

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE STORY AS IT'S TOLD

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Back: Nolan Sund, Romeo Garbow, Tierra Day, Ashlynn Eagle, Aubrey Benjamin, June Nadeau, American Indian Studies Teacher Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe. **Front:** District Representatives Marvin Bruneau, Wally St. John, and Sandra Blake, and Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd.

Government Officials Welcome Students

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Six Onamia High School students set aside the books on November 8 for a first-hand look at tribal government in action. They were accompanied by American Indian Studies teacher Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe and instructional assistant Dana Munson.

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd welcomed the students and asked everyone present to introduce themselves, including the three district representatives, Commissioner of Finance Adam Valdez, Legislative Attorney Christine Jordan, Parliamentarian Darcie Big Bear, Administrative Assistant Kiana Morrison, and Legislative Office Manager Wendy Merrill.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin also dropped in at the beginning of the meeting to greet the students.

Students witnessed some of the basics of Robert's Rules of Order: approving the agenda and minutes, making motions and seconds, and roll call votes.

The Assembly discussed and approved several contracts, approved hardship requests, and heard presentations from Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) Executive Director Becky Houle, and Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin.

As the meeting progressed, Sheldon asked Becky and Percy to speak to the students about their work and how young people might pursue a career in their field.

Becky talked about working in gaming regulation through

out her career and said she likes to "geek out" on the topic. She said employees come from a variety of backgrounds: business, math, surveillance, or working their way up in the gaming industry. Some staff have only a high school degree, and one has a background in archaeology!

Percy introduced himself to the students by saying, "I oversee roads, facilities, housing, and public works — so pay attention!"

He said his department is always looking for anyone who wants to get their hands dirty: mechanics, drivers, carpenters, cement masons, painters — anyone who can work in the building trades "from the ground up." He also recommended pursuing commercial HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) for students who want to earn higher salaries.

Band Assembly meetings are open to all Band members, who are encouraged to attend. The meetings rotate around the districts and have also met twice at All Nations Church in Minneapolis since the new Band Assembly took office in July.



Percy Benjamin

Historic Election for Native Americans

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

2018 will be remembered as the year Minnesotans finally elected a Native American to statewide office — 160 years after statehood.

In the race for governor and lieutenant governor, Minnesotans chose Tim Walz and White Earth Band member Peggy Flanagan over the Republican ticket of Jeff Johnson and Donna Bergstrom. Bergstrom is a Red Lake member, so the state was guaranteed to make history with its first Native lieutenant governor either way, but the Walz/Flanagan team was endorsed by the Mille Lacs Band and preferred by most Minnesota Native Americans.

Across the nation, Native women also made 2018 a historic year. Debra Haaland of New Mexico and Sharice Davids of Kansas will be the first Native women in Congress when they take office in January.

Additionally, the Band's endorsed candidate for Attorney General, Keith Ellison, defeated Republican Doug Wardlow. Ellison will replace Lori Swanson, who stepped down prior to an unsuccessful bid for governor. Swanson agreed with her predecessor Mike Hatch's opinion that the Mille Lacs Reservation has been disestablished. Although Ellison has not expressed an opinion on the matter, the Band believes he will be more friendly to Native American interests than his predecessor.

Not all races went as many Band members had hoped. Republican State Representative Sondra Erickson, who has held office since 1998 (with the exception of two years) soundly defeated challenger Emy Minzel, who campaigned hard for the office and visited the District I and IIa communities several times.

Mille Lacs County Commissioners Roger Tellinghuisen and Tim Wilhelm and County Attorney Joe Walsh, who supported the county's 2016 withdrawal from the law enforcement agreement, were both reelected.

And Joe Radinovich, running for Congress in Minnesota's Eighth District, was defeated by Republican Pete Stauber, only the second Republican to win there in several decades. Outside Minnesota, Paulette Jordan of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, who was running for governor of Idaho, was defeated by the Republican candidate.

Rallies on the reservation

The Government Affairs Department worked with the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party to host election rallies in all Mille Lacs Reservation communities.

On Friday, October 26, candidates made the rounds from Meshakwad Community Center to East Lake, Chiminising, and District I.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin, Boozhoo! A few days ago, the Thanksgiving holiday was observed by American families all across the country. Tribes across the nation have their own ways of observing Thanksgiving; some look at this holiday as a way of expressing gratitude that our people survived the diseases and war brought about by colonization, many tribes view this day as a time to feast and celebrate family, and others choose not to recognize the holiday at all.

At Mille Lacs, most families (including mine) get together to feast and spend time with loved ones. We call this day "Miigwech Day." Renaming Thanksgiving "Miigwech Day" at Mille Lacs was first started under the leadership of former Chief Executive Marge Anderson, who always said that in our culture, every day is like Thanksgiving, because we are taught to use our asemaa to give thanks whenever we hunt, fish, and harvest rice, berries, or birch bark. She said Thanksgiving was not the only day to give thanks, but another day to give thanks.

So it seemed appropriate that we choose the week of Miigwech Day to honor Marge Anderson's legacy and life's work. With the permission and involvement of Marge's family, the building known as the Mille Lacs Government Center was officially renamed the "Biidaabinookwe Government Center" on November 20, in memoriam of Marge Anderson. This was a special day with wonderful speakers. Marge was a fierce defender of tribal sovereignty, our treaty rights, and a pioneer of the early self-governance movement. You can read more about this event in this issue of the *Inaajimowin*.

One of the biggest events impacting the Band in November was the outcome of the 2018 elections. With the Walz-Flanagan victory in Minnesota, the first Native American in our state history will be sworn into the office of Lieutenant Governor! I am so proud of Peggy Flanagan, whom I've known since she was a young woman working as a trainer for Wellstone Action, the organization founded to carry on the work of the late Senator Paul Wellstone. With Wellstone Action, Peggy founded the Native American Leadership Program and was a trainer with Camp Wellstone, where she trained thousands of progressive activists. Peggy will serve as a strong voice for Native people at the State Capitol.

I am also excited about Minnesota's future under the leadership of Governor Tim Walz. When he first ran for Congress back in 2006, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe came forward as

one of his earliest supporters back when not many Democrats or Republicans thought he had a chance of beating the six-term incumbent Republican. Tim defied the political odds and won that race. Ever since, he has been a great friend of the Band and an effective champion of issues impacting Native American veterans, children, and the environment. He has a strong understanding of tribal rights and sovereignty and will be a wonderful governor for Native people as well as all Minnesotans.

I was very honored to be appointed to serve on the Walz-Flanagan Transition Team, and humbled for this opportunity to serve in an advisory capacity to our incoming Governor and Lieutenant Governor as they prepare to take office.

Other significant changes include the shift of power that will take place in the Minnesota State Legislature, where the Democrats will take over control of the State House. Previously, both the State House and Senate were controlled by the Republican party under a Democratic governor. Minnesota is now one of the only states in the country with two parties splitting control over the state legislature, so it will be interesting to see what that means for progress on key issues impacting tribes like education, health, and environmental issues such as regulation of mining and pipeline activity.

Nationally, we also experienced a shift in power as the Democrats prepare to take over control of the House of Representatives. These issues really do matter for us at Mille Lacs, because it can mean the difference between federal policies that support tribal sovereignty and self-determination versus policies that can harm us. The Mille Lacs Band has good friends in both political parties, but this past election is a reason to celebrate that long-time friends such as Congresswoman Betty McCollum (St. Paul) will be taking over leadership of subcommittees and committees that directly impact the Mille Lacs Band and other tribes.

Additionally, with the victories of Deb Haaland in New Mexico and Sharice Davids in Kansas, Indian Country will make history by sending two Native American women to the U.S. House of Representatives! The Band was also an early supporter of incoming Congresswoman-elect Haaland and I've had an opportunity to get to know her as well, and am excited about what she and Congresswoman-elect Davids will accomplish in the Congress.

This was a very exciting election year, and we can be proud that Mille Lacs Band members got out the vote. We had a very strong voter turnout in every district, and as Mille Lacs Band members you truly made a difference in the election outcome. Chi miigwech to every Band Member who exercised your right to vote and made your voice heard, and miigwech as well to our Government Affairs team who worked very hard to get out the Native vote!

At home in our community, we are facing many challenges, especially in the Human Service areas within our government. The opioid epidemic, the shortage of social workers, and a record number of children whose parents can no longer care for them have been extreme stressors on our Band families and community, as well as on the Band government's ability to respond effectively. Much of my time this month has been spent focusing on our HHS Department and Band response to these crisis issues. I will have more to share about this at the State of the Band Address, which will be held on January 8, and I encourage all Band Members and their families to attend.

As I reflected on Miigwech Day about what I am grateful for, I thought about my family, friends and especially Mille Lacs Band members. The best part of my month was spent meeting with Band members, especially at the Elder meetings we held in each of the districts and the urban area. I always hear the best ideas and solutions to problems from the Band members, and I am very grateful to all the Mille Lacs Band members and Elders who have been so generous with their time in working to improve our community and build a better future for our children. Chi miigwech!

Melanie Benjamin

Chief Executive Appointed to Walz-Flanagan Transition Team

Governor-elect Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor-elect Peggy Flanagan have named Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin to their 29-member transition advisory board.

On November 8, Walz named Flanagan as the Chair of the One Minnesota Transition Advisory Board, saying it was an easy decision.

"The diverse voices of Minnesotans are one of our greatest resources, and no one knows that better than Peggy," Walz said. "She will lead the advisory board with the same commitment to dialogue and inclusion that she brings to everything she does."

Walz said the advisory board will consist of voices from across the state who will provide counsel and advice over the

next eight weeks until he is sworn in as Minnesota's 41st Governor on January 7, 2019.

"Our team worked intentionally to bring together a diverse group of people to share their expertise as we lay the groundwork for our administration," Flanagan said in a statement announcing the new advisory board. "Together, we will cast a wide net across the state to ensure we truly run state government as One Minnesota."

The board includes representatives from education, industry, the nonprofit sector, political leadership, and several of the state's minority groups.

The Dakota are represented by President Shelley Buck of the Prairie Island Indian Community.



Government Center Renamed to Honor Chief Marge Anderson

The Biidaabinookwe Government Center will serve as a monument to Marge Anderson's legacy of leadership

Marjorie Ann "Marge" Anderson dedicated much of her life to public service of the Mille Lacs Band, serving for more than 27 years in elected office including 12 years as Chief Executive. During her time in leadership Anderson oversaw a great deal of change for the Band, ranging from important victories for sovereignty to development of critical infrastructure that advanced the self-sufficiency of the Band.

On November 20, the Mille Lacs Band honored the memory and the legacy of leadership of Anderson, who died in 2013, by officially changing the name of the government center to the Biidaabinookwe Government Center.

"Marge was a champion of the early self-governance movement, of securing our 1837 Treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather, and a fierce defender of tribal sovereignty," said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "As a traditional leader, Marge was deeply rooted in our culture and language, and showed how merging our traditional ways with modern governance could result in long-term, positive change for our community. In naming our government's central building after Marge Anderson, we honor her leadership and life's work on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band."

Anderson was the first woman ever elected to serve as chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band. Her leadership roles with the Band also included serving as the Band's District I Representative and Secretary-Treasurer. Anderson's legacy of service extended beyond the Band as well. Anderson served in leadership positions with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the National Congress of American Indians, and she founded the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, serving as its first president.

The dedication ceremony recognized members of Marge Anderson's family and was attended by current and former Band officials, Elders, and government center employees.

Clifford "Skip" Churchill gave the invocation, and Timber Trails Drum sang opening and closing songs.

The speakers included Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, former Secretary-Treasurer Herb Weyaus, District I Representative Sandi Blake, and Marge's former assistant Molly Judkins.

Guest speakers from outside the tribe were National Indi-

an Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Executive Director Scott Vele, and Billy Blackwell.

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd said, "Through the naming of this building, future generations of Band members will

be reminded of Marge's legacy and of what we have overcome as a people; and will better understand the leadership and sacrifice it has taken to get us where we are today."

A plaque honoring Anderson was unveiled and will be installed on the building to signify the name change.

Friends, family, leaders reflect on Marge's legacy



"One of the greatest honors is not to be remembered for what you accomplished for yourself, but for what you have accomplished for the people you have served."

