

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

MAY 2015 | VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 05



Band member Ah-Nung Matrious

MAKING THE MOST OF THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

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SANDPIPER
PIPELINE
HEARING

LIVING
HISTORY WITH
DOUG SAM

GRADUATES
LOOKING FORWARD
TO FUTURE

CHASING
HOOP
DREAMS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin! With the sap running, spring is finally here as Ziisbaakadake Giizis, the Sugar Moon, gives rise to Nmebine Giizis, the Sucker Moon. I hope some of you have been able to get to the sugar bush this season and enjoy the warming weather with your families.

I spent the first few days of April attending the annual convention of the National Indian Gaming Association, and was invited to a breakfast meeting with Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, for the U.S. Department of the Interior. While several tribal leaders were invited to attend this meeting, he and I were the first to arrive and were early. We had a great conversation about several critical matters of concern to the Band, including our Reservation Boundary.

I was very excited to have been invited to attend and speak at the first ever Mille Lacs Lake Area Job Fair on April 7 in Onamia. This is a wonderful example of how we can collaborate with local businesses and organizations in the region to promote job opportunities for everyone. I shared one of my favorite quotes from the late Senator Paul Wellstone: "When we all do better, we ALL do better!"

On April 15, we had an exciting meeting with Larry Anderson and Roxanne DeLille of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College about improving learning outcomes for Native students attending community colleges, and potential opportunities for partnering. We also discussed potential collaboration with Pine Grove.

I attended a meeting at the District I Assisted Living Unit on April 13, where residents and others shared with me their concerns. I think this was a good meeting that provided an opportunity for people to share their feelings openly so that the HHS staff can seek to improve the services provided to elders who make the ALU their home.

On April 23, I held a meeting with Band member Elders living in the Danbury area of Wisconsin. Elder Services staff attended and shared important information about services, and I shared an update about issues involving the boundary, tourism, and natural resource protection.

On April 27, I was happy to speak at a Tribal Energy Conference that was held at our own DoubleTree Hotel in St. Paul. It is always exciting when tribal organizations use our facilities in St. Paul, and we are especially excited to welcome the summer conference of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in June, when tribes from all across the Nation will stay at our new facilities.

One critical matter I want to draw Band member attention to is a notice in this newsletter about a Public Hearing which will be held on June 5, 2015, at 10 a.m. at the East Lake Community Center. Recently, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission held a series of public hearings about whether Enbridge should be granted a "Certificate of Need" to construct the Sandpiper Pipeline through the 1855 Treaty territory. Enbridge did not consult with the tribes impacted, and although tribes requested that hearings be held on an Indian reservation, none were.

Instead, we are going to exercise our sovereign authority to hold our own Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Hearing on the Sandpiper project on June 5 at 10 a.m. at the East Lake Community Center. This hearing will ensure that the views of Band members and other experts are recorded and shared with state and federal authorities. We are collaborating with Honor the Earth and White Earth, which will hold a separate hearing on June 4 at White Earth.

Band Member employees who wish to testify on this issue will be given leave to attend this hearing, but must go work with their supervisors in advance. More information



On Wednesday, April 15, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Speaker Carolyn Beaulieu, and D-I Representative Sandi Blake were honored to have been invited to attend the First Lady's Luncheon in Washington D.C., where they networked with other women leaders from across the United States. The First Lady spoke about the importance of providing for the needs of returning veterans.

will be coming from Commissioner Catherine Colstrud with those details.

As the weather warms, I'm very excited about our first Elder Trip which will take place in May — Miigwech to the Band Assembly for their help supporting these trips as well. We always enjoy seeing Elders spend quality time together relaxing and enjoying the company of one another!

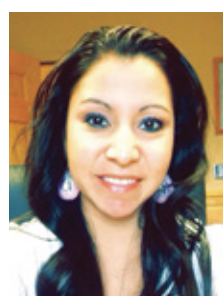
Melanie Benjamin

Legislative Branch Welcomes New Employees

Andy McPartland Staff Writer

The Legislative office has made a few additions to their staff recently. Caryn Day was hired as Legislative Communication Liaison and Darcie Big Bear was hired as Parliamentarian. Sylvia Villebrun has transferred to Legislative Librarian from Parliamentarian. Get to know the new employees a bit below!

Darcie Big Bear



Darcie is a Mille Lacs Band member who started working for the Band in October 2000. She began her work in the Judicial department as a receptionist before transferring to the Executive branch in the Enrollments office in November 2003. She worked as Enrollment Technician for two years until being moving into her new role in the Legislative branch as Parliamentarian. Darcie is currently working on her Associates of Applied Science in Business Management and expects to graduate this month. She's the proud mother of two children: Todd, 18 and Eldayshun, 13.

"I look forward to adding to the Legislative department," Darcie said. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity to fill the position as Parliamentarian and Clerk of the Assembly."

Caryn Day



Caryn has worked for the Band since 2004 as the Director of Tribal Operations. A Mille Lacs Band member, Caryn received a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Behavior from the College of St. Scholastica and a Master's in Tribal Administration & Governance from University of Minnesota-Duluth in May 2014. Caryn has two children: 13-year-old daughter, Jaeden King and 8-year-old son, Keith.

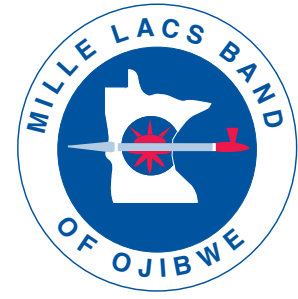
"I enjoy being in my home community and I love being among my extended family and live a blessed life," Caryn said. "I look forward to being part of an incredible team at the Legislative branch."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MATTER OF ENBRIDGE ENERGY'S PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT THE SANDPIPER PIPELINE

HEARING DATE: JUNE 5, 2015

10:00 A.M.

EAST LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER



In the matter of the application of Enbridge Energy, which seeks to construct the Sandpiper Pipeline along a route that may result in an environmental impact on lands and waters on or near the East Lake Community of the Mille Lacs Reservation, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has held a series of hearings taking testimony from the public and local governments.

No hearings were held on any of the Indian reservations that will be impacted by this project. Therefore, under the authority of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as a sovereign Indian Nation charged with protecting the welfare of its Members, the Chief Executive hereby announces a Public Hearing scheduled for June 5, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the East Lake Community Center. The purpose of this hearing is to collect information from Band Members and experts regarding:

- (1) Concerns regarding oil spills and the potential risks to surface and ground water on or near the East Lake Community and lands held in federal trust status for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe;
- (2) Concerns regarding the self-sufficiency of individual Band members and cultural practices, such as harvesting wild rice within the Big Sandy Lake and Rice Lake watersheds, including the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge;
- (3) The legal implications of the lack of consultation with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe;
- (4) The legal implications of the lack of consultation with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) regarding to the identification of lands along the pipeline route related to their historical, archeological and cultural significance; and
- (5) The potential legal involvement of the federal government: First, whether the Department of the Interior is properly carrying out its Trust Responsibility with regard to federal and tribal land; Second, whether the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the safety of the Sandpiper Pipeline project to lands and waters important to Indian tribes and federal land; and Third, whether the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) should conduct an EIS to assess the potential impact of the Sandpiper project to wetlands and waters under its jurisdiction.

This hearing will be held pursuant to 4 MLBSA Section 12(a) (3), wherein the Chief Executive is authorized to hold hearings for the following purposes: To investigate and inquire into matters affecting the general welfare of the Band or its organs of government.

The hearing shall be held in accordance with MLBSA Section 13. A hearing examiner will be appointed to conduct these hearings. Expert witnesses will be called concerning matters 1-5 as related above. Band Members who wish to testify at this hearing are invited to attend. Band Member employees who wish to testify at this hearing should notify their supervisors in advance to make arrangements to do so.

Joe Nayquonabe Named NAFOA Executive of the Year

Andy McPartland Staff Writer **NAFOA** Photographer

On April 21, Joe Nayquonabe Jr., Commissioner of Corporate Affairs and CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV), accepted the 2015 NAFOA Executive of the Year Award in Austin, TX.

At their 33rd annual conference, NAFOA, the Native American Finance Officers Association, honored a number of innovative tribal leaders, tribal nations, and financial professionals for positively impacting tribal economies.

The Executive of the Year award honors a tribal leader who has demonstrated "cutting-edge thinking in developing the financial plans of the tribe, leadership in effectively sharing suggestions with the tribe, and success in implementing ideas for the overall betterment of the tribe."

Joe, named Commissioner in September 2012, received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from St. Cloud State and his MBA from University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. In 2013, he earned a second Master's degree in Tribal Administration and Governance at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Previously, he was VP of Marketing for Grand Casinos.

In his current role, Joe oversees existing businesses and an-

alyzes new business opportunities for the Mille Lacs Band. When he assumed the role of CEO, he created a new strategy and directed MLCV to grow its non-gaming revenue streams and invest in hospitality and marketing industries. Since then, non-gaming revenue and non-gaming cash flow have increased significantly.

"I've known Joe since he was a child, growing up on the Mille Lacs Reservation," explained Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "I've been amazed at what Joe has accomplished in such a short time.

"He quickly gained a reputation for being very talented and hard-working," Melanie said. "Despite his young age, he quickly won the respect and admiration of his staff, many of whom were twice his age.

"Joe Nayquonabe is a man who is committed to family, to our tribal community, and to making a difference for our people," she concluded.

NAFOA is a national non-profit which seeks to strengthen



Joseph S. Nayquonabe Jr., Commissioner of Corporate Affairs/ CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, accepts the 2015 NAFOA Executive of the Year Award.

Pictured (L-R): Dawson Her Many Horses (NAFOA), Kim Peone (NAFOA), VaRene Martin (NAFOA), Commissioner of Finance Adam Valdez (Mille Lacs Band), Commissioner Joseph S. Nayquonabe Jr. (Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures), Tina Danforth (NAFOA), and Bill Lomax (NAFOA).

tribal economies through its policy work and education initiatives. They host two conferences a year, inviting leaders of finance, tribal and policy in Indian Country.

Other awardees included the First Nations Oweesta Corporation, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, and Chief Mitchell Hicks of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) at Wewinabi



Mille Lacs Early Education held its annual Drop Everything and Read event from mid-March to April 9.

