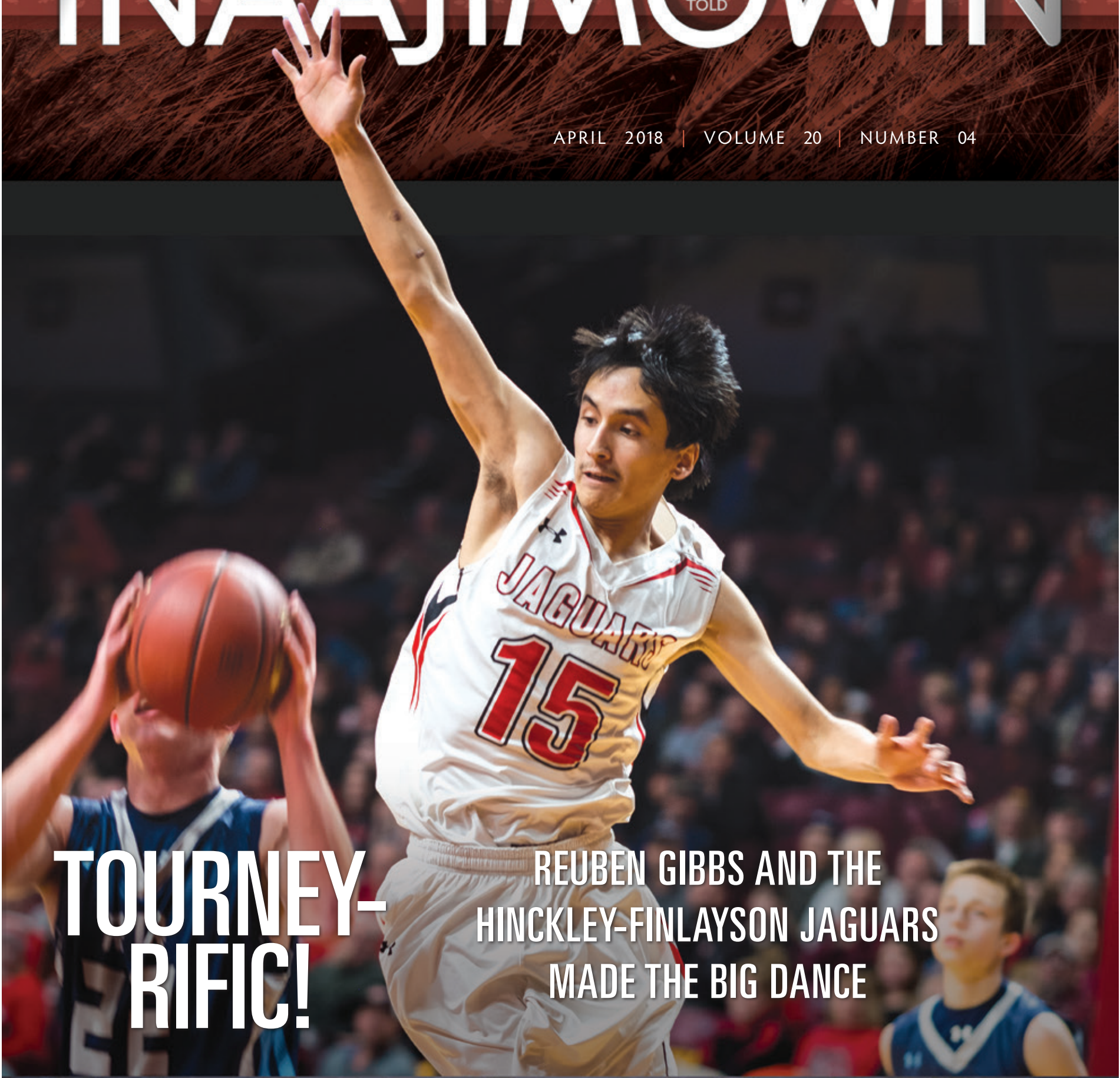


OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

APRIL 2018 | VOLUME 20 | NUMBER 04



TOURNEY- RIFIC!

REUBEN GIBBS AND THE
HINCKLEY-FINLAYSON JAGUARS
MADE THE BIG DANCE

APRIL 3 PRIMARY
ELECTION WILL
NARROW FIELD

BAND JOINS
NATIVE FARM
BILL COALITION

WARM
WELCOME AT
CHIMINISING

WENABOZHO
STORIES COME TO
MILLE LACS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Dear Band Members,

Boozhoo! It has been a beautiful winter with lots of snow, but I am looking forward to warmer spring weather and our spring dances!

We had a lot happening this past month. March began for me with participation on a Women in Leadership panel at my alma mater, Bemidji State University, in celebration of Women's History Month, followed by attending the annual conference of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, which focuses on bringing economic development to Indian reservations.

That same week, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) held a special meeting at White Earth to consider a motion made by White Earth Chairman Terry Tibbetts to censure and remove from office White Earth Secretary-Treasurer Tara Mason, as well as a motion made by Secretary-Treasurer Mason to censure Chairman Tibbetts. When voting, we were only allowed to consider the evidence that the petitioners provided at the previous meeting when the motions were made.

The vote to censure Chairman Tibbetts failed, by a vote of 8-1. The vote to censure Secretary-Treasurer Mason passed, by a vote of 5-4, 1 silent. Censure means that White Earth will only have one vote at future TEC meetings, as Secretary-Treasurer Mason will not be allowed to sit at the table or vote. The MCT Constitution requires that the Reservation Business Committee (tribal council) hold a hearing and vote on whether or not to remove the censured person from office, or hold a recall election. Unfortunately, this meeting devolved and ended

in a bad way.

As a Band, we have been very busy pushing a number of important bills at the state and federal levels. Fixing the law enforcement issue is a top priority. In the State Legislature, there are bills pending on the House and Senate sides that would remove the requirement of an Indian tribe needing to have a law enforcement agreement with the County. If these pass, the current law enforcement crisis would come to an end. However, we have opposition from Representative Sondra Erickson and others, and it will be an uphill battle to pass this bill this year. In spite of this opposition, we will continue to push until we get the state legislation we need.

We have also been busy at the federal level. First, we are working on language that would allow us to keep drug dealers off our lands. Second, a bill to improve the Tribal Self-Governance Act, which we have been pushing for several years, was introduced in March. Finally, the Band Assembly passed a resolution for Mille Lacs to join a coalition to place pro-tribal provisions into the federal Farm Bill, which will go through Congress this year. This will help us pursue our goals of food sovereignty and extend tribal self-governance to the Agriculture Department.

During the week of March 12, I was very happy to see the many Elders who turned out at our Elder meetings in Districts I, II, Ila, III, and the Urban Area. These were wonderful meetings, and I received valuable input from Elders about the issues they care about and current events. This week ended with a meeting of the Minnesota Board on Aging, where we discussed im-

proving access to services for American Indian Elders and other under-represented ethnic groups.

One of the most exciting meetings this month was a two-day strategic planning meeting with the Executive Branch Cabinet. We reviewed the Band's previous five-year strategic plan (which has since expired) and worked together with a facilitator to work on updating the goals to reflect new challenges like the reservation boundary, law enforcement, and the opioid epidemic. We want the plan to be "evergreen," which means to keep it current and fresh based on new opportunities or obstacles, while staying true to our core values, culture, and traditions. The previous plan was outstanding, and many community members and Elders played a huge role in writing it. Our goal is not to replace that plan, but to build on it and make it stronger. We will be bringing this revised plan out to the Band members for feedback in the near future.

Finally, please remember to get out and vote in the Primary Election for the position of Secretary-Treasurer and Districts II and III representatives on Tuesday, April 3, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Primary Election matters! Chi Miigwech to all Band members who are running for election to improve our community; it takes courage to put yourself out there as a candidate. Good luck to all! Miigwech!

Native Governance Center Moderates Candidate Forums

By Amikogaabwiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin) Mille Lacs Band Member

If you recently attended a Mille Lacs Band candidate forum, you saw two new faces — Wayne Ducheneaux and Jayme Davis — who helped the Band moderate the events. Wayne and Jayme both work for the Native Governance Center (NGC), a Native American-led nonprofit organization that assists Tribal nations in strengthening their systems of governance and capacity to exercise sovereignty.

Wayne is the Executive Director of the organization and is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. Jayme is the Program Manager of NGC and is a proud member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and descendant of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota.

The organization was created in response to a need identified by tribal leaders representing the 23 Native nations in our region. These leaders expressed the need for an organization that would meet the expanding demand for tribal governance-related resources and sustain this work into the long-term future. Native Governance Center works at the intersection of leadership development and tribal governance support.

Acting in accordance with its mission, NGC offers a range of programs and services to build leadership skills and assist tribes in reaching their own governance goals. They are the stewards of the famed Native Nation Rebuilder Program, which is a two-year, cohort-based initiative designed to help participants develop the knowledge, skills, and connections they need to effectively lead nation-building efforts in their own tribal regions. This year, they are launching a spin-off of the Rebuilders

program called "Youth Rebuilders" (see page 9). It's a summer experience that equips Native youth with nation-building training to develop the next generation of Native leaders.

In addition to these two amazing programs, they also offer tribal governance support to tribes in three key areas:

- Customized tribal assistance: NGC helps tribes create and implement governance solutions through technical assistance and consulting services.
- Tribal resource grants: These grants help connect Native nations to resources which strengthen governance.
- Education: NGC works with tribes to host large and small-scale educational convenings, in addition to several educational events to the general public each year.

When asked why the organization was excited to work with Mille Lacs on the candidate forums, Wayne said, "We embraced the opportunity to moderate the Mille Lacs Band forums because we believe (and research shows) that an open, transparent electoral process is a cornerstone of stable governments. The process developed by Mille Lacs allows candidates to come together to inform the community on why they should be chosen

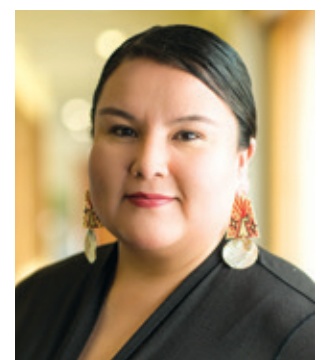


Wayne Ducheneaux

to lead the Band. Through the moderated question format, community members are informing candidates on the issues they see as most relevant. A well-informed constituency that participates in elections is foundational to any democratic system. It is also, more importantly, reflective of how we as Native people traditionally governed ourselves. Informed participation is something that our leaders relied upon well before colonization."

NGC was also called upon recently during the MCT Constitutional Conventions to help conduct educational sessions. "Our goal was to serve the TEC and the entire membership by providing meetings that were well-facilitated, well-constructed, and with content that would be relevant to the demanding effort that constitution reform is. Our plan, now that the seven meetings are complete, is to provide a report to the TEC that allows for them to plan their next steps in moving forward with a Constitutional Convention process," Wayne explained.

NGC has high hopes for its future in working with tribes and its role as a champion and friend of tribal sovereignty not just in Minnesota, but across the country.



Jayme Davis

April 3 Primary Will Narrow Field for Secretary-Treasurer, District Reps

Members of the Mille Lacs Band will vote in a primary election April 3 to determine the candidates in the June 12 general election.

The primary election will narrow the field in each race to the top two candidates, who will face each other in the general election. If any candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote in the primary, he or she will be declared the winner, and no general election will be held in that contest.

Winning candidates will take office in July.

Voting will take place at community centers in Districts I, II, Ila, and III, and at All Nations Church in Minneapolis. District I Community Center is the designated polling place for absentee voting.

