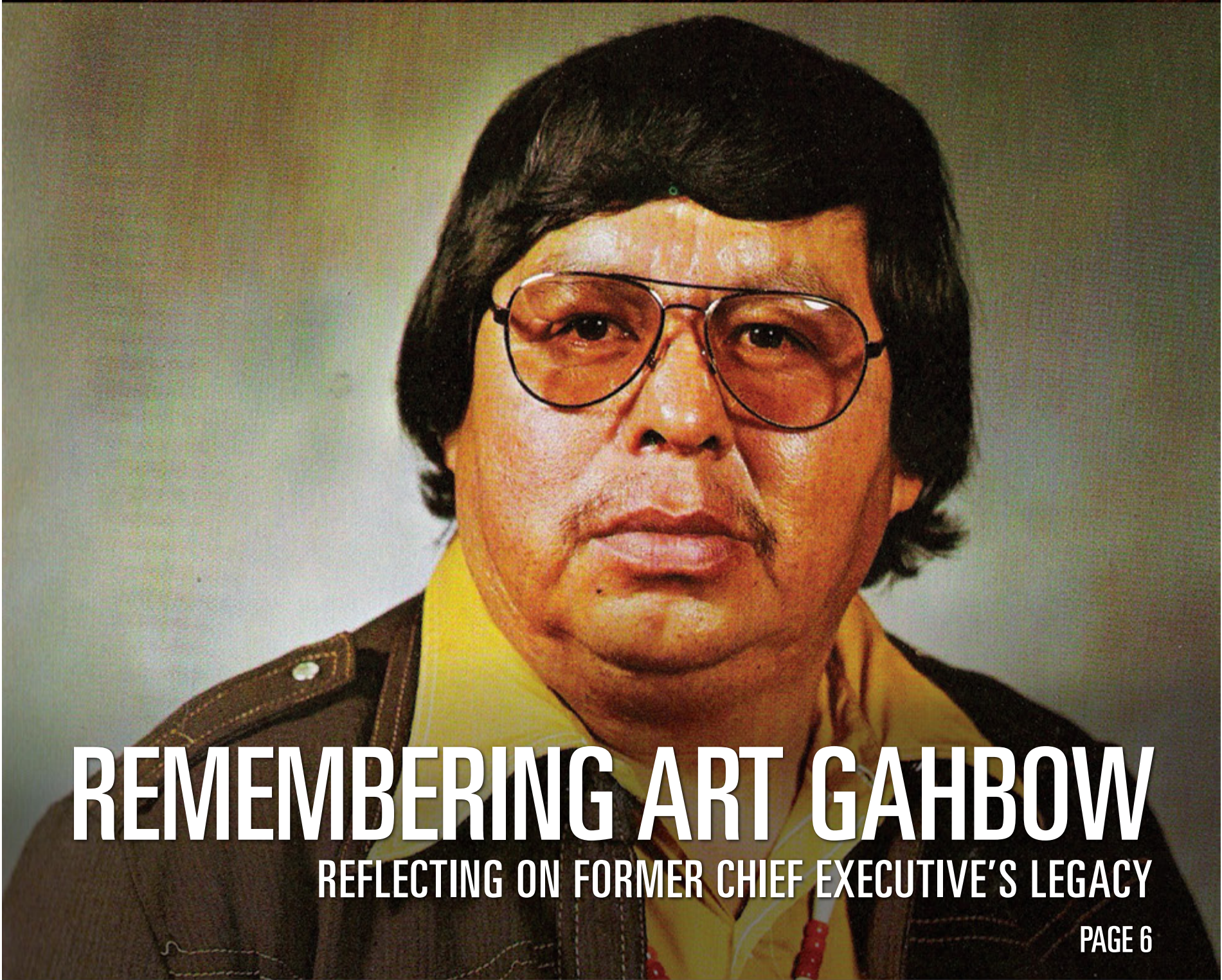


OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

MAY 2016 | VOLUME 18 | NUMBER 05



REMEMBERING ART GAHBOW

REFLECTING ON FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S LEGACY

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin, Boozhoo! For the past four years, it has been my privilege to serve as your Chief Executive, and I am so honored to have been elected to serve another four years. Miigwech to every candidate who ran for elected office; politics is an exchange of ideas, and we have wonderful ideas on the table and must now keep the discussion going within government and at the grassroots level. Chi Miigwech to every Band Member who voted in our election, because your participation in the process is what makes our democracy strong.

Over the past four years, we have been faced with many challenges, but together, we have made critical progress in so many areas. We are aggressively and successfully fighting the pipelines that threaten our lands and water. After asserting our sovereignty and insisting that the state listen to us, and after filing a legal motion to intervene, we now have a seat at the table and are a party in the proceedings.

The legal status of our reservation boundary has been affirmed, and the federal government is solidly on our side in our battles with Mille Lacs County.

We overhauled our tribal police department to improve public safety, and just recently convinced the federal government to assume jurisdiction over the most violent crimes on our reservation, and the Department of Justice will now be helping us clean up our reservation.

We have a permanent school in District III and a tribal college; college courses are now offered in every community center.

And after twenty-five years of effort, we have diversified our economy, including the recent purchase of the Big Sandy Lodge and Resort in District II.

Most important of all, we have begun to turn back the tide of the opiate epidemic. Many women are now getting help, and babies who were at-risk are being born healthy.

We have critical momentum going in the battle against opiate addiction. The U.S. Attorney General recently came out with national recommendations for communities fighting

opiate addiction, and our Health and Human Services Commissioner had already implemented nearly every recommendation on that list before it was issued. In addition to our governmental response, the grassroots response from Band Members who are taking on leadership roles has been amazing. With community meetings and grassroots groups taking on these issues, people are speaking out and getting involved to stop the spread of drugs on our reservation.

These are just a few examples of initiatives where we have made progress and have momentum going, but there is so much more work to be done. I'm excited about my agenda for the next four years. We need to advance our 1855 Treaty Rights in the smartest, most effective way possible; we must continue to do everything in our power to get the drug-dealers off our lands and make our communities safer for our families and elders; we must advance and promote programs that protect our children, our elders and ensure that we have quality housing, health and education; and we will continue working to infuse our language and culture throughout our government and communities.

My top priority, however, for the next four years will be advancing the Economic Justice Initiative. The Executive Branch commissioners are already undergoing a strategic planning process to examine our policies, procedures, programs, service, and administrative structure to identify efficiencies that could be applied to reduce government spending. They are looking for overlap across programs where we could be more efficient while simultaneously improving the quality of services provided.

We are also looking at ways we can decentralize Band government and move more programs and services out to the Districts. We need to help those Band Members who can work but are relying on programs to move into employment. This will be achieved through better alignment between our human service programs with our workforce training programs, and in offering a Band Member minimum wage that will serve as a

strong incentive for all who can work to seek work.

Finally, we need to create more jobs for Band Members through identifying areas where we have talents and strengths. I know we have many skilled auto mechanics on the reservation, so I want to see an auto repair business. We are exploring creating a Band Member Art Collective where we could market Native arts/crafts nationally and internationally. And we are in the process of developing programs that support Food Sovereignty through creating Band-owned organic agriculture and livestock businesses to employ Band Members and provide healthy food options.

In partnership with the Band Assembly, I believe we can make right-size our Band government, improve services and eventually transfer the savings to our hard-working Band members. Many Band Members work hard every day, often for low wages, making sacrifices for their families and their community but rarely asking for or expecting anything in return from the Band government.

These past four years have brought about amazing changes, and there is more to come if we continue working together. I have been working in tribal government since 1989, when my mentor, the late Art Gahbow, first recruited me as his Commissioner of Administration. I know how to get things done and make change happen, but I also know the real reason for our success has been because of Band Member involvement and activism. The best ideas always come from Band Members.

If we continue to assert our sovereignty and self-governance, utilize the talents, skills and ideas of our Band Members, and rely on our traditions and values as Anishinaabe people, there is nothing we cannot accomplish together!

I look forward to the next four years. Together, in partnership with the Band Assembly and the hard work, ideas and support of Band Members, we will build a future for our children that is prosperous, healthy and strong! Miigwech!

Chief Executive Addresses Ge-Niigaanizijig Students

What better way to kick off a leadership class than with a visit from a leader? Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was the first guest to address the Ge-Niigaanizijig Language and Leadership Cohort at Chiminising Community Center on April 17.

Melanie spoke about the importance of education and high expectations. She said her mother had high expectations for her — including the belief that she should go to college. Although it took her a few years, Melanie eventually earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree.

Her education led to a job as Commissioner of Administration for former Chief Executive Art Gahbow. That job led her to run for the chief executive position herself. "I never thought I'd be the Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band," said Melanie. "But sometimes you step into that leadership circle and you don't know where it will lead."

Melanie told the students about the work Art Gahbow, Marge Anderson and other government leaders have done for the Band: fighting for 1837 Treaty rights, creating a Tribal Police force, protecting the boundaries of the 1855 Reservation

and battling the Sandpiper pipeline.

She also talked about the Elders who went to Washington, D.C. when Donald Trump was fighting Indian casinos.

Melanie said she has high expectations for the students who have stepped into the "leadership circle" of the Ge-Niigaanizijig program.

"Each one of you has great talents," she said. "There is something very special about you. We all have those traits, and it is our responsibility to find them and use them to help others."

"You're going to be knocked down," Melanie added. "You're going to fail. But that's okay. When you get pushed down, you stand up and move forward. Never let those barriers keep you from succeeding. The key to success is learning to overcome failure. And if you make a mistake there is always someone out there who is willing to help you."

For more on the Ge-Niigaanizijig program, see page 13.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin spoke to members of the Ge-Niigaanizijig language and leadership cohort at Chiminising Community Center on April 17.

Band Member Endorsed to Run for State Senate

Mille Lacs Band member Chilah Brown of Chiminising (District IIa) was endorsed by Senate District 15 Democrats on April 9 to run for Minnesota Senate.

Band members have served on school boards and township boards, but Chilah is the first to be endorsed to run for the Minnesota Legislature.

Before a large crowd of DFLers gathered at Milaca High School, Chilah shared about growing up in Oklahoma and then coming to Minnesota, where she has settled. She works for the Band as a District IIa Legislative Aid and is scheduled to complete her Master's Degree in Tribal Administration and Governance this May.