Over a four week period, teachers sent home “reading circles” — a way to list the books that families read to children. Classrooms filled out reading circles for each book read at school.

We read a total of 3,910 books to our students! Parent participation was amazing: a few families brought in over 200 circles, and many others brought circles in daily. Third and fourth grade students from Nay Ah Shing School read to the children too. Each child at Drop Everything and Read received a book to take home to do more reading.

Thanks to everyone who participated.

Thank You, Teachers

Thank you to teachers Lehticia Weiss, Marie Hendrickson, Julie Nelson, and Mary Zykloskey for over 20 years of outstanding service at Nay Ah Shing.

Circle of Health Outreach

Wednesday, May 13
1 – 4 p.m.
East Lake Clinic

Wednesday, May 20
1 – 4 p.m.
Urban Office

Wednesday, May 27
1 – 4 p.m.
DII-A Isle Community Center

Onamia Lady Panthers Chasing Hoop Dreams

Andy McPartland Staff Writer Michelle Benjamin Photographer



Back row (L-R): Amelia Benjamin, Shayla Nayquonabe, and Jenai Beaulieu. Middle row (L-R): Coach Pete, Alex Merrill, Alissa Taylor, Bella Nayquonabe, Katie Rocholl, Trinity Blake, and Coach Joe. Bottom row (L-R): Briana Nayquonabe, Alaiysha Nickaboine, Aiyanna Mitchell, and Coach Johnny.

The fifth grade Onamia Lady Panthers learned a valuable lesson this season on the basketball court: working together as a team pays off.

The team’s coaches — Joe Nayquonabe, Jr., Johnathan “Johnny B” Benjamin, and Pete Braith — volunteered their time on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings to help the girls home in on their basketball and teamwork skills. It paid off. Their improvement over last year was impressive.

The tournaments for 2014/2015 were held in Verndale, Pil-lager, Pierz, Holdingford and Ogilvie. With each tournament, the girls improved their defense and offense, as well as their conditioning. In 2013/2014, the Lady Panthers only won two games the entire season; they were still learning the basics.

This season, they won ten games and took home four third place medals. In their final tournament of the year, they left with a second place medal, nearly overcoming the tough Pequot Lakes team.

“We were so close to beating Pequot Lakes and taking first place! It’s amazing how our defense and offense have improved. The shots are better, plays are fast, and the girls are working to make the right decisions,” said Coach Johnny B. “I’m very, very proud of our girls.”

The girls came together as a team and worked hard on learning their plays. Each practice included new drills, workouts and coachable moments that they took in stride. Coach Pete added, “The girls bought into the philosophy of team play in an attempt to turn around the Onamia basketball program.”

At the end of the season Coach Joe told the girls, “Each one of you was a critical part of this team. Your basketball skills got better, but what really mattered were the life and leadership skills you built. You learned about teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship which will help you in more aspects of your life.”

The players, coaches and parents would like to acknowledge Sandi Blake, District I Representative, and Suzanne Wise, Commissioner of Education. Sandi donated the costs for the Lady Panthers’ jerseys, shorts and warm-up suits.

“Because of Sandi’s generous donation, the Lady Panthers looked sharp out there,” said Michelle Benjamin, team manager.

Suzanne Wise, Commissioner of Education, donated the entrance fees needed to play in the tournaments.

“Suzanne attended every game and was one of our biggest fans, along with Sandi,” explained Michelle. “Next season — for sixth grade — we hope to keep the same coaching staff and play in more tournaments.”

Coaches, players, and fans are patiently waiting for next year to start. Some girls are attending camps this summer to sharpen their basketball skills and five girls are currently on a 3-on-3 basketball league out of Zimmerman, MN.

Way to go, Lady Panthers!



Lady Panthers listening intently to their plays and advice from Coach Pete.

Nay Ah Shing Graduates Looking Forward to Future

Toya Stewart Downey and Andy McPartland Staff Writer **Mick Sawinski** Photographer

This May, five seniors will graduate from Nay Ah Shing high school with sights set on the future. The years of studying have paid off for these students, who prove that hard work is rewarded. The five students have enjoyed their time at Nay Ah Shing School (NASS) and will head out into the “real world” with fond memories of their time in high school. Congratulations to the graduates and good luck in the days ahead!



Tahnisha Sam

Age: 18

What's next after high school: College and long lovely life

Favorite memory of high school: Volleyball and having fun with friends

What you will miss about high school: All of my wonderful friends

What are you most excited about now that you have graduated: Sleeping in and going places I've never gone to before

What are your greatest strengths: Being an awesome and funny person



Paige Mitchell

Age: 17

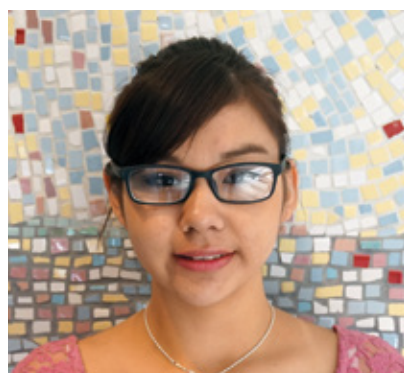
What's next after high school: Undecided

Favorite memory of high school: Going to Washington D.C and New York

What you will miss about high school: Doing art

What are you most excited about now that you have graduated: Undecided

What are your greatest strengths: Drawing and art



Sage Boyd-Davidson

Age: 18

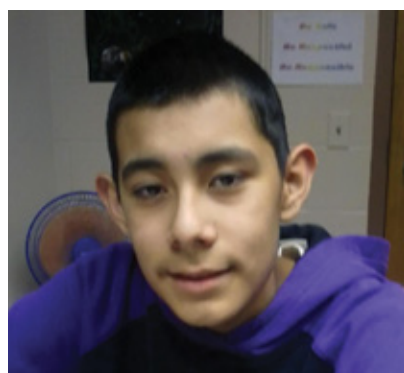
What's next after high school: College and a beautiful life

Favorite memory of high school: Spending time with GREAT friends

What you will miss about high school: All the people I'm leaving behind

What are you most excited about now that you have graduated: Traveling the world

What are your greatest strengths: Being a great person and loving what I've learned



Jakob Cash

Ojibwe Name: Miizhakwad — Clear Day

Clan: Migizi

Age: 17

What's next after high school: Going to college at our Nay Ah Shing

Favorite memory of high school: Meeting with nice people

What you will miss about high school: My classes

What I am looking forward to know that I am graduating: Ceremony/dinner

What are your greatest strengths: Drawing/art



Dallas Anderson

Age: 18

What's next after high school: Plan on getting a job over the internet as well as gaming. Possibly travel to Las Vegas

Favorite memory of high school: The field trips

What you will miss about high school: Seeing friends every day

What are you most excited about now that you have graduated: Purchasing a vehicle, but I'm not sure which model

What are your greatest strengths: I'm happy, awesome, and friendly

Band Member Graduates Recognized at Banquet

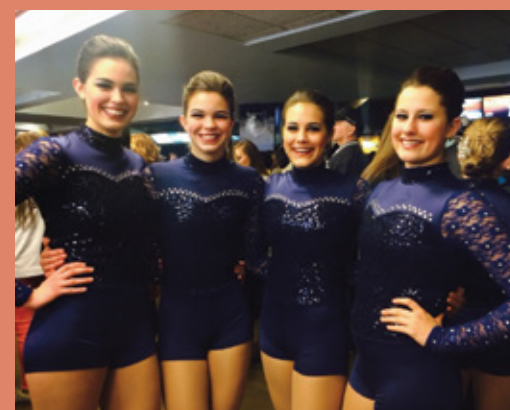
College graduates from the Twin Cities were recognized at the 2014-2015 American Indian Graduation Banquet held on April 24 at Augsburg College.

More than 63 graduates, including 10 Band members, were honored for their achievements including certificates, associate of arts degrees, bachelor of arts degrees, professional and master of arts degrees and doctorate of philosophy degrees.

Congrats to the graduates and Mille Lacs Band Members:

- Donna Bullchild, Health Information Technology Specialist
- Solita Reum, General Accounting Certificate
- Raymond Hart, Associate in Science, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
- Yolanda Dorr-Slowey, Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts
- Ah-Nung Matrious, Associate in Science in Business Management
- Stephanie Thompson, Associate in Arts in Business
- Craig Beaulieu, Bachelor of Arts in American Indian Studies, Business Administration Minor
- Sandra Audie, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
- Catherine Colrud, Master of Arts, Masters of Business Administration
- Aarik Robertson, Juris Doctor

Duluth Marshall Dance Team State Champions



Jordyn Spry and Jensen Spry (Grand Portage), Clarissa Pedersen (LCO), and Camryn Towle (Mille Lacs).

Camryn Towle is on the Duluth Marshall Dance Team that won first place in the state high school championship.

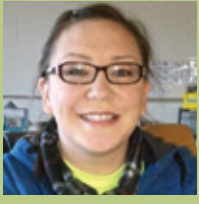
Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Mick Sawinski at mick@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018.

The June issue deadline is May 18.

Gidinwewininaan

Baabitaw Boyd Gaa-ozhibii'ang



This month's article is about the Headstart children graduating and planning for kindergarten. Miigwech to the community for all of their support.

Mii o'ow waa-ini-dazhindamaan noongom wii-ani-kiizhiikamowaad ingiw abinoojiinyag omaa weshki-maajitaajig gikinoo'amaadiiwigamigong Wewinabi ezhi-wiinjigaadeg. Mii miinawaa dagwaaging wii-izhaawag gaazhiikangig iwidi abinoojiiny-gikinoo'amaadiiwigamigong iwidi Neyaashing. Mii iw niizhtana-ashi-niizho-gonagizid Zaagibagaa-giizis iwapii ge-giizhiikamowaad.

Niwenda-minwendaamin gii-kashkitooyaang gikinoo'amawangidwaa ingiw abinoojiinyag miinawaa aabiding o'ow noongom gikinoonowin. Naa biinish gaye ozhitooyaang o'ow abiwin enaabadak ge-tazhi-gikinoo'amawindwaa ongow abinoojiinyag o'ow akeyaa Ojibwemong. Ishke geget nawaj onisidotaanaawaa i'iw gidinwewininaan ayeshkam-igo ani-nitaa-objibwemowag. Odaabaji'aawaan inow odasemaawaan ingiw abinoojiinyag endaso-giizhig miinawaa ogikinoo'amaagoowaan ezhinikaazonid inow manidoon. Wenda-minwendaagwad o'ow da-apiitendamowaad ingiw abinoojiinyag ezhi-anishinaabewiwaad.