– Michael Davis



"Marge Anderson as Chief Executive will forever be remembered for an explosion of economic activity here and in all three districts of the Mille Lacs Band, an era of construction that continues today."

– Sheldon Boyd



"Biidaabinookwe looked toward the future with the love and care she had for our people. ... We are truly blessed for the hard work Biidaabinookwe put in on behalf of our tribe."

– Sandi Blake



"Marge, as you're watching over us, we will take care of this building as you took care of us when you were our leader."

– Molly Judkins



"We are where we are today because the Mille Lacs Band empowered their leaders to do what they do in Washington D.C."

– Ernie Stevens



"She was an artist of Indian wars and fights, and battles on paper, pens against pens. ... She put that drum and that song, and those prayers together, and she knew how to take that to Washington D.C."

– Scott Vele

In Her Own Words – For the Ojibwe, Every Day Is Thanksgiving

By Marge Anderson

This article by the late Marge Anderson was originally published in the Star Tribune newspaper and is reprinted as a timely reminder of Marge's guiding philosophy.



Marge Anderson

In the fall, when we go out in our canoes to harvest wild rice from the lake, we put our tobacco in the water. We give thanks to the Great Spirit for what we are about to gather. We take the wild rice into our boats, go back to shore, and process it the old-fashioned way, so that we can prepare and eat it like our ancestors did.

Then we have a feast, sharing the wild rice with our loved ones and Elders, and again giving thanks. In the Ojibwe culture, sharing is another way of giving thanks. It is difficult to show gratitude for something if we keep it all to ourselves.

We take time to give thanks with our tobacco for fishing, sugarbushing (harvesting maple syrup), and hunting. We give thanks for the birchbark used in our arts and crafts, and for the berries we enjoy each spring and summer. We give thanks

every day, not just by saying thank you — "miigwech" in the Ojibwe language — but by showing it. This is a very conscious thing for Ojibwe people. Giving thanks can't be hurried or overlooked.

For most Americans, Thanksgiving is a day — an occasion when families come together for a big meal of turkey and mashed potatoes.

I have no criticism of this tradition. In fact, I have people over to my house for turkey on Thanksgiving Day. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe calls this "Miigwech Day."

But celebrating Thanksgiving as the day to give thanks is not the way I was taught. Rather, it is another day to give thanks, just like every day is.

Thanksgiving has been an official national holiday since 1863. What many people consider the first Thanksgiving — shared by the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians in Plymouth, Massachusetts — took place in 1621. But the concept of giving thanks for the annual harvest in America goes back much further — to when the continent was home only to Native Americans, like the Ojibwe.

No matter what our ancestors harvested, they gave thanks through their tobacco. Sometimes there were ceremonies or drums or feasts.

In the case of the "first" Thanksgiving, there was a feast largely supplied by the Wampanoag Indians. They were a proud and prosperous people who had made the area around Plymouth their home for more than 12,000 years. The Wampanoag's way was to share. The newcomers from England (the Pilgrims) were hungry and poor.

It was probably hard for the Wampanoags to imagine that such destitute people would ever pose a danger. But by 1675, after years of war and diseases brought from Europe, the Wampanoags were decimated from about 8,000 to 1,000 on the American mainland. And that was just the beginning of the destruction that devastated the Wampanoags and other Native American tribes all across America as settlers arrived and moved west over the next 200+ years.

So it is not surprising that Thanksgiving is a day when many Native Americans reflect on what was taken from our ancestors. Some tribal cultures, like that of the Ojibwe, have endured. Other tribes have been less fortunate. I understand and respect why some of them choose to recognize Thanksgiving in a different way or not at all.

In the Ojibwe culture, Thanksgiving is a conscious part of our daily lives. We say our thanks, show our thanks, and take the proper time to give thanks. I am proud of this tradition.

State News Briefs

Anglers can keep a walleye a day: The Minnesota DNR said last month that state anglers will be allowed to keep one walleye per day between 21 and 23 inches or over 28 inches from Mille Lacs during this year's ice fishing season. The DNR's fall population estimate found 727,000 walleye that were 14 inches or longer, compared to an estimated 250,000 walleye at that size four years ago. Perch and tullibee numbers were lower than the DNR had hoped. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Fourth death at homeless camp: Argentina Zarcara Taylor, 23, passed away in early November of a drug overdose at the homeless camp in the Little Earth neighborhood of Minneapolis. She was the fourth person to die at the camp in less than two months. Family members said she had been released from jail to a drug treatment center in the area. She left the center and went to the camp a short time later. Her father, Tobias Taylor, said the camp is "a drug house without walls, and everyone knows it." *Source: startribune.com.*

Native artist featured at UMD's Tweed Museum: A glass display case at the Tweed Museum of Art at the University of Minnesota Duluth has become a screen showing animations by Red Lake artist Jonathan Thunder. Thunder's animations, sculptures, and paintings, collectively titled "Manifest'o," refer to Anishinaabe stories with the goal of bringing oral traditions to life and reviving the Ojibwe language. "This piece, for me, is my gift to the community as a way of saying thank you for all the gifts I've received," he said. "Life has handed me some experiences that have been uncomfortable and a little frightening at times. Somehow I've been blessed with the ability to use it to better my perspective." *Source: mprnews.org.*

Warming tents go up at homeless encampment: Heated Army tents have been set up at the Wall of Forgotten Natives homeless camp in Minneapolis. The tents were purchased by the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center and Line 3 pipeline protesters. The City of Minneapolis initially opposed large shelters but changed course due to cold weather. The city is working on a temporary emergency shelter to house about 120 people on land owned by the Red Lake Nation. City coordinator Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde said city officials hope the camp will be dismantled once the emergency shelter, called a "navigation center" opens in mid-December. "If you come in high, or you come in drunk, you will be accepted," she said. "We will not allow use to happen at the site, but if you are struggling with addiction, you will not be turned away, and we'll continue to help figure out what that looks like, including medication-assisted treatment if necessary." *Source: mprnews.org.*

Residents respond to permit approvals for Northern Minnesota mine: After PolyMet received a permit to build a \$1 billion mine near the town of Babbitt, supporters and opponents had very different reactions. While mine workers were ecstatic, environmentalists and tribes fear the potential impact on game, fish, wild rice, and water, including Lake Superior. "Anybody that cares about clean water is going to be our ally," said Bob Tammen, a former mining company employee from Soudan who now advocates for stronger environmental protections. Next under consideration is Twin Metals' proposed copper-nickel mine on the edge of the Boundary Waters. *Source: startribune.com.*



They voted!

And not only that, they helped others get to the polls on election day and served up a wonderful brunch at Chiminising Community Center. Pictured are Deborah Wanless, Michele Wanless, Kimberly Adelman, and Melanie Garbow. Miigwech to those who helped out on election day in all districts and the urban area!

Election continued from page 1

Band members heard from candidates Flanagan, Minzel, and Radinovich, along with U.S. Senator Tina Smith, State Auditor Julie Blaha, and Secretary of State Steve Simon.

Smith, Blaha, and Simon all won their respective contests, as did incumbent DFL Senator Amy Klobuchar.

Emy Minzel, DFL candidate for Minnesota House in District 15A, spoke about her commitment to represent all residents of the district, not just those who share her political views. She also stressed the importance of clean water and the Mille Lacs Lake tourism economy.

Emy said she became a mother three days before she turned 17 and relied on help to raise her daughter. "It's a Minnesota value to care for each other," she said.

Julie Blaha, who won her race for State Auditor, replacing Democrat Rebecca Otto (who also stepped down to run for governor), drew some laughs with her self-deprecating style. "I know you all came out here to meet the person who's running for State Auditor!" she joked. Julie talked about what the Auditor does and asked community members for their votes November 6.

Steve Simon said his mission is simple: to make it as easy as possible for people to vote. He talked about a former Secretary of State, Republican Mary Kiffmeyer, who tried to make it illegal to vote with a tribal ID. She and other Republicans also attempted to pass a Voter ID amendment that was voted down by Minnesotans.

Joe Radinovich talked about how good jobs have been replaced by automation, and the new jobs don't have the salary and benefits to keep up with the rising cost of living. He vowed to work to lessen the influence of big money on politics and to honor tribal sovereignty and treaties as the law of the land. He talked about the tax bill passed by Republicans in Washington that gives 80 percent of the benefit to the richest 1 percent of Americans, while they are threatening to cut Social Security and Medicare. "We have to change the way we do politics

in this country," he said. Unfortunately, his message was not enough to bring him to victory.

But the star of the show for many Band members in attendance was Peggy Flanagan, who talked about her childhood in St. Louis Park as "the kid with the different-colored lunch ticket" who had asthma and relied on Medicaid for healthcare. "Some people talk about 'those people,'" said Peggy. "Well, I am 'those people.'"

Peggy and running mate Tim Walz ran on the theme of "One Minnesota," and for the first time in history, the state will have a representative of the first Minnesotans in statewide office in St. Paul.



Lieutenant Governor-elect Peggy Flanagan took a selfie with District I Band members after visiting four Mille Lacs Band community centers on October 26.



An enthusiastic crowd of Band members and neighbors greeted candidates at Chiminising Community Center on October 26.

Wahkon City Council Signs On to Anti-Treaty Rights Lawsuit in Wyoming

Andre LaSalle Mille Lacs Messenger

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On Monday, Oct. 29, the Wahkon City Council held a special meeting at the request of Mayor Sandy Reichel. The meeting's agenda was to consider appointment of special council Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law of Saint Cloud regarding the submission of an amicus brief in a Supreme Court case and joining potential litigation involving local fishing regulations.

According to city clerk Karrie Roeschlein, the meeting's agenda was drafted by Rinke Noonan, and Gary Leistico, an attorney with the firm, was being paid to attend the meeting and answer questions from the council.

Amicus brief

An amicus brief is a legal document filed by non-litigants who have interest in the subject of the case. The brief is intended to provide advice to the court on additional, relevant information and arguments that the court may wish to consider.

According to Leistico, Rinke Noonan will soon be drafting an amicus for a non-disclosed group of clients, and the City of Wahkon has the opportunity to join the action. The amicus will be drafted to support the State of Wyoming in Supreme Court case No. 17-532, *Herrera v. Wyoming*.

As Leistico explained, the case of *Herrera v. Wyoming* revolved around the legality of a Crow Reservation tribal member shooting an elk outside of reservation boundaries when the state hunting season was closed.

Herrera, a member of the Crow tribe of Montana, was tracking elk on the Crow Reservation, where he could legally harvest elk at the time.

Herrera followed the elk off of the reservation and into Wyoming's Bighorn National Forest. Once inside the National Forest, Herrera took part in the shooting of elk and transporting the meat back to Montana.

The State of Wyoming cited Herrera for hunting out of season. Herrera argued that he had lawfully harvested the elk because of provisions from the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie, which states that tribes "shall have the right to hunt on the unoccupied lands of the United States so long as game may be found thereon."

The 1999 Supreme Court case *Minnesota v. Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians* may play a role in *Herrera v. Wyoming* as legal precedent, Leistico said.

Reichel asked Leistico if there would be costs involved if the city joined the amicus brief. Leistico said he was uncertain if the city would incur any costs for joining, but that currently he was "not aware" of any.

Leistico said the city would have to work that out with the other parties involved.

The council voted unanimously to participate in the amicus brief.

Potential litigation

Regarding the city joining in "potential litigation involving local fishing," legal fees would be incurred on a "cost sharing basis" with the other parties being represented by Rinke Noonan, Leistico said.

Leistico explained that his hourly rate was \$315, and went on to note the hourly cost for his associates and assistants as well. Leistico emphasized that the city could drop out of the suit at any time if they felt the costs were getting out of hand. "We would try to be as cost effective as we can," Leistico said.

According to Leistico, Rinke Noonan is "quite far along" in the process of fact-finding for possible legal action regarding the current fishing regulations, and the firm hopes to enact litigation within the next six months. Specifics of the legal action were not discussed at the meeting, but Leistico indicated that the process by which the Minnesota DNR has been creating and enacting regulations may not comply with state law.

"I feel very strongly about moving forward," Reichel said. "[The regulations] have affected our community."

"I agree that this is something we have to move forward with," councilor Kim Tyson said. "Obviously we can withdraw if it's going to be too expensive."

