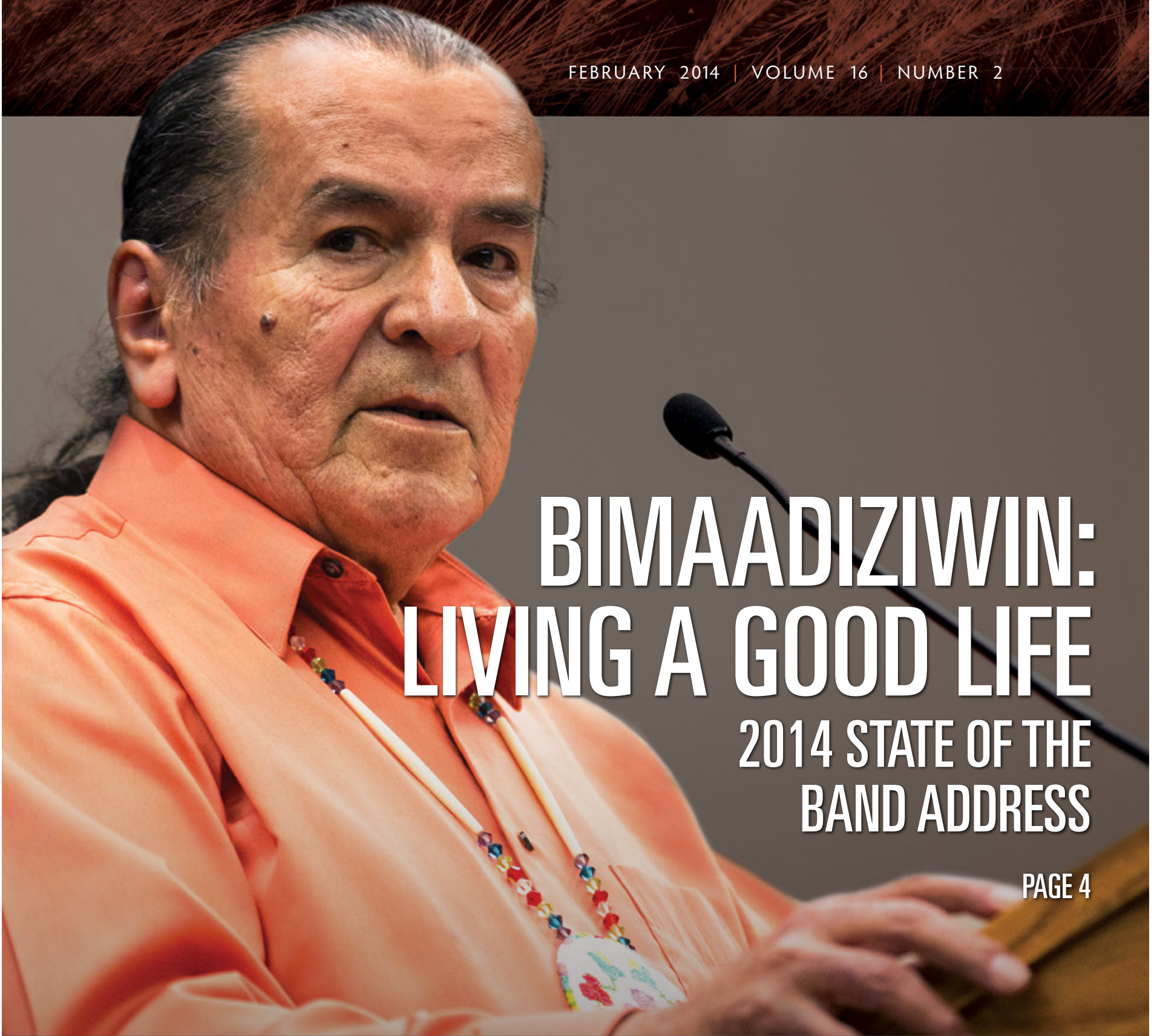


OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

FEBRUARY 2014 | VOLUME 16 | NUMBER 2



BIMAADIZIWIN: LIVING A GOOD LIFE

2014 STATE OF THE
BAND ADDRESS

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SELF-PUBLISHING
LIFE LONG
DREAMS

ELDER STORIES:
SAM YANKEE'S
LITTLE RENEGADE

BAND MEMBER
DANCING LIKE
A STAR

BRINGING OJIBWE
BACK, WORD
BY WORD

Chief Executive Attends 2014 State of the Union Address



Congressman Rick Nolan and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

On January 28, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin attended President Obama's State of the Union address in Washington, D.C. Melanie was a guest of Congressman Rick Nolan, the U.S. Representative for Minnesota's 8th district. Joined by Carri Jones, Tribal Chair of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Melanie was seated in the gallery overlooking the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives for the joint session of Congress, which also included President Obama's Cabinet and members of the U.S. Supreme Court. Melanie and Congressman Nolan took time to visit the statue of Anishinabe Chief Buffalo in the U.S. House of Representatives Rayburn House Office Building.

"The Ojibwe people and their elected leaders here in the Eighth District are so important, and contribute so much to our economy, our culture, and our way of life here in northern Minnesota – I am honored to have Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin of the Mille Lacs Band and Tribal Chair Carri Jones of the Leech Lake Band as my guests for what is traditionally the most important annual address the President of the United States makes to the American people," Nolan said.

2014 State of the Band Address

Each year the Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band addresses the community, reflecting on the previous year and looking forward to the one ahead. For her 2014 address, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin focused on traditional Ojibwe values and how the Seven Grandfather Teachings can lead to a good life. We've reprinted Melanie's full remarks in this issue for those who may have missed the speech. Miigwech to everyone who made this special event happen!



MARCH 8, 2014





HAND DRUM Contest

Starting - 2 p.m.

Pre-register by calling
320-532-7486

or Onsite registration
1 p.m. at the
**Grand Casino Hinckley
Events & Convention Center**

No Alcohol Allowed
Singers will be disqualified.
Each singer must lead

Special Room Rate
Friday 7th - \$49.90
& Saturday, 8th - \$59.90
Mention; **Hand Drum Contest**
to receive special rate.

Sponsored by the
**Chief Executive Office
& Grand Casino Hinckley**

Teams 3-5 Men+ 3 women allowed 18yr +	Jrs 1-3 Youth 6-17years old
\$1500 \$400	
\$1000 \$300	
\$800 \$200	
\$500 \$100	

FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC!



Mille Lacs Band's Corporate Commission Announces New Brand Identity

Sarah C. Barten Public Relations Specialist

The Corporate Commission of Mille Lacs Band has built a reputation for savvy business leadership and entrepreneurial vision through the successful development and operation of Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley, and the more recent acquisitions of the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront and the DoubleTree by Hilton hotels in St. Paul.

All that was missing was an identity that reflected the spirit of business intellect...until now. The Corporate Commission is pleased to announce its new brand identity — Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

"By connecting people, ideals and capital, we are growing a regional economy that benefits all Minnesotans," said Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. "Our new brand better represents who we are as a company, the value we add to the Mille Lacs region, and what we stand for in the business world."

The overall design of the logo was inspired by traditional Ojibwe beadwork. The floral element represents growth and

prosperity and the base of the mark is a stylized "M," representing "Mille Lacs."

The new name holds significance too. "Mille Lacs" not only identifies the location, but also indicates the corporation's relationship to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The words "Corporate Ventures" represent a business entity and a new journey.

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures also has a new website at www.mlcorporateventures.com. The website was developed to better serve the company's traditional visitors while also enriching interactions with potential business partners as the company expands into the hospitality industry.

"Our company has evolved since our last website re-design. Our focus and approach have grown over the past year and it was important to develop a website that more accurately conveys our corporate vision," Nayquonabe said.



The Corporate Commission of Mille Lacs reveals a new brand identity and website

Building Community

An update from the Office of Community Development

Katie Draper Commissioner of Community Development

After being appointed Commissioner of Community Development in April, I spent most of the past six months learning about being a new leader for the Band.

This adventure thus far has been challenging, and I definitely have my hands full! I have adopted a "flat organization" leadership style with an open door policy, which means that anyone who needs to discuss an issue — no matter what the topic — is welcomed.

During these first months, I've met with staff at all levels of Community Development to understand how they felt as employees. It is important for me to show employees the value they bring to our department. I frequently pop in at staff meetings to keep up to date on what is happening in our communities. I have also visited Band member's homes to discuss

accomplished the following:

- Completed 31 rehabs with 20 more under construction
- Tore down five units and replaced them with new units
- Constructed a new four-plex near Wahkon, and built nine new single family housing units
- Built a storage shed, shower house, and storm shelter on the D-I traditional grounds
- Started construction on a new powwow arena in D-I
- Completed a new metal roof on the Community Center and Ceremonial Building in D-III
- Installed a sign at the Stevens Lake Cemetery.

In addition to the above, intersection safety improvement projects took place on Highway 169 at three locations near Wigwam Bay. The improvements consisted of left and right hand turn lanes, grading and sight line improvements, and increased lighting.

Repaving projects in 2013 included Mosey Drive, Bugg Hill, the Mille Lacs Band Government Center and the East Lake Community Center parking lot. We constructed a new overflow parking lot at the Government Center, constructed and paved a new road at the East Lake Center to access the rear of the building. Finally, roads, water, and sewer service were installed in Phase II of Zhingwaak Oodena (Hinckley).

As we roll into the next year, we have set three top priorities in Community Development. As you know, each year we have community clean up with the help of dumpsters in each district. An opportunity to bring people together is to combine the clean up with a neighborhood picnic. That would mean getting outside our homes

to come together in our villages — an opportunity to see each other, get to know neighbors, and build relationships to make our communities safer. Small steps often bring big outcomes.

This year I also would like to create a tenant curriculum because a few of our tenants do not know how to care for their rental units. Other reservations have created programs to educate Band members on how to do simple maintenance tasks at home. I would like to build on this to create a program that will

not only be fun for tenants, but educational with an outcome of caring for and respecting rental property.

Also, I would like to start conducting our own first-time homebuyer classes for Band members, because it makes sense to educate them on how to prepare for homeownership. Along with this, I would like to teach budgeting. This priority also falls in line with a partnership of the HUD 184 home loan program through Woodlands Bank, which will help decrease the waiting list for home ownership. We have so many people on the wait list to be a homeowner; changes "in" house, and partnering with the Woodlands Bank will help Band members be successful in home ownership.

As I learn more in my role, I hope to keep projects moving along, continue to work with compassion, and be a good leader for our communities. Lastly, I have included our proposed project list for Community Development 2014, which is also high priority for our communities.

District I

- Construct nine living units total. This could be duplexes, four-plexes, or single-family homes.
- Rehabilitate four rental units.

