to copper mine: The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa is breaking new ground in its fight against a planned \$1 billion PolyMet copper mine in northern Minnesota. Asserting its rights as a “downstream state” under the Clean Water Act, the Band filed a federal lawsuit in 2019 against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Corps responded by issuing a decision temporarily halting wetlands permits the agency previously provided to PolyMet that had allowed it to move ahead with the mine project. *Source: indiancountrytoday.com.*

Bois Forte member nominated for Interior solicitor: President Joe Biden nominated Native American law expert Robert Anderson, an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, to be solicitor of the Interior Department last month. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said, “Bob has extensive legal expertise with regard to Native American Tribes, public lands, and water — all of which will help advance Interior’s mission to steward America’s natural, cultural, and historic resources and honor our nation-to-nation relationship with Tribes in accordance with the spirit and letter of the law.” The Senate will have to confirm his new role. *Source: wisconsinexaminer.com.*

University of Minnesota confronts troubled history with tribal nations: Tribal leaders statewide have called on the U to own up to actions “rooted in institutional racism.” The Fond du Lac Band is looking for reparations for the use of tribal land to create the Cloquet Forestry Center; members of the Red Lake Nation are seeking answers about research conducted on children decades ago; and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council has criticized the U for not returning sacred objects it once displayed at its Weisman Art Museum to their rightful tribes. Tribal leaders are optimistic as University President Joan Gabel has met with leaders and made improving relationships a top priority. *Source: startribune.com.*

Red Lake shares portraits of recovery: A new video from the Red Lake Nation tells the recovery stories of three of the tribe’s Chemical Health employees. Funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Portraits of Recovery” was created as a way for members of the Red Lake Band to share the successes of their reservation-based recovery programs with the wider community. You can watch the video at vimeo.com/showcase/7568653/video/458304493. *Source: minnpost.com.*

Indigenous communities demonstrate innovation and strength during pandemic: A CDC report revealed COVID-19 incidence rates were 3.5 times higher for American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) compared to White Americans during the first months of the pandemic. COVID-19 has illuminated the legacy of neglect and oppression by the U.S. government and society at large — but it has also shone light on tribal strengths, including the power of self-determination in the fight against the pandemic. Indigenous values that center collective perspectives as opposed to individual gain have resulted in numerous examples of tribal leadership. *Source: brookings.edu.*

FEDERAL CONSULTATIONS

BAND TAKES STRONG ROLE IN TALKS

Biden Executive Order requires agencies to consult with tribes

On January 26, President Biden signed a memorandum titled “Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships” declaring, “It is a priority of my Administration to make respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, commitment to fulfilling Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations cornerstones of Federal Indian policy.” The Presidential Memorandum goes on to convey the administration’s commitment to fulfilling the consultation requirements of Executive Order 13175, a directive originally issued by President Clinton on November 6, 2000.

Mille Lacs Band officials have taken part in numerous consultations in recent months, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has been contacted directly by the White House on several occasions since the Biden-Harris team took office January 20.

President Biden also directs each agency to submit a detailed plan of action to implement Executive Order 13175. These plans “shall be developed after consultation by the agency with Tribal Nations and Tribal officials.” All plans are to be submitted to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) within 90 days (April 26, 2021).

Biden’s proclamation has led to a flurry of activity among tribes and federal agencies, which have never before partic-



President Biden said Tribal sovereignty and self-governance will be cornerstones of Federal Indian policy.

ipated in such extensive talks. The list of consultations that have already taken place is a long one.

As of April 7, 13 agencies had published deadlines for written comments and consultations: Agriculture, Defense, Health and Human Services, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Interior, Labor, State, Treasury, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

Within each agency are many departments that have held their own consultations, including Social Security, Small Business, AmeriCorps, Personnel, Management and Budget, etc. In addition, agencies have held regional consultations.

EPA SUPPORTS TRIBES ON MANOOMIN

State pollution control agency criticized for list of impaired waters

In spite of years of requests from the state’s 11 Indian tribes, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) failed to include impaired wild rice waters in its 2020 list of impaired waters, which it is required by the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to send to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

After the tribes pressed both agencies on the issue, the EPA sent letters last month partially disapproving the MPCA’s list because it did not include wild rice waters.

The tribes have been at odds with the MPCA on the issue for years. In an April 2020 letter to MPCA Commissioner Laura Bishop, the tribes said, “Since at least 2005, we have called attention to the MPCA’s failure to implement and enforce the wild rice sulfate standard in water quality permits.”

The letter concluded, “MPCA must enforce the law now... If MPCA excludes these waters from the final version of the list, the undersigned Minnesota tribes will urge the EPA to disapprove and take appropriate steps under CWA regulations, and will consider other legal options to protect Minnesota’s wild rice waters.”

When it came time to submit the list, MPCA did not comply with the tribes’ request. On February 8 of this year, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz informed tribal leaders that MPCA would not include impaired wild rice waters on the 2020 list.

The state’s 11 tribal leaders sent a strongly worded letter to the EPA on March 3. “We are beyond disappointed in this decision. The impaired waters list is a key tool for protecting water quality, one that MPCA holds under the federal Clean Water Act. The state is required to list all known, impaired waters. MPCA has years of data confirming the list of wild rice waters known to be impaired for sulfate, meaning they significantly and persistently exceed the state’s wild rice sulfate standard of 10 mg/L and wild rice growth is impaired.”

Among the reasons Governor Walz gave tribal leaders was a supposed “conflict” between state and federal law, the letter continued. “We assume this is a reference to a 2015 Minnesota session law that purported to forbid the MPCA from listing impaired wild rice waters until after new rulemaking — a session law that was illegal in the first place, that directed rulemaking that failed upon legal review, and that has by its own terms expired and not been renewed. Moreover, no ‘conflict’ is possible as between state and federal law in matters of Clean Water Act interpretation — federal law controls and any contrary state law is void.”

Tera L. Fong, Water Division Director for EPA Region 5, wrote to Assistant MPCA Commissioner Katrina Kessler on March 21, saying, “EPA reviewed Minnesota’s decision not to list water quality limited segments (WQLSs)... EPA disapproves Minnesota’s decision not to identify certain WQLSs for sulfate impairment because the existing and readily available data and information for those WQLSs indicate impairments for the numeric water quality criterion for sulfate. Minnesota’s decision to exclude these waters is inconsistent with CWA Section 303(d) and the implementing regulations.”

CHIEF EXECUTIVE MELANIE BENJAMIN SAID DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WILD RICE IS REALLY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ANISHINAABE PEOPLE. TRIBAL STAFF WHO WERE ON THE CALL SAID THEY WANTED TO CHEER WHEN MELANIE MADE THAT POINT.

Chief’s words have impact

On March 26, the EPA invited the Mille Lacs Band and the other 10 Minnesota bands to an April 9 online consultation regarding EPA’s addition of sulfate-impaired waters to Minnesota’s CWA Section 303(d) List.

Perry Bunting, the Director of Environmental Programs for the Band, participated in the consultation. He said the EPA’s partial disapproval of Minnesota’s impaired waters list, which came as a result of tribal action, was a new precedent. “It also shows how consultation can and should work,” said Perry.

Perry also noted that other Tribal environmental staff as well as EPA representatives stated that Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin’s statements during the consultation call had a strong impact on the EPA’s decision.

Melanie pointed out that discrimination against wild rice waters is really discrimination against Anishinaabe people, making it an environmental justice issue. “The EPA tribal liaison for Minnesota said Melanie’s statements really made an impression on EPA,” said Perry. “Tribal staff who were on the call said they wanted to cheer when Melanie made that point.”

PUBLIC HEALTH

HHS SHARES CDC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continue to update recommendations based on the latest studies. The most recent information can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

This set of public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people will be updated and expanded based on the level of community spread of the virus and the variants, the proportion of the population that is fully vaccinated, and the rapidly evolving science on COVID-19 vaccines.

For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 approximately two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or approximately two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen).

What you need to know

- Vaccines currently approved for use in the United States are effective at preventing COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help stop the pandemic.
- COVID-19 vaccines help protect people who are vaccinated from getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19 and may also help protect people around them.
- Some people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will still get sick because no vaccine is 100% effective.
- CDC recommends you get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as one is available to you.

Recommendations

The following recommendations apply to non-health-care settings.

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing.
- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households.
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings.
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers.
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations.

BIA LAUNCHES MISSING AND MURDERED UNIT

Secretary acts fast on issue that is a priority in Indian Country

Last month, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the formation of a new Missing & Murdered Unit (MMU) within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS) to provide leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. The MMU will help put the full weight of the federal government into investigating these cases and marshal law enforcement resources across federal agencies and throughout Indian Country.

"Violence against Indigenous peoples is a crisis that has been underfunded for decades. Far too often, murders and missing persons cases in Indian Country go unsolved and unaddressed, leaving families and communities devastated," said Secretary Haaland. "The new MMU unit will provide the resources and leadership to prioritize these cases and coordinate resources to hold people accountable, keep our communities safe, and provide closure for families."

Approximately 1,500 American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) throughout the U.S., and approximately 2,700 cases of murder and nonnegligent homicide offenses have been reported to the Federal Government's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program.

A task force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives — Operation Lady Justice (OLJ) — was formed in 2019 to pursue these unresolved cases. Today's announcement builds on that work by designating new leadership and support positions, including a Unit Chief responsible for stakeholder collaboration, continued policy development, and overall performance of the unit. The Department is also designating new positions with existing federal funding to support the investigative needs of the MMU, including the collection and analysis of performance data and coordination of services with the families of victims.



WHETHER IT'S A MISSING FAMILY MEMBER OR A MURDER INVESTIGATION, THESE EFFORTS WILL BE ALL-HANDS-ON-DECK.

— SECRETARY DEB HAALAND

Investigations remain unsolved often due to a lack of investigative resources available to identify new information from witness testimony, re-examine new or retained material evidence, and review fresh activities of suspects. The MMU, in addition to reviewing unsolved cases, will immediately begin working with Tribal, BIA, and FBI Investigators on active Missing and Murdered investigations.

The MMU will also enable the Department to expand its collaborative efforts with other agencies, such as working to enhance the DOJ's National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), and developing strategic partnerships with additional stakeholders such as the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Units (BAUs), the FBI Forensic Laboratory, the US Marshals Missing Child Unit (MCU), and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

"Whether it's a missing family member or a homicide investigation, these efforts will be all hands-on deck," Secretary Haaland continued. "We are fully committed to assisting Tribal communities with these investigations, and the MMU will leverage every resource available to be a force-multiplier in preventing these cases from becoming cold case investigations."

For more information, please visit www.bia.gov/bia/ojs/missing-murdered-unit.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Statue of treaty rights activist headed for U.S. Capitol:

A statue of Billy Frank Jr., a Nisqually tribal leader and treaty rights activist, will soon grace Statuary Hall, where states from around the country send two figures to represent the hopes and dreams of their people. At an April 14 signing ceremony at the Wa He Lut Indian School on the Nisqually reservation, Washington Governor Jay Inslee said he was honored to sign a bill honoring Frank, whose statue will replace one of missionary Marcus Whitman. "Billy represents two basic Washington values, a thirst for justice, which he fought for, and the desire to protect our natural beauty and the natural world," Inslee said. *Source: startribune.com.*

Federal appeals court strikes key provision of Indian Child Welfare Act:

Legal experts are deeply concerned about a ruling from a federal appeals court that struck down parts of a law giving Native American families preference in the adoption of Native American children. The complex ruling by a sharply divided 5th Circuit court upholds a lower court's finding that the Indian Child Welfare Act's preferences for Native American families or licensed "Indian foster homes" violate constitutional equal protection requirements. Tribes see the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act as an important means of protecting families and culture. *Source: www.nhnews.com.*

Wisconsin officials warn against harassment of harvesters:

Tribal members began their annual harvest of walleyes in northern Wisconsin last week as state officials warned against harassment of the spearers as they practice their court-affirmed, off-reservation treaty rights. In 2020, a St. Germain man fired his gun as Ojibwe spearers boated on Little Saint Germaine Lake in Vilas County. James Kelsey, 62, pleaded no contest to using a gun while intoxicated in the incident. A Vilas County judge ordered him to pay a \$343.50 fine; he served no jail time. Kelsey claimed he was shooting at a red squirrel. *Source: www.jsonline.com.*

California tribal leaders say federal rule threatens health care:

Southern California tribal leaders claim a new federal rule threatening to kill more than 17,000 regulations could undercut health care for more than 20,000 American Indians. The rule, enacted during the waning days of the Trump administration, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to review, within five years, 17,200 of its 18,000 existing regulations. If the regulations are not reviewed, they will automatically expire. The rule could jeopardize such tribal programs as food distribution, substance abuse treatment, foster care, adoption, after-school, transitional living, and nutrition programs. *Source: www.dailybulletin.com.*

Wisconsin immersion school races to save Ojibwe language:

From its start 21 years ago, Waadookodaading Immersion School's work was imbued with the urgency to pass Ojibwe on to a new generation before the few remaining native speakers have died, taking with them the keys to an endangered language and the lessons it offered a post-colonized world. That urgency has grown as the pandemic has hit Native Americans harder than any other group. Elder Lee Staples said the normalization of Ojibwe, and the emergence of young speakers, brings relief. "It's a good feeling to know there are people who can carry on these ceremonies without me," Staples said. *Source: theguardian.com.*

DIABETES PROGRAM

NUTRITION, FITNESS, MEDICATION — DIABETES TRIANGLE OF TREATMENT

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

A familiar face and a new addition are working together to serve Band members who have diabetes — and those at risk.

