

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

SEPTEMBER 2017 | VOLUME 19 | NUMBER 09



TRIBAL TRADITION

DISTRICT I CELEBRATES WITH ANNUAL POWWOW

NEW
COMMISSIONERS
SHARE THEIR
VISION

CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTIONS
COMMENCE AT
MILLE LACS

BAND
MEMBERS RIDE
AGAINST LINE
3 PIPELINE

BASSMASTERS
BRING ECONOMIC
BOOST TO
REGION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Dear Band Members,

Aaniin, Boozhoo! It is that time of year again when kids are getting ready for school. I know many Band Members were appreciative of the stimulus payment to help with school clothes and supplies. I hope all our children from our youngest to our college students get off to a good start this year. As I write this column, we just finished up the 51st Annual Traditional Powwow at Mille Lacs. It was a wonderful weekend, and a joy to see so many of our families together enjoying the powwow!

I am excited to announce that by the time this newspaper arrives in your homes, we should have a full Cabinet of Commissioners at Mille Lacs; at long last, all commissioner positions have been filled. We welcomed Shelly Diaz as our new Commissioner of Administration; Bradley Harrington Jr. as our new Commissioner of Natural Resources; Rick St. Germaine (LCO) as the new Commissioner of Education; Rebecca St. Germaine (LCO) as our new Commissioner of Health and Human Resources; and Darrell "Tiger" Brown Bull (Lakota) as our new Assistant Commissioner of Administration, who will be sworn in on September 5. Immediately following Tiger's swearing-in, there will be a community picnic at the powwow grounds to welcome all commissioners on board. All are welcome to attend!

We also just completed the first Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitutional Convention at Mille Lacs on August 21-22. This is a process that allows MCT members to consider whether they want to see changes to the MCT Constitution. Conventions are scheduled to take place at each of the other reservations as well. As the first Band to have a convention, I think ours went reasonably well with the help of the Native Governance Center and Native Nations Institute. Many Band Members were vocal about the changes they want to see, and there was a call to respect the forms of governance that each

of the Bands chooses to operate under. We also repeatedly heard from many Mille Lacs Band Members that you want to talk more about whether Mille Lacs should remain under the umbrella of the MCT. There have been separation discussions happening since the 1980s, and recent challenges to our system of government by other MCT members have renewed these discussions. We will continue talking about MCT issues over the next year. Band Members may also attend conventions on any other reservation if they choose to do so, and conventions will also be scheduled in Duluth and Minneapolis.

July and August were very busy months, including many, many meetings with Band Members and community groups. In late July, I met with the Drum Keepers and we discussed many issues important to the Band, such as the law enforcement issue, the Mille Lacs fishery, MCT issues, the opiate crisis, and other matters important to the Band. Earlier in August I held Elder meetings in each of the Districts and in the urban area. These are always wonderful meetings and a chance to share information with elders and get their thoughts about what we are working on and what they want to see happen.

July also included meetings in Washington D.C. with the Department of Justice, Interior and even the White House about specific issues facing the Mille Lacs Band right now that we needed to update our federal partners about. These meetings coincided with a White House meeting with tribal leaders. The President was not present, but some of his advisors and Cabinet members attended. The meeting focused on ensuring that if legislation moves on tax reform or infrastructure, that the tribes benefit. I was invited to moderate one of the sessions, which I agreed to do. Regardless of my personal politics, I have to ensure that the Mille Lacs Band has strong relationships and connections with decision-makers in Washington D.C., because one day we might need them to pick up

the phone when there is a decision they need to make that is critical to the Band.

We had a wonderful convention this summer of Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN), which many Band women and youth were able to attend. There were many fantastic workshops offered, such as Community Activism; Combating Negativity and Lateral Violence; Gender Bias in the Workplace; Sovereignty 101, and many more. This was an outstanding convention that had a profound impact especially on our youth who attended, and many young women returned home inspired to get involved with social justice to make their schools and community better. Miigwech to all members of our local WEWIN chapter!

The Band Assembly and I held a compromise hearing on new legislation that reorganizes the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO). We agreed to create a new TERO Commission, which will be comprised of Band Members who are knowledgeable about Band-Member employment and contracting matters, and who will advise the TERO Office.

There are so many other projects, issues and developments happening that it would be impossible to list everything that we've been working on. I know there are other important issues and concerns that Band Members want to discuss. If you have questions or concerns about any topic, I encourage you to contact me by calling our office at (320) 532-7486, or email me at melanie.benjamin@millelacsband.com or message me on Facebook. If we work together, I know we will make strides in building a better future for our children. Miigwech!

Camp Ripley Commander Honored at Powwow

At a ceremony prior to the 1 p.m. Grand Entry at the District I Powwow Aug. 19, AmVets Post 53 Commander Allen Weyaus and Honor Guard members presented a Pendleton blanket to Colonel Scott St. Sauver, Camp Ripley Post Commander, in appreciation of the Colonel's service to the country and friendship

with the Mille Lacs Band.

Colonel St. Sauver, accompanied by his wife Debra, expressed gratitude to the Band, Allen and Post 53 and presented commemorative coins to Honor Guard members and Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk. He also gave a framed picture of the Camp Ripley gates to Chief Executive

Melanie Benjamin.

Camp Ripley is a 53,000-acre State of Minnesota owned training facility. Colonel St. Sauver is Commander of the Training Support Unit that is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Camp Ripley. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal and many other honors.



Colonel Scott St. Sauver, Camp Ripley Post Commander, was honored for his service and friendship to the Band by AmVets Post 53 Commander Allen Weyaus and Honor Guard members.

Wide-Ranging Discussion at Constitutional Convention

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Members of six member bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe met at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on Aug. 21 and 22 for the first in a series of Constitutional Convention meetings.

The meetings were facilitated by staff of the Native Nations Institute (NNI) of the University of Arizona, with support from the Native Governance Center and the Mille Lacs Band.

The first day's meeting began with a strategic thinking exercise with attendees completing the sentence, "I want my (grand) children to live in a tribal community where ..." Some participants shared their comments, which included themes of language and culture preservation, safety, unity and sovereignty.

Following that opening conversation, NNI Executive Director Joan Timeche of the Hopi Tribe and Outreach Specialist/Senior Researcher Danielle Hiraldo of the Lumbee Tribe gave a presentation on government and constitutions across Indian country.

The day concluded with suggestions for changes to the Constitution. Among the suggestions:

- Separation of the six Bands and dissolution of the MCT
- Creation of a Constitutional amendment process that doesn't require approval of the Secretary of Interior
- Clarification of who has authority to interpret the Constitution
- Changes to enrollment rules
- Increase in the number of representatives

On Tuesday morning, after a presentation on the Constitution by MCT Attorney Phil Brodeen, much of the discussion revolved around interpretations of the Constitution by the MCT's Tribal Executive Committee (TEC). The first interpretation, in

1980, gave the TEC power to interpret the Constitution. Other interpretations addressed tribal courts, rules on candidacy and other issues.

Some members said the Constitution does not authorize the TEC to interpret the Constitution, and that a referendum needs to be held before interpretations can be authoritative.

The issue has been repeatedly raised in recent meetings of the TEC, which led to the scheduling of the Constitutional Convention meetings.

The agenda and facilitation of the meetings also became a point of discussion Tuesday morning. Two MCT Tribal Executive Committee members and others said they did not agree with the decision to hire facilitators to run the meeting.

MCT Executive Director Gary Frazer said the Mille Lacs Band proposed contracting with the facilitators the week before the meeting. Since there was not time to receive approval from the TEC for the MCT to hire the facilitators, the Mille Lacs Band contracted with the facilitators. Frazer said he spoke with several TEC members who were not opposed to the use of facilitators.

After lunch TEC President Kevin Dupuis called a special meeting of the TEC to discuss the continued use of the Native Nations Institute to facilitate Constitutional Convention meetings.

The TEC voted to continue with the Native Nations Institute but decided to add a designated tribal member from each reservation to help facilitate upcoming meetings.

The next meetings are scheduled for Sept. 25 and 26 at Shooting Star Casino on the White Earth Reservation and Oct. 23 and 24 at Fortune Bay on the Bois Forte Reservation.

Legislative Update

Commissioner Ratifications

The Band Assembly has been busy this summer collaborating to update Commissioner Job Descriptions. Band Assembly held interviews with candidates nominated for vacant Commissioner Positions.

In July Band Assembly ratified:

- Shelly Diaz as the Commissioner of Administration
- Rebecca St. Germaine as the Commissioner of Health and Human Services
- Rick St. Germaine as the Commissioner of Education

In August Band Assembly ratified:

- Darrell Brown Bull as the Assistant Commissioner of Administration

Bills approved by Band Assembly

Band Assembly Bill 17-03-38-17: A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures ("Corporate Ventures"), a corporate body politic of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe ("Band"), for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for its operations, and capital and economic development projects for the period beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017.

Band Assembly Bill 17-03-39-17: A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures ("Corporate Ventures"), a corporate body politic of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe ("Band"), for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for the operations, and capital and economic development projects of any current or future non-gaming business managed or operated directly or indirectly by Corporate Ventures ("Non-Gaming Businesses") for the period beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017.

Band Assembly Bill 17-03-40-17: A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures ("Corporate Ventures"), a corporate body politic of the Mille Lacs Band ("Band"), for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for the operations, and capital and economic development projects of Grand Casino Hinckley and Grand Casino Mille Lacs ("Casinos") for the period beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017.

Band Assembly Bill 17-04-43-17: A Bill of Appropriation for the Housing Initiative Program of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal year ending September 30, 2017.

Band Assembly Approved Joint Resolutions

Joint Resolution 17-03-78-17: A Joint Resolution Approving the enrollments into the Mille Lacs Band, Mille Lacs Reservation for those who do meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Joint Resolution 17-03-79-17: A Joint Resolution denying the enrollments into the Mille Lacs Band, Mille Lacs Reservation for those who do not meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Joint Resolution 17-03-80-17: A Joint Resolution denying the enrollments into the Mille Lacs Band, Mille Lacs Reservation for those who do not meet the requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution born from an enrolled Mille Lacs Band Member.