Polling places will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for both the primary and general election.

Three candidates are running for Secretary-Treasurer: Carolyn Beaulieu (incumbent), Sheldon Boyd, and Bruce Harrington.

In District II, Representative David 'Niib' Aubid did not seek reelection. Running for that seat are Michael Aubid, Thomas Benjamin Sr., Marvin Bruneau, Raina Killspotted, and Louis Merrill.

District III Representative Harry Davis also chose not to run. Seeking that office are Clifford Churchill, Laureen Davis, Diane Gibbs, Bonnie Matrious, and Wallace St. John.

Elections for Chief Executive and District I Representative will be held in 2020.

Absentee Ballot Information

The Mille Lacs Band Election Office, located at the District I Community Center, will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mille Lacs Band Members 18 years of age and older (as of April 3, 2018) may request to vote via absentee ballot prior to the primary election, on April 3, 2018, if circumstances beyond your control prevent voting the day of the primary.

Absentee ballot requests will be accepted by phone, letter, fax, or email through April 3, 2018. Requests can be made to Mille Lacs Band General Election Board, PO Box 89, Onamia, MN 56359. Office Phone: 320-532-7586 or 800-709-6445, ext. 7586. Cell: 320-279-0178. Fax: 320-532-4782. Email: deanna.sam@millelacsband.com.

Please provide the following information: full name, date of birth, enrollment number, address, and voting district.

Election Calendar

Please note the following important dates between now and the General Election on June 12.

April 3: Primary. Polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

April 4: General Reservation Election Board certifies primary results prior to 8 p.m.

April 5: General Reservation Election Board publishes primary results.

April 6: Deadline for request to recount must be filed with Election Board prior to 5 p.m.

April 10: 4:30 p.m. deadline for contest of primary election filed with reservation election judge and Executive Director of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

April 11 (Results, if allowed, or 9th or 10th if earlier request): Deadline for decision on request for recount and results of recount, if allowed.

April 20: Deadline for decision on contest.

April 23 (or within three days of decision on contest): 4:30 p.m. Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering decision.)

April 26 (or within three days upon receipt of notice to appeal): Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.

April 30 (hearing within seven days' notice of appeal): Last day for hearing on appeal.

May 10 (10 days from hearing on appeal): Last day for decision on appeal.

May 11: Notice of General Election

May 11: TEC provides ballots for General Election.

June 12: General Election. Polling places open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For the complete Election Calendar, see mnchippewatribe.org/pdf/Election%20Calendar%202017-2018.pdf.

Free Tribal IDs

Is your Tribal ID expired or lost? The Department of Natural Resources Enrollment Office is providing FREE IDs to Band members on March 30, April 2, and April 3 at the District I Government Center, community centers in Districts II, Ila, and III, and the Urban Office during regular business hours. You must be over 18 and bring one form of identification.



All Aboard!

The newly created Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) Commission is now complete after Virgil Wind, right, was sworn in by Tribal Court Judge Ramona Applegate February 28. A change in Band Statutes created the independent commission to enforce the TERO ordinance, which gives preference to Native Americans in hiring, promotion, training, and all other aspects of employment, including contracting and subcontracting. Pictured with Virgil and Ramona is TERO Director Craig Hansen. The other six members were sworn in earlier.

Make Your Voice Heard: Vote!

Zaagibagaang Anishinaabe Values in Action

The following commentary was submitted by Zaagibagaang, a grassroots effort focusing on governance and nation building within the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT). For more information, visit zaagibagaang.com.

We are in the midst of election season across the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's (MCT) six Bands: Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth. The Secretary-Treasurer position is up for each Band, which means that 50 percent of the MCT Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) is up for election. The TEC is made up of the Chairperson and Secretary Treasurer from each of the six Bands. Therefore, the election results in your community have a big impact for all MCT members. In addition, two district seats are up for each Band, which means that a total of three of five seats on each of the Reservation Business Committee/Reservation Tribal Council are up for election. These elected leaders make and implement laws that affect our everyday life and decide how budgets will be spent on programs like health and education at the local level.

You have probably heard phrases like, "Every Vote Counts" during past tribal, state, and national elections. In small communities such as ours, every vote does count and can often be pivotal — elections have been won with margins of even two or three votes! The future is determined by those who show up on election day.

Your vote is more important than ever since the MCT is beginning to enter a period of constitutional reform. We have opportunities to make real and informed changes. You have the

opportunity to actively shape how the MCT moves ahead with constitutional reform, and who you vote for will impact this process.

Zaagibagaang, a grassroots effort formed by MCT members that focuses on tribal governance and nation building, is focused on increasing voter awareness. With primaries around the corner — on Tuesday April 3, 2018 (polling 8 a.m.–8 p.m.) — we wanted to take this opportunity to encourage you to make your voice heard by voting.

It is important to do your research on each candidate running in your reservation's election. Most will share their candidate positions in the tribal newsletter. Also, please keep your eyes and ears open for candidate forums where you can meet with each prospective leader in person. You may find Facebook as an important source of candidates' stance on several issues — either on their personal or shared pages. While they may be reaching out to you in person or via standard mail, you should also feel free to find them directly to find out their platforms on issues that are important to you.

Your vote matters. Your vote counts. Your Band's leadership needs to know what issues are important to you. MCT is in a state of change, and through your vote and participation, you will not only affect changes today, but you will also shape the future for your children, grandchildren, and descendants. When you make your decision to vote, think of what is at stake.

Chi miigwech!

Local and State News Briefs

Catch-and-Release for Mille Lacs Anglers:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced on March 19 that catch-and-release only regulations will again be in effect when the Mille Lacs walleye season opens May 12. The lake's spawning walleye population has improved from last year, the DNR said, so no mid-season closures are planned. The night closure for the 2018 walleye fishing season will be in effect on Mille Lacs from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. beginning Monday, May 14. The night walleye closure remains in effect throughout the entire open-water season, which ends Nov. 30. *Source: news.dnr.state.mn.us.*

Commissioner Named to Downtown Alliance:

Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe was named to the St. Paul Downtown Alliance, a nonprofit board announced last month by new St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and Chris Hilger, CEO of Securian Financial Group. The board will be dedicated to advocating for the interests of downtown businesses, residents, nonprofits, and government agencies. The Mille Lacs Band owns two hotels in downtown St. Paul. *Source: twincities.com.*

Drug Court Approved at White Earth: After more than a year of planning, the Minnesota Judicial Branch has approved a new drug court on the White Earth Indian Reservation. The White Earth Tribal and Mahnomen County Healing to Wellness Drug Court will work with prosecutors, public defenders, and social workers to keep felony offenders from the drugs that got them in trouble to begin with. *Source: mprnews.org.*

American Indian Teens Visit Vatican to Protest Papal Decrees: Teacher Mitch Walking Elk from Guadalupe Alternative Programs in St. Paul is bringing a group of Native students to the Vatican to petition the Pope to rescind historic papal decrees that justified the domination of native peoples. The decrees formed the basis for the Doctrine of Discovery, which said the people and wealth of non-Christians lands belonged to those who 'discovered' them. Student Nina Berglund said, "We live with historical trauma; it's in our DNA. It's from the taking of our land, the killing of our people. Every day we see it in suicides, drug and alcohol addiction, poverty... We're still trying to deal with it." *Source: startribune.com.*

Ganawenjigeng miinawaa Naadamaageng — Ojibwe Language Added to Bemidji Cop Cars: All Bemidji police cars now sport Ojibwe-language decals, part of the department's efforts to build community trust. The new decals read "To Protect and Serve," along with the Ojibwe translation: "Ganawenjigeng miinawaa Naadamaageng." The department joins more than 180 sites in the Bemidji area that have signage in English and Ojibwe. The Bemidji Police Department added the decals with the help of the Bemidji Ojibwe Language Project, according to a news release. The project started in 2005 and encouraged local businesses to display the bilingual signs. *Source: bemidjipioneer.com.*

Something to Share?

Send your stories, photos, and birthday announcements to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

The May issue deadline is April 15.

Band Seeks Self-Governance Growth Through Native Farm Bill Efforts

In an effort to further the cause of food sovereignty, the Mille Lacs Band recently joined a coalition of tribes from across the nation that are working to improve tribal opportunity, access to programs, and funding in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Numerous natural resource programs are operated by the USDA and influenced by the Farm Bill, which is reauthorized every five years. The Native Farm Bill Coalition formed in late 2017 to secure greater parity for tribes in the Farm Bill — the first coalition of its kind in history. More than 60 tribes and tribal organizations have since joined the coalition, aiming for provisions in the next Farm Bill that put tribes on par with state and local governments.

The Farm Bill impacts every aspect of life in Indian Country, including nutrition and food assistance programs, food production, trade and marketing, education and training, natural resource conservation, rural infrastructure, rural economic development, forestry management, finance and credit, and insurance programs. Yet nearly all these programs have bypassed the needs of Indian Country for decades. The coalition aims to organize and amplify Native messages so that Congress can no longer ignore Native voices.

"Tribal governments are best qualified to ensure tribal needs

are met in the most productive, culturally fit, and cost-effective manner possible. Tribal control means having statutory authority to adapt programs to each tribe's unique realities," said Ross Racine, co-chair of the Native Farm Bill Coalition and executive director of the Intertribal Agriculture Council. "We are working to achieve this for our members, including the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. We're glad to have the Mille Lacs Band on board."

The Band is especially interested in securing a tribal self-governance demonstration project in the Farm Bill. This would enable the Band to compact or contract for authority over U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, similar to how the Band can already operate Interior Department programs.

"Ideally, the Band will eventually have self-governance authority to operate the programs of all federal agencies. The USDA is a good department to target next, as a part of our Farm Bill efforts," said Bradley Harrington, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources.

The Native Farm Bill Coalition is led by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the National Congress of American Indians, and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative.



Treaty Rights Day Celebrates Heritage

By Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

This year marks the 19th anniversary of the Mille Lacs Band's U.S. Supreme Court victory affirming Band member rights to hunt, fish, and gather in the 1837 ceded territories. The Band's Department of Natural Resources hosted the annual Treaty Rights Celebration with information booths, vendors, and activities for youth at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events Center on March 23. Lunch was provided, along with insights from DNR Commissioner Bradley Harrington and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Board of Commissioners member Michael J. "Mic" Isham Jr.

Commissioner Harrington talked about what the narrowly won court ruling actually meant and how differently things might have gone. "What would have happened if it was 4-5 the other way? We wouldn't have been able to hunt and fish as Anishinaabe, then eventually we probably wouldn't have been able to govern as Anishinaabe."

The rights to hunt, fish, and gather are not about sporting or hobbies to the Anishinaabe. These activities are what sustain Anishinaabe life. Commissioner Harrington told a story relayed to him by Joe Nayquonabe Sr.

A long time ago, the animals used to talk with the Anishinaabe. But the Anishinaabe were becoming pitiful, and the Creator was going to take them off the earth. The animals had become kinfolk, relatives, to the Anishinaabe, and they didn't want the Creator to do that. So they asked the Creator, "What can we do to help the Anishinaabe People?" The Anishinaabe were running out of life, so the animals offered to give their own life to the Anishinaabe. The Creator agreed and told the Anishinaabe, "The animals are going to give their life to you, and you will continue on living. But the animals have one condition. Only take what you need. And then they will always give." The Creator then stopped the animals and Anishinaabe from talking to each other anymore, as one would hunt the other. So when a person successfully hunts a deer, it's partially because of skill, but it's mostly because that animal has decided to give the hunter some life. Only take what you need.

