

Elected and appointed officials from the Band government's three branches met on August 15.

Branches Meet in Spirit of Collaboration

Tricia Nissen Director of Public Relations

The elected leaders and top officials from the Band's executive, legislative, and judicial branches gathered for a joint meeting at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on August 15. This was the first meeting of its kind in many years, and it concluded with consensus to continue three-branch meetings on a quarterly basis moving forward.

Commissioner of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington began the meeting with an invocation in Ojibwe. Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd convened the meeting with a message of transparency and good communication. All the elected officials then provided updates and shared their goals.

Highlights included:

- The Secretary-Treasurer previewed plans for live-streaming Band Assembly meetings, posting minutes and important documents online so that Band members have direct access, and creating a statute revisor's position.
- District I Representative Sandra Blake discussed the importance of monthly community meetings, and she encouraged greater commissioner participation in those meetings.
- District II Representative Marvin Bruneau reminded the group of their purpose in Band government: "We're here to serve the people. That's our mission."
- District III Representative Wally St. John talked about his intentions to "help heal the community." He also discussed working with the commissioners to "break down barriers" to solving housing issues and other challenges.
- Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin talked about the start of strategic planning discussions. It will incorporate in-

put from all three branches before sharing with Band members and tribal government employees.

The commissioners and department leaders also shared updates. Some of the topics covered were:

- Revisions to human resources policies, including an Ojibwe cultural competency component
- The importance of cultural and spiritual programming into the school curriculum to improve student engagement
- Work toward agreements and partnerships in Aitkin, Hennepin and Ramsey counties to help the Band improve health care for members in a broader service area
- Expansion of agriculture efforts and use of medicinal plants
- Work on improving tribal IDs and treaty harvester licenses
- "Get Out the Native Vote" efforts, including the report of significantly more Band members turning out for the Primary Election in Kathio Township
- Efforts toward internal attorneys with subject area expertise such as gaming and natural resources
- The increase in tribal prosecutions
- Plans for a new justice center
- The ripple effect of the drug problem, ranging from treatment to child protection to truancy issues
- Potential changes to the per cap system, following conversations with Band members

As the meeting concluded, there were comments of this being an excellent start to cooperation among the three branches of government in the coming years.

Attention Turns to General Election

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

After a primary election with the highest turnout in decades, the stage is now set for the November 6 general election — and the stakes are high for Indian Country.

Although 22.7 percent turnout doesn't sound like much, it was the highest percentage turnout for a primary in Minnesota since 1994, and the total number of voters — 902,119 — was the highest since 1982.

The high turnout reflected the importance of contests in both parties for significant positions, including Governor and Lieutenant Governor (who run as a team), Attorney General, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Representative.

In the Governor's race, Band-supported candidates Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan won the primary on the DFL side with 41.6 percent of the vote, compared to 32.03 for Erin Murphy and Erin Maye-Quade and 24.59 percent for Lori Swanson and Rick Nolan.

Peggy Flanagan, a White Earth Band member, hopes to become the state's first Native American Lieutenant Governor. She has been a friend of Mille Lacs and other tribes in the State House, representing Minneapolis suburbs.

On the Republican side, Jeff Johnson and Donna Bergstrom won a surprising victory over former Governor Tim Pawlenty and Michelle Fischbach, 52.61 percent to 43.86 percent. Bergstrom is also a Native American with membership in the Red Lake Nation, so no matter who wins, the state will make history by electing its first Native American to statewide office.

Johnson has allied himself with people from the business and angling communities who say co-management of Mille Lacs Lake is not working and favor going back to court if necessary. Johnson says on his website, "The decline in sport fishing and the massive impact on the local economy are clear evidence that it's time to end management systems and policies that don't work. If we need to try and convince the courts, then so be it."

Keith Ellison won the DFL primary for Minnesota Attorney General and will run against Republican Doug Wardlow.

Federal races

The Band supported Democrat Joe Radinovich to succeed Rick Nolan as Eighth District U.S. Representative in Congress. Radinovich received 44.1 percent of the votes to defeat four other DFL candidates. He will face Republican Pete Stauber in the general election.

Democratic Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar won their primaries easily. Klobuchar will face Jim Newberger, who won 69.5 percent of the vote in the Republican primary.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin, Boozhoo! What a wonderful Mille Lacs Traditional Powwow! Miigwech to the powwow committee and all the volunteers, singers and dancers who made this such a great weekend for our Band community.

August was a busy month, including many meetings with Band members, the annual luncheon honoring all Band graduates, and a cabinet meeting with the commissioners on August 7–8. One topic that the commissioners and I are working on is revising the Band's strategic plan. We devoted the majority of our cabinet meeting to working on goals and objectives for the Executive Branch to improve service delivery and efficiency for Band government.

On August 15, we held a meeting with Governor Dayton on the topic of law enforcement in District I. We continue to do everything we can to find a solution to this crisis that will ensure public safety for Band members. Band representatives attending this meeting included Speaker Sheldon Boyd, Chief of Police Sara Rice, Special Advisor on Government Relations Jamie Edwards, Solicitor General Tadd Johnson, Legislative Director Wendy Merrill, and myself.

Also on August 15, the elected officials held our first meeting of all three-branches — Executive, Legislative, and Judicial — which included our staff and commissioners. This was a great start to collaboration and cooperation across all branches of government, and an exciting meeting where many topics of importance to the Band were discussed. You can read more about those issues in this edition of the Inaajimowin. Chi Miigwech to Rep. Marvin Bruneau for pushing to make this meeting happen; it was very productive, and I think we all agreed that future three-branch meetings should be permanently built into our schedules.

The primary election took place on August 14. We are very pleased that Congressman Tim Walz and State Representative Peggy Flanagan (White Earth) prevailed in the Primary Election and are headed to the General Election in November as the candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor on the Democratic ticket.

The race for Attorney General will also be very important for the Band, as current Attorney General Lori Swanson, who has taken positions opposing the Band's reservation boundary, is

stepping down from that office. Congressman Keith Ellison won the Primary Election on the Democratic ticket for the Attorney General position.

Joe Radinovich won the DFL primary for the 8th District Congressional seat being vacated by Rick Nolan, and that race will be very tough, as the 8th District has been targeted by the Republican National Committee as possibly swinging to the right.

Miigwech to all the Band members who got out the vote during the primary. All three districts had a huge showing, and it is important that we make that turnout even bigger in November. The Native vote is critical and has been the deciding factor in many elections across the country in the past year. It will be very important for Band members to get out the vote for these races in November, because each of these seats will have significant impact on the Mille Lacs Band and Native people throughout Minnesota. I am also excited that we have several Native women running for elected office across the country for positions in

the Congress and for Governor of Idaho.

Finally, I heard about something that happened this past weekend that I want to share. Band Member Bonnie White told me that she wanted to find out who her neighbors were and get to know them better, so she decided to host a neighborhood potluck this past weekend and she invited me to attend. This was a wonderful event, and there was a great turnout, which even included the Sheriff. Great conversations happened, and people enjoyed meeting one another. I want to give a shout-out to Bonnie for taking the initiative to do this, and extend my appreciation to other Band members who do their part in community-building each day. You are inspiring! Chi Miigwech!

Melanie Benjamin



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and her granddaughter Aubrey were delighted to run into Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan August 15 at the Band's Intercontinental St. Paul Riverfront Hotel. Walz and Flanagan, who were endorsed by the Band, won the DFL gubernatorial primary the night before, and they will run for Governor and Lieutenant Governor in the General Election November 6.

Election continued from page 1

Smith will run in a special election after she was appointed to fill the seat of Al Franken, who resigned last year in the face of sexual harassment allegations. She will run against Republican Karin Housley, who won the primary with 61.95 percent of the vote.

In the Fourth U.S. Congressional district, which includes St. Paul, long-time Democratic Congresswoman (and friend of the Band) Betty McCollum will run against Republican Greg Ryan.

In the Fifth U.S. Congressional District, which includes the Minneapolis area, Democrat Ilhan Omar will run against Republican Jennifer Zielinski for the seat vacated by Keith Ellison when he decided to run for Attorney General.

Local races

The Band-supported candidate for Mille Lacs County Attorney, former Tribal Court Judge Richard Osburn, finished third in the primary behind current County Attorney Joe Walsh and former County Attorney Jan Jude.

Neither Walsh nor Jude has been a consistent friend of the Band. Jude opposed the Band's request for federal law enforcement help under the Tribal Law and Order Act and the Band's trust land applications when she was county attorney from 2002 to 2014, and she repeatedly stated her belief that the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation had been disestablished.

The Band had high hopes for Joe Walsh when he defeated Jude in 2014, but he supported the County Board's decision to rescind its law enforcement agreement with the Band in 2016, and he has not shown a strong desire to put the agreement back in place.

Jude, whose husband is former Tribal Police Investigator Russ Jude, has said she would attempt to restore the agreement, which would give Mille Lacs Tribal Police authority to enforce Minnesota criminal law on the reservation.

In the City of Wahkon, long-time Mayor Sandy Reichel, who has repeatedly stirred up conflict with the Band, is being challenged by Deb Lawler.

Don Lorge is running unopposed for County Sheriff to suc-

ceed Brent Lindgren, who chose not to run for reelection.

State House

Another opponent of the Band, State Representative Sondra Erickson, is being challenged by Emy Minzel, who has been a regular at Band events this summer, including the District I powwow and community picnic.

Erickson has authored many bills over the years that have had no chance of passing but attacked the Band's sovereignty. She has aligned herself with anti-Indian groups like PERM, MERF, and CERA.

Erickson was criticized last Legislative session for comments she made about Indian schools, saying, "Well, if they're going to argue they're sovereign, then they don't have to take this money that we're giving to them."

If you would like to get involved in the general election campaign, please call Jamie Edwards at 612-850-2124, Katie Draper at 320-515-0846, or Shena Matricious at 320-279-3132 (Government Affairs) for more information.

Get to Know Your Legislative Office Staff Members

Wendy Merrill

Job Title: Legislative Office Manager

Job Responsibilities: The Legislative Office Manager is responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the office by managing, evaluating, planning, and implementing the activities of the Legislative Office.

Education and Background Experience: I graduated from Central Lakes College in 2012 with my associates degree, went on to get my bachelor's in organization behavior and minor in psychology from College of St. Scholastica in 2014 and just recently graduated with my master's in tribal administration and governance from University of Minnesota Duluth.

Some of my job experiences are working as an admin for surveillance, Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) licensing manager, chair of GRA board, and Isle School American Indian liaison.

Volunteer Experience: I sit on my American Indian Parent Advisory Committee for Isle Schools, and I am currently on the board for Minnesota Indian Education Association and Promise to Act Committee.

Family Information: I live in Isle with my husband Carlos and six children.

Biographical Statement: I was born in Minneapolis but was raised on the Mille Lacs Reservation for the majority of my life.

Fun facts: I coach cross country for the Mille Lacs Raiders. I love running for fun! I do as many races as possible throughout the year.

Darcie Big Bear

Job Title: Parliamentarian/Band Assembly Clerk

Job Responsibilities: Provide clerical support for Band Assembly, prepare agendas for Band Assembly meetings, gather supporting documents for each meeting, record all official minutes of the meetings, prepare Band Assembly bills/ordinances, prepare resolutions, and disburse correspondences regarding approved/denied ordinances and resolutions to commissioners and department directors.

Education and Background Experience: I have worked for the Mille Lacs Band for 18 years. I started in Tribal Court, journeyed over to Enrollments where I was the enrollment technician for 13 years and am currently in my third year serving in the Legislative Department. I received my associate degree in business administration in 2016 and am currently working on obtaining my bachelor's in business administration.

Volunteer Experience: I am currently the chairperson for the Isle American Indian Parent Advisory Committee.

Family Information: I am the proud mother of two handsome sons: Todd is 21 years old, and Eldayshun is 16 years old. I also have a 2-year-old grandson, Todd Jr., who I truly adore.

