

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

JUNE 2017 | VOLUME 19 | NUMBER 06



ANISHINAABE SUCCESS

TEACHER, MENTOR, FATHER, FRIEND — REMEMBERING LARRY 'AMIK' SMALLWOOD

PINE COUNTY
EVENT
ADDRESSES
OPIATE EPIDEMIC

SPRING
POWWOW
BRINGS CULTURE
TO CHIMINISING

HINCKLEY
COMMUNITY
CENTER
TAKES SHAPE

FOUR WINDS
TREATMENT
CENTER OPENS
IN JUNE

Band, Pine County Sign New Law Enforcement Agreement

Band members concerned about law enforcement in Hinckley and Aazhoomog have reason to celebrate, after the Mille Lacs Band and Pine County signed a law enforcement agreement on Tuesday, May 9.

Under the agreement, Mille Lacs Tribal Police officers can enforce state criminal law on all Band-owned fee land and tribal trust land in Pine County. The new agreement replaces a previous agreement that had been in place since 2004.

The signatories included Solicitor General Todd Matha, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice, Pine County Board Chair Matt Ludwig, County Attorney Reese Frederickson and County Sheriff Jeff Nelson. All but Nelson attended a signing ceremony at the Pine County Courthouse May 9, with Tribal Police officers and Pine County personnel present as witnesses.

At the signing, Todd said, "It's very refreshing that the relationship between the Band and the County is what it is. Reese and I dealt collaboratively on this Joint Powers Agreement,

and there are no hidden agendas that we have coming to it. We just want to provide the best law enforcement we can to all residents in the county. With an increased population, we have an increased responsibility. We have a very able, well trained police force, and we look forward to a great cooperative and collaborative relationship with Pine County."

Melanie said, "I want to say chi-miigwech — thank you — to all the officials in Pine County. This is great progress. I had the opportunity to talk with constituents in the Hinckley area, and everyone is thrilled and happy."

Sara said, "I think this is going to make a huge impact not only for Band members but for all of the county. We work very well with the sheriff, the jail and the county attorney."

Commissioner Ludwig said, "People should know a lot of work and thought went in behind the scenes. I know it's a lot of work to make these cooperative agreements work, and I want to commend everyone who made this happen."

County Attorney Frederickson credited Todd for the agree-



Solicitor General Todd Matha, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Police Chief Sara Rice and Pine County Board Chair Matt Ludwig signed the new agreement at the Pine County Courthouse May 9.

ment. "He's always great to work with, and I learn a lot from him when we collaborate on projects like this."

The Band is in mediation with Mille Lacs County hoping to develop a new law enforcement agreement after the County rescinded the previous agreement last summer. The agreement is pending formal approval by Band Assembly.

Heroin and Opioid Forum Presents Perspectives on Epidemic

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Hundreds of Pine County residents and Band members attended an opiates forum May 16 at Grand Casino Hinckley to hear a variety of perspectives on the epidemic ravaging communities across the nation.

Among the presenters were Health and Human Services Commissioner Samuel Moose, CD Counselor and Rule 25 Assessor Monica Haglund, and Tribal Police Investigator Michael Dieter.

Sam said Indian communities have been harder hit by the opiate crisis due to historical trauma and other factors. He shared that the epidemic has contributed to a threefold increase in Band children in foster care, and he talked about the Band's opiate response plan, which was developed in 2015 and has been implemented over the last two years.

Among the Band's efforts have been a new wraparound program, the takeover of Four Winds Treatment Center in Brainerd, which will open its doors in early June, and the implementation of a new pharmacy monitoring program and managed care protocols. Those changes have led to a 50 percent decrease in the use of narcotic pain medicines in Band clinics.

Sam said the Band has been pushing state legislators to adopt a statewide pharmacy monitoring program so addicts can be identified and helped. He also talked about a needle exchange program and training in the use of naloxone (brand name Narcan), which has been used to treat 20 overdoses so far on the reservation.

Monica pleaded for people to get help before addiction becomes a legal or medical issue. "Wouldn't it be great if we had people come in and voluntarily get help, before they go to court, before they have a medical problem?" she asked.

She talked about the four keys to effective recovery: home, health, purpose and community. "Community provides us our social network," she said. "We can offer each other peer support, belonging, love and hope. Let's come together as a community."

Michael talked about signs and symptoms of opiate abuse and warned that new drugs including Fentanyl are many times stronger than heroin and can be absorbed through the skin. He encouraged anyone who administers naloxone to stay with the victim and make sure he or she goes to an emergency room, since the opiates can stay in the system longer than naloxone.

He also said the violent withdrawal symptoms can lead people to take desperate measures to get a fix. "They don't want to get high, they just don't want to be sick," he said.

Other presenters included pharmacist Brent Thompson, Chief Deputy Paul Widenstrom, Dr. Ryan Harden, Dr. Erika Miles and County Attorney Reese Frederickson. A young man named Jordan shared his story of opiate addiction and the road

to sobriety.

Brent Thompson shared some troubling data about the crisis, including the fact that the U.S. has 5 percent of the world's population but consumes 80 percent of the world's oxycodone and 99 percent of the hydrocodone.

One audience member referred to that statistic during the question-and-answer period at the end of the event. Presenters agreed that the U.S. as a whole has a problem and that the power of the pharmaceutical industry also played a role as drug companies marketed opiates to patients as well as providers.

County Attorney Frederickson presented three ways to address the problem: Remove the stigma from people who become addicted to opiates, demand that insurance companies cover longer treatment periods and "demand that our elected officials hold drug companies responsible for pushing these drugs and then walking away."

The Mille Lacs Band hosted and cosponsored the event along with FirstLight Health System, Essentia Health, Gateway



Sam Moose, Michael Dieter and Monica Haglund were among the presenters at the May 16 Opioid and Heroin Community Forum at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Clinic, the Pine County Sheriff's Office, Hazelden Betty Ford, Pine County Public Health, Pine County Probation, Pine County Chemical Health Coalition and the University of Minnesota's College of Pharmacy.



Commissioner Sworn In

Shelly Diaz, center, was sworn in as Commissioner of Administration on Wednesday, May 10, by Tribal Court Judge Dave Christensen. Shelly was appointed by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and ratified by the Band Assembly to serve the duration of Catherine Colsrud's term, which expires at the end of June. Catherine stepped down to take the position of Executive Director of AnjiBimaadizing.

Native Rappers Take Stage in District I

Chilah Brown Guest Writer

Wahwahtay Benais and Tall Paul are aspiring Native rap artists from Minnesota with an empowering message for their listeners. They made an appearance at the District I community center on Thursday, April 27.

Wahwahtay took the stage first. As he began to perform he reminded us that “Mni Waconi” — Water is Life — and the fight for Standing Rock still continues. As he began to flow, it was plain to see the passion he has for spreading his message through his rap skills. His verses refer to struggle and hardships any young native man may face living in the inner city dealing with the street life.

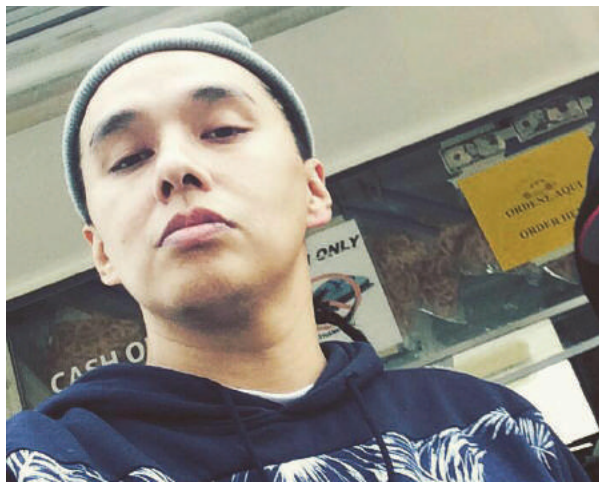
Wahwahtay’s song “Black Snake Killa” raises awareness regarding corporate greed, the destruction of Mother Earth and the ramifications of those actions. His lyrics spread a powerful message that anyone fighting for environmental justice can relate to.

Although Tall Paul arrived late, those who waited for him were able to watch him perform popular songs such as “Prayer in a Song” and “Protect Ya Spirit”. After his awe-inspiring performance, he apologized again for being late but said he would love to come back and perform for the Mille Lacs community again.

It’s easy to see why these two artists are so popular among their fans as their lyrics speak about real-life situations and times that Natives of this generation experience. Different beat selections and a unique rap style spread the message that Water is Life, as well as describing the struggles of natives enduring city life.

By rapping in Ojibwe as well as English, Tall Paul shared the importance of learning the culture as well as the language.

These two artists have found creative ways to educate, empower and inspire their fans while spreading a positive message. If you missed the concert and are interested in their



Wahwahtay Benais



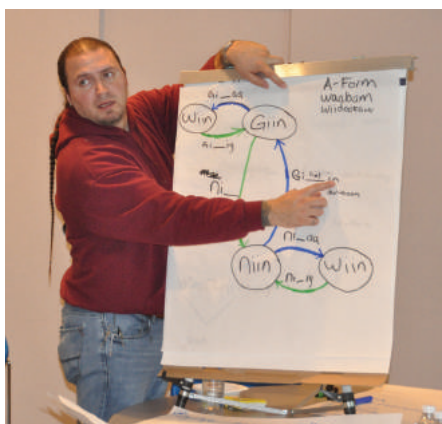
Tall Paul

music videos, both artists and songs performed are available for view on YouTube. Fans can also follow Tall Paul on twitter at @TallPaul612.



Minor Trust Training

To help young Band members make smart decisions and plan for the future, the Mille Lacs Band’s Office of Management and Budget offers a Minor Trust Training course twice a year for high school students. On May 3, 12 students took the class led by William and Loran White. William White is a senior vice president and financial advisor with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Rapid City, S.D. Loran is a retired teacher and former Morgan Stanley employee who helped her husband develop the course and also helps deliver it. High school students interested in signing up for a future Minor Trust Training Class should contact Jana Sam at jana.sam@millelacsband.com or 320-532-7466.



Legislative Language Learners

District I Rep. Sandi Blake and members of her staff have been taking language classes Monday afternoons with Nazhike Awaasanang (Bradley Harrington) and Baabitaw (Melissa Boyd). On Monday, May 1, Bradley taught about verb endings and how to use online resources to learn Ojibwemowin — the Ojibwe language. Language apprentices and college students have also been participating in the classes.

Legislative Update

The Mille Lacs Band Assembly has been engaged in a variety of activities this month, in keeping with the duties of Legislative Branch outlined in Title 3 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes Annotated:

- To appropriate all Band revenue regardless of source;
- To confirm appointments of the Chief Executive, which are by law required to be with the advice and consent of the Band Assembly.
- To adopt resolutions.
- To annul any Commissioner’s Order or any opinion of the Solicitor General in conformity with 3 MLBSA § 17.
- To ratify agreements, contracts, cooperative and reciprocity agreements and memoranda of understanding.

These responsibilities are part of a system of checks and balances in Mille Lacs Band government that keep any one branch from having too much power.