In her nomination speech she referred to the ineffectiveness of local legislators at addressing issues related to Mille Lacs Lake, and she vowed to unite people to solve problems. During a question-and-answer period she discussed the return of the walleye on Red Lake as an example of how Tribal Nations and

State Government worked well together to reach a good solution.

After receiving the endorsement she said, "I am honored, and I am up to the challenge," and she presented wild rice to her competition for the endorsement. She said, "I look forward to knocking on your doors and hugging your children over the summer!"

Chilah will run for a seat being vacated by Republican Dave Brown. The endorsed Republican candidate is Andrew Mathews of Princeton.

Also endorsed by District 15 Democrats were Kent Lestrud, a Princeton teacher who will run against Rep. Sondra Erickson in District 15A, and Karla Scapanski, a child care provider and union activist who will run against Rep. Jim Newburger in District 15B.

"With my endorsement, history for the Mille Lacs Band has already been made," said Chilah. "Now it's time to sup-



Chilah Brown spoke at the DFL convention in Milaca on April 9..

port leadership changes to better our communities. In order to seek change for the people, it is extremely important to Rock the Native Vote! Now is the time. Spread the word, tell your family and friends to VOTE Brown for Senate. This is your community too!"

Mille Lacs County Drops Trust Land Opposition

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners voted in March to drop its opposition to the Band's applications to put three parcels of land into trust.

On Tuesday, March 1, three board members went into closed session to discuss the county's appeal of the Department of Interior's decision to grant trust status to the District I Cultural Grounds — known as "the Betlach parcel" — and adjacent lands known as "natural habitat" properties. Commissioners Dave Oslin of Isle and Tim Wilhelm of rural Princeton were absent.

The county had hired attorney Randy Thompson to argue on the county's behalf that the parcel should not be put into trust.

When they came out of closed session, a motion was made by Commissioner Phil Peterson of Milaca and seconded by Commissioner Genny Reynolds of Princeton to direct staff to withdraw appeals regarding Betlach and "natural habitat" properties. The motion carried.

At the same meeting, a motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Peterson to direct the County Attorney to file a "release of lis pendens" on the Sher parcel, a large tract of land on Timber Trail Road where a new housing development and government buildings will be located. The motion carried.

"Lis Pendens" is Latin for "suit pending" and means there is

a claim against the property filed in public records. Releasing 'lis pendens' means the county has dropped its claim.

The Band petitioned the Department of Interior in Feb. 2013 to place the Sher parcel into trust, and the request was granted in September of 2013. The Mille Lacs County Board passed a motion to file 'lis pendens' on the property in December of 2013 after a closed session with then-County Attorney Jan Jude and Assistant County Attorney Mark Herzing.

On Feb. 24 of this year, the board held a special meeting that was closed under attorney-client privilege "to discuss litigation concerning the Sher parcel appeal and TLOA (the Tribal Law and Order Act)." Commissioner Oslin was present by telephone, but Commissioner Wilhelm was absent.

According to the minutes of the meeting, there was "consensus from the County Board for the County Attorney to file the lis pendens release concerning the Sher Property."

The minutes also state, "It was agreed the Betlach parcel appeal would be discussed at a future County Board meeting."

On Sept. 30, 2015, the Band's application to put the Betlach parcel into trust was approved by the U.S. Department of Interior, and on Oct. 29, Thompson filed an appeal on behalf of Mille Lacs County, saying the Band is not federally recognized except as a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Thompson's argument also repeated the county's claim that the 1855 Reservation has been disestablished, and therefore the Betlach and 'natural habitat' parcels, which are within the boundaries of that reservation, should not be put in trust. To put land into trust that is part of a disestablished reservation would be "unconstitutional, unlawful and exceeds the authority granted the Secretary of the Interior," Thompson said.

In 2013, the county hired Thompson to write its response to the Band's request for concurrent jurisdiction under the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act.

In January of this year, the Band's request was granted, and a legal opinion released by the Department of Interior's Office of the Solicitor affirmed the Band's longstanding argument that the 1855 Reservation was not diminished or disestablished.

Mille Lacs County Attorney Joe Walsh said, "It is no secret that there has been a long and acrimonious history between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Mille Lacs County. I am convinced that neither party will be able to achieve its goals until we put this history behind us and work toward achieving common goals together. I hope that the county board's decision not to pursue an appeal regarding placing the Sher parcel into trust is the beginning of a new chapter of our relationship that will continue to improve for our mutual benefit."

MCT Certified Results: Chief Executive Wins Another Four-Year Term

According to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's certified election results, and barring any challenges, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has won another four-year term by garnering over 54 percent of the vote in the April 5 primary election. Because she received over 50 percent, no general election is required.

However, there will be a general election June 14 for District I Representative between incumbent Sandi Blake, who received 39.27 percent, and Ginger Weyaus, who was the second-place finisher with 21.65 percent.

According to Solicitor General Todd Matha, three candidates in the Primary Election have filed timely contests, challenging the Election Board's conduct of the election and the certified results. The Mille Lacs Band Court of Appeals will determine the validity and sufficiency of the contests. The Court has issued scheduling orders and will preside over several hearings on May 2, 2016, with a decision by May 12. The Notice of General Election will be published May 13.

There were 848 votes cast for Chief Executive and 522 for District I Representative. In the election for Chief Executive, 390 votes came from Neyaashing (District I), 69 from Minisinaakwaang (District II), 45 from Chiminising (District IIa), 165 from Aazhoomog (District III), 78 from the Urban Area and 101 absentee.

Congratulations to all who competed and miigwech for working to serve the Band.

Thanks also to those who served as election judges or helped transport elders and others to the polls.

Other Reservations

At Leech Lake, Faron Jackson Sr. was elected Chairperson with 52.72 percent of the vote, defeating incumbent Carri Jones. Leroy Staples Fairbanks was reelected District III Representative with 77.68 percent.

In the White Earth primary, Terrance "Terry" Tibbetts Sr. and Melinda "Mindy" Iverson advanced to the June 14 general election for Chairman, and Barbara Fabre and Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts will run in general election for District III Representative.

At Grand Portage, Janice "Marie" Spry won the election for Committeeman-at-Large with 54 percent of the vote.

In the Fond du Lac primary for Chairman, Kevin R. Dupuis Sr. and Wayne Dupuis advanced to the general election. Vanessa Northrup and Wally Dupuis will run for District I Committeeperson, and Roger Smith and Phillip Savage will run for District III Committeeperson.

At Bois Forte, Catherine Chavers defeated incumbent Kevin Leecy with 51 percent of the vote in the race for Chairman. Karlene Chosa and Travis Morrison advanced to the general election for District I Representative.

National News Briefs

Obama addresses opioids: President Obama addressed the nation's growing opioid problem at the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, stating that tackling the issue should be the federal government's top priority. Obama's appearance was accompanied by new proposed regulations and funding for states to produce and distribute naloxone, the opioid reversal drug. He's also working to triple the funding for opioid treatment, seeking \$1.1 billion in additional funding to help states expand medication-assisted treatment for those suffering from addiction.

Omaha over Nebraska: After two months of deliberations, the Omaha Tribe secured a major victory when the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rejected a challenge to the tribe's reservation boundaries. Justices determined that Congress did not diminish the reservation after opening some areas to non-Indians. While this is a huge win for the tribe and its efforts to assert sovereignty over the reservation, tensions are still running high. The village of Pender contested the reservation boundaries earlier this year because the tribe imposed liquor taxes on non-Indian owned businesses in the community. However, that issue was not before the court, so it remains unresolved.

Tribal schools not left behind: On April 5, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced that 11 BIE schools across the country are eligible for replacement — including the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School. The selected schools were chosen by a committee established under the No Child Left Behind Act, and many are in such bad shape that repairs would cost more than replacement. While the other 10 schools will receive funds for planning renovations, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School has secured \$12 million in federal funding to begin construction later this year.

Howah! The Bush Foundation announced its 2016 Bush Fellows last month and chose 24 leaders who have made significant contributions in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations within those states. Among the recipients are Minnesota's own Susan Marie Beaulieu, Lisa Brunner and Floyd Patrick Jourdain Jr. Beaulieu teaches about adverse childhood experiences in Native American Communities and plans to use her Bush Fellowship to finish her Ph.D. Brunner advocates for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking and hopes to learn more about how other indigenous communities protect and heal their people. Jourdain hopes to use his experiences seeking sobriety to explore how the drum can teach and promote healing in Native Nations.

Caucasians offended: When sports journalist Bomani Jones wore his "Caucasians" t-shirt on ESPN Radio's Mike & Mike show last week, it caused quite a sensation on the Internet. By the time ESPN made Jones cover the shirt, Mike & Mike fans had already begun searching the Internet to find where to buy the parody shirt of the Cleveland Indians logo, which sells for \$22. Search traffic got so high that the shirt maker Shelf Life Clothing Co's website crashed. Jones has since used the attention caused by his appearance on Mike & Mike to draw further attention to the use of Native American names and imagery in sports mascots and logos.

MN DNR Reverses Course on Regulations

In response to pressure from Mille Lacs business and recreation interests, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on March 21 declared a catch-and-release only season for Mille Lacs and a ban on the use of live bait.

On April 7, in response to new pressure, the DNR reversed course, canceling the live bait ban. DNR Fisheries chief Don Pereira said, "The DNR is hearing that anglers are accepting of the catch-and-release aspect of the walleye season, but members of the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee heard clear concerns about the live bait restriction, as did the DNR."

The about-face created a stir in the media, the Legislature and around the lake.

Star Tribune outdoors columnist Dennis Anderson took the DNR to task for bowing to pressure in reversing course.

Sen. Dave Brown, who represents Mille Lacs County in the Minnesota Senate, authored a bill to override the DNR's proposal.

And among anglers and resorters at Mille Lacs, there was the usual grumbling.

Last summer, the Minnesota DNR halted the walleye harvest mid-season when anglers reached their quota.

Gov. Mark Dayton responded with a directive to the DNR to make staff changes, create a new advisory committee, consider a stocking program and build a new \$3.5 million fisheries facility at the lake.

The facility would house DNR staff but may also include a fishing museum and hall of fame.

The new advisory group told the DNR they wanted to avoid another mid-season shutdown, which is why the catch-and-release season and live bait ban were proposed.

Even with a catch-and-release only season, anglers could still reach or surpass their allocation due to "hooking mortality," the death of fish that are caught and returned to the water. Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of released fish die, depending on water temperature and other factors.