Reichel asked the council if anyone would like to make a motion to join potential litigation "with the understanding that we will be doing a final meeting to decide."

Tyson made a motion which was seconded by council Ronda Bjornson-Main.

Scrapped closed meeting

The original meeting agenda, which was drafted by Rinke Noonan, included a planned closed session "as permitted by the attorney-client privilege exemption in Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(b)."

Upon receiving the meeting agenda on Thursday, Oct. 25, Mille Lacs Messenger editor Vivian LaMoore emailed Roeschlein and Reichel informing them that the meeting did not qualify for attorney-client closed meeting privilege because the law only applied to current or existing litigation, not potential litigation.

Mayoral candidate Deb Lawler also emailed Roeschlein indicating her opinion that a closed meeting was not warranted.

Both LaMoore and Lawler were in attendance at the meeting, and in a surprised departure from the meeting's agenda, Leistico stated that "at this time I think there's not a need" for a closed meeting, at which point the meeting was adjourned.

National News Briefs

Spirit Lake Sioux tribe sues over North Dakota voter ID law: North Dakota's voting laws require voters to bring identification listing a provable street address, which unfairly targets those on reservations, according to the Native American Rights Fund. The Spirit Lake Sioux tribe has responded by filing a lawsuit against the state. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa sued over voter ID requirements in 2016, but the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state could continue requiring street addresses. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Foundation launches National Water Challenge: The Notah Begay III (NB3) Foundation, an advocate for Native youth health and fitness, invited tribes, communities, organizations, families and individuals to take the Zero to 60 Challenge — cutting out sugary beverages and drinking up to 60 ounces of water each day for the entire month of November. Coinciding with the challenge, a new water trailer, serving water and infused water, was unveiled at the kick-off event, located at the Native American Community Academy in Albuquerque, on October 29, 2018. "The Zero to 60 Challenge is a positive opportunity for Native youth, families, and everyone to make healthier choices and instill healthy habits," said NB3 Foundation President/CEO Justin Kii Huenemann. "We're an organization dedicated to helping ensure our Native youth live happy, healthy, and fulfilled lives. That's why we're doing this in a creative and challenging way." *Source: nb3foundation.org.*

Bass Pro Shops pulls "Trail of Tears" rifle: A 1978 Winchester rifle commemorating the Cherokee Trail of Tears was removed from an Arkansas Bass Pro Shops after photos of the rifle were posted on Twitter. More than 4,000 Cherokee died during the 1,000-mile walk to what is now Oklahoma in what is now known as the Trail of Tears. The company apologized to the Cherokee tribe, saying the rifle was acquired in a trade and is not part of the store's standard stock. *Source: startribune.com.*

Judge puts Keystone XL on hold: Federal Judge Brian Morris has issued a 54-page order blocking construction of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, pending further study of its impact on the environment. The order says the State Department's analysis of potential environmental effects failed to adequately consider climate change impacts, cultural resources, potential oil spills, or the effect on current oil prices. Under President Obama, the permit to build the pipeline was denied, but President Trump reversed the decision as one of his first acts after taking office. *Source: mprnews.org.*

New Jersey recognizes Nanticoke Lenape Tribal Nation: After years of fighting, New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal announced last month that the state has settled with the Nanticoke Lenape Tribal Nation, agreeing to pay the tribe \$2.4 million and recognize the 3,000-member tribe, while refusing to admit any wrongdoing. The battle began in late 2012 when New Jersey decided to no longer recognize three tribes: the Nanticoke Lenape, Ramapough Mountain Tribe, and Powhatan-Renape Nation. The Nanticoke Lenape filed state and federal civil rights lawsuits in 2015. The lawsuit said the state's decision was racially driven out of fear that the tribe would build a casino, competing with the state's non-Indian gaming industry, but the tribe's laws ban gambling. *Source: nj.com.*



Nightmare on Virgo Road

District I Band members got into the spirit of the season at their annual Halloween party on October 29 at the community center, sponsored by Representative Sandi Blake.



Coming Home

By Ken Weyaus Sr.

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

I live right here on the Mille Lacs Reservation. I've been here mostly all my life. I lived off the reservation for about 10 years, in Minneapolis. Back in the 1970s, there were hardly any jobs around here, so when I was 30, I went to the Cities to find employment. In Minneapolis, I became an apprentice and then a full-fledged carpenter. But I got tired of the rat race! I got tired of fighting the traffic. It's a lot more peaceful out here.

Then in the '80s, there were more jobs in this area, more opportunities. So I moved back to the reservation and started working for the Band. And I've been here ever since.

I did a lot of carpentry at first, building houses mainly for the Band. After that, in the summer of '87, I applied at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and worked there all the way to 2003, when I retired. I've been retired for four years now. But not really, because I work helping the other veterans, and we're always busy.

Today, living on the reservation is almost the same as living anywhere else. We've got sewers, paved roads, our own schools, law enforcement, our own water tower. It's like any other town – we're finally catching up with the rest of the world.

That's a lot different from what I remember growing up. Back then, nobody on the reservation had a new car, just old ones. Because if you were going down the road, you would lose your muffler – the roads were all made of mud. It wasn't worth buying a new car.

People would ask, "Do you have running water?" Yup! We used to have a pump that we had to run back and forth to in order to fetch water. That was our "running" water.

There used to be a three-room schoolhouse; that's where I went to school. Before that, there was a two-room school, and my brother went there. It was all Indian kids, but the teachers were non-Indians then.

Before then, even longer ago, I know our people in East Lake and Lake Lena used to have powwows together, even though it probably took a couple days to travel. They had horses and wagons, and everybody would get together and ride that wagon to Lake Lena for the powwow. Back then, they used to get together for about a month – no overnight or weekend trips.

Today, museum visitors' jaws drop when they realize how rough it was back then. The way some people look at it today, it was hard living.

But that was just the life. You had to get the maple sap and let it boil down eight hours. You had to wash clothes by hand. When our grandparents lived here, everything they needed was here. They had sap, fish, deer, the wildlife, all the natural things they needed to live off the land. A lot of stuff is easier today, but you still need eight hours to boil down the sap.

The reservation exists not just as a community but also as a part of history. This is home to me. It's home to Band members even if they leave here. If they move to California, they still say, "My home is in Minnesota." That's why it's important not just for us, but for our kids growing up even 100 years from now, to say this is our home, our reservation.



Patti and Herb Sam, pictured at the 2014 Thanksgiving powwow in Minneapolis, were together for 22 years and were mainstays in the Twin Cities Indian community. "I'm missing him every day," Patti said.

Urban Area Pays Tribute to Herb Sam

Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

On the last Saturday of October, more than 100 people spent part of their day celebrating and honoring the life of Band Elder and traditional healer Herb Sam.

Herb was well known and beloved in the urban community and spent many years helping those who called on him to offer medicine, conversation, and counsel. Herb passed away in September from liver cancer.

The memorial was planned to allow those who wanted to share their memories and thoughts about the man they called friend. One by one, many of those in attendance walked to the front of the gymnasium at the American Indian Center on Franklin Avenue to share their stories about Herb. And to hug his wife, Patty Sam.

"Herb gave me my Indian name, 'Amik,'" said Hank Houle. "I loved the guy dearly. He was always there for me and my family, and I came today because I just wanted to say thanks."

So did Daniel Nelson Fox.

"When I was a rookie Indian, he took me under his wing. Herb was always there," Daniel said.

For many years Herb and Patty lived in the Twin Cities. After the couple moved to Hinckley, they were still mainstays in the urban area. They were the organizers of the annual Thanksgiving Powwow at the American Indian Center and were often at events in the Cities. At gatherings around town, Herb was frequently asked to offer prayers, smudge, and participate in activities.

On Fridays Herb set up "office hours" at the Powwow Grounds coffee shop on Franklin Avenue for those who wanted to talk with him, get medicine, or needed his healing and wisdom.

David Goodman, who knew the traditional healer for 40 years, met Herb when he was just 18 years old at an Alcoholics Anonymous group.

"He introduced me to potluck," David said with a laugh, recalling that he thought the "pot" stood for something else. "He always made me laugh and was a good man."

Besides offering words about their friend, many of those who sat on Herb's drum, the Mississippi Ojibwe Sobriety Drum, were at the memorial and paid tribute to him.

Mark Erickson was one of those original singers and knew Herb for 40 years.

"Herb would take in anyone who would stay sober," said Mark. "It didn't matter if you weren't the best singer. We have a lot of good memories, and Herb touched a lot of lives."

Many others recalled Herb's sense of humor, thanked him,

and told stories about how they met him and how he impacted their lives. June Blue recalled when Herb blessed her jingle dress.

Stacy Saros met Herb when she was little girl and started dancing when her dad sang on the Mississippi drum. She then sang a song to honor Herb called "Talking with Grandparents," based on a dream her son had.

Patty said the day was filled with emotion for her, but she was grateful that everyone came out to pay tribute to her husband. Though she tried not to get too emotional during the four-hour memorial, there were times when tears were quick to come to her eyes.

"Seeing all of those people come and talk about Herb meant the world to me," said Patty. "I know he is missed by many, and he has been such a big part in people's lives."

Patty spent 22 years with Herb, who passed a few weeks before their 20th wedding anniversary. She said she misses him so, and there's not a day that goes by that she doesn't look for him somewhere in the house.

During the memorial, Patty was unexpectedly presented with a beautiful star quilt.

"The quilt that Mary Abraham made Herb was beautiful," recalled Patty. "He would have loved to see that. He was very proud of serving in the U.S. Army. He was over there with Elvis Presley and drove officers just like Elvis did."

"I'm sure that Herb would have liked to hear what the people said at the memorial," she said. "He was a very respected, humble man."

Patty said the family was planning to go on vacation when Herb got well.

"He wanted to go back to Denver, take baby, stay at the Red Lion Hotel, and take her to see the Mile High Stadium."

"He told me many times that was the place he wanted to go," she recalled. "We went to the Indigenous games, and it was a beautiful trip," she said. "He wanted Arianna to see it too."

While she was at the American Indian Center on that last Saturday of October, Patty said she couldn't help but think about all the times they were there together. The last time she was there was with her husband.

"I'm missing him every day," she said. "He was, and will always be, the love of my life."

Editor's note: Herb was a relative and gave Toya Stewart Downey and her son, Dallas Downey, their Indian names several years ago.

GRA Director Provides 'Health Check' to Band Assembly

You probably won't see the faces or hear the names of Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) members and employees when you walk into Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Hinckley, but the ongoing success of two of the nation's best tribal casinos could not occur without them.

GRA Executive Director Becky Houle came before Band Assembly on November 8 to share a GRA organizational overview and "regulatory health check" with Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd and District Representatives Sandra Blake, Marvin Bruneau, and Wally St. John.

The Mille Lacs Band GRA is an independent regulatory agency established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function. The purpose of the GRA is to ensure that all gaming activities on Mille Lacs Band land are carried out in compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, Title 15 of the Mille Lacs Band statutes, tribal and state compacts, the GRA's Detailed Gaming Regulations, and all other applicable laws.

The GRA's mission statement: Dedicated to providing protection, value, and regulatory excellence in gaming for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Becky, a Mille Lacs Band member, explained that the GRA Board — composed of Chair Wendy Merrill, Vice-Chair Michelle Pomerleau, Shannon Thomas, Michael Davis, and Megan Ballinger — oversees the Executive Director and the Director of Internal Audit, who in turn supervise the GRA's departments: Internal Audit, Compliance, Employee Licensing, Vendor and Facility Licensing, and Surveillance.

The following are among the responsibilities of the GRA:



Gaming Regulatory Authority Executive Director Becky Houle gave a presentation to Band Assembly on November 8.

- License associates, facilities, and vendors;
- Promulgate Detailed Gaming Regulations (DGRs);
- Monitor gaming activities to ensure compliance with DGRs;
- Provide independent information to the tribe on status of gaming activities;
- Support and add value to the gaming enterprises through risk mitigation, controls, and governance processes;
- Establish rules for and inspect games, tables, equipment, machines, cards, and chips;

- Operate proactively to identify threats to the property and respond promptly and professionally; and
- Protect tribal assets, guests, and associates.

