



District I Band members responded to the tragic death of Benji Blake with a smudge walk in the Ojibwe Drive neighborhood on September 16.

Community Members Come Together for Smudge Walk Following Homicide

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

On Sunday, September 16, at noon, most Minnesotans were sitting down in front of their televisions to watch the Vikings-Packers game.

About 100 Mille Lacs Band members and friends, however, chose instead to take a walk to bring positive healing energy to their community.

Led by members of Sober Squad and Natives Against Heroin, they met at Grand Market where they smudged down with sage and greeted friends before setting off down Ataage Drive behind the flashing lights of a Mille Lacs Tribal Police car.

Hand drums and voices rang out, and Randell Sam led chants of "Sober Squad," "Natives Against Heroin," and "Whose community? Our community" as Elders, adults, children, babies, and even dogs marched toward Ojibwe Drive.

The procession stopped for a song, a moment of silence, and smudging of the home where Benji Blake Jr. passed away on the previous Sunday afternoon, September 9.

Word of a smudge walk in the neighborhood began to circulate as the community grieved the death of Benji, who was shot while walking along Ojibwe Drive.

Benji, the son of District I Representative Sandi Blake and her husband Benji Blake Sr., spent most of his life in the Vineyard community and was a beloved friend and family member to many.

His murder was the second in three weeks in District I.



On August 20, Ronald Benjamin was fatally stabbed at a local gas station. Matthew Scott Smith has been charged with two counts of second-degree murder and one count of third-degree murder.

The smudge walk continued across Highway 169, with assistance from two Tribal Police officers who stopped traffic, and ended at the park by Mille Lacs Lake on Virgo Road, where walkers were met by Elders and others who were unable to walk but wanted to show support.

As they waited for food to arrive, they listened to the flute songs of Max Blake, Benji's younger brother, and an invocation by Bradley Harrington.

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Band, County Sign Law Enforcement Agreement

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

For two years and two months, Mille Lacs Tribal Police officers were prohibited from enforcing Minnesota criminal law due to Mille Lacs County's June 2016 decision to rescind a law enforcement agreement that had been in place for 25 years.

The new joint powers agreement, which took effect immediately after the Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners approved it on September 18, reinstates an arrangement under which the county recognizes that Band police hold concurrent authority with the County Sheriff to enforce state law within the Mille Lacs Reservation in defined circumstances, and provides for the cooperative exercise of such authority.

"The past two years have been tragic and difficult years on the Mille Lacs Reservation," said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "The reinstatement of the law enforcement agreement is the beginning of a long journey in restoring law, order, and hope in our community. This journey will take many years."

Without an agreement, the opioid crisis ravaged the District I community, resulting in 94 overdoses, according to Tribal Police records, and numerous overdose deaths. Three deaths occurred by violence.

Tribal Police were limited in their ability to investigate and prosecute violations of Minnesota law, although they continued to exercise their inherent law enforcement authority under tribal and federal law, with assistance at times from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and Department of Justice.

In early September, at their final scheduled mediation with retired Judge Arthur Boylan, Mille Lacs Band and Mille Lacs County negotiators were finally able to come to terms, and the mutual aid/cooperative agreement was signed on Thursday, September 13 by the Band Assembly and by the county board five days later.

The new agreement differs only slightly from what was in place prior to the Mille Lacs County Board's vote to rescind the agreement, which was supported by County Attorney Joe Walsh and County Sheriff Brent Lindgren. Walsh and Lindgren also encouraged the county board to approve the new agreement.

The County initially demanded numerous changes to the agreement, several of which challenged the Band's authority within the boundaries of the 1855 Reservation, which is recognized by the United States but not by the State of Minnesota or Mille Lacs County.

The County also challenged the Band's inherent law enforcement authority, claiming that without the agreement the Tribal Police Department was not a law enforcement agency.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin. On September 18, the County reinstated a new joint powers law enforcement agreement with the Band. At long last, our public safety stand-off with Mille Lacs County has ended. Since the County revoked our joint law enforcement agreement in June, 2016, our tribal police have been unable to fully enforce state criminal law on the reservation or in the north end of the county. While the current Mille Lacs County attorney claims he saw no spike in crime over this period, we know differently. These past two years have been devastating for our Band community in terms of loss of life.

The County's termination of the law enforcement agreement was about the reservation boundary – the County sought to use public safety to force us to make concessions regarding the boundary, turning a blind eye to the enormous suffering it unleashed in our community. I want Band members to know that we refused to make those concessions. The County's many demands related to the reservation boundary were rejected by the Band in mediation and never made it into the agreement.

So what changed? The new law enforcement agreement is very similar to the previous one except that it has been updated to recognize the authority, independence and professionalism of the Band's police force. Specifically, it recognizes our inherent tribal sovereignty and the authority of our police as tribal, state and federal officers; recognizes that the Band police may utilize their own dispatch office, records management system, and radio communications; requires the County to refer calls to Band police; provides for shared authority at crime scenes; and provides a better mechanism for resolving disputes (compared to the County's unilateral termination of the prior agreement). What the County thinks it won, I don't know, but the new JPA allows County officers to resume working with Band police and acknowledges the sovereignty of the Band, and that is what matters.

On September 19, we also received a decision from U.S. District Court dismissing the County's counterclaim relating to our lawsuit over the reservation boundary. This is a first win in what will be a long series of motions and hearings which will likely last for several month or years. In her decision, Judge Nelson re-affirmed the decisions in the County's 2002 lawsuit, in which the courts held that the County has suffered no injury from the Band's position regarding the Reservation boundary. We remain profoundly perplexed by the County's ceaseless pursuit of this issue and its willingness to expend millions of scarce taxpayer dollars on legal fees

when it cannot establish even the slightest harm from the Band's position. The Band will continue to keep Band Members updated on the lawsuit.

On September 6th, I attended a meeting with Governor Dayton and MCT leaders in response to Minnesota Chippewa Tribe opposition to the Wild Rice Task Force the Governor convened. The MCT is on record opposing the task force due to heavy representation from industry interests, so we met at his request to discuss another path forward. A follow-up meeting with the Governor's staff was held in conjunction with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, and this matter is still being discussed. Whatever happens, the Mille Lacs Band is committed to ensuring that industry does not write the rules for sulfate standards for wild rice.

“The new law enforcement agreement is very similar to the previous one except that it has been updated to recognize the authority, independence, and professionalism of the Band's police force.”

During the afternoon of September 6, Governor Dayton held his last Tribal Leader's Summit, which he has done annually. We heard about his work preparing a transition plan for the next Governor, and discussed recommendations for continuation of policies requiring that state agencies consult with Indian tribes.

On September 19, I was invited to a meeting in Washington, D.C., with the new Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Tara Sweeney and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. We spent Wednesday morning hearing about this Administration's focus for Indian Country, and providing feedback about how the BIA could better serve tribes. Secretary Zinke assured us that Indian tribes will not be part of the reorganization plan for the Department of Interior. Sometimes, “reorganization” is code for budget cuts. We were assured that the BIA would not be part of reorganization if the tribes didn't want it.

We also discussed the Secretary's plans to decentralize

BIA services and provide more authority to BIA regional offices rather than Washington, D.C., which is actually what the self-governance program is all about. I reminded him that Mille Lacs was the first tribe in the country to negotiate a self-governance agreement back in 1990, and our hopes to expand it throughout more federal agencies.

Last November, Secretary Zinke had visited the Mille Lacs Reservation to discuss the law enforcement crisis. His visit had an immediate impact by way of critically needed assistance from BIA law enforcement. I updated Secretary Zinke about our new law enforcement agreement and thanked him for his help.

Federal priorities change with each President. There are times when tribes can be very proactive, while other times we need to fight to protect what we have. Regardless of who is in charge, it is important that the Band have a seat at the table when these discussions happen, which is the statutory duty of the Chief Executive.

There were many, many other meetings and happenings over the month of September, but I most appreciated the opportunity to spend a few days with 42 Band Elders attending the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA). This was a wonderful meeting, with great information.

These past two years have been very difficult for the Band. My sincerest condolences go out to all the families who have lost loved ones. The new law enforcement agreement means that our tribal police are back to work, but they have a huge job ahead of them. It will take a very long time to fix what the County broke, but the work will involve each of us. It will take a collective, focused community effort to overcome the epidemic of addiction that plagues our community. Personally, I believe we can and will beat this. I see change happening – I see Band member warriors speaking up and taking action. I see those who have beaten addiction fighting to help others win the same battle.

Chi miigwech to Police Chief Sara Rice for her leadership and hundreds of hours spent in mediation and meetings. Chi miigwech also to the police officers who stuck with us throughout this difficult period, and to the Band member warriors who are there on the front lines fighting to protect our future. You have our gratitude. Miigwech!

Federal Judge Dismisses Mille Lacs County's Counterclaim

A federal judge last month dismissed a counterclaim by Mille Lacs County that came in response to the Band's lawsuit filed against the County in November of 2017.

The Band's lawsuit asks the court to declare that, as a matter of federal law, the Band has inherent sovereign authority to establish a police department and to authorize Band police officers to investigate violations of federal, state, and tribal law within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation as established under its 1855 Treaty.

The complaint also seeks a declaration that under the Deputation Agreement between the Band and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as the Special Law Enforcement Commissions,

the Band police officers have federal authority to investigate violations of federal law within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation and to arrest suspects for violations of federal law. The Band's complaint also requests that the Court stop the County from taking any actions that interfere with the authority of Band police officers.

Mille Lacs County's counterclaim attempted to include all of the Band's elected officials in the lawsuit as well as Police Chief Sara Rice and Sergeant Derrick Naumann as individuals, not just as officers.

On May 18, Judge Susan Richard Nelson heard the Band's motion to dismiss the counterclaim, and on September 19,

Judge Nelson granted the Band's motion.

Judge Nelson ruled only on the standing argument, agreeing that the County lacks standing to bring its counterclaims. This means that the Band's elected officials, as well as Chief Rice and Sgt. Naumann, are no longer defendants to a counterclaim in their individual or official capacities.

Judge Nelson reaffirmed the decisions in the County's 2002 lawsuit, in which the courts held that the County has suffered no injury from the Band's position regarding the Reservation boundary.

Family Hopes Benji's Death Leads to Justice, Healing, Unity

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

A parent's worst fear came true for Sandi and Benji Blake on Sunday, September 9. They were driving home from a powwow in North Dakota when they received a call telling them their eldest son, Benji Jr., had been shot.

"We were on the road six hours away," said Benji Sr. "We couldn't do anything but try to be sane and get home."

Sandi was driving, and after initially swerving back and forth in response to the horrible news, she focused on driving and keeping everyone in the car safe.

"Somebody called and said he didn't make it," Sandi said. "It was a long drive home."

Benji's younger brother Max was at home when a friend came to his door and told him what had happened. He went to the scene and thought about breaking through the police tape to see his brother and his sister Rochelle, but he decided to respect the officers and let them do their jobs.

"They had everything blocked off, so I couldn't be there for my sister. All I could do was tell my parents and try to be strong for them and for myself," said Max. "It was hard, being the youngest of our siblings, to try to be the strong one and hold it together."

A few hours later, they were told that Benji died quickly.

Benji Sr. was relieved. He had been afraid his son had suffered. "That was something that weighed on my mind," he said.

Remembering Benji

The next week was a blur. By the time Sandi and Benji made it home, family and friends were there waiting for them to begin the traditional four-day fire.

The following night, the house was packed with supporters. Two people said they saw Benji at the gathering. Shirley Boyd, who was there at the time, said a person's spirit will go around and visit all the people and places he's been and, yeah, he was there that night.

Max stayed up late to tend the fire, keeping vigil and remembering Benji.

A year and two months apart, Max and Benji were as close as brothers can be. When Max decided to attend school at Flan-dreau Indian School (where Sandi and Benji Sr. had met decades earlier), Benji soon followed. They decided together to return to Mille Lacs and go to school at Onamia, and together they transferred to Nay Ah Shing, where they both graduated.

Max and Benji were harvesting partners, too. "When we'd go hunting, he'd skin the buck and gut it. But when we'd go fishing, I'd clean the fish, and he'd be in the kitchen cooking. During ricing season, we'd rice together. We always knew we had to provide for our family. That's gonna be hard, because that was our deal."

As a child, Benji loved to dance. "He was the first to dance, the first to sing, and I followed right behind him," said Max.

He performed in Japan and at Bill Clinton's inauguration in Washington, D.C. Benji's childhood regalia, beaded by his grandmother Rosalie, is on display at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum's powwow exhibit.

Benji Sr. said, "To have that kind of experience in his lifetime, that's pretty lucky."

Benji Jr. would stop and visit friends and family, or come to his mom and dad's house to hang out in the tipi. Recently, the brothers and their kids built a sweat lodge. It turned out to be their final activity as a family.

