

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

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NAMEBINIKAA!

NAY AH SHING STUDENTS
LEARN THE ART OF
SPEARING



CHIEF EXECUTIVE
HONORED AT
DFL'S HUMPHREY-
MONDALE DINNER

FOUR WINDS
FLOURISHING
THANKS TO
BAND MEMBERS

STUDENTS
SHINE AT
OJIBWE QUIZ
BOWLS

UNIVERSITY, BAND
COOPERATE ON
STUDY OF TOBACCO
HEALTH EFFECTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Dear Band Members,

Boozhoo! Despite a few April snowstorms, Ziigwan (Spring) appears here to stay! The other evening, a Band member stopped by with a small spring gift to share — a few of the wild ramps she harvested, which were delicious! This small gesture and her thoughtfulness were a reminder of how easy it is to get caught up in the angry voices spreading negativity, when there is quiet kindness, love, and generosity surrounding us among the majority of Band members.

The spring ogaa harvest was a perfect example of this. Just recently, several Band members publicly offered on Facebook to share their ogaa harvest with any Elders who were unable to get out onto the lake. Some even delivered fish to Elders living in the Twin Cities! There were so many grateful responses from Elders on Facebook, and posts about the beauty of our culture and traditions. Sharing is who we are — it is in our DNA. Our spirits want to feel the joy that comes with giving to others and being compassionate and kind. Miigwech to these Band members for their generosity!

May was a full month, including meetings of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, Elder meetings in each district and the urban area, Head Start graduation, and many meetings with individual Band members. The Executive Cabinet, which is comprised of the Executive Branch commissioners, met with me for

a day-and-a-half meeting to work on the Band's strategic plan.

Beginning in 2015, commissioners began holding Executive Branch meetings in each district and the urban area to hear feedback about Band member priorities. As a Cabinet, we have been incorporating that feedback into the development of a new five-year plan for the Band. We are excited to share our ideas with incoming Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd and the new Band Assembly that will take office on July 9, and look forward to working cooperatively to advance initiatives that will bring positive change to the community.

Attending the first hearing in Federal District Court on our lawsuit against Mille Lacs County was a major highlight of this month. The hearing went very well, and I am grateful that we have such an excellent legal team. You can read more about this hearing on page 3.

There have been other developments internally, which were the subject of a large mailing sent to Band members by the Legislative Branch. On that note, a special meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe will be held to address these matters on Monday, June 11, at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, beginning at 9 a.m.

This meeting will be very informative, so please mark your calendars. I encourage and invite all Mille Lacs Band members

who are able to attend to do so. If you are a Band employee, keep in mind that the policy of the Executive Branch to allow all employees who are MCT members to attend TEC meetings as time worked, so long as you have permission from your supervisor. I am looking forward to the opportunity to fully and thoroughly address the issues that have been brought up, and to do so on our own reservation.

Finally, congratulations to all the graduates this spring, from Head Start up to college — making advances in education is the way we will address social ills in our community. All of you graduates give us great hope!

While negativity sometimes seems to be everywhere, it is only because negativity, anger, and even hatred often attract more attention than kindness, compassion, generosity, and love. As hard as it can be, I try myself to focus on the good things — like the beauty of our people, traditions, and culture. We have been given so many gifts as Anishinaabe, and we also have gifts to share with others. Chi Miigwech to all the Band members who quietly live out our values each day and remind us of who we are. Have a wonderful month!

Chief Executive Receives DFL's Orville Freeman Award

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin accepted on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band members the Orville L. Freeman Award for Distinguished Service to Greater Minnesota from the DFL on May 18. The award is given to one recipient annually in recognition of the recipient's economic contributions to rural and small-community regions of the state. Following is an excerpt of her acceptance speech, which is available in its entirety at millelacsband.com/news/chief-executive-melanie-benjamin-accepts-orville-freeman-award.

Miigwech. Thank you. I deeply appreciate this honor.

This award, named for Orville Freeman, recognizes contributions to Greater Minnesota. In our Ojibwe culture, there are two groups of people who are held in highest esteem: the warriors and the Elders.

Governor Freeman was a warrior. He was a hero in World War II; he helped Hubert Humphrey get a civil rights plank through the 1948 Convention, and after nominating John F. Kennedy, and feeling alarmed by hatred against Catholics, he made his famous speech against Catholic bigotry. But he paid the price with backlash from the same Greater Minnesota he worked his whole life to help. Governor Freeman had courage!

This evening is named for Hubert Humphrey. In 1948, Mayor Humphrey challenged the Democratic Party "to get out of the shadow of states' rights and walk forth-rightly into the bright sunshine of human rights." In 1964, he led the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

He helped remake the image of the Democratic Party, which had been tied to white supremacists in the South. Hubert Humphrey had courage!

As Minnesotans, these men always did the right thing: they always sided with human rights.

As the DFL, we are a family. Families are able to have tough conversations and speak truth to one another.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was joined by family members at the annual DFL Humphrey-Mondale dinner on May 18 as she accepted the Freeman Award on behalf of Mille Lacs Band members. Right: After the event, Congressman and gubernatorial candidate Tim Walz tweeted about Melanie's speech.

The truth is that this award comes at a time when my People, the tribal members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, are in the midst of a life-and-death human rights crisis.

It comes at a time when Mille Lacs County, which has the worst crime record of all 87 counties, has ended our 25-year old law enforcement agreement. The opioid epidemic is killing our people, but the County has threatened to arrest our tribal police if they try to protect us.

It comes at a time when Elders are being threatened in their homes by drug dealers who roam our community without fear because the county attorney refuses to prosecute dealers arrested by tribal police.

When a county government motivated by racism is holding the protection of our children hostage, demanding that we give up our Reservation in exchange for public safety, my DFL



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin reminded us all last night -MN must do better by our Native communities and it's simple- let's respect them as sovereign nations and uphold treaties. Thank you for your leadership and for holding us accountable. #HumphreyMondaleDinner #dfl



friends and family, this is the stuff of 1955 Mississippi, not 2018 Minnesota.

Despite all that the Mille Lacs Band has done to spur jobs, economic growth, and prosperity in Greater Minnesota, the State government's official position is that the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation no longer exists. Not because it is a strong legal position. It is not. But because in 2015, a few DFL officials decided it was smart politics in our region known for anti-Indian racism.

Tonight, we celebrate our DFL founders who were courageous in the face of injustice. My question is this: Do we as the DFL still have that same courage?

Band Seeks Dismissal of Countersuit

The Mille Lacs Band is awaiting a decision from Federal Judge Susan Richard Nelson on whether she will dismiss Mille Lacs County's counterclaim in Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe vs. Mille Lacs County.

At a May 18 hearing in St. Paul, Judge Nelson heard the Band's motion to dismiss the County's counterclaim to add the Band's elected officials (in both their official and personal capacities) to the case, as well as Police Chief Sara Rice and Police Sergeant Derrick Naumann in their personal capacities. The Band's lawsuit against the County, which was filed last November, lists the Band, Chief Rice, and Sergeant Naumann in their official capacities as plaintiffs.

The Band filed the lawsuit following the County's failure to recognize tribal law enforcement officers. Since July 2016, when Mille Lacs County revoked a Joint Powers Agreement under which Band police held authority to enforce state law on the Mille Lacs Reservation, County officials have threatened Band police with arrest if they attempt to carry out law enforcement duties outside of lands held in trust for the Band.

The Band is asking the court to 1) declare that the Band

has inherent sovereign authority to establish a police department and 2) to authorize Band police officers to investigate violations of federal, state, and tribal law within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation, as established by the Treaty of 1855. The Band also seeks a declaration that tribal police officers have federal authority to arrest suspects for federal law violations, so that the County cannot interfere with the authority of Band police officers.

The counterclaim supports the County's belief that the Mille Lacs Reservation does not exist, despite the federal government's repeated assurance that the 1855 Reservation boundaries remain intact. In 2002, Mille Lacs County filed a federal lawsuit against the Band on this issue, and after a series of hearings, appeals, and losses for the County, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to even hear the County's case.

The current case is expected to last several months or years. Marc Slonim, who represented the Band in the treaty rights case victory and reservation boundaries defense, is the Band's lead attorney.

Protest Filed Against Rep. Sondra Erickson for Anti-Indian Comments

On Thursday, May 3, Democrats in the Minnesota House of Representatives filed a letter of Protest and Dissent in the House Journal against Representative Sondra Erickson for her inflammatory language against Native Americans during the debate of the 2018 Education Omnibus bill, during which she said, "Well, if they're going to argue that they're sovereign, then they don't have to take this money that we're giving to them."

The DFLers requested that the Speaker of the House remove her as Chair of the Education Innovation Policy and Ethics Committees. He has not responded. The filing against Erickson, signed by 38 members of the House, is printed below.

Protest and Dissent

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 11 of the Minnesota Constitution, we the undersigned Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives register our protest and dissent against Representative Sondra Erickson for her inflammatory and unconscionable language during the debate of the 2018 Education Omnibus bill.

On Thursday, April 26, 2018, Representative Sondra Erickson stated on the floor of the Minnesota House of Representatives with regard to Native American and Indigenous communities, "If they're going to argue they're sovereign, then they don't have to take this money that we're giving to them." This statement was in response to Representative Mary Kunesch-Pudein's amendment (H4328A66) to the E-12 Education Finance and Policy omnibus bill (HF4328).

As the State Representative of 4,302 enrolled members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, it is Rep. Erickson's responsibility to represent her constituents, which included the acknowledgement of their sovereignty. It is inappropriate that Representative Erickson speaks in derogatory and disparaging tones when addressing the function and governance of Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools. This is especially inappropriate because she is the Chair of the Education Innovation Policy Committee.

The Code of Conduct Policy for the Minnesota House of Representatives states in part: "A State Representative and an officer or employee of the House of Representatives shall: Treat everyone with respect, fairness, and courtesy; Exercise sound judgment."

We undersigned Members of the House of Representatives admonish Representative Erickson for her comments. We

implore her to apologize for her actions, to educate herself on issues of sovereignty, and to build positive relationships with Native American communities and BIE schools. We also call on the Speaker to remove her as Chair of the Education Innovation Policy and Ethics Committees. Proving time and again that Rep. Erickson carries a negative and biased attitude toward the historical and current issues facing the American Indian and Indigenous communities in Minnesota, we believe that Rep. Erickson is incapable of upholding the high ethical and moral standards needed to be Chair of either of these committees.

Muslim Americans Disparaged

Indians are not the only minority facing disparaging comments from Republican House members. Also on May 3, House Democrats filed a protest against Representatives Cindy Pugh and Kathy Lohmer for posting inflammatory comments about Muslim Americans.

The protest reads in part: "Representatives Pugh and Lohmer posted inflammatory material after members of the Muslim American community conducted a training on how citizens could participate in the political process in the state of Minnesota. Their comments generated fear and mistrust about political participation by members of a religion different from their own. This violates the House Code of Conduct with respect to fostering public participation in democracy. The anti-Muslim rhetoric on Facebook in Minnesota prior to precinct caucuses resulted in threats of violence against Muslim Americans. Representatives Pugh and Lohmer should not have used the words 'penetrate' and 'infiltrate' regarding a group of citizens participating in Minnesota's political caucuses — whether those citizens were Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, or Christian. Citizens of all faiths are guaranteed religious liberty by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights in Article 1, Sections 16 and 17 of the Minnesota Constitution."



Rep. Sondra Erickson

Election Day is June 12

District II, III, and urban area Mille Lacs Band members will be electing new District II and District III representatives. The new elected officials will take office on July 9 and will serve four-year terms.

The District II Representative candidates are Marvin Ray Bruneau and Raina Elaine Killspotted. The District III Representative candidates are Lauren Gay Davis and Wallace Ervin St. John.

The two candidates from each district were chosen during the April 3 primary election. Also in that primary, Sheldon Boyd was elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer. Because Sheldon won more than 50 percent of the vote, no general election is necessary in that race.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the following locations.