Nimaajii-dazhiikaamin i'iw gikinoo'amaadi-mazina'iganan ge-inaabadakin wii-ni-niigaani-gikinoo'amaagoziwaad ingiw abinoojiinyag endazhi-maajitaang. Geyaabi-igo nimawanjii'idimin da-ozhitooyaang i'iw.

Giwii-miigwechiwi'ininim gaye giinawaa gakina gaa-wiidoowakiyaang miinawaa imaa niigaan, nawaj da-gashki'ewiziyang da-gikinoo'amaageyaang o'ow akeyaa aabajitooyaang gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang da-inweyang.

Powwow Stories



If you are a dancer, singer, do beadwork or make dresses and other clothing for powwows we'd like to hear from you. We would like to share your stories in the *Inaajimowin* in the coming months. Email Mick at mick@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018.

U, Tribe Aim to Improve Native Diets

Charlie Bartlett Minnesota Daily

Health problems tied to poor diets and nutrition have persistently plagued Native American communities across the country.

To help alleviate this issue, the University of Minnesota is partnering with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) in its \$5 million "Seeds of Native Health" campaign to improve the health and nutrition of indigenous people nationwide.

Research has shown that poor nutrition has led to increased rates of obesity, diabetes and chronic health problems in Native communities.

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health.

The campaign will address these issues by improving health programs that are already in place and funding new research to identify what types of programs could be created to alleviate the health disparities, said SMSC secretary and treasurer Lori Watso, who championed the idea for the campaign.

She said she hopes individual Native communities will then use the programs and apply them to their specific health needs.

Watso said her background in public health and education, along with the work she's done related to healthy food in her community, has given her an insight into the health issues Native communities are facing, especially regarding their diets.

"Through all of that work, I've seen firsthand the detrimental effects of poor nutrition," she said. "I've really come to believe that our nutrition is the foundation for everything."

Lori Watso said SMSC selected the University as a partner because of the school's work in related research and ability to better understand issues at a national level.

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences (CFANS) Dean Brian Buhr said the college has worked with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community in the past.

The school has also done nutrition-related research and

programming across diverse populations, and Buhr said he hopes CFANS can use that research as a starting point in the partnership.

He said the University's role in the campaign will likely be to research strategies to improve Native nutrition and assist in planning a series of annual conferences on the topic.

Though Buhr said the partnership's specifics are yet to be defined, he said the University has started identifying and uniting people who are doing similar research.

"[Change] does require true partnership," Buhr said. "I think that's the exciting part — to have that opportunity to think about how we can really work together to create some solutions to this."

In addition to partnering with the University, SMSC is working with nonprofit organizations First Nations Development Institute and the Notah Begay III Foundation. Both have a history of working to solve nationwide Native health issues.

First Nations Development Institute President Michael Roberts said his Colorado-based organization has a large portfolio in food systems initiatives and a history of research and policymaking. In 2012, the nonprofit gave \$905,000 in grants to organizations aimed at improving health in Native communities.

SMSC secretary-treasurer Watso said she's hopeful that the campaign will finally begin to address some of the issues that have been present in Native communities for many years.

"Native people are so disproportionately affected in all health and socio-economic indicators," she said. "And if we can improve nutrition, then we can address some of these acute — and especially the chronic — health problems that Native communities face every day."

This originally appeared in the Minnesota Daily and was reproduced with their permission.

Chiminising Niigaan Program Holds Alcohol Awareness Pizza Party

Shawn Willis Chiminising Niigaan Youth Coordinator

April was Alcohol Awareness month so the Chiminising Niigaan program held its first Annual Alcohol Awareness Pizza Party on Friday, April 17.

Representatives from several local organizations collaborated to produce the event: Kimberly Sam, Prevention Specialist for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Officer Bob Cooper and Chief Mark Reichel of the Isle Police Department; Byron Ninham, Co-Chair for the Mille Lacs Partners in Prevention; and Jamie Root-Larson, P&I Coordinator Assistant and Mille Lacs Area Partners in Prevention Media Consultant.

Over 70 young adults were present for the prevention awareness activities. The youth were divided according to age, allowing the presenters the opportunity to be age-appropriate in presenting their subject matter. Attendees came away with new knowledge on the effects alcohol has on the body, along with healthy alternatives to using alcohol.

"It's great to see organizations coming together for a good cause and to share positive aspects of their work and our community," Byron said. "It's good to share the knowledge with the youth. We're all working together toward the same goal."



Kimberly Sam, Mille Lacs Band Prevention Specialist.



Over 70 young adults were present for the prevention awareness activities.

Adopt-a-Shoreline Returns: Let's Clean Up the Lake

Sarah Barten Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Public Relations Manager

In an effort to reduce trash around the shoreline of Lake Mille Lacs, interested individuals, organizations, resorts and groups are invited to participate in the third annual "Adopt-a-Shoreline" (AAS) program on Sunday, May 17. Last year, more than 2,160 pounds of trash were collected along the shoreline. This year, our goal is to grow those efforts and continue that success.

This is why we need your help! Whether you donate 10 minutes or two hours of your own time, any little bit goes a long way. All volunteers this year will receive a commemorative AAS gift and efforts will once again count towards a Company Choice with Medica.

If interested, here is what you need to do:

1. Contact Dayna Pearson at ext. 8175 or dpearson2@grcasinos.com to commit to volunteering. Be sure to include your name, department, badge number and contact number.
2. We'll arrange a time to fill out a participation form and give you supplies. At that time, you will receive information about recommended shoreline clean-up areas as well as trash drop-off sites.



3. Clean one of the recommended shoreline clean-up areas on May 17 anytime from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
4. Dispose of the trash by 3 p.m. on May 17 at the designated trash drop-off sites. Grand Casino Mille Lacs will properly dispose of it.

Thank you in advance for your participation! More information will be included in upcoming issues of the Associate newsletter.

Learn more at adoptmillelacslake.com.

Lake Mille Lacs Job Fair a Success

Over 170 job seekers attended the first Lake Mille Lacs Job Fair on Tuesday, April 7. The event featured representatives from over 30 employers from the area. "I'm very happy this is happening," Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said. "Our region has a lot of opportunities."



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Jeremy Hanson-Wilson, the Deputy Commissioner of DEED, and Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration.

Wanted: Youth Powwow Dancers

Do you love to dance at powwows? Would you like to represent your community at other powwows for a year? Would you like to be a role model for other youth? If yes, you could be a great candidate to run for Royalty.

Be a contestant at the 49th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Royalty Contest (August 21 – 23, 2015).

Candidates must be: 6 – 18 years of age and a Mille Lacs Band member, or a direct descendant of a Mille Lacs Band member.

Jr. Brave and Jr. Princess: 6 – 12 years of age
Sr. Brave and Sr. Princess: 13 – 18 years of age

The deadline to sign up is August 1, 2015, but we recommend that you sign up early so you have plenty of time to complete your required hours for Cultural activities.

For more information and application packets please contact Chasity Gahbow at 320-532-7486 or email Chasity.Gahbow@millelacsband.com.



Grand Casino Hinckley Named Best Casino in MN



In their recent "Best of the Twin Cities" issue, City Pages named Grand Casino Hinckley the "Best Casino"! Congratulations to all of the employees that make the Hinckley location a true gem.

Nay Ah Shing Summer Food Service Program

Nay Ah Shing School on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation would like to announce their participation in the Summer Food Service Program again this summer.

Meals will be served free of charge to all children ages 1 – 18, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, at no charge. Meals meet nutritional standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Meals will be provided Mondays through Fridays, starting June 8, 2015 through August 14, 2015 with the exception of July 3, 2015 at:

Nay Ah Shing High School
43651 Oodena Drive
Onamia

Breakfast will be served from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The People of the Big Lake Broadcast

The People of the Big Lake documents the traditions of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, shown in historic film footage and today.

Check out the documentary on The MN Channel, tpt MN Channel 2.2.

Saturday, May 30: 3 a.m., 9 a.m., 3 p.m., and 9 p.m.

For more information visit: tpt.org/?a=programs&id=22577

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all Band members and Band descendants who are graduating from high school and college this year. Graduating is one of the many great accomplishments you'll have during your lifetime.

In this month's paper and in the June *Inaajimowin* we are recognizing high school graduates from the districts and metro area. If you are graduating from high school or college and wish to be recognized, please contact Mick at mick@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018.

Making the Most of the College Experience

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer/Photographer

Her ultimate goal is to one day be an elected leader for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Until that happens Ah-Nung Matrious has a few other big things she wants to cross off of her to-do list.

One of those big things will happen later this month when Ah-Nung graduates from Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) with her Associate of Science Degree. After that comes pursuing a Bachelor's degree, followed by a Master's degree, she said.

Though she knows what direction she wants her life to take now, it wasn't always that way.

Ah-Nung grew up with her family in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. That's where she lived for most of her early life except for a few years when she attended the Flandreau Indian School. After high school, Ah-Nung earned a certificate as a first responder; back then she thought that might be her career.

Still she wasn't sure if that's what she really wanted to do. She moved to the Lake Lena area to live with her grandfather, Lawrence "Larry" Matrious and for a while worked at a few jobs, including as a blackjack dealer at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Besides working, Ah-Nung was heavily immersed in the Ojibwe culture. She spent time teaching young people how to fish, helped at the sweat lodge that was in her grandfather's back yard and participated in the big drum ceremonies. After her grandfather passed she continued to live and work in the area, but wanted to do something more.

She decided that going to college was the next step she wanted to take.

"When I came to the cities from the small Lake Lena community I didn't know much about what it was like to attend a school in the city," she said. "I was nervous, but I found out that a lot of students at MCTC come from small towns and reservations, so I knew I wasn't the only one who was nervous."

She also knew that she wanted to be successful. When Ah-Nung crosses the stage to receive her degree on May 21, she will have maintained a 3.3 grade point average, been the first Native American president of the Student Senate, and she was also the president of the American Indian Success program.