Max was reflective as he gazed at the lodge. "It's supposed to take days to build a sweat lodge like this. But with the family all working together, we were done in a few hours."

Benji Sr. described his son as "happy-go-lucky." "He liked to laugh and tease," he said. "And he learned a lot of the things we learned from Sandi's parents. He was full of knowledge of ricing, sapping, fishing."

Sandi remembered one day when the boys were little, and



Max, Sandi, and Benji Blake Sr. hope Benji's death brings the community together to fight drugs and violence.

Benji decided to cut Max's hair. "Pretty soon I heard them laughing really hard for a long time, so I went to see," she said, laughing herself at the memory. "There were roads and patches all over Max's head."

"His disposition was always sunny," she added. "He was hardly ever angry or down. Even when I was lecturing him, if I was giving him a ride somewhere, he'd always get out of the car and say, 'I love you, Mom,' with a smile on his face. All through his life he was like that."

"We're hoping these murders are an eye-opener for our community. We don't want this to happen to anybody else's family."

— Benji Blake Sr.

Hoping for justice

With the feasts, the wake, the funeral, and the four-day feast behind them, Benji's family is adjusting to life and facing life without him.

Sandi has finally been able to get a little more sleep, and Max has had a chance to respond to all the questions and outpouring of support on Facebook from friends across Indian Country.

"He's with our relatives now on the other side," said Benji Sr. "He'd want us to be happy."

Sandi agreed. "Our beliefs tell us that if we mourn our loved ones too hard we're holding them back," she said. "We're supposed to try to continue living our lives the way he would want. To be happy and keep dancing. Obizaan (Lee Staples) always says to get up in the morning, get dressed, hold your head up, smile, and be happy."

"It's hard but it helps," said Max.

One thing would make it easier, according to Benji Sr. "When we have justice for Benji, I'll feel better," he said. "Until then, it's hard to heal, hard to forgive."

He is grateful to those who have spoken with the police about what they know. "I want to give credit to them, to say thank you to all the people in the community who came forward."

Sandi encourages others to step up and turn in drug dealers.

"There's that saying, 'If you see something, say something.' Use the Tribal Police Facebook page and send a message. That's a way somebody can be part of a solution to the problem, and remain anonymous. They're not going to put your name out there."

They spoke of recent overdose deaths and another murder that took place in broad daylight a few weeks before Benji's death. "It's getting dangerous," Sandi said. "The drugs make them cold-blooded and heartless. And to see Indian people killing Indian people, it's heartbreak on top of heartbreak."

The Blakes have heard that dealers are fighting over the Mille Lacs Reservation — claiming it as their territory.

"There's a lot of money here every month," said Sandi. "When kids get their money, the drug dealers are right there, preying on them, trying to get them hooked on drugs. They prey on Native women — getting them high, moving in, keeping them high, and setting up drug houses. Our Resident Services, Maintenance, and other front-line staff in Housing need to step up and say something when they see things. They know. Everyone has a cell phone. Take pictures and forward them to Tribal Police on Facebook Messenger. Every single one of us has to do our part. Even if it is little, it's something and we'll become a force together."

Although the healing remains incomplete, the Blake family wants something positive to result from their sorrow.

"We're hoping these murders are an eye-opener for our community," Benji Sr. said. "We don't want this to happen to anybody else's family."

Sandi agreed. "I would hope this senseless murder would not be in vain, that something would come from it, that the community would start getting rid of the drug dealers coming up here from the Cities, that our people who are using could open their eyes and want to stop and heal. They should do it for themselves, if not for Benji Jr."

"I don't want my brother's death to be a statistic," said Max. "I want this to be a reason for us to come together as a community again. I'm hoping one day we can unite and get rid of the drugs, the violence, and step forward together."

If you have information on this or any other crime in our communities, please call the Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department at 320-532-3430. In Districts I and IIa, you can also call the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office at 320-983-8257.

State and Local News Briefs

White Earth cancels Star Lake casino plan: A change in the leadership of the White Earth Band has resulted in the tribal government's decision not to move forward with a casino in Ottertail County. The plan faced opposition from residents concerned about traffic, noise, and environmental damage. Star Lake is home to wild rice beds, wildlife breeding grounds, and cabins. The casino resort complex would have included 180 hotel rooms, 850 slot machines, a full-service spa, an RV park, and a convention center. The White Earth Band already operates casinos in Mahnomen and Bagley. *Source: startribune.com.*

Fond du Lac Band grants easements to Enbridge: The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has agreed to let Enbridge build part of the Line 3 oil pipeline on tribal land. The agreement is a renegotiation of a right-of-way deal for six Enbridge pipelines that cross the reservation. Under the agreement, Enbridge's rights of way will be extended through 2039 from their current expiration dates in 2029. "The benefits to the band far exceed the potential alternatives, and the agreement was the result of months of extensive consideration and strong advocacy on behalf of the band," Kevin Dupuis, Fond du Lac's chairman, said in a statement. *Source: startribune.com.*

Duluth halfway house to move, expand: The Thunderbird-Wren halfway house will be moving from its current location in a century-old building in downtown Duluth to a new facility with 40 beds — twice the current capacity. The nonprofit Minnesota Indian Primary Residential Treatment Center Inc.'s proposal to construct a new \$4.5 million Thunderbird-Wren house in the Morgan Park neighborhood has been approved, and the MIPRTC hopes to begin construction this fall. MIPRTC's mission is to "help Native Americans afflicted and affected by the disease of chemical dependency and alcoholism." *Source: Duluth News Tribune.*

Achievement gap de-emphasized by new school ratings: The gap between students of color and their white peers in Minnesota schools is being de-emphasized in the new school-rating system. The new system will still measure test scores of different groups, like students of color and English language learners, but it won't compare them to white student scores. Minnesota Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius says the new rating system moves from a "shame-based punishment" system to one of "continuous improvement." The state was required by federal law to change its evaluation approach based on the "Every Student Succeeds Act." In 2012, Minnesota had a goal of closing the achievement gap by half by 2017, but it has barely changed. *Source: Mankato Free Press.*

Judge hears arguments in Gull Lake netting case: James Northrup, 50, of Cloquet, appeared for a trial Wednesday, Sept. 5, in Brainerd before 9th District Judge Jana M. Austad. Northrup is charged with illegally setting a gill net in Gull Lake in 2015 but claims that his right to net is protected under an 1855 treaty between tribes and the U.S. Government. Austad, a judge based in Cass County, took over the case in August 2017 after four 9th Judicial District judges in Crow Wing County recused themselves. She has up to 60 days from September 6 to make a decision in the case. *Source: Brainerd Dispatch.*

Legislative Branch Plans Revisor's Office

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

In 2002, when Sheldon Boyd first ran for Secretary-Treasurer, he was researching the legislative branches of state, federal, and tribal governments when he came across the Minnesota Revisor of Statutes office.

The Revisor's Office is a nonpartisan office of the Minnesota Legislature providing drafting services of legislative and administrative documents. The office was created in 1939, and since then has served as the compiler of Minnesota Statutes and official publisher of Minnesota Statutes, Laws, and Rules.

It occurred to Sheldon that a similar office was needed in Mille Lacs Band government. Band members, employees, and commissioners often speak of the need for new laws and revision of existing statutes, but that can be a time-consuming and difficult undertaking, and there is no process in place to accomplish it.

A revisor's office dedicated to the task of updating old statutes and writing new ones seemed to Sheldon like a clear solution to a long-term problem. When he took office as Secretary-Treasurer and Speaker of the Band Assembly in July, the creation of a revisor's office was near the top of his agenda.

The three representatives — Sandi Blake, Marvin Bruneau, and Wally St. John — were supportive of the idea, so the legislative office invited Deputy Revisor Sandy Glass-Sirany, a White Earth Band member, to visit Mille Lacs.

"The lawmaking process is open to everybody. We want to create an environment that assists the three branches as well as individual Band members in making legislation."

On August 10, Chief Legislative Counsel Christine Jordan, Chief Communications Officer Val Harrington, and Sheldon traveled to St. Paul to visit the office of the Minnesota Revisor of Statutes.

They received a grand tour of the office and met Revisor Paul Marinac and many of his staff, which is composed of attorneys, writers, editors, and information technology professionals. They learned a lot and came away with a better idea of the work it will take to create a Mille Lacs Band revisor's



Chief Legislative Counsel Christine Jordan, Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, and Chief Communications Officer Val Harrington brought back a lot of homework from the Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

office. They also came away knowing that it's possible as well as necessary.

Band Assembly members are seeking to increase transparency and make the legislative process more accessible to Band members. The creation of a revisor's office will help them accomplish that goal.

Christine said, "Everybody should have access to their laws. This is the government of the people — not the lawmakers or the elected officials. Establishing a revisor's office is part of becoming transparent and pushing forward the lawmaking capabilities of the Legislative Branch."

The legislative team envisions the Mille Lacs Band revisor's office offering assistance not only to Band Assembly members, but also to Executive Branch employees, commissioners, and Band members, who are all welcome to propose legislative changes and find a sponsor in the Legislative Branch. "The lawmaking process is open to everybody," Sheldon said. "We want to create an environment that assists the three branches as well as individual Band members in proposing legislation."

Although the team had high hopes that they could create a revisor's office in a year, their visit to St. Paul made them "revise" their expectations, so to speak. They plan to take their time, do their homework, and get it right, finishing the task by the end of this four-year term and leaving a legacy that will improve the functions of tribal government.

"Right now, the only Legislative position that is permanent is the parliamentarian," said Sheldon. "The revisor's office will provide some consistency during the transition to a new Band Assembly."

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2018	Expenditures through 8/31/2018	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	18,952,910	15,556,133	82%
Department of Labor	20,132,680	3,785,397	19%
Judicial	2,411,399	976,380	40%
Department of Justice	7,934,608	4,854,186	61%
Education	19,087,629	14,218,887	74%
Health and Human Services	34,556,678	24,273,995	70%
Circle of Health Insurance	5,720,000	4,593,050	80%
Natural Resources	12,749,745	8,675,736	68%
Community Development	84,350,512	24,900,701	30%
Gaming Authority	5,064,850	4,116,344	81%
Bonus Distribution	48,442,411	41,199,536	85%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	9,802,000	9,796,000	100%
Total	269,205,422	156,946,345	58%

(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.

Law Enforcement continued from page 1

Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton and the U.S. Department of the Interior both weighed in on the matter as the dispute lingered on.

Governor Dayton requested in September of 2017 that both parties sign the old agreement, threatening to make an agreement between the State Patrol and the Band if the county refused to sign. The Band signed the old agreement, but the county did not. Gov. Dayton did not deliver on his threat.

In November of 2017, the U.S. Department of the Interior said the County was impeding the Band's law enforcement powers and reaffirmed the continued existence of the 1855 Reservation.

The letter from the Office of the Solicitor's Harry Humbert directly contradicted several of the county's claims in its resolution rescinding the agreement.

After both parties signed the agreement in September, Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice said, "On behalf of the Tribal Police Department, we appreciate the community's understanding and patience as you notice our heightened presence. Increased traffic stops and conversations with community members will help us prevent crime, respond to needs quickly and effectively, and exchange information that will make our community stronger and safer over time."

"It is tragic that so many lives were lost during the two-plus

years without an agreement," said the Chief Executive. "While the County made one demand after another, the Band lost lives and people's feeling of safety in their community. Now the County again recognizes that Tribal Police Officers can fully enforce state law and work side-by-side with County officers. As Tribal officers exercise that authority, they can make an immediate impact."

The Board's decision to rescind the agreement has been costly to Mille Lacs County taxpayers.

In November of 2017, as negotiations stalled, the Band had no choice but to seek resolution in federal court, filing a lawsuit against the county, Joe Walsh, and Brent Lindgren, alleging that they have prevented Band police officers from exercising police powers within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation, violating federal law, and contributing to an epidemic of drug-related overdoses and deaths.

In August of this year, according to the Mille Lacs Messenger, the county board approved payment to the law firm of Kelley, Wolter and Scott for legal services relating to the defense of Mille Lacs County Sheriff Brent Lindgren in the amount of \$8,601, bringing the total the county has paid on behalf of Lindgren to \$169,441. The county has also spent \$140,576.43 on behalf of county attorney Joe Walsh and \$133,150.76 on behalf of the county separately, for a total of \$444,168.19 in lawsuit-related payments.



Smudge Walk continued from page 1

Bradley talked about the first community smudge walk that took place in September of 2017 in response to the opioid crisis the Band has been facing.

He acknowledged that some have asked whether those efforts have worked, considering the continued drug abuse and violence. Bradley pointed to the efforts of Sober Squad and Natives Against Heroin. "More and more people are getting sober and helping each other," he said. "It's working."

He also spoke in English about his invocation, saying he had given thanks and asked for help from the manidoog (spirits) of the four directions, the lake, and the animals that give themselves so the Anishinaabe can live.