Joint Resolution 17-04-86-17: A Joint Resolution approving the submission of a Tribal Child Support Enforcement Grant to the United States Administration for Children and Families: Office of Child Support Enforcement for FY2018.

Joint Resolution 17-04-87-17: A Resolution supporting the acquisition of a dialysis treatment facility.

Joint Resolution 17-04-88-17: A Joint Resolution approving a donation from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Foundation to the Indian Legal Assistance Program located in Duluth, MN.

A Secretarial Order was issued regarding the Mille Lacs Band Scholarship Program

Secretarial Order 43-17: A Secretarial Order authorizing Mille Lacs Band Scholarship funds to be awarded to Band Members only.

Traditional Images Chosen in License Plate Design Contest

Band Assembly on Aug. 24 approved a new Mille Lacs Band license plate design after a winner was chosen from a contest held earlier this year. The design will be used for both regular and veterans' plates.

The winning design came from Simone Boyd Evans who said she heard about the contest and decided it was an opportunity to demonstrate her art skills. She was advised to "do something traditional" and decided on Ojibwe-style flowers.

"My family encouraged me to do it," Simone said. "I'm very shocked I was chosen and glad my good work gets to be out on the new plates. Thank you DMV and Legislative for picking my design. It means a lot to me."

The contest was announced last winter with a deadline of March 1. Band Assembly chose the winning design and awarded a \$1,000 prize to the winner.



New Housing Board Members Sworn In

Two new Housing Board members are sworn in for new terms. Mr. Herb Weyaus and Janice Taylor are the two new board members selected to be on the Housing Board.



Clinic Groundbreaking

Secretary Treasurer Beaulieu and Legislative Office Manager Shelly Day attended the groundbreaking for the District 1 Clinic.

State and Local News Briefs

Enbridge's Line 3 Disregards Ojibwe People:

Minnesota's indigenous elected officials are speaking out against a recently released document related to the proposed Line 3 replacement project. In an editorial for the Star Tribune, Jamie Becker-Finn, DFL-Roseville (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe); Peggy Flanagan, DFL-St. Louis Park (White Earth Nation); Susan Allen, DFL-Minneapolis (Rosebud Sioux) and Mary Kunesh-Podein, DFL-New Brighton (Standing Rock Sioux) said that media coverage and the state's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have failed to address how Native American people and communities will be specifically harmed and how the pipeline goes against both history and rights of Ojibwe communities. Enbridge proposed a new route that snakes between reservation boundaries but has not taken into consideration how the new route might harm plants, wildlife and especially wild rice that the reservation has rights to access. The Enbridge route has other options that won't disturb the Ojibwe people or risk the existence of wild rice in northern Minnesota.

Lake Mille Lacs Hosts Multiple High School Bass Tournaments:

Lake Mille Lacs Hosts Multiple High School Bass Tournaments: More high school students across Minnesota are getting involved in bass fishing, and Mille Lacs Lake is a prime destination for these young anglers. Recently, high school students fished in two tournaments at Mac's Twin Bay Resort on Mille Lacs Lake. The number of Minnesota high schoolers competing in bass tournaments rose from 18 in 2013 to 600 in 2017.

White Earth Tribal Council Receives \$100,000 to Build Skate Park:

The Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Legacy Fund awarded the White Earth Reservation Tribal Council with funds to build their first skate park. The park will be called "The Sons and Daughters Initiative Skate Park" and will be located next to the Pine School playground. By providing a positive outdoor space, the tribe hopes to improve the long-term health of children at the reservation.

Red Lake Rises Against Opioid Abuse:

A group known as Natives Against Substance Abuse hosted 200 people at the Walk Against Substance Abuse on Monday, July 24. Participants gathered at the reservation powwow grounds to listen to music and speakers address the opioid issue facing the reservation. The walk was in response to the Red Lake Tribal Council declaring a state of emergency regarding drug-related issues.

Non-Intrusive Methods Used to Chart Ojibwe Burial Grounds:

The Minnesota Department of Public Transportation has been investigating a Fond du Lac Band neighborhood after disturbing the sacred burial grounds. MnDOT hired archaeologists and geophysicists who are working to recover the remains and discover the size of the cemetery. Non-intrusive methods consist of using different forms of technology to make sure no other remains are disturbed. MnDOT has cooperated with the Band and hosted a meeting on June 14th to answer questions and address concerns about the process of recovering the site.

The Sioux Chef's Sean Sherman Discusses a New Minneapolis Restaurant, Cookbook and Non-Profit:

The Oglala Lakota founder of The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman, describes his upcoming Minneapolis restaurant as "straightforward, boldly seasoned and unpretentious." Sherman's cookbook will be released this October and will showcase indigenous cuisine that embrace venison, duck, blueberries and more. Sherman's nonprofit, North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems, just launched. Its purpose is to educate people on indigenous food and develop indigenous food businesses with plans to help local tribes create their own food businesses or cafés.

Commissioner of Administration Works to Implement Chief's Vision

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Shelly Diaz teared up a little when she talked about her appointment as Commissioner of Administration. "When the chief called me, how could I say no? I was just honored and astonished," said Shelly. "I'm here for a reason, and I just have to trust that."

"Melanie has placed her faith in me to carry on this responsibility, so I will be sure to do my best every day. I have always looked up to Melanie, and she was even the subject of one of my papers in grad school. We were asked to interview an elected official. All the Chimooks picked local government officials, but I went right to the top and selected our Chief Executive. That made quite the impression in my class!"

Shelly also expressed gratitude to the Band Assembly for ratifying her. "It means a lot that they trust me to help make Mille Lacs a place where people are happy to work."

Shelly is a lifelong member of the Band's Urban community with roots in Aazhoomog, where her grandmother, Emma Sutton, raised her mother, Isabel Skinaway. As the name implies, she also has relatives in District I through her grandfather, Richard Skinaway. "When I came up here to work three years ago, it just felt right, like I was coming home," Shelly said. "I take comfort in being around all my relatives, and it feels good to serve them. I meet new cousins up here all the time."

Shelly has fond memories of visiting District III. "We would

"We need to work on ways to creatively save our resources, keep our culture alive, keep our community tight, and get rid of the divisions and separation."

— Shelly Diaz

go up to Hinckley, and before the casinos were built, my uncle had his house right there. I was the cousin from the Cities, so I got picked on a lot. I remember going blueberry picking and working in the fields with my grandma, Emma, and her sister Nina. I'd listen to them converse in Ojibwe. I took my mom ricing once, but we tipped, so I was quickly demoted to jiggling rice!" Shelly joked.

Shelly describes herself as a product of the relocation act. "I always had a hunger for learning about my background, but I grew up in an era where, unfortunately, there was a shame to be an Indian, when Mide and Big Drum were out in the woods because it was illegal to practice our religion." Shelly learned more about her culture in college, and after her mom died in the mid-1990s, she took every opportunity to learn from aunts and uncles.

After earning a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Augsburg and a master's in Nonprofit Management from Hamline, Shelly worked for a Native nonprofit in Minneapolis before she was approached by former Education Commissioner Suzanne Wise, who was looking for a Band member from the Urban Area to serve on her Education Advisory Committee. Shelly came up for the graduation celebration and Melanie offered her a position in her office.

Shelly has taken on several duties over the last three years, working on housing, education and special projects — "whatever the Chief wants me to do."

When the Chief asked her to apply to become Commissioner of Administration, Shelly was intimidated at first, but her experience working on a variety of projects gave her a good introduction to tribal government, and a course from Native Nations Rebuilders complemented that experience.

Shelly's role, she said, is to carry out the Chief's vision. "I believe and share in her vision for the Band, and I'm here to do



Shelly Diaz was sworn in twice this summer — once to fill out the final month of the previous term, and a second time for a full four-year term.

whatever I can to bring forward her vision," she said.

First and foremost, that means empowering Band members. "We need to come up with programs and policies that will encourage more self-sufficiency and get rid of that dependency that colonialism has embedded in us," Shelly said. "The culture of poverty is hard to escape, but we can do it. We are not poor; we're rich in culture and fortunate that our language is still alive. The new generation wants to keep that going and is interested in our culture. We want to change policies to break down those barriers, so they don't have to choose between their job and their culture."

"Brad Harrington, Commissioner of Natural Resources, made a great point: 'We give more hours off to learn Western education than we do to learn our ways.' We need to work on ways to creatively save our resources, keep our culture alive, keep our community tight and get rid of the divisions and separation. Geographically, we can't stop that, but we need to make sure that people know that wherever they live, they are important and are Band members."

As she's learned the ropes of her new position, the greatest trial has been the budget. She came in at the end of the planning process for the two-year 2018-19 biennium and has quickly learned that she's working with a large budget and a complex organization — which creates opportunities as well as challenges.

"With casino revenues flattening out, we need to be more creative," she said. "We need more collaboration, pooling of resources, working together and breaking down of silos."

Shelly gives credit to permanent staff for helping her with the transition. "All my administrators and directors — they're an outstanding team working hard and making my job easier," she said. "With the exception of Percy, our Commissioner of Community Development, we also have a whole new crew of commissioners, and I think we're all going to work well together."

Don't expect her to change due to her significant role as Chief of Staff and supervisor of commissioners.

"I just want everyone to know I'll always be Shelly," she said. "My door is always open. You can reach out to me anytime."

"I'm here to serve Band members. I see our children in the community, and I want to be here for them. I want to make an impact and leave a legacy for my community. I want to be remembered in a good way."

WEWIN Golf Tournament

The annual fundraiser golf tournament for WEWIN — Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations — will be held Saturday, Sept. 9, at Grand National Golf Club in Hinckley. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Men, women and Elder flights. (Elder teams must be ALL Elders.) Contact Nora Benjamin at 320-532-4181 for more information, or email nora.benjamin@millelacsband.com or shena.matrious@millelacsband.com. Sponsored by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.

