

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

MAY 2017 | VOLUME 19 | NUMBER 05



## GIDAA-ANOKIIMIN

WORKING TOGETHER

NAY AH SHING STUDENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER (AND WITH DNR EMPLOYEES) AT THE SUGARBUSH THIS SPRING. "GIDAA-ANOKIIMIN" (WORKING TOGETHER) IS A CENTRAL THEME AT TRIBAL SCHOOLS. FOR MORE EDUCATION NEWS, SEE PAGES 8 & 16.

MCT TEC  
ANNOUNCES  
SECRETARIAL  
ELECTION

HOMELESSNESS  
STUDY REVEALS  
EMPLOYMENT  
ISSUES

FORGING A  
NEW IDENTITY  
AFTER PRISON,  
ADDICTION

NEW NAME,  
NEW VISION FOR  
DEPARTMENT  
OF LABOR

## Larry 'Amik' Smallwood Walks On



Mille Lacs Band members and others across Indian Country were shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of Larry 'Amik' Smallwood on April 11.

Amik was a Drumkeeper, beloved

Elder and renowned teacher of the Ojibwe language. His work to preserve the language and culture of the Anishinaabe people will not be forgotten.

Please see next month's *Inaajimowin* for a story on the life and legacy of Amik.

## TEC Announces Secretarial Election

On Thursday, April 20, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) held a special meeting to discuss a Secretarial Election which will allow individual enrolled members 18 and older of the six Bands of the MCT to vote yes or no on two resolutions. The first resolution involves language on whether or not to change enrollment requirements to include Canadian First Nations blood. The other resolution asks if MCT members want other Ojibwe blood from federally recognized tribes in the United States to be included in blood quantum. Band members will be given the opportunity to vote yes or no on these two resolutions. Please watch for communications regarding upcoming community meetings and educational materials on this topic, well in advance of the election, which will occur in the summer of 2018.

## Community Building Discussion Comes to Chiminising

Chiminising Community Center was the site of the April 6 meeting of the Building Communities Empowering Families discussion sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Mille Lacs Band.

The group voted to narrow the list of topics created at the previous working session down to just three. The highest vote getters were transportation, all things business and cultural diversity.

Three groups formed, one around each issue, and created simple statements that capture the essence of what the group hopes to accomplish. Then, each group identified both resources and barriers to achieving their goal. Finally, groups identified stakeholders — people who have a stake in the topic being discussed. For example store owners, pastors, school officials all would have an interest in people having adequate transportation to be able to shop, attend services and school functions.

At the final session at Eddy's on Thursday, April 20 (after this paper went to press), these issues were further refined and resources more specifically identified as plans were mobilized.

Please see future issues for more on this story.

# Mille Lacs Netting Season is Short-Lived

Brett Larson Staff Writer



Band members started spearing and netting walleyes on Mille Lacs before the ice went out. Spearers and netters found enough open water and walleyes on the margins of the lake, at the mouths of creeks and at the outlet to the Rum River.

By the time the ice went out in the early morning hours of April 10, the season was almost over, as the Band neared its Mille Lacs walleye quota for the year.

Wednesday, April 12, Band officials declared the season closed, while leaving enough in the walleye quota to cover ceremonial needs and incidental catches during perch netting.

DNR biologists Kelly Applegate and Carl Klimah gave District I Band members an update at the community meeting on Wednesday, April 12.

Carl said the walleye population in the lake is still in "an unknown situation." Most of the reproduction on the lake is from a strong 2013 year-class of walleyes. Other year-classes have not done nearly as well.

Carl is expecting slight increases of quotas over the next few years, but only if there is strong reproduction. "If we don't have some good year-classes, it could be really grim," he said.

Although members of the non-Indian community continue to blame tribal netting for the decline in walleyes, Minnesota DNR studies and independent analyses have shown that netting is not to blame. DNR Executive Director Susan Klapel said there are plenty of young fish making it through their first year, but something is going wrong later causing young fish to die.

Some possible contributors are climate change and invasive species like zebra mussels and spiny water fleas affecting the lake's food chain. Susan said it appears that there is a low level of zooplankton — microscopic animals that feed young fish and insects.

Kelly and Carl encouraged Band members to exercise their treaty rights on other lakes in the 1837 Ceded Territory, or to engage in perch netting out of the North Garrison and Wealthwood public accesses on Mille Lacs later in the spring. The Band stocked walleyes in Platte, Shakopee, Namachers and Sullivan lakes last year, and other Bands have done well spearing in some of those lakes.

Kelly also informed Band members that they could still spear northerns on Mille Lacs.

The DNR team also took questions from community members on how the allocations are determined and why the lake is not stocked. Carl explained that population estimates are made based on gillnet surveys, electrofishing and walleye tagging studies, and safe harvest levels are

negotiated from there.

This year's tribal allocation is 19,200 pounds (30 percent) compared to 44,800 pounds (70 percent) for the state.

All of the state's allocation will be due to "hooking mortality" — the death of fish after they are caught and released. According to studies, 5 to 10 percent of released fish die, depending on water temperature. The number of fish caught and released is determined through creel surveys by the Minnesota DNR. Data from those surveys is run through statistical programs that provide an estimate of the total kill.

One Band member in attendance referred to "catch and release" as "torture and release." "Natives eat what they get," he said.

Kelly said, "It's really a clash of cultures. For us Anishinaabe, it's about sustenance. It's part of our life. Each party is managing their fishery within their quota. For them to stay within their allocation, it's all hooking mortality. For us, we see that as wanton waste."

Stocking has not been advocated on Mille Lacs in the past because natural reproduction is so high, but a new state study of marked fish will help measure the population of walleyes while giving an indication of the potential success of stocking efforts.

Carl was asked if the chemicals used in the marking study will have a negative effect on the lake. He said they would not, that it's a tiny chemical that dyes a part of the ear bone. "It's an approved food safe and environmentally safe drug, and after a year it's gone from the fish," he said.

One Band member asked why larger fish are not stocked, since the small fish are not surviving to adulthood. Carl explained that raising fish to a large enough length to survive would be too expensive.

Another Band member said the state disrespected the lake and tribes by going over its quota last year, when the governor allowed fishing to continue after the quota was reached. Susan said the state and tribes had agreed on an overage plan that will deduct any overages from future years' harvests.

This year's short season made it difficult for DNR biologists to harvest milt and eggs for the Band's hatchery program, which was developed last year. However, members of other Bands helped the fisheries team by allowing them to remove eggs and milt from harvested walleyes. The team had some success on Wednesday, April 12, at Cedar Creek landing on the east side of the lake, where Fond du Lac members were spearing.



## Ice Rescue Training

On March 18, the Mille Lacs Band partnered with the Garrison Fire Department on ice rescue training. Lanicia Fronk, daughter of Emergency Services Coordinator Monte Fronk, photographed the event, and her photos were used in the Mille Lacs Messenger. Messenger Editor Vivian LaMoore volunteered to be rescued.

# Band Assembly Works on Revenue Allocation, Budgets

A meeting at All Nations Church in Minneapolis March 30 was well attended by Band members who engaged in lively discussion with Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu and Commissioner of Finance Adam Valdez.

Band Assembly has been presenting information at community meetings and seeking Band member input regarding an amendment to the Band's Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP).

The RAP, which defines how tribal governments spend gaming revenues, is required under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act if tribes intend to allocate per capita payments to individual members from revenue derived from tribal gaming activities.

Thirty-five percent of net gaming revenue is currently dedicated to per capita payments. Because of declining gaming revenue and increasing enrollees, that is no longer enough to cover monthly payments to Band members, so an amendment to the RAP is needed.

The most common opinions expressed have been to keep per capita payments the same and to consider equalizing payments to minors and adults. Minors currently receive smaller payments than adults. There have also been comments on ineffective government programs, a desire for better employment opportunities, and improvement of housing opportunities, especially in District II and the Urban area.

## Budgets

Band Assembly is in the process of analyzing budget proposals from Band government for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. Commissioners are required to submit their budgets to the Office of Management and Budget, which reviews them and sends them to the Chief Executive. Final approval comes from Band Assembly.

Assembly members are concerned about threats to the Band's future, including economic uncertainty as well as potential political and funding changes from the Trump administration.

Band Assembly is asking Executive Branch departments to improve their finances by cutting wasteful spending and increasing efficiency while improving service to Band members. They are also looking for improvements at casinos and non-gaming businesses, including customer service, food quality and cleanliness, as well as Band member hiring, training, development, retention and promotion, and increased revenues and decreased expenses.

Commissioners have formed budget workgroups to ensure

timely discourse and wrap up. Additional cuts were projected to occur by April 30, 2017.

Budgets will be as complete as possible no later than June 30, 2017. Band Statute requires that the Biennial budgets be submitted to elected leadership no later than September 1, 2017.

## Commissioner Duties

Band Assembly is working on revisions for all Commissioner job descriptions. According to Band Statute, Commissioners are appointed by the Chief Executive and ratified by Band Assembly for four-year terms. The following terms expire at the end of June: Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Commissioner of Natural Resources, Commissioner of Health and Human Services and Commissioner of Education.

Last fall, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin nominated Joe Nayquonabe Jr. for a second term as Commissioner of Corporate Affairs. The nomination is pending while Band Assembly considers revisions to the job description. Two nominees for Commissioner of Natural Resources withdrew their nominations. Band Assembly is scheduling interviews for Commissioner of Administration nominees. Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin's term expires in 2019.

## Secretarial Orders

Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu, with consensus from District Representatives, has issued a Secretarial Order asking for information on the Band's housing stock and real estate holdings. The order is titled Secretarial Order 42-17, A Secretarial Order to the Commissioner of Community Development, Housing Department, and Real Estate Office to deliver a complete list of homes and land owned by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to the Mille Lacs Band Assembly.

In relation to the audit that was conducted of the Housing Department, many issues were found. Band Assembly is concerned about management of the Housing Initiative budget, which is funded by five percent of the Band's net gaming revenues. Band Assembly is awaiting information on the Community Development Department's corrective action plan, and the Secretarial Order gives the department until the end of May to respond.

## Joint Resolutions

The following Joint Resolutions have been passed by Band As-

sembly and the Chief Executive.

Joint Resolution 17-02-27-17: A Joint Resolution in Support of the Appointment of Rachel Sablan to Serve as an Officer on the Child Support Task Force with the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Joint Resolution 17-02-28-17: A Joint Resolution Authorizing to Grant Road Right-Of-Way to Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Public Works Department For Roadway Purposes on Trust Land Known as Apple Orchard in District II.

Joint Resolution 17-03-34-17: A Joint Resolution Appointing Mille Lacs Band Elected Officials to Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Subcommittees.

Joint Resolution 17-03-35-17: A Joint Resolution to Adopt the FY 2017-2020 Mille Lacs Band Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan and TTP Retained Services Agreement.

Joint Resolutions were also passed approving eligible/ineligible enrollees for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

## Other Business:

- A special meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe was held on the Fond du Lac Reservation on Thursday, April 20, after this issue went to press. Please see the June issue for an update on TEC business.
- Under the Department of Motor Vehicles, the winner of the license plate contest will be announced soon. Band Assembly is waiting for a final version of the winning plate to ensure that it meets all specifications. There were 13 submissions to the contest.
- Band Assembly has also approved several construction contracts and contract addendums related to new and ongoing community development projects.
- A Housing Board member's term expires on June 30. Band members interested in serving on the board are asked to submit a letter of interest to Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu by 5 p.m. May 31.

Band Assembly — which is composed of Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu and District Representatives Sandi Blake, David 'Niib' Aubid and Harry Davis — meets Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 10 a.m. in rotating locations around the districts. The meetings are open to all Band members.

# District I Community Receives Public Health Update

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

Public Health Nurse Jackie Jensen came to the District I Community Meeting on April 12 to inform Band members about WIC, syphilis prevention and the Band's needle exchange program.

Jackie said the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) office is offering WIC at Wewinabi Early Ed on the second Thursday of each month and also two Thursdays a month in District II.

Public health is also working with elders and others to get a culturally appropriate teen pregnancy prevention program up and running.

In cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Health, the Band has been holding testing events for syphilis, hepatitis and HPV in all districts. Those who weren't able to make one of those events can make an appointment or stop in the clinic to receive testing any time.

Jackie said syphilis is easy to treat, but if it is not treated it can cause lifelong problems. "We really want to get it under control and get it taken care of," she said.