After a lunch of Dawn Day's frybread and taco fixings, Lloyd Keoke, a long-time community member who has helped many people recovering from drug and alcohol abuse, spoke about a sister who had recently passed away and sang a song for those left behind by the recent deaths in the community.

Luther Sam, one of the organizers of the event, asked those present to think about ways to heal the community in preparation for future walks, meetings, and ceremonies.

Want to talk to someone?

Our community has experienced more than our fair share of grief and stress, especially over the past two years. Our Elders and spiritual leaders are excellent people to talk to, and we also have experienced counselors who are ready to help. Our resources are confidential, and they include:

- Mille Lacs Band Behavioral Health: 320-532-4754 (available to any Band member)
- Mille Lacs Band Government Employee Assistance Line: 800-383-1908 (for government employees)
- Mille Lacs Corporate Venture/Casino/Business employees: OPTUM at 800-626-7944 (for any employee of MLCV, the casinos, or Band-owned businesses)
- 24-Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006 (for any community member).

National News Briefs

Tribes seek to invalidate Keystone XL permit:

The Fort Belknap Indian Community of Montana and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota are suing the Trump administration, saying it failed to adhere to treaty boundaries and circumvented environmental impact analysis. They are asking a federal judge in Montana to rescind the 2017 permit and block further construction or use of the pipeline. In 2016, President Barack Obama halted work on the pipeline, but shortly after taking office, President Donald Trump approved the project. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Native Americans propose changes to

Yellowstone names: Leaders from across North America are asking the federal government to change the names of landmarks in Yellowstone National Park. Among the leaders is Chief Stanley Charles Grier of the Piikani Nation in Alberta, Canada. Mount Doane, which Grier and others want changed to First Peoples Mountain, was named for an Army lieutenant who helped perpetrate a massacre of nearly 200 Piikani people on a Montana river bank, mostly women, children, and Elders. Hayden Valley is named after one of the first surveyors of Yellowstone, who called for the extermination of American Indians. Park County commissioners in Wyoming oppose the changes. *Source: mprnews.org.*

McCain remembered as 'tireless champion'

of Indians: Arizona Senator John McCain of Arizona, who died August 25 at the age of 81, was remembered as a strong supporter of tribal sovereignty and self-governance. McCain's legacy in Indian affairs will include his many years as chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and his co-authorship with Morris Udall of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. A statement by the National Congress of American Indians called the senator a "tireless champion" who met frequently with tribal leaders. In his last speech at NCAI, Senator McCain said, "We must listen more to you, and get out of the way of tribal authority." *Source: Indian Country Today.*

Politicians seek answers on missing Native

women: "Savanna's Act," a bill authored by Senator Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat from North Dakota, would require the Department of Justice to develop a protocol to respond to cases of missing and murdered Native Americans. The bill is named for Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, 22, who was murdered in 2017. Native Americans and Alaska Natives made up 1.8 percent of ongoing missing cases in the FBI's National Crime Information Center database, even though they represent 0.8 percent of the U.S. population. In August, Sen. Jon Tester, a Montana Democrat, asked the leaders of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to hold a hearing to address the problem. In Montana, 30 percent of missing women and girls were Native American. Native females comprise only 3.3 percent of the state's population. *Source: abcnews.go.com.*

San Francisco board votes to remove

demeaning statue: The San Francisco Board of Appeals voted in September to remove a 19th century statue depicting a Native American at the feet of a Spanish cowboy and a Catholic missionary. Native Americans have tried for decades to have the statue removed and renewed their efforts last year after clashes over Confederate monuments brought attention to the subject. *Source: abcnews.go.com.*

Respecting the Creator's Creation

By Larry 'Amik' Smallwood

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

When the Europeans first came over to this land, they saw Native people and they stereotyped us as savages. They thought we were a lost people with no sense of direction, no kind of organization, no beliefs. That's not so. Indians had a form of government, and we also had our beliefs.

We believe in the Creator. Some people call him God. We knew there was such a being. And we knew he created this world we live in and everything on it – the vegetation, the animals, the two-legged, four-legged, flying, crawling, swimming. He created all those.

We believe that the last species he created was the human being.

The Creator knew human beings needed direction, so he sent down a messenger to each color of man – the yellow people, the black people, the white people, and the red people. He sent these messengers to show the people how to live.

The messenger to the Ojibwe people walked around the Great Lakes region, teaching us as he went. He lived by example. He showed our people the medicines. He showed us the way of communicating with the Creator.

Our messenger was funny. He was also serious. He was all things a human could possibly be, even though he was spiritual. He showed the people things that would happen if you do wrong, what would happen if you do good, what would happen if you are foolish. He lived a lifetime doing these things to show the people. And he told the people about the Creator. He also told them to treat all things with respect because they are the Creator's creation.

When we go out to use a tree or a plant or anything that grows out of the ground, we have to make a tobacco offering to the Creator. We're going to pull that plant out, or we're going to take the life of that tree. So we ask for forgiveness. We explain to the Creator why we need that tree or plant. We don't disrespect it and just start cutting it down or pulling it out of the ground.

When we go hunting or fishing, we offer the traditional tobacco because we're going to take the life of one of the Creator's creations so we can eat. When we go ricing in the fall, we put tobacco in the lake because we're going to take some of the food the Creator has provided for us. We do this because we were taught to put tobacco down when we pray. There are tobacco plants that grow in the woods that we can use. Some people mix traditional and contemporary tobacco.

Some people say Indians worship the trees, the waters, and the animals. We don't worship them — we respect them because of where they came from. We have to respect everything because, if you don't, you're disrespecting what the Creator created. And the day is coming when you will have to answer for that. If I disrespect another person because he is a different color, I'm disrespecting what the Creator created. Some people say you have to earn respect. I say no. When I meet someone, they have all my respect because they're from the Creator.



Band members and employees brought supplies to the homeless camp in Minneapolis on August 28.

Camp Brings Spotlight to Homelessness

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer



An impromptu homeless camp dubbed “The Wall of Forgotten Natives” in the Little Earth neighborhood in Minneapolis is shining a bright light on the problem of homelessness

among Native Americans, while also raising concerns among government agencies, tribes, and nonprofits.

The camp started several months ago with one tent set up on a narrow strip of state land along a sidewalk near East Franklin and 16th Avenue. By the end of summer, it expanded to nearly 150 tents and hundreds of people.

With a large number of residents suffering from addiction, concerns were quickly raised about shared needles, drug-resistant infection, and lack of healthcare and hygiene.

Residents, meanwhile, have described the camp as a family, providing more safety than going it alone or in a small group.

After an initial plan to close the camp met opposition, city officials began meeting with tribes and nonprofits to make the camp safe for residents while working toward a more permanent solution. The coalition launched an outreach effort to provide housing assistance, medical care, and social services.

In August, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey pledged to find housing for all residents by the end of September — a vow seen by many as unrealistic, though heartfelt. Frey acknowledged the historical origin of the land: “It's Dakota property,” he said.

The current plan is to relocate the camp to one or more provisional shelters by October.

Natives Against Heroin volunteers have been a constant presence at the camp with a large tent serving as a sort of “command center” distributing food, clothing, supplies, and emotional support to residents.

On August 28, Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services employees, with help from Sober Squad and Natives Against Heroin members, brought a van load of supplies to the camp,



including sweatshirts, food, water, and other items.

Several overdoses and deaths have been reported at the camp, where drug use is common.

A man was found unconscious in his tent in August and later died. An autopsy ruled his death an overdose.

On September 8, Alissa SkipintheDay, 26, passed away from complications resulting from an asthma attack at the camp. She had been living at the camp for several weeks, according to residents. Alissa, who was raised by her grandparents on the Mille Lacs Reservation, suffered from chronic asthma but was without necessary medication.

Patina Park, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center and chair of the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID), said that with medical care, Alissa might have survived.

On September 10, Wade Redmond, 20, passed away two weeks after suffering cardiac arrest related to a drug overdose at the camp.



Meshakwad Center Makes Fitness Fun

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer



Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley is now open to the public and gaining a reputation as one of the best athletic training facilities in the region.

With a new site manager — Band member and Hinckley native Ryan O'Brien — plans are in the works for expanded programming and events, as well as a membership program, fitness classes, and personal trainers.

"The staff of Meshakwad Community Center is committed to providing the best possible facilities and most effective exercise programs," said Ryan. "We want exercise to be a bridge that brings our community together. This is our commitment to every Band member and community member who comes through our doors. We welcome everyone to visit and share this wonderful facility!"

The center is currently open to the public from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. So far it has been used by Casino associates and Band members, and during the Rocktember event September 6–8, campers came to use the center and showers for \$5 per person.

On the lower level of the center is a beautiful gymnasium with a Mille Lacs Band logo at half court, as well as locker rooms, saunas, meeting rooms, and a kitchen.

Above the gym floor is a running/walking track, which follows the wall of the building on the upper level, winding past an array of fitness machines, a weight room, and a boxing ring. Windows provide natural light throughout the center.

Outside is a splash pad for the kids to enjoy on hot summer days.

The Native Thrive basketball clinic was held at the center in July, and Band Assembly has also held meetings in the new facility. A men's basketball league uses the gym Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

B.J. Livingston greets visitors as the facility's front desk coordinator. Matt Roberson, the Executive Director of the Department of Athletic Regulation, also has an office in the build-



Ryan O'Brien loves welcoming community members to the Meshakwad Community Center.



ing, which will be used for fight inspector trainings as well as boxing. The District III Wii-Du program is also temporarily housed at the center.

Ryan was born and raised in District III and has worked in construction and security at Grand Casino Hinckley. Now he's happy to have a position that allows him to interact with community members in a different setting. "I graduated from Hinckley, and I haven't gone far," Ryan said. "I love it here. This is my home."

An open house will be held at the community center later this fall. Watch facebook.com/Meshakwad and millelacsband.com for details.



Wild Plants and Medicines for Traditional Treatment of Winter Illnesses

Presentation and Demonstration Featuring Ethnobotanist

Linda Black Elk

October 19, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Meshakwad Community Center
38043 Hinckley Road, Hinckley, MN 55037**

Space Limited. Registration Required.



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 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 on the Standing Rock Nation. (Photo, Linda Black Elk, above left.)



For More Information or to Register:
Email: Colleen.McKinney@HHS.millelacsband-nsn.gov



Adrienne Benjamin Selected to NCAIED 40 Under 40



The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (The National Center) has named District Ila Band

member Adrienne Benjamin to its 2018 class of "Native American 40 Under 40" award recipients. Nominated by members of their communities, this prestigious award is bestowed to individuals under the age of 40 who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication and have made significant contributions in business and their community. The National Center is celebrating the 10th anniversary of these awards.

Award winners will be honored at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on October 29–30. The event — "Impacting Generations: Honoring a Decade of Exceptional Service and Leadership" — will be held in conjunction with the National Center's next Native Edge Institute (NEI), a one-day training session focused specifically on procurement. Past and present 40 under 40 awardees will have the opportunity to participate in programming with the goal of providing additional professional development, networking, leadership, and mentorship opportunities.

"The 2018 40 Under 40 award recipients are made up of a diverse group of young women and men cultivated from across American Indian and Alaska Native communities," said Chris James, President and CEO of the National Center.

"Each of these individuals has devoted their skills and resources to enhancing their communities. From business, academia, healthcare, tribal government, politics, non-profits, journalism, the law, finance, and marketing, 40 under 40 winners are shining examples for all of us to follow. For the 10th year in a row, it is an honor to recognize these individuals and leaders who will continue to define success for the future of Native American business."

For more on Adrienne's honor, see future issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

Minor Trust Training October 17

A minor trust training seminar will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018, at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs convention center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parents and minors are encouraged to attend this seminar.

Commissioner of Finance Adam Valdez, along with Morgan Stanley representatives, will be presenting "Planning for Your Future."

This seminar will provide each participant with valuable information and take-home materials about how to make the most of your money.

Call Jana Sam at 320-532-7466 to reserve your place.

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 November issue deadline is October 15.

Immersion Program Builds on First Year's Success

Story and Photos by Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin) Inaajimowin Staff Writer

The Ojibwe language staff at Nay Ah Shing Schools has been working hard over the last two years to implement a continuation classroom that complements the Wewinabi Miskwaanakwad Immersion Classroom.

Ojibwe Language Coordinator LeAnn Benjamin has been at the helm of seeing this project from dream to reality. In talking about the infancy of the project, LeAnn recounted, "I really wanted to start a kindergarten immersion classroom, and I didn't know that Amanda (Nickaboine-Meyer) had been dreaming of it too. We started talking about it and planning it more and more until it became a reality."

The kindergarten class began last year with the help of Dustin Burnette and Lisa Clemens from Waadookodaading Immersion School in Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO), Wisconsin. They have been crafting curriculum and translating existing worksheets that are used in English-speaking classrooms for the immersion classroom. They have been a huge help and have been willing to come back as needed to help in the implementation phase. This year the team grew the immersion classroom to include first grade. "After the first year I was gung ho about it and now after adding on first grade, we want to build up our resources and curriculum a bit before we move on any further," LeAnn shared.