District II

- Construct six living units total. These are mainly single family homes.
- Rehabilitate three rental units.

District III

- Construct 15 living units total. These could be duplexes or single-family homes.
- Rehabilitate two rental units.

Please note that these projects are proposed, and could change at any time. These construction/rehabilitation projects are only a portion of our goals for fiscal year 2014 in Community Development. Other projects that are not listed, but are a priority: infrastructure, road repairs, park development/updates, parking lot repaving, and sewer/water mains.



Constructing more living units in each district is on the proposed project list for Community Development in 2014

concerns, working to fairly devise a solution to help them.

For example, Band member David Matrious had been working to get a home for many, many years. We understood David's frustration; now he has a home where his roots are planted. The feedback I have received for these occasions has been both humbling and gratifying.

I certainly cannot take credit for all of the construction projects by Community Development, but as a team we have

State of the Band Address — Bimaadiziwin: Living a Good Life

Melanie Benjamin Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive

Aniin! Bozhoo! Mr. Speaker, Members of the Band Assembly, Madame Chief Justice, Judges of the Court of Central Jurisdiction, my fellow Band members and honored guests: It is my duty under Band law and my honor as Chief Executive to deliver the State of the Band Address each year on the second Tuesday in January.

To our Band members — welcome home — it is always a joy to see this many of us, from different clans but all family, in this room together. It always warms my heart to see families



“As Chief Executive, my most important job is to preserve the sovereignty of the Band.”

— Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

sitting together. On that note, today is a special day for my family. I'd like to wish my sister, Tempy, who is here today, a very Happy Birthday — Happy Birthday, Tempy!

What I've learned from my elders and my own experience, is that the State-of-the-Band is an important time to speak to all clans, all families, as a Community. I take this responsibility very seriously and talk to many Band Members while I plan this speech. I especially ask advice from our elders and spiritual leaders. As Native people, we sometimes get trapped in negative self-talk, focusing on what is wrong with people we know and our community.

Today, I want to focus on what is right about us. As Chief Executive, my most important job is to preserve the sovereignty of the Band. Sovereignty is our inherent right to govern ourselves. Our ancestors fought so hard to keep sovereignty because they knew it would help the Band preserve a way of life. What better way to keep our language, protect our spiritual beliefs, uphold our traditions and way of life — than to be able to write our own laws and follow them? In our Band Code, there are Ojibwe words and Anishinaabe teachings throughout it. The foundation of our legal system is “sha wa ni ma” — the judges are to have compassion for people in our courts.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings

However, many of our teachings are not written down many places. These teachings are direction toward a path of living a good life. Sometimes called the Seven Grandfather Teachings, they were handed down to us by our great grand-parents, and

their grandparents. Our word for a Good Life is “Bimaadiziwin.” These seven teachings are at the core of who we are as a Band, and when we follow these teachings, we see what is right and good about us as Anishinaabe people and as a community.

First “Nibwaakaawin” — wisdom. In Ojibwe, this word also means “intelligence.” It is given by the Creator to be used for the good of the people. To obtain Wisdom takes patience, time and making mistakes. We think of elders when we think of wisdom — but our elders tell us they also once and made mistakes. But we can learn from their mistakes and avoid them! Listening, rather than talking, is how we gain wisdom. If you are asking an elder for advice, you are on the right path. Offer asema, ask with respect and listen, and you can learn so much. Elders like Joe Nayquonabe, Sr. or A.J. Nickaboine or Lee Staples or Amik, or so many of our mothers and grandmothers — They have the valuable wisdom to share.

Second, “Zaagi'idiwin” — love. Love has no conditions, and when people are weak they need love the most. I was told that people need to have some love for themselves before they can truly love someone else, which is tied to being proud of who we are, of our identity as Anishinaabe. To me, when one of our teenagers walks into their grandma's house and shovels her driveway without being asked — that's love. When a niece visits her auntie in the hospital — that's love. When families take in a nephew and treat him like a son — that's love. Love (“Zaagi'idiwin”) is a thousand acts of kindness that go on in our community every day.

Third “Manaadendamowin” — Respect. To honor all creation is to have respect, but you must give respect if you wish to receive it. We offer asema before we take something from the land, to say Miigwech to the creator, to the land and the animal or food we take from the earth. Respect means we do not take more than we need. We are also meant to respect one another, and show respect to the Manidoo when others need help: We put out asema when someone needs help or is ill... that is respect and love.

But we must begin by respecting ourselves. We all make poor choices sometimes. I know a Band member named Kimberly Sam who decided she was not the person she wanted to be. She was in a bad place. She came back home and pursued training. Now she works for our community counseling our people. To me this shows that she has self-respect — she knew she was put in this world for a purpose. She found her purpose and serves her community out of respect to her relatives and friends that need help.

The fourth teaching is “Aakode'ewin” — bravery. In Ojibwe, this means “having a fearless heart.” It means doing the right thing even when that is hard or unpleasant. Our people have always admired our Ogitchidaag — our warriors who defend our country. Bravery is the ability to hold firm in your thoughts and stand strong, even if you do not know what will happen. Bravery is around us every day. It's the teen mother who gets her GED and registers for college classes. It's the middle-aged man who trains for his first marathon. And it's also people like Sid Lucas who chose law enforcement as a career, because he wanted to protect the safety of Native people. We admire bravery of all kinds, and brave deeds are done every

day in our communities by many people.

Fifth, “Gwayakwaadiziwin” — honesty. To us, honesty is being brave and facing the situation, and it means being truthful in word and action. Under this teaching, we learn we must look at ourselves and how we've lived our own lives before judging others. In our language, this teaching can also mean “righteousness”, living our life, living each day, with integrity.

Sixth — “Dabaadendiziwin” — humility. This can also mean “compassion.” Humility is to know we are a sacred part of creation. We are equal to others, but not better. People who follow this teaching don't talk about themselves much. Those who are humble have the wisdom to understand their own gifts — and they also have the wisdom to know that they do not have all the answers. They don't brag about their accomplishments, their strengths or knowledge. The wisest among us are often the quietest. They are kind and generous. To me, wisdom and humility walk hand in hand.

Finally, “Debwewin” — truth. Truth is to know all of these things and to always speak the truth. Do not deceive others or yourself. Sometimes being truthful with each other is hard. No one wants to tell a friend they have a problem with alcohol or drugs. Telling the truth can be lonely. Sometimes the most difficult person to be truthful with is ourselves — being honest with ourselves and others takes bravery.

Discovering the good life

Together, these Seven teachings provide a pathway to “Bimaadiziwin” — a good life. For Anishinaabe people, the good life does not mean making money, buying things, or winning awards. Rather, it has to do with taking care of yourself, your family and your community. It is showing love by performing acts of kindness. It is having the courage to be honest with ourselves and with others. It is getting wisdom through years of listening to others and learning from our mistakes. It is being generous to our family and community without expecting anything in return. It is living life as a kind, humble member of the community. This is the idea behind The Good Life, Bimaadiziwin.

Many of you perform these acts of kindness, and honor your elders. I know that you do. I see it every day!

We all know some people who lived their lives this way. We have lost many of them over the last several years. They were keepers of the language and the traditions. But even though some of them are gone, what better way to pay tribute to their lives than to try to live the way they did? This pathway still exists — and there are people who can help us on our journey. Start by offering asema to one of our elders and ask their advice.



I know many young people who are asking themselves, how do I give my life true meaning? There are many ways. But when you lose yourself in cause that is bigger than your own life, a cause like your own community, a cause like the Mille Lacs Band, you will find that it adds greater meaning to your life.

On this matter of living a good life, today I am announcing the establishment of "The Mille Lacs Band Cultural Preservation Board." This morning I signed an Executive Order establishing this Board. The Board's task will be to advise me and my cabinet members on the best practices for preserving our language, culture, and traditions. Working with the Commissioners, this Board will assist the Executive branch in proposing some laws to the Band Assembly on how we preserve our heritage in the decades and centuries to come. I will appoint members to this Board in February.

Part of living the good life is being safe and secure. Over the last decade, we have seen an increase in violent crime on the reservation related to gang activity. The nature of some of these crimes has been horrific. I've talked to elders who are afraid to leave their homes. I've talked to children who are afraid to walk home from school. We are in a crisis.

Albert Einstein was once asked to define the word, "Insanity". He said, insanity is "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." As we battle crime, one fact is clear: To make our reservation safer, we must make major changes. To continue on as we have is not an option. Therefore, I'm announcing today a major Law Enforcement and Public Safety initiative for 2014. There are 4 key parts.

Last year I announced an investigation of our tribal police Department. This investigation was conducted by two attorneys with expertise in law enforcement on Indian reservations. One is the former head of the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota, and the other is a former Assistant United States Attorney. The investigation resulted in a final report, and included many recommendations for improving public safety on the Reservation. The Band Assembly has the report. What I can share with you today, is that if we move ahead with these recommendations, there will be a complete overhaul of law enforcement with a new structure. These changes should improve public safety, as well as create trust between Band Members and tribal police.

One major change includes creating a new position of "Commissioner of Public Safety" in the Executive Branch. This person would be someone with strong law enforcement experience in Indian country and experience building positive relationships between communities and police officers. This new Commissioner would oversee the Chief of Police and the tribal



This year's State of the Band Address took place on Tuesday, January 14

police department, rather than the Solicitor General. This new chain of command would create a Band counter-part to the State Commissioner of Public Safety.

A second recommendation is that we increase community policing. Community members would be trained to serve as constables, working on the ground with police officers and with community members, making law enforcement an outgrowth of our community and part of our community.

A third change is already in motion. Last year, the Band applied to the United States Department of Justice for federal help under the Tribal Law and Order Act. Department of Justice attorneys visited the reservation in September to get a better picture about how bad violent crime really is on the reservation. I'm told these officials were shocked at how bad things are. I expect to hear whether our application is approved in upcoming months. If it is approved, here is what will change: there will be federal prosecution of many of the violent crimes on the reservation, and federal sentences. Instead of facing short sentences in Milaca or even Stillwater, those committing violent crimes would be facing long federal sentences in Leavenworth or another federal prison. This was a desperate move made out of a place of desperation — our hope as elected officials is that federal prosecution and federal prison will discourage violent crimes and gang activity on the reservation.

Stronger law enforcement and tougher penalties are not enough, however. Our values of love and respect mean we must practice forgiveness and compassion when Band Members return home. Ex-offenders are faced with barriers. Many are unable to find housing or work. Federal laws prevent many from working in our casinos and in some of our government programs. But there are other struggles, with substance abuse, mental and physical health problems, family reunification... the list goes on and on. In some communities, wrap-around programs provide support to help these people integrate into their communities. As part of this Law Enforcement Initiative, I hereby direct the Commissioners of Health Human Services, Administration and Community Development to work together to coordinate wrap-around services for Band Members returning from incarceration.