New Health and Human Services Commissioner Sets High Goals for Healthcare in Indian Country

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Some might be surprised that Rebecca St. Germaine, the recently sworn in Commissioner of Health and Human Services, has a list of more than 50 things she'd like to accomplish in her new role.

Though the list is long it's not about how to prove how accomplished she is. Nor is it a way to impress her new bosses. It's really all about how to make the services her department provides better for the Mille Lacs Band community.

"I chose to work in the health services area as a response to our recent health situations and policies that didn't reflect our Indian community," said Rebecca, a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. "Our Indian families were left out of the picture."

Rebecca, who earned her doctorate in Social and Administrative Pharmacy in May 2017 from the University of Minnesota's (U of M) Twin Cities campus, has spent her lifetime working on behalf of Indian people in some capacity or another.

She's been an educator at the college level, a middle and elementary school teacher at Pine Grove, worked for the Mille Lacs Band's Midewiwin Cultural Development and served as a program assistant and public health advisor for rural and community members with both the Mille Lacs Band and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band.

Rebecca has also served in many leadership roles and on boards for her own tribe. She's worked in administrative leadership roles as well. She's been the recipient of many awards and honors throughout her professional and academic careers. Rebecca is also an accomplished writer — having published many articles and writings in the health field.

Throughout the years, especially more recently, Rebecca said she has seen "medical and scientific research that addressed minorities and other people, but not American Indians."

"Or they addressed American Indians in the Southwest, but not in the rural communities in the Midwest."

"So four years ago a former tribal chairman asked me to bring new technology back to the tribe to help us get through these times," she said. "At the same time we want to hold on to our family traditions and culture. There are not many people we can turn to that reflect our culture."

Rebecca said while there is a growing number of American Indian doctors, there are fewer who seek careers in the field of pharmaceuticals. She chose pharmacy so she could be an advocate for other American Indians.

Rebecca has been around the Band long before the casinos were built. She has relatives from Lake Lena who would meet up with Mille Lacs folks for drum ceremonies and they were like family, she said.

She grew up on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation and still has a home there. Growing up she recalls that her grandmother's home in White Fish didn't have electricity or running

water. They had an outhouse and drew their water from a well.

"We didn't have ceremony food, we just had food," she said.

She grew up in a large family, which includes her brother Dave Anderson who started Famous Dave's restaurants. She remembers learning to bead and sew when she was six years old. She learned other traditions, too, like working with birch-bark, hunting, fishing, and participating in powwows.

"We were heartfelt in our ceremonial ways," said Rebecca, who is a women's traditional dancer.

She was taught many of these things from her mom and her aunties for whom English was not their native language. Rebecca is also married to newly sworn in Education Commissioner Rick St. Germaine. The couple has two grown sons, Ricky and Mark, and are proud grandparents.

One of the big things Rebecca wants to accomplish during her four-year appointment as a commissioner is to address the growing opiate addiction that is plaguing Indian Country.

"I want to work with the public health, medical and tribal leaders and police to bring a dialogue to address the challenges of the opiate addiction," she said.

She plans to work with the U of M College of Pharmacy to bring what's known as "precision medicine" to the Band.

"It tailors medications to an individual and it's a great first step in providing education and understanding," she continued. "It can be done through computer simulation rather than with the patient."

Health care providers and staff who work for Health and Human Services will be more visible in the community to help develop trusting relationships. They will cultivate open dialogue between the providers and clients.

"We are doing this because we want to engage and establish trust," she said. "That will allow our clients the freedom to ask anything about their health, welfare and safety."

Another "to-do" on her list is to change policies to provide health access to all people at Nay Ah Shing Clinic. Along those lines, there will be new clinics built in Districts I and II in the coming year, which will "bring economic stimulus" to the area, she added.

"It's really an exciting time for the Mille Lacs Band because the Mille Lacs Band will be the apex for starting something great," said Rebecca. "We're using all of our resources and expanding them for the Band for other tribes."

"We're collecting accurate data that represents tribes instead of relying on the state or Indian Health Service. We are using data from our Band, and we'd like to use that model to build upon our strength."

"We have so much to be proud of and the Band can be recognized nationally as a health provider," she continued. "We have triumphed over health issues and we're still here. We're still the original people and still Anishinaabe."

National News Briefs

NCAI Calls for Bigger Role in Choosing US

Attorney Under President Trump: The National Congress of American Indians requested that tribes have a bigger voice in the process for selecting US attorneys who prosecute major crimes in Indian Country. With a higher crime rate, Native American leaders have been concerned that there is a lack of resources and attention dedicated to Indian Country. Inspired by the United Tribes of North Dakota pressing for a more active role, the National Congress of American Indians has started to adopt the same language and fight for better lines of communication so that future US attorneys are aware of major problems that face reservations and tribal communities.

Slow Growth for Regional Gaming Revenue in

2016: According to figures released by the National Indian Gaming Commission, tribal casino revenue in the St. Paul region grew at the slowest rate in the nation, 1.1 percent, compared to the national rate of 4.4 percent. The slow growth rate in the midwest is due to the fact that the market is the most mature in the country. Tribal casinos across the US generated \$31.2 billion in gross gaming revenue — the highest on record. Jonodev O. Chaudhuri, Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, said the growth in revenues was a result of tribal self-determination and highlighted that gaming is a critical economic vehicle for tribes — one that provides jobs, economic development and revenues that help to fund infrastructure, public services and education.

Wolves Remain on Endangered List but it Might

be Short-Lived: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia said that wolves must remain on the endangered species list, but lawmakers in Congress have introduced legislation that it would delist wolves in Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Those delisting efforts have failed in the past but could have a better chance with a Republican-controlled House and Senate. In Minnesota, wolves are only listed as threatened and can legally be killed when near livestock. Many tribes have been working to lobby their elected officials to oppose the legislation and continue to protect wolves under the Endangered Species Act.

NIGA Joins the American Sports Betting

Coalition: The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) has joined the American Sports Betting Coalition (ASBC) campaign to end the 25-year-old failing federal ban known as the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA). By partnering with the American Gaming Association (AGA), NIGA can coordinate with and provide feedback about tribal gaming concerns. Ernie Stevens, Jr., Chairman of NIGA, said "of chief concern to NIGA is to ensure that tribal interests are protected, particularly avoidance of any negative impacts on existing compacts and exclusivity clauses. As one of the key stakeholders in these discussions, we want to ensure that if legalized, our members have the opportunity to offer this activity as part of their overall entertainment package and as an additional source of revenue for Tribal Government Gaming to promote tribal economic development, tribal self-sufficiency and strong tribal government." Recent polling has shown nearly sixty percent of Americans — and 72 percent of avid sports fans — are in favor of ending the federal ban on sports betting.

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 October issue deadline is September 15.



Rebecca St. Germaine, second from left, was sworn in as Commissioner of Health and Human Services July 27, along with Commissioner of Education Shelly Diaz and Commissioner of Education Rick St. Germaine. Left to right: Chief Justice Rayna Churchill, Rebecca St. Germaine, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Shelly Diaz, Rick St. Germaine, Lee 'Obizaan' Staples.



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH
The Rhythm of Ricing
 By Beatrice Taylor

This article by the late Beatrice Taylor was first published as part of the Moccasin Telegraph series in the Mille Lacs Messenger.

Our People have many seasonal activities that tie us to our culture and our traditions. After the winter ended, we would move from our homes and gather medicines in the spring. In the summertime, there were the berry picking camps. And in the fall, there were the rice camps.

There is nothing I like better than to go out ricing. To gather rice in the traditional manner, two people usually go out in a canoe. One person, called the poler, uses a long pole to push the canoe forward. The other person uses heavy sticks to sweep the wild rice stalks over the canoe and knock the rice grains into the bottom of the boat.

It's fun, and it's nice to see that rice fall in the boat and build up and up and up. It gives you a good feeling inside to know that you've got your winter's food, and you've even got some to give away.

It doesn't take long to get the hang of ricing, either. When I was really young, my mother and stepfather didn't take us out ricing. But right after I got married, my husband and I started going out. And I still always go out. My grandchildren know — Gramma always goes ricing.

I'm not too good on the high rice anymore. But once I get into a good patch of rice that's grown to just above my head, I get a steady swing going. You get that rhythm after a while and it just comes naturally.

I imagine it's hard for the poler. At the end of a day, you're going to feel it. I think the most I ever put in was four hours straight, and I felt it.

Then after you take a break, have some water and wipe the sweat off, you can start cleaning the rice. You take any tops or leaves off and push the rice to the front of the boat. That's nice as the pile gets bigger and bigger.

Then it's time to parch the rice over a fire and fan it. Only the men or boys can tramp on the rice. They put it in a bucket and put on some clean moccasins and tramp on it awhile. That separates the rice grains from their husks. When you do that, you learn how hard it is to process that rice!

Wild rice harvested in this way is nothing like commercially grown rice. Genuine wild rice has got that smoked flavor.

Rice is a main staple of the Anishinaabe. Some people use it in pancakes. Some people like it cooked with raisins. I remember when we used to go to the powwows and had rice with raisins. It was good. But I always prepare my rice with some kind of meat — maybe venison, duck, pheasant, partridge or rabbit.

I am older now, and I only go out ricing a couple days a year. But I still give some rice as gifts at Christmas and to my friends who like rice. It makes me feel good when I can give.

Do you know an Elder who has a story to tell or history to share?

Call Brett Larson at **320-237-6851** or email brett.larson@millelacsband.com.

A Drum is "The Heartbeat of the Mother"

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

When my son, Dallas, was three years old, he told me he wanted to dance at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Traditional Powwow. When I asked him why, he said it was because he could feel the beat of the drum in his heart. The following year, as soon as we arrived, he ran into the circle and began to dance.