She has held leadership roles in UNITE, which is a student organization that is part of the American Indian Success

program. Last year, while serving as the interim secretary for UNITE, she helped coordinate the first ever inter-club collaboration between UNITE and Xicanos Latinos Unidos (XLU)

"I also helped coordinate the largest collaborative event on campus which was an 'End of the year BBQ/Round Dance' which included nine other student organizations and served more than 350 students.

"I've also helped lead a Student Senate initiative on campus whose aim is to work with the Administration to furnish a viable child care center for students with child care issues, as a means to increase enrollment and retention rates."

She added that the college's administration has designated a research committee to explore the idea and are considering a \$500,000 – \$1,500,000 renovation on campus and an additional resource center for students with children.

"The purpose of the collaborative events was to pull our Native students out of their comfort zones and introduce them to students of other ethnic backgrounds as a way to help them network, and gain more of a general sense of comfort here on campus," she said. "To create more of a 'community' feel because students who are more active on campus feel more comfortable, and studies show that students who feel more comfortable on campus tend to do better academically."

Ah-Nung also took the lead to coordinate UNITE events on campus including a night of music and poetry, the winter storytelling event and the end of the year picnic and round dance that celebrates the accomplishments of the Native American graduates from MCTC."

In April, Ah-Nung was recognized as one of the recipients of the Excellence in Leadership Award that is given by the college. As the president of the Student Senate she has worked with the deans, vice president and president of the college.

She helped plan the first-ever diversity conference, called the Inclusion Experience, that was designed to help students from different cultures learn to understand each other.

"When I came down here I was shell-shocked and I didn't know about people's customs or what was the best way to respect their cultures," she said. "I didn't know if I was supposed to shake hands with males or make eye contact with people from other cultures."



Ah-Nung Matrious

"I didn't want to offend anyone and I wanted people to understand my culture," she said. "During the Inclusion Experience, we were in a safe environment to ask each other questions and to learn from each other."

Ah-Nung will continue her own learning as she explores what college she will attend next to complete her Bachelor's degree. She eventually wants to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, where she wants to pursue a Master of Science degree in American Indian Leadership. For now, she'll work and save money to help cover her tuition.

After graduation Ah-Nung is planning to go back to Lake Lena, or spend as much time there as possible: "I'm not much for the city life," she says. She will continue to learn and practice the Ojibwe language, participate in the big drum ceremonies, visit family and attend powwows.

As she has pursued higher education Ah-Nung said she is especially grateful for the encouragement and love she's received from her parents, Band member Brian Matrious and mom, Susan Henry, a member of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. And for the support of her other family members including her aunts, Lauren Matrious, Bonnie Matrious and Robin Fredericks and her uncle Nelson Fredericks.

Band Member Following Dream to Florida

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer Mick Sawinski Photographer

When Band member Laikora Thompson graduates from Hinckley-Finlayson High School at the end of this month, she'll finish her high school career as an honor roll student who has earned all A's.



"My mom is my role model. She's strong and has a 'go for it' attitude." — Laikora Thompson.

Laikora, 18, has been a member of the National Honor Society since her sophomore year and has earned the highest letter grade possible since the seventh grade. And while she admits to spending most of her time studying, she also finds time to do other things — like mentor other students.

"I'm part of the Wiidoo program that helps tutor kids in Lake Lena and in Hinckley," she said. "Besides tutoring, I do community service at the Hinckley food shelf."

During her high school years, she also played basketball and softball, and while the sports and other activities are fun, Laikora said she would rather read or spend time studying.

"Art is my favorite subject and I have two art classes right now that I adore even though art didn't come easy to me," said Laikora. "I barely have any drawing skills but I've been working super-hard in art so in a month I've progressed in my drawing ability and I feel proud."

Laikora, the oldest of Wanetta and Anton Thompson's three daughters, said her sister Kyrrah, 16, is a really good artist. That made her want to work on her own skills.

In the late summer Laikora will leave home for the first time to attend college at Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida,

where she will study music production. Her goal is to own a record production company.

"I've never lived away from my family before so it's a big step, but I'm excited about it. And nervous."

Before deciding to focus on a career in the music industry Laikora said she considered a career in medicine.

"I always wanted to be a surgeon or something and then I took an anatomy class," she said. "I decided it wasn't for me. Anatomy is interesting and gross at the same time."

Though she seemed to easily grasp and understand what was taught in school, Laikora said she always tried to do her best.

"My mom always told us to strive for our best," she said. "My mom is my role model. She's strong and has a 'go for it' attitude."

"So I've tried to do my best because my mom encouraged me to. I try to encourage my sisters, Kyrrah and Tourrie," she said. "I tell them to find someplace at home or at school where they are comfortable studying and to do their best."

Commissioner of Finance, Solicitor General Sworn Into Office

Mick Sawinski Photographer

Todd Matha and Adam Valdez were sworn into office in the Band Assembly chambers on Wednesday, April 29. Adam was sworn in as Commissioner of Finance and Todd was reappointed as Solicitor General for a second term.



Todd Matha being reappointed as Solicitor General.



Adam Valdez being sworn in as Commissioner of Finance.

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy Commemorates Dedicated Graduate

Congratulations to Alexander George Crazy Thunder on his high school graduation from Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy (MLA). Celebrated in a ceremony held on April 26, George graduated early after taking many of his courses online. He attended the school since the first year it opened.

"I was so happy to speak at the graduation of Alexander George Crazy Thunder," said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "He is our first graduate to go all the way through MLA from the first year of opening through graduation, and I am so proud of him!"

"Congratulations to his mom, Dawn Aubid, his Uncle Niib and the entire family who nurtured and supported him through his successful education," Melanie said. "A scholar and a talented musician, George is off to do great things!"



Alexander poses with his mother, Dawn Aubid, Chief Executive Benjamin, and his uncle Niib Aubid, District II Representative.

More Graduates Featured in Next Month's *Inaajimowin*



Onamia High School graduates — and other Band members or relatives not included in this issue — will be featured in our June newsletter.

Do you have a graduate that should be mentioned? Email mick@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018.

Ceremonial Dance Dates

Lee and Larry
May 8 and 9
Lake Lena

Joe & George
May 22 & 23
Mille Lacs

Niib
May 29 and 30
East Lake

Bob and Perry
June 5 and 6
Mille Lacs

Vince and Dale
East Lake
June 5 and 6

Tim and Tom
East Lake
June 12 and 13



Manaajitoodaa Iniw Zaaga'iganiin Miinawaa Iniw Ziibiwan Let's Respect the Lakes and the Rivers

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan **Chato Gonzalez** Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Ingiw Manidoog gigii-miinigonaanig ge-inanjigeyang biinish gaye ge-ni-aabajitooyang megwaa maa babizhaagiyang omaa akiing. Mii ingiw giigoonyag waa-tazhimagig, mii ingiw bezhig gaa-miinigoowiziyangig da-amwangwaa.

The Manidoog gave us things to eat and to use while we are on this earth. One of those things that we were given to eat by the Manidoog was the fish. That is what I am going to talk about.

Ishkemewinzhaa a'aw Anishinaabegaa-ayaad,gegetogii-chi-apiitendaan awegonen igo inow Manidoon gaa-miinigojin da-ni-maamiijid maagizhaa gaye da-ni-aayaabajitood. Ishke dash omaa noongom a'aw wayaabishkiiwed geget ginishwanaaji'igonaan. Ishke wiin a'aw wayaabishkiiwed, gaawiin odapiitenimaasiin inow giigoonyan. Ishke mii i'iw wiin ezhichiged a'aw chi-mookamaan ani-odaminwaanaad inow giigoonyan gagwe-aada'waadiwaad awewen nawaj waa-mindidonijin giigoonyan ge-debibinaajin naa awenen nawaj nebowa giigoonyan ge-biinaajin.

Long time ago the Anishinaabe really valued and respected everything that was given to them by the Manidoog to eat and to use in their daily lives. The influence from the white man is causing us to stray from our original teachings. The white man does not have the same respect for the fish that our people have. What the white man is doing is making a sport out of fishing, competing with one another to see who can catch the biggest fish, and who can bring in the most fish.

Ishke dash noongom nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe ezhichiged ogiknawaabamaan inow wayaabishkiuwen ezhichigenid. Ishke mewinzha a'aw Anishinaabe gii-paa-nooji'aad inow giigoonyan, mii eta-go minik gaa-piinaad inow giigoonyan weweni-go dashamaad inow waaj'ayaawaajin naa biinish da-ni-maamiinaad ani-mikwenimaad inow gechi-aya'aawinijin gaye wiinawaa giigoonyan da-amwaawaad.

So what is happening today is a lot of our Anishinaabeg is copying what the white man is doing when it comes to our fish. In the past when our Anishinaabe went fishing, they only brought enough fish to feed their family, and to feed some of the Elders in the community so they had fish to eat also.

Ishke dash noongom aanind ingiw Anishinaabeg ani-izhichigewaad, mii imaa ani-agwanaji'aawaad inow owiiji-bimaadiziimiwaan. Ikonaa aapideg minik inow giigoonyan waa-gwaawebinaawaajin ani-giwwewinaawaad. Mii dash iwidi dagoshinowaad ani-mashkawaakwajimaawaad wenda-baapaagashkinidoowaad odakisijiganiwaan weniban iko da-maada'oonawaad inow geshki'aasinijin da-ondinamaadizonid inow giigoonyan.

What is now happening is that some of our Anishinaabe are becoming selfish and greedy and taking away fish from others in the community. It is incredible the number of fish that they will catch and take home with them. When they get home they freeze their fish and practically overload their freezers and not even think about giving out that fish to those who are unable to fish for themselves.

Gaawiin igo ominwaabandanziinaawaadog ingiw Manidoog waabamaawaad inow Anishinaaben ani-izhichigenid o'ow akeyaa. Ishke mii i'iw eshkam wenji-bangiiwagiziwaad ingiw ogaawag omaa Misi-zaaga'iganiing naa anooj iniw zaaga'iganiin ani-ayaamagak.

The Manidoog must not approve of the greediness of some of our people. This is one of the reasons why we have so few walleye in Mille Lacs Lake and in our other lakes these days.