Treaty rights impact the source of life for Anishinaabe people. The story explains how this goes beyond physical nourish-



ment. The Anishinaabe must also feed their spirit. Without the rights protected by the treaties, the Anishinaabe could lose everything. Mic Isham said, "I've been on tribal council for 20-some years. We argue a lot, about our gas station, our casino, or whatever. But to me, the most important things are those treaties. Because without them, we have nothing to argue about. So especially to the young people out here, I want to say, with everything you've got, everything you do in the future, protect those treaties. It's really important that we remember how important those treaties are."

Festivities closed with a series of raffle drawings for prizes ranging from toy archery sets for the youth to a complete netting setup. Commissioner Harrington thanked everyone for their attendance.

For more photos of Treaty Rights Day, see page 13.

Aadizookewin! Winter Storytellers Take Center Stage at Grand Makwa

By Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

Winter is the time for telling stories, and on February 28 Band members came together at Grand Makwa Cinema for the second Mille Lacs Band Aadizookewin. Stories were told by special guests Anamikiins Stark, Alex Belille, Lena Mountain, and their teacher Mike 'Migizi' Sullivan from Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute in Lac Courte Oreilles. The event was free and open to the public, with popcorn and hot chocolate provided for attendees.

The rebirth of the storytelling tradition began slowly with a public event hosted by the University of Minnesota Duluth years back. The late Larry 'Amik' Smallwood and his then language student Migizi told stories at this event, resulting in requests for more events. There was initially resistance to the idea of turning storytelling into something so public.

Traditionally, Anishinaabe families came together in their homes during the winter months, spending time with one another and learning or re-learning the lessons handed down through the generations. As things have changed in Anishinaabe communities, so too has the practice of visiting and talking with one another. It has been a significant blow to a culture based on community and oral tradition. The stories have not been making the rounds as they should.

Because of this, the hesitation to turn storytelling into a community event rather than a family practice was put aside in favor of keeping the stories alive. The first public Aadizookewin was held last year and featured stories told by Amik, Migizi, David 'Niib' Aubid, and Vincent 'Niib' Merrill. The event was coordinated largely by Melissa Boyd and was held at Grand Makwa Cinema at the suggestion of Bradley Harrington.

Migizi, now a story carrier himself, teaches at Waadookodaading, where students are immersed in Anishinaabemowin for all subjects except English. As soon as the snow falls, Migizi begins storytelling. He encourages his students to tell stories as well, instructing them to practice on their families at home. This year he hosted a contest for best student storyteller. The winners of this contest were invited to tell their stories in Mille Lacs, sharing the lessons they know while also showcasing what is possible, given the right language. It was a gift for both the students and the Mille Lacs community.

The stories told all featured Wenabozho, the trouble-making half-spirit hero and teacher the Anishinaabe people have always looked to for entertainment and wisdom through examples of how not to do things. Wenabozho walked the earth when everything was still new, and it was his job to name the things he found. Wenabozho seldom did this without mishaps that profoundly affected the world around him. For instance,

Anamikiins Stark told the story of how Wenabozho's scheme to get an easy meal of ducks gave the loon its red eyes and the dogwood its red color. Alex Belille spoke about how these stories are more than just stories. They're to be taken seriously and must only be told in winter. Lena Mountain, first place contest winner, told the story of when Wenabozho tried to be a woodpecker and knocked himself out. The woodpecker told Wenabozho "not to act like someone he's not." Fundamental values like these are often the center point of Wenabozho stories.

Migizi explained that "the chimooks have sin." That's the concept which guides and informs Christian behavior. Anishinaabe take their cues instead from Wenabozho, and Migizi says, "There is nothing we can do that Wenabozho didn't already do." Wenabozho stories are about how Anishinaabe people should live life and take care of themselves, not just what they can't or shouldn't do. "If you draw Wenabozho, don't draw his face, because we don't know what it looks like," Migizi says. But if one ever does want to see Wenabozho's face, Migizi says it's not hard to find. Just look in the mirror.

Melissa Boyd believes that the Aadizookewin event is special because of the opportunity it creates for intertribal relationship building. The storytellers from Lac Courte Oreilles brought themselves and their stories from their community to Mille Lacs and shared openly. While some Anishinaabe communities are isolated from each other, programs and movements like this one are bringing Indigenous people together in ways not seen before. Storytelling may be the perfect vehicle to take on the task of unifying Indigenous communities. Each story is informative and priceless yet costs nothing to share. And telling the stories in Anishinaabemowin first can be a highly effective way of language revival. The rich cultural milieu can help others find their "Anishinaabe truth."

Plus, these stories will make you laugh. Just remember: Only tell stories in the winter. Or you will get frogs and snakes in your bed!



Migizi Sullivan



PHOTOS BY LI BOYD

Organizers and performers from the Mille Lacs Aadizookewin event at Grand Makwa February 28.

State and National News Briefs

PUC Approves Line 3 Environmental Review:

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on March 15 approved the environmental review for the proposed Enbridge Energy Line 3 replacement oil pipeline across northern Minnesota. The decision was expected because the commission asked for relatively minor changes at its December meeting. A state administrative law judge will make a decision in April on the social need for the pipeline and the best route. The PUC is expected to weigh the judge's decision before taking its final vote in June on the need and route.

Source: duluthnewtribune.com.

Red Lake Votes to Remove Pipelines:

The Red Lake Tribal Council voted Tuesday, March 13, to remove Enbridge-owned oil pipelines from its land. The unanimous vote came two months after the council agreed to rescind a resolution accepting a land swap agreement with the Canadian energy company. The pipelines are located on a parcel of land northwest of Bemidji and were installed sometime before the 1980s, when the reservation realized it owned the land. Enbridge Energy now owns the pipelines, but not the land. In 2015, the council agreed to accept a payment of \$18.5 million to keep the pipelines in place, but in response to claims that the decision was unconstitutional, the council voted to remove the pipelines entirely.

Source: wday.com.

Indian Country Today is Back in Business:

The National Congress of American Indians announced last month that *Indian Country Today* will be fully back in business soon under new leadership. The ownership of the digital platform was transferred from the Oneida Indian Nation in New York to the National Congress of American Indians in Washington, D.C. *Indian Country Today* has been on a hiatus since September. Heading up the Indian Country Today editorial team is Mark Trahan (Shoshone-Bannock) as Indian Country Today Editor and Vincent Schilling (Akwesasne Mohawk) as Associate Editor. The digital publication will continue "publishing lightly" until this spring when there will be a buildup of its operation, a shift to a new web platform, and an increased staff.

Source: indiancountrymedianetwork.com.

Ojibwe Student Translates Children's Book:

Skyler Kuczaboski, a freshman at Dartmouth College from St. Paul, has created a children's book in the Ojibwe language. It came about through a course called Language Revitalization, offered by Dartmouth's Linguistics and Native American Studies programs. Skyler, who is Ojibwe, attended the American Indian Magnet School at Harding High School. Her professor, linguist Hilaria Cruz, allowed her to translate a book into Ojibwe for her final grade. Visit YouTube.com and type Agindaasodaa! in the search field for a video of Skyler reading the book. Source: startribune.com.

Northern Counties, Indians Face Higher Health Risks:

The 2018 County Health Rankings report released last month by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that the healthiest counties in Minnesota tend to be in the southern part of the state and its least healthy ones in the northern part. The report also states that the premature death rate for American Indians is more than three times higher than the rate for whites, Hispanics, and people with an Asian/Pacific Islander background.

Source: minnpost.com.

Springtime Sugarbushing

By Ken Weyaus Sr.

The late Ken Weyaus Sr. wrote this for the Moccasin Telegraph series published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted to help preserve his teachings and pass them on to the next generation.

The “sugarbush” is an English translation of the way the Ojibwe people describe the trees and the land where we make maple syrup and maple sugar in early spring. Sugarbushing usually begins in February or March, when there is still snow on the ground. We’ve been sugarbushing for a long time, and it’s something we still do today and teach our children. Here’s how:

Traditionally, about 50 to 100 people would go out to the sugarbush camps. These were groups of families, and all of the family members would help out. The whole tribe wouldn’t go sugarbushing because not everyone knew the process and some of them might accidentally waste the sap. So only the people who knew what they were doing would go out. This way, they didn’t waste anything. The ones who didn’t go sugarbushing would go hunting, and they would trade furs and meat for sugar cakes and syrup.

Usually the maple sap runs around about February or March. How much sap there is depends on how the winter was. Not much snow means not much sap.

The sap is not in the center of the tree — it is in the inner bark of the tree. Traditionally, our people would tap the maple tress with a hatchet. They would make a groove in the bark and fit a wooden spigot into it. Today, we use augers to drill holes before we put in spigots.

The sap from the trees you have tapped drips into buckets or birchbark containers under the spigots. Periodically you check to see how far the containers have filled up. How fast does the sap come out? It depends on the weather. It needs to be nice and warm. If it’s too cold, the sap won’t run. Some days, the buckets will fill up in half a day, other days it takes more or less time.

When the buckets have filled up enough, you take what’s there and put it in a bigger container. When you have enough of these, you take the bigger containers of sap and put them into big iron kettles. The Indians first got these kinds of kettles from fur traders. Then you start making the sap into maple syrup, maple candy, and maple sugar.

The process is done in three stages. First, the sap is boiled down to syrup. That takes about seven to eight hours. You can leave some of the syrup at this stage to use for cooking, sweetening tea, and other things.

Some of the syrup can also be put into birchbark containers that are shaped like ice cream cones. This hardens into maple candy that will last for years.

During the third stage, the syrup can be put into a wooden trough. It is worked with a paddle and mashed down. You work it and work it until it becomes maple sugar.

Sugarbushing lasts about a month. You don’t boil the sap when it’s raining, because the wet weather would just make it take longer to boil. You only do it on nice days.

Living Through Changes in District I

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Reservation was a very different place in 1974, when Frances Davis, Ozhaawaskogizhigokwe, first went to work for the Health and Human Services Department.

The modern Ne-la-Shing Clinic was decades away. HHS was housed in the old community center, which was built in 1968 where Grand Casino stands now.

During the late 1960s and early ’70s, many changes were taking place on the reservation. Head Start came in 1968. Social programs expanded through the Indian Health Service — everything from medical and dental care to chemical dependency programs to food distribution and elderly nutrition.

And in 1972, Art Gahbow was elected Chairman, replacing Sam Yankee. Joining him on the Reservation Business Committee were Maggie Sam, Floyd Ballinger, Earl Sam, and Lee Staples. The Band’s current Separation of Powers government had not yet been developed.

Frances remembers Art stopping by when she was mowing her lawn to ask if she wanted a job. She asked what kind of job, and Art said, “Just show up, and I’ll tell you what you’re gonna do.”

Good old days

The Mille Lacs Reservation was even more different in the 1930s and ’40s, when Frances was growing up as the third child of Henry and Annie (Dorr) Davis.

On the menu at the Henry Davis house were rabbit, venison, fish, rice, berries, maple sugar, and garden produce. Henry would hunt, snare, and fish after working his day job as janitor at the reservation school.

According to Frances, families shared their harvest with neighbors — Davises, Dorr, Mitchells, Gahbows, Hanks, Benjamins, Andersons, Wadenas, Eagles, and others. They were always getting stuck on the muddy roads and helping to push each other out.

Everyone spoke Ojibwe then, kids as well as adults and Elders. They learned English at school but spoke Ojibwe at recess, at home, and at play.

There was no running water or propane furnace in the Henry Davis house. Frances and her siblings had to take a milk can to fetch water from the pump down the road and gather wood before they could go out to play — sledding on the small hills in the winter time, or skating on Vineland Bay.