Biographical Statement: I have always tried to put my best foot forward and have worked super hard for everything I have. Being a single mother of two boys, I have tried to show them what hard work takes and to never give up. They are the reason why I went back to school. I wanted to show them it's never too late to go back to school and accomplish a very important goal.

Fun Facts: I am an old style jingle dress dancer and participated in a documentary about the story of the jingle dress. I love Zumba, I am in the stands at every one of my youngest son's high school basketball games, and I love my huge family.

Valerie Harrington

Nickname: Val

Job Title: Legislative Communications Liaison

Job Responsibilities: The most important responsibility is to ensure that the voices of the Band members are heard and used in our branch. Specific duties include:

- Represent the tribe and ensure key people are aware of provided knowledge of matters that may affect the tribe.



Among the staff members working with Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd (front) in the Legislative Office are Christine Jordan, Val Harrington, Darcie Big Bear, Billie Jo Boyd, Wendy Merrill, Semira Kimpson, and Brianna Boyd. For more on the legislative staff, see next month's *Inaajimowin*.

- Work with the legislative team.
- Provide key communication processes and use vital communication tools to ensure our media content is timely and effective to our Mille Lacs Band members.
- Provide comprehensive information and relay communication measures to regularly interact with the constituents of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the secretary-treasurer, district representatives, commissioner of finance, legislative counsel, and other legislative staff in an ongoing effort to achieve the goals and aspirations set by the Band Assembly.
- Promptly remain prepared to offer competent and appropriate responses. Prepare for issues encountered that may vary depending on the assignment, research, or request.

Education and Background Experience: I love working for the Band. I started working for the Band in the youth workforce program and have been working in many aspects of tribal programs since 1997. I enjoyed working with Small Business Development, Band Member Development, Community Youth Services, Emergency Services, and Tribal Child Support Enforcement.

I received my associate degree from Central Lakes College, my bachelor's degree from College of St. Scholastica, and my master's degree in tribal administration and governance from University of Minnesota Duluth. I have attended many comprehensive trainings throughout my professional career. I have learned so much and I value all learning opportunities.

Volunteer Committee Information: Co-chair of local WEWIN Chapter, TERO Commission board member, and secretary for TERO Commission.

Previous Job Responsibilities and Achievements: I previously worked as Financial Specialist for Tribal Child Support Enforcement, where I processed all the financials for the program. I would disburse payments, prepare monthly reports, and process per capita garnishments and minor trust garnishments. I submitted orders and processed tribal court orders. I maintained financial files, submitted quarterly reports, processed the take list monthly, entered payments into the Model Tribal System and made adjustments, and processed account statements.

Certifications and Industry Honors: First Aid Certification, Housing Initiative Home Loan Certificate, Administrative Professional Excellence Certificate, Small Business Development Certificate.

Family Information: I have a beautiful, amazing family. All I do is for them. I have a 22-year-old beautiful daughter and a handsome 15-year-old son. They are my pride and joy. They are my world. My loving partner is Tyler, who gave me a handsome 15-year-old son from a previous relationship. His name is Tyrin. I am very close with my mom and dad and my siblings. I am blessed with a strong family.

Brief Biographical Statement: I have lived in Mille Lacs District I my entire life. I have strong roots here, and I have been blessed to see the growth and development of our reservation. It has also kept me humble to remember always where we come from and where we started.

Fun Facts: I love to travel. I love movies, and I love learning. I love pics. I have tons of pics hanging in my office. I love being a part of the community and attending events. I love playing volleyball; it brings out a competitive side of me. I love watching my kids and my nieces and nephews participate in sports. I love going to games and watching the Vikings and tennis. My dream is to make it to watch the U.S. Open. I have a huge family and love them.

Brianna Boyd

Nickname: My family calls me Bri.

Job Title: Legislative Administrative Assistant

Job Responsibilities: Create purchase orders and check requests, answer phones, assist office manager with special projects, provide clerical support for all legislative staff.

Education and Background Experience: I graduated in 2014. From there I went to college in St. Cloud for a year. I am currently attending college to finish up my AA, then I will start my business management degree.

Previous Job Responsibilities and Achievements: In the Grand Casino Mille Lacs HR department, I worked in recruitment and staffing and benefits. I then moved over to Eddy's and was the sales and inventory coordinator before starting in legislative.

Family Information: My parents are Dan Boyd III and Heather Boyd. I have two older siblings and two younger siblings.

Brief Biographical Statement: I grew up about 10 minutes away from Mille Lacs, and I attended high school in Brainerd.

Fun Facts: I have two dogs. I am left handed. I am the youngest child on my dad's side, and the oldest on my mom's side. My first job was at the casino in the Grand Northern Grille. I'm very clumsy; one time I tripped over a soccer ball and sprained my ankle. I also got stuck in a tree once and sprained my wrist. I've had braces twice.

State and Local News Briefs

Band purchases Lundeen's Tackle Castle:

Commissioner of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington announced last month that the Mille Lacs Band closed on the purchase of Lundeen's Tackle Castle Bait Shop on July 31. "We are creating a plan internally that will serve the Band and the greater community," Bradley said. "We are always committed to serving the community while being a steward of Mille Lacs Lake. Our plan will reflect those priorities. We appreciate the Lundeens for their many years of service to the fishing community and for providing a generational landmark in the Mille Lacs area. For now, the business is closed pending internal planning discussions."

Enbridge insurance deemed insufficient: The Minnesota Department of Commerce said last month that Enbridge's oil spill insurance is deficient and doesn't comply with required conditions for the company to build its Line 3 pipeline. The Public Utilities Commission approved the project June 28 but required Enbridge to meet certain conditions, including adequate insurance and other financial guarantees to cover oil spill damages. *Source: startribune.com.*

Two injured in shooting: According to a criminal complaint filed in Mille Lacs County, two individuals were injured by gunshots while leaving their home on Mosey Drive on August 3. A 57-year-old Milaca resident, John Kevin David Scruggs, was charged with first degree assault causing great bodily harm, second degree assault with a dangerous weapon, a felony firearms violation, and other charges. Brenda Lanise Bethune, 42, also of Milaca, was charged with third degree assault and gross misdemeanor drug possession. *Source: messagemedia.com/millelacs.*

Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School dedicated: An editorial in the Star Tribune July 31 celebrated the reopening of Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School near Bena on the Leech Lake Reservation but called on Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, who attended the grand reopening, to do more to fix crumbling Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools. "Every kid served by the federally run BIE system deserves the same safe, modern learning facility that Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig students now have," the editorial states. "It is a disgrace that roughly 50 schools — about a third of total BIE schools — still are in need of replacement or serious overhaul." *Source: startribune.com.*

Band member featured on MPR: Band member Colin Cash, founding member of the Sober Squad, was one of 13 recovering addicts and alcoholics featured in a Minnesota Public Radio story on the 40th Annual Celebration of Sobriety Powwow at the Mash-ka-wisen treatment center on the Fond du Lac reservation. Colin talked about overdosing on drugs and wondering what they would tell his son Brendan. "When that thought went through my head, I began to pray," said Colin. "I said 'Gichimanidoo, please don't let me die.' And I meant it with every cell in my body. I haven't prayed that hard since, but that was the beginning of my journey, right there." *Source: mprnews.org.*

Scenic byway in the works: The Lake Mille Lacs Scenic Byway Steering Committee held a celebratory meeting July 31 after a five-road route around the lake was officially designated a state scenic byway. *Source: messagemedia.co/millelacs.*

Stories from the 2018 WEWIN Conference

Conference held at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino in Milwaukee, July 29 – August 1

Valerie Harrington Legislative Communications Liaison

I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend WEWIN (Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations), especially with the theme of "Warrior Women: Her Power to Ignite." What I liked best about the conference was the attendance of so many of our Band members and attending with amazing, strong women from our tribe. I also enjoyed being part of the first nationally recognized local chapter, our Mille Lacs Band WEWIN chapter. We were recognized in the opening general session.

Our honorable Chief Executive, Ms. Melanie Benjamin, was one of the engaging, inspiring, and empowering honorees recognized for courageous leadership in Indian nations and her tremendous leadership of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Hearing her speak is always a learning opportunity. It was a blessing to be in attendance to see our Chief be honored. She showed humility and exuded class as she went up to accept the WEWIN honor. There was emotion, and I could see the pride in her, and the look of her family and friends was priceless. Her words are powerful, and one thing I liked the most is that even though the honor was for her, she spoke of others — how others have paved the way and how others teach, support, and assist her. She is great at recognizing the strength in herself and the strength in others. It takes courage and sacrifice for all she has accomplished. She is a very powerful and inspirational woman — a great leader — and I am proud to be part of this amazing event.

"I plan on taking more time to focus on the positive at home, work, and my community — not just Natives, but my community as a whole."

I enjoyed seeing our representation of the Mille Lacs Band and our desire to learn from the strong women. I enjoyed all the sessions I attended, especially the session I was a part of. Our Mille Lacs Band WEWIN chapter had a session on WEWIN chapters. We presented information on how we started our local chapter. We gave tips and solutions to barriers we had encountered and the amount of time and effort it takes for a successful chapter. We also spoke about the rewards of the local chapter and how vital it is to learn from each other and have the support of the other women in our local chapter, and the importance of the community and elected officials to support our cause.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was honored at the 2018 Wewin Conference.

One of the most important parts of this session was a youth panel from the Mille Lacs Band. They have been meeting for breakfast, working together to plan an upcoming youth conference. I learned so much from them, and it was an honor to get their tips and insights from their perspective. They have a vast variety of knowledge. I loved how they spoke and shared. They had confidence and answered questions. What I liked most is that they support each other and they want what's best for our tribe, just as we do.

The WEWIN general sessions and workshops were very inspiring, and we love the WEWIN National Board of Honorable Women. They are very powerful, inspirational women. They have an amazing sense of humor. They provided great tips on how to deal with personal and professional issues and examples of how to handle challenges in your community. Instead of focusing on the negative, they advised us be the positive in our communities. Be the leader your community needs, and not just for Natives; be useful to all people. Take time for little things. Most of the time I am in a hurry with life, and I forget about the little things. I plan on taking more time to focus on the positive at home, work, and my community — not just Natives, but my community as a whole. I intend to be thankful, to come up with a plan to help my community, and to take time for myself and others.

This conference overall was amazing. I had so many happy tears. I was impressed by the women honorees. Hearing how they overcame obstacles was amazing. I loved this conference, and I look forward to attending next year. Thank you so much for the opportunity to share about WEWIN.



Above: Mia Sam, Aubrey Benjamin, Amanda Eagle, and Ronni Jourdain participated in a youth panel.

Left: Valerie Harrington, fourth from left, attended WEWIN with Aubrey Benjamin, LeAnn Benjamin, Tammy Smith, and Shannon Porter, as well as several other Mille Lacs Band members.

Band Partners with Neighbors, Law Enforcement at National Night Out

Tricia Nissen Director of Public Relations

For the first time, the Mille Lacs Band and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) partnered with Mille Lacs area neighbors on National Night Out. About 200 people gathered in the parking lot at Eddy's Resort on August 7 for a picnic supper, kids' inflatables, and insider tours of public safety vehicles.

"This event is one way we can bridge local communities," said Mikayla Schaaf, chairperson of the Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention (MAPP), the coalition that led organizing and implementing the event. "In the past we've had separate events. This year it's nice to celebrate together."

In addition to the Band, MLCV, and MAPP, event sponsors included Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Department, Mille Lacs Health Foundation, Onamia Police Department, Onamia Fire

Department, and Onamia Public Schools. Band departments with a strong presence at the event included Tribal Police, Natural Resources, Government Affairs, Niigaan Youth Program, Public Health, Wild Land Firefighters, and the District I Representative's office.

"National Night Out is an event for the entire community. It's all about partnerships," said Billie Jo Boyd, one of the event's planners.