There were many other reasons that Dallas, now 10 years old, wanted to dance and why he continues to dance at powwows today, but it was the sound of the drum that beckoned him.

Recently, when the opportunity to make a hand drum was offered through the Band's urban office, Dallas jumped at it. So did 20 others who quickly filled the roster for the day-long class that was held in early August at the All Nations Church in Minneapolis.

The class was taught by Band member Terry Kemper and Laurie Vilas. Terry works in the Band's Historic Preservation Office, and Laurie works as a peacekeeper for the Band's Tribal Courts.

A drum is "the heartbeat of the mother," said Terry as he explained a creation story before we began making the drums.

He told us that when people are born the process is scary as people move from the spirit to a human form. "But the one thing we can rely on is our mother's heartbeat," Terry said. "It continually beats to us. The vibration is in the water the babies grow in."

"Then, for many, the older they get, the farther from the vibrations of life, the vibrations of the trees, the wind, and the vibration of animals people tend to get."

"However, the vibration of our mother's heartbeat is everywhere, and it's sustained us as Anishinaabe people," he continued.

Terry continued to explain the history of drums, what they were used for and how they were made. Co-presenter Laurie provided other details as well as gifted all of us with branches from trees that were already peeled and smooth so we could make them into drumsticks.

The 16-inch hoops we used to make our drums came from maple trees. We also used buffalo hide, some of which was dyed in various colors, to complete our drums. As we worked on our drums, Terry reminded us of the connection to the Earth through its gift of the buffalo and maple trees.

My nephew, Blake Ford, 15, said the experience gave him "a whole new level of respect for the people who make drums because it was very involved and it took a lot of work."

He added that he looks forward to using it one day soon.

Throughout the day, which was filled with teachings, laughter and a sense of community, our group helped each other as much as possible. Whether it was cutting laces to wrap the drum, assisting with tools, helping Elders and youth or cleaning up the tiny pieces of buffalo hide from the church's floor, a spirit of sharing filled the space.

During the day Terry and Laurie talked about the songs that were sung with the drum, and they taught our class how to sing songs as we were working.

One participant, Alexander Skinaway, who is 20 and came with his grandma, said it was his first time making a drum. He called it a great experience.

Seventeen-year-old Dakota Skinaway thought it was "pretty cool." "I've never made a drum before, and it's a learning experience," said Dakota.

My sister, Tawnya Stewart, who is also a Band member, said the teachings of Laurie and Terry were greatly appreciated because of their unending patience, their

dedicated assistance and their desire to teach all of us about the significance of what we were doing.

"I want to give a special thanks to Laurie and Terry for being such great instructors," said Tawnya. "They worked to help everyone walk away with a beautiful drum."

Before we left for the day, Terry and Laurie instructed us to take our drums and hang them up for four days — out of the sun — so they didn't dry out too fast. And so they didn't wrinkle. They told us we could paint them and gave us instructions on how to do that.

Four days after our class, when our drums were dry, my husband took his drumstick and we listened to the sounds from both drums we made. Those sounds, while different in pitch, made our hearts race a little faster. And whether Dallas realized it or not, the sound of the drum continued to connect him to my heartbeat and that of our Anishinaabe culture.



Top: Tawnya Stewart and her son, Blake Alexander Ford, cut the buffalo hide for a drum.

Middle: Terry Kemper providing instruction to the group on how to lace the drum.

Bottom: Dallas Downey, 10, and his dad, Steven Downey, work together to make a hand drum during the class taught in the urban area on Aug. 12 at the All Nations Indian Church.

Mino Bimaadiziwin Helps Band Members Overcome Barriers

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mino Bimaadiziwin Hotel opened back in 2015 to meet a serious need for transitional housing in District I. Over the past two years, the vision has developed, and the current staff feel like they've found an effective method of meeting the needs of Band members seeking permanent homes.

Transitional Program Director Janelle Boyd, Intake Worker and Coach Michelle Benjamin and Hotel Coordinator Eloise Wind work with front desk and security staff to operate a facility that not only provides a roof over clients' heads, but also helps them on their path to sobriety, self-sufficiency and "a good life" — the meaning of the Ojibwe phrase "Mino Bimaadiziwin."

"Each Family or Guest works an Individual Case Plan that provides them a path towards self-sufficiency or obtainable goals," said Michelle. "I want them to feel comfortable, so I don't micromanage them, but we do look for people who are just lounging around, or not coming to meetings, searching for housing or following their sponsorship plans. We'll pull them in and ask them what's going on. Maybe they don't know what to do, where to start or just need some advice and encouragement. That's what I'm here for, I love to help and so do the rest of my co-workers."

Residents can pay a daily rate of \$5 or a monthly rate of \$150–\$155 if they follow a sponsorship plan to work on barriers that have prevented them from finding work and permanent housing. "There is no deadline to be out; however, we do encourage them to search for housing and discuss rental options," said Michelle. "We give them the time they need as long as they're saving money, seeking housing and working their case plan with their sponsors."

The Mino Bimaadiziwin staff work with several Band departments and programs: AmVets, Elder Services, Family Services, Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Public Health, Family Violence Prevention, Wraparound and Aanji-Bimaadizing (formerly Department of Labor).

They also work with county family services departments and the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

If someone can't afford the rent through their per capita

payments or other income, Janelle helps them put together a payment plan.

"If they have child support or other bills, we don't want to take all their money, especially if they're saving up to get a car or get their fines paid to get their licenses back," said Michelle. "This is an opportunity to get things paid off. We pay the utilities for them, and they pay rent, their cellphone, etc. We provide a kitchen. Some nights we have feasts, activities or somebody donates food. It's basically like communal living, with a shared kitchen, meeting room and living room."

Both Michelle and Janelle have a wealth of work experience they bring to their jobs at Mino Bimaadiziwin. Michelle worked for 11 years with the Women's Project, which became the Family Violence Prevention Program, and she's also worked as a shelter manager and early Head Start coordinator supervising many staff members.

Janelle started out in Housing in 1991 and has worked her way up from receptionist to admin to finance assistant. Most recently she was Transitional Housing Coordinator, managing 20 units and supervising other staff.

Janelle works with those just getting out of prison, who need a place to come to when their release day is coming up. At Mino Bimaadiziwin, they'll have support and someone to work with and depend on.

Michelle, Janelle and the rest of the staff offer encouragement, letting residents know that people make mistakes, and that they need to learn from them. "I always tell them, with mistakes come responsibilities," said Michelle. "Not everybody works out, but we're seeing more success stories than those who don't make it through the program. Other programs have been a great help — Wraparound, Public Health, Probation Officers and Family Services."

Michelle and Janelle are concerned about some rumors floating around in the community. "There's talk in the community that we're a drug hotel, but we're a sober living environment, and we do all we can to make sure no drugs are passing through and no one is under the influence," said Michelle. "If someone breaks the rules, we give them a helping hand and



tell them how they violated the Mino Bimaadiziwin guiding principles. We help them get a Rule 25, and they follow those recommendations, instead of just booting them out the door. Some can't handle being sober and choose to keep using, which is a sad moment for staff as we have to tell them good luck as they leave our place. We hope and pray they choose the right path. There are so many addictions out there — heroin, meth — people are struggling. We can't control what goes on outside the property, but we can control what goes on here. We have a lot of success stories. A lot of people have turned their lives around."

Band Members Invited to State Capitol Before Grand Re-Opening

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Days before the public grand re-opening celebration of the State Capitol in St. Paul, a few Mille Lacs Band members gathered with representatives from other tribes to participate in a private smudging.

Band Elder and traditional healer Herb Sam led the effort with assistance from Jamie Edwards, a lobbyist for the Band, and Steven Downey, the husband of Band member Toya Stewart Downey.

The trio walked into each room, office and chambers of the grand building carrying sage along with a hand-made device — courtesy of Herb.

"It was a good gesture that the governor called upon the Indian community to do," said Herb. "They don't typically do that and it represented the Native community. I was glad I was there to do it with Jamie and Steven."

Jamie, who spends many hours at the Capitol Building with lawmakers throughout the year, said he was honored to help smudge and cleanse the building.

"After 17 years of state legislative advocacy on behalf of the Band, it was kind of a surreal experience for me," said Jamie. "Through the years many efforts to expand gambling were thwarted, as were numerous attempts by some legislators to limit and/or diminish the Band's sovereign authority, and although these battles will likely continue, it was kind of cool to take a moment and reflect."

Besides smudging the building there was a Dakota pipe ceremony along with a prayer and song offered.

To ask Native Americans to come in was "a great gesture" according to Herb, who said he is hopeful that the next time the building is remodeled, Native people will be asked once again

to help smudge.

Jamie added that "Partisan politics often divides policy makers and then 'we the people' suffer. I felt like doing those ceremonial things just might help lawmakers get a fresh perspective."



District I Powwow

Chad Germann, Brett Larson Photographers



Love Water, Not Oil — Honor the Earth Rides for Life

Li Boyd Guest Writer

The power is shifting. Some say it started at Standing Rock where the people stood their ground at the Cannonball River. It was five years ago, though, that White Earth's Winona LaDuke had a dream about riding horses against the current of the oil in Anishinaabe territory. This July marked the 5th Annual Love Water Not Oil Ride sponsored by Honor the Earth, the non-profit organization LaDuke directs. The ride was longer and had more participants than ever before. I was honored to be one of them.

The trail swept east to west from Nekoosa, Wisconsin, where Enbridge desecrated Ho-Chunk effigy mounds, to Rice



Tania Aubid on the ride.

Lake on White Earth Reservation where Enbridge plans to put wild rice at risk. According to state DNR and tribal reports, we have already lost 70 percent of our wild rice, but between mining, pipelines and climate change, much more may be lost. Enbridge is seeking Minnesota approval to expand its Line 3 pipeline. The old Line 3 will be "decommissioned" in place and left in the ground, increasing the probability of legacy contamination, while the new Line 3 corridor goes through the best wild rice territory in the state. The pipeline is planned to cross the Mississippi river within miles of the headwaters. It's a grim proposition for Northern Minnesota and anyone downstream.