In the summer they would go swimming by the Roll-In Lodge (now Band Member Legal Aid) or help their mothers make baskets, birdhouses, and toy canoes, which were sold from tarpaper shacks constructed along Highway 169.

As they grew older and more adventurous, they’d go across the highway to play in the gym at the Catholic church, or listen to music at Cash’s Store. Frances remembers walking back at night with Ole Nickaboine and Mabel Sam. They’d hide in the woods whenever a car went by.

Weekday mornings, they’d walk to the highway to catch the school bus to Onamia.

After graduating from high school in 1951, Frances went to Chicago as part of the relocation program along with Mabel Sam, who was interested in nursing.

“We were looking for work, but they separated us,” said Frances. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do, so I came home after two weeks. I didn’t like it there.”

Frances started a family and worked as an assistant cook at the marina until that day in 1974 when Art offered her a job.

Frances had recently returned from the hospital. “In October, my oldest son got killed in a car accident,” she said. “I was



PHOTO BY DINO DOWNWIND

Frances Davis

so devastated I ended up in the hospital. I came home and was cutting lawn in my yard when Art showed up.”

Big changes

Frances started out in the Energy Assistance Program but didn’t care for it, so Maggie, who was Secretary-Treasurer at the time, asked her if she’d like to work as a Community Health Representative.

From there she moved on to Women, Infants, and Children — better known as “WIC” — another of President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society programs.

In 1978, Frances moved to a new clinic, also where the casino is now, and worked as WIC coordinator before becoming assistant to Mabel Smith. When Mabel retired, Frances took over the Contract Health program, and she was there until her retirement last year.

In Contract Health, Frances processed Band members’ medical claims and authorized payment. She always liked working with numbers.

Frances has seen a lot of changes, not just at work but also in the Mille Lacs Reservation community.

Nay Ah Shing School was developed in the mid-1970s, a new government center was built in 1981, and a variety of business enterprises came and went over the years. The Band adopted a new form of government, created its Tribal Court and Tribal Police Department, and went to court for recognition of Treaty Rights.

Sovereignty was strengthened; self-determination gained steam; programs grew and developed, including Health and Human Services.

In 1991, just before Grand Casino opened, Art passed away and Frances’ sister, Marge Anderson, became Chief Executive. Frances admired both Art and Marge for their persistence and their strong leadership. Frances also thanked Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin for all she’s done for her.

Many faces came and went during the 44 years Frances worked at HHS. “I don’t know how many commissioners I went through, but Sam Moose was one of the best bosses I ever had,” Frances recalled.

Frances changed with the times as well. “When computers first came out, I said I would never learn anything on a computer.” But one of her bosses threw a book on her desk and told her she had to. “I taught myself,” she said, with just a hint of a smile.

Safe at home

Frances had two daughters of her own plus six foster kids, and even now she’s taking care of her great-grandson, with help from her granddaughter, who is also her personal care attendant at the Assisted Living Unit in District I.

Frances’ siblings — Virginia, Marge, and Harold — have all passed on, joining their parents and three siblings who died in infancy: Richard, Louise, and Fairy. Frances was able to be at home until last April when she broke her hip and decided to move to the ALU rather than impose on her children and grandchildren.

It took some time to settle in, but now she feels safe and secure at the ALU.

Frances is troubled by the devastating opioid crisis, which has affected her family, like most others in her community. She appreciates the work of Natives Against Heroin and the Per Cap Patrol, and she says she’d be out there with them if she could. “I’m there in spirit,” she said.

Like most Elders of her generation, Frances doesn’t boast about her accomplishments and doesn’t complain about the hardships she faced as a child and throughout her long life.

“We were a lot happier than we are now with all these changes,” she said.

Rachel Dorion — Harvesting Health

By Melissa “Baabiiitaw” Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

Rachel Dorion or Waawaashkeshii-manidookwe, is a jack-of-all-trades. The daughter of the late Fred Jones (Mille Lacs Band) and Linda Mitchell (Leech Lake) has a great love of nature and promoting self-sustainability through harvesting. She is a mother of three boys who also hunt, fish, and gather, and she spends every free moment with her grandkids.

Rachel returned home here to Misizaaga’iganing in 2007, after growing up in many places including, Nebraska, Colorado, and Washington. She moved back to Minnesota and settled down to begin her family. She worked jobs here and there in the community to pay the bills but always listened to her intuition and finds that she is happiest in the woods harvesting or creating things with her hands. She credits her husband, Steve, as her support.

Rachel loves trying new recipes and reading cookbooks while she’s using harvested foods from the lakes and woods. Deer meat and fish are regular menu items in their household, as well as garden vegetables, maple sap in the coffee pot, and wild berries of all kinds. As she tells about her harvesting, she shares fond memories. “When I was a girl, I remember finding the biggest berry and saving it for my grandma.”

Rachel’s curiosity for making different foods peaked in February of this year, when she volunteered to teach the community how to make tamales one Saturday. The class was a huge success! Students felt empowered by peeling and de-seeding dried chili peppers to prepare a chili paste that was used to flavor the chicken, pork, and deer meat. Eating the finished product was a bonus!

When the class was over, the community members who were present left the Mille Lacs Indian Museum informed and confident in their ability to make the new dish (and they had leftovers). There were more than 20 participants, some coming



Rachel Dorion

all the way from Leech Lake!

When she’s not harvesting, Rachel practices making traditional bulrush mats and birchbark baskets and collects medicines like red willow for making traditional tobacco, or Chaga tea, and nettle for making rope fibers. Rachel talks about time in the woods as an incredibly spiritual experience — the sounds, the smells, the energy; everything in the woods and lakes is for us as Anishinaabe. About her family, she shares, “We are just so grateful because we were gifted that.”

We as a traditional Anishinaabe community welcome and congratulate Rachel in all of her endeavors and are very lucky to have her home teaching us what she knows about reaping the harvest of our natural Anishinaabe gifts. Her contributions are priceless.

SNAP-Ed Helps Children Eat Healthy

Mille Lacs Band Public Health

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe SNAP-Ed Program staff have visited Wewinabi, East Lake, and Aazhoomog Head Start classrooms to put the Learning About Nutrition Through Activities (LANA) curriculum into operation this school year.

The program provides hands-on experiences with fruits and vegetables, creates a supportive environment, incorporates positive role models, and connects classroom activities with the home.

LANA introduces eight fruits and vegetables throughout the school year: kiwi, strawberry, apricot, broccoli, sweet potato, sweet red pepper, sugar snap pea, and cherry tomato.

The children are given many opportunities to try these fruits and vegetables, as sometimes it can take up to 20 times before a child tries a new food! Each month a new fruit or vegetable is introduced. Children also get a chance to use each new fruit or vegetable to make their own snack. This hands-on activity is great because children are more willing to try a new food when they help prepare it. They also get a chance to bring the new fruit or vegetable home so they can prepare and eat it with their families.

The LANA program mascot is an iguana named Lana. Lana is a vegetarian and loves to share her fruits and vegetables. Each Head Start classroom has a Lana the Iguana puppet to encourage the children to try new fruits and vegetables. SNAP-Ed Program staff taste and cook the fruits and vegetables with the children, and serve as role models in the classroom.

Last month the SNAP-Ed Program participated in Wewinabi’s Family Activity Night. Families got to try a recipe that includes two of LANA’s favorite vegetables — broccoli and cherry tomatoes!

Lana's Favorite: Boulders, Trees, and Trunks Salad

This recipe can be prepared ahead of time. Adults will need to cook the pasta, chop the broccoli, and slice the cherry tomatoes in half. Children can help measure, add, and stir the ingredients.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound uncooked pasta (4 cups cooked)
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup cubed mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup Italian dressing



Equipment:

Large bowl, measuring cups, and mixing spoon

Directions:

- Have children wash hands and join in the cooking activity.
- Add the cooked pasta to the large bowl.
- Measure and add the broccoli and cherry tomato halves.
- Measure and add the cheese cubes.
- Measure and pour the dressing over the ingredients.
- Stir until well combined.
- Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour or until ready to serve.
- Enjoy with a meal or for a snack. Makes approximately 8 servings.

Annual Updates Required for Circle of Health Accounts

Nearly 500 Circle of Health Accounts are on hold due to lack of annual updates or health insurance.

Mille Lacs Band members must have health insurance to be eligible for Circle of Health. Health insurance includes Medicare, Medical Assistance, an employer plan, or a privately purchased plan.

Circle of Health requires Band members to update annually to be eligible for Circle of Health benefits. Those who do not make annual updates will be ineligible to have Circle of Health pay for copays, deductibles, or coinsurance for their medical claims.

Band members living within the counties of Pine, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, or Kanabec must also be registered at the Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Tribal members and their families living in these counties are also eligible for funds from the Indian Health Purchased/ Referred Care program.

Circle of Health staff are certified navigators for MNSure and can help Band members and others with insurance questions and applications. Call 800-491-6106 for assistance, stop by the Circle of Health office at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, or call the Hinckley office at 320-384-4603. Circle of Health staff also make regular visits to Districts II and III and the Urban Office.

Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours: tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders.

After business hours: tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.



Wrestler Competes at State

Congrats to Grant Hendren, son of Band member Joe Hendren. Grant won his third section championship wrestling for Minnewaska High School this year and wrestled in his third state tournament! Grant is pictured at the top of the podium as Section Champion.

The Welcoming Face of Chiminising

Amikogaabawiikwe Adrienne Benjamin Mille Lacs Band Member

The Chiminising Community Center has been lucky enough to have the same cheerful and welcoming face for 15 years. Carmen Kalk (formerly Green), in her job as the Community Center Administrator, has been a staple of the community, helping community members with issues including licensure, employment, applying for social security benefits, and scheduling private events.

Carmen has two adult children, Ian and Jackson, and is a proud “Nana” to her grandbaby Isaac. In her spare time, you can catch Carmen beading, spearing, ricing, hunting, or spending as much time as she can outdoors. She currently lives in District I with her husband Curt, but was a longtime resident of Isle before her recent move. Through her interview, it became quite apparent that regardless of where she now lives, she holds a special love for the Chiminising Community in her heart.

I asked Carmen to answer some questions about her job and her experience in the community.

Adrienne: How have times changed since you have been in your job?

Carmen: The first thing I would say is the community size, it has almost doubled since I started, so there are many new faces. The other thing that stands out in my mind is that the community now has its own powwow.

A: What do you think that the community center provides to the community?

C: Resources.

A: What improvement could be made, in your opinion, to provide better service to the community?

C: Two things that come to mind would be expanding our

services to provide daycare in this community, and the other would be the ability to provide Band identification cards onsite.

A: What is the most difficult part of your job?

C: For me, it has been letting someone go from employment. Recently, I have been very fortunate and have a wonderful and reliable receptionist who is also a Band member, Mandy Behnke.

A: What do you love most about your job?

C: Helping community members with their needs.

A: Name a few of your favorite memories over the years with Elders, community, kids, etc.

C: I have so many, but the ones that mean the most to me are when a community member recognizes and expresses gratitude for the fact that we are fortunate to have a community center in our district. Also, when community members or fellow employees come to me for information or advice. The expressions on their faces make me feel good, knowing that I’ve helped them in some way.

A: What can people learn from you and your experiences that you’ve had working with people in this job?

C: Being the program administrator, one must stay current with all available resources and changes to rules regarding those resources. In order to do that, you have to have good communication with all departments within the tribal government.