Miigwech to all the attendees! Special thanks go to MAPP co-chair Semira Kimpson, Niigaan Director Byron Ninham, Cyndi Rudolph and Brian Miner from Onamia Schools, and the many other volunteers.



Band members, law enforcement professionals, educators, and community members came together for a night of fun in the Eddy's parking lot on August 7. Events were also held in Districts IIa and III.

DNR Fisheries Biologist Provides Update on Harvest, Telemetry Study, Hatchery

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

More than a dozen Band members met at the Government Center in District I on August 9 to hear an update on the tribal harvest and the DNR's telemetry study from Fisheries Biologist Carl Klimah.

So far in 2018, Mille Lacs Band members have harvested just under 10,000 pounds of ogaa (walleye), with just over 10,000 pounds remaining in their quota. Over 27,000 pounds have been harvested by all eight Ojibwe bands, with 19,716 pounds remaining.

Gill netting has accounted for 52 percent of the harvest and spearing for the other 48 percent.

The ginoozhe (northern) and asaawe (perch) harvests have been minimal.

State anglers are well under their quota for the year, with 33,619 pounds harvested from an allocation of 87,800.

Telemetry study

The tracking study being conducted by the DNR in conjunction with Dr. Aaron Shultz of the Great Lake Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is attempting to determine the causes of a decline in the Mille Lacs ogaa population.

The study's hypothesis is that increased water clarity and temperatures have reduced the optimal thermal habitat (cool water) for ogaa, forcing them into smaller areas near the bottom. This phenomenon that Carl calls "the squeeze" may be

bringing adult and juvenile ogaa into the same areas, leading to the cannibalization of younger ogaa by older fish.

This theory corresponds with data showing that the decline in population is caused by the fact that young walleyes are not surviving into adulthood.

The study attempts to assess the "thermal niche" for juvenile and adult ogaa across the seasons, identify key aquatic habitats, and identify the areas and conditions where adults and juveniles overlap.

The method of assessment is called acoustic telemetry and involves the placement of receivers throughout the lake and the insertion of transmitters into juvenile and adult ogaa.

Fisheries Technician George Big Bear has been trained in scuba diving to assist with placement and retrieval of receivers.

Hatchery

Carl also gave an update on the Band's fish hatchery and proposed stocking plans. The hatchery will be developed over the next several years at the site of the old wastewater treatment ponds behind the casino. The DNR has hired Band member Keith Wiggins to work with Carl in developing the hatchery.

Fish produced at the hatchery will be stocked in 15-20 lakes around the region.

An educational youth fishing pond will also be constructed.

State and National News Briefs

Indigenous food movement takes root:

American Indian communities are sponsoring cooking classes, gardening projects, and orchards as part of a growing movement encouraging healthy traditional foods. Leech Lake, Lower Sioux, and Mille Lacs have launched food sovereignty programs in recent years in response to high rates of diabetes and obesity. "It's slow work, but we're seeing this growing momentum," said Diane Wilson, executive director of Dream of Wild Health, a nonprofit with a farm where Indian teens are taught about agriculture and nutrition. "I hope it's a sign of a really significant change in the relationship with our food." *Source: startribune.com.*

Four tribes appeal PUC's approval of Line 3 environmental impact statement:

Fond du Lac, Mille Lacs, Red Lake, and White Earth bands filed an appeal of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's approval of the environmental impact statement for the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline project. The tribes say the PUC erred when it concluded that the EIS adequately addressed negative impacts of the new pipeline, which the PUC approved in June. *Source: wdio.com.*

Homeless camp raises public health alarms:

A growing homeless camp near the Little Earth neighborhood in Minneapolis has raised fears among health officials and American Indian leaders over lack of hygiene and reuse of needles. Used needles litter the site, which has seen cases of drug-resistant staph infections, hepatitis C, sexually transmitted illnesses, and scabies. James Cross, founder of Natives Against Heroin, said "This is a public health emergency. Nearly everyone here is sick — some of them seriously — and no one is getting treated." *Source: startribune.com.*

Native nations call on Pope to renounce

Doctrine of Discovery: Members of the Six Nations of the Iroquois held a conference in New York last month to discuss 500-year-old Vatican edicts known as "papal bulls" that gave explorers the right to claim lands for Christian monarchs. The conference at the Great Law of Peace Center outside Syracuse was attended by legal and civil rights experts as well as tribal leaders and members. *Source: usnews.com.*

Native group sues North Dakota for voter

ID law: The Native American Rights Fund has taken North Dakota to court after a tough voter-ID law was passed making it more difficult for tribal members to vote. The law was passed after Democrat Heidi Heitkamp narrowly defeated her rival in the race for a U.S. Senate seat in 2012. Heitkamp's victory was attributed to Native American voters. Native American groups are fighting similar vote-suppression efforts in Arizona, Montana, and elsewhere. *Source: voanews.com.*

Native farm fund to distribute \$266 million:

A new philanthropic organization has been established to distribute \$266 million after the U.S. government agreed that the Agriculture Department had discriminated against Native Americans in loan programs from 1981 to 1999. The grants will be for business assistance as well as educational and technical support. "This is a monumental day for Native American communities nationwide," said lead counsel Joseph M. Sellers, who launched the case 19 years ago. "Today we bring a landmark legal case, and hopefully with it, a regrettable part of our nation's history to a close." *Source: Washingtonpost.com.*

Sharing Traditions with Children and Grandchildren

By Loretta Kegg Kalk

The late Loretta Kegg Kalk wrote this for the Moccasin Telegraph series published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted to help preserve her teachings and pass them on to the next generation.



I have a 16-year-old granddaughter who my son is having a hard time keeping inside. She always wants to be outdoors. She told me, "Grandma, I can go fishing and fillet a fish better than I can run a vacuum cleaner." I told her that it's alright that she can do both. My son is a single parent, so I get to teach my granddaughter everything a grandmother knows.

Growing up, I was always following my dad and brothers around outdoors. My sister, Betty, was the one who stayed inside to cook and clean. She was by my mom's side learning how to bead and make crafts. I really didn't get into beadwork until just recently, because I was always too busy outside.

When my parents would catch up to me and make me sit still, I sat with my mother and watched her make quilts and beadwork. I still remember the things my mother taught me. It was good to have both my mother's and my father's influence on my life.

Today, I make many quilts and blankets. My sister has helped me a lot. She taught me how to bead a medallion, which I used to watch being made. As a child, I didn't realize how important these things would be in my life today. I've learned how important it is to teach my sons what my parents taught me.

A couple of years ago, I took my sons to the powwow grounds and told them that they were going to build a wigwam. They had an idea of how it should look, but had never built one. I just stood back and told them how to build one — they did a really good job.

Now I'm trying to teach my grandchildren what I have learned. Even when they are visiting me for only a half hour, I try to give them something of our culture that they can fit into their lifestyles.

Right now, my 13-year-old grandson is really into hunting deer. It's amazing that I've seen my dad and brother hunt, my sons, and now my grandchildren. You always remember the first deer you shoot, because it is a tradition that you clean and prepare it and share a feast with the community. I told my grandson that I would be standing by to guide him and help him make the feast. I've taught him a lot of things. I tell him that you kill what you eat — you don't kill birds or squirrels for the fun of it.

It's enjoyable teaching kids today. I have 16 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, and I'm trying to teach them what I know. I tell them that generations of our ancestors came from here. I tell them that they should be very proud of who they are and never hide the fact that they are Ojibwe. I tell them that it's okay to learn about our culture and traditions on both sides of their descendants.

I tell my grandchildren that they are special because they have two worlds. When they come to my house, I speak to them in Ojibwe. But when they visit their other grandparents, they may not have this. It's important to reassure our children that it's alright to know both sides. This is part of their identity. This is why it is important to pass down our traditions.

Youth Gathering Inspires Future Leaders

Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

Mille Lacs Band members were among 100 youth who were selected to attend the July 27 Tribal Youth Gathering, which featured addresses by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, Mille Lacs Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, and Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills, as well as panel discussions that included Commissioner of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington, Band member Baabiitaw Melissa Boyd, and State Representative Peggy Flanagan.

The day-long event was planned by youth representing different tribes, including students in the Indian Education programs from both Saint Paul Public Schools and Minneapolis Public Schools.

Onamia High School students Roxann Emerson and Amanda Leigh Eagle were the Mille Lacs Band representatives on the committee.

During his welcome address, Governor Dayton told the audience, "You're here as future leaders of tribes, the state, and the nation. ... You're here because of your work and your story. You're young, talented, and intelligent. The windows of opportunity are open for you."

Brooklynn Smith, an 8th grader at Onamia High School, said the day was fun and she enjoyed being with her friends. But, more importantly, it showed her that "kids can make a difference."

"It was empowering and it told me that I can be whoever I want to be," she said. "I want to work on not being so shy and I want to be a role model for other kids."

The event was held on July 27 at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus and attracted tribes, businesses, and organizations.

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin suggested that the Governor's Office consider hosting the state's gathering after seeing the national model that was started by former president Barack Obama during his second term in office.

Obama's Generation Indigenous initiative was created in 2014. It was designed to improve the lives of Native American youth through new investments and increased engagement. Known as Gen-I, the initiative promoted a national dialogue. It was also designated to support programs and policies that both mobilize and cultivate the next generation of Native leaders.

The Minnesota Tribal Youth Gathering was geared toward youth ages 14 to 24, and was also designed to focus on community building and developing leadership skills for Native American youth.

When it was Melanie's time to speak, she told the crowd, "I think about what we can do as tribal leaders to work for the next seven generations."

She commented that the Tribal Youth Gathering is long overdue. "I have also wondered how come it took us so long to get here, but we're here now and we can make positive change," Melanie said.

Addressing the students specifically, she told them, "You can be strong examples for your community. When I look out, I see that you're the future. You are our hopes and dreams."

At the gathering the audience heard from Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills, from the Oglala Lakota (Sioux). He won the gold medal in the 10K race during the 1964 Olympics. At the time, he set a world record and is still the only American to ever win a gold medal in that event.

Nevaeh Merrill said one of the highlights of the day was to hear the Olympian speak. She's a cross-country runner and has known about the legend for years. She considers him an inspiration.

"I loved it," she said. "I want to do things for our community to help make a difference on the reservation."

For example, she said she wants to raise awareness among her peers about the drug epidemic that is happening around them. And then figure out a way to help.

"I think we are the future, but we have to do more. We should help out in the community and help other people."

The participants also had an opportunity to hear about health, education, culture and language revitalization, history, self-sufficiency, sovereignty, youth engagement, and public leadership.

To participate in the event, the young people had to complete the Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) Challenge. The Gen-I Challenge is a pledge from Native American youth to make a positive difference in their communities.

"Our youth empower us, and through them I see the future for us in Indian Country," said Melanie. "I see we can empower each other, and I look forward to many more days like this."



Top left: Roxann Emerson and Amanda Eagle served on the committee that planned the Tribal Youth Gathering. Bottom left: Dalylah Benjamin, Brooklynn Smith, Bella Nayquonabe, and Nevaeh Merrill. Right: Melanie Benjamin, Bradley Harrington, Baabiitaw Melissa Boyd, Gov. Mark Dayton, and Billy Mills were among the guests.



It's a Public Affair

Amikogaabawiiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin)

Mille Lacs Band Member

Band member Kelly Sam has been a community contributor since she graduated from Isle High School (District IIA) in 1999. Kelly has two sons, Kellen and Jaxon, is the granddaughter of Leonard Sam and Ramona Sam, and is the daughter of Tracy Sam. She began her public relations career with an internship straight out of high school at Goff and Howard (now Goff Public), a major public relations firm located in St. Paul, Minnesota. At that time, Goff Public was the public relations firm for the Mille Lacs Band and also coordinated the monthly development of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

Kelly was instrumental in gathering and preserving dozens of wonderful stories from more than 30 Elders, many of whom have since passed on, with the "Moccasin Telegraph" series that we still see in today's newspaper. "It was the absolute best part of my job," Kelly said. "I loved talking to the Elders and hearing all of their stories." At the time, Kelly was in total charge of the layout of the paper and its content.