- District I Community Center
43500 Virgo Road, Onamia (for absentee balloting).
- East Lake Community Center
46666 State Highway 65, McGregor.
- Chiminising Community Center
2605 Chiminising Drive, Isle.
- Aazhoomog Community Center
45749 Grace Lake Road, Sandstone.
- All Nations Church
1515 East 23rd Street, Minneapolis.

District I is the designated polling place for absentee ballot voting. Eligible voters are enrolled Mille Lacs Band members, 18 years of age or over. Any questions regarding absentee balloting and other general election questions should be directed to Mille Lacs Band Election Judge Deanna Sam, Office Phone: 320-532-7586 or 800-709-6445, ext. 7586. Cell: 320-279-0178. Fax: 320-532-4782. Email: deanna.sam@millelacsband.com.

For more information, see the official Minnesota Chippewa Tribe election notice on page 12.

Miigwech for voting!

School Record for Cedric!

Mille Lacs Band Member Cedric LaFave broke the Hinckley-Finlayson School Track & Field Record for the 1600 meter run on May 22 with a time of 4:37.45. The previous record was 4:37.56. Cedric now advances to Sections on May 30. Congratulations, Cedric!



State and Local News Briefs

Grief and anger follow Little Earth shootings:

Gunfire broke out in the Little Earth neighborhood of Minneapolis May 2, injuring six people ages 14 to 46. A 14-year-old boy and a 21-year-old man were arrested in connection with the shooting. Residents say shootings (including the April shooting death of 19-year-old Alexander LaGarde) have picked up in recent years as a result of the opioid epidemic and gang activity. Activist Clyde Bellecourt said, "I think it's a lot of neglect. I think it has to do with a lot of racism and ignorance by the city of Minneapolis with regards to the Indian community."

Source: *startribune.com*.

Bellecourt steps aside after 48 years: In early May, Clyde Bellecourt announced his retirement from the Legal Rights Center board after serving for 48 years. Long-time activist Bellecourt was instrumental in creating the center, which provides criminal defense for low-income people, especially those of color. The center was created by the American Indian Movement, of which Bellecourt was co-founder, and The Way, a black community organization from the north side of Minneapolis. Rep. Keith Ellison was among the speakers who honored Bellecourt at an invitation-only program following his retirement announcement.

Source: *startribune.com*.

Lawsuit costs continue to rise for Mille Lacs County:

The Mille Lacs County Board voted in April to hire a lobbyist to oppose a bill that would allow the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police to operate without an agreement with the County. The \$20,000 bill is another blow to taxpayers, who have already spent \$242,940 on legal fees related to the Band's lawsuit against the County, which came in response to the County's decision to rescind its law enforcement agreement with the Band.

Source: *Mille Lacs Messenger*.

Enbridge holds firm on new route for Line 3:

Enbridge CEO Al Monaco said the company will continue to lobby for a new corridor for its Line 3 replacement project. Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly concluded in an April report that the pipeline should be built in the old corridor. The new corridor crosses wild rice watersheds of importance to the Mille Lacs Band; the old corridor crosses through the Leech Lake and Fond du Lac Reservations. Source: *startribune.com*.

Housing planned for homeless young Native Americans:

The Ain Dah Yung Center, a St. Paul nonprofit, and housing developer Project for Pride in Living broke ground in May for a supportive housing project on University Avenue aimed at homeless American Indians between the ages of 18 and 24. The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency provided \$9.4 million in tax credits for investors, covering most of the \$11.3 million construction costs.

Source: *startribune.com*.

New estimate shows healthy Mille Lacs smallmouth population:

The Minnesota DNR announced last month that an estimated 67,000 smallmouth bass are thriving in Mille Lacs Lake, according to a study conducted by the DNR and supported by the Mille Lacs Smallmouth Alliance and Minnesota B.A.S.S. Nation. Though anglers have been allowed to keep more bass since 2013, creel surveys indicate that interest in keeping bass is low. The average number of bass kept each year is about 2,800. In recent years, anglers have caught and released more than 125,000 bass.

Source: *news.dnr.state.mn.us*.

Lady Luck Estates Project Wins Award

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

The Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) team responsible for Lady Luck Estates in Hinckley received the Project Team of the Year Award from Travois, a Kansas City company that raises funds for housing and economic development in Indian Country.

MLCV Economic Development Director Dustin Goslin, a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation in Kansas, said the 28-unit Lady Luck Estates project is part of the first phase of the Hinckley I-35 master plan created in 2013, which also included the medical office building that opened in 2015. "MLCV saw a need in our community for affordable housing, so we wanted to find a way to bring this type of project forward," said Dustin.

To help make that plan a reality, the company primarily used federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, administered through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, to finance the construction in Hinckley — a community where much of the workforce was commuting 45 to 60 minutes due to the lack of housing options nearby.

"Affordable housing projects work by using tax credits to underwrite the cost of the project to lower rents. We gained a lot of insight through the development of Lady Luck Estates and are actively applying it to future projects around the region," said Dustin.

Lady Luck Estates is currently under construction with the first units to be open in July, and all buildings targeted for completion by December.

"MLCV is committed to being a good community steward," Dustin said. "Affordable housing projects in rural areas are tough because of numerous variables including financing, accessibility to public transit, and access to utilities — water/sewer, broadband, etc. We believe that everyone has a right to quality housing, so our goal is to find ways to leverage housing partnerships and programs to bring these types of projects to our region."

MLCV received the award in April at the 2018 Travois Indian Country Affordable Housing and Economic Development Conference in Marina Del Rey, California. CEO Joseph Nayquonabe, General Counsel Michael Beattie, Associate General Counsel Zachary Atherton-Ely, and Dustin accepted the award for the team. Dustin said, "We are proud to be recognized as the project team of the year. This project ensures



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Above: The team behind Lady Luck Estates — Zachary Atherton-Ely, Dustin Goslin, Michael Beattie, and Joe Nayquonabe — received the Project Team of the Year award at the 2018 Travois Indian Country Affordable Housing and Economic Development Conference April 11 in Marina Del Rey, California.

working people and families have a place to call home in the Hinckley community for years to come. We look forward to continuing our work in investing and implementing affordable housing in other areas of the state."

Lady Luck Estates is located just over a mile from Grand Casino Hinckley and adjacent to the MLCV medical office building. It is within walking distance of a second health clinic, restaurants, employment options, and a movie theatre.

"We have had a huge influx of interested potential tenants and are already developing a wait list for some types of units," Dustin said.

The project will include 12 two-bedroom, 1.5-bath units and 16 three-bedroom, two-bath units. All homes will have a one- or two-car attached garage.

Two units will accommodate tenants with physical disabilities, with at least one constructed to be fully handicap accessible. In addition to serving income-qualified families, four units will provide housing for previously homeless families.

Those interested in renting a unit can look for Lady Luck Estates on Facebook or call 320-384-4607.



Healthy, Tasty, Traditional

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum partnered with the Farm Market Cafe of Onamia to present a tasting of traditional foods on Wednesday, May 16. Farm Market Cafe co-owners Pat Root, Deb Rasmussen, and Barb Eller put together a colorful cultural spread with help from museum site manager Travis Zimmerman. On the menu: buffalo meatloaf, baked beans, traditional tea, homemade ice cream, and fiddlehead soup, along with breads, muffins, and salads made with manoomin.

Governor Mulls Veto of 'Wild Rice Bill'

Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

Despite a veto of the so-called "wild rice bill" (HR 3280) by Governor Mark Dayton, state lawmakers were still pushing for changes to Minnesota's water quality sulfate standard as the regular legislative session moved into its last day on Sunday, May 20. A conference committee chaired by Representative Dan Fabian (R) met that afternoon to approve revised wild rice sulfate language for HF 3422.

In the 1930s and '40s, John Moyle, a biologist working for the Minnesota Department of Conservation, observed that waters high in sulfate did not typically support large wild rice stands. This was the beginning of water quality sulfate standards in the state of Minnesota, where wild rice is the state grain and a cultural staple for the Anishinaabe. Minnesota is the only state in the U.S. to have such a rule in place.

In 1973, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) instituted the federal Clean Water Act. Minnesota regulators proposed a standard of 10 milligrams per liter of sulfate discharged into water bodies that produce wild rice. That standard was approved by the EPA and has been in place ever since.

The standard has rarely been enforced. The 1973 rule cast a spotlight on the mining industry and city wastewater facilities. Even with water treatment practices in place, most large facilities in the state continued to discharge water with sulfate levels many times higher than the standard. The only technology capable of cleaning discharge water well enough to satisfy the standard is reverse osmosis, which large industrial operations can afford but small northern Minnesota cities cannot.

During the last decade, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) began to reexamine its policy on enforcement

of the water quality standard. Legislators representing communities that would be most heavily impacted by the hefty price tag introduced legislation in February of 2015 to prevent enforcement of the sulfate standard.

After a \$1.5 million wild rice study mandated by the state, the MPCA generated several versions of a new rule based on a formula that would determine the sulfate limit based on multiple environmental factors at each lake site being evaluated. However, each new rule change was criticized by industry, environmental, and tribal groups alike. In August of 2017, an administrative law judge rejected the standard because the MPCA had not demonstrated sufficient need for the rule change, and the new rule was too complicated to be practical.

Shortly thereafter, Republican lawmakers, along with Democrats representing mining areas, introduced new legislation attempting to nullify the sulfate standard entirely. While Governor Mark Dayton promised not to sign the bill (HF 3280), those in favor of it continued to push for approval.

On May 9, 2018, Governor Dayton vetoed the bill, saying "it is an extreme overreach that eliminates important protection for wild rice, attempts to exempt Minnesota from the federal Clean Water Act, and ensures ongoing litigation."

Following the veto, the Governor invited multiple stakeholders to meetings to resolve the sulfate issue. A revision was released May 16 for criticism from tribes and environmental groups. The language was revised again and was approved by the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee late Sunday, May 20. Gov. Dayton has two weeks to sign or veto the bill.

Will the Real *Wild* Wild Rice Please Stand Up?

Commentary by Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

The Anishinaabe and many Minnesotans know that there is wild rice, and then there is *wild* rice. The Anishinaabe call it manoomin, or bagwaji-manoomin. It's an entirely unique plant that produces a flavorful grain, has incredible nutritional value, and only grows in the state of Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin. Accept no substitutes.

Awakaani-manoomin is the name given to black paddy rice, which is sometimes translated as "enslaved rice." This wild rice imposter is cultivated from coast to coast, never really softens with cooking, tastes different, has nowhere near the nutritional value of its preferred cousin, and can't be mistaken for the real deal.

Except by members of the Minnesota Legislature seeking to make laws about wild rice.

Senator David Tomassoni (D), for example, makes numerous references to wild rice farmers who deliberately add sulfate to their crops to help them grow. This, besides being the opposite of the dictionary definition of "wild" anything, raises red flags for a major issue underlying the sulfate standard debate. There is not yet a legal definition of what actually constitutes wild rice or wild rice waters.

The revamped HF 3422 bill contains language near the end, almost as an afterthought, instructing a wild rice work group to come up with "criteria for identifying" wild rice waters by December 15, 2019. It begs the question: How can legislation be written for something that hasn't been legally identified yet?

The differences between bagwaji-manoomin and black paddy rice are critical. Most importantly, an estimated 70 percent of manoomin stands have already disappeared. Some believe that number may be as high as 90 percent in Minnesota. Manoomin is spiritually, physically, and economically irreplaceable to the Anishinaabe, and as a plant that grows only in this tiny corner of the world, it is irreplaceable to the environment as well.

Despite years of observation and millions of dollars in studies, those who supported repealing the sulfate standard altogether denied the known science that sulfate adversely affects manoomin. Claims from individuals like Tomassoni cloud the issue with reports of "bumper crops" of wild rice in sulfate-laden waters and allegations of shoddy science.

It all circles back to what kind of rice is really up for debate.

Anishinaabe inclusion in the legislative process might have helped clear things up. The loudest voices at the table were in favor of abolishing the standard in the interest of economics. The Governor's stakeholder meetings at the end of the process included invitations to tribal leaders but only on very short notice. Calling HF 3280 "the wild rice bill" and frequent reference to the importance of rice to Anishinaabe people gave the impression that Minnesota's tribes were heavily involved in this legislation. However, tribal consultation on this bill and subsequent revisions was minimal.