A: What is the most important aspect of being the first person that someone sees when they enter the community center?

C: Having a friendly, positive attitude!



Carmen (Green) Kalk has been the administrator of Chiminising Community Center for 15 years.



Receptionist Mandy Behnke helps Carmen keep things running smoothly in Chiminising.

Tony Buckanaga — Iron Chef Minisinaakwang

Amikogaabawiikwe Adrienne Benjamin Mille Lacs Band Member

Tony Buckanaga is known in the Minisinaakwaang community for many different talents. He's an accomplished bead worker, a powwow fashion designer, and an esteemed pow wow singer. However, there is one talent that is especially near and dear to Tony's heart: cooking. If you have ever been lucky enough to attend an East Lake community meeting, or one of the many other events that Tony has catered in the community, you are sure to be a fan. He is known for his wild rice soup, risotto, steak, chicken alfredo, Brussels sprouts, wild rice meatballs, shrimp, lemon pepper walleye, and pulled pork, to name a few. His incredible food also comes with a great story.

“After high school, my career choices were a coin toss between Wyo Tech (Mechanics and Automotive) and Le Cordon Bleu (Culinary Arts), but I chose Le Cordon Bleu because my grandpa always talked about cooking. He said that somebody should get good at it in our family and be a professional chef,” Tony thoughtfully remembered. “Of course that’s what I did.”

Tony went further into his nostalgia and shared a funny story about high school. He talked about a day in high school that his culinary dreams were almost derailed. During his senior year, he was not allowed to attend the class field trip to Le Cordon Bleu, because he had been in trouble the day before for throwing a marker across the room at another classmate. “I even remember that the marker was a brown Crayola washable one. I’ll never forget it,” he lamented.

Thankfully, Tony ended up at Le Cordon Bleu and had quite the learning experience there. One of the most surprising things he learned was that ducks are force-fed by tubes to fatten up their liver for an elegant dish called “foie gras” — a luxury product made from the liver of a duck or a goose that has been specially fattened using these force-feeding techniques.

His learning didn’t come without moments of failure. Tony shared a triumphant story: “I was making Osso Buco one time, and it was like our midterm or a final, and it was a timed chal-



Tony Buckanaga, right, cooking with his brother Jeffrey.

lenge. I remember I was rushing around, and I had an oven mitt in one hand, and I went to take the Osso Buco out of the oven and it was in a covered pot. When I put it on the stove, I used the wrong hand to take off the lid. I didn’t realize until I set the lid down and tried to open my hand that I had burnt my hand so bad that it was branded all the way across. The Osso Buco turned out great, however, and it was worth the burn!”

Tony’s biggest moment in his culinary career later came when the owner of a restaurant that he was working for asked him to present a menu with a unique and creative vegan theme for a possible catering event. Two days later, his boss told him that his menu was submitted on behalf of the restaurant for the Pizza Luce chain’s annual corporate event, and that his menu was selected. The event was for 400 people, and he got to use his own sous chef and another chef of his choosing to complete the event.

Tony makes it a point to share his culinary success with

his family. He takes his little brother Jeffrey along with him on nearly every cooking gig. When asked why this is so important for him to teach culinary skills to his younger brother, he responded, “Because Indian women can’t cook anymore.” He chuckled wildly and joked, “No, but really a long time ago there was an Elder that told me, ‘When you leave the rez, you don’t have to leave forever. When people leave they should leave to gain knowledge and experience to bring back to their communities and share with their people... for that is why we are here.’ I feel that, if nothing else, my little brother now has a solid skill to fall back on.”

Tony offered this to anyone who may be thinking of a career in the culinary arts: “Call me up. Volunteer to help me cook at a community meeting. Read recipe books and practice at home. I would tell them to experiment with foods. You can be a picky eater, but not a picky taster. You’re not cooking for yourself, you’re cooking for other people. I wouldn’t shy away from starting from the bottom at any kitchen, because any experience in the kitchen is good experience. If there’s one thing that school didn’t prepare me for in the real-world restaurants, it would be cooking to order and the fast pace of a high-volume atmosphere.”

Tony's Tips for Successful Cooking

1. “Mise en place” Everything in its place. It keeps you organized, it keeps you efficient, keeps up your speed, and makes the job seem effortless.
2. Knife skills — they’re critical.
3. #Cleanliness and sanitary prep. Happy cooking!

3rd Annual Ziigwan Youth Powwow

Chilah Brown Mille Lacs Band Member

On Saturday, March 24, spectators of all ages came together at the Chiminising Community Center to kick off the 2018 powwow season with the Chiminising Ziigwan Royalty contest and 3rd annual Chiminising Ziigwan Youth Powwow.

Masters of Ceremonies Byron Ninham and Deilyah Dexter, a graduating senior from Onamia High School and future Bemidji State student, announced that the two host drums were Timber Trails and Stone Bridge. Other drums included Drum Hop, Obaashing, Nut Hill, White Ash, and MNX.

As the day began, spectators and dancers enjoyed themselves being entertained with specials and spot dances, with winners of all ages. As the audience awaited the royalty contest, outgoing royalty Aniyah "Noondinookwe" White and Waylon "Mamiiziiwekamig" Mitchell spoke about how they had fun throughout the year traveling across the state to various powwows, representing Chiminising Ziigwan. After the speeches, it was time to welcome the newly crowned Chiminising Princess and Brave.

The Chiminising Ziigwan Princess for 2018-19 is Jazmine "Miskwanakadokde" Regguinti, a 10-year-old who attends Isle Elementary. Her proud mother is Ashley Regguinti and grandparents are Patricia and Franklin Regguinti.

The Chiminising Ziigwan Brave for 2018-19 is Jayden "Waubonikwad" Sayers, a 9-year-old Isle Elementary student, son of William Sayers Jr., grandson of Sami Thomas, and great-grandson to Dorothy Sam. The excitement on the newly crowned royalty was contagious. The families of the Chiminising royalty were overwhelmed with pride as the tears of joy were flowing.

The day wound down with supper break as the crowd enjoyed Indian tacos sponsored by the Niigaan program and homemade desserts made by Elder Melanie Gahbow and her helpful daughters Kim Adelman and Deb and Michelle Wanless. When the evening session concluded, spectators had the opportunity to enjoy the hand drum contest, ribbon skirt/shirt

contest, spot dances, and intertribals.

As the powwow came to a close, the Chiminising community and powwow committee wrapped up another successful event. Miigwech to the previous royalty doing a great job, and congratulations to the newly crowned Chiminising Ziigwan royalty. Safe travels and good health as you embark on your new journey as young leaders representing Chiminising in a good way.

Powwow history

For many years the community members of District IIa have wanted a Chiminising powwow. In 2015, Chiminising community held monthly legislative meetings regarding housing, economic development, culture and language, and community development. At one of the culture and language meetings, it was suggested and agreed upon by the community to establish a powwow committee and hold a youth powwow.

After months of planning and support from District II Representative David 'Niib' Aubid, the Chiminising Powwow received a budget for a one-day youth royalty contest powwow. On March 12, 2016, the first Chiminising Ziigwan Royalty contest was held and the powwow was a success.

Although it has only been a few years since the first Chiminising Ziigwan Youth Powwow was established, the powwow has become an annual tradition. It has brought the community together for the benefit of the children. When times are tough, the sound of the drums, children dancing, and the community laughing is therapy for the winter weather blues.

Bringing the community together has always been a focus in District IIa. As the Chiminising Community is growing and thriving, the people in District IIa are honored to finally host a powwow. Chi Miigwech to Representative Aubid for his support over the years and the powwow committee members new and old for taking the time to realize the dreams of a powwow for the Chiminising community.

District III Athletes Advance to State

Photos by Chad Germann

District III community members helped bring a Great River Conference basketball title and Section 5A championship to the Hinckley-Finlayson Jaguars this year, earning the team their first-ever berth in the State Tournament.

On the team were Mille Lacs Band members Reuben Gibbs and Cedric LaFave, descendants Chayne Dunkley and Dion Bearstail, Ho-Chunk member Kolten Furey, and Oglala Sioux member Kyle Taggart.

The Jaguars fell 87-70 in the first round of the state tournament on March 22, to the Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Knights, who went on to win the state championship.

In the consolation bracket, the Jaguars beat Mahnomen-Waubun 88-66 and Rushford-Peterson 56-49 to win the bracket and take fifth place overall. Congratulations, guys! You made us all so proud!



Native Governance Center Launches Youth Rebuilders Program

Calling all tribal youth councils/youth groups! This is your chance to participate in the first-ever cohort of Youth Rebuilders (Summer 2018)!

What is Youth Rebuilders? It's a summer experience that equips Native youth with nation building training and inspires them to share their visions for the future. We'll meet the selected Youth Rebuilders in their own community and provide them with three days of fun, interactive programming.

Interested youth should apply as a Tribal group; up to 20 participants will be admitted from a single Tribal youth council/youth group. Participants must be in grades 8-12.

Applications are available at nativegov.org on March 19 and close on April 30. For the 2018 pilot year, applications are open to Tribal youth councils/groups from the 23 Native nations located in MN, SD, and ND.

NIHB Sponsors Youth Health Policy Fellowship

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is always working to improve health and reduce health disparities of all 573 federally recognized tribes. NIHB is seeking young people to help in this effort by participating on the Tribal Youth Health Policy Fellowship (TYHPF). The requirements are as follows:

- Must be a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe
- Must be between the ages of 18-24
- Must submit a completed adult recommendation form
- Must be able to attend TYHPF specific meetings, events, and conference calls
- Must show qualities of leadership and be actively engaged in their tribal community through either school, community organizations, or other roles
- TYHPF members must show qualities of integrity and are expected to be in good standing with their academic institution or place of employment
- Must be prepared to represent themselves, their tribe, NIHB, and the youth board with honor and respect at a national level
- Must be able and willing to participate in duties as assigned by participating in the TYHPF for a one-year period
- Must have access to a phone and email account for monthly communications with NIHB staff

The application, including the adult recommendation form, will be due at 5 p.m. on April 6, 2018. If you have any questions or challenges meeting any of the requirements listed, please contact the National Indian Health Board at firstkids1st@nihb.org or 202-507-4070.

What's your story?

Send suggestions to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. The May issue deadline is April 15.

Honoring Survivors Traditional Powwow April 5

The Honoring Survivors Traditional Powwow remembers those who have been used in prostitution and missing and murdered across Turtle Island. The powwow is part of the 12th Annual Restoring the Sacred Trails of Our Grandmothers conference at Grand Casino Mille Lacs April 4–6. The Mille Lacs Band Family Violence Prevention Program is partnering with the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, Sacred Hoop Coalition, and Men as Peacemakers to host the conference with the theme "Pathways to Ending Gender-Based Violence." Although the deadline to register for the conference has passed, all are welcome to attend the Honoring Survivors Traditional Powwow April 5 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Minor Trust Training April 16

Do you have questions about your upcoming minor trust payment? Parents and minors are encouraged to join us for a Lunch 'N Learn seminar, April 16, 2018, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center. Commissioner of Finance Adam Valdez, along with Morgan Stanley representatives, will be presenting "PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE." This seminar will provide each participant with valuable information and take-home materials about how to make the most of your money. Call Jana Sam at 320-532-7466 to reserve your place.

Sweetgrass Basket Workshop

Learn the art of making a coil sweetgrass basket in this two-day workshop at Mille Lacs Indian Museum. Sweetgrass is a fragrant sacred herb used in ceremonies and artwork by the Ojibwe. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

The workshop runs Saturday, April 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A minimum of five participants is required. Children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required three days prior to workshop. Discount hotel rooms are available at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on Saturday night for all workshop participants with 10 days' advance reservations. Contact 320-532-3632 or millelacs@mnhs.org. Cost is \$75, MNHS and Mille Lacs Band members save 20%, \$15 supply fee. Registration required by phone or email.