Ishke dash noongom mii i'iw ezhichigeng, mii imaa ani-inaakonigeng minik ingiw giigoonyag ge-gwaabiiginigaazojig imaa zaaga'iganiing. Ishke dash giishpin ani-izhichigesing, mii-go omaa da-ni-jaaginigaazowaapan ingiw giigoonyag. Ishke mii-go omaa a'aw chi-mookamaan naa-go gaye aanind ingiw Anishinaabeg da-ni-agwanaji'iwewaad chi-nebowa minik inow giigoonyan da-giwwewinaawaad gomaapii dash da-ni-jaachaaginanaawaapan inow giigoonyan. Naa gaye aanind a'aw Anishinaabe mii-go imaa jaachaaginanaad minik gaa-inaakonigeng minik inow giigoonyan ge-mamaajin. Ishke dash imaa onzaami-mamaad inow giigoonyan, mii imaa ani-makamaad iniw mashi gaa-wewebanaabiisijin naa gaye inow gaa-pagidaabiisijin.

It is the reason why we have a bag limit set on most of our lakes limiting the number of fish that can be caught. If a bag limit is not set what will happen is our fish supply will be depleted. Without a bag limit, what will happen is the white man and some of our Anishinaabe will be greedy and continue taking large numbers of fish home and eventually deplete our supply of fish. Also, some of our Anishinaabe go beyond the number of fish that are allowed to be harvested, so what happens is the other Anishinaabe that come along to fish or net later on do not even get the opportunity to fish, because those before them have exceeded the allotted amount of fish to be taken.

Booch da-wii-manaajitooyang iniw zaaga'iganiin biinish igo gaye iniw ziibiwan. Ishke ezhichiged a'aw wayaabishkiiwed miinawaa aanind a'aw Anishinaabe, mii imaa anooj gegoo ani-apagidang imaa nibiikaang dibishkoo igo imaa apagiji-ziigwebinigid imaa zaaga'iganiing miinawaa imaa ziibing megwaa imaa babaamishkaad.

We have to treat our lakes and rivers respectfully. What the white man and some of our Anishinaabe do is throw their garbage into the water using the lakes and the rivers as a dumping ground as they are out there in their boats.

Mewinzha iko gii-wenda-biininaagwad i'iw nibi imaa zaaga'iganiin naa ziibiwan. Ishke dash eshkam ani-wiininaagwad i'iw nibi. Mii imaa wenjikaamagak anooj apagijigaadeg imaa nibiikaang. Ishke i'iw noongom ani-amwangwaa ingiw giigoonyag, mii-go imaa ani-maamiijiyang waaninaagwak epagijigaadeg imaa nibiikaang.

Years ago the water in the lakes and the rivers was clean. Now what is happening is the water is getting dirtier and dirtier. That comes from people trashing those lakes. As we eat the fish today we are eating all the trash that was thrown into the water.

Ishke eshkam nigosaag ingiw giigoonyag wenjida ingiw giigoonyag eni-maamaganjigegig imaa dabazhish imaa zaaga'iganiing wenjida ingiw maanamegwag naa ingiw namebinag. Ishke aaningodinong gibi-noondaamin naa gaye giwaabamaanaanig gii-mazinaakizondwaa ingiw omakakiig niizhoshtigwaanewaad. Mii i'iw enikaagowaad i'iw waanak imaa wenjikaamagak anooj eni-izhaamagak imaa nibiikaang.

More and more I am scared to eat the fish especially those that are scavengers and eat off of the bottom of the lake, as an example the catfish and the suckers. Every now and then we hear about and see photos of frogs that have two heads. The mutation comes from all the pollution that goes into our waters.

Ishke nebowa i'iw bimide onjikaamagad iniw waasamoo-jiimaanan ani-aabajichigaadeg imaa nibiikaang. Mii gaye wenji-wiininaagwak i'iw nibi imaa zaaga'iganiing naa ziibing. Ishke mii gaye gagaanzomindwaa bemaadizijig da-biinitoowaad weweni anaamay'i'i ojiimaaniwaan. Ishke ingiw wayewebanaabiijig anooj igo babaa-izhaawaad babaamishkaawaad, ishke biinitoosigwaa weweni ojiimaaniwaan, mii imaa anooj da-ni-baabiidoowaad omaa akeyaa da-ni-baabiinaawaad inow mayagi-esensan naa anooj eni-maajiiging iniw bakaan ingoji zaaga'iganiin. Ishke dash mii imaa biidoowaad ge-nisigowaad gigiigoonyiminaanig omaa akeyaa eyaajig.

There is a lot of oil in our waters that comes from the use of motorboats. That is also a source of pollution in our waters. People are encouraged to clean the bottom of their boats. These fisherman travel far and wide to do their fishing. If they do not clean their boats properly they bring to our area zebra mussels and foreign plant growth. They are bringing things that will kill off our native fish.

Ishke gaye ezhichigewaad aanind besho endanakiijig imaa nibiikaang, mii imaa anooj atoowaad omaa akiing aana-wii-ayaamowaad da-dadaatabi-maajiiging iniw mashkosiinsan naa gaye getigaadamowaad, azhigwa dash gimiwang, mii dash imaa niisaabaaweg imaa gaa-atoowaad ani-biindigejiwang idash imaa zaaga'iganiing besho imaa eyaamagak. Ishke dash anooj imaa achigaade i'iw etoong da-dadaatabi-maajiiging gegoo. Ishke mii i'iw gaye eni-nitoomagak gakina imaa eyaamagak

imaa zaaga'iganiing. Ishke gidinigaa'aanaanig giniijaanisinaanig miinawaa goozhishenyiminaanig niigaan eyaajig. Mii eta i'iw waanaagamig nibi ge-ni-ayaamagak giniigaaniiminaang.

What is also happening is those who have property along the lake shores will use fertilizers to enhance the growth of their lawns and their crops. When it rains the chemicals from these fertilizers flow into the lake nearby. There is a lot put into those chemicals to enhance plant or crop growth. The contents from those chemicals are harmful to our waters and kill everything within the lake. We are hurting our children and our grandchildren in their future. We will only have polluted waters in our future.

Ishke mii i'iw ge-mikwendamang gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang aaniindi-go ani-waasaabikideg i'iw nibi imaa zaaga'iganiing ziibiing Manidoog imaa ayaawag. Gii-kwiwizensiwiyaan ingii-igoo, "Akawe imaa gidaa-ni-noogitaa asemaa da-asad dabwaa-odaminoyan imaa nibiikaang, maagizhaa gaye dabwaa-wewebanaabiyan, maagizhaa gaye dabwaa-manoominikeyan imaa. Mii imaa weweni da-ni-doodawad a'aw Manidoog imaa nibiikaang." Ingii-igoo gaye imaa baa-odaminoyaan zaaga'iganiing, "Gego anooj izhichigeken, gidaa-manaaji'aa Manidoog imaa eyaad imaa zaaga'iganiing."

We have to remember our teachings as Anishinaabe, that in every lake and river there are Manidoog that exist within that body of water. When I was a young boy I was told, "Take the time to stop and put your tobacco before you go out and play in the water, before you go out

and fish, or before you go out and harvest wild rice. By doing this you are being respectful to the Manidoog within those waters." I was also told when I was playing in the lake, "Do not be doing crazy things out of respect to the Manidoog within that lake."

Ishke i'iw chi-zaaga'igan Misi-zaaga'igan Manidoog imaa ayaa imaa zaaga'iganiing gaa-pi-wiindamaaged da-mikwenimind asemaaked a'aw Anishinaabe wiindamaaged gaye wiin. Ishke noomaya nigii-wiindamaagoo gaye i'iw asiniyo-minis Manidoog gaye wiin imaa ani-naadamawaad inow Anishinaaben. Ishke dash mii i'iw noongom wenendang a'aw Anishinaabe maagizhaa gaawiin ogikendanziin da-wii-manaaji'aad inow Manidoon imaa nibiikaang eyaanijin. Ishke geget ani-wiinitoowaad iniw zaaga'iganiin ziibiwan gegetodinigaatoonaawaan miinawaa omaazhi-doodawaawaan inow Manidoon imaa eyaanijin. Gaawiin gegoo da-bimaadiziimagasinoon omaa Mandoo odakiiming ayaamagasinoon baanaagamig i'iw nibi.

We have to remember that within Mille Lacs Lake itself there is a Manidoog that came forward to say that he/she wanted to be remembered whenever Anishinaabe put their tobacco and would be available to help our people. It was just recently that I was told that there is a Manidoog on the rock island that exists on that lake that will also help our Anishinaabe. Nowadays Anishinaabe seem to forget or just do not know that we have Manidoog that live within our bodies of water that have to be treated respectfully. When we pollute these bodies of water, we are hurting these lakes and rivers and are disrespectful to the Manidoog that are within those bodies of water. Nothing will live or exist on this earth without clean water.



Chiminising Elder Shaped by Cultural Ways

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer

Marie (Sam) Gudim is a living bridge to a simpler time, when Indian people lived off the land in close-knit communities, when wise men knew how to gather medicine from the woods and use it to heal.

Marie grew up in the Chiminising community near Isle in a tar-paper shack built by her parents, John and Maggie Sam. She and her siblings — Amelia, Doris, Leonard, Earl and Benjie — learned the old ways from parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

The community was like an extended family, including Ole and Marge Sam, and Frank and Ida Sam. "Everyone was poor," she recalls.

Families hunted for food and made money by trapping and by selling birch bark baskets along the highway in the summer. The game wardens looked the other way if her father or the other men killed deer out of season. "They didn't do anything

to my dad when he got a deer because they knew he had a family to feed."

They would sell meat to tourists from the Cities, and also make money from the fur of muskrat, mink, beaver and weasel.

The men would also net fish. "Even when they couldn't, they did," she says. "The game warden didn't bother them."

When someone got sick, they'd go get John Mink, the Indian doctor. He'd pray and swallow bones, sitting on the floor of her parents' home. "He made people well," Marie says. "I don't know how he did it, but he did. They'd get well, the ones he was doctoring." People would come all the way from Wisconsin for John Mink's healing medicine. John Mink and John Sam were the last of the great healers, Marie says. They didn't readily share their knowledge of medicine, so it was lost when they died.

"This is the old sugarbush," she says, remembering her mother, who would boil the sap into sugar and sell it to Herb Nyquist, the grocer and missionary from Isle. Herb was reluctant to buy the sugar, but Maggie would tell him, "If you don't buy my sugar, I won't buy your groceries."