Longtime fitness assistant Bobby Anderson is now the Diabetes Fitness Coordinator. He is joined on the team by Jackie Braun, the new Diabetes Program Coordinator. Bobby and Jackie work with the providers at Ne-la-Shing Clinic to offer a three-pronged approach to diabetes.

"The number one thing I tell patients with Type 2 diabetes, which is the most common type, is that it's really a triangle of treatment: diet, exercise, and medications," said Jackie, who started her position on January 4.

As Program Coordinator, Jackie oversees the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, a grant from the Indian Health Service. Jackie works with patients with diabetes and pre-diabetes, as well as those who are at risk due to family history or being overweight.

She also is responsible for individual and group education, community outreach, and health promotion. For example, you might have seen Jackie in a YouTube grocery store tour sharing nutritional information.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Native Americans (American Indians and Alaska Natives) have a greater chance of having diabetes than any other US racial group.

Jackie says that's due to a combination of genetic factors and insufficient access to healthy food in many tribal communities.

On the positive side, kidney failure has dropped among Native Americans more than any other group, showing that tribal communities and members are taking positive steps — including the "triangle of treatment" and a team-based approach.

Diving into nutrition

Jackie came to her interest in nutrition through sports. "I was always an athlete, so I was interested in how the food I ate affected my performance," she said.

She participated in diving, gymnastics, and track in high school and went to state in diving three times. She was good enough to compete during college on the 1-meter and 3-meter springboards, specializing in "twister dives."

Jackie grew up in Sauk Rapids, attended college at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and earned her master's degree in nutrition and dietetics from Northern Illinois University. During her graduate program, Jackie was a dietetic intern at the Indian Health Board in Minneapolis, where she led group wellness classes and developed the Indigenize Your Plate Challenge intended to celebrate traditional and contemporary ways of living.

As she was finishing her program in December, she started looking for work closer to her Minnesota home, and before she had even received her degree, she had a job offer from the Band. "When I started graduate school, I wasn't exactly sure which area of nutrition and dietetics I wanted to pursue, so I kept my options open," she said. "But when I worked with some certified diabetes educators and saw that there was a great need, I felt a calling in that area."

Jackie is committed to building the diabetes program in all three districts to give Band members the service they need.

Fitness champion

Like Jackie, Bobby came to his expertise in fitness through a long history in sports — in his case, martial arts.

Bobby took up martial arts as a youth in South Minneapolis.



Jackie has been conducting virtual grocery store tours on YouTube to educate Band members on healthy eating. See youtube.com/millelacsband.

After a successful career in the ring, including 16 grand national championships in kumite, he moved to Hinckley in 1998 to join the Mille Lacs Band community and start a fitness center. He continued to fight as well, winning a championship in 2006 and coming out of retirement in 2010 to win another heavy-weight belt (see below).

Fourteen years ago, he went to work for the Band as an assistant to long-time fitness coordinator Jim Ingle, who has since retired. Since then, he has received six fitness certifications and is also a certified life coach.

Bobby will rotate among Mille Lacs Band communities, with hours in District I on Tuesdays and Thursdays, District I on Mondays and Wednesdays, and District II on Fridays.

Bobby stresses low- to medium-impact cardio combined with upper body exercises. "I'm very committed to making other people's lives healthier," said Bobby. "I'm a strong believer in longevity, health, and nutrition, and I'm very dedicated to my new position."

In order to work with Bobby, patients will need a referral from their provider to the diabetes fitness program. The program is open to patients with diabetes, pre-diabetes, overweight, obesity, or at the discretion of the provider.

"We're really excited to have Bobby on board," Jackie said. "I'll focus on nutrition, and he'll focus on fitness. We'll share the patients between us, and with each of us sharing our expertise, they'll get the best of both worlds."



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Health and Human Services

Diabetes Fitness Program

Physical activity, healthy eating, and taking medications are all important components to help manage blood sugar.

Benefits of Exercise

- Lower blood glucose levels
- Protect against heart disease and stroke
- Weight Management
- Stress Management

Work with the Diabetes Program Fitness Coordinator, Bobby Anderson, to create a personalized fitness plan that works for you!



Stretching and Balance



Aerobic Exercise



Strength Training

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

- Ask your doctor if a referral to the Diabetes Fitness Program is right for you.
 - District I, Ne-la-Shing Clinic: 320-532-4163
 - District II, East Lake Clinic: 218-768-3311
 - District III, Aazhoomog Clinic: 320-384-0149
- Contact the Diabetes Program Coordinator at 320-532-4163, ext. 2591

BOBBY KNOWS FITNESS — AND WEIGHT LOSS!

As Diabetes Fitness Coordinator, Bobby Anderson helps those with diabetes or at risk to maintain their fitness and move toward a healthier weight.

As a lifelong athlete, he understands working out to build muscle and endurance.

But Bobby has also struggled with weight gain and learned to make lifestyle changes to bring his weight under control.

In 2014, Bobby won the Chief Executive's weight loss challenge. See photo at right.



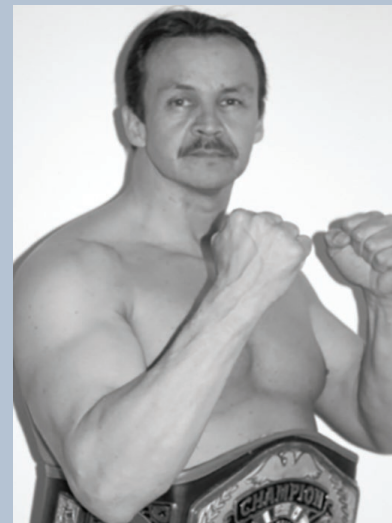
FROM THE ARCHIVES

From the May 2006 Inaajimowin:

Congratulations to Band member Bobby Anderson, who recently won the Minnesota Heavyweight Kickboxing Championship held at Grand Casino Hinckley. He defeated Tim Runquist for the title.

Tim Taggart and Steven Iyan-Mata helped him train for the event. "It was my best fight ever," said Bobby, who decided to end his kickboxing career on a high note.

(In 2010, Bobby returned to the ring for one more fight, winning the Warriors World Champion over Whitney Waddell in a 12-round fight.)



LEADERS REFLECT ON PANDEMIC SUCCESSES AND LESSONS

A recent article by the Brookings Institution, “Indigenous communities demonstrate innovation and strength despite unequal losses during COVID-19,” highlighted tribal efforts during the pandemic, saying communal values of relationship and connectedness allowed tribes to respond quickly and effectively to the crisis.

Victoria M. O’Keefe, PhD (Cherokee Nation/Seminole Nation) and Melissa L. Walls, PhD (Bois Forte and Couchiching First Nation Anishinaabe) said, “the innovations and impacts of Indigenous leadership during the pandemic provide striking examples of Indigenous peoples paving the way to protect communities and promote wellbeing.”

The Mille Lacs Band has been a case in point, beginning in early March of 2020 with the activation of the Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) and continuing to the present.

Instead of the partisan bickering, denial of science, and resistance to masking witnessed in the broader society, Mille Lacs leaders took the virus seriously from the start, and Band members stayed vigilant, allowing the Band to minimize the spread of the virus and its devastating effects — although the Band, like every community, was not immune to tragedy.

Last month, members of the Tribal Emergency Response Committee were asked to reflect on the past year and list some of their accomplishments and lessons learned.

Legislative Branch

Valerie Harrington is the Chief Communications Officer for the Legislative Branch of the Mille Lacs Band’s tribal government. She pointed to the Band Assembly’s quick passage of Title 27 — Emergency Management, which provided the legal authority for the Chief Executive to declare a State of Emergency and issue a stay-at-home order.

Band Assembly also started meeting through conference call to protect themselves and their families while continuing to conduct essential business. “The Elected Officials adapted extremely quickly to the changes of the meeting process,” said Val. “They were willing to support the TERC in any way while ensuring their districts’ needs were their top priority.”

Val gave credit to Parliamentarian Darcie Big Bear, who also adapted to new processes, and Brianna Boyd, whom she called “the backbone of Legislative.”

“Darcie’s work during Band Assembly and behind the scenes is vital to the acts of Legislation, and Brianna is always thinking of how to inform our Band members and has made critical office decisions that were often times very difficult.”

Val also emphasized the role of Legislative Legal Counsel and Staff Attorneys, who made sure the process of legislation continued, including statute revisions and public comment and hearings.

“I feel like the Legislative Team has stepped up, and the ultimate goal of ensuring the best interest of the Tribe and Band Members continues to be priority,” Val concluded.

Although Val didn’t highlight her own role, she initiated Legislative Weekly Updates to ensure Band members were made aware of Legislative business.

Health and Human Services

Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, was at the center of the Band’s response to COVID-19 — overseeing new activities like testing and vaccination, transitioning her department to telehealth, ensuring the food security of Band members, and working with federal, state, and local agencies to stay up to date on the latest science — all while moving her large staff into a new building.

In addition, the dental team remained fully functional during the pandemic with the leadership of Dr. Gupta, and the Circle of Health staff made a concerted effort to get more Band members than ever insured during the midst of the global pandemic.

Nicole gave special thanks to Public Health Director Lisa Blahosky-Olivarez and Clinic Manager Jenna Kuduk. “Both ladies have been at the forefront of the HHS pandemic response, from working testing sites to vaccine clinics and answering their phones during all hours. They work in a great partnership and have been integral to the COVID-19 response.”



Top: Nicole Anderson and Byron Ninham. Bottom: Monte Fronk and Val Harrington.

Nicole pointed to the Chief Executive’s video updates as an essential source of information for Band members during the pandemic.

She emphasizes that the pandemic is not over, and Band members need to remain vigilant in the face of a third surge. “You have the power to protect yourself by following the COVID-19 guidelines,” said Nicole. “Be aware of your surroundings, wash the hands, wear the mask, get vaccinated if you would like, and try to limit exposure.”

Education

Nay Ah Shing Assistant Principal Byron Ninham praised the school’s staff for implementing measures at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year following the guidance of the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Health. The measures included temperature checks in all buildings, alongside additional screening questions for admittance into the school building, mask wearing at all times, and partitions on desks, within front entrances, and in the nutrition serving areas.

Each building was also equipped with dual language signage (Ojibwemowin-English), sanitizing stations in each classroom, and sanitizing caddies for each instructor.

“All staff had an understanding that coming into this year it would be unlike any other, and everyone stepped up to meet the demands of in-person instruction as well as for our distance learning students,” said Byron.

The school had a 1-to-1 student-to-device ratio prior to 2019-20, and they adjusted with unlimited 5G hot spots for all students without reliable internet access. “We also were able to meet the needs of students as they changed with hard copy educational materials throughout the school year,” said Byron.

All positive COVID-19 cases are reported locally as well as to the BIE COVID-19 team. Nay Ah Shing Schools also has a plan to localize a spread or close contact and to notify all families and students appropriately.

Byron said the Nay Ah Shing School nurse has been an amazing resource, coordinating the three school buildings and staying well versed in the changing guidance and suggestions from regional and statewide partners. “She also coordinated alongside the Band’s HHS to ensure vaccinations that were available to priority level 1B employees were met and offered,” said Byron. “Nay Ah Shing administrators also coordinated with the state of Minnesota with vaccine allocations for staff that were in the high-risk population.”

The Transportation Department has also done an amazing job, Byron said. “Each day our bus drivers, alongside paraprofessional staff, were delivering meals to distant learners and also delivering hard copy instructional materials, in addition to morning and afternoon routes. These employees have adjusted to the demands of this school year admirably.”

Former Commissioner of Education Joycelyn Shingobe, who passed away earlier this year, was an important liaison with tribal government, Byron said.

Byron summarized the lessons he’s learned in responding to the pandemic: “If we work towards a common goal while respecting the guidance that is given to our leadership from our statewide partners, we can accomplish a lot. The world has gotten smaller through this pandemic with the ability to video conference and work remotely. We all need to do our part in these times especially.”

Principal Lehtitia Weiss added, “We all have worked so hard this past year to create an environment that is both safe for our students and staff yet inviting and fun. While it has been difficult to keep the momentum going, staff continue to amaze me with their commitment and dedication to our students.”

Public Safety

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk was as well prepared as anyone for a crisis, having devoted his career to ensuring that the Band had emergency procedures in place.

Monte, who works out of the Tribal Police Department, said, “Throughout the pandemic, calls for service were never compromised no matter what the need of our community members.”

He and his colleagues participated in federal, state, regional, and local calls in the beginning of the pandemic and shared information internally with the other TERC members.

They established safety protocols for calls for service and gained access to equipment and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) at no cost from federal agencies.

Monte also praised the communications efforts of the Band — in particular, Public Relations Director Vivian LaMoore. “The Mille Lacs Band has the only certified Tribal Public Information Officer (PIO) of the 11 Tribal Nations in Minnesota, which gives the Tribal PIO the tools to get the right information out, at the right time, and to the right people,” said Monte. “This led to an extensive plan to get information out to all of all districts and the urban area in the right platform that would appeal to Band members. In this case it was social media, which led to a noted reduction in rumors or misinformation that other Tribes had to deal with and couldn’t recover from.”