Budget Reviews

Six-month budget reviews have been conducted of Health and Human Services, Community Development, Education, the Department of Athletic Regulation and the Gaming Regulatory Authority.

The Health and Human Services Commissioner and directors attended Band Assembly for the budget review, as did the Community Development Commissioner, Executive Director of Housing and Project Manager.

Interviews and Confirmations

Band Assembly interviewed candidates for Commissioner of Natural Resources and Commissioner of Administration and ratified Shelly Diaz as the Commissioner of Administration to complete the term ending June 30, 2017.

Band Assembly also ratified Louis Merrill as the District II board member on the Department of Athletic Regulation commission to complete the term ending September 30, 2017.

Michael Davis was nominated to the Gaming Regulatory Authority by District II Rep. David ‘Niib’ Aubid and confirmed by Band Assembly.

Resolutions

Band Assembly also passed the following resolutions:

Joint Resolution 17-03-46-17: A Joint Resolution in support of a memorandum of understanding with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Midwest regional Office (“BIA MRO”) to reallocate Tribal Priority Allocation (“TPA”) funds for fee-to-trust consortium program.

Joint Resolution 17-03-59-17: A Joint Resolution Amending Joint Resolution 17-01-56-16 Authorizing the Participation and Implementation of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Joint Resolution 17-03-53-17: A Joint Resolution approving the submission of Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Child Safety Seat Program.

Annulment

Band Assembly annulled Solicitor General’s Opinion 39-17 regarding the Tribal Executive Committee Subcommittee Appointments.

National News Briefs

Crime on Tribal Lands Tops Sessions'

Agenda: United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced his intention to expand an Obama administration initiative which would allow more tribal authorities to access federal anti-crime databases. This announcement came as part of a larger package providing more tools to fight crime, gangs, and drugs in Indian Country, as well as improving the relationship between federal authorities and Native Americans on a broader scale. As part of this program, the Justice Department has committed to holding a series of listening sessions with tribal leaders and law enforcement officials to better understand crime-related challenges within Indian reservations.

Indian Country Housing to be Affected by New Language in Spending Bill:

Congress allocated \$654 million for tribal housing programs, but President Trump recently added language to an appropriations bill indicating that his administration will treat the allocation of resources based on race, ethnicity and gender "in a manner consistent with the requirement to afford equal protection of the laws under the Due Process Clause of the Constitution's Fifth Amendment." This addition could have negative implications for Indian housing initiatives and other programs targeted to help specific minority groups. In response to Trump's actions, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) voiced disappointment in the decision and pushed for adequate funding and management of safe and affordable housing in Indian Country.

Wells Fargo Under Fire for Fake Accounts:

In March, Wells Fargo reached a \$110 million preliminary settlement with all customers who had fake accounts opened in their name. In order to meet sales goals, executives at the bank encouraged staff to open fake accounts. Native Americans, illegal immigrants, and college students were often the victims of these scams.

Utah Senator Offends Native Communities:

The Utah League of Native American Voters is demanding an apology from Senator Orrin Hatch for comments he made during a press conference with U.S. Interior Secretary Zinke. Sen. Hatch claimed that Native people who supported the Bears Ears National Monument designation were manipulated by the "far left" and didn't understand what Native people would be giving up under the designation. Shortly before former president Obama left office, Bears Ears was established as a national monument when Indian tribes and the United States government reached an agreement for collaborative management of the area. President Trump recently ordered the Interior Department to review the size and scope of national monuments larger than 100,000 acres created since 1996, which includes Bears Ears.

New Changes to Daily Fantasy Sports and Sports Betting:

Atlantic City's Resorts Casino is introducing a new product that blurs the line between daily Fantasy Sports and sports betting. The product is named FastPick and is a parlay game. This method of gaming has the potential to change the nature of the gaming industry as a whole, pending current and upcoming legal battles. This is an extension of a broader fight surrounding legalizing daily fantasy sports websites, and giving the respective state Gaming Commission the power to regulate these games.

State Seeks Public Comment on Line 3

Under the authority of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, the State of Minnesota's draft environmental impact statement for Enbridge's proposed Line 3 pipeline project was issued May 15. A public comment period will be held through July 10, including 22 public meetings in counties through which the proposed pipeline or an alternative route is under consideration.

The draft environmental impact statement and schedule of public meetings are available at: mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/line3. The draft will be available at the public information meetings and a public library in each county (listed on the Line 3 webpage).

Enbridge Energy has applied for a certificate of need and route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to construct its proposed Line 3 pipeline. A draft environmental impact statement has been prepared by the Minnesota Commerce Department in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Enbridge is proposing to construct a new pipeline, replacing its existing Line 3. As proposed, the new pipeline would follow the existing Line 3 from the North Dakota border to an Enbridge terminal in Clearbrook, then follow a new right-of-way, south of the existing Line 3, ending in Superior, Wisconsin. As proposed by Enbridge, the existing Line 3 would be abandoned and left in place.

Development of the draft environmental impact statement is based on the scoping order that identified key topics and alternative routes for analysis. The scoping process also involved a public review and comment period, including 12 public meetings in April-May 2016.

Public meetings in June will provide the opportunity for Minnesotans to learn about the draft environmental impact statement and provide oral or written comments for the record. The comments will be used to prepare the final environmental impact statement, which will inform the Public Utilities Commission's decisions on Enbridge's proposal.

Government-to-government consultations between the State of Minnesota and the tribal governments in the state are ongoing as part of the environmental review process.

After completion of the final environmental impact statement, public hearings will be held by an administrative law

judge, who will submit a report to the Public Utilities Commission with findings of facts, conclusions of law and recommendations. The Commission is expected to decide on Enbridge's certificate of need and route permit applications in the spring of 2018.

Written comments on the draft environmental impact statement will be accepted through Monday, July 10, 2017. Comments may be emailed, mailed or faxed.

Mail: Minnesota Department of Commerce

Attn: Jamie MacAlister
Environmental Review Manager
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul MN 55101-2198

Email: Pipeline.Comments@state.mn.us

Fax: 651-539-0109

Two meetings will be held in Mille Lacs Band communities

Monday, June 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley
Monday, June 12, 6 – 9 p.m. East Lake Community Center

More meetings in Central Minnesota

- Thursday, June 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Downtown Fair Building, Floodwood
- Thursday, June 8, 6 – 9 p.m., Central Lakes College Classroom E54
- Tuesday, June 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Cloquet, Fond du Lac Community College
- Tuesday, June 12, 6 – 9 p.m., Intercontinental Hotel Saint Paul
- Wednesday, June 14, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Staples Community Center
- Wednesday, June 14, 6 – 9 p.m. Little Falls, Initiative Foundation
- Thursday, June 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Foley, Henry's Catering and Banquet Hall
- Thursday, June 15, 6 – 9 p.m. Milaca, Phoenix Hotel and Banquet Center
- Friday, June 16, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mora, The Grand Event Center

For additional dates and locations, see mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/line3.

HHS Prepares to Re-Open Four Winds

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

It's only been a few months since the Mille Lacs Band took over operation and management of the Four Winds treatment center in Brainerd, but already progress is being made.

Since the historic agreement was made between the Band and the State on March 1, the Band has been busy getting the Brainerd facility up and running to welcome its new clients.

Some staff that previously worked for the addiction center transitioned from State employees to Band employees, more staff will be hired and the facility is getting a makeover. The space is being reorganized to be more efficient; it's being thoroughly cleaned, and items that aren't needed are being removed.

"The schedule and curriculum is also being rewritten so it will be more inclusive of the culture and traditions of the Native American clients it will serve," said Jeff Larson, the outgoing Executive Director of Health and Human Services.

The program will use the White Bison curriculum, which is focused on the traditional, cultural and spiritual ways of Native Americans.

Behavioral Health Director Crystal Weckert said the Band is making other changes as well, like decorating improvements "that will hopefully make the facility feel more friendly."

She added that they have been working to identify food and linen companies that will make the facility "feel more caring and inviting and less correctional in nature."

"Besides training staff in Native American curriculums including the White Bison curriculum, we have been working with tribal Elders to get input about how the program should evolve."

The facility will use the same direct service policy as the clinic. That means Band member spouses and family members who are not enrolled can also attend the program.

Prior to the Band takeover, the program focused on healing and recovery for Native Americans and was the only one of its kind in the state, and one of very few in the nation.

The Band has long wanted to add inpatient options to its tribal treatment services, and by operating the facility it will realize some of its goals to meet the needs of Band members. Both the State and Band agree that the program will improve under the Band's leadership.

Sam Moose, the Band's Commissioner of Health and Human Services, says the partnership with the State is vital, especially as the number of Native Americans who are dealing with opiate addictions continues to increase.

There aren't clients yet, but come the beginning of June the first group of clients will be admitted. There will be 16 beds available, and that number will increase to 24 by July.

Clients will need to follow an evaluation process to be admitted. The facility will only service clients who are Native Americans. Funding for the facility will be sustained by the Band and the State and federal revenue.

They are still striving to fill job openings and are encouraging Band members to apply.

"We want as many tribal members as possible working at Four Winds," said Crystal. "It is not a tribal program without tribal employees. We encourage tribal members to get involved."

She added that if Band members aren't seeking jobs, they are encouraged to submit proposals for cultural teaching that they are willing to provide to the program.

"We want the facility to feel like and be a part of our communities, and we want to help people transition back into the communities they came from with a new sober lease on life.

Band Members Graduate from Pre-Apprenticeship Training

Craig Hansen Mille Lacs Band TERO

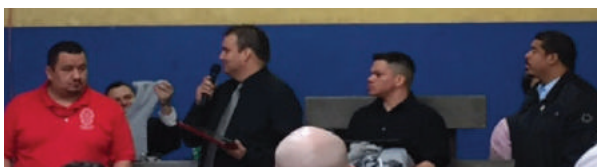
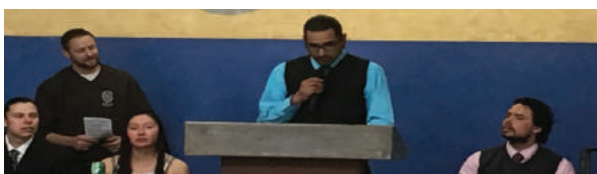
On April 21, 13 Tribal Members from across six tribes (Mille Lacs, Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, White Earth, Leech Lake and Upper Sioux) graduated from the 12-week Pre-Apprenticeship Training with the Cement Mason Union. Marc AJ Anderson and Scott Friend were the two Mille Lacs Band members who completed the training and will be going on to careers in the construction industry.

The training partnership between the Union, MNDOT and the tribes began back in 2014. Since then 43 students have graduated with 80 percent working in the construction industry. The next round of Cement Mason Training is set to begin in May 2018, with the application process beginning at State of the Band on January 9, 2018.

Top: Pre-Apprenticeship graduating class.

Middle: Marc AJ Anderson addressed the graduation crowd.

Bottom (L-R): Teacher Moke Eaglefeathers, TERO Director Craig Hansen, Band member graduate Scott Friend and Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs Advisor Jamie Edwards.