Herb Nyquist also bought the wild rice Marie picked. "He always came after our rice because he said we were good pickers. They were always after us to get our rice because our rice was never dirty."

Marie's favorite memories are of ricing in the fall. Marie was a champion ricer — a skill she learned from her mother.

"I used to rice in Rice Lake refuge," she says. "I riced there for years. I was the top picker there." Her secret? "Just work hard and don't stop. You gotta keep going."

They would camp at the lake with Indian people from all over the state. Some years the others didn't want her there.

"They were pretty stingy," she says with a grin. "They kept me out for a while because I was a good picker." She remembers picking 500 pounds with her brother and making a thousand dollars for a day's work.

They harvested rice from Lake Onamia to Ann Lake, from Garrison to Glen.

Her son James would jig it barefoot, and they would bring it to a man in Glen for processing.

"After ricing all day they'd go home and clean up and then dance around the drum," Marie says. "I wouldn't do that." She would sit on a bag of rice, saving her energy for the next day.

One year Marie and Oliver went to Canada to rice, on a trip organized by Sherman Holbert, a local businessman who profited from Band members' ricing and syruping efforts.

Although they were told to speak English when they went to school in Isle, Marie and her siblings grew up speaking Ojibwe at home. She still knows the language, though there aren't as many people around to speak it with.

She graduated from Isle in 1955, then raised her family with Oliver Benjamin. Oliver worked for the highway department. "I didn't let him sit around," she says. "I made him work. Marie worked, too, in the schools and at the factory where the casino is now.

In the 1980s, she ran for District II Representative and won. She enjoyed her time in the Band Assembly. "I had my own car," she says. "I would go to where the people were and talk to them."

Marie lives now with husband Jack Gudim in a home in the Chiminising community. They raised their children — Jacklyn, Julie, John and James Benjamin — in the community she's lived in all her life, where her ancestors had developed a close relationship with the land. It's a relationship she still feels and celebrates.

"I could do it again today if I had to," she says. "It's hard to rice, but I liked it so it didn't bother me. Those were the good old days."



Marie Gudim with a birdhouse built by her father.

From Government to Casinos — Living History with Doug Sam

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer

No matter what was happening in the tumultuous days of the 1970s through the 1990s — changes in government, the advent of casino gambling, a lawsuit over treaty rights — Doug Sam was there, and he usually had a hand in it. Fortunately for today's Band members, he's still around to tell the stories, and he's still serving his community.

Doug was raised in the Vineland area, but he spent a lot of time with his grandparents, Mike and Annie Sam, in Isle. He slept on a bedroll on the floor. From his grandparents he learned the old ways of the Anishinaabe. "They taught me everything," Doug says. "Maple sugar, ricing, birch bark — we learned by example."

Doug graduated from Onamia High School, where he and his brothers Bruce and Fred were athletes. His mother Maggie worked at Harry Ayers's trading post and Fairway Market in Onamia until she retired.

Coming home

Doug moved to Minneapolis and later California, eventually spending 25 years as a steelworker for Consolidated Western Steel, which later became United States Steel Corporation, and Triple A Shipyard. He was working on a dam in San Luis Obispo, California, when Kennedy was shot. He also worked on the Transamerica Tower in San Francisco, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and the Alaska Pipeline.

He split from his wife in California, but when she decided to move home to Minnesota, Doug agreed to pull the trailer back to Minnesota. Doug hooked a trailer to the Ford Fairlane with every intention of going back to California, but his wife wasn't having it.

He was three years from retirement with the union, but he gave up his full pension and stayed in Minnesota. "I had to grin and bear it," he says.

Sadly, his wife died of cancer two years later, and he also lost four of his six kids — two daughters to cancer and two sons to car accidents. Doug believes his wife and daughters may have died from exposure to asbestos, which he brought home on his work clothes.

"I don't know why I'm still alive," he says.

Separation of Powers

When Doug got home, he went to the union hall in Minneapolis, and they sent him to work for Standard Iron Works. He commuted to the Twin Cities from his home at Mille Lacs. Eventually he hurt his shoulder and took a job with the Band's education department.

At the time, his mother was the Band's secretary/treasurer. When she passed away in the late 1970s, Doug was voted in to fill out her term. He was reelected and served seven years in tribal government. One of the first things he did was to consolidate the Band's accounts and create the Office of Management and Budget.

When Doug became secretary/treasurer, the Band government was still a Reservation Business Committee, or RBC. The Separation of Powers system in place today came about largely through the actions of Doug and the others in government at the time: Chairman Art Gahbow and District Representatives Marge Anderson, Julie Shingobe and George LaFate.

The Separation of Powers idea initially arose as part of a federal grant to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) to develop a new constitution. The MCT board chairman asked all member tribes to come up with a draft constitution at the next quarterly meeting. Doug went home and organized meetings with elders, who developed the model. He chose 15 people from different factions across the Band. He recalls that among those on the committee were A.J. Nickaboine, Georgianna Day, Beatrice Mitchell, and Betty Sam.

Doug brought the draft constitution back to the MCT quar-

terly meeting and gave copies to all the other tribes and staff members from various agencies. None of the other tribes had brought a draft. Still, they all proceeded to criticize the Mille Lacs draft. Doug said to the chair, "Mr. Chairman, how much authority do you have?" The man giggled, and Doug said, "You instructed each tribe to come back with a draft constitution at the next quarterly meeting. No one else has a draft, but you sit here criticizing our draft. I want all the copies back, and I'm going back to Mille Lacs."

Art Gahbow said, "I'm going with him."

At the next quarterly meeting, they presented a resolution for Mille Lacs to withdraw from the MCT. The MCT didn't accept it, but Doug says they stayed pretty quiet after that.

There was no love lost between Mille Lacs and the MCT. Mille Lacs received only 2.5 percent of the BIA budget, and they didn't have the timber and mineral resources of some of the other bands. "Grand Portage and Fond du Lac got more than us, even though they were smaller tribes," Doug says. "We kept asking for parity but they wouldn't give it to us. We were the poorest tribe in the country."

Doug and Art decided that their only choice was to go to Washington to lobby their representatives. They met with President Reagan's Secretary of Interior, James Watt, who told them, "You can't have your cake and eat it too."

Doug thought about that, and in the middle of the night, he realized what Watt meant: That they couldn't be in the MCT and have Separation of Powers. Doug called Solicitor General Jay Kanassatega. "Do you know what that SOB was telling us?" he asked. An impromptu meeting of the RBC was called at 3 a.m., and they decided their only option was to separate from the MCT, which would require an act of Congress.

Democrat Representative Jim Oberstar wouldn't touch the bill, so they met with Dave Durenberger, a Republican. He said "Why should we help you? We saw all your Ojibwe flags on a photo of the Democratic convention at Duluth."

Art told him the Mille Lacs Band flag wasn't there. "Look at the photo carefully," he said.

Durenberger looked at the photo and said, "Come in, boys!" He and Rep. Vin Weber sponsored the bill to separate Mille Lacs from the MCT, but it never came up for a vote. Doug says the bill is still waiting to be resubmitted.

Doug and Art weren't done yet, though. They found a clause in the MCT Constitution saying each member tribe can come up with its own rules for running its own government. That was all they needed to implement separation of powers at Mille Lacs.

It took some convincing, but in good time, the Band's RBC unanimously adopted a new model of government, the first tribe in the nation to do so.

Treaty rights

Doug gives former Band employee Don Wedll a lot of credit for the Band's victory in court over 1837 Treaty rights. "Don pushed the whole thing," Doug says, adding that meetings with Elders and communities took place before the decision to move ahead. Doug and other community members did their research and were on board with the decision to sue the state.

If Doug had gotten his way in the early 1980s, though, the Mille Lacs Band may have avoided a costly lawsuit related to the 1837 Treaty. When the Wisconsin tribes went to court over the treaty, Doug wanted Mille Lacs to intervene in the case — just as the Wisconsin bands did in the Mille Lacs lawsuit.

The Band's lawyers, however, advised against it. The lead attorney for the Lac Courte Oreilles band, the original plaintiff



Doug Sam

in the case, was Jim Zorn, an unknown lawyer from a small town. The Mille Lacs Band's lawyers thought he would lose the case, and Art was convinced. Doug said to Art, "The lawyers aren't supposed to tell us what to do. We're supposed to tell them what to do."

In the end, Mille Lacs didn't intervene in the Wisconsin case, and Jim Zorn surprised everyone by winning the case.

Casinos

One full term as secretary/treasurer was enough for Doug. He left the government but soon got drawn back into Band business. Art called him into his office one day and asked him to take over the Band's bingo operations, which were losing money. "We'll pay you \$15 an hour," Art said.

Doug went home and thought about it, then called to accept the job. "It was probably the worst decision I ever made," Doug says. The bingo operations were in debt and had bad credit, and they were out of supplies. Doug found some guys in Hermantown who were providing materials to Fond du Lac, and he convinced them to give Mille Lacs enough supplies to last a year. Revenue improved, and so did the Band's credit.

In the late 1980s, an Indian firm from Wisconsin came to Mille Lacs and asked if the Band wanted to set up slot machines.

Doug said he didn't have authority to do so, but Art came over to the bingo hall and said, "I want the machines set up by tomorrow evening."

Doug and his team worked straight through the night to get the machines up and running. "They were illegal as hell," Doug says. "Every time someone with a suit came in, I'd shiver."

They didn't have equipment to count coins, so they'd bring five gallon pails of nickels and quarters to the bank in Garrison.

Doug says that event shows the kind of person Art Gahbow was. "He was tough," Doug says. "He didn't take any crap. He'd say, 'They have no respect for me. Why would I respect them?'"

Ironically, that attitude did earn respect in Washington. Doug says Senators would open doors for Art in Washington.

Doug, Dave Matrious and traditional chief Melvin Eagle met with business developer Stan Taube, "Famous" Dave Anderson and attorney Larry Leventhal about the possibility of establishing a casino on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Stan Taube, on returning to Oklahoma, contacted business developer Lyle Berman, who came and established Grand Casino, Inc.

Art passed away just after Grand Casino opened, and a new era began, with white men like Ron Maddox exerting influence behind the scenes. "He ran the rez," Doug says. "Art didn't like him."

Doug said the elders weren't in favor of opening a casino at first. They were concerned because young people were spend-

ing all their money at the bingo hall, and the elders were the only ones paying the bills.