The teaching team, made up of Amanda Nickaboine-Meyer, Aanii Aubid, and Steve Satterlund, have been an integral part of the process. They all three bubble with passion and joy when they talk about the classroom and why it is important to them individually.

Aanii, a Mille Lacs Band member, shared this: "I just want to make sure that kids grow up to know the Ojibwe language. It's always been important to me. I don't want it to become extinct. I want to pass on the language and have it be used every day. That's my dream. There are so few speakers here anymore, and that's scary."

Steve, an LCO descendant, shared his story: "I was raised 'white' in a small town in Wisconsin, and I never knew this part of me until I met my wife Maia in 2008. I started working with John P. Benjamin in 2016 and started to really understand and learn. Once I started understanding, I started to realize that maybe I could teach it too. I didn't think I would teach it so soon, but I am now and that's OK. I love it."

Amanda, a Mille Lacs Band member, also shared her journey of learning: "I started as a teacher trainee in the spring of



Ojibwe Language Coordinator LeAnn Benjamin, above, is working with teachers Amanda Nickaboine-Meyer, Aanii Aubid, and Steve Satterlund, right, to bring the immersion program to the next level.

2013. I grew up knowing nothing about language and culture. I took a class or two in college, but in high school I had nothing. I always felt that something was missing, and once I started the trainee job, I realized how cool it was and that it was what I truly wanted to do. It's driven me. I followed that dream and ended up getting my teaching license from Bemidji State University and here I am now, a certified teacher in an immersion classroom!"

The classroom is kindergarten and first grade combined, with four first-graders and five kindergartners. Three of those kindergartners came from the Wewinabi immersion classroom. To the teachers, the grasp those three youth have on the Ojibwe language shows the importance of consistency in language learning over time.

"I'm sad to send my kids to the next class, but I know that we can't keep them or continue their learning in our classroom because of current capability and capacity," Amanda added. "We give kids different opportunities. We show many ways to solve problems. They may not get that in other classrooms."

When talking about the hardships that the staff faced along the way, LeAnn shared, "I learned that you should just go for it. People kept cutting me down and saying that we didn't have enough resources to do it. Some good advice that I was given was that you can't wait for permission. (Laurie Harper told me that.) You can't wait for things to happen, you just have to have



the faith to see it through and see what happens."

LeAnn finished with these wise words: "We are a people that if we lose our language, we lose our identity, culture, everything. If we lose all of our speakers, who will send us on to that next stage of life when we pass on? Who is going to name our kids? Who will know the songs? I just want the Ojibwe language to thrive and to keep growing and growing."

With the hard work and dedication of LeAnn and her staff, they are most definitely giving it a fighting chance. Miigwech, Nay Ah Shing immersion staff and LeAnn, for all you do!

District II Receives Updates on Education, Circle of Health

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer



The District II community meeting on August 29 featured a new service to Band members: a clothing exchange. Community members were asked to bring gently used clothing to share with those in need. The initial donations filled two tables at the East Lake Community Center.

District II Representative Marvin Bruneau welcomed attendees, thanked Tom Benjamin for catering the dinner, and introduced guests for the evening: Commissioner of Education Rick St. Germaine and Benefits Coordinator Donita Odden from the Circle of Health Program.

Rick said he had met with Minisinaakwaang staff and parents recently and was also working with McGregor public schools to improve services to American Indian students.

Donita shared that her position serving District II and III Band members had been vacant, so Intake Specialist Amber Kalk and District I Benefits Coordinator Jamie Rancour had been working hard to cover all districts. Now that Donita is on board, she will be in District II every Thursday and is making

communication with Band members a priority.

She told Elders and those with family members on Medicare to be on the lookout for new Medicare cards and benefit verification letters that will be mailed out beginning in November. Copies of the letters and cards should be submitted to Circle of Health to ensure continued service.

Donita's office is at the Lodge in Hinckley. To contact Donita call 320-384-4603 or email donita.odden@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov. (In District I, contact Amber Kalk at 320-532-7740 or amber.kalk@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov or Jamie Rancour at 320-532-4781 or jamie.rancour@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.)

Morningstar GoodSky also provided updates at the meeting. She asked Band members to call the front desk (218-768-3311) to sign up for Vikings tickets, and she announced that the powwow committee is sponsoring an art contest for students from 5 to 17 years of age. The winner will receive \$100, and their artwork will be used for the 2019 powwow poster.



Amanda Anderson and Tabatha Boyd helped with the clothing exchange at the District II community meeting August 29.

Pine Grove Plans for Year-Round School

Karrie McCurdy Pine Grove Learning Center Director



We're back! Teachers and staff at Pine Grove Learning Center warmly welcomed back students to the 2018-2019 school year. It's going to be an exciting and amazing year with the changes we have in place.

We kicked everything off with an open house luncheon that was held on Monday, August 27; the event was well attended by current students and families as well as two new ones — yes, we are growing!

At the open house, we were excited to announce that our endeavor to have a year-round calendar had finally been approved in the final hours. The calendar has the same 180 days as the Nay Ah Shing calendar, but is spread out through the entire year with approximately 45 days on/15 days off, eliminating a three-month summer break.

Why do this, you ask? Studies have shown that over the summer, children forget four to six weeks of learning and come back to school having to play catch up for at least the first month. With the achievement gap between Native and white students being so great, year-round school is one strategy to close this gap.

Along with the calendar, we are also involved with a program called Achieve 3000. This program customizes reading lessons to each individual student. Research has shown using



Karrie McCurdy

family events to enable us to work with a cooking curriculum called "Edible Education." Each month it features two lessons, including information about the food item, a recipe, and take-home information. To quote the program creators: "Our lessons provide an opportunity to teach children that healthy foods and cooking them is fun. The recipes will empower them with the skills and confidence to make fresh, healthy dishes for a lifetime of healthier living."

If all of this sounds exciting to you and you are interested in enrolling your child, please stop by and pick up an enrollment packet. We are located at 63842 Ojibwe Road in Sandstone. See you then!

this program two times per week for 30 minutes greatly increases a child's reading comprehension, accuracy, and fluency. We have made the commitment to utilize the program four to five times per week.

Over the summer, another change to Pine Grove is a new kitchen. We plan to utilize it to prepare meals for



Pine Grove students erected a new feather pole when school started up in August.

Abinoojiiyag Curriculum Picks up STEAM

New lab provides opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math

Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiiyag unveiled its new STEAM Lab with bright, crisp paint and colorful "activity grids" built into the newly tiled floor, along with more equipment, tools, and resources.

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. All of these areas are included in hands-on learning in the STEAM Lab. Students discover the 4 Cs: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity, while they learn the 21st century literacy of coding and computational thinking. Computational thinking skills help students develop mental agility — stretching their mental muscles to become creative problem-solvers.

The central elements of computational thinking (decomposition, pattern matching, abstraction, and automation) can be applied to solving almost any problem.

Gregg Rutter, STEAM Lab instructor and coordinator, described these elements: "Decomposition is the ability to break a bigger problem down into smaller parts; pattern matching is finding similarities between things to gain extra information; abstraction means ignoring certain details to be able to come up with a solution that works for a more general problem; and automation is controlling a process by automatic means, reducing human intervention."

K-5 students learn basic computer science skills and use coding to learn STEAM concepts. With hands-on challenge activities, students are guided in inquiry-driven lessons us-

ing age-appropriate tools. One of the goals is to help students see failure to solve a problem as a launching pad for more explorations.

The new equipment being used in the STEAM Lab includes Bee-Bots, Dash and Dot robots, Cue robots, Sphero SPRK+ robots, and littleBits electronic building blocks. Gregg said, "The kids love coming to the STEAM Lab to work with robots, iPads, and coding. We believe that students learn best when they are intrinsically motivated. They are busy learning persistence and problem-solving; they are busy developing a growth mindset."

The STEAM Lab curriculum was developed to continue through middle school and high school. Nay Ah Shing upper school STEAM teachers Jeannie Gross and Larry Hansen attended a week-long training last summer sponsored by Code.org to help them teach the curriculum designed for students in grades 6 through 10.

The Nay Ah Shing STEAM Lab program shares this belief from Code.org: "We believe that computing is so fundamental to understanding and participating in society that it is valuable for every student to learn as part of a modern education. We see computer science as a liberal art, a subject that provides students with a critical lens for interpreting the world around them. Computer science prepares all students to be active and informed contributors to our increasingly technological society whether they pursue careers in technology or not. Computer science can be life-changing, not just skill training."



Top: Gregg Rutter of the NAS Gifted and Talented program is the mad scientist behind the new STEAM lab. Middle: Students find the STEAM lab's robots fascinating as well as fun. Left: Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiiyag 2018-19 staff showed off the new Nay Ah Shing backpacks in the STEAM lab.



Family Atmosphere Promotes Learning at Minisinaakwaang

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer



Everyone knows everyone at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II, and those personal relationships make education successful — not just for intellectual growth, but for emotional, spiritual, and cultural growth as well.

When Vince Merrill, who teaches Ojibwe, walks the halls, he knows them by name, students as well as staff, and he can tell you about their interests, their backgrounds, and even their moods.

"We feel like family, and that's the way it should be," said Vince. "When somebody's having a bad time, it's really easy for the kids to reach out."

The relationships among staff and students don't end when the bell rings, either. Vince runs into students and their families at the dance hall, the gas station, and the grocery store in Aitkin.

"When the kids see me out in the community, they mangle me with hugs," he said.

Tenth-grader Jasmine Skinaway was back in school September 13 after taking some time to go ricing with her family. Vince said those activities are allowed at Minisinaakwaang.

Vince has high praise for the staff — not just the administrators like Director Marysue Anderson or Business Manager Raina Killspotted, but the teachers and support staff as well: Dawn LaPrairie, the K-3 teacher who is in her second year; Steve Williams, the IT manager who does "a little bit of everything"; Rosa Colton, a transfer from Nay Ah Shing in District I; teacher assistants John Schmidt and Chelsy Wilkie of the Turtle Mountain Ojibwe; Kitchen Staff April Boyd, Amanda Anderson, and Mary Boyd; and Elders Marene Hedstrom, Laura Shingobe, and Winnie LaPrairie, who share time so there's always an Elder present.

"They command a lot of respect," Vince said. "And they have a great sense of humor."

Learning by doing

The Elders are also resources in Minisinaakwaang's most important asset: cultural knowledge.

The curriculum at the school includes local and national tribal history and seasonal cultural knowledge.

Although this year's poor rice crop has limited the school's trips to the lake, students are normally exposed to ricing in the fall, storytelling in the winter, sugarbush in the spring, and Ojibwe arts and crafts year-round. This winter each student will learn an Ojibwe story, and they will bring those stories to the community in a public performance.

Language instruction is one of the strengths of the program, thanks to Vince and his apprentices: Branden "Husky" Sargent and Tony "Wug" Killspotted.

The importance of language is evident all over the walls in the high school classroom. Ojibwe words and sentences and labeled pictures adorn every empty space.

Some of that is by design, some by necessity. The projector went out, and they haven't been able to get a new one, so Vince is using old-fashioned methods: handwritten lessons on big sheets of paper.

"We've been using the same technology since the place opened," Vince said. "We have to make do with the things we have. We do it, but it would be nice to one day have computers set up for the kids and show them more visual language through computers."

Aiming high

Despite the challenges, however, the school maintains high standards and a focus on learning.

"We always set the standard high because we want the kids to walk away successful," said Vince.

Minisinaakwaang's efforts are paying off. A lot of the stu-



The warm environment of Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy makes every student feel special, but they are also held to a high standard by Ojibwe teacher Vince Merrill, top, and the rest of the staff.

dents are "math whizzes," according to Vince.

One seventh grader is already learning algebra — a subject that isn't offered until much later in public school.

Another is reading at a 10th-grade level, thanks in part to the new accelerated reading program. Many of the students are great readers, which comes from giving them a choice of relevant literature.

High school students have read Anton Treuer's *The Assassination of Hole-in-the-Day*, and Kent Nerburn's *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*.

"We took them to see the movie after they read the book, and they said the book was better," said Vince. "When you have kids saying that, you know you're doing something right."

Molly Bohanon, a Minisinaakwaang senior, was recently honored with an invitation to participate in the Dartmouth Bound Native American Community Visitation Program October 7–10. The all-expenses-paid visit to Dartmouth College — an Ivy League school in New Hampshire with a renowned Native American Studies program — includes assistance with the application process and financial aid.



Molly Bohanon

Vince gets especially proud when he talks about Daisy Taylor, a graduate from last year who happens to be his we'eh.

Like many teenagers, Daisy was struggling in ninth and tenth grade.

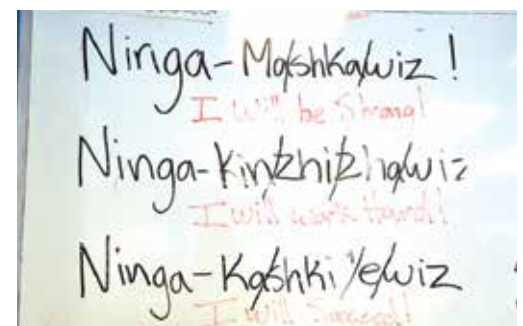
"Something just clicked one day, and she became an awesome student and a role model for others," said Vince. "All of a sudden she grew up, started following the rules, went to class every day, and took the opportunity to study when kids were playing in the gym. The last year it was remarkable to watch her blossom, and it was such an honor to watch her smile and get her diploma."

That kind of success comes through a combination of high

standards, a supportive atmosphere, and meaningful curriculum based in the culture.

"This is beneficial to these kids because they need to know where they come from," said Vince. "Seasonal activities were not just a way of life, but an instrument of education. They teach kids that once you start a job, you have to finish it. You have to follow that process through to the end."

Thanks to schools like Minisinaakwaang, those cultural activities and the language to describe them will continue to survive and thrive.



Words to live by

Minisinaakwaang staff are emphasizing three concepts this year to keep students on task and aiming high:

Ninga-mashkawiz: I will be strong.

Ninga-kinzhizhawiz: I will work hard.

Ninga-kashki'ewiz: I will succeed.

Vince Merrill emphasizes that strength isn't just physical, hard work isn't just academic, and success isn't just economic.

In Ojibwemowin, all three concepts describe the whole person and a good way of living.

Commissioner Earns Recognition as Top-10 Admired CEO

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe Jr. was named one of the Twin Cities business community's ten most admired CEOs by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal.

Joe and the other nine honorees received their recognition September 20 at Nicollet Island Pavilion in Minneapolis.

Joe was interviewed by the magazine and spoke about his childhood on the reservation, his education at St. Cloud State, his climb up the Corporate Ventures ladder, and his successes as well as failures.

He also responded to the following questions:

What does leadership and being a leader mean to you? Leadership is an immense responsibility and opportunity to impact someone's life. I have always looked after that responsibility with care and used the opportunity to do something positive. My style is to be a servant leader where my key roles are to set goals, praise people when they meet goals, and cheer them on along the way. When we don't make our goals, it's an opportunity to coach and grow. More broadly speaking, I think leadership is about having a vision for the future that people can believe in and rally around. The leader also sets the tone and brings to life the 'why' we are in business that resonates and best motivates team members.

What's the biggest risk you've ever taken? Did it work? What did you learn from it? Twenty years ago I was a sophomore in high school, and I decided to leave my caring, loving family and comfortable life to move to Red Lake High School so that I could increase my chances of getting recruited to play college basketball by joining their high-profile program. We went to state, I scored a bunch of points, and had the time of my life, but never landed a college athletic scholarship. In that sense, it was a miserable failure. What I learned made it a huge success. It taught me about how to live independently, how to get comfortable being away from my family, and



Joe Nayquonabe Jr., center, was joined by Corporate Ventures associates at the September 20 celebration.

ultimately helped give me the confidence to pretty much do anything when I was in my college years — internships in Washington, D.C., traveling the country, seeking opportunities without any comprehension of boundaries. It ended up being the most important risk I would take in my life.

What are you working on that you are most excited about? I'm most excited about becoming fluent in my Ojibwe language. I am blessed to have my father and other friends as great resources in this endeavor. I'm pretty good at reading it

at this point, but my goal is to master it and be able to use it conversationally with some of the other amazing young speakers in the community. I respect them so much and want to join their ranks.

What legacy do you hope to leave behind? The mission of my life is to be a force in Indian Country — to make our economies innovate and grow.

What is your theme, or favorite, song? My theme song right now is "Blessings," by Chance the Rapper.

District III Residents Discuss Opioids, Education, Smudge Walk

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer



A large crowd of District III Band members received updates on health, education, and other topics at their monthly meeting September 19 at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Representative Wally St. John welcomed the community with a heartfelt speech about the importance of unconditional love. Wally said he was asked by an Elder how he was going to bring love to the community, and he's been thinking about his response.

He said everyone in the community knows how to love unconditionally because they have unconditional love for the children and would gladly die to save their kids' lives.

"Everybody here is one community, one family," said Wally. "You have that ability to love, and love is the key."

He thanked Monica Haglund and Briana Matrious Michels for bringing the Mending Broken Hearts curriculum to the community. The program deals with the effects of historical trauma.

"Those of us who went through the program, we got rewarded because we dealt with some of the darkness in our past."

Wally said he plans to invite Chief Justice Rayna Churchill, Police Chief Sara Rice, Tribal Judge Dave Christensen, and Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin to the October meeting.

Health and Human Services

Wally introduced Commissioner of Health and Human Services Rebecca St. Germaine, who talked about the restructuring of the HHS Department and the response to the opioid crisis, which includes prevention efforts, a clean needle exchange,

and Narcan training and distribution. She said HHS has received numerous new state and federal grants and is now part of a state pilot program, which provides access to more state funds to combat drugs and addiction.

She also said the Band will be starting its dialysis program this fall, and she recognized the positive efforts of Sober Squad and Natives Against Heroin.

Donita Odden of the Circle of Health Program also came to the meeting to introduce herself to Band members and let them know she is available to help them with insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid. She said she is in Hinckley Mondays and Fridays and at Aazhoomog Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

School Board

Nay Ah Shing School Board members Rick Dunkley and Joe Nayquonabe Sr. also spoke.

Joe talked about his experience as a chemical dependency counselor, sharing a message he gave to those struggling with addiction: "The Creator gave you a good body, and he gave you the responsibility to take care of it. If you put good things in there, good things will happen. If you put bad things in there, bad things will happen."

When Joe won election to the school board, he applied that same thinking to the mind: If you put good things in your mind, good things will happen, he said.

Rick talked about the excellent people who work at Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove but said parents and grandparents also need to do their part by making sure kids are going to school.

Rick spoke about his father, Doug Dunkley, who required his



Nay Ah Shing School Board Member Rick Dunkley encourages parents and grandparents to make education a priority for their families.

kids to attend school every day.

He also asked aunts and uncles to take an active role by attending extracurricular activities to show their support.

"If we can get them to school, good things will happen," said Rick. "That's the plan, and we need the help of families to do that."

Smudge walk

Monica Haglund said she was working with Daphne Shabaish to plan a smudge walk in Aazhoomog Sunday, September 30. "We need to start loving each other and healing, doing it our way, start smudging our communities," said Monica. "This is the first, and we're going to have many more."

See next month's *Inaajimowin* for coverage and updates.

Nurturing Nature — Curt Kalk Shares Cultural Knowledge

Photo and Story by Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin) Mille Lacs Band Member

Curt Kalk is a former Secretary-Treasurer and has also served in other capacities for the Band, including Commissioner of the Natural Resources. Curt is an avid traditional harvester; spear- ing, netting, making maple sugar, and wild ricing are just a few of his hobbies.

As this small sliver of his story will show, this is where his passion in life lies. His interview was so rich and full of stories that there will be a part 2 in next month's *Inaajimowin*.

I asked Curt to explain, in his own words, what he feels is missing in today's generation. . . "It's strange even now, when I think about how I used to think about stuff in so much detail when I would be in the woods and look at a piece of birch bark really closely as a child. I'd look at a leaf and see how the veins run through it and wonder how it worked. I think everyone does, every kid does, but they don't stick to it. No one does anymore," he explained.

"We've gotten so far away from nature nowadays, everything is at a kid's fingertips, but if a kid stopped for one second to look inside the rice husk, you can't then help but talk about the plant. You would then have to talk about the roots and then you would talk about the water that it grows from. Kids truly do have the world at their fingertips nowadays, but we always have; you just have to change your perspective! Ecosystems are truly the most important part of our world as not just Anishinaabe people, but as humans!"

In speaking more about today's youth and what he feels is lacking, Curt brought up the need for mentors and the role of Elders in a child's life. "Back then, the Elders or other community members would make suggestions to you based on your talents. My grandma always said that I should be this or be that based on what I was good at naturally or even because of my personality. The power of suggestion to kids makes a huge difference!" he proclaimed.

Curt also explained that while he understands and loves technology, he worries that if things in the greater world were to ever fail and we would be forced to hunt or harvest our own foods again, he wonders how many kids really could do those things. This is why he is choosing to spend his time teaching at Nay Ah Shing Schools as the Four Seasons Lead Worker.

"When I was young, I would wonder how does maple syrup look like water then turn into sugar when you cook it? My grandparents would teach me the science of it usually; the



Band member Curt Kalk is the new four seasons lead worker at Nay Ah Shing schools, and he also runs his own harvesting business.

how and the why. They would talk about the sugar, and I was amazed that even back then they knew about that stuff. It blows my mind to this day. How did they figure out how a tree squeezes water through wood when you use wood to hold water?" Curt pondered. It's easy to hear Curt's love for the natural world when he speaks.

"The year my father died we went ricing. I still remember going with him; it was one of the best years of my life, and I enjoyed it so much. The places I am taking kids out ricing and netting now are the places that I went ricing and netting when I was 7!" Curt recalled fondly.

"I remember fishing with him (my dad). It was so damn important, how you handled that net, and how you approached that water. I think it was common sense back then that you needed to approach those things with respect. How you enter into something means everything! How you enter that lake and rice bed matters; you have to take the time to think deeply about it and respect it. It's not just a religious belief, it's being conscious of the environment around you. A perfect planet was made for us to be on, as long as we don't wreck it, of

course! Now I teach the kids that same thing. They can consume healthy rice and deer meat, or they can go out and get speed boats and jet skis and run through rice beds oblivious. It's all about choices and respect," Curt articulated.

He went on, "Kids are not learning about how we've always been in survival mode with hunting fishing, gathering, wigwams, and no running water. Once you have houses, electricity, and things like that, you stop using that survival education. It almost seems like it's less important. That's why education is so important, because some day they may need to use it again. We don't have to be doomsday preppers. We always were. Tell me when we weren't! Somebody show me when we weren't, whether it was other tribes opposing us or a bad year for rice or maple sugar. How do you teach a kid that that's important when everything around them is saying that it isn't?" Curt finished.

Miigwech, Curt, for an amazing interview and sharing your well-earned knowledge with me, the *Inaajimowin*, and the rest of the Band. Your words hold much that we can all learn from!

Band, GLIFWC Biologists Meet with State Advisory Committee

The Mille Lacs Fishery Advisory Committee (MLFAC) heard a presentation by the Mille Lacs Band DNR and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) on Monday, August 27, at Appeldoorn's Sunset Bay Resort.

Carl Klimah, fish biologist for Mille Lacs Band DNR, and Dr. Aaron Schultz, Climate Change Biologist for GLIFWC, presented an overview of the Band's ogaa tagging and tracking study to the 13 committee members and 25 members of the public in attendance.

The study, Carl explained, is to test their theory that rising water temperatures in the lake cause walleye to concentrate into smaller pockets of cooler water, leading to greater predation of juvenile walleye by adults — a theory Carl calls "the squeeze."

"Every fish species has an ideal temperature at which their health, and their growth, is optimized," Carl explained. "Walleye really like cold water. By tagging and tracking these fish, we'll be able to analyze their movement in relation to water temperature and depth to test our theory."

So far Carl and Aaron, along with numerous volunteers from the Band and GLIFWC, have tagged and released 20 adult walleyes for the study.

They plan to tag an additional 50 adults and 35 juveniles this fall. Next spring, they will tag an additional 35 juveniles.

Carl said the reason for tagging half of the juveniles this fall and half in the spring is due to the shorter battery life of the juvenile walleye tags. "We need to make sure we get a complete year of data, and juvenile tags only last a little over 250 days."

Steve Besser, MLFAC committee member, asked if 70 fish was enough to get real data on a lake the size of Mille Lacs.

"The sample size is really robust compared to telemetry studies undertaken on larger lakes like the Great Lakes," Aaron responded. "With the fish we plan to tag, we'll be able to clearly map the home range of adult and juvenile walleye in Mille Lacs Lake."

Other topics

In addition to the presentation on the telemetry study, the MLFAC members discussed coming up with a management plan for the state's harvest of walleye — a task that Minnesota DNR Area Manager Tom Heinrich described as a "long-term process."

"In Lake of the Woods, where there was very little contro-

versy, it took all winter to create a plan," he said. "We'll take our time with this."

MLFAC chairperson Dean Hanson asked if there was a correlation between how much biomass is tied up in larger fish, and how that might affect recruitment of young walleye. Heinrichs pointed to a Lake Ontario study that showed that walleyes, which can live up to 20 years, can take up a disproportional amount of "ecological space" and can affect the abundance of younger year classes.