With more meaningful consultation, things might have turned out very differently. Tribes stand behind the existing 10m/L standard, because new filtration technologies are under development, and the state's goal of not increasing pollutant levels is just not good enough. Charlie Lippert of the Mille Lacs Band DNR says we have to restore bagwaji-manoomin to its rightful place in the ecology. "We have a symbiotic relationship with wild rice. So it demands more of us," Charlie says. "Because we have waged war against it."

On paper in the state Capitol, this is all a debate about a numeric standard that might affect the numbers in their ledgers. But for many of the rest of us, it's about having a higher standard — of health, wellness, connection, and life.

National News Briefs

Sacred pipe returned to Sioux: A clay pipe linked to the U.S.—Dakota War of 1862 will be returned to the Sioux, thanks to an anonymous gift from a generous donor. The pipe was auctioned off in Boston after the Lower Sioux Indian Community tried unsuccessfully to stop the sale, but the buyer, who paid \$40,000 for the pipe — nearly twice its estimated value — donated the pipe to the tribe. *Source: twincities.com.*

University apologizes after cops called on Native Americans: Two Native teenagers touring the campus of Colorado State were questioned and searched by police after the mother of another prospective student said they made her nervous. The university apologized to Thomas Kanewakeron Gray, 19, and Lloyd Skanahwati Gray, 17, and offered to repay the family's trip expenses and give them "an all-expenses-paid VIP tour." *Source: mprnews.com.*

Historic number of Native women running for office: State Representative Peggy Flanagan, a Democrat representing the Minneapolis suburbs in the Minnesota House, was among the women featured in an article about Native women running for office. Flanagan, who is running for Lieutenant Governor on Tim Walz's ticket, spoke at the Democratic National Convention in 2016. If elected, she will be the highest-ranked Native state office holder and the first person of color to hold a constitutional office in Minnesota. Also featured was Deb Haaland, a Laguna Pueblo member running for U.S. Congress in New Mexico. *Source: elle.com.*

Trump supports changes that would sabotage treaty rights: The Trump administration is arguing that tribes are a race rather than sovereign governments and should therefore not be exempt from Medicaid work rules. The new policy on Medicaid work requirements "does not honor the duty of the federal government to uphold the government-to-government relationship and recognize the political status enshrined in the Constitution, treaties, federal statutes, and other federal laws," said Jacqueline Pata, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians. "Our political relationship is not based upon race." *Source: indiancountrymedianetwork.com.*

Natives worry thousands could lose healthcare: The Trump administration has been seeking to implement a work requirement for Medicaid, which would hit Native American communities especially hard while marking a dramatic shift in federal policy. Thousands of Native Americans would lose benefits under the plan due to high unemployment rates in Indian Country. Americans for Prosperity, a group funded by the Koch Brothers, is pushing the proposal in Minnesota. *Source: fox9.com.*

Tribes fear they will be left out of sports betting growth: Before the U.S. Supreme Court threw out the 1992 Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) last month that limited sports betting, the National Indian Gaming Association announced that it passed a resolution at their convention calling on Congress to repeal PASPA and pass legislation allowing tribes to offer sports betting at both tribal casinos and via mobile and online. Tribes fear a repeal of PASPA that would allow commercial interests to operate sports betting nationwide, threatening tribal gaming revenue. *Source: cdcgamingreports.com.*

The Center of the Moon

By Jim Clark



The late Jim Clark 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 name that was given to me in the English language is Jim Clark. But my Ojibwe name — my name in my language — is Nawigiizis.

People ask me, "What does that mean?" And I tell them, it means the center of the moon. Giizis is the Ojibwe word for sun or moon.

So then people say, "How do you know it's the center of the moon instead of the center of the sun?" And I have to tell them how I know.

When that name was given to me, I was just a little baby. The man who gave me that name told my mother to make a painted brooch. It was very small — most brooches like this are approximately 1–1/4 to 1–1/2 inches in diameter (and many are made of beads). The man said this particular brooch should have a white background. Standing in front of that background should be a figure of a man with a hat on. The man should be standing there with his left arm down and the other arm outstretched. In this outstretched arm he's got a pipe, a long pipe that touches the ground.

It's all white — a black figure on a white background. That's the man in the moon. So I have to tell them that, that's how I know Nawigiizis means the center of the moon, although it's true that the word also means the center of the sun.

There are other people who have the same name. I have a nephew whose name is Nawigiizis. And there's a fellow who grew up here near Onamia whose name was Nawigiizis. I grew up in Aazhoomog over near Hinckley.

There are women who have that name, too. Nawigiizis is a man, and Nawigiizissokweh is a woman.

As I said, a man gave me that name. That's because in our tradition, only certain people can give names. There are people who are gifted by the Creator to be able to give names. The Creator or some being teaches them and gives them permission to use this kind of a name or that kind of a name.

When an Indian person is gifted in some way — such as being able to give names — they don't advertise that fact. But other people will come to them and ask, "Will you give my baby a name?"

Today there are some Anishinaabe who do not use the Indian names they were given and instead use only their English names. Eventually, some may even forget their Ojibwe names.

I hope they do not, because these names were given to them for their protection from whatever evil they may encounter throughout their lives. So if you have an Anishinaabe name, use it so you will be remembered and known by friends.

I don't have that brooch any more. I lost it one day over at a carnival. I was getting some money out of my wallet for my daughter, and I must have dropped the brooch. But I still remember and use my name Nawigiizis.

Elder Financial Exploitation on the Rise

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Sadly, financial exploitation and abuse of Elders happen in all communities. Here at Mille Lacs, reports of the problem have increased in recent years. In one year alone, the caseload in the Elder Abuse Program went from four to 30.

"It's a massive issue in our community," said Kate Kalk, Family Violence Prevention Program Administrator. "I would say that the majority of cases we're seeing in our Elder Abuse Program are a direct result of the opioid crisis that we're in."

The typical case involves an Elder who is providing a home for a child and grandchildren. "We've had cases where daughters with kids are staying with Grandma and taking her food," said Kate. "So it's not only financial, but it's taking the bare necessities that our Elders are living on."

Some Elders have given out their personal identification numbers and credit or debit cards to relatives who have taken their money. Others have been unable to pay their rent because they've given away all their money.

Reports have been made of individuals going door to door at the ALU to beg relatives for money.

A common frustration these Elders express: "I'm done helping my child, but I want to take care of my grandchildren."

"They don't want to kick their child out because they don't want to hurt the grandchildren," said Kate. "And a lot of times,

the Elder is having trouble taking care of himself or herself, let alone children and grandchildren, sometimes newborn babies."

When Elder Abuse Program advocates receive a report of potential Elder abuse, they meet with prospective clients to tell them about the services available, answer their questions, and give them time to process the information and decide whether or not they would like to utilize advocacy services.

Often the program tries to make use of "natural supports" — family members and friends who are trustworthy and can help protect the Elder from exploitation.

"Our advocates have done a phenomenal job addressing this problem," said Kate.

Because of the complex nature of the problem, the Elder Abuse Program, which is part of the Community Support Services Division of Health and Human Services, works with other programs like Wraparound, Public Health, and Family Services to help the entire family.

Elders who are being exploited, or family members who fear for their Elders' safety and security, should call Elder Advocate Dave Stumpf at 320-630-2676 or the Central Intake Line for Family Services at 320-532-7764.

The Elder Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Programs serve Band members in all districts and the urban area.

The Family Violence Prevention Program Is Here to Help

The Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) provides assistance and resources to victims of domestic and sexual violence through a variety of programs and services. The Program is staffed with trained domestic and sexual violence advocates who are dedicated in their work to provide services to all people regardless of race, financial status, gender preference, physical or mental capabilities, or religion.

The Sexual Assault Program is a part of the Family Violence Prevention Program and is funded by one of the many grants that FVPP receives.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Program provides services to Elders in our community who may be faced with abuse issues in the areas of physical, emotional, financial, and neglect.

The Women's Shelter houses women and their children in an emergency situation, if the issues in the home are not safe for the woman and her children. The shelter provides advocacy counseling, safety planning, crisis intervention, emotional support, and options, with advocates on call 24 hours a day. Through the 24-hour crisis line at 866-867-4006, women needing help can talk with an advocate at any time.

There are alternative shelter options for men who are experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault.

FVPP hosts numerous education events throughout the year. On April 4, the Family Violence Prevention Program partnered with the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, Sacred Hoop Coalition, and Men as Peacemakers to host a conference at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Everyone was welcome to the powwow on April 5, which was organized by Naomi Sam, with a feast provided by District I Rep. Sandy Blake. All FVPP staff helped organize the conference.

On April 23, FVPP hosted a Human Trafficking Summit at Grand Casino Hinckley, organized by Kala Roberts, the Direct Services Coordinator for the Sexual Assault Program.

Both conferences received rave reviews from sponsoring organizations and attendees.

If you are having an issue with domestic violence, sexual abuse, or Elder abuse, call the toll-free 24-hour crisis line at 866-867-4006.



On April 4-6, the FVPP worked with the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and other sponsors to host the 12th Annual Restoring the Sacred Trails of Our Grandmothers: Pathways to Ending Gender-Based Violence. The event included a traditional powwow on April 5.



The Family Violence Prevention Program hosted a Human Trafficking Summit on April 23.

Band Members Create Welcoming Environment at Four Winds

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Four Winds Treatment Center in Brainerd has geared its programming toward Native Americans since its inception. While it has employed Native counselors like Band members Dorothy Sam and Joe Nayquonabe Sr. for many years, the center has taken its Indian-centered mission a step further since the Mille Lacs Band acquired it in 2017.

Three Mille Lacs Band members — Nicole Anderson, Chandell Boyd, and Bob Eagle — are now the heart and soul of Four Winds, and their presence has benefitted clients and the tribal community as a whole.

In addition to the three Mille Lacs Band members, the program employs a Native American licensed practical nurse (LPN), four Native counselor aids, and a second Native cultural advisor.

Nicole is the Treatment Director, giving her a behind-the-scenes administrative role. She works on everything from developing policies and procedures to finances and billing — which are always complicated in healthcare.

Although Nicole is technically at the top of the organizational chart at Four Winds, she prefers a team-oriented, multi-disciplinary approach to management. It follows that Nicole is also quick to seek guidance from those she answers to within the Band's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including Behavioral Health Director Crystal Weckert, whom Nicole calls "a great mentor," former Executive Director Noya Woodrich, and Commissioner Rebecca St. Germaine.

"We have a really good team of people who want to be here and who care," said Nicole. "Everyone wants to come to work, and to me that's really important."

Culture is the cure

Chandell Boyd, who has been with Four Winds since May 2017, is one of the center's chemical dependency counselors — her first job as a counselor.

"At first I thought I'd be working with the outpatient program, but I just kind of fell into this," said Chandell. "It's been an experience. It's awesome to see how much it has grown."

Things haven't always fallen into place for Chandell; in high school, she was told she wasn't cut out for college, even though she had always planned to go to college to become a teacher or an artist.

Chandell has proven those people wrong time and again, initially earning her AA and working in early education at Wewinabi before finishing her bachelor's degree and making the transition to behavioral health, working a full-time job while earning a certificate in chemical dependency (CD) counseling.

Now Chandell is studying for her master's degree in tribal administration and governance.

Chandell wants to see other young Band members pursue their goals as she has. "If you believe in something, go for it," she said. "Don't let anything hold you back."

Last winter, Chandell and Bob attended White Bison training in Colorado. White Bison/Wellbriety is a Native approach to the 12 Steps program that is being implemented at Four Winds.

"I liked the training and how they infused it with Native American culture and spirituality," said Chandell.

"It made sense to me. Our *Road to Wellbriety* book says the solution is in the culture. That's the way to healing. Since I have been at Four Winds, I have noticed that a lot of people entering the facility don't know how to pray or how to put out asemaa.

"After so many years of not being able to practice our ways, many people have lost it. I am still learning myself. I'm happy that Bob and Dylan (Four Winds' second cultural advisors) are around now. When I first started, we just had a smudge bowl."