Monte said the Band has learned important lessons about maintaining government operations and services to Band members in all districts and the urban area with minimal staffing — known as “continuity of operations” in Emergency Management circles.

Monte also cited the creation of the Tribal Emergency Management Act, which formally recognizes Tribal Emergency Management and the TERC in Band Statute, along with their duties and responsibilities during a crisis.

Corporate

When Grand Casinos made the difficult decision to close on March 15, they were the first tribal casinos in the state to do so — and others quickly followed suit.

During the closure, however, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures jumped in early on to ensure food security for Elders and school-age children. Beth Gruber, Director of Planning and Community Engagement for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, said, “Our nimble team was able to shift gears quickly and begin a three-prong approach. First, we immediately deployed a daily food program for Nay Ah Shing Schools, as well as partnered with other local schools to assist with supplies and bottled water. The second initiative was to provide a bi-monthly supply of food to Elders, which kept Elders out of harm’s way and allowed a checkpoint for the Public Health team to have with Elders. Our final prong was producing quarantine packs for families who may have needed a 14-day supply of food and products.”

Beth also highlighted the work of Public Health Director Lisa Blahosky-Olivarez. “Lisa was instrumental in our work,” said Beth. “She always picked up the call and was on the front lines each time we did a distribution. Lisa leads by example and continues to be my go-to.”

SETH BENJAMIN BIG SCREEN DREAMS

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

With help from District Representative, Seth Benjamin is on his way

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

A lot of young people dream of stardom on stage, screen, or the playing field, but many are never able to take the first step due to lack of support, money, or both.

With help from the office of District I Representative Virgil Wind, and a supportive foster family, one young Band member is moving in the direction of his dream.

Seth Benjamin, a 15-year-old sophomore at Onamia High School, is enrolled in Society Performers Academy, where he takes online classes to learn to be an actor.

And Seth is doing it for the right reasons, too. "I want to help others, not just myself," said Seth. "Working towards my goal and striving to be great is a way of helping my family out."

Seth found the Academy on the Internet, and on a whim, he clicked "Audition."

"I signed up as a joke," he said. "I didn't think I was gonna get in, because they were only accepting a few. I had to go through a series of classes to see if I was good enough."

When he checked his email a few days later, he found out he made the cut. "I was so happy," he said. "It was crazy!"

From a young age, Seth has imagined himself on the big screen. "I wanted to be in the movies acting with Adam Sandler, but I never did anything about it," he said.

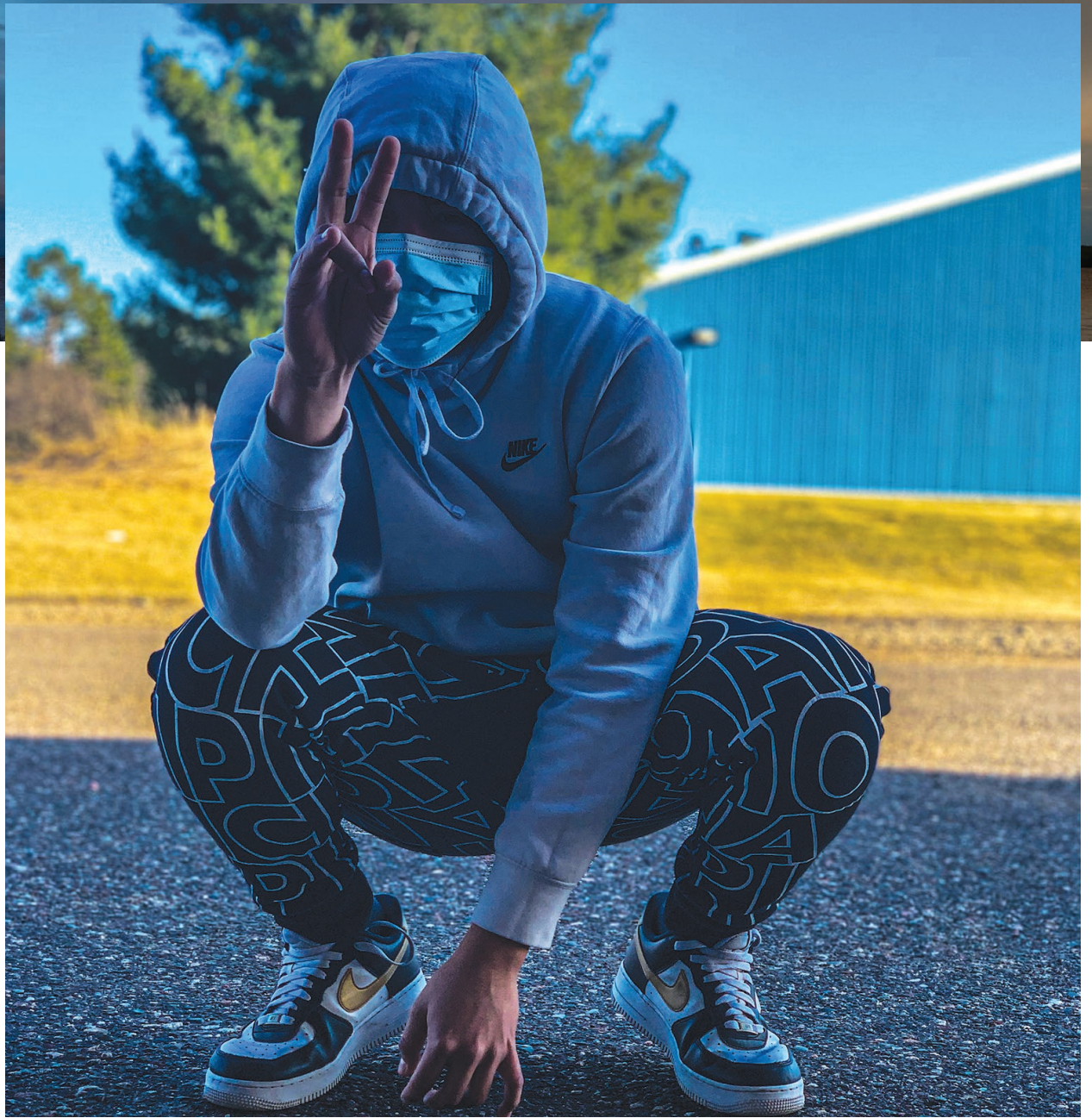
He thought about signing up for the one-act plays at Onamia, but it interfered with his other love: basketball.

"I've always wanted to see myself in a big movie, with everybody watching it," said Seth. "That would feel really nice."

Seth is most drawn to comedies, but he could also see performing in action movies or science fiction. He likes everything from Disney movies to *The 100* — a post-apocalyptic action series.

During his first week of classes, Seth was paired up with other students reading through dialogues. Each day, there were different teachers who brought their unique experience to the class and offered feedback on Seth's performances.

The classes have 15 or so students, age 13 to 18. Every two weeks, they will get a new script to memorize and perform.



"I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO STRUGGLE, SO I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO HELP OTHERS."

— SETH BENJAMIN

"After you get done reading, they give you things to work on," Seth said.

So far he's learned to imagine the situation the character is in and bring that understanding to the performance. He's also learned, ironically, to be himself.

"When you're putting yourself in that role and being someone else, it's kind of like imagining yourself in a different experience," Seth said. "You're trying to be yourself while you're

playing someone else."

After a month, he'll perform in front of a panel of judges to receive more insight on his performances.

Seth is grateful to District I Rep. Virgil Wind for supporting him. "I've known Virgil for a long time," said Seth. "He's a nice guy, and I thanked him for helping me out."

If a career in the movies or on the basketball court doesn't work out, there's always music. Seth is also an aspiring rapper who writes lyrics and puts them to beats created by producers he's in touch with. "I'm trying to get better at everything," he said.

Wherever he ends up, it won't be all about Seth. "I've seen what it's like to struggle, so I want to be the one to help others," he said.



SAVE THE DATE

55TH ANNUAL

MILLE LACS

BAND OF OJIBWE

TRADITIONAL

POWWOW

AUGUST 20-21-22, 2021

MC's:
Brad Harrington/
Mike Sullivan

Arena Directors:
Dean Smallwood/
Duck White

Host Drum:
Pipestone/
Timber Trails

Invited Drums:
TBD

MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Nay Ah Shing High School: June 3, 6 p.m.

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy: June 7, 4 p.m.

East Central High School: May 28, 7 p.m.

Hinckley-Finlayson High School: May 30, 2 p.m.

McGregor High School: June 5, 2 p.m.

Isle High School: May 28, 7 p.m.

Onamia High School: June 4, 7 p.m.

Graduates will be honored in the June 2021 issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin.

Send your graduate's photo, name, school, and future plans to news@millelacsband.com.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUD DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO NEEDS

Changing with the times to meet clients where they're at

The Mille Lacs Band's services to members with substance use disorder (SUD) have evolved over the years with improvements in scientific understanding and more effective approaches to treatment.

The program's new name — Department of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) — reflects changes in the Band's response to what was formerly known as chemical dependency or substance abuse.

"This is an exciting time to be a part of the new SUD department and team," said SUD Clinical Supervisor Desiree Montonye. "We have made some positive changes in how we work with clients and the community to ensure each client is getting what they need. No more cookie-cutter approaches to treatment — every client has a unique path, and their road to recovery is just as unique."

The term "Substance Use Disorder" is used in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, so the department is staying up to date with the official terminology.

But the term is also important because it doesn't have the stigma of "chemical dependency" or "substance abuse." Substance use disorder is just that — a disorder that needs treatment.

The new name also reflects improvements in the way the SUD Department serves Band members. As the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the medical profession to embrace new technologies, the opportunity has arisen for more efficiency in services to those with SUD.

The department's vision for 2021 is "A New Way of Care for MLBO SUD Services," which includes the following improvements in record keeping, patient access, structure, communication, and training:

- Client contact, scheduling, case management, admissions, treatment planning, client progress, discharge planning, reentry referrals, and billing will all be documented in electronic health records.
- Comprehensive Assessments (Rule 25s) will be provided on a walk-in basis, in telehealth format, and in person to capture client motivation to engage in treatment services.
- Programs will adapt to all of the client's needs, instead of adapting clients to the program or provider needs.
- The department will conduct ongoing case reviews, ongoing clinical supervision, training, and peer input/

GIVE US A CALL

To schedule Comprehensive Assessments (Rule 25s), individual counseling, or treatment admission, or if you have questions, please call 320-532-7773.

For openings at Four Winds Lodge Inpatient Program in Brainerd or with questions about the program, please call 218-454-8903.

With any additional SUD questions or concerns, please call Desiree Montonye, SUD Clinical Supervisor, at 320-630-8953, or Mark Watters, SUD Department Director, at 320-630-4791.

support.

With a goal of improved operational efficiency, the department is emphasizing the following:

- Utilize the services of Peer Recovery Coaches and Case Managers to provide client contact and transportation to attend program services and appointments.
- Use the Mille Lacs Band's Health and Human Services programs as a first choice of service referrals.
- Highlight areas of client need with program admission staff and counselors to ensure that the services are provided.
- Maintain client contact to ensure client needs are being met.
- Plan for solid aftercare reentry to provide ongoing support in all areas of the client's life.
- Work with other Band programs to aid with client service referrals.
- Seek additional grant resources to add additional programming.

SUD Director Mark Watters cites Elder Joe Nayquonabe Sr., who has said, "Culture and Spirituality are keys to stopping addiction. I'm a big believer in mind/body/spirit. To be healthy, you need to give attention to all three."

"We are here to assist community members," said Mark. "It's about offering all of the SUD support and services that the community needs."

AROUND THE RESERVATION

NEW DATES FOR OJIBWEMOWIN CLASSES WITH MEMENGWAAKWE AND OZAAWAANAKWAD

The Ge-Niigaanizijig program provides Ojibwe language classes with Memengwaakwe and Ozaawaanakwad. Due to the large class sizes, classes are now offered in each district. Please attend according to your district schedule.

May 3: Districts I and II

May 10: Districts IIa and III

May 17: All District Ojibwemowin Bingo

May 24: Districts IIa and III

June 7: District IIa and III

June 14: Districts I and II

June 21: Districts IIa and III

June 28: Districts I and II

If you need the Zoom link, feel free to reach out to your district coordinator.

DI: Justin Eich, 320-674-0246

DII: Cheyanne Peet, 320-362-1608

DIIa: Jennifer Gahbow, 320-630-0968

DIII: Stan Nayquonabe, 320-364-3858

DIII: Mardell Thomas, 320-630-1710

SIGN UP FOR YOUTH SUMMER SPORTS PROGRAMS

Ge-Niigaanizijig youth program has a host of fun sporting events planned for this summer, including golf league, 3-on-3 basketball, kickball, softball, basketball camp, football skills camp, and volleyball skills camp.

Events kick off June 7 with a golf tournament at Grand National Golf Club in Hinckley and continue several times each week until August 23.

The events will rotate among the districts giving youth a chance to meet and compete with friends from all reservation communities.

For more information, contact Tim Taggart at 320-339-6199 or tim.taggart@millelacsband.com.