Wrap-around services are not just needed for Band Members released from incarceration. Many families find themselves in crisis for many reasons. To Commissioner Moose, your priority for 2014 is to develop a plan and coordinate wrap-around services for all Band Members and families in crisis. The wrap around program will bridge family support services, mental health services, chemical health services, emergency services with other Band programs, such as, housing, TANF, and the Department of Labor.

Upgrades ahead in hospitality, education

Part of surviving in the 21st Century so that we can live the good life means participating in the state and national economy. This last year, the Band purchased two hotels downtown

St. Paul and now owns more than half the hotel rooms in the Capitol City. I'm pleased to announce that we have signed a deal to upgrade the Crowne Plaza in St. Paul to an Intercontinental Hotel, which will move this hotel from the upscale category into the luxury category. All of the rooms, public spaces, bars, restaurants and meeting rooms will be renovated. This speaks to our commitment to high quality assets and making big moves to diversify and expand our economy outside of Indian gaming. I'm told this will likely be the biggest news in hospitality in the State of Minnesota this year.

In 2014, we plan to add to our hospitality portfolio, converting Eddy's into a premier destination resort on Mille Lacs Lake. This also speaks to how confident we are in Lake Mille Lacs as a fishery and tourist destination. The Band is heavily invested in maintaining the fishery and quality of the lake, and confident the Lake will continue to serve as a premier fishery and tourist destination. We are also working on acquiring another major hotel property, which will be announced later this year.

Other good news is that this is the first year of the Corporate Commission's existence that our non-gaming businesses have turned a profit, which speaks to strong management with Band leaders at the helm. To the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, I hereby direct you to continue working to diversify our economy to provide non-gaming job opportunities for Band Members.

A good life means meaningful work. Diversifying our economy will result in creation of jobs that are open to all qualified Band Members, but we also need to work closely with Band Members to help them develop qualifications for new positions. Also, we must review our policies and procedures to remove barriers preventing Band Members from being hired. Policies are created by people, and no person is perfect so no policies are ever perfect. These policies have existed for many years unchanged. Good management is flexible, with policies constantly under review, and constantly being improved. I direct Assistant Commissioner Michelle Palomaki to undertake a complete review of our Department of Labor policies and make recommendations to the Band Assembly for changes during 2014. Every Band Member who wants to work should have a job opportunity.

To Commissioner Katie Draper, I also direct you to conduct a complete review of our housing policies, with a goal of ending homelessness on the Reservation. Ending Homelessness means that if a family or person does become homeless, we will have a crisis response system to assess their needs and quickly provide them the opportunity to access stable housing. It does not mean that no one will experience homelessness ever again. The State just released a very good report with strategies for ending homelessness that was developed in consultation with Tribal Nations. I direct Commissioner Draper to apply these strategies to housing opportunities for Band Members. Be creative, be flexible, and make ending homelessness in 2014 your top priority.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings

In her State of the Band address, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin outlined the seven teachings that lead to a good life. Handed down by generations before us, these teachings are at the core of the Band's identity. We've listed the English and Ojibwe translations of the wisdom below.

1. Wisdom = Nibwaakaawin
2. Love = Zaagi'idiwin
3. Respect = Manaadendamowin
4. Bravery = Aakode'ewin
5. Honesty = Aakode'ewin
6. Humility = Dabaadendiziwin
7. Truth = Debwewin

Part of living the good life is being healthy. We all know we have issues with obesity, heart disease and diabetes. Losing weight is not easy, however. I'm today challenging families to come together as a community, and participate in the Mille Lacs Band Weight Loss Challenge. Each team must be family members and all live in the same house. There will be required weigh-ins, fitness assessments, nutrition assessments, cooking classes and meal planning. There will be two sessions and each will be 16 weeks long. Included in this order I have attached some funding for a Band-wide weight loss contest. Competition will be among families.

Hopefully this incentive will get us all eating healthy and exercising: The prize money is \$5000 for first place, \$3000 for second place and \$2000 for third place! We will be making these awards twice next year. If you wish to form a team and enter the contest, the details will be in the Band newspaper.

A good life means education. In Minnesota, we face an educational crisis for Native students. Of all 50 states, a recent study showed the Minnesota is the worst in the country for graduation of Native American youth. We are in 50th place! The legacy of boarding schools, in which children were taught that their language, their culture, and the teachings from their parents and grandparents were bad, is still haunting us today. But there is reason for hope. A key to successful education is developing the identity of our Youth as Anishinabe people who are proud of who they are, who know their culture and their language. This is a fact that has been documented in research. For decades, our schools have offered Ojibwe and cultural classes, but we need to go further than that. In 2014, I direct Commissioner Suzanne Merrill to increase immersion classes offered to students and adults, also using the Immersion Camp.

We also MUST hire more American Indian educators who combine strong academics with culture. There are programs like the Native Teacher's Program at St. Scholastica, that are graduating Native teachers who speak Ojibwe who are looking for jobs. A recent report by MinnCan, a non-profit that studies education in Minnesota, found that schools in Minneapolis, Detroit Lakes and Cloquet who hire these teachers have the highest success and test scores of Indian students in the



Joe Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs

State. Prioritize recruiting Native teachers who've been taught to work with Native youth to work in our schools and to offer science, reading and math camps in the summer.

Finally, continue work on the Niigaan Youth Program, which will be our version of the Boys and Girls Club, but culturally based. I direct you to work closely with the new Cultural Pres-

ervation Board to put this program together, including Ojibwe Language lessons and immersion activities, and include families in these activities.

County and state relation

At this time, I want to address the other governments that we work with in Minnesota. What the Mille Lacs Band seeks above all other things is the ability to live the good life: Bimaadiziwin.

Right now, Mille Lacs County opposes our applications to the federal government to place our own tribal fee land into trust status, and our application to the federal government to get extra help on our law enforcement issues. We are seeking housing and economic development for our people. We are seeking federal help for public safety. What are you seeking in opposing us? In the past, both sides have used words of anger. Today, I want to extend to the County an invitation. Work with us. Let's build this region into a community that is safe, prosperous and a healthy place to raise all our children. I extend this invitation to Pine County and Aitken County and all the Counties and towns in the region. Let's make this a place where we can live and work together in peace and grow old together. Whether that means working together on law enforcement issues or economic development projects, why don't we try to work together? What has working against us done for you except cost millions of dollars? We would be so much stronger and better if we set our bad feelings aside worked for a brighter tomorrow.

I am not making this offer out of weakness. I am making the offer to Mille Lacs County because you always lose! As the largest taxpayer in Mille Lacs County, we Band members are tired of footing the bill while you fight us on everything and always lose! I would think you would get tired of it too! It's your choice!

It is now twenty years since we fought battles over hunting, fishing and gathering. Many of those who insisted on fighting us are no longer here. In another decade or two, all of them will be gone. It is my hope that there is a new generation of Minnesotans: People who have grown up with Indian tribes as job providers and reservations as centers of economic opportunity. I believe that there are many young, smart people in this region who understand that the Mille Lacs Band is not going anywhere. We will always be here! These people see the wisdom of working with us to grow the economy, to bring better public safety to the region, and they themselves will become healthier, wealthier and wiser as the region grows and improves. Think of what we can build together!

To the political leaders of Minnesota, I say let us sit down in friendship and talk about the future! I believe we can reason our way through any differences we may have. There is so much we can do together. We can work together to bring conventions to St. Paul! We can build a new economy in East-Central Minnesota! Imagine what we can do together!

For the State of Minnesota, please keep in mind that we have two matters where we will not compromise. First, our sovereignty is our right to govern ourselves. We do not compromise on sovereignty, and never will.

Second: Our Reservation exists! That is a legal and historical fact! We respectfully ask that you do your legal research rather than listening to those still fighting lost battles of 20 years ago, and put our Reservation on your maps! The United States government has us on their maps, it's time you did too! All we ask is that you follow the law.

For most other matters, keep in mind the goals of the Band and the State are the same! We all seek to make this part of



Minnesota safer. We all seek to bring economic development to all of Minnesota! We all seek communities that are better for our children! We all seek communities where our people can grow old in safety. We all seek better health care and housing. Let us not follow the negative ways of the past! Let us move forward into a brighter tomorrow. Let your legacy be that you followed the law and made Minnesota better!

Hope for the future

Let me close by talking about the future. Band Members: let us focus this year on the seven teachings that were handed down to us by our grandparents: Wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth. Let us use these teachings to seek the good life: "Bimaadiziwin." We have these teachings in our strategic plan and these principles are part of our vision and mission as a people. Let's keep them in mind as we go through the year.

Second, the economic battle ground of the twenty first century is in diversifying our economy. Let's continue to grow our non-gaming economy. Let's create jobs for Band members in the area they choose to work in, educate the workforce and grow our economy on and off the reservation.

Tribes all over American are in all kinds of businesses. Importing, exporting, construction, security, manufacturing — we can enter this economy in all kinds of businesses. Many people want to partner with us. Let's explore all these new possibilities.

Third, let's make this reservation a safer place. We hope to improve our police force and work with the Federal and State governments to bring in additional resources. Let's enforce the laws along with other governments to provide justice to our people. But let's do it with the support of the community!

Finally, let's look to the future with hope! In our veins runs the blood of survivors. If we work together, our people will not only endure, but we will prevail. I truly believe this!

We have survived, and now it is our time!
 Our time for business!
 Our time for the success of our communities!
 Our time for a revival of our language!
 Our time for a glorious new age of our spirit, our culture, our traditions!
 Our time for living the good life, for Bimaadiziwin!
 We will get help from our spiritual leaders who will show us the way!
 We will get guidance and inspiration from our elders!
 We hope to get help from our friends and allies!
 With all this going for us, we cannot lose!
 We will measure success by building a future of hope for our children!
 We will struggle, we will fight!
 AND WE WILL WIN!!
 MIIGWECH!!!

Community Health Assessment Results

Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department

In 2013, Mille Lacs Public Health collected 629 surveys from community members across the districts. A summary of the results:

What challenges does the Band face?

- Over half were unemployed.
- The top reason participants did not have a job was transportation/driver's license.
- Almost half did not have driver's license.
- The most common reason for not having a driver's license is because of financial reasons like fees or fines.
- Most women do not use an effective form of birth control.
- 70% are current smokers.
- Only 15% have never smoked.
- About half were worried about being a victim of gang crime in the last year.
- The most commonly named neighborhood problems

were messy yards, wild dogs, and abandoned houses.

- Most who inject illegal drugs used dangerous needle practices, like reusing or sharing needles.
- 1 out of 5 participants saw needles lying outside in the past month.
- 56% experienced at least one type of abuse in the past year.

In what ways is Mille Lacs healthy?

- The most common traditional activities are going to powwows, eating traditional foods, and smudging.
- 9 out of 10 participants were satisfied or very satisfied with their lives.
- More than half always or usually get the social or emotional support they need.
- Most participants reported safe driving behaviors, like wearing seatbelts and not talking or texting on cell

phones while driving.

What are the community members' ideas to make Mille Lacs a healthier place?

1. Cultural teachings, activities, and language
2. Activities and programs for children and youth
3. Transportation, fuel, and drivers; license related services

What services do the most people think the Band should provide?

Participants think it would help people settle back into the community after prison if the Band helped with employment and job placement services.

What did we learn from this Community Health Assessment?

Overall, we found there are strengths in the community and also opportunities to make the Band healthier.

The Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial

Arne Vainio, M.D. Family Practice Physician **Stephan Hoglund** Photographer



The morning dawned bright and sunny on a beautiful day. We had picked up some blueberries, raspberries, strawberries and other foods that were as close as we could find to our traditional foods when we were in downtown Luxembourg the day before.

Ivy had emailed Joy back and forth several times and she was waiting for us at the cemetery. As far as Ivy and Jacob knew, we were going to make an offering of food and tobacco and Ivy was going to touch her great uncle Johnny's grave marker for her grandmother. 5,076 white marble crosses and white marble Stars of David were laid out in perfect arching rows that went over a hill and into the distance. A great forest surrounded the perfect cemetery lawns and the sky was a brilliant blue. We followed Joy through the grave markers to the far end.

We got there and Ivy sat on the grass in front of Johnny's grave marker. Joy and Jacob and I stood silently as Ivy slowly ran her fingers over the carved inscription and as her hand followed the outline of the cross. Through three generations she was finally doing what her grandmother had wanted to do all these years. Ivy didn't know when she was growing up as a little girl and spending time with her grandmother that her grandmother was putting her love for her brother into Ivy. Exchanging Christmas presents, family meals, telling stories... all meant for this moment.

We asked Joy if we could give a food offering at the grave and she said this would be fine and she was going to leave and give us our privacy. We asked her to stay as a representative of our country as she is originally from Montana and by law all of the workers at any of the overseas cemeteries have to be American.

I opened the bag and took out my asemaa. Ivy and Jacob and Joy each took some and we offered it to all four directions and I thanked the creator in Ojibwe for giving us this day. We put some asemaa with the food and we each ate some of the berries and put the rest at the base of the grave marker. In Ojibwe I thanked our ancestors and the spirits who watch over us and protect us and invited them to share in the food we brought.

I took out the pipe I was given and fitted the stem to the bowl. When I had it blessed, Lee told me the living trees and the ancient stone come together to help our people when the pipe is assembled and his words were in my thoughts. I took a small pinch of asemaa and held it high and spoke the words

Lee had taught me. In Ojibwe I thanked the Creator and put the asemaa into the bowl. I took another pinch of asemaa, held it high and thanked the spirits that help the Creator and put that into the bowl. Again for the spirits in the East, the South, the West and the North. Asemaa for the spirits in my homeland, the spirits in the forests and the lakes. The big animals. The little animals. The birds, the trees, the spirits who once lived among us, the sun, the moon and any other spirits I may have forgotten.

I held a pinch of asemaa high in the air for Sgt. John Mercer and thanked him for his sacrifice and put it in the bowl.

I had found the names of every crew member who died on that plane with him and I held asemaa up in their names and thanked them individually. I offered asemaa for all of our veterans and Ogichidaa and named as many as we could think of. The list was long.

"Odaapinik nidaseamaam." Accept this tobacco.

"Zhawenimishig." Have compassion for me.

I lit the bowl and smoked the pipe for the very first time. The asemaa burned brightly and I inhaled the smoke deep inside me, held it for a moment and as I breathed it out the wind accepted it and took it gently into the sky.

When I finished, I set the pipe at the base of the grave marker.

I pulled the hand drum from the bag and this was the first time Ivy and Jacob had seen it painted. The medicine wheel and the caduceus blended together perfectly and the red, white, yellow and black were a stark contrast against the buffalo hide of the drum. The birds were the only witnesses to our presence and their songs could be heard throughout the cemetery. The words to the soldier song our people have carried for generations came easily as I sang in front of Ivy and Jacob for the first time and I sang loudly for our warriors. Joy was crying as the last echoes of the song carried over the hill and among the graves.

I pulled out my phone and held it above the grave marker. At age 93, Major Joseph Gomer is one of the greatest living Americans and he was a Tuskegee Airman and a Red Tail fighter pilot in World War II. As a black man, he was mistreated and held back, but was to be one of the best pilots ever and went on to save countless lives. I had sought him out and told him about our trip and asked if he would speak to John. Ivy and Jacob didn't know who was about to speak as I hit the play button on the recorder:

"John, this is Joe Gomer, Major, United States Air Force, re-

tired. I was a Red Tail pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen in 1944 and I escorted B-24s and B-25s. I want to thank you for your service. You served not just yourself, but all of mankind and we all thank you."

This was a powerful moment and all of us were silent. The only sounds were the birds and the sound of a helicopter in the distance.

Ivy was crying as I hit the play button again. Her grandmother's voice came through clearly:

"Hi, Johnny. This is your sister Teresa. I sure missed you and I didn't know they ever found you and through the years I always thought you might walk through my door. I'm an old lady now and I've really missed you. I'm 87 and you would have been about 89 and I might see you soon.

I've got a wonderful granddaughter and she found you and showed me a picture of your grave and I... (she started crying at this point)...can't expect you to walk through the door.

Gosh sakes, it's been a long life I've had and you would have, too. All my brothers except one are with you now. My granddaughter and her family are coming to visit you and I'll be standing there with them.

I love you very much and I'll be seeing you one of these days. Your sis. Sister Terese."

I turned off my phone and put it back in its case. No one said anything for a few minutes and we simply listened to the birds and the sounds of the forest. A gentle breeze whispered through the treetops.

Joy was the first to speak. She spoke quietly. "My ancestry is Blackfeet. The last time I heard a drum was ten years ago when I went home to Montana to bury my grandmother. Thank you."

And we were done. We left Ivy at the grave to spend time with Johnny and Jacob and I went to look at the monuments.

Jacob turned 15 on this trip. Ivy brought her grandmother's love to her great uncle Johnny. I sang an ancient song and will find one of our elders to teach me a birthing song to welcome babies into this sometimes difficult world. This may well be the single most important thing we have done as a family.

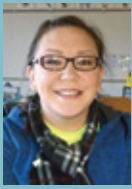
The return flight was long and the sunrise over the ocean was spectacular.

We were coming home.

Arne Vainio, M.D. (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Member) is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac Ojibwe reservation in northern Minnesota.

Gidinwewininaan

Baabiitaw Boyd Gaa-ozhibii'ang



This month Baabiitaw Boyd writes about her experiences of self-discovery through seeking language.

Mii go dibishkoo aanind weshki-bimaadizid noongom

ini-gagiibaajichiged biinish nishwanaajiweginiged bimaadizid. Mii iw gaye niin gaa-izhiwebiziyaan. Nigii-inigaawendaan bimaadiziyaan biinish gaye gaawiin apane nigii-mino-doodawaasiin a'aw niwiji-bimaadiziim. Nebowa iw nishkaadendamowin nigii-pimiwidoon imaa biinjina miinawaa geget nigii-aanawenindiz. Mii dash imaa gaa-apa'iweyaan gii-ni-aabajitooyaan iw minikwewin miinawaa anooj enigaa'igod a'aw Anishinaabe. Gaawiin dash nigii-wiidookaagosiin i'iw. Nawaj igo nigii-ni-gagwaadagiz.

Mii dash ow apii gii-ini-naanaazikawagwaa gechi-aya'aawijig gii-inendamaan da-ondinamaan imaa ge-naadamaagoyaan. Mii dash aw Obizaan gaa-maajii-wiidanokiimag gii-paa-wiijiwag gii-paa-ganoodamawaad iniw Anishinaaben asaawaad iniw asemaan. Mii imaa gii-ni-wiijiwagwaa gaa-naazikaagojin nanda-gikendamowaad iw Anishinaabe akeyaa gaa-izhi-miinigoowizid da-naadamaagod. Mii dash gomaapii gii-ni-moonendamaan da-gashkitooyaambaan igo da-ni-aanjitooyaan iw eni-bimaadiziyaan. Mii dash iw wenjida gaa-naadamaagoyaan gii-wiindamaagooyaan "A'aw Anishinaabe bebezhiig igo gegoo-go ogii-inenimigoon iniw Manidoon da-ni-dazhiikang miinawaa da-ni-giizhiikang megwaa omaa bibizhaagiid omaa akiing. Gego dash da-nishwanaajitoosig i'iw owi yaw megwaa omaa bibizhaagiid omaa akiing." Mii dash iw gaa-nandawaabandamaan. Mii dash iw wenjigikino'amaageyaan iw ojibwemowin noongom. Mii iw wenji-biminizha'amaan noongom. Mii dash gaawiin geyaabi gaagiiwozhitoong indinenindizosiin. Mii dash ganabaj gii-mikamaan gaa-inendaagoziyaan da-dazhiikamaan megwaa omaa bibizhaagiyaan omaa akiing.

Family Weight Loss Challenge

We are seeking those of you who are participating in the Family Weight Loss Challenge to share your story. Each month we will write about your efforts as your family undergoes its weight-loss transformation. We will ask you to share healthy recipes you have tried, exercise plans for your family and changes you'll be making as you join others in the quest to lose weight. Those who are interested please contact Andy McPartland at 612-372-4612 or andy@redcircleagency.com

Self-Publishing Lifelong Dreams

Band member creates children's activity books

Deborah Locke Staff Writer **Tiffany Bolk** Photographer

At age nine, Mille Lacs Band member Janet Swierczek learned that if she looked hard at something, she could draw it. She once showed a drawing to her mom, Geraldine Mitchell.

"Mom asked, 'how did you do that?'" Janet said during an interview. "I told her it began with drawing one line."

That one line — and thousands after it — led to the recent self-publication of one of Janet's lifelong dreams, two activity books for children. Late in 2013, she received copies of *Fashion with Janet and Her Friends* and *Easy Summertime Fashion with Janet and Friends* from AuthorHouse Publishing.

The books and hundreds of drawings are neatly bound in Janet's Minneapolis apartment. One thick binder contains the story of "Janet," a fashionable and adventurous private investigator who, if all works out, will be the subject of a video game one day.

The writing in particular could come as a surprise to those who knew Janet as a student at Heart of the Earth Survival School 30 years ago. She was in special education classes due to a reading disability. Bullying from other kids and dissatisfaction with school led to Janet's decision to drop out in tenth grade.

The path to self-publishing turned into another phase of education. In 2012 Janet went to the Minneapolis federal courthouse to ask questions about copyright law. She was directed to the public library and eventually received the copyright forms from Washington D.C. After submitting the forms for three books and paying \$195, she received approval. She then had a conversation with her landlord, who told her about self-publishing. It cost her \$1,200 to have the books published by AuthorHouse, which sells them for \$13.95.

The completed books show a strong work ethic and determination from a woman who described her life as pretty hard. At age 16, Janet had a son, Tyson Nickaboine, and later a daughter, Jennifer Bright, was born.

As she thinks back today, the decades were a blur of chemical dependency and no efforts at drawing. Her son went to live with his father, and Janet worked for a company cleaning



Janet Swierczek gives us a peek inside one of her binders

residential homes. That cleaning habit stuck: today Janet's apartment is immaculate. She said her mom always told her to keep the place tidy in case visitors arrived.

Janet also cleaned up her old habits: she celebrates five years of sobriety in 2014.

Janet's still thinks of Mille Lacs as a second home. Readers may recognize her grandparents' names: Jenny Skinaway and James Mitchell Sr. Janet's Ojibwe background does make its way into her activity books and other projects through images of dream catchers, feathers and clothing.

The drawing takes place on a coffee table in Janet's living room. She sits on the floor, and presumes her floor sitting preference was inherited from her father, Jerry.

"Dad always sat on the floor when I visited him," she said. Her drawing technique is unique: she starts with a line and if it turns into what she imagines, she keeps it. On an afternoon in January, Janet leaned over a sheet of paper with a pencil, making broad strokes. She didn't like the way drawing was turning out; it didn't look right, she said. The page was slipped to the bottom of a pile for later filing.

Janet's books can be ordered through amazon.com, bn.com and authorhouse.com.

American Indians in Science Day

RJ3 Photography Photographer

Saturday, February 15: get inspired by the best and brightest scientists, inventors and educators in our community. Try your hand at incredible experiments in science, technology, engineering and math with scientists from Minnesota's finest companies and educational organizations.

Kids free with paid adult admission. Up to four children get in free with one full price adult museum admission.

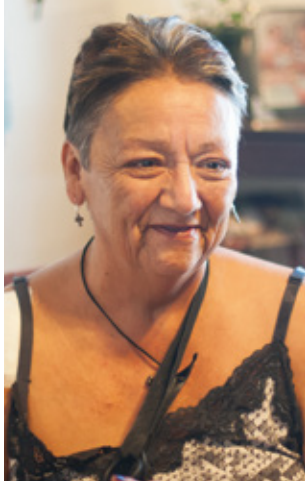
Call 651-221-9444 for information. Special rates for persons with limited income are available.

Science Museum of Minnesota
120 W. Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102
smm.org/sciencefusion



Sam Yankee's Little Renegade

Deborah Locke Staff Writer Tiffany Bolk Photographer



Ada Merrill

Around 1956, a five-year-old Ada Merrill ran from her parents' home — across U.S. Hwy. 65 — to the home of Sam and Ada Yankee, her grandparents. She snuck up on her grandmother and hid under her skirt, her little legs sticking out. She thought she was invisible.

Her mother thought otherwise. Orletta Merrill charged across the highway after her daughter,

chasing her back home with a switch.

The punishment didn't matter to Ada; she continued to escape to her grandparents' home. Finally Orletta started walking her daughter across the highway almost every day. Grandpa Sam, who recognized rebellion, affectionately started calling little Ada a "renegade."

By then, Sam Yankee was a well-respected Mille Lacs Band member, who later went on to become Chairman in the 1960s. His granddaughter would eventually hold nontraditional jobs for a woman: an armed guard, a truck driver, and a foreman. Her rebellious streak continued into adulthood: in the 1990s Ada risked losing her job by protesting for treaty rights. She was arrested for throwing out a net on Mille Lacs Lake.

"We were shot at that night," she said.

Today Ada lives in a snug home in District II, not far from U.S. Hwy. 65. She was forced to retire at age 45 by a work-related injury; someone intentionally bashed in her knee.

Still bright-eyed, full of opinions and lacking bitterness, Ada fills her days with jewelry making, beading and medical appointments: she is recovering from a shoulder injury caused by chopping wood.

The early years

The eldest of six children born to Mike Merrill and Orletta Greene Merrill Sharlow, Ada was born on April 25, 1951 at the Cloquet Indian Hospital. Her earliest memory is of running to her Grandpa Sam and Grandma Ada's home. "I was always running," she said.

She loved her parents but felt a special kinship with her grandparents, who provided discipline and clear expectations for their granddaughter. Sam taught his granddaughter how to fancy dance, which is typically performed by males. A postcard from that time shows Ada and Sam in their powwow outfits.

When Ada was in the first grade, her family moved to Ohio as part of the federal Indian Relocation Act. Ada's stepfather, George Sharlow, got a job with a Ford plant. The couple enrolled Ada in a Catholic school, but she was expelled from first grade for refusing to pray. So they enrolled her in a public school where she was the only Indian student. Ada excelled academically there, graduating second in her high school class. Grandpa Sam was especially proud of his granddaughter's achievements, and brought her to Bemidji State University as a freshman.

Sam had only attended school through the second grade, but he was smarter than most college graduates, Ada said. He was a superior orator and gifted translator of the Ojibwe language. Grandma Ada, too, had skills.

"She would stand at the front door, take a .22 and pick off a partridge from the yard," Ada said. Both grandparents hunt-

ed and gathered wild rice to feed the family. Ada remembers meals of fish, deer and porcupine.

The middle years

Ada started college but did not finish. She held a number of nontraditional jobs, and was one of the first security employees at the Mille Lacs Grand Casino in the early 1990s.

When her mother became sick, Ada returned to Ohio. There, while working at the Brinks security firm, Ada was kicked in the knee, which led to her disability and forced retirement.

Ada has been married four times. Still, there will always be a special place in her heart for one man: Elvis Presley. Pictures and mementoes of the King are displayed throughout Ada's home.

"He's my man," she said, with a smile. Her favorite song? "Amazing Grace," because the voice of Elvis includes parts of his heart and soul, she said.

Ada's first husband, Alvin Robert Boyd from Cass Lake, fought in Vietnam and returned home a changed man. "That era destroyed my husband," Ada said.

Ada had a son, Carl Robert Boyd, who was basically raised by his stepfather, Harry Lewis, Ada's second husband. Harry was the love of her life. She and Harry had a daughter, Michale Lee Lewis-Pagh. Harry was a truck driver who died in a crash on his way home from work at the age of 32.

A regret

Following the death of her husband, Ada spiraled out of control, falling into chemical dependency with drugs and alcohol. She "lost" five years of her life and worse, five years of the lives of her children.

"It was the wrong path, and that is my main regret in life," she said. "I had two good friends who helped pull me out of that spiral."

Today Ada tells her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to walk a good path and avoid the pitfalls of chemical dependency. She is especially fearful of the impact of meth use on the reservation, and the violence that erupts from it.

"It scares me that the kids are dying so young," she said. She thinks Grandpa Sam and Grandma Ada would be disappointed to see the way drugs and violence have undone much of traditional Ojibwe culture. However, she also thinks they would be encouraged by the young people who seek to learn the best parts of their heritage.

Ada follows many of the old traditions, blending them into today's ways. She may lay off chopping wood for a while, but hopes to tend to her flowers and garden in the spring. The fall months inspire canning projects: spaghetti sauce, pickles, jelly and jam. She goes fishing, and creates intricate jewelry with beads and anything that sparkles or shines.

For a while, Ada lived in Duluth, but knew she had to return home where there was fewer people and less noise. It's quiet in her snow-covered corner of the reservation where on a late January afternoon, the sun cast afternoon rays on the front yard.

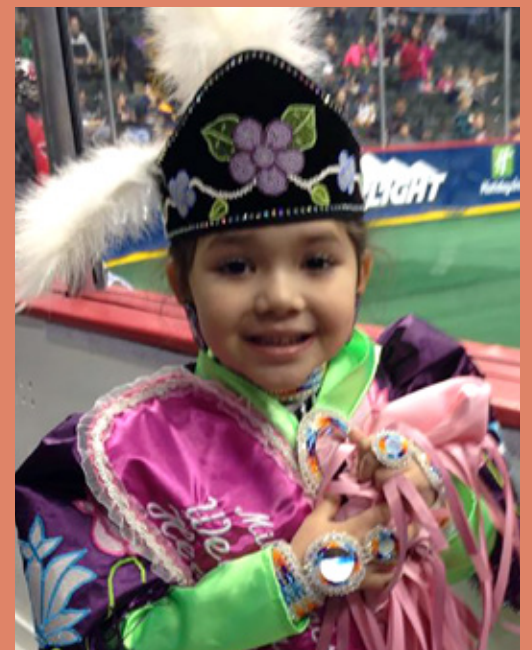
You won't see her wood-chopping tools anywhere, however. A nephew took away Ada's chainsaw and ax, removing any temptation to head outdoors and hack away at logs. Her shoulder needs to heal.

Sam Yankee's renegade is content to invite a relative over for the night. The two women stay up late, laughing at re-runs of "The Golden Girls."

Band Youth Joins MN Swarm's Native American Heritage Day



On January 19, youth from MLBO Niigaan sites attended Native American Heritage Day, hosted by the National Lacrosse League's Minnesota Swarm at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. A total of 40 participants from all districts partook in the team tunnel experience for pre-game introductions. This year was the fifth annual event, which also featured drum groups and a traditional lacrosse game at halftime.



Arianna, the Wewinabi Head Start Princess, poses for the camera at Native American Heritage Day.

Are you an Elder or do you know an Elder who has a story to tell?

The Inaajimowin is looking for Elder stories for upcoming issues.

Send your name, contact information, and a brief description of the Elder you would like to feature to Andy McPartland at andy@redcircleagency.com or call 612-372-4612.

Revealing Layers of History

Deborah Locke Staff Writer

At a critical time in its history, the elected leaders of the Mille Lacs Band decided to eliminate the reservation business committee style of government and adopt a separation of power structure. Volumes of memos, letters, and documents from then attest to the enormity of that change.

Imagine that you wanted to research that significant period of history. That era and others is being sorted and catalogued now by Michael Wilson, the MLB Archivist, who started work on Oct. 28, 2013. While his office is in the Government Center, his work is contained in about 1,400 boxes stored in the building's basement. With the help of assistant Dan Pewaush, Michael identifies and records documents of historical importance to the Band. His written lists will one day become a catalog. Eventually some items may be electronically digitized; those documents and images will be online for all to see.

"Archivists are a combination librarian and historian," Michael said. They serve in a supporting role to people who need information. "Michael will help bring history to life," said Caryn Day, MLB Tribal Operations Director. "We have lots of pictures that will help people connect with the past and help all of us to remember. Part of our mission is to preserve history. The archive will be a repository for historical documents."

For example, the Band has a collection of veterans' photos displayed in the Government Center as a way to honor and celebrate their service. The original pictures will be preserved in the archive and high quality duplicates will be displayed.

No real surprises have surfaced from the boxes yet. Michael has found a picture of President Bill Clinton holding a birchbark basket. Another image featured Sen. Paul Wellstone. Each photo was similar to the kind you put in a home photo album, Michael said.

He thinks it will take a couple of years to categorize the contents of all the boxes. In addition to the categorization, Michael conducts oral histories of Elders. Those, too, will become a resource to researchers.

In a former job, Michael listened to the music of Prince for eight to ten hours each day. The Minnesota-born musician wanted all of his released and unreleased music digitized in a catalog, and Michael got the job. For about four months his work life evolved around "play" and "record" buttons.

Michael's mother is from Leech Lake and his father is from Rainy Lake in Canada. He knows the Ojibwe language from attending ceremonies, and speaks "a little bit." He took Ojibwe language classes from Dennis Jones at the University of Minnesota.

He graduated from Augsburg College in Minneapolis in 2012, with a degree in American Indian Studies and history.

Michael lives in Milaca with his wife and three children. He likes to play videogames with his stepson, write music, and play guitar and keyboard. Family life keeps him busy when he's not in the Government Center basement, exploring.

Someday all the Band's historic documents and photos will be available on a searchable database, Michael said. The database, when the work gets that far, will clearly present the steps the Band took that led it to the present.



DISTRICT 3

Band Member Dancing Like a Star

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

When Briana Michels was a little girl, dance competitions weren't televised like they are today. There was no such thing as "Dancing with the Stars" and Hollywood wasn't making movies about ballroom dancing.

Still, even as a little girl Briana knew that she wanted to learn how to dance the cha cha, rumba, and swing.

"I love all kinds of music. When I hear any feel-good music, it makes me want to dance," said Briana, a Band member who lives in Pine City.

"Growing up in rural Minnesota, we didn't have a lot of opportunities to see ballroom dance, let alone take ballroom dance lessons, so I really didn't even get started until I was 23 years old," said Briana, who began private lessons seven years ago.

A couple of years after she started taking lessons, Briana had learned the basic steps well enough to begin to teach dance to others — mostly couples preparing for their wedding receptions or people who wanted to learn social dances.

She also decided she wanted to participate in a professional dance competition. Last month she accomplished that goal by competing in the Snow Ball Dance Sport Competition, which took place January 11-12 at the Hilton Hotel in Bloomington.

During the event Briana danced in 18 "heats" in the pre-silver newcomer category. She placed first in the regular heats and second in the American smooth scholarship heat: waltz, tango, and foxtrot. She took third place in the American rhythm scholarship heat: the cha-cha, rumba and swing.



Briana Michels dances with her partner

Besides experiencing the thrill of competing, Briana also earned cash prizes in the scholarship heats.

"Shortly before the competition, my home sold quicker than I expected so I had to move. That meant I wasn't as prepared as I wanted to be," said Briana, who has competed twice before at the same event. "I was super nervous, but overall it was a great experience."

Briana said it was a great feeling and although she was excited, she was also relieved when it was over.

"When I dance, I think about the technique more than the music. I think about my posture, my steps and my body connection to my partner, and the music comes in last," she said. "I'm always nervous and it's hard to calm down until I do the first couple of dances."

"In our culture, or at least as a kid growing up, we've always been taught that everyone is equal, so I think that is why I find it so hard to compete. You have to put yourself out there and have confidence."

There's also a sense of joy that comes with the steps, she added, because, "I was never athletic and I wasn't very good in sports so this makes me feel proud."

It also fills her mother, Kathy Matrious, with pride.

"It is phenomenal," Kathy said. "We couldn't be more proud of her that she took on something so unique and so elite. Not everyone could do this and do it so well."

Kathy said she probably embarrassed her daughter a little bit because she took so many photos, it was like Briana was a kindergartener again.

"It's pretty exciting and we all support her," she said. "We are her fan club."

To get ready for the pro-amateur event, Briana rehearsed for three months. She drove more than an hour each week by driving to connect with her Minneapolis-based dance instructor and dance partner, Scott Anderson. She also had to find her wardrobe for the competition, which included one rental dress and one that she purchased and customized to make it exactly what she wanted it to be.

"Between the hair, make-up, dresses and the registration, it costs a lot," she said. "I love doing this, although it is expensive. My ultimate goal is to dance in two competitions a year," she said. Briana said that her favorite dances are the Latin rhythms dances — salsa, rumba and the cha-cha.

Now that the competition is behind her, Briana says she is going to continue dancing and to continue to take lessons to perfect her craft.

"I'm going to learn more dances and work on my technique as well as more styling," she said. "There are a lot of dances that I don't know, but I want to learn. It will be a while before I compete again, but I'm already excited about it."

Band Member Wins Silver PPAI Pyramid Award

Mille Lacs Band Elder Steve Premo was recognized with a 2014 Pyramid Award from the Promotional Products Association International (PPAI). Steve's design for Grand Casino's 2013 calendar was presented the Silver award in the Diversity Programs category. The calendar focused on the Band's history and culture, as seen through Steve's original artwork. Steve works as an artist and graphic designer for Grand Casino.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin (bottom left) joined Steve Premo (top left) at the 2014 PPAI award ceremony.



Laughing, Dancing, Singing

Popular hand drum contest returns

Deborah Locke Staff Writer Tiffany Bolk Photographer



This year's drum contest will be held on March 8 at the Grand Casino Hinckley Convention Center

At next month's hand drum competition, judges will listen carefully for an even rhythm from players. They will also test the flexibility of the singers and check to see that everyone on key and the words can be understood — in both the Ojibwe and English languages.

This year's contest will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 8 at the Grand Casino Hinckley Convention Center. The judges keep a close ear and eye on the singers and drumming. "We watch to see if they are ready to sing," said Pete Gahbow, a Mille Lacs Band member and hand drum contest judge. Judges also watch the audience. When the sound is especially inviting, audience members move from chairs to dance on the floor. Their reaction is a good indicator of the quality of the performance, Pete said.

"You sing to make people dance — that's your main goal," he said. "It's awesome when you get them out there."

He's not sure how long the hand drum has been in use by the Ojibwe, but believes it has been around for hundreds of years. A drum's style and appearance vary by nation. The Cree drum used in Canada, for example, is one-sided with a handle located near the drum's center. The Ojibwe drums are two-sided and the handle is on the rim. The two drums sound different, but their purpose is the same: to accompany ceremonies, en-

tertain and teach.

Pete said that songs relay humorous stories or love songs. "Some of them are pretty nice," he said. "With the more fun songs, you can sing to your honey."

Pete learned hand drum use from his dad, former Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Art Gahbow. At home after supper, Art used to take out his hand drum and sing. When Art played his drum, all his worries and responsibilities fell away, Pete said.

"When he sang with us, he wasn't our chief, he was just another singer," Pete said.

Following his dad's path, Pete helped organize the Little Otter drum group in the late 1970s. Today Pete's younger brother Erik and his sons and nephews are taking over the drum group. The Ojibwe drumming style has changed over the years — there are subtle changes in pace and sound. Although the hand drum is considerably smaller than the big drum, it's also less forgiving than the big drum. Pete said it's easy to pick out a singer who is off-key when the hand drum is used. That's not so true of the big drum with its larger sound.

At the upcoming contest, Mille Lacs Band member Larry Smallwood will serve as co-Master of Ceremonies. Joining him will be Larry Yazzi, a dancer and singer whose own dance troupe travels locally and abroad.

Third Annual Mille Lacs Polar Bear Plunge is Coming Soon!

Sarah C. Barten Public Relations Specialist

On Saturday, March 8, Grand Casino Mille Lacs will sponsor the third annual Mille Lacs Polar Bear Plunge on the shore near Eddy's Lake Mille Lacs Resort to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota. 122 individuals have registered to participate, as of January 29, 2014.



We want to double the number of plungers from last year — that's more than 300 brave individuals! Are you up for the challenge? Grab a friend, family member or co-worker and register today!

Area law enforcement, fire departments, search and rescue teams, the Mille Lacs Band DNR and Grand Casino Mille Lacs staff will oversee the event.

If you would like to participate or donate to a team or individual, visit plungemn.org and choose the Mille Lacs plunge location. Participants need to raise a minimum of \$75 to plunge. Donations will be accepted on the day of the plunge and anyone interested in participating can register on the day of the event at the registration table. Registration opens at 11 a.m. with the plunge following at 1 p.m.

Major Hotel Rebranding Announced at State of the Band Address

St. Paul property will become the first InterContinental hotel in Minnesota

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer



The Band-owned Crowne Plaza RiverFront Hotel in St. Paul is set to undergo its transformation as an InterContinental hotel later this year, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin announced at the State of the Band in January.

"I'm pleased to announce that we have signed a deal to upgrade the Crowne Plaza in St. Paul to an InterContinental Hotel, which will move this hotel into the luxury category," said Melanie. "This speaks to our commitment to high quality and making big moves to diversify and expand our economy outside of Indian gaming."

The InterContinental is a luxury brand of hotels, and the flag change will require significant upgrades to the Crowne Plaza including the guest rooms, restaurant and other parts of the hotel.

The Mille Lacs Band, along with Graves Hospitality Inc. and InterContinental Hotels Group, will continue their partnership to transform the Crowne Plaza into a premier hospitality venue.

Last year the Band purchased both the Crowne Plaza and the DoubleTree by Hilton, also located in downtown St. Paul. The purchase of both hotels made the Mille Lacs Band the owner of nearly half of the hotel rooms in the city.

"We are committed to not only making strategic acquisitions for the Band, but also continually improving our brands and delivering exceptional quality to our customers across all of our businesses," said Joseph Nayquonabe Jr., Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band.

"By announcing this year that we have reached an agreement to rebrand the Crowne Plaza as an InterContinental, we are demonstrating that ongoing commitment to four-star quality."