Onamia K-12 Powwow

For the fourth year running, the Onamia Indian Education Team, led by Christina Clitso-Nayquonabe, hosted a school wide K-12 powwow. This is only part of an ongoing effort by her staff and program to bridge cultural understanding and student relations within the school district. The event was emceed by Byron Ninham with Swamp Nation and Timber Trails sharing co-host duties. There was a Potato Dance, led by School Board Chair Virgil Wind and Superintendent J.J Vold, which was eventually won by Jenai Beaulieu and Jasmyn Schwensen. Anthony Pike and Darcie Big Bear led a two-step, which ended in a beautiful circle in the middle of the gym. A great time was had by all in attendance, and it was quite a sight to see the participation by school staff and students alike. Kudos to Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe on a job well done and for her continued work at Onamia Public Schools!

Top: Onamia Public Schools Royalty 2017: Daymon Shingobe, Junior Brave; Jasmyn Schwensen, Senior Princess; Jayenissa Mitchell, Junior Princess; Jason Boyd, Senior Brave.

State and Local News Briefs

Scenic Byways for Mille Lacs Proposed: The East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) and the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) have recently proposed a scenic byway that would encircle Mille Lacs Lake. Events and meetings are already being held throughout the community to discuss the proposal. Many Mille Lacs community members have reacted positively to the proposal and have presented ideas such as walking and biking paths and other amenities that would benefit tourism and work as an economic development tool. Public gatherings will be held throughout the summer on this topic, and organizers are actively looking for additional community members to participate.

Klobuchar Learns About Wellness Court: Senator Amy Klobuchar recently visited Walker, Minn., where she learned about the Wellness Court, a 10-year collaborative between Cass County and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, which aims to reduce the number of repeat substance-dependent and DWI offenders. Because each treatment method and case is unique, a team approach in the court system has been implemented. Addiction is personal for Senator Klobuchar, whose father is a recovered alcoholic. The senator is working to get more federal funding for drug courts and DWI courts.

Super Bowl Committee Honors Native Lacrosse Team: The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee gave the Twin Cities Native Lacrosse youth program a \$50,000 grant as part of its 52 Weeks of Giving program. These grants, which are given each week leading up to the Super Bowl, benefit health and welfare programs aimed at serving children across the state. The Native Lacrosse youth program used this money to purchase a super-sized van that will be used to carry the team to the North American Indigenous Games held this summer in Toronto. The Twin Cities Native Lacrosse program was started in 2014 by John Hunter with a \$2,500 grant from the Tiwahe Foundation.

Approval of Bde Maka-Ska to Replace Lake Calhoun in Name Change Discussion: The Minneapolis Park and Recreation commission recently approved the restoration of Lake Calhoun's original Dakota name, Bde Maka-Ska. While the approval is not enough to officially rename the lake, advocates including Hennepin County, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and several other organizations have been asked to support this local conversation. The name change, which has been debated by Minneapolis residents, activists and Native American groups, would remove the name of Vice President John C. Calhoun, who was a proponent of slavery.

Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653.

The July issue deadline is June 15.



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

What My Mother Taught Me

By: Betty Keggs

My mother, Maude Keggs, is who I learned from. She was a strong woman. Everything I know from the past, or what to do, comes from her. She taught me my values, traditions and cultural crafts. My mom taught me to share and to do right for everybody. She taught me to not talk about people. She said don't ever do anything that you will regret, or that will hurt people. I've always thought about that.

People said we were poor, but we didn't know we were poor. I remember growing up, if somebody had more than what they needed, they'd go along and give it to other people. We had enough to eat. We didn't have money or brand new clothes, but we were happy. I never knew of Indians existing who didn't struggle day to day. Thank goodness this is starting to change for some of us.

My mother just loved people. She used to take young people in and raise them as her children. There were already 11 of us, and then she took in many more. One of them was my brother John Nichols. He became a linguistics professor at the University of Minnesota.

My daughter says I'm the same way as my mom when it comes to taking people in. One of my adopted daughters lives in Michigan; her name is Judy. My other daughter who lives here by me is my daughter Mary.

My mother taught me how to make crafts just like hers. For example, she taught me how to make basswood dolls and birch bark baskets. I used to go out and pick the basswood and bark when I was younger. Now the kids, my grandson, and other relatives do it. Making basswood dolls and baskets is not easy to do. My mom always knew the right way to do things, and she would tell me what to do. She wouldn't do it for me, but she'd always tell me what to do. When I make baskets now, people look at what I've made and wonder if it's my mother's work. It looks a lot like hers, but I could never fill her shoes, but at least I can do work that is like her work.

About two years ago, I made some really beautiful baskets with a new design. They were really challenging. They were just beautiful. The Mille Lacs Band needed some gifts to present to people on official occasions. One of my baskets was presented to Governor Ventura and the other one was recently given to Governor Pawlenty. It is nice to pass on our traditional gifts to others.

These days, I teach our traditions to my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I teach them how to make fry bread. I taught my grandson, and he's really good at it, even though he's only eight years old. He's so good at everything. He even makes baskets with me, and little canoes. They are all so eager to learn. My kids and my grandkids are what keep me going. I feel blessed.

My mother taught me to be thankful for everything that the Great Spirit has given us.

Chiminising Hosts Ziigwan Powwow

The Chiminising community in Isle (District IIa) has sometimes felt overlooked compared to the Mille Lacs Band's other communities. Other districts have larger populations, greater political influence and big-time powwows each summer.

In 2016, District II Rep. David 'Niib' Aubid and his administrator at the time, Chiliah Brown, hosted Chiminising's first Ziigwan (Spring) Powwow to bring some culture to the community.

Niib talked about how the traditional spirituality in Chiminising was driven underground in the 20th century. Unlike the other districts, there have been no Big Drum ceremonies in the community for many years.

"With the powwow last year, that spirituality is reemerging in an Indian way," said Niib.

This year's Ziigwan Powwow was held on April 29 and coordinated by Niib's current administrator, Adrienne Benjamin, who grew up in Chiminising. She was assisted by other members of Niib's legislative staff, masters of ceremonies Byron Ninham and Deilyah Asin Dexter, Arena Director Sherraine White and Stickman Tony Buckanaga.

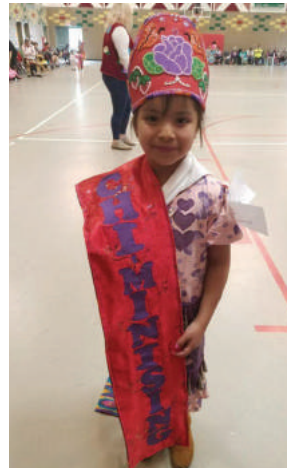
A princess and brave were chosen, and several contests were held. Buster Dunkley won the men's sidestep competition, followed by Ian Bearheart and Harvey GoodSky Jr. Jennie Joseph won the women's sidestep, with Karla Smallwood as runner-up and Ramona Bird taking third. Ah-nung Matrious won the women's ribbon skirt/applique competition and Opie Day-Beadeau took the men's ribbon/applique shirt top prize.

Harvey and Morningstar GoodSky won a highly competitive Potato Dance.

The 2017 Ziigwan Pow-

wow Princess is Aniyah White, and the Brave (for the second year in a row) is Waylon Mitchell. Adrienne and the D2 Legislative Staff wanted to publicly thank Joyce Shingobe for the beautiful crown and sashes, and Christopher Knoxsah for the roach that they crafted for the event. A special thanks goes out to Tony Pike for being the unsung hero of the event and saving the day.

After the powwow ended at 4 p.m., guests feasted on Indian tacos until 6 p.m., followed by a Round Dance with an impressive list of singers, including Jeremiah Churchill, Aaron 'Vito' Buckanaga, Joe Jourdain, Opie Day, Michael 'Migizi' Sullivan and Hallo Day.



Photos by Chiliah Brown

Public Health Sponsors Cultural Presentation



The Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department is honored to announce a free cultural presentation featuring Dr. Anton Treuer Wednesday, June 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center. All are welcome, and lunch will be provided.

Dr. Treuer will present information on Keeping Tobacco Sacred, the history of traditional tobacco, and preservation of the Ojibwe language. The event is sponsored by the Public Health Department's Tribal

Tobacco Prevention Grant.

Dr. Treuer is a Professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University and has worked with Ojibwe language immersion efforts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario. Dr. Treuer is known for his volunteer work at Ojibwe ceremonies, where he helps in Minnesota and Wisconsin with ceremonial drums and helps to maintain religious traditions. He is acknowledged to be one of the youngest knowledgeable teachers and leaders of the ceremonies. Dr. Treuer has authored 14 books. Any questions, please contact: Darla Roache, SHIP Coordinator at 320-532-7760 or Jolene Gansen, Community Health Educator at 320-532-7776 Ext. 2413.

Continued from page 5 News Briefs

Additional Funding for Historic Preservation of Tribes: U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and the National Park Service recently announced \$26.9 million in historic preservation grants to each state, in addition to \$5.7 million in grants to more than 160 native tribes for cultural and heritage preservation projects on their tribal lands. These grants are an essential funding stream for tribes to preserve their unique cultural resources through a variety of activities, including identifying places of cultural significance, for planning and protection purposes, public education and training, and leading tribal preservation initiatives.

Birchbark Books Celebrates 17 Years: Birchbark Books and Native Arts recently celebrated its 17th anniversary. The store is owned by author Louise Erdrich, who is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribe. Birchbark Books has served as a gathering space and a resource for Native American Indian literature and community conversations. The independent bookstore prides itself on its uniqueness, which fosters greater connection with its visitors. The store is located near Lake of the Isles.

Whereabouts Unknown Account Information

These Tribal Members/Descendants maintain ownership in trust land or have money on deposit at the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. We would like to locate these Tribal Members/Descendants and get them to update their Individual Indian Money (IIM) account with a current address and telephone number. If your name appears on the list: Please call the Office of Special Trustees (218) 751-4338 to update your account.