Kid Crafts: Bead a Ring

Learn a basic stringing technique and bead a ring to take home at Mille Lacs Indian Museum April 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Contact 320-532-3632 or millelacs@mnhs.org. Cost is \$3 per kit, museum admission not included.

Native Skywatchers Art Exhibit Runs May 1–24

Learn about Ojibwe star knowledge in an exhibit at Mille Lacs Indian Museum featuring paintings, wood carvings, and ceramics created by local community members who participated in a Native Skywatchers art workshop. Each work of art weaves together art, science, and culture in relation to the stars and Earth. This exhibit is offered in partnership with Native Skywatchers and the Minnesota State Arts Board. The exhibit opens Tuesday, May 1, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is on display through May 24, 2018. There is no charge to view the exhibit. Museum admission is not included.

2018 Spring Cleanup Is Coming!

Each year the Community Development Department sponsors community cleanup events with roll-off dumpsters available in all districts and curbside pickup for Elders. Please see below for details on your district's community cleanup days.

District I, Vineland: Saturday, April 14 through Friday, April 20. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday through Friday. All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Old Transfer Station Site off of U.S. Highway 169.

District II, East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle: Saturday, April 28 through Friday, May 4. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Roll-offs will be placed at the East Lake Maintenance Facility for District II and Isle Community Center for District IIa.

District III, Lake Lena and Hinckley: Saturday, April 21 to Friday, April 27. Hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Earthworks building located on Highway 48, 2 miles east of Grand Casino Hinckley, Maintenance Building in Lake Lena across from Community Center, and at the cul de sac at Wise Owl.

Mille Lacs Band Elders in all districts will receive free curbside pickup for their community cleanup items. Elders must call Public Works at 320-532-7433 by Friday, April 13, to be placed on the list for pickup. Elders receiving curbside pickup must have their pile at the end of their driveway.

Please contact Public Works at 320-532-7448 if you have any questions or concerns about the 2018 spring cleanup!

Are You Ready for Severe Weather?

Each year, Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) — in collaboration with the National Weather Service, 16 state and local agencies, and other organizations — sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota. The week is designed to refresh and educate everyone about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to avoid them. It's also a great time to make and practice your family's emergency plan and build or refresh your emergency preparedness kit.

Statewide tornado drills

The most important events during Severe Weather Awareness Week are the two statewide tornado drills, which are scheduled for Thursday, April 12, at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. (Counties may choose to opt out of the drills if actual severe weather is possible in the area.)

Outdoor warning sirens and National Weather Service radios will sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second-shift workers and families.

According to the National Weather Service, Minnesota experiences an average of 40 tornadoes per year. The state record is 104 tornadoes, set in 2010.

Topics

Each day of Severe Weather Awareness Week focuses on a different topic:

- Monday: Alerts and warnings
- Tuesday: Severe weather, lightning, and hail
- Wednesday: Floods
- Thursday: Tornadoes (with statewide tornado drills)
- Friday: Extreme heat

How to participate

Knowing what to do when severe weather is approaching can save lives. If you are interested in learning how you, your family, business, or community can participate in Severe Weather Awareness Week, check out some ideas at dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness.

Did you know?

According to the National Weather Service, Minnesota experiences an average of 40 tornadoes per year. The state record is 104 tornadoes, set in 2010.



Congressman Visits Mille Lacs

Congressman Tim Walz, second from right, who represents Minnesota's First District in the U.S. House of Representatives, visited Mille Lacs on March 9 with Peggy Flanagan, right, who represents District 46A in Minnesota's House. Walz is running for Governor with Flanagan, a White Earth Band member, as his running mate. Deputy Solicitor General Adam Candler and other employees welcomed Walz and Flanagan to the reservation.

Biologists Give Update on Status of Ogaa

NATURAL RESOURCES Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Treacherous roads on the second snow day in a row were not enough to keep Band biologists Carl Klimah and Kelly Applegate and a small group of hearty harvesters from discussing the latest data on the Mille Lacs Lake ogaa (walleye) population at Eddy's Resort on Tuesday, March 6.

Those in attendance enjoyed a clear and thorough presentation covering survey results, population projections, fisheries committee updates, and spring harvest information. Carl and Kelly took questions and received feedback to bring to DNR Commissioner Bradley Harrington and the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Carl started with a review of walleye population estimates, which are based primarily on Minnesota DNR gillnet surveys. Each fall for several decades, the state DNR has placed 52 nets at specific locations around the lake.

In recent years, those surveys have indicated a historically low population of ogaa, which has resulted in small quotas for state anglers as well as tribal netters and spearers.

Although the population appears to be rebounding, the projections are based mainly on the success of one year-class of walleyes, which hatched in 2013. The year classes before and after have started out fine but have not survived into adulthood in large numbers.

Many factors may be playing a role, including improved water clarity, invasive species like zebra mussels and spiny water fleas, and competition from other fish species like northern pike and smallmouth bass. High rates of cannibalism of small ogaa by larger ogaa indicate a lack of other bait fish in the lake.

As zebra mussels have expanded, Carl explained, they have reduced the lake's zooplankton — tiny organisms that feed growing walleyes as well as other fish.

One potentially positive development was a large perch hatch in 2017. The last large perch hatch was in 2013, the last time a large number of walleyes survived to adulthood.

Those 2013 fish are now 16 to 20 inches long — the perfect size for catching and eating — so it's imperative to prevent overharvest and preserve enough spawning fish to create future generations of walleyes.

"Everything has to come together just right for a good year class," Carl said. That's more true today than ever before, with disruptions caused by invasive species, climate change, and other man-made disruptions to nature's balance.

Committee update

Biologists from the Mille Lacs Band, the State of Minnesota, and the seven other Ojibwe bands with 1837 Treaty rights make up the 1837 Ceded Territory Fisheries Committee (also known as the "FTC"). At their February 6 meeting in Brainerd they did not reach a consensus on the allowable harvest or quota level,



Fisheries Biologist Carl Klimah (left), and Wildlife Biologist Kelly Applegate (right).

Carl said. The two sides are now engaged in further talks, and the State has announced a catch-and-release season for 2018.

In August of 2015, the Minnesota DNR closed the lake to walleye angling after anglers reached their annual quota. The following year, when anglers once again reached their quota, Governor Mark Dayton ordered that the lake remain open. The 2016 season was catch-and-release only, but anglers still reached their quota due to "hooking mortality," which refers to the death of fish after release. Studies show that five to 10 percent of released fish will die. In 2017, pursuant to an agreement with the Bands, the State remained within its walleye mortality caps by closing fishing during a few weeks in the hot summer months and making other regulatory changes. For 2018, the State again is obligated to stay within its angling harvest caps.

The eight Ojibwe bands have never exceeded their quota. They also count every fish harvested by net or spear, while the state angling harvest is estimated using creel surveys.

Resort owners, fishing guides, and anglers reported good catch rates in recent years, leading some to the claim that walleye population estimates are very inaccurate, and that the population is much higher than the DNR reports. However, a strong bite can also indicate a lack of forage that makes fish hungrier. In addition, two independent reviews confirm the validity of the population estimates agreed upon by Tribal, GLIFWC, and State biologists. Reports are that the State's ice fishing catch rates declined this winter, and the walleye are fat, leading to some optimism that the forage base might be doing better.

The Bands, GLIFWC, and the State will conduct a mark-recapture population study this year. This will result in a new population estimate that is more accurate than estimates from computer models. The state DNR also has undertaken a fish tagging study to better estimate the number of naturally produced walleye fry in the lake. The agency has also conducted a hooking mortality study and a study of what predator fish eat.

In 2018, the Mille Lacs Band, GLIFWC, the Fond du Lac Band, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin an ogaa tracking study to attempt to better understand the increase in walleye cannibalism.



Grand Opening

Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Grille House at Grand Casino Hinckley March 14. Also pictured are Dave Garvey, Wanetta Thompson, Rob Delmont, and Brad Kalk. The upscale-casual eatery features classic American comfort foods with a mix of seating types, including bar stools, booths, and outdoor seating.

Know Your Government: DNR

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) develops and implements wildlife, fish, and forestry improvement activities and regulates hunting, fishing, and gathering on and off the reservation. It also provides many other services, including conservation enforcement, environmental protection, natural resource permits, historical and cultural preservation, and tribal enrollment.

The Commissioner of Natural Resources is Bradley Harrington. Commissioner Harrington has stressed that an Anishinaabe view of natural resources includes a recognition that all things come from the Creator and are gifts from the Manidoog (Spirits).

"What the Anishinaabe see as natural resources are all the things the Manidoo have given them, including ceremonies, traditions, and the language," says Commissioner Harrington.

During his time in office he has stressed language revitalization and cultural preservation while maintaining a strong emphasis on habitat, fish and wildlife, and conservation.

The Department operates a **Wildlife Program** to enhance and protect habitat and a **Fisheries Program** to monitor the health of area lakes, including Mille Lacs. The Fisheries Program also operates a fish hatchery to introduce walleye and perch fry to area lakes.

In order to responsibly regulate natural resource use, the Department operates an **Enforcement Program** employing three conservation officers as well as a **Licensing Program** with clerks at the DNR building in District I, the Urban Office in Minneapolis, and district community centers in Districts II, IIa, and III.

Environmental Programs operates, administers, and coordinates activities associated with the Environmental Protection Agency and Band funded programs. In addition, inspections of NPDES (stormwater) and Underground Storage Tanks are conducted to ensure environmental resource protection. Environmental Programs includes an air program, ground/surface water program, a water quality lab, and a Brownfield Response Program.

The **Real Estate office** manages tribal properties and provides services to Band members who have questions about land leases, purchases, or other real estate activities.

The **Tribal Historical Preservation Office (THPO)** program works to preserve archaeological sites and repatriate artifacts. The tribal government's archives department collects and preserves written materials for the Band and makes them available to researchers and other interested people.

The **Wildland Program** is responsible for maintaining and enhancing wildlands and for preventing and fighting wildfires.

The **Tribal Enrollments Office** assists people who want to enroll as a Mille Lacs Band member. It also provides enrolled Band members with tribal identification cards. Enrollments Manager: 320-532-7440. For more information on Tribal Enrollments, please see Enrollments.

The Department of Natural Resources also manages the **Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin** immersion grounds in Rutledge, Minnesota.

Spring 2018 Ceremonial Dance Dates

April 6–7: Mick and Syngen, Mille Lacs
April 13–14: Ralph and Andy, Mille Lacs
April 20–21: Lynda and Joyce, Mille Lacs
April 27–28: Joe and George, Mille Lacs
May 4–5: Skip and Darrell, Lake Lena
May 4–5: Elmer and Sheldon, Mille Lacs
May 11–12: Lee and Mike, Lake Lena
May 18–19: Niib and Iyawbance, East Lake
May 25–26: Tim and Tom: East Lake
June 8–9: Bob and Perry, Mille Lacs

Participate in the Public Health Tobacco Storytelling Project!

By telling us your stories for a video, you are educating Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe youth and others in the sacred tradition and history of asemmaa, as well as sharing your personal experiences with commercial tobacco.

These videos will be presented in their final form in all districts, and will be made available to schools, programs and other Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe organizations.

The text may also be used in educational materials as a way of promoting traditional tobacco.

We can come to you to record or meet you at any convenient location.