Becky explained that the board members are required to hold the highest gaming license possible and are prohibited from gaming at any Mille Lacs Band establishment. "The GRA does not tell operations how to do their jobs, and casino management does not tell the GRA how to regulate," said Becky.

Confidentiality is also essential, she added.

Becky also presented a summary of the GRA's recent accomplishments and activities, including the following:

- A 25 percent reduction of GRA staff and \$500,000 budget reduction since Becky took over as Executive Director in 2014;
- Updates to five gaming regulations in the last year;
- Twenty-three internal audit reviews throughout the year;
- Maintain licensing files for 2,200 vendors;
- Over 660 investigations of vendor representatives accessing casino sensitive areas over the last year;
- Updates to surveillance technology on both properties; and
- Writing of administrative procedures to aid transition and provide a roadmap to success in the event of new leadership.

"GRA has the duty to help with efficiency and process improvement as well as basic regulatory compliance," Becky concluded. "Employees, vendors, and the facilities themselves are to be monitored and licensed to ensure the public health and safety of our guests and employees."

Minnesota Indian Education Conference Comes to Hinckley

The Minnesota Indian Education Association (MIEA) kicked off its annual conference at Grand Casino Hinckley on November 14, and the event was an inspiring mixture of culture, history, language, and the arts.

Master of Ceremonies Ricky White, the superintendent of Circle of Life school on the White Earth Reservation, blended Anishinaabe humor with extensive knowledge of the educators who had gathered for the conference.

He introduced the Mille Lacs Band Color Guard, made up of Allen Weyaus, Tony Pike, Jamie Short, and Quintin Sam, who led a Grand Entry of MIEA board members, elected officials, dignitaries, and students.

Timber Trails drum group played Grand Entry, Flag, and Veterans songs, and Elder Joe Nayquonabe Sr. gave the invocation.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin welcomed attendees, saying "Educators do the most important work anyone can do, especially when it comes to protecting the future of our tribal communities and protecting future generations."

She referred to educators as "dream-makers" for helping children identify their gifts, and she emphasized the importance of language and culture in education of young tribal members.

"My hope for students today is that you will continue to work towards learning about your culture and your language because there is no more effective way to protect our future," Melanie said. "Knowing who you are and where you come from is one of the greatest gifts that you can receive, and once you have that, along with a strong education, nobody can ever take that away from you."

The Band is well represented in MIEA, with Band members, community members, and employees serving on the board: Chris Nayquonabe, Adrienne Benjamin, LeAnn Benjamin, Wendy Merrill, Byron Ninham, and Suzanne Wise.

After Melanie's welcome, the crowd heard from MIEA Chair Ramona Kitto Stately and Office of Indian Education Di-



Mille Lacs Band members played a variety of roles at the Minnesota Indian Education Association Conference at Grand Casino Hinckley November 14-16.

rector (and former Nay Ah Shing Principal) Dr. Jane Harstad.

Two keynote speakers gave entertaining and informative addresses to the 400 registered attendees, who came from schools and tribal communities around the state.

Artist Steven Paul Judd gave a multimedia presentation about his work that drew laughter from the crowd. Steven is an accomplished writer, painter, filmmaker, and multimedia "mashup" artist.

He showed short videos and numerous slides of his work, most of which combines Native and pop culture images into thought-provoking, colorful, and humorous works of art.

The following day, Judd worked with students to produce an original work of art, much like the painting of Larry Amik Smallwood that he created with Mille Lacs Band students in the Ge-Niigaanizijig program last year.

After Steven's presentation, Dr. David Beaulieu gave a second keynote address. Dr. Beaulieu is a White Earth Band member who is the Ruth Myers endowed chair of American



Indian education at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He is an emeritus professor of education policy studies at Arizona State University, where he served as the director of the Center for Indian Education, a professor of education policy studies, and editor of the Journal of American Indian Education, which focuses on research and policy issues related to the education of American Indians and Alaska Natives. A former director of Indian education for the State of Minnesota from 1984 until 1991, he was appointed Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights in 1991.

Dr. Beaulieu spoke about the history of the MIEA.

Wednesday afternoon and Thursday were filled with a wide variety of interesting breakout sessions, as well as Ojibwe and Dakota quiz bowl competitions for students. Evening activities included a powwow and an awards banquet.

The conference concluded on Friday with a general assembly and a meeting of the MIEA board of directors.

NAS Student Project Earns Thumbs Up from Chief Executive

On the afternoon of November 7, guests were invited to watch a presentation at Nay Ah Shing Upper School. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Beth Gruber of Corporate Ventures, community members, Nay Ah Shing Staff members, and family of the students gathered to support the youth. The eighth grade students had been working hard on a project and were ready to share it with the community. Their project, Better Cups, Better Future, is different from most school projects. Instead of just showing what they learned, their project had a specific goal: convincing Grand Casino to stop using styrofoam cups in order to protect the environment.

The eighth grade class has been learning about environmental science with teacher Kayla Nelson as part of a new project-based learning program at Nay Ah Shing. The class consists of seven students: Cailen Blake, William Boyd, Gretchen Nickaboine, Jaxin Nickaboine, Chase Sam, RaeAna Sam-Nickaboine, and Jonathan Shaugobay. The new program focuses on collaboration with many school staff members assisting students with their project, including Tim Lhotka, Megan Nelson, Cheryl Anderson, Diane Fortney, and others.

At the beginning of the project, students were introduced to ecology and the idea that everything in an environment is connected. Students learned how different factors affect populations, why the DNR observes wildlife populations, and how humans impact their surroundings. They gained hands-on experience helping the DNR Fisheries Department monitor the fish populations in Lake Mille Lacs. Once enough background knowledge was gained, it was time to start the project. Students analyzed the different impacts our community has on the environment. Drawing from their personal experience participating in a ditch clean-up each year, the students decided to focus on the environmental impact of the styrofoam cups they found from the casino.

"The school picked up lots of garbage. The type of garbage cleaned up most, though, were styrofoam cups," explained Chase Sam.

The students acknowledged the need for cups at the casino to serve beverages to guests. William Boyd shared this section of the project during the presentation. He explained that the casino bought 2.7 million cups last year. William gained experience writing professional emails to Beth Gruber, office manager at Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. Beth was able to share some statistics with the students, and she also let the group know that the casino has started offering paper cups



From Left: Jonathan Shaugobay, Arlyn Sam, Cailen Blake, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, William Boyd, Jaxin Nickaboine, Beth Gruber, Gretchen Nickaboine, Chase Sam, and RaeAna Sam-Nickaboine.

along with styrofoam cups.

So what is so bad about styrofoam? As Gretchen and RaeAna explained, there are a number of concerns:

- Cups and other products made from styrofoam take 500 years to break down in a landfill.
- They are made from oil and have chemicals in them such as polystyrene, which can be bad for your health.
- Animals can try to eat the littered cups and become sick

"Only when the last tree has died, the last river has been poisoned, and the last fish has been caught, we realize we can't eat money."

— American Indian proverb read by Jaxin Nickaboine

or starve when they fill up on eaten plastics.

Jonathan and Cailen described two better cup options to listeners. The paper and plant-based cups they suggested are both hot liquid-friendly and take only six months to break down in a landfill.

Students acknowledged that these options cost a few more cents per cup; however, they feel they are worth the cost. Chase shared examples of other businesses, such as Starbucks and Caribou Coffee, that successfully serve hot liquids in similar cups.

Knowing how important culture is to their community, the students incorporated an American Indian proverb about the environment into their presentation.

"Only when the last tree has died, the last river has been poisoned, and the last fish has been caught, we realize we can't eat money," was read aloud during the presentation by Jaxin.

The message the students wanted to send was simple:

"As the young people in our community, we hope we persuaded you to stop using styrofoam at the casino. We care about our community and our local natural environment."



Success Stories

Our Nay Ah Shing juniors and seniors had a wonderful excursion to the Twin Cities on Friday, October 26. Their first stop was Red Circle Agency where proprietor Chad Germann, a Mille Lacs Band member, gave his marketing presentation and explained the history of his company. He also told about the importance of relationship building. The students' second visit was to Birch Bark Books, owned by renowned author Louise Erdrich of the Turtle Mountain Ojibwe. Teacher Blenda Hagberg said, "We not only enjoyed the store, but had the good fortune of catching up with Louise herself, who gifted us with autographed books. What a treat!"

NAS Winter Clothing Drive

Nay Ah Shing Schools are holding a winter clothing drive from now until January 31. Please donate new or gently used socks, coats, snow pants, gloves, sweaters, blankets, scarves, boots, and hats. School officials will work to identify families in need. All sizes from infant through adult are accepted. Donations can be dropped off at the Abi or Upper school front desk. Contact Ace Collie with questions at 320-532-4695, ext. 2160, or acollie@nas.k12.mn.us.

Scholarship Information

The Mille Lacs Band Higher Education Office (MLBHEO) is established to assist enrolled members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and their children as they pursue their educational goals. A financial award may also be given to members who successfully obtain their degree, diploma, or certificate. This program is not intended to replace other forms of financial aid. Contact Michele Berger, Scholarship & Career Counselor, 800-709-6445, ext. 4775, or MLB.Scholarships@millelacsband.com.



Native Thrive held basketball camps at Onamia High School and Nay Ah Shing High School this fall.

Native Thrive Looks to Empower Youth Through Sports

Story by Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin) Mille Lacs Band member

On October 27-28 at Onamia High School, the Native Thrive Youth Empowerment/Basketball Camp took place at Onamia High School with a record number of community youth from Onamia, Isle, McGregor, Cass Lake, Hinckley, Bemidji, Lac Courte Oreilles, and even as far as Winnebago, Nebraska.

Funding for the initiative was derived from the "Keep Tobacco Sacred" project led by Mikayla Schaaf — part of the Tobacco Free Communities Grant through the Minnesota Department of Health. Regarding the shifted focus of the project, Mikayla said, "We realized that change starts with families, and we want to do more direct work in the communities and with youth. We want to promote healthy active lifestyles and community involvement. A major part of the grant is reducing and eventually eliminating non-traditional tobacco use in the community. We believe that the best way to do that is to exercise and maintain healthy identity in the community."

The initiative followed up on the August Native Thrive event at Meshakwad Community Center. Native Thrive co-planner Byron Ninham said, "We learned what we did well, and what didn't work, and wanted to build on that knowledge to create something new and special. We wanted to utilize grant funds to support wellness activities and connect with young people in a personal basis in a camp setting, using sport as the medium/language."

The coaches are highly qualified. Two of them played Division 1 ball and others played Division 2 and are currently coaching, mentoring, and working with young people. Shaunna

Knife and Kelsey Peltier are the assistant and head coaches at United Tribes, respectively. Brady Fairbanks is the athletic director and head men's basketball coach at Leech Lake Tribal College. Justin McCloud is currently working to pursue his professional career overseas. He is a graduate of Illinois State and former grad assistant for the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The coaches emphasized fundamentals and the basics of the game while creating a fun atmosphere for all campers. Grades 6-8 and 9-12 were assigned to separate groups for camp. There were definitely some high-level competitive games, and good defensive fundamentals that were taught throughout the weekend. The coaching staff was very open and honest about the importance of reinforcing those skills.

A lot of the coaches got to the level where they were getting to know kids by name and high-fiving, but also not lacking discipline to those who weren't performing up to their potential. By the end of the weekend, kids were tagging on social media and taking selfies with the coaches. "I wanted to let all of the kids know that they can always look to me or see me as someone who they can call on in the future," Byron added. "I told them that I am always personally here for a phone call, check-in, or a visit."

At the culmination of camp, all campers were invited to a banquet-style dinner at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and were invited to participate in a Q&A panel with all of the coaches and clinicians. The coaches spoke about their path in life and their

path in sports and education. They told the kids that they used sports to further their professional and personal lives. "They used basketball, basketball didn't use them," Mikayla added.

As a closing event, every student athlete received a new pair of Nike PG 2.5's and a Nike HyperElite basketball for their participation in the event. Byron believes those incentives are important. "So often we find reasons not to go to school, not to give that extra effort, not to try out for things, because we may not have the equipment, but we were able provide those things through this grant — the basic tools of a basketball and a pair of sneakers to eliminate some of those barriers to participating or trying to achieve. I am so proud that we were able to provide that avenue."