Allen, Michael G.; Anderson, Sandra L.; Ballinger, Floyd James; Beachamp, Gerald Marvin; Beaulieu, Shauna Rose; Beaupre, Travis C.; Bellamy, Debra; Bellcourt, Lanette M.; Benjamin, Billy J.; Benjamin, Bruce; Benjamin, Cynthia M.; Benjamin, Gladys M.; Benjamin, Myrna J.; Benjamin, Ruby G.; Benjamin, Timothy Adam; Berg, Melissa L.; Bixby, Pamela J.; Boyd, Charles A.;

Boydshingobe, Jamie Marcella; Bradley, Alexandria M.; Bugg, Adrian D.; Bugg, John J.; Bugg, Joshua W.; Butcher, Ryan Allen; Christopherson, Sharon A.; Clark Sam, Dorothy; Dakota, Ellen M.; Dakota, Richard T.; Daly, Raymond C.; Day, Bridget M.; Dehyle, Joni L.; Dorr, Roger; Dunkley, Joseph D.; Dunkley Jr., Donovan A.; Engberg, Albert J.; Frank Hurd Et Ux; Garbow, Dorinda; Garbow, Sammi J.; Garcia, Celastina R.; Gomez, Fidel F.; Goodman, Virginia Ann; Griswold, Nancy Ann; Haglund, Cynthia L.; Hill White, Sarita Inez; Hoffer, Mary L.; Homesky, Phyllis Jo; Houle, Charles Allen; Huff, Marcus C.; Jones, Jennifer L.; Kanassataga, August Drew S.; Kegg, Evelyn; Lone, Carmen M.; Loso, Alberta L.; Matrious, Roberta L.; McKenzie, Daniel; Merrill, John Michael; Meshigaud, Rose M.; Monroe, Jessica M.; Moose, Jeffery John; Moose Jr., Robert B.; Morrow, John

G.; Nayquonabe, Elmer Dean; Nayquonabe, Jorel Jorge; Nickaboine, Judith M.; O'Brien, Owen V.; Peet, Jo Lynn; Peet, Mason Fred; Pellerin, Eric; Roache, Jennifer L.; Romero, Steve; Sam, Alana Marie; Sam, Curtis D.; Sam, Herbert James; Sam, Irwin James; Sam, Janice Marie; Sam, Laural James; Sam, Lisa Jean; Sam, Robbin L.; Sam, Robert D.; Sam, Todd L.; Sam, Vivian Irene; Sayers, Michelle Lynn; Shoen Benjamin, Mary; Skinaway, Darlene; Skinaway, Edward Jr.; Skinaway, Merle; Skinaway Boyd, Darlene; Smart, Jennifer Lee; Stanislawski, Oretta F.; Stanley Jr., Marland D.; Staples, Danielle L.; Stewart, Edward; Sullivan, Dakota S.; Sutton, Bobbie; Sutton Beach, Shirley A.; Swander Fairbanks, Renaye A.; Tanner, Anthony B.; Van Wert, Richard J.; Weous, Arlene Rene; White, Barbara Jean; Wind, Gregory Aaron; Wind, Jason Arlen; Zhuckkahosee, Beatrice A.



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JUNE 16, 17, & 18, 2017

INVITED DRUM
Pipestone - LCO WI.
White Fish Bay - Ontario
The Boyz - Twin Cities

Arena Staff 2017		Area Hotels	
Master of Ceremonies Terry Fiddler Edmund Nevaquaya	Local Host Little Otter Mille Lacs	GRAND NORTHERN INN 604 Weber Ave, Hinckley, MN - 800-468-3517	GRAND HINCKLEY INN 111 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley, MN 55037 800-468-3517
Arena Directors Buck Spotted Tail Gabe Derosiers	Invited Drums: Pipestone - LCO, WI White Fish Bay - Ontario The Boyz - Twin Cities	RV PARK / CAMPGROUND 777 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley, MN 55037 800-468-3517	DAYS INN 104 Grindstone Court, Hinckley, MN 320-384-7751
Singing Judges Home - Gabe Gahbow Away - Dino	Specials Pete Gahbow	TRAVEL LODGE 325 Fire Monument Rd., Hinckley, MN 320-384-6112	
Dance Judge Tanski Clairmont			

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2017 Grand Celebration is dedicated to our Brothers **Johnny Smith, Harlan Downwind, and Larry "Amik" Smallwood** Warriors, Role Models, Leaders in the community.



FUNDRAISER GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by: Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Registration Begins at 9 a.m.
Shotgun Start Begins at 10 a.m.

Men, Women and Elder Flights
Elder Teams Must include at least 3 member 55 and older.
*Room Block available

Contact:
Nora Benjamin
320.532.4181
43408 Oodena Dr
Onamia, MN 56359



300 Lady Luck Drive
Hinckley, Mn 55037



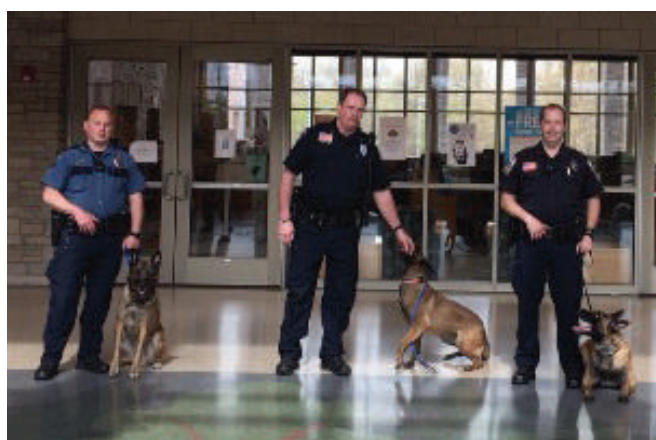

WE WIN
All Proceeds go to:
Women Empowering Women of Indian Nations

Advance Registration; \$500
On-Site Registration; \$600



Hand Drum Class

Terry Kemper taught Band members how to make a hand drum at the District I Cultural Grounds on May 20.



Good Karma

Tribal Police Officer Kintop along with K9 Karma assisted the Brainerd K9 and Baxter K9 on a narcotic search of schools on May 10th. The schools included Crosby High School, Baxter Forestview Middle School, Brainerd High School, and Brainerd High School South Campus. These collaborations are beneficial to the departments and the community.



Larry 'Amik' Smallwood: An Anishinaabe Success Story

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Larry 'Amik' Smallwood passed away on April 11, leaving both a legacy and a void.

Amik's friend Lee 'Obizaan' Staples put his loss in terms that Amik would have appreciated: "At funerals I always talk about how each one of us was put here for a reason, and Amik was someone who was able to accomplish what he was put here to do," said Lee, citing Amik's roles as Drumkeeper and language teacher, as well as the many ceremonies he conducted, from naming to funerals.

"I always imagine that when it's time for us to go down that path we take when we leave here, it must be a wonderful feeling to know you accomplished what the Manidoog wanted you to do," Lee continued. "I call that Anishinaabe success."

In his 69 years, Amik's impact was immense — on the powwow trail, where his voice was familiar to thousands; in the classroom, where Amik shared his knowledge of the Ojibwe language for 47 years; even on the airwaves, where Amik was a regular guest on the radio and made appearances on videos and television.

But to many, he was more than just a face or a voice: he was an original, from the jokes and stories to the boots and belt buckles and beard and shades. (As Arne Vainio put it in an article that accompanies this one, he was "one of the coolest Indians anywhere.")

Although his lasting legacy may be as a teacher of the Ojibwe language and culture, Amik was also a father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, mentor, Drumkeeper and friend.

"He was a busy man, with work and everything else he was doing," said Eli Staples, one of Amik's children. "He was a road warrior."

Amik's friend and adopted brother Tom Benjamin said, "The man could not sit down." He talked about Amik texting one-handed without looking at his old flip phone. He was an early adopter of carphones, cellphones and texting and was surprisingly comfortable with technology for a guy his age.

Eli said, "He had a passion for his work, and he stressed that all the time. It was all for the culture. He loved it, and he loved meeting people. Whenever he met somebody, he always tried to help them out. He had a big heart."

According to Eli, Amik always said humor was one of the best qualities of Anishinaabe people. "Every little story, he made it funny," said Eli.

Eli spent his early years in St. Louis and got to know Amik as a teenager when he moved to Hinckley. In the early 2000s, he moved in with his dad. "We built a tight bond," he said. "He became one of my best friends." They'd shop for cars together, and Eli was amazed how many car dealers his dad knew.

Eli has kids of his own, who loved their grandpa. "He loved his grandkids," Eli said. "He would hold 'em, grab 'em. That's when he was happiest, when he was talking, joking, teasing, with the grandkids running around."

In addition to teaching and family, Amik kept busy as a powwow emcee, where he was known for his resonant baritone, his sense of humor, his skill at moving things along in a laid-back kind of way, and his ability to teach the significance of the various dances, songs and other traditions.

His first gig as emcee was at the University of Minnesota — Duluth in 1982. Over the years, according to Eli, powwow season was a whirlwind of activity and a long series of road trips. "Damn near every weekend of the summer he'd be somewhere."

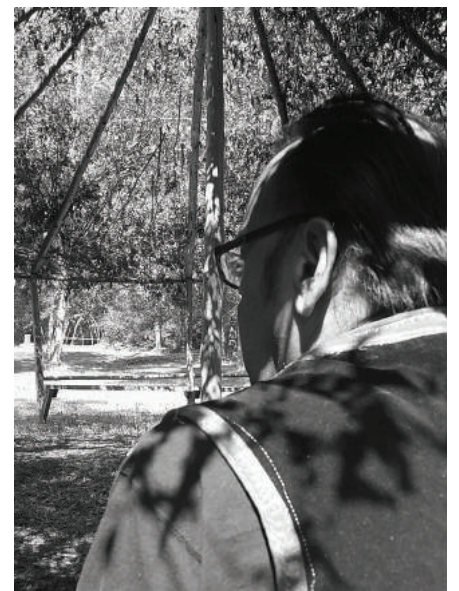
Amik always loved the powwows at Hinckley and Mille Lacs, as well as the Veterans Powwow at Lac Courte Oreilles and the Red Lake powwow in Ponemah. "That one always wore him out," Eli said. He was also emcee at the first two Ge-Ishkonigewag powwows in Minisinaakwaang in 2015 and '16.

"It's gonna be tough going to powwows, man, cause I'm used to hearing his voice all weekend," Eli said.

He knows he's not the only one. "Everyone's gonna feel that emptiness," he added. "He's gonna be missed. I'm still in awe about how many people he touched."

Early years

Amik was one of the youngest native speakers of Ojibwe in Min-



nesota. He was given that gift by Pete and Mary Nickaboine, the aunt and uncle who raised him and spoke Ojibwe in the home.

Amik told of going off to school in first grade with no knowledge of English. He experienced language learning in an immersion environment, and by the end of his first year, he could understand what was going on.

Pete and Mary lived in a one-room house, but Amik never thought of himself as poor. There was always enough, thanks to Pete's work ethic and an abundance of jobs — from picking beans and potatoes, to cleaning and fixing resort cabins, to ricing and cutting pulpwood. Amik learned to work alongside his neighbors and relatives, and he maintained that work ethic throughout his life.

When he was old enough to quit school, he moved to the Twin Cities and worked on sod farms until he was drafted in 1968.

He was discharged in 1970 and ended up in school for auto mechanics in Los Angeles, pursuing a lifelong love of cars and travel.

He never ended up working as a mechanic because he had an-

other skill that was in higher demand. When he moved back to Minnesota, he was hired to teach Ojibwe in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

During the next 30 years, he taught at Nay Ah Shing Schools at Mille Lacs, Leech Lake Tribal College, and the University of Minnesota-Duluth, while visiting dozens of other schools around the region as a "teacher coach." In 1999, he came home to Hinckley and became the Mille Lacs Band's Director of Language and Culture, a position he held until his death.

Amik was a storehouse of cultural knowledge — not just the language but the history, the Big Drums and other ceremonies, mide', ricing and sugaring, and the stories of Wenabozho, which he told when snow was on the ground.

Last winter, when he told Wenabozho stories at the Grand Makwa, Amik explained that we all see Wenabozho when we look in the mirror because he's so much like us: good sometimes, bad sometimes, a success, a failure, funny, serious, a truth-teller, a liar. **Continued on page 9.**

Continued from page 8

Amik was also closely involved in the production of television programs, including "People of the Big Lake" and "The Jingle Dress Tradition," which was based on Amik's telling of the story of the origin of the jingle dress.