The ride started in Wisconsin this year, traveling against the route of Enbridge's Line 61, a recently expanded 40-inch pipeline that may be doubled again with twin pipeline Line 66 if Enbridge receives approval on Line 3. Canadian Enbridge's excessive land demands for these Wisconsin pipelines have sparked an eminent domain controversy with many private non-native landowners concerned about the issue of giving a foreign company the right to take land from US citizens without their consent. It's only one of many problems for citizens that would affect Minnesotans as well.

Pipeline issues are not a recent development. The hard fought battle against the Enbridge Sandpiper proposal, which followed the same corridor as the proposed Line 3, took years. But in August 2016, Enbridge announced it would not proceed with the Sandpiper and instead bought 28 percent of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Enbridge's lack of intervention during the violence and injustices against water protectors in North Dakota are of deep concern for many Minnesotans. The way LaDuke sees it, "Enbridge is responsible for 28 percent of the injuries, bullets and associated trauma incurred at Standing Rock."

Therefore, she rides. "We live in a place where you can get sugar from a tree. There's medicine all around," she says. It's

unique, sacred and worthy of protection.

This year, LaDuke gathered Anishinaabe from Mille Lacs, White Earth and Leech Lake as well as Lakota and Dakota participants, the Slim Buttes Riders, the Crow Creek Boys and members of the Dakota 38 riders. Non-native supporters were welcomed on the ride as well. Twenty-seven horses and dozens of riders traveled together for a month.

Honor the Earth staff members managed logistics while Fond du Lac tribal members, businesses and farms donated food and provided meal support. Each night, the camp was hosted by concerned citizens in local communities. The Mille Lacs Band hosted the camp at our own Anishinaabe Food Sovereignty farm just south of East Lake.

I joined the ride on a Monday morning while the protectors were camped in Backus. It was a sunny, relaxed atmosphere where I was welcomed to coffee and breakfast. Honor the Earth staff worked tirelessly to keep things on schedule while the riders looked after the horses and prepared to load out for the day. The starting point for the ride was in Pine River on the grounds of Hunt Utilities Group, an innovative sustainability campus.

Each morning's ride started with a prayer. Both Dakota and Ojibwe songs, beautifully brought forth by Algin and Harvey Goodsky, Jr. of East Lake, sent off the riders and continued throughout the day. A Dakota boy named Elliot, riding a gray pony, led the ride that morning with LaDuke and the other riders following respectfully behind. It was beautiful to watch them disappear into the tall grass.

Special care was taken to make sure the horses weren't overworked, especially on hot days, and riders often switched out to give everyone the chance to ride. Spotter cars stayed with the riders to protect them from traffic, sometimes with the Goodsky brothers riding on top to drum and sing the ride along.

August 2, the last day of the ride, was punctuated with an early visit to an Enbridge storage yard just east of Lake George on US Highway 71. There, miles of green pipe sections are stacked and waiting to go in the ground. The riders stopped outside the gate where Harvey Goodsky, Jr. sang while the rest of the riders surveyed the evidence of what may be to come.

Later, the riders arrived on White Earth Reservation and visited the vast swaths of wild rice ripening on Rice Lake. We watered the horses from the natural spring at Big Bear Landing, where cool clean water comes right out of the ground. The riders, myself included, made the final leg of the journey through the community to the Rice Lake Community Center. Arriving at the end of this journey, where community members and a feast awaited, will always be one of the proudest moments of my life.

The ride's purpose is to bring attention to the many pipeline campaigns that Honor the Earth is involved in, but individual participants each have their own goals as well. Tania Aubid of East Lake said, "We ride to wake up more people to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy." Harvey Goodsky, Jr. said he "hopes it spreads awareness to our people that we can do something to change the minds of corporations. And I hope that prayers and happiness will come from our hard work." Other Mille Lacs Band members were also involved in the ride and are eager to share the message.



Elliot led several members of the Lakota/Dakota tribe on the ride.



Winona LaDuke - White Earth Anishinaabe, Elliot LaRoche - Lower Brule Lakota, Mackenzie Eastman - Sisseton Dakota, Harvey Goodsky, Jr. - Mille Lacs Anishinaabe, Winona's grandson Goons, and Morningstar Goodsky - Mille Lacs Anishinaabe.

The unity that was galvanized in the fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline still persists. Native nations and non-native allies continue to come together to stand against the tide of oil.

In Winona LaDuke's words, "We're interested in making a beautiful future."

For more information about Honor the Earth and the pipelines, visit honorearth.org or stopline3.org. For information about Enbridge's land demands and the eminent domain debate, visit 80feetisenough.org. Hunt Utilities Group can be visited at hugllc.com.

Last month's *Inaajimowin* promised the second in a series of history articles on the 1855 Reservation. Due to the timeliness of the story on the Sandy Lake Tragedy, that article will be published at a later date.

MLCV Names Michele Palomaki CEO of Wewinabi, Inc.



Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) is pleased to announce that Michele Palomaki has been hired as CEO for Wewinabi, Inc., a wholly owned corporation that includes its non-gaming businesses within the three Districts of the Mille Lacs Band Reservation.

As CEO, Michele will oversee non-gaming businesses including the Grand Market, Grand Makwa Cinema, a Sub-

way and Taco John's franchise, Eddy's Resort, Big Sandy Lodge, Grindstone Laundry, the Hinckley Medical Office Building and four convenience stores.

Michele is a proven leader. Prior to this position, she served the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch as the Assistant Commissioner of Administration. In that role, she demonstrated remarkable leadership as she oversaw Human Resources, IT, grant writing, the Department of Labor, Circle of Health, Tribal Child Support Enforcement, the Tribal Employment Rights Office and Government Affairs, in addition to managing three Mille Lacs Band Community Centers and the Urban office.

"Developing an executive team with experience that spans a range of our businesses has always been an important part

of managing our company for long-term successes," said Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band. "We recognize that her experience and education is an ideal fit to lead our non-gaming businesses well into the future, but what interested us more was her examples of empowerment, passion and perseverance, all of which are cornerstones of the culture at Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures."

Michele graduated from the College of St. Scholastica, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management. Michele began her new role July 5th.

Bassmaster Angler of the Year Tournament Returns to Mille Lacs

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The 2016 Bassmaster Angler of the Year tournament, made possible in large part through an investment by Grand Casino Mille Lacs, put Lake Mille Lacs in the national spotlight as the nation's best bass anglers raved about the fishing.

Angler Skeet Reese said, "I've been all around the world chasing fish, and I've never seen a smallmouth fishery that kicks out this many five-pound smallmouth. Your secret fishing hole is now a community fishing hole. These guys will be coming back. I'll be coming back."

His words proved prophetic in February when Bassmaster announced its unprecedented return for the 2017 Angler of the Year tourney Sept. 14-17.

Grand Casino General Manager Tracy Sam was quoted in the Bassmaster announcement of the return: "Last year's Bassmaster tournament showed the world what an incredible jewel Mille Lacs Lake is to the fishing community. This championship has never been held at the same location two years in a row, so building upon last year's success, we look forward to making the 2017 Bassmaster Angler of the Year tournament the best one yet."

The news release explained their rationale: "The decision to return to the state's second largest inland lake of 10,000 was easy after the unprecedented output in 2016. Across the three competition days, the Top 50 anglers caught 729 bass, which produced 139 limits and amassed a total three-day weight of 2,878 pounds, 5 ounces."

Word has gotten around, as anyone who pays attention to boat landings can attest. Even when walleye fishing was closed earlier this summer to protect the resource, parking lots at landings were surprisingly full.

Minnesota DNR creel survey data confirm an increase in anglers coming to Mille Lacs to fish for bass.

In June, Bassmaster Magazine named Mille Lacs the best

bass lake in the country — in part because of what they learned at last year's tournament. "This fishery really got our attention last September during the Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship, when 94 limits of smallmouth were weighed in that topped the 20-pound mark," explained Bassmaster Magazine Editor James Hall. "Had that been a four-day event, eventual winner Seth Feider may have topped the 100-pound mark with smallmouth, a feat that has never, ever happened before."

Last year's event brought thousands to the parking lot of Grand Casino for vendor booths, food, autographs and "Bassmaster University" classes. Given the publicity from last year's event, this year's crowds are expected to be even larger.

The 2016 weekend winner was Minnesotan Seth Feider, whose three-day 76-pound total was almost unheard of even for a largemouth tourney, where fish run larger.

The highlight of the tournament, as the name implies, is the crowning of the Angler of the Year. The event is the final tournament of the season, which means it is where the annual championship is decided. Last year the winner was Gerald Swindle of Guntersville, Ala., who clinched his second title at the Mille Lacs tourney.

Long-time Mille Lacs resorter Terry McQuoid was quoted in May giving credit to bass fishing for keeping the local economy afloat. "It's probably our savior right now," McQuoid told Minnesota Public Radio. "Because in this past week, most of the people that we've had here are all smallmouth oriented. And they're all out of state, so they come for three to five days, or sometimes a week."



Many Tanks!

The Band DNR's fish-stocking project is well stocked with tanks thanks to a gift from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Genoa National Fish Hatchery near Genoa, Wisconsin. USFWS Maintenance Mechanic Jeff Lockington drove two trailer loads of tanks to Mille Lacs on Aug. 15 and 16. According to Carl Klimah, who manages the Band's fisheries program, the tanks will be kept in storage for now. As the Band's hatchery expands, they may put to use, or they may be passed along to other tribes in need. Carl and Aquatic Biologist Chad Weiss built the Band's hatchery in 2016 out of second-hand materials for a fraction of the cost of a new hatchery. According to Jeff, each of the six tanks delivered Aug. 15 would sell for over \$5,000 new. The Genoa hatchery raises many species of fish as well as mussels and even insects and is an active partner with tribes as part of the federal government's tribal trust responsibility.