Kelly stayed at Goff Public for 16 years before deciding in 2016 to make a move that would allow her to spend more time in Mille Lacs. Bob Schlichte is the vice president of strategic relationships for Grand Casinos and has been for a long time. When he hinted at the idea of retirement, Kelly stepped up into the opportunity of a mentor/successor role that includes her own well-earned duties, but also shadowing Bob and learning his job so that she can eventually smoothly transition into his role once he retires. Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe was intent on having a Band member fill that role, and to him, there could be no better choice than Kelly.

Many people are unaware of what the role of a public relations firm is, or why a company would hire someone to build and maintain strategic relationships. "It's all about keeping relationships strong and lines of communication open with other businesses, community initiatives, organizations, and people. We educate them on the good work that the Band and MLCV do, develop partnerships, and assist strategically with sponsorships," Kelly explained. "When businesses, communities, and people work together, much more can be accomplished."

"It's important to nurture any relationship, and part of my job is to do just that, but on a business level for Grand Casinos and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures."

For example, a business may choose to use one of the Grand Casino properties or one of the metro hotels for a huge



Kelly Sam, director of strategic relations for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

event that brings in a lot of revenue, and Kelly is there to give each business the best possible experience. She makes sure that all of their needs are met and concerns are addressed, and that they feel good choosing that venue again and again because of the fostered relationship that she builds with her clients. "It is such a people-centered job, and so fun," Kelly said. "I get to meet a lot of interesting people!"

Some of the interesting people she has met have led to great opportunities for Kelly to shine in her own right. She is currently an active member of the White Bear Lake Indian Education Program Parent Committee, White Bear Lake Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, I-94 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Minnesota Lodging Association.

Kelly looks forward to her expanded leadership role. "It's a part of the culture at Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures," she shared. "We spend a lot of time learning how to be the best leaders that we can be in all facets of our work, and I'm excited to eventually share my own leadership with a team and mentor people the way that I was lucky to have been mentored."

Youth Firearms Safety Class

Mille Lacs Band DNR Enforcement is sponsoring Youth Firearms Safety Classes in Districts I, II, and III in September. Youth ages 11 – 17 will have to complete the online classroom portion prior to attending the field day. For the online class go to: dnr.state.mn.us/safety/firearms/index.html.

Please contact Noah Melberg with any questions or concerns at Noah.Melberg@MilleLacsBand.com or 320-630-2788.

Each class may include up to 15 youth. Registration is closed once 15 are registered.

District I: September 8, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

District II: September 15, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

District III: September 22, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Child Seats, CPR/AED, First Aid, Smoke Alarms Available

Urban Band members: Please call the Urban Office to arrange a schedule with Monte Fronk of MLB Tribal Emergency Management for the following services:

- Free Child Safety Car Seats for Mille Lacs Band members
- Four-hour CPR/AED classes at the cost of \$10/student
- Four-hour First Aid Class at the cost of \$10/student
- Free Smoke Alarms available for MLB homeowners

Coming Home/Facing Re-Entry Two-Day Workshop

This two-day Workshop is September 17 from 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. and September 18 from 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m. It is open to all American Indians from any federally recognized tribe in the U.S. who are currently transitioning from a period of incarceration, or who hold a criminal background and are experiencing core entry challenges. The workshop will discuss overcoming three core re-entry challenges (housing, employment, and relapse prevention) for American Indians with a focus on cultural engagement and resources available through the American Indian organizations in the Twin Cities area and throughout the State of Minnesota. Throughout the workshop, we will hear from those who have successfully made it through the barriers of re-entry, utilized the resources available, and are now living a healthy and self-sufficient lifestyle. The workshop is limited to 75 participants.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Gerry Jamieson at 320-364-9666 or email him at Gerald.Jamieson@millelacsband.com.

Sponsored by: AanjiBimaadizing (formerly the Mille Lacs Band Department of Labor), Mille Lacs Urban Office, and Takoda Institute — Division of American OIC.

Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

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



Basketball Camp Attracts Youth from Around the State

Over 60 participants attended a two-day overnight Native Thrive Youth Empowerment and Basketball Skills camp at the Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley on August 21 and 22. Five guest speakers included Division 1 athletes and coaches, and a banquet was held at Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center. Attendees came not only from Mille Lacs communities but also Grand Portage, Fond du Lac, Leech Lake, Red Lake, and the Hinckley area.





Although it was a day to remember a tragedy, participants also enjoyed companionship with Anishinaabe from across the region while celebrating the land and traditions that have given people life.

GLIFWC Holds Annual Mikwendaagoziwag Ceremony

Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

Attendance at Mikwendaagoziwag, We Remember Them, was higher this year than it has ever been before. The yearly memorial for the Sandy Lake Tragedy, where hundreds of Anishinaabe lost their lives in the winter of 1850, is hosted by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The Commission's Executive Administrator Michael J. "Mic" Isham Jr., Chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, welcomed the first wave of attendees on the east side of Big Sandy Lake in the morning. Many people came with their own canoes, and some brought extra canoes. The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources trailered in five canoes, some for staff and several which were loaned to visitors taking part in the ceremony.

The yearly paddle commemorates the long journey taken by Anishinaabe ancestors who were pressured to go to Sandy Lake in order to receive their annuities from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The annuities were usually dispensed at the familiar and central location of La Pointe, Wisconsin. This place, known as Mooningwanekaaninginis to the Anishinaabe, was a sacred place where ceremonies took place long before the arrival of settlers. In 1850, all the Anishinaabe in the region were told instead to go to Gaa-mitaawangaagamaag (Big Sandy Lake) to receive their annuities, in an attempt by U.S. government agents to remove tribes from the east and force them west of the Mississippi.

The trip to Big Sandy Lake was much further for many Anishinaabe, requiring more investment of resources that were already spread thin. Some made the journey to Sandy Lake and some stayed home. Those who traveled were welcomed with the willful negligence of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which did not have the provisions it had promised to the people. The people were told to wait, and as winter set in, hundreds died on the shores of the lake and hundreds more perished trying to get home.

At this year's remembrance ceremony, despite the largest



Memorial events opened with a morning ceremony on the east shore of Big Sandy Lake.

Many had come to honor their relatives, some simply to remember, and all came with respect.

crowd of people to have ever showed up for the paddle, Mic Isham asked each person to share their name, where they were from, and why they had come. From Elders to school children, each person offered some insight into the significance of this event, not only historically but culturally and, in many cases, personally. Many had come to honor their relatives, some simply to remember, and all came with respect.

Dozens of canoes took to the water, under the watchful eye of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources officers, who escorted the paddlers across the lake and rescued those from the one or two canoes that capsized. Though there were clouds

in the morning and some drizzle during introductions, it turned into a beautiful day by the time all the canoes were launched.

The canoes took an average hour-long trip from the East Landing across Sandy Lake to the landing at Libby Dam on land held by the Army Corps of Engineers. According to Mic Isham, there were at least triple the number of participants in this year's event than at any previous GLIFWC-organized event, and it took paddlers into the afternoon to all make the crossing. At whatever point they landed, they always found a crowd on the shore to welcome them.

Lunch was served shortly after the last paddlers were accounted for, and after making sure everyone was fed, Mic Isham thanked the pipe carriers, drummers, singers, and Elders who both make the Sandy Lake Memorial event possible and help carry on the traditions of the people. Isham also emphasized that the history of the Anishinaabe, including the events at Big Sandy Lake, are both a great asset and a great responsibility. These are events that aren't widely known or acknowledged outside of the Anishinaabe community. According to Isham, "They don't teach this in the schools. They still teach Columbus discovered America." Isham claims that has to change; the change, he says, begins with each person and the way they tell the story.

Along with some playful canoeing competition, leaders from attending tribes are always invited to speak following the meal. GLIFWC Chairman Jim Williams Jr. appreciated the effort put into the event by staff and helpers. He mentioned that during the crossing, he started to get tired, but he simply reminded himself that this was nothing compared to the arduous journey his ancestors had to make for him.

Mike Wiggins from the Bad River Band summed it up by saying, "We come back and experience the history that's here. We send love and gratitude back to our ancestors that they rest a little better."



Changing of the Guard

Left: Former Heavyweight Champion of the World Hasim Rahman presented Wally St. John with a plaque from the Department of Athletic Regulation on August 17, thanking him for his outstanding leadership as Chairman of the DAR. Wally recently stepped down as Chair of the Commission when he was elected District III Representative. Right: Briana Michels was sworn in to replace Wally by Chief Justice Rayna Churchill at Meshakwad Community Center last month.



Indigenous Australians Tour Mille Lacs

Karina Lester and Simone Tur, who are indigenous language revitalization scholars and members of indigenous Australian communities, visited Mille Lacs during the weekend of August 17-19 along with Cate Mascari, right, public relations manager for the Australian Consulate-General in Chicago. Baabiiaw Melissa Boyd, second from left, brought the delegation to Miskwaanakwad Immersion Program, the District I powwow, and the open house at the Government Affairs building in Wahkon.



Youth Learn Leadership at Day Camp

Amikogaabawiiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin) Mille Lacs Band Member

On Tuesday, July 17, a group of 45 youth from each district came together at the Big Sandy Lodge in McGregor (District II). This was an initiative of the Aanjibimaadizing Youth Wii-Doo Program.

The leadership portion of the day was led by Commissioner of Education Rick St. Germaine and his son Ricky St. Germaine. The day started with breakfast followed by a stirring speech by Commissioner St. Germaine. He talked about his dream of being a bus driver when he graduated high school after being inspired by the elderly man who drove the bus that he rode every day to school. He said, "I knew that man was going to eventually get too old to drive the bus, and even at that young age, I thought to myself, 'Who will drive kids to school in the future?' I knew that graduating was really important for me to do that so that I could do what I wanted to do." The kids attentively listened and interacted when asked questions about their own aspirations after school.

The next part of the day was a "trust walk." Youth were each given blindfolds and split into 10 different teams. In the first part of the walk, all but one of the team members were blindfolded, and the non-blindfolded team member was tasked with leading the others through a series of obstacles including hills, rocks, trees, and curbs. The youth were then each given an opportunity to lead their group. On the final leg, only one member was blindfolded, but the trick was that they had to be the one to lead, and the other team members who were not blindfolded had to communicate their path without words.

Buffet lunch was held and the afternoon session commenced with a game of "Square the Rope." Youth were blindfolded after being given special boundaries to adhere to. A rope was then dropped in the vicinity of those boundaries and youth had to find the rope, untie its many knots, and then proceed to make a square with each team member having to hold on to the rope with at least one hand continuously. One of the youth participants from District III, named Kaden, rose to the challenge of leadership and began walking around the inside of the circle and using his body to measure where to place four knots that could be used as measurement tools for the corners



Music, games, trust walks, and boating made for a memorable learning experience at Big Sandy Lodge on July 17. The event was part of a summer program sponsored by Aanjibimaadizing.



of the square that needed to be created by the group. Eventually the group followed Kaden's lead and successfully made a perfect square while blindfolded!

The afternoon wrapped up with a special appearance by Siama Matuzungidi and Dallas Johnson Jr., a husband and wife singing duo that celebrates the music of the Congo, Africa, where Siama was born and raised. The youth were singing along to the unique callback melodies and even had the opportunity to play and hear instruments from the Congo region.