Fish caught on live bait are more likely to die than those caught on artificial bait because they often swallow the hook, resulting in damage to internal organs.

The Mille Lacs Band made the decision last summer to cancel netting for the 2016 spring season. Other bands followed suit, and little if any netting has taken place this spring, although Mille Lacs Band members have engaged in some spearing.

Although studies by the state DNR and an independent "blue ribbon" panel of fisheries experts have shown that netting is not the cause of a decline in the walleye population, Drumkeepers made the decision to cancel netting this spring to allow the population to recover.

The Band has also built a hatchery to be used for a pilot stocking project. Eggs taken from Mille Lacs walleyes will be hatched this spring, and the fry will be transferred to rearing ponds. If the project is successful, the Band may consider stocking Mille Lacs with walleyes. (See page 11 for more information.)

Overdose Response Training

Brett Larson Staff Writer

In late March, 57 Mille Lacs Band members and employees were trained in the use of naloxone, a drug that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose said the Band's Opioid Public Safety Team is identifying additional response sites and training opportunities.

Training was provided by Marion Larson of Central Minnesota EMS, which received a grant to provide naloxone training around the region.

Marion said heroin deaths across the nation have tripled since 2010, and prescription drug deaths have quadrupled over the last 10 years. She also said there were 750 non-fatal overdoses in Mille Lacs County between 2010 and 2014.

Mille Lacs Band members and government officials have become increasingly concerned about the opioid epidemic since it was learned in 2014 that the Band has a high rate of babies born addicted to opioids.

Overdose deaths are caused by suppression of the respiratory drive, Marion said. Eventually breathing stops, which leads to cardiac arrest and death.

Naloxone (also known by the trade name Narcan) interferes with the opioids' effect on respiration. Naloxone is effective for 45 minutes, so it may need to be administered more than once.

It has no side effects, and allergic reactions are very rare.

Those treated with naloxone may react by showing irritation and other symptoms, but that is caused by withdrawal from opioids, not from the effects of naloxone.

Marion also talked about the signs of opioid overdose, including pinpoint pupils, absent or very slow breathing, blue lips and fingernails, slow pulse and inability to be woken up.

Dr. Donald Gunderson, the medical director at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, said that in his experience pinpoint pupils are the most telling symptom of an opioid overdose.

At the end of the presentation, Marion showed how naloxone is administered by spraying a mist into both nostrils of the person who has overdosed.

Participants were then able to practice administering naloxone using test kits.

Some have argued that naloxone encourages dangerous drug use, but Band officials have agreed that it is worth the investment in training if lives may be saved by the use of naloxone.



Top: First responders and other Band employees were trained in the use of naloxone, which can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. **Bottom Left:** Tribal police and first responders others will have naloxone on hand to treat opioid overdoses. **Bottom Right:** Dr. Donald Gunderson, Medical Director at Ne-la-Shing Clinic in District I.

Food, Games, Prizes at Treaty Day Event

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Band celebrates Treaty Day every March to commemorate the day in 1999 when the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Band's right to hunt, fish and gather under the 1837 Treaty.

Just as importantly, the day commemorates the leaders who signed the Treaty of 1837 and ensured that those rights would remain in effect for today's band members.

This year's event took place on Friday afternoon, March 25, at the District I Community Center.

Hundreds of Band members attended, some of them tribal employees who were given the afternoon off to celebrate the holiday.

DNR employees in blue shirts talked with guests, served boxed lunches, assisted children with games and passed out door prizes. Commissioner Susan Klapel served as Master of Ceremonies (and Santa Claus) for the day.

The event began with an invocation by Terry Kemper and a song by Timber Trails drum group.

Representatives of band programs as well as outside organizations shared information with those in attendance.

DNR Director Rachel Shaugobay, who was instrumental in organizing the event, expressed appreciation to Reeds Sporting Goods for supplying a variety of great prizes.

"A special thanks to our DNR staff, vendors and volunteers who collaborated and worked hard to make this day a success," Rachel said. "The efforts of each of you have brought excellent results. I am really proud of the hard work and dedication we have as a team."



Top: DNR employees Rachel Shaugobay, Susan Klapel and Charlie Lippert spent much of the afternoon handing out door prizes. **Left:** Wesley and Jennifer Ballinger represented the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission at Treaty Day. **Right:** Oginii Joseph, Memengwa Sam and Jathan Pierre posed with Smokey at Treaty Day on March 25.

Omaha Tribe Wins Supreme Court Case

On March 22, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Nebraska v. Parker* that an 1882 Act of Congress did not diminish the Omaha Tribe's reservation when it opened up lands for settlement by non-Indians.

The similarities between the Omaha and Mille Lacs situations are striking. The Omaha Reservation was established in 1854 and 1865; the Mille Lacs Reservation was established in 1855.

A Congressional Act in 1882 opened the Omaha reservation lands for sale; a Congressional Act in 1889 (the Nelson Act) opened the Mille Lacs Reservation for sale. In both cases, the

Indians were entitled to allotments before any lands were sold.

The Court's unanimous verdict suggests that if Mille Lacs County were successful at bringing the case to federal court (as the county attempted to do in the early 2000s), the Band's argument that the reservation was not diminished or disestablished by the Nelson Act would likely prevail.

Also working in Mille Lacs' favor is a November 2015 opinion by the Department of Interior that the 1855 Reservation is still intact. You can read that opinion at solicitor.doi.gov/opinions/M-37032.pdf.



Quiz Whizzes

Onamia High School's Indian Education program hosted a statewide Ojibwe knowledge bowl tournament on Friday, April 8. Eighteen teams took part, including those from Onamia and Nay Ah Shing.

State and Local News

Fond Du Lac limits harvest: Last month, the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa announced that, for the second year in a row, the Tribe will not exercise its treaty-reserved right to net walleyes on Mille Lacs Lake this year. The Band is authorizing members to spear walleyes on Mille Lacs, with each member limited to two fish less than 15 inches long.

As it should be: A provision in a broader Department of Natural Resources policy bill has proposed expanding the rights of tribal members to harvest wild rice throughout Minnesota. Under the proposal, tribal members who hold a valid tribal ID card would be allowed to harvest wild rice without a license on state-controlled waters anywhere in the state. The proposal is in response to American Indian protesters announcing plans to gather wild rice in Hole-in-the-Day Lake without state-issued licenses to reaffirm rights they hold under the Treaty of 1855. Currently, the state requires DNR-issued licenses to harvest wild rice outside of reservations.

Reservation rap: The first episode of an ambitious new online docu-series, *The Score*, focuses on Minnesota's American Indian hip-hop scene. The two-part, 18-minute episode entitled "Reservation Rap" explores the music produced by native rappers Baby Shel, Tall Paul and Thomas X among others in the Red Lake Nation. Through their music, the rappers vent their frustrations about the struggles facing the Ojibwe community, including poverty, addiction and mental illness. *The Score* is produced by Vice Media and Apple Music and can be streamed through Apple Media.

On second thought: A mere three weeks after releasing new fishing regulations for Mille Lacs Lake the DNR has reversed one of the most contested parameters for the upcoming season. When the season opens on May 14, all anglers will be able to fish with live bait. The DNR decided to reverse the live-bait ban following an outcry from anglers and stakeholders. In March, new regulations for Mille Lacs were announced, including a catch-and-release policy and the live-bait ban, in an effort to protect the lake's walleye population. Those opposing the new regulations argued that banning live bait would diminish an important part of the Mille Lacs fishing experience. (See page 4 for more.)

Will netters and spearkers be included?

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and officials with the nonprofit Minnesota Fishing Museum, Hall of Fame and Education Center are exploring a possible move to bring the museum to the shores of Mille Lacs Lake near a proposed new DNR fisheries facility. Currently the Minnesota Fishing Museum is located in Little Falls, and the hall of fame is in Baxter. The museum contains the state's largest collection of Minnesota fishing artifacts and memorabilia. The hall of fame is dedicated to some of the state's most innovative anglers. Museum and hall of fame officials are interested in combining the entities under one roof at a site on Mille Lacs Lake and expanding into a modern new 42,000 square-foot building.

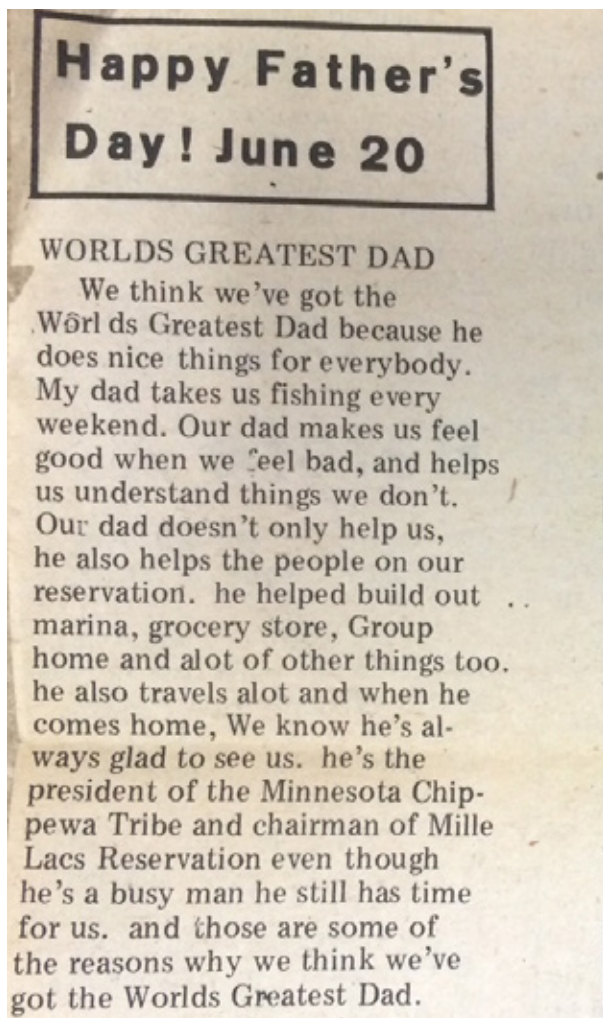
For regular updates on news affecting Mille Lacs Band members, see millelacsband.com/news.



In 1971, Art Gahbow, far right, gave a presentation at Onamia High School with John Redhorse, Albert Churchill, Ed McGaa, James Clark and James Littlewolf.