Jackie also informed those in attendance that the Band offers a clean needle exchange. "Sharing needles is a huge problem," she said. "We don't want dirty needles on our streets or

in our parks."

Intravenous drug users can come to the front desk of the clinic and ask to speak with any nurse, who will take them into a confidential area and provide clean needles and a sharps container. When the used needles are returned, more will be provided.

Some Band members wondered if giving out clean needles is like giving an alcoholic a drink. Jackie said, "We can't stop people from using heroin any more than we can stop the alcoholic from taking a drink. We're trying to make it as safe as possible for those who can't quit yet, like providing a sober cab to someone who is drunk. Giving Narcan is not telling them it's okay to overdose, but it's making it as safe as possible for those who do."

"I'd love to go out there and take the heroin out of their hands and get it off the streets, but we can't do that. When they're ready, that's when they're going to stop, and we'll be there to help them get treatment and live a sober life."

DNR Executive Director Susan Klapel also came to the meeting to give an update on fishery and forestry activities. See page 2 for more on that story.

## Mark Your Calendars!

### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Celebration Powwow & World Jingle Dress Championships

June 16 – 18. Grand Casino Hinckley. Grand Entries Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 1 and 7 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. Host Drum: Little Otter (Mille Lacs). Invited Drums: Pipestone (LCO, Wisc.), White Fish Bay (Ontario), The Boyz (Twin Cities).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

July 21 – 23. East Lake Powwow Grounds. Grand Entries Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 1 and 7 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. Host Drum: Swamp Nation. Invited Drums: Midnite Express, IronBoy, War Paint, Battle River, Pipestone.

### 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow

August 18 – 20. Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds, District I.

## National News Briefs

### Historic Bears Ears Monument Under Attack:

Just months after its creation, the historic Bears Ears monument is under attack, but the many tribal governments that pushed for its declaration are fighting back. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and the Utah congressional delegation are pushing the Trump administration to roll back the monument declaration, which prohibits not only mining of the land, but also oil and gas extraction. American Indian tribes including the Hopi, Navajo, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni governments brought thirty sovereign Tribal Nations and the National Congress of American Indians together to pass resolutions in support of monument and its protection at Bears Ears.

### Trump Administration Approves Keystone XL Pipeline:

The Trump administration has granted a permit for construction of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline. The reversal of one of President Barack Obama's most politically charged environmental decisions has Republicans and oil industry backers cheering, while environmentalists warn of the potential for a huge oil spill and the negative effects on the environment that would create.

### American Indian Curriculum: Important Lesson for Doctors:

Across the country, medical programs are beginning to develop and advance specific curricula about Native health. In Minnesota, the University of Minnesota Duluth Medical School has implemented a seven-hour mandatory curriculum on indigenous health for first-year, first-semester medical students. With American Indian health often overlooked and Native communities facing serious health problems every day, there is an increasing awareness that doctors and medical professionals must pay special attention to the unique medical needs of American Indians.

### Trump Fails to Deliver on Tribal Infrastructure Needs:

Throughout his campaign, one of President Trump's major promises was to invest in infrastructure. Recently, tribes have come together to both highlight and prioritize infrastructure needs. Priority projects include improved broadband capability, infrastructure spending to expand oil and gas drilling and operations in Alaska, improved roads and general environment and public works improvements. However, the budget plan that President Trump delivered to congress contains more cuts than investments.

### Defund DAPL Movement Reaches \$5 Billion:

The movement to defund the Dakota Access Pipeline is gaining momentum, as tribes, cities and even individuals have withdrawn more than \$5 billion from banks that are financing the project. This effort, jumpstarted by tribes, is part of a larger anti-pipeline movement that includes tribes like the Mille Lacs Band, the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, and the Muckleshoot Tribe in Washington; each of those tribes chose to divest early in the last few weeks.

### Tribes Come Together to Discuss Greater Wisconsin Issues:

Eleven Wisconsin tribes gathered during their State of the Tribal Nations speech to highlight some of their most pressing issues to the Wisconsin State Legislature. A main concern raised was the health of the environment. Wisconsin's lakes are their greatest natural resource, and the tribal leaders urged the state to recognize efforts in preserving them. In addition to environmental issues, education and the opportunity gap were also addressed.

# Wilder Homelessness Study Shows Discrepancies in Employment, Education

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

In its fourth triennial study of homelessness on six Minnesota Indian Reservations, the Wilder Foundation has found some troubling evidence that reservations are trailing the rest of the state in battling homelessness.

The study involves face-to-face interviews with 709 American Indians experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness on the six participating Ojibwe reservations. Nearly all interviews were conducted the week of October 22, 2015.

Tammy Moreland, the Band's Wraparound Coordinator, participated in the study by conducting interviews at health fairs in October of 2015 in Districts I, II, Ila and III.

A few things stood out in the final report on the study, which was released in April. For one thing, it was clear that there are many experiencing "near homelessness" who don't fit the federal definition of homelessness but may be temporarily staying with others ("doubled up").

"I think that on Mille Lacs we probably don't have as many people by definition that are literally homeless, because people will allow them to stay at their house," said Tammy. "A lot are doubled up. People are sleeping on the floor, and it's not just single people, but families. A lot of those experiencing homelessness are children, and the experience can have a negative effect on their education."

Tammy also pointed out that those who experience homelessness as children are more likely to be homeless or near-homeless as adults.

Some Band members are experiencing "literal" homelessness, defined as "those who are staying in a shelter, transitional housing, or a place not intended for housing, or those who face eviction and have no other place to go, as well as some youth and families who are temporarily staying with others (doubled up) but have moved frequently and may have a disabling condition."

"We have people who are sleeping in fishhouses, or somebody's garage, or somebody's camper in their backyard, without heat," said Tammy.

There is also a severe shortage of rental properties around reservation communities. Many members are on waiting lists for Band homes and need a private rental in the meantime. "Most people don't want to move to St. Cloud, Brainerd, or Duluth," said Tammy. "They want to be close to home to care for their families."

Tammy was also struck by the fact that people on reservations who are homeless are less likely to have a high school diploma or GED. "Of the young adults interviewed, ages 19 to 24, 60 percent did not have a high school diploma," she said. "When you compare to the state of Minnesota, only 39 percent lack a diploma."

Another troubling finding: Unemployment for American Indians experiencing homeless has increased since 2009, while it has declined for non-Indians. For many, transportation is a barrier. "In order to have a job you need a way to get to a job," said Tammy. "If you don't have a car to get to work, you don't have a job. If you don't have a job, you can't get money to pay for a house."

Wilder Research Associate Sarah Gehrig also pointed to employment, education and "near-homelessness" as troubling findings.

"In 2009 we saw the impacts of the recession," said Gehrig. "We would expect that employment would recover, but that's not happening on reservations, and that's pretty sad."

In addition, people on reservations who are experiencing homelessness are also

half as likely to be working full-time as people in the statewide study. In other words, Sarah said, "Employment is lower on reservations, and full-time employment is way lower."

## Working on Solutions

Tammy is the Band's representative on the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent and End Homelessness, which is addressing the challenges of homelessness on Bois Forte, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Red Lake and White Earth reservations.

Collaborative members meet regularly to share ideas, learn about new resources, apply for funding, and advocate for state-level changes to better address homelessness in their communities. The accomplishments of the collaborative include:

- Conducting the reservation homeless study—the first study of its kind in the country—which other tribal communities have sought to replicate
- Advocating for and securing changes to the statute language for two statewide grants—the Long Term Support Services Dollars Grant and the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistant Program Grant—to allow tribes to apply for funding
- Applying for and being awarded more than one million dollars in Long Term Homeless Supportive Services funding to serve 184 households
- All collaborative tribes are covered by plans to end homelessness
- Collaborative members participate in several statewide workgroups and have become more engaged in their Continuums of Care, fostering deeper relationships with providers in their communities

Tammy said the Mille Lacs Band has used funding from the grants to pay for a full-time person to work with homeless people.

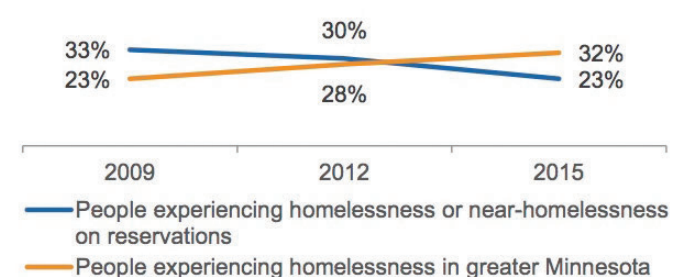
Tammy has also been participating in the Minnesota Housing Continuum of Care. Tribes have not traditionally been a part of the group, but Tammy decided to take an active role on behalf of Band members. As a result, she was named Chairperson of the Central region.

"There is not a lot of concrete data regarding homelessness on the reservation, and that's one of the things the tribal collaborative noticed," said Tammy. "I'm very thankful that the Wilder study has assisted in recognizing that Native American people who live on reservations experience homelessness just like other Minnesotans. Homelessness looks different here, but it's still a real problem."

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness, contact Tammy at 320-532-8923 or 320-292-1942. The wraparound program works collaboratively with the Housing Department and the MinoBimaadiziwin to help shelter people while they are seeking permanent homes.

The complete report is available at [mnhomeless.org/pdfs/2015\\_HomelessInMinnesota\\_Reservations\\_3-17.pdf](http://mnhomeless.org/pdfs/2015_HomelessInMinnesota_Reservations_3-17.pdf).

**Employment rate of reservation and statewide homeless study respondents, 2009-2015**



# Something New for State Legislature: A Caucus of First Minnesotans

Briana Bierschbach MinnPost

Susan Allen was the first woman who identified as American Indian elected to the Minnesota Legislature, but she knows that doesn't necessarily mean she was the first to ever serve in St. Paul.

"That's history; if you could pass for white, you often would," said Allen, a Minneapolis Democratic representative and a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe who came to the House after a 2012 special election. "My grandfather used to pass for white ... but he was full-blooded Ojibwe."

Times have changed. When the 2017 legislative session convened in January, Allen was sworn in along with three other women who identified as American Indian: DFL Rep. Peggy Flanagan, who represents St. Louis Park; and freshman Reps. Jamie Becker-Finn, who lives in Roseville; and Mary Kunesh-Podein, who lives in New Brighton and represents parts of Columbia Heights and St. Anthony.

Together, the four legislators have put their names on more than a dozen bills that specifically tackle issues related to the American Indian community, addressing problems they feel have been ignored over the years. The proposals run the gamut, from creating an ombudsperson for American Indian families and putting more money into child protection services to simpler ideas, like one to change the inscription on the Christopher Columbus statue near the Capitol from saying he discovered America to say he "landed in America."

"To me, it's integration," Allen said. "You can be a part of an institution that is predominantly white and not have to lose your identity. I can be here without having to lose my identity to do it, and previous generations, I don't think they had that."

## Apprehensive to be part of 'the system'

Before Allen was elected in 2012, only nine legislators in state history who self-identified as American Indian served in the Legislature — all men — and most of them were elected back when Minnesota was still considered a territory.

Flanagan saw firsthand the barriers to encouraging American Indian men and women to run for office working for more than a decade at Wellstone Action, a progressive training ground for people interested in running for office. One was the notion of standing up in front of people and talking about yourself and why you are the best person for a certain office. "Highlighting all of your accomplishments actually flies in the face of what is culturally appropriate," in the community, she said. "That in and of itself can be a challenge. Also, Native people wouldn't want to be part of the system that has oppressed them for so long. I think the apprehensiveness around that is super real. I get it."

In 2016, there were 40 American Indians elected to state legislative seats around the nation, including in Minnesota. However, this doesn't mean they didn't run into strange situa-

tions on the campaign trail.

Becker-Finn is a Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe descendant and daughter of Harold "Skip" Finn, a former state senator from Cass Lake. Her mother Teri is Norwegian, so many people don't realize she has American Indian heritage. During the campaign, someone asked her if she wanted to "make a big deal" about being American Indian because her suburban constituency is mostly white. "It's so ironic because it's OK for white men to make all the policy for people who aren't white," Becker-Finn said. "For me, it's who I am."

Ultimately, all these women had different reasons to run for office. Becker-Finn's father was a senator, and for her "it always seemed possible"; Allen is an attorney and saw running for office as an extension of the work she was already doing in her south Minneapolis community; Kunesh-Podein remembers being a single mom on food stamps, and Flanagan remembers being the child of a single mom on food stamps. Both wanted to be a part of the state that helped them get through hard times.