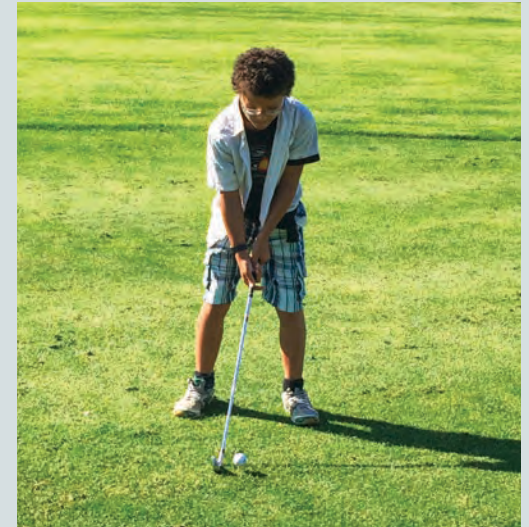
The rest of the late afternoon and evening was spent in the water enjoying the wonderful Big Sandy facility. The youth got a chance to go on a pontoon, floating island, paddleboards, and kayaks. The event was an enriching experience for youth and staff alike. Miigwech to the Big Sandy facility and to the Aanjibimaadizing program for sharing such a wonderful experience!



Fore!

More than a dozen kids showed interest in learning golf at Niigaan's summer youth program. Nay Ah Shing teacher Matt Sell brought young golfers to Northwoods Hills Golf Course on Monday and Friday mornings.

Pictured are Jason Wind, Damario Smith -Gomez, Stefan Kimpson, and Fabian Sam.



Motorcycle Ride Brings Awareness of Anishinaabe Values

Mikayla Schaaf Inaajimowin Guest Writer

On July 28, motorcyclists took to Minnesota highways to honor the seven Anishinaabe values and bring awareness of these teachings to the community.

The Riders began their journey at the District I Community Center. As they gathered to register, the Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention (MAPP) team handed out bottled water, and the office of District I Representative Sandi Blake provided a wonderful brunch. Joe Nayquonabe Sr. said a prayer, and Dan Wind sang a drum song. During the fueling point at the Mille Lacs Convenience Store, the Keep Tobacco Sacred Team handed out t-shirts and wished the riders a safe journey to their next stopping point, which was at the Aazhoomog Community Center in Lake Lena. District III Representative Wally St. John met the group in Aazhoomog with a lunch provided by Commissioner Percy Benjamin and prepared by Joyce, Wendy, Della Benjamin, and Kim Big Bear. Wally said, "I firmly believe it is a great start. People were willing to take time from their life to show support for others. It felt very good to be a part of this effort."

The riders then continued on the next registration point, at the Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley. Clearway and Colleen McKinney handed out "Anishinaabe Values" headbands and designed flyers for the event. Wristbands were donated from the Wraparound Program. The final stop was in Minisinaakwaang, East Lake, at the Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow.

Rich Hill, who is passionate about raising awareness about the seven values, took the lead in organizing this motorcycle run. He was consistent from start to finish, bringing communities and programs together to make it all happen. Rich said, "The amazing thing about this event was that we had riders from all over show interest in this event. We had interest from other tribes as well as having, at one point, over 18 riders and passengers. Our riders ranged from pastors from the Cities, a doctor from District I, and non-Natives riding in the event. We had riders join us in Sandstone and Lake Lena and through rain and shine, who rode to support awareness of our seven Anishinaabe values. We had Rusty Thomas Jr., who had surgery and was not physically able to ride, so he followed us with his truck and trailer through the whole route in case we had a breakdown. We also had a car with supporters follow in case we had other emergencies so that they could assist us." Rusty Thomas Jr., who is an avid rider, mentioned, "Even though I couldn't ride, it felt really good being the tail gunner, seeing



PHOTOS BY MIKAYLA SCHAAF

It was a beautiful day for a ride on July 28 when the first-ever Anishinaabe Values Motorcycle Ride toured the region. The ride started in District I and traveled to Aazhoomog and Hinckley before winding up at the Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow in District II.

all the brothers and sisters coming together to be proud of our culture and people."

Rich also mentioned the support and help of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Joe Nayquonabe Jr., and Beth Gruber — who assisted in the production of the logo. "After a couple attempts in finding someone to volunteer to design our logo, and running out of time to get a design and find support in producing it, I

came up with our logo on my own. The reality of the logo only came to life after the support of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. Without them, we would have never been able to make our logo a reality."

The group plans to schedule more rides in the future to continue to bring awareness of our values.

New Development Takes Shape

The new Health and Human Services building (below), District I Community Center (right), and housing development on Timbertrail Road (the Sher Property) are progressing rapidly. Several houses are complete, the HHS building is on track to be finished in March, and the Community Center is expected to open later in 2019.



Scenes from the 2018 Mille Lacs Traditional Powwow

Photos by Chad Germann Mille Lacs Band Member

Dancing, drumming, food, and friendship marked the 2018 District I powwow on August 17–19, along with additional events like moccasin game, horseshoes, the Saturday morning parade, and the Sunday morning fun run. Miigwech to the powwow committee who made it another weekend to remember!



NAS Gifted & Talented Program Brings Students to Purdue

For the sixth year, students attended the GERI (Gifted Education Resource Institute) Summer Residential program at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, for two weeks in July. Dajatay Barnes, Mia Sam, Chase Sam, Bella Nayquonabe, Molly Saboo, Louis Whiteman, Serenitie Morin, Blade Bastedo, and Adrian Wade all participated this year – and all were returning students. This was the fifth year that both Mia and Dajatay went to Purdue.

Students from all over the world attend the program; some of the places they are from include China, Columbia, India, and Korea, as well as from across the United States. In addition to students from Mille Lacs, other Native students from Standing Rock (SD), Ganado (AZ), and Lukachukai (AZ) come to GERI.

One program highlight is the annual fry bread contest. The Mille Lacs group, led by Mia Sam, produced enough fry bread for everyone at GERI to sample — and compare with the fry bread made by the students from Ganado.

Students are kept busy while they are at GERI! Some of the classes they took were: Feeding Future Humans, Vet Med, Lights Curtain Action!, European Game of Thrones, World of Spies, CSI Investigation, Robotec, Cyber Criminology, The Rise of the Internet of Things, Videography, and Experiments in Fluids. Students also participate in small counselor groups that focus on social, emotional, and personal growth.

Some of the skills and attributes that the GERI Summer program fosters are problem solving, critical and creative thinking, intellectual curiosity, persistence, independence, leadership, collaboration, and communication. Cultural diversity is a key element at GERI that is experienced daily with appreciation and understanding, and is celebrated at the Global Gala. Mia Sam shared a part of her culture this year at the Global Gala with her jingle dress dance and wowed the crowd!

Some of the comments from teachers and counselors about Mille Lacs students included:

- “She demonstrated curiosity and independence throughout the course,”
- “He continually contributed to group morale and worked hard to interact with students from other countries,”
- “His thoughts are deep and mature,”
- “She had great ideas and thoughts about all our learning activities,”
- “She displayed the very best ability in the class,”
- “She shows strong leadership skills, and steps up to participate when others hold back,”
- “She has a special kind of patience for others and herself that encourages them to continue doing their best,”
- “His enthusiasm was contagious,”
- “He demonstrated persistence and task commitment throughout the difficult puzzles we attempted,”
- “He became a leader and positively shared his perspective and ideas,”

Early Education Department Prepares for School Year

Mille Lacs Early Education (MLEE) is a combination of six programs: Federal Head Start (HS), Minnesota State Head Start, Federal Early Head Start (EHS), Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), provided through the local public schools, and Childcare.

If you or anyone you know would like to get on the waiting list for these services, please contact Arlene Mock or Cat Stowers at 320-532-7590.

All six educational programs serve children from birth to age five, as well as their families, and they have a positive effect on children. Early Ed serves 53 children enrolled in federal Head Start, 34 in State of Minnesota Head Start, and 80 in Early Head Start. An additional 60 children are provided service by Mille Lacs Band funding.

District I has 10 Early Head Start classrooms and six Head



Nine Nay Ah Shing students attended the Gifted Education Resource Institute Summer Residential program at Purdue University in July with teachers Gregg Rutter and Jeannie Gross.



- “Her leadership skills will continue to serve her well in the future,”
- ... and so many more wonderful observations.

Gregg Rutter, Nay Ah Shing Schools gifted program coordinator and GERI advisory board member, first reached out to Dr. Marcia Gentry, professor and director of GERI, in 2012 to inquire about best practices in gifted education and, specifically, her work with gifted Native American students. Dr. Gentry later invited the Band's partnership in a scholarship program to allow Mille Lacs students to attend this program each year, promoting and supporting development for gifted, creative,



and talented youth. For the past four years, Jeannie Gross, Nay Ah Shing Schools art teacher, has joined Gregg to chaperone Band students on this incredible two-week learning adventure to Purdue University.

“We now have students with aspirations of working at the GERI Summer Residential program as counselors — and even attending Purdue University in the future!” said Gregg. “We are so proud of our GERI Summer kids! They have done a fantastic job of representing themselves, their heritage, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. These kids are surely our community's future leaders!”

Start classrooms, which includes one Ojibwe Language Immersion classroom. The District II site has one Head Start classroom and two Early Head Start classrooms. District III has one Head Start classroom and one Early Head Start classroom.

In the EHS rooms, the educational emphasis is on building trust, relationships, self-awareness, self-regulation, and self-help skills. The development of these social and emotional skills greatly influences the development of skills and abilities as children move into preschool and beyond. Because of this, Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers is used. This curriculum is relationship-based and therefore very relevant. In order to facilitate social and emotional well-being, staff use an observation and response technique. Through observation, staff are able to respond to the individual needs of each child.

In HSI classrooms, teachers use the Investigator Club

Curriculum, or ICC. This curriculum not only has a social and emotional component, but an academic base as well, helping children to be kindergarten ready. The ICC is a developmentally appropriate curriculum that aligns to state standards and supports the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) and IRA (International Reading Association) developmentally appropriate joint position statement. Both HS and EHS classrooms assess children three times a year to guide instruction and individualize based on each child's needs.

Head Start (3–5 year olds) runs from early September to the end of May. Early Head Start runs from early September until the end of July. Classes run from 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. These services are free of charge, with optional child care wraparound services based on availability for a small fee.

Aquaculture Biologist Brings New Skills to Mille Lacs DNR

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Keith Wiggins stocked his first fishing pond when he was five years old. He and his dad dumped a few bluegills into a pool on their southern Illinois farm, and Keith would spend his days trying to fish them back out.

As the Band's new aquaculture biologist, Keith will have a chance to up his game, using his experience at hatcheries in Oregon to build a state-of-the-art facility here at Mille Lacs.

Keith's love of fishing started at that farm pond and has only grown. "The first house I lived at was by Vandalia Lake, and I fished that a lot. Then we moved to Marion, Illinois, where we lived on the lake and I fished 320 to 340 days a year. If it was 20 degrees, with ice forming on my line, I'd be out there."

As much as he loved to fish, Keith didn't intend to work in fisheries. He got a degree in Game Preserve Management and Shooting Complex Management first, but then switched to a career in heavy equipment.

Around that time, he discovered his connection to Mille Lacs. Keith's mother had left the reservation and ended up in southern Illinois. Keith was adopted by a farm family, and when he grew older, he started asking questions.

He found his mother's tombstone in a small town about the size of Wahkon, with nothing around it but cornfields.

After asking around, he learned that his mother was from the Mille Lacs Reservation. "I literally just grabbed a road map and pointed my truck north," he said. When he came to the reservation he met Betty Kegg, the Kalk brothers, and their mother Rita, Keith's aunt.

They helped him through the enrollment process and he ended up working as a heavy equipment operator on the expansion project at Grand Casino Hinckley from 2005 to 2007, while learning more about Ojibwe culture and his family.



Keith Wiggins left Oregon rivers for Mille Lacs Lake, bringing his love of fishing with him.

After that, Keith headed west to Oregon, where he worked in heavy equipment until an injury forced him to retrain. He became a fisheries technician and took a job with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at the Bonneville Fish Hatchery — the largest hatchery in Oregon.

Keith stayed in touch with the reservation through the paper. "When I read an article that said the Band had a hatchery, I made a couple calls, and next thing I knew I had (Commissioner of Natural Resources) Brad Harrington calling me up," he said.