In 1981, Art Gahbow (pictured with Doug and Leonard Sam) held a news conference to talk about the Band's new Conservation Code for Mille Lacs.



On Father's Day in 1976, Art's children sent this letter to the Mille Lacs Messenger.



Art met with many dignitaries during his years, including presidents, governors and tribal leaders. Here he is pictured with Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich.

WEWINABI — Arthur Gahbow

Art Gahbow passed away on April 11, 1991. On the 25th anniversary of his death, Art's friend Don Wedll reflects on his legacy.

Don Wedll Guest Writer **Photos courtesy of Mille Lacs Messenger**

What do you say when asked to write about someone who was your leader, boss, teacher, colleague, we'e (godfather) to your son, nii jii and friend? How do you describe the importance he had in your life? There is one thing that he always was, and that was "Anishinaabe." He thought about that a lot and what it meant. For him it meant that you could not ride the fence; you had to pick. You could not say, "I'll use this way because it is easier." He had long-term dreams for the Mille Lacs Band. He was a good man.

One personal task he had was to leave Mille Lacs in a better place than when he took over as leader. He saw many changes as the Band's leader. He became the Tribal Chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and lost that position. He saw Band businesses fail and his leadership challenged. He saw groups form to overthrow the Band Government. But he held true to Anishinaabe ways and fought to make things better. In his last days as leader, he had set the Band on a path to continue to make progress, and he never gave up.

Wewinabi, Arthur Wesley Gahbow, was born April 26, 1935, on the Mille Lacs Reservation in Minnesota. While living with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Gahbow, he attended the Vineland Elementary School and Onamia High School. He joined the United States Army and had a four-year military career, which included a two-and-a-half-year tour of Germany. He returned to the Minneapolis area where he worked as a carpenter until the early 1960s. He was a fluent speaker of Ojibwe and always stated it was his first language. Because of his language skill he taught classes at the University of Minnesota Duluth and assisted in the preparation and development of an Ojibwe language book for the Vineland Elementary School.

On June 10, 1972, he was elected chairman of the Mille Lacs Reservation Business Committee. He was an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe/Mississippi Bands. He was in the second level of the Mide'win and was a drum owner. He belonged to four other ceremonial drums. He was elected Tribal Chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and served until 1980. From 1972 to 1991, he was the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Art grew up with his grandparents and his grandfather Dick Gahbow, who was one of the leaders at Mille Lacs before the Indian Reorganization Act form of government took place. He stated that he got to listen to the old men talk about the Reservation and the political processes they were dealing with. He learned traditional Band leadership by observing how these old men thought and how they dealt with problems. All of this became important after he took on the leadership role at Mille Lacs. It was his guide for how he dealt with issues and responded to crises. Over and over these voices of the past would show him the choices to make.

In 1974 I did not know who Arthur Gahbow was. I had applied for a job on the Mille Lacs Reservation to teach math,

and he was the person I was supposed to contact about the job. He was always gone when I called the number to contact him. After numerous calls I felt sure he did not want to talk to me because nobody could be in so many different places. But between being the Chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and then Chairman of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, he was very busy. I got a call in early August that I had been hired to teach math on Mille Lacs Reservation. I quit my job and headed over to work for Chairman Arthur Gahbow. The first year I only met him in passing. He continued to be very busy trying to make things work better.

In 1975 the high school students at Onamia walked out because of racial issues they faced in the school. Chairman Gahbow supported the students and moved to try and improve their education. He directed the setting up of a high school on the Reservation. Everyone on the Reservation worked to make the new school work. This was his first major task after taking office in 1972. Then things started developing in the educational area. By 1978 the Bureau of Indian Affairs had funded what was called a Bureau Contract School. The new school was called "Nay Ah Shing."

Financial problems were also starting to occur for the Band, mostly due to national inflation. By 1980, an economic depression had hit the country and Mille Lacs was experiencing its effects.

Chairman Gahbow — along with Doug Sam, Leonard Sam and Henry Davis — saw that the problems needed a larger fix than just money. A structural change was needed. They realized that a Reservation Business Committee was not a Band Government and that poverty and oppression were taking a toll on the community. The Band's treaty rights were being ignored, and many dreams were being destroyed. As Chairman he had to lead the way out, and he got support from the old men. He

would also go over and talk with Maud Kegg to get her opinions on issues.

He saw that Band businesses were subject to many factors, but the Band Government was not the best way to run them. He saw the need for a strong Band Government. The other leaders at Mille Lacs agreed and supported the direction, people like Doug Sam, Henry Davis, Marge Anderson, Julie Shingobe and George LaFave. The Band Elders also supported his efforts.

The first step was to reorganize the Band Government — not to consolidate his or the chairman's power but to distribute the power. This was done through the development of the Band Assembly, the Band's Court of Central Jurisdiction and the establishment of Commissioners. With this basis, the Mille Lacs Band Government grew and was better able to perform the functions of a Tribal Government.

He also dreamed of having the state of Minnesota recognize the Band's rights under treaties. He took great steps to have that happen. In 1979 he got the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to establish a hunting and fishing code for the Mille Lacs

Arthur Gahbow would never have thought that his life would be part of all the things Mille Lacs now enjoys. He would not look at what he did as a model but would have told the young people that what he did was a little bit and that they could do so much more.

Leader of the Mille Lacs Band, 1972 to 1991

Band. Then he was arrested trying to create a case to litigate the Band's rights. He directed the publishing of histories of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Mille Lacs Band's History. The Band established a Natural Resources Department, and he got the Wisconsin Bands to recognize Mille Lacs' rights to hunt, fish and gather under the 1837 Treaty. He pushed to have the state of Wisconsin acknowledge the Mille Lacs Band's rights, and he established a relationship with the Seattle law firm that was the best in litigation of treaty rights issues. Finally, in August of 1990 his dream of stopping the State's interference with the Band's hunting, fishing and gathering rights was submitted into Federal Court.

Arthur Gahbow gave the first State of the Band Address in 1984. This address led Tribal Governments across the country to give State of the Reservation addresses and strengthen their governmental status.

In 1985 he took a stand against the state of Minnesota's position to require the waiver of Band's rights in order to receive state monies. This led to the passage of a State Law stopping the State administration from waiving the Band's sovereignty.

He, along with the Band Assembly, established a Band Court system, the establishment of the Band's flag and publishing of Band Law. This was done over the objections of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He, along with the Band Assembly, developed a series of Band laws to govern and regulate activities on the reservation and within the Band's jurisdiction.

In 1987, at the invitation of Red Lake Nation Chairman Roger Jourdain, he attended a meeting in Kansas City on Tribal sovereignty and Self-Governance. Though the Band had limited resources, he drove to Kansas, stayed in a low-cost hotel and listened and supported the ideas presented. This meeting led to a symposium on tribal sovereignty held in Philadelphia and the start of a new federal policy of Self-Governance. Through his leadership Mille Lacs became one of the first seven tribal governments to enter into compacts with the United States Government. The idea that tribal governments would be self-governing and direct their own funding was a fundamental belief of Chairman Gahbow. Through this he wanted an independent corporate structure to operate and develop businesses on the Reservation.

One event that David Matrious from District III organized was a meeting with David Anderson, Lyle Berman and Chairman Gahbow. The meeting was about the building of a Casino at Hinckley. This and future meetings led to the development of Grand Casinos — a successful economic tool for creating employment, making money and helping to support Mille Lacs Band members.

Arthur Gahbow would never have thought that his life would be part of all the things Mille Lacs now enjoys. He would not look at what he did as a model but would have told the young people that what he did was a little bit and that they could do so much more.

In his personal life he enjoyed living — from riding on a motorcycle listening to Indian music to meeting with the President of the United States. He drove a black truck with a bug screen that stated "Aut'ee Gahbow" because sometimes he was called that by the old people. He love to visit, sing, and go to pow-wows. The drum and ceremonies were his guide throughout his life. If he could fish or hunt, he was happy. He pushed hard to get to use the Band's treaty rights and would have been so proud of the Band members using them.

At work he treated everyone fairly, but he required you to do your job. He did not care if you were red or white, but that you did your job. That was the first requirement. He loved all his children and tried hard to support them. He tried always to make time for them. In the end he left Mille Lacs a better place. He set a standard and would be so proud of the Mille Lacs Band.



Top and middle left: At the 1988 Crow Fair, Art was dressed in a Crow outfit, with Red Lake Chairman Roger Jourdain, Mescalero Apache Chairman Wendell Chino, and Tom Stillday of Red Lake. He rode at the head of the parade with Crow Chairman Richard Realbird. **Middle right:** On April 5, 1991, shortly before Art passed away, Grand Casino Mille Lacs opened its doors to the public. **Bottom:** At the 1990 State of the Band, Art was joined on stage by Melanie Benjamin, Don Wedll and other officials.

Three Band Members Graduate from CDL Training

Brett Larson Staff Writer

April 1, 2016 will be a day to remember for three Mille Lacs Band members — and not because of any pranks, jokes or fooling around. No, Kelly Kegg, Clifford Skinaway and Ben Kegg will remember that Friday as the day they graduated from Commercial Drivers License (CDL) training at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

The training was a partnership between FDLTCC and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. MnDOT is looking to diversify its workforce, so the agency decided to work with tribes to provide training to members.

The training came about quickly, due in part to help from Craig Hansen of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO). On short notice, he found three Band members willing to commit to six weeks of training beginning Jan. 19.

On April 1, it was all over but the testing for Kelly, Cliff, Ben and many new friends from other Anishinaabe bands.

Kelly was joined at the graduation ceremony by several family members. "It's something I've always wanted to do," he said. "I have a passion for it." He's hoping to work in road construction for starters, but he may want to drive over-the-road during the offseason.

Cliff was also supported by loved ones, including his wife Gloria. "It was exciting, enlightening and enjoyable to learn a new trade," he said. He liked driving the 18-wheelers the most, but he also enjoyed the dump trucks. He hails from the Sandy Lake area and was glad the training included a hotel room so he didn't have to commute back and forth to Cloquet.

Clifford said his wife and stepchildren are proud of him, and he encourages anyone who's thinking of a career change to "keep pursuing your dreams."

Ben had to miss the graduation ceremony because he was taking his test, but he pulled up a few minutes later and was congratulated by a contingent of his Mille Lacs family.