Event organizers would like to send a chi-miigwech to Chris Nayquonabe and the Onamia Indian Education Department for sponsoring the venue, encouraging attendance, coordinating youth involvement, and staffing the event. Chi-miigwech to the Mille Lacs Band Niigaan Program for providing transportation and supplying Powerade sports drinks for the youth. A special shout out to Leroy Fairbanks III who supported the efforts in Mille Lacs by recruiting and engaging 30+ athletes from the Cass Lake/Bemidji area. "He has been a huge ally for youth sports and community involvement and engagement as a politician, father, and coach, and he should be recognized for that," Byron added. Miigwech, LeRoy.

Sober Squad Members Gather for Training in District I

Sober Squad, a recovery movement that started at Mille Lacs, is growing at a rapid pace, with new chapters springing up all over the state.

Founding member Colin Cash thought it would be a good idea to bring members together to learn more about the organization's way of helping those suffering from substance use disorder.

Colin invited 35 members to a training event at Eddy's on November 17 and 18 and was pleasantly surprised when 65 people showed up for a series of presentations.

On Saturday, the group participated in team building and leadership development with motivational speaker James Anderson.

On Sunday, they received intervention training from Wendy Stein and also heard from Kris Kelly of Minnesota Recovery Connection, Kaylyn Collett from Northern Pines Mental Health Center, and Colin himself, who talked about what it means to be part of Sober Squad.

At the end of the day they elected mentors to form a community advisory board.

"It was a phenomenal, awesome, empowering weekend," said Colin. "The speakers gave us tools to be as effective as possible and to support each other and each community."



Sixty-five Sober Squad members from around the region gathered at Eddy's in District I to learn what the organization is all about and to receive training to better help others in recovery.



Step One: Powerless

"He's defeated — physically, spiritually, and emotionally. The lines coming down represent the prayers of the community, and the circle represents his higher power, who is there no matter where you are in life. The Creator never judges you."



Step Two: Came to Believe

"You don't have to be locked up in a prison to be locked up. You could be locked up in your own mind. Notice how cold it is on the left side. The tree represents spiritual growth, and the right side, that's sanity. That's where you want to be."



Step Three: Made a Decision

"This person is sitting down at a sweat lodge, being honest with himself, looking at how Mother Earth is always reminding us, and the circle represents the Creator, who is always with us in the dark times."



Step Four: Moral Inventory

"This person is sitting down and praying and being humble, reflecting on the hard times he caused his family and friends and community. The eagle, he carries the prayers up and blesses us back with his gifts."



Step Five: The Nature of Our Wrongs

"This person is doing Step Five, being honest with himself with another human being, reflecting on all the harm he caused throughout his life."



Step Six: Ready

"This person is ready to get up from all the chaos he went through, and the circle is the Creator, always behind him. The ball and chain are his defects of character, and he's ready to let them go."

Artwork Unveiled at Four Winds

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Artist Joe Gurneau unveiled a series of paintings on October 26 in front of an audience that could appreciate their value: the residents of the Four Winds Lodge treatment center in Brainerd, where the 12 paintings, representing each of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, will help bring inspiration and healing for years to come.

Joe, a Mille Lacs Band member, talked about each painting, beginning with the can of "Foul Lokto" on the painting of the first step. "I couldn't use the Four Loko can because of copyright infringement," said Joe. "I was smart about that," he added, drawing laughter from his audience.

As he spoke about the paintings, a few themes emerged: the importance of the higher power or Creator, symbolized by the circles in several of the paintings; the significance of "we" in the first step (We came to believe...), showing the importance of community in recovery; and the "seed of sobriety," symbolized by the Ojibwe-style vine in the final painting.

"Whoever goes to treatment, whoever goes to AA, even if it doesn't take the first time, just know that the seed of sobriety has been planted, and it will never leave," said Joe. "That seed of sobriety will always blossom."

Afterwards Joe talked about his life on the streets of Minneapolis, where he was homeless on and off since he was 18. "Gang banging, drinking, and drugging was all I lived for," he said. He spent time in jail and treatment. His father, Joe Giizhik, taught him about sweat lodges and ceremonies. "But I was spiritually sick," Joe said.

The turning point came after he was diagnosed with cancer and told he only had a few months to live. "It was at that point where I said, 'I can continue to drink and drug, or I can clean up and start to live a good life.'" He put out tobacco, and a few months later was still alive. Doctors called it a miracle. "I believe the Creator gave me another chance at life," he said.

The final change came when his mom, Marilyn, drove to Minneapolis, "kidnapped" him (Joe's word), and took him to Mille Lacs. Joe moved into the halfway house where he met people who helped him turn his life around. "I took that opportunity to really reach out and ask for help," he said. "They took a chance on me, but I grasped onto those steps and sobriety, and I haven't let go. I found my sanity up here at Mille Lacs."

Joe's father, an artist himself, also introduced Joe to painting. Like sobriety, it was a seed that eventually blossomed.

"When I got here, I didn't have anything," he said. He would draw and paint at State of the Band or other community events and try to sell his work. When it got warm, he'd sit on the sidewalk in front of the government center. "Whatever I got, I spent on art supplies."

Rebecca St. Germaine used to see Joe and marvel at his talent, and before long, the two were talking about the 12 Steps series. It meant a lot to both of them to see Joe's work blossom at Four Winds. Rebecca, Four Winds Cultural Advisor Bobby Eagle, and Joe's halfway house roommate Colin Cash shared their memories and their pride in Joe's accomplishments at the unveiling.

Colin said he was inspired by Joe's presentation. "I remember when he was sitting in front of the government center, nobody saw the value in what he was doing. Something we forget is how much value we have as Anishinaabe people in recovery, and that was showed today. It made me cry to see how much value there is in my brother Joe and in everybody here."

Joe looked around at the result of his hard life, his hard work, his relationships, and his recovery. "When I pass on, these will all be here, helping out the newcomers," he said. "When they're having a hard time, they can look at where they started and where they can be. I'm grateful I got to share it all."



Step Seven: Humbly Asked

"The sage bowl represents prayers, humbly asking for help, and once again the Creator is still behind us, no matter where we are in life."



Step Eight: Willing

"These are all the people he's abused, and on the right is 'eagle paper.' The first word on the eagle paper is 'Sorry.' I love that eagle paper. I just made that up."



Step Nine: Making Amends

"When you get a chance to go see someone you may have hurt in the past, you shake hands and say, 'I'm sorry for the harm I caused you.' For those you'll never see, you say a prayer for them."



Joe Guerneau was joined by his mom, Marilyn, at the unveiling of Joe's artwork. Joe is grateful to his mom for "kidnapping" him and bringing him to Mille Lacs, where he was able to find healing.

The Twelve Steps

Band member Joe Guerneau's series of paintings is based on the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. See the captions beneath each painting for some of Joe's thoughts and feelings.

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will

and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends.
9. Made direct amends to such people

wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.



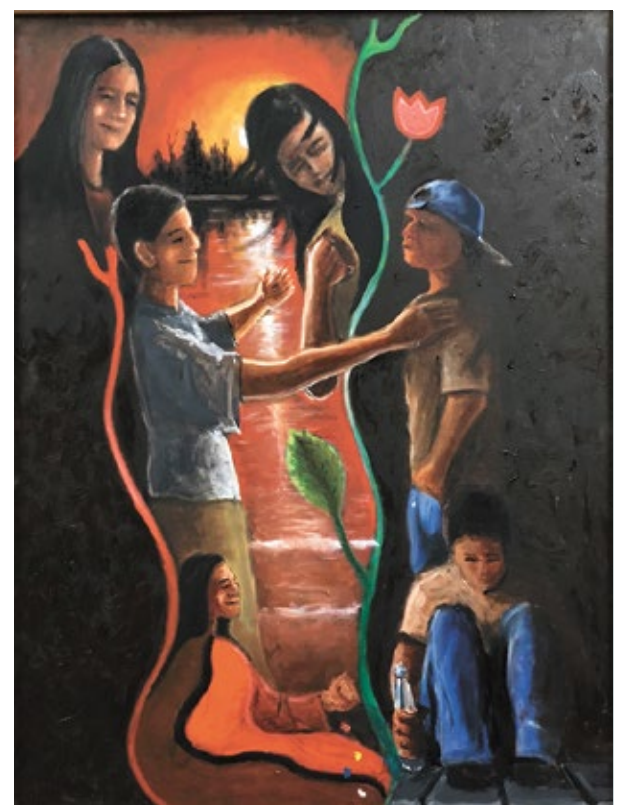
Step Ten: Promptly Admitted

"Notice he's on the steps. He's still working those steps. He's thinking about how he yelled at somebody. He's still writing on that eagle paper, taking responsibility for his actions."



Step Eleven: Conscious Contact

"This is a simple painting, just remembering to pray and meditate. I believe when they made these steps, they were telling us to slow down."



Step Twelve: Carrying the Message

"The dark side is on the right; they're lost and spiritually empty. The Ojibwe design represents the seed of sobriety. The people on the left, they're saying, 'Come on over to the light.'"

Benjamin Named to List of Influential Young Native Americans

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Chiminising Band member Amikogaabawiikwe Adrienne Benjamin didn't always recognize her own potential.

When Adrienne was 25, she was part of a staff training led by professional leadership development trainer James Anderson. "He saw me at my lowest," said Adrienne. "I got him to come and do a leadership seminar, but at that point I could have cared less about leadership. I wasn't involved; I wasn't ready for the level of communication and outward expression that leadership takes. I was in a bad place in my own head. I was depressed and had a lot of issues from my own past traumas. But he kept pushing and didn't give up on me. 'Come back when you want to give this a shot,' he said."

Adrienne took him seriously, changed her attitude, and ended up winning the "Superwoman Award" for the person in the group who showed the greatest change. "To this day, I accuse him of rigging the voting box," Adrienne joked.

In the years since, Adrienne has accumulated an impressive list of fellowships, scholarships, and honors:

- She was part of Native Nations Rebuilders Cohort Five;
- She is a Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Alum;
- She was a 2016 National Arts Strategies Creative Community Fellow;
- She was in the class of 2018 executive program in Arts and Culture Strategy at the University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League school;
- She currently is contracted as the Mille Lacs Region Equity Champion with the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership;
- And she recently returned from Austria and the 2018 Salzburg World Seminar where she was chosen as one of 50 "Influential Young Cultural Innovators."

Adrienne's most recent honor is her inclusion in the 2018 class of "Native American 40 Under 40" award recipients.

"My successes are not something I like to talk about, but by the same token I am very proud of my accomplishments and especially this one," said Adrienne. "The reason I'm so proud of the 40 under 40 is because in my part of the nomination form I wrote about my life and my own personal turnaround,

what I've come through as a young mother, raising a child with special needs, and trying to get through school, all while doing the community work I've done and growing into these national fellowships."

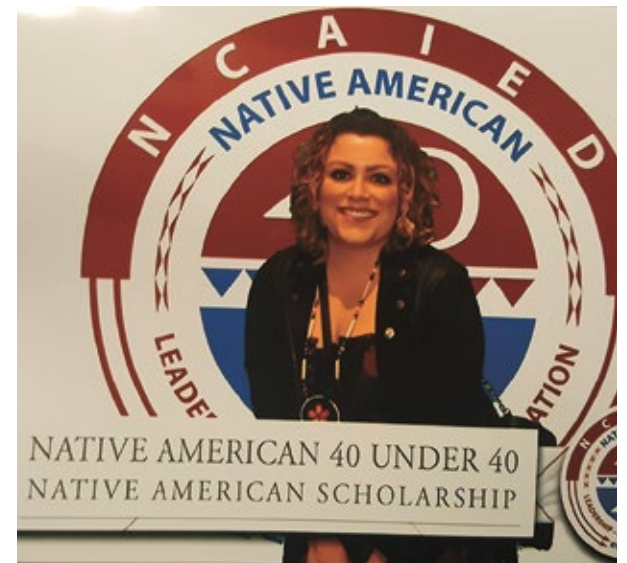
Receiving the award is like coming full circle for Adrienne because she was nominated by her old friend James Anderson, who was also a past 40 Under 40 honoree.