Please let us know if you are interested in being part of the tobacco storytelling project.

For more information, contact: Mikayla Schaaf, Health Educator. Public Health email: mikayla.schaaf@HHS.millelacsband-nsn.gov, phone: 320-532-7776, ext. 2413.

Colleen McKinney, Outreach Coordinator. Public Health email: colleen.mckinney@HHS.millelacsband-nsn.gov, phone: 320-532-7812.

Blackjack Class

Grand Casino Mille Lacs is currently taking applications for Blackjack Dealing Class scheduled for April 16. This will be a two-week course, and perfect attendance is required. If you are interested, please apply with the Human Resources office today!

Misi Zaaga'iganing Basketball Tournament April 27–29

The Misi Zaaga'iganing Basketball Tournament will be held at Onamia High School April 27–29. (The tournament was originally scheduled for March 30–April 1 at Hinckley Community Center.) The tournament is sponsored by Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Niigaan Program and the Onamia Indian Education Program. All proceeds from the weekend's events will sponsor Onamia Anishinaabe Knowledge Bowl Teams. THIS IS A DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT. Half of the entry fee is due April 13. Contact Byron Ninham for more information at 320-362-1023.

Send your briefs, shout-outs, kudos, and thank yous to brett.larson@millelacsband.com.

Seuss, Stories, Science, Sugarbush

EDUCATION

It was a busy month at Nay Ah Shing! Students, staff, and community members celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss on Friday, March 2, by drawing characters, eating fruit kebabs, knocking down truffula trees, listening to stories, and playing in the "oobleck" made by Mr. Rutter and his team of royal magicians.

On March 8, community members and students came to the Upper School circle to hear Commissioner of Education Rick St. Germaine tell a variety of stories — Wenabozho legends, mysterious tales from his childhood, and historical stories about the relationship between the people of Mille Lacs and their relatives at Lac Courte Oreilles.

On March 15, the Abinoojiyag STEAM Lab invited the Science Museum of Minnesota to school for two interactive presentations with K-2 and 3-5 students about engineering and the engineering design process.

The second half of the month was devoted to the sugarbush. For more on that story, see page 16.



Teacher Gregg Rutter and his students made "oobleck" as part of the Dr. Seuss's birthday festivities.



Commissioner Rick St. Germaine told Wenabozho stories and other tales at a community event on March 8.



The Minnesota Science Museum gave a presentation on engineering on March 15 in the STEAM lab at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag.

A Month in the Life of Pine Grove

EDUCATION

Kelly Griffith Pine Grove Teacher

After my colleague Amber Lenz and I saw the movie *Wonder* — based on a book about a boy who endures bullying due to his differences — we knew that that this was the perfect book for our students to read aloud. Over the course of the past month, several students read for us and brought positive lessons to the classroom. We love the new voices they bring to our story time. The *Wonder* story also created a perfect opportunity to discuss anti-bullying and "Choose Kind," the kindness and tolerance movement that has been spreading across the country.

On the 100th day of school this academic year, groups of students were encouraged to bring 100 items from home and line up their objects end to end to be measured. This transitioned into a math unit on standard and non-standard units of measurement. We even incorporated a jumping jacks tournament and no-bake cookies into helping us learn more about measurement.

The Winter Olympics were another highlight of the past month. We learned about the countries participating in the Olympics, tracked their medal progress, and discussed the historical significance of the Olympics.

To ensure we experienced our own outdoor fun, we took a trip to Mont Du Lac for a fun day of tubing. And then sugar bushing began! The students do a great job of taking responsibility for housekeeping while also learning from nature.

We take great pride in our school and culture!



Tapping trees is fun, but who can resist the opportunity to build a snowman?



Miigwanens: A'aw Ge-ni-naadamawaad Inow Anishinaaben Ani-maajiikamigaanig O'ow Aki

Miigwanens: The Anishinaabe's hope for the future

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Melissa Boyd Baabiitawigiizhigookwe Gaa-anishinaabewibi'ang

Mii imaa wii-ni-wiindamaageyaang waa-ni-dazhin-damaang omaa ozhibii'igeyaang. Niwii-tazhimaanaan a'aw gwiwizens Miigwanens gii-izhinikaazo. Mii imaa da-ni-dazhinjigaazod anooj i'iw akeyaa gaa-ni-izhiwebi-zid miinawaa gaa-inaadizid eni-apiichitaad gii-ni-gi-chi-aya'aansiwid. Da-ginwaabiigisin o'ow dibaajimow-in ani-dazhinjigaazod a'aw gwiwizens. Endaso-giizis igo maa minik inga-dibaajimaanaan a'aw Miigwanens dabwaa-giizhibii'igeyaang. Mii go maa wii-ni-maajita-ayaang.

This is where we want to lay out our plans for writing. We are going to talk about a little boy whose name was Miigwanens. We are going to cover what happened to Miigwanens as he was growing up. This is going to be a lengthy story covering the life of Miigwanens. It will be included in several editions of this paper before we are finished. Now, we are going to start.

Megwaa imaa nanaamadabid a'aw Miigwanens ganawaabandang i'iw mazinaatesijigan gaa-izhi-noondawaad baapaagwaakwa'igenid awiya imaa ishkwandeming. Agaawaa igo ogii-noondawaan ishkwandeming ayaanid awiia. Mii go miinawaa gaa-izhi-noondawaad baapaagwaakwa'igenid imaa ishkwandeming. Mii i'iw gaa-izhi-bazigwiid gii-o-baakaakonang i'iw ishkwandem. Mii imaa gii-waabamaad inow ogookoomisan niibawinid. Bines gii-izhinikaazo a'aw mindimooyenh. Mii go gaa-izhi-nisidawinaagozid ezhi-wasidaawendang miinawaa ezhi-ayekoziwinawagozid.

There was a knock at the door. Miigwanens could barely hear the knocking over the noise of the television set, as he sat watching his favorite cartoon. The knocking seemed to continue, so he finally got up to check on what he was hearing. He opened the door and there stood his grandmother, Bines. She looked sad and tired.

"Biindigen Biindigen, Nookom!" gaa-izhi-inaad a'aw Miigwanens. Mii iw gaa-izhi-biindiged a'aw mindimooyenh gii-o-wawenabised imaa apabiwining jiigi-adoopowining. Mii dash a'aw Miigwanens gaa-izhi-mikwendang gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amawind. Booch i'iw wiisiniwin gemaa gaye minikwewin da-ininamawaad awiya inow ba-mawadisogjin. Mii iw aniibiish gaa-izhi-ininamawaad inow

mindimooyenyan. "Miigwech, Noozis" odigoon dash.

"Come in, come in, Nookom!" he told her. She came in and flopped down on the chair at the kitchen table. Miigwanens remembered that you should always offer food or something to drink when you have a visitor. He offered her tea. She said, "Thank you, my grandson."

Azhigwa maa minik inow ogookoomisan gii-minikwenid i'iw aniibiish gaa-izhi-maajitaanid gaagiigidonid. Mii dash i'iw gaa-igod, "Ahh, Noozis, geget nimaanendam noongom." Mii-go gaa-izhi-mawishinid megwaa imaa ani-ganoonigod. Mii iw gaa-izhi-wiindamaagod we-sadaawishkaagod. Mii dash i'iw gaa-igod, "Geget, nigag-waansigendam waabandamaan ezhiwebak omaa ishkoniganing eyaayang. Geget nebowaa giwanitoomin gegoo. Ishke ezhiwebak noongom eshkan ani-bangiwigizi a'aw gidanishinaabeminaan eni-naazikang eni-manidooked miinawaa eni-biindaakoogid aana-okwi'idid a'aw Anishinaabe omaa ishkoniganing. Nebowaa gii-ayaawag ingiw gaa-nagadenimagig miinawaa indinawemaaganag gaa-gikendangig gidinwewininaan. Ishke dash noongom eshkan ani-bangiwigiziwag gekendangig da-objiwemowaad.

After she drank some of the tea, Bines began to talk. "My grandson, my heart is sad today." She started to cry as the words came out of her mouth. She went on to say, "I am very sad as I look around our reservation. We have lost so much. What is also happening these days is very few of our people attend our ceremonies. I once had many friends and relatives that I could speak to in Ojibwe. Today, there are very few that know how to speak Ojibwe.

Miinawaa nebowaa a'aw Anishinaabe omaa endanakiid ani-aanawendang i'iw gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang ani-izhi-bimiwidooyang ani-bimaadiziyang. Mii gaye ezhihigewaad, mii-go ezhi-zhazhiibitamowaad wiindamawindwaa i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-inendaagoziyang da-bimiwidooyang bimaadiziyang anishinaabewiyang. Ishke dash ezhiwebak, azhigwa eshkan ani-wanitooyang ani-bagijwebinamang i'iw akeyaa ingiw Manidoog gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang anishinaabewiyang da-ani-izhi-bimaadiziyang, mii dash iwidi napaaj enimookiimagak nawaj i'iw mayaanaadak eni-ayaamagak

omaa ishkoniganing.

No one seems to live by, nor do they listen to our teachings any more like our people once did. They are defying the way they were told to live their lives as Anishinaabe. As we lose more and more of our Indian way of life, and we reject the teachings that the Manidoog gave the Anishinaabe, I see more bad things happening on the reservation that are not so good.

Nashke, eshkan nebowaa ayaawag epiitenimaasijig iniw gechi-aya'aawinijin. Nebowaa gaye noongom ayaawag zezagitoogig eyaamowaad, ishke a'aw Anishinaabe nebowaa gii-ayaang gegoo maagizhaa gaye i'iw waawaashkeshiwii-wiiaas, maagizhaa gaye giigoonyan, mii imaa azhitaa gii-maada'oonaad inow odinawemaaganan. Gaawin gii-wiibwiisiin i'iw akeyaa noongom ezhihiged a'aw Anishinaabe omaa ishkoniganing endanakiid.

A lot of our people no longer show as much respect for our Elders. Our people do not share the things they have like they did in the past, whether it be deer meat or fish, with their relatives. They do not share anymore on this reservation like they used to.

Ishke gaye ezhiwebak nebowaa omaa ayaawag ingiw abinoojiinyag zhezhiibitawaajig inow ogitiziimiwaan aana-gina'amaagowaad gegoo. Eshkan gaye nebowaa ani-ayaawag eni-aabajitoogig i'iw minikwewin wenda-inigaa'igod a'aw Anishinaabe. Nebowaa gaye i'iw nishkaadendamowin biinjina obimiwidoon a'aw Anishinaabe, mii dash i'iw eni-bitakoshkang a'aw Anishinaabe ge-ni-maamawichigepan da-ni-giizhiikang gegoo. Mii gaye imaa wenjikaamagak ani-gaagaawenimaad owiianishinaabeman eni-gashkitamaadizonid gegoo, Mii dash i'iw wasadaawishkaagoyaan amanj ge-ani-izhiwebizigwen a'aw Anishinaabe ani-maajiikamigaanig o'ow aki."

Also, what is happening is our children do not listen to their parents as they once did when they are being disciplined. More and more drinking is also taking place on the reservation. Anishinaabe carry so much anger within themselves that it blocks them from being able to work together to accomplish anything collectively. They will then have jealous feelings whenever our fellow Anishinaabe get recognition or get ahead. I worry about what is going to happen to our people in the future."