According to Adrienne Benjamin, who worked with Amik at the Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Immersion Grounds in Rutledge, he was very proud of the film and felt strongly that Mille Lacs' story of the jingle dress deserved to be told. He would say, "I don't care what anyone else says, I know what those old people told me, and that dream was had here first!"

Adrienne said Amik was a deeply loved mentor to many in the community who were interested in the language and culture. "The Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin was especially meaningful to Amik," Adrienne said. "He would talk about how Art Gahbow, Marge Anderson and Dave Matrious all contributed to the vision of a place where tribal members could go to learn and practice our old ways — a place to socialize in Ojibwemowin, a place to heal, a place to harvest, and a place for community. In Amik's mind, it was a place for all people to come and be together as a community and rough it like the old days. He would speak about how he saw those on the road to recovery from drugs and alcohol coming to the grounds to heal and be in nature, using the language and customs as a part of their healing process. He envisioned kids running around, winnowing rice, hauling sap buckets, and speaking the language freely with each other. Rutledge wasn't just the place that Amik worked, it was the foundation for a dream that he carried for the tribe."

Another friend was Michael "Migizi" Sullivan from Lac Courte Oreilles in Wisconsin. Michael was a seventh grader when he met Amik, who traveled to LCO as a teacher coach. "He was always in LCO for our powwows," said Michael. "He took a liking to me early. We had the same clan, and he knew I was really into language and music."

Michael called Amik a "Hall of Fame singer," as well as a keeper of rare ceremonial songs. As a young man who was fluent in the language, Amik spoke with elders from all over Ojibwe country to learn and pass on those songs and other traditions that might have been forgotten.

"He was the only speaker I knew who had all the words for tat-

toos and hickies," Michael said. "But he had no words for shame or guilt. He said those were Chimookomaan concepts."

Michael and Amik worked together on the online Ojibwe dictionary while Michael was earning his Ph.D. in Linguistics, and at the time of Amik's death they were working on a book of stories, which Michael said is 95 percent finished.

Like Eli, Michael said he would miss Amik's sense of humor — but also his encouragement. "He was real supportive, eh? When it comes to us young guys learning Ojibwe, it's hard. There's a lot of critical people out there. He was one of those who encouraged us to be creative with our language, to use it and make things funny and descriptive, in a way that allows us to take ownership. He got a kick out of hearing us."

Michael echoed Lee Staples, saying Amik had accomplished his purpose, and as much as people may want to be "stingy" and not let him go, it was his time. "He was engaged in language teaching for so long, and in the last 10 years, as some of us were learning to speak the language, it was like a victory lap as he came toward the end of his life."

Several hundred attended Amik's funeral in Aazhoomog — possibly the largest group ever gathered at the community center. The size of the crowd was a testament to Amik's impact as a teacher, friend and warrior for his people and culture.

"It's hard to believe how much of an impact he made," Eli said. "From the time he died up until the funeral, I met so many people I didn't even know about. They came from all over. It was a such a powerful thing to see how many people showed up. There was a lot of respect for that old man."

Some wondered why Amik chose to be buried in Hinckley rather than Aazhoomog, but Eli said he had clearly stated his desire to family members and others. Passing the cemetery in Hinckley, Amik would say, "When I pass, that's where I want to be buried."

One time Eli asked him why. Amik said, "I want to be buried there so I can see my kids when they go by."

"And I want to mess with all those white people," he added.

"It was always humor with that guy," Eli said. "I'm gonna miss that man."

The Meaning of Powwows

By: Amik O'Gaabaw



We have many powwows throughout the year here in Mille Lacs; we have different kinds of powwows also.

The most important ones are the Big Drum ceremonial powwows that are used to pray for life and goodness for all Anishinaabe people. They are held in the fall

and spring, 26 weekends in all.

This is where people bring their asemaa (tobacco) to offer prayers to the Creator for the goodness of their selves, their children and grandchildren.

These Big Drum ceremonies are not closed ceremonies but are open for people who need prayers and to just have a good social time. The only thing they ask is for people to have respect for those who are speaking or praying and not to talk or laugh during this time. Also the children are to remain quiet and sitting at all times.

Our annual powwow held in August is a different kind of powwow. It's also referred to as a "traditional powwow." This is a powwow where all people are invited to come sing, dance and visit. The majority of the songs and dances are called inter-tribal and are not restricted to a special dance category or age group. This is a good social inter-tribal dance celebration, with plenty of leisurely dancing for everyone to enjoy.

Our yearly Hinckley Grand Celebration is a huge competition powwow that attracts dancers and singers from all over the U.S. and Canada. These dancers dance in certain categories such as jingle, fancy, traditional, grass, etc. They dance in different age groups such as juniors, teens, adults, and senior divisions. Male and female for all.

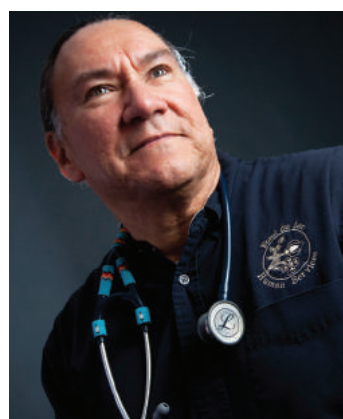
There are three major bodies that run competition powwows and traditional powwows. They are the powwow committee, the arena directors and the masters of ceremonies. The powwow committee selects the type of powwow (traditional or contest) to be held and sets the agenda, the masters of ceremonies announce to the audience the agenda, and the arena directors make sure the right categories, age groups, and drums in line sing the appropriate songs. Competition powwows need singing judges for the singing groups and dance judges (male and female) to judge the dancers. These judges are picked from the head judge from different areas such as different reservations and different states to make sure everyone gets an equal chance at the prize money.

The Mille Lacs Band is fortunate to have all three types of powwows. We have something for everyone to enjoy at these powwows.

See you on the powwow trail.

Good People Are All Around Us

Arnie Vainio, M.D.



We lost another fluent Ojibwe speaker in Amik O'Gaabaw, Larry Smallwood, on April 11, 2017.

Amik has forever been the emcee at powwows and other events, and his voice and his sense of humor were familiar to anyone traveling the powwow circuit. When they heard his voice

they knew they could call this place home, even if only for a little while. Skinny leg jeans, a Harley-Davidson jacket, cowboy boots, dark glasses and a cowboy hat worked to make him one of the coolest Indians anywhere.

He was dedicated to revitalizing the Ojibwe language and advocated for immersion in the language and always said our language was the backbone of our traditions and our ceremonies and our way of life. Watching him tell stories in Ojibwe brought visions of a time I never knew, a time when Elders would tell stories to their children and grandchildren by the light of a kerosene lamp in the early winter darkness as the wind howled and moaned outside. Those stories would be told by the eldest in the family to the youngest so they could remain to be told for the longest time, and Amik told those stories.

There are only a few entrusted to do our funerals and send our loved ones back to our ancestors in the proper way, and Amik was among the most trusted and treasured of them. He was interviewed for a series on the KUMD radio station in Duluth, Minnesota and those stories and teachings per-

sist on the web. Some of those stories can be found here: kumd.org/term/larry-amik-smallwood.

These are good teachings for anyone who has never heard him and a good chance to hear his voice again for those who knew him. He taught the Ojibwe language and culture at the immersion camp in Rutledge, Minnesota and was a spiritual advisor to many. His voice is one of the voices in The Ojibwe People's Dictionary: ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/speaker/larry-smallwood. He was a teacher to our teachers.

His funeral was the biggest I've ever seen, and there was standing room only in the community center and everyone there knew we were seeing one of our very best travel on. My wife Ivy and I could hear conversations around us in fluent Ojibwe, and many of those conversations were possible only because of Amik and his dedication to our language and our traditions.

When we lose an Elder, we lose a library. Those he took the time to teach have that much more work ahead of them, myself included.

I have always said the circle of truly good people surrounding me and Ivy is beyond what we could ever have expected or hoped for, and that circle keeps expanding. Good people are all around us. Amik was among the best of them, and he wanted us to respect each other and support each other. He wanted us to learn our language and our traditions. He wanted us to be strong as a people.

Giigawaabamin, Amik. I will see you again.

Give my mother a hug when you see her.

Arnie 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.

Leaders Meet Urban Area Band Members to Provide Updates

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

At a recent meeting that included Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and three commissioners, Band members in the urban area had an opportunity to hear from leaders as well as share some of their biggest concerns.

Topping the list of discussion points were questions about job opportunities at the Band-owned hotels in the Twin Cities, housing options in the metro, the upcoming vote on blood quantum, and the commissioner vacancies yet to be filled.

The Chief Executive and the commissioners – Sam Moose, Percy Benjamin and Joe Nayquonabe – offered short updates and then opened the floor for questions.

“We came to meet with you to provide an update on these pretty big issues we’re facing as a tribe,” Melanie told the 46 people who gathered at the meeting. “We want to make sure you’re aware of these things so you will know what’s up.”

“Indian Gaming in our region as a whole has declined, and casino revenues are flattening out. Gamers aren’t spending as much time or money as they used to. Meanwhile, the needs of the Mille Lacs Band continue to grow each year.”

— Joe Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs

Melanie shared that a big topic being discussed within the Band and statewide was blood quantum and how it impacts tribes’ enrollments.

As reported in last month’s Inaajimowin, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) held a special meeting to discuss a Secretarial Election to allow enrolled members to vote yes or no on two resolutions. The first resolution involves language on whether 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. The two questions would be attached to the same ballot as the June 2018 general election for Secretary-Treasurer and District II and III Representatives.

“All the members of MCT get to vote on the question of blood quantum,” Melanie said.

Melanie explained how the blood quantum has to be verified and then deemed adequate for someone to be considered for enrollment.

People may be 100 percent Native, she said, but they may have bloodlines in other tribes, which impacts their blood quantum and determines enrollment status.

“When the Band didn’t have casinos, we were one of the poorest tribes in the state. People enrolled their kids in other Bands and then when things changed we got this big wave of people who wanted to be enrolled in Mille Lacs,” explained the Chief Executive.

A previous Band Assembly created a resolution that said they wouldn’t accept transfers into the Mille Lacs Band from other tribes.

Since the election is a year away, it allows time to get information out and to answer questions so that every Band member understands the issues. “There have been pros and cons about

this, but everyone needs to know,” Melanie added.

“As Indian people it’s weird to have blood quantum, but it’s the federal government’s way of trying to erase us. We are the only people who have to have a blood quantum. The blood quantum is not the way of the Anishinaabe ... it was the federal government’s way,” she said. “In a couple of generations we may not have anyone with Indian status.”

Melanie said more information will be available and there will be training and meetings so people better understand the issues before they vote. She also told the attendees that 30 percent of MCT members had to vote to move forward or to keep things the same as they currently are. There are about 4,700 Band members and more than 40,000 in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Commissioner update

Under Band statute, commissioners are nominated by the Chief Executive and ratified by the Band Assembly. Currently, there are vacant commissioner positions. Joe Nayquonabe’s term as Corporate Commissioner expired Dec. 31. He was nominated again by Melanie and is awaiting ratification by the Band Assembly. The four-year terms of Commissioners of Administration, Education, Health and Human Services, and Natural Resources expire on June 30.

“There are a lot of things that can’t happen without a commissioner,” Melanie told the attendees. “We will have a majority of new commissioners. Once you step into these positions you have to start running. These are high-level jobs.”

The expectation is that the Band Assembly will ratify commissioners who are nominated, but until that happens the law reads that if there are vacancies then the Commissioner of Administration must fill their roles. Authority can also extend to executive directors and directors until commissioners are ratified.

One issue, though, is that government business starts to slow down when there are commissioner vacancies and “that’s what is happening now,” Melanie said.

Budget

The commissioners shared that there were budget reductions in the works and that program directors were looking critically at their spending.

“We’ve been going through the budget process to review programs and services,” said Sam. “We’ve made cuts to program dollar amounts, and we’re getting close to where we need to be.”

For example, Commissioner Moose noted, Education Commissioner Ed Minnema made \$4 million in budget cuts to programs even though he was hoping to expand some programs. Those expansion plans are on hold.

Employment

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) was created by the Mille Lacs Band to ensure the economic future of the tribe by diversifying the Band’s business portfolio. MLCV is also proud to own businesses that create job opportunities for Band members. In the past, employment opportunities used to come solely from the Band’s gaming businesses or locally through non-gaming entities like the convenience stores, market or cinema.

By purchasing the hotels in the metro area, new career path options are available for tribal members to explore. Joe Nayquonabe pointed out that the hotels are a part of MLCV’s capital development approach, which is an approach created to help fill a revenue gap from declining casino revenue.

“Indian Gaming in our region as a whole has declined, and casino revenues are flattening out,” Joe said. “Gamers aren’t

spending as much time or money as they used to. Meanwhile, the needs of the Mille Lacs Band continue to grow each year.” He reminded attendees that the tribe could get even bigger, which would require MLCV to grow even more revenue streams.

“The hotels are making money and remain the biggest investment MLCV has made outside of gaming,” he continued. “They are performing better than when they were purchased.”

To continue to operate successful investments, they need hardworking, dedicated employees – like Mille Lacs Band members, Joe shared. He said MLCV would create a seamless process for Band members who are interested in applying for a job at one of the metro hotels, and he has delivered:

How it will work

- Visit greenwoodhospitality.com; click on careers
- Once you find a position you are interested in; start the application process.
- Be sure to click “MLCV” when it asks how you heard about the position.
- Be sure to complete your profile and the online test.
- After you complete that process, email MLCV’s Chief People and Cultural Officer, Tawnya Stewart, at tstewart@mlcv.com. She will connect with you and follow up on your application.
- MLCV strives to fill as many positions as possible with qualified Band members. This process ensures that your application and/or resume will be professionally expedited to the correct individuals.

MLCV strives to fill as many positions as possible with qualified Band members. This process ensures that your application and/or resume will be professionally expedited to the correct individuals.

Housing

Percy Benjamin, the Commissioner of Community Development, said he’s aware that a concern that is frequently discussed is lack of housing in the Twin Cities.

“Housing for Urban Band members has been a big topic of discussion,” he said. “It’s something that we take very seriously and have been working on for the past six months.”

Percy said he’d like to propose an allocation for urban housing and for apartment housing.

“The Band is currently looking at properties and ideas to identify areas we could invest in or develop – whether it’s available land or an unoccupied building,” he said. “We’re also looking at what other tribes are doing. We’re a little behind the other tribes.”

Band members Donna Bullchild and Deanna Bullchild said the information presented was interesting and informative.

“The blood quantum discussion is most interesting to me,” said Donna. “I’ve been trying to get my son enrolled and he got denied. I have lots of questions. His dad’s family is Red Lake and he’s not quite at the blood quantum.”

Donna added that she was appreciative that the leaders came to the urban area to provide updates.

“I like when Melanie comes down and gives us info. It’s important for Urban members to hear from our leaders.”

Deanna added that she hopes people vote in favor of changing the blood quantum rules.

She also likes the idea of having Band housing in the Twin Cities but wants something “outside of Little Earth.”

Before the meeting ended, the commissioners urged Band members to call their elected and appointed leaders to share their thoughts.

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

The *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* is looking for Elder stories for upcoming issues. Send your name, contact information and a brief description of the Elder you would like to feature. Email toya@redcircleagency.com, brett@redcircleagency.com or myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call Myles at 612-465-0653 or Brett at 320-237-6851.

HHS Employees Attend Point of Dispensing Seminar

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Band is well prepared for a wide variety of emergencies that could take place, from bad weather to disease outbreaks, thanks in large part to the Tribal Emergency Response Committee, or TERC.

The TERC's latest training took place on April 27, when many staff members from Health and Human Services took part in a Health Services Point of Dispensing (POD) Seminar.

The seminar was introduced by Emergency Management



Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk introduced Kate Mestnik, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with Kanabec County Community Health, who taught the seminar to Health and Human Services personnel.

Coordinator Monte Fronk and was led by Kate Mestnik from Kanabec County Public Health.

Kate has been working with HHS to develop a plan for dispensing medication in the event of a disease or infection outbreak in reservation communities. She has received feedback from HHS personnel and helped to develop a plan of action for distributing antibiotics or other medications or vaccinations.

The goal of the seminar was "To provide Health Services Staff with an understanding of Mass Dispensing Site (MDS) Plan Activation Triggers, Job Action Sheet (JAS) duties, and propose where POD stations are to operate within the clinic."

Staff learned about "activation triggers" that initiate the MDS plan and how JAS are used to guide staff in accomplishing duties at POD stations. They also evaluated the proposed POD setup options within the clinics in all three districts.

Staff were given Job Action Sheets with specific duties related to various roles, including Site Manager, Security, Licensed Practitioner Consultant and Maintenance/Environmental Services, as well as Site Leaders, Managers and other workers.

Kate also talked about site setup, patient flow, patient triage, screening, crowd control, staffing and communications protocols during a POD activation.

Monte said the training is all about ensuring Band member safety and health in the event of an emergency. "We want Band members to know we are doing all we can to prepare for the worst," said Monte.

What is the TERC?

The Mille Lacs Band government has a designated committee charged with planning for the worst and springing into action if needed: the Tribal Emergency Response Committee.

In 2000, the Band was one of five tribes from FEMA Region V to receive an initial startup grant to create a Tribal Emergency Management program. One of the key components of the grant was for the Band to create a unified decision-making body for incidents called a Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC).

The TERC plans response to incidents that require efforts beyond normal day-to-day operations, such as a hazardous materials spill or severe weather damage, like the 2010 blowdown in Aazhoomog or the 2012 flooding in Minisinaakwaang.

Tribal leadership determined that the TERC should consist of Executive Branch Commissioners, a backup for each Commissioner, and representation from Tribal Police, Tribal Emergency Management and Tribal Public Information Officers.

Since 2000 the TERC has participated in exercises to test their readiness ability, partnering with county, regional and state agencies. During the summer of 2015, the TERC helped plan a tabletop exercise in Aitkin County that prepared local, state and federal governments for an oil spill. In December 2015, the TERC was involved in another tabletop exercise with the Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services Department. The exercise involved a hypothetical disease outbreak and helped medical professionals consider what a proper response might be.

The TERC also secured funding to purchase and install generators for community centers in all districts.

Joanne Boyd Recognized for 10 Years of Contributions to WIC Program



When asked why she has worked for ten years in the WIC program, Joanne Boyd said, "I love my job. I love babies, I love the little kids, and working with the people I know. I've been making good memories."

At a conference sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Health, Boyd was applauded for her lengthy service to the families in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community. The certificate on her wall says, "You Make A Difference," and it's obvious when talking to Joanne that she enjoys doing just that.

"Some of the babies I worked with in my first year on the job are ten years old now," she said. "It's fun to see them growing up. I love it when kids see me in the market, and say, 'There's the WIC lady!'"

If you find yourself in the Public Health Building, stop in at WIC and give Joanne your best wishes. She'll be there, working to make more good memories for herself and everyone else.

WIC Program Honored by Minnesota Department of Health

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health WIC program was recognized in May for its achievement in increasing breastfeeding initiation rates.

In an achievement described as a "valuable contribution to the health of mothers and children," Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's WIC program increased breastfeeding initiation rates by 36 percent from 2012 to 2015.

At a conference sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Health, staff from the program were awarded a certificate of appreciation signed by Betsy Clarke, Minnesota WIC Program Director.

Look for the framed certificate proudly displayed in the lobby of the Public Health building. And don't forget to congratulate the WIC staff on their success!

What Else Does WIC Do?

- WIC reduces infant mortality
- WIC reduced low birthweight rates
- WIC improves the growth of at-risk infants and kids
- WIC improves the diets of pregnant and postpartum women
- WIC helps pregnant women get earlier prenatal care
- WIC promotes children's intellectual development
- WIC improves children's diets



3rd Annual Chameleon 5k Run/Walk

Thursday, June 15, 2017 @ 11 a.m.

Registration begins at 10 a.m.

Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge (McGregor, MN)

Come join us for this fun, FREE community event! This is a color run or walk — colored cornstarch is thrown at participants. It is not timed and is fun for the entire family! No pets allowed. We will have glasses for you to wear, and t-shirts will be available (first-come, first-served). Lunch and water will also be available. Any questions, please contact Darla Roache, SHIP Coordinator at 320-532-7760.

Ayaabadak Ishkode

Jim Clark Guest Writer



This story by the late Naawigiizis, Jim Clark, is reprinted from *Living Our Language: Ojibwe Tales & Oral Histories: A Bilingual Anthology*. Edited by Anton Treuer. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001.

Mii go geyaabi wiin nenda-dibaadodamaan gegoo noongom ezhi-aagonwetang awiia. Gaa-izhi-bimaadizid a'aw anishinaabe mewinzha, imaa gaye anooj aapiji gichi-mewinzha ogii-kikendaanaawaa gegoo waa-aabajitoowaad. Miish aya'aag, gichi-aya'aag, ingii-mawidisaanaanig indedeyiban iwidi endaawaad. Gii-tagwaagin igo omaa. Niinawind ingii-taamin Gaakaabikaang. Wiinawaash iwidi ishkonigan Misizaa-ga'iganiing gii-ayaawag indedeyiban iwidi gaa-taawaad. Miish o-mawidisingidwaa ingoding endazhindamowaad gegoo. Mii o'ow niwiji'aawaagan gegoo ani-gagwedwed.

Miish i'iw gii-tibaajimod indedeyiban i'iw. Mii go omaa wiigwaasing gaa-tazhi-onzamowaad iko gaye gegoo gii-chiibaak-waadamowaad, inaajimo. Maagizhaa gaawin gaye aapiji, gaye aapiji indebwetanziimin. Inashke sa wiin, inashke jaagide wiigwaas ingoji ishkodeng. Miish iwidi, nimoonenimaazawaa-naan onow. Akiwenzii, indedeyiban gii-ani-zaaga'amogwen. Namanj igo madwe-ganoozhiyangid iwidi.