PHOTO BY BRETT LARSON

Chandell Boyd, Nicole Anderson (back), and Bob Eagle bring their perspectives as Band members to their jobs at Four Winds.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bob and Chandell attended White Bison training in Colorado Springs last winter. They are pictured with the Sacred Hoop of 100 eagle feathers, which has been carried around the U.S. and Canada to introduce the concept of wellbriety.

Healing all around us

Bob has been with the center since February of this year, leading the morning smudge before Chandell takes over for a group counseling session. "I try to bring a cultural perspective to our program," said Bob. "Anything that happens throughout the day, I look at it from a cultural standpoint and give any teachings I know." Bob also coordinates cultural activities like sugarbush, sweat lodges with Terry Kemper, and gathering cedar. This summer, clients and staff will take part in activities like manoominike (ricing) and gathering birch bark (wiigwaas).

"There's healing all around us," Bob said. "All living things have spirits, and we're able to use that in our recovery. We don't need a person to confide in; we can go to that Manidoo in that tree or that lake."

Bob brings credibility to the program, not just because he is a Drumkeeper immersed in Ojibwe culture, but also because

of his experience with addiction. "I grew up on the reservation around a lot of alcoholism," he said. "The only beacon of light for me culturally was my grandfather, Melvin Eagle. Other than that, everything revolved around drinking and drugs. As I grew up, I had those teachings from my grandfather, and when I decided to sober up, I had that cultural background that grounded me to who I was as an Anishinaabe person."

Bob now tries to share his grandfather's wisdom with clients at Four Winds — not always by speaking, but often just by listening or sharing the pipe.

"I think it's really beneficial for the clients to have trained CD counselors who know how to talk with people," said Bob. "I'm here more for listening and giving feedback. When I give feedback and offer that tobacco, I'm not thinking of what to say. It's just what comes to me. I've never experienced that, but it just happens that way. I assume it's what the Manidoo want me to tell them. I'm always here for one-on-one sessions with my clients. I'll ask them for a pinch of tobacco, we'll smudge and we'll talk, and anything they tell me, it's between them and the Creator."

Work in progress

Nicole brings a similar experience to her job as Treatment Director. "Growing up one of the most important things in my family's life was alcohol, drugs, and partying," said Nicole.

After abusing substances herself, Nicole finally grew tired of the lifestyle, especially after seeing what years of abuse had done to those close to her.

She pursued her bachelor's degree in management but was eventually drawn to the human services field for her master's degree. When she heard about the job opening at Four Winds, she wasn't sure she was ready for it, but she was encouraged to apply and happily accepted the position.

"At first I was nervous," she said. "During my second week with Four Winds, I was asked to attend a community meeting to answer questions about the program. One of the biggest questions was regarding the Rule 25 assessment. I explained why we need the Rule 25 prior to admission, and let the community know that it is to ensure that we can meet the needs of the individual as well as the funding requirements.

"I have also noticed that many people believe that because we are operated by the Band, we have the freedom to do as we please. This is not the case; we are still licensed through the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and we lease the facility from the State. Four Winds clients receive consolidated funding, which is federal dollars funneled through the referring agency, county, or tribe. With funds from the state and federal government, there are regulations we must follow."

Four Winds has been averaging 16 clients since December, with an eventual capacity of 24. "It has been very rewarding to see our numbers grow and more referrals come in. Lisa Levig, our intake specialist, works incredibly hard to accommodate potential clients and build relationships with referents."

Nicole said they are receiving a lot of positive praise regarding the program. "That being said, Four Winds may not be for everyone. If that is the case, we will work with the referent to find a more appropriate placement for the individual. We want to see everyone who comes through Four Winds succeed."

Despite some of the initial challenges, Nicole is happy to be at Four Winds. "I could not ask for a better team of people to work with. I truly enjoy what I am doing."

As with Bob and Chandell, it is gratifying for Nicole to work in the field of chemical dependency, especially at a facility operated by and for Native people.

"The Four Winds team comes to work every day because we want to help people, and that is what makes the difference" she said.

Namebinikaa! Nay Ah Shing Students Learn Spearing Tradition

Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member **Brett Larson** Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Nay Ah Shing students tried out spearing for the first time on May 7 under the watchful eye of fisheries biologist Carl Klimah, fisheries technician George Big Bear, and Nay Ah Shing staff members Larry Hansen, Ace Collie, Megan Nelson, and Noah Johnson.

Pods of namebinag (suckers) teemed beneath the bridge, and five courageous girls (Ronni, Mia, Chase, Shakoka, and Dayaunna) were the first to don the waders and step into the cold waters of the creek mouth at Wigwam Bay. Ronni was first to succeed (see cover).

By the end of the morning, each girl had speared at least one fish.

Fifth graders Adrian, Alvin, and Blade spent the warm afternoon with spears in hand under partly cloudy skies.

Carl noted that this is the latest he has ever seen the suckers run; they're the first fish out, followed by pike and then walleye, and they usually move at the first sign of ice melt. After an icy opening weekend, all local anglers know it hasn't been a typical spring for the region.

That didn't stop Adrian, Alvin, or Blade though. Despite never having speared before, each of them speared at least one fish. Adrian said he liked the experience, especially on a spring afternoon on a school day. They all plan to go spearing again someday.

Teacher Larry Hansen gave the boys pointers and encouragement throughout the afternoon. After the students boarded the buses at the end of the day, the fish were cleaned, smoked, and brought to Elders at the District I ALU.



PHOTOS BY LI BOYD, NOAH JOHNSON, AND BRETT LARSON

Above and right: Chase Sam, Megan Nelson, Dayaunna Nadeau, Mia Sam, Shakoka Smith, Ronni Jourdain, and Ace Collie enjoyed a warm day at Wigwam Bay. Below: Adrian, Alvin, and Blade learned spearing techniques from NAS and DNR staff.



A Beautiful Day for a Powwow

Community members, staff, and students who attended the Nay Ah Shing Royalty Powwow on May 18 were thrilled that the school chose to hold the annual event outdoors behind the high school.

Commissioner of Education Rick St. Germaine gave the invocation, Pete and Erik Gahbow served as emcee and arena director, and the colors were posted by teacher Mary Schuh and Band member Dino Downwind Smallwood. Missy Whiteman and Mike Wilson were the head dancers.

After a full day of fun dances and lunch, four students were chosen to represent the school at powwows this summer and throughout the 2018-19 school year. Junior Ronni Jourdain will carry the title of Senior Princess into her senior year. Fifth grader Jason Wind was named Senior Brave. Kindergartner Storm Boyd will serve as Junior Brave, and second-grader Alessandra Perkins was named Junior Princess.





PHOTOS BY MIKAYLA SCHAAF

Dr. Lacey Running Hawk, fourth from left, honored Nay Ah Shing high schoolers (above) and middle schoolers (below) with an engaging presentation on May 21.

Doctor Visits Nay Ah Shing to Promote Prevention, Safety, Healthy Relationships

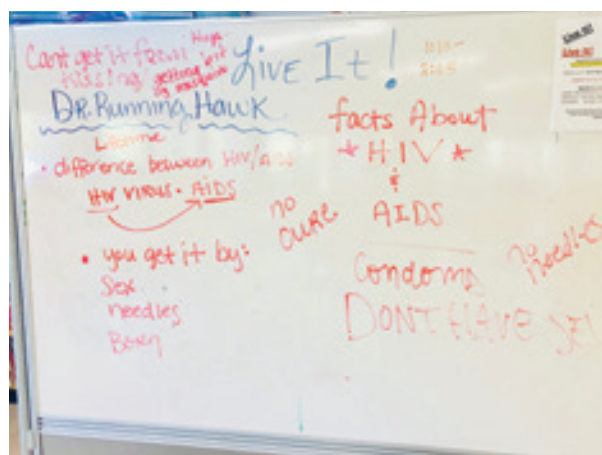
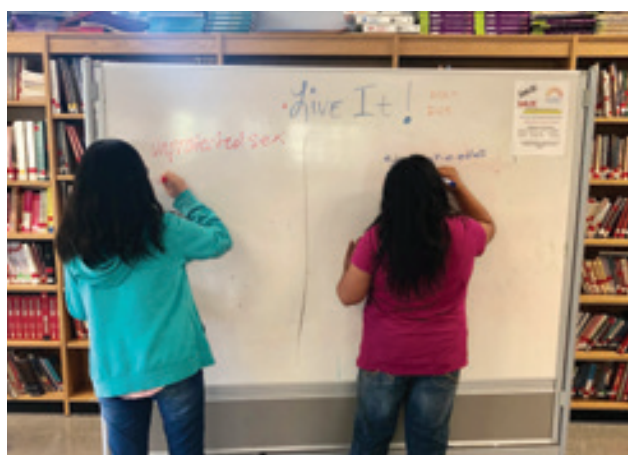
Mikayla Schaaf Mille Lacs Band Community Member

Lacey Running Hawk, MD (Lakota) visited Nay Ah Shing students for the day to promote sexual education and to discuss healthy options for self-care, safety, and prevention.

Mille Lacs Band Public Health has recently implemented the Live it! curriculum taught by Health Educator Mikayla Schaaf. This American Indian-based curriculum takes a culturally specific approach to learning about healthy relationships, sexuality, and positive self-image in a good way. Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services has been working collaboratively with Nay Ah Shing Schools, Pine Grove Leadership Academy, and Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy to increase prevention education and provide the necessary tools to enable youth to openly communicate with their parents, adults, and Elders.

Dr. Running Hawk has been a family medicine physician at the Ne-la-shing Clinic for two years. Her family is from Standing Rock and Lake Traverse reservations. She has made it a point to build stronger relationships within the community and is reaching out to Mille Lacs Band youth to foster a better sense of trust and respect within the patient/provider relationship.

Dr. Running Hawk will continue to collaborate with the schools and HHS in the upcoming years to provide comprehensive health and prevention education. Dr. Running Hawk said, "It was an honor to take part in the Live it! classes at Nay Ah Shing. I enjoyed learning from the students, and I hope they learned from me as well. I look forward to more collaboration between the clinic and schools in the future!"



Fishery Committee Discusses Relationship with Tribes

The Mille Lacs Fishery Advisory Committee met Monday, May 7, at Izatys Resort to hear from Minnesota DNR staff ahead of the open water fishing opener. Representatives from the DNR explained to the committee the agency's rationale for moving forward with a safe harvest limit of 150,000 pounds of walleye on Mille Lacs Lake this year, despite a lack of agreement with the Ojibwe bands, which argued for a smaller harvest limit of 120,000 pounds.

The state is claiming an allocation of 82,450 pounds, which it will manage through a catch-and-release-only season — a move the DNR says will reduce the odds to 11 percent that the state will reach its maximum allocation by Labor Day.

The meeting included conversation about the regulations, complaints about the advisory process, discussion about how to improve relations with the tribes, and speculation about the long-term prospects for the fishery and the angling economy.

Advisory Committee members complained that the DNR went ahead and announced a catch-and-release-only season for walleyes in 2018 without sufficient input from the group. DNR personnel responded that there was no possibility of a harvest, since hooking mortality (the death of walleyes after they are caught and released) will bring state anglers close to their allocation.

Aitkin County Commissioner Laurie Westerlund asked how the group could improve its relationship with the tribes. Jamie Edwards, the Band's Special Advisor on Intergovernmental Affairs, stepped down from the committee in October 2016, saying, "MLFAC has devolved into an anti-science, anti-treaty rights forum subsidized by state resources."

One member said having a tribal representative on the committee was a failed experiment that shouldn't be repeated. Another accused Jamie of slander.

The state and the Bands currently split the first 64,000 pounds of walleye, with 70 percent going to the state, and 30 percent to the Bands. Beyond 64,000 pounds the allocation is split evenly.

Regarding long-term prospects under this agreement, Johnson's Portside owner Steve Johnson said that even if the fishery was capable of 400,000 pound harvests in the future, the best-case scenario would give state anglers around 200,000 pounds. His conclusion: anglers may never be able to keep fish again.

The committee also heard about a tagging study that will give the DNR additional walleye population estimates.

MLFAC was created in 2015 after the state exceeded its allocation of walleyes, forcing a mid-season shutdown. The committee replaced a fishery input group that had been in place since the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed 1837 Treaty rights in 1999.

MLFAC is composed of resort owners, guides, and other business owners, as well as government representatives. The committee initially included a biologist, Paul Venturelli. Venturelli left the group in May 2016, saying, "I am stepping down because my input as a scientist is not needed on this committee. The DNR is effective at communicating the science, but the majority of the committee is steadfast in the belief that the science is inherently flawed."

'Gigsy' Brings Digital Media Training to Nay Ah Shing

"Amikogaabawikwe" Adrienne Benjamin
Mille Lacs Band Member

During the week of May 14 – 18, photographers Rob Warren and Oli Alexander from the New Orleans-based company Gigsy visited the Mille Lacs area as part of a culture share project through the Ge-niigaanizijig program, which is funded by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Gigsy is a unique photography business in that it is socially invested in the city of New Orleans through their super successful apprenticeship program. They take on five to ten critical-age young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 to teach them the ins and outs of the media world, take them on professional shoots, help them build portfolios, and train them in critical job skills.

During their time in Mille Lacs they were paired with Mille Lacs Band photographer Dino Downwind to share their business knowledge and further both of their networks. They took video and photographed youth who were attending the "Recipes for Success" training in Chiminising. (See the July Inaajimowin for a story on the training.)

They then spent a full day at Nay Ah Shing School where they set up a mini headshot clinic for students and staff alike, photographed the NAS Royalty Powwow that was occurring that day, and did a short interview session with Tony Buckanaga about Nay Ah Shing's regalia-making program. Their photos of the powwow are included on pages 10 and 11.

The photographers will be back in June to record another string of community events in the Mille Lacs area. The end product will be a series of permanent gallery installations in many of the public buildings in the community, and each will include an accompanying descriptive translation in Ojibwemowin.



Minnesota Indian
Affairs Council



27th Annual
MILLE LACS band of OJIBWE
GRAND CELEBRATION
HINGKLEY, MINNESOTA

JUNE 15, 16, & 17, 2018

HOST DRUM
Smokeytown - Keshena, WI.

INVITED DRUM
Mystic River - Griswald, CT.
Cozad - Anadarko, OK.
Whitetail Boyz - Macy, NB.

Arena Staff 2018

Master of Ceremonies
Wallace Coffey - Lawton, OK.
Vince Beyl - Bemidji, MN.

Arena Directors
Troy Sam - Aazhoomog, MN
Dwight White Buffalo - Watoga, OK.

Invited Drums:
Mystic River - Griswald, CT.
Cozad - Anadarko, OK.
Whitetail Boyz - Macy, NB.

Area Hotels

GRAND NORTHERN INN
604 Weber Ave, Hinkley, MN - 800-468-3517

GRAND HINKLEY INN
111 Lady Luck Drive, Hinkley, MN 55037
800-468-3517

RV PARK / CAMPGROUND
777 Lady Luck Drive, Hinkley, MN 55037
800-468-3517

DAYS INN
104 Grindstone Court, Hinkley, MN
320-364-7791

TRAVEL LODGE
325 Fire Monument Rd., Hinkley, MN
320-364-6112



WEWIN Golf Tournament

Grand Entries
 Friday: 7 p.m.
 Saturday: 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.
 Sunday: 1 p.m.

Craft & Food Vendors
\$350 (Non-tribe affiliated)
\$250 (Tribe affiliated)
 NO FEE for Mille Lacs Band Members (ID required)
Contact:
 800-472-6321, ext. 4574

Hotel Reservations
 800-468-3517
 7 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Other Info
 Bring your chairs, bleacher seating also available. Campgrounds are available at the powwow grounds. Please bring your own camping gear. Security and Medical Staff on premises. Not responsible for accidents or lost/stolen items.
NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ALLOWED.

WEWIN
GRAND NATIONAL GOLF COURSE
 Saturday, June 16, 2018
 4 Person Scramble
 8 a.m. Shotgun Start
 Men's, Women's and Elder's flights
 (Elder teams must include all 4 players age 55 or older)
 Cost: \$500 per team
 (on site registration \$600)
 For details call 320-532-7486 or Grand National Golf Course at 320-384-7427

TWO SPECIALS
MEN'S GRASS Hosted by Troy Sam
MEN'S FANCY Hosted by Dwight White Buffalo



Combined Categories 18 - 59

	Men's Southern Straight	Men's Chicken Dance	Men's Northern Fancy	Men's Southern Fancy	Men's 4 - Star (All Around)	Women's Southern Buckskin	Women's Southern Cloth	Women's Contemporary Jingle	Women's Traditional Jingle	Women's 4 - Star (All Around)
1st Place	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
2nd Place	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
3rd Place	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
4th Place	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400

Senior Adult 35 - 59

	Men's Traditional	Men's Grass	Women's Traditional	Women's Fancy
1st Place	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
2nd Place	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
3rd Place	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
4th Place	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400

Golden Age (Combined) 60+

	Men	Women
1st Place	\$1,200	\$1,200
2nd Place	\$800	\$800
3rd Place	\$600	\$600
4th Place	\$400	\$400

Junior Adults 18 - 34

	Men's Traditional	Men's Grass	Women's Traditional	Women's Fancy
1st Place	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
2nd Place	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
3rd Place	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
4th Place	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400

Teens 13 - 17

	Teen Boy's Traditional	Teen Boy's Grass	Teen Boy's Fancy	Teen Girl's Traditional	Teen Girl's Jingle	Teen Girl's Fancy
1st Place	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
2nd Place	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
3rd Place	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
4th Place	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100

Drum Split

	Singing Contest	Hand Drum	Five Man
1st	\$5000	\$1,500	\$1,500
2nd	\$4000	\$1000	\$1000
3rd	\$3000	\$800	\$800
4th	\$2000	\$600	\$600
5th	\$1000	\$250	\$250

Juniors 6 - 12

	Boy's Traditional	Boy's Grass	Boy's Fancy	Girl's Traditional	Girl's Jingle	Girl's Fancy
1st Place	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
2nd Place	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
3rd Place	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
4th Place	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50

Tiny Tots: 0 - 5
\$5 for all

Weweni Inaabaji'aw Asemaa!
 Use tobacco in a good way!
 Commercial tobacco use in designated areas only
 Miigwech!

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Grand Casino Hinckley and the Grand Celebration Powwow Committee wish you a Safe and Enjoyable Powwow weekend!

The Women in a Good Way Award
 Awarded to the Best Female Dancer

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health



KEVIN R. DUPUIS SR., PRESIDENT
FERDINAND W. MARTINEAU, JR., VICE PRESIDENT

GARY S. FRAZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MELANIE BENJAMIN, SECRETARY
DAVID C. MORRISON, SR., TREASURER



The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe **ELECTION NOTICE**

A Regular Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Election of the MILLE LACS Reservation Business Committee a/k/a Band Assembly will be held on June 12, 2018 to fill the following positions:

Administration
218-335-8581
Toll Free: 888-322-7600
Fax: 218-335-8496
Home Loan
218-335-8582
Fax: 218-335-8925
Economic Development
218-335-8583
Fax: 218-335-8496
Education
218-335-8584
Fax: 218-335-2029
Human Services
218-335-8586
Fax: 218-335-8080

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT II COMMITTEEPERSON – 4 Year Term

Marvin Ray Bruneau
Raina Elaine Killspotted

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT III REPRESENTATIVE – 4 Year Term

Laureen Gay Davis
Wallace Ervin St. John

ELECTION DATE: June 12, 2018

POLLING PLACES:

DISTRICT I:
COMMUNITY CENTER
43500 Virgo Road
Onamia, MN 56359

DISTRICT II:
EAST LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
46666 State Hwy 65
McGregor, MN

ISLE COMMUNITY CENTER
2605 Chiminishing Drive
Isle, MN

DISTRICT III:
LAKE LENA COMMUNITY CENTER
45749 Grace Lake Rd
Sandstone, MN 55072

URBAN:
ALL NATIONS CHURCH
1515 East 23rd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404

- (District I – is the Designated Polling Place for absentee ballot voting)

POLLS OPEN: 8:00 a.m. **POLLS CLOSE:** 8:00 p.m.

Attached is an excerpt from Election Ordinance revised 12/14/2017, which states the voting requirements.

Date: May 7, 2018

Gary S. Frazer, Executive Director

MEMBER RESERVATIONS • BOIS FORTÉ • FOND DU LAC • GRAND PORTAGE • LEFLO LAKE • MILLE LACS • WHITE EARTH
NI-MAH-MAH-WI-NO-MIN "We all come together"

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 217, Cass Lake, MN 56633-0217 • Street Address: 15542 State 371 N.W., Cass Lake, MN 56633



University of Minnesota
Tobacco Research Programs
717 Delaware St. S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414



American Indian Commercial Cigarette Smokers

Commercial cigarette smokers with American Indian heritage are needed for a research study examining tobacco use and addiction.

If you are in good health and willing to attend clinic visits at a Mille Lacs health clinic please call

612-624-4511 or email dcarroll@umn.edu

Participants will receive compensation for their time.

Self-Governance Conference Recognizes Band's Historic Contributions

The Mille Lacs Band was one of seven original self-governance tribes recognized at the 2018 Tribal Self Governance Conference April 22 – 26 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The conference celebrated 30 years of Self-Governance in Action, with the special acknowledgment of the tribal nations who entered into the first self-governance agreements with the Interior Department — Absentee-Shawnee Tribe, Cherokee Nation, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lummi Tribe, Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation.

Commissioner of Administration Shelly Diaz accepted an honorary staff on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band.

In 1988, Congress first amended the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 to allow tribes to assume responsibility for administering programs, services, functions, and activities (PSFAs) that were previously managed by the Department of the Interior (DOI) through the Self-Governance project. The law was amended again in 1994 and 2000 to amend, expand, and permanently authorize the program to the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Today, Self-Governance allows tribes maximum flexibility to use and redesign federal dollars associated with assumed PSFAs to meet local community service needs and tribally-driven priorities.

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke welcomed conference attendees via videoconference: "For tribal nations across America, the road to prosperity is paved with the stones of sovereignty," said Secretary Zinke. "When we promise economic empowerment to every American, that promise must extend to every tribal nation. As we look to the next 30 years of Self-Governance, the relationship between Indian Country and the Department of the Interior must be strong if we are going to accomplish our mission."

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs John Tahsuda also spoke. "Ultimately, the self-governance program serves not just as a funding vehicle, but also as a diplomatic exchange between sovereigns," Tahsuda said.

The Tribal Self-Governance Conference is an annual event attended by officials of federally recognized tribes that operate federally funded programs under self-governance compacts and representatives of the federal agencies they do business with.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Commissioner of Administration Shelly Diaz, second from left, accepted an award on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band.



PHOTO BY BRETT LARSON

Sixteen Band member students learned about stocks, bank accounts, retirement plans, personal budgets, and other topics from William White and Leisa Nash of Morgan Stanley on May 16.

Students Learn Money Management from Experts at Minor Trust Training Seminar

To help young Band members make smart decisions and plan for the future, the Mille Lacs Band's Office of Management and Budget offers a Minor Trust Training course twice a year for high school students.

On May 16, the latest cohort of students learned important lessons that will help them when they reach adulthood and gain access to their trust fund.

The course was led by financial advisor Leisa Nash and Senior Vice President William White of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Rapid City, S.D.

"It's so exciting to see the amount of energy and the interaction these children display," said William. "They've already received positive direction, and hopefully we can enhance that."

Participants received a guide to financial readiness that focuses on spending, debt, savings, and investing, while emphasizing the importance of planning for the future.

Savannah Roseland, a graduate of Hinckley-Finlayson, said,

"We learned about stocks, credit cards, and retirement plans, and how to keep our money in a safe place."

Amanda Eagle, Brandon Wade, and Deilyah Dexter of Onamia High School learned to put 10 percent of their money in a savings account to prepare for a rainy day, and they were surprised and pleased to learn that a person can start a personal retirement account at any time.

According to Commissioner of Finance Adam Valdez, the Band is reaching out to more students — and younger ones — because it is very important and relevant that Band children turning 18 have the basic knowledge and skills to make critical personal financial decisions.

Jana Sam, who works for the Office of Management and Budget, plans the sessions, which take place in the fall and spring. High school students or their parents should contact Jana if they're interested at jana.sam@millelacsband.com or 320-532-7466.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Nay Ah Shing A, left, took first place at the April 20 tournament, and Nay Ah Shing B, right, finished second. Left to right: Caleb Sam, Mia Sam, Ronni Jourdain, RaeAna Sam-Nickaboine, Chase Sam, Adrian Wade, Adam Benjamin.

NAS takes 1st, 2nd at Annual Quiz Bowl

Thirteen registered teams traveled from all parts of Northern Minnesota — from as far as International Falls — to attend the annual Neyaashiing* Quiz Bowl held on April 20. The event was a huge success, and Nay Ah Shing home teams took first and second place, followed by Fond du Lac in third.

Biidaana LeAnn Benjamin of the Nay Ah Shing Ojibwe Language and Culture Program offered her congratulations to all students and their coaches, and chi-miigwech to individuals and departments for donating items to the Annual Quiz Bowl 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place sling bags:

- Naomi and her Girls for all the sweet goodies;
- Public Health – various items, and so much more;
- Scholarships – cups, pens;
- Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu – Mille Lacs Band mini flags;
- Wewinabi – toothbrushes.

"Most of all, chi-miigwech to judges Lorena Panji Gahbow and Joycelyn Shingobe and to moderator Byron Ninham," said Biidaana. "We hope to have more successful years to come!"

What is quiz bowl?

At Ojibwe quiz bowl competitions, students answer questions posed by a moderator about Ojibwe language, culture, and history. Teams square off against each other in tournament format. If there is any uncertainty about the accuracy of a response, judges make the final determination whether the answer is correct or not.

High schools and colleges throughout Minnesota sponsor Ojibwe and Dakota quiz bowl teams. Onamia and Nay Ah Shing high schools both field teams and host tournaments each year.

*Note: "Neyaashiing" is the alternate double-vowel spelling of Nay Ah Shing.

Indian Museum Inspires Nay Ah Shing Students, Teachers

Nay Ah Shing students in Blenda Haggberg's English class, along with Principal Noah Johnson, visited the Mille Lacs Indian Museum last month.

The class toured the Artifact Room with Travis Zimmerman, and Linda Ulrick took them through the Four Seasons Room.

Following are some of the students' poetic responses to the artifacts they saw.

So, my papa's staff?

He was Chief

and he served for 14 good years.

He did many great things:

built our casino,

fought for our rights.

There's a feather for each year.

He was an amazing person.

— Clara Gahbow

Plain white room —

cabinets locked--

Travis bearing keys.

Drawer by drawer

we examined

objects of old —

--hungering for more of our histories.

— Keegan Jackson

I went to the local museum

with some of my peers.

I looked around the exhibits —

it felt like I hadn't been there for years.

I went in the "Collections Room".

I saw dolls, war clubs, and a canoe.

Everything amazed me!

Everything to me was new.

— Mia Sam

"War Club"

Made of wood--

a curious metal blade jutting out towards the end.

Strong —

— solid handle.

Made for protection

against invaders.

— Elvis Smith

A special "Miigwech!" to Kaitlin Thompson of the museum for setting up the tours.

Meshakwad Community Center is Open to Band Members

The Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley is now open to Band members for a free trial period Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. Come and enjoy the fitness center, gymnasium, and saunas. If you are interested in teaching a class at the center, please email shena.matrious@millelacsband.com or call 320-279-3132.

All-Native Tourney Brings High-Energy Hoops to Mille Lacs

“Amikogaabawiikwe” Adrienne Benjamin Mille Lacs Band Member

Over the course of a weekend in April, well after the basketball season had “officially” closed and state champions had been crowned, Onamia Public School’s gymnasiums filled with the sounds of “Rez Ball” — cheers, laughter, and high-energy basketball for the community and its young people to bear witness to the beauty of the game.

The Misi-Zaaga’iganing All Native Basketball Tournament hopes to achieve many things for our community, by showcasing highly skilled athletes in both the high school boys’ and men’s division (with former college athletes and Indian Country All Stars) giving a glimpse into the work necessary to succeed in sports as well as in the classroom. The student athlete experience is something that can transcend the confines of the field and help a person grow mentally, physically, and socially.

The tournament field was host to local teams from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as well as the Meskwaki Nation (Iowa), Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North Dakota), Seneca Nation (New York), Winnipeg (Manitoba) Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (Minnesota), and Red Lake Nation (Minnesota). Players came from as far away as Portland, Oregon and Phoenix, Arizona. The tournament field offered a wide array of talented players for the enjoyment of all who attended.

Chris Nayquonabe, Basketball Tournament Director and Onamia Public School’s American Indian Education Director, talked of the importance of athletics and her department’s support for this venture. “The school community, staff, and students need events like this to bridge the gap between student and athlete. Many of the students I work with have noticed the inclusive nature of a basketball tournament and see themselves as a part of the game. It not only opens their views to the possibility of joining a team, but they know they can be a valuable contributor with hard work and dedication. In the past year since our initial tournament, I have noted the impact it has had for our boys and girls in joining and completing their respective season. One student in particular who worked on his game, with summer leagues and time spent in the gym, played heavily on our JV boys basketball team this past year and sat varsity, that’s what it’s all about.”



MVP medallions were made by Branden Sargent.

Byron Ninham, Games Manager and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Niigaan Director, noted the high school division and the competitive nature of the athletes in attendance. “We were very fortunate to have our local teams from Mille Lacs play against the boys from in-state and out of state. It’s not very often we get the opportunity to host state tournament teams in our community, but that’s our goal to have state tournament teams of our own. It takes seeing it and community engagement to support our boys and girls. Our boys’ championship game was a tight contest between Bago Elite (Winnebago HS) and The Sota Boyz (Cass Lake-Bena HS), two state tournament teams from this past year. The game was back and forth, and one thing I noticed as an observer and fan of the game: Those boys played just as hard and competed as they would at the state tournament in front of thousands of fans, as they did for our fans in the gym that day. It was a joy to watch.”

Joe Nayquonabe Jr., Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, was in attendance all weekend and shared his observations of the event and its impact: “Role models from across the country and locally were on full display over the course of the weekend. It was great to see our young men and women getting the opportunity to see people compete and achieve at a high level. These events help inspire and motivate our youth to get out and do something positive. The values created by being part of a team are things that can help in and out of sports competition.”

The High School Boys division championship game between Bago Elite and The Sota Boyz was one for the books. Bago Elite came away with the championship with a 69-62 win, and the game saw many lead changes until the last two minutes. Makoonce Littlevoice broke a 62-62 tie with a top-of-the-key three-pointer to put Bago Elite up by three, and they would not relinquish the lead. A great contest played by both teams and all teams in the high school division. First through fourth for the tournament: 1st — Bago Elite, 2nd — The Sota Boyz, 3rd — North Dakota Icemen, and 4th — Circle of Life Academy. All Stars and MVP players included Riley Hodgekins (ND Icemen), Arnold Kingbird and Nate Seelye Jr. (Sota Boyz), Manape Cleveland and Ben Lovejoy (Bago Elite), and MVP D’Von Lapointe (Bago Elite).

The Men’s tournament had some local flare with teams from Mille Lacs, Leech Lake, Red Lake, and Minneapolis, and travelers from as far away as New York and Canada. The championship was decided between Iron Boy (MN) and Seneca Nation Basketball (NY), and both teams touted former college athletes and foremost graduates who continue to play this game that they love in their free time. Iron Boy came away with the win after a sluggish first half by both teams; Seneca Nation battled until the very end but succumbed to Iron Boy, 92-69. First through fourth for the Tournament: 1st — Iron Boy, 2nd — Seneca Nation Basketball, 3rd — Midwest Posse, 4th — Winnipeg Warriors. All Stars and MVP players included Duke (Midwest Posse), Terrence TuTu and Darren Six (SNB), JR Gunville and Wayne Runnels (Iron Boy), and MVP Justin McCloud (Iron Boy).

Tournament organizers would like to acknowledge all those who contributed their time and efforts to the weekend’s events: Anthony Buckanaga, Mille Lacs Band Department of Athletic Regulation, State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) through Mille Lacs Band (Darla Roache), Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Education Dr. Rick St. Germaine, Onamia Public Schools, District I Representative Sandra Blake, District II Representative David “Niib” Aubid, Branden Sargent for the beautiful MVP medallions, as well as the students and adult staff who made the event happen.



Clockwise from left: High School MVP Dvon Lapointe, High School division all-stars, Men's all-stars, Men's MVP and 3-point contest winner Justin McCloud, Men's division champs Iron Boy, High School champs Bago Elite. Pictured with all-stars and champs: tournament organizers Chris Nayquonabe and Byron Ninham.





Left: Event organizers Jace Burr, Mya Schroeder, Darla Roache, Sarah Andersen, and Mikayla Schaaf. Right: Sarah Anderson with Dorothy Sam and Terry Kemper.



Shower Celebrates Gift of Children

The Maternal and Child Health Program hosted a community baby shower May 18, bringing gifts, information, and love to expecting mothers and families with newborns.

Dorothy Sam gave the invocation and shared her wisdom about parenthood and spirituality. She encouraged young families to set a dish to give thanks when the baby is born and to be sure to choose we'ehs, or namesakes, for their babies. "When the baby gets their Indian name, be sure to write it down, because that name is sacred," said Dorothy.

Terry Kemper played handdrum and sang while families enjoyed a meal that included Dawn Day's famous frybread.

Organizers Sarah Andersen and Mikayla Schaaf raffled off door prizes, and representatives of several programs shared helpful information for young moms and dads.



Above right: Kiala Ryle, Valentina Boyd-Eagle, Kierra Eagle, and Rosella Eagle. Bottom left: Penny Smith with Avery and Harley. Middle: Carmen Carlson, who is five months along, was the lucky winner of a star quilt. Right: Belinda Schaaf and Chris Schafer with Myles and Mason.

Weweni Inaabaji' Aw Asemaa League

Mikayla Schaaf Mille Lacs Band Community Member

As the long awaited summer nights begin, the Weweni Inaabaji' Aw Asemaa basketball league will successfully be coming to the end. This league has served the community of all ages for the past eight weeks. Healthy meals and great competition is the name of the game on Wednesday nights as teams respectfully battle for the win.

This league is supported by Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services Tobacco Free Program in Collaboration with the office of District 1 Representative Sandi Blake. Sandi has been very supportive in ensuring that Mille Lacs Band youth

will have a positive, safe place to go in the evenings. More than 25 participants attend gym on any given night.

Because this league is designated for participants who are ages 13 and up, an intergenerational theme is developing as fathers, daughters, and grandsons compete against each other for the victory.

The oldest player in the league is Mille Lacs Band Elder William Schaaf, who is 77 years old. He enjoys not only teaching the fundamentals of basketball, but also coaching the youth in other independent tournaments in the area.



Top: Ojichidaag (left) and Go Bananas (right). Bottom: Smudge Walkers (left) and Toon Squad (right).

Band Endorses Walz-Flanagan

The Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe last month endorsed Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan for Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota.

The endorsement reads: "As a sovereign tribal nation, the Mille Lacs Band supports state leaders who believe in respectful government-to-government relations between tribes and the state and honor the inherent rights of tribal self-governance and self-determination. Tim Walz has been a Congressional leader on veterans' issues and recognizes and respects the high level of commitment and participation of American Indians in the U.S. Armed Forces. Peggy Flanagan has been a leader in the area of Indian education as well as a voice for American Indian communities on issues ranging from environmental protection to public safety to human rights. Through the leadership of Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan as Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Mille Lacs Band looks forward to an era of more productive collaboration with the State of Minnesota."

Adopt-a-Shoreline is June 1

Mille Lacs Band members are invited to show their environmental stewardship by cleaning up the lakeshore June 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Community members and employees are welcome to sign in at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events and Convention Center to pick up supplies and receive information about recommended clean-up areas and trash drop-off sites. In the event of rain, the event will be rescheduled for Friday, June 8.

Operation Community Connect

Singles, teens, seniors, and families with children are all welcome to learn about services available in our area at Operation Community Connect in the Onamia Elementary gymnasium on Monday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A free meal will be served, and free haircuts and dental services will be available, along with free children's shoes, door prizes, and lead testing for children five and under. Vendors include WIC, Head Start, Mille Lacs County Services, Mille Lacs Band Public Health, MnSure Navigators, SNAP, Lakes and Pines, Fare for All, and Wewinabi Early Education. Information will be provided on mental health, medical supplies, senior dining, pregnancy resources, senior resources, veterans' benefits, energy assistance, housing assistance, and chemical dependency. Walk-ins are welcome! This event is sponsored by the Mille Lacs Area Health Foundation and Mille Lacs Health System.

Grand Casino Color Run

Grand Casino Mille Lacs is hosting a 5k rainbow color run/walk June 14 at 10 a.m. at Eddy's in District I. Rainbow refreshments will be served after the race. Contact Amanda at 320-530-8505 or AChurchill@gcasinos.com to sign up.



Child Support Enforcement Update June 2018

Due to a noon closing on June 15, 2018, the Child Support office will distribute Per Capita Child Support checks on June 14 from noon to 5 p.m. Checks not picked up by 10:30 a.m. on June 15 will be mailed out unless a client has called to have it held or is on the Do Not Mail List.

Wage checks will also be distributed on June 15 from 8 a.m. until noon. Checks not picked up by 10:30 a.m. will be mailed out unless a client has called to have it held or is on the Do Not Mail List.

If you have any questions or concerns with your case, please contact your Case Manager below:

- Lindsey Reuter, District 1 Case Manager: 320-532-7453
- Tammy Smith, District II, Ila, III, and Urban Case Manager: 320-532-7752

If you have any questions or concerns, contact our office directly at 320-532-7755.

Band Members Honored at Graduation Event

Augsburg University held its annual American Indian Graduation Event May 4, and seven of the 99 students honored were Mille Lacs Band members:

- Michele Berger, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, associate of arts in sociology
- Alicia De La Cruz (Dorr), Minneapolis Community and Technical College, associate of science in business management, associate of fine arts in visual arts, and certificate in Indian studies
- Tammy Thomas, North Hennepin Community College, associate of science in criminal justice
- Sara Janie Waite (Miller), North Hennepin Community College, associate of arts in liberal arts
- Tara Robertson, Metropolitan State University, bachelor of science in nursing
- Arielle Shaw, Augsburg University, master of arts in leadership
- Leah Lemm (Premo), Institute of American Indian Arts, master of fine arts in creative writing-poetry

Master of ceremonies Neil McKay, Cantemaza, Dakota Language Specialist from the University of Minnesota, gave the invocation, RedBone Singers played two honor songs, and the keynote speaker was the Honorable Anne McKeig, White Earth, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court.



Tara Robertson celebrated graduation with her brother Aarik at Augsburg University's American Indian Graduation Event May 4.

HHS Department, U of M Seek to Reduce Disparities in Tobacco-Related Illness

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Scientists from the University of Minnesota are teaming up with the Band's Health and Human Services (HHS) Department to investigate health effects of commercial tobacco that may be unique to American Indians in Minnesota.

The pilot studies will be conducted at clinics operated by the Band, and they have the enthusiastic support of Commissioner of Health and Human Services Rebecca St. Germaine.

"This is a welcome initiative that creates a partnership with American Indian tribal health initiatives to broaden our scope of clinical practices and change the future on disabling chronic conditions," said Rebecca.

The University researchers are part of the Minnesota Precision Medicine Collaborative (MPMC). According to the National Cancer Institute, precision medicine is "a form of medicine that uses information about a person's genes, proteins, and environment to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease."

Precision medicine has been central to the progress made in cancer treatment in recent years, and advances in medicine and technology have caused cancer mortality rates in the U.S. to decline for many. However, American Indians in Minnesota are not seeing the decline in cancer mortality rates that has occurred among the general population, nor even the lower death rate ratio of American Indians in other regions.

The MPMC researchers decided to zero in on lung cancer, which is one of the most common forms of cancer for American Indians in Minnesota. Studies show that 59 percent of urban American Indians in Minnesota smoke, compared to 16 percent of the state's overall population. The researchers thought precision medicine could improve smoking cessation rates, and they approached the Band about a possible partnership.

One of the pilot studies focuses on the rate of nicotine metabolism in current Mille Lacs Band smokers. (If interested in participating, please see the box to the right.) Studies show variations in the effectiveness of different smoking cessation treatments like the patch and Chantix depending on how quickly the body absorbs and processes nicotine.

Dana Carroll and Ellen Meier, post-doctoral scientists in the Masonic Cancer Center's Tobacco Research Program led by renowned researcher Dorothy Hatsukami, are conducting the study. They note that success with cessation isn't the only factor affected by rate of metabolism. In fact, faster metabolism of nicotine has been shown to predict heavier smoking, greater exposure to carcinogens and toxicants from tobacco smoke, and a higher risk for lung cancer.

Meanwhile, the disparities in lung cancer mortality rates may result from poor access to screening. In the second pilot study, pulmonologist and assistant professor of medicine Abbie Begnaud is working closely with the Band's medical staff to test a new approach to lung cancer treatment and early detection. Begnaud — who directs the Lung Cancer Screening Program at the University of Minnesota — says the most important advance in the treatment of lung cancer has been discovery of genetic mutations that drive lung cancer progression, along with therapies targeted to those mutations.

She is also looking at data on American Indians treated for lung cancer at five Minnesota health systems, to see if lung cancers which carried a special mutation were treated with precision therapies — or even if they were tested for the mutation at all.

Pamala Jacobson, one of the main investigators of the MPMC, says it is necessary for researchers to take the time to establish authentic, honorable working relationships within

communities affected by health disparities.

"For precision medicine approaches to be effective, we have to know how to apply this exciting new science to all populations, not just healthcare systems in metropolitan or those serving high income patients," says Jacobson. "Conducting the needed research and implementing precision medicine to benefit the health of American Indians and other minority populations is a priority."

MPMC investigators and the Band have been planning their work together for nearly a year to ensure that the research is not only respectful of Ojibwe beliefs and practices, but will be valuable to the tribe.

Interested in Participating?

Who are we looking for? Healthy American Indian men and women who are regular commercial cigarette smokers.

What is the purpose of the study? We want to learn how Minnesotan American Indians process nicotine and toxins from tobacco. We also want to look at markers for tobacco addiction.

When and where does it take place? The first step is to complete a short phone screening for eligibility. Phone screenings can be completed at your convenience. If you are eligible, we can set up a time with you to complete the study in one of the Mille Lacs Health Clinics.

How long does the study last? One in-person visit lasting 1–2 hours.

Any follow-ups? You will be asked to track your tobacco use for one week and mail a "diary card" to our office.

Will I be compensated? You will receive payment: \$25 at the in-person visit and \$25 for tracking your tobacco use for one week.

Who do I contact for more information or to enter the study? Call Dana Carroll at 612-624-4511 or email dcarroll@umn.edu. Please leave a contact number in your email.

What will I be doing in the study? You will be interviewed or asked to complete questionnaires that ask personal questions such as demographics, tobacco use history, health history, prescription and over-the-counter medication use, occupational exposure to chemicals and tobacco smoke, and use of alcohol. Cells from your mouth, urine, and saliva samples will be collected from you. Additionally, you will be asked to complete a diary card to track your tobacco use over 7 days.

Do I need to stop smoking? No, but we are happy to get you connected with resources if you are interested in quitting.

Who owns my data? The Mille Lacs Band and the University of Minnesota co-own the collective data and decide how it will be used. You are free to withdraw your answers to questionnaires, biological samples, and any other data you provide at any time before or after the study has been completed.

For information on participating in the study, call Dana Carroll at 612-624-4511 or email dcarroll@umn.edu. Please leave a contact number in your email.

Baabitaw's Bush Foundation Fellowship: Year One

Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin) Mille Lacs Band Member

Last year, Band member Baabitaw (Melissa Boyd) was the deserving recipient of a prestigious award called the Bush Fellowship from the Bush Foundation, headquartered in St. Paul. She is nearing the completion of year one of her fellowship, and was asked to share her journey thus far in hopes of others taking advantage of this unique opportunity in the near future. (Applications open August 7, 2018.)

What is the Bush Fellowship?

The Bush Foundation believes in the power of people to make great ideas happen for their community. It was started by the late CEO of the 3M Corporation, Archibald Bush, with a simple mission of "Do Good." Each year, the foundation awards the Bush Fellowship to as many as 24 people from across their service region. Bush Fellows then receive a flexible grant of up to \$100,000, which they can use to strengthen their leadership skills.

The Bush Fellowship is an investment in people who have a record of accomplishment and the potential to do even more for their community. Bush Fellows have shown extraordinary leadership and the ability to inspire those around them. They have a clear vision for what is possible in their community and what type of personal growth and development they need to make that vision a reality.

Since 1965, Bush Fellowships have been awarded to more than 2,300 people across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geography. Melissa is in a class of successful and striving people from the region who seek to do good for their communities and the larger region.

Melissa decided that she wanted to pursue the fellowship for a number of reasons. One of them was knowing the fact that well-known Ojibwe language linguists/teachers Anton Treuer and Brendan Fairbanks were Bush Fellows. "I've watched them publish books and finish graduate degrees and attain Ph.Ds, and I knew that if I was going to be effective, I was going to have to build my skills to that caliber." Melissa said. "It always seemed like there wasn't any room previously for women to be in academia, especially in Ojibwe language, even though traditionally women have always been present in every aspect of Anishinaabe life," Melissa proclaimed.

She also touched on the issue of the lack of pursuit of higher education by Native American people across the country: "I think there's this idea that Indians don't deserve to be smart or



Baabitaw, fourth from left, with some of her Bush Foundation friends at the Dent The Future conference this winter in Napa Valley, California.

have high quality education and that we're going to have to be used to the way things are." Luckily for Mille Lacs, Melissa is setting out personally to change that.

Melissa reflected on the goals that she has set for herself within the fellowship and what she hopes to achieve through it. "When I think about my own goals and dreams for what education is going to look like for Anishinaabe people in the future, it's going to be Anishinaabe history and language-focused. It will consist of our governments, treaties, storytelling, and the things that we can find in the swamp or woods to sustain our health." She went on, "There's multi-cultural schools and universities all over the world and there is no reason that Mille Lacs can't provide an Anishinaabe experience for children with excellence and healing." When confronted with the magnitude of her goals, she replied, "We have to release this 'us versus them' ideology. We have to go out into the big world and learn the most that we can about the technical skills it takes to execute change of this magnitude, which is what I've chosen to do through this fellowship."

Melissa hopes to be a role model for other Anishinaabe and all Indigenous women through this experience. "For me, the fellowship has also been about credibility and walking the talk. If I value education and I want children to value it, I have to as well." Melissa explained. "I'm not going for this because I value United States education systems as the end-all-be-all per se, but once I achieve these degrees and the goals that I have set forth for myself, I will be a contender in the current

system that is already created and then be able to make a change from within it."

Some of Melissa's experiences in the fellowship so far have been a global cultures and languages internship with Dr. Brenda Child at the U of M, several work retreats involving behavior design with faculty from Stanford Medical School, Brene' Brown's "Shame and Vulnerability" seminar, and an Ojibwe recording project with Dr. John Nichols, in which she learned how to prepare recordings from first language speakers for the Ojibwe Peoples Dictionary Project. She is also finishing her bachelor's degree in history/linguistics/global cultures and languages with a minor in Ojibwemowin. She also found time to complete a certificate in contemporary Indigenous multilingualism from the University of Hawaii-Hilo.

Currently, Melissa has an even larger goal of working on the organization of a nonprofit called "MIINAN," which stands for Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network for Anishinaabe Nations. Her vision for this organization is that it will be a collective community from Minnesota and Wisconsin that will make textbooks, teachers' guides, children's books, and other print materials necessary for classroom and training for Ojibwe immersion settings.