## A watchful eye on American Indian issues

When it comes to legislating, their interests hit just about every major policy area in state government. Environmental protection issues are a major concern for American Indians, and Becker-Finn has introduced a bill to ban lead ammunition, which can poison venison and harm bald eagles, significant spiritual figures for American Indians. Becker-Finn and Kunesh-Podein, who is a descendant of the Standing Rock Lakota tribe, sponsored a proposal to ban oil pipelines from running within a mile of waters where wild rice is grown.

Flanagan has pushed for funding to reduce opioid abuse and overdoses in the state, an issue that has hit the American Indian community hard. And Allen's bill to create an ombudsperson for American Indian Families aims to help Minnesotans navigate the complicated interplay between the federal government and state policy when it comes to placing native children in foster care. Minnesota places American Indian children in foster homes at higher rate than any other state the nation, Allen said.

Part of how they see their role is just being at the Capitol, so state legislators reflect the community they serve. It's especially important when American Indians visit the building itself. Kunesh-Podein, a teacher, recently had several American Indian students from the University of Minnesota in Morris visit her office, and they seemed intimidated by being in St. Paul.

"I said, come back again and again and bring other Natives to the Capitol so that you're not nervous, so that you're not intimidated, so that some day you'll be sitting in this office doing the work that we're doing," she said. "You could almost see the light bulb go off in their head: I could do this?"

## Local News Briefs

**Minority Communities and Achievement Gaps the focus of new DFL Caucus:** Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party recently announced the creation of a new caucus of state lawmakers focused on meeting the needs of minority residents and closing the state's racial disparities. The People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) caucus unveiled its "Enhance Minnesota" legislative agenda in early April. The agenda includes initiatives aimed at improving the education, health and economic opportunities for Minnesotans of color, along with protecting their civil rights. Members of the new caucus also promised to fight legislation they feel would hurt the rights of residents of color.

**Governor Dayton Says No Legislative Change on Pipeline Approval:** Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton has said he would veto any bill that reaches his desk allowing Enbridge Energy to bypass the Public Utilities Commission in its bid to build a replacement for their aging Line 3 pipeline. Dayton said that the Public Utilities Commission should vet the \$7.5 billion project before getting construction approval. The route of the pipeline runs through many forests and waters, as well as treaty lands and waters where Ojibwe bands harvest wild rice.

**More Legal Action over Polymet Project:** The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Duluth Chapter of the Izaak Walton League filed suit on March 27 in the U.S. District Court in Minnesota to overturn the U.S. Forest Service decision to trade land to Polymet Mining Inc. for the land where the company wants to dig Minnesota's first-ever sulfide mine. This second suit comes after a previous suit naming unfair appraisal of the land. A third lawsuit, which focuses on the Endangered Species Act, may also be filed. The legal actions are part of a broader resistance to natural resource extraction activities that threaten protected waters—including the resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline and Enbridge Energy's Line 3 replacement project.

**Former Director of Human Services Receives Prestigious Honor:** Phil Norrgard was honored by the University of Minnesota Duluth with the Outstanding Achievement Award, one of the highest honors given to an alum. Norrgard is the former director of human services for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. In this role, Norrgard expanded the health and social service delivery system to Minnesota American Indians across the state.

**Native American Nutrition Campaign Increased in Shakopee, MN:** The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) has recently committed to an additional \$5 million to their Seeds of Native Health Campaign. This increase pushes the campaign's total to \$10 million and represents the single-largest coordinated philanthropic effort in American history focused on improving Native American nutrition.

## Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Myles Gorham at [myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com](mailto:myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-465-0653.

The June issue deadline is May 15.



Jamie Becker-Finn



Peggy Flanagan



Mary Kunesh-Podein



Susan Allen



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

## Ojibwe Funerals

By: Zhaawan  
(Millie Benjamin)

*Zhaawan, who passed away in 2009, was a long-time teacher at Nay Ah Shing and an expert on Ojibwe language and culture.*

**"I find it consoling to go to traditional Ojibwe funerals. You can hear the drum, and you can hear the old men talking. I get a very peaceful feeling."**

There are several Ojibwe traditions I was taught concerning funerals and death. For instance, when I was growing up and somebody died, my mother would crinkle up a little strip of birch bark like an accordion, and then she'd tack it up by the door. She did this because we believe spirits are afraid of snakes, and that little piece of crinkled birch bark on the door portrayed a snake. I grew up seeing that, and later when I had my own home and somebody died, I made the same crinkled birch bark strip and put it by the door.

My mom also told me if you dream about somebody who has died, it's okay — they'll tell you what they want. If they're hungry or sad or looking for something, they'll let you know. But then she said, if you dream about somebody who died and they want to take you along, you say no. You don't go along.

That's why we blacken the foreheads of babies and young people with ashes when there's a wake. Our people say spirits are afraid of black, so we were taught to blacken babies and young people to protect them, because they're vulnerable. If somebody comes to them in their dreams, of course they would come along.

We don't take little kids to funerals for the same reason. When people at a funeral send the deceased person off, they tell that person, don't look at anyone who is here with you today — just look at that path ahead of you and go that way. We do this because there's always the belief that the deceased person might want to take someone with him or her. So traditionally, we don't take little kids to funerals, although today some people do. When I was a child, we weren't allowed to go to funerals until we were old enough to ask, "What's happening here?"

When older children and adults go to funerals, we're there to be with the family that's feeling bad. I find it consoling to go to traditional Ojibwe funerals. You can hear the drum, and you can hear the old men talking. I get a very peaceful feeling.

I remember when my mom died, my daughter couldn't handle it at first. My mom had been like a second mom to my kids because I always had to work, and she helped raise my kids because she always lived with me or I lived with her.

During our traditional funerals, someone will speak to the dead person and tell him or her what to do as they go on their journey. An old gentleman performed the ceremony at my mom's funeral, and as he talked, I explained to my daughter where her grandma was and what was happening to her. That was so helpful to my daughter to understand the ceremony and what was being said to her grandma. It's so beautiful the way people who perform the funerals talk. It's like you're there — you're watching the dead person go. That really helped my daughter. It was still difficult for her, but she didn't cry as hard. Any traditional Ojibwe ceremony, if you can understand it, is just beautiful.

# Proposed Truancy Statute Will Streamline Process

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Habitual truancy is defined as seven unexcused absences in an academic year.

Of 177 students enrolled in Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove schools, 84 are truant — 47 percent.

The numbers at Onamia are slightly better, but still way above the state average, with 33 out of 126 enrolled students truant in the high school and ALC. In the elementary, 23 out of 111 are truant. At Isle High School, there are 11 Band member students, with four currently truant.

In 2016, 127 Tribal Court hearings were held to address truancy. Fifty-five Band member children have been involved in 39 cases filed. The Solicitor's office has 28 open cases. In addition, 65 kids have truancy ICRs from Tribal Police that have not yet become truancy cases. Some of those cases involve more than one child.

The actual numbers are even higher, because some students are changing school enrollments and getting lost in the system.

Those staggering statistics show clearly that truancy in Mille Lacs Band communities is at a crisis level, and that the Band's current methods of dealing with truancy are inadequate to ensure a new generation of educated leaders.

According to Senior Deputy Solicitor Angel Daher of the Office of the Solicitor General, her office lacks the capacity to prepare and file petitions for all those cases, and the courts lack the calendar space to hold hearings in a timely fashion as required by current statute.

"Truancy cases — and related cases of child protection and guardianship — are overwhelming the court system," said Tribal Court Judge David Christensen. "The process of filing an educational neglect petition is too cumbersome for a basic truancy case."

**The Truancy Response Team hopes to present its proposed statute to Band Assembly in May. The Team will also attend community meetings in May to discuss the issue of truancy and receive input from Band members. An online survey is also being prepared to help determine Band members' thoughts on the proposed process for dealing with the truancy crisis.**

Seeing the extent of the problem, a Truancy Response Team (TRT) has come together to create a new statute that will help motivate parents and guardians to get their kids to school. The Truancy Response Team is composed of individuals from the Office of the Solicitor General, the Tribal Courts, the schools and Tribal Police.

Under the current system, when a student is deemed habitually truant, a court case is started by filing a petition based on educational neglect under the Band's Child/Family Protection statute, Title 8.

School attendance is also required in the Education statute, Title 9, but the statute does not set forth a procedure or consequences for addressing truancy.

Before a child protection petition is filed, the schools send letters and make phone calls to the family and hold meetings with those parents who cooperate. Tribal Police often visit the child's

place of residence, sometimes more than once.

If a petition is filed, there is an initial hearing, followed by more pretrial and trial hearings. Family Services is required to be involved and provide support for the family. Tribal Courts need to serve the parents or guardians with a copy of the petition and a summons to appear in court.

Solicitor Daher said, "Unfortunately, these statutes have not proven adequate, workable or practical to make any significant inroad to correcting truancy for Band children and families, despite the resources, effort and care the government branches and departments have put into improving school attendance."

The TRT has determined that there is a need for a statute that speaks directly to truancy.

Educational Neglect charges under the Child/Family Protection Code will still be a possibility, but given the number of cases and the court time required, a more streamlined, expedient and efficient process is needed in the Education Code to address and implement corrective measures.

The Truancy Response Team hopes to present its proposed statute to Band Assembly in May. The Team will also attend community meetings in May to discuss the issue of truancy and receive input from Band members. An online survey is also being prepared to help determine Band members' thoughts on the proposed process for dealing with the truancy crisis.

The proposed truancy ordinance uses a citation or ticketing method to alert, inform and fine parents or guardians when their child has reached "habitual truant" status. The current statute's primary recourse is to impose a \$100 fine for each violation.

As a general outline, the proposed citation process will give the parent the option to either pay the fine with no further action or, if the parent wants an opportunity to be heard and dispute the unexcused absence, the parent has the option to request a court hearing.

This option to pay the fine is the equivalent of a guilty plea, like paying a traffic ticket. If a third citation is issued, then the parent is required to attend a mandatory hearing. The parent can dispute the absence (with or without an attorney or witnesses) and if done so successfully, have the citation dismissed.

If the Court determines that reasonable grounds exist that the child is a habitual truant, then the court can impose the fine, order the parent and child to engage in certain services with Family Services, or require other actions to correct the problem.

The fines would also increase with each citation violation to act as an incentive to quickly take steps to correct the problem. The same process could happen for a fourth and subsequent unexcused absence.

A child who is 12 years of age or older may be held responsible for his or her own truancy as well. There is more to the statute than described here, but moving to the new process should encourage quicker corrective measures than under a child protection proceeding. When it comes to truancy, days matter, and a method to move more quickly is imperative to successfully reversing the detrimental pattern of habitual truancy.

It is impossible to measure the cost of truancy to the Band in terms of resources, time and dollars spent by Tribal Police, Tribal Courts, Family Services, the Office of the Solicitor General, and the schools — but the costs are likely as staggering as the truancy statistics.

Even greater is the potential cost to the Band's future if a high percentage of children fail to finish high school, much less go on to college and rewarding careers.

## Wisdom Steps Correction

Last month's *Inaajimowin* incorrectly stated that a Wisdom Steps conference would be held in April. The April event was a quarterly planning meeting. The 17th Wisdom Steps Annual "Honor Our Elders" conference will be held June 13 at 8 a.m. through June 15 at 5 p.m. at Shooting Star Casino in Mahnommen. For more information and a registration form, visit [wisdomsteps.org](http://wisdomsteps.org) or email [info@wisdomsteps.org](mailto:info@wisdomsteps.org).

The Wisdom Steps Spring Golf Tournament will be held May 25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Dacotah Ridge Golf Club hosted by the Lower Sioux Community.

# Tradition and Discovery at Indigenous Farming Conference

"Seeds Are Life" was one of the central messages at the 14th Annual Great Lakes Indigenous Farming Conference sponsored by the White Earth Land Recovery Project and held in early March.

Mille Lacs Band employees Kevin Pawlitschek, Diane O'Donnell and Colleen McKinney attended the conference, and all three praised the event, which included hands-on training, as well as presentations on ceremony, spirituality and food sovereignty in indigenous farming.

The Conference also offered built-in opportunities for networking with other attendees, making valuable connections. "I met people from all over the country and various Canadian provinces," said Assistant Emergency Services Coordinator Kevin Pawlitschek.