Agwajiiing imaa gii-poodawegwen. Miish agwajiiing iko gii-poodawewaad, mii igo anishinaabeg. Mii i'iw gii-poodawegwen imaa agaasishkodeyaa ishkode. Owii-takonaan i'iw makakoons. Biskitenaanganing igo izhinaagwad i'iw wiigwaasimakakoons. Mii i'iw nibi atenig. Gegaa go imaa gaye ingodoninj eko-biigwen i'iw makakoons. Gaawin igo gii-michaasinoon. Gemaa gaye niyoninj, niyoninjiskaayaa. Inigokwadeyaagwen. Ingodwaasoninj gii-akwaa. Miinawaa gemaa gaye nishwaasoninj gaa-apiitadogwen, apiitoonigod. Miish igo nibi atemagak. Miish imaa ishkode. Gaawin gaye gichi-zakwanasinoon. Gaawin gaye gichi-michaamagasinoon

ishkode. Mii imaa ayagwanang i'iw wiigwaasimakakoons nibi atenig. Ingoding gegoo imaa ji-ganawaabandamaang, geget imaa gii-tazhi-ondemagad i'iw nibi.

Miish waabanda'iyangid i'iw wiigwaasing iko gegoo gii-tazi-giizamowaad mewinzha ingiw anishinaabeg. Gaawin gii-chaagidesinoon i'iw wiigwaas megwaa nibi ateg biinjayi'ii. Gaye, mii gaye wiinawaa gii-kikinoo'amawiyangid gegoo gaa-ani-izhichigewaad ingiw anishinaabeg gaa-ani-izhi-bimaadiziwaad.

The use of fire

Today I still search for ways to tell about these things which people find unbelievable. This is how the Indian lived long ago, because a very long time ago they had knowledge of the many things that they wanted to use. My father and I visited some of them, the elders over there at their houses. It was fall here. We lived in Minneapolis. But they were over there at the Mille Lacs reservation, over there where my father and the [others] lived. Then as we went over [there] visiting one time, they were talking about something. This is what my partner came to ask about.

Then my father told a story about it. They used to boil [water] in birch bark here and cook things with it, he says. Maybe we didn't really believe it, not entirely. You see birch bark just burns up anywhere in a fire. We were unable to sense what he was doing. The old man, my father must have gone outside. He was heard talking to us out there.

Outside there he must have built a fire. The Indians customarily built fires outside then. The fire was a small fire where he must have kindled it there. He grasped that basket. It looked like a birch bark sap-collecting bucket inside. Water had been put in there. There must have been about an inch of liquid in that basket. It wasn't big. It was four inches across, approximately four inches. It was that wide. It was six inches long.

And it must have been about eight inches in height, made to that size. Then there was water inside. It was there on the fire. And it did not burst into flames. The fire wasn't especially large. But that birch bark basket was resting level there with water inside. We looked inside there then, and that water in there was really boiling.

That's when he showed us how birch bark was customarily used by those Indians long ago when they cooked things. That birch bark did not burn while water was put inside. And that's how they taught us something about what those Indian people did and the way they lived their lives.

Matching

Match the Ojibwemowin term on the left with the English translations on the right. Use the text or an Ojibwe dictionary to find the definitions.

Agwajiiing	Minneapolis
Wiigwaas	A long time ago
Indedeyiban	S/he tells a certain way
Makakoons	Today
Noongom	Outside, outdoors
Niinawind	My father
Inaajimo	Birch bark
Gaakaabikaang	We, us
Akiwenzii	Small box or basket
Gichi-mewinzha	An old man

Grammar

'Gaawin' together with 'sinoon' makes a sentence negative.

Gaawin igo gii-michaasinoon. It was not big.

Gaawin gaye gichi-zakwanasinoon. It did not burst into flames.

Gaawin gii-chaagidesinoon i'iw wiigwaas. That birch bark did not burn.

New Hinckley Community Center is Taking Shape

A new community center adjacent to Grand Casino Hinckley and Mille Lacs Band housing projects is scheduled to open this fall, about a year after ground was broken.

Community Development planners and a local committee have been working to choose furnishings for the building, which will include classrooms, meeting spaces, a fitness and boxing complex, an indoor track, and a large gymnasium.

Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin toured the facility on May 3 with Planning Director Mike Moilanen, Project Manager Ryan Jendro, Fitness Coordinator Bobby Anderson, Department of Athletic Regulation Director Matt Roberson, District III Band member Kate Davis and others.

Surveys will be presented at the upcoming District III Community Meetings and Executive Branch meetings to gather Band members' input on operation of the new facility.



Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Fall 2017
August 21, 2017 – December 15, 2017

COURSE SCHEDULE ITV and ONLINE

*Prerequisite – refer
***ON CAMPUS

Course #	Course Name	Instructor	Room	Time	Days	Cr.
AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES						
AMIN 1020	Foundations of Anishinaabe and American Education	Staff	ITV 166	3:00 – 5:45	W	3
AMIN 1050	20 Anishinaabeg of Lake Superior	Candi Aubid	ONLINE			3
AMIN 1050	90 Anishinaabeg of Lake Superior	Staff	ITV 166	6:00 – 8:45	H	3
AMIN 2030	01 Contemporary Indian Concerns	Roxanne DeLille	ITV L109	1:00 – 2:15	MW	3
ANISHINAABE						
ANSH 1001	90 Anishinaabe Language I	Staff	ITV 166	6:00-7:40	MW	4
ANSH 2001*	01 Anishinaabe Language III	Staff	ITV 166	12:00-12:50	MTWH	4
ANTHROPOLOGY						
ANTH 1001	Introduction to American Indian Studies	Staff	ITV 166	10:00 – 10:50	MWF	
ENGLISH						
ENGL 1101*	20 College Composition	Staff	ONLINE			3
ENGL1102*	20 Advanced College Composition	Darci Schummer	ONLINE			3
MATHEMATICS						
MATH 0020	20 Beginning Algebra	Jana Anderson	ONLINE			
MATH 1025*	90 Intro to Contemporary Mathematics	Connie Wappes	ITV	6:00-8:45	T	3
MUSIC						
MUSC 1035	American Indian Music	Lyz Jaakola	ITV L109	9:00 – 10:15	TH	3
PSYCHOLOGY						
PSYC 2002	Indigenous Psychology	Candi Aubid	ONLINE			3
SCIENCE (Elementary Education majors)						
SCI 1285	Investigative Science II	Annette Lee	ITV 166	3:00 – 4:40	TH	4
SPEECH						
SPCH 1020	01 Interpersonal Communication	Roxanne DeLille	ITV L109	9:00 – 10:15	MW	3
SPCH 1030	Intercultural Communication	Roxanne DeLille	ITV L109	11:00 – 12:15	MW	3

Kegg's Message Helped Preserve Reservation

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Note: Research on Anishinaabe people can be complicated due to variations in name spellings. We have chosen to use the spelling "Kegg" to follow the spelling used by descendants of the tribal leader described in the story, but in direct quotes we used the spelling from the original source. Among the spellings of Kegg in newspapers of the day were Kagadocio, Kegodocia, Kay-guay-do-say, Cag-a-do-say, Caqua-dosh, Gegwedaash, Gegwedosh, Kegwaydosh, Kay-gwaydosay, Keg-way-do-sa, Keg-wi-do-shi and Kegwedosay.

The Mille Lacs Reservation was established in the 1855 Treaty, when Ojibwe bands from the region ceded a huge amount of land to the U.S. in what would become the State of Minnesota in 1858.

In 1863, already attempting to renege on its promises, the U.S. attempted to negotiate the removal of Mille Lacs and other bands to White Earth.

One thing got in the way: The decision of the Mille Lacs Band not to join in the Dakota Conflict in 1862. Because of their "good conduct" during the conflict, Mille Lacs Band members could stay on their reservation. In the words of the treaty, "That, owing to the heretofore good conduct of the Mille Lacs Indians, they shall not be compelled to remove so long as they shall not in any way interfere with or in any manner molest the property or persons of the whites."

In 1889, when the government attempted to break up the reservations by giving individual Band members allotments through the Nelson Act, the Mille Lacs Band's "good conduct" in 1862 once again played a role. Mille Lacs Band members were promised allotments on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

(That fact that most of those allotments were never granted, and most of the reservation sold off to whites, is a story for another time.)

One account of the Band's "good conduct" was published in the Princeton Union on June 17, 1909. Charles Lindeke, a settler from rural Princeton, recalled that in the fall of 1862, he and his neighbors heard news of the Dakota uprising near New Ulm and "a rumor gained circulation that the Chippewas at Mille Lacs were preparing to come down and annihilate us."

Many settlers went to Princeton for protection and started digging trenches and building a circular fort out of poplar logs. The story continues:

"[W]hen the fort was almost completed and we were discussing how best to put on a roof, Kag-a-do-shie appeared on the scene from Mille Lacs. Old 'Kag' was an Indian subchief whose mission was to dispel the fears of the settlers who were building the fort. Chief Mo-som-o-nie had received news that the work was in progress and had dispatched Kag-a-do-shie to Princeton.

"'Kag,' expanding his chest in Indian style, exclaimed: 'No good, no good; all starve in there; no water, no roof. Go home, go home; no Chippewa harm white man.' And that settled the

fort building and closed 'impending hostilities.' We all returned to our homes and tried to be happy."

According to research by historian Bruce White, another settler, John Goulding, also recalled that Kegg came to tell the people of Princeton that the Mille Lacs leaders were not joining a planned uprising by Ojibwe chief Hole-in-the-Day. Goulding also said "old Kaig" had served on the U.S. side in the Dakota Conflict.

White says Kegg was married to Nodin, the daughter of Chief Manoominikeshiinh (Rice Maker), a powerful leader who opposed going to war against the U.S. Mazomanie, a son of Manoominikeshiinh, was Kegg's brother-in-law. Among Kegg's children was Wadena, who would lead a Band that resided on the south shore of Mille Lacs.

In March of 1880, Kegg was in the news again. He accompanied several Mille Lacs chiefs to Little Falls to get help from white friends there in fighting the timber companies that were claiming reservation lands. Along with several chiefs, Kegg signed a letter written to the President by Little Falls friends. He is listed as a brave rather than a chief, but in other records he is named as a chief or sub-chief.

At the Little Falls meeting, Kegg spoke through a translator: "I happened to be in St. Paul last fall, and the Governor sent for me to come and see him. I went, and he asked me if I knew what was going on, and stated that we were about to be robbed of what little we had. I then returned home and called a council. It was determined to try and ascertain all about the trouble and what had become of the timber that had been cut on our reservation. I was accordingly sent to St. Paul again to see the Governor, and I then learned that some person had entered the best part of our reservation. I then determined to do all in my power to get the entries cancelled. I am afraid that the chiefs cannot control all the young men in case we are robbed of the pine land on our reservation. The desire of the chiefs and Indians is to remain where they are, and they would be well pleased to have the white people come among



In 1889, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* published this photo of Kegg.

them and reside with them, if the whites so desire. The braves wished me to come here to this meeting to hear what our chiefs would say, and they will support the acts of the chiefs."