When the Shakopee Mdewakanton in Minnesota and Seminole tribe in Florida started seeing success with their casinos, however, the elders came around. After the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was passed, Mille Lacs was one of the first tribes to open a casino, and the Band's two casinos have been thriving ever since.

Doug says not enough credit is given to traditional Mille Lacs Chief Melvin Eagle. He was 100 percent for the casino

and helped to start it. He was the first ombudsman for the casino employees. "He was fair, he kept good records, and he took care of the employees," Doug says.

Preserving the culture

Doug had seven children with his wife Christine (Skinaway) Sam: Dallas, Rebecca, Marsha, Maxine, Doug, Doran, and Mickey. Doug, Marsha, and Mickey are still alive.

Today Doug works at the District 1 cultural grounds. He remembers many of the things his elders taught him by exam-

ple — and even now, when he offers tobacco, new memories come back. Doug helped bring Midewin cultural activities back to the grounds.

The grounds are located on a Band-owned lake and beautiful forest near the wastewater treatment facility. Visitors come from all over the country to participate in ceremonies.

Doug is still active in the community and culture and is always willing to share the things he's learned with anyone who is interested.

Chief Executive Benjamin Receives Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award

San Diego, March 31, 2015 — Indian Gaming 2015 attendees enjoyed an evening of dancing and celebration at "Culture Night" as the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) presented the Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

"I want to take a moment and acknowledge two great leaders, whose footsteps I walk in, and who taught me about tribal sovereignty: Art Gahbow and Marge Anderson," Benjamin said in her acceptance speech.

"This award being on Culture Night makes it even more special for me. I want to say a few words about the connection between culture and sovereignty," said Benjamin. She described Tim Wapato's work as Lead Negotiator on Indian Treaty rights for the Northwest tribes, and his effort to always keep tribal traditions and culture close to the negotiations. Benjamin compared that work to the Mille Lacs Band's battles to protect its rights.

"We had the advantage of brilliant attorneys," she said. "But we also involved our spiritual leaders and relied on them to guide us every step of the way. We had Native runners, who ran while carrying a torch all the way from the Great Lakes to Washington D.C. As advised by our spiritual leaders, our lawyers put cedar in their shoes before walking into the Supreme Court. During oral arguments, and the weeks and months ahead, our spiritual leaders and Elders were praying, putting out dishes, and offering asema, praying for the health of the Judges and their families, and praying for them to do the right thing. We won this case not just from good legal work, but because we had spiritual strength on our side. That is something called cultural sovereignty."

Having served on the 1993 NIGA Board of Directors that hired Tim Wapato as NIGA's Executive Director and his wife, Gay Kingman, as Public Relations Director, Benjamin went on to recall Tim and Gay's work when gaming was under attack by Donald Trump and congressional members from Nevada and Atlantic City.

"Tim and Gay always kept our cultural sovereignty in mind," she said. "I was so proud when they used the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as the focus of their campaign against Donald Trump, who at that time was lobbying to kill Indian gaming. There was a gaming hearing in the U.S. House, and Trump was going to testify. Gay and Tim created a campaign called Yachts versus



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin accepting the 5th Annual Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award.

Schools. It was brilliant. They showed Trump spending his money on yachts, while Mille Lacs had built schools, clinics and ceremonial buildings."

She drew a warm laugh from the audience when she recalled how Tim and Gay asked the Band to send a group of children and Elders to the D.C. hearing Trump was testifying at, describing a very effective tactic Band Elders used at the hearing.

"During that hearing, our women elders practiced an effective Native tradition that we all know, as old as time: With arms crossed, they quietly stared Trump down and gave him the old 'stink eye'!"

Others fondly recalled how this seemed to actually rattle Trump, throwing him off his game.

Benjamin concluded her remarks referring again to Tim's legacy.

"To me, Tim Wapato was everything a tribal warrior should be. He was tough, he was humble, and he was so smart. And he knew the power of cultural sovereignty," she explained.

"Tonight, I accept this award, not for myself, but for the people of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, for our Elders, and for our grandchildren and future generations. When I tell my own grandchildren about this award, I will tell them about the life of Tim Wapato," Benjamin concluded.

"Let us all continue to honor his work, his life and his legacy through our own actions."

Band Member Has a Thirst for Knowledge

Andy McPartland Staff Writer Molly Judkins OMB Receptionist



Carla Big Bear

Carla Big Bear just loves to learn. Her educational journey, which started at Nay Ah Shing preschool when she was only three years old, has continued to this day.

A Mille Lacs Band member, Carla attended Nyquist Elementary and graduated from Isle High School in 2001.

Her educational career has taken her to a variety of stops over the years. She received a diploma in Office Administration from Minneapolis Business College, where she was fastest typist in her class. Then, she went to Central Lakes College in Brainerd, earning her Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice with a certificate in Criminalistics.

Next, Carla went to St. Cloud State University, where she

received her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice.

Her next stop was Washington, D.C. where she participated in the Native American Political Leadership Program at George Washington University in the spring of 2012. The program is a full scholarship, semester-long chance for Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students to get a first-hand look at politics in the nation's capital.

Carla has her sights set on one more degree, as she's preparing to graduate this month with her Master's in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. She has held a 4.0 GPA during her time at UMD.

When Carla achieved a 3.8 GPA from St. Cloud State, she proudly showed it off to her mentor, the late Marge Anderson, former Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive. Marge took barely any time to tell Carla that there was room for improvement. Carla dedicates her perfect GPA to Marge for encouraging her to strive for the best grade possible.

Carla's future plans include securing a job in Washington D.C. within the next year, in a position where she could advocate for Native American rights. If that doesn't happen, then she would like to start law school in the fall of 2016.

While she expands her horizons and quenches her thirst for knowledge, she inspires others to do the same. She currently works as an Education Mentor for the Chiminising Niigaan Program, where she enjoys helping the kids with their homework and talking to them about their education goals and where it could lead them.

In Carla's mind, if she can inspire at least one child to continue their quest for education, then she has done her job. When reflecting on her educational career, it's safe to say that Carla is an inspiration not only for children, but all of us.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy May Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Gina Louise Anderson
 Merlin Anderson
 Richard Dean Anderson
 Alvina Mae Aubele
 Elisse Joanne Aune
 Brenda Lee Beaulieu
 Gerald Duane Beaulieu
 Robert Patrick Benjamin Jr.
 Maurice James Boyd
 Denise Lorette Chamblin
 Debra Ann Contreras
 Anthony Joseph Davis
 James Daniel Davis Jr.
 Virginia Joyce Davis
 Dale Wesley Day
 Edna Mae Day
 Winona Evens
 Lorraine Farah
 Sharlene Anita Fisher
 Dale Allan Garbow
 Geraldine Ann Germann
 Harry Lee Granger
 Gertrude Inez Hanson
 Robert Lewis Heinze
 Allen Wayne Hemming
 Terrance John Hendren
 Molly Sam Judkins
 Clarabel Kruse
 Cynthia Lee Lester
 Ramona Lynn Martin
 Mitchell Lee Matrious
 Dominic Walter Mayotte
 Janelle Arlene Meehl
 James Roger Mitchell
 Pauline Veryl Mitchell
 Lawrence Leonard Moose
 Ardith P. Morrow
 Lorraine Marie Nickaboine
 Donald Eugene Olson
 Betty Jane Quaderer
 Patricia Regguinti
 Frederick Raymond Shingobe
 Geraldine Marie Shingobe
 Victoria Lea Smith
 Eugene Raymond Staples
 Beverly K. Sutton
 John Sutton
 Victoria Joy Verkennes
 Herbert Weyaus
 Sarita Inez White
 Theresa Marie Williams
 Larry James Wind
 Ginette Marie Zustiak

Happy May Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Johnny Boyd** on 5/1 from Grandma Shirley and family. • Happy birthday **Jazi** on 5/1 from Phil, Mickey, Nadine, Char, PJ, Whitney, Carter, Corey, and Jerod. • Happy birthday **Jarvis** on 5/5 love Mom, Gram K, Papa, Auntie Rach, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Emery, DeBreanna, Sharon, Ravin, Melodie, Nicole, Jimmy, Cordell, and Chris Jr. • Happy birthday **John** on 5/2 from Joni, Phil, Mickey, Nadine, Char, PJ, Whitney, Carter, Corey, and Jerod. • Happy birthday **Albert Rabanales** on 5/5 from Grandma Shirley and family. • Happy birthday **Jarvis** on 5/5 from Phil, Mickey, Nadine, Char, PJ, Whitney, Carter, Corey, and Jerod. • Happy birthday **Ashley Boyd** on 5/7 from Grandma Shirley and family. • Happy birthday **Manny** on 5/8 from Mom and Dad. • Happy birthday **Shelby** on 5/9, love Max, Aidan, mom, Gram K, Papa, Auntie Rach, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Jarvis, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Emery, DeBreanna, Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melodie, Nicole, Jimmy, Cordell, and Chris Jr. • Happy birthday **Shelby** on 5/9 from Phil, Mickey, Nadine, Char, PJ, Whitney, Carter, Corey, and Jerod. • Happy birthday **Ronnie** on 5/10 from the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy staff. • Happy birthday **Leoniece** on 5/11 from Phil, Mickey, Nadine, Char, PJ, Whitney, Carter, Corey, and Jerod. • Happy birthday **Elisse** (Grandma) on 5/11 with love from Leoniece, Nick, and Baby Coco. • Happy birthday **Elisse** on 5/11 from Mickey and family. • Happy birthday **Randi** on 5/12, love your brothers and sisters. • Happy birthday **Markie** on 5/12, love Dad, Aiva, Emery, DeBreanna, Gram CC, Gram K, Papa, Auntie