O'Donnell, who provides information on nutrition and wellness to Band members, learned to make traditional corn soup and maple sugar and was able to collect other indigenous reci-

pes at the conference.

She also obtained some seeds from growers of traditional vegetables. "All my life I've been a seed saver," she told a group of attendees one day at lunch. "Now I know why!"

"This conference helped me to understand that everything is interdependent, and plants, animals, humans and even insects are all part of our family," added McKinney, who coordinates a tobacco grant at MLBO Public Health. "That is important to remember if we want to survive and to thrive."

"Many of the participants I spoke with during the conference believe in the importance of building relationships, just like me," summed up Pawlitschek, a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe member. "I feel a stronger connection with my people through this experience."

For more information on the Indigenous Farming Conference, contact Colleen McKinney at Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health.

## The Indigenous Diet

Dr. Martin Reinhardt, an Anishinaabe professor from Michigan, presented information at the Indigenous Farming Conference on the Decolonized Diet Plan, or "The Indigenous Diet." It was based upon a one-year study where, along with 24 participants, Reinhardt ate only foods that were consumed by the original people of the Great Lakes region. This includes corn, beans, squash, turkey, pecans and venison. Those involved also harvested their own foods wherever possible and collected natural herbs. The study found that participants experienced a range of positive effects. Reinhardt said, "I lost weight. My cholesterol levels went from 215 to 155." He added, "It was very intense and meaningful. I invoked my treaty rights to utilize the land. I did what I could to gather food not in the marketplace. It's so much more rewarding." Participants found that their blood sugar and blood pressure lowered and they had an improved feeling of well-being. An increased sense of community was also experienced by the participants while gathering together to collect, prepare and eat food. This study is just one of many using traditional foods in a fast-growing movement across North America. For more information on the Decolonized Diet Project visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/groups/decolonizingdietproject](https://facebook.com/groups/decolonizingdietproject).

## Health Briefs

### New Staff at Public Health

Colleen McKinney is the new Outreach Coordinator in Public Health, working with the ClearWay Tobacco Grant. The grant objectives focus on education about traditional versus commercial tobacco, secondhand smoke, and the hazards of the new and fast-growing use of electronic cigarettes. "I've been working with the three Band powwow committees in order to provide signage and receptacles for designated smoking areas on the powwow grounds," said Colleen. "The grant also provides signage and cigarette receptacles for government buildings and other Band property, and may be able to fund relevant training for Band staff and members." Contact Colleen if you'd like to help.

Jolene Gansen is the new Health Educator in Public Health. Her focus will be prevention and reduction of commercial tobacco use as well as educating on the health risks of commercial tobacco. "I will also be working on promoting the use and growing of traditional tobacco, and organizing cultural teachings with presentations from cultural advisors," said Jolene. She will provide community education and resources for Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community members in all three districts who wish to quit smoking.

Jolene recently worked with Nay Ah Shing and Niigaan students to promote National Kick Butts Day. Jolene presented information and helped the kids make posters to show why it's important to avoid commercial tobacco. "The students all participated with their impressive creative talents and teamwork for the visits," Jolene said.

### Asemaa Plants and Seeds Available

Traditional tobacco, or Asemaa, is for spiritual, cultural and ceremonial use, and it ensures the continuance of the Ojibwe/Anishinaabe way of life. Traditional tobacco is used to honor and welcome guests, to communicate with the Creator or Spirit World, as a sacrifice to the Great Spirit, and as an offering to those asked to pray or share wisdom. Those interested in growing Asemaa this season and who would like plants or seeds should contact Jolene Gansen, Darla Roache or Colleen McKinney in Public Health. They will be directed to Asemaa plant or seed sources and provided with growing information.

### Immunization Awareness

By Jacqueline Jensen, Public Health RN

Getting caught up and keeping up to date on immunizations is one of the most effective ways to help protect your infant from disease.

There are many reasons to make sure your infant is vaccinated:

- Immunizations can protect your child from 14 serious diseases.
- Vaccination is very safe and effective.
- Immunizations protect others you care about.
- Vaccinations can save your family time and money.
- Immunization protects future generations.

Following the recommended schedule protects as many infants as possible, before they are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases. Every dose of a vaccine is important because they all protect against infectious diseases that are threats today. These diseases can be especially serious for infants and very young children. Parents can find out more about recommended immunization schedules at [cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html) or call us at 320-532-7783.

STAND TOGETHER



# OPIOID & HEROIN

## COMMUNITY FORUM

ADDICTION affects our families, friends and community - but HELP and HOPE is available.  
*Learn more and join the discussion.*

Tuesday, May 16th

Grand Casino in Hinckley

5:00 Dinner (FREE!)

6:00 - 7:30 Presentation

7:30 - 8:00 Q & A

FREE Childcare Provided

Speakers include medical professionals, treatment experts, law enforcement & community members sharing their personal stories.

RESOURCES WILL BE AVAILABLE

THIS COMMUNITY SERVICE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

























# Young Wrestler Finds Success on the Mat

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

Not many 7-year-olds can say they're state champions, much less four-time state champions.

Wrestler Alex Eagle, a Nay Ah Shing student who turned 8 in April, is on a roll.

Two years ago Alex competed in two state tournaments — in Albany and Grand Rapids — and won them both.

Last year he returned to the state tournament in Albany and won again.

This year's Albany tournament made it three years and four championships.

Alex's dad, Bob Eagle, said the kid is a natural who didn't need any pressure from his parents.

"Every year we give him the option, and he always says, 'yes,'" said Bob. "The first year he got beat up quite a bit, got thrown around, got hurt, but he'd get back in there. He wouldn't shy away, wouldn't give up. He has the heart of a lion."

Alex's mom, Emily Wagner, and his Uncle John grew up around wrestling, so they encouraged Alex to take up the sport. Bob wrestled at Onamia as a kid before moving away to boarding school. And of course there was the usual roughhousing with Dad and his brothers. "We had to put a stop to that when someone got hurt," Bob laughed.

The Mille Lacs Raiders Wrestling Club holds practices every Tuesday in Onamia and Thursday in Isle during the season. The club trains young wrestlers who often continue in the highly suc-

cessful high school program — a combined Onamia-Isle team.

Bob is impressed with the program's leaders. "Josh Hughley is a phenomenal coach," he said. The numbers back him up: Of 42 kids in the program, 11 were crowned state champs at Albany this year. The team as a whole also took first place for the third year running.

Alex is a student of the sport. "He sits and watches kids, sees what he likes and wants to try it," said Bob. "He loves practice. As long as he has a good practice partner he's engaged."

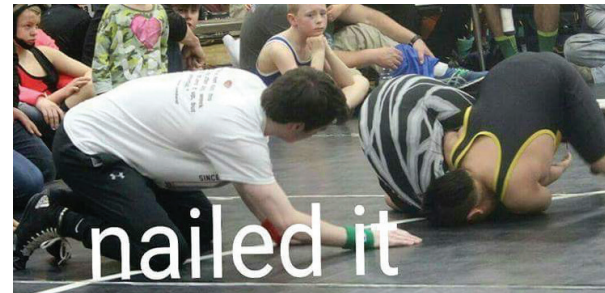
While Bob doesn't put pressure on the boy, he does offer support. This June Alex is going to attend a wrestling camp at St. Cloud State.

"We just sit back and give him the options, and he makes the decision of what he wants to do," said Bob. "I dedicate my time to Alex when it's his time to go to wrestling meets or practice. I try to support him as much as I can. All my kids, I support them in everything they do."

Last year's win was the most suspenseful for Bob. "That was his hardest battle," he said. "He was down on points until the last 10 seconds and put a pin on the kid and won."

This year Alex had 31 matches and 25 wins by pin. He lost five and only one by pin, which was to a fifth-grader.

While not as suspenseful, this year's championship was especially sweet, Bob said. "He'd been trying to nail a three-quarter move all season and was never able to hit it, and all of a



**Bob Eagle doesn't pressure Alex to wrestle, but he offers his support and encouragement.**

sudden he hit it and ended the match in first place," he said.

Dad's pride shows through as he talks about the impact wrestling has had on his son. "It's a good outlet for him," he said. "He's a bright kid with a lot of potential. He knows what he wants. He wants to succeed. He knows he's a leader. People look up to him when it comes to the mat, and he likes that. He knows he's a champion."

# Nay Ah Shing Students Learn How Federal Government Works

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

For the past five years Nay Ah Shing Social Studies Teacher Amanda Sorby has made sure some of her students make their way to the nation's Capitol.

They do so through a decades-old program called "Close Up" that was designed to give students a glimpse of the inner-workings of the federal government.

This year four students made the trip: Kali Sam, an 11th grader, and three 10th graders: Ronni Jordain, Tierra Day and Clara Gahbow. They were accompanied by teacher Cheryl Houde.

"It gives our students an understanding of how our government works and encourages them to be an active participant in our government, whether it is at the local, state or national level," said Cheryl. "It helps them to understand that there are different ways to look an issue and to listen to the opposing sides and then to make their own informed decision on a topic."

Besides going to Washington D.C., the students also visited

New York City. Both Cheryl and Amanda say the experience benefits students greatly.

"It's important to travel and see different parts of the country, and it's important for them to see first-hand how government works," said Amanda. "The payoff in the classroom is that it helps them retain what they've seen and heard and it gives them a real-life perspective."

During the trip the girls met with Senators Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar and Congressman Rick Nolan. They also visited the national monuments, toured the Smithsonian and attended other meetings.

"We learned a lot about government and how it works," said Kali. "It would be great if more students could see the things we were able to see."

The memorials and monuments were one of the best parts of the trip to Washington D.C., Ronni said.

"My favorite was the World War II memorial," she said. "You also get to learn more in detail about how our U.S. government works and make some new friends."

The students who go have to help pay for the trips through fundraising efforts. They must also have a good attendance record, maintain a grade of C or better, have good behavior and serve as good role models.

"In the years I have taken students, my favorite part is watching them learn and grow with the program," Amanda said. "I think they gain a new sense of confidence from what they experience and learn on the trip."

The trip also provided the students the opportunity to "interact and have dialogue with students from around the United States about our government and issues that are relevant today," Cheryl added.

# Making Math and Other Learning Fun Improves Achievement

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer

For many people, something dubbed a "four-day celebration of math" may not seem like a happy occasion, but for the students at Nay Ah Shing Lower School, it was just that.

During the first week of April, 60 students in second through fifth grade participated in the Hawaiian-themed week of math review.

Called "Survivor Week," the enrichment activity was meant as an intensive math review to help prepare the students for two upcoming tests: the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA).

"The students experienced lessons that included Oreo stacking, stretch your gummy worm then measure it, and lessons about money and eggs," said teacher Suzanne Terry.

In an effort to keep the students engaged in the learning, the teachers sought to create lessons that were filled with fun activities.

"We are hopeful that the enhanced learning lessons help to

apply real-life applications to the math lessons and also understand that math can be a fun learning process and not just drudgery," Suzanne said.

This was the first time the Nay Ah Shing students have participated in Survivor Week. At the end of the week the students participated in a fun luau — a traditional Hawaiian party. They ate Hawaiian pizza, played games, had their faces painted and wore leis — a garland that drapes around their necks.

To help get ready for Survivor Week, the students did the artwork for the hallway decorations, creating palm trees and colorful fish. The entire staff at the school pitched in to help make it a successful week.

"The enrichment activities are offered monthly at the school," said Suzanne. "The lessons are meant to add a twist of fun and imagination to math that perhaps will jog the students' memories when taking the MCA and NWEA testing."

"For example, the mean, median and mode lesson helps stu-

dents retain what the difference is between the three math vocabulary words," she said.

"Students were given a set of data and then taught for the word mode to think of 'mo,' which is also in the word most. And drive your car down the median and finally 'man, it is so mean to have to add all that data then divide."

The educators incorporate the standards into the lessons they are responsible for teaching. Their hope is that the students will remember the unique spin that they put into their lessons to help them retain their knowledge.

It's also a way of having teachers rotate and teach students outside of their normal grade level. It allows the students an opportunity to see math from a different viewpoint and could help students to understand a concept from a different teacher.

"We will know the results of testing soon, and I feel confident that the kids did well," Suzanne added.



# Sharing the Hoop Dance Tradition

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

Hidden away in a remote corner of the government center basement, archivist Mike Wilson keeps a low profile, but it doesn't take long to realize that he's a man of many talents and interests.