Catch the Action

Take-off

Takeoff begins Thursday, Friday and Sunday at approximately 6:40 a.m. at Eddy's Resort.

Weigh-ins

Weigh-ins will occur at approximately 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Sunday at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Expo and Bassmaster University

Saturday, all 50 anglers will participate in the expo and Bassmaster University event where fans can meet their favorite Elites. The Mille Las Community Festival will run from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 16 and noon until the end of the weigh in on Sunday, September 17. The expo will be in the front parking lot of Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Survey Says Band Members Favor New Approach to Truancy

Brett Larson Staff Writer

A survey of Band members regarding truancy in Mille Lacs Band communities shows a strong belief in the importance of education as well as support for a new response to the truancy epidemic in Mille Lacs Band communities.

In the 2017 State of the Judiciary, Chief Justice Rayna Churchill called for a coordinated response to provide programming, resources and legislation to address the issue.

A Truancy Task Force established in 2015 has been working on a new truancy statute for more than a year.

The Education Department has hired a parent liaison to work with families, and the Tribal Police have added a School Resource Officer at Nay Ah Shing.

Despite those efforts, the problem persists.

The number of truant children has become a heavy burden to the schools, police department, family services, Office of Solicitor General and the Tribal Court. The Tribal Police Department reported that between September 1, 2016, and June 1, 2017, 696 truancy reports were filed with the Department.

Of all kids in the Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove schools, 47 percent were deemed truant last year, including 20 out of 29 in high school, 12 out of 26 in middle school, and 52 out of 122 in elementary.

In Onamia and Isle, the numbers were slightly better, but still well above the state average.

The Office of the Solicitor General currently has 28 open cases with 42 children in truancy. In addition, 65 kids have truancy ICRs from Tribal Police that have not yet become truancy cases. Some of those cases involve more than one child.

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

Survey Results

The Band's Truancy Response Team surveyed Band members online and at community meetings to assess the need for a new statute and determine the best course of action.

A total of 180 responses were received by the Office of the Solicitor General — more than half from those with custody of children. Seventy-three percent said regular attendance at school and achievement of a diploma were stressed while they were growing up.

An overwhelming number — 97 percent — said they believe

the parent or guardian is responsible for making sure children attend school. Only three responses indicated it is the school's responsibility.

Respondents were evenly divided on whether Band land should require all children up to age 18 to attend school, with no option for withdrawal.

Several options are being considered as ways the Court could encourage attendance, including community service, weekend homework with tutoring assistance, a truancy panel, referrals for educational resources, and participation with peacemakers or circle keepers. Each option was favored by 18 to 23 percent of respondents.

Forty-one percent of respondents think a penalty of \$100 is sufficient to motivate parents or guardians to make sure children attend school; 59 percent said a larger fine is needed.

Current System

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

School attendance is also required in the Education statute, Title 9. However, with the exception of assessing a monetary fine the statute does not set forth a procedure or other consequences for addressing truancy. Instead, it directs "Upon the continuation of unexcused absences or upon failure of the parents or guardians to appear before the School Board, the School Board shall request that the appropriate Social Services agency file a civil complaint (Child Protection Petition) in a court of competent jurisdiction."

Before a child protection petition is filed, to try and correct the problem the schools send letters and make phone calls to the family and hold meetings with those parents who cooperate. Tribal Police often visit the child's place of residence, often more than once.

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

the family.

Seventy-two percent of survey respondents believe a new approach is needed to the process by which truancy cases are brought to court.

Proposed Change

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

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

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

If the Court determines that reasonable grounds exist that the child is a continuing habitual truant, then the court can adopt the citation (rather than a petition) as the basis for continuing court intervention. Corrective measures can be to impose additional fines, order the parent and child to engage in certain services with Family Services, or require other actions to correct the problem.

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

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



Tourney Time

Sue Engberg and Katie Draper Photographers

Not many fish were caught at the DNR's first-ever youth fishing contest July 28, but that didn't stop dozens of kids and chaperones from enjoying the calm waters, blue sky, a healthy lunch and a few relaxing hours on the water. Miigwech to all who helped out.



Mille Lacs is Second Home for New Education Commissioner

Brett Larson Staff Writer

When newly confirmed Education Commissioner Rick St. Germaine was a kid, his ambition in life was being a school bus driver. "I saw a bus driver from our Rez, and I just idolized him," Rick recalled.

Fate had a different plan. "It turned out I was pretty good in basketball," said Rick. "I got recruited to play college ball, and then I realized I could make it in college courses, too."

Rick got his bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire and then went on to graduate school at Arizona State University, where he finished in 1975 with a Ph.D. in Educational Administration.

"I had gone to an undergraduate school where there were three Native Americans. I ran into somebody at a meeting who told me there were 670 Indians enrolled at Arizona State. I couldn't even fathom it, so that's where I chose to go."

The connections he made in the Southwest led to a decades-long relationship with the Navajo Nation. Over the years he's worked in school improvement, teacher training and school board training. He's helped build four Native schools and is working on a fifth.

On July 27, Rick and his wife Rebecca were sworn in as Mille Lacs Band Commissioners — Rick in the Education Department and Rebecca in Health and Human Services. (See page 5 for an article on Rebecca.)

For Rick, it's a little like coming home. During his youth on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in Wisconsin, Mille Lacs had an almost mythical status.

"When I was growing up, the elders on my reservation always pointed to Mille Lacs and told that story of the creation of the sacred drums that came from the Dakota Indians. They always included Mille Lacs in their prayers. I'd hear their stories, and I had a yearning to be here, so when I was asked to come over and help, you can't imagine how it made me feel. It was like something that was destined, that was being fulfilled."

This is hardly Rick's first tour at Mille Lacs. Back in the early 1990s, when Rick was teaching at UW-Eau Claire, the Bureau of Indian Affairs brought him in to do an evaluation of Nay Ah Shing schools and follow up school improvement training. Years

later he helped start Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II and Pine Grove Leadership Academy in District III.

During those years, Rick forged relationships with two men who were instrumental in starting the schools: Mushkoob and Dave Matrious. Both have since passed, but their legacy at Minisinaakwaang and Pine Grove lives on.

"I've made some friends over here — lasting, close associates — and Dave was one of them," Rick said. "He was a real special human being, and there are a lot of them here."

"At Minisinaakwaang, Mushkoob was the moving force, along with Candy and Niib (Aubid), Winnie LaPrairie, Vincent Merrill, Dale Greene and Raina Killspotted. They are dynamic thinkers and movers."

"Joyce Shingobe was my boss, and she taught me a lot," he added.

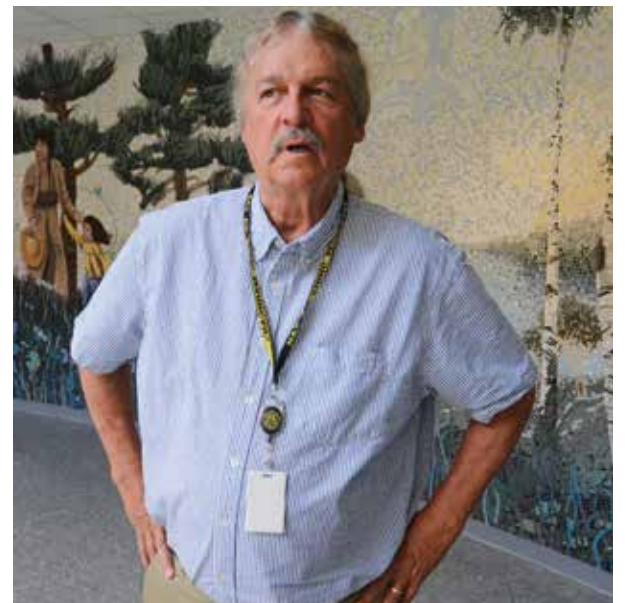
Rick's deep knowledge of Mille Lacs communities will serve him well as Commissioner of Education, along with his understanding of Native communities as a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band.

"The things that I see here, I see on other Ojibwe reservations," Rick said. "I was recently an administrator at the LCO Ojibwe School, and all of the characteristics, data, the poverty conditions of our communities and the impact on young people are very similar. Our communities are somewhat in crisis, and it will take a monumental effort with everyone working together to solve these problems."

For Rick, education does not begin with kindergarten and end with high school; he sees the importance of pre-kindergarten as well as higher education. "The 18–24 year olds are really looking for answers in their lives," he said. "We have to give this attention, and soon. They've got academic skill gaps that need to be resolved. Everyone I've talked to says that's one of the main challenges we face."

In the end, Rick believes tribal schools need to provide something of value to students and their communities — starting with innovative curriculum and teachers who care.

In order to get there, Rick emphasizes communication, teamwork and leadership in his work with tribal schools. He has



Rick St. Germaine worked in all three districts over the years — at Nay Ah Shing, Minisinaakwaang, and Pine Grove Leadership Academy.

implemented home visits in some communities, and in others has used Montessori-style education as a model, with dramatic results. Fair warning: Under Rick's guidance, school leaders may find themselves blindfolded and led into the woods — literally — as a way to teach leadership and teamwork.

"You can learn a lot of things when you're handicapped," he said. "That's how I started at Pine Grove and Minisinaakwaang. Before long the founders of the schools were finding out how to solve problems and focus their thinking, and doing it as teams. Teamwork is critical. Blindfolds and obstacles are artificial devices we can use to train people to use other senses to get large projects accomplished."

Rick and Rebecca have two college-age boys (Ricky and Mark) who also feel a strong connection to Mille Lacs.

"They grew up around here," said Rick. "They know Obizaan, Joe (Nayquonabe), and Skip Churchill. They've been to Mide here, and drum ceremonies. They have real close friends here. We feel like this is our second home."