Congratulations, Melissa, on this incredible accomplishment. We can't wait to watch you succeed in all that you set out to do for this community and beyond! For more information on the Bush Fellowship or the Bush Foundation, please visit bushfoundation.org.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin — Learn the Ojibwe Language

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

Ishkode-Jiimaan

Miinawaa gichi-mewinza agaawaa go ingezikwendaan. Mii eta go imaa gikendamaan namadabiyaan jiiigiig. Maagizhaa gaye gaa-wewebanaabiwaagwen, maagizhaa gaye gaa-ishkwaa-iskigamizigewaagwen. Gii-paakibii'an sa wiin igo.

Namadabiyaan ganawaabandamaan gichi-jiimaan bi-mibidemag naawagaam. Dibi-sh iidog gaa-ipidegwen i'iw gichi-jiimaan. Miish ingiw zhingwaakwag ezhi-wawikwapizowaad. Mii imaa niibawiwaad imaa, ganawaabamagwaa ingiw.

Miish ingoding gaa-izhi-gagwejimig a'aw mindimooyenh, "Gichi-jiimaan ina ko gii-ayaamad?" ingii-inaa.

"Enyan," ikido, "mewinza giiwenh gii-paatayinowag zhingwaakwag omaa Misi-zaaga'iganing. Mii go gaa-izhi-gashki-dibiki-ayaag gaa-apiichi-baatayinowaad ingiw zhingwaakwag. Ingodozid, ingodozid maagizhaa gaye niizhoid apiichishinoog

ingiw zhingwaakwaandagoog, binaakwiiwaad. Aangodinong, haawin awiiaa gidaa-noondawaasiin bimweweshing, apiichishinowaad ingiw zhingwaakwaandagoog, binaakwiiwaad. Miinawaa go aniibishibagoon gichi-mitigood igaye. Miish ishkode-jiimaan iko omaa gaa-ayaamad," gii-ikido.

Iwidi-sh iidog ayi-ii — amanj ezhinikaadegwen i'iw ziibi imaa Zaagiing weji-maajitigweyaag — mii giiwenh imaa gaa-ini-ipideg i'iw gichi-jiimaan. Gichi-mewinza gii-michaa iidog i'iw ziibi.

Miish iwidi Gibakwa'iganing odizhi-wiinaanaawaa anishinaabeg, miish iwidi gii-ayaad a'aw daashkiboojigan. Miish iko iwidi gaa-izhiwindindwaa ingiw zhingwaakwag gichi-mewinza. Dibi-sh gaa-izhaamadogwen i'iw ishkode-jiimaanish. Gaawin ingikendanzin dibi gaa-izhiwijigaadegwen.

The Steamboat

Again I barely remember about long ago. All I remember is sitting on the shore. Maybe they were fishing or had just finished boiling sap. The lake was open anyway.

I was sitting there watching a big boat go across the middle

of the lake. I don't know where that boat was going. There were pine trees in bundles. I was watching men standing on them.

So once I asked the old lady, "Did there used to be a big boat?" I said to her.

"Yes," she said, "long ago there were lots of pine trees here at Mille Lacs Lake. There were so many pines that it was dark. The fallen pine needles lay a foot or two deep. The fallen pine needles lay so deep that sometimes you couldn't hear anyone coming. There were leaves and big trees. There used to be a steamboat here," she said.

Over there — I don't know what they call that river there at Vineland where it starts — that's where the big boat went. Long ago that river must have been big.

There was a sawmill there at Onamia, which the Indians call Gibakwa'iganing 'At the Dam.' That's where they used to take those pines long ago. I wonder where that old steamship went to. I don't know where it might have been taken.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy June Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

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

Cheryl Renee Hietanen
Shirley Ann Hillstrom
Dorothy Jean Hofstedt
Robert Dwaine Kegg
Connie Lou Kevan
Coleen Marie Lueck
LeRoy Joseph Mager
Robert Wayne Mayotte
Deborah Ann Mitchell
John Gene Morrow
Barbara Jean Mulhall
Dana Lou Nickaboine
Georgia Louise Nickaboine
Joel Jay O'Brien
Alof Andrew Olson
Gordon Gail Parr
Patricia Pindegayosh
Brian Keith Pippett
Alan Duane Ray
Donald Gregory Shabaish
Charlene Ann Shingobe
Charles Duane Shingobe
Warren Skinaway
Edward James St. John
Pearl Ann St. John
Wallace Ervin St. John
Dean Ray Staples
Francine Wanda Staples
Julie Ann Staples
Elvis John Sutton
Judy Ann Swanson
Ann Marie Thalín

Arlene Rene Weous
De Etta Marie Weyaus
Judy Jo Williams
Robin Lee Williams

Happy June Birthdays:

Happy 7th birthday **Pooh Bear** 6/2! Love always Mom and Kenny. • Happy birthday to **Carter Oswaldson** 6/2! Love always Gram, Auntie Brands, Big Papa, and Nani. • Happy birthday **Booty** 6/9! Love, your best cousin. • Happy birthday to **Bianca Valerie** 6/16! Love Mom, Dad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Henry, Grannie, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Kev, Pie, Montana, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor, and Adam. • Happy 58th birthday to my loving husband **Steven Hanks** on 6/18! Hope you have an awesome day. We all love you, from your loving wife, your kids, and your grandkids. • Happy birthday to **Agongos** 6/18! Love, Carter. • Happy birthday to **Kenny** on June 27! Love always, Sarah

and the boys. • Happy birthday **Aidan James** on June 20! Love Auntie Val, Kev, Pie, and Montana. • Happy birthday to **Kevin** on June 23! Love Mom, Dad, Sister, Montana, Gram, Papa, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Brad, Baabiitaw, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Bianca, and Henry. • Happy birthday **Ravin** on June 30! Love, The Harrington Family.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

We apologize for missing these birthdays last month!

Happy birthday to **Richard and Rachel** on 5/14. Lots of love from Mom, Kelia, Railei, Candy, Cyrell, and Camdyn. • Happy birthday to **Camdyn** on 5/16! From Cyrell, Grandma, Rachel, Richard, Kelia, Railei, and Mom. • Happy birthday to **Cyrell** on 5/29! From Mom, Dad, Camdyn, Grandma Marlys, Great-grandma Shirley, Grampa Bill, Joe, and Grandma Carrie.

• Happy birthday to **Phillip** on 5/23! From cousin Marlys and family. • Happy birthday **Kim B.** From Marlys and family. • Happy birthday to **David Jordan** on 5/21! From Aunt Marlys, Richard, Rachel, Kelia, Railei, Candy, Cyrell, and Camdyn.

Other Announcements:

Congratulations to **Marland Stanley** for receiving his Associates of Applied Science degree in Civil Engineering and also a Diploma in Land Survey on May 2, 2018, from Minnesota State Technical and Community college in Detroit Lakes, MN!

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. *The deadline for the July issue is June 15.*

Mille Lacs Band Recovery Groups

District I Mille Lacs

Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition

Mondays, 5:30 – 7 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (Next to the Halfway House — Brown Building)
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768

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 Table: Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., District I 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.

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area: Fridays, 10 a.m. – noon. Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds (1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.).

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

Grand Celebration Powwow: Grand Casino Hinckley, June 15 – 17. Noon closing June 15.

Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow: East Lake, July 27 – 29. Noon closing July 27.

Mille Lacs Traditional Powwow: Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds, District I, August 17 – 19. Noon closing August 17.

Midsummer Holiday: July 4. Government offices closed.

To add your event to the calendar, email brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Want your event here? Email brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.</p> <p>Band Assembly meetings Band Assembly meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other info, call the Legislative office or visit millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com. Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.</p>			<p>DI Community Meeting June 6 The next District I community meeting will be taking place on June 6, instead of the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Onamia Days tickets will be raffled off!</p>		<p>1 Tim and Tom's Ceremonial Dance East Lake Adopt-a-Shoreline Mille Lacs Lake <i>See page 11</i> Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m. – noon <i>See page 14</i> Onamia Graduation</p>	<p>2 Tim and Tom's Ceremonial Dance East Lake</p>
<p>3 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>4 Wellbriety, NA, AA DI, II, III <i>See page 14</i> Operation Community Connect 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Onamia Elementary</p>	<p>5 DI & DIII Wellbriety <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>6 District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Comm. Center Nay Ah Shing Graduation 5:30 p.m. Nay Ah Shing High School Gymnasium DI NA/AA <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>7 DIII Wellbriety <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>8 Bob and Perry's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m. – noon <i>See page 14</i> Onamia Days</p>	<p>9 Bob and Perry's Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs Kids Crafts: Dream Catcher 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Indian Museum End of School Year Picnic & Community Celebration 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Brackett Park, MPLS Onamia Days</p>
<p>10 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 p.m. <i>See page 14</i> Onamia Days</p>	<p>11 Wellbriety, NA, AA DI, II, III <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>12 DI & DIII Wellbriety <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>13 DI NA/AA <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>14 Grand Casino Color Run 10 a.m. Eddy's Resort <i>See page 11</i> DIII Wellbriety <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>15 Noon Closing Government offices close at noon Grand Celebration Powwow Grand Entry 7 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>16 Grand Celebration Powwow Grand Entry 1 & 7 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley WEWIN Golf Tourney Fundraiser 7:30 a.m. Grand National Golf Club</p>
<p>17 Grand Celebration Powwow Grand Entry 1 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 p.m. <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>18 Wellbriety, NA, AA DI, II, III <i>See page 14</i> DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p>	<p>19 DI & DIII Wellbriety <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>20 DI NA/AA <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>21 DIII Wellbriety <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>22 Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m. – noon <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>23 Ojibwe Moccasin 2-day Workshop 10 a.m. – 3 pm. Indian Museum</p>
<p>24 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1 p.m. <i>See page 14</i> Ojibwe Moccasin 2-day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 pm. Indian Museum.</p>	<p>25 Wellbriety, NA, AA DI, II, III <i>See page 14</i> DIII Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Hinckley Corporate Lodge</p>	<p>26 DI & DIII Wellbriety <i>See page 14</i> DI Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>27 DI NA/AA <i>See page 14</i> DIIa Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DII Community Meeting 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p>	<p>28 Urban Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church DIII Wellbriety <i>See page 14</i> DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>29 Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m. – noon <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>30</p>

Interested in submitting to the Inaajimowin?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Brett at brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.
The July issue deadline is June 15.

Summer Food Program

Nay Ah Shing Middle/High School will serve free breakfast and lunch to all kids 18 and under Monday – Friday, June 11 – August 16 (closed June 15, July 4, and July 27). Breakfast will be served 8 – 9 a.m. and lunch will be served 11 a.m. – noon. Busing for children ages 5–18 provided by Nay Ah Shing and Niigaan. Call 320-532-4690 to register your child(ren) for the bus.

More events

See page 14 for Recurring Events, Upcoming Events, and Recovery Groups.

Royalty Chosen at Onamia Powwow

Onamia High School held its annual powwow May 11, with stands full of students and community members watching and participating in the dancing and cheering for royalty candidates.

Princesses and Braves from the 2017-2018 school year (Jayenissa Mitchell, Jasmine Schwensen, Daymon Shingobe, and Jason Boyd) passed the torch to the new royalty: Junior Princess Aniyah White, Senior Princess Leoniece Ballinger,

and Senior Brave Brandon Nickaboine. Daymon will serve a second term as Junior Brave.

The event was organized by Onamia Indian Education Department Director Chris Nayquonabe. Bradley Harrington gave the invocation, and Byron Ninham served as Master of Ceremonies. Head Dancers were Ryan Lemon and Darcie Big Bear.



Clockwise from top left: 2018-2019 Princesses Aniyah White and Leoniece Ballinger; 2017-18 royalty and guest royalty; 2018-19 Braves Daymon Shingobe and Brandon Nickaboine; dancers of all ages and cultures joined in the fun; the future looked bright to Joe and Elmer Nayquonabe; the potato dance brought Eagle family members together.

PHOTOS BY BRETT LARSON

School Board Chair Virgil Wind was a hit with Amy Maske's preschoolers.

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.

About Us

Ojibwe *Inaajimowin* is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. The July issue deadline is June 15.