A sports waiver and registration form are required for all students. You can download the form at <https://millelacsband.com/news/sign-up-now-for-ge-niigaanizijig-summer-sports>.

DNR HOSTS ONLINE SPEARING/NETTING MEETING

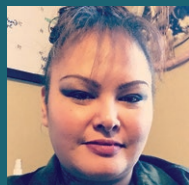
Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper presented the 2021 Spring Harvest Guidelines to about 50 Mille Lacs Band harvesters who joined a Zoom meeting on March 31. Commissioner Draper went over the basics of the 1837 Conservation Code, summarized netting and spearing regulations, gave an overview of the 2020 harvest, shared some changes for this year, and took questions from harvesters. For more on the meeting, see millelacsband.com/news/dnr-hosts-online-meeting-on-spring-fish-harvest. For spring harvest guidelines, see <https://millelacsband.com/news/spring-2021-harvest-guidelines-for-mille-lacs>.

Send news ideas, updates, and questions to new@millelacsband.com.

MEET THE SUD STAFF!



Allison Porter



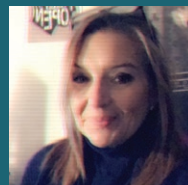
Carrie Sam



Chandell Boyd



Darren Kegg



Desiree Montonye



Deysha Olson



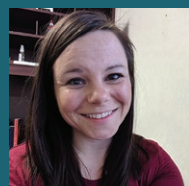
Freedom Porter



Lloyd Keoke



Mark Watters



Miranda Rawley



Patrice Lindstrom



Patrick Weyaus



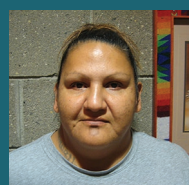
Richard Hill



Roberta Dunkley



Sandra Skow



Teresa Sam



Vicki Parsons

We're here to help! Call 320-532-7773

AANJIBIMAADIZING NEWS

ZAKAB BIINJINA

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COMES TO ALL DISTRICTS

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

In coming months, supportive transitional housing opportunities will be open to Band members in Districts I, II, IIa, and III, thanks to a partnership between Aanjibimaadizing and the Housing Department.

The Zakab Biinjina (“peace within”) project is an expansion of the program begun on the Ookwemin Loop in District I by the former Wraparound program. The current plan is for 20 units in District I, two in District II, four in Wahkon (serving District IIa) and 12 in Hinckley (District III).

Wraparound, which was under Health and Human Services at the time, is now called Facilitated Services and is part of Aanjibimaadizing — which falls under the Department of Administration.

According to Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom, the program works with many clients who are facing homelessness, which affects their ability to find employment. “It’s hard to get a job if you don’t know where you’re going to sleep at night,” she said.

Kristian Theisz is the Aanjibimaadizing Community Services Director. “It’s important to stress that this is transitional housing, not emergency housing, like the Minobimaadiziwin or the women’s shelter,” he said. “In order to be part of this program, you need to be working a case plan with Aanjibimaadizing for three months prior to placement.”

As an example, if a person is just getting out of treatment and needs a place to live, this is not an option unless they first enroll with Aanjibimaadizing and successfully work a case plan for three months.



A case plan includes setting goals and making progress — which may mean getting a driver’s license or GED, enrolling in classes or job training, holding down a job, starting a bank account, setting a budget, or working towards family reunification.

It all fits in with Aanjibimaadizing’s main goal: helping Band members become self-sufficient.

“Clients have to be active participants,” said Kristian. “The goal of Facilitated Services is to teach a process of problem solving. It’s not to solve people’s problems but to educate families in how to use their natural and professional supports to create options and take steps until they find success. If we don’t teach that process, we’ve just become a problem solver and haven’t done anything to break the cycle.”

Everyone in the Zakab Biinjina program will have a case manager and a facilitator. Case managers will work with clients on education and work experience that will help move families forward. Facilitators will help with more complex issues to deal with that require more time and planning.

“The combined efforts of the case managers and facilitators will help clients to set goals and identify resources to meet their goals,” said Kristian.

Zakab Biinjina is safe and sober housing. Alcohol or drug

use and criminal activity will not be allowed in any of the units.

“If folks have the responsibility with their probation agent to be in sober housing, we are not at that level of providing certified sober housing,” Kristian added. “But we are requiring sobriety for living in the housing.”

“Many people need that environment to support their well-briety,” said Tammy.

Although Aanjibimaadizing will cover the rent through a lease with the Housing Department, clients will be responsible for a maintenance fee. Help will be available for those with financial barriers.

The program will also include training in basic home maintenance.

As a transitional housing program, the time limit is one year, which may be extended for another year with extenuating circumstances.

The goal is to work with clients to find permanent housing within the Band or in the private market, whether it’s a rental unit or a mortgage.

Tammy is hopeful that the program might help those who have been banned from Mille Lacs Band housing to address the issue with the Housing Board.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS HELPING BAND MEMBERS

Aanjibimaadizing is eager to help Band members who have fallen behind in rent or utility payments

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

On May 21, 2020, Jeremy Fisher told his wife he wasn’t feeling well. He was short of breath climbing the stairs in his split-level home, so he thought he’d lie down and close his eyes for a moment.

The next thing he knew, he woke up in the hospital on June 27. As he lay in a coma brought on by COVID-19, his wife was told he wouldn’t make it, but somehow he pulled through.

“I had to learn how to talk, how to eat, how to swallow, how to walk,” said Jeremy, who lives in Iowa. “On July 24, I was able to go home with the assistance of a walker.”

Two weeks later, on August 9, a historic “derecho” storm blew through Iowa, and Jeremy and his wife found themselves homeless for six weeks, staying in hotels and relying on the kindness of friends and family. They weren’t able to return home until mid-September.

Jeremy is the son of Bugs Haskin from District I, who told him about the COVID-19 Rental Assistance (CERA) program administered by Aanjibimaadizing.

The program covers rent and utilities for anyone whose income was affected by COVID-19 — including out-of-state Band members.

Jeremy had no trouble qualifying, and he said the application process was painless. “It’s a really simple process,” he said. “1-2-3, you’re done, and they take care of everything.”

Jeremy encourages anyone who may qualify to apply. “It’s

a life-changing program,” he said. “When everything looked completely dark, this was the light of the end of the tunnel.”

Randell Sam’s story is not quite as dramatic — but the CERA program was also there for him.

Randell lost his full-time job when the gas station in District I closed last year. He found work at Grand Market, but not as many hours, and he fell behind on some utility payments.

“I applied with Aanjibimaadizing not knowing if I’d qualify, and it turned out they could fill my propane tank and pay my electric bill,” said Randell. “That was a relief!”

Randell also found the application process simple, and he encourages others to apply. “It’s a good program to help people keep the lights on,” he said. “Times are tough right now.”

How to apply

COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) helps renters who have fallen behind due to issues related to COVID-19 — and the Aanjibimaadizing staff are ready and willing to help Band members apply.

You can apply online at <https://mlbo-laserfiche.millelacsband.com/Forms/CERA>.

You can also contact an Aanjibimaadizing case manager or facilitator or visit the office for help with the application.

“We understand that many of our Band members have experienced challenges due to COVID-19 — whether they were sick themselves, or furloughed, or someone in their household

had unexpected needs,” said Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom. “We encourage you to apply online or give us a call even if you are unsure if you are eligible, and we’ll help you through the process.”

The program is open to Minnesota residents and out-of-state Band members who owe or are behind in rent or rental utility payments incurred after March 13, 2020, if the outstanding expenses are due to unemployment, illness, or another issue resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

An “eligible household” is defined as a tribal member, descendant, or any federally recognized tribal renter household that meets the criteria:

Applicants must provide ID, lease, income, and other information.

Funds will be paid directly to the vendor or company.

Applications will be accepted until December 13, 2021, at 5 p.m. The maximum eligibility period is 12 months.

If you have questions, contact Tammy Moreland at 320-292-1942 or tammy.moreland@millelacsband.com.

Due to the number of calls this program could receive, you may need to leave a message. Calls will be returned within 48 hours.

Mortgage payments and homeowner utility payments are not eligible. The COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance program is only open to renters and landlords.



Circle of Health
MNSure Outreach
Open House



When: May 2021
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: MLB District Community Centers

Circle of Health is inviting you to the MNSure Outreach Open House in your District. We will be there for you to update with Circle of Health and to make an appointment to sign up for insurance through MNSure. We will have all staff on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Emergency Services and Public Health will also have a table on site. We will be providing box lunches on your way out of the Open House.



We will be in your community on:

- District I New Community Ctr.:** May 4th and 20th
- District II Community Ctr.:** May 11th and 27th
- District IIA Chiminising Ctr.:** May 13th and 25th
- District III Aazhoomoog Ctr.:** May 6th
- District III Hinckley Comm. Ctr.:** May 18th

See a Circle of Health staff member on how you can win a Fitbit Inspire2 Watch at each site.

We will be providing PPE at each site and will be practicing Social Distancing. Everyone must wear a mask and be screened at the entrance.



CHIMINISING RUMMAGE SALE

By Chilah Brown Mille Lacs Band Member

Do you like garage sales? When was the last time you went rummaging?

Growing up, on the weekends I would look forward to spending time with my auntie Gina Sam Reese, aka "Auntie Gnatch." On Saturdays, we had a tradition of going "rummaging" or "digging" as she would say. As a little girl, I didn't quite understand or know what rummaging or digging was, until we got out of the car and realized that different people had all these treasures in their garages and were selling it for what seemed like small change.

I remember Auntie Gnatch would let me pick out books, Barbies, Barbie accessories, and Cabbage Patch dolls with the birth certificates with them. And my brother was always looking for He-Man, G.I. Joe, or WWF dudes and Hot Wheels. To us, these were real valuable items. I'm sure kids today will never understand how much fun it was to spend time with your aunts and grandma as you and your brother rummaged through someone else's wonderful toys they outgrew.

Although my aunts and grandma are no longer with us, the yard sale memories are. If you miss times like these or would like to create memories with your family, come see what an old-fashioned yard sale is like. You can have the chance to "dig" or rummage through the District IIA community's treasures that are no longer needed but may be a perfect item for you, someone you know, or a gag gift for that mean auntie or uncle.

Join the families of Chiminising on Friday or Saturday, May 7 and 8, when the community will be having 4-plus family individual rummage sales at each residence. Band members Sami Thomas, Barbara Jo Bearheart, Melanie Garbow, Chilah Brown, and Michele and Deb Wanless are Chiminising residents who are excited to invite Band members and non-members to the first Chiminising community event of 2021. Rummage sales are an all-time favorite weekend pastime that each member enjoys. Anyone who appreciates an old-fashioned garage or yard sale and is eager to experience them once again should come check this family fun event out.

To find the Chiminising Community Rummage Sales, follow Highway 27 to Isle. Once you get near Isle, follow the yard signs with balloons to Moose Drive. All families in the Chiminising area that are participating (or would like to) will have the yard sale sign or balloons in their yard for identification. The District IIA community encourages and supports COVID-19 safety protocols. Please wear your masks, and hand sanitizer will be available. If needed, masks will be available for sale. Hope to see you there!

SPRING HARVEST GLIFWC REPORTS HARASSMENT

Mille Lacs spearers targeted with rocks, threats

On the evening of April 10, at approximately 10 p.m., tribal harvesters reported harassment on Mille Lacs Lake in Mille Lacs County, Minnesota. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Conservation Enforcement responded to a location marked with a smartphone app, and later to a local residence, along with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Department. The incident remains under investigation.

Hostile and violent acts of aggression, including rock throwing, racial slurs, and threats of physical violence, occur during tribal spearfishing every year. Obstruction or harassment of individuals practicing their federally protected rights can lead to fines and even arrest.

The Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Department has submitted a report of the incident to the Mille Lacs County Attorney's Of-

fice for an assessment of potential charges. At least two separate spearing parties reported being subject to various types of harassment from the same source, including yelling, rock throwing, indecent exposure, and threats of physical violence.

GLIFWC is grateful to the local law enforcement and GLIFWC enforcement personnel who responded to the incident promptly, helping to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

GLIFWC Chief Conservation Enforcement Officer Adam McGeshick reiterates, "If you hear or see anything that resembles harassment of tribal harvesters, please report it to us or the State DNR immediately. If it's a potentially life-threatening incident, please call 911. Everyone has the right to harvest safely." The non-emergency response GLIFWC enforcement line can be reached at 715-685-2113.



PARTNERS IN RISK REDUCTION

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk taught First Aid and CPR/AED classes in East Lake on Friday, March 19. On March 24, Monte taught the Tribal DNR wildland firefighters their First Aid and CPR at Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley. Allina EMS also assisted by teaching firefighters the Stop the Bleed curriculum due to the rugged nature of their duties. "This shows the teamwork between Tribal Emergency Management and Allina in our community risk reduction efforts," said Monte. Monte also taught a CPR class for Isle School staff on April 1 — part of being a good neighbor by promoting Community Risk Reduction (CRR) efforts in schools that Native students attend. For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.

JIBENAANKENG

REMEMBERING RELATIVES WHO HAVE PASSED ON

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

This article was originally published in the May 2016 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.