Mike sings and dances at powwows, takes part in Anishinaabe traditions, speaks a little Ojibwe and tell stories. He's also a filmmaker and a former punk rock musician, and he can converse on everything from Irish history to 1970s television to brain tanning.

The latest of his many talents to emerge: hoop dancing. Mike taught a class at the District I community center Monday evenings in March.

Like many aspects of modern Native American life, the hoop dance developed in many tribes and is now a "pan-Indian" tradition practiced around North America.

According to Mike, the Anishinaabe tribe is one of several with ancient lore about the hoop dance.

"My dad said it comes from Wenabozho," said Mike. "There's an aadizookan (sacred story) that talks about it."

It is also the subject of a 1968 painting by Red Lake artist Patrick DesJarlait, which is what inspired Mike to learn hoop dancing.

Mike was in his late 20s at the time, and got to wondering "What haven't I done yet?"

He expressed his interest to his father, who encouraged him. "He said 'why don't we try it?' So my dad gave me a hoop, and he had me dance with one hoop for a year."

After moving back to U.S. from Canada, Mike found a hoop dancing mentor in Dallas Chief Eagle of Rosebud, S.D. "He was doing a demo in Iowa at a powwow I was singing at," said Mike. "I wound up seeing him once a year. He'd teach me a

little something and I'd practice it for a year and come back. It took several years of practice, and the last time I danced with him he said, 'I'm really starting to see your story in your dance.' That's the last time he taught me anything."

Mike has taught hoop dancing at Center School and Migizi Communications in Minneapolis. He uses the hoop dance as a way to teach interpersonal communications. The first hoop is like the horizon, he says, "your place in the world." The first move is called "stepping into the world."

From there it's up to the individual dancer, but for many the second hoop represents important relationships — mother or father, the clan or a wen'enh. The "story" Mike tells with his hoops is based on environmental science. As he increases the number of hoops from three to five to seven, he becomes a serpent, a flower, a nest, a bird, a butterfly.

In some cases, the hoop dance can take on a sacred meaning — especially when performed with hoops of red willow, the same shrub that is the source of traditional asemaa (tobacco).

But hoop dancing can also be simply a means of expression or a form of exercise. Nowadays hoop dancers compete in national and international contests, and hoop dancers have even performed in Cirque du Soleil.

Mike's first hoop was made from a birch sapling, but he's also made hoops from irrigation tubing wrapped in tape. Some dancers decorate their hoops with ribbons or colors, representing the medicine wheel or the four directions.

For Mike, both the modern and traditional versions have value. "To me it's important to stay true to Anishinaabe teachings, to keep the spirit intact while translating it for a wider audience."



On a recent Monday, one of Mike Wilson's hoop dancing students, Bradley Harrington, showed his mastery of several designs — flowers, birds, and a snake.

## The Mille Lacs Band Archive

*By: Mike Wilson, Archivist*

The mission of the Mille Lacs Band Archive is to collect and preserve documents and materials pertaining to the history of the Mille Lacs Band. The collection holds a variety of media including film, video, audio cassettes, manuscripts, documents, physical objects, and a large body of reproductions of documents dealing with the Band from agencies such as the State of Minnesota, MCTC, and the United States. The most interesting collections consist of documents that were generated right here at Mille Lacs by individuals such as Don Wedell, Art Gahbow, Doug Sam and Marge Anderson. These documents tell the story of the Band during a time of rapid change and evolution, highlighting the ability of Misi-zaaga'iganing Anishinaabeg to not only adapt and survive, but thrive and lead no matter what the situation.



# Chronic Wasting Disease Found in Captive Deer Near Brainerd

**Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources**

There's been a growing concern recently about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) here in Minnesota and what it means for tribal hunters, and the overall health of the deer herd.

Waawashkaashi (deer) can pick up this disease in the environment from contaminated areas where the infection can persist in the soil or on surfaces for many years. The disease infects the brain tissue of cervids (deer, elk, etc.) and is always fatal to the animal.

So far, there is no evidence that the disease can spread to a human host, but people are not recommended to consume meat from CWD positive animals.

The Mille Lacs Band DNR is actively participating in efforts to stop the spread of CWD in MN through a coordinated CWD Working Group with other GLIFWC member tribes. GLIFWC tribes are in the process of determining best management practices which may affect the way tribal hunters process and dispose of deer carcasses.

As part of CWD monitoring, the Mille Lacs Band DNR may

ask tribal hunters to actively participate in collection of samples from harvested deer for testing. Details will be made available before fall hunting season.

The first Minnesota positive animal was discovered during the regular 2015 firearms season as part of the Minnesota DNR's stepped up CWD monitoring in the area of southeast Minnesota. This area is a concern because of its close proximity to positive deer herds in both Wisconsin and Iowa. Within a few weeks, routine testing at a captive deer farm near Brainerd yielded two positive CWD deer, with a third deer born on that same farm sold to another farm also testing positive. This is very close to home for us here at Mille Lacs.

Tribal hunters are encouraged to contact Mille Lacs Band DNR Wildlife Biologist Kelly Applegate with questions, comments and concerns, or to report any observations of sick deer.

## What is CWD?

CWD is a contagious neurological disease affecting deer, elk and moose. It causes a characteristic spongy degeneration of the brains of infected animals resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions and death.

CWD belongs to a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Within this family of diseases, there are several other variants that affect domestic animals:

- Scrapie, which has been identified in domestic sheep and goats for more than 200 years;
- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle (also known as "mad cow disease"); and
- Transmissible mink encephalopathy in farmed mink.

*Source: Minnesota DNR*

## Youth May Be Eligible for Support Services

Eligible youth ages 3 through 20 who are enrolled in daycare or school and making satisfactory progress in attendance and grades may be eligible to receive supportive services. The parents must have a current 477 application on file or be a Cash Assistance household. Youth must have a current approved Youth Program application and file.

Financial eligibility is based on the parental household unit income. Youth families must be below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines. Eligible youth must live in (be physically present in) the service area 50 percent of the year. Youth support services do not impact parent support service limits.

Youth must provide proof of attendance and receipts to validate use of funds. Youth who fail to do so will be barred from future support services for 18 months.

Examples of eligible expenses include:

- New employment clothing and supplies
- Driver's Education costs
- Athletic or academic program fees and supplies
- Special tutor costs (such as individual music lessons)
- Leadership, education or cultural camp costs, including tuition, travel and supplies (based on a program recommendation/required list)
- Boarding school support costs including travel and supplies (based on a program recommendation/required list)
- Baby gift bags for new infants (does not count against support cap)

Eligible youth may also receive a \$100 gift card, up to twice in a school year, once for the autumn and once for the winter, to purchase school clothing and supplies if they are a member of TANF Cash Assistance participant family in good standing, or a current year Gotaamigozi WEX All 4 STAR bonus recipient household, or a Transition Year household.

Any Youth Career Exploration Program hour-for-hour participant ages 16 through 20 who is a member of a household that meets all the eligibility tests at the 300 percent of poverty income level may be granted \$75 in clothing gift cards when starting a new placement or job. Receipts must be returned documenting appropriate purchases.

The maximum amount of Youth Support Service funding per 12-month period beginning Oct. 1 of each year, per youth participant, is not to exceed \$1,500.

For more information, contact AnjiBimaadizing central office at 800-922-4457 or 320-532-7407 or Urban office at 612-870-3631.

## Minor Trust Training

May 3, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Minor trust training will be held at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs convention center for Mille Lacs Band high school students and parents.

# AnjiBimaadizing — Changing One's Life

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

Shortly after the Mille Lacs Band Department of Labor was re-named AnjiBimaadizing — loosely translated “Changing One’s Life” — the Executive Director resigned, so Commissioner of Administration Catherine Colstrud stepped in to help.

“I had to make a decision of what’s in the best interest of the Band,” said Catherine, “and I decided I would make the most impact as Executive Director.”

Catherine’s term was set to expire at the end of June, but she decided to step down early, which allowed her to focus on AnjiBimaadizing while leaving the Department of Administration in the capable hands of Assistant Commissioner of Administration Michele Palomaki. On March 27, Catherine officially became Executive Director of AnjiBimaadizing.

What appealed to her about AnjiBimaadizing? “The opportunity to create jobs,” she said, “the opportunity to help Band members and program clients pursue their small business dreams and make those dreams a reality, and the opportunity to bring additional services to the Band that the program hadn’t offered before.”

Those additional services include a focus on economic development. The 477 federal grant that funds the program allows tribes to use up to 25 percent of the grant money for economic development.

Catherine’s passion has always been business, especially small business. Her B.A. is in Business Administration with a minor in Management Information Systems. She has over 20 years of experience working on the Corporate side of tribal government.

She chose Augsburg for their M.B.A. program because of the focus on social entrepreneurship. “This gives me an opportunity to bring many passions together — including, addressing social concerns through a new business vision,” she said.

Catherine would love to help Band members create markets for cultural crafts and traditional foods. Even in her role as Commissioner of Administration, Catherine was thinking about small business development, especially by championing the Band’s Food Sovereignty Project. Now she can give her full attention to helping Band members achieve their career goals.

“This is just a natural extension of a lot of things I was doing as Commissioner of Administration and Chief of Staff,” Catherine said.

She would like to use Economic Development funds to create white collar jobs as well. “We’re talking about putting together an artists’ coop,” she said. “We have some very, very talented people; what is lacking is having in place a well-defined distribution system. That could be a job for somebody, a sales position, a marketing position. Those are the kind of positions we’re looking to create.”

Catherine is also excited about some of the partnerships AnjiBimaadizing has been developing. She is interested in working with Sen. Tony Lourey to bring better Internet services to rural Minnesota, with a particular focus on Mille Lacs reservation communities.

## About AnjiBimaadizing



Catherine wants all Band members to know what AnjiBimaadizing does, because there is help and support for almost everyone.

“Support Services have really expanded,” said Catherine. “I’d like all Band members and first generation descendants in our service areas to apply to the program, because the chances are really good we can help you with something.”

AnjiBimaadizing includes several programs: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), the Work Experience program (WEX), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Childcare Assistance, Adult Support Services, the Elder Supplemental Income Program and Youth Services — including WiiDu, Support Services and Work Exploration.

“The youth program helps kids with tutoring, going to cultural events, career exploration, helping them identify their own interests, what kind of classes to take, applying for college and scheduling college visits,” said Catherine. “We need to put the expectation in their heads that they need to go to college. We really need educated folks to keep those leaders coming through the pipeline.”

The Reservation Service Area includes Aitkin, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs and Pine counties. The Urban Service Area includes Minnesota counties of Hennepin, Anoka and Ramsey.

To contact the AnjiBimaadizing Government Center Central Office, call 800-922-4457 or 320-532-7407. Urban Band members can receive information by contacting the Urban Office at 866-746-4888 or 612-746-4800.

A collaboration with the University of Minnesota-Duluth has brought together focus groups in all districts and the Twin Cities to help create a solid small business training foundation for moving forward. Catherine was impressed and moved by some of the comments in the groups.

One participant said help starting a business would mean he wouldn’t have to move to Arizona.

A youth participant said, “I like this forum. I like being able to share this. What this gives me is hope.”

An individual in District II said if he’s able to get assistance to start a small business he would be able to continue caregiving for a parent who’s ailing and a child who needs help.

“That’s powerful, but that’s a lot of responsibility,” Catherine said.

## Treaty Day 2017

Treaty Day festivities at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on March 24 had something for everyone: games for kids, arts and crafts for sale, door prizes and plenty of information about Band programs and environmental protection. Treaty Day commemorates the day in 1999 when the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the right of Anishinaabe people to hunt, fish and gather in territories ceded in the Treaty of 1837.