The graduation event began with a pipe ceremony by Jeff Tibbetts, who said his father was one of the first Indian truck drivers to work for MnDOT. FDLTCC President Larry Anderson gave welcoming comments to guests, and Interim Dean of Career, Technical and Workforce Development Patty Petite congratulated the graduates and recognized their instructors. Patty was instrumental in putting the program together.

Craig Hansen thanked Patty and the instructors, as well as the family and friends who made sacrifices so their loved ones could accomplish their goals. "Seventy-three days ago, you started this journey," said Craig. "The next steps are up to you. The road awaits. I salute you for your hard work, dedication and determination."

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin spoke about the importance of education and the significance of their accomplishment. "You're mentors for people back home," said Melanie. "Our young people will say, 'Hey, Kelly did it, so I can too.' You are someone your family members and community members can look up to."

In closing, she gave the universal signal for a trucker to honk his horn, and encouraged the graduates to "Keep on truckin'!"

The graduates didn't wear gowns or funny hats, but they did receive certificates, plaques and handshakes. As a hand drum singer honored them with a song, they feasted on sandwiches and cake before heading home to a future full of new possibilities.



Photos by Tom Urbanski/Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. Top: Ben Kegg was unable to attend the graduation because he was taking his driving test, but he joined friends and family at the luncheon afterwards. Bottom: Melanie Benjamin and Craig Hansen joined Kelly Kegg and Cliff Skinaway at their graduation on April 1.



On March 31 at the Neyaashing (District I) Community Center, District I Rep. Sandi Blake and her staff hosted a "meet and greet" dinner for Onamia School District personnel and families of Onamia students. The event featured an invocation and cultural presentation by Herb Sam. Pictured are Sandi, Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe (Onamia Indian Education Coordinator), Bradley Harrington (Chair of the Onamia Local Indian Education Parent Committee), Onamia Superintendent Bert Strassburg, and School Board Member Virgil Wind.

Cobell Scholarship Has New Website

The Cobell Scholarship is annual, non-renewable, and available to any full-time and degree-seeking American Indian or Alaska Native post-secondary (after high school) student attending any nationally, regionally and industry accredited non-profit, public or private institution while pursuing a vocational certificate or diploma, associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctoral, professional degree or certificate. All applicants must demonstrate an unmet need. Find more information at cobellscholar.org

Vision, Strategic Plan Developed for Language Programs

More than 25 native speakers, teachers and policy-makers gathered at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on April 11 and 12 to set a path toward language revitalization in reservation communities.

Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise saw the need for a strategic planning workshop, and she called on Dawn Newman and Beth Glommen of the University of Minnesota's Extension office. Suzanne had attended a session with the two women and liked the results.

The first day focused on developing a vision Band members want to see in place in three to five years, followed by identification of underlying contradictions that are blocking the community from moving toward that vision.

On the second day participants came up with innovative, practical actions to overcome those contradictions, as well as the development of action plans and teams.

The facilitators used a dynamic approach combining individual brainstorming, small group discussion, visual aids, and dramatizations to draw out participants' ideas.

Some of the needs that emerged were:

- Coordination among various programs and individuals
- Financial support for language and culture programs
- A government department dedicated to language and culture
- A self-licensure/certification program that recognizes language expertise
- Roles for those who are unable to pass criminal background checks
- Incentives and/or mandates for employees to learn Ojibwemowin, including time during the work day
- Leadership from elected officials to stress importance of

language and culture

- Media efforts and apps to attract young learners,
- New policies and laws that emphasize importance of language and culture
- Apprenticeship programs to bring learners together with fluent speakers
- Recognition of the importance of preserving the Mille Lacs dialect

Adrienne Benjamin, who works at the Anishinaabe Izhit-waawin Immersion Grounds in Rutledge, attended both days of the workshop. "This was a long overdue process that is extremely vital to the success of Ojibwemowin revitalization efforts here at Mille Lacs," said Adrienne. "We have so much talent here, and it gives me inspiration — currently and for the future."



Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Expands with Acquisition

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) announced in April that it has purchased Big Sandy Lodge & Resort, in McGregor, Minn. The resort is located on Davis Bay, on the south shore of Big Sandy Lake. The sale includes the resort's 18 lodge rooms, seven cabins, fourteen townhomes and one seasonal rustic retreat log home, as well as The Pines Restaurant, The Bear's Den Sports Bar & Grille, and an indoor pool, hot tub and sauna.

According to Joe Nayquonabe Jr., CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, the McGregor area has been a market that has been on MLCV's radar since beginning its diversification efforts in 2013.

"Our roadmap calls for a mix of hospitality growth in targeted markets as well as acquisitions that allow us to expand the local business economy within all three districts of the Mille Lacs Band reservation," Nayquonabe said. "Big Sandy

Lodge has a reputation as one of Minnesota's premier resort destinations. We look forward to expanding upon the resort's rich traditions by leveraging our experience in hospitality."

Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, said that Big Sandy Lake is so important to the regional economy, but it is more than that for the Band. "We have a long history with Big Sandy Lake, and it is actually a very sacred place for Anishinaabe people, so this acquisition was a perfect match for more than just business reasons. We are delighted to join the families of resort owners on Big Sandy Lake and honored to host the Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener this year with Gov. Mark Dayton."

MLCV made the decision to acquire Big Sandy Lake Lodge & Resort based on its strong performance and its unique position as a premiere up-north destination resort on the Big Sandy

watershed. No immediate changes are planned, but MLCV will monitor business operations and look for opportunities to improve efficiency and profitability over time. The property will be managed by LHR Hospitality.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District II Representative David "Niib" Aubid said he was pleased to see the local investment in the community. "Today signifies an important milestone in District II. This investment will create job opportunities for our District. It's a well-known resort, and we are excited to be a part of the McGregor resort community."

Big Sandy Lodge & Resort will be hosting the 69th Annual Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener from May 12-14, 2016.

Special programming celebrating the acquisition of the lodge is being planned.



Batterers' Intervention Program Aims to End Domestic Violence

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

There was a time when no one talked about domestic abuse — Not the person who was abused, not the abuser — nor was it openly discussed in public.

Those days are long-gone, but the problem is not. In fact, it's often widely known by families, extended families and others that abuse is happening and who it's happening to.

It's an issue that crosses all lines — social, economic and cultural. It sometimes happens to Band members and is sometimes caused by Band members. One Band program that is addressing the problem is the Batterers' Intervention Program, which is part of the Behavioral Health division of the Health and Human Services Department.

"Started two years ago with funding from a grant, the program's mission is to end domestic violence in the community through education, awareness and social change," said Desiree Montonye. Desiree facilitates the program with co-facilitator and case manager Kate Kalk.

"Unfortunately, in Mille Lacs County, Band members make up six to eight percent of the population but on average they represent 50 percent of the domestic violence felony cases," Desiree said.

Felony charges can result if a weapon is used, strangulation occurs, or a perpetrator has multiple offenses.

Those who participate in the program have been ordered to attend by the county or tribal court or it could be a condition of their probation or parole. The group meets for two hours each week for 28 weeks. Participants are 18 years and older.

The program addresses 10 key areas: nonviolence, non-threatening behavior, respect, trust and support, honesty

and accountability, responsible parenting, shared responsibility, economic partnership, sexual respect, power and control, and negotiations and fairness.

"It teaches offenders to understand belief systems and that it's not drugs, alcohol or mental health that causes them to abuse," Desiree said.

In the first six months of the program, there were 33 referrals. In the first year, 49 referrals were made, and 10 people successfully completed the program. Since January 2016 there have been 28 referrals to the program, and 12 men and women are currently enrolled.

The program was created to keep women safe, though there are women who are abusers, too.

Still, according to statistics, women make up the higher percentage of abuse victims. Violence is considered an epidemic in Indian Country.

"Native women feel isolated. There's family isolation, and they are told not to tell. Or they might be threatened if they do tell," Desiree said.

The Batterers' Intervention Program works with the Band's Family Violence Prevention Program as needed. The collaboration gives victims of domestic abuse options for getting help while maintaining safety and confidentiality.

The primary goals of the Batterer's program are to increase the safety of women and children and to return to the belief that women and children are sacred and worthy of protection. It is also to hold the perpetrator accountable for changing patterns of behavior, thinking and beliefs.

There are two groups for men and one women's group in

District I. A group in District III is being created.

"Our hope is that they don't re-offend and they change their behaviors, but we have had people who have been ordered to come back."

There are others who are success stories. One man who participated has trained to be a co-facilitator in the program. He said he wanted to give back to the community and was grateful for the lessons he learned.

Desiree said she tells the participants that if they want to change their lives and do things differently they can find a place in the community or through the program that will allow them to give back.

Being in the program is a lot like participating in a chemical dependency treatment program — "They have to be ready."

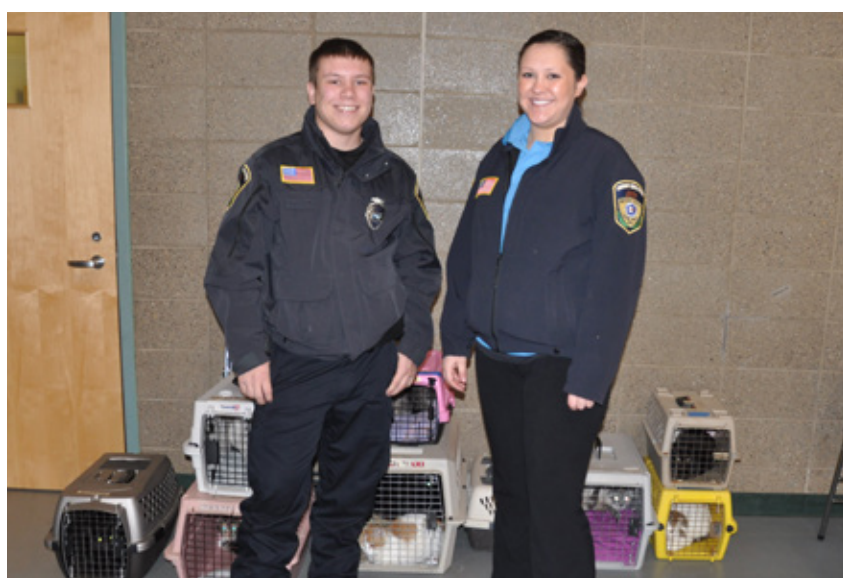
The free program offers other benefits, too, like finding resources, involving peacemakers and connecting participants with Elders. The program also relies on cultural teachings and practices.