Mii dash o'ow noongom waa-ni-dazhindamaan, mii i'iw Anishinaabe ezhi-wiindang jibenaaked awiya. Mii i'iwapii wisiniwin ani-atood ani-mikwenimaad inow odinawemaaganan gaa-aanjikiinijin. Mii-go gaye giishpin inendang a'aw Anishinaabe mii-go gaye inow oday'iimaanan, maagizhaa gaye op-waagaansan, maagizhaa gaye biindaakwaan da-niindaa'aapan inow odinawemaaganan gaa-wani'aajin.

What I am going to talk about today is what the Anishinaabe calls *Jibenaakeng*. This is when food is put remembering our relatives that have passed on. If the Anishinaabe so desires items of clothing, cigarettes, or snuff can be sent to their relative that they have lost.

Gaawiin ganabaj nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe ogikendanzi-

in o'ow bakaan eni-izhi-gaagiidong wiisiniwin naa-go anooj waa-niindaa'aad inow odinawemaaganan bimi-giizhigadinig. Ishke maa giizhiganikeyang giinawind, mii ingiw gidinawemaagananaanig iwidi eyaajig niibaa-dibokokewaad. Ishke dash omaa ani-ganoodamaaged awiya, mii i'iw iwidi ani-apagizondamawind a'aw Manidoo iwidi eyaad genawenimaad gidinawemaagananaan iwidi eyaanijin biinish gaye ani-apagizondamawimind inow odooskaabewisiman.

I think that a lot of our Anishinaabe do not know that there is a different way of talking when food and other items are put during the day for their relatives that have passed on. When it is daylight here for us, it is nighttime over there for our relatives that have passed on. When someone does the talking for this feast, he offers up the tobacco to the Manidoo and his helpers over there that takes care of our relatives.

Ishke dash o'ow giizhiganikeyang omaa akiing, mii i'iw ezhi-



chiged a'aw Manidoo iwidi eyaad, obi-izhinizha'waan odooskaabewisiman da-bi-naadinid i'iw wiisiniwin awegonen igo eni-atamawaad inow odinawemaaganan eyaanijin iwidi a'aw Anishinaabe. Mii dash ingiw oshkaabewisag obi-naadinaawaa i'iw omaa a'aw Anishinaabe naanda'iwed. Ishke dash azhigwa giizhiganikeyang iwidi, mii iw ani-wiindamawind mekwenimind, mii dash gakina inow odinawemaaganan gaa-odisaajin biinish gaye gaa-odisigojin da-odaapinamowaad gaye wiinawaa i'iw wiisiniwin naa gaye awegonen igo naanda'iweng.

When it is daylight here on Earth for us, what that Manidoo over there does is send his helpers to come get the food and any other offering that Anishinaabe is sending to their relatives. It is the helpers that come to pick up the food that is being sent over there. When it is daylight over there, the relative over there is told that he/she is being remembered, along with that his relatives that were over there when he arrived and any that came later share in the meal with him and share any other items that were sent over there.

Ishke dash mii i'iw wenji-mikwendamaan ezhi-gaagiidong a'aw nizigosiban Nechiyawaasangoban, mii a'aw gaa-pi-gaagiidod i'iwapii bimi-giizhigak gii-atooyaang i'iw wiisiniwin, mii dash i'iwapii nigii-mikwenimaanaan a'aw niwawiinge-maamaayiban Ajidawaashikweban. Ishke dash megwaa imaa ani-gaagiidod a'aw mindimooyenyiban abinoojiinyag imaa gaa-ayaajig apii, mii dash imaa gii-waabamaawaad awiya bi-zaagewenid aasamisagong. Mii dash gaa-izhi-wiindamawag a'aw nizigosiban, "Geget giwawiingez gaagiidoyan." Mii dash imaa gii-wiindamawag, "Ingiw abinoojiinyag omaa eyaajig ogii-waabamaawaan awiya gii-pi-zaagewenid gii-mookinaagozinid imaa aasamisagong, mii inow iidog gaa-waabamaawaajin ingiw abinoojiinyag inow oshkaabewisagan gaa-pi-izhinizha'igaazonijin da-bi-naadinid i'iw wisiniwin.

The reason that I remember this talk so well is that we had asked my aunt Mary Benjamin to talk for the food that we put during the day remembering my biological mother Nancy Staples. While that old lady was talking, the children that were there saw someone come through the wall. It was then that I told my aunt, "You sure do an excellent job in talking." I continued to tell her, "The children here saw someone appear and come through the wall. It must have been the helper that was sent over to come get the food that these children saw.

Ishke nimbi-noondawaag iko ingiw Anishinaabeg ani-dazhindamowaad i'iw wiisiniwin achigaadeg maa bimi-giizhigak, mii imaa ani-dazhindamowaad azhigwa gaa-kiizhi-naabishkaageng i'iw wiisiniwin imaa echigaadeg, mii imaa booch eni-gaagiidong da-nandodamaageng da-bi-azhenizha'igaadeg iniw boozikinaaganan maagizhaa gaye akikoog gii-atemagak i'iw wiisiniwin gaa-niinda'iweng. Gaawiin niin i'iw akeyaa nigii-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoosin gaawiin wiika nimbi-noondawaasiig Anishinaabeg i'iw akeyaa da-izhi-gaagiidowaad.

I have heard Anishinaabe say that when food is put during the day, once everyone has finished eating the food that has been put that someone has to talk asking that the bowls or the kettles that were used as containers for the food be sent back to us. I have not been taught this nor I have not heard Anishinaabe talk in that way.



Ziigwan—It is Spring

Mino-biboonagad. Noongom, ziigwan. Oshki-gikinoonowagad. Ningagwejiimaag abinoojiinyag. "Aaniin ezhiichiged ziigwan?" Gaagiidowag, "Gimiwan ziigwan. Gaawiin zoogiponzinooon. Zaaigibagaa agwajiing. Maajigaa. Aandeg idash nenookaasi, bi-izhaawag. Ogaawag, aamiwag imaa. Aabawaa, gaye."

(It is a good year (winter) passing. Now it spring. It is a new year. I ask them, the children, "What is happening when it is spring?" They say, "It is raining in the spring. No, it is not snowing. Leaves bud outside. Sap starts to run. Crow and hummingbird, they come. Walleye, they spawn there. It is mild weather also.")

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Aaniin—as in father

Miigwech—as in jay

Ziigwan—as in seen

Noongom—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O

Idash—as in about

Imaa—as in tin

Niizho—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

Niiwin—"4" 4 Verb Types— One each season.

Ziigwan—The "it is" verbs. VII—verbs, inanimate, intransitive. Miskwaa.—It is red. (non-living) Miskwaawan.—They are red. Gaawiin miskwaasinooon.—It is not red. B-form—add a g or change d to k. Miskwaag, wawezhichigaademagad. When (or if) it is red, it is pretty. Mino-giizhigak, niminwendaamin. When (or if) it is a good-day, we are glad. Weather words, seasons, days of the week and time are VIIs. Noodin.—It is windy. Ziigwan.—It is spring.

Niizh—2

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

A. Biigwakamigibijige dash gitigaan gitigaade.

B. Niizho diba'iganed. Niso diba'iganek niwii-maajaa.

C. Ishpi-dibikak giwendinong gisinaa agwajiing.

D. Giziibiigiisaginige-giizhigak, niwii-izhaa iskgamiziganing.

E. Waawaate ishpeming inashke! Howah!

F. Keyaa iwidi aanikegamaamad.

G. Miskwaa, waabishkaa, dash ozhaashkwaa.

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

Niswi—3

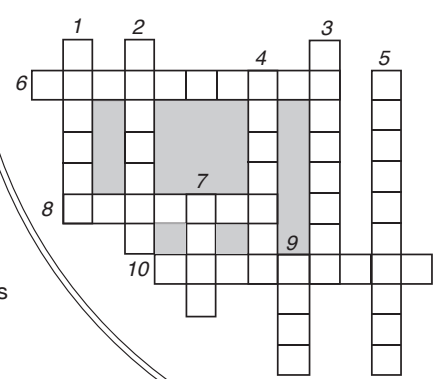
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- crow
- walleye
- northern lights
- it is cold.
- hummingbird
- there
- and

Across:

- Leaves bud.
- no
- It is black.



Niiwin—4

VII Conjugation Practice

Miskwaanagwad. There is a red ski. Gaawiin miskwaanagwasinooon. No there is not a red sky. Ningwaanagwad. It is cloudy. Ningwaanagwak, nimbiindige. When it is cloudy, I go inside. Ozaawaa. It is yellow or brown. Gii-ozaawaa. It was yellow/brown. Wii-makadewaa. It will be black. Wii-makadewaaan. They will be black. Wendaak, wendaad! When it is easy, it is easy!

Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

- Gaawiin awan _____, Mizhakwad.
- Miskwaa _____, noogishkaan! Ozhaawashkwaa, _____ izhaan!
- Aabawaa, _____ gisinaasinooon.
- Aabita-dibika _____ giga-nibaa nibaawigamigong.
- Giinaa _____ iniw anitiin. Badaka'igewag, nisayeyag.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. S/he plows and the garden it is planted. B. It is 2 o'clock. When it is 3 o'clock, I will leave. C. When it is late night to the north it is cold outside. D. When it is Saturday (floor washing day), I will go to the sugar camp. E. There are northern lights in the sky. Look! Wow! F. In the direction over there it is a chain of lakes. G. It is red, it is white and it is blue.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Aandeg 2. Ogaawag 3. Waawaate 4. Gisinaa 5. Nenookaasi 7. Imaa 9. Dash

Across: 6. Zaaigibagaa 8. Gaawiin 10. Makadewaa

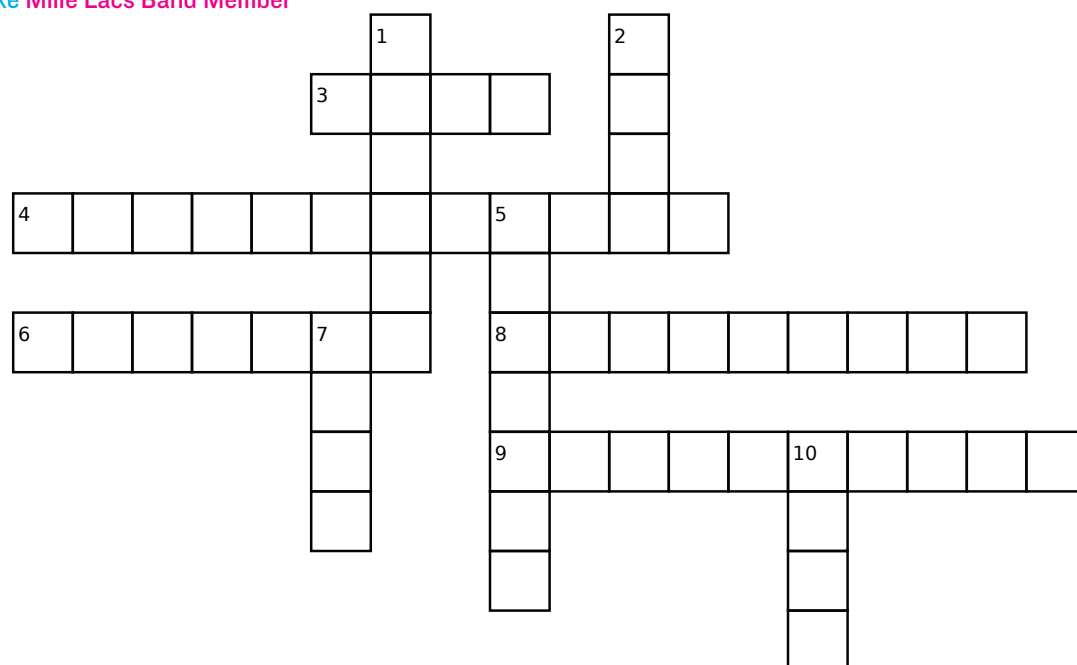
Niiwin—4 1. No it is not foggy. 2. When it is red, stop! When it is green, go! 3. It is warm and mild. No. It is not cold. 4. When it is mid-night, you will go to sleep in the bedroom. 5. They are sharp those spears. They spear things, my brothers.

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. Some spellings and translations from *The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 pio@glifwc.org.

Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Spring 2008. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.

AAZHAWAAKWASING ZAAGIBAGAA-GIIZIS

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member



Down:

1. _____ apii? (When?)
2. Nimino-_____. (I am fine.)
5. Aaniin _____? (How does someone say ...?)
7. Aaniin _____? (When?)
10. Aaniin _____-ayaayaan? (How are you?)

Across

3. Aaniin _____? (Why?)
4. Aaniin _____? (What are you doing?)
6. Aaniin ezhi-_____. (How are you?)
8. I am working.
9. When someone is speaking Ojibwe.

See the language lesson to the right for hints to the puzzle!

CULTURE COLUMN

GIFTING AND OFFERING

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Giving thanks and asking for help are usually reserved for separate occasions, as an American. As I have heard the Ojibwe Language speakers use these tools, I have noticed that they take place at the same time.



As offerings are being sent, an appreciation for what we have as a people is included in the offering. Gakina gegoo gii-pi-miinigoowizid a'aw Anishinaabe. Everything that the Anishinaabe was given. There is energy applied to all things. The asemaa has the power to hold that energy for delivery. Similar to an envelope, you place your intentions, questions, gratitude, emotions all within the asemaa, and it is sent as soon as you place it down or smoke it. That energy is then received by the Manidoog.