Paul Koering, MLFAC member and Crow Wing County Commissioner, said Red Lake experienced a collapse in the fishery but came back due to catch-and-release measures. He asked if catch-and-release could "fix" Mille Lacs, too.

Tom Heinrich replied, "In Red Lake you had a lake that was overharvested and collapsed as a result. In Mille Lacs you have a lake with ecological conditions that have changed and is no longer able to sustain the walleye population you had in the 1980s and 1990s. That's just not coming back, so catch-and-release as a strategy to repair the lake isn't a feasible expectation."

October is Indigenous **PINK** Month!



Indigenous Pink Month is a national breast cancer awareness campaign for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and second leading cause of cancer death for AI/AN women.

The goal of Indigenous Pink Month is to educate Indigenous people on the importance of early detection and remind everyone to keep up to date on screenings.

The American Indian Cancer Foundation asks men and women of all ages to take part in activities throughout the month of October. On October 18, Indigenous Pink Day, help raise awareness in these ways:

- Wear pink to honor breast cancer warriors and survivors and to spread awareness. Get your Indigenous Pink shirts for \$20 at shop.americanindiancancer.com.
- Share a picture of yourself on social media wearing pink using #IndigenousPink.

- Tell your friends and family about Indigenous Pink Day and ask them to wear pink and join in on the social fun.
- Organize Indigenous Pink Day at your workplace. Ask leadership to encourage all employees to take part.
- Get screened. Talk to your health care provider for advice and information on breast cancer screenings.
- Change your Facebook cover photo. Set the #IndigenousPink banner as your cover photo (Can be found on Facebook event page).
- Join our community. Like and follow the American Indian Cancer Foundation on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, like us on Instagram, and sign up for our newsletter.
- Find resources. Learn more about breast cancer education, awareness, and screening guidelines at americanindiancancer.org/breasthealth.

For more information, contact the American Indian Cancer Foundation at 612-314-4848, info@aicaf.org, or aicaf.org.

October Events at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post

Family Day: Saturday, October 6, 2018, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Bring your family out to the lake and join us for family friendly games and programs throughout the day. We'll have a fun-filled day playing games, coloring, doing puzzles, learning basic beading techniques, and reading stories. Weather permitting, we'll have outdoor activities as well! Cost: Included in museum admission.

Kids' Crafts — Corn Husk Doll: Saturday, October 6, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Learn how to make a corn husk doll to take home. Corn husk dolls are made out of the outer covering of a ear of corn and are typically made during the fall. Allow an hour to make the craft. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Cost: Free with museum admission for Family Day.

Mazinaakizige: American Indian Teen Photography Exhibit Closing: Saturday, October 27, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. This exhibition brings six young American Indian artists together to develop their photography skills in a guided, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. The artists will be showing a selection of photographs that empower their Indigenous identity. Cost: Free, museum admission not included.

Beading 101 Two-Day Workshop: Saturday, October 27–Sunday, October 28. Learn basic beading styles and techniques by creating a project like a necklace or bracelet to take home in this two-day workshop. A light lunch will be provided on Sunday only.

The workshop runs Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is required three days prior to workshop. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available on our website and through our Facebook page. A minimum of five participants is required to host the workshop. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounted hotel rooms are available for workshop participants on Saturday night at Grand Casino Mille Lacs with 10 days' advance registration.

Location: Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post 43411 Oodena Dr. Onamia, MN 56359. Contact: 320-532-3632, millelacs@mnhs.org.

Free Showing of *Screenagers* at Grand Makwa Oct. 25

The Mille Lacs Band Public Health Department and Nay Ah Shing School are hosting a free showing of *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* at Grand Makwa Cinema October 25 at 1:30 p.m.

Students, parents, community members, and educators are encouraged to attend.

Have you wondered how screen time is affecting you, your kids, and your family life?

Screenagers examines the risks of social media and “the new age of technology” such as social isolation, poor self-esteem, and digital addiction. Ultimately, the film explores solutions to handle screen time and provides parents and youth with tools to help develop and learn self-control and how to find balance in their digital lives.

Tell Us Why You Vote!

The November issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* will include Band members' thoughts on the importance of voting. Send 2–3 sentences with a photo to brett.larson@millelacsband.com.

THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE HEALTH FAIR 2018



Healthy Food Provided
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Da Apiitendamang Gimino Ayaawininaan

Tuesday, October 9
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(Dist. 3)
Aazhoomog Community Center
45471 Grace Lake Rd
Sandstone, Mn 55072

Wednesday, October 10
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(Dist. 2)
East Lake Community Center
36666 State Hwy 65
McGregor, Mn 55760

Thursday, October 11
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(Dist. 1)
Grand Casino Mille Lacs
777 Grand Ave.
Onamia, MN 56359

Friday, October 12
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(Dist. 2A)
Chiminising Community Center
2605 Chiminising Dr
Isle, Mn 56342

As We Value Our Health



30+ Booths Promoting Health and Fitness

Medication Assisted Recovery
Natives Against Heroin
Sober Squad
Lactation Station
Rural AIDS Action Network
Inflatable Colon
Prizes Just for Kids
Traditional Wild Plant Medicine Information
And Many, Many More!

Colleen McKinney,
SHIP Coordinator, 320-532-7812

ELECTION GUIDE

Together we can make a difference



Early Voting Underway; Plan to Vote November 6 or Sooner!

It's not too soon to think about voting in the November 6 general election; in fact, it's not too soon to VOTE!

From September 21 through November 5, Minnesota voters can cast their ballots in person at their county courthouse or through the mail with an absentee ballot.

You can vote in person at your county courthouse if you are a registered voter or have proof of residence. In addition, some cities and towns also have in-person voting prior to election day.

You can request an absentee ballot online at mnavotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx. If you're an eligible voter, all you need is an email address and a driver's license, Minnesota ID, or Social Security number. If you don't have an email address or one of those forms of ID, you can print out a paper absentee ballot request at www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/.

If you don't vote early, vote November 6 at your local polling place between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. See next month's paper, millelacsband.com, and the Band's Facebook page for more information about candidates and voting.

This election is crucial for many reasons.

- We have the ability to make Peggy Flanagan the first Native American Lieutenant Governor in Minnesota history.
- We can help put Keith Ellison in the Attorney General's office — an office with a great deal of influence over the state's recognition of our reservation and our sovereignty.
- We can send Joe Radinovich to the U.S. House of Representatives to continue the positive legacy of Rick Nolan and Jim Oberstar in the face of close competition.
- We can finally remove Sondra Erickson from the State House once and for all by supporting Emy Minzel in District 15A.
- We can return our two Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, to Washington D.C. to help provide a counterbalance to the Trump administration.

There are many equally significant races in your local district, so please do your homework and VOTE for the person who will best represent your values in government. You can view your sample ballot at myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us.

Agent delivery

In special situations, you may ask an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for you.

This is called "agent delivery."

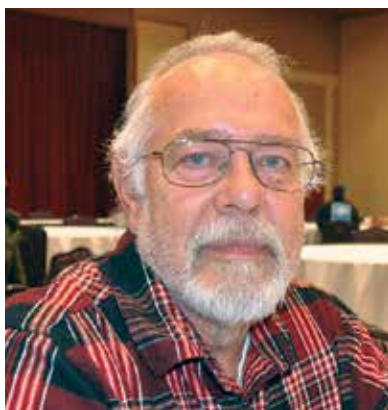
To qualify for agent delivery, you must live in a/an:

- nursing home
- assisted living facility
- residential treatment center
- group home
- battered women's shelter
- or, be hospitalized or unable to go to the polling place due to incapacitating health reasons or a disability.

Your agent must be at least 18 years old, have a pre-existing relationship with you, and cannot be a candidate. An individual cannot be an agent of more than three voters in an election. Give your agent a completed absentee ballot application and a request for agent delivery of absentee ballot form. Have your agent take both forms to the local election office to receive your ballot.

Your agent can pick up your ballot starting seven days before the election until 2 p.m. on Election Day. Your agent or someone else you designate must return your ballot by 3 p.m. on Election Day. You can also return your ballot by mail. Election officials must receive your ballot on or before Election Day.

Why Should Band Members Vote Nov. 6?



"In my life I've come to believe if you are not willing to do something to change things you don't like, then you have no right to complain when things don't go your way. The same is true for voting. Voting is a right and a responsibility for all citizens of this country. Vote or don't complain!"

— Al Hemming



"Exercising the right to vote is very important. Our ancestors didn't have the ability to vote, and many still don't. Our vote is our power to control the government, to make sure the government is working for us."

— Crystal Weckert



"Voting is powerful. Women, diverse races, and people in poverty have all at one point been restricted from voting in the United States. I vote to respect the struggle to gain access and because voting has the power to change our country and community."

— Govinda Budrow



"Voting! It is the single most important thing people can do, especially young people! Old people vote in large numbers because they've been around longer and can see the long-term results of how voting can affect lives — things like budget cuts, tax increases, public transportation, infrastructure improvements or neglect, classroom sizes, public safety, etc., etc. I think young people want to see immediate results the day after an election. The wheels of government grind slow. This leads to voter apathy. I tell all the young people I see on election day, 'Hey, you're an American, now go vote like one!' I give loud (but friendly) words of encouragement at election time to young folks, just like I do to my grandchildren when I see apathetic behavior. This is our country, let's make it work for us!"

— Jim Kalk

WHY I VOTE

Why do you plan on voting November 6? Send 2-3 sentences and a photo to brett.larson@millelacsband.com, and we will include your thoughts in the General Election Guide in the November issue!

Get to Know Your Legislative Staff

With three new members of the Legislative Branch, new support staff members have also come to work in the legislative office. Last month we introduced you to Wendy Merrill, Darcie Big Bear, Val Harrington, and Brianna Boyd. This month and next month we will introduce the remaining Legislative staff.

Christine J. Jordan

Job title: Chief Legislative Counsel for the Legislative Branch.

Job responsibilities: I provide legal analysis of issues that come before Band Assembly, review contracts, and I draft resolutions, legal memoranda, and statutory amendments. I collaborate with the employees from the other branches of government in order to procure necessary information for Band Assembly and to ensure that any statutory amendments are clear, concise, and practical.

Education and background: I received my J.D. and Indian Law Certificate from the University Of New Mexico School Of Law. I graduated summa cum laude from the University of New Mexico and received my B.A. in Criminology with a minor in Psychology. I also have an Associate's Degree in Psychology from Georgia Perimeter College. While I was receiving my undergraduate degrees, I worked full-time as a waiter and bartender. I have worked in restaurants since I was 14 years old. I also volunteered with different organizations and shelters to help youth in crisis. While finishing my final year of my B.A., I interned with the Capital Crimes unit for the Law Office of the Public Defender in New Mexico, where I worked on cases involving child abuse resulting in death and children charged as adults for homicide.

While in law school, I was fortunate to work for different Indian law agencies such as the Office of Tribal Justice for the Department of Justice and in the Indian Country Crimes Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico. I also represented tribal clients in criminal and civil cases through the Southwest Indian Law Clinic.

Volunteer service: District I Powwow Committee; Minnesota American Bar Association, CLE Committee; Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Judicial Clerkship Committee Consultant; Tribal In-House Counsel Association.

Previous job responsibilities and achievements: Prior to working for the Legislative Branch, I was a Deputy Solicitor General for the Office of the Solicitor General. My caseload primarily consisted of child protection cases. I also reviewed



contracts. Before coming to Mille Lacs, I was a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Michael E. Vigil. I drafted opinions on a variety of civil, criminal, and administrative appeals.

Certifications and industry honors: I am licensed to practice law in New Mexico, Minnesota, and for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Family: My mother lives in New Mexico, and I have one daughter who is six years old.

Brief biographical statement: I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and I am Blackfeet and Isleta Pueblo. My greatest accomplishment is becoming a mother. When I have free time, I love trying new restaurants, watching movies, and spending time with friends and family.

Billie Jo Boyd

Name/nickname: Bea, Billie, (Or Bobby... don't worry everyone does call me that, it's not just you).

Job title: District I Office Manager.

Job responsibilities: Ensuring the smooth operation of the office and administrative functions by managing, evaluating, planning, and implementing the activities of the District I Office, Community Center, AMVETS, Women's Auxiliary, and Powwow Committee.

Education and background: I have attended Haskell Indian Nations University and Central Lakes College and am working on my AA in business administration. I've worked as an early education teacher. I owned my own business called "The Candy Cupboard." I was hired in 2012 to be the administrative assistant to District I Representative Sandra Blake in the Legislative office and was promoted to office manager this year.

Volunteer service: Gaming Regulatory Authority co-chair 2014–2018; MAPP member 2018; Powwow Committee co-chair 2018; member since 2016.

Certifications and industry honors: Fully qualified Gaming Regulator/Commissioner with the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Family: I'm in a committed relationship, have five children, and take care of my Elderly mother. We also have a cat, a turtle, and two dogs.