Benefit for Vernon Frye

Monday, February 17
5 p.m.–8 p.m.
Hinckley Community Center

Come out and support a Band member with brain cancer.

There will be a bake sale, indian tacos, and silent auction.

Contact Nina Hodgeman at 320-279-2712 for more information.

Bringing Ojibwe Back, Word by Word

Deborah Locke Staff Writer

Last year Brad Harrington, a Department of Natural Resources Field Technician, noticed that the road near the Mille Lacs Band water towers had a lot of traffic.

Brad approached Caryn Day, Director of Tribal Operations, with an idea. He had some wood from the DNR forestry department. If she supplied the paint, could he put up a dual-language, Ojibwe/English sign near the water tower?

Caryn said yes, and eventually a sign went up with the word *atoobaan*, which means “water tower” in Ojibwe. An Elder had helped him with the spelling. Brad often consults the online Ojibwe dictionary (ojibwe.lib.umn.edu) created by University of Minnesota staff – with help from fluent Ojibwe speakers.

Starting this spring, Brad would like to install dual language signs at the Band’s five parks, including one at a lake about a quarter mile north of the main water tower. “I’ll put it up when I can walk out there without getting snowed on or wet,” he said.

Language preservation is a priority at the Mille Lacs Band, Caryn said. Brad took initiative and now the community can look forward to language enrichment, one word at a time.

Brad said he received inspiration and guidance from Face-

book photos of dual language signs in Bemidji.

Dual language signs “were all over,” he said – on social service buildings and a restaurant. The Girl Scouts and other organizations also had signs.

“They’re widely accepted throughout the community,” he said.

Brad remembers developing an interest in his Native language at an early age. As a child, he listened to his grandparents greet their peers and family members in Ojibwe. That generation, however, was the product of boarding schools, in which Native language was prohibited. Because they learned to associate shame with their first language, many never taught their children or grandchildren how to speak it. Today, Brad is studying the language through the Band’s Anishinaabe College.

He envisions decal-style signs in the Band government center and in buildings throughout each District. He imagines outdoor Ojibwe/English signs will grow in acceptance, as they have in Bemidji.

Meanwhile, he’s looking for a couple of new pieces of wood for the lake park sign. He will pull out the stencils and paint when the weather breaks.



Cortney Nadeau holding one of the Ojibwe signs he created.

A Letter from Circle of Health



To better serve our Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community, Circle of Health has relocated to the Ne-la-Shing Health Center. Our new address is: Circle of Health, 43500 Migizi Drive, Onamia, MN 56359.

We can be reached at our toll-free number: 1-800-491-6106 or directly by the numbers listed below.

The Circle of Health staff is available at the Ne-la-Shing Health Center, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Please help me welcome our new employees to our Circle of Health team!

Circle of Health administration

- Ginger Weyaus
Health Benefits Administrator
Direct Line: 320-532-7723 or ext. 7723
- Mary Kegg

- Benefits Coordinator
Direct Line: 320-532-7741 or ext. 7741
- Shirley Boyd
File Clerk
Ext. 2581
- Eloise Wind
Administrative Assistant — Temp.
Ext. 2582

Contract Health Services

- Frances Davis
Contract Health Specialist
Ext. 2515
- Mary Thompson
CHS Referral Nurse Ext. 2502
CHS Referral Hotline: 1-855-502-6247
- Tammy Smith
Claims Processor — Contract Health

Direct Line: 320-532-7740 or ext. 7740

Circle of Health claims processors

- Roberta Lemieux
Claims Processor — Letter A–F
Direct Line: 320-532-7724 or ext. 7724
- Deb Smith
Claims Processor — Letter G–N
Direct Line: 320-532-8903 or ext. 8903
- Bonnie John
Claims Processor — Letter O–Z
Direct Line: 320-532-8904 or ext. 8904

Mailing Address

43500 Migizi Drive
Onamia, Minnesota 56359
Phone: 320-532-4163 or 800-491-6106
Fax: 320-532-4354

Contract Health Services

Circle of Health Department

American Indian & Alaskan Natives requesting the Ne-la-Shing Health Center Contract Health Services (CHS) program to pay for their referred or self-referred care must meet the requirements in 42 CFR 136.

Basic CHS eligibility requirements

- You received health services provided at the expense of the Tribe by other public or private providers.
- Provide proof of enrollment in a federally recognized tribe OR proof that you descend from an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe, and;
- Permanently reside on a reservation OR may reside outside of a reservation but within the CHS Delivery Area (Pine, Aitkin, Mille Lacs or Kanabec counties) of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and;
- Obtain prior approval; OR for self-referred care, notify

your CHS program within 72 hours of receiving care (30 days for elderly & disabled), and;

- Services must be medically necessary. (CHS is limited to services that are within the Tribal Health facility’s established CHS Medical Priorities and/or funds available) CHS funds may not be expended for services that are reasonably accessible and available at a Tribal Health facility, and;
- CHS will not be responsible for, or authorize payment of, services if the patient is eligible for Alternate Resources (e.g. Medicaid). As “Payor of Last Resort” CHS will only pay for authorized/approved care after all other Alternate Resources (e.g. Medicare, Private Insurance) have paid.

These are the basic CHS requirements; see 42 CFR (Code of

Federal Regulation) Part 136 to view the entire CHS eligibility requirements.

For more information

Visit the IHS website: ihs.gov/NonMedicalPrograms/chs, or contact your local CHS Program at:

- Ne-la-Shing Health Center
43500 Migizi Drive, Onamia, MN 56359
320-532-4163 or 1-888-622-4163
- Ginger Weyaus, Health Benefits Administrator, ext. 7723
- Frances Davis, CHS Specialist ext. 2515
- Mary Thompson-Young, Referral/Notification Nurse ext. 2502
- Referral/Notification Hotline: 1-855-502-6247

Ojibwe and Dakota Language Scholarships

Full-Time Student

Application Deadline:
March 14 2014

GPA Requirement is 3.0

For more information:

-Dakota Scholarships

John Reynolds

(612) 624-5052
reyn0173@umn.edu

-Ojibwe Scholarships

Winnie Lindstrom

(612) 626-5759
linds261@umn.edu

OR

Check out our website

www.amin.umn.edu

These scholarships are for University of Minnesota degree seeking students who are interested in learning to speak and/or teach the Dakota or Ojibwe languages.



Scholarship covers students' tuition and fees for one year!

Continuing Education

This is a financial aid program for non-degree seeking students at the University of Minnesota, or students from other postsecondary-institutions. It is also geared towards individuals committed to learning and/or teaching the Ojibwe or Dakota languages.

Scholarship covers the tuition of one language course per semester for up to two semesters!

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy February Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Nancy Ann Arnoux
 Laura Ann Ashcroft
 Melanie Ann Benjamin
 Debra Jean Blake
 Sandra Lee Blake
 Judy Ann Carlson
 Ellen Marie Dakota
 Harry Richard Davis
 Bonita Louise Eagle
 Douglas Willard Eagle
 Eileen Frances Farah
 Eugene Duane Garbow
 Beverly Ann Graves
 Mary Louise Hoffer
 Donald Ray Houle
 Conrad Kegg
 Maggie Kegg
 Carolyn Dawn Lewis
 Victoria Gina Mitchell
 Gilbert Wayne Moose
 Debra Lee Northrup
 Patricia Ann O'Brien
 Robin Lou Oswaldson
 Rhonda Lynn Peet
 Alan Pindegayosh
 Lawrence Virgil Reynolds
 Ellen Marie Roth
 Bette Sam
 Darlene Frances Sam
 Gladys Diane Sam
 Pauline Marie Sam
 Kenneth Wayne Shingobe
 [Mitchell]
 Alvera Marie Smith
 Richard Jay Staples
 Robert Lee Staples
 Audrey Lorraine Stately
 Bennie David St. John
 Edward Louis St. John
 Elizabeth Ann St. John
 Berniece Sutton
 Emma Edna Thomas
 Ramona Joyce Washington
 Patrick Weyaus
 Marilyn Jean Whitney

Clyde Manuel Wind
 Rose Marie Wind
 Dorothy May Wistrom

Happy February Birthdays:

Happy 4th Birthday **Danica Benjamin** on 2/1 from Mom, Dad, Clayton, Jr., Aubrey, and Roxann. • Happy Birthday **Delikate** on 2/2 from Daddy, Adrianna, Adrian, Jr., Andre, Brevin, Rachel, and Waylon. • Happy Birthday **Gladys** on 2/3 from Lenore and family. • Happy Birthday **Mom** on 2/3 from Candace, Clayton, Sr., Clayton, Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, and Danica. • Happy Birthday **Mel** on 2/4 from Clayton, Sr., Candace, Clayton, Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, and Dancia. • Happy Birthday **Boo Boo** on 2/4 from Daddy, Adrianna, Adrian, Jr., Sissy, Andre, Rachel, Waylon. • Happy 11th Birthday **Roxann** on 2/6 from Mom, Dad, Clayton, Jr., Aubrey, and Danica. • Happy Birthday **Clay, Jr.** on 2/7 from Lenore and family. • Happy 16th Birthday **Clayton, Jr.** on 2/7 from Mom, Dad, Clayton, Jr., Aubrey, and Danica. • Happy Birthday **Buddy** on 2/7, love Mom, Dad, Jimmy, Cordell, Gram K, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Uncle Brad, Rachel, Waylon, Brad, Brae, Peyton, Eric, Wes, Bryn, Jay, Missy, Guy, Bruce, Jayla, Lilz, Randi, Tracy, Jarv, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Debreanna, and Emery. • Happy 1st Birthday **Kiley Solis** on 2/8 with Love From Auntie Bevy, Gerald, Cede, Levin, Wade, and Jodi An Levi. • Happy 1st Birthday **Beebs (Kiley Maria Solis)** on 2/8 with lots of love from Auntie