As much as he loved Oregon, it didn't take long for him to decide to pull up his anchor and head back to Mille Lacs. "I just

wanted to come and help," Keith said. "Building a hatchery from the ground up is not something many people get to do. Every hatchery on the west coast is already built, and every operation is the same."

Once he got here and saw the hatchery the DNR built on Shakopee Lake, Keith wondered what he'd gotten into. "My first thought was 'Oh no!' There's a reason we call it 'the Franken-hatchery.'"

Upon further reflection, though, Keith was impressed by what the DNR had accomplished in a short time with limited money. They were successfully hatching fish and stocking local lakes, with very little experience in the hatchery business. Imagine what could be done with a little more knowledge and money.

Oregon was great preparation for Keith's new adventure — and it also fed the fishing virus. "It got worse in Oregon," he said. "Salmon and steelhead fishing got in my blood. I'd be out with my buddy in the snow and the sleet. We'd look at each other and say, 'We could be home drinking coffee.' But I guess there's worse things to be addicted to."

Back at Mille Lacs, Keith has been getting out on the lake with George Big Bear, his co-worker at the DNR. He recently kept his first walleye, and he's intrigued by the possibility of muskie fishing, given his experience with giant chinook and coho salmon.

It's been a long and winding road from Illinois to Oregon to his ancestors' home at Mille Lacs — from that farm pond to the "Frankenhatchery." Looking back, though, it seems to follow a master plan, reflecting a saying you'll hear a lot around the reservation: "You're here for a reason."

Welcome back, Keith.

Band Member Wins Writing Award

Congratulations to Li Boyd, co-winner of the 8th Annual Imagining Indigenous Futurisms Writing Award! Judge Andrea Hairston chose the co-winners and had this to say about Li's story, "Everyday Strays":

"This story is full of delights: the animate ship, jury-rigged with a butter knife; the take-no-prisoners Auntie needing a ride from the casino to the feast; the pack of crazy dog-spirits, including the Ojibwe-speaking Lakota dog; the polite, Mlgwetch-saying bot; the incredibly beautiful and awe-inspiring turtle-island galactic body; the hitchhiker just needing a ride home after too long on the road. All these details and the use of Ojibwe throughout the story are fantastic, wonderful, and very moving. The author has great style, beautiful description, good ideas, and juicy characters. Good job, and keep writing! Great work!"



New CEO visits Indian Museum

Local members of the Minnesota Historical Society gathered at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on August 23 to meet Kent Whitworth, the new director and chief executive officer (bottom, center). Site Manager Travis Zimmerman introduced Whitworth, who talked about his family history in Minnesota and the important partnerships between MNHS, its members, and local historical societies. Members were treated to free admission, a light dinner, and tours of the museum. Photos by Bill Jones, Mille Lacs Band member.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2018	Expenditures through 7/31/2018	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	18,952,910	14,390,604	76%
Department of Labor	20,132,680	3,368,528	17%
Judicial	2,411,399	893,711	37%
Department of Justice	7,934,608	4,407,084	56%
Education	18,715,581	13,102,126	70%
Health and Human Services	34,152,301	22,241,368	65%
Circle of Health Insurance	5,720,000	4,307,742	75%
Natural Resources	11,775,428	8,255,898	70%
Community Development	83,914,604	17,238,763	21%
Gaming Authority	5,064,850	3,793,254	75%
Bonus Distribution	48,442,411	37,830,604	78%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	6,515,000	6,515,000	100%
Total	263,731,772	136,344,682	52%

- (1) Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- (2) Casino operations are not reported above, however they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
- (3) The Financial Statements of the Band are audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.
- (4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997.

Ethnobotanist Shares Knowledge of Wild Food and Medicine

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

We are literally surrounded by wild foods and traditional medicines; that was one of the main lessons from a weekend conference sponsored by Health and Human Services and led by ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk.

In a two-hour walk on Sunday morning, August 26, Linda pointed out more than 25 plants growing wild around the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. Nearly all of them have nutritional or medicinal uses.

As two dozen foragers scribbled notes, took photos with their phones, put down asemaa, and sampled the forage, Linda rattled off names, uses, and stories about wild mustard and mint, acorns and buckeyes, box elder and birch syrup, grape leaves, chokecherries, elderberry, Solomon's seal, bittersweet nightshade, and cattails (a whole grocery store in one plant). She talked about using sage as a household cleanser, digging Indian potatoes with one's toes, making sumac "koolaid," and treating poison ivy with jewelweed and oak bark.

The evening before, an even larger group had gathered at Eddy's to hear a presentation from Linda. According to event organizer and SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partner-

ship) coordinator Colleen McKinney, Linda drew the crowd into the discussion. "They were mesmerized," said Colleen. "I've never been to a presentation where the audience was so engaged and there were so many questions."

Some of the useful plants Linda pointed out are so common that we see them every day.

- **Dandelion:** The whole plant is edible, from the flower, to the leaves (nutritional addition to salad) to the roots (you can roast them and make a coffee-like drink).
- **Plantain:** This common lawn plant is edible (the seed stalks are high in fiber) and can be used to treat burns.
- **Yarrow:** Yarrow makes a tasty tea or a blood coagulant that can help stop bleeding. Linda once used it to treat a gash in her cousin's leg. When they got to the hospital, the doctor asked, "How did you cauterize his wound?"
- **Burdock:** This common plant with big rhubarb-like leaves has all kinds of uses. It can help clear up skin problems, and it also cleans the blood, resulting in better kidney and liver health. Linda once sent burdock tea to a friend who was sick from eating fish that was high

in mercury. Her doctor had said she would need medical treatment. Within hours, she was feeling more energetic, and at her next visit, her doctor said treatment was unnecessary.

Other useful plants are common garden weeds, like purslane, pigweed, and lamb's quarter, which is a type of quinoa.

Others were lesser known, like hog peanut, a member of the bean family that produces tasty beans just below the ground. The Lakota called them "mouse beans" because the mice would cache the beans in little balls, which people would raid, making the harvesting process easier.

Stinging nettles, which were used to make ropes that were woven into gillnets, can also be made into tea, used to treat arthritis, and even eaten — after several rinses to remove the chemicals that cause the sting.

During the Sunday afternoon session, participants learned to make salve from plants, oils, and beeswax.

Colleen is hoping to bring Linda back to Mille Lacs for more events. Linda is also working with the Department of Natural Resources on a guide to local plants.

About Linda

Linda Black Elk (Catawba Nation) is an ethnobotanist specializing in teaching about culturally important plants and their uses as food and medicine. She works as Director of Traditional Medicine at the Mni Wiconi Clinic and Farm, which is a free, integrative healing center of the Standing Rock Nation that focuses on decolonizing medicine and diet for Indigenous peoples. Through this clinic, Linda works to protect food sovereignty, traditional plant knowledge, and environmental quality as an extension of her long-term fight against extractive industries. She has written for numerous publications, and is the author of "Watoto Unyutapi," a field guide to edible wild plants of the Dakota people. Linda is the mother to three Lakota boys and is a lecturer at Sitting Bull College at Standing Rock.

SHIP Grant: Using Culture to Create Health

Despite adversity that Native people in the United States face, Indigenous cultural knowledge remains intact in Minnesota communities. With support from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), innovative and culturally appropriate strategies are used to advance health equity for American Indians through the Tribal SHIP and Tribal Tobacco Grants. MDH supports tribal nations to implement practice-based strategies and integrate culture into commercial tobacco prevention and cessation work as well as obesity prevention efforts. Grant focus areas include increasing access to healthy and traditional foods, providing opportunities for active living (such as Indigenous activities and dance), and reducing the use of commercial tobacco and exposure to secondhand smoke.

Source: health.state.mn.us/divs/oshii/ship/pdfs/tribal.pdf.



Band members sampled the local fare — including dandelions, grape leaves, acorns, chokecherries, and purslane — at a woodland conference with Linda Black Elk at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on August 26.

Commissioner Responds to Co-management Editorial

Bradley E. Harrington Commissioner of Natural Resources

Commissioner of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington wrote this response to the editorial below by Mille Lacs Messenger Editor Vivian LaMoore. Not surprisingly, LaMoore was criticized for her column by the president of PERM (Proper Economic Resource Management).

“Co-management means working together (in peace and friendship). So when people complain that co-management isn’t working, what they are really saying is they do not want to work together.” Those words from Messenger editor Vivian LaMoore on July 25 have stayed with me, and I want to briefly elaborate on what co-management means to me as the Commissioner of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

First, co-management means a collaboration with the State of Minnesota to make the best decisions affecting Mille Lacs Lake. This is and must always be a government-to-government relationship. We are both sovereigns, we both bring experience and expertise to the table, and our common love of the lake gives us every reason to work together with genuine goodwill.

Second, co-management means communicating with Mille Lacs Band Elders, leaders, and experts. I talk to top fishery biologists from the Band and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, who have spent years — often decades — researching the ogaa (walleye). I talk to Band Elders who have fished Mille Lacs Lake their entire lives and believe this lake and its fish are gifts to appreciate — rather than resources to use. And I talk to

Band leaders whose responsibility it is to consider the next seven generations in all their decisions made on behalf of Band members.

Third, co-management means being a good neighbor with people in the Mille Lacs community and the larger fishing community. I’m always open to meeting people and having conversations in the spirit of putting the lake first.

Last — and just as important as the first — co-management involves the Mille Lacs Band having year-round conversations with the seven other Ojibwe bands who share treaty rights on Mille Lacs Lake. Each of us is a federally recognized sovereign tribe, and we respect each other’s sovereignty as much as we do that of the state or federal government. We don’t always agree, but we come to a consensus based on reliable science and respect for the lake and the ogaa.

The Mille Lacs Band wants to work together. The Mille Lacs Band intends to protect the long-term health of our natural resources, including the ogaa and Mille Lacs Lake. Our actions in the past reflect our words, as will our actions moving forward. Co-management really can work. Miigwech — thank you — to everyone in the community who supports it, and to the Messenger for raising awareness of it.



Bradley Harrington

Co-management for Peace and Friendship

By Vivian LaMoore, Mille Lacs Messenger

There is probably not one single issue that stirs more passion around the Mille Lacs Lake area than that of Mille Lacs Lake itself. I believe the topic of the management of the lake — walleye in particular — has caused blood pressures to rise, arguments to escalate, and friendships to end. There has been a cry heard over and over again on an issue that has occupied the lives of folks who care very deeply and whose lives depend upon the Mille Lacs Lake area since at least 1999.

The Messenger has covered the news of the 1837 treaty and the lawsuit filed by the Mille Lacs Band against the state since it was filed in 1990. It was a lawsuit that was filed with very simple intentions by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. So here is a simplified condensed version of the lawsuit that lasted nine years, the same lawsuit that resulted in the current co-management.

In the beginning, the Mille Lacs Band filed a lawsuit against the State of Minnesota for the rights to exercise hunting, fishing and gathering rights from the 1837 treaty. There were several court hearings. The Band made a settlement offer to the state, saying the Band would exercise their fishing, rights on a small portion of the lake — approximately 6,000 acres around the shores of the reservation trust land. Basically, it was from about the middle of Wigwam Bay, out about two miles, and then down to near where Rocky Reef Resort is currently. The state would maintain management of the remaining 126,000 acres of the lake. The Band also said their 6,000 acres would be open for fishing to the general public as well as Band members.

The state agreed to the settlement, but several influential people decided to step in. Howard Hanson and Bud Grant were among those who basically said no deal to the deal as they were convinced they would win in open court. Hanson formed the organization called Proper Economic Resources Management (PERM) with more influential people. Their goal was/is to not allow the Band to have separate hunting, gathering, and fishing rights and pushed to maintain the state DNR’s management control over the lake.

The first leg of the lawsuit ended in 1994 with the Band winning the case. Hunting, gathering, and fishing rights were guaranteed to the Band. But PERM and other influential people gathered more influential people, and with the support of very vocal landowners and resort owners, they convinced the state to appeal the case.