Brief biographical statement: I have a long history of volunteer work within the community and have advocated for Early Education/Head Start in 2016 at the Capitol. I am working this year with the MAPP (Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention) coalition and am a proud member of the Sober Squad.



Personal fun facts: I am ambidextrous; I can draw and write with both hands. I also am an avid gamer, cosplayer, and like to play MMORPGs.

Semira Kimpson

Name/nickname: My Ojibwe name is Mamiziwekamigokwe (All Over the Earth Woman).

Job title: Legislative Coordinator.

Job responsibilities: Minor hardship withdrawals and other job duties as assigned.

Education and background:

I have some college experience — I attended Central Lakes College and Fond du Lac. I worked at Grand Casino Mille Lacs for almost seven years as a blackjack dealer, poker dealer, and dual rate. I have been working for the Mille Lacs Band for the past eight years. I also started working for Curt Kalk in 2010 as the Legislative receptionist and gradually started working as the administrative assistant. I worked for Sandra Blake for three years as the community center administrative assistant.

Volunteer service: I am a member of the Nay Ah Shing School Board and MAPP. MAPP was established in 2011 with the primary focus of sharing resources, ideas, and information to bring about community awareness of underage alcohol and drug use issues and promote prevention. We strive to include community representatives in the following categories: youth, parents, business, community, media, school, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, justice/corrections, spiritual organizations, civic and volunteer groups, health care, state and local government, and organizations focused on substance abuse.

Alma mater: Graduated from Nay Ah Shing in 2003.

Family: My father is Lawrence Kimpson and my mother is Doreen Sam. My grandparents are Henry Sam Sr. and Evelyn Murphy. My fiancé is Michael Karlstad Jr. and we have five kids together: Fabian Sam, 9, Stefan Kimpson, 8, Lilianna (Migiziikwe) Kimpson, 5, Michael Karlstad III, 3, and Amaya Karlstad, 2.

Brief biographical statement: I was born in Minneapolis and spent most of my childhood moving back and forth between Minneapolis and Vineland until I was in seventh grade, and we finally stayed in the Mille Lacs area.

Personal fun facts: I like to stay involved with the community by attending various activities such as going to Mille Lacs County Board meetings, rallies, getting out the vote, public hearings, and parent committees for Wewinabi and Nay Ah Shing.



Band Hosts Self-Governance Conference in St. Paul

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Tribal leaders and self-governance professionals from across the country met for a strategy session September 10–12 at the Band's DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in St. Paul.

The Self-Governance Communication & Education (SGCE) Tribal Consortium facilitated the conference, which was tailored to current and future self-governance professionals, technical staff, and others with an interest in understanding how tribal self-governance best thrives.

Mille Lacs Band Self-Governance Director John Mojica is on the board of directors of SGCE and represented the Band at the conference. Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd also attended. The Mille Lacs Band was one of seven original self-governance tribes recognized at the 2018 Tribal Self Governance Conference April 22–26 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Conference attendees discussed implementation, day-to-day operations, and best practices while identifying shared

challenges and building relationships with peers.

What is self-governance?

"Self-governance" refers to tribal administration of programs previously under the direction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. According to SGCE, in 1975, Congress enacted the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) to establish a legal framework for tribes to exercise their inherent right to govern and to protect tribal citizens, lands, and resources.

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

an Health Service (IHS). Today, more than 350 tribes operate self-governance programs.

Tribute to McCain

The event kicked off with a tribute to the late Senator John McCain who was called by SGCE Chairman W. Ron Allen "a person of integrity who believed in the tribes' sovereignty, self-governance, and self-reliance goals that will be forever remembered."

"As one of the founding sponsors of the self-governance legislation," Allen said, "Senator McCain withheld permanent self-governance legislation until he had consulted with tribes in order to ensure that tribal interests were adequately met. His leadership, courage, and integrity will be greatly missed.

For more information on self-governance and SGCE, see tribalselfgov.org.

Remembering Herb, Respecting Cancer

Robert DesJarlait Inaajimowin Guest Writer

I met Herb Sam in 1982. It was the first year of my sobriety and my path on the Red Road. I saw Herb at several feasts in the Native community where he offered the invocation for the food. He spoke in the language and, for me, it was the first time I heard it spoken.

At that time, I went to A.A. in North Minneapolis. One of the reasons I chose this particular club, the Mustangs Club, was because I wanted to be around other Natives who were finding their sobriety paths. Many of us were urban Natives and knew very little about our traditions. At that time, there was emphasis on connecting traditions with sobriety.

At our table, we often brought up traditional beliefs, trying to connect them with whatever step was the subject for the evening. But that created friction with non-Native members who felt that Natives were taking over the club.

After several months, we decided to establish our own club and moved to the Upper Midwest American Indian Center. We invited Herb to our first feast. He provided a prayer and then talked about sobriety. He told us that we were on the right path and that we had many things to learn and many traditional values to instill in our lives. He said to be patient, that it would take time, and to seek out Elders for advice. He then lit his opwaagan (pipe) and offered each of us to draw smoke from it. It was the first time I smoked an opwaagan, and it was a powerful experience. It seemed as if the manidoog (spirits) had entered me and soothed my soul-spirit.

A few years later, when I started dancing, I saw Herb at the powwows with his Mississippi Ojibwe drum. Him and Chops always at the drum, singing those sweet, old traditional songs. After Chops passed on, it was never the same drum, and Herb eventually stopped bringing it to powwows.

I think it was about in 2004 that I approached Herb at a powwow, gave him tobacco, and asked if he would give me my name. I was hesitant at first. You always hear stories about how some Elders will turn down a request. I was 58 years old, and with the exception of a childhood Ojibwe name from my Godfather, had never received my proper Ojibwe spirit name. Receiving a name is a significant part of an Ojibwe person's life. With a name, you become a whole person. So I was nervous and hoping that Herb wouldn't refuse my request.

It was with great relief when Herb accepted my tobacco. He said he would have to have a dream first and my name would be revealed in the dream. Once he had the dream, he said he would call me and we would arrange for a naming ceremony. About a month later, Herb called and said he had my name. I wanted to say, what is it? But that would have been foolish. A name has to be properly brought into the world.

A few weeks later, Herb came to our house. As per Herb's instructions, I had a blanket on the floor with food for our feast — traditional foods like blueberries, manoomin (wild rice), frybread (which isn't traditional, but what's a feast without frybread?), roast beef (venison wasn't available) with mashed potatoes and

gravy. Herb brought his hand drum. I sat across from him on the blanket, and my family sat around us. He told me my name and then explained what the name meant.

"Endaso-Giizhik — Every Day. This is the name I dreamed about. It's a good name. Four warriors had this name. Two were from a long time ago, long before we came here. Every day they went out early in the morning, looking for signs of the enemy, protecting their village. The last one to have this name was an old man who was always at powwows with his children. He reminded me of you — always at powwows with your children. The spirits will know you by this name. Every day remember your name. Every Day do something for your people to help them and protect them."

Then he stood up and with his hand drum sang in each direction, beginning with the east, and sang my name into existence. We then feasted and I gave him tobacco and a blanket for the naming ceremony. Afterward, I put out a spirit plate.

In the following years, he gave me advice on personal situations. These weren't things you could talk about on the phone. Herb's rules were you had to go see him, bring him tobacco, and only then would he talk to you about the problems you were having. But that's the way things are done by Elders.

One of Herb's attributes as an Elder and spiritual man was his work with the Twin Cities Native American community. He was always at various Native functions offering invocations, and willing to help and provide guidance for organizations and individuals. He lived with his wife, Patty, in Minneapolis, but even after moving back to his home rez, Mille Lacs, he continued his work in the urban community.

Herb provided us with a link to our traditions. One of the things he did was to conduct spring ceremonies at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. Spring is a time of renewal. It was a time to bless the sacred items you had — opwaaganag (pipes), medicine dresses (jingle dresses), feathers, dance regalia, and drums — and to feast them.

Everything was set out in a circle. Herb stood at the center. He spoke first in English to explain why we were there and what he was doing. Then he spoke in the language, lit his pipe, walked to each item/bundle, and said a blessing prayer for the item(s). Following the ceremony, we had a feast. Herb always asked that we try to bring something traditional. I always brought manoomin. One year, I brought manoomin with waawaashkeshiwi-wiiaas (deer meat) and miinan (blueberries) mixed in; another year, I brought manoomin with ogaa (walleye) and miinan mixed in.

I remember how good the kitchen smelled the night before the ceremony with the aroma of manoomin and deer meat or walleye frying. I wanted to eat some of it, but Herb said you shouldn't eat the food you were going to offer at the feast. It was part of a sacrifice that you were making.

At one of the spring ceremonies, Herb and I sat off to the side before the ceremony began. If people wonder what old



Herb Sam was invited to smudge the newly renovated capitol in St. Paul in August of 2017 by Gov. Mark Dayton.

men talk about, it's almost always about their health. Herb talked about his diabetes. He said he had medicine for it but the key element was diet. He said that if people had healthy diets and didn't eat all the junk food that was out there that diabetes would be less of a problem for our people.

Then we talked about my cancer. The previous year, I had cancer surgery. Herb was concerned about it. He said I needed to take care of myself for my family. Then he said something that surprised me. He said cancer was a spirit and that I needed to respect it. He said that cancer was a fearful disease, but by respecting it, I could lessen my fear. Those are words that I took to heart, and they became a part of my survivorship and cancer journey.

A few years later, Herb became the spiritual advisor for the American Indian Cancer Foundation's (AICAF) annual Powwow for Hope. In 2017, he blessed the eagle staff that my wife and I gifted to AICAF.

On September 14, 2018, Herb passed to the spirit world. In Ojibwe culture, we don't call it "the Happy Hunting Ground." We call it Gaagige-minanigoziwining — the Land of Everlasting Happiness. His manner of passing was ironically from cancer.

As such, I never expected to be writing about this. I had always thought that Herb would be conducting my funeral. But now that will never happen.

We have lost a great warrior and a champion of our people. A generous man who epitomized kindness, humbleness, love, and self-love. We often talk about the Anishinaabe Spirit. The Anishinaabe Spirit is about our personal self, our soul-spirit, and how we conduct ourselves in our daily life. For those of us who know him, we are his legacy. And it is up to us to live within that spirit that Herb taught us about.

Robert DesJarlait is from the Red Lake reservation. He is an artist, writer, and Stage IV colon cancer survivor. He currently lives in Onamia.



Chi-miigwech!

Grand Market held a bratwurst fundraiser this summer for Nay Ah Shing Schools and presented a check for \$500 last month to Commissioner of Education Rick St. Germaine and Principal Noah Johnson.



Welcome back!

The District III Early Education program held an open house on August 30. Pictured are (back) Jenny Sutton, Shana Peacock, Leah Ness, (front) Margaret Churchill, Teresa Packard, Meghan Buhaug, Dani Staples.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

Learn the Ojibwe Language

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

Gichi-ingodobaneninj

Miinawaa gaa-izhiwebiziyaan manoominikeng. Mii go bijinag igo oshki-manoominikewaad igo, giizhigewaad, bezhig iwidi babaa-bawa'am. Mii ezhi-biidood i'iw manoomin. Miish wewiib ezhi-zhingaatenamowaad ji-baatenig. Ishkwaa-na-awakwe go. Mii ezhi-ayaawaad, gii-paatenig miinawaa, wewiib ezhi-gidasamowaad. Mii i'iw ozhaawashko-manoomin wii-ayaamowaad, wii-miijiwaad.

Aangodinong igaye zagaswe'iwewag oshki-ayaamowaad i'iw manoomin. Miish wewiibitaawaad imaa. Miish imaa niyawen'enyiban ishkwaa-mimigoshkang, azhigwa ezhi-nooshkaatoonid iniw niyawen'enyiban wiiwan, ezhi-nooshkaatoonid i'iw manoomin.

Miish i'iw baasaag iwidi ipidemagad nooshkaachigaadeg i'iw manoomin. Miish apane ezhi-ganakinamaan miijiyaan. Mii

go apane go ezhi-miijiyaan. Miish ekidod a'aw ikwe, Dookisin gii-inaa ko a'aw ikwe, "Naawakamigook, gego miijiken! Gego doodangen i'iw! Giga-baasinig."

Mii ko ezhi-gimoodiyaan gichi-ingodobaneninj iko miijiyaan i'iw manoomin. Mii azhigwa debikak, gichi-maazhi-ayaayaan, eshkwaazagaswe'iwewaad, mii i'iw gaa-izhi-gichi-maazhi-ayaayaan. Waa, enda-gichi-zegizi a'aw nookomis aaniin ezhiwebiziwig. Gaawiin gaye awiia nenaandawi'iwed imaa ayaa-siin. Gichi-maazhi-ayaayaan, gichi-zhazhiishigagoweyaan, mii eta go manoomin, eta go baajiseg.