What's discussed in the meetings remains confidential unless someone makes a threat to hurt someone.

The grant that funds the program ends in the fall, but Desiree is hopeful that the program will receive another grant or additional funding because the need is so great.

"Violence affects everyone in a household," she said. "I know it's an ugly topic and no one wants to talk about it, but talking about it can help it stop. Some people don't know it's happening to the degree that it is."

"This program holds people accountable," she said. "Friends, family and neighbors can hold offenders accountable."



Chiminising Vet Clinic

Twenty-nine dogs and cats were treated at Chiminising Community Center April 21 by the Minnesota Spay and Neuter Assistance Program. Community Service Officers Spencer Stack and Bren Fletcher (pictured) were on hand to register pets. The Band is encouraging pet owners to register their pets. In District I, bring proof of vaccinations to the Tribal Police Department. You'll just need to fill out and sign a form. In other districts, email bren.fletcher@millelacsband.com or call the Tribal Police to arrange registration.



Thanks to a grant from CVS, Band members can now dispose of expired or unwanted medicines in the lobby of the Tribal Police office in the lower level of the District I government center. Disposing of unwanted medications can help keep the community safe by reducing prescription drug abuse and protecting the environment. Chi-miigwech to the Tribal Police Department for securing this grant!



Veterinary Clinic in Aazhoomog

The Minnesota Spay and Neuter Assistance Program (MNSNAP) has been making the rounds of Mille Lacs Band districts providing free services to Band members. Vets came to Aazhoomog on April 1 and Chiminising on April 21, and the organization is also planning a visit to Minisinaakwaang. Miigwech to the Tribal Police Department for arranging these clinics. Pictured are Weylin and Tiffany Davis with Lucy, and Judy Swanson with Molly.

Peacemaking Incorporates Ojibwe Values and Culture

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

After working with many people who didn't understand the seven Ojibwe values and how they relate to culture, it became apparent to Tribal Court Peacemaker Laurie Vilas that change was needed.

Laurie has vast experience in the peacemaking process, and she understands why culture matters in the process. She discussed her experiences with Court Administrator Gilda Burr and Terry Kemper, and an idea was born. Terry works in the DNR's Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and he teaches classes on Anishinaabe culture.

They decided to offer six peacemaking and cultural presentations in the districts and urban area that would help people better understand how those things go together and why they are important.

Infused with humor, patience and reverence, the presentations focused on cultural values, circles, smudge and pipe ceremonies, drums and sweat lodges.

At the All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis, the presentation was held the first Saturday in April. Laurie and Terry, who work for Tribal Courts to assist in family law cases, led the four-hour session.

It began with a prayer, smudge and pipe ceremony. Laurie

told the attendees that those things "help people center themselves" and prepare for what is to come.

During her presentation she talked about the importance of circles, facilitators and the cultural relevance of them. She explained how they could be used in many different ways including for support, conflict or healing.

"People go to circles to help each other," she said. "We never force people to do it; they have to want to do it."

"As Native people, when we know this and when we believe this it helps us," said Laurie. "When we know this we're rich in life."

Laurie also discussed the seven Anishinaabe values—Debwewin, Zoongide'ewin, Maanaji'idiwin, Gwayakwaadiz-iwin, Zaagi'idiwin, Nibwaakaawin and Dabasendizowin.

The participants — both Band members and employees — also heard about symbols and how they are important to the Anishinaabe.

Terry, who is a Band member, told the group that, "we bring this back to the people to teach the people.

"I want to leave you with the heartbeat of our people and prayer... I want to focus on our strengths."

Terry, who led the group in singing and the drum, encour-

aged hands-on interactions. He had both the men and women take turns singing and had each group sit on the drum.

He masterfully eased their apprehensions with his humor and laughter — even when they were out of sync with the drumming or held the drumstick the wrong way.

"The power of the drum can take us back to before we were born. The beat of the drum touches our heart."

Terry also had a table full of medicines and tools and told the attendees to pick up the medicines, to smell them and to touch the items he set out.

"We want you to know our connection to healing is out there," he said. "Cultural awareness is out there.

"We're trying to let our people know this is available to you," he said when asked about the presentation.

"Take them, learn from them. We do these things and we can come together."

Before the day was over, the peacemakers reminded the group that the Anishinaabe are a seven generations people who look seven generations ahead.

"The world is looking to us for healing," said Terry. "We want to encourage our people to learn their own song. Some people have their own song, and it's powerful."



Left: Attendees examine traditional medicines on display during a peacemaking session held at All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis. Center: Laurie Vilas sings while Terry Kemper drums. Right: Peacemaker and Band member Terry Kemper explains how traditional medicines are used.



Absentee Ballot Request Form Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe General Election June 14, 2016

I am requesting an Absentee Ballot for the June 14, 2016 General Election and acknowledge that I meet one of the MCT Election Ordinance criteria to receive an absentee ballot:

- (1) I live outside the reservation boundaries;
- (2) live within the reservation boundaries, but I will be absent from the reservation on Election Day; or
- (3) live within the reservation boundaries, but am physically disabled or too ill to vote in person.

My full name, which I am enrolled under, is:

Name: _____

Enrollment Number _____ Phone Number _____

Please send my Absentee Ballot to:

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

District selected for voting purposes: **(Please Choose 1)**

District 1 – Nay ah shing _____

Signed _____

Please mail or fax Request for Absentee Ballot form to:

ATTN: Deanna Sam, Election Judge
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
General Election Board
P.O. Box 87
Onamia, MN 56359-0087
Telephone: (320) 532-7586 or 800-709-6445 ext. 7586
Fax: (320) 532-4782

For office use only

In Person _____
Date voted _____

By Mail

Request Received _____
Phone _____ Letter _____ Fax _____
Request form sent: _____
Request form received: _____
Ballot Sent: _____
Ballot received: _____

Sandpiper Meetings Planned

The Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold a series of meetings regarding the proposed Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines, which would cross the Sandy Lake and Rice Lake watersheds in the District II area.

Band members and the tribal government have stood in opposition to the pipelines since they were first proposed. The proposed pipelines would transport oil from the Bakken region in North Dakota and the Alberta "tar sands" through Minnesota to Superior, Wisc.

The 12 scoping meetings, which include presentations on the project and opportunities for public comment, began April 25 at Tobie's in Hinckley from 6 to 9 p.m. The final meeting is May 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at East Lake Community Center in Minisinaakwaang (District II). Other times and locations (which are not near the Band's districts) are available on the Band's website (see below).

Minnesota Administrative Rules state: "The scoping process shall be used before the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to reduce the scope and bulk of an EIS, identify only those potentially significant issues relevant to the proposed project, define the form, level of detail, content, alternatives, time table for preparation, and preparers of the EIS, and to determine the permits for

which information will be developed concurrently with the EIS."

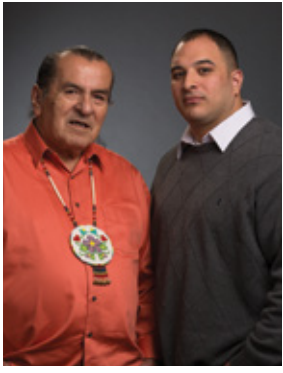
Written comments will be accepted through Thursday, May 26, 2016 online or by mail.

- **Online:** sandpiperline3.us.
- **Email:** Pipeline.Comments@state.mn.us.
- **U.S. Mail:** Jamie MacAlister, Environmental Review Manager Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul MN 55101. Fax: 651-539-0109.

Comments will be made available to the public via the PUC's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions. Please include the PUC Docket Numbers (Sandpiper: PL-6668/CN-13-473 and PPL-13-474, Line 3: PL-9/CN-14-916 and PPL-15-137) in all communications.

For more information, go to bit.ly/1S93KLE.

Band members are encouraged to attend the scoping meeting at East Lake (Minisinaakwaang) Community Center May 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to learn about the project and share their opinions.



Jiibenaakeng Remembering Our Relatives Who Have Passed On

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

Mii dash o'ow noongom waa-ni-dazhindamaan, mii i'iw Anishinaabe ezhi-wiindang jiibenaaked awiya. Mii i'iwapii wiisiniwin ani-atood ani-mikwenimaad inow odinawemaaganan gaa-aanjikiinijin. Mii-go gaye giishpin inendang a'aw Anishinaabe mii-go gaye inow odayi'iimaan, maagizhaa gaye opwaagaansan, maagizhaa gaye biindaakwaan da-niindaa'aapan inow odinawemaaganan gaa-wani'aajin.

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

Gaawiin ganabaj nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe ogikendanziin o'ow bakaan eni-izhi-gaagiigidong wiisiniwin naa-go anooj waa-niindaa'aad inow odinawemaaganan bimi-giizhigadinig. Ishke maa giizhiganikayang giinawind, mii ingiw gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig niibaa-dibikokewaad. Ishke dash omaa aniganoodamaaged awiya, mii i'iw iwidi ani-apagizondamawind a'aw Manidoo iwidi eyaad genawenimaad gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaanijin biinish gaye ani-apagizondamawimind inow odooshkaabewisiman.

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

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

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

Ishke dash mii i'iw wenji-mikwendamaan ezhi-gaagiigidong a'aw nizigosiban Nechiyawaasangoban, mii a'aw gaa-pi-gaagiigidod i'iwapii bimi-giizhigak gii-atooyaang i'iw wiisiniwin, mii dash i'iwapii nigii-mikwenimaanaan a'aw niwawiinge-maamaayiban Ajidawaashiikweban. Ishke dash megwaa imaa ani-gaagiigidod a'aw mindimooyenyiban abinoojiinyag imaa gaa-ayaajig apii, mii dash

imaa gii-waabamaawaad awiya bi-zaagewenid aasamisagong. Mii dash gaa-izhi-wiindamawag a'aw nizigosiban, "Geget giwawiingez gaagiigidoyan." Mii dash imaa gii-wiindamawag, "Ingiw abinoojiinyag omaa eyaajig ogii-waabamaawaan awiya gii-pi-zaagewenid gii-mookinaagozinid imaa aasamisagong, mii inow iidog gaa-waabamaawaajin ingiw abinoojiinyag inow oshkaabewisagan gaa-pi-izhinizha'igaazonijin da-bi-naadinid i'iw wiisiniwin.