Since the 1837 treaty was originally between not only the Mille Lacs Band, but seven other bands from Wisconsin and northern Minnesota, those other seven Bands decided to join the lawsuit at that point in 1994. Both sides then had more strength in numbers.

The state tried to take the case to the Minnesota Supreme Court, but the case was blocked by Judge Davis in the 8th District Court. Judge Davis broke the case down into two parts: 1) do the hunting, fishing, and gathering rights exist? And 2) to what extent?

In 1997 the court determined the rights of the 1837 treaty did in fact exist. Judge Davis then came up with the concept of co-management. There were several opportunities for objection, but nobody objected in open court — not the state, not PERM, not the landowners/resorters. Those on the state side simply focused on their belief that the 1837

treaty rights were non-existent, and they were convinced they could win the case if they pushed it further. They did not want the tribes to have their own section of the lake for fishing. Judge Davis, however, ruled that all eight Chippewa tribes — not just the Mille Lacs Band — could exercise fishing rights anywhere on Mille Lacs Lake, and it would be managed by tribal and state DNR.

Again the state was not happy with the outcome of that court ruling. So off to the United States Supreme Court they went. Two years later in 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the tribes for their right to hunt, fish, and gather in the ceded 1837 treaty territory including Mille Lacs Lake and upheld the lake would be co-managed between the tribes and the state DNR. They even went one step further and determined the protocol on how the lake would be co-managed.

The lake has gone through cycles of highs and lows for the fish population during that time. That is what Mother Nature does. Biologists, both tribal and the state, were and remain to be concerned for the walleye population. Both sides are bound by the U.S. Supreme Court decision and must manage the lake according to the protocol set by the court.

So here we are today. What was once a dream for many has become a nightmare for some. Co-management is still here. There is not one single group or organization, not one member of the legislature, not one governor and not one president who can change that — no matter what color party they represent. Not without going back to the U.S. Supreme Court.

I understand the economic impact tourism and fishing bring to the area. So does the state. The state offered to allow anglers to keep one fish this season but they would still have had to stay within the allowable harvest level. That would have meant the harvest pounds would add up quickly. Bigger fish weigh more than small fish and they would risk closing the season early. Members of the MLFAC group said the most important thing to them was to keep the lake open until at least Labor Day. So the state implemented another season of catch-and-release in order to help the economics of the area while the walleye population recovers.

Fishing has been good. There are a lot of people catching a lot of walleyes. Big walleyes. And the word is getting out. Every single day I drive by at least three public accesses. Every single day those accesses are full of trucks with empty trailers meaning those boats are on the lake. Whether they are day-trippers, bass fishermen, or muskie hunters, they still spend their money in the area.

In the 1800s treaties between Native Americans and the U.S. government were called “peace and friendship treaties.” Co-management means working together (in peace and friendship). So when people complain that co-management isn’t working, what they are really saying is they do not want to work together. They want it their way. That is fine to buck the system. I am all for less government. However, both the state and the tribal DNR have said there is a problem on the lake, and they are both seeking answers to questions about the valuable resource we have here in our backyard. Nobody wants to see the area economy crash. But I don’t think anyone wants to see the walleye population crash, either.

Both state and tribal DNR biologists said the population is on the upswing. We will get back to a season when we will be able to keep a walleye. But for now, we just need to work together for peace and friendship and guarantee future fishing on Mille Lacs Lake.

Soil and Water Conservation District Announces Vacancy

The Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) announced a vacancy on its board of supervisors last month, offering an opportunity for Band members who want to serve in local government.

If you are concerned about our natural resources, maintaining and improving water quality, and protecting our soil, consider becoming a board member of the Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District.

Board members must live within the area they represent. The current board vacancy is in District 4, which encompasses Bradbury, Onamia, South Harbor, Kathio, and South Kathio townships.

Board supervisors are responsible for setting policy and program direction for the Soil and Water Conservation District. Specific responsibilities include attending one monthly board meeting, plus opportunities to participate in additional committee meetings and regional conservation events. Supervisors will receive per diem plus expenses.

Interested individuals are requested to send a short biography and letter of interest by Thursday, September 6, to Susan Shaw, District Administrator, Mille Lacs SWCD; 635 2nd St SE, Milaca, MN 56353 or email to susan.shaw@millelacsSWCD.org. For more information visit our website at millelacsSWCD.org or contact Susan Shaw at 320-983-2160.

The board will appoint an individual to serve the remainder of this year until December 31, 2019. The board position will also appear as a special election on the November 2019 ballot to complete an interim term through December 31, 2020. The position will then return to its regular four-year term election cycle.

NB3 Foundation Seeks Tech-Savvy Native Youth

The Notah Begay III (NB3) Foundation, with a generous grant from the Comcast Foundation and in partnership with Cultivating Coders, is accepting applications for a national competition for Native youth to design a mobile app focused on improving the health and nutrition of Native youth — designed by Native youth. Interested youth may submit their ideas at: nb3foundation.org/healthy-kids-healthy-futures-app-contest.

This competition is open to individuals or teams of Native youth, ages 13–18, experienced in coding, design, digital media, and/or mobile technology. Winners receive cash prizes and opportunities to work with coding specialists.

Participants must submit a completed application with supporting documents that includes a four-page outline and video of the app. Contest applications will be accepted from September 1 to October 31, 2018.

Learn more about the contest rules and guidelines at: nb3foundation.org/eligibility-criteria.

Growing Business Puts Family First

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Kevin Stobb is a familiar face to District I Band members, who have grown accustomed to seeing him at the DNR building, where he worked as lead licensing agent.

But now, instead of seeing him behind a desk, they're more likely to see him at the helm of a zero-turn lawnmower or behind the wheel of a pickup with the bold logo "Stobb Lawn Services."

Kevin and his wife Marie made the decision in June to leave the stable life of government service for the risky world of entrepreneurship.

"I grew up on a farm and always liked being outside, but I really got lazy working office jobs," said Kevin. "One of the main reasons for the new business was to get the family involved, trying to teach them how to work instead of sit around."

Kevin and Marie live in Zimmerman, so with the commute to District I, they hardly had any time left for family at the end of the day.

"When we worked up here we'd leave at 7 in the morning and be gone until 6 at night," Kevin said. "We'd see the kids for three hours a day. That wasn't what I wanted."

Marie added, "Especially with the kids getting into teenage years."

Marie has left her job in Tribal Court to help with the family business and work as a server at a local restaurant.

While she's recovering from back surgery, Marie is limited to office work and managing the Facebook page for Stobb Lawn Services. Kevin built the website and runs the crew.

"It's a good thing we get along!" Marie said.

It wasn't always that way. Kevin and Marie met 12 years ago when both worked for Human Resources. "Oh, I hated him!" Marie recalled with a laugh.

The two became friends eventually and stayed in touch when Kevin left for the DNR and Marie for Tribal Court. They've been together 10 years and tied the knot a year ago.

Now their blended family gives them plenty of helpers. They're assisted by Rylee, 16, Caleb, 13, Christina, 12, and even Gabby, 4. (Blake, 15, is working at a local café.)

Right now they have contracts with the Band that keep them at Mille Lacs two days a week, but they're hoping to expand the business closer to home.

On their own

Kevin and Marie relied on their own wits and research skills to learn what they needed to start their business. Marie spoke with coworkers and friends who owned businesses to get tips on self-employment.

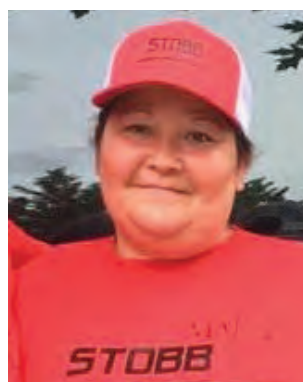
Kevin spent a year and a half thinking about the business and doing research. Initially they were trying to get a loan from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, but in the end they went a different direction.

"When we finally decided not to get the loan, I felt confident that we could do it ourselves," Kevin said. "I figured if I wanted to do it, I was going to have to quit my job and jump in with both feet. This spring I decided it was time to give it a shot. Sink or swim. We'll see if it works out."

It hasn't all been easy so far. Finding new accounts is tough, and there's a lot of competition. They're not making a full-time

"They're learning that money doesn't grow on trees."

— Marie Stobb



Above: Rylee and Kevin Stobb have been making the rounds in Mille Lacs on Fridays and Mondays. Below: Caleb, Christina, and even Gabby also help out.



income yet, but Marie's side job is helping.

The lessons for their children, however, are worth the temporary sacrifice.

The kids are enjoying the work, and they get an allowance for helping. They have their own checking accounts and debit cards, and Marie has already seen them develop a sense of responsibility. "They're learning how much things cost, and that money doesn't grow on trees," she said.

"Caleb said he's gonna sue me because he hasn't been paid yet," Kevin joked.

But on the serious side, Kevin also sees the kids learning. "I'm confident that they'll know how to earn their money instead of just relying on Mom and Dad or their per cap," Kevin said. "There's more to life than that. You gotta earn your keep. And they really like riding the lawnmower."

"The kids learned how to ride it before I did," Marie added.

Even little Gabby, their 4-year-old, is learning the value of hard work — although she's a little too young for a bank account or a paycheck.

"She just gets a toy, so she's happy," Marie said.

If you're looking for lawn care, check out Stobb Lawn Services on Facebook or at stobblawns.com, email kgs33_2015@outlook.com, or call Kevin at 320-232-3606 or Marie at 320-232-3564.

Gikendandaa I'iw Ojibwemowin

Learn the Ojibwe Language

This story is reprinted from Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwe Childhood by Maude Kegg, Edited and Transcribed by John D. Nichols.

Imbagida'waamin

Miinawaa ko mewinza gezikwendamaan o-bagida'waad, mii ezhi-wiijiwag. Mii iwidi Gabekanaansing, awas idash igo iwidi ani-aanikegamaagi i'iw zaaga'igan. Mii iwidi ena'oyaang. Mitigo-jiimaan-sh indaabajtoomin. Azheboye dash.

Miish iwidi o-bagida'waad azhigwa onaagoshininig. Aanish, mii go naganaad iniw odasabiin, mii go ji-gimoodimind. Mii iwidi binda'amowaad ingiw odoonibiinsag. Ikido, "Gichi-mamaandidowag ingiw odoonibiinsag." Miish iko iwidi ezhi-aazhawaabiiginaad iniw odasabiin.

Gaawiin igo gisinaasnoon igo aapiji go azhigwa inidagwaagig. Gaawiin igo gichi-gisinaasnoon, mii-ezhi-gawishimoyaang imaa jiigibiig, ezhi-gawishimoyaang imaa jiigibiig ganawenimaad iniw odasabiin, jiichiigawiganebinag imaa zhingishinaang, apane go ezhi-anoozhid ji-jiichiigawiganebinag.

Miish i'iw, miish i'iw maadaajimod. Enda-mizhakwak ayaangodinong, miish i'iw maadaajimotawid eyinagoojininid iniw anangoon. Gaawiin-sh ingezikwendanziin waawiinaad iniw anangoon akeyaa eyinagoojininid. "Odaadawa'amoan," odinaan "nesoogoojinin, miinawaa iniw Gichi-anangoon. Mewinza gaa wiikaa gii-wanishinziwag ingiw niibaa-dibik."

Enagoojininid iniw anangoon, mii go gaa-izhi-waawiin-



damawid. Mii iidog iko ezhi-nibaayaan megwaa dibaajimod, miinawaa gichi-gigizheb azhigwa amadinid, wiikobinaad iniw odasabiin, miinawaa giwe-oyaang.

We set a net

And I remember that long ago when she [my grandmother] would go to set the net, I'd go with her. It was there at Portage Lake, on the other side, where another lake joins it. That's where we went. We used a wooden boat. She rowed.

That's where she went in the evening to set the net. Well, if she just left her net there, it was stolen from her. She caught tullibeas there. She said, "The tullibeas are bigger there." That's where she strung her net across.