Just like how the Manidoog are everything and everywhere, the gijichaag (your spirit) is connected to that as it is everything and everywhere. We have shielded our spirits or covered them up with the givings of a new society. Many of us don't know who we are as Anishinaabe. Giving thanks and asking for help simultaneously will eventually give us the answers we need as individuals and as a community.

Physical gifting is more than physical. Everything we attach a thought to, emotion to, energy to has now become spiritual.

As Anishinaabe, we love giving and receiving gifts. When a weh'eh gives \$5, there is more than money there. There is attached to it a spiritual currency that is similar to a bank transfer. Instead, it is a spiritual energy transfer. When a blanket is made, there is energy put into the blanket by the maker and energy received by the one who accepts the blanket. There is a give and take; that's why we exchange gifts at the Big Drum to physically represent the transfer of energy.

Here is where it breaks from American society: An expectation to get when you give doesn't seem to work. Thinking that you are automatically going to receive something in exchange changes the intention and energy involved. For Anishinaabe, it is more of an acceptance to receive when you give. Knowing that you put energy out there in the vastness of the Spirit World, with the energy that is tied to it, will eventually come back. Trusting that it will be more of what you need than what you want will bring the happiness to your spirit.

Like a talk I heard once, they said that if you ask for strength, the Manidoog will put you in tough situations for you to get strong from. If you ask for guidance, your spirit will align like a compass to lead you to where you need to go. Gifts and offerings are more than physical, more than emotional, and more than what understandings this world can bring. They are spiritual conduits for energy. Gift your spirit with a life that is well lived. Our spirits are experiencing this world through our physical consciousness. What experience are we gifting to them? Miigwech.

LANGUAGE CLASSES AVAILABLE FROM CLAN

Culture Language Arts Network (CLAN) is offering Level #1 and Level #2 Intro Ojibwe 12-Week Courses. To sign up for Level #1 Intro Ojibwe, register at <https://forms.gle/zkoZRJwXZTzjJNm6>. To sign up for Level #2 Intro Ojibwe, go to <https://forms.gle/sfjn82f2CagrT2YD8>. Registration will close once each class reaches a maximum capacity of 200 students.

GIDINWEWINAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Aaniin ezhi-ayaayan? Aaniin apii? Aaniin dash?

These may be familiar and while incorporating the same word, they mean different things.

"Aaniin" is a good multi-purpose word that is the basis of many discussions.

It can work as a greeting used as is, and it can also ask "how" or "what" when used as is. The meaning depends on the context of the situation.

In Anishinaabemowin, an understanding of the context of the situation is important, which leads to the value of respect.

Every word spoken is there for a specific reason, and the context is held in the questions of "who," "what," "where," and "how."

"Aaniin" covers the "what" and "how." Additional words added to "Aaniin" bring out new context.

Aaniin ezhi-ayaayan? = How are you?

(Aah neen ayzhi-uh yah yun)

Aaniin ezhichigeyan? = What are you doing?

(Aah neen ayzhi-chig gay yan)

Aaniin apii? = When?

(Aah neen up pee)

Aaniin dash? = Why?

(Aah neen dush)

Here are a few common exchanges:

"Aaniin ezhi-ayaayan?" (How are you?)

"Nimino-ayaa." (I am fine.)

Aaniin ezhichigeyan?" (What are you doing?)

"Indanokii." (I am working.)

"Aaniin ekidong _____ ojibwemong?" (How does someone say _____ when someone is speaking Ojibwe?)

Utilizing "Aaniin" in certain ways provokes a conversation as well as allows language learners and users to ask questions. Miigwech.

You can hear many words and sentences pronounced by native speakers at ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.

OJIBWEMOWIN from page 12

Ishke a'aw mindimooyenyiban Amikogaabawiikweban ingii-waawiindamaag, ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe ozhiitaad miinawaa jiibaakwaadang i'iw wiisiniwin gegoo igo menidoowaadak imaa wenjikaamagak imaa ozhiitaad. Ishke dash mii iwidi eni-izhaamagak i'iw menidoowaadak, mii dash i'iw ani-moozhi-toowaad ingiw gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig ani-gikendamowaad dash mikwenimindwaa. Ishke ninoondawaa a'aw Anishinaabe ani-dazhindang, bakadewag gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig. Gaawin sanaa ganabaj da-bakadesiiwag gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig. Gidaa-mikwendaamin Gaagige-minawaanigoziwining ezhiiwinjigaadeg iwidi. Gaawin da-minawaanigozisiwag giishpin bekadewaagwen iwidi.

That old lady Julie Shingobe had told me that when Anishinaabe prepares and cooks this food there is some sort of spiritual energy that comes out of this gesture of sending food over there. It is this spiritual energy that goes over to where our relatives are. It is this spiritual energy that they feel and tells them that they are being remembered. I have heard Anishinaabe say that our relatives over there are hungry. There is no way that our relatives are hungry over there. We have to remember that the place that they have gone onto is called "The Land of Everlasting Happiness." They would not be happy if they were hungry over there.

GRAND CASINO EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

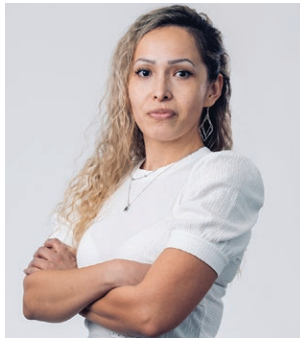
BAND MEMBERS SHARE WHAT THEY LOVE ABOUT WORK

Name: Katherine L. Davis
(Giiwitayasinookwe)

Clan: Sturgeon

Length of service with Grand Casino: 8 years off and on at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Position: Director of Finance



Education: Graduated high school in 2003 at Flandreau Indian School in SD. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Management emphasis from Bemidji State University.

Family: Parents are Harry and Laureen Davis. Siblings are Donny Staples, Beverly, Roxanne, Dione, and Weylin Davis. Children are Mikey and Kiki. Many awesome nieces and nephews and my cousins are infinite.

Hobbies: Fishing, traveling, playing sports, watching sports, gambling, going on adventures with my kids, visiting friends and family.

First Job: At 16, I was a busser at Grand Casino Hinckley Buffet. Seafood night made me quit.

Previous Job: I've worked for various businesses to keep bills paid as a single mom.

Other than your current position, what would be your dream job? My dream job would be to own my own talent management company.

What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday? Summer: Get up early, get on a boat and fish the morning away. Winter: Sleep in.

What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino? I am proud of how diversified we are with our businesses. Also I am proud that our tribal government has had selfless leadership for decades which has benefited the tribe as a whole.

Name: Katherine Kalk

Clan: Eagle

Length of service with Grand Casino: 7 years.

Position: Director of Operations

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from St. Cloud State University.



Family: I'm the youngest of six children in a large and loud family! Now, I'm a mother of one boy, stepmom to two girls, and soon-to-be wife to my best friend.

Hobbies: Camping, fishing, outdoors, traveling, spending time with my family, staying active.

First Job: Paulbeck's Supervalu Deli.

Previous Job: Administrator of the Family Violence Prevention Program with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health and Human Services for six years.

Other than your current position, what would be your dream job? I think any job that I'm able to build my leadership skills, be supported by my team and superiors, and have room for professional growth is my dream job! I love to visualize where the department would function best and work our way to that vision. As long as I'm busy, challenged, and growing, I'm happy and fulfilled.

What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday? Pulling a net off Mille Lacs with my dad and cleaning walleye the rest of the day with my family.

What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino? I am proud to be a female band member working in a leadership role with Grand Casino. I have watched the expansion of the Grand Casino since I was a little girl and the positive impacts the Casino has brought our community. I am proud to be a part of that continued development.

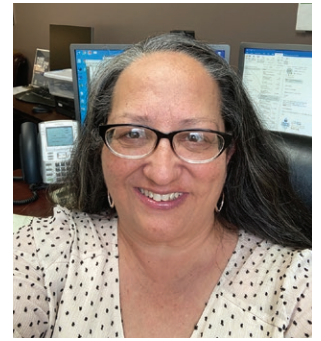
Name: Trisha Moose/
Makadegwanebiikwe

Clan: Eagle

Position: RV/Resorts Manager

Family: I have four children and 12 wonderful grandchildren.

Hobbies: Sewing, beading, traveling.



First Job: My very first job at the age of 15 was in Minneapolis at the American Indian Center. Sami Thomas was my very first boss. She was the secretary for the Education Department. I was Secretary's Aid.

Previous Job: Various jobs within the tribe/casino.

Other than your current position, what would be your dream job? To own my own mid-size hotel with a little Native gift shop and a quaint eating area with continental breakfast.

What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday? Stay home and sew!

What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino? With my current position, I am proud to have been given the chance, and also that I have the ability to hire and try to retain Band members to work for us.

LOOKING FOR WORK?

If you're interested in a job at Grand Casinos, visit mlcvjobs.com/careers/. For tribal government jobs, see millelacsband.com/jobs.

CASINOS OFFER SUMMER PROGRAM

Attention Mille Lacs Band Member Youth, ages 15, 16, and 17: Are you interested in summer employment with Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Grand Casino Hinckley?

We are on a journey to develop a strong team of future Mille Lacs Band member leaders.

Do you want to explore what is like to work for Grand Casinos? If you have a positive attitude, would like to work in a fast-paced environment, and — most importantly — want to have fun at work, we are offering summer employment opportunities.

Join our Grand Casino Team and earn some summer cash. Our starting pay for all Mille Lacs Band members is \$15 an hour.

During your summer employment with us, we will show our loyalty by offering training and development opportunities to help match you with future educational and career interests.

We strongly believe connecting who you are with what you love to do will help jump start your educational and career interests and get you on your journey.

For more information, please contact us to schedule a meeting. We will host informational sessions (in person or Zoom).

Contacts: April Benjamin, Talent Acquisition Specialist, Grand Casino Hinckley, 320 384-4722. Lana Oswaldson, Band Member Recruiter, Grand Casino Mille Lacs/Hinckley, 320-532-8202.

TRIBAL ECONOMY CHOSEN FOR BROADBAND PROGRAM; SURVEY PARTICIPATION NEEDED

Survey participants entered in drawing for iPad!

Dear Community Members,

On March 11, 2021, the Blandin Foundation announced that the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy (MLTE) had been selected to participate in the Community Broadband Resources (CBR): Accelerate Program. The program will provide a 15-week course of study and education about broadband for a community team. The program consists of three parts 1) Leadership Education, 2) Information Gathering, and 3) Analysis and Next Steps. The project includes a community survey to obtain real-time data. We ask that you take this survey from your home as the desire is to collect data for residential users. Survey participants can enter into a drawing for an iPad!

The survey can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/uptospeed>.

The MLTE encompasses the three districts of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe territory that include Census tracts 9504, 9505, 7704, 9703, 9701, 9702. The populations served by this program will include areas within the counties of Mille Lacs, Pine, and Aitkin, as well as the cities of Onamia, Wahkon, Isle, McGregor, Hinckley, and Sandstone. According to Minnesota Compass, there are 20,171 people that live in the MLTE who will be supported

by this initiative and subsequent development of robust broadband infrastructure.

The ultimate vision is for all residents of the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy to be able to use convenient, affordable, world-class broadband networks that enable them to thrive in our communities and across the globe.

Broadband grants available

Band members may also be eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, an FCC program to help households struggling to pay for internet service during the pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the purchase price.

Check out the Broadband Benefit Consumer FAQ website at <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>.

BUILDING OJIBWE/OUR MINDSETS BROADER

By **Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member**

As Anishinaabe find their purpose, you can see their energy flow. Coming straight from their spirit, it's the type of energy that touches your spirit. Giiwitayasinookwe, Kate Davis, has found hers. Making poor choices and turning to mood-altering substances, she realized that she is capable of more.

She left the Rez.

Making that decision is tougher than one can think. It is where ancestry can be traced back to, where the bulk of one's family currently lives. Leaving that is not easy. For Kate it was ultimately necessary. She went on to get a degree, start a business, and saw life outside the Rez. Enough time to clear her mind, create a new vision for herself and her community.

Then, Pennie Robertson. The aftermath of such a tragic event had her wondering if she had done the right thing. Looking back, she wondered why she didn't try to bring Pennie with. Why did she leave her? Why?

Kate then decided to come home with her vision. She wants to bring a generation to an elevated mindset, share what she has learned and, ultimately, what she thinks.

She started a community group in District III called Building Ojibwe/Our Mindsets Broader. At the first meeting on March 27, she started by sharing her experiences on and off the Rez, why she started the group, and her vision as to how it can help. Witnessing the energy she brings, the participants could not help but to be inspired. She says this is the first of many yet to come.

Paul Wenell, Tall Paul, shared his story of growing up in foster care, his memories of coming to the DIII area and when he realized that he is capable of more. His mindset shifted, and he took a path that his heart and spirit aligned to show.

Daphne Shabaiash linked the participants to resources like housing, treatment, and Sober Squad.

This is only the beginning.



Kate Davis and Paul Wenell (Tall Paul) shared their stories in Hinckley on March 27.

I also need to mention one of my favorite District III frybread makers, Bev Davis, who made a large batch for chili.