Airboat Training Prepares Officers for Rescue Operations

Brett Larson Staff Writer **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** Photographer

When we see law enforcement officers in uniform, we don't always realize the hours of training they undergo in order to serve and protect their communities. One such training happened in mid-August, when DNR Conservation Officers and Tribal Police took part in airboat training with instructors from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The training was organized by Conservation Officer Jason Rice and attended by Conservation Officers Leah Kampa and Taylor Hochstein, Tribal Police Officer Jeff Schaefer and Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk.

The USFWS brought trainers from far and wide for the course: Dave Wedan of La Crosse, Wisc., Regional Watercraft and Emergency Response Coordinator for the Midwest Region, which is composed of eight states; Jim Graham of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge; Tyler Paulson of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge and Walt Ford of Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

The lead instructor was Duane King, also of Rice Lake, which hosted the classroom component of the training. The practical training in watercraft operation was held at Portage Lake west of the refuge, where trainees learned what to do before, during and after an emergency — everything from pre-launch checklists to safe operation to storage, maintenance and decontamination.

On the water, they learned to operate

at high and low speed and to avoid obstacles. The key is to give each student enough time to feel comfortable at the helm — especially those who have never operated an airboat. "Everyone's a little timid at first in the morning," said Duane, "but by afternoon they're ready to go."

The Band owns two airboats that are housed in District I and available for use in emergency.

Dave Wedan said, "Motorboat operation takes training, but airboats are even more difficult and dangerous. It's similar to flying a plane with that big propeller."

Dave also stressed the importance of the partnership between the USFWS and Indian tribes. "We take our tribal trust responsibility seriously," he said. "We're glad to be partnering on programs like this."

Conservation Officer Jason Rice said another training is being planned for December, which will prepare officers to use airboats in rescues year-round.



They Are Remembered at Big Sandy Lake

Li Boyd Guest Writer **Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission** Photographer

The goldenrod-colored t-shirts ran out quickly at this year's Sandy Lake Ceremony. The shirts read *Mikwendaagoziwag. They are remembered.*

What happened at Big Sandy Lake is a little known story in mainstream United States history, but the Anishinaabe people never forgot that more than 400 Ojibwe died due to the removal schemes of the state and federal governments.

In the fall of 1850, Ojibwe from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan tribes were due annuities from the federal government. These annuities were normally paid at La Pointe, Wisconsin, but the government informed the tribes that they must instead be at Sandy Lake in Minnesota by October 25, some 285 canoe miles distant from La Pointe. A few of the easternmost tribes refused to travel that far with winter approaching, but still more than 5,500 people made the journey for what was owed and promised to them.

When the people arrived at Sandy Lake, there was no government agent nor any supplies waiting for them. There was only the already poorly provisioned local Sandy Lake tribe, which was suffering from the second year in a row of bad wild rice conditions. The visitors made camp outside the newly established agent office and waited six weeks with no support. The lack of food and deteriorating conditions made the people sick, and at least 150 died from starvation, dysentery and measles.

On December 2, a partial annuity payment finally arrived, but it was only three days' worth of food with no money to purchase any more supplies. Most of the people saw there was no use in waiting anymore and began the journey back to their homes, though some stayed behind because they were too sick to travel. With winter set in, it was a harrowing journey, and 250 more died along the way.

The goal of all this deception on behalf of the United States government was to remove Michigan and Wisconsin bands of Ojibwe to Minnesota and trap them there. Although the people suffered, the government's plan didn't succeed, as the tribes returned home and declared that they would not be removed from their lands again.

The Sandy Lake Ceremony to remember the ancestors who perished and also persevered through this tragedy took place on July 26 this year and was attended by representatives from tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. The Horse Nation from the 5th Annual Love Water Not Oil Tour also visited, with Lakota and Dakota individuals taking part in the day's activities as well.

The morning began with a ceremony on the east side of the lake, and then participants loaded into canoes and paddled across to the Army Corps of Engineers Sandy Lake Recreation Area where the Mikwendaagoziwag Memorial was built in October of 2000. Attendance was high on the warm, sunny afternoon, and there was prayer before a feast, shared on the grassy knoll adjacent to the dam. There was plenty of food and shade for everyone, and after the meal, tribal representatives were invited to share their thoughts on the significance of the day's events.

A common theme was that bands, though legally separate, should remember to stay unified through ceremony. Terry Tibbetts, Chairman of the White Earth Nation, stressed that staying together and united keeps the bonds between communities solid and makes everyone stronger as a whole. Jason Schlender, vice chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band, said, "It's as simple as using tobacco and having some food."

Other issues, such as oil pipelines, were also discussed, with Winona LaDuke of White Earth and the non-profit organization Honor the Earth speaking briefly about Enbridge's Line 3 expansion project and the importance of Minnesota's clean water. Dylan Jennings, representing Bad River Band and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, which hosts the ceremony each year, reiterated that his tribe has decided not to renew a lease to Enbridge to transport oil across their land. He emphasized that, "The only way we'll be able to move forward is to educate our nonnative relatives."

Perhaps the most important message passed along, however,

is that participants are not only remembering their relatives who were laid to rest at Sandy Lake, wrapped in birch bark in the old way and said to have turned the hillsides white without snow. They are also remembering that they have survived in spite of all that the Anishinaabe have been through. "They are remembered," but also "We are still here."

On reflection, Harvey Goodsky, Jr. said that the people are "lucky enough to have [Sandy Lake] area to canoe and exercise our rights in, even though many believed it was a bad place. It's good to do our remembrance and hope we can cross our pristine waters and hold ceremony in the future. Because it helps our spirits." Algin Goodsky said, "It was a great experience. I really appreciated the support from tribes that came from all over and the DNR for watching over everyone." The Department of Natural Resources followed the canoers in their own boat to ensure everyone made it safely across the lake.

As part of the legacy passed on to survivors, tribal historian Don Wedll pointed out that people need to think about and understand what happened at Big Sandy because of how it relates to treaty rights in the context of removable versus non-removable status.

The Sandy Lake Tragedy is yet another point in history when the US Government tried to remove or eradicate indigenous peoples but ultimately failed. The Anishinaabe can be proud of their survival and thankful to their ancestors for their fortitude and sacrifice in the past. They are remembered, and they always will be.



Learn the Ojibwe Language

Reprinted from Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwe Childhood, by the late Maude Kegg, edited and transcribed by John D. Nichols. University of Minnesota Press.

Bootaaganikewin

Ingii-wiidoowakawaa ko inzhishenyiban gii-ozhi'aad iniw bootaaganan. Ingii-minjiminamawaa. Mii ezhi-giishkiboodood i'iw mitig, ezhi-gwayakoboodood. Mii ezhi-bajishkiga'ang miinawaa mii ezhi-onikonaad iniw mitigoon, ezhi-bapajishkikonaad, ingoji ji-minoshininid igo ji-waawiyezinid iniw bootaaganan. Mii giizhikonaad; mii ezhi-atood, mii ezhi-waaniked; miish ezhi-atood mashkosiwan. Gaganawaakwadiniwan iniw mashkosiwan imaa etoojin. Miish i'iw ezhi-atood ayi'ii oziisigobimizhiins, ezhi-waawiyaaingang. Miish ezhi-minjimishkoodood iniw mashkosiwan. Mii miinawaa, miish iniw nabagisagoon bijiinag ezhi-baabichishimaad imaa. Miish iko imaa gii-minjiminamawag ganawaabamag.

Miish gaa-kiizhishimaad iniw aya'aan, iniw mitigoon wenikonaajin, giizhikan, miish imaa ezhi-ginjida'ang i'iw wayaawiyeyaanig mitig. Mii ezhi-ginjida'ang imaa. Indigo-sh igo akik ezhi-naagozid a'aw. Mii miinawaa giivitaashimaad iniw nabagisagoon. Mii miinawaa ezhi-atood ayi'ii, ayi'iin, iniw oziisigobimizhiinsan. Mii

ezhi-minjiminigemagak. Miish ezhi-waawiyezid imaa. Miish igo gaawin gaye bingwi imaa daa-ipidesinooon. Mii ezhi-wenda-ganawenimangid igo weweni gaye ji-nisaabaawesig ezhi-badagwana'wangid, maagizhaa gaye wiigwaasabakway imaa gimiwang, niibaa-dibik sa go gaye aabaji'aasiwangid.

Mii imaa endazhi-mimigoshkamowaad, miinawaa go aangodinong bootaagem ikidom, bootaagaadamowaad i'iw manoomin. Miish ani-dibikak, ishkwa-aabaji'angid, mii ezhi-badagwana'wangid ji-nisaabaawesig, mii a'aw bootaagan, miinawaa bingwi maajii-ipidesinog. Mii miinawaa ishkwa-aabadizid, ishkwa-manoominkewaad, mii akina ezhi-giichigonaad na'inamowaad iniw ayaabajitoowaajin. Miish igo endaso-manoominikeng, mii go ezhi-aabaji'aad iniw bootaaganan. Ogi-ozhi'aan apane.

Mii sa go i'iw.

Making a Bootaagan

I used to help my uncle when he made a bootaagan. I held it for him. He cut a log, then sawed it straight. Then he pointed one end and carved some wooden pieces. Pointing them so they'd fit well

and make the bootaagan round. When he was through carving them, he dug a pit and put grass in it. It was long grass that he put in it. Then he put in a willow strip bent into a circle. He pressed the grass down. Then he fitted the boards together in it again. I held them as I watched him.

After he got done fitting in those things, the pieces of carved cedar, he tapped in the round piece of log. He tapped it in there. It looked just like a pail. He formed the boards into a circle. Then he put in the willow strips. It held then. It was round. No sand could get in there. We took care of it properly so it didn't get wet, covering it, perhaps with a birch bark roll, when it rained or at night when we weren't using it.

That was where they trampled the rice, or, sometimes, so it is said, pounded the rice. When it got to be night and we were through using it, we covered that mill up so it wouldn't get wet and so no sand would start getting into it. When it was through being used and they were done picking rice, they took it apart and stored away the parts. Whenever there was ricing, he used the bootaagan. He was always putting it together.