"Oonh, yay yay, baasinigo gosha wa'aw," ikido. Mii gaa-izhi-ishkwaa-zegizid.

A Big Handful

Another thing happened to me during ricing. Just when they started ricing and finished the building, one of them went around knocking rice. He brought in that rice. Right away they spread it out to dry. It was after noon. What they had there dried and they parched it right away. They wanted to have

green rice to eat.

Sometimes they had a feast when they first got the rice. Then they were in a hurry. After my namesake, my uncle, finished tramping the rice, his wife winnowed it, winnowed the rice.

The fine broken rice flew out when the rice was winnowed. I was always grabbing and eating it. I was always eating it. Then the lady, Dookisin she was called, said, "Naawakamigook, don't eat it. Don't do that! You'll get bloated."

I'd always steal a great big handful of rice and eat it. One night I really got sick, I really felt bad after they finished the ceremony. My, was grandmother ever scared about my condition. There wasn't any Indian doctor around there. I was very sick and kept vomiting hard, but it was only rice, only the broken stuff.

"Oh, goodness gracious, she's just bloated," she said, and so she wasn't scared anymore.

Ricing Season!

Although high water resulted in a poor crop throughout much of Minnesota, students found enough rice to practice the traditions involved in manoominike — rice making!

The season began with a trip to Mille Lacs to learn about canoe safety and poling, followed by a trip to Lake Onamia for a little actual knocking.

Students visited two rice processing plants in Aitkin County — Rice River Farms and Mille Lacs Wild Rice Corporation — to see how rice is processed in a high-tech facility.

The companies gave the kids a free tour, t-shirts, and finished rice, and they also donated 100 pounds of green rice for the students to process.

Curt Kalk and Fawn DeWitt took them through all the steps of the finishing process — from parching to jigging to winnowing — and they also showed off a low-tech mechanical threshing machine that removes and separates the hulls from the rice grains.



TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy October Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diana Marie Anderson
 Beverly Jean Bearheart
 Mary Ann Bedausky
 Sheldon Ray Boyd
 Vivian Ann Bruce
 Marvin Ray Bruneau
 Donna Marie Dorr Cartwright
 Archie Dahl Cash
 Albert Abner Churchill Jr.
 Steven Lawrence Churchill
 Ervin Wayne Crown
 Harold William Davis
 Darlene Marie Day-Beaulieu
 James F. Dowell Jr.
 Joycelyn Marie Drumbeater
 Ronda Leigh Dunfee
 Jack Leo Dunkley
 Angeline Marie Eagle
 Gary Richard Garbow
 Helena Graikowski
 Lorna Mae Hanks
 Lucy May Hansen
 Marene Hedstrom
 Delores Mae Hegland
 William Robert Hemming
 Steven Blane Hensley
 Sherry Lynn Herrick
 Kevin Scott Karsjens
 Robert Lee Kegg
 Doreen Lorraine Knutson
 Valerie Marie LaFave

Terrance Steven Leyk
 Joan Littlewolf
 Marcella Jean Maurice
 Jacqueline Applegate McRae
 Betty Mae Mondeng
 Brenda Joyce Moose
 Beverly Marie Nayquonabe
 Linda Jean Nickaboine
 Joni Jayne O'Brien
 Teresa Lynn Packard
 Bernice Pewaush
 Jacqueline Ellen Redearth
 Dorothy Sam
 Marsha Colleen Sam
 Ruth Anne Sam
 Virginia Louise Sam
 James Robert Schroeder
 Terrance Wayne Shaugobay
 Merle Skinaway
 Charlene Marie Smith
 Nancy Jean Spittell
 Montgomery Jay Staples
 Jay Star
 Russell Ernest Towle
 Jill Marie Valentino
 Darlene Almeda Warren
 Earl Ellsworth Whitney
 Nancy Marie Zeleznik

Happy Belated Birthday to Elders

We apologize that Loretta Hansenb was left off of the September Elder birthday list. Happy belated birthday, Loretta!

Happy October Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Eric** on 10/25 love Dad, Melissa, Braelyn, Payton, Wes, Brynley, Waase, Bianca, Henry, Papa Brad, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Auntie Val, Tyler, Pie, Kev, Auntie Randi, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Guy, Auntie Rachel, and Rory.
 • Happy birthday **Melodie** our Halloween baby on 10/31 love the Harrington Family.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday **Naomi Sam Cardenas** on 8/25 from Auntie Barb (we apologize for incorrectly listing your name in the August issue!).

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 November issue is October 15.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the support, love, prayers, and strength offered to us. It meant so much to have everyone around us during our family's hard time.

Miigwech,
 The Blake Family



Commissioner Sworn In

Darrell "Tiger" Brown Bull was sworn in as Commissioner of Administration in the Chief Executive's office foyer on Monday, September 24, with Justice Ramona Applegate administering the oath of office. At Tiger's request, the swearing-in ceremony was very small, with just two Band attorney witnesses and the front-office staff. Since July of 2017, Tiger has been serving as the Assistant Commissioner of Administration, and has been responsible for the duties of the Commissioner since that position became vacant a few months ago.

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

Wellbriety Talking Circle

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.

CEREMONIAL DRUM

Tim and Tom Ceremonial Drum: November 2–3, DII
Elder/Sheldon Ceremonial Drum: November 2–3, DI
Darrell/Skip Ceremonial Drum: November 5–6, DIII
Vince/Dale Ceremonial Drum: November 9–10, DII
Joe/George Ceremonial Drum: November 16–17, DI
Lee/Mike Ceremonial Drum: November 16–17, DIII
Bob/Perry Ceremonial Drum: November 30–December 1, DI

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

Noon Closing: November 2
Nay Ah Shing Powwow: November 2, 10 a.m.–noon
Warrior's Day: November 12. Government offices closed
Miigwech Days: November 22–23
Midwinter Break: December 24–25

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Aazhoomog Com. Ctr.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step Hinckley Corporate Building, 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Urban Office</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Mick/Syngen Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Four Winds</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Mick/Syngen Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>Family Day 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 13</i></p> <p>Kids' Crafts 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 13</i></p>
<p>7</p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>American Indian Day Government Offices Closed.</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Health Fair District III 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center <i>See page 13</i></p> <p>Constitutional Convention Meeting 3–8 p.m. Fortune Bay</p>	<p>10</p> <p>NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>Health Fair District II 10 a.m.–2 p.m. East Lake Community Center <i>See page 13</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Aazhoomog Com. Ctr.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step Hinckley Corporate Building, 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Health Fair District I 10 a.m.–3 p.m. DI Community Center <i>See page 13</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach East Lake Community Center</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ralph/Andy Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>Health Fair District IIa 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 13</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Four Winds</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Ralph/Andy Ceremonial Drum District I</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p><i>Deadline for Tribal Noteboard submissions for November issue!</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Minor Trust Training 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Aazhoomog Com. Ctr.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Indigenous Pink Day <i>See page 13</i></p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step Hinckley Corporate Building, 6 p.m. <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach East Lake Community Center</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Niib/Iyawbance Ceremonial Drum District II</p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Four Winds</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Niib/Iyawbance Ceremonial Drum District II</p>
<p>21</p> <p>National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Denver, Colorado</p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>NCAI Denver, Colorado</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>DII Sobriety Feast 6 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>NCAI Denver, Colorado</p>	<p>24</p> <p>NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>NCAI Denver, Colorado</p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Aazhoomog Com. Ctr.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Urban Community Meeting/Halloween Party 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church</p> <p>Screenagers Free Movie Showing 1:30 p.m. Grand Makwa <i>See page 13</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach East Lake Community Center</p> <p>DIIa Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Linda/Joyce Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>NCAI Denver, Colorado</p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Four Winds</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Linda/Joyce Ceremonial Drum District I</p> <p>Mazinaakizige: American Indian Teen Photography Exhibit Closing 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 13</i></p> <p>Beading 101 2-Day Workshop 12–4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 13</i></p>
<p>28</p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Beading 101 2-Day Workshop 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 13</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Feast District III 5:30 p.m. Hinckley Corporate Building</p> <p>MN Chippewa Tribe Subcommittee Meetings Northern Lights</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee Meeting Northern Lights</p> <p>DI Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. District I Community Center</p>	<p>31</p> <p>NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Circle of Health Outreach Aazhoomog Com. Ctr.</p>	<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>		

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 November issue deadline is October 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).

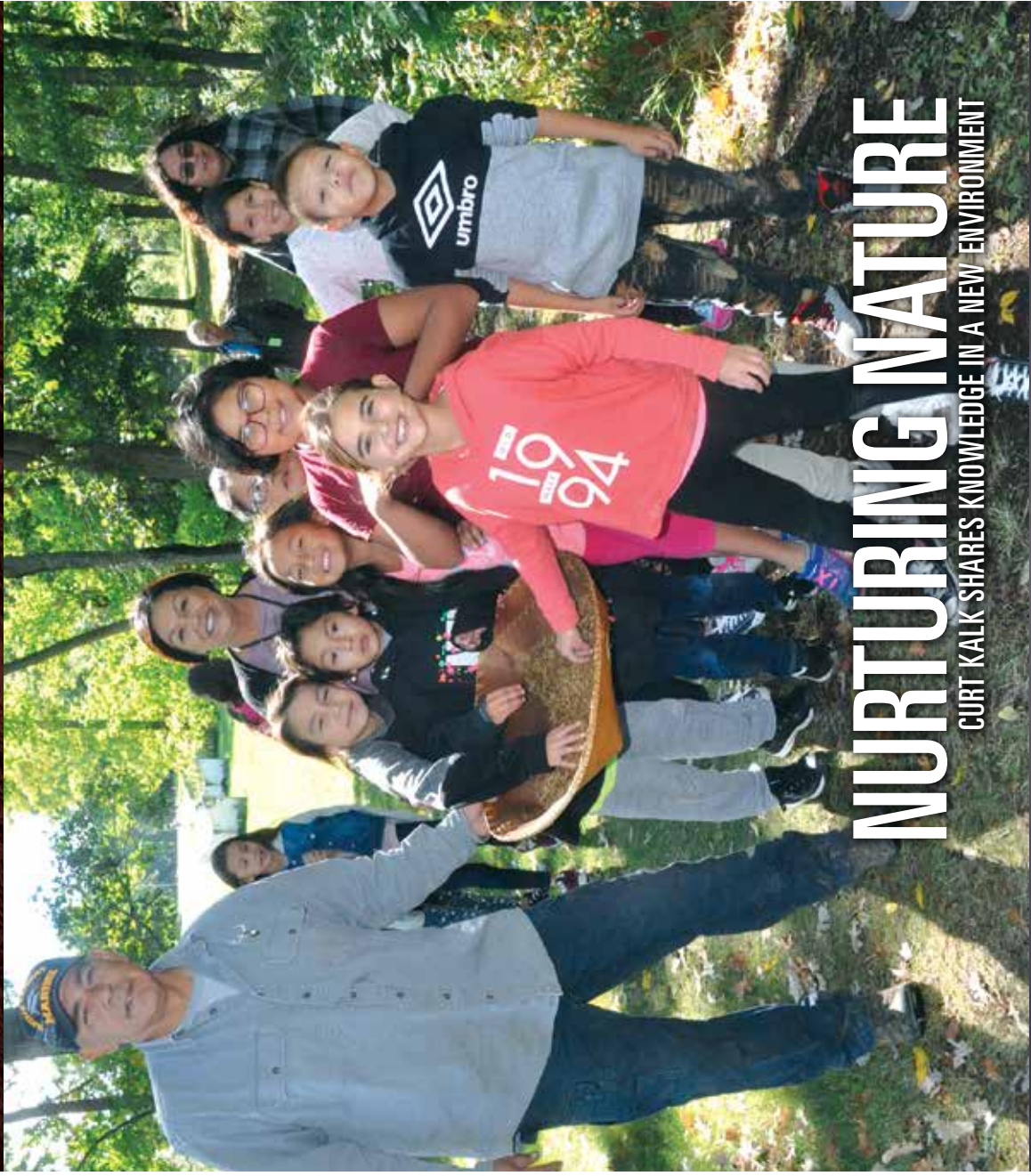
Mille Lacs Band Family Services: Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444; 800-709-6445, ext. 7588. Family Violence Prevention: District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 866-867-4006.

INAAJIMOWIN

OJIBWE

THE STORY AS IT'S TOLD

OCTOBER 2018 | VOLUME 20 | NUMBER 10



NURTURING NATURE

CURT KALK SHARES KNOWLEDGE IN A NEW ENVIRONMENT

CAMP DRAWS
ATTENTION TO
HOMELESSNESS

BAND ASSEMBLY
MAKES PLAN FOR
REVISOR'S OFFICE

MINISINAAKWAANG
SCHOOL PROVIDES
FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

BLAKE FAMILY
HOPES FOR
JUSTICE, UNITY