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

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

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

Ishke a'aw mindimooyenyiban Amikogaabawiikweban ingii-waawiindamaag, ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe ozhiitaad miinawaa jiibaakwaadang i'iw wiisiniwin gegoo igo menidoowaad imaa wenjikaamagak imaa ozhiitaad. Ishke dash mii iwidi eni-izhaamagak i'iw menidoowaad, mii dash i'iw animoozhitoowaad ingiw gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig ani-gikendamowaad dash mikwenimindwaa. Ishke ninoondawaa a'aw Anishinaabe ani-dazhindang, bakadewag gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig. Gaawiin sanaa ganabaj da-bakadesiwwag gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig. Gidaa-mikwendaamin Gaagigeminawaanigoziwining ezhiwiinjigaadeg iwidi. Gaawiin da-minawaanigozisiwwag giishpin bekadewaagwen iwidi.

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



Royalty Potluck

The District I Izkigamizigan Powwow committee hosted a potluck for the current royalty on April 2. Back: Senior Brave Nolan Perkins and Senior Princess Sierra Edwards. Front: Junior Brave Shawn St. John and Junior Princess Ava Gahbow. For information about becoming a contestant in the 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Royalty Contest, please contact Chasity Gahbow at 320-532-7486 or Jennifer Ballinger at 320-532-7512. Deadline to sign up is August 1, 2016, but we recommend that you sign up early so you have plenty of time to complete your required hours for cultural activities.

Ge-Niigaanizijig Kicks off with Banquet

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Ge-Niigaanizijig language immersion and youth leadership program recognized new participants March 30 at a banquet at Eddy's in District I.

In December, the Ge-Niigaanizijig program received a two-year, \$253,848 language revitalization grant from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Students submitted applications during the winter and were chosen after review and scoring by impartial judges. Names were removed from the applications to ensure an unbiased selection process.

Niigaan program director Byron Ninham welcomed participants and their families, who were treated to a buffet dinner before the program commenced.

Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise was the featured speaker. She shared a message of hope for success in education and beyond. She told her story about going off to college as a young woman and encouraged students to recognize the support systems and assets in their lives, including family, friends and mentors who care about them.

"Another asset we have is our relationship with Manidoo," said Suzanne. "We need to ask for help. We all need it, no matter how old we are."

After Suzanne's speech, Byron introduced the program leaders in attendance, including Larry 'Amik' Smallwood, Waabish-

kigaabaw (John P. Benjamin), Adrienne Benjamin, Laurie Harper, Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe, Joe Regguinti and Alex Kmett.

Adrienne said she came up with the idea for the program when she was part of a Native Nations Rebuilders cohort. "It was a program like this, and I realized I was 30 years old and just getting started learning my language and leadership skills. This is my dream, and it's coming true today."

Laurie asked family members to follow up with the students after each session to show their support for the program.

Waabishkigaabaw talked about how he became interested in learning and teaching the Anishinaabe language, and he gave the students their first homework assignment. "I'm going to do my best to teach you guys how to speak awesome like me," he said, drawing laughter and cheers from the crowd.

Byron asked the families and students to acknowledge his fellow leaders. "They are true rock stars," he said. "They love the language, and they want to help the kids in the community."

As each student's name was called, the crowd applauded and the program leaders welcomed them with smiles and handshakes.

It was an evening of celebration and fun, but Byron reminded the students that they'd be getting down to business April 17 at Chiminising Community Center. "It's going to be a big undertaking," he said, "but we're going to be here for you."



Left: Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise gave a message of hope to the students and their families. Right: Twenty-six students chosen to participate in the Ge-Niigaanizijig program were welcomed at a banquet in District I March 30.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

John P. Benjamin Waabishkigaabaw

Learning Ojibwe Lesson 4: The Introductory Speech

Waabishkigaabaw indizhinkaaz. John indigoo. Awaazisii indoodem. Misizaaga'iganing indoonjibaa.

That is the basic introductory speech you will often hear around Anishinaabe country. Here is the translation:

- *Waabishkigaabaw indizhinkaaz.* My name is Waabishkigaabaw.
- *John indigoo.* They call me "John."
- *Awaazisii indoodem.* My clan (doodem) is Bullhead (awaazisii).
- *Misizaaga'iganing indoonjibaa.* I am from (onjibaa) Mille Lacs (Misizaaga'iganing).

Fill in your name, clan, and home, and you'll be ready to introduce yourself. And listen for the words next time you hear someone introduce himself or herself in Ojibwemowin.

Spring Cleanup 2016

District I, Vineland

Now through Friday, May 6

Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day.

All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Old Transfer Station Site off of U.S. HWY 169.

District II, East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle

Saturday, May 14, through Friday, May 20

Hours of operation:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

District III, Lake Lena and Hinckley

Saturday, May 7, through Friday, May 13

Hours of operation:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Four Plex on Evergreen Dr.; Earthworks building located on Hwy 48, 2 miles east of Hinckley Casino; Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center; the cul de sac at Wise Owl.

Reporters Wanted

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

Here are a few other useful phrases to learn this month:

- *Awegonen waa-minikweyan?* What do you want to drink?
- *Niwii-minikwen nibi.* I want to drink water.
- Other drinks: *niibiish* (tea), *doodooshaaboo* (milk), *makade-mashkikiwaaboo* (black medicine water — coffee), *menwaagamig* (pop), *mishiiminaaboo* (apple juice).
- *Awegonen waa-miijyan?* What do you want to eat?

Here it gets a little complicated, because some foods are inanimate and some are animate, and you use a different verb for each.

- Inanimate: *Niwii-miijin naboob.* I want to eat soup.
- Animate: *Niwii-amwaa bakwezhigan.* I want to eat bread.
- Inanimate foods: *dekaag* (ice cream), *wetotwaag* (Jello), *waawan* (egg), *manoomin* (rice), *odoskwanensan* (macaroni), *waabi-manoomin* (white rice), *wajepanjiganish* (fast food, picnic), *ozhaashaa-manoomin* or *daataagwa'igan* (oatmeal).
- Animate foods: *bimike'igan* (pizza), *bakwezhigaans* (cookie, cracker), *wiishko-bi-bakwezhigan* (cake), *opin* (potato), *napodin* (dumpling), *wezaawiminagizid* (orange), *mishiimin* (apple).

Remember to practice on your own or with friends and family, or attend a language table in your district or the urban area.

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.
 Kevin Duane Boyd
 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
 Beverly Gay Fairchild
 Lorraine Farah
 Sharlene Anita Fisher
 Dale Allan Garbow
 Geraldine Ann Germann
 Harry Lee Granger
 Gary Lynn Haglund
 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 to my twin sister, **Cassandra Garbow**, from her twin sister, Crystal, and her niece Leighnah. •

Happy birthday **Jarvis** on 5/5 love, Jarvis Jr., Miranda, mom, Gram Karen, Uncle Brad, Auntie Val, Pie, Kevin, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jacob, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Debreanna, Emery, Brad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Brynley, Jay, Missy, Guy, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Sharon, Ravin, and Melodie. • Happy birthday **Shel** on 5/9 love, mom, Max, Aidan, Jacob, Gram Karen, Uncle Brad, Auntie Val, Pie, Jarvis, Jarvis Jr., Miranda, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Debreanna, Emery, Brad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Brynley, Jay, Missy, Guy, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Sharon, Ravin, and Melodie. • Happy birthday **Mark** on 5/12 love, Dad, Aiva, Debreanna, Emery, Gram Tracy, Gram Karen, Uncle Brad, Auntie Val, Pie, Kevin, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jacob, Jarvis, Jarvis Jr., Miranda, Brad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Brynley, Jay, Missy, Guy, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Sharon, Ravin, and Melodie. • Happy birthday **BR** on 5/12, love your

brothers and sissys. • Happy birthday **Richard and Rachel Shaugobay** on 5/14. From Mom, Railei, Kelia, Candance, Cyril. • Happy birthday **Papi** on 5/17, love, Mami. • Happy Birthday **Dad** on 5/17, love Deshania. • 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, Auntie Rachel, Waylon and Rory. • Happy birthday **Val** on 5/27, love your Sissys and Brothers. • Happy Birthday **Mom** on 5/27, love Pie & Kevin. • Happy 12th birthday to **Maysun** on 5/27, love from mom, Selena, Dante, Shawsha, Soul, and Daymon. • Happy 15th birthday to **Romeo** on 5/28, from Mary and Kids. • Happy birthday **Cyrill Boyd** on 5/29, from Candance, Ernie and Grandma. • Happy birthday **Maria** on 5/31, love, Mom, Brother, Gram Kim, Papa Brad, Montana, Auntie Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Adrian, Adrian

Jr., Drel, Boo, Sissy, Raysean, May, Auntie Randi, Uncle Brad, Melissa, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Uncle Jay, Missy, Tough Guy, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Karen, Auntie Tracy, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jacob, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Debreanna, Emery, Jarvis, Jarvis Jr., Miranda, Auntie Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melodie, Auntie Nicole, Buddy, Cordell, Jameson, Auntie Micki, Uncle Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, Cory, Carter, Christine, Whitney, Sherry, Shawntel, Gabbi, Carrie, Renae, Bentley, Zach, Kira, Mirayah, Jeremy, Michelle, Samantha, Keaona, Jada, Cameron, McKayla, Samantha, Marissa R, Shaniah, and Mikayla.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call **612-465-8018**.
 The deadline for the June issue is May 15.

Commissioner on Call

Several years ago the Band government had a dedicated phone line for members to call during the weekend. Since that time, all Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters near the monthly calendar.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Catherine Colsrud, <i>Commissioner of Administration</i> | 320-292-0258 |
| Michele Palomaki, <i>Assistant Commissioner of Administration</i> | 320-630-7415 |
| Percy Benjamin, <i>Commissioner of Community Development</i> | 320-630-2496 |
| Suzanne Wise, <i>Commissioner of Education</i> | 320-630-9226 |
| Sam Moose, <i>Commissioner of Health & Human Services</i> | 320-630-2607 |
| Susan Klapel, <i>Commissioner of Natural Resources</i> | 320-362-1756 |

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Celebration Powwow

June 17–19
 Grand Casino Hinckley

Second Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

July 22–24
 New Powwow Grounds in Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) in District II

The 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow

August 19–21
 Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I. To learn more, follow "Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow" on Facebook.