That's all.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy September Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Joe Anderson Jr.
Sandra Lynne Anderson
Cynthia Mae Benjamin
Dennis Wayne Benjamin
Joyce Marie Benjamin
Julie Louise Benjamin
Joanne Frances Boyd
Rose Marie Bugg
James Douglas Colsrud
Keith Edward Dahlberg
Roger Dorr
Raymond Allen Eubanks
Lloyd Dale Evans
Shirley Ann Evans
Rina Margaret Fonder
Lorena Joy Gahbow
Joseph Wm. Garbow
Ricky Joe Garbow

Bernice Bea Gardner
Lisa Celeste Griffin
Loretta Lea Hansen
Carol Anne Hernandez
Bernida Mae Humetwa
Donna Lianne Iverson
Kathleen Lorena Johnson
Beverly Marie Jones
Marlan Wayne Lucas
Rueben Dale Merrill
Carol Jean Mojica
Jaqueline Jean Moltaji
Elmer Eugene Nayquonabe
Joseph Leonard Nayquonabe
Laureen Jennifer Nickaboine
DeWayne Michael Pike
Alan Ray Premo
Jane Yvonne Rea Bruce
Bernadine Joyce Roberts
Carol Ann Sam
Darlene Joyce Sam

Karen Louise Sam
Melanie Lou Sam
Kevin Duane Schaaf
Janice Arlene StandingCloud
Charles W. Sutton
Judie Erma Thomas
Julie Erna Thomas
Marty Russell Thomas
Russell Harvey Thomas
Arne Vainio Jr.
Leonard Wayne Weyaus
Bonita Diane White
Donald Ray Williams
Dale Barnet Wind

Happy September Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Char!** From Rory and Rachel • Happy birthday **Dad** on 9/3! Love, Kevin • Happy birthday **Jade** on 9/5! ILY! From Rory and Rachel •

Happy birthday to **Justo** on 9/6! From Auntie Rae • Happy birthday **Charlotte** on 9/9! Love, the Harrington Family • Happy birthday to **Deshawn** on 9/13! I love you lil man. From Rory and Rachel • Happy birthday **Brad** on 9/17! Love, the Harrington Family • Happy birthday to **B-Rad** on 9/17! From Rory and Rachel • Happy birthday **Janie** on 9/19! Love ya! From Rory and Rachel • Happy birthday **Raining James** on 9/20! Mommy and Grandma Deuce love you so much! We hope to see you soon! • Happy birthday **Carol** on 9/26! From Rory and Rachel • Happy birthday to **Dev Da Dude** on 9/26! Love, Rory and Rachel

• Happy birthday **Nadine** on 9/28! Love, the Harrington Family • Happy birthday **Nade** on 9/28! From, Rory and Auntie Rae • Happy birthday **Ash** on 9/28! Love Rory and Rachel • Happy birthday to **DJ** on 9/28! Love you and miss you! Love, Rory and Rachel • Happy birthday to my sister **Tracy** on 9/29! Love, Rory and Rachel! • Happy birthday **Tracy** on 9/29! Love, the Harrington Family •

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 Oct. issue is Sept. 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., Mino Bimaadiziwin (Budget Host Hotel) 40847 US-169, Onamia
Contact Mino Bimaadiziwin 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

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., DI, District I Community Center
Tuesdays, Aug. 15–Sept. 26, White Earth Urban MOMS and WESAP (212 W. Franklin Ave) Call 612-872-2398 for more info
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 Noopiming 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

Correction

The August *Inaajimowin* incorrectly stated that Reuben Gibbs had watched three uncles participate in the Indigenous Games. It should have said he watched three cousins participate. We regret the error.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post September Events

Dream Catcher Craft: Sept. 2, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Learn how to weave a dream catcher to take home. Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

"Storyteller" Traveling Art Exhibit Opening: Sept. 6, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Opening Reception Sept. 8, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. "Storyteller" is an exhibit of paintings, animations and digital media created by Red Lake artist Jonathan Thunder. According to Thunder, "The images I paint are the dream-scape representation of the seen world I cohabitate every day in my life and journey. The characters in my paintings come to me as any dream would, as messengers and pivotal roles that carry out the story." Jonathan Thunder currently lives in Duluth. He attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe and received a bachelor's degree in visual effects and motion graphics from the Art Institutes International Minnesota. The exhibit runs Sept. 6 – Oct. 28, 2017.

Sweetgrass Basket 2-day Workshop: Sept. 9 – Sept. 10 Learn the art of making a coil sweetgrass basket in this two-day workshop. Sweetgrass is a fragrant sacred herb used in ceremonies and artwork by the Ojibwe. Refresh-

ments and a light lunch will be provided on both days. The workshop runs Saturday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Registration is required three days prior to the workshop. A minimum of five participants is required to host the workshop. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounted hotel rooms are available for workshop participants on Saturday night at Grand Casino Mille Lacs with 10 days' advance registration.

Wild Rice Processing Demo: Sept 16, Noon – 3:30 p.m. Head to the lakeshore to watch museum staff process wild rice, including how to dry, parch, thresh, and winnow the rice. See the entire process from raw to finished product during 20-minute demonstrations offered on the hour. The program begins at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Demonstrations may be cancelled due to weather.

Hide Processing Demos: Sept 23, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Throughout the day, museum staff will work to transform a deer hide into buckskin, or leather, for various uses. Come learn what tools and techniques are used in this age-old practice.

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.

WAATEBAGAA-GIIZIS BRIGHT LEAVES MOON SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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>1 Government offices close at noon</p>	<p>2 Dream Catcher Craft 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum</p>
<p>3</p> <p><i>niswi: three nisogonagizi: It is the third day of the month</i></p>	<p>4 Labor Day: Gov't Offices Closed DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> Ribbon Skirt/ Moccasin Making 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>5 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i> Band Member Picnic 2 p.m. District I Powwow Grounds <i>See Below</i> Zumba Fitness 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>6 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i> Free Back-to-School Haircuts 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. District I Comm. Ctr. DI Back-to-School Event 5:30 – 8 p.m. District I Comm. Ctr.</p>	<p>7 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>8 Wisdom Steps Golf Tournament 10 a.m. Black Bear Golf Course Urban Area Mobile Mammogram Day Call for an appt. NACC "Storyteller" Art Exhibit Opening Reception 5 – 7 p.m. Indian Museum</p>	<p>9 Sweetgrass Basket 2-day Workshop 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum WEWIN Golf Tournament <i>See Page 4</i></p>
<p>10 Sweetgrass Basket 2-day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Indian Museum</p>	<p>11 DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> Ribbon Skirt/ Moccasin Making 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>12 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i> Zumba Fitness 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>13 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>14 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> 21st Annual Urban Indian Elder's Picnic 10 a.m. Minnehaha Park Pavilion</p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>ashi-naanan: fifteen ashi-naanwaginzo: It is the 15th day of the month</i></p>	<p>16 Wild Rice Processing Demo 12 – 3:30 p.m. Indian Museum</p>
<p>17</p> <p><i>ashi-niizhwaaswi: seventeen ashi-niizhwaaswaginzo: It is the 17th day of the month</i></p>	<p>18 DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. Ribbon Skirt/ Moccasin Making 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>19 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i> Zumba Fitness 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>20 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i> DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>21 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>niishtana-ashi-niizh: twenty-two ashi-niishtana-shi-niizhwaginzo: It is the 22nd day of the month</i></p>	<p>23 Hide Processing Demos 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Indian Museum</p>
<p>24</p> <p><i>niishtana-ashi-niiwin: twenty-four niishtana-shi-niiwaginzo: It is the 24th day of the month</i></p>	<p>25 DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> Constitutional Convention 12 – 4 p.m. Shooting Star Casino Mahnomen, MN DIII Sobriety Feast 6 p.m. Ribbon Skirt/ Moccasin Making 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>26 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i> Constitutional Convention 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Shooting Star Casino Mahnomen, MN DI Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Zumba Fitness 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>27 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i> DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p>	<p>28 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> Urban Community Meeting 10 a.m. All Nations Church DIIa Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>niishtana-ashi-niiwin: twenty-nine niishtana-shi-zhaangaswaginzo: It is the 29th day of the month</i></p>	<p>30 Urban Elder Luncheon & Bingo 11:30 a.m. All Nations Church</p>

Picnic, Meet-and-Greet for Band Members, Employees

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2 p.m.. District I Powwow Grounds. Picnic for Band members and employees, meet and greet with new commissioners. Open to all Band members and employees, hosted by the Chief Executive.

"DA-APIITENDAMANG GIMINO-AYAAWININAAN" AS WE VALUE OUR HEALTH



Tuesday, October 17
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
(District 3)
Aazhoomog Community Center
45471 Grace Lake Rd
Sandstone, MN 55072

Wednesday, October 18
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
(District 2)
East Lake Community Center
46666 State Hwy 65
McGregor, MN 55760

Thursday, October 19
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
(District 1)
Mille Lacs Community Center
43500 Virgo Rd
Onamia, MN 56359

Friday, October 20
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
(District 2A)
Chiminising Community Center
2605 Chiminising Drive
Isle, MN 56342

Healthy food provided BRING THE FAMILY!

- 30+ booths promoting health & wellness
- Flu Shots available
- Mammogram Mobile Unit
- Blood Typing
- Scavenger Hunt
- Coloring Contest
- Drunken Goggles/Safe & Sober
- Blood Pressure
- Diabetes Screening
- Fire Truck Tours
- Door Prizes

Contact:
Darla Roache, SHIP Coordinator 320-532-7760

"HOW ARE YOU STEERING YOUR FAMILY'S LIFE"



Logan Best, Wewinabi Tiny Tot Brave, rode in the parade at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I on August 19

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, 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 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 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.

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO 30308

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

millelacsband.com



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 brett@redcircleagency.com or myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call Myles at 612-465-0653 or Brett at 320-237-6851.

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. The Legislative Update on page 3 was provided by Band Assembly.