"To me it's not an award for me but for the people I've worked with and who have believed in me," said Adrienne. "It's for the kids I represent in the tribe, and for young single mothers, to know that you can come through anything, do community work that fulfills your heart, and get recognized for it."

Taking credit and receiving praise can be difficult, Adrienne said, especially for people of color.

"A common theme among other ethnic folks that I've met outside the reservation is the feeling that we don't belong, that we don't deserve to be on these national or world stages," said Adrienne. "I've been doing a lot of self-exploration on worthiness, whether I deserved any of it, and this was a gratifying moment where I realized 'Maybe I do, and maybe it's OK to feel happy for things that I've accomplished.'"

"For so many people I've met, just to getting up in the morning can be a heroic feat. Nobody really knows anybody's deep, dark stories; we just see the outside, and we need to grow our



Adrienne Benjamin received "40 Under 40" recognition October 29 at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

empathy and always remember that. We should all be rooting for each other's successes because we've all been oppressed and overcome so much as Anishinaabeg; and because we are such a small and underrepresented group of people, one person's success truly is all of our success."

NCAIED's 40 Under 40 Honored in Tulsa, Oklahoma

The 40 Under 40 award, which is granted by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, recognizes 40 emerging American Indians from across Indian Country who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication and made significant contributions in business and/or in their community.

The National Center is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the 40 under 40 awards.

Award winners were honored at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on October 29-30 at the "Impacting Generations: Honoring a Decade of Exceptional Service and Leadership" event. Awardees have the opportunity to participate in additional professional development, networking, leadership, and mentorship opportunities.

Chris James, President and CEO of the National Center, said, "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."

DNR Hosts Presentation on the Real History of Thanksgiving

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Entertainment and education were on the menu — along with a tasty Thanksgiving-style feast — as Band members gathered at Nay Ah Shing High School November 13 for an event sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources.

The evening kicked off with stand-up comedy routines by Rob Fairbanks (the Rez Reporter) and Jon Roberts, who shared their unique and funny insights into reservation life.

After dinner, District I community member Robert DesJarlait shared his experience growing up in the Twin Cities and traveling to Red Lake to spend Thanksgiving at his grandmother's house.

"When I think of Thanksgiving, I think of those memories," said Robert. "I look at it as a time when you get together with your family and community and share a feast. We don't pray like Christians, but we make a spirit plate and give that to our relatives who have passed on. Thanksgiving is nothing new to us. Even before the invaders came, we did this. We had feasts in the spring, feasts in the fall. It's been said we should have Thanksgiving every day, and a lot of us do. We get up and put our tobacco down and thank the Creator for another day."

Robert also spoke of his 36 years of sobriety and his debt of gratitude to Herb Sam, the Mille Lacs Band Elder who passed away recently and gave Robert his Anishinaabe name.

DNR Commissioner Bradley Harrington thanked Robert and

introduced Brenda Child, an Anishinaabe history professor at the University of Minnesota, who told the true story of the Wampanoag Indians. She said they really did help out the Pilgrims and shared a feast with them in 1621 (after the Pilgrims raided their food caches).

The Pilgrims found the land relatively uninhabited, Brenda said, because epidemics caused by contact with Europeans had already decimated the Indian population on the Atlantic Coast before the arrival of the Pilgrims.

Instead of a "virgin wilderness," North and South America had been heavily populated until those epidemics.

Brenda also told of the war against Massasoit and the Wampanoag that came later, and how the Pilgrims gave credit to their God for "a speedy victory" — which involved the massacre of women, children, and Elders.

Brenda explained that Thanksgiving was not celebrated until 200 years later, when it was made a holiday during the Civil War. "Holidays serve a political purpose by telling us stories about the past," she said. "During the Civil War, politicians declared the official holiday, trying to bring people together."

Like Robert, Brenda also found a positive theme in the real story of Thanksgiving: "The Wampanoag people have survived. They still exist. We have to rethink and reconsider what we read in our textbooks, but it is an incredible story of survival."



Top: Rob Fairbanks (The Rez Reporter) and Jon Roberts. Bottom: Robert DesJarlait and Brenda Child.

Freddy's Passion for Makazinataagewin Spans Generations

Brett Larson Inaajimowin Staff Writer

Makazinataagewin, the moccasin game, was banned by the U.S. government for generations. Missionaries and Indian agents were opposed to the game, which often involved gambling, so the federal government outlawed it for a time.

As a result, the game was forgotten in many communities and tribes. In recent years, however, the game has had a resurgence, thanks in part to a Mille Lacs Elder, the late Fred Jackson.

Dave Sam, a District I Elder who grew up in Chiminising, met Fred in Minneapolis in the 1970s, when Dave was running a halfway house for Indian men.

Although their program was having an impact on younger men, Dave and the counselors were having a hard time reaching the Elders. They decided they needed to see what made the older men tick, what they were passionate about.

"He was passionate about this thing called the moccasin game," Dave said. "He started making the game parts — the pads, hand-carved hickory sticks, and hand drums. Then he started playing with the guys from the house."

At the time, Dave didn't have much interest in or knowledge of the game, but as time went on, that changed. He learned not only of the entertainment value of the game, but also of its healing power. As the old men played the game, their sobriety took hold and their friendships grew.

Fred, Dave, and other Band members from the Cities would drive up to Mille Lacs every week to play. Dave remembers driving through snow in his low-rider '66 LeMans. "We'd get to the top of a hill and have to brush off all the snow that was causing it to overheat," Dave recalled.

At a sobriety powwow Dave organized in Minneapolis, he put together a makazinataagewin tournament in the foyer of the American Indian Center. Teams came from Roseau Reserve in Ontario, and from Cass Lake, Red Lake, and other communities in Minnesota.

According to Wikipedia, the game was once played by most Native American tribes, but by the 1960s, only the Ojibwe in Minnesota still played. Old photos show men at Mille Lacs playing in 1885, and boys at Red Lake playing in 1938. Online



Above: Dave and his friend Jerry Ojibway taught the game at the Red Cliff summer language camp. Below: Dave teaching at the Red Cliff winter language camp.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Dave Sam's team played makazinataagewin, the moccasin game, at the Mash-ka-wisen Veterans Powwow.

videos and web pages show the game's modern resurgence in Ho-Chunk and Navajo communities.

In recent years, Dave has devoted himself to spreading knowledge of the game throughout the Anishinaabe region, motivated by a desire to honor Fred and his passion for makazinataagewin.

He has friends at Red Lake and Fond du Lac who have the same passion and mission. Charles Grolla of Red Lake was just a boy when Dave and Fred visited Red Lake to play the game. He grew to love the game and recognize its value, and now he teaches men and boys in his community.

Jerry Ojibway from Fond du Lac is another teacher Dave works with. The three of them — Dave, Charlie, and Jerry — are hoping to standardize the rules of the game to make it easier to learn and to organize tournaments where everyone plays the same way.

Dave has been to northern Wisconsin and Minnesota to instruct children and adults, and at last summer's powwow in District I, 10 teams — an unprecedented number — came to

play from Red Lake, Fond du Lac, Red Cliff, Bad River, and Mille Lacs. In past years, only a handful of Mille Lacs teams would play in the tournament.

Next on Dave's agenda is planning a weekend tournament for next summer, with help from District I Representative Sandi Blake: the Fred Jackson Memorial Tournament.

"I want to do it in his name, because I firmly believe that the way this game has caught on now is because of this man's passion," Dave said.

Dave has traveled far since he first learned the game from Fred all those years ago. He's been a Bush Foundation fellow and a student at Harvard, among other accomplishments.

Since it opened in 2004, Dave has been the manager of ML Wastewater, the wastewater treatment plant owned by the Band that serves the District I community as well as non-Indian residents of Garrison and Kathio Township.

But no matter where and how far he travels, he carries the memory of Freddy and his passion for makazinataagewin — the moccasin game.

Makazinataagewin — A Sacred Story

The origin of makazinataagewin — the moccasin game — is described in a sacred story, or aadizookaan. Dave Sam, a District I Elder who grew up in Chiminising, tells the story when there's snow on the ground, in keeping with Anishinaabe tradition.

"This is the legend I have heard that really brings it home to me," said Dave. "Makwa, the bear, brought the game to a man who had lost his family. He was Anishinaabe and had a wife and two children. This man was really distraught. There was nothing the villagers could do for him. He had relatives that were bringing him food and trying to help him, but he was refusing all of it. He started getting weaker and was losing weight, so he decided the best thing would be to walk out in the woods and die. That's what our people used to do when they got too old and sick to provide for themselves and their village.

"This man went out in the woods. He walked a long way and got really tired, and he finally stopped when he came to a clearing. There was a tree that had fallen over, so he sat on this log, and he looked off to the other side of the clearing. There was a man walking toward him, and this man had a bag on his shoulder. This man came over and asked him 'What are you doing here?'

"The man who was sick said, 'Whoever you are, either kill me or leave me alone.' The second man sat down and talked with him. He was another Anishinaabe, and he got this man to talk, to tell him he didn't want to live anymore. So he took the bag off his shoulder and said, 'I have something to help you.'

"It was the makazinataagewin. He taught him how to play the game, and he took out some berries and dried meat, and the man took it and ate it and started feeling better. 'This game is going to help the men of your tribe,' said the visitor. 'You need to take this back and teach them how to play it, and you're going to have healthy men.'

"He gave the man the bag and the game and said, 'I have to go now.' As he turned away, he took four steps, and turned and looked back at the man, and from the knees down, he was covered in black fur. He took four more steps and turned around to look back, and from the waist down he was covered in black fur. He walked out four more steps, and from the shoulders down, black fur, and after four more steps, he was all covered in black fur, and he got down on all four legs and ran off. He was a makwa."

"Each piece of the game represents a part of the bear. The four pads are the four paws of the bear, and the shooting sticks represent the legs. He was also given some songs to sing, so when we play the game, we also sing and play the drum."

MLBO Urban Fitness Program

The Mille Lacs Band encourages Band members to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle through physical fitness activities.

Gym membership reimbursement (maximum of \$75 per month) is available to Band members who reside in the seven county metropolitan area and maintain a four times per month fitness center usage in order to qualify. Eligible fees include the enrollment fee (if applicable) and monthly fees for an individual or family membership at a fitness center.

Reimbursement is monthly when application, invoice, contract, proof of payment, and proof of the four times per month usage is submitted to the Urban Office either on a monthly basis or no more than three months past the current month. Applications are available at the Urban Office. For more information, please contact the Urban Office or Al Olson at 612-746-4819. Step to it and just do it!

Urban Office Services

The Urban Office provides current job postings as well as information and applications for Band services including emergency services, Elder Supplemental Program, Elder Energy Program, home loans, housing, scholarship, enrollment, discretionary and personal loans, Tribal IDs, and DNR licenses.

The Office also shares Band and local news, cultural events, classes, powwows, resources, support services, and referrals in the community. At this time Notary Services are referred to Woodlands Bank.

You can also attend child safety car seat clinics (which include free car seats) and CPR/AED and first aid classes at \$10/student for Band members. Free smoke alarms are available for Mille Lacs Band homeowners. Call the Urban Office to schedule a time with Monte Fronk of Tribal Emergency Management.

Holidays on Franklin

Please join Native American Community Clinic for their 4th Annual Holidays on Franklin event on December 14. This year's event will be held at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Building and will feature Santa, holiday crafts and snacks, and gifts provided by a collaboration of Native American establishments and many other organizations! For more information on how you can help spread the holiday cheer by donating or participating, please contact Chenoa at NACC at 612-843-5927!

Volunteers needed for Urban holiday party

The urban holiday party will be held December 15, 2018, at the Minneapolis American Indian Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed! If you can help out, call 612-872-1424.

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 January issue deadline is December 15.

Who's Dallas? A Who, That's Who!

Story by Amikogaabawiikwe Mille Lacs Band Member

Dallas Downey is 11 years old and only in 6th grade, but he is already an incredibly accomplished young actor and model. He is the son of Band member and Inaajimowin staff writer



Toya Stewart Downey. His most recent accomplishment was being chosen for the part of Levi Who in the Children's Theatre Company's rendition of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Dallas sees himself as a "natural-born performer." He started out doing theater camps when he was younger, but the love for acting in his own heart grew three sizes when a nearby high school set out to cast six or seven kids for parts in *Seussical the Musical*. Dallas auditioned and got a part. From there, he knew exactly what it was that he wanted to do.