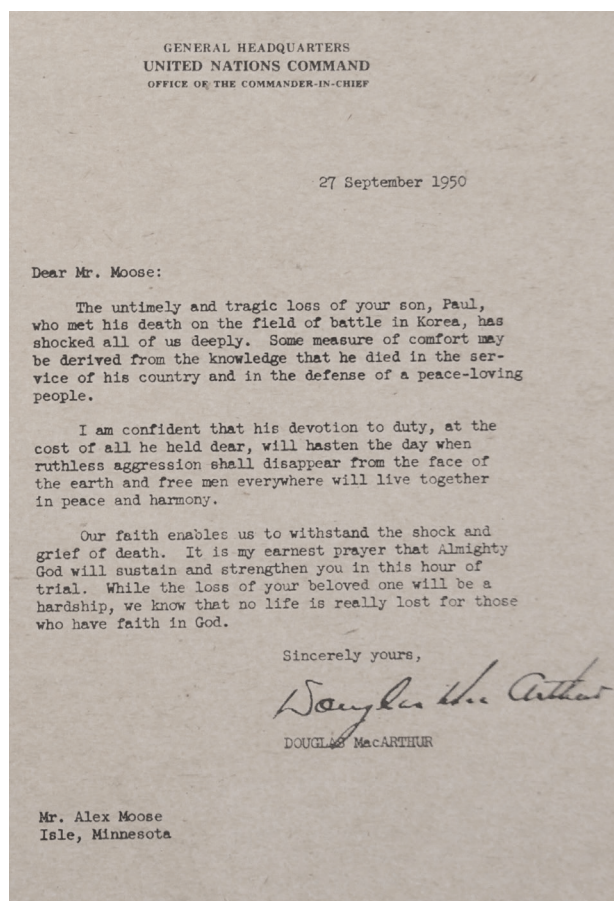
# Paul Moose: Indian Soldier, Community Hero

Brett Larson Staff Writer

September 11 is a day that has lived in infamy since 2001, but for one Mille Lacs Band family the date had a tragic significance half a century earlier.

The Mille Lacs Messenger of Sept. 28, 1950, shows a large front-page photo titled "Paul Moose Korean Casualty," with this caption: "Word has been received here that Private First Class Paul Moose, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Moose of Isle, was killed in action in Korea on September 11, 1950. He attended the Isle school and was well known in and about the community. He is the first boy in our midst to give his life in the Korean war."

The family was notified of Paul's death in a letter from Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations forces, dated September 27, 1950.



Almost a year after his death, when Paul's body was finally laid to rest, his story became known across the state — not just for Paul's heroic sacrifice, but also for the way his hometown came together to honor him and his family.

On Sept. 6, 1950, just a few days before Paul's death, a member of the Ho-Chunk nation, John R. Rice, was also killed in action in Korea. John was denied burial in a cemetery in Sioux City, Iowa, because he was a Native American. According to cemetery rules, only whites could be buried there. President Harry Truman intervened and ordered his burial in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

The city of Isle's reaction was very different. Not only was Paul given a proper military burial, but every store in town

closed for the funeral, and a procession of 63 cars accompanied Paul's body to the graveyard. Four hundred of the town's 700 people attended the funeral, including 100 fellow Band members. No church was large enough to accommodate the mourners, so the service was held in the movie theater.

The contrast between the Sioux City incident and Paul's burial was so stark that it was noticed by both the American Legion and the Minnesota media.

John F. Palm, 10th District Americanism Chairman for the American Legion, wrote a lengthy and moving tribute to Paul that was published in the Messenger on September 6, 1951, a few days after Paul's burial. "Paul Moose closed his young life gallantly in Korea on September 11, 1950," said Palm, "and in so doing, brought honor and glory to himself, his parents, his community, state and nation."

The following week, the Messenger published its own editorial on Paul's sacrifice, along with the transcript of a tribute that aired on WCCO radio. Broadcaster George Grim attended the service and wrote passionately of the event: "This is a story to make each of us proud," it began. "This is the real American Story ... of what happened when the body of an American Indian — killed in action in Korea — came home to a little town on the shores of Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota. It is the story of a community of understanding and brotherhood."

Isle Mayor Joe Fladebo was surprised by the interest. "Why should we be doing anything less?" he said.

Herb Nyquist, a grocer who spoke Ojibwe and dealt extensively with Band members in the Isle area, was also interviewed. Grim's piece states that Nyquist and the Indians conducted a traditional ceremony at the gravesite after the others had left.

Grim's broadcast concluded with praise for both Paul and his town: "Can you hear this without feeling indebted to boys like Paul, to people like the folks in Isle, Minnesota? I can only say, in humility, for a few moments, we saw a light of such beauty that no man could face it without a prayer of thanks in his heart."

On Memorial Day of 1973, the flag given to Alex and Annie Moose in honor of Paul was flown from the Isle High flagpole.

On the 30th anniversary of Paul's death, in September of 1980, the Messenger revisited Paul's story with an article by local reporter Mike Gustafson.

In the article, Paul's brother Basil said Hubert Humphrey was among the mourners. Paul's sister Brenda said the procession was so long that the first cars were at the cemetery before the last ones left the theater.

Gustafson reported that Paul's parents received notice of his death at about the same time they received his final letter home.

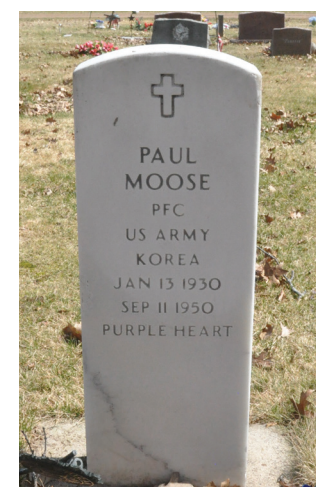
"I've been up to the front lines for two or three days now," Paul's letter said. "I may go up again this afternoon. So far, Mother, I've been shot at once, but they missed me and I



shot two North Koreans or Communists or whatever you want to call them. We've been out here for about two weeks now... Well, I don't get out now until 1952, instead of 1951." Ten days after the letter was postmarked, Paul passed away.

Gustafson ended his article with a quote from Grim's WCCO broadcast: "In wonderful simplicity, the community of Isle, Minnesota, has written a story of understanding. Their very wonder at our interest in what they did for Paul Moose is the measure of that understanding. 'He was one of us,' they say simply. You cannot add more."

*"In 2001, 50 years after Sgt. Rice's burial was refused, the people of Sioux City came together to honor his sacrifice. Members of his tribe placed a blanket over the shoulders of his widow, Evelyn Rice. Tribal members also put out tobacco at Sgt. Rice's gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery.*



## Memorial Day Weekend at Museum Features Powwow, Music, Film, Arts

On Monday, May 29, from 12 – 5 p.m. bring the family and join Mille Lacs Indian Museum staff and community members to participate in this social gathering honoring veterans past and present. Experience firsthand the excitement and joy of a contemporary powwow. The event is sponsored by the Mille Lacs Band and AM Vets Post 53 & Ladies Auxiliary.

On Saturday, May 27, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., enjoy a day of music performed by some of the premier American Indian musicians from Minnesota. The day's lineup includes Annie Humphrey from Leech Lake, a well known activist and folk-rock singer; Thomas X (Thomas Barrett), from Red Lake, an up and coming hip-hop/rap artist; as well as local musicians from the Mille Lacs Band that will be playing flute music and performing hand drum songs. Sponsored by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends Indian Committee and Mille Lacs Energy Community Trust. Free, does not include museum admission.

On Sunday, May 28, from 1 – 10 p.m., view short films and feature films by and about Minnesota American Indians. Films will be shown throughout the day and will be introduced by the directors or subjects of the films. Each film will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience. Sponsored by the Harriet Thwing Holden Fund for American Indian History.

On Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 27-29, an American Indian Art Market will be open at the museum and trading post. Meet American Indian artists as they discuss and demonstrate their art. Learn about the various materials used and the meaning of their pieces and discover a wide range of American Indian arts and crafts inside the Trading Post.

# Forging a New Identity after Prison, Addiction, Overdose

*Prayer and Honesty Help Colin Cash on Road to Recovery*

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

The turning point was almost the end of the road for Colin Cash. He had overdosed on heroin and was trying to get his friends to call the police. They wouldn't, for fear they'd get in trouble.

"This is it," thought Colin. "I'm gonna die." The panic continued for several minutes. His thoughts screamed, "I'm dying! I'm dying! I'm dying!"

"I saw the door, my cousin standing in front, and thought 'This is the last view I'm gonna have of this world,'" said Colin. He thought about his 8-year-old son being told his dad died of a drug overdose on a bathroom floor.

All he could think to do was pray, but he didn't even know who to pray to — God or Gichi Manido. He heard the words slurring slowly from his mouth, his muscles and breath failing from the heroin. "Gichi Manidoo, please don't let me die," he said. "Gi...chi...ma...ni...do."

His friends finally came through. The cops and EMTs arrived and gave him Narcan, and Colin survived.

Nothing about his recovery went according to plan, however. He knew he needed treatment, but he didn't want to go to Four Winds, the treatment center in Brainerd geared toward Native Americans. It was too close to home, and he'd known too many people who had been there. In the end, he didn't have a choice; it was the only place that would take him.

After treatment, he was dead set against returning to Mille Lacs. He knew how hard it would be to remain clean around his friends and family. But again, it was the only halfway house with an opening.

It was all a learning experience for Colin, teaching him that his own plans aren't always the best. Coming home, he had to face his demons and his buddies, but that may have made him stronger in the end. It's also allowed him to help others in his community who are struggling with addiction and recovery. "I wanted to leave this place behind," he said, "but the Creator had different plans."

Colin describes himself as "the norm" of reservation kids:

**"The best tool I have to keeping me sober is praying. All this started with a prayer, and throughout this process I was praying. If there's someone I don't like, I pray for them; if I'm happy I pray; if I'm sad I pray; if I'm thankful I pray."**

in and out of jail, winding up in prison, taking drugs, acting like a gangster.

"I looked up to the guy selling drugs," he said. "I was searching for identity, and a lot of my peers around me looked up to that too. For a lot of kids it's missing a father. Peers would ridicule any positive behaviors and encourage negative behavior — selling drugs, doing crimes, whatever. Teenage boys are impressionable; you're afraid of being called a square or a pussy. I took pride in how crazy I was, how quick to fight, how many women I could get with. I'd do all that to try to fill that void within me."

At 19 he was sent to prison for hitting a person with his car when he was drunk. "Natives in Minnesota are pretty close



**Colin is thankful for the staff at the DNR, who gave him a job and a healthy work environment.**

knit, so you become close with the brothers in prison and they help you get through the situation," said Colin.

The lack of identity and glorification of the gangster lifestyle makes recovery difficult on the reservation, which is why Colin didn't want to come back.

"For a lot of people, getting better is overcoming the insecurities they have about being different," Colin said. "You have to establish healthy boundaries with friends and family. People are afraid to sever those ties, or they don't trust they're going to a better place, or they get bored with it."

Colin has only been sober for 14 months, and he knows how fragile sobriety can be. So far, though, he's met people who have helped him develop a network of support.

When he got out of treatment, he made it a priority to get his driver's license. He had fines to pay and needed work, so he got on with AnjiBimaadizing (formerly the Department of Labor). He got a temporary job bagging rice for the DNR and kept showing up, even after the job ended. He'd sweep the floors, clean the bathrooms — anything to stay in an environment that felt safe and healthy.

Andy Boyd and Susan Klapel found him a permanent position with land maintenance. "They took a chance on me," he said. "It's humbling to know there's people willing to do that for you, especially a three-time felon, a drug addict."

Terry Kemper, who works in the DNR's Tribal Historic Preservation Office, knows a lot about re-entry from prison and recovery from drugs and alcohol, so his mentorship has been priceless.

Colin has been faithfully attending AA meetings, and he's seen the number of people in recovery grow during the last year. A lot of people he knows are trying to get better and to rebuild that Anishinaabe identity that was lacking in their youth.

In addition to the people who have helped, Colin has established behaviors and thought processes that keep him grounded.

He stayed away from relationships for a year. He attended sweat lodges, helped at Midewin, went to work, paid his fines, and got his license. He visits his son in Michigan as often as

he can.

He talks to himself, tells himself he's proud that he's sober. He reflects on Ojibwe versions of the 12 steps and the Serenity Prayer. "Give me the strength to do what I must" is one of his mantras.

He forces himself to be transparent, "rigorously honest" with himself and others. "It's almost like a code you gotta live by," he said.

When things get hard, he tries to look beyond the present and focus on the end result.

He surrounds himself with good people and tries to help others when he can. "In order to keep what I have, I have to give it away," he said. "Statistically I'm not supposed to stay sober. It's 1 out of 100 for an IV user. And on the Rez it's even worse."

Most important, he prays, puts out tobacco and wears a medicine bag — even though it feels weird. "The best tool I have to keeping me sober is praying. All this started with a prayer, and throughout this process I was praying. If there's someone I don't like, I pray for them; if I'm happy I pray; if I'm sad I pray; if I'm thankful I pray."

And once in a while help comes from somewhere beyond his own power, and seemingly beyond coincidence.