RECURRING EVENTS

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center
 Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center
 Wednesdays, 6 p.m.

- Hinckley Corporate Building
 Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls.,
 Saturdays, 10 a.m.

The First Gift Moccasin Making

Mondays, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Mpls Am Indian Center — Two Rivers Gallery
 Seeking community members to join others in creating baby moccasins for Am Indian families at Children's hospitals & clinics of MN. Call 612-879-1700.

Open Gym

Mondays – Thursdays, 5:30 – 9 p.m.
 District I Community Center

Tabata Workout Sessions

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 – 7 p.m.
 Chiminising Community Center

Wood Burning

Tuesdays, 5 – 8 p.m.
 District I Cultural Grounds

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p>1</p> <p><i>Oodena: Town</i> <i>Gichi-oodena: City</i> <i>(literally "Big Town")</i></p> | <p>2</p> <p><i>"Adaawe" means</i> <i>"He/she buys."</i> <i>"Adaawewigamig" is a</i> <i>store or a shop.</i></p> | <p>3</p> <p>Onamia Public Schools Committee Meeting 12 p.m. ROC</p> <p>Band Assembly Aazhoomog</p> | <p>4</p> <p><i>Aaniindi ezhaayin.</i> <i>Where are you going?</i></p> | <p>5</p> <p>COH Outreach (Urban Area) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Urban Office</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Hinckley</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Veterans Coffee & Treats 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Minneapolis American Indian Center</p> <p>Spring Plant Sale 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. American Indian Center</p> | <p>7</p> <p><i>Aaniin</i> <i>ezhinikaazoyan?</i> <i>What is your name?</i> <i>(For the answer, see page 13.)</i></p> | |
| <p>8</p> <p><i>Nimaamaa: My mother</i> <i>Nookomis: My grandmother</i></p> | <p>9</p> <p><i>Ayekozi. S/he is tired</i> <i>Nindayekoz. I'm tired</i></p> | <p>10</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Chi Minising</p> | <p>11</p> <p><i>Ziibi: river</i> <i>Ziibiwan: rivers</i></p> | <p>12</p> <p>COH Outreach (DII) 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. District II (East Lake) Community Center</p> <p>COH Outreach (DIIa) 1 – 4 p.m. District IIa (Isle) Community Center</p> | <p>13</p> <p><i>Niminwendam</i> <i>nakweshkoonaan.</i> <i>I am happy to meet you.</i></p> | <p>14</p> <p><i>Waabigwan: flower</i></p> | |
| <p>15</p> <p><i>Eya! Yes!</i> <i>Gaawiin! No!</i></p> | <p>16</p> <p>DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p> | <p>17</p> <p>COH Outreach (DIII) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center</p> | <p>18</p> <p>DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District III (Aazhoomog) Community Center</p> <p>DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District I Community Center</p> <p>DIIa Legislative Meeting 2 p.m. Chiminising</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Elder Services Meeting Hinckley ALU District III</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing</p> | <p>20</p> <p>East Lake Legislative Committees 12–5 p.m. Big Sandy Lodge</p> | <p>21</p> <p><i>Omaa bi-izhaan.</i> <i>Come here.</i></p> | |
| <p>22</p> <p><i>Bakade (buh-kuh-day): S/he is hungry.</i> <i>Nimbakade: I'm hungry.</i></p> | <p>23</p> <p><i>Ningii-izhaa ziibiing</i> <i>bijiinaago: I went to the river yesterday.</i></p> | <p>24</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Aazhoomog</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Head Start Graduation 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. East Lake</p> <p>DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DChiminising Community Center</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church</p> <p>Head Start Grad 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lake Lena</p> <p>East Lake Community Meeting 5 p.m. East Lake</p> <p>Band Assembly Hinckley</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Head Start Graduation 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Onamia (Wewinabi School)</p> | <p>28</p> <p>ATV Classes 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Urban Office 612-872-1424</p> | |
| <p>29</p> <p><i>Bimose (bi-mo-say): S/he walks along.</i></p> | <p>30</p> <p><i>Ogichidaa: Warrior</i> <i>Ogichidaag: Warriors</i></p> <p><i>To work independently on Anishinaabemowin, you can use</i> ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.</p> | <p>31</p> <p>Healthy Heart Class 12 – 1 p.m. District I (Mille Lacs) Community Center</p> <p>Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Minisinaakwaang</p> | <p>Want your event here?</p> <p>Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653.</p> <p>Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional Mille Lacs Band events</p> <p>Band Assembly meetings begin at 10 a.m. Time, date and location are subject to change.</p> | | | | |

HHS Needs Band Members to Provide Proof of Eligibility

The Health and Human Services Department (HHS) is asking for cooperation of beneficiaries to provide proof of eligibility in order to receive services. Proof of eligibility is required by Federal law and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe/Health and Human Services Direct Services Policy.

To be sure Federal Law and the Direct Services Policy are followed, beneficiaries will be asked to provide the following:

- Tribal Member: Tribal Identification or CIB
- First Generation Descendants/ Minor child of an enrolled Mille Lacs Band Member: Parent's Tribal Identification or CIB and birth certificate
- Tribal Member/ Non-Tribal Spouse: Tribal Spouse's Tribal ID or CIB, Photo Identification, Marriage Certificate
- MLBO Employee: Employee Identification
- MLBO Employee's Dependent or Child: Parent's Employee ID, Birth Certificate.
- MLBO Employee's Spouse: Spouse's Employee Identification, Marriage Certificate.

Any beneficiary who is eligible for direct services through MLBO Health and Human Services and has provided required eligibility documentation may receive care at any of the District Clinics.

As of April 1, 2016, if you are unable to provide the required documentation, MLBO Health and Human Services will be unable to see you until the required documents are provided.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health and Human Services will see any individual in emergency circumstances.

For questions or concerns please contact:

Jeff Larson, Executive Director Health and Human Services
Cheri Hample, Health Services Director
320-532-4163.

Reminder: Make sure to keep your address up-to-date with the Enrollment Office. Call District I office at 320-532-7512. Members in outer districts may visit Randi Harrington in District II, Vanessa Gibbs in District III or the Urban Office.

Kickboxing Event Features Band Members

Warriors Xtreme Muay Thai Kickboxers will hit the arena June 4 at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events and Convention Center. Antonio Dvorak and Nate Richardson will be featured, along with Mille Lacs Band members Matt and Cayman. Tickets are \$40 ringside and \$20 general admission. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event.

For more information call 320-385-0262 or email warriorsfp@yahoo.com.

Congrats to Weight Loss Winners

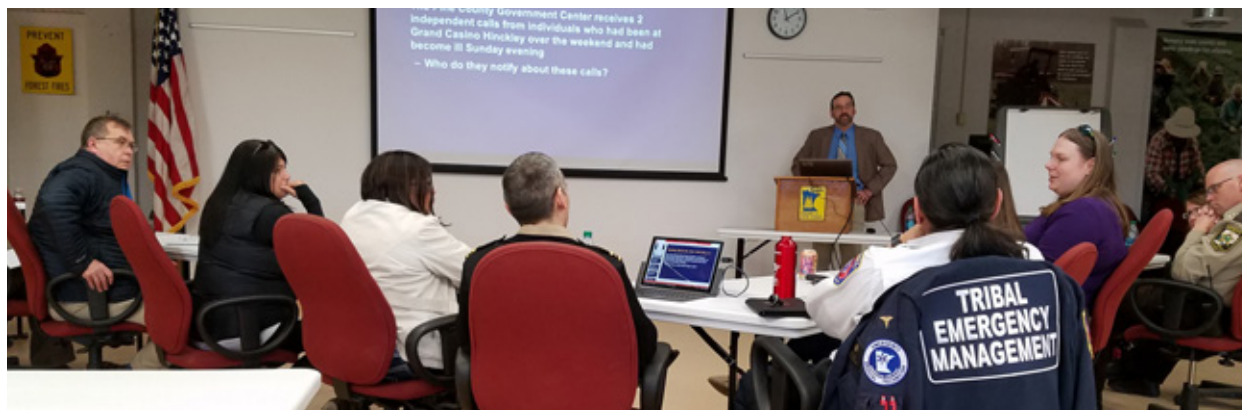
Congratulations to all who participated in the weight loss challenge. The top five finishers were Bobby Anderson (23.14% of body weight lost), Carmen Green (21.05%), Marvin Siedow (18.75%), Deb Campbell (18.6%), Carla Dunkley (17.1%).

District III fitness coordinator Bobby Anderson, who finished first, decided to share a portion of his winnings with sixth-place finisher Robert Livingston Jr., who lost 15 percent. "Congratulations to all who worked hard and finished the challenge!" said Bobby. "Let's keep up the good work to experience a healthy and active lifestyle."

District I fitness coordinator Jim Ingle said, "According to the stories heard during the weigh outs I am sure many have learned much about the benefits of proper nutrition and exercise for a healthier more productive life. There have been many encouraging stories." See future issues of Inaajimowin for stories about Band members embracing a healthy lifestyle.



The American Indian Center at St. Cloud State University held their 22nd annual powwow April 9 at Halenbeck Hall. Waylon Mitchell, who was named Chiminising Ziigwan Powwow Brave in March, was one of the dancers. For more photos by Band member Bill Jones, see the Mille Lacs Band's Facebook page.



Preparing for Emergency

On Friday, April 8, Band employees and Pine County officials participated in a tabletop exercise to plan for a potential food-borne illness emergency. The exercise was sponsored by the Indian Health Service and Minnesota Department of Health.

Wewin Plans Color Run



The Mille Lacs chapter of WEWIN (Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations) is holding a "color run" fundraiser June 4.

The run will begin at Eddy's Resort, 41334 Shakopee Lake Road, Onamia MN 56359.

The registration fee is \$25 until May 20, 2016. After that the fee increases to \$30, including on the day of the event.

Each registration fee includes a T-Shirt and snack.

Registration and check-in start at 8:30 a.m. with the race beginning at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Valerie Harrington (320-532-7434), Shannon Porter (320-532-7419), Carmen Weous (320-532-7833), Tammy Smith (320-532-7752), or Bonnie Matrious (320-532-7863).

All proceeds will benefit the Mille Lacs Band Women WEWIN Chapter.

MLB Wewin Chapter 43408 Oodena Drive Onamia, MN 56359.

To download a registration form, go to millelacsband.com/district_news/wewin-plans-color-run-june-4.

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