



By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Members of the Legislative Branch, along with staff and guests, visited the Minnesota Capitol in St. Paul on Friday, November 8, to learn about the state's legislative process from Clerk of the House Patrick Murphy.

They were welcomed by Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, who greeted the guests with warm hugs and handshakes.

Peggy talked about her two terms in the House of Representatives, including the challenges of being in the minority party and one of four Native women in the House.

"We spent the bulk of our time stopping bad stuff from happening, because the GOP (Republican Party) was in control," said Peggy.

She said they paid special attention to bills that affected tribes. They would bring them to their Republican authors and ask where the bill originated. In most cases, it came as a request from counties with no input from the tribes.

In her 10 months as Lieutenant Governor, Peggy said she and Governor Tim Walz have done what they could to change that, including passing an Executive Order requiring tribal consultation on issues impacting tribes and their members. "Government-to-government relationships are at the heart of what we do every day," she said. "We get some push back — 'Why are Natives getting all this attention?' — but we're simply doing what's been required of the state for the last 150 years."

Peggy added that she would not be where she is today without the support of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

After a fun photo session on the House floor, Peggy went back to her office, and Patrick Murphy spoke about his role as Clerk and the legislative process in the House.

Patrick holds a non-partisan office in the House and is unanimously elected by the representatives each term. He provides training to new members, new committee chairs, and Speakers of the House each time the majority shifts between the two parties — which has occurred often during his tenure.

"GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO EVERY DAY."

— LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PEGGY FLANAGAN

Patrick talked about the House rules, which encourage respectful debate, and the procedures, which require that time is taken to consider each bill in depth. "The process was not designed to be efficient," Patrick said. "It was designed to be slow and deliberative."

Out of 2,921 bills introduced in the House and 2,925 in the Senate this year, only 65 became law. "There is a tremendous weeding-out process," Patrick said.

The 'Other' Legislature continued on page 4



Elders, artists, and transcribers are working together to contribute stories for three new books to be published by the Minnesota Historical Society.

BOOK PROJECT FEATURES STORIES BY ELDERS

The Mille Lacs Band is seeking to deepen the resources available to advance the Ojibwe language. In that effort, the Band has reached an agreement with the Minnesota Historical Society Press to publish three new monolingual Ojibwe books.

MNHS Press has published bilingual books in Ojibwe and English before, but monolingual Ojibwe publication marks a new direction. Earlier this year MNHS acquired four previously published monolingual Ojibwe books to add to their titles. The Mille Lacs Band will be the first to develop new monolingual material for first release and publication with MNHS Press.

To develop the content for these books, Mille Lacs Elders are participating in content development sessions during which first speakers of the language are paired with transcribers who record the stories of the Elders, which include both personal, non-fiction stories based on past experiences, as well as creative fiction.

Elder writers working on the project include Joe Nayquonabe Sr., Brenda Moose, Frances Davis, Jim Mitchell, Carol Nickaboine, Elfreda Sam, Dorothy Sam, Shirley Boyd, Bette Sam, Susan Shingobe, Lee Staples, Lorena Garbow, and Ralph Pewaush.

Transcribers include Mille Lacs Band and community members Aanakwadoons Aubid, Amanda Nickaboine, Baabita Boyd, John P. Benjamin, Bradley Harrington, Jada Montano, Chato Gonzalez, and others.

Visual artists Jonathan Thunder, Wes Ballinger, and Steve Premo are illustrating the books. The editors are Anton Treuer and Michael Sullivan.

The three books are *Nishiimeyinaanig* (Our Younger Siblings), *Anooj Inaajimod* (All Kinds of Stories), and *Akawe Niwii-tibaajim* (First I Will Tell a Story). *Nishiimeyinaanig* includes 26 fiction stories for children with 100 color illustrations. *Anooj Inaajimod* is a collection of 23 entertaining fiction stories with human characters. It also includes 100 color illustrations. *Akawe Niwii-tibaajim* is composed of 80 cultural stories and reminiscences with a color cover and 100 black-and-white illustrations inside the book.

See next month's *Inaajimowin* for more on this story.

M E S S A G E F R O M T H E C H I E F E X E C U T I V E

Boozhoo! I hope everyone enjoyed Miigwech Day together with their families! Now comes the hustle and bustle of preparing for the holiday season. Together with the Band Assembly, as your elected officials we were grateful to be able to provide a stimulus payment in December to adult Band members as a small way of assisting families with expenses this holiday season.

November began with a Partners In Action conference by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on November 5–6, which was held at our InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront hotel. This was a great conference that provided a lot of technical assistance and training to tribal staff from the four-state area. I serve as a board member on the Minnesota Board on Aging, and also attended a board meeting in the Twin Cities on November 6. There are programs serving tribal elders through the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe which fall under the Board's jurisdiction, so one of my roles on the Board is to ensure tribal services are protected.

The Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) held its fall meeting at Fond du Lac on November 7–8, which was an outstanding meeting attended by tribal leaders from 24 of the 35 tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan. State and federal officials attended the meeting, and we got a lot of business done for the Band there. Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistant Secretary Tara Sweeney flew from Washington D.C. for this meeting, which was her first trip to Minnesota. I was able

"MANY BAND MEMBERS ARE UNAWARE THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS PROVIDES FREE TUITION NOT JUST FOR ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS, BUT ALSO FOR FIRST- AND SECOND-GENERATION DESCENDANTS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS."

to have a meeting with her to discuss our new language revitalization program. The federal bureaucracy can be extremely difficult to navigate when multiple federal agencies are involved, especially when a tribal program is doing something new and innovative like we are. We had an in-depth discussion about the importance of the BIA serving as our advocate with the other federal agencies. It was a very good meeting for the Band.

On November 11, which was a Band holiday for Warriors Day, I was invited to attend meetings at the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM), to discuss ways the University can improve access and support for American Indian students. Many Band members are unaware that the University of Minnesota Morris provides free tuition not just for enrolled tribal mem-

bers, but also for first and second generation descendants of enrolled tribal members. UMM's current student body includes 27 percent American Indian students. The campus is relatively small, with only 1,771 students, and there are strong support services for Indian students, so this is a good choice for students interested in a four-year college who may not want to attend a large university. We agreed to work together to create and strengthen outreach to Mille Lacs Band high school students.

On November 12, my office hosted a Women's Drum Society meeting. This was a wonderful event that included a lot of great discussion, laughter, and enrichment. The afternoon included a session that taught attendees how to sew a ribbon skirt.

Governor Walz held an all-day Tribal Leaders Summit at the Capitol on November 13. Secretary/Treasurer Boyd and I attended this meeting, and we spent the day discussing together how the State can decrease educational and other disparities between American Indians and other Minnesotans. Governor Walz has shown outstanding commitment to strengthening partnerships with tribal governments in Minnesota.

The Band Assembly and I held a compromise hearing on November 14 regarding an appropriation bill for the Corporate Commission. The Director of Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy attended this meeting. Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy is a state public charter school in District II, which is part of the Minnesota public school system and funded by the Minnesota Department of Education. The Director informed us that the school board had to close the school for six weeks due to internal financial management issues. Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy is not a Mille Lacs Band School, and the Band has no control whatsoever over how the school is run or how the budget is spent, just like we have no say in any other state public school like McGregor, Isle, or Onamia. The Director requested an emergency donation to bail out the school so it can continue to operate. As of the date of printing this newspaper, the Band Assembly had not yet decided if it can continue to provide no-strings attached donations to this state public charter school without assurances that management will improve. Band members who want more information about this matter can read a letter I wrote to District II Band Members by going to the Chief Executive page at www.millelacsband.com and clicking on the link at the bottom of the page.

The Band Assembly and I met together again on November 19 in St. Louis Park to discuss an order by the Commissioner of Natural Resources regarding harvesting by youth descendants, which was annulled. We also discussed a Solicitor's Opinion requested by the District I Representative regarding management of the District I Community Center and her question about whether that should fall under Administration or the District I Representative. The Solicitor General held that the Chief Executive is custodian of all Band property and that District Representatives may authorize use of the centers in accordance with written standards that are fair and reasonable.

On November 20, I attended a dedication in honor of the memory of Herbert Sam at the Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung Center, which included the unveiling of a beautiful portrait of him. The next day, I attended a meeting of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency in Minneapolis. At the end of the day, I traveled back to Mille Lacs just in time for the annual Fall Feast held by the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. This was a really wonderful event! It is always so much fun to see Band families enjoying themselves together as a community. I hope the upcoming holiday season brings moments of joy, laughter, and family togetherness for everyone in our community! Miigwech!



WORKING TOGETHER

Band Assembly and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin met at Minisinaakwaang ALU on November 14. Pictured clockwise from lower left: Chief Legislative Counsel Christine Jordan, Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, Legislative Clerk Kiana Morrison, District I Rep. Sandra Blake, Legislative Staff Attorney Hanna Valento, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, District III Rep. Wally St. John, and District II Rep. Marvin Bruneau.

HEROIN DEALER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

On November 20, United States Attorney Erica H. MacDonald announced the sentencing of Tyrone James Nelson, 39, to 77 months in prison for his role in a heroin distribution conspiracy that targeted the Mille Lacs Reservation and surrounding communities. Nelson and his seven co-defendants were charged in February, and Nelson pleaded guilty on July 19.

The investigation, which covered a span from December 2017 through June 2018, was led by the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Drug Enforcement, who were instrumental in the investigation, according to Mille Lacs Band Chief of Police Sara Rice.

According to the guilty plea and other documents filed in court throughout the investigation, Nelson obtained heroin from individuals in Minneapolis and transported it to communities in and surrounding the Mille Lacs Reservation. Nelson, who was the main source and distributor of heroin in the Mille

Lacs area, had befriended enrolled Mille Lacs Band members and utilized their homes to operate his business. Nelson's place of residence is unknown.

"This case and subsequent 77-month sentence sends a clear message to drug dealers that we do not tolerate their toxic business in our neighborhoods and on our Reservation," Rice said. "I am proud of our officers and investigators for their steadfast determination and unrelenting attention to continue to fight these and all drug dealers in an effort to make our Reservation safe for our Band members and our neighbors."

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin also thanked the law enforcement partners for their critical assistance in this case. "I would especially like to thank our Mille Lacs Tribal Police force. They have done outstanding work in leading this effort with our federal partners to address the drug epidemic on our Reservation."

JOAQUIN GALLEGOS

NEW ATTORNEY BRINGS INDIAN COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor



The Legislative Branch took another step toward the development of a Revisor's Office with the hire of Joaquin Gallegos, an attorney from the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Pueblo of Santa Ana in New Mexico.

Joaquin started October 15 in the role of legislative staff attorney. His job is to assist with the revision of existing statutes and the development of new ones.

"The legislature serves the people, so we will be out in the community, and I look forward to meeting the people of the Mille Lacs Band and learning from them along the way," said Joaquin.

From health care to politics

Joaquin's initial career goal was to become a dentist, but when he enrolled in college at the University of Colorado at Denver, he found a job with the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health at the University's Anschutz Medical Campus.

"I got to see how policy influenced Indian health care on the ground and decided to use my talent in that arena rather than patient care," he said.

After college, Joaquin continued learning about the importance of policy and law. He worked for former U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan at the Aspen Institute, helping to develop policy on health care, child welfare, and environmental protection.

"That really cemented my interest in going to law school," Joaquin said.

During law school, Joaquin worked for Senator Tom Udall of New Mexico in Washington, D.C., where he learned about Mille Lacs as an innovator and leading voice in Indian Country.

"I realized Mille Lacs would be a fantastic place to learn from and contribute to, given my skills and interests," he added.

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— JOAQUIN GALLEGOS

From Dorgan and Udall, who are both known for working across the aisle, Joaquin learned the value of listening to a variety of voices in order to craft better policy.

He also learned the importance of ensuring that people have the resources to lead healthy lives, including education and job security.

"When people are healthy, their children are able to thrive and succeed," Joaquin said. "Ultimately, when we create environments where people are happy and secure and not prone to self-medicate, the community thrives."



FOUR OF A KIND

At the District III community meeting at Grand Casino Hinckley on November 20, Representative Wally St. John (right) expressed his gratitude to three former District III representatives in attendance that evening: Bernida Churchill (center back), Diane Gibbs (center front), and Harry Davis (left). Miigwech to all our former and current elected officials! 2020 is a Minnesota Chippewa Tribe election year, with two seats up for grabs: Chief Executive and District I Representative. The filing period will be in January, the primary in April, and the general election in June. See next month's issue or watch Facebook for details.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Band Assembly meetings are open to the public at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. Band members are encouraged to attend. Dates, times, and locations are subject to change. For tentative dates and locations, see below and page 19. Call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181 with questions.

On October 31, Band Assembly received an update from financial managers Peter Eckerline and Martha Lewin with Merrill Lynch. Peter said the Band's earnings from investments were up more than 11 percent, the second highest quarter ever.



Peter Eckerline and Martha Lewin

On November 7, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joseph Nayquonabe appeared before Band Assembly to discuss his fiscal year 2020 budget and capital projects.

At their meeting at Chiminising Community Center in District IIA on November 12, Band Assembly met by phone with Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin to discuss the Chief Executive's veto of a bill appropriating money to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The Chief Executive attended the November 14 Band Assembly meeting in Minisinaakwaang (District II) to discuss the issue further. Melanie explained that she had vetoed the bill because the fiscal year had already ended. The MLCV budget was covered by continuing resolutions from Band Assembly, but Band Assembly passed the bill because it is required by Band Statutes, Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd said.

Band Assembly also heard from Marysue Anderson of Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy. Marysue explained that the school had to close for several days in November due to an error by the school's former accounting firm that resulted in the delay of state payments to the school. The situation has been rectified, and the students will attend school for the required number of days this year, she said.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin clarified that the Band has no say in the operation of Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy, which is a state charter school. The Band donates money to the school, but all operations are overseen by an independent school board.

District II Representative Marvin Bruneau said he supports the school and wants to see it managed in a good way.

December meetings:

December 5: Minisinaakwaang ALU

December 10: Biidaabinookwe Government Center

December 12: Biidaabinookwe Government Center

December 17: Meshakwad Community Center

December 19: Aazhoomog Community Center

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Duluth committee approves Ojibwe name for new trail:

The Duluth Parks and Recreation committee last month unanimously approved the name “Waabizheshikana,” or “Marten Path,” for a new extension of the Western Waterfront Trail. The 3.3-mile path would expand to more than 10 miles, running beside a railway along the St. Louis River. It would link the North Shore’s Gitchi-Gami Trail to Jay Cooke State Park if approved by the City Council. Ricky DeFoe, an Elder of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, said the name was identified in a ceremony and pays tribute to the Marten Clan who settled in the area and developed a network of paths and portages. *Source: Duluth News Tribune.*

Murals planned for city hall, courthouse:

Artists with Native American and Latino ties have been selected to create four new murals to be displayed at the historic City Hall and Ramsey County Courthouse in downtown St. Paul. City and county leaders last December directed the Ramsey County Historical Society to commission new art celebrating the people and progress of St. Paul and Ramsey County. The new works will hang in the council chambers alongside some of the original murals painted by Chicago artist John Norton when the building opened in 1932. Norton’s four murals have undergone scrutiny for their portrayal of people of color in what one St. Paul council member called “subservient roles.” *Source: startribune.com.*

New book explores home spaces of Ojibwe and others:

A new book by University of Minnesota design professor Tasoulla Hadjiyanni — *The Right to Home: Exploring How Space, Culture, and Identity Intersect with Disparities* — includes a chapter about Mille Lacs Band members. This book uses stories from Hmong, Somali, Mexicans, Ojibwe, and African Americans in Minnesota to explore how the spatial characteristics of homes can support or suppress people’s attempts to create meaning in their lives. The Ojibwe interviewees’ well-being was supported through a dining table that acted as a craft-making station; a bedroom closet that safeguarded a sacred necklace; walls that displayed Native objects; the smell of burning sage that warded off bad spirits and re-instilled boldness and bravery; and the healing sounds of the jingle dress.

Hocokata Ti Cultural Center now open in Shakopee:

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community hosted a first-ever Native American history, language, gaming, and culture day November 16 at the newly opened Hocokata Ti Cultural Center located off Highway 169 on the Prior Lake Indian Reservation. The center is built around the vista of seven tipis — one representing each of the Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires — and features a library, event hall, exhibition space, theater, restaurant, and meeting rooms. Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton spoke about the community’s new philanthropy campaign for K-12 education. *Source: minnpost.com.*

Stay up to speed on news from Indian Country at millelacsband.com/news.

SELF-CARE AND LEADERSHIP DISCUSSED AT GATHERING

By Alyssa Enno Mille Lacs Band member

Mille Lacs Band Anishinaabekwe came together for the 3rd Annual Weweni Inaabaji’aw Asemaa Women’s Gathering at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on October 29 and 30. The event, which was sponsored by Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services, brought women together to promote self-care, have fun, and provide an opportunity to learn through various presentations.

Mikayla Schaaf was key in planning and organizing the event, which she has done the last three years. Mikayla’s passion for the event is evident in the success of this gathering.

“It was amazing to see the great turnout!” exclaimed Mikayla. “I think this gathering was much needed for all of us. Oftentimes, we get so busy with work, families, or other things — we forget to take care of ourselves. This gathering was created to celebrate life, unity, and promote self-care. I am already looking forward to next year.”

The gathering was led entirely by women, which encouraged a sense of togetherness for the women within our communities. The messages shared came from the heart; they inspired hope, healing, positivity, and empowerment.

Women from each generation were present at the event. There were students from the local schools as well as Elders and women of every age in between. Presentations included



Keynote speaker Mona Stonefish began the event with an opening message on family resilience. Mikayla Schaaf, the event emcee, held raffle drawings for the attendees.

topics ranging from health and wellness, overcoming lateral violence, intergenerational healing, and more. Each attendee had a chance at raffle prizes, as well as the opportunity to browse the vendors’ collections and visit with each other.

A new addition to the event was the leadership panel, where up-and-coming leaders from the community had a chance to introduce themselves and share their stories.

With over 100 attendees, the event is sure to grow bigger and better for next year.



The Leadership Panel consisted of Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe, Briana Michels, Valerie Harrington (speaking), LeAnn Benjamin, and Michele Berger.

The ‘Other’ Legislature continued from page 1

Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd said, “What occurred to me was the Mille Lacs Band Legislature is the co-equal of the Minnesota Legislature by design, function, and authority.”

He pointed out that the Minnesota Legislature is one of only two legislative bodies in the state of Minnesota. The other is the Legislative Branch of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe — the only one of the state’s 11 tribes with a division of powers government and a separate Legislative Branch.

Following Patrick’s presentation, the group was given a guided tour of the Capitol, including the Supreme Court, the Senate, and the Governor’s reception room.

“I found the visit especially interesting, hearing from the Chief Clerk of the House Patrick Murphy,” said Representative Sandi Blake. “His position is parallel to our Parliamentarian Darcie Big Bear and her duties. Darcie is like the backbone to the Legislative Branch. We all work as a team, and everyone has their job to do. Darcie and her Clerk, Kiana Morrison, do a lot of work to make sure that Band Assembly happens. I appreciate them and all they do — which is a lot.”

The tour concluded in a new room displaying two controversial paintings that were removed from the reception room during the recent renovation of the Capitol.

One painting showed the signing of the Treaty of Traverse de Sioux — an event celebrated in the painting but now seen as a deceptive effort to gain control of Indian land by the state’s “founding fathers” Alexander Ramsey and Henry Sibley.

The second painting shows Father Hennepin’s “discovery” of St. Anthony Falls, a site that was sacred to Native Americans for thousands of years. In the painting, Hennepin is surrounded by Indian people sitting silently at his feet in various states of undress.

Tour participants read the descriptions of the paintings and the accompanying written commentary by a variety of Native and non-Native Minnesotans, including Lieutenant Governor Flanagan and Bemidji State Professor Anton Treuer.



Patrick Murphy spoke with Band members about the Minnesota House of Representatives on November 8. Parliamentarian Darcie Big Bear got to try out the desk of Murphy, whose role of Clerk of the House is similar to Darcie’s role in Band Assembly. Several Band members posed for selfies with the Lieutenant Governor.

BAND ASSEMBLY PROPOSES OPEN MEETING STATUTE

Band Assembly has published the second draft of Title 27, Open Meetings and Data Security Act, and is seeking input from Band members. According to Band Assembly, this landmark legislation is laying the groundwork for live streaming and transparency. District III Representative Wally St. John is the sponsor, and the Office of Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd contracted and provided direction to deliver on goals. This is meant for the people, and the people should and will have input before moving forward.

Section 1: Declaration of Policy and Intent

Section 1 provides a clear explanation of the purpose of the proposed legislation, which can be found on the website at millelacsband.com/government/legislative-branch/title-27:

(a) Article XIII of the Tribe's Constitution mandates that all Members be afforded "equal opportunities to participate in the economic resources and activities of the Tribe."

(b) In a democracy, the people are vested with the ultimate decision-making power. Governmental agencies exist to aid the people in the formation and conduct of public policy. Opening up governmental processes to public scrutiny and participation is the only viable and reasonable method of protecting the public's interest. Therefore, the Band Assembly declares that it is the policy of this Tribe that the formation and conduct of public policy — the discussions, deliberations, decisions, and action of governmental agencies — shall be conducted as openly as possible. At the same time, it is the responsibility of governmental agencies that create, receive, and maintain records to ensure their safekeeping and availability to the general public of the Tribe. Be it enacted by the Band Assembly of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Bands of Chippewa Indians, to implement this policy the Band Assembly declares that:

(1) It is the intent of the Band Assembly that this Act protect the people's right to know;

(2) The provisions requiring open meetings shall be liberally construed;

(3) The provisions providing for exceptions to the open meeting requirements shall be strictly construed against closed meetings; and

(4) Tribal agencies that create, receive, and maintain records, electronic records, and data shall ensure their safekeeping and availability to the general public of the Tribe, when appropriate.

Summary of contents

The following sections are elaborated in detail in the draft of Title 27.

Section 2. Definitions. Twenty-eight terms are defined in this section.

Section 3. Open Meetings. Except for executive sessions and emergency actions, all Band Assembly meetings are to be open to Members of the Tribe.

Section 4. Executive Sessions. Executive sessions of the Band Assembly shall not be open to the general public of the Tribe.

Section 5. Destruction of Information. An agency must take all reasonable steps to destroy, or arrange for the destruction of, personal financial and health information and personal identification numbers issued by government entities in an individual's records within its custody or control when the entity is disposing of records that it will no longer retain.

Section 6. Use of Records and Information. Any records, documents, materials, or other information in control or possession of the Tribe that is obtained in the course of an investigation or prosecution pursuant to Section 5, subsections (c)–(f), may be used solely to advance an investigation or prosecution and must be utilized in a manner that protects disclosure of records and information to the strictest extent possible (e.g., by filing under seal or in camera). Neither the Tribe nor any of its agencies may otherwise make the records, documents, materials, or other information public.

Section 7. Third Party Service Providers. Agencies must exercise due diligence in selecting third-party service providers. Agencies must require a third-party service provider to implement appropriate administrative, technical, and physical measures to protect and secure the information systems and nonpublic information that is accessible to, or held by, the third-party provider.

Section 8. Interagency Data Sharing. Certain data has substantial value when used across Agencies. It is essential to maintain public trust that confidential information is safe and secure via appropriate, strong, and effective safeguards and compliance with applicable privacy rules. Therefore, confidential, proprietary, or sensitive information is only to be shared according to a data sharing agreement drafted specifically for data to be shared under the agreement.

Section 9. Information Security Program. Agencies must manage, maintain, and protect electronic records, including text and email messages, social media, and confidential data in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Each agency shall monitor, evaluate, and adjust, as appropriate, its information security program consistent with any relevant changes in technology, the sensitivity of its nonpublic information, and any internal or external threats to information.

Section 10. Records Requests. All agencies must organize and maintain public records in a manner that meets the agency's duty to respond to records requests at a location readily available to Members.

Section 11. Enforcement and Violations. The Solicitor General of the Tribe shall interpret and enforce the Open Meetings and Technology Act. This Section does not apply to Section 5 of this Title, which relates to the destruction of records.

To read the draft of Title 27 in its entirety, go to millelacsband.com/government/legislative-branch/title-27 or contact valerie.harrington@millelacsband.com.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Washington tribe saves Snoqualmie Falls land:

The Snoqualmie Tribe of the state of Washington announced a deal last month that will stop the development of land they hold sacred. The Muckleshoot Tribe had purchased the land with a plan to build up to 210 houses, a hotel, and a convention center, but they ended up canceling the project and selling the land to the Snoqualmie. "We have reclaimed our most sacred and traditional land," said Snoqualmie Tribal Chairman Robert de los Angeles. "We have taken another step toward healing the desecration of this area." Jason Elkins, chairman of the Muckleshoot Tribe, said, "It is a great feeling when tribes can come together." *Source: startribune.com.*

Keystone pipeline leak is second in two years:

An oil spill on the Keystone pipeline in northeastern North Dakota last month was the second significant leak in two years on a crude oil pipeline that opened less than a decade ago. The Keystone pipeline, which transports oil from Alberta to the Midwest, spilled an estimated 383,000 gallons of crude oil near the town of Edinburg, according to the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality. *Source: startribune.com.*

Trump insults tribes with November declaration:

November was first designated Native American Heritage Month by President George H.W. Bush in 1990, but the special attention paid to American Indians this November was diluted by President Donald Trump's decision to mark the month as the first National American History and Founders Month — a declaration that made no mention of the nation's original founders or pre-colonial history. In an editorial titled "An unnecessary swipe at Native Americans," the Star Tribune newspaper said, "This was a needless hurt inflicted by a president who so often seems to find a way to do just that. He had already renewed the Native American proclamation, as has every president before him since 1990. How cruel then, to force Native Americans to share even that small gesture with those responsible for taking their land and for all the atrocities that followed." *Source: startribune.com.*

South Dakota tribe seeks to change federal law:

The Crow Creek Dakota Tribe of South Dakota is asking for support from the state to change an 1863 federal law that technically keeps them from owning land in Minnesota. The law removed Dakota people from Minnesota and relocated them to several states in the Midwest. It was signed by President Abraham Lincoln after conflicts between white settlers and Dakota people in Minnesota. The law is no longer enforced, but tribal leaders call it racist. They're asking the state to pass a resolution of support. Crow Creek Sioux Chairman Lester Thompson Jr. called it similar to old Jim Crow laws of the South. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Standing Rock Sioux oppose pipeline expansion:

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe members are telling North Dakota regulators that a proposal to double the Dakota Access pipeline's capacity magnifies the probability of a disastrous oil spill. Texas-based Energy Transfer proposed expanding its pipeline from 600,000 barrels per day to 1.1 million to meet growing demand for oil shipments from North Dakota. In a court filing, the tribe said the expansion would "increase both the likelihood and severity of spill incidents." *Source: mprnews.org.*



COLLEGE VISITS FOR NAY AH SHING STUDENTS

Nay Ah Shing students have been busy with college visits this fall. On October 28, they traveled to Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, and on November 5, they visited South Dakota State University (pictured above). On the Fond du Lac trip, they enjoyed a tour hosted by Josh Cleveland, which included several short meetings with faculty and staff, a classroom visit, and a walk-through of a dorm building. A special moment was when former Nay Ah Shing teacher Govinda Budrow — now a member of the faculty at Fond du Lac — greeted the students.

SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH A COMPLETE COUNT

Be a part of Census 2020

The U.S. Census Bureau is currently engaged in recruitment efforts to find and train trusted voices within individual communities, including reservations, to make sure everyone understands what is at stake in the 2020 Census and to provide assistance to anyone who needs help fulfilling their census obligations.

As dictated by the U.S. Constitution, a census, or count, of every person living in the United States is required every ten years. A lot can happen in 10 years. Think about where you were just 10 years ago. Were you still in elementary school? Were you just starting a family of your own? Were you contemplating a college education or trade school? Were you thinking about retirement?

Regardless of where you were 10 years ago, chances are the last decade has been a time of significant growth and transition in your personal life. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has seen growth in the general population and Band member enrollment numbers as well. And where there are more people, the need for services increases. Data collected by the census count can be used to greatly increase funding for more services to our community since many funding opportunities are based on number of people.

"THE LOCAL COMMITTEES ARE SO IMPORTANT TO US AS BAND MEMBERS BECAUSE THEY ARE MADE UP OF REAL PEOPLE WHO KNOW, WORK, AND LIVE IN OUR OWN COMMUNITIES."

— SHELLY DIAZ

Join a Complete Count Committee (CCC)

Complete Count Committees are essential to the census. "The local committees are so important to us as Band members because they are made up of real people who know, work, and live in our own communities," said Band member Shelly Diaz, the Urban Liaison for the Chief Executive's Office and the U.S. Census Liaison for the Mille Lacs Band. "The Complete Count Committees serve as ambassadors to the community, providing awareness and information to their friends, neighbors, other community members, and organizations. We want to make sure that we as Band members are accurately counted, and to do that, we need community members who are informed. People who are informed of the facts are more likely to respond to the census."

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about becoming a Complete Count Committee member can learn more about it at upcoming district community meetings. "We are actively recruiting CCC members right now to help get the word out about the census," Shelly said. "We want to create a localized message from our own community members that will resonate with our communities. We have a lot of fun ideas that we would like to implement and get going on very soon."

The Mille Lacs Band Complete Count Committee is looking for representation from each of the districts made up of Band members and government employees from Administration, Education, Community Development, Natural Resources, and Health and Human Services. These trusted voices will develop and implement a 2020 Census awareness campaign based upon their knowledge of the local community to encourage a response. If you or someone you know would like to join this all-volunteer committee, please contact Shelly at shelly.diaz@millelacsband.com. There will also be more information available at upcoming district meetings. More details coming soon.

Become a Census Taker

Beginning in March 2020, every address in the country will receive a census questionnaire. Your response will affect the next generation. There are three ways to respond to the census questionnaire: 1) complete it online, 2) call by phone, 3) send it by mail. For those who don't respond, a census taker from our community will follow up and assist you.

There are opportunities available to Band members who would like to apply to be a census taker. Upon acceptance, this is a paid position with flexible hours that could be days, weekends, or evenings, and will include mileage reimbursement.

To ensure every person in the Mille Lacs Band community is informed and counted, there will be various community events occurring in each District over the course of the next few months. There also will be a census recruitment officer available at various meetings to help any individuals interested in applying to be a census taker and to walk each applicant through the application process.

Applications can also be submitted online by going to <https://2020census.gov/jobs>. The online application will take about 30 minutes to complete. Once the application is submitted, it will stay on file with the Census Bureau for the entire duration of the 2020 Census. Applicants can go into their account to change their information or check on the application status at any time. The U.S. Census Bureau will reach out to



Shelly Diaz, right, attended the November 20 District III community meeting along with Sarah Priest, Partnership Specialist with the Census Bureau.

Complete Count Committees

Complete Count Committees (CCC) are volunteer committees established by tribal, state, and local governments and community leaders or organizations to increase awareness and motivate residents to respond to the 2020 Census. CCCs serve as state and local "census ambassador" groups that play an integral part in ensuring a complete and accurate count of the community in the 2020 Census. Success of the census depends on community involvement at every level. The U.S. Census Bureau cannot conduct the 2020 Census alone.

potential workers via telephone and conduct phone interviews beginning in January 2020; job offers will be made verbally and followed up by a confirmation email. Once a job offer is made, the applicant will set up an appointment to have their fingerprints done for the background check. After the background check has cleared, the applicant will be scheduled for a paid training. Employment will begin around April 1, 2020 (Census Day). Workers are paid weekly by the Census Bureau.

There will be Applicant Days held at the Aanjibimaadizing offices in each of the districts. This will provide people interested in applying for a U.S. Census job an opportunity to have a U.S. Census Recruitment Officer available on-site to answer any questions and to walk potential applicants through the application process. Flyers and social media reminders will be posted for dates and times as they become available.

To serve on the Mille Lacs Band's Complete Count Committee, contact Shelly Diaz at shelly.diaz@millelacsband.com or talk to Shelly at upcoming district meetings!

If you'd like to apply for a census job, come to Aanjibimaadizing classrooms December 17 in District I and II and December 18 in District III and at the Urban Office. Watch Facebook for details.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

SEWING

By Beatrice Taylor.

This article by the late Beatrice Taylor was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to help preserve her teachings for the next generation.

I have been sewing for more than 60 years. I learned sewing from my mother. I was about 8, I think. I used to watch her. People would hire her to make fancy buckskin mittens for them. She couldn't afford to buy mittens for all of us kids, so she'd take an old coat or something and cut out a pair of mittens. My sister and I learned from watching her how to make our own mittens.

One time, I couldn't make my mittens come out even, so I started cutting. And then I cut too much, but my mother wouldn't cut out another pair for me to sew. I remember I sat there and cried because I couldn't make my thumb fit in the thumb hole — I'd cut it too small! Finally, my mother broke down and cut out another pair for me to sew, and I didn't cut any more on the pieces — I just sewed them together the way she said to.

My mother also taught us how to make moccasins and how to sew blocks together for quilts. We had good times sewing together. In the wintertime, with the snow piled up outside, we sat inside and sewed. She'd scrub the floor and say, "Now don't track anything

in on my floor." Then she'd stretch out a blanket on the floor so she could work on sewing it.

My mother even taught my sisters and I how to sew some of our own underwear. She'd cut it out, and we'd do the sewing. Kids at school used to make fun of us, but we didn't care.

My sister Mary, who is also an Elder, still sews, too. Her quilts are beautiful. She's got a lot of patience. Sometimes I sit and watch her and I think, how can you sew a quilt with all of those tiny little blocks of fabric? For me, the bigger the better when it comes to quilt pieces — then I can get done quicker!

Mary and I go through pattern books together and try to find something new, but we still pretty much tend to stick to the same designs. I like the shoo-fly pattern and the Ohio star. I've improved my sewing in the last 10 to 15 years. The last quilt I did was marvelous — it came out completely even!

My granddaughters are a little small yet to show any interest in sewing, but if I can cut out mittens for them and they can sew them — like the way I started — I think maybe they will get a knack for it.

ICWA — IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO KEEP KIDS HOME

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

The Indian Child Welfare Act — ICWA — was passed in 1978 in response to a crisis in Indian Country: children were being placed in non-Indian foster families and losing their culture and language in the process. This was not just a threat to those children whose well-being was at stake, but also to the tribes whose connection between the past and future was in danger.

The foster care crisis was just another in a long line of historical tragedies that chipped away at sovereignty and culture, including outright genocide, the reservation system, the outlawing of Indian religions, boarding schools, and relocation.

ICWA gave tribal governments exclusive jurisdiction over Native American children who reside on reservations, and it gave concurrent, but presumptive jurisdiction over foster care placement proceedings for Native American children who do not live on the reservation. In other words, cases that occur on the reservation or tribal lands are handled in tribal court; cases that occur off reservation or tribal lands are handled in county court. There are times when cases with county jurisdiction can be transferred to tribal court if both parents agree to the transfer. After which, tribal court must accept the case.

Mille Lacs Band Family Services and the Mille Lacs Band Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) work together on all cases. Each case is different and does not always fit in a nicely packaged scenario. Both Family Services and the OSG have different job responsibilities, but they both have the ultimate goal of family preservation and reunification.

According to Mike Hogan, an attorney with the OSG, ICWA gives Bands a kind of “veto power” over counties that attempt to place tribal children in non-tribal homes.

Today at Mille Lacs, ICWA cases in counties around the state account for a large percentage of the work undertaken by the attorneys in the OSG. Several attorneys are on the road once a week or more to far-flung counties where hearings are held. Family Services case workers are often present in courtrooms across the state as well to monitor ICWA cases along with the OSG.

Diane Sanders is a Leech Lake member who has worked in the Twin Cities Indian community for years and is now an ICWA social worker with the Band. In most cases, Diane said, ICWA works as intended. She may be notified of a case where a county is attempting to place a child with a non-Indian foster family. “We’ll step in, find out who the county social worker is, and make sure they’re aware of ICWA and that the tribes have a voice in the matter.” Minnesota also has the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act — MIFPA.

Everyone wants what’s best for the child, and usually that’s reunification with a parent who has made changes in their life. Along the way, though, foster care may be necessary, and a community effort is needed to ensure that the child finds the best care available — both short- and long-term.

At Mille Lacs, the need for foster families is ongoing and at times desperate. When children have been removed from their families, it has been difficult at times for Family Services to find foster care placements with family or other Band members.

Nicole Anderson, Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Health and Human Services, said, “When children are removed from a home there could be a variety of reasons including mandated report, substance abuse, neglect, child abuse, and sexual abuse to name a few. These processes can go a variety of ways depending on circumstances related to the case.” Nicole added that parents often receive recommendations from the court that may include Rule 25 assessments, counselling, therapy, substance abuse treatment, anger management, etc. If these recommendations are not followed through on, it could slow or prevent the reunification process from proceeding. These plans are not one-size-fits-all plans and may change throughout the duration of the case as parents meet their obligations or not.

The Mille Lacs Band offers many services that may be required by court. “Family Service staff can help the parents navigate the systems so they are successful in completing their recommendations,” Nicole said. MLBO-HHS will help parents with medical insurance, Rule 25 assessments, treatment, med-

ical appointments, and can also be a bridge to other helpful programs.

Bottom line: What’s best for the kids

One common misunderstanding of ICWA is that the top priority is to place foster children in Band member families. In Tribal Court ICWA cases and adoptions, Band members are given priority, but in state court, the order of priority in foster care placements is (1.) extended family, (2.) a foster home licensed or approved by the Band, and (3.) an Indian foster home licensed or approved by someone other than the tribe (like the county). (There is a separate ranking system for adoptions.)

In many cases, but not all, the foster parents will be Band members. Many children have a parent from a different tribe or a non-Indian parent, so the child may be placed with a non-Band member if no Band member relative is available.

“We’d like it to be a Band member, but there’s nothing in the law that says it has to be,” said Mike.

Nicole added, “The process can be difficult to understand, and all parties may not necessarily agree. Family Services is available to help every step of the way. What is important to remember is the focus is always on the child’s best interest.”

Diane pointed out the most unfortunate misunderstanding of ICWA: “Some of our families think ICWA was put in place to take their kids away, but that’s not the case,” said Diane. “ICWA is there to help them keep their kids. We’re here to help families, not to work against them. The bottom line is what’s best for the kids, and the best thing for the kids is to be with their families and relatives in the culture they grow up in.”

Typical cases

Often times the case begins when a mandatory reporter — teacher, health care worker, or law enforcement officer — sees or hears something that he or she is required by law to report.

After the initial report, an emergency protective care hearing is scheduled, and the OSG’s office and Mille Lacs Band Family Services are notified by the county where the hearing is scheduled. OSG assigns an attorney, and Family Services assigns a social worker as liaison.

In most cases involving county court, OSG and Family Services will be there in person. This is not true of all tribes, but Mille Lacs has a long history of close involvement in ICWA cases. Mike Hogan said, “It’s really, really important for us to be there in person so the judges, county attorneys, and social services in all these counties know we’re engaged and that the Band cares about these cases.”

After the hearing, things can go in different directions, but usually a case plan is ordered that under Minnesota law gives parents a year to comply. In tribal court, however, there is no one-year deadline, so cases are sometimes open for years.

According to Ashley Burr and Tabatha Boyd of MLB Family Services, families will have an assigned social worker, and will expect monthly home-visits. Team meetings will occur to assist the family with developing a Plan of Care in which the parents, family members, Guardian ad litem and the county worker have input in developing. Referrals will be made towards achieving the set goals. Families will be provided visitation with their child(ren). Fuel vouchers or transportation by the Department are available when needed.

If the parent doesn’t comply with the order within a year, a permanent solution is sought, which may include termination of parental rights and adoption.

In Diane’s experience, most cases end well. “The main focus is to make sure it’s a good happy ending for the kids,” she said. “It can be stressful. Sometimes not everybody’s happy, but if we’re working toward same goal, the welfare of kids, it’s very rewarding, especially when we see a family reunited.”

How you can help

There is an ongoing need for foster families in all Mille Lacs Band communities. If you are willing to become a foster parent, or you know someone else who is, please contact Mille Lacs Band Family Services at 320-532-4181.



The Mille Lacs Band flag hangs in the Hennepin County Juvenile Justice Center along with those of other Minnesota tribes. Hennepin and Ramsey County are very knowledgeable about ICWA, while some suburban and outstate counties require more education on the law.

TRIBAL ICWA CASES — STEP BY STEP

Intake Process

The Mille Lacs Band Family Services District I office is the designated point of entry for all incoming mandated reports. The reports are received by telephone, facsimile, email, or in person. The reports are received from law enforcement, schools, hospitals, health providers, other social service agencies, service programs, family members, community members, and others. The Intake and Referral Screener prepares documentation for screening, enters the information into the registry, and a screening team meeting is held based on criteria according to Mille Lacs Band Statute. The Family Services screening team will screen “in” or screen “out” or cross report “out of jurisdiction.” Reports that are screened out can include referrals to other agencies. Reports that are screened in are assigned to an investigator who starts one of these types of investigations: Facilities Investigation, Family Assessment, or Child Protection Investigation.

Investigation Process/Procedure

In most cases, interviews begin immediately to ensure the safety of the child. The assigned investigator will meet with the child or legal guardian to gather information and determine whether the child is in immediate danger by what may or may not be in the report. The investigator will then meet with other professionals or family members, if necessary, to gather additional information. The investigator will meet with the parents to inform them of the report and depending on the report, the parent will be interviewed to address the concerns.

The investigator’s interview is aimed at obtaining information regarding the alleged abuse, neglect or maltreatment and safety of the child, parents and family which includes, what happened: when and where the alleged abuse or neglect occurred, the child’s current condition, other effects of abuse, neglect or maltreatment, contact with all persons having information or knowledge regarding the family dynamics and alleged abuse, neglect or maltreatment and the protective capacity of the family. Based on the information gathered, the investigator will need to make a decision should a child or children need to be placed outside of the home or if not. Safety Planning will occur to prevent out-of-home placement.

Should the investigator determine a child is safe in the home, the investigator may close the Family Assessment or investigation immediately should the family not request or identify any further assistance.

ICWA — Step by Step continued on page 8

GASHKIBIDAAGAN

A WOODLANDS LEGACY

STUDENTS LEARN THE ART OF THE WOODLAND STYLE BANDOLIER BAG

By Adrienne Benjamin

Mille Lacs Band Member



Nay Ah Shing students are hard at work on the Gashkibidaagan (Bandolier Bag) Project.

A new and artistic project launch is underway at Nay Ah Shing High School. The Gashkibidaagan (Bandolier Bag) Project was started on October 29 with the intent to revive the art form within the community, specifically with youth. The idea grew from the recently published book *A Bag Worth a Pony* by Marcia G. Anderson. After reading the book and brainstorming, Nay Ah Shing employees Pamela Johns (Red Lake) and Anthony Buckanaga (Leech Lake) were inspired and came up with a plan.

"A bandolier bag was a legacy for a family, from design process to final product. We want to help kids to understand that, and to help them create their own," Pamela said. These were bags that took months and sometimes even years to complete. They were taken seriously and given the utmost care and attention to detail.

"There are not many woodland artists around anymore whose specific focus is woodland flora," Anthony added. "It's such an iconic piece of Anishinaabe art, that has such meaning, honor, and respect behind it. It would be doing a disservice

to our ancestors to not carry forward the teachings behind the bags, and it would be a major loss to the culture if this art-making practice was discontinued, as these bags tie into our identity as Anishinaabeg."

The deeper intent of the project is to teach youth and eventually the greater community the local histories of the seven Minnesota Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, as it relates to the bandolier bag, its origin, its original uses, the incredible artistry, and the meaning behind them.

Eventually, the team sees this spreading beyond just Nay Ah Shing High School. A potential museum exhibit is in the plans when the youth complete their bags, and even the possibility of a traveling exhibit that can be shared with area schools to learn about the project and processes. "We would like to create our own book, with local history specific to Mille Lacs that features the artistry of Mille Lacs Anishinaabeg of the past," Anthony said. "We want to use the experiences that we gain through these different processes of learning and doing to jumpstart others in their own learning and to tell these stories through our own lens and in our own way."

The team is more than excited to start this journey, and the kids at Nay Ah Shing are just as excited. "It's important to re-

gain the knowledge of our Anishinaabe art-making practices, and to spark interest in future local artists. With the overall bag-making process, it's about the youth and showing them that they can work together and create something that has immense history and value behind it," Anthony continued. "We will create something with them that is going to last beyond any of our lifetimes."

The group has already attended two field trips. One of them was to the Tweed Museum at the University of Minnesota-Duluth for a showcase of bandolier bags that were displayed in celebration of the *A Bag Worth a Pony* book, and a question-and-answer session with the author, Marcia G. Anderson. The second was a tour of the Minnesota Historical Society bandolier bag collection at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum in District I. The field trips were focused on building a respect and understanding for the amount of time and effort that it takes to create a bag, and also to aid the kids' creative processes for their own bag designs.

The project is expected to continue through the entire school year. For more information about the project, contact Anthony Buckanaga or Pamela Johns at Nay Ah Shing School.

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Fond du Lac Registration: During the first week in December, the Higher Education Program will hold registration events in all three districts with Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. Equipment and staff will be available to assist students needing help with Accuplacer testing, FAFSA and financial aid applications, course registration, and graduation planning.

December 2, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. East Lake Community Center

December 3, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Meshakwad Community Center

December 3, 1 – 4 p.m. at District I Community Center
Follow the Mille Lacs Band Higher Education Facebook page for updates.

Submit grades, schedule, billing: Students who have taken classes this fall do not need to resubmit a Higher Ed Application packet, but you should submit your fall grades, a new class schedule, and billing as early as possible to Michele Berger.

Office will be moving: The exact date has not been determined, but the Higher Education offices and classrooms will be moving to the new District I Community Center soon.

Contacts: For more information, reach out to Shelly Day during any of her many visits to the districts, or contact Michele Berger, Scholarship and Career Counselor, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Higher Education, 43408 Oodena Road, Onamia, MN 56359, 1-800-709-6445, ext. 4775, or MLB.Scholarships@millelacsband.com.

ICWA — Step by Step continued from page 7

Court Intervention:

If the investigator determines a child or children are in immediate danger, a 72-hour hold will be filed with Tribal Court, the Tribal Police Department, Mille Lacs Band OSG Office, Mille Lacs Band Foster Care, and the agency of the county where the child resides. The family will be informed of the 72-hour hold (initial hearing) by being served by Tribal Police. The investigator will make reasonable efforts to inform the parents of the initial hearing. The purpose of the initial hearing is to determine whether it is reasonable to believe that continuing absence from the home is necessary to protect the well-being of the child. The case plan is voluntary during the initial and 30-day hearing, until the case is adjudicated.

A second hearing will be held within 30 days following the initial hearing if ordered supervision of the court was ordered in the initial hearing. The purpose of the 30-day hearing is for the court to reassess whether continuing court intervention is necessary.

If the problems are not resolved at the initial or 30-day hearing, the court will set a formal trial on the issues. Should the case be adjudicated, the parents' case plan is no longer voluntary but will be court ordered and need to be followed for reunification to happen.

Families' rights while working with MLB Family Services:

Families involved with Mille Lacs Band Family Services have the right to be treated with respect, courtesy, free of discrimination of services, to be an equal participant, to be informed at all stages of the process, to practice personal spiritual beliefs, to be present at court hearings, to have all reasonable requests addressed promptly, to participate in team meetings, and to have input in the Plan of Care.

Families are expected to keep their scheduled appointments, treat staff with respect and courtesy, attend all court hearings, actively work on the Plan of Care, remain in contact with the assigned social worker, to identify other people or family members to assist with achieving their case plan, and to keep the department informed of their contact information and/or address.

Services not provided by MLB Family Services:

Mille Lacs Band Family Services does not provide services for custody hearings, Elder abuse, domestic restraining order, harassment restraining order, or provide recommendations in private guardianships. Family Services will provide information to direct people to the right Department.

MEET YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

This month features the Constitutional Convention delegates from the urban area.

Al Olson

Why did you decide to become a delegate to the Constitutional Convention? I was very interested in the subject matter and am passionate about updating our Constitution to a document that better reflects our culture and history and speaks for all our people. I attended most of the Constitutional Convention meetings held in 2018, and I am also a member of the Zaagibagaang group that works on behalf of all MCT Bands to help educate our membership on tribal governance issues and encourages Band members to get involved in the MCT.

Perry Skinaway

Why did you decide to become a delegate to the Constitutional Convention? One, I am the father of three beautiful children and believe in their future and the tribe's future as well. To educate them and others properly, I must learn more and understand these concepts to help educate our future generations correctly. I believe in our tribe, and to be grateful for all the services offered and given to us, I would love to give back as much as I can to the tribe. Furthermore, I am an employee at the Urban Office and come in contact with Band members daily. With that being said, it's only fitting that I am properly educated to share with the masses what's going on in their interest as Band members.

ARTICLE V: AUTHORITIES OF TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In an effort to help inform Band members about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Constitution, we are publishing sections of the Constitution along with information about the Constitutional Reform process and our delegates to the Convention.

Section 1. The Tribal Executive Committee shall, in accordance with applicable laws or regulations of the Department of the Interior, have the following powers:

(a) To employ legal counsel for the protection and advancement of the rights of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; the choice of counsel and fixing of fees to be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, or his authorized representative.

(b) To prevent any sale, disposition, lease or encumbrance of tribal lands, interest in lands, or other assets including minerals, gas and oil.

(c) To advise with the Secretary of the Interior with regard to all appropriation estimates or Federal projects for the benefit of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, except where such appropriation estimates or projects are for the benefit of individual Reservations.

(d) To administer any funds within the control of the Tribe; to make expenditures from tribal funds for salaries, expenses of tribal officials, employment or other tribal purposes. The Tribal Executive Committee shall apportion all funds within its control to the various Reservations excepting funds necessary to support the authorized costs of the Tribal Executive Committee. All expenditures of tribal funds, under the control of the Tribal Executive Committee, shall be in accordance with a budget, duly approved by resolution in legal session, and the amounts so expended shall be a matter of public record at all reasonable times. The Tribal Executive Committee shall prepare annual budgets, requesting advancements to the control of the Tribe of any money deposited to the credit of the Tribe in the United States Treasury, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative.

(e) To consult, negotiate, contract and conclude agreements on behalf of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe with Federal, State and local governments or private persons or organizations on all matters within the powers of the Tribal Executive Committee, except as provided in the powers of the Reservation Business Committee.

(f) Except for those powers hereinafter granted to the Reservation Business Committees, the Tribal Executive Committee shall be authorized to manage, lease, permit, or otherwise deal with tribal lands, interests in lands or other tribal assets; to engage in any business that will further the economic well being of members of the Tribe; to borrow money from the Federal Government or other sources and to direct the use of such funds for productive purposes, or to loan the money thus borrowed to Business Committees of the Reservations and to pledge or assign chattel or income, due or to become due, subject only to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative, when required by Federal law or regulations.

(g) The Tribal Executive Committee may by ordinance, subject to the review of the Secretary of the Interior, levy licenses or fees on non-members or non-tribal organizations doing business on two or more Reservations.

(h) To recognize any community organizations, associations or committees open to members of the several Reservations and to approve such organizations, subject to the provision that no such organizations, associations, or committees may assume any authority granted to the Tribal Executive Committee or to the Reservation Business Committees.

(i) To delegate to committees, officers, employees or cooperative associations any of the foregoing authorities, reserving the right to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated authorities.



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE NIGHT BAND MEMBERS SING, DRUM, DANCE WITH THE WOLVES!



The Minnesota Timberwolves celebrated Native American Heritage Month on November 20 with help from Mille Lacs Band community members. Brea Sawyer, daughter of Band member Shena Matrious, sang the anthem, and a host of hand drums and jingle dress dancers greeted fans as they made their way to their seats. Miigwech to the Wolves and all who went down to share their Native pride! Photos by Bradley Roache Jr.



MINISINAAKWAANG YOUTH

DRUM AND DANCE HEALTHY FUN IN DII

By Alyssa Enno Mille Lacs Band Member

The youth who attend the Niigaan after-school program in the Minisinaakwang (District II) area were curious about dancing and wanted to learn more, so Niigaan Program Coordinator Cheyanne Peet was inspired to take those requests and form a plan. The result: Drum and Dance class every Wednesday at the East Lake Community Center. Cheyanne saw that she had the community involvement and support needed for the program, and she made the necessary contacts to launch the class. "Getting community involvement was easy," said Cheyanne. "The instructors wanted to volunteer from the beginning and were a huge help in getting this started."

The instructors look forward to the program expanding. They believe this is a healthy outlet, not only for the youth at Niigaan but for the community as a whole. "Our vision for the program is pretty big," said Cheyanne. "The hope is that this will lead to other opportunities now and further down the road." Aside from learning about drum and dance, the youth will develop skills like working in teams, learning how to sew and make regalia, and learning to be comfortable and confident in front of others. By having community involvement with drum and dance, the youth will have the chance to learn from their peers and other community members.

District II has held three drum and dance events for the youth in Minisinaakwang. Dancing is led by Taria White and Morningstar Goodsky, while singing is led by Elbert White and Harvey Goodsky.

"I couldn't be more excited about this," said Cheyanne. "I think it's something that could be very beneficial to a lot of youth in more ways than one."



Niigaan Coordinator Cheyanne Peet (below center) helped to organize instructors for a weekly drum and dance class in District II.



MAKING HER OWN WAY AT B.A.T. ENTERTAINMENT

By Alyssa Enno Mille Lacs Band member

Long days, long nights, thousands of people — Putting on a concert while managing backstage and talent is a daunting task. Not everyone can enjoy working in a fast-paced environment, but Mille Lacs Band member Krista (Roache) Klug is no stranger to hard work. Krista enjoys and prefers the hustle and bustle that comes with her job, especially when it means giving her guests a memorable experience and show.

After unexpectedly losing her job with Grand Casino, Krista was hit with adversity. With twin daughters starting college and a younger child in elementary school, Krista knew she had to pick up the pieces and keep moving, for herself and her family. "As much as I felt like I deserve a break and wanted to slow down, I had to keep going. I couldn't let anything get me down," said Krista.

Krista was ready to invest in herself. She turned a long-time dream into an action plan and, along with her husband, created B.A.T. Entertainment, a talent-buying business. Inspired by her daughters and wanting to set an example for them, she created this company that could one day belong to them. A truly one-of-a-kind business, B.A.T. Entertainment is a Mille Lacs Band member and female-owned business.

While the business is still new, there are opportunities where Krista is able to bring her family into the business for work. Her daughters and their friends have also been a big help in putting on some of their shows. Whether it's acting as a runner, checking IDs, or even ushering guests, it's all hands on deck when it's show time. "We truly are a family business!" said Krista.

Krista works alongside her husband, Noah Klug, just like they worked together at Grand Casino. The two have over 24 years of experience in tribal gaming and casino entertainment. The duo helped make Grand Casino an entertainment desti-



nation, something no other casino within the state can claim. Grand Casino had a number of successful shows and multiple sold-out shows hosting acts such as KISS, Kid Rock, Dolly Parton, Rascal Flatts, Brooks and Dunn, Alan Jackson, Toby Keith, Aaron Lewis, and Kane Brown. Together they created Grand RockTember, a popular outdoor festival that has quickly become a fan favorite.

Experience, work ethic, and dependability go a long way, which is working out in Krista's favor. Many of the connections and relationships with agents that were formed during her career with the casino are following her in hopes of working with her company. Under B.A.T.'s umbrella, the business specializes in booking talent, managing backstage and production, producing festivals, and event management. B.A.T.'s network includes venues in Duluth, Mankato, and Fargo, in addition to a major music festival in the Twin Cities.

Within a year of losing her job and starting her business, Krista is celebrating the inaugural year, but she has many more milestones she wants to achieve. "Just like with any business, the first year can be a little rocky, but that only motivates me," Krista said. "I am excited to see how far I can take my business. Our goal for 2020 is to expand into the casino market and continue to grow our business."



Above: Krista and Noah with Billy Ray Cyrus. Below: Backstage with the B.A.T. crew and Bill Engvall ready to hit the stage. Photo by Bradley Sargent.



"AS MUCH AS I FELT LIKE I DESERVE A BREAK AND WANTED TO SLOW DOWN, I HAD TO KEEP GOING. I COULDN'T LET ANYTHING GET ME DOWN."

— KRISTA KLUG

A FINE FALL FEAST, THANKS TO MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

By Alyssa Enno Inaajimowin Editor

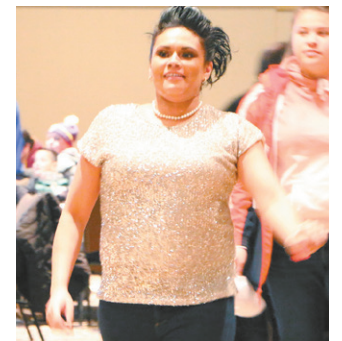
Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures hosted the annual Fall Feast for Mille Lacs Band members and their families at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on Thursday, November 21. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the event, a gathering that celebrates and gives thanks to this community. Guests enjoyed a good meal with even better company.

Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe Jr. shared information about the Band's businesses, including stats like the number of Elders MLCV has hosted since starting the Elder Events in February (1,080), the number of guests who have walked through our casino's doors (2,911,379), to the number of gallons of Marge's wild rice soup served in the last year (19,052).

Raffle drawings were held throughout the evening where 20 guests received a Family Feast Prize Pack, which included all of the fixings needed for a turkey dinner. Also included was a \$50 MLCV gift card for winners to use at any of MLCV's businesses. At the end of the night, those 20 winners were asked to open up their gift card envelopes to see which lucky winner revealed an MLCV sticker on their gift card. That sticker added an extra \$1,000 in cash to that prize. Congratulations to all the Family Feast Prize Pack winners — especially Billie Berry (pictured at right in the center row), who took home the grand prize!

New this year was a custom Jordan coloring contest that was available to all age ranges. Participants were asked to color a retro Jordan shoe for a chance to win their very own custom sneakers. The coloring pages will be voted on over the next few weeks, and winners from each age category will be contacted to complete their design.

It was a fun evening shared by 1,100 people. Commissioner Nayquonabe concluded the evening by sharing his appreciation: "On behalf of all of us who work for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and its businesses, I want you to know that we are all committed to excellence and focusing on what counts to deliver the best value for the Mille Lacs Band. Miigwech!"



ROUND DANCE!

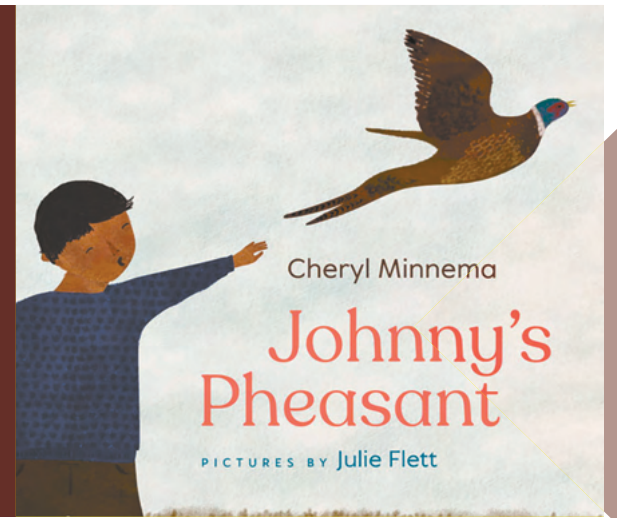
Dancers and singers came from near and far for a round dance at District 1 Community Center on Friday, November 22. The event was organized by Tony Buckanaga and Chris Nayquonabe, with Byron Ninham and Erik Gahbow serving as masters of ceremonies. "It's always fun getting people together for community events, and to have people come from the tri-state area — North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin — to Mille Lacs for a round dance is amazing," said Byron. Photos by Mille Lacs Band member Rhonda Mitchell.



CHERYL MINNEMA

JOHNNY'S PHEASANT

A NEW BOOK BY BAND MEMBER AUTHOR



By Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

In Band member Cheryl Minnema's newest children's book, *Johnny's Pheasant*, she tells the story of a young boy and his grandma and their adventure with a sleeping bird.

This is her second book, and Cheryl's younger brother, Johnny, is back as a main character. So is her grandmother, Lucy "Omadwebigaashiikwe" Clark.

The humor-filled book highlights the close relationship between Johnny and his grandma along with their mutual respect for nature and a bird that has unexpectedly come into their lives.

"I have two more Johnny stories waiting in the wings," said Cheryl. "I'd love to retire as a writer and doing beadwork."

On a recent November Sunday, Cheryl spent time in a Minneapolis bookstore reading the book to an attentive audience and interacting with them as they created Native-themed art projects. She's scheduled to be at Zenith Bookstore at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. The locally-owned store is located at 318 N. Central Ave in Duluth.

Cree-Metis author and artist Julie Flett illustrated *Johnny's Pheasant*.

Cheryl "Waabaanakwadookwe" wrote her first children's book, *Hungry Johnny*, in 2014. The book was based on Cheryl's childhood memories of her younger brother, John Benjamin, who passed away in 2007 when he was just 27 years old.

"The books are dedicated to his life and memory," Cheryl said. "It helps to keep his spirit alive when he was little, and Grandma, too. We were all so close to her. And there was so much humor in her home."

"A lot of people continue to be raised by their grandparents and the connection we have with them is so important," she added.

To write her books, Cheryl takes the memories and then gets creative to add more to the stories she writes.

Cheryl plans to continue writing books and has some other concepts for a teen book and a picture book about a grandmother and her granddaughter. Cheryl graduated from Hamline University in 2015 with a Master of Fine Arts in Writing with a focus on writing for children and young adults.

She can frequently be seen jotting notes down, or putting notes on her phone before she begins a writing project.

"I write whenever I can," said Cheryl, adding that she writes longhand on a tablet rather than writing on a computer. She'll use the computer for editing and taking notes but prefers to write by hand as she gets started.

She is also highly sought after for her gorgeous beadwork and bandolier bags. And while she loves sewing, she "turns a lot of people down," based on the number of requests and the time each project takes.

For the past year, Cheryl has taught a moccasin-making class, which was funded by a grant from the Tiwahe Foundation.

"I taught people how to make moccasins, which is what my mom did," she said. "She would tell people, 'I'll teach you.'"

She has worked with about 18 people, mostly Band members, over the past year who had the interest in learning how to make moccasins because she enjoys teaching others.

Cheryl has been a recipient of the prestigious Arts Learning Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Thanks to the grant funding, Cheryl was able to do a beadwork project called Mino Bimaadiziwin (Good Life).

She made four beaded velvet bandolier bags (Gashkibidaagan) that have seasonal themes representing Minnesota's natural resources, including wild rice, maple sugar, berries, venison, and walleye.

Throughout her life, she has focused on the tradition of beading floral designs, a pattern that the Ojibwe became known for, dating back to the days when beads were first introduced through trade.

Still, while she's been successful in getting high-profile grants, she's been turned down many times. That's why she tells people to remain diligent and encourages them not to give up.

"I want people to work hard and keep being persistent when they apply," she said. "Minnesota is so supportive of artists and awarding grants."

ROSETTA STONE

MOVIE CASTING CALL

IN SEARCH OF OJIBWE LANGUAGE-SPEAKING ACTORS & EXTRAS!

FOR OJIBWE LANGUAGE-LEARNING VIDEOS

TUESDAY, DEC 10
4PM UNTIL 7PM

EDDY'S RESORT
41334 SHAKOPEE LAKE ROAD
ONAMIA, MN 56359

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ACTORS OF ALL AGES

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:
Rosetta Stone will be filming a long-term Ojibwe language-learning project beginning early 2020 lasting four to six years. We are seeking actors of all ages. Main actors need to be able to speak Ojibwe, memorize lines, take direction well, and be committed to the multi-year project.

BRING A PRINTED OR DIGITAL COPY OF THE AUDITION SCRIPT WHEN COMING FOR AUDITION

Contact: aanjibimaadizing@millelacsband.com
for audition script and questions



MIIGWECHIWI-GIIZHIGAD

Nay Ah Shing eighth graders in Blenda Hagberg's class visited Elders on November 25 to deliver Miigwech Day gift bags and play some video games.

DABWAA-ONDAADIZID — BEFORE BIRTH

By Lee Staples Gaa-anishinaabemod Obizaan

and Chato Gonzalez Gaa-anishinaabebii'ang Ombishkebinas

This article was originally published in the December 2014 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.



Dabwaa-ondaadizid a'aw Anishinaabe, mii omaa apii giizhaa wii-ni-dazhindamaan i'iw bimaadiziwin. Geget gii-chi-ina'oonwewizi gii-miinigoowizid i'iw bimaadiziwin a'aw Anishinaabe.

It is here ahead of time I want to talk about life before Anishinaabe is born. It was a great gift when Anishinaabe was given life.

Ishke aabiding nizezikwendaan owapii gii-wii'ayaawag a'aw mindimooyenyiban, nizigosiban. Namanj gaa-izhiwebi-zimaanen gaa-izhi-wiindamawag a'aw mindimooyenyiban, "Geget nindinigaz", nigii-inaa. Mii i'iw gaa-izhi-naniibikimid, "Gaawin gidinigaazisiin. Gibimaadiziwin gidayaan," nigii-ig.

I recall this one time when I lived with my aunt. I do not know what happened to me when I told that old lady "I am really pitiful," I said to her. And then she scolded me. "You are not pitiful. You have your life," she said to me.

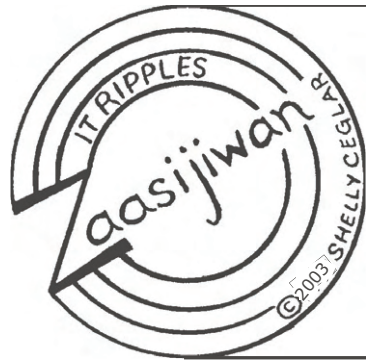
Mii inow Manidoon ena'oonigojin a'aw Anishinaabe i'iw bimaadiziwin, mii iwidi wenjikaamagadinig. Mii dash i'iw weweni ge-onji-ganawendang obimaadiziwin a'aw Anishinaabe, da-minochiged megwaa imaa bibizhaagiid omaa akiing. Gakina a'aw bemaadizid odayaawaan inow Manidoon zhowenimigojin, genawenimigojin igaye megwaa omaa ayaad omaa akiing. Mii ow gaa-onji-wiindamaagoowiziyang weweni da-ni-doodawang a'aw giwiiji-bimaadiziiminaan. Giishpin maazhi-doodawang giwiiji-bimaadiziiminaan, mii inow mayaazhi-doodawimangin inow Manidoon zhowenimigojin, miinawaa gaa-miinigojin i'iw bimaadiziwin.

The Manidoog gives Anishinaabe life that is where it comes from. That is why Anishinaabe should take care of his life and to live good while he or she is here on Earth. Everyone living has Manidoog that watch over them, and takes care of them while they are here on Earth. That is why we are told to respect our fellow Anishinaabe. If we treat our fellow man with disrespect, we are disrespecting those Manidoog that have compassion for him, and also the ones that gave him life.

Anishinaabewi a'aw biinjina eyaawang a'aw giijchaagwanaan. Mii ingiw Manidoog gaa-inaakonigejig i'iw akeyaa Anishinaabeng da-ni-izhi-bimaadiziyang. Ishke ingiw Manidoog geget ogii-zhawenimaawaan inow odanishinaabemiwaan gii-miinigoowiziyang ge-ni-inweyang da-ojibwemoyang, naa gaye gii-miinigoowiziyang i'iw akeyaa ge-ni-izhichigeyang ani-bi-indaakoogigeyang miinawaa i'iw ge-izhi- bimiwidooyang i'iw bimaadiziyang. Mii iw ge-ni-ayaangwamitooyangiban miinawaa ge-ni-apatiendamangiban. Gigii-miinigonang ingiw Manidoog i'iw akeyaa ge-izhi- bimaadiziyang. Mii i'iw ge-minokaagoyang imaa biinjina giijchaagwanaaning.

That spirit we have inside of us is Anishinaabe. It was the Manidoog that made the decision that we should live an Anishinaabe life. The Manidoog really had a lot of compassion for their Anishinaabe; they gave us a way to sound, to speak Ojibwe, and also we were given specific ways to offer our tobacco, and live our lives. It is that life that we should take special care of and think highly of. It was the Manidoog that gave us the way to live our lives that is what will make our spirit inside of us feel really good.

Gaawin gidaa-aanawendanzimin ingiw Manidoog gaa-izhi-ina'oonawaad inow odanishinaabemiwaan. Gaawin gidaa-debwetawaasiwaanaan a'aw wayaabishkiwed. Ge-



Biboong...

gashkidin omaa. Gashkidino-giizis wa'aw giizis. Ganabaj wii-kipagaakwadin i'iw nibi. Gemaa wii-pibagaakwadin i'iw nibi. Gego dwaashiniken! Gimikwendaan ina gii-twaa'igeyaang? Akwa'waad minwendam ningozis. Ningagwejim, "Aandi izhaayan?" Nakwetam, "Nindizhaa akwa'wewigamigong."

When it is Winter...

it is frozen here. She is the frozen over-moon this moon. Maybe it will be frozen thick that water. Or it will be frozen thin that water. Don't fall through the ice! Do you remember it? When we made a hole in the ice for water? When he tries spear fish through the ice, he is content my son. I ask him, "Where are you going?" He answers, "I am going to the fishhouse."

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Gaawin—as in father
Apane—as in jay
Wii—as in seen
Noongom—as in moon
—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Idash—as in about
Nibi—as in tin
Omaa—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

Preverbs

They are sounds spoken before the action words (verbs) to add clarity. Hyphenated to the verb.

bi—in the direction of the speaker, this way.
mino—good, nice
maji—bad
gichi—great, big, very
izhi—in a certain way, thusly
daa—should, could, would, might, can
endaso—so many, certain number
wii—future tense, want to
ga—future tense, definite
gii—past tense, did

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. He/she answers
2. Here
3. Where?
5. My son
7. How/What way?

Across:

4. You remember it.
6. Always
8. He/she goes
9. Water

Niizh—2

Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Mewinzha nibi, gii-nibiikaa. Gii-piinad.
B. Noongom, gaawin ganawenjigaadesinooon o'ow nibi.
C. Onzaam gimamoomin idash ginishwaanaajitoomin.
D. Ningoding gwaaba'ibiiyaang wiinad.
Gaawin ginimikwesimim.
E. Gakina, awiiya bemaadizijig,
giinawaa giga-wiidookaagem.
F. Awanjish apane gidaa-paamendaamin o'ow nibi.
G. Noongom, zoogipon idash biawan.

R A I Q
G A K I N A
N P S B N D Q
I A H R M A O P
N N W C E N N A L
G E T I W I K Y P O
O J G B I I W A N N D
D V A F Z W A W I I Y A
I N I I W A A G J B K C
N G I M A M O O M I N M
G A M E W I N Z H A E L

Niiwin—4

Preverbs (Prenouns, too)

Mino-bimaadiziwin.—The Good Life.
Gichi-mookomaan.—Big knife, One who carried a big knife (white person).
Aaniin endaso-diba'iganek?—How many units of measure? (What time is it?)
Maji-izhiwebizi.—Behave badly.
Izhaa.—He/she goes.
Bi-izhaa.—He/she comes.
Ningii-pi-izhaa.—I did come here.

*Initial vowel change occurs after question words and other.

Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

1. Ni ___-minikwen i'iw ___-nibi.
2. ___-ziibi gaawin gaskadinzinooon biboong.
3. Aaniin ___-ayaayan noongom?
4. Wii-piindigeyan, gi ___-naadinan iniw makizinan idash azhiganan.
5. Noongom ___-giizhigad. ___-giizhigad!

gichi—
mino—
gii—
ezhi—
*vowel change
daa—
maji—

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Long ago water, there was a lot of water. It was clean. B. Today, it is not taken care of this water. C. Too much we take it and we waste it. D. Sometimes when we draw water, it is dirty. We can not drink. E. All, everyone, human, you all, you all shall help. F. Diligently always we should take care of this water. G. Today it is snowing and it is a blizzard.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Nakwetam 2. Omaa 3. Aandi 5. Ningozis 7. Aaniin Across: 4. Gimikwendaan 6. Apane 8. Izhaa 9. Nibi
Niiwin—4 1. I did-drink that bad-water. 2. Great-river does not freeze over when it is winter. 3. How or in what way thusly-are you today? 4. When you will-go inside, you should-fetch those shoes and socks. 5. Today it is a good-day. Good-day!

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

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get aanoodizi wii-wayezhimaad inow Anishinaaben. Gaawin gidaa-mamoosiimin a'aw wayaabishkiwed ezhitwaad. Gigii-miinigonang ingiw Manidoog ge-izhitwaayang Anishinaabewiyang. Ishke mamoooyang i'iw wayaabishkiwed ezhitwaad, gaawin imaa biinjina giijchaagwanaaning zakab giga-izhi-ayaa-siimin. Gidaa-migwanaadizimin imaa biinjina. Mii o'ow apane gaa- izhi-gikinoo'amawiwaad gaa-nitaawigi'ijig; gii-ikidowag, "Ani-mamood a'aw Anishinaabe i'iw akeyaa ezhitwaanid inow wayaabishkiwen, gaawin da-izhaasiin iwidi eni-izhaanid inow gidinawemaaganinaanan gaa-gwiinawaabiminaagozinid omaa akiing."

We should not view what Anishinaabe was given by the Manidoog to be inadequate. We should not believe what the white man says as being the truth. They have a strong desire to deceive the Anishinaabe. We should not take the white man's way of life. The Manidoog gave us our own way of life as Anishinaabe. If we were to take the white man's way of life, the spirit inside of us would not be at peace. We would be unsettled within. This is what my parents always taught me; they said, "If Anishinaabe takes the white man's way of life, he will not go where our relatives go when they are no longer seen on Earth."

Ishke i'iw maajaa'iweyaan, moozhag nibi-noondaan a'aw

Anishinaabe i'iw bakaan izhi-maajaa'ind. Gaawin izhaasiin iwidi gidinawemaaganinaanan ezhaanid gegoo izhiwebizid. Mii-go omaa izhi-waabanjigaazonid inow ojichaagwan omaa endaad a'aw bakaan gaa-izhi-maajaa'ind. Gaawin ingoji izhaa-siiwan inow ojichaagwan.

When I do a funeral, I often hear Anishinaabe getting sent off a different way. They do not go where our relatives go when something happens to them. His spirit is seen in his home after he has been sent off a different way. His spirit does not go anywhere.

A'aw mindimooyenyiban, gaa-nitaawigi'id, mii i'iw gaa-izhi-chiged azhigwa besho enendaagwadinig inow ikwewan wii-ayaawaad inow onijaanisan, mii imaa gii-naadamaaged a'aw mindimooyenyiban. Nimikwendaan mii eta-go a'aw akiwen-ziyiban naa gaye niin imaa gii-ayaayaang niibaa-dibik imaa endaaayaang, gaawin a'aw mindimooyenyiban gii-ayaasiin. Mii iwidi gii-paa-naadamawaad inow ikwewan onijaanisan waa-ayaawaajin, mii dash a'aw mindimooyenyiban gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amawaad inow ikwewan gegishkawaanijin onijaansi-waan ogii-kakaanzomaan inow ikwewan moozhag da-mamaajjinid da-anokiinid imaa endazhi-ayaamid.

Dabwaa-Ondaadizid continued on page 14

AROUND THE RESERVATION

ROSETTA STONE MOVIE CASTING CALL

Rosetta Stone will be filming a long-term Ojibwe language-learning project beginning in early 2020 and lasting four to six years. We're seeking actors of all ages. Auditions will be held at Eddy's Resort from 4 to 7 p.m. December 10.

We're looking for both experienced actors and non-actors alike. Main actors need to be able to speak Ojibwe, memorize lines, take direction well, and commit themselves to the multi-year project.

Main actors will need to be available for up to three weeks of filming per year. Supporting cast will need to be available 1–5 days per year. Production for the actors selected will include script rehearsal, memorization, and travel to multiple filming locations as far as 1–3 hours away.

Main characters needed: Amik/male/12–14 years old; Ogimaakwe/female/13–15 years old; Waasegiizhigookwe/female/30s; Gimiwan/male/30s; Waabooz/female/70s; Waabishkibines/male/70s.

For more details or to receive a copy of the script, email Chato at aanjibimaadizing@millelacsband.com and see the flyer on page 12.

ORNAMENT WORKSHOP AT INDIAN MUSEUM

Birch Bark Ornament Workshop: Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Saturday, December 14, Noon – 4 p.m. AND Sunday, December 15, Noon – 4 p.m. Create miniature ornaments from birch bark in this one-day workshop to decorate for the holidays or give as gifts. There are two dates available for this workshop: Saturday, December 14, or Sunday, December 15. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. A minimum of five participants is required. Online registration is required three days prior to the workshop.

Cost: \$40/MNHS and Mille Lacs Band members save 20%, \$15 supply fee.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR HOLIDAY PARTIES

Mille Lacs Band community holiday parties will get Band members in the spirit of the season this December. Join friends and family at the following times and locations:

District I: December 11, 5:30 p.m. at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Urban Area: December 14, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Minneapolis American Indian Center.

Elders: December 14, 5:30 p.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley.

District III: December 18, 5:30 p.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley.

District IIa: December 18, 5:30 p.m. at Chiminising Community Center.

District II: December 19, 5:30 p.m. at East Lake Community Center.

WINTER COAT DRIVE AT GOVERNMENT CENTER

The Mille Lacs Band Administration would like your help to collect winter necessities for those in need! Please bring your donation of new or gently used winter wear (all sizes) — coats, sweaters, vests, hats, gloves, scarves, warm socks — to the lobby of the Biidaabinookwe Government Center in District I. All donations will help keep someone warm in our community this winter season, and we thank you greatly for your contribution. Anyone in need may come and select items from the lobby.

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS SUCCEED

In the fall of 2018, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures created a program to benefit schools in the different districts where MLCV has businesses. The Adopt-a-School program adopts local schools in all three districts within the Mille Lacs Band reservation. Onamia High School, Isle Schools, and Hinckley-Finlayson Schools were participants for the program's inaugural year.

The Adopt-a-School program aims to partner with each school to support initiatives, programs, and activities already established by the school by providing financial support in areas where assistance is needed and cannot be found elsewhere.

There are two major goals for this program: MLCV wants to support the school climate that has already been established and to provide cultural awareness and education opportunities for each school. Each school must focus on five different categories with the Adopt-a-School program funding: leadership skills for students, cultural awareness, expanding cultural literacy, encouraging health and wellness, or just having fun!

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is excited to announce that in addition to the three schools we adopted last school year,



MILLE LACS
CORPORATE VENTURES



The Adopt-a-School program helped bring Red Willow Singers and other events and programs to Isle High School last year.

we are able to include two additional schools into the program. Nay Ah Shing and McGregor schools will also be adoptees for this academic year.



ONAMIA STUDENTS BUILD WIGWAM WITH HELP FROM DNR

Indian students are in the majority in the Onamia School District, so the time is right for the grounds to reflect Anishinaabe culture as well. To that end, Onamia students, with help from the Mille Lacs Band DNR's Cultural Resource Staff, constructed a wigwam frame at the school last month. The space will be used for cultural classes and other activities.

Dabwaa-Ondaadizid continued from page 13

Gego da-wii-pizaanishinziwag ingiw ikwewag. Anooj igo omaa da-anokiiwaad imaa ayaawaad. Giishpin apane bizaanishing a'aw ikwe megwaa bimiwinaad inow oniijaanisan, da-gag-waadagizi azhigwa iwapii ayaawaad inow oniijaanisan. Mii-nawaa nizigosiban ogii-izhi-gikinoo'amawaan inow ikwewan, "Azhigwa ayaawad a'aw giniijaanis, gego aazhikweken, gaawiin gigii-aazhikwesiin iwapii gii-ozhi'eg giniijaanisiwaa."

When it was close to the time that a woman was going to have her baby this is what that old lady did that raised me; it was during that time that she helped out. I remember that it was only that old man and I who were home at night, and that old lady was not there. She would be out helping the women who were about to give birth, and then she would also teach the women who were pregnant; she would encourage these women to move often and to work during their pregnancy, and to not lie around. They should work on different things while they are pregnant. If a woman is always lying around while she is pregnant, she will have a difficult time during her delivery. And then my aunt would teach the women, "When you are delivering your baby, you should not scream; because you did not scream when you and your old man were making your baby."

Nigii-pi-noodaan igaye aanind ingiw ikwewag ogii-nagatowaawaan inow oniijaanisiwaan megwaa imaa biinjina gii-pimiwinaawaad.

I also heard that some women sing to their babies while they are pregnant.

Miinawaa gaye imaa maajaa'iweng, mii imaa gii-gikina'amawindwaa, gaawiin odaa- bi-waabamaasiwaawaan gaa-ishkwaa-ayaaniin. Gegoo daa-izhiwebiziwan inow abinoojiinyan bemiwinaawaajin.

And also at the funerals, the women that were pregnant were warned not to view the deceased. They were told if they did, something could happen to the baby that they are carrying.

Ayaapii iko gaye ingiw ikwewag gegishkawaajig inow oniijaanisiwaan ninandomigoog da-gaagiidotamawagwaa inow asemaan miinawaa wiisiniwin ininamawaawaad inow Manidoon weweni da-naadamaagowiziwaad weweni da- bi-dagoshininid oniijaanisiwaan.

Sometimes pregnant women will ask me to talk for their tobacco and food that they are offering to the Manidoog to help them and so their baby to arrive safely.

Miinawaa gaye nigezikwendaan gii-wiindamaagoowiziyaan; gego gidaa- wii-panaajitoosiinan ingiw bineshiinyag owa-diswaniwaan miinawaa inow owaawanoomiwaan. Ingii-igoo "Ishke ingoding abinoojiinyag gaye giin gidaa-ni- ayaawaag, mii imaa da-bi-azheshkaagoyamban."

I also recall when I was told not to destroy the bird's nests or their eggs. I was told, "Someday you too could have babies; and it is at that time it could come back on you."

AARIK ROBERTSON

HONORED FOR GIVING BACK

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Band member Aarik Robertson, an attorney with Consilio LLC and a member of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association, was honored with a Minnesota Lawyer Diversity and Inclusion award and featured in the October issue of *Minnesota Lawyer* for his contributions to diversity in the legal field.

Aarik and his fellow honorees were recognized at an awards ceremony on October 10 at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Aarik is a graduate of Minneapolis South High School and the University of Minnesota, where he majored in American Indian Studies with an emphasis in Ojibwe language.

The transition from high school to a major university wasn't entirely easy. Few students from his high school attended the U, and the other Native kids he knew weren't going on to college. Living at home, he didn't have as many opportunities to get involved on campus, but the Ojibwe language program gave him a place to fit in.

At the time, law school was not in Aarik's plans. He enjoyed studying history and political science, but he wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his degree.

After college, he was working as a janitor at the U when someone he knew told him about a job with the American Indian Student Services Program. "That's how my professional career started," Aarik joked. "One day I was a janitor, and the next I was an admissions counselor."

After several years with the program, Aarik started thinking about professional advancement. He knew he wanted to be part of the American Indian community and learn more about tribal history and law. "The more I researched law school, the more it felt right," he said.

Four years after completing his three tough years at law school, Aarik is newly married and enjoying his job as a review associate assisting other lawyers with their cases.

Aarik is also involved with the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association. Even though he's relatively new to the legal



Aarik Robertson

CONSILIO LLC

Aarik Robertson challenged himself to become a lawyer to show other American Indian students that they could too.

Robertson works to encourage students in south Minneapolis, where he was born and grew up, and on reservations to pursue higher education.

"I'm happy to reach out to students at any point because the pipeline of students who go on to become successful in high school and college and ultimately law school doesn't start with somebody graduating high school," Robertson said.

A citizen of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Robertson also wanted to go to law school so he could be an advocate for American Indian communities.

He learned how the law has affected tribes while getting his bachelor's degree in American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota.

As the U's American Indian recruitment coordinator, Robertson later saw statistics on the small number of American Indian students who went to law school.

At William Mitchell College of Law, Robertson served as president of the Native American Law Student Association (NALSA) as well as a student board member of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association (MAIBA).

Robertson, a review associate at Consilio LLC, an international e-discovery firm, received MAIBA's American Indian Law Student Scholarship for two years and joined its board as an attorney member after law school.

He remains on MAIBA's board after serving as vice president and president. As MAIBA president, he hosted a visit from U.S. District Judge Diane Humetewa, the first American Indian woman to serve as a federal judge.

—Todd Nelson

Aarik Robertson was featured in the October issue of *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine.

Eventually, Aarik sees himself working in Indian Country. He appreciates the support he has received from the community, and he wants to continue to give back. "I know the need for Native lawyers is there," he said.

Aarik advises others to follow their educational dreams and goals. "Don't deprive yourself of the opportunity," he said. "Don't let other people make life choices for you. Education is something no one can take away from you. It's valuable, and it stays with you."

WIIDOOKOADAADIWAG POWWOW

'WE HELP EACH OTHER' AT CENTRAL LAKES

Students, staff, and community came together at Central Lakes College November 15 to learn about Anishinaabe culture through games, food, music, and dance. Photos by Band member Rhonda Mitchell.



DISTRICT I PET CLINIC HEALTHY PETS HEALTHY COMMUNITY

By Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

As part of ongoing efforts in Community Risk Reduction, the 10th Annual Pet Wellness Clinic was held on November 9 and 10 at the District I Community Center. The clinic comes from a partnership between Mille Lacs Tribal Police Emergency Management and the University of Minnesota Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Services (SIRVS). This most recent clinic was the last of four held in Mille Lacs communities throughout the year. Districts II, IIA, and III saw visits earlier in the fall or in the spring, and current SIRVS student president Jonathan Elbaz along with Monte Fronk of Mille Lacs Band Emergency Management look forward to bringing services back again for an eleventh year in 2020.

Pet wellness can be a challenge in reservation communities, which classically represent underserved pet and owner populations. “Rez dogs” are a well-known feature of Indian Country and have influenced pop culture by showing up in children’s books, movies, and the ultimate pop culture reference, the internet meme. All too often, though, real-life rez dogs struggle to have their basic needs met so they can stay healthy and happy.



This creates a difficult situation not only for the dogs but for the surrounding reservation community as well, including people and other pets. Dogs without access to veterinary care do not get standard vaccinations, which means they are more vulnerable to diseases such as rabies, distemper, and parvo. Parvovirus in particular is a seriously nasty infection that is often fatal to dogs, and once it is introduced to an area, it can live in the ground and on surfaces like floors and concrete for up to a year. The only household cleaner known to kill parvovirus on surfaces is bleach. Just like kids, pets that live in the same communities share the same bugs. The best way to protect pets and animals against diseases like parvo is through immunization.

Pets without access to veterinary care are also much more likely to produce unwanted litters, which can quickly lead to animal overpopulation. Puppies and kittens from unwanted litters can become stray animals, overcrowded pets in over-



burdened homes, or victims in an overloaded dog shelter system. Stray animals are seldom trained and can pose safety and financial risks due to poor socialization, aggressive behavior that may result from hunger, potential injury resulting from encounters with vehicles, or property damage from animals seeking shelter or food.

This is what makes the work that SIRVS does so important. SIRVS provides wellness checks, vaccinations, and spay/neuter surgeries free of charge during the on-site clinics it brings to reservations around the state of Minnesota. SIRVS is entirely volunteer staffed, and the group of 40 veterinarians, veterinary students, and assistants began setup for the District I Mille Lacs event on Friday evening. Students slept in the Community Center gymnasium while doctors performing surgeries were accommodated in the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel.

It was a good thing the doctors were assured a good night’s sleep because surgeries started at 8 a.m. on Saturday and continued until 11 o’clock that night. Surgeries were scheduled ahead of time, but SIRVS staff also did everything they could to accommodate their waiting list and walk-in patients who arrived throughout the day on both Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday was the designated wellness check day with all services, still free, being offered first come, first served. The last patient left the Sunday clinic at 3 o’clock in the afternoon and helped set an official record of most animals served at a Mille Lacs Reservation SIRVS event: 120 pets received exams, treatment (including medications and vaccines), or surgical alteration at no cost to Band member families. The estimated value of these supplies, medications, and services is \$45,800.

Next year’s 2020 Pet Wellness Clinics have already been scheduled as follows: Chiminising (District IIA) on April 25 and 26, Minisinaakwaang (District II) on June 27 and 28, Aazhoo-mog (District III) on October 10 and 11, and Nay Ah Shing (District I) on November 14 and 15. Next year’s services will be provided by both SIRVS and other organizations, including Second Hand Hounds.

Chi Miigwech to District I Representative Sandra Blake for providing the use of the District I Community Center for this event and for providing food for breakfast and lunch for the SIRVS volunteers. Miigwech also to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for providing dinner. These events wouldn’t have been possible without the work of Pamela Eagle, the Community Center administrative assistant who took all the calls for pet surgery registration and fielded all Wellness Clinic questions, or without Monte Fronk of Mille Lacs Tribal Police Emergency Management for assisting with organizing the clinic and being on site to help the volunteers and staff in its efforts in Community Risk Reduction (CRR). The Mille Lacs Band, the community, and its four-legged relatives thank everyone for their effort and participation.

ARTIST SHARES JINGLE DRESS TRADITION AT CLC

By Li Boyd Mille Lacs Band Member

Band member Adrienne Benjamin continues to build her reputation as an artist and educator by using her skills to foster understanding among communities that are not familiar with Anishinaabe culture. Adrienne made a presentation at Central Lakes College in the Chalberg Theater on November 14, sharing the Mille Lacs story of the origins of the ziibaaska’iganagooday (jingle dress). The event was free and open to all.



Adrienne Benjamin

Adrienne talked about her work with dress-making, which she tried for the first time when she was barely a teenager. Adrienne’s dress work has come a long way since then, and many of her dresses are featured in an exhibit celebrating the jingle dress at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. Adrienne also sews beautiful ribbon skirts and shirts but says she was taught that sewing should only be done when a person’s spirit is in a good place. It’s not good to sew while feeling negative, especially when making items for others.

Adrienne worked closely with Larry “Amik” Smallwood and carries his wisdom forward. She even shares the name Amik with him and so is careful to use the proper name “Amikoban” for someone who has passed on. Adrienne still relies on Amikoban as the best person to tell the story of the jingle dress and uses excerpts from the Jingle Dress Tradition film in which Amikoban tells the Mille Lacs Band version of the origin story.

The Mille Lacs story tells of a dress and dance coming to a man in a dream. He shares the details of the dream with his wife, including the four different colored dresses, the metal trinkets that made sound from each dress, and the particular steps each of the dancers made while wearing the dresses. The man’s wife gathers other women to make the dresses, and they bring the dresses and new dance to the community. The jingles make the sound of falling rain, and a young girl who has been too sick to move sits up at the sound. By the end of the evening, she is dancing with the jingle dress dancers. This is how the jingle dress became known as the healing dress.

Jingle dress dancing has evolved since that time in the 1920s when it first appeared. Interestingly, federal legislation known as the Dance Order was developed at the same time and was designed to end traditional dance and Native religious and cultural practices. However, jingle dress dancing only grew in popularity.

Presently, there are different styles of jingle dresses and dances, and a dress made in 1925 or 1950 would look very different from what might be seen in an arena today. Adrienne likes to make old-style dresses.

According to Adrienne, Amikoban used to say, “Those old ones used to take me out to the woods and show me medicines and all kinds of things. At 10, 12 years old, do you think I was paying attention?”

That is how knowledge disappears — through simple neglect. Amikoban knew it, and so does Adrienne, which is why she carries his knowledge forward today. The evening following Adrienne’s presentation, Central Lakes College held its Wiidookodaadiwag Powwow (We Are Helping One Another).

Adrienne encouraged people to attend and take part in intertribal dances, saying, “These dances are for everyone, and if someone tries to shame you for not having an outfit or not knowing the steps, that’s not cool.”

Sharing traditions in this way may be one of the most effective methods of cultural preservation. At the very least, it is the first step in building understanding and strong relationships between communities.





GRAND MARKET
Grocery

**BIG 2-DAY MEAT SALE
DECEMBER 5 AND 6!**

- 85% 10lb Ground Beef — \$2.39 per pound
- Arm Roast — \$2.99 per pound
- Arm Steak — \$3.29 per pound
- Boneless Beef Ribs — \$3.29 per pound
- Pork Steak — \$1.49 per pound
- Pork Butt Whole in Bag — \$1.49 per pound
- Boneless Half Pork Loins — \$1.69 per pound
- Half Bone in Pork Loin Chops — \$1.49 per pound
- Wing Drumsticks — \$5.99 per pound
- Baby Back Ribs — \$2.89 per pound
- Boneless Chicken Breast — \$1.49 per pound
- Chicken Whole Fryer — \$0.79 per pound
- 5lb Bacon — \$2.99 per pound
- Boneless Ham — \$1.99 per pound
- Sugardale Bologna — \$1.49 per pkg
- Sugardale Cotto Salami — \$1.49 per pkg

No rain checks! First come, first served!
Look for extra in-store specials not listed here.

HOLIDAY HOURS: CHRISTMAS EVE — OPEN UNTIL 2 P.M.
CHRISTMAS DAY — CLOSED

WEWINABI INC. UPDATE

**PLEASE SHOW ID AT
CONVENIENCE STORES**

To receive your Band member fuel discount at the convenience stores, be prepared to show your Mille Lacs Band ID. Our associates are not provided a list for verification, and if we have a new associate, they are required to ask our customers for proof via your band ID, even if you are a frequent customer. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

The Tribal Emergency Management program provided CPR/AED and First Aid training at Wewinabi Early Education on November 15 and East Lake Community Center November 21. For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.



**HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES UPDATE**

SAME-DAY APPOINTMENTS FOR ACUTE CARE

The Health and Human Services Department wants Band members to receive the services they need as quickly as possible, so the department has implemented same-day appointments for acute-care needs.

These are add-on appointments, so please be patient as schedulers fit you in.

Please continue to schedule appointments in advance whenever possible.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, be sure to call the clinic and cancel. That will help HHS with scheduling and allow other community members to be seen in a timely manner.

Miigwech for your cooperation!

COLLECTING YOUR INFORMATION

Even if we know who you are, we still need to ask for your first name, last name, and date of birth.

The registration and scheduling staff will ask for that information every time you schedule an appointment or are registered into the system at the clinic.

In addition, so we can continue to stay current with you, we will also ask for your current phone number, current address, insurance information, and a form of identification.

If you don't have insurance, we will work with you to get this accomplished and support you along the way.

HHS PREPARES TRANSITION TO NEW BUILDING

Health and Human Services is preparing to transition the Clinic, Pharmacy, Dental, Community Support Services, Behavioral Health, Family Services, Public Health staff, and more to the new Health and Human Services building in District I. Please watch for updates in the newsletter and on Facebook.

HEPATITIS C RECOMMENDED — GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

Health and Human Services held a Hepatitis C presentation at the community meetings in District III, District II, and District IIA last week. Education was provided on Hepatitis, Syphilis, and HIV. Hepatitis is anything that causes inflammation of the liver; drugs/alcohol, medication overdoses (like Tylenol), Autoimmune diseases, and Viruses. In 2019, 49 cases were reported in Minnesota of Hepatitis A resulting in 35 hospitalizations. Hepatitis A is preventable with vaccination, which is offered at HHS clinics. Hepatitis B is also preventable with vaccine. No immunization has been developed for Hepatitis C, but there is a treatment. Someday soon we will be offering this treatment at HHS clinics. High risk populations are baby boomers, IV drug users, people experiencing homelessness, recently incarcerated, men who have sex with men, and those with multiple or new sexual partners. An incentive to get your screenings is a \$20 Walmart gift card. Present to any of the HHS clinics for screening of Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, HIV, and Syphilis, and once complete, you will receive the gift card. A provider will be following up with you on your results. Hepatitis C screening is required for the gift card; you can do all four tests, or just one. The next presentation will be held at the District I community meeting in January. T-shirts and giveaways available.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY UPDATE

ELDER BINGO QUESTIONS — ANSWERED

In the GRA's November article, we explained the definition of gaming as requiring three essential elements — CONSIDERATION, CHANCE, and PRIZE. This definition is key in understanding the GRA's Elder Bingo advisory.

Bingo is a Class II game and contains all three elements of gaming — player pays for bingo cards (CONSIDERATION), a player's card bearing numbers must be the first to cover the pattern when cover numbers are drawn (CHANCE), then the player is deemed the winner (PRIZE).

Elder Bingo operations were being played as true Class II gaming with consideration, chance, and prize. When Class II gaming operations are being conducted on Band Land, all National Indian Gaming Commission Minimum Internal Controls Standards and the Band's Detailed Gaming Regulations must be followed.

At a minimum, the GRA would need to license any facility where operations are conducted, we would need to license the key employees running the operations, it would be required that all records recording sales and revenue are in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and we would assist in creating procedures that protect the integrity of the game and safeguard the assets used in connection with the operation.

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function. More information and contact numbers can be found at www.millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. This month's meetings are December 6 at 9 a.m. at Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and December 19 at 9 a.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



Dedicated to providing protection, value, and regulatory excellence in gaming for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

These are significant controls that would have to be added to Elder Bingo operations... BUT THERE'S AN EASY FIX!

The cost of bingo cards for Elder Bingo sessions tend to be small, a quarter or dollar per card. If the operators running Elder Bingo no longer charged for cards, thus removing the CONSIDERATION element, Elder Bingo is no longer gaming and no longer requires the cumbersome controls, procedures, and GRA oversight. **Elder Bingo was never shut down or canceled, but operators have been challenged to run the session without charging for bingo cards or begin working on getting their facilities and operations in compliance.**

As always, we welcome questions; please contact Executive Director Becky Houle at 320-532-8194 or Compliance Director Becky Majzner at 320-384-4807.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

CORRECTION

Last month's Elder birthday list was incorrect. We apologize for the error and wish Elders with birthdays in November a belated happy birthday!

The Elder birthday list has been published in the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* for more than 20 years and is intended to honor our Elders by wishing them well on their birthdays. However, if for any reason you would rather not have your name included, please contact the Government Affairs office at 320-495-5006 or email news@millelacsband.com.

NOVEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Cherie Jean Ambrose
Robin Darrell Anderson
Floyd Monroe Ballinger
Clifford Wayne Benjamin
Irene Bernice Benjamin
Carleen Maurice Benjamin
Franklin James Benjamin
Barbara Jean Benjamin-Robertson
William Boyd
Alice Elizabeth Carter
Mary Maxine Conklin
Mary Ann Curfman
Richard Thomas Dakota
Michael Roger Dorr
Douglas Duane Dunkley
Donald Ross Eubanks
Thomas Rodney Evans
Terrance Wayne Feltmann
Roger Granger
Carol Holmes
Eileen Marjorie Johnson

Bridgette Marie Kilpela
Christopher James Kuntz
George Virgil LaFave
Barbara Ellen Lobejko
Sidney Ray Lucas
Darlene Doris Meyer
Mary Ellen Meyer
Marie Linda Nahorniak
Judith Marie Nickaboine
Bernadette Norton
Elizabeth Anne Peterson
Ralph Pewaush
Dale William Roy
David Wayne Sam
Rhonda Lee Sam
Karen Renee Sampson
Mary Ann Shedd
Kenneth Daryl Shingobe
Ronald Eugene Smith
Maria Ellena Spears
Nora Grace St. John
David Le Roy Staples
Donald Gerard Thomas
John Henry Thomas
Jerry Lee Torgerud
Joyce Laverne Trudell
Lawrence Eli Wade
Natalie Yvonne Weyaus
Sylvia Jane Wise
Patricia Beatrice Xerikos

DECEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Judith Louise Beaulieu
Gayle Marie Bender
Lisa Ann Benjamin
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
Randy James Dorr
Rodney John 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 Keg
Christine O'Madwe Kegwedose
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
Doreen Ellen Sam
Corrina Marie Sheff
Susan M. Shingobe
Vanette Louise Todd



CONGRATULATIONS!

Skyler Germann, daughter of Band member Chad Germann, was named first team All-State and was one of five finalists for Ms. Volleyball MN. Skyler was also named to All-Tournament team at the State Tournament.

Carol Ann Turner
Anita Louise Upegui
Kenneth Laverne Wade
Yvonne Cecelia Winiecki
Douglas Alan Wistrom
Lyle David Woyak
Lucille Mabel Woyak

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Tiny** on 12/16 love Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Brynley, Bianca, Henry, Papa Brad, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Auntie Val, Dan, Pie, Montana, Myla, Kevin, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, and Lileah

Noteboard guidelines

The Tribal Noteboard welcomes Band member submissions, including birthdays, congratulatory messages, and memorial tributes. For birthday messages, send name, birthday, and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to news@millelacsband.com or **320-495-5006**. The deadline for the January issue is December 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

MILLE LACS BAND RECOVERY GROUPS

District I Mille Lacs

Community Drumming
Mondays, 6 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (brown building next to the Halfway House).

Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition
Mondays, 5:30–7 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (brown building next to the Halfway House). Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768.

Wellbriety Migizi Meeting
Mondays, 7 p.m., Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel, 777 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
Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Hosted by Mille Lacs Band Halfway House, 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 Ila Chiminising

Bi-mawadishiwen
Fridays, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Chiminising Community Center.

District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog

Wellbriety Talking Circle
Mondays, 6 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.

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.



RECURRING EVENTS

Language tables: Tuesdays 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center, Thursdays 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center

Co-ed Volleyball: Tuesdays, Meshakwad Community Center

Co-ed Basketball: Wednesdays, Meshakwad CC

Volleyball: Thursdays, noon, District I CC

Zumba: Wednesdays, noon, District I CC

Open Gym: M-Th 5–9 p.m., District I CC

Women's Group: Thursdays 3–4:30 p.m., District I CC

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

State of the Band Address: January 14, Grand Casino Mille Lacs

Civil Rights Day: January 20, 2020. Government offices closed.

Chief's Day: February 17, 2020. Government offices closed.

Chiminising Pet Clinic: April 25–26, 2020

Minisinaakwaang Pet Clinic: June 27–28, 2020

Aazhoomog Pet Clinic: October 10–11, 2020

Nay Ah Shing Pet Clinic: November 14–15, 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Higher Ed Registration 8:30–11:30 a.m. East Lake Community Center <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III</p> <p>Community Drum and Dance 5:30–7:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Higher Ed Registration 8:30 8:30–11:30 a.m. Meshakwad Community Center. 1–4 p.m. District I Community Center <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Inaajimowin Planning Meeting Government Affairs Office, Wahkon</p>	<p>4</p> <p>NA/AA Welcome District I <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>Vince and Dale's Drum East Lake</p> <p>Bi-mawadishiwen 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p>Gaming Regulatory Authority Meeting 9 a.m. Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Vince and Dale's Drum East Lake</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I</p> <p><i>The deadline for the January issue is December 15. Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com.</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Special TEC meeting Black Bear Casino, Cloquet</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III</p> <p>Community Drum and Dance 5:30–7:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Rosetta Stone Auditions 4–7 p.m. Eddy's Resort <i>See pages 12 and 14</i></p> <p>Language Table 6–8 p.m. District I</p> <p>Wellbriety <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Band Assembly Biidaabinookwe Government Center</p>	<p>11</p> <p>NA/AA Welcome <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>District I Holiday Party 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Band Assembly Biidaabinookwe Government Center</p> <p>Language Table 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>Bob's Drum Mille Lacs</p> <p>Bi-mawadishiwen 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Bob's Drum Mille Lacs</p> <p>Urban Area Holiday Party 11 a.m.–2 p.m. American Indian Center</p> <p>Elders Holiday Party 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Birch Bark Ornament <i>See 14</i></p>
<p>15</p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I</p> <p>Birch Bark Ornament 2-Day Workshop Noon–4 p.m. Indian Museum <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA District I, II, III <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Community Drum and Dance 5:30–7:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Band Assembly Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p>Language Table 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>District III Holiday Party 5 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>NA/AA Welcome <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>District IIa Holiday Party 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Band Assembly Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p>Language Table 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p>Gaming Regulatory Authority Meeting 9 a.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>District II Holiday Party 5:30 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Bi-mawadishiwen 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Community Drum and Dance 5:30–7:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Midwinter Holiday Government offices closed.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Midwinter Holiday Government offices closed.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Language Table 6–8 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 12-Step <i>See page 18</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>Bi-mawadishiwen 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Wellbriety Sons of Tradition 1–3 p.m. District I</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Wellbriety, AA, NA <i>See page 18</i></p> <p>Community Drum and Dance 5:30–7:30 p.m. DI Community Center <i>See page 14</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p>Language Table 6–8 p.m. District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety District I, III.</p>	<p>VISIT THE WEBSITE!</p> <p>Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services. The homepage, millelacsband.com, has links to all of those pages as well as government departments, programs, and services.</p> <p>BAND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS</p> <p>Band Assembly meetings are open to the public at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. Dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181 with questions.</p> <p>SHARE YOUR IDEAS</p> <p>Join the Inaajimowin team at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3, at the Government Affairs Office in Wahkon to share your thoughts and ideas. Lunch is provided. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to darla.roache2@millelacsband.com or 320-495-5006.</p>			



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UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

If your address on file with the Enrollments Office or Office of Management and Budget 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 (320-532-7730) and OMB. 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 news@millelacsband.com or call 320-495-5006. 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.



OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

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T H E S T O R Y A S I T ' S T O L D



A CAPITOL DAY FOR LEGISLATIVE

Members of the Legislative Branch and their guests visited the Capitol in St. Paul to learn about the state's legislative process. See page 1.

**WOMEN GATHER
FOR THIRD
ANNUAL EVENT**
page 4

**ICWA — IT TAKES
A COMMUNITY TO
HELP OUR KIDS**
page 7

**GASHKIBIDAAGAN
— THE ART OF THE
BANDOLIER BAG**
page 8

**BAND MEMBER
LAWYER HONORED
FOR GIVING BACK**
page 15