When he finished treatment and got a ride with a friend from Four Winds to the halfway house, another person was shooting up in the back seat. "I'm going to relapse," he thought to himself, when a song came on the stereo, a Native singer named Nahko Bear calling on the Great Spirit — just as Colin had done in his darkest hour.

"I don't even like that kind of music," said Colin. "But I had a physical sensation in my chest, going through my arms and down to my feet. My perspective changed, from thinking of relapsing to feeling sorry for this person."

The friend who drove him home was ahead of Colin in his recovery, but he has since relapsed and is back in prison.

Recovery from opiates is painful, lonely and hard, and seeing friends fall back keeps Colin vigilant.

He tries to see the sun through the clouds. "I'm sitting here today because of him, even though he went back out," Colin said. "I pray that I keep learning from his mistakes. I pray for strength and guidance to stay sober every day."

His community is praying, too, for Colin and others like him.

# Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

## Learn the Ojibwe Language

This passage by the late Melvin Eagle is reprinted from *Living Our Language: Ojibwe Tales and Oral Histories*. Edited by Anton Treuer, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001.

### Gii-pi-dagoshinowaad Dewe'iganag

Mii iwidi akeyaa dewe'iganag gaa-pi-onjibaawaad bwaanaking. Niibowa eyaajig omaa o'ow dash dagoshinowaad omaa ingiw dewe'iganag. Mewinzha ko ongow anishinaabeg gii-miigaanaawaad iniw bwaanag. Gaawiin igo sa gikendanziiwag. Gii-maanendiwag apane ingiw bwaanag miinawaa go anishinaabeg, gii-miigaanaawaad iniw bwaanag. Gaawiin ongow anishinaabeg oadaa-gii-miigaanaasiwaawaan iniw bwaanag. Ayi'in dash iniw baashkiziganan ogii-ayaanaawaan wiinawaa go anishinaabeg iwidi gii-pi-onjibaawaad akeyaa wendaabang. Omaa gii-pi-dagoshinowaad gii-minwendamowaad o'ow aki. Mii gaa-onji-miigaanaawaad iniw bwaanag. Gayesh imaa gii-izhaawaad ingiw bwaanag akeyaa bangishimog gii-kiizhikawaawaad. Gayesh ingiw bwaanag gaa-shawenimaawaad iniw dibishkoo gii-maanendiwag sa go. Miish ingiw bwaanag gaa-izhi-inendamowaad i'iw wii-miinaawaad iniw dewe'iganag, dibishkoo go akeyaa o'ow apane gii-miigaadi-waad dibishkoo go gii-shawendiwaad; gii-shawenimaawaad iniw anishinaaben i'iw gii-niimiwenigoowaad. Mii gaa-pi-onji-maajii-izhaawaad ingiw dewe'iganag imaa gii-pi-dagoshinowaad ingiw dewe'iganag.

Dibishkoo go i'iw gii-ani-miinaawaad; iwidi ingiw bwaananzhii-dewe'iganag imaa wenji-ayaawaad, weweni ji-ganawendaagozinid iniw anishinaaben. Mii imaa wen-

ji-ayaawaad ingiw dewe'iganag. Biinish igo iwidi akeyaa gii-izhaawag akeyaa iwidi akeyaa bangishimog gii-pi-maajaawaad bangishimog gii-izhaawaad akeyaa. Mii eta go bezhig i'iw apane ezhaad a'aw dewe'igan iwidi akeyaa wendaabang. Gaawiin daa-gii-azhegiwesiin imaa, iwidi.

### How the Drums Came

The Drums originated over there in the Sioux lands. There were a lot of them here when those Drums came here. A long time ago these Indians used to fight those Dakotas. They don't know why. The [Ojibwe] Indians and the Dakotas hated each other, and they fought those Dakotas. But the Indians had acquired guns for themselves from the east where they came from. When they arrived here they liked this land. That's why they fought those Dakotas. And those Dakotas went out there towards the west where the [Ojibwe] chased them. And then the Dakotas loved them just like they used to hate one another. Then it occurred to the Dakota to give them the Drums, and they loved one another the same way they used to hate one another; they really blessed those Indians in making such a gift as that. That's how those Drums came there, how those Drums arrived.

It was just like that when they bestowed the gift on them; that's why those Sioux Drums are there, when the Indian people are looked after so well. That's why these Drums exist there. So they went over that way, out there toward the west, they left going out west. The Drum always only goes over there toward the east. It can't return over there.

### Vocabulary

Search for the following words in the text. Match the Ojibwemowin term on the left with the English translations on the right:

Iwidi	properly; correctly; carefully
Niibowa	all the time; always; continually
Mewinzha	those
Bwaanag	s/he arrives, gets somewhere
Dibishkoo	The Dakota
Dewe'iganag	directly; equal; even; just like, seems like
Apane	a lot; many; much
Ingiw	over there
Dagoshin	Drums
Weweni	a long time ago, long ago

### Grammar

Ojibwemowin has many prefixes and suffixes. You can search for these in the text and use an Ojibwe dictionary to determine the meaning of the verbs they precede.

Gii-pi-dagoshinowaad: "gii" shows past tense; "pi" shows movement toward the speaker (It's normally "bi" but the "gii" requires a consonant change); "dagoshin" means "arrive"; "-waad" shows that it's third person plural ("they").

Gaa-pi-onjibaawaad: "gaa" shows past tense; "onjibaa" means "s/he comes from a certain place." "Pi" and "waad" are the same as in 1.

Gaawiin daa-gii-azhegiwesiin: "Gaawiin" plus "siin" make the verb "azhegiwe" (s/he returns) negative. "Daa" means can, could, should, would, might or must. In this case it means "can't" since it's negative.

To look up more words, visit <http://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu>.

# Taking Jim Northrup's Rez Car Out for Another Journey

Arne Vainio, M.D. Guest Writer

Richard Wagamese died.

Richard was a First Nations author from Ontario, and when I first thought about writing over ten years ago I came across a passage in his book *One Native Life*. He was traveling through Canada and jumped a freight train. Writing is a gift and a craft and it needs to be honed and sharpened, and the only way to do that is by writing.

Richard had been writing for a long time before he wrote that passage, and even though it was brief, it was enough to pull me in and he brought me on that train with him. The moon was rising and it raced the train as it came up through the trees, and he and a coal miner's kid from Sydney, Nova Scotia, shared cigarettes and stories and a bottle of wine and for that brief time there was nothing that separated them.

I always meant to contact him and tell him what his writing meant to me and how somehow that train ride stayed with me all these years and how I thought of it when I went outside to look at the moon. George Earth died almost a year ago, and I used to go outside at night and call him and tell him what I was seeing and hearing and how the wind swayed the treetops and what stars I was looking at. George was 80 years old and couldn't go outside to see and hear those things for himself and he would remember those things from when he was young.

George and I took a road trip to the Wind River reservation in Wyoming just a few years ago, and he knew it was his last road trip. He used to travel when he was younger, but not in a comfortable way. He hitchhiked and he walked and he wanted to see the entire country. Poverty and the need to work kept him from seeing the world and we traveled through the Black Hills and went to the monuments and we went to a museum.

The monuments and the museum interested him only briefly and what he wanted to see was the country and the way the trees of northern Minnesota changed to the rolling hills and farms of the southern part of the state, then to the prairie of South Dakota, then as that changed to the Black Hills and then to the big sky country of Wyoming.

We never once turned the radio on and we could travel for

hours without speaking, then something in that huge sky would make him remember. He told me some of the kids were let out of boarding school to pick potatoes in North Dakota and being a ten year old boy dragging sacks to fill with potatoes in rows he couldn't even see the end of. His hands would get blisters that broke open and filled with dirt and how it would hurt to wash them at the end of the day. He slept fitfully on that trip, and his dreams were of a young boy losing his way through the design of others. He was helping me find my way and that remained unspoken and didn't need to be said.

Jim Northrup died late last summer and he was one of our great Ojibwe authors. He wrote six books and told vividly of being a Marine in Vietnam and wrote about life on the reservation. Jim and I had a friendship that deepened over the years, and my wife Ivy became part of his family. She would go to visit her parents every Sunday and would be at the house on Northrup Road right after that. She played Ojibwe cribbage with him, and she became the official Jim Northrup photographer. She traveled with him and his wife Pat to Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin for a gathering of Vietnam veterans and their families and he read his poetry to a standing ovation crowd of 45,000 people.

He pulled me aside at his 70th birthday and told me, "The poet Simon Ortiz came to me when I was just starting out as a writer and a poet. He told me to remember that what you have to say is important, and I'm passing this to you. What you have to say is important."

At first I held it to myself that he meant that only for me, but later found that he told that to other writers and I liked him all the more for it. He was hedging his bets to make sure our stories are always part of the dialogue and not just some old and forgotten memories.

His wife Pat went to the casino to be there for a drawing for a 1964 Corvette Stingray about fifteen years ago and asked if he wanted to come with. "I think I'll just stay home. No one wins those things anyway."

Pat came home with that Corvette and it became part of the essence of Jim. He wrote about it and it has a Marine Veter-

an banner over the top of the windshield. His license plates said "REZ CAR" and it was easy to find him if he wanted to be found. Cars like that eat money and it's hard to find someone who knows how to work on them, but he did find someone.



When his cancer came back and then started to spread, he started looking at things differently. He and I discussed a road trip in that Corvette, maybe to the Southwest to visit one of his Marine brothers on the Navajo reservation. The journey was to be the story and we would each see and write about this island we live on from totally different perspectives. He would be traveling as a warrior and the moon rising and racing the car through the night would have an entirely different meaning to him than it would for me.

The wind blowing through the open top and the sun beating down on him would no doubt bring memories of jungles and situations I have never seen. The tic-tic-tic of the tires on the highway and bullets going through the leaves all around him might well have been the same.

We never made that road trip, and Ivy and I were with him and his family shortly before he died. Keith Secola sang NDN Kars at his graveside after the funeral and after the Marine detail had gone.

Ivy was deeply hurt by Jim's death and losing him was like losing a father.

I brought that Corvette home on a flatbed tow truck a couple of weeks ago. It needs some work, but nothing I can't handle and by the time the rain washes the highways clean, Ivy and I will be ready for a road trip.

The Black Hills? The Southwest?

I don't know where our path will lead us.

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

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## Happy May Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Gina Louise Anderson  
Merlin Anderson  
Richard Dean Anderson  
Alvina Mae Aubele  
Elisse Joanne Aune  
Thelma Emma Baker  
Brenda Lee Beaulieu  
Gerald Duane Beaulieu  
Robert Patrick Benjamin Jr.  
Kevin Duane Boyd  
Maurice James Boyd  
Denise Lorette Chamblin  
Debra Ann Contreras  
James Daniel Davis Jr.  
Anthony Joseph Davis  
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  
Jeffrey Wayne 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  
Patricia Regguinti  
Frederick Raymond Shingobe  
Victoria Lea Smith  
Eugene Raymond Staples  
Beverly K. Sutton  
John Sutton  
Victoria Joy Verkennes  
Lorna Jayne Weous  
Herbert Weyaus  
Sarita Inez White  
Theresa Marie Williams  
Larry James Wind  
Ginette Marie Zustiak

### Happy May Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Jarvis** on 5/5! Love, Baby Jarvis, Miranda, Mom, Auntie Val, Tyler, Kev, Pie, Montana, Shelby, Max, Aidan, Baby Jacob, Jacob, Aiva, Markie, & Emery. • Happy birthday to **Manny Smith** on 5/8! From Mom & Dad, Sunshine, Chuck, Hunter, Elvis, Elliot & Boys. • Happy

birthday **Shelby** on 5/9! Love Baby Jake, Aidan, Max, Auntie Val, Tyler, Kev, Pie & Montana. • Happy 2nd birthday to Mr. **Liam Rocelo** on 5/10! We love you so much! Grandma Deb, Papa, Jessica, Brandon, Carmelena, & Mateo. • Happy birthday **Sissy** on 5/12! Love, your Brothers & Sissys. • Happy birthday **Markie G** on 5/12! Love, Auntie Val, Tyler, Kev, Pie & Montana. • Happy birthday **Carlyle James Lee** on 5/12! With lots of love from, Grama Mary, Grandpa Chey, Uncle's Dante, Maysun, Soul, Daymon, & Auntie Shawsha. • Happy birthday **Rachel & Richard** on 5/14. Love, mom, Kelia, Railei, Cyrell & Candace. • Happy birthday **Jessica Mitchell** on 5/17! I love you & would like to say thanks for being you! Love <3 mom, Brandon, Sean, Carmelena & Mateo. • Happy birthday **Taylor** on 5/19! Love, Dad, Adam, Papa Brad, Grannie, Papa Kyle, Val, Tyler, Kev, Pie, Montana, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Brad, Baabitaw, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, & Henry. • Happy birthday