He then auditioned for *Mary Poppins* at the Stages Theatre Company and made it to call-back. He didn't get in, but that didn't keep Dallas down for long. He auditioned for *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* at Children's Theatre Company, received a call-back, but then received a letter saying that the part was offered to another actor. To his gleeful surprise, a short time later, his mother received an email saying that the part was turned down by the other actor because of scheduling conflicts, and that the part now belonged to Dallas. He was nothing less than thrilled and incredibly grateful.

Dallas shared about the audition process for acting. "When auditioning for plays, they usually bring you into a dance studio with a group of other actors. We will all do warm-ups together, and then the coaches teach us a song. Each person is then required to sing it one by one. We then learn choreography from a dance coach, and again have to perform it one by one. From that point, you wait to see if you get a call-back. Getting a call-back means that the directors and coaches want to see more of you. They will bring you back in and ask you to sing again and usually will do acting exercises so that they can better see your range of facial expressions."

For any youth who may be interested in pursuing their own acting or modeling career, Dallas shared three tips:

- Stay true to yourself.
- Always be polite and kind.
- Try your hardest.

While Dallas is early in his acting career, he's already an accomplished model as well. He has done a print ad for Target Corporation. He has also done video advertisements for Blue Cross Blue Shield MN and Landscape Structures (a national playground equipment company).

Dallas shared what his modeling auditions are like, saying, "For Target, I was asked to do an array of different camera poses, which was really fun. For Landscape Structures, a group of kids and I were asked to pretend that we were diving off of a diving board and that we were terrified. Auditioning for Blue Cross Blue Shield was a standard interview, like for a job, where they asked me a lot of different questions."

His latest gig in *The Grinch* has really taught Dallas responsibility. He has practice times, show times, and time set aside specifically for homework. "I email my teachers constantly to



Above: Dallas Downey, far left, is playing Levi Who at Children's Theatre in Minneapolis this holiday season. Below: Dallas signing autographs.



keep up with my homework." He said. He has 90 shows to perform in two months during the run of the show. Some performances are in the morning, some in the afternoon, and some in the evening. "The beginning of the run has been difficult just trying to figure it all out, but I think it'll get easier as we go along because I'll know what to expect." Dallas added.

Dallas says that most of all he just really likes being on stage, and really enjoys performing. He has dreams of attending the Perpich Center for Arts Education, and plans to apply. The Perpich Center was founded in 1985 and is an agency of the State of Minnesota that seeks to advance K-12 education throughout the state by teaching in and through the arts.

Furthermore, Dallas has his eyes on the next theater seasons at the Children's Theatre Company, Stages Theatre Company, the Guthrie Theater, and at the Ordway. His biggest theater dream is to be on Broadway. He has been inspired by his own favorite musicals: *Hamilton: An American Musical*, *The Lion King*, and *Aladdin*.

For any youth who may be interested in pursuing their own acting or modeling career, Dallas shared three tips:

1. Stay true to yourself. Don't change your personal character (unless they tell you to for a role, of course!)
2. Always be polite and kind.
3. Try your hardest. If it's something that you're truly passionate about, then try your best.

I got the chance to catch Dallas in the play, and he was phenomenal! Whoville is a magical place, and the Grinch is, well... Grinchy! The play is great for children of any age, and the cast is highly interactive with the audience. There are plenty of great snacks and fun souvenirs to purchase before and after the show as well. You may even be lucky enough to catch Dallas and "The Grinch" after the show for a meet-and-greet!

How the Grinch Stole Christmas is at the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis through January 6, 2019. Tickets can be purchased by visiting childrenstheatre.org or calling 612-874-0400. Dallas also added that he would greatly appreciate your attendance and support!



Tailgaters Get Game Faces on at Feast

Photos by Chad Germann Mille Lacs Band Member

This year's Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Fall Feast was an indoor tailgate party, and many Band members got into the act by wearing their favorite team's gear. There were a few green and gold jerseys among the preferred purple, but no penalty flags were thrown, and no altercations developed!

Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe kept the crowd laughing, and a prize drawing kept them on the edge of their seats. Kids took part in a coloring contest, and grownups went home with a smile, a t-shirt, and a full belly.



Circle of Health Deadlines

The Mille Lacs Band's Circle of Health program reminds Band members of two upcoming deadlines.

December 7 is the deadline to enroll in Medicare Part D — the Medicare prescription drug benefit. This year Circle of Health, in cooperation with Ne-la-Shing Pharmacy, did extensive research to find the best plan available to our Band members. Circle of Health has selected Blue Cross Blue Shield's Medicare Cost Plan to provide coverage for our members eligible for Medicare. This plan has excellent drug and health coverages that will supplement Medicare Part A and B.

January 13 is the deadline to apply for insurance through MNsure, Minnesota's health insurance exchange.

Circle of Health is not insurance; it is a tribal benefit for Band members. Before Circle of Health can pay any fees on your behalf, you must have health insurance — either Medicare, Medical Assistance, an employer plan, or a privately purchased plan.

Circle of Health is the ultimate payer of last resort. This means that you must apply for all eligible insurance coverage for you or your family before Circle of Health can pay.

Circle of Health is a certified navigator for MNsure and can help Band members and others with insurance questions and applications. Call 800-491-6106 for assistance or stop by the Circle of Health office at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. In District II and III, you may call 320-336-0224 to set up an appointment during their weekly office hours there or you can stop into the lodge office in Hinckley for assistance.

For more information on Circle of Health, visit millelacsband.com/services/circle-of-health.

Wiidanokiindiwag Youth Program Helps Out at Homeless Camp

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

The Wiidanokiindiwag (They work with each other) Youth Program, part of Aanji-bimaadizing (formerly Department of Labor) helps youth to embrace a traditions-based lifestyle free of chemicals, anti-social or risky behavior, promiscuity, and dependency. The Wiidanokiindiwag Program targets activities that assist youth in generating job readiness skills.

This fall the youth undertook a community service project in all districts to help build their organizational, communication, and leadership skills while helping community members overcome hardships.

According to Youth Program Manager Naomi Long, when the news broke of the "Wall of Forgotten Natives" in Minneapolis, they decided to collect donations to help residents of the homeless camp.

They contacted Natives Against Heroin to see what residents were most in need of. They were told to focus on hats, gloves, and blankets.

From October 9-17, they collected donations in each district, and on October 18 they delivered the supplies to the camp.

Although there is a donation table already set up at the camp location, the youth instead walked down the sidewalk along the tents to pass out the donations and to connect with people one-on-one, Naomi said. They also helped clean up trash around the fire pit and donation tables.

As a reward, those who didn't have any unexcused absences,



Band members in the Wiidanokiindiwag Youth Program brought donations to the Wall of Forgotten Natives homeless camp as part of their community service project.

es, tardies, detentions, or suspensions along with working the program, took a trip to the Dead End Hayride on October 25.

"When I think about this community service project, I automatically identify the youths' actions to our seven Anishinaabe values: Love, Courage, Wisdom, Humility, Truth, Respect, Hon-

esty," said Naomi. "These values are important to creating healthy communities and relationships. These values help build our foundations so that we can help each other and uplift each other."



Band employees attended Adverse Childhood Experiences training in October. The training was held by the Department of Administration in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health.



Band Members and Employees Attend Adverse Childhood Experiences Training

Thirty-two Mille Lacs Band members and employees completed training in adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on October 29-30 in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health.

The workshop, titled "Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences: Building Self-Healing Communities," provided the cohort with access to the ACE Interface curriculum, which explains why ACEs impact people's lives, and what can be done to dramatically improve health and resilience for this and future generations.

The curriculum is based on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, a long-term research project that started in 1995 and has shown that people with adverse childhood experiences often suffer from health and social problems throughout their lives.

The ACE training was provided by the Tribal NEAR Sciences and Community Wisdom Project with funding from the Blue

Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention. "NEAR" stands for "Neurobiology, Epigenetics, ACEs, and Resiliency." Tribal NEAR has been working with tribes for three years and began working with the Mille Lacs Band in 2017.

Susan Beaulieu, the director of the Tribal NEAR project, said, "The ACE Study findings help us to better understand the leading causes of disease and disability, learning and productivity problems, and early death, which is the cumulative impact on the developing brain from ACEs."

The Mille Lacs cohort who participated in the training will be able to spread awareness about ACEs and resilience research by offering Understanding ACEs presentations to parents and diverse sectors and audiences across the community. Sharing this knowledge is a key foundational step towards achieving more positive outcomes for children, youth, and families, Susan said.

Keeping Students Safe

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk provided First Aid and CPR training at Minisnaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II and Wewinabi Early Ed in District I. If you're interested in CPR or First Aid training, contact Monte at the Tribal Police Department, 320-532-3430.

ENCOURAGING WORDS IN OJIBWE

Ginibwaakaa
You are smart

**Niminwendam
omaa ayaayan**
*I am happy
you are here*

Giwiidookaage
You help people

Gidapiitenimin
I value you

Gigotaamigiz
*You are a
good worker*

Gidapiitendaagoz
You are important

Gidebweyenimin
I believe in you

**Ginitaa-
bizindam**
*You are a
good listener*

"Healing Prayer for the Water"
Painting by LeAnne "Kalihwiyoshta" Thompson
www.inkdropgallery.com/kalihwiyoshta

**EMPOWERED YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**
Info: 218.368.6430
coach.danninham@gmail.com

Sandy Lake Video on YouTube

The Public Information Office at GLIFWC is pleased to present another video in the series of short videos called "Ogichidaa Storytellers." This short film focuses on the 1850 Sandy Lake Tragedy and the struggle for Anishinaabeg to survive amidst forced assimilation and tragedy. Please share these resources far and wide. Be on the lookout for the next short video about the history and impacts of the Healing Circle Run.

Watch the Sandy Lake video on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/io0vr34RQ3w>. You can also find it on the GLIFWC Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/GLIFWC/videos/264262600948474/>.

Wewinabi Inc. Expands Text Alert System

Wewinabi, Inc., which manages the Band's non-gaming businesses, is expanding their text alert system. Would you be interested in receiving notification of hours of operations changes at any of our convenience store locations? Would you like to receive a text when a new movie will begin showing at the Grand Makwa Friday evening? How about those unannounced store specials at the Grand Market? We will even text our current job openings each week if you desire. All you need to do is contact Heather Boyd, Wewinabi, Inc. Office Manager at 320 738-1039 or heather.boyd@wewinabi.com.

Watch for Friday videos on Facebook!

Beginning on November 9, the Band's Facebook page has featured the release of new videos showcasing people and places around our Mille Lacs Reservation communities. Produced by the Ge-niigaanizijig Project, the videos range in topic from regalia creation and the Nay Ah Shing Royalty Powwow to youth leadership, red willow arts, and basketball. Watch for the final videos in the series on November 30 and December 7. The videos are supported by the Clean Water Land and Legacy Fund, and the Ge-niigaanizijig Project is funded by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2019	Expenditures through 10/31/2018	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	18,373,349	1,351,757	7%
Department of Labor	20,732,409	304,553	1%
Judicial	2,392,725	63,223	3%
Department of Justice	7,149,429	401,704	6%
Education	15,954,060	921,615	6%
Health and Human Services	31,815,106	1,590,697	5%
Circle of Health Insurance	5,720,000	192,476	3%
Natural Resources	6,512,980	1,519,109	23%
Community Development	16,558,480	957,359	6%
Gaming Authority	5,332,641	328,286	6%
Non-Gaming Distribution	—	—	0%
Bonus Distribution	5,567,546	2,822,142	51%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	—	—	0%
Total	136,108,725	10,452,921	8%

(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.



Yes they code!

Students at Pine Grove Learning Center in District III had a visit from Gregg Rutter for STEAM lab day November 5. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. Kids were introduced to Dash the robot and basic coding concepts. They loved it, and so did their teachers!