Erkle! • Happy Birthday **Kiley** on 2/8 from Mommy, Daddy, Gram Deanna, Papa Don, Mary, Waylon, Rachel, Christina, Stacy, Tehli, Cilla, Clayton, Maris, Baby Q, Tasha, Josie, and Lanes. • Happy 12th Birthday **DeZyre Eischens** on 2/8 with love from Auntie Barb. • Happy Birthday **Isaiah** on 2/10 Isaiah from Aunt Lenore and family, Dad, Susan, Colleen, Phoenix, Maggie Sue, and Papa Lenny. • Happy Birthday **Dede** on 2/10, love Dad. • Happy 17th Birthday **Simone** on 2/11 with love from Mare Bear, Beaner, Brynlee, Dante, Mase, Shawsha, Soul, Dayday, grama Vera, D. Rose, Stoner, Junebugg, Frankie, Zion, and Bruce. • Happy 3rd Birthday **Weh'eh (Cayleigh Marie)** on 2/12 with lots of love from Auntie Ca'. • Happy 3rd Birthday **Cayleigh Marie** on 2/12, love Mommy, Daddy, and your sisters!! • Happy 3rd Birthday **Caylz** on 2/12 with love from Gramma B and Papa. • Happy Birthday **Doll (Pauline M. Sam)** on 2/12, love, your little sister Barb. • Happy 1st Birthday **Briana Rose** on 2/14. Love Mom, Dad, and the Johnson Family. • Happy Birthday **Jacob** on 2/16 from Aiva, Marky, Emery, Mom, Jarv, Shel, Max, Aidan, Karen, Rachel, Waylon, Val, Pie, Kev, Sharon, Rave, Mels, Mickey, Phil, Nade, Char, Whit, Pj, and Carter. • Happy Birthday **Jake** on 2/16, love Aiva, Mark, Emery, DeBreanna, Mom, Papa, Gram K, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Uncle Brad, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jarv, Rachel, Waylon, Brad, Brae, Peyton, Eric, Wes, Bryn, Jay, Missy, Guy, Bruce,

Jayla, Lilz, Randi, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, and Buddy. • Happy Birthday **Nanan' (Maggie Kegg)** on 2/17. Love the girls, Hayden, Cayleigh, and Maria. • Happy Birthday **Nancy Gahbow** on 2/17 from your family! • Happy Birthday **Bobbi Sam** on 2/17 from your family! • Happy 58th Birthday **Mom/Grama** on 2/20 with love from Mary, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Rachel, Joe, Simon, Simone, Donny, Joey, Sheila, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Frances, Zion, Brynlee, Jeannette, and Bruce. • Happy 50th Birthday **Kenny Towle** on 2/21, love you very much! From Rachelle, Lois, and the entire HOWL Team! • Happy Birthday **Braelyn** on 2/22 love Mom, Dad, Peyton, Eric, Wes, Bryn, Isabelle, Louis, Gram Pam, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Uncle Jay, Missy, Guy, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lilz, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Waylon, Tracy, Jarv, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Debreanna, Emery, Nicole, Chris, Jimmy, Cordell, and Buddy. • Happy Birthday **Braelyn "Nizhoogizhigookwe" Harrington** on 2/22 with love from Mom, Isabel, Luis, Bryn, Grandma Pam, Tommy, Ana, Reese, and Reggie! • Happy Birthday **Cordell** on 2/23, love Mom, Dad, Jimmy, Cordell, Gram K, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Uncle Brad, Rachel, Waylon, Brad, Brae, Peyton, Eric, Wes, Bryn, Jay, Missy, Guy, Bruce, Jayla, Lilz, Randi, Tracy, Jarv, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Debreanna, and Emery.

• Happy 8th Birthday **Antavia Pendegayosh** on 2/25 with love from Mom, Dad, Arielle, Auntie Renee, Uncle Steve, Gramma Jane, and Grandpa Bruce. • Happy 3rd Birthday **CedeBear** on 2/25 with Love From Dad, Gramma B, Papa, your auntys Erica, Jodi, and Penny, and your uncles Levi, Wade, and Levin. • Happy Birthday **Rosa** on 2/26 from Lenore and family.

Happy Belated Birthdays

Happy Belated 2nd Birthday **Cory Nadeau, Jr.** on 1/24 from Mom, Dad, Grandma Mickey, Papa Phil, Auntie Whit, Uncle PJ, Auntie Made, and Uncle Jerod.

Other

Announcements:

Congratulations to Karissa Kegg and Trevon Morrison on the birth of their daughter, **Baishauna Roxane Morrison** born 12/22/13 at 7:19 p.m. She weighed 7lbs., 9oz. and was 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Mary Kegg of Onamia, Mike King of Minneapolis, and Jeremy and Renae Boyd of Onamia.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Andy McPartland at andy@redcircleagency.com or call 612-372-4612.

The deadline for the March issue is February 20.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum February Events

Valentine's Day Sale

Tuesday, February 14 from 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Stop by the Trading Post on Valentine's Day for a sale on select jewelry items. For more information call 320-532-3632 or send an email to millelacs@mnhs.org

Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop

Saturday, February 22 from noon–4 p.m. and Sunday, February 23 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Fee: \$60/\$55 for MNHS members; additional supply fee of \$15

Reservations: required three days prior to workshop, call 320-532-3632

Learn techniques of working with leather at this two-day workshop. Participants will make a pair of Ojibwe-style moccasins to take home. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided both days. A minimum of five participants required to host workshop. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounted hotel rooms are available for workshop participants on Saturday night at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Interested in submitting to the <i>Inaajimowin</i>? Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Andy McPartland at andy@redcircleagency.com or call 612-372-4612.</p> <p><i>The March issue deadline is February 20.</i></p>		4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
					<p>Valentine's Day Sale 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Trading Post More information on page 14</p>	<p>American Indians in Science 1 p.m.–4 p.m. Science Museum of Minnesota More information at: smm.org/sciencefusion/americanindians or call: 651-221-9444</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<p>Benefit for Vernon Frye 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Hinckley Community Center More information on page 11</p>	<p>Healthy Heart with Cyndy Travers Noon Aazhoomog Community Center</p>	<p>Chiminising Bingo 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Contact Jenelle: 320-384-6240</p>			<p>Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop Noon–4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum More information on page 14</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	
<p>Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum More information on page 14</p>	<p>District III Sobriety Feast 6 p.m. Hinckley – Corporate Commission building Potluck contact Monica Haglund at 320-384-0149</p>		<p>District II-A Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>District II Community Meeting 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p> <p>District II-A Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p>Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church Featuring Katie Draper and Michelle Palomaki</p>		

Prescription Refill Changes at Ne-la-Shing Clinic

D.V. Gunderson, MD, MBA Medical Director
at Ne-la-Shing Clinic

Providing quality care for patients is the mission at Ne-la-Shing clinic. In order to better achieve this goal the following changes in the medication refill policy will be adopted on February 1, 2014:

A 48 hour notice will be required for all prescription refills. In the event that your primary provider is absent from the clinic, this will allow the fill-in provider time to better assess your medication program.

- Remember that a request for a medication refill may take up to 48 hours to process.
- Medication refills will only be available during regular office hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Patients will need to contact the Pharmacy or Clinic at least 2 days before the medication is due to run out. If a mail order company/pharmacy is used a (14) day notice is needed.
- Patients that have not been evaluated in six (6) or more months (depending on your diagnosis) may require a follow up visit to verify medication needs.
- It is important to keep your scheduled appointments to ensure that you receive timely refills. If you are unable to keep your appointment you may be rescheduled. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Repeated no shows or cancellations will result in a denial of refills.
- It is a patient responsibility to safeguard all medications. Lost or stolen medications will not be refilled.
- Medication refills are best addressed at the time of your visit. This allows you to update the physician and to plan any necessary change in your medication or to schedule any testing that may need to be done.
- Plan ahead. Do not wait until you are out of medications to request a re-fill. Inform the pharmacy well in advance.

There are many issues that must be considered when authorizing a continuation of a medication prescription. Your health and safety are very important to us.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Circle of Health

All Band members are urged to visit or contact us to help with any health insurance questions. We are currently enrolling people in MNsure. Most of our Band members are eligible for either Medicaid or MNCare. We also have staff members

familiar with MNsure training. Our staff is available to help create accounts and sign up for insurance on the MNsure website.

Band Members: please contact our office to update contact information and health insurance coverage by filling out our new universal form. This form allows the Ne-la-Shing Health Center, Circle of Health and Contract Health to share the information to determine eligibility in all three departments.

Judge Osburn Trains to Improve the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court System



The Court of Central Jurisdiction for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is pleased to announce that the Honorable Richard D. Osburn, District

Judge, has completed Advanced Evidence through the National Judicial College based in Reno, Nevada.

Advanced Evidence focuses on the skills judges need to rule on evidentiary issues with greater accuracy and confidence; ensure baseline relevancy issues are met; analyze quickly whether character evidence, including prior bad acts, is admissible; and rule on impeachment objections. The course also addresses hearsay, exceptions, electronic evidence, expert and child witnesses, and confrontation issues.

By completing Advanced Evidence, Judge Osburn earned the Professional Certificate in Judicial Development for General Jurisdiction Trial Skills from the National Judicial College. General jurisdiction courts are courts that have the authority to hear all types of cases such as criminal, civil, and family.

The Professional Certificate in Judicial Development for General Jurisdiction Trial Skills is the third certificate earned by Judge Osburn. He is one of four judges in

the country, and the only tribal judge, who has earned three certificates from the National Judicial College. His other certificates are in Tribal Trial court Skills and Dispute Resolution Skills.

The National Judicial College was founded in 1963 and is the nation's leading provider of judicial education. For 50 years, the National Judicial College has been offering courses to improve judicial productivity, challenge current perceptions of justice, and inspire judges to achieve judicial excellence. The College offers over 95 courses annually with more than 3,000 judges enrolling from all 50 states, U.S. territories, and more than 150 countries.

The Court of Central Jurisdiction is the court system for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in Minnesota. The Court of Central Jurisdiction consists of the District Court and the Court of Appeals. Judge Osburn hears all cases filed in the District Court.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2014	Expenditures through 12/31/2013	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	14,743,301	2,878,976	19.5%
Workforce	18,779,097	1,466,851	7.8%
Judicial	1,417,752	237,552	16.8%
Law Enforcement	4,907,270	908,296	18.5%
Education	15,463,883	3,228,849	20.9%
Health and Human Services	22,656,045	3,781,782	16.7%
Circle of Health Insurance	10,111,681	2,471,496	24.4%
Natural Resources	6,485,596	1,977,586	30.5%
Community Development	37,721,488	4,049,942	10.7%
Gaming Authority	5,221,404	1,098,517	21.0%
Bonus Distribution	15,769,551	13,241,271	84.0%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,100,000	3,052,000	98.5%
Total	156,377,068	38,393,118	24.6%

- (1) Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- (2) The amounts above do not include casino operations. However, they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
- (3) The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has its financial statements audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.
- (4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997. As of October 1, 1997, The Band has separated accounting functions for the Corporate Commission from the tribal government.

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



Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours: tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

Free Hearing Evaluations

Evaluations take place on the second Friday of each month at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Call 320-532-4163 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome — we will do our best to serve you. Ask us about the \$1,000 in hearing aid benefits you can receive from the Circle of Health.

Hearmore Hearing has offices in Saint Paul and Osseo. To schedule an appointment Monday through Friday, call the Saint Paul office at 651-771-4019 or the Osseo office at 763-391-7433.