As Anishinaabe, creating opportunities and activities where our fellow Shinaabe can be inspired and have their spark ignited is one thing we can do for one another. When our own fellow community members stand up, make themselves vulnerable, and emit their spirit, it is like a spiritual beacon. It will attract your spirit and give a boost. Relying on one another is how our communities survived in the past. Giving our gifts to the community is our utmost responsibility to each other.

Kate Davis demonstrates this. Her commitment to the community is astounding. Fulfilling her Migizi Clan role as a speaker, she gives talks that focus on wellness and the future as she targets those in need the most, our newest adults.

There is a Facebook group setup for more information — "Building Ojibwe/Our Mindsets Broader" (B.O.M.B.) — should you want to know more. You can find posts of inspiring words, encouragement, as well as shares of opportunities and resources. Keep an eye out for a schedule of meetings to come like: May 22, 12 p.m. at Meshakwad, "Finances"; June 26, 8 p.m. at Meshakwad, "Prom." Follow your spirit, honor your community and ancestors. Miigwech.

THE GRA'S EXCLUSION REVIEW PROCESS

The GRA wants to keep Band members informed about your rights. If you are excluded from Mille Lacs Band Gaming Enterprises, you have the right for your exclusion to be reviewed annually. To have your exclusion file reviewed, you must submit a written request to the GRA. You may text or call Teresa Kozumplik at 320-384-4811 for help with the process or use the "Request for Exclusion Review" form on the Mille Lacs Band/GRA website: <https://millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority>. From there, your exclusion file along with your request will be presented to the GRA Board during a regular board meeting. You will receive notice of date, time, and location to attend this meeting and provide testimony.

Temporary Suspension of Exclusion Process

Exclusion shall never prohibit eligible voters of the Band from entering non-gaming floor areas of a Gaming Enterprise for the purpose of exercising voting rights or attending tribal political or community meetings held in the convention/meeting areas of the Gaming Enterprise. Nor shall exclusion prevent Band employees from attending mandatory work-related meetings in the convention/meeting areas of the Gaming Enterprise during work hours.

The Executive Director of the Office of Gaming Regulation and Compliance (OGR&C) may issue a temporary suspension of exclusion for reasons other than stated above. This means, if you are excluded and wish to be on property for an event, an emergency placement, or other critical need, you may ask for your exclusion to be temporarily lifted for a matter of hours or sometimes days. Reminder: this process also applies to Government Center departments hoping to emergency house excluded Band members for any length of time. Requests need to be in writing to the Executive Director, [bhoul@grcasinos.com](mailto:bhoule@grcasinos.com),

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

and include name, date of birth, reason for request, location, date, and time frame you wish to be on any property of the Gaming Enterprises.

The Executive Director will forward the request for temporary suspension to the Corporate Commissioner and the General Manager(s) of the Gaming Enterprise(s), at which time Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and/or the Gaming Enterprise may comment, in writing, on the request for temporary suspension. The Executive Director will make a Recommendation either temporarily lifting the exclusion or denying the request by Compliance Recommendation. If the Executive Director makes a Recommendation in favor of the request for temporary suspension of exclusion, the temporary suspension of exclusion will take effect immediately.

For more information on exclusion processes, you may contact Becky Houle (320-532-8194) or Teresa Kozumplik (320-384-4811). More information and contact numbers can be found at www.millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. This month's meetings are at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 6, and Wednesday, May 19.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

REACH OUT IF YOU NEED SUPPORT!

If you or someone you know is in need of support please reach out to HHS.

Mental health support services: 320-674-4385, 320-532-7771

Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Clinic: 320-532-4163

SPRING CEREMONIAL DANCE DATES

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

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

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

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

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

Dale & Vincent, East Lake, TBA

Niib & Iyawbance, East Lake, TBA

SPRING CLEANUP CONTINUES IN DISTRICT II

District II Band members are welcome to take part in Spring Clean-up 2021 from Saturday, May 1, through Friday, May 7. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the East Lake Maintenance Facility and Chiminising Community Center.

Miigwech to District I and III Band members who helped clean up their homes and neighborhoods in April.

BAND FEATURED IN LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION STORY

An April 9 Minnesota Public Radio story told of the Mille Lacs Band's language revitalization efforts — and the toll COVID-19 has taken on native speakers of Ojibwemowin. Baabiiyaw Boyd said the losses have felt overwhelming at times. "We're resilient, we're staying strong, we have our cultural teachings that we rely on to process that grief. And we're showing up for one another, to the best of our ability. But the effect is that we're all very, very sad," said Boyd. "And at the same time, we feel a tremendous amount of pressure to collect information so that we have the intergenerational transmission of knowledge." See www.mprnews.org/story/2021/04/09/our-hearts-are-heavy-covid19-deaths-of-tribal-elders-leave-a-void.

U OF M OFFERS OJIBWE LANGUAGE AT 90 PERCENT OFF

The University of Minnesota has secured a grant from the Mellon Foundation to make possible a 90 percent discount on Ojibwe and Dakota language courses in the American Indian Studies department. Guest (non-degree-seeking) students can take one language class per semester at this 90 percent discounted rate on tuition and fees. Enroll through the College of Continuing And Professional Studies (CCAPS), <https://ccaps.umn.edu/>. Register for the course and send copy of the bill to balli016@umn.edu, and the American Indian Studies department will pay 90 percent towards the one language class. Students will pay the remainder of their bill by the appropriate due date. Language courses are available for remote (online) learning; students need a computer, headphones, microphone, fast internet, and a quiet place to learn.

INDIAN COUNTRY NEWS

BAND AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS FEATURED IN MINNESOTA WOMEN'S PRESS

In an article titled "Invisibility in the Silence of Grief, Loss, and Rage," Nicole Anderson, Mary Sam, Dana Skinaway-Sam, Kate Kalk, David Sam, and Mikayla Schaaf shared powerful stories about the devastation that occurs when a relative is missing or murdered, and they called on community leaders to break the silence and support those impacted by violence. Band member Tania Aubid, who has been a central figure in the Line 3 protests, was also interviewed in the publication about her work as a water protector. For the full stories, see www.womenspress.com.

MN CONNECT POWWOW WANTS YOU!

Tired of not being able to go to powwows? Join us to eat our virtual fry bread at MN Connect Powwow! We want to connect with others around Minnesota while being safe and know you do too. MIGIZI is hosting a virtual powwow from April 15th to May 14th and everyone is welcomed to join our powwow! Visit migizi.org/mn-connect-powwow for more information.

APPLY NOW FOR ETHEL CURRY SCHOLARSHIP

The Ethel Curry American Indian Leadership Scholarship is now accepting applications for the 2021-22 academic school year. This scholarship is open to any enrolled tribal member, of any age, who is pursuing a postsecondary degree at any higher education institution in Minnesota. See <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/indian/ethelcurry/>.

WANTED: INDIGENOUS STORIES OF STRENGTH

A new project titled Indigenous Stories of Strength has been launched by the Center for American Indian Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The goal is to highlight stories of Indigenous strength and survival that illuminate leadership from individuals, groups, and communities to illustrate the incredible and innovative responses to the COVID-19 pandemic by Indigenous peoples in the US. A virtual showcase is planned for fall 2021. The form for nominating a story is available on the project website: <https://indigenoustrengths.com/>.

ELDER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The May Elder food distribution will take place while supplies last, on a first-come, first-served basis, at the following locations:

Wednesday, May 12, 1–3 p.m.

— Districts I and IIa: Grand Casino Mille Lacs, south side of Convention Center

— District II: Minisinaakwaang Community Center

— District III: Grand Northern Inn Hinckley parking lot

Thursday, May 13, 1–3 p.m.

Urban Office – 1404 E Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis.



Elmer Nayquonabe

Giiweyaanakwad, Elmer Nayquonabe Sr., 70-year-old resident of Onamia, MN, passed away on Saturday, March 27, 2021, at the St. Cloud Hospital. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Ombishkebines officiating. Visitation began at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



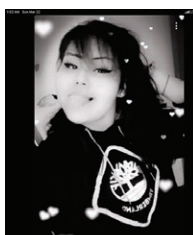
Giiweyaanakwad, Elmer Nayquonabe Sr. was born on September 12, 1950, in Cloquet, Minnesota, to Harriet (Gahbow) and Joe Nayquonabe. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially golfing and deer hunting. Elmer was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan. Everyone knew he was always prepared to play the moccasin game. Elmer enjoyed traveling to and participating in Drum Ceremonies. Being with all his grandchildren, family, and friends was how Elmer liked to spend his time. He will be greatly missed and loved by all.

Giiweyaanakwad, Elmer Nayquonabe Sr. is survived by his sons, Julian Nayquonabe, Elmer Dean Nayquonabe, Jorel Nayquonabe; daughter, Barb Nayquonabe; brothers, Joseph Nayquonabe, Russell Nayquonabe; sisters, Bonita Nayquonabe, Beverly Nayquonabe, Thelma Nayquonabe, Delia Nayquonabe, Doris Nayquonabe, Caroline Nayquonabe; grandchildren, William, Brenda, Aaron, Adam, Tyler, Thomas, Shaina, Shayla, Josh, Nevaeh, Carli, Dawn, Krista, Brianna, Tia, Aleczander, Janessa; great-grandchildren, Lorenzo, Bruce, Brayden, Marika "Veronica", George, and Ray-Lee.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Brenda; daughter, Julie; sons, Adam, Bruce; brothers, Victor, Calvin; sisters, Marlene, Ethel, Loretta June, and Trixie.

Toni Weous

Neyaanakwadookwe, Toni Marie Weous, 22-year-old resident of Onamia, passed away on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, in Onamia. Visitation was held at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 2, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, at the District I Community Center with Obizaan officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Neyaanakwadookwe, Toni Marie Weous was born on January 3, 1999, in Onamia, to Deanna Weous and David Boyd. Toni loved spending her time with her nieces and nephews. She enjoyed making others laugh, playing with her dog Red, and listening to music. Toni was the protector of her sister and loved her mother dearly. She will be greatly missed.

Toni is survived by her loving mother, Deanna Weous; sister, Teri Boyd; brother, Wesley Weous; special niece, Mileena Weous; special sister, Cheyenne Torres of El Paso, TX; and many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, David Boyd; brother, William "Blacks" Nickaboine; grandparents, Tony and Ellerraine Weous; grandmother, Brenda Boyd; and grandfather, Russell Boyd.

Mekweniminjig is offered as a service to those families who would like to share the news of their loved ones' passing with the Mille Lacs Band community. Photos are accepted but not required. Please submit memorials for Mekweniminjig to news@millelacsband.com.

Jeremy Schaaf

Jeremy Matthew Schaaf, 41-year-old resident of Onamia, passed away on Wednesday March 31, in Robbinsdale. Jeremy Matthew Schaaf, Mikinaak, was born on January 1, 1980, in Deer River, to Brenda J. Schaaf and Edward Sayers.



He was born on New Years Eve which made him the first born child of 1980 in Deer River. He graduated top honors from Roseville Area High School and thereafter attended University of Minnesota to major in Pre-Architecture and minor in Kinesiology. Jeremy, also known as MN Sage, was multi-talented in many aspects and particularly enjoyed writing, making music, and sharing his ideas and dreams with everyone. Jeremy was an amazing father, and he deeply loved spending quality time with his daughters, RaiLei and Kelia. Jeremy enjoyed traveling and participating in many events that were important to him. Jeremy enjoyed visiting with his family and friends, and he had a magnetic personality about him in which he could turn strangers into his closest friends. Jeremy was a sociable person who appreciated insightful conversation and who had an impeccable smile. He will be greatly missed and loved by all who knew him.

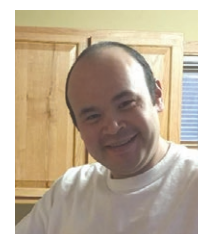
Jeremy Matthew Schaaf is survived by his parents, Edward Sayers and Brenda J. Schaaf; daughters, RaiLei Shaugobay and Kelia Armstrong; brothers, Justin Hopp and Elijah Matrious; sisters, Julia Matrious and Brianna Matrious.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Darlene Fairbanks; grandfathers, Ron Schaaf, Ed Sayers Sr.; uncle, Scott Sayers.

A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6, at the District I Community Center, on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Obizaan officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds.

Jonathan Holmquist

Jonathan Paul Holmquist, 35-year-old resident of Garrison, passed away on April 14, 2021. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, April 19, at St. Therese Catholic Church in Vineland, with Father Jerry Schik, osc officiating. Visitation was held from 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 18, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe reservation. Interment was in the Garrison Community Cemetery. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Jonathan Paul Holmquist was born on February 28, 1986, to Rose Marie (Cash) and Thomas Holmquist Sr., in St. Cloud, Minnesota. He attended and graduated from Onamia Schools. Jonathan was currently employed as a pharmacy technician at the Ne-la-Shing Clinic. He loved playing his guitar, attending concerts, and cooking, especially with his smoker and BBQ. He was very talented when it came to carpentry and could build almost anything from his favorite park bench to cabinets. He will forever be remembered for the care he showed to family, friends, and his community. May his memory be a blessing.

Jonathan Paul Holmquist is survived by his mother, Rose Marie Holmquist; brothers, Thomas (Andrea) Holmquist, Jr., Sean (Amber) Racelo; sisters, Cheri (Rob) Waytashek, Sara (Jason) Rice; uncle, Dan Holmquist; nieces, Jasmin Sanoski and Kalleigh Holmquist; nephews, Cole Holmquist, Andre Bankey, Myles Racelo, and Liam Racelo.