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy December Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Judith Louise Beaulieu
 Gayle Marie Bender
 Henry Benjamin Bonga
 Phyllis Ann Boyd
 Loann Dana Boyd
 Terry Lee Bradley
 Vicki Marie Burton
 Kyle Matthew Cash
 Lawrence Churchill
 Winifred Marie Davis
 Marilyn Ann Davis
 Frances Davis
 June Louise Day
 Delsie Louise Day
 Norma Bea Diver
 Rodney John Dorr
 Randy James Dorr
 Ruth Elaine Garbow
 Colleen Margaret Garcia
 Diane Marie Gibbs
 Rosalie Marie Gopher
 Corwin John Graikowski
 David Darryl Granger
 Dale Herbert Greene
 Angeline Hawk
 Viola Mary Hendren
 Michael Ray Hensley
 Carole Anne Higgins
 Frank Hill
 Esther Marie Johnson
 William Reinhardt Kegg

Christine Mary Kegg
 Cheryl Ann Keller
 Larry Allen Koeppe
 Renda Lynn Leslie
 Michael Allen Mager
 Gordon Wayne Matrious
 Daniel Rae Matrious
 Colleen Gay Minger
 Kim Alane Modaff
 Debra Jean Morrison
 Richard Raymond Mortenson
 Linda Lou Moxness
 Maureen Cynthia Nickaboine
 Jay Jay O'Brien
 Anita Rose Parker
 Dale John Pindegayosh
 William Richard Premo
 Corrina Marie Sheff
 Susan M. Shingobe
 Laura Ruth Shingobe-Garbow
 Vanette Louise Todd
 Carol Ann Turner
 Anita Louise Upegui
 Kenneth Laverne Wade
 Yvonne Cecelia Winiacki
 Douglas Alan Wistrom
 Lucille Mabel Woyak

Happy December Birthdays:

Happy 7th birthday **Carter Blue Boswell** on 12/12 from Chris and Elaine, Rileh, Christa-elena Boswell. We love you son! Much

love to you on your special day from the Boswell Davis and Shomin family, Michigan to Minnesota • Happy birthday **Wesley** on 12/16. Love Dad, Melissa, Braelyn, Peyton, Eric, Brynley, Bianca, Henry, Papa Brad, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Auntie Val, Pie, Kevin, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, and Lileah • A loving happy birthday **Grandma Frances Davis** on 12/18 from your grandson Christopher Boswell and Elaine Shomin, Rileh Shomin, Christa-elena Boswell, Carter Blue Boswell. Have a great day! Love you always, Gram • Happy birthday **Elaine Shomin (Boswell)** on 12/24 from your loving husband Christopher Boswell. Have a great day and Merry Christmas to you. Love always! •

Other Announcements:

Where do you read Ojibwe Inaajimowin? We want to hear from Band members who live or travel around the region, the nation, and the world. Send a photo of yourself reading the paper in your community or by a landmark we might recognize!



Squad!

Motivational speaker James Anderson led a team building and leadership development training for members of Sober Squad on November 17. For more on the story, see page 9.

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 January issue is December 15.

Mille Lacs Band Recovery Groups

District I Mille Lacs

Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition

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

Wellbriety Migizi Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel
 700 Grand Avenue, Onamia, Minnesota

Wellbriety Celebrating Families

Tuesdays, 6–8 p.m., Mille Lacs Band Halfway House Group
 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia, Minnesota
 Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

NA/AA Welcome

Hosted by Mille Lacs Band Halfway House
 Wednesdays, 7 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia (Red Brick Building) Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

Wellbriety Sons of Tradition

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

District II East Lake

AA Group

Mondays, 5–6 p.m., East Lake Community Center
 Contact Rob Nelson at 218-768-2431

District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog

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., Meshakwad Community Center

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

Reporters wanted!

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is always looking for submissions from Band members, especially in Districts II and III.

If you're the kind of person who enjoys attending events, taking photos on your phone, and posting on Facebook, consider submitting your work for publication in our newsletter. If we use your work, you will be paid!

Send photos, stories, or a letter of interest to Brett Larson at brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

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

New Year's Day: January 1. Government offices closed.

State of the Band: January 8, Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

January 13 is the deadline to apply for insurance through MNsure, Minnesota's health insurance exchange. See page 15.

MCT Constitutional Convention: January 19, Grand Casino Hinckley.

Civil Rights Day: January 21. Government offices closed.

MANIDOO-GIIZISOONS LITTLE SPIRIT MOON DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Want your event here? Email brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.</p> <p>Band Assembly meetings Band Assembly meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other info, call the Legislative office or visit millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com. Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change.</p>						<p>1 Bob and Perry Ceremonial Drum District I</p>
<p>2 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1-3 p.m. District I. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>3 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>4 Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i> Band Assembly 10 a.m. District I Nayahshing</p>	<p>5 NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i> Urban Family Drum and Dance 6 p.m. Indian Health Board</p>	<p>6 Wellbriety 12-Step 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i> Band Assembly 10 a.m. District I Nayahshing Housing Board 1 p.m. All Nations Church</p>	<p>7 Medicare Part D enrollment deadline <i>See page 15</i></p>	<p>8 Elders Christmas Party 4 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs <i>See below</i></p>
<p>9 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1-3 p.m. District I. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>10 Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>11 Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i> Band Assembly 10 a.m. District IIa Chiminising</p>	<p>12 District I Holiday Dinner 5 p.m. GCML Event Center DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See page 18</i> Urban Family Drum and Dance 6 p.m. Indian Health Board</p>	<p>13 Wellbriety 12-Step 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i> Band Assembly 10 a.m. District II Minisinaakwaang</p>	<p>14 Holidays on Franklin Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Building <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>15 Urban Holiday Party 11 a.m.– 2 p.m. Minneapolis American Indian Center. <i>See page 14</i></p>
<p>16 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1-3 p.m. District I. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>17 Sobriety Feast 6 p.m. East Lake Community Center Wellbriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Hinckley Corporate Building Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>18 Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i> Band Assembly 10 a.m. District III Aazhoomog MCT TEC Meeting 8:30 a.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>19 NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i> Urban Family Drum and Dance 6 p.m. Indian Health Board</p>	<p>20 Wellbriety 12-Step 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i> Band Assembly 10 a.m. District III Meshakwad Housing Board 1 p.m. District I Government Center</p>	<p>21 Meshakwad Community Center Ribbon-Cutting 10 a.m. District III Meshakwad Community Center, Hinckley District III Holiday Party 5 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1-3 p.m. District I. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>24 Midwinter Holiday Government offices closed. Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>25 Midwinter Holiday Government offices closed. Wellbriety District I, III <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>26 NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i> Urban Family Drum and Dance 6 p.m. Indian Health Board</p>	<p>27 Wellbriety 12-Step 6 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center <i>See page 18</i> Band Assembly 10 a.m. All Nations Church, Minneapolis</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1-3 p.m. District I. <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow Grand Entry 7 p.m. District I Community Center. Sponsored by Rep. Sandi Blake and Behavioral Health.</p>	<p>2018 Elders Christmas Party This year's Elders Christmas Party will be held December 8 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Introducing Tito Ybarra, and back by popular demand, "Eagle & Hawk." • Hotel Check-In – 4 p.m. • Registration – 4:30 p.m. • Doors Open – 5 p.m. • Dinner – 5:30 p.m. • Entertainment – 6:30 p.m. • Portraits start at 3:30 p.m. For more information, please contact the Elders Services Office at 320-532-7854 or 320-532-7532.</p>				

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



**MILLE LACS BAND
OF OJIBWE**
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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 January issue deadline is December 15.

Need Help?

If you or someone you know is injured or in immediate danger, call 911 first.

Tribal Police Department dispatch:
888-609-5006; 320-532-3430.

Emergency Management Services:
24-hour fire, disaster, and emergency management response: Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator: 320-362-0435.

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

Community Support Services: For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, sexual assault, or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.

Domestic violence: (c) 320-630-2499.

Women's Shelter: 866-867-4006.

Batterers' Intervention: 320-532-8909.

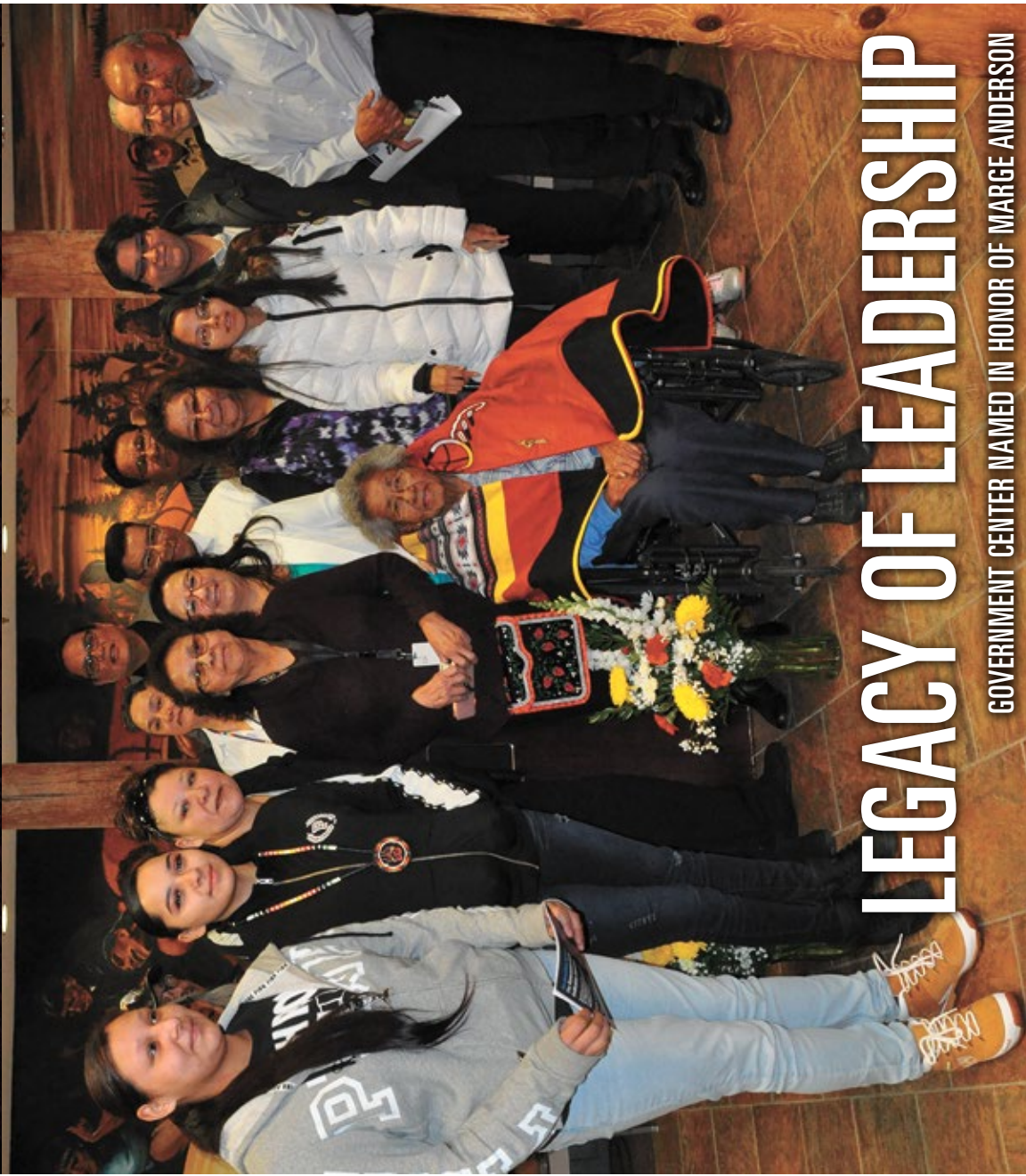
Heating, water, or other home-related maintenance problems: If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call our Customer Service Representative during regular business hours at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please contact: 866-822-8538 (Press 1, 2, or 3 for respective districts).

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

INAAJIMOWIN

THE STORY AS IT'S TOLD

DECEMBER 2018 | VOLUME 20 | NUMBER 12



LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

GOVERNMENT CENTER NAMED IN HONOR OF MARGE ANDERSON

**BAND ASSEMBLY
WELCOMES HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**ARTWORK
UNVEILED AT
FOUR WINDS**

**HERB SAM
REMEMBERED IN
URBAN AREA**

**YOUTH HELP OUT
AT HOMELESS
CAMP**