Rach, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jarvis, Sharon, Wally, Ravin, and Melodie. • Happy birthday **Candace** on 5/12 from the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy staff. • Happy birthday **Derrick** on 5/13 from the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy staff. • Happy birthday **Richard and Rachel** on 5/14, love you, from Mom, Kelia, Railei, Cyrell, and Candi. • Happy birthday **Jillian Marie** on 5/15 from Cassandra, Travis, and Trevor Powers. • Happy birthday **Papi** on 5/17, love Mami. • Happy birthday **Michael** on 5/17 from Phil, Mickey, Nadine, Char, PJ, Whitney, Carter, Corey, and Jerod. • Happy birthday **Amy Rabanales** on 5/18 from Grandma Shirley and family. • Happy birthday **Levin James** on 5/19, love Mom, Dad, Cede, Jodi, Wade, Levi, Sheldon, Sean, Grant & Rico, Kacie, Hayden & Cayleigh, Penny, and baby Aves. • Happy birthday **We'eh Vin'** on 5/19, 'ove your We'eh MariaKaylyn and Erica. • Happy birthday **Taylor Paige** on 5/19, love Dad, Adam, Papa Brad, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Uncle Brad, Melissa, Brae, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Bianca, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Randi, and Auntie Rachel. • Happy birthday **Mayson Mercado** on 5/19 from Mom, Dad, Micki, Phil, Char, Whitney, PJ, Cory Jr, Dale, and Myrah. • Happy birthday **Sunshine Shingobe** on 5/20 from Grandma June, Grandpa David, Amber, Charles, Hunter, Elvis, Sam, Gail, Christopher, Howard, Courtney, Dan, and Emma. • Happy birthday **Elizabeth Smith** on 5/21 from Mom, Dad, Amber, Sunshine, Elvis, and Hunter. • Happy birthday **Phil** on 5/23, love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **Phil** on 5/23 from Mickey, Nadine,

Char, PJ, Whitney, Carter, Corey, and Jerod. • Happy birthday **Kenneth** on 5/24 from the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy staff. • Happy birthday **Brynley** on 5/26 love Dad, Melissa, Brae, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bianca, Papa Brad, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Randi, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, and Auntie Rachel. • Happy birthday **Mitch Sam** on 5/27 from your buckshot family. • Happy 11th birthday **Maysun Jr.** (Chunk) on 5/27 with lots of love from Mommy, Selena, Dante, Soul, Shawsha, DayFronco, Grama Vera, Stone, Derek, Frankee, Zion, Brynlee, and DeaLayna. • Happy birthday **Mom** on 5/27, love Mariah and Kevin. • Happy birthday **Rodney and Randy Pidegayosh** on 5/27 from Phil and family. • Happy birthday **Jasmine** on 5/27 from Grandma June, Grandpa David, Amber, Sunshine, Elvis, and Hunter. • Happy 14th birthday **Romeo** on 5/28 from Auntie Mary, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, and Daymon. • Happy birthday to my twin **Crystal Garbow** on 5/29 from your WOMB-MATE Cassandra and your bro in-law Travis and Trevor. • Happy birthday **Cassandra** on 5/29 from your guys Travis and Trevor. • Happy birthday **Cyrell** on 5/29, love you always, Mom and Dad. • Happy birthday **Cyrell** on 5/29, love, Gramma, Uncle and Aunt, Kelia, and Railei. • Happy birthday **Ausineese** on 5/30 from the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy staff. • Happy birthday **Pie** on 5/31, love Mom, Kev, Gram Kim, Papa, Gram Karen, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Uncle Brad, Melissa, Brae, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Bianca, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, Auntie

Tracy, Shelby, Max, Aidan, Jarvis, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Emery, DeBreanna, Auntie Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melodie, Sherry, Shawntel, Gabrielle, Carrie, Zach, Jerry, Kira, Renae, Bentley, Jeremy, Michelle, Samantha, Cameron, Keaona, Jayla, Phil, Mickey, Happy Birthday to Nadine, Charlotte, Corey Jr, PJ, Nicole, Jimmy, Cordell, and Chris Jr. • Happy birthday **Cyrell Boyd** on 5/31 from Grandma Shirley and family.

Other Announcements:

Congratulations to **Damon Solis** and **Misty Mattinas** on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Mia Rose Claire Solis, born on April 5th. With love from: Aunty Bevy, Cede, Erica & Ria, Penny & Baby AveS, Jodi, Levin, Wade, Levi, Sheldon & Sean, Kacie, Hayden & Cayleigh, and Grant & Rico. • **To Melissa Boyd:** I want to wish my beautiful, wonderful wife a happy anniversary and can't wait until she comes home to me. I love you my wife. From the luckiest man in the world. • **To Rodney Boyd:** Happy 4 year Anniversary! Thank you for being a good father and husband. I love you!

Congratulations Graduates!

Brandi Skinaway (11/06/14) • Nathan Peet (12/19/14) • George Crazy Thunder (3/27/15)

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Mick Sawinski at mick@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018. *The deadline for the June issue is May 18.*

Mille Lacs Indian Museum May Events

Visit events.mnhs.org for more details on events happening at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum during the month of May.

24th Annual Mille Lacs Band Grand Celebration

Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 21 at Grand Casino Hinckley. For more information visit: millelacsband.com/district_news/24th-grand-celebration

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>Comm. Moose Visit 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p>DII-A Chiminising Bingo 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	7	8	<p>9</p> <p>Woodland Pottery Workshop Noon – 4 p.m. M.L. Indian Museum See page 14</p> <p>Book Talk with Brenda Child 1 – 3 p.m. M.L. Indian Museum See page 14</p>
10	11	12	<p>13</p> <p>Comm. Moose Visit 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p>Indian Graduation Dinner for Native Students in Isle, Onamia, and NAS 6:30 p.m. ROC in Onamia</p>	<p>14</p> <p>APB Meeting 10 a.m. – Noon Urban Admin Offices</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>Woodland Pottery Workshop Noon – 4 p.m. M.L. Indian Museum See page 14</p>
17	18	<p>19</p> <p>Asst. Comm. Palomaki Visit 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Comm. Moose Visit 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p>DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center</p> <p>DII-A Chiminising Bingo 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	21	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>American Indian Art Market 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum See page 14</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Memorial Day</p> <p>American Indian Art Market 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. M.L. Indian Museum See page 14</p> <p>Memorial Day Powwow Noon – 5 p.m. M.L. Indian Museum See page 14</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>Comm. Moose Visit 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p>DII-A Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>28</p> <p>APB Meeting 10 a.m. – Noon DI Media Room</p> <p>DII-A Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p>Nay Ah Shing Graduation 6 p.m. Nay Ah Shing School</p>	29	30
31					<p>Want your event here? Email mick@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018.</p>	

Child Support Enforcement Update

Consent for Mille Lacs Band's Tribal Court to Assume Jurisdiction over a Child Support Order

Child Support clients should be aware that when their Child Support case is transferred from a county to the Mille Lacs Band Child Support office, only their Child Support case is being transferred. If there is an existing Child Support order within that county they continue to have exclusive jurisdiction over that Child Support order, which means if a client requests a modification our office would need to go back to the county to request one.

Pursuant to Federal law, as a general rule a State court retains continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify its prior child support orders.

However, there are two exceptions to this rule. First, if neither the child nor any contestant resides within the issuing State, the court of another State or Tribe may modify the order if the order is registered in the court of the new State or Tribe and that court has jurisdiction over the nonmovant for purposes of modification. Second, if either the child or any contestant resides within the issuing State, a different State or Tribal court can modify the child support order if each individual contestant files written consent with the issuing court for the new State or Tribe to modify the order and assume continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over the order. 25 U.S.C. § 1738B (e) and (i).

Having the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court assume jurisdiction over your Child Support order makes it easier for our office to modify a Child Support order if certain circumstances arise.

If you would like the Mille Lacs Band's Tribal Court to assume jurisdiction to modify a Child Support order to which you are a party, and to exercise continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over that order, contact your Case Manager. Please note that the Mille Lacs Band's Tribal Court cannot modify your Child Support order until it has assumed jurisdiction in accordance with Federal and Band law.

- Shannon Nayquonabe, District I Case Manager
320-532-7453
- Tammy Smith, District II, Ila, III and Urban Case Manager
320-532-7752

The Child Support office will be closed all day on May 25, 2015 for Memorial Day. If you have any questions or concerns contact our office at 320-532-7755.

WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 20, 8 a.m. shotgun start

- Four person scramble
- Cost: \$400 per team
- Three payout categories: Elders, women, and men

For details call 320-532-7486

All proceeds will support scholarships for Mille Lacs Band women to attend the 2015 WEWIN Conference, hosted this year by the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, August 17-19, 2015.

Sponsored by: MLB Local WEWIN Chapter and Melanie Benjamin, WEWIN Founder and Treasurer.

Thanks to Volunteers

Monte Fronk sent out his appreciation of volunteers during National Volunteer Week in April. He said many Band members are volunteers, and that their work is important in creating a safe and healthy community.

National Volunteer Week, which was established by Points of Light in 1974, "is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities."

This year Points of Light asked volunteers to share their stories, which are available at pointsoflight.org, which states: "National Volunteer Week is about taking action and encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change — discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to make a difference."

Mille Lacs Band 2015 Spring Clean Up

District II, East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle Saturday, May 9 – Friday, May 17

Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: East Lake Maintenance facility for District II and Isle Community Center for District II-A.

District III, Lake Lena and Hinckley Saturday, May 2 – Friday, May 8

Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Monday – Friday, and 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Four Plex on Evergreen Dr. and Earthworks building located on Hwy 48 (two miles east of Hinckley Casino Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center), and The Cul-de-sac at Wise Owl.

Mille Lacs Band Elders in all Districts will receive free curbside pickup for their community cleanup items. Elders must call the Public Works office at 320-532-7433 to be placed on the list for pickup.

Anyone receiving curbside pickup must have their pile at the end of their driveway. Please contact Public Works at 320-532-7448 if you have any questions or concerns.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2015	Expenditures through 3/31/2015	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	15,040,690	6,201,360	41.2%
Department of Labor	20,487,635	2,885,404	14.1%
Judicial	1,247,293	446,939	35.8%
Department of Justice	5,169,850	2,320,094	44.9%
Education	17,454,026	8,288,558	47.5%
Health and Human Services	24,464,983	8,952,064	36.6%
Circle of Health Insurance	10,555,180	4,673,715	44.3%
Natural Resources	7,737,369	2,622,966	33.9%
Community Development	52,815,513	8,976,787	17.0%
Gaming Authority	5,324,748	2,289,393	43.0%
Non-Gaming Distribution	–	–	00.0%
Bonus Distribution	31,894,152	21,792,708	68.3%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,130,000	3,126,000	99.9%
Total	195,321,439	72,575,988	37.2%

- (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.