It wasn't cold although it was getting to be fall. It wasn't very cold so we lay down there on the shore where she could watch the net and I scratched her back as we lay there; she always had me scratch her back.

Then she started to tell stories. Sometimes when it was really clear, she told me about how the stars hang in constellations. I don't remember what she told me about the way the stars hang. "Orion's Belt," she told me, "the three that hang together, and the North Star, the great star. Long ago they never got lost at night."

And so she told me about how the stars hang in constellations. Maybe I fell asleep while she talked, and early in the morning she woke me up, pulled in her net, and we rowed home.



Precious Cargo

The Emergency Services Department had another busy month, providing a car seat clinic in the urban area, radio training for Tribal Police, and first aid and CPR/AED training for Family Services and Wii Du. If Band members are in need of a car seat, first aid, or CPR/AED classes, contact the Tribal Police Department at 320-532-3430.

Series Planned on Cultural Resources

Randy Meier, who you may know best as an anchor on FOX9 newscasts, will be spending time in Mille Lacs over the next nine months helping tell stories of the Band's cultural resources. A respected Twin Cities and national journalist for nearly 30 years, Randy and his photojournalist Scott Keller are developing a series of TV news stories from the Band's perspective about the Ojibwe cultural connection to nature's gifts, from wild rice and sugar-bush to ogaa and deer.



Randy Meier

Randy and Scott's first days in Mille Lacs will be in September, when they will film the ricing segment of the story.

DNR Commissioner Bradley Harrington will be a constant presence in the series to help narrate the stories. He will also

be calling on several Band Elders and members who are deeply involved in the culture to demonstrate each activity and share their perspectives.

Randy will film an estimated five stories in Mille Lacs from September–April, and anticipate airing one segment per night — each one six or seven minutes long — during a week in May 2019. He has done series in past years on wolves and bears in Minnesota, and sees this as an opportunity to educate TV viewers on Ojibwe traditions and why they remain important. He also wants to address and correct some of the misinformation about treaty rights that persists among the general public.

"This will be a unique opportunity to tell our story in a way we never have before, to raise public awareness of our culture as an active, living, breathing thing — not something from the past," Bradley said. "We will get to share the way we consider our natural resources as gifts from the manidoog, and the spiritual approach we bring to all that we do."

September Events at Mille Lacs Indian Museum

Hide Processing Demonstrations: Join us on the shores of Lake Mille Lacs Saturday, September 1, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. as we explore the tradition of making buckskin. Throughout the day, staff members will be working on a deer hide to transform it into buckskin, or leather, for various uses. Come learn what tools and techniques are used in this age-old practice. Cost: Free, museum admission not included.

"Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces" Exhibit Ends on Labor Day: "Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces" tells the remarkable history of the brave Native American and Alaska Native men and women who have served in the United States military. The closing day of the exhibit at Mille Lacs Indian Museum is Monday, September 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Presented in 16 full-color banners, plus additional banners developed by Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), it includes content about the efforts of Native Americans from Minnesota. Cost: Free, museum admission not included.

Kid Crafts — Shoulder Bag: Learn to decorate an Ojibwe-style shoulder bag to take home Saturday, September 8, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 6 and up. Cost: \$7/kit, museum admission not included.

Sweetgrass Basket 2-Day Workshop: Learn the art of making a coil sweetgrass basket in this two-day workshop on Saturday, September 8 & Sunday, September 9. Sweetgrass is a fragrant, sacred herb used in ceremonies and artwork by the Ojibwe. A light lunch will be provided on Sunday. The workshop runs Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Registration is required three days prior to workshop. A minimum of five participants is required. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounted hotel rooms are available for workshop participants on Saturday night at Grand Casino Mille Lacs with 10 days' advance registration. Cost: \$75, MNHS and Mille Lacs Band members save 20%, \$15 supply fee.

Mazinaakizige: American Indian Teen Photography Exhibit Opening: The Minnesota Historical Society, in partnership with Two Rivers Gallery and Hennepin County Library, present the "Mazinaakizige: American Indian Teen Photography Project" exhibition. The exhibit opens on Wednesday, September 12, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. The artists show a selection of photographs that they have taken through a 12-week program utilizing the skills they learned. This exhibition will travel across Minnesota throughout the 2017–2018 program year. Cost: Free, museum admission not included.

Wild Rice Processing Demo: Head to the lakeshore on Saturday, September 15, between noon and 3:30 p.m. to watch museum staff process wild rice, including how to dry, parch, thresh, and winnow the rice. See the entire process from raw to finished product during 20-minute demonstrations offered on the hour. The program begins at noon, 1, 2, and 3 p.m. In the event of bad weather, this event will move indoors. Cost: Free, museum admission not included.

Location: Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, 43411 Oodena Dr. Onamia, MN 56359

Contact: 320-532-3632, millelacs@mnhs.org.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy September Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

James Monroe Ballinger Jr.
Diane Marie Barstow
Barbara Jo Bearheart
Frances Jean Benjamin
Wendy May Benjamin
Clarence Roy Boyd
Clayton Jay Boyd
Debra Elaine Brooks
Marlys Louise Bushey
Myrna Joy Ceballos
Albert Joel Churchill
Karen Marie Clark
John Dewey Colstrud III
Geraldine DeFoe
Shelly Arnell Diaz
Edward Ernest Dunkley
Roxanne Julie Emery

Gary Dean Frye
Dorinda Fay Garbow
JoAnne Sue Nail
Samuel Garbow Jr.
Diana Guizar
Rosalie Noreen Hallaway
Mary Jean Harpster
Bradley Harrington
Robert Martin Houle Jr.
Stephanie Ann Houle
George Ben Jackson
Patricia Clarise Jones
William Allen Jones
Doris Kegg
Joseph Franklin Knudtson
Carol Elizabeth Kornkven
James Matrious Jr.
Sydney Leigh Miller
Andy Mitchell
Lynda Lou Mitchell

Robert James Mitchell
Trisha Lynn Moose
Gerry Warden Mortenson
Delia Ann Nayquonabe
Duane James Pawlitschek
Herbert Jay Pawlitschek
Denise Mavis Pike
Margaret Rose Premo
Linda Christine Quaderer
Bruce Anthony Ray
Terry Lee Ray
Sharon Marie Rogers
Bradley Thomas Sam Sr.
Kimberly Ann Sam
Alexander Laverne Schaaf Jr.
Theresa Joy Schaaf
William David Schaaf
David Duane Shaugobay
Janice Marie Shaugobay
Daniel John Staples

Kathleen Marie Staples
Connie Jean Taylor
Janice Louise Taylor
James Martin Thomas
Richard Henry Thomas Jr.
Sylvester W. Thomas Jr.
Barbara Ellen Toth
John Wayne Towle
Michael Laverne Wade
Alrick George Wadena Jr.
Carmen Denise Weous
Donna Jean Wind
Eloise Betsy Wind
Franklin John Woyak

Charlotte on 9/9, love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **Brad** on 9/17, love your brothers and sissys. • Happy birthday **Nadine** on 9/28, love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **Tracy** on 9/29, love the Harrington family.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Brett Larson at brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

The deadline for the October issue is September 15.

Happy September Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Dad** on 9/3, love, Kevin. • Happy birthday

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.

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

American Indian Day: October 8. Government offices closed.

DIII Community Meeting: October 17, 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley.

Urban Community Meeting and Halloween Party: October 25, 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church.

Minnesota Prevention Conference: October 25–26, St. Cloud River's Edge Confention Center.



CEREMONIAL DRUM DATES

October 5–6: Mick & Syngen, Mille Lacs

October 12–13: Ralph & Andy, Mille Lacs

October 19–20: Niib & Iyawbance, East Lake

October 26–27: Linda & Joyce, Mille Lacs

November: 2–3: Tim & Tom, East Lake

November 2–3: Elmer & Sheldon, Mille Lacs

November 5–6: Darrell & Skip, Lake Lena

November 9–10: Vince & Dale, East Lake

November 16–17: Joe & George

November 16–17: Lee & Mike

November 30–December 1: Bob & Perry

Other Drums:

Maabin: Round Lake, September 14–15

Donna & Becky: Round Lake, September 28–29;

Terry & Vince, Naytahwaush, TBA; Frank & Adrian,

Naytahwaush, TBA; Jim & Louis, and LCO: October 14–16.

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>1 Hide processing demonstration 11 a.m.– 4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 12</i></p>
<p>2 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1– 3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>3 Labor Day Government offices closed. Patriot Nations Exhibit Closing 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 12</i> Recovery Groups Districts I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>4 Wellbriety Groups Districts I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>5 First Day of School Early Ed/Head Start NA/AA Welcome 7 p.m. DI Red Brick <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>6 Circle of Health Outreach 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. Urban Office Wellbriety 12-Step Noon Aazhoomog Clinic <i>See page 18</i> Early Ed Pipe Ceremony Wewinabi DI</p>	<p>7 Wisdom Steps Golf Tournament 9 a.m. Black Bear Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m.– noon Powwow Grounds <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>8 Firearms Safety 9 a.m. District I <i>See page 9</i> Kids Craft – Shoulder Bag Indian Museum Sweetgrass Basket 2-Day Workshop Indian Museum <i>See page 12</i></p>
<p>9 Sweetgrass Basket 2-Day Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 12</i> Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1– 3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>10 Constitutional Convention 5 – 8 p.m. Black Bear Recovery Groups Districts I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>11 Recovery Groups Districts I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>12 District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Mazinaakizige Exhibit Opening 11 a.m.– 4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 12</i> NA/AA Welcome <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>13 Wellbriety 12-Step Noon Aazhoomog Clinic <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>14 Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m.– noon Powwow Grounds <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>15 Firearms Safety 9 a.m. District II <i>See page 9</i> Wild Rice Demo Indian Museum <i>See page 12</i> Urban Elder Luncheon/Bingo 11 a.m.– 2 p.m. All Nations Church</p>
<p>16 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1– 3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>17 Coming Home, Facing Reentry 9 a.m.– 3:30 p.m. <i>See page 9</i> Recovery Groups Districts I, II, III <i>See page 18</i> District II Sobriety Feast 6 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr.</p>	<p>18 Coming Home, Facing Reentry 9 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. <i>See page 9</i> Recovery Groups Districts I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>19 District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley NA/AA Welcome 7 p.m. DI Red Brick <i>See page 18</i> Royalty Powwow 5:30 p.m. Wewinabi Early Ed building DI</p>	<p>20 All District Elder Meeting 11:30 a.m. District III ALU Wellbriety 12-Step Noon Aazhoomog Clinic <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>21 Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m.– noon Powwow Grounds <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>22 Firearms Safety 9 a.m. District III <i>See page 9</i></p>
<p>23 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1– 3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>24 Recovery Groups Districts I, II, III <i>See page 18</i> District III Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p>	<p>25 District I Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. District I Community Center Recovery Groups Districts I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>26 NA/AA Welcome 7 p.m. DI Red Brick <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>27 Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church District Ila Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center Early Ed Powwow Wewinabi DI</p>	<p>28 Healer Herb Sam 10 a.m.– noon Powwow Grounds <i>See page 18</i> Early Ed In-Service Head Start, Early Ed, Child Care closed. à</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p>						

More events: See page 18 for Recurring Events, Upcoming Events, and Recovery Groups.



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

millelacsband.com

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Update Your Address

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 October issue deadline is September 15.

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 our Customer Service Representative during regular business hours 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: 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; 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.

INAAJIMOWIN

THE STORY AS IT'S TOLD

SEPTEMBER 2018 | VOLUME 20 | NUMBER 9



ANISHINAABE VALUES

'RULES OF THE ROAD'
TAKES ON NEW MEANING

YOUTH GATHERING
INSPIRES FUTURE
LEADERS

THREE BRANCHES
MEET TO DISCUSS
PLANS, GOALS

HIGH STAKES
FOR TRIBES IN
GENERAL ELECTION

STORIES FROM
THE WEWIN
CONFERENCE