**Sunshine Shingobe** on 5/20! From Liz, Dylan, Lil Dylan, Leroy, Malerie, Sebastian & Remy. • Happy birthday **Sunshine Shingobe** on 5/20! From, Gramma June & Papa Gushy, Hunter, Chuck, Elvis, Elliot & boys. • Happy birthday to **Liz** on 5/21! From, Mom & Dad, Sunshine, Elvis, Chuck, Hunter, Elliot & boys. • Happy birthday to **Liz Smith** on 5/21! From From Dylan Sr, Dylan Jr, Leroy, Sebastian, Remy & Malerie. We love you mom! • Happy birthday **Vato** on 5/23! Love, Vato. • Happy birthday **Brynley** on 5/26! Love, Dad, Baabitaw, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Bianca, Henry, Brad, Kim, Kyle, Val, Tyler, Kev, Pie, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor & Adam. • Happy birthday **Mom** on 5/27! Love, Pie & Kevin. • Happy birthday **Bae** on 5/27! I love you! Love, Tyler Drake. • Happy birthday **Maysun Jr.** on 5/27! From Mom, Chey, Dante, Shawsha, Soul & Daymon. • Happy birthday **Jasmine** on 5/27! From Gramma June, Papa Gushy, Elvis, Chuck, Hunter, Sunshine, Dad & brothers. •

Happy birthday **Cyrell** on 5/29! Love, Mom, Dad, Grandma, Great Grandma Shirley, Uncle Richard & Aunt Rachel. • Happy birthday **Baby Girl** on 5/31! Love, Mom. • Happy birthday **Pie** on 5/31! Love, Mom, Tyler, Kev, Montana, Gram Kim, Papa Brad, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor Paige, Adam, Brad, Baabitaw, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Henry, Gram Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Jacob, Aiden, Max, Jarvis, Miranda, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melodie, Nicole, Chris, Cordell & Buddy.

### Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday to **Louis (Bahwahsun) Merrill** on 4/15! • Happy belated birthday to **Kelia** on 4/20! Love, Mom, Railei, Cyrell & Candace.

### Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a message **20 WORDS OR LESS** to [myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com](mailto:myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com) or call **612-465-0653**.

Deadline for June issue: May 15.

## Mille Lacs Band Recovery Groups

### District I Mille Lacs

#### Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition

Mondays, 5:30 – 7 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (Next to the Halfway House – Brown Building)  
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-7773, ext. 2419

#### Wellbriety Migizi Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel  
700 Grand Avenue, Onamia, Minnesota

#### Wellbriety Celebrating Families

Tuesdays, 6 – 8 p.m., Mille Lacs Band Halfway House Group  
17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia, Minnesota  
Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

### N.A./A.A. Welcome

Hosted by Mille Lacs Band Halfway House  
Wednesdays, 8 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia (Red Brick Building)  
Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

#### Wellbriety Red Road Meeting

Saturdays, 6 – 7 p.m., MinoBimaadiziwin (Budget Host Hotel) 40847 US-169, Onamia  
Contact MinoBimaadiziwin at 320-532-3911

#### Wellbriety Sons of Tradition

Sundays, 1 – 3 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia  
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-7773, ext. 2419

### District II East Lake

#### AA Group

Mondays, 5 – 6 p.m., East Lake Community Center  
Contact Rob Nelson at 218-768-2431

#### District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog

#### NA Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Aazhoomog Community Center

#### Wellbriety 12 Step Group

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Aazhoomog Clinic Conference Room  
Contact Monica Haglund at 320-384-0149

#### Wellbriety Meeting

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Hinckley Corporate Bldg.  
Contact Mike Kettner at 320-385-7052

## RECURRING EVENTS

### Ojibwe Language Tables

Mondays, 6:30 p.m., DII-A, Chiminising Community Center  
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., DI, District I Community Center  
Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., DII, East Lake Community Center (3:30 p.m. on last Thursday)

### DI Open Gym

Open Gym is held at the DI Community Center, Mondays – Thursdays: 3:30 – 9 p.m.

### DI Women's Group (Strength & Support)

Thursdays: 3:30 – 5 p.m., Public Health Building (17230 Nooping Lane)

### 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.)

### DI Sewing Circle: Mondays & Wednesday, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

### Pool League Night: Wednesdays, 5 p.m., Onamia

### B-Ball League Night: Thursday Nights

### Executive Branch Meetings

The May and June Executive Branch meetings will be held during the day instead of the evening to determine the best time for Band members to attend. With summer on the horizon, commissioners understand that many people enjoy outdoor activities in the evening, so mornings may result in a bigger turnout. If attendance is comparable to evening meetings, commissioners will alternate morning and evening meetings among the districts to ensure the highest level of attendance. This month's meetings will be held May 15 at 9 a.m. in the Upper Level Media Room of the Government Center in District I and May 22 at 9 a.m. at East Lake Community Center in District II. June meetings will be held in District III, District IIa and the Urban Area.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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**Want your event here?**

Email [myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com](mailto:myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-465-0653. Visit [millelacsband.com/calendar](http://millelacsband.com/calendar) for additional MLB events.

**Band Assembly Meetings**

Band Assembly Meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other information, call the Legislative office or visit [millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com](http://millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com). Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

**Upcoming Events**

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisdom Steps “Honor Our Elders” Conference**

June 13 at 8 a.m. through June 15 at 5 p.m. at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. For more information and registration form, visit [wisdomsteps.org](http://wisdomsteps.org) or email [info@wisdomsteps.org](mailto:info@wisdomsteps.org).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chameleon 5k Run/Walk**

June 15. Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Race begins at 11 a.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Come join us for this fun, FREE community event! Any questions, please contact Darla Roache, SHIP Coordinator at (320) 532-7760.

	<p><b>1</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>Spring Clean Up</b> District II 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>ode'imini: a strawberry</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>Spring Clean Up</b> District II 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>ode'imini-baashkimasigan: strawberry sauce/jam</i></p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>Spring Clean Up</b> District II 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <b>Minor Trust Training</b> 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Ctr. <b>Teen Photography Exhibit Opening</b> 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Indian Museum</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>Spring Clean Up</b> District II 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. <b>Circle of Health Outreach</b> 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. Urban Office</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Spring Clean Up</b> District II 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>ode'imini: s/he picks strawberries, processes strawberries</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>Dream Catcher</b> 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum <b>Ojibwe Moccasin 2-day Workshop</b> 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. Indian Museum</p>
<p><b>7</b> <b>Ojibwe Moccasin 2-day Workshop</b> 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post</p> <p><i>gitige: s/he plants, gardens, farms</i></p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><i>gitigaan: a field, a garden, a farm</i></p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><i>gitigaadan: plant it</i></p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>DI Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p><i>gitigaazh: plant him/her</i></p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>Circle of Health Outreach</b> 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. East Lake <b>Circle of Health Outreach</b> 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Chiminising (Isle)</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><i>miinikaan: a seed</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><i>mandamin: corn, a kernel of corn</i></p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p><i>mandaminaak: an ear of corn</i></p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>District I Executive Branch Meeting</b> 9 a.m., Government Center Upper Level Media Room</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>Opioid and Heroin Community Forum</b> 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>DIII Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Events Center</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>Circle of Health Outreach</b> 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Aazhoomog</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><i>okosimaan: a squash, a pumpkin</i></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><i>miskojiisimin: a bean</i></p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p><i>miskojiisiminaaboo: bean soup</i></p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>District II Executive Branch Meeting</b> 9 a.m., East Lake Community Center <b>DII Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m., East Lake Community Center <b>DIII Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><i>waabigwan: a flower</i></p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>DII Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m., East Lake Community Center</p> <p><i>ginebig: a snake</i></p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>Wisdom Steps Spring Golf Tournament</b> 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Dacotah Ridge Golf Club <b>DII-A Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <b>Urban Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><i>opichi: a robin</i></p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>American Indian Art Market</b> 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Indian Museum <b>American Indian Music Fest</b> 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Indian Museum</p> <p><i>zhiiwibag: rhubarb</i></p>
<p><b>28</b> <b>American Indian Art Market</b> 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Indian Museum <b>MN American Indian Stories &amp; Storytellers Film Festival</b> 1 p.m. – 10 p.m. Indian Museum</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>American Indian Art Market</b> 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Indian Museum <b>Memorial Day Powwow</b> 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Indian Museum</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>Language Tables</b> <i>See page 14</i> <b>DI Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m. Community Center</p> <p><i>gekek: a hawk</i></p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>DIIA Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><i>gookooko'oo: an owl</i></p>	<p><b>More Upcoming Events</b> <b>Grand Celebration Golf Tournament</b> June 15. Grand National Golf Course, 4-person Scramble, 8 a.m. Shotgun Start. Men's, Women's and Elders' flights (Elder teams must include at least three players age 55 or older). For details call 320-532-7486 or 320-384-7427. <b>26<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration Powwow &amp; World Jingle Dress Championships</b> June 16 – 18. Grand Casino Hinckley. Grand Entries Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 1 and 7 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. Host Drum: Little Otter (Mille Lacs). Invited Drums: Pipestone (LCO, Wisc.), White Fish Bay (Ontario), The Boyz (Twin Cities).</p>		

# Basketball Tournament Brings Intense Competition to Onamia

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

The All-Native basketball tournament held March 31-April 2 at Onamia High School was a rousing success. Seventeen teams participated (seven men's, 10 high school boys') from far-flung locales like Winnebago, Nebraska, Meskwaki, Iowa, and Oneida, Wisconsin. One participant even came from New York to participate.

"We had great community support," said tournament organizer and Niigaan director Byron Ninham. "People were willing to help out, whether it was checking the door, picking up garbage, or helping people find their way to the games. It was great to see the positive feedback from people I trust and compete against at other tournaments."

Byron thanked staff and volunteers from the Department of Athletic Regulation, Community Development, Niigaan and Onamia Indian Ed. Onamia School Board member Virgil Wind was there for the entire event, Byron said. A Saturday evening meal was sponsored by District I Rep. Sandi Blake and District II Rep. David 'Niib' Aubid.

On Saturday evening, April 1, a round dance was held featuring some of the region's best singers and an enthusiastic crowd of local dancers.

"It was exciting to bring this tournament here," Byron said. "It allowed kids to follow their dream of playing ball at a high level. We can't wait to do it again."



## Need Help?

- If you or someone you know is injured or in danger, call **911** first.
- **Tribal Police Department dispatch:** 888-609-5006; 320-532-3430
- **Emergency Management Services:** 24-hour fire, disaster and emergency management response: Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator: 320-362-0435
- **Community Support Services:** For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, emergency loans, sexual assault or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.
- **Domestic violence:** (c) 320-630-2499
- **Women's Shelter:** 866-867-4006
- **Heating, water or other home-related maintenance problems:** If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call for housing maintenance service in your district. During regular business hours, please call our Customer Service Representative at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained

by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please contact: After Hours Emergency Service: 866-822-8538. (Press 1, 2 or 3 for respective districts.)

- **Mille Lacs Band Family Services:** Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444, Toll-free: 800-709-6445, ext. 7588.
- **Family Violence Prevention:** District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-7400; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 1-866-867-4006.
- **Batterers' Intervention:** 320-532-8909
- **Behavioral Health:** 800-709-6445, ext. 7776

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

**Free Hearing Evaluations:** Evaluations take place on the second Friday of each month at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Call

320-532-4163 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome — we will do our best to serve you. Ask us about the \$1,000 in hearing aid benefits you can receive from the Circle of Health.

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

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

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[millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com)



## Ceremonial Dance Dates Spring 2017

**Skip:** Lake Lena, May 5 & 6

**Elmer & Sheldon:** Mille Lacs, May 5 & 6

**Tim & Tom:** East Lake, May 12 & 13

**Lee:** Lake Lena, May 19 & 20

**Niib & Iyawbance:** East Lake, May 19 & 20

**Dale & Vincent:** East Lake, May 26 & 27

**Bob & Perry:** Mille Lacs, June 2 & 3