He was preceded in death by his father, Thomas Holmquist, Sr.; uncles, Archie Cash Sr. and Tony Weous, Craig Holmquist; grandparents, Raymond and Wilma Cash, and Rose Bedausky Cash.



WELLBRIETY SACRED HOOP VISITS MILLE LACS

The 100-eagle feather Sacred Hoop came to Mille Lacs on Sunday, April 18, as Band members gathered to socialize, share, and participate in a ceremony. The hoop has criss-crossed the nation several times since 1999, bringing a message of hope, healing, and forgiveness. "Band members voiced their concerns about the people that have passed throughout the opioid pandemic," said Randell Sam, who helped organize the event. "It was an awesome turnout."



SMUDGE WALK

District I Band members smudged their neighborhoods on April 2. Photos by Makadegwanebiikwe Mikayla Schaaf.



BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2011

Mille Lacs Band Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk spoke at the "Don't Gamble with Our Jobs" rally at the State Capitol, which was sponsored by the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association. Approximately 300 Grand Casinos Associates and Mille Lacs Band tribal government employees were among 3,000 people at the rally. Mille Lacs Band member Carolyn Shaw was sworn in as Commissioner of Administration in early April. Darian Kegg, Maria Powell, Sara Rice, Rose Wind, and Naomi Jourdain completed a nursing assistant course at Central Lakes College. Band member Bea Mitchell performed in Central Lakes College's Children's Theater production of *Tiny Town* in April. Nay Ah Shing students helped create a documentary titled "Non-removable." The documentary was written and directed by Nay Ah Shing students Brandon Anthony, Jordan Bellcourt, Kelsey Benjamin, Harmonie Boyd, Natalie Bueno, Charisse Cash, Kayla Cash, Marquita Eagle, Ronald Hardheart, Sage Hardheart, Isabel Sanchez, Brandon Wade, and Tehya Wade.

15 years ago — 2006

Tribal Elders met to discuss their concern for the future of the Ojibwe language at the Elders Speak Out Conference, held on March 29 at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center. "We are bringing Elders, teachers, and spiritual advisors together to make sure our language is not forgotten," said Joyce Shingobe, Commissioner of Education for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Grand Makwa Cinema opened on May 12, 2001. Mille Lacs Band member Craig Hanson was named the Indian Employment Rights Coordinator. Mille Lacs Band member Dawn Aubid was named the Cultural Labor Force/Harvesting Coordinator. Band Member Berni Johnson traveled to Jackson, Mississippi with her church to help build a home for a woman who lost hers during Hurricane Katrina. Bobby Anderson won the Minnesota Heavyweight Kickboxing Championship held at Grand Casino Hinckley. Ten-year-old wrestler David St. John Jr., the son of Crystal Stoner and David St. John Sr., placed second in his age and weight category at the 2006 State Folkstyle Wrestling Tournament in Madison, Wisconsin.

20 years ago — 2001

Mille Lacs Band officials started talks with Mille Lacs County about long-standing issues between the two governments. Ken and Irene Shingobe celebrated the third anniversary of their Java Junction coffee shop at Grand Casino Hinckley. Naomi Weyaus, 9, and Jessie Weyaus, 8, helped at the sugarbush with David and Mary Sam. Lake Lena Boxing Club member Weylin Davis, 17, brought home the runner-up trophy from the Upper Midwest Boxing Championships. Clarence Moose was the first Elder to move into the District II Assisted Living Unit. Williams and Ree were coming to Grand Casino Hinckley as part of the American Indian Month celebration. The Band opened the area's first safe home for battered women and their children. Congressman Jim Oberstar toured the facilities of the Tribal Civilian Conservation Corps near Wahkon. The Band was one of four tribes to operate the new program.

The information above is from the May 2001, 2006, and 2011 issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin and the Summer 2001 issue of Woodland Voice. Many back issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin are available at millelacsband.com/news. Click on "Inaajimowin Archive."

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

MAY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Gina Louise Anderson
Richard Dean Anderson
Kathryn Ann Armstrong
Alvina Mae Aubele
Elisse Joanne Aune
Thelma Emma Baker
Brenda Lee Beaulieu
Gerald Duane Beaulieu
Kim Alan Bengtson
Robert Patrick Benjamin
Wallace James Benjamin
Maurice James Boyd
Denise Lorette Chamblin
Debra Ann Contreras
Anthony Joseph Davis
James Daniel Davis
Virginia Joyce Davis
Dale Wesley Day
Edna Mae Day
Winona Evens
Michael Joseph Fairbanks
Beverly Gay Fairchild
Lorraine Farah

Sharlene Anita Fisher
Dale Allan Garbow
Geraldine Ann Germann
Harry Lee Granger
Cynthia Ann Guernsey
Gary Lynn Haglund
Gertrude Inez Hanson
Robert Lewis Heinze
Allen Wayne Hemming
Terrance John Hendren
John Paul Hill
Molly Sam Judkins
Clarabel Kruse
Susan Marie Lane
Cynthia Lee Lester
Harold Duane Matrious
Jeffrey Wayne Matrious
Mitchell Lee Matrious
Valerie Jean Matrious
Dominic Walter Mayotte
Janelle Arlene Meehl
James Roger Mitchell
Michele Elena Mueller
Arlyn Nickaboine
Lorraine Marie Nickaboine

Donald Eugene Olson
Patricia Regguinti
Frederick Raymond Shingobe
Victoria Lea Smith
Eugene Raymond Staples
Beverly K. Sutton
John Sutton
Victoria Joy Verkennes
Carl Leslie Weous
Lorna Jayne Weous
Herbert Weyaus
Nancy Lee Wheeler
Sarita Inez White
Theresa Marie Williams
Larry James Wind
Ginette Marie Zustiak

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Jarvis** on May 5 love Baby Jarvis, baby girl Keira'le, Miranda, Mom, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Montana, Shelby, Max, Aidan, Baby Jacob, Jacob, Aiva, Markie, and Emery • Happy

birthday **Shelby** on May 9 love Baby Jake, Baby Dusty, Aidan, Max, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla and Montana • Happy birthday **Sissy** on May 12 love your brothers and sissys • Happy birthday **Markie G** on May 12 love Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla and Montana • Happy birthday **Taylor** on May 19 love Dad, Adam, Papa Brad, Grannie, Papa Kyle, Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Montana, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Trinity, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, and Henry • Happy birthday **Vato** on May 23 love Vato • Happy birthday **Brynley** on May 26 love Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Trinity, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Henry, Papa Brad, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Montana, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor and Adam • Happy

birthday **Mom** on May 27 love Pie and Kevin • Happy birthday **Grammy** on May 27 love Myla • Happy birthday **Baby Girl** on May 31 love Mom • Happy birthday **Pie** on May 31 love Mom, Dan, Kev, Montana, Gram Kim, Papa Brad, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor Paige, Adam, Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Trinity, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Henry, and Binesiiikwe • Happy birthday **Pie** on May 31 love Gram Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Aidan, Max, Baby Jake, Dusty, Jarvis, Baby Jarvis, Kiera'le, Miranda, Jacob, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melodie, Nicole, Chris, Cordell, and Buddy

Send your birthday greetings or shout-outs to news@millelacsband.com, or call 320-237-6851!

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

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

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Commissioners:

Commissioner of Administration Baabiitaw Boyd: 218-670-0745

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

Commissioner of DNR Katie Draper: 320-515-0846

Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Commissioner of HHS Nicole Anderson: 320-364-9969

Chief Executive Office

Maria Costello: 763-260-0164

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

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

Band Assembly Inquiries

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

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

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

Aanjibimaadizing

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

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

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

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

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

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

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

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

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

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

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

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

Office of Management and Budget

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

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



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

The Women's Healing Group meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and the Men's Empowerment Group meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. Both groups meet at the old District I Community Center across from Grand Casino Mille Lacs. All are welcome!



DRUG TIP HOTLINE

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department's anonymous drug tip line is 320-630-2458. Feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and phone number. In case of emergency, dial 911.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------

RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

Most recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. "The Rez" NA meeting meets in person (with social distancing and masks required) on Fridays at 6 p.m. at the old Ne-la-Shing Clinic, 43500 Migizi Drive. Meetings for Urban Band members in recovery are held on Zoom Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245. Password: Redroad.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send weekly news summaries and breaking news updates to Band members. Send your email address to news@millelacsband.com so we can add you to the list!

<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE</p> <p>Most recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. "The Rez" NA meeting meets in person (with social distancing and masks required) on Fridays at 6 p.m. at the old Ne-la-Shing Clinic, 43500 Migizi Drive. Meetings for Urban Band members in recovery are held on Zoom Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245. Password: Redroad.</p>						<p>1 Sheldon's ceremonial dance Mille Lacs. <i>Begins April 30.</i> Zooming into Recovery <i>See left</i></p>
<p>2 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>3 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference <i>See above</i> Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>4 Circle of Health outreach <i>See page 11</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i> Sa Miikana <i>See above</i> Women's Group 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>5 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference <i>See above</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>	<p>6 Circle of Health outreach <i>See page 11</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i> GRA meeting 9 a.m. via Zoom Men's Group 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i> Wellbriety 6 p.m. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p>7 Skip and Darrell's dance Lake Lena The Rez NA meeting <i>See page 18</i> Chiminising Rummage Sale <i>See page 11</i> Zooming towards Recovery, On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>8 Skip and Darrell's dance Lake Lena Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i> Chiminising Rummage Sale <i>See page 11</i></p>
<p>9 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>10 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference <i>See above</i> Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>11 Circle of Health outreach <i>See page 11</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i> Sa Miikana <i>See above</i> Women's Group 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>12 Elder food distribution 1–3 p.m. <i>See page 16</i> Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference <i>See above</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>	<p>13 Elder food distribution 1–3 p.m. <i>See page 16</i> Circle of Health outreach <i>See page 11</i> Zooming towards Recovery, Wellbriety <i>See above</i> Men's Group 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>14 The Rez NA meeting <i>See page 18</i> Zooming towards Recovery, On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>15 Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>
<p>16 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>17 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference <i>See above</i> Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>18 Circle of Health outreach <i>See page 11</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i> Sa Miikana <i>See above</i> Women's Group 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>19 District III community meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley GRA meeting 9 a.m. via Zoom Red Brick AA/NA Meeting <i>See above</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>	<p>20 Circle of Health outreach <i>See page 11</i> Wellbriety 6 p.m. <i>See above.</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i> Men's Group 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>21 Lee and Mike's dance Lake Lena Tim and Tom's dance East Lake The Rez NA meeting <i>See page 18</i> Zooming towards Recovery, On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>22 Tim and Tom's dance East Lake Lee and Mike's dance Lake Lena Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>
<p>23 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>24 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference <i>See above</i> Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>25 Circle of Health outreach <i>See page 11</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i> Sa Miikana <i>See above</i> Women's Group 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>26 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference <i>See above</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>	<p>27 Circle of Health outreach <i>See page 11</i> Wellbriety <i>See above.</i> Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i> Men's Group 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>28 Bob and Zhooshk's ceremonial dance Mille Lacs East Central, Isle Graduation <i>See 8</i> The Rez NA meeting <i>See page 18</i> Zooming, On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>29 Bob and Zhooshk's ceremonial dance Mille Lacs Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>
<p>30 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>31 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference <i>See above</i> Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES</p> <p>The Tribal Noteboard welcomes Band member submissions, including birthdays, congratulatory messages, and memorial tributes. For birthday messages, send name, birthday, and a brief message that is 20 WORDS OR LESS to news@millelacsband.com or 320-237-6851. Photos may be included if space allows.</p> <p>If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please contact the Government Affairs office at 320-237-6851 or email news@millelacsband.com before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday. Send calendar items to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.</p> <p><i>The deadline for the June issue is May 15. Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.</i></p>				



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



Forester Jake Horbacz and the DNR's wildland firefighters set a controlled burn to rejuvenate wildlife habitat in District I on April 21 — a week after extinguishing a wildfire along Timber Trail Road. See page 1.

**2021 OFFICIAL ACTS
PUBLISHED BY
REVISOR'S OFFICE**
page 3

**EPA SUPPORTS
TRIBES ON WILD RICE
PROTECTION**
page 4

**NEW AND FAMILIAR
FACES IN DIABETES
PROGRAM**
page 6

**LESSONS LEARNED
FROM PANDEMIC
RESPONSE**
page 8

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. The June issue deadline is May 15.

NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know is injured or in immediate danger, call 911 first.

Tribal Police Department dispatch:
888-609-5006; 320-532-3430.

Emergency Management Services:
24-hour fire, disaster, and emergency management response: Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator: 320-362-0435.

Addiction/Behavioral Health: 800-709-6445, ext. 7776.

Community Support Services: For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, sexual assault, or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.

Domestic violence: (c) 320-630-2499.

Women's Shelter: 866-867-4006.

Batterers' Intervention: 320-532-8909.

Heating, water, or other home-related maintenance problems: If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call our Customer Service Representative at one of the following on-call numbers:

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Mille Lacs Band Family Services: Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444; 800-709-6445, ext. 7588; Family Violence Prevention: District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 866-867-4006.



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

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