Later newspaper articles also refer to Kegg's participation in the Dakota Conflict on the side of the U.S. An 1889 article refers to a letter written by Gov. Marshall acknowledging his service as a scout.

An 1897 article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* includes a photo of Kegg, referring to him as "one of Sibley's scouts." The article says he was 80 years old in 1897 and had earned the right to wear the skunk skin due to his distinction on the battlefield.

On Aug. 20, 1914, a monument at Fort Ridgely was dedicated to those Mille Lacs Band members, including Mo-som-o-nie, who chose not to engage in the conflict.

More significant than any monument was the continued presence at Mille Lacs of the "nonremovable" Anishinaabe people — due in part to the actions of people like Kegg.



2 Strong

Mary Greene and Rebecca Churchill took First Place at the College Ojibwe Language Quiz Bowl at the University of Minnesota – Duluth April 29. Their team name, "2 Strong" proved accurate! Congrats to Mary and Rebecca!



G'Day Mates

A delegation led by Michael Wood, Australian Consul-General in Chicago, visited Mille Lacs on Tuesday, May 16, as part of their official responsibility to meet with indigenous Americans.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy June Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mary Ann Ailport
Donald Ray Anderson
Randall Wayne Anderson
Ronald Dale Anderson
Von Shane Aune
Shirley Ann Beach
Arvina Marie Benjamin
Sharon Lee Benjamin
Rhonda Marie Bentley
Bonnie Kay Boyd
Shirley Jane Boyd
David Bradley Jr.
Rory Levine Bruneau
Clifford Kenneth Churchill
Sherry Elaine Colson
Mary Louise Colton
Simon Eugene Day Jr.
Ellagene Diane Dorr
Peter Jerome Dunkley
Pamela Jean Eagle
Rosetta Marie Eagle
Bruce Wayne Frye
George Allen Garbow Jr.
Kay Anne Garbow
Melanie Raemel Garbow
Marilyn Ann Gurneau
Monica Louise Haglund
Steven Jerome Hanks
Bruce Duane Hansen
Devona Lee Haskin
Cheryl Renee Hietanen

Shirley Ann Hillstrom
Dorothy Jean Hofstedt
Robert Dwaine Kegg
Connie Lou Kevan
LeRoy Joseph Mager
Robert Wayne Mayotte
Debora Ann Mitchell
John Gene Morrow
Barbara Jean Mulhall
Dana Lour Nickaboine
Georgia Louise Nickaboine
Joel Jay O'Brien
Alof Andrew Olson Jr.
Gordon Gail Parr
Patricia Pindegayosh
Brian Keith Pippett
Alan Duane Ray
Donald Gregory Shabalash
Charlene Ann Shingobe
Charles Duane Shingobe
Warren Skinaway
Edward James St. John
Pearl Anne St. John
Dean Ray Staples
Francine Wanda Staples
Julie Ann Staples
Elvis John Sutton
Judy Ann Swanson
Ann Marie Thalín
Arlene Rene Weous
De Etta Marie Weyaus
Loris Marie White
Judy Jo Williams

Robin Lee Williams
Happy June Birthdays:
We would like to wish our grandpa, dad, and husband **Steve Hanks** a big happy birthday! We love you and want you to have a happy day. • I'd like to send a big birthday wish to my son **Patrick Provo Jr.** We all love you and hope you have a good day. Love, your nephews, nieces, brothers, sisters, mom, Sty & your daughters. • Happy 7th birthday **Alizaya Jo Wagner** on 6/1, with love from Gramma Tammy. • Happy 6th birthday **Carter Oswaldson** on 6/2! Love Always, Mom. • Happy birthday **Carter** on 6/2! Love Always, Grandma, Papa & Auntie Brandy. • Happy birthday **Dante James** on 6/3! With love from mom, Selena, Carlyle, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul & Daymon. • Happy 18th birthday **Rome Bedausky** on 6/7! Much love from Grandma, Uncle Jerome, Mom & Dad, Logan, Brent, Taryn, Nancy and Larry. • Happy birthday **Booty** on 6/9. Love your best cousin. •

Happy 3rd birthday **Logan Best** on 6/14! From Grandma Mary, Mom & Dad, Grandma Norma, Papa Kevin, Rome, Brent, Taryn, Uncle Guy, Jeff, Nancy, Larry & Uncle Jerome. • Happy birthday **Uncle Wyatt** on 6/15! Love Always, Carter. • Happy birthday **Bianca Valerie** on 6/16! Love mom, dad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Henry, Grannie, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Tyler, Kev, Pie, Montana, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor & Adam. • Happy 1st birthday **Rory Boyd-Bugg** on 6/16 from Mommy & Daddy! We love you son! Words cannot express how much joy and life you brought to us. You are Mommy & Daddy's whole world Madaabi! • Happy 1st birthday to **We'Eh/ Nephew Rory James** on 6/16! Love, We'eH Cilla<3. • Happy birthday **Auntie Brandy** on 6/18! Love Always, Carter. • Happy birthday **Aidan James** on 6/20! Love, Auntie Val, Tyler, Kev, Pie & Montana. • Happy birthday **Candice** on 6/20! From, Cyrell, Mom, Richard,

Rachel, Keila, Raili, & Family from Minneapolis. • Happy birthday **Danielle Boyd** on 6/21! With lots of love from your sister Mary, Shawsha, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Soul, Daymon, & Carlyle James-Lee. • Happy birthday **Kevin** on 6/23! Love, Mom, Tyler, Sissy, Montana, Gram, Papa, Dad, Auntie Randy, Auntie Rachel, Waylon, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Brad, Baabitaw, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Biana & Henry. • Happy birthday **Ravin!** Love, The Harrington Family.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday to **Grandma "ABC-More" Bev Sutton!** From, Shannon, Freedom, Isabelle, & Liberty Porter.

Submit Birthday Announcements

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

Deadline for July issue June 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, 7 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.)

B-Ball League Night: Thursday Nights

Local News Brief

Leech Lake Band Considers Change: A vote is pending on a referendum that will decide if the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe should spend nearly \$50 million to build a new Palace Casino and Hotel in Cass Lake. Building a new casino and hotel has been talked about for years, as the current building needs numerous repairs. If the referendum passes, construction would tentatively begin in the spring of 2018 with a completion date set for early 2019.

Would you like to receive the Inaajimowin?

Band members who want to be added to the Inaajimowin mailing list can call Myles Gorham at 612-465-0653 or email him at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.</p> <p>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. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.</p> <p>Upcoming Events July 21 – 23: 2nd Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow, East Lake Powwow Grounds. Host Drum: Swamp Nation. Invited Drums: Midnite Express, IronBoy, War Paint, Battle River, Pipestone. August 18 – 20: 51st Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow. Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds, District I.</p>				<p>1 5th Grade Celebration Tea Party 1 p.m. Nay Ah Shing Lower School</p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Urban Office</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Arm(s): Ninik(an)</i></p>	<p>3 Corn Husk Doll 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. ML Indian Museum</p> <p><i>Back(s): Nipikwan(an)</i></p>
<p>4</p> <p><i>Ear(s): Nitawag(an)</i></p>	<p>5 Language Tables 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><i>Eye(s): Nishkiinzhig(an)</i></p>	<p>6 Awards Night 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Nay Ah Shing High School Gymnasium</p> <p>Language Tables 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><i>Finger(s): Nininjiins(an)</i></p>	<p>7 DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Community Ctr.</p> <p><i>Foot(Feet): Ninzid(an)</i></p>	<p>8 Language Tables 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. East Lake 2 – 4 p.m. Isle/Chiminising</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Head(s): Nishtigwaan(an)</i></p>	<p>10 Urban End of School Year Picnic & Community Celebration 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Brackett Park</p> <p><i>Heart(s): Ninde'(an)</i></p>
<p>11</p> <p><i>Hand(s): Ninij(iin)</i></p>	<p>12 Language Tables 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p>DIII Executive Branch Meeting 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Hinckley ALU</p> <p><i>Leg(s): Nikaad(an)</i></p>	<p>13 Nay Ah Shing Summer School, T-Th June 13th – 29th</p> <p>Language Tables 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p>Wisdom Steps "Honor our Elders" Conference 5 p.m.</p> <p><i>Mouth(s): Nindoon(an)</i></p>	<p>14 Wisdom Steps "Honor our Elders" Conference 5 p.m.</p> <p><i>Nose(s): Injaanzh(an)</i></p>	<p>15 Language Tables 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p>Wisdom Steps "Honor our Elders" Conference 5 p.m.</p> <p>Chameleon 5k 11 a.m. <i>See page 11</i></p> <p>Grand Celebration Golf Tournament Grand Nat'l Golf Course</p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Aazhoomog Clinic</p>	<p>16 Grand Celebration Powwow & World Jingle Dress Championships Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><i>Stomach(s): Nimsad(an)</i></p>	<p>17 Grand Celebration Powwow & World Jingle Dress Championships Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><i>Tongue(s): Nindenaniw(an)</i></p>
<p>18 Grand Celebration Powwow & World Jingle Dress Championships Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><i>Tree(s): Mitig(oog)</i></p>	<p>19 Language Tables 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p>DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr.</p> <p>DIIa Executive Branch Meeting 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Chiminising Community Ctr.</p>	<p>20 Language Tables 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><i>Balsam Fir(s): Zhingob(iig)</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p><i>Black Ash(es): Aagimaak(wag)</i></p>	<p>22 Language Tables 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p><i>Jack Pine(s): Wakikaandag(oog)</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Maple(s): Aninaatig(oog)</i></p>	<p>24 Applique Quillwork 2-day Workshop 12 – 4 p.m. Indian Museum</p> <p><i>Norway Pine(s): Apakwanagemag(oog)</i></p>
<p>25 Applique Quillwork 2-day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Indian Museum</p> <p><i>Poplar(s): Azaadi(wag)</i></p>	<p>26 Language Tables 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p>DIII Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Hinckley Corporate Building</p> <p><i>Red Cedar(s): Miskwaawaak(oog)</i></p>	<p>27 Language Tables 6:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p>DI Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. MLB Community Ctr.</p> <p><i>Spruce(s): Gaawaandag(oog)</i></p>	<p>28 DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p>Cultural Presentation by Dr. Anton Treuer 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs <i>See page 6</i></p> <p><i>White Cedar(s): Giizhik(ag)</i></p>	<p>29 Language Tables 4:30 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p> <p>DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr.</p> <p>Urban Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church</p> <p>DIIa Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Ctr.</p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Willow(s): Oziisigobiminzh(iig)</i></p>	<p><i>See page 14 for Recovery Groups and other recurring events</i></p>



Nay Ah Shing Royalty Powwow

Students, staff and community members drummed, danced and feasted at the Upper School gymnasium May 19 for the annual Royalty Powwow.

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.

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 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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Commissioners and Staff on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Susan Klapel, *DNR Executive Director*,
320-362-1756

Ed Minnema, *Commissioner of Education*
320-630-0674

Sam Moose *Commissioner of Health & Human Services*, 320-630-2607

Percy Benjamin, *Commissioner of Community Development*, 320-630-2496

Michele Palomaki, *Assistant Commissioner of Administration*, 320-630-7415

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