Treaty Rights Day

Left and right: Kids learned casting skills with help from DNR biologist Carl Klimah. Center: Artist Brian Dow showed his work at the Treaty Rights Day celebration.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy April Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Roland Lee Anderson
Susan Mary Antonelli
Dorothy Ann Aubid
Terry Louis Beaulieu
Donivon Leroy Boyd
Russell Edward Boyd
Wayne Theodore Boyd
Debra Lynn Ceballos
Sharon Lee Chavarria
Rayna Joyce Churchill
Raymond Charles Daly
Wesley Dorr
Rhonda Kay Engberg
Nancy Mae Foster
Duane Wallace Haaf
Gwendolyn Marie Hanold
Douglas Happy
Darryl Vernon Jackson
Leroy Duane Kegg
Raymond Kegg
Victoria Jean Kroschel
Bruce Marvin LaFave
Glenda Marie Landon-Rosado
Laura Ann MacClean
Ada Mae Merrill
Louis Kevin Merrill
Gregory Allen Mishler
Bonita Louis Nayquonabe
Russell Daniel Nayquonabe
Donald John Nelson

Gloria Jean Nichaboine
Sherry Marie Nielson
Dianne Renee Olsen
Penelope Ann Olseth
Jeannette Oswaldson
Ricky Harold Pardun
Gregory Allen Pawlitschek
Kim Miles Peet
Elaine Mary Rea
Solita Efigenia Reum
Laurie Jean Rogerson
Lorraine Diane Sam
Denise Fay Sargent
Darlene Rae Savage
Ruth Anne Schaaf
George Augustus Sharlow
Perry Don Skinaway
Debra Ann Smith
Rodney Wayne Smith
Marvin Lee Staples
Carmen Marie Tyler
Gail Marie Tyson
Brandon Lynn Vainio
Robert Duane Wakanabo
Deanna Louise Weous
Duane Lee Wind
Eloise Alice Yanez

Happy April Birthdays:
Happy 11th birthday to **Elias Wagner** 4/4, love Gramma Tammy • Happy Birthday to

Laura MacLean 4/5. You finally reached the Elder point! Guess who? • Happy Birthday **Bill Daniels** 4/11 from Mom, Joyce Benjamin, and family • Happy 2nd Birthday **Henry** on 4/14, love Dad, Mom, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Kev, Pie, Montana, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Ror-Dawg, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, and Adam • Happy Birthday Brother **Rodney Smith** 4/14, love you Tam • Happy Birthday Nephew **Derek Smith** 4/18, love Auntie Tam • Happy 1st Birthday grandson **Ryker Wiedewitsch** 4/24, love Gramma Tammy • Happy 11th Birthday **Aiva Lea** 4/26, love Auntie Val, Kev, Pie, and Montana • Happy Birthday 4/26 **Seth Benjamin** from Mom and the Benjamin family • Happy Birthday 4/27 **Myron Benjamin** from the Benjamin family • Happy birthday 4/30 **Dalylah Benjamin** from Mom

and the Benjamin family

Happy Belated Birthdays:
The following birthday wishes were submitted for the March issue but were not included. We apologize for the error.

Happy 9th birthday to **Rileh Emme Shomin**. From Mom & Dad, Chris & Elaine Boswell, and Christ-elena carter Boswell. We wish you a happy 9th birthday, and we all love you.
• Happy Birthday **Brielle** on March 13th, **Cici Bugg** on March 14th, and **Marcus Jr** on March 16th. Love you, Auntie Kelly, Uncle T, Ella & Baby T.
• Happy 3rd Birthday **EllaMarie** 3/21, Lots of love, Mom, Dad, Baby T & Kitty Callie!
• Happy Birthday **Mom** on 3/26, Love you, Terrence, Kelly, Ella & Baby T.

Other Announcements:

In loving memory of **John Pike Jr.** Happy birthday April 6, Lovey! Miss you madly every day. XOXO. Your Babe.

The family of Loretta Kegg Kalk wishes to thank the many persons who helped us say goodbye to our dear mother. There are so many we are bound to miss someone. This is not intentional. We are eternally grateful to the Ceremonial people who so kindly agreed to help send mom on her way on such short notice; the ladies who worked tirelessly in the kitchen; the Public Works Department for preparing mom's resting place; the lady dancers; Shelley Funeral Chapel; the pall bearers; all the people who brought or sent food, pictures, plants, and shared memories of mom. And lastly, to all the people who came from near and far to pay their respects. The Kalk Family.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Brett Larson at brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. *Deadline for the May issue is April 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 320-532-4768

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

NA/AA 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 Sons of Tradition

Sundays, 1 – 3 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768

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 12 Step Group

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Hinckley Corporate Building

Please send changes and additions to brett.larson@millelacsband.com.

RECURRING EVENTS

Ojibwe Language Tables: Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., DI Community Center. Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., East Lake Community Center (3:30 p.m. on last Thursday).

Urban Language Tables at the Minneapolis American Indian Center! Youth intro, Tuesdays 5-7 p.m.; intermediate, Wednesdays 5-7 p.m.; adult intro Thursdays 5-7 p.m. For more information, see tworiversarts.com/events.

DI Open Gym: Mondays-Thursday, 3:30-9 p.m., DI Community Center.

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 DI Community Center.

Zumba Fitness: Mondays, 5:30 p.m., East Lake Community Center. Tuesdays, 6 p.m., Chiminising Community Center.

Ribbon Skirt/Shirt Making Class: Mondays, 5:30 p.m., East Lake Community Center.

Anonymous Drug Tip Hotline

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department's anonymous drug tip line is 320-630-2458. Feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and phone number. In case of emergency, dial 911.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ceremonial Dances: May 4-5: Skip and Darrell, Lake Lena; May 4-5: Elmer and Sheldon, Mille Lacs; May 11-12: Lee and Mike, Lake Lena; May 18-19: Niib and Iyawbance, East Lake; May 25-26: Tim and Tom: East Lake; June 8-9: Bob and Perry, Mille Lacs. *For April dates, see page 15.*

Community Baby Shower: Currently pregnant women and mothers with children 0-12 months are invited to a community baby shower at District I Community Center May 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Food, gifts, community resources, grand prize raffle, and guest speakers! For more info or any questions text/call Sarah Andersen, MCH Coordinator at 320-364-9515. *RSVP required by April 25.*

Mille Lacs Indian Museum May Calendar: May 5, Quillwork Earrings Workshop; May 12, Kids Crafts: Shoulder Bag; May 25 "Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces" exhibit opening; May 26, Minnesota American Indian Stories & Storytellers Film Festival; May 28, Memorial Day Powwow.

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

Email brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.

Band Assembly meetings

Band Assembly meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other info, call the Legislative office or visit millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com. Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

Wiidookodaadiwag Powwow April 19

Central Lake College in partnership with Brainerd School District is hosting the Wiidookodaadiwag (We are helping one another) Powwow on Thursday, April 19, at the Central Lakes College gymnasium on the Brainerd campus. A meal at 5 p.m. will be followed by Grand Entry at 6 p.m. and last dance at 7:30 p.m. Host drum is Timber Trails, and the Post 53 Amvets will post the flags. Moccasin and dish games will be played. Dancer payouts are \$20 for adults and gift cards for elementary through high school dancers.

<p>1 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>2 Wellbriety/AA/NA Ribbon skirt/shirt Zumba Fitness <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>3 Primary Election 8 a.m.-8 p.m. <i>See page 3</i> Language Tables Wellbriety DI, III Zumba Fitness <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>4 AA/NA Welcome Language Table <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>5 Honoring Survivors Powwow 7-10 p.m. Mille Lacs <i>See page 10</i> Circle of Health Outreach 12-2:30 p.m. Urban Office B-Ball League Night Language Table <i>See page 14.</i></p>	<p>6 Mick and Syngen's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs Herb Sam 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Powwow Grounds</p>	<p>7 Mick and Syngen's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs</p>
<p>8 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>9 Wellbriety/AA/NA Ribbon skirt/shirt Zumba Fitness <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>10 Language Tables Wellbriety DI, III Zumba Fitness <i>See page 14.</i></p>	<p>11 AA/NA Welcome Language Table <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>12 B-Ball League Night DI Community Center Circle of Health Outreach 9-noon (DII) 1:30-4 p.m. (DIIa) Language Table <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>13 Ralph and Andy's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs Herb Sam 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Powwow Grounds</p>	<p>14 Ralph and Andy's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs Urban Elders Luncheon All Nations Church Sweetgrass Basket 2-day Workshop Kids Craft <i>See page 10</i></p>
<p>15 Sweetgrass Basket 2-day Workshop 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 10</i> Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>16 Blackjack Class <i>See page 12.</i> Minor Trust Training 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Mille Lacs <i>See page 10</i> Ribbon skirt/shirt, Zumba class <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>17 Language Tables Wellbriety DI, III Zumba Fitness <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>18 AA/NA Welcome Language Table <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>19 District Ila Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Com. Ctr. Wiidookodaadiwag Powwow 5 p.m. Ctrl. Lakes College Urban Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church Circle of Health Outreach 9 a.m. MinoBimaadiziwin</p>	<p>20 Lynda and Joyce's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs Herb Sam 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Powwow Grounds Circle of Health Outreach Four Winds 9 a.m.</p>	<p>21 Lynda and Joyce's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs</p>
<p>22 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>23 Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. Wellbriety/AA/NA Ribbon skirt/shirt Zumba class <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>24 Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Language Tables Wellbriety DI, III Zumba Fitness <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>25 District II Community Meeting 5 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Com. Ctr. AA/NA Welcome Language Table <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>26 Art Gahbow Day Gov't Offices Closed B-Ball League Night Language Table <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>27 Joe and George's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs Misi Zaaga'iganing basketball tourney Onamia High School Herb Sam 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Powwow Grounds</p>	<p>28 Joe and George's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs Misi Zaaga'iganing Basketball Tourney Onamia H.S.</p>
<p>29 Misi Zaaga'iganing Basketball Tourney Onamia High School Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>30 Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Hinckley Corp. Build. Wellbriety/AA/NA Ribbon skirt/shirt Zumba class <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>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.</p>		<p>More events <i>See page 14 for Recurring Events, Upcoming Events, and Recovery Groups.</i></p>		

Niwii-Izhaamin Iskigamiziganing

We're Going to the Sugarbush

Students at Pine Grove Leadership Academy in Aazhoomog (District III) got a quick start on the syruping season, heading out to tap their first tree on March 1.

The sap started flowing immediately, much to the delight of the students. As March marched along, temperatures cooled off and the sap took a break, but by late in the month, the sap was running strong.

Culture teacher Duck White, who has a lifetime of sugarbush experience, was hoping to tap 100 trees this year.

Students at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II were also busy with tapping and boiling, and District I kids had their sugarbush set up near the powwow grounds.

DNR crews led by Dean Staples and Todd Moilanen helped set up the camps and deliver wood for boiling sap. As of Friday, March 23, more than 100 students from Nay Ah Shing, Onamia, and Isle schools had attended the camp.

See next month's Ojibwe *Inaajimowin* for more on the 2018 sugarbush.



PHOTOS BY BRETT LARSON

Culture teacher Duck White took students out on March 1 to tap their first maple of the 2018 sugarbush season.

Need Help?

If you or someone you know is injured or in immediate 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.

Addiction/Behavioral Health: 800-709-6445, ext. 7776.

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.

Batterers' Intervention: 320-532-8909.

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.

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Update Your Address

More than 150 Band members have addresses that are being rejected by the U.S. Post Office. If your address on file with the Enrollments Office is incorrect, you may not be receiving important mail from the Band. Each time you move, you need to fill out a Change of Address form from Enrollments at 320-532-7730. You can download a Change of Address form at millelacsband.com/services/tribal-enrollments.

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch.