

O J I B W E

# IN A A J I M O W I N

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

Commissioners Mel Towle and Baabita Boyd were among the critical staff still working at the government center after staffing levels were reduced. Commissioners are also members of the Tribal Emergency Response Committee, which continued to meet remotely when a State of Emergency was declared on March 17 after action by the Chief Executive and Band Assembly.



## BAND DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY OFFICIALS TAKE ACTION IN THE FACE OF COVID-19 THREAT

The local, state, nationwide, and global reaction to coronavirus COVID-19 transformed almost overnight last month from cautious concern into an all-out global effort to combat the greatest public health threat in a century.

As positive tests hit all 50 states, and nations like Italy, Spain, and France went into lockdown, Mille Lacs Band leaders declared a state of emergency on Sunday, March 15. President Donald Trump and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz had done the same on Friday, March 13, as cases in the state nearly doubled daily over the course of several days, and the first cases of community transmission were reported.

The state's first case was on March 6. By the time the State of Emergency was declared on March 13, there were 14. On March 22, there were 169, including the first Minnesotan to die of the virus. At press time on March 26, there were 287 cases, and Minnesotans were required to stay at home.

Kris Ehresmann, director for infectious diseases at the Minnesota Department of Health, said in a briefing March 21 that for every confirmed case, there likely are at least 10 other cases in the state as testing remains limited.

"Tenfold sounds like, 'Wow, that's a lot' — but it could be as high as 100-fold," she said. "I think the bottom line is that there is a lot of COVID-19 circulating in Minnesota and that's why it's so important that people take the community mitigation measures seriously. Don't think, 'Oh, there are [only] 137 cases in our state.' — That's just the tip of the iceberg."

### Declaration of State of Emergency

In a letter to Band members on Saturday, March 14, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd reassured Band members that the communities were still

safe but advised them to do all in their power to reduce the risk to themselves, their families, and their neighbors.

They shared that the tribe had been monitoring the situation for weeks and had a team in place — the Tribal Emergency Response Committee, or TERC — that was trained to respond to crises like COVID-19 and went into action on Friday, March 13.

On Sunday, March 15, Representatives Sandra Blake, Marvin Bruneau, and Wally St. John met with Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd to pass Title 28, The Emergency Management Act. The Act authorized the Chief Executive to implement emergency measures necessary to ensure the health and well-being of Band members.

That same day, Melanie signed an Executive Order declaring that the Band was in a State of Emergency.

In another letter to Band members, Melanie and Sheldon wrote, "The Declaration of a State of Emergency and passage of the Emergency Management Act by the Band Assembly will ensure the Band is able to take such emergency actions as may be necessary to prepare and protect Band members should an outbreak occur in our Band community"

Also on March 15, Governor Walz announced the closure of Minnesota schools beginning Wednesday, March 18. At the time, the closure was scheduled to last until March 27, but it soon became apparent that not only school closures but other actions thought drastic a week earlier would remain in place for the foreseeable future.

As the situation unfolded, advice like "use hand sanitizer," "don't touch your face," and "stay home if you're sick" was replaced by one simple and serious message: **Stay home.**

**State of Emergency** continued on page 3

### WHAT IS THE TERC?

The Mille Lacs Band government has a designated committee charged with planning for situations like the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak and springing into action if needed: the Tribal Emergency Response Committee.

In 2000, the Band was one of five tribes from FEMA Region V to receive an initial startup grant to create a Tribal Emergency Management program.

One of the key components of the grant was for the Band to create a unified decision-making body for incidents called a Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC).

Tribal leadership determined that the TERC should consist of Executive Branch Commissioners, a backup for each Commissioner, and representation from Tribal Police, Tribal Emergency Management, and Tribal Public Information Officers.

Since 2000, the TERC has participated in exercises to test their readiness ability, partnering with county, regional, and state agencies.

As membership has changed, new members have been mentored by seasoned TERC members with assistance from the Tribal Emergency Management Coordinator, Monte Fronk.



# 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. Right now, the COVID-19 pandemic is front and center in everyone's minds. Before addressing this crisis, I want to briefly summarize our work carried out in March. Most important, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) held conference calls this month to discuss the upcoming primary that had been scheduled for March 31. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the TEC voted on March 24 to postpone the MCT Primary until June 9, and postpone the General Election to August 18. After asking the Mille Lacs Band Election Board how they wanted to proceed, Secretary/Treasurer Boyd and I voted to keep the primary scheduled for March 31, at the request of the Election Board. However, the motion passed and the Primary has been officially moved to June 9. Absentee ballots are still valid, and the MCT has instructed they be kept under lock and key by the Election Boards. With the Primary postponement, MCT Members may continue to request absentee ballots and vote by mail.

In early March, my office coordinated an intensive presentation provided by Jay Kanassatega for elected officials about our division-of-powers government. Jay played an integral role in helping to structure our government in the 1980s. Our Band MCT Delegates also attended the meeting, and we all learned a great deal about the cultural considerations that were discussed and thought through in devising our system. My office also held Elder meetings in each district and the urban area, and helped coordinate a Drumkeeper meeting. The Band Assembly and I continued discussions about Title 16 and other matters.

Right now, we are in the midst of fighting a pandemic that is threatening the health and safety of the Band, the nation, and the entire world. Several articles about COVID-19 are spread throughout this edition of the paper. Yet last month, this virus was not even on the radar of most Americans. To most, it feels as if the world changed almost overnight. I want to reassure all

**"I WANT TO REASSURE BAND MEMBERS THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THIS EPIDEMIC AND WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT OUR ELDERS AND THOSE WITH UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS, WHO ARE MOST VULNERABLE TO COVID-19."**

Band Members that our government is doing everything in our power to slow the spread of this epidemic and will do whatever is necessary — no matter what — in an effort to protect our Elders and those with underlying health conditions, who are most vulnerable to COVID-19.

Just yesterday, March 25, 2020, the Band Assembly passed emergency legislation authorizing the Chief Executive to implement a Shelter-In-Place order. Shortly after passage of this bill, I signed Executive Order 20-05. This order requires that Band members and enrolled members of other tribes within our jurisdiction stay at home or their place of residence for at least two weeks, beginning at 11:59 p.m. on Friday evening, except for obtaining essential supplies and services.

These exceptions include things such as obtaining food, household supplies, and services; activities related to ensuring the health and safety of the family and pets; caring for a family member or pet in another place of residence and any travel related to such care, including transporting a friend or family member to seek medical or behavioral services; engaging in

outdoor activities so long as social distancing is practiced. This Executive Order does not apply to at-risk individuals who are living in an unsafe environment. I also want to remind those living off-reservation that Governor Walz has placed a moratorium on all evictions for the time being, so as to ensure that people are not without safe shelter during this time.

Further, nothing in the Executive Order restricts Band members or others from engaging in cultural activities, ceremonial life, or exercising hunting, fishing, and gathering rights in accordance with existing Band law. In fact, this is a moment in time when I would strongly encourage Band members to engage in our cultural traditions as much as possible. There has never been a more perfect time to be outdoors spending time in the woods or near the water. The sap is running, green shoots are sprouting up next to snow banks, and the spring harvest is nearly here. Being reminded of the gifts the Creator gave us can do worlds of good for our children, our families, and our own spirit.

This is a stressful, frightening time for many, but we will get through this together. Tough decisions must be made in order to preserve the health and welfare of our Band community, but I want to reassure you that our Band officials are fully prepared to do whatever is necessary to protect our people.

Often it is in the midst of a crisis that we realize the many heroes among us. We have many, many heroes among us. From the TERC members who have literally worked around the clock and often throughout the night since this crisis began, to the teachers, bus drivers, public health nurses, police, store clerks, housing, and DNR staff who are still out there risking their own health and safety so that our most essential services can continue. You know who you are. We could not get through this period without you. Miigwech to all of our warriors on the front lines fighting for the health, safety and future of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

## STAY AT HOME ORDER ISSUED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE MELANIE BENJAMIN

An Executive Order signed by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin on March 25 says "stay at home" to Mille Lacs Band members and members of other tribes residing within the jurisdiction of the Mille Lacs Band.

Executive Order 2020-5, which includes several exceptions, was signed on the same day that Governor Tim Walz issued a similar order for residents of the state of Minnesota.

Both orders took effect on Friday, March 27, at 11:59 p.m. The tribal order remains in effect until rescinded by subsequent executive order or termination of the current state of emergency.

The order requires all persons to stay at home except to engage in the following activities:

(a) obtain necessary supplies and services for family or household members and pets, such as groceries, food and supplies for household consumption and use, supplies and equipment needed to work from home, and products necessary to maintain safety, sanitation, and essential maintenance of the home or residence;

(b) engage in activities essential for the health and safety of family, household members, and pets, including seeking medical or behavioral health or emergency services and obtaining medical supplies or medication;

(c) care for a family member, friend, or pet in another house-

hold or residence, and to transport a family member, friend, or pet for essential health and safety activities, and to obtain necessary supplies and services; and

(d) engage in outdoor exercise activities, such as walking, hiking, running, or biking, but only if appropriate social distancing practices are used.

The order does not apply in the following special circumstances:

(1) At-Risk Individuals: Individuals whose homes or residences are unsafe or become unsafe for adults or children, such as victims of domestic violence or concerns for child safety protection or endangerment, but are urged to call 911 and leave their homes or residences and stay at a safe alternate location.

(2) Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: Individuals experiencing homeless are urged to obtain shelter, and governmental and other entities are strongly encouraged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable.

The order also allows for cultural activities: "This executive order does not limit the right of individuals to engage in ceremonial or religious activities or gathering of food and medicines for traditional purposes."

Finally, the executive order does not apply to government

personnel designated as critical, emergency management personnel, or the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department.

### State order

The Governor's order allows essential activities and services to continue, Walz said. People will be allowed to exercise outdoors and visit the grocery store, with proper social distancing.

The Governor's order recognizes tribal sovereignty by providing exemptions for tribal activities and lands, including:

- Activities by tribal members within the boundaries of their reservations,
- Activities within the boundaries of trust lands,
- Activities to exercise federal treaty rights within their treaty territory (ceded territory), and
- Travel by tribal members to and from their reservations.

The stay at home order is based on models developed by the Minnesota Department of Health and the University of Minnesota showing that the state will run out of hospital intensive care capacity before infection rates peak — leaving many Minnesotans at greater risk of death from COVID-19.

Without action, Walz said, as many as 74,000 Minnesotans could be killed by coronavirus.

**State of Emergency** continued from page 1

That advice holds true, along with the following:

- **Our population has higher than average incidence of underlying health issues that make the virus more dangerous, including diabetes, heart disease, and lung disease, so we need to be especially vigilant.**
- **Even if you don't show symptoms, you may be carrying the virus and could transmit it to others.**
- **If you need to go out for food or supplies, or to help others who are vulnerable, wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, and limit your contact with others, staying six feet apart when possible.**
- **Even if you don't think you're at risk, remember that some people in the prime of life, with no underlying conditions, have died of coronavirus.**

The State of Emergency declaration included the cancellation of events, the closure of Early Education for cleaning (which was later modified to a full closure), visiting restrictions at ALUs, and a travel ban.

The letter stated that federal and state emergency declarations would free up funding for local and tribal governments to access for community preparedness.

"The Band's declaration of a State of Emergency will allow the Band to access additional resources to assist with preparedness costs and expenses incurred resulting from the COVID-19. Ordinarily, the Band Assembly would prefer to allow Band members time to review substantive changes to Band law prior to passage, but this emergency requires expedited passage to protect the welfare of the Band."

On Monday, March 16, letters from the Chief Executive and Secretary/Treasurer were hand-delivered to Band member homes to ensure that everyone was informed of the situation, including those without internet access.

### Staffing reduction, casino closure

Also on March 16, Commissioner of Administration Baa-biitaw Boyd announced staffing reductions in tribal government: "Due to the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has taken a proactive approach to voluntarily reduce staffing levels. There have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the community or employees. For the safety of the communities and the employees of the Mille Lacs Band, the day-to-day Government operations

will be reduced to critical staff only effective March 17 through March 27. All salary and hourly employees will continue to be paid."

**For names and phone numbers of critical staff, see page 11.**

At 4 p.m. on March 16, Grand Casinos announced the temporary closure of facilities.

As the week went on, and the extent of the global, national, and statewide pandemic became evident, the TERC continued to meet, and government departments took action:

- Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson released a report on the state of HHS operations.
- Acting Commissioner of Community Development Peter Nayquonabe issued a memorandum to identify core services that will be provided by the Department in the event of a partial or near-complete shutdown of the Tribal Government as a result of a potential COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak.
- Tribal Court released Chief Justice Court Order 53 on March 17 regarding operations of the Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction (Tribal Court) under the state of emergency. The order outlines procedures for hearings, trials, filing, and prioritization of cases.
- Aanjibimaadizing changed its guidelines for TANF families in order to reduce the need for face-to-face visits.
- Wewinabi Inc. provided updates on the operations at Band businesses, including Grand Market, convenience stores, and restaurants.
- Elder Services packaged meals for Elders who use dining sites.
- Early Education and Nay Ah Shing schools provided meals to students to ensure that their nutritional needs would continue to be met.
- Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin provided daily video updates from March 17 to 20 and again beginning on March 23.

**For Melanie's updates, follow the Mille Lacs Band's Facebook page or see the COVID-19 Information page on the website at <https://millelacsband.com/services/covid-19-information>.**

That page will continue to provide ongoing announcements, as well as access to the letters and updates that have already come out.

## EARLY ED KEEPS KIDS HEALTHY AND LEARNING

The Mille Lacs Band's Early Education Department planned a one-day closure to clean facilities on Monday, March 16, but when a statewide and Band-wide school shutdown was announced that day, staff needed to act fast to make sure children received the nutritional support the program provides as well as ongoing education during the closure.

Program staff leapt into action to make sure food and supply boxes were distributed to all Early Head Start and Head Start Families in Districts I, II, and III beginning on March 17.

In District I, the Wewinabi On Wheels "WOW" buses departed school at 8:15 a.m. to deliver the boxes. Bus driver Ed prepared the bus with cedar and sage and was joined on the route by Berd and Knute, while the Isle/Onamia route staff were Darren, Kathy, and Harold.

District I Early Head Start Families and Head Start students who are normally dropped off at Wewinabi were instructed to pick up their food and supply boxes at the front door. Drive-up service was provided from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. by Becky and Vicky.

The District II bus with the delivery team of Deb and Gaylene departed at 8:15 a.m. from school on its normal route and distributed food and supply boxes.

The District III bus departed at 7:45 a.m. staffed by Meghan and Dan.

The boxes contained breakfast, lunch, a snack, and cold milk. Additionally, boxes were individualized to meet the needs of each student, including, when necessary, diapers, soy milk, formula, and medication.

Beginning on March 19, every child received a book through BOW to the WOW! — Books On Wheels in the Wewinabi On Wheels!

In addition, teachers read books to their students on videos available via Facebook and YouTube.

Miigwech to the Early Ed staff and many others around all districts who have acted fast to keep our communities healthy and safe.



Joe Charette's family in District I was happy to receive their supplies through the Wewinabi On Wheels program.

## PRIMARY POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 9

On March 24, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) voted 7-4 in favor of Resolution 65-20, which postpones the tribal primary election until June 9 and the general election until August 18 due to coronavirus.

Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin voted against the change after Sheldon consulted with the Election Board members, who wanted the primary to go ahead as planned on March 31.

Grand Portage Chairwoman Beth Drost and Secretary/Treasurer April McCormick also voted against the measure.

Resolution 65-20 also amends the Election Ordinance by adding Section 1.12, which reads in part: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Tribal Executive Committee postpones the 2020 elections due to the coronavirus pandemic to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tribal members."

The resolution also waives the notice requirements for a Special Meeting to address emergency matters pursuant to the Revised Constitution and Bylaws and allows business to be conducted during the Special Meeting by a conference call to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The TEC met March 24 by Zoom video-conference with the sole purpose of deciding how to handle the upcoming MCT elections in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, the TEC considered several options, including taking no action and eliminating the primary.

All absentee ballots that have been cast already are still valid. The MCT is requiring that each Reservation Election Board store all ballots received under lock and key until the June 9 primary. More information will be coming from the MCT on this topic.

### April Band Assembly Meetings

For the duration of the Stay at Home Order, Band Assembly will meet as necessary via telephone conference call. Please watch for updates on Facebook.

When the State of Emergency is over, Band Assembly meetings will once again be open to all Band members and held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. Band members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181 with questions or follow the Legislative Branch on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/millelacsbandlegislativebranch/](http://www.facebook.com/millelacsbandlegislativebranch/).

**Spring Cleanup:** Due to the coronavirus situation, please watch Facebook or [millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com) for updates to the spring cleanup schedule. Cleanup was originally planned for the following dates: District I, April 18–24; District II, May 2–8; District III, April 25–May 1. Elders: Call the Public Works office at 320-532-7433 with questions or to be placed on the list for pickup.

## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Mining advocates boycott tribe:** A local chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association canceled an event at Fortune Bay Casino & Resort and the Wilderness Golf Course last month. The Iron Range businesses are owned by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, one of the six bands in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The backlash began after the MCT wrote a letter Jan. 31 to U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, a Democrat from St. Paul, and two other Democratic lawmakers in support of McCollum's proposal to ban copper mining on 234,000 acres of federally owned wilderness near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. State Sen. Tom Bakk also moved a large annual DFL fundraising golf tournament from the Wilderness at Fortune Bay to Giants Ridge. *Source: startribune.com.*

**Native women battle virus with virtual jingle dress dance:** When Pat Northrup of Cloquet heard about a virtual jingle dress dance, she thought it was exactly the healing the world needs. Someone posted it on Facebook with the hashtag #jinglehealing. They set a time: Saturday, March 14, at 1 p.m. "Wear your jingle dress at home and be connected," the posting said. "Remember the reason we were given this dance." Native American women from Pennsylvania to Nebraska to Ontario to Northrup's apartment in northern Minnesota joined in. "We were not only dancing for our healing, but also to guide our scientists and physicians into finding a cure, or help for the people. So this wasn't just for us, it's for everybody," explained Manidooiibikwe, or Barb Rodaks, a member of the Fond du Lac Ojibwe band who danced with Northrup. *Source: mprnews.org.*

**Sobriety, resilience helped her find her path:** Bashqwaa'idaamoqwe, Roxanne DeLille, overcame addiction and put herself through college. Now, she is the Dean of Indigenous and Academic Affairs at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. DeLille began drinking alcohol and using drugs during her teenage years and continued into her early 30s. She put herself through a traditional treatment program and began the next chapter of her life. Soon she began to put herself through college, taking courses at FDLTCC, then attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth, before finishing her studies at the University of Minnesota and taking a position at FDLTCC, which led her to her current position. DeLille said life is interesting, and she never knows what it will offer. "I am actively engaged in this process, in this thing called life," she said. *Source: pinejournal.com.*

**Tribal casinos announce closures:** As it became apparent that unprecedented action was needed to address coronavirus, tribes moved quickly to protect their members, employees, and guests by closing tribal casinos. On March 16, the Mille Lacs Band's Grand Casinos and Bois Forte's Fortune Bay closed. On March 17, Prairie Island and Mdewakanton Sioux communities closed Treasure Island and Mystic Lake casinos. On March 18, the Leech Lake Band, White Earth Band, Grand Portage Band, Fond du Lac Band, Lower Sioux, and Upper Sioux closed their casinos. Most closures were planned to last a minimum of two weeks.

**BE A HELPER.**

**EACH SMALL THING WE DO EVERY DAY MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.**

Grand Casino is sharing positive and helpful messages on its website to encourage social distancing and other good behaviors.

**YOU'RE A HELPER IF YOU STAY HOME.**

## GRAND CASINO ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Grand Casino announced a voluntary, temporary closure of casino operations at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley starting at 4 p.m. on March 16 to help fight the spread of COVID-19. The initial plan was for a 14-day closure, but conditions will be reassessed before a firm reopen date is announced. While there had been no reported cases of COVID-19 at either property, Grand Casino said it was a responsible, proactive decision that placed the wellbeing of its Associates, Guests, and local communities at the forefront.

**"SINCE GOV. WALZ'S ANNOUNCEMENT, WE HAVE REFLECTED ON THE LEADERSHIP THAT BUSINESSES LIKE OURS MUST DEMONSTRATE DURING A TIME LIKE THIS AND DECIDED TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE OUR CASINO OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO KEEP THAT PROTECTION IN PLACE."**

— COMMISSIONER JOE NAYQUONABE

While the casinos are closed to the public, Grand Casino has leveraged its resources to continue to serve the community. As a part of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures' Adopt-a-School program, the casinos provided lunch to students in need who attend public schools in Onamia, Isle, Hinckley-Finlayson, McGregor, and Nay Ah Shing lower and upper schools. In addition, the casinos have helped the Mille Lacs Band community.

When the coronavirus threat began, Grand Casino implemented rigorous CDC-recommended protocols, including increased daily cleaning regimens at both facilities, putting practices into place to safeguard Associates by offering up to 14 days paid sick time, canceling or postponing events, and temporarily shutting down venues, just to name a few. For a full list of preventative measures the casino has taken, see

<https://grandcasinomn.com/guestmessage/>.

"We developed a cross-functional COVID-19 preparedness team that meets regularly. The team has evaluated preparedness and increased measures to protect our Associates, Guests, and communities," said Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, the parent company that owns Grand Casinos. "Since Governor Walz's announcement, we have reflected on the leadership that businesses like ours must demonstrate during a time like this and decided to temporarily close our casino operations in order to keep that protection in place."

During the temporary closure, the casinos will continue to pay both salaried and hourly positions. Both properties will also undergo an intense cleaning process to further protect Guests and Associates upon reopening.

"We look forward to welcoming our valued Guests and Associates back," Nayquonabe continued. "We thank our Associates for all their hard work and our Guests for their continued support during this uncharted time. The wellbeing of our Guests, Associates, and communities is a paramount concern, and we are confident this temporary closure is in their best interests."

Guests can stay up to date with information about Grand Casino's happenings when the doors reopen on [www.grandcasinomn.com](http://www.grandcasinomn.com) and the casino's Facebook page.

### An opportunity to serve

With doors temporarily closed, Grand Casinos took the opportunity to serve in new ways, and to engage with local communities. One example was through Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures' Adopt-a-School program — through which Grand Casino provided free lunch to local students after schools officially closed. The Grand Casino team came together to serve 160 lunches the first day and 200 the second, with plans to continue this important initiative as schools' needs change in the coming weeks.

The casinos also took the opportunity to share important messages like those above and below this story.

**YOU'RE A HELPER IF YOU ONLY BUY WHAT YOU NEED AND LEAVE SUPPLIES FOR OTHERS.**

**YOU'RE A HELPER IF YOU CALL AND CHECK IN ON YOUR ELDERLY LOVED ONES.**

# INDIAN COUNTRY COUNTS DOWN TO CENSUS

In mid-March the 2020 Census fully kicked off, and invitations to participate online or over the phone began to arrive in mailboxes across the nation. By March 18, more than eleven million households had responded. America is stepping up to shape our future and ensure families and communities are counted.



Band members Jamie Edwards, Shena Matrious, Shelly Diaz, Arlyn Sam, and Baabiitaw Boyd took part in the Census kickoff event in 2019. The Mille Lacs Band is strongly encouraging all members to participate in the census to ensure an accurate count, which can affect federal and state funding for tribes.

**"WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO RESPOND ONLINE TODAY AT 2020CENSUS.GOV. WITH THE FLEXIBILITY AND SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WE WILL ACHIEVE A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE COUNT, WHICH HELPS GUIDE FUNDING DECISIONS FOR THINGS LIKE HOSPITALS, ROADS, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES."**

— CENSUS BUREAU DIRECTOR STEVEN DILLINGHAM

In support of federal and state guidelines to combat the threat of the coronavirus (COVID-19) all field operations of the U.S. Census Bureau were suspended. The Census Bureau took that step to help protect the health and safety of the American public, Census Bureau employees, and everyone going through the hiring process for temporary census taker positions. The Census Bureau will continue to evaluate all 2020 Census operations. Should any additional adjustments need to be made, the Census Bureau will communicate these changes broadly and promptly.

If you did receive an invitation in the mail to participate in

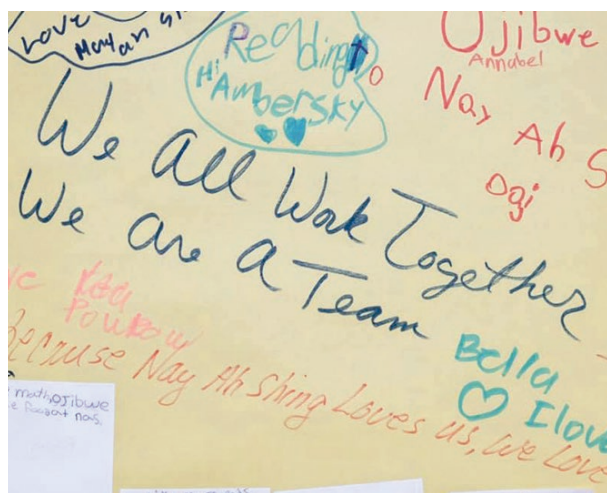
the 2020 Census, you are encouraged to respond online using a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet, and can also respond by phone or mail.

Everyone should respond to the 2020 Census as soon as you receive their invitation — and when you are finished, you can make sure your friends, families, and social networks know about the importance of responding.

If you have not responded to the 2020 Census by late May, Census takers will begin going door-to-door.

"We encourage everyone to respond online today at 2020Census.gov," said U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham. "With the flexibility and support of the American people, we will achieve a complete and accurate count, which helps guide funding decisions for things like hospitals, roads and emergency services."

As we have said before, it is more important than ever to make sure every American Indian and Alaskan Native is counted. Indian Country Counts.



## NAY AH SHING SCHOOLS STEP UP TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS!

Nay Ah Shing teachers and staff have been busy working together to ensure that students will continue to learn and grow. They have been building exciting new learning plans for distance learning. Breakfast and lunch are being delivered to each student's home, with each meal individualized to meet specific needs of each student. Letters to families from teachers were delivered with the meals on Friday, March 20. School staff know that by working together, all our students can be successful. It is their belief that every student deserves to learn new things every day.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Lummi nation sets up mobile clinics:** The Lummi nation, a sovereign tribe in Whatcom County, Washington, 115 miles north of Seattle, will soon open a pioneering field hospital to treat coronavirus patients, as part of a wave of strong public health measures which have gone further than many governments. Tribal leaders have been preparing for COVID-19 since the virus first appeared in Wuhan, China, in late 2019, with medical staff beefing up emergency plans, reorganizing services, and gathering medical supplies, including test kits and personal protective equipment. As of March 18, the tribe had reported three COVID-19 cases, but expect numbers to rise as the pandemic progresses. *Source: theguardian.com.*

**Native Americans say coronavirus could overwhelm underfunded health systems:** Native American health leaders are urging the U.S. government to distribute equipment and funding to help contain the spread of coronavirus among tribal members, amid mounting concerns that the pandemic could overwhelm chronically underresourced tribal health services. Tribes are reporting shortages of essential protective gear and testing services, as well as medical manpower and emergency planning expertise. Native communities are disproportionately affected by health conditions that the Centers for Disease Control have shown increase the risk of serious complications from COVID-19. *Source: theguardian.com.*

**Indian Country leaders urge Native people to be counted in 2020 Census:** Native Americans living on reservations and in traditional villages were the most undercounted people in the 2010 U.S. Census. This year, tribal leaders throughout the U.S. are urging American Indians and Alaska Natives to be seen and counted in the 2020 U.S. Census. Census data is used by federal and state governments to determine political representation and allocate funds for education, social services, and other programs. An undercount translates into less money, less political representation, and access to fewer resources. The Census Bureau estimates that it undercounted American Indians on reservations and Alaska Natives in villages by approximately 4.9 percent in 2010. *Source: minnpost.com.*

**Gaming tribes request \$18 billion:** Tribal casino operators are seeing their business evaporate due to the coronavirus outbreak and are asking the federal government for an \$18 billion relief package to help them navigate what has become an increasingly perilous environment. Tribes that have gaming interests are joining their commercial counterparts in temporarily shuttering casinos and hotels to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That severely hampers tribes' ability to generate much-needed revenue. *Source: casino.org.*

**Virus continues to take hold in Indian Country:** As of Thursday afternoon, March 19, the Indian Health Service was aware of 14 positive COVID-19 cases within the federally-run system. The number is significantly higher than the four that were known just a day prior. Cases were spread across five IHS service areas covering nearly half of Indian Country. The Navajo Area, which serves the Navajo Nation, appears to have been hit the hardest. *Source: Indianz.com.*

Stay up to speed on news from Indian Country at [millelacsband.com/news](http://millelacsband.com/news).

**PUBLIC HEALTH SHARES PHILOSOPHY:**  
**KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON**

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health staff, led by Director Lisa Blahosky-Olivarez, continues to provide essential services during the COVID-19 response. "That's what we're here for," she told the group. "As essential employees and medical professionals, we have a responsibility to care for the community."

Regular meetings of staff maintain the effective flow of information, and Lisa participates in ongoing meetings of the Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC,) in order to provide input and assist in the decision-making process. She also communicates critical information to the team and delegates responsibilities, some of which are not part of the usual job descriptions.

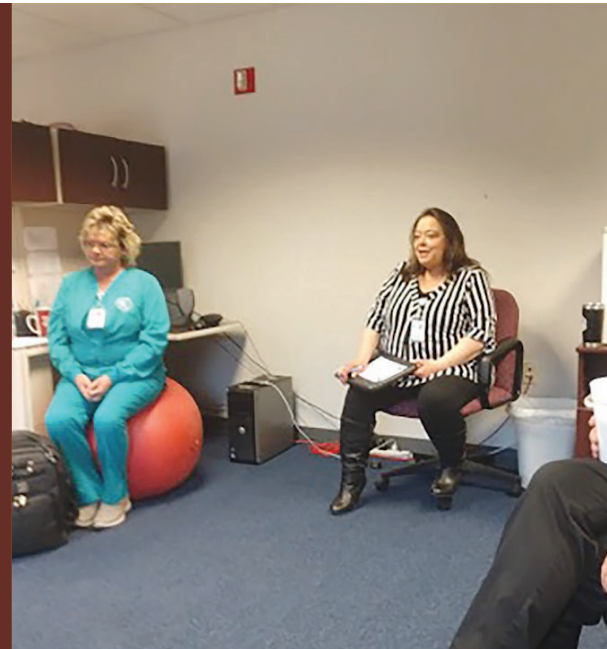
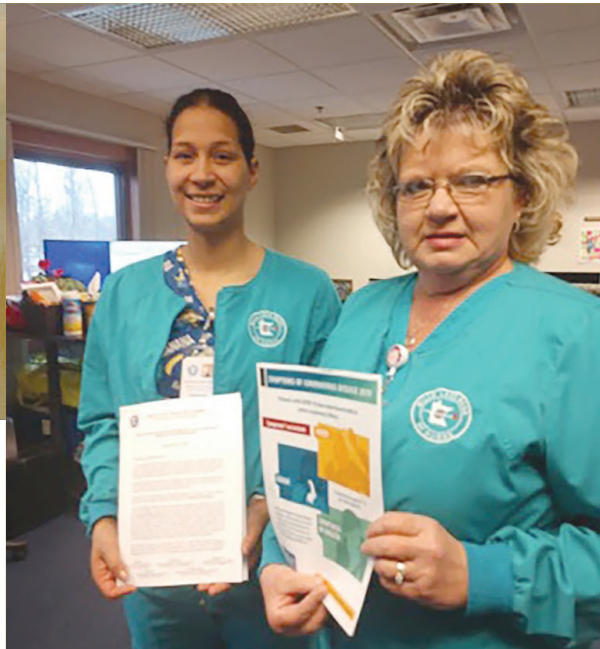
The Public Health team is committed to the health of the Band community, and the current Covid-19 situation underlines this fact. During the first days of media blitzes and confusing messages, the Public Health team distributed information to patients and their families. Materials were dropped off house-to-house in all districts, and nurses were available to answer medical questions. Check-in calls were made to provide information and reassurance. Transportation to critical medical appointments, such as dialysis, continues without interruption, and the residents of the Assisted Living Unit have access to medical support.

Public Health is providing tips offering guidance in coping with the challenges of the virus situation that are sent out via email and Facebook, as well as posted in the ALUs.

Above all, Lisa said, "I'm proud of the work that we are doing and of the way that everyone in this department has responded to the demands of the situation."

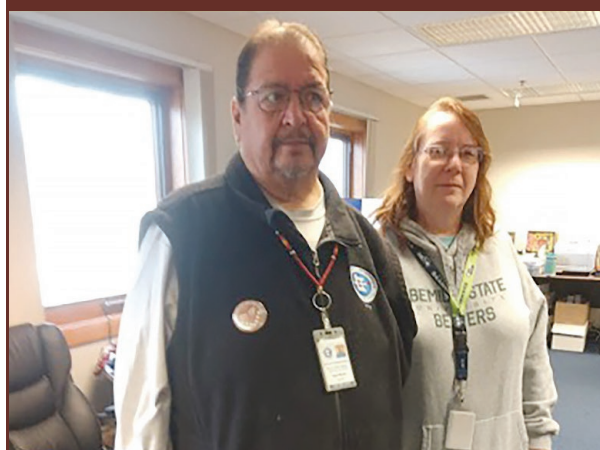
**"I'M PROUD OF THE WORK THAT WE ARE DOING AND OF THE WAY THAT EVERYONE IN THIS DEPARTMENT HAS RESPONDED TO THE DEMANDS OF THE SITUATION."**

— LISA BLAHOSKY-OLIVAREZ



Above: Mya Schroeder and Carol DeMars hand-delivered health education information as well as providing essential services. Director Lisa Blahosky Olivarez updated Public Health staff.

Below, clockwise from top left: Bob Mitchell and Barb Laws, transportation. Nicole Narveson, RN, provided medical information and follow-up. Crystal Roeschlein, RN, organized medical supplies and prescriptions. Kathy Nelson coordinated and transporting needed supplies.



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

**OLD-STYLE COOKING**

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.*

Sometimes I get hungry for the old-style Indian cooking. That kind of cooking means making do from scratch.

For example, maybe you have a little piece of meat, and you can't fry it or bake it because there won't be enough for everyone. So you cut it up in little pieces and put it in a kettle of water with onion and salt. If you have a little bacon or pork, you throw that in there, too. Or hamburger, rabbit, partridge — whatever. Then you peel potatoes and dice them and put them in. If you don't have macaroni, you can make little homemade noodles. You can make homemade dumplings, too.

You put this all together and let it cook to make soup. And that's the best soup there is — it beats any other soup. I tell you, the kids are scraping the bottom of the kettle when we make it!

I taught my kids to cook. The boys cook just as well as the girls. In fact, my son Edward took first prize one time in a cooking contest when we had a little powwow at our community

center. We had a cook-off to see who could make the best fry bread, and Edward won.

Fry bread is a very popular Indian food. And it's easy to make. You just use flour, water, salt, sugar and baking powder. Some people use yeast, too, when they make a big amount.

When you make fry bread, you beat an egg a little bit and throw it in with the other ingredients. Then you knead it all together. Then you get your fat heating in a pan. When it's hot enough, you just break off the bread dough in little pieces and put it in the hot fat. It's French-fried bread. Everyone likes it!

Some people make fry bread well, others don't make it so well, but we all like it. We all eat it.

And I like the bread when we cook by the fire, too. My mother-in-law taught me that. When you're out camping by the campfire, you rake some of the coals up. Then you grease your skillet a little bit, put some dough in it, and set it on those coals until you figure it's pretty well cooked on the bottom. Then you prop the skillet up on its side, and that cooks the bread. And you get that little bit of smoke taste in there. Oh, that is delicious. That is the good life, eating bread by the campfire.

# ELECTION FORUMS

**BAND MEMBERS TURNED OUT IN PERSON AND ONLINE TO HEAR FROM CANDIDATES**

Photos by Chad Germann Mille Lacs Band Member

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's primary election has been postponed due to coronavirus from March 31 to June 9, but before that decision was made, Band members attended — or watched online — election forums held March 9 to 13 in four Mille Lacs Band communities and the urban area.

The forums kicked off on March 9 at All Nations Church in Minneapolis then moved to District IIa March 10, District I March 11, District II March 12, and District III March 13.

Candidates for Chief Executive were invited to all five forums, while candidates for District I Representative appeared only at District I and the urban area.

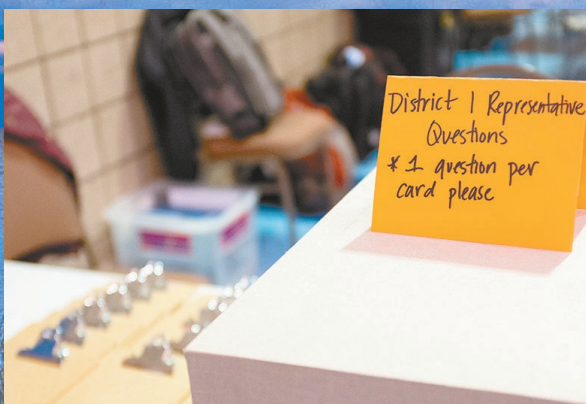
Certified candidates who will be on the ballot for Chief Executive are Tania Aubid, Melanie Benjamin, Carolyn Beau-lieu, Ronald Davis, Curtis Kalk, and Wanetta Thompson.

Certified candidates who will be on the ballot for District I Representative are Sandra Blake, Valerie Sam-Harrington, Nicolas Shaw, Ginger Weyaus, and Virgil Wind.

An election guide was sent to Band members age 18 and older in early March.



The District III Election Forum was held at Aazhoomog Community Center on Friday, March 13.



## SCHOOLS PROVIDE RESOURCES, ADJUST TO DISTANCE LEARNING

By Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

At the beginning of March, the idea that students would be out of school for weeks or longer was unfathomable. Then, COVID-19, otherwise known as the coronavirus, took hold of the world.

The pandemic effectively changed everything that was normal everyday life for everyone. In spite of that, people rallied and tried to do what they could to help however they could.

For educators across the state, the call came for them to create new ways of doing school in a matter of days so they could keep students learning.

"It's a new ground for all of us, so we're looking for the best ways to serve our students," said Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe, the Indian Education Director for the Onamia School District.

Chris added that it was a challenge to work to meet the varying needs of the families, but the district was doing its best. "We've run into a bunch of obstacles," she said. "A lot of Native families don't have internet, so we're trying to figure out how to get hot spots for them. We're looking at getting Google Chromebooks for them. And if we can't get it figured out right away, those without internet will have packets to work on, and teachers will call them daily."

Onamia Superintendent J.J. Vold said finding ways to support students without internet was a top priority. "Not everyone has technology, so we will have paper and pencil assignments for students, too," J.J. said. "We focus on equity — it's very important to us. And looking at wi-fi is one of the equitable things we are doing."

Vold added that he was "very much in awe" of what the entire school district staff is doing to care for the students and the community.

"They've been at school every day to provide food service daily, and they are going door-to-door to drop food off," he said. "Teachers are working on distance learning plans, they are recording videos, and they've called every family to connect by phone."



Onamia staff — like most around the state and nation — worked fast to prepare resources to send home with students.

The Onamia School District has nearly 700 students — including hundreds of Band members and Native American students. Beginning March 30, distance learning will commence.

The district is also working to provide supports in other ways, including special education and mental health, J.J. said.

Beginning this week, the district's transportation department will deliver the education boxes they have compiled to students' homes. Then, each week they will pick them up to get the completed coursework and then deliver new homework packets.

Chris, who teaches American Studies, will offer lessons through Google classroom and host chats with students. She also made sure to include materials for the students in the Indigenous Culture Club. They will have access to online tutorials for things like beading and other crafts and will include the crafts in the packets.

"One of my worries is kids will fall behind, so I want to encourage them to be diligent in their studies and conscious of their time," said Chris. "It's not summer vacation, and there will still be work to do."

Like Chris, other educators are stressing the same message, including the Band-operated schools. They, too, have crafted distance-learning plans, said Byron Ninham, Assistant Principal for Nay Ah Shing grades 6-12.

The educators for the Band schools worked to create dis-

tance-learning plans as well as tips for families, Byron said. The tips are applicable to both students and the adults in their lives.

"Create and establish a daily schedule," Byron said. "Routines will help provide support. Be sure to create balance by including learning, free-time, off-line time, active physical time, and creative time."

Other tips include:

- Schedule specific time(s) each day for students to access their eLearning.
- Eliminate or minimize distractions so students can be fully engaged in their learning.
- Find a quiet place for students to work and organize their learning materials.
- Utilize contact logs, Google classroom, email, and phone if necessary to communicate your needs and successes with the eLearning plans. We are all in this together and can support each other through this wave.
- Be sure to practice social distancing and shelter-in-place guidance established by your local governmental agency.
- Follow best practices with personal hygiene, (hand washing, social distancing) and ensure your family is also.
- Stay physically active and rested during this time of distance learning.

In spite of the physical distance, educators say they are hopeful for their students and wish them well.

"We miss our kids, and it's hard for everyone," J.J. said. "You can't just stop. Our kids need us. We need to be portraying as much positivity and hope as we can."

Chris agreed.

"We were there one week and then we weren't, so we didn't get to say goodbye," she said. "We wish them well and want them to stay safe and healthy."



PROJECT MEZINICHIGEJIG

# LEGO MOVIE HITS THE BIG TIME

By Amikogaabawiikwe Mille Lacs Band Member

Recently, Project Mezinichigejig received an inquiry from Vision Maker Media about potentially showing the video project created with Jonathan Thunder in the summer of 2019 at their Vision Maker Media Film Festival in April of 2020. "Powwow Highway: LEGO Movie" was a collaborative effort between Mille Lacs Band youth and Jonathan Thunder. The short film depicts some favorite scenes from the movie but in stop-motion animation using LEGO toys.

The film festival is scheduled for April 22–30 in Lincoln, Nebraska, and features a myriad of Indigenous-created full-length, short, and animation films. There will be an artist talk after screening, which participating youth will be attending to

**"I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS. AFTER SEEING THE FINAL PRODUCT, IT MADE ME REALIZE WHAT WE REALLY CREATED, AND IT WAS SO COOL."**

– DEANGELO SAM



answer questions about their participation in the making of the project and new experiences in animation.

Every other year, this festival showcases American Indian, Alaska Native, and worldwide Indigenous films. Accompanying the films, the festival gathers a collective of inspiring filmmakers and Native celebrities to engage the community in public conversations, creating a space for both healing and learning.

The Vision Maker Film Festival celebrates and explores Native culture, cultivates greater community understanding, and brings together hundreds of community members from all over Nebraska.

Filmmaker Jonathan Thunder was thrilled to hear about the selection and was excited to send along an incredible shirt design for the project youth to wear on stage with him when they have their big moment in the spotlight at the upcoming film festival.

"I never thought I could do something like this," Mezinichigejig youth Deangelo Sam said. "After seeing the final



product, it made me realize what we really created, and it was so cool."

Youth participants in the project include Deangelo Sam, Jaida Wind, Nolan Perkins, Taliya Hansen, Faith Great Shield, Olivia Reynolds, Skye Boyd, and William Boyd.



Jonathan Thunder

Adult Mentors in the project included Tony Buckanaga, Charmaine Shivers, Adrienne Benjamin, William Howes III, Charles Smith, Byron Ninham, and Patty Wiersgalla.

Project Mezinichigejig would like to send an extra special thanks to artist Jonathan Thunder for his work on this project and giving the youth this incredible opportunity.



## NAY AH SHING POWWOW

Nay Ah Shing students enjoyed the mid-quarter powwow at the lower school on March 6. The school's drum group, led by Tony Buckanaga, played for dancers from kindergarten on up. Photos by Mille Lacs Band Member Bill Jones.



# AADIZOOKEWIN — MORE THAN JUST STORYTELLING

Biboon, winter, can be a special time of year for those who have always wanted to become more familiar with the Ojibwe language. Winter is the time for Aadizookewin, storytelling. Language revitalization is a common theme in today's Anishinaabe communities, with classes offered at places like Fond du Lac Tribal Community College, Central Lakes College, and the University of Minnesota. Other resources also abound, including recordings of Larry "Amik" Smallwood, one of the most instrumental figures in the Mille Lacs Band's cultural revitalization efforts in the past decades.

Many of today's regional storytellers credit Amikoban as the source of their stories, including Michael "Migizi" Sullivan, who returned for a fourth year with students from the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School. Sullivan and his students came from Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation March 4 to regale a full house at the Grand Makwa Cinema with Wenabozho tales they had been rehearsing all winter.

Prior to this annual visit, the Grand Casino Mille Lacs event center welcomed Dr. Gordon Maajiigwaneyaash Jourdain for Niibaa-Aatisooke, Winter Stories, on March 3. The event brought Jourdain, who is from the Lac La Croix First Nation in Ontario, to Mille Lacs with the help of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and Nay Ah Shing Schools through MLCV's "Adopt-A-School" funding and NAS's Ojibwemowin Enokijig.

Jourdain is a well-respected regional storyteller, and he excels at telling his stories almost fully in Anishinaabemowin. His interjections of the English language are few and far between, but the energy and expressiveness with which he tells his stories make it easy for even non-Ojibwe language speakers to follow along. Jourdain talked a little bit about his home life growing up in Ontario and the traditional lifeways and values he learned as a child. His upbringing has had a phenomenal impact on the way he understands and tells the stories he shares today. Niibaa-Aatisooke was a fantastically immersive experience. Miigwech to Dr. Jourdain for his time, and to event organizers for providing manoomin soup and cookies for attendees to munch while enjoying the stories.

Migizi Sullivan and the Waadookodaading students offered a different but no less insightful and entertaining experience the next evening. As in previous years, three of the immersion school's students were selected by school staff for the quality of the stories they told at home.

This year, the three performers were Tedegwaeskae Rice, Manidoobineshiinsag Sullivan, and Giinoonde Buckholtz. Each boy first told a story of Wenabozho in Anishinaabemowin. The first was Wenabozho's attempt to copy a woodpecker, the second was about a trick Wenabozho pulled on someone who asked for a gift without offering asemaa, and the third was the story of when Wenabozho became a rabbit to steal fire. Each storyteller used props, voices, movements, and expressions to



Dr. Migizi Sullivan and students from Waadookodaading Ojibwe Immersion School told traditional stories at Grand Makwa on March 3.

act out their stories before translating the events into English for the audience.

Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Administration Baabiitaw Boyd both provided introductions for the event and awarded first-, second-, and third-place beaded medallions to each of the student storytellers as they were selected by cheers from the crowd. The audience appreciated each storyteller so much that it was difficult to judge who received the loudest round of cheers for his performance. Out of respect, judging was deferred to Lee Obizaan Staples, who selected first place Giinoonde Buckholtz, second place Manidoobineshiinsag Sullivan, and third place Tedegwaeskae Rice.

The audience, stocked with complimentary hot chocolate and popcorn provided by Grand Makwa Cinema concessions, was then treated to stories from Waadookodaading instructor Migizi Sullivan. Migizi admitted that his stories could get long, and as the evening wore on last year, he'd begun to lose some of the non-Ojibwe speaking audience members during the telling. To remedy this, he asked all his students who had accompanied him from Wisconsin to help him translate his story line by line. Sullivan was careful to point out that Waadookodaading Immersion School teaches everything in Anishinaabemowin in order for its students to understand the meaning of the Ojibwe language. This tactic of teaching through daily use doesn't necessarily engage the students in direct translation from Ojibwe to English, so asking the students to do so for the audience was exercising a new skill for them.

The process kept the storyteller, the translators, and the audience all interested and engaged. Sullivan recited a line of his story, and one of his students translated to the best of his or her ability before passing the microphone to the next student in line. If a student had trouble with the translation, one or more of his or her classmates was always willing to step in to help. The telling and translating was fun, especially when students

## LARRY 'AMIK' SMALLWOOD WHO IS WENABOZHO?

Wenabozho is a manidoo, the son of the "Creator." This is why we always offer tobacco to him in our prayers.

He was sent here, physically, on earth to live with the Ojibwe Anishinaabe, to live as an Anishinaabe man — a man with spiritual powers. He lived on earth from infancy to adulthood. He was raised by his grandmother, as many of our older Ojibwe people are today.

Before the big flood, Wenabozho roamed the Old World showing the Anishinaabe people how to live, showing the people by example of himself.

Wenabozho was honest, dishonest, foolish, sensible, good, bad, smart, stupid. He was all the things a normal human being could possibly be. After all, he was and is a manidoo. This is why he was able to do these spiritual and physical changes.

After the great flood, he created the New World, and this is where he told Anishinaabe people the prophecies and the teachings. He assigned plants and animals various duties as to how they could and should help Anishinaabe people to survive.

The stories told about Wenabozho are for a purpose, to teach the young what would happen if they did something or acted and behaved in certain ways. Everything we do has consequences.

The stories are called "legends." I don't like this word. I think we should use the word "teachings." After all, this is the purpose of "Who is Wenabozho?"

*This teaching was first printed in the Spring 2003 issue of Mazina'igan, the newsletter of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Editor's note: This is what Amik (Larry Smallwood) told his young son when asked, "Who is Wenabozho?" It is reprinted with Amik's permission. Spelling has been changed to remain consistent with other Inaajimowin stories, which use the double-vowel system.*

had to copy Sullivan's expressive voice-acting. Teller, translators, and audience alike had many laughs.

Sullivan's first story was a telling of Wenabozho's attempt to assassinate the sea chiefs in the wigwam under the water. The story was detailed, and included some of the more heinous actions heard in a Wenabozho story. At the end of the telling, Sullivan pointed out that this is the way he knows the story to be told, and though some people may find it offensive, the story is not meant to be changed or made politically correct. As Sullivan learned from Amikoban, one of the most important things to note about Wenabozho and the lessons Anishinaabe take from him is that there is nothing we can do that Wenabozho has not already done. This is how we learn.

Sullivan and his 17 students were also accompanied by additional instructors Niizhoobineshiikwe Carlson and Niigaanibineshiikwe Orie. As always, each of the storytellers from Waadookodaading was offered asemaa to share their stories. Recordings of the stories were allowed during the Anishinaabemowin tellings but had to be stopped for the English translations.

While there is still snow on the ground, anyone can offer asemaa to hear more of these stories. Biboon is the time to take advantage of and share the Anishinaabe oral tradition. Chi-Miigwech to our tellers for keeping our stories alive.

*Band members Li Boyd and Val Harrington contributed to this report.*



# ELDAYSHUN BIG BEAR RECORD BREAKER

By Amikogaabawiikwe Mille Lacs Band Member

Eldayshun Big Bear has set and met some major goals for himself over his high school basketball career. These goals, and the game of basketball itself, have been a point and source of healing for Eldayshun and his mother, Darcie Big Bear.

After his father tragically passed away in 2017, Eldayshun took that sad experience and turned it into a passion and a commemoration to his father's memory. From that point on, he has dedicated his achievement of these records and his basketball career to his father. (See "From the Pain to the Game" published in the January 2018 *Inaajimowin*.)

During his sophomore year, he decided to attempt to set Isle High School's single-season assist record, and he shattered it. He also managed to nab the single-game assist record as well.

This year, without giving it too much thought, he found himself chasing a goal that he didn't plan on: Isle High School's career assist record.

As the record came within reach, the Huskies' schedule served to heighten the drama. An Isle and Onamia contest,



no matter what sport, has always been one for the books. Eldayshun happened to surpass the career assist record there, in front of a packed crowd shortly into the second quarter, with his mom and excited teammates by his side. The game was stopped, and the announcement of the broken record was made. Tears of joy, happiness, and pride were streaming down his mother's face. She ran onto the court with balloons

## BIG BEAR'S BIG YEAR, BIG CAREER

Eldayshun's amazing record-breaking career at Isle High School:

Broke the Isle High School single-game assist record with 18 assists in a game.

Broke the Isle High School most assists in a season record with 159 assists.

Broke the Isle High School most career assists record that was previously 365 by achieving 404.

Congratulations Eldayshun on your incredible record-breaking career in basketball at Isle High School. We are looking forward to watching you shine and break records on the basketball court at Central Lakes College next fall!

and flowers in tow. Eldayshun's smile could be seen from a mile away. His coaches, teammates, and even members of the Onamia team were rushing to give their well wishes to Eldayshun mid-game.

Eldayshun's story is remarkable for so many reasons. In the face of adversity, he chose to turn that into a drive for success. Even through a mountain of hurt from the loss of his dad, this young man was able to turn it all into accomplishments and triumph, all thanks to the love of a simple game.

## 'WHEN WE DANCE, THE CREATOR KNOWS WE ARE STILL HERE'

"When we dance and sing, the Creator knows that we are still here." Renowned indigenous artist Gerald White stated to a room full of awe filled Nay Ah Shing students. Gerald shared about his life growing up, and the knowledge that he has accumulated along the way. One thing that he shared a lot about was his journey on the pow wow circuit. "The pow wow circle isn't just about dancing, it's about making new friends." He shared that since he and his family have been "on the trail" he now has friends across the country and even the world that he will stay with from time to time when he travels.

Gerald talked about an old dancer who inspired him long ago who he referred to as "Fox". This old man wore fox tails that hung from his elbows when he danced. He always loved seeing that man dance and he brought up his son Gozy to dance in that style of that old man, which now he said is referred to as "Woodland".

He shared about his art form of Anishinaabe style war clubs and gun stocks and the incredible detail and work that goes into each and every one he creates. He also shared with the kids why he continues to create them and sometimes even gives them away to new dancers, young men, or other people that he feels are community heroes and deserve some form of recognition. "The true definition of 'Indian Giving' is giving something away without expectation," Gerald said.

He said all people should take pride in the things that we make as artists or just in general. "We should all strive to make beautiful things and adorn those that we love and ourselves with those handcrafted things that we make. There's energy there. It's a part of our culture to make those things." Gerald continued.

To that point, Gerald joked, "You can be humble, but you can look good too."

Before leaving, Gerald asked for the names of the young boys that were sitting at the drum and participating in his dance exhibition. "The young boys deserve recognition for learning these ways, and when I come back through this way, I will gift them something for that dedication." He ended



**"WE SHOULD ALL STRIVE TO MAKE BEAUTIFUL THINGS AND ADORN THOSE THAT WE LOVE AND OURSELVES WITH THOSE HANDCRAFTED THINGS THAT WE MAKE. THERE'S ENERGY THERE."**

— GERALD WHITE

his presentation with this gem of knowledge to the youth, "Whatever we know, we can always know a little more. Just ask."

Gerald was asked to come to Nay Ah Shing as a part of Project Mezinichigejig; a Mille Lacs Band program centered on arts education. Gerald is currently the 2019-2020 Artist in Residence for the Minnesota Historical Society. Aside from that, and just as important, Gerald is a well-known staple on the pow wow trail with his wife Delina.



## 'GROWING UP OJIBWE' VIDEO GAME RELEASED

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission is proud to introduce the new interactive treaty rights game "Growing Up Ojibwe: The Game." Created by GLIFWC summer intern Eleanore Falck, the video game takes players through multiple levels of harvesting and learning about Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Join the main character Tommy Sky as he grows and learns about the environment that his Ojibwe relatives have subsisted upon for many generations.

In *Growing Up Ojibwe: The Game*, players take the role of Tommy Sky, a young Ojibwe boy sent on a mission by his grandmother to learn important knowledge that has been forgotten by many.

While you're exploring the beautiful environment of northern Wisconsin, offer asemaa to spirit helpers and knowledge holders who teach you about Ojibwe treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, and harvesting activities.

You will also encounter community members who are curious about the knowledge you have gathered and will ask questions. Interacting with spirit helpers, knowledge holders, and community members will earn you mino-bimaadiziwin points. These points represent your spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being.

Be careful not to answer questions incorrectly, however, or you will lose some of the resources you have been collecting. After completing the first two levels about Ojibwe treaty rights and tribal sovereignty, help Tommy Sky's grandmother to make maple sugar by tapping maple trees and gathering sap.

*Growing Up Ojibwe: The Game* is great in any classroom setting. As an introduction to Great Lakes Ojibwe history, it's a fun way to teach middle school students relevant content that satisfies learning requirements set by Act 31. In addition to information about treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, and harvesting activities, it also includes an Ojibwe language component with Ojibwe words used throughout the game. An easy to read points-system displayed on the levels screen can help educators gauge a student's level of engagement with the material.

Download the game for free at: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com>.

# TRIBAL GOVERNMENT REDUCES STAFF TO PROTECT COMMUNITY

Due to the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19, on March 17, 2020, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe took a proactive approach to voluntarily reduce staffing levels. For the safety of the communities and the employees of the Mille Lacs Band, the day-to-day Government operations will be reduced to the following critical staff only until further notice. Future updates can be found at [www.millelacsband.com](http://www.millelacsband.com) or [facebook.com/millelacsband](https://facebook.com/millelacsband).

## Tribal Emergency Response Committee

The **Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC)** will continue to meet daily to evaluate the situation and provide updates to the community.

**Tribal Police** will continue to operate as normal 24/7. The dispatch number is 320-532-3430. In an emergency, call 911.

The **Election Office** will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until further notice.

## Department of Administration

**Commissioner of Administration Baabiitaw Boyd**, 218-670-0745. Under the Department of Administration, essential staff include Director of IT, Director of Human Resources, Safety Risk Specialist, Benefits Administrator, Employee/Labor Relations Specialist, Director of Tribal Child Support Enforcement, Director of Grants, and Government Affairs.

**Aanjobimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom**, 320-364-9511.

**Aanjobimaadizing Case Managers:** Director Candace Benjamin, District I, 320-362-0014; Renee Allen, District III, 320-591-0559; Donna Churchill, District III, 320-207-0907; Dawn Paro, Urban, 612-368-9417; Winona Spaulding, Urban, 612-360-7219; Kaari Weyaus, District I, 218-316-2437; Ann Stafford, District I, 320-630-5769; Winona Crazy Thunder, District II, 320-364-3049.

## Department of Community Development

**Assistant Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe**, 320-630-3118. Peter is also Acting Commissioner of Community Development and will oversee the following core services that will continue to be provided by Community Development/Housing: Emergency Construction, Funerals, Furnace calls, Loan servicing, Minobimaadiziwin, Power supply, Roads Maintenance, Sanitation (Garbage removal), Sewer, Water, Snow plowing, Housing Emergency on Call Maintenance.

## Department of Education

**Commissioner of Education Joyce Shingobe**, 651-354-4900. All Education Staff remain on duty, including the Early Education management team, Kitchen staff, Bus Drivers, and Custodians.

## Department of Natural Resources.

**Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper**, 320-515-0846, will oversee Conservation Officers, the Office Manager, Director of Environmental Programs, Director of Resource Management, and Director of Cultural Resources.

## Office of Management and Budget

**Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle**, 320-532-7475. Critical staff areas are as follows: Payroll & Accounts Payable, 320-532-7471. Per Cap, 320-532-7472.

## Department of Health and Human Services

**Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson**, 320-364-9969, will oversee the following HHS critical staff:

**Director of Public Health Lisa Blahosky-Olivarez**, 320-362-0423

**Executive Director of Health Services Jan Manary — Clinic contact**, 320-532-4761

**Executive Director of Human Services Carmen Kalk**, 320-364-9116

**Director of Community Support Services Kristian Theisz**, 320-630-2687

**Director of Family Services Tabatha Boyd**, 320-362-4258

Under Community Support Services, the following remain on duty:

**Family Violence Protection Program, Kate Kalk**, 320-532-7793

**Elder Services Coordinator Denise Sargent**, 320-532-7854

**Wraparound Coordinator Tammy Mooreland**, 320-292-1942

**Elder/Disability Social Worker Peter Charpentier**, 320-292-2283

Other HHS Phone Numbers:

**Pharmacy:** Jessie Godding, 320-532-2548

**Maintenance:** Curt Kalk Jr., 320-362-1657

**Four Winds Lodge:** Lindsay Misquadace-Berg, 218-454-8905

**Substance Use Disorders programs:** Mark Watters, 320-630-4791

**Nurse Line:** 320-630-0855

**Mental Health call line:** 320-674-4384

**Medication Assisted Recovery line:** 320.362.0892

## SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms\* can include

FEVER

COUGH

SHORTNESS OF BREATH

\*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms)

## STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



[cdc.gov/COVID19](http://cdc.gov/COVID19)

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# SMUDGE WALK

*Protecting and healing the community is nothing new to many Band members*

Photos and Q/A by Rhonda Mitchell *Mille Lacs Band Member*

On February 29, two weeks before coronavirus changed life on the reservation — at least temporarily — Band members gathered at the District I Community Center to protect and heal their community through the sacred tradition of smudging.



## BAND MEMBER RHONDA MITCHELL ASKED SMUDGE WALKERS

# WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN THE SMUDGE WALK?



"I like to support sobriety. I am a retired chemical dependency counselor, and any time I see activities like this, I am here to support them and lend a hand however I can. I think it is very important that we do this and get some acknowledgement and plant some seeds in people's heads. Sobriety is the Anishinaabe way."

— Joe Nayquonabe Sr.



"I want to be around good energy — sober energy — and have a positive effect on the day."

— Hunter Stately

"I came because of my parents."

— Makaylyn Fasthorne

"I came for all the good energy."

— Samantha Fisher



"Healing, healing for all the communities, Hope that anyone who is suffering and looking for help that they know where to go. People see, people do, just like children see, children do. I believe that. This is where my heart is. This is what I have been doing for 15 years, giving back what I have been given. Have you seen a change within that 15 years? Absolutely! There was a handful here, and the awareness has expanded, and the amount is truly immeasurable."

— Kim Sam (with daughter Valerie Sam-Harrington)



"I came because I feel a change inside of me that happened. I've taken the last 10 years to grow and heal, and I want to share that with everybody. I'm hoping to spread the healing to the community, because it's time."

— Amelia Kevan



"It is an honor to give an escort to events like the smudge walk."

— Officer Josh Hemsforth



"We came to support family and community. All ages are affected, and we need to take a stand."

— Jada, Ayana, Calan



"I come to support the community, to show that we do recover."

— Teresa Sam

"I think it is important to show our strength — that we have a huge sober group of people here and that we want to support the community."

— Rachel Nelson

# WEWENI A'AW ANISHINAABE DAA-ASEMAAKE — HOW TO PROPERLY OFFER YOUR TOBACCO

By Lee Staples Gaa-anishinaabemod Obizaan and Chato Gonzalez Gaa-anishinaabebii'ang Ombishkebines

This article was originally published in the March 2015 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.

Mii dash omaa noongom ani-biindaakoojiged a'aw Anishinaabe waa-ni-dazhindamaan. Ishke a'aw Anishinaabe ishkweyaang gaa-ayaad, gaawiin ogii-ni-aabaji'aasiin eta-go bizhishig inow asemaan ezhi-gikenimang noongom gii-ni-biindaakoojiged. Mii inow apaakoziganan gaa-aabaji'aajin. Mii dash imaa gaa-ondinaad inow mishkwaabiimizhiin. Mii inow gaa-kaakaaska'aajin inow mitigoonsan, mii dash imaa gii-paasang imaa gaa-onjikaamagadinig. Mii dash inow gaa-aabaji'aajin gii-ni-biindaakoojiged.

What I want to talk about this time is when Anishinaabe puts their tobacco down as an offering. The Anishinaabe way back did not only use tobacco, as we know it today in their offerings. They used a mixture known as apaakozigan. This came from the

red willow sapling. They scraped the inner bark of the red willow, and these scrapings were dried. It was these dried scrapings that were used in their offerings.

Ishke nigezikwendaan owapii gii-naazikaageyaan a'aw akiwenziyiban gii-niimi'idiiked ani-biindigeyaan niimi'idiwigamigong, mii i'iw gaa-piijimaandamaan gii-sagaswaadamawaad inow apaakoziganan imaa gimishoomisinaan odoopwaaganan. Mii dash gaawiin aapiji a'aw Anishinaabe noongom odaabaji'aasiin inow apaakoziganan ani-biindaakoojiged. Maagizhaa gaye waa-wenipanizigwen ani-adaawed inow asemaan eni-aabaji'aajin dash noongom.

I remember going to the ceremonial dances that the old man who raised me put on and I recall the smell of the apaakoziganan that was smoked out of the ceremonial drum pipe. Nowadays Anishinaabe very seldom uses apaakoziganan in their offerings. The Anishinaabe probably just wants to make it easier for them-



selves by using the tobacco that can be purchased from the market.

Da-minochige a'aw Anishinaabe da-bi-azhegiwewidood i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhichiged gidinawemaaganinaan ishkweyaang gaa-ayaad apane inow apaakoziganan gii-aabaji'aad biindaakoojiged. Gaawiin igo debinaak gidaa-doodawaasiwaanaanig ingiw Manidoog.

It would be great for the Anishinaabe to bring back the way that our relatives from the past had always done by using apaakoziganan in their offering at all times. We should not treat the Manidoog in a half-hearted fashion.

Akawe imaa bagwaj gidaa-izhaamin da-naadiyang inow mishkwaabiimizhiin da-gaakaaska'amang, mii dash imaa ge-ondinamang da-ni-dagonamang imaa asemaan weweni da-ni-biindaakoonindwaa ingiw Manidoog. Gaawiin i'iw akeyaa ge-nizhi-wenipaniziyang gidaa-nanda-waabandanzimmin wenjida imaa ani-manidokeyang anishinaabewiyang.

We should first go out into the woods to gather the red willow saplings, scrape them and use the scrapings to mix in with the tobacco to properly give our offering to the Manidoog. We should not look for the easy way to do things especially when it comes to our ceremonies as Anishinaabe.

Eshkwaa igo ani-dazhindamaan aaningodinong debinaak wii-ni-doodawaad inow Manidoon aanind a'aw Anishinaabe mii gaye waa-ni-dazhindamaan. Ishke moozhag niwaabamaa a'aw Anishinaabe azhigwa wii-asaad inow odasemaan, mii imaa ani-adaawamaad awiya inow asemaan waa-asaajin. Ambe sanoo gego i'iw akeyaa izhichigekegon.

While I am on the subject of treating the Manidoog in a half-hearted fashion I also want to mention something else that came to mind. I often see Anishinaabe when it is time to put tobacco, they will borrow from someone the tobacco that they are going to put. Please do not do that.

Gaawiin ingiw Manidoog gimino-doodawaasiwaawaag izhichigeyeg i'iw akeyaa. Giizhaa gidaa-naanaawaa a'aw Asemaa waa-aabaji'eg. Gaawiin zanagasinoon da-izhichiged i'iw a'aw Anishinaabe. Dibishkoo-go a'aw Anishinaabe ani-adaawanged inow asemaan waa-asaad, mii imaa waabanda'iwed gaawiin a'aw odapiitendanzin i'iw ani-biindaakoojiged a'aw Anishinaabe.

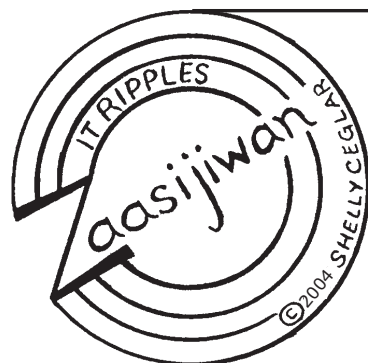
You are not treating the Manidoog in a respectful manner by doing that. You should go and get your tobacco ahead of time that you are going to use in your offering. It is not difficult for Anishinaabe to do that. When Anishinaabe goes and borrows the tobacco he is going to use, it is as if he is showing how little appreciation he has for the offerings made by the Anishinaabe.

Booch igo da-ni-waabamigod inow Manidoon ezhichiged. Mii i'iw enendamaan niin, debinaak wii-toodawaad inow Manidoon, mii-go ge-wiinawaa aazhita debinaak da-ni-doodaagod.

I am sure the Manidoog see what the Anishinaabe is doing. I believe that when Anishinaabe treats the Manidoog with such little consideration, they too will in turn treat their Anishinaabe in the same fashion.

Booch apane a'aw Anishinaabe oada-bimiwinaan inow odasemaan; mii a'aw epenimoyang. Ishke gegoo ani-izhiwebizid maagizhaa gaye inow odinawemaaganan, mii-go gaabige imaa da-asemaakepan bimiwinaad inow odasemaan.

Asemaake continued on page 14



## Ziigwan—It is spring

Ninjiibaakwewikwew. Ninjiibaakwemin. Ziigwan, Anishinaabeg iskgamizigewag. Mii dash ombigamizigewaad. Giizhigamizigewaad, nase'igewag naseyaawangwaaning. Mii dash na'enimowaad izkgamizige-makakong. Gemaa ziiga'iganikewag. Anishinaabe-ziinzibaakwad wiishkobipogwad.

(I am a female cook. We cook. When it is spring, Ojibwe people they boil down maple sap. And then they boil the sap to sugar. When they finish boiling, they stir to form sugar in a sugaring trough. And then they store it away in a sugar-basket. Or they make sugar cones/cakes. Maple sugar tastes sweet.)

### Bezhiq—1

#### OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.  
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO  
Waaboo—as in father  
Bindigen—as in jay  
Giizhik—as in seen  
Naboo—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O  
Dash—as in about  
Imaa—as in tin  
Endasq—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.

#### Noun Locatives

Adding a suffix ang, ing, or ong to a noun will denote location; to the, at the, from the, in the....

waakaa'igan—(an house) (s)  
Waakaa'iganing—to the house  
adoopowin (an)—table (s)  
adoopowining—at the table  
adaawewigamig (oon)—store (s)  
adaawewigamigong—to the store  
dewe'igan (ag)—drum (s)  
dewe'iganing—at the drum  
oodena (wan)—town (s)  
oodenaang—in the town

### Niizh—2

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

A. Endaso giizhik jiiibaakwewigamigong nimbigozige.

B. Gigizheb nookomis gii-paakwezhiiganike.

C. Mewinzha mindimooyeyag ogii-wawiingee'aawaa' abwaaajiganan.

I · I W  
B G T A U R  
G I I Z H I K

N B M G C N N V

V A · Q I L O A S

O K P K W Z P O B E

M A K A D E H · N O B

X D J T X C Z E A G O Y

M E W I N Z H A B F O B

A H O I W A A B O O G M

A N I M B I G O Z I G E

D. Noongom jiiibaakwewikweg ozaasakokwaanaawaa' zaasakokwaan.

E. Gibakade na? Biindigen! Namadabin!

F. Niwii-miijin i'iw naboo.

G. Giwii-minikwe na makade-mashkiki-waaboo?

### Niswi—3

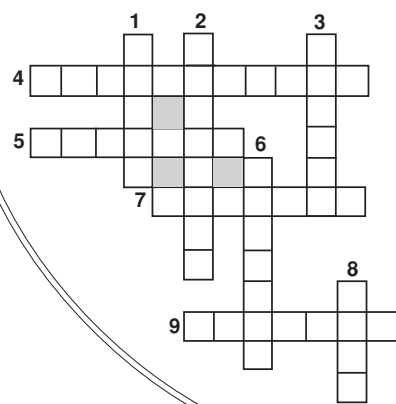
#### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- Or
- You are hungry.
- Egg
- Frying pan
- And

Across:

- They stir to form sugar.
- Dish
- In the morning
- It is spring.



### Niiwin—4

#### Locative Usage

Gizhaabikizigan (an)—stove (s).  
Gizhaabikiziganing—at the, on the stove  
Mikwamii-makak (oon)—fridge, ice-box (es)  
Mikwamii-makakong—in the, to the fridge  
Ishkode—fire  
Ishkodeng—in the, to the fire  
Abwewin—frying pan  
Abwewining—in the frying pan  
Onaagan—dish  
Onaaganing—in the dish

**Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.**

1. Nimijinan miinan adoopowin\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Nimaamaa obiina'aanan waawanoon abwewin\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Waabang ina giwii-izhaa oodena\_\_\_\_\_?

4. Bijiinaago Sue ogii-chiibaakwe'aanan wiyaas ishkode\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Rob idash Tony anokiiwag adaawewigamig\_\_\_\_\_.

#### Translations:

**Niizh—2** A. Every day in the kitchen I bake things. B. In the morning my Grandmother she made bread. C. A long time ago elder women made bread over an open fire. D. Today cooks they fry fry bread. E. Are you hungry? Come in! Sit down! F. I want to eat that soup. G. Do you want to drink black-medicine-liquid (coffee)?

**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Or 2. You are hungry. 3. Egg 4. Frying pan 5. And Across: 4. They stir to form sugar. 5. Dish 6. In the morning 7. Waabang 9. Ziigwan

**Niiwin—4** 1. I eat blueberries at the table. 2. My mother put in eggs in the frying pan. 3. Tomorrow do you want to go to the town? 4. Yesterday Sue she cooked meat in the fire. 5. Rob and Tony are working at the store.

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.

Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Spring 2004. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DNR WELCOMES URBAN STUDENTS



On February 26, the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources hosted a group of students from the All Nations program at Minneapolis South High School.

Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper and Director of Resource Management Kelly Applegate welcomed the students, who put out tobacco before learning ice fishing techniques from DNR staff.

They also had help from the students' history teacher, Vince Patton, who loves to teach history in a hands-on manner. His students learn ricing, sugarbushing, and fishing, and he's even taken them on a buffalo hunt at Pine Ridge, where Vince is enrolled. Students enjoyed their visit to Mille Lacs, and DNR staff had no complaints about spending a day on the lake!



## STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE CONTINUES TO OFFER SERVICES

StrongHearts Native Helpline acknowledges that this is a very difficult time for all Native people. We are very concerned about those most vulnerable, including those who may be in unhealthy or abusive relationships; therefore, we will continue to operate and offer our services as long as possible.

At the StrongHearts office, we are taking the directed social distancing protocols very seriously. As such, callers may experience longer call wait times. Callers may press one at any time to be transferred to The National Domestic Violence Hotline, a non-Native Hotline. The Hotline is also responding to the directed protocols, so callers may experience extended call wait times.

Please note that the StrongHearts website and social media sites are not equipped for support services.

We hope that this situation is temporary. Again, we will continue to operate and offer our services daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central Daylight Time. We apologize for any disruptions in service and thank all of our Native communities for your patience and understanding.

We are here. We are ready to listen.

1-844-7NATIVE

**Asemaake** continued from page 13

Ishke gaye nichiiwak megwaa bimi-ayaawaad ingiw Binesiwag, mii-go gaabige imaa da- biindaakoonapan inow Binesiwag.

*The Anishinaabe should always travel with his tobacco; our tobacco is what we rely on as a people to help us. See, if something happens to that person or his relatives he would be able to put his tobacco immediately if he always carried it with him. Also, if the Thunder-beings should bring on a storm, that Anishinaabe would be able to put his tobacco right away.*

Ishke gaye niwii-ni-dazhindaan, wii-ayaawad awiya da-ganoodamook wii-asemaakeyan, gidaa-naazikawaa giizhaa a'aw akiwenzii maagizhaa gaye mindimooyenh weweni inow asemaan da-o-ininamawad. Maagizhaa gaye wii-wiiyawen'enkawad a'aw giniijaanisens, mii i'iw iwidi akawe asemaan da-ininamawad giizhaa waa-kanoodamook. Gego imaa mazi-naabikiwebinaning gidaa-maajibii'amawaasiin maagizhaa gaye da-ganoonad imaa giigidowining da-nanaandomad a'aw gechi-aya'aawid da-bi-naadamook.

*I also want to mention, if you are looking for a speaker to do a ceremony for you, you should approach that old man or old lady ahead of time and give him or her tobacco. For example if you want to give namesakes to your child, what you should do first is take your tobacco to that Elder who will speak for you. Do not send a text message on the computer or place a call over the phone to the Elder requesting their assistance.*

Ishke gida-mino-doodawaa weweni-go da-ni-izhiwid-amawad inow asemaan. Ishke dash i'iwapii ani-waabamad, mii imaa weweni da-ni-waawiindamook ge-izhichigeyan giizhaa da-ozhiitaayan wii-wiiyawen'enkawad a'aw giniijaanis. Wiin gaye oda-inaakonaan apii ge-okwii'iding da-giizhiikigaadeg waa-izhichigeng. Gaawiin giin gidaa-wiindanziin apii ge-wiiyawen'enkaageng.

*You are being respectful by properly bringing your tobacco to the Elder. When you are there with that Elder, that is when he or she will explain to you what you need to do to prepare for the namesake ceremony for your child. He or she will also be the one who decides the date, time, and place of the ceremony. You should not go ahead and set all that up on your own.*

Aaniin igo akeyaa a'aw Anishinaabe ezhi-misawendang da-naadamawind wii-ni-biindaakoojiged. Weweni odao-naazikawaan da-o-asemaakawaad inow waa-anoonaajin da-ganoodamaagod. Mii i'iw apane a'aw Anishinaabe ishkweyaang gaa-izhichiged imaa waabanda'iwed ezhi-apiitendang gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang anishinaabewiyang. Gii-wawiiingezi a'aw Anishinaabe ishkweyaang gaa-ayaad.

*This also pertains to whatever kind of ceremony that Anishinaabe wants done. You should respectfully take the tobacco over to the one that you want to talk for you. This is what our ancestors had always done showing their appreciation for what we have been given as Anishinaabe. The Anishinaabe of the past were real thorough in their approach to our ceremonies.*

Niwaabandaan debinaak wii-ni-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe noongom wenji-ozhibii'amaan o'ow. Ishke aanind giizhaa ezhi-inaakonigewaad owapii waa-tanakamigiziwaad wii-asemaakewaad, gaawiin akawe nimbi-wiindamaagosiig apii waa-okwii'idiwaad. Ishke gaye aaningodinong ani-dagoshinaan waa-tanakamigiziwaad, niwaabandaan gaawiin weweni gii-ozhitaasiwag. Maagizhaa gaye gaawiin gii-poodawesiiwag agwajiiing, gemaa gaye gaawiin ojiibaakwaaniwaan imaa atemagasiniini, maagizhaa gaye wawaaj igo inow asemaan odayaawaasiwaawaan.

*Nowadays I see Anishinaabe being careless, which is the reason I am writing this. Some will set the date, time, and place for the ceremony they want to do without contacting me beforehand. There are times that I will arrive at the place of the ceremony and see that they are not prepared. Maybe the fire has not been made outside, or possibly they have not cooked the food that will be used in the ceremony, or they may not even have tobacco on hand that they are going to use.*

Gaawiin i'iw daa-izhiwebasinoon bi-naazikawiwaad giizhaa dabwaa-danakamigiziwaad. Mii iko imaa weweni ani-waawiindamawagwaa ge-izhichigewaad da-ozhiitaawaad.

*This would not happen if they had brought me tobacco ahead of time before the ceremony itself. At the time they bring me tobacco is when I tell them what needs to be done to prepare ahead of time.*

## ADULT CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST WINNER

# LITTLE GIRL WITH A LOST VOICE

By Valerie Harrington Mille Lacs Band Member

There was a little girl who didn't know who she was and lost her voice. She grew up with her great grandparents learning about culture and a little about Ojibwe language. She would watch them help at ceremonial drum. She would see her great grandpa putting tobacco by a tree. Her great grandparents wouldn't teach her the language; they would only speak it when they didn't want her to understand what they were talking about. They taught her how to clean animals, how to gather berries, how to winnow wild rice, and how to share with people. Her great grandparents taught her to make sure you take care of other people. They instilled in her that no one was above or below her, but she didn't feel that at the time.

She also grew up going to church and listening to church songs and learned to sing the songs. She felt out of place there. She didn't know where her place was.

She missed her mom and dad. She often wondered if they were okay and when she would be with them. Her mother was in another state trying to get her life together and overcome her addiction. Her father didn't have rights. Courts were not favorable to men back then.

Something ugly happened to her, and she couldn't tell anyone, so she lost her voice and confidence. She grew up with an emptiness inside her. She always wondered who she really was, and she slipped away. She started to become the person she didn't want to be even though she had her parents back in her life. She became an alcoholic and young mother. She slipped further away when her uncle died.

She didn't like who she became. She didn't like the time she lost her children. She didn't like letting down her family. She went through many struggles, divorce, and things you don't talk about. She struggled to learn her identity. She still doesn't like who she is, even though her children think she is the best mother in the world. She fought the black spirit and

had to work on herself.

She had a spiritual awakening when she was driving intoxicated and slid on some ice. The car was going right toward trees, and she didn't have her seat belt on. She could feel an arm across her chest holding her in the seat, and she crashed into a snow bank barely and perfectly between two trees. There was no way she should've missed the trees. It was a miracle, and it was a sign from her Uncle and the Creator. Her heart sank as she thought she could've killed someone while driving intoxicated.

She started to find things that made her heart warm. She worked on her relationship with herself and her parents. She started attending meetings and sharing openly and honestly about herself. All the things she was afraid to talk about she finally got off her chest, and a weight was lifted. She attended her first sweat lodge and had a life-changing experience. She saw bright lights in the sweat lodge and felt like her great grandparents were in the lodge.

She started seeking things that made her inner light shine. She started to put out asemaa by a tree every day. She prayed. She started helping other people. She found her value. She went back to school. She started attending Ojibwe classes. She started attending ceremonies. She cried at the ceremonial drum hearing the language and the songs. There were happy tears. She started getting involved in her community and helping her community. She finally realized that she had to go through all the hardships in life for her to get to where she is and who she is today.

Today she is a loving mother, proud Grammy, grateful daughter, loving fiancé, protective sister, fun auntie, caring weeh, loyal friend, and dedicated employee. Although that little girl is still in there that lost her voice, as a woman she now knows who she is, fought hard to get her confidence back, and now knows her true meaning of happiness...family.

## TRADITIONAL MEDICINES HELPING COMMUNITIES

By Katie Draper, Commissioner of Natural Resources

As Anishinaabe, traditional medicines have been a vital part of our communities for hundreds of years. With the recent threat of COVID-19 infecting our region, the Band's Department of Natural Resources staff have pulled together to harvest some of these medicines to be shared with Band members in all districts. Cedar and sage, otherwise known as "Cultural Packs" have been harvested and delivered to more than 200 homes to date.

Cedar tea, when enjoyed in moderation (recommended 1 cup per day), promotes a healthy immune system and will aid in combating fever, sore throat, cough, bronchitis, and pneumonia. The steam that is created while boiling the tea will help cleanse the air. Burning sage will also help cleanse the air along with our spirit. Both of these medicines provide comfort and wellness when used in a good way. Minimal amounts of swamp tea and chaga have been harvested, and will be distributed on a limited basis due to quantity on hand.

The Department of Natural Resources staff has been instrumental in harvesting and sharing with our communities; however, if members of our communities are able to harvest and share with others, they are encouraged to do so. Even though this pandemic is upon us, the number of community members who have stepped up to help others is very humbling. These efforts demonstrate the level of compassion that is instilled in all of us. More than ever, we need to come together to help each other while being mindful of safe distancing and self-wellness. Miigwech to all who have helped our communities!

Daga miizh asemaa wii-nandomad awiya da-azhe-miinik mashkiki. Daga asemaakaw awiya da-naadimishkikiitamook. Please offer your tobacco for the medicines, people who harvested, families and communities.

If you would like a Cultural Pack please contact one of the numbers below:

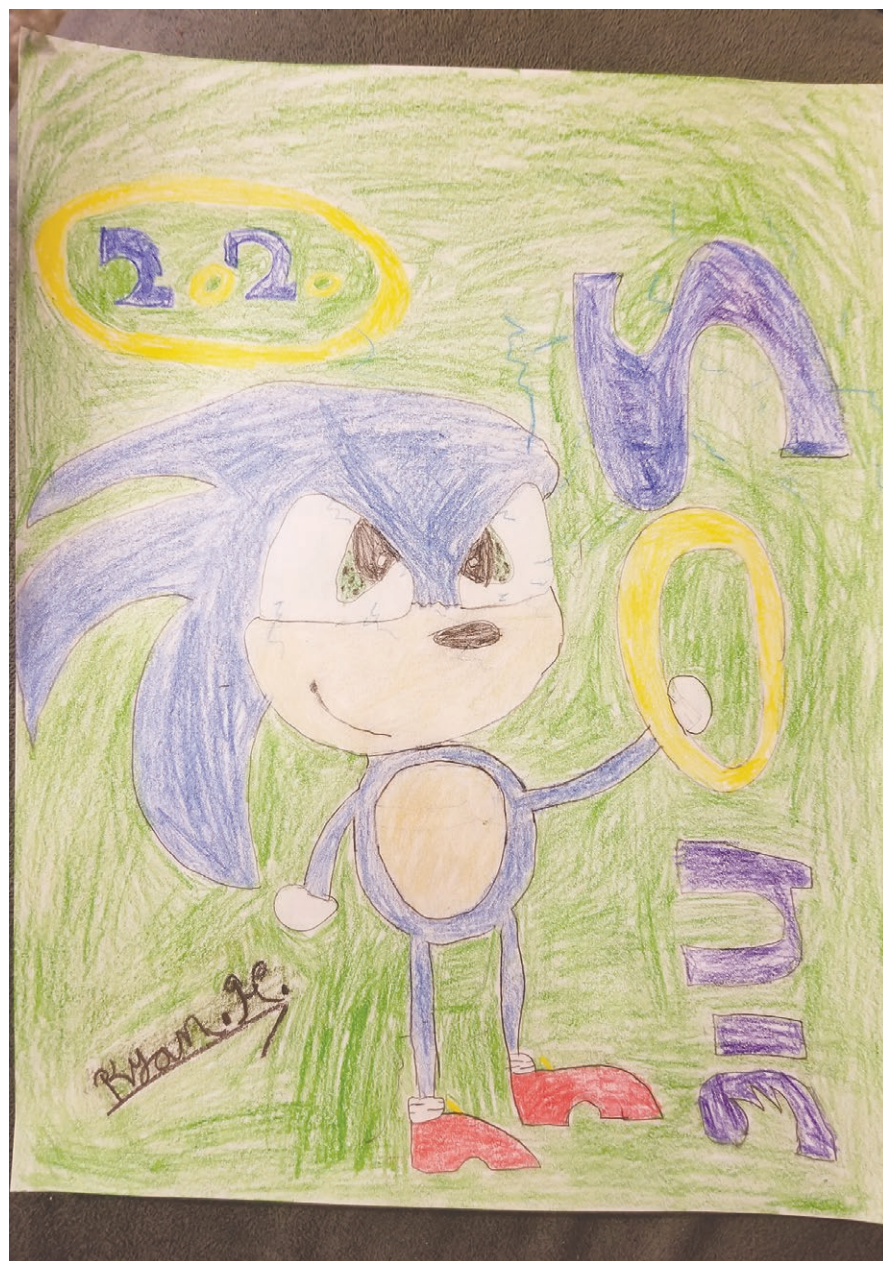
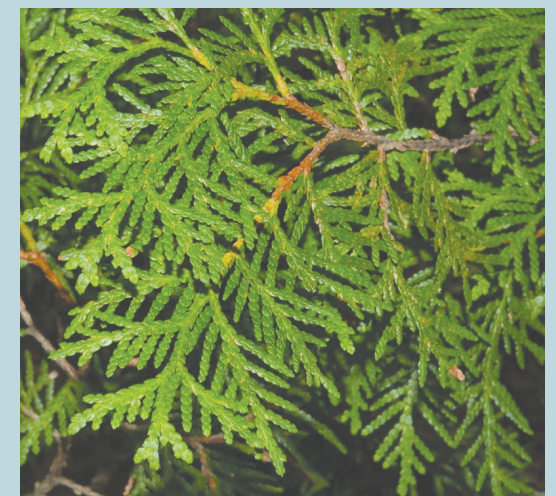
District I: Dan Wind 320-364-9528 or Todd Moilanen 320-515-1903

District II East Lake: Daryl Aubid or Todd Moilanen 320-515-1903

District IIa: Todd Moilanen 320-515-1903

District III: Vanessa Gibbs via Facebook messenger or Katie Draper 320-515-0846

Urban: Wahbon Spears 612-872-4265 or 612-360-5486.



## ART CONTEST WINNER

Kyan Hemenway, a third-grader from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, was the winner of the Inaajimowin's elementary art contest. Kyan will receive a \$50 gift card. Kyan's mom, Tish, says he is a proud Band member! Next month's contest is for high school photography. Prizes are \$200 for first place, \$100 for second, and \$50 for third, and publication in the May Inaajimowin. Send entries by April 15 to news@millelacsband.com or Government Affairs, 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359.

## AROUND THE RESERVATION

### HELP AVAILABLE FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Family Violence Prevention Program is still providing advocacy for domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, and human trafficking. If you need help, don't hesitate to call one of the numbers below.

24/7 Crisis Line: 1-866-867-4006

Shelter Manager: 320-630-2677

FVPP Administrator: 320-630-2499

CSS Director: 320-630-2687

#### Elder Abuse Advocates:

Cynthia Guernsey: 320-362-4941

Mike Davis: 320-630-7666

#### Sexual Assault Program:

Kala Roberts: 320-630-2691

Petra Mauricio: 320-362-4995

#### Victims of Crime:

Melissa Sanvig: 320-364-3568

#### Community Advocates:

Nanette DesJarlais: 320-362-0642

Winnie Davis: 320-674-0790

Kris Sheppard: 320-630-3811

The Family Violence Prevention Program staff are ensuring the health and safety of everyone during this time. Transports and advocacy will be provided on an emergency basis only. All staff are available by the numbers provided.

### SPRING CEREMONIAL DANCES

**April 3 – 4:** Mic and Syngen, Mille Lacs

**April 10 – 11:** Ralph and Andy, Mille Lacs

**April 17 – 18:** Lynda and Joyce, Mille Lacs

**April 24 – 25:** Joe and George, Mille Lacs

**May 1 – 2:** Elmer and Sheldon, Mille Lacs

**May 8 – 9:** Niib and Iyawbance, East Lake

**May 8 – 9:** Skip and Darrell, Lake Lena

**May 15 – 16:** Lee and Mike, Lake Lena

**May 22 – 23:** Dale and Vincent, East Lake

**May 29 – 30:** Bob and John, Mille Lacs

**June 5 – 6:** Tim and Tom, East Lake



### COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

The Tribal Emergency Management program provided CPR/AED and First Aid training for Four Winds staff on Friday, February 28. 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.

## BAGESI — A TEACHING BY AMIK SMALLWOOD

As remembered by Amikogaabawiiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin)

During my time spent with Amikoban, he would often talk about teachings behind many things that we do as Anishinaabeg. One of the things that I was fortunate enough to learn from him was the story that he was told about the Bagesi game.



I want to say that this is to the best of my memory from the things that he told me in different conversations that we had over time.

Bagesi was a game that Amikoban loved to play. It lit up his face, it drew inflections in his voice, and you could tell that the game had brought much joy to him in his days.

One time while we were playing the game together, he told me about the beliefs and origins of this game and even why some communities in Anishinaabeg-akiing even choose not to play it.

This is the story that he shared:

Wenabozho played this game with a wiindigo for the wellness of the people. They had suffered many hardships and were at a breaking point of sorts when Wenabozho had seen enough and challenged the wiindigo to a game.

The game that was suggested was Bagesi.

After many losses, pleadings, and compromises, Wenabozho finally decided to make an outrageous offer as he often did. He said, "If I can make all of the bone pieces stand up on edge, you will leave my people alone so that they can live a good life." The Wiindigo laughed, knowing that no mere man would ever be able to perform such a task. It was a good thing for the Anishinaabeg that Wenabozho was no mere man.

Wenabozho took a deep breath, and as the bowl came crashing softly into the pillow, the bone pieces not



only stood on edge, they stood on the edge of the dish. Wenabozho stood up and started to gloat a little bit when that wiindigo accused him of cheating. They argued and argued until finally the wiindigo believed him and kept his end of the bargain, and he and his kind left the Anishinaabeg alone that day.

Amikoban explained that some communities across Anishinaabe-akiing do not play this game because in some ways it is "playing a wiindigo game."

In the teachings that we hold here in Mille Lacs, this game is played by families, friends, and sometimes even for gambling purposes.

It is another popular practice with this game that if even one of the pieces stand up when the bone pieces are shaken by a player, the player who accomplished that should inherit or take home that game no matter whose it is because they were able to perform that amazing task.

I am retelling this as respectfully and thoughtfully as is allowed by my memory. I was offered tobacco for the telling of this story, and I am sharing it as it was shared with me so that others may also learn about it.

Mi'iw.

If you're interested in writing for Ojibwe Inaajimowin, email [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-495-5006.



### WOODLAND DANCE

Nay Ah Shing hosted a Woodland Dance Community Exhibit on March 5. Miisheen Shawanda, above, talked about the war clubs that are part of the Woodland Dance. Noodin Shawanda, below, talked about the different pieces of regalia. Cedric Bearheart, I6, volunteered to model regalia and join in the woodland dance.







## STUDENTS FIND THEMSELVES AT HISTORY CENTER

On Friday, February 27, Nay Ah Shing 10th-12th graders went to St. Paul to visit the "Our Home — Native Minnesota" exhibit at the Minnesota History Center. On display were remarkable works of art, including a jacket and bandolier bag. Of particular interest was Mia Sam dancing in the panorama powwow video in the "Arbor," and Dee Dee Jackson, Iliana Sam, William Boyd, and Alicia Aguilar featured in a photo by the tullibee smoking shed on school grounds. DeAngelo Sam had fun posing on the lighted dance floor of the Prince exhibit.

# HELP THE GRA GUARD AGAINST FRAUD

MLBSA 15 § 1 (c), "The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Assembly finds that: ... Band Regulation and control of gaming on Band Lands is necessary in order to ensure the welfare and best interests of the Band, its members and patrons of the Band's gaming enterprises, prevent any proliferation of organized crime and other corrupting influences on Band Lands, protect the fairness of gaming conducted on Band Lands and preserve the political integrity of the Band."

### FRAUD HOTLINE 320-384-4519

If you witness, suspect, or know of fraudulent, improper, or suspicious activity at any Grand Casino location, please contact the Fraud Hotline immediately. When you contact the Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) via the hotline, provide as much detail as possible. We may need to contact you for additional information, so we ask that you please include contact information, though this is not required. All reports will be kept confidential.

Other GRA resources directly available to receive tips or reports include:

- Becky Houle, Executive Director, 320-532-8194
- Teresa Kozumplik, Assistant Executive Director, 320-384-4811
- Kevin Cheesman, Director of Surveillance, 320-384-4786

## GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

- Cassey Veith, Director of Licensing Investigations, 320-532-8121
- Becky Majzner, Director of Compliance, 320-384-4807

### What is the GRA?

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](http://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.

## APRIL 20 MINOR TRUST TRAINING POSTPONED

When Mille Lacs Band youth reach adulthood, they gain access to their trust fund. To help young Band members make smart decisions and plan for the future, the Mille Lacs Band's Office of Management and Budget offers a Minor Trust Training course twice a year for high school students.

The next training was scheduled for April 20 at Grand Casino Events and Convention Center, but with the stay-at-home order, the training will be rescheduled for a later date.

High school students or their parents interested in future Minor Trust Training should contact Danni Jo Harkness at [danni-jo.harkness@millelacsband.com](mailto:danni-jo.harkness@millelacsband.com) or 320-532-7466.

The course will be led by financial advisors with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Rapid City, S.D., the firm that manages the minor trust accounts for the Band.

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

The Band reaches out to students as early as possible because it is very important that Band children turning 18 have the basic knowledge and skills to make critical personal financial decisions.

The world has become very complicated and technology-driven, so children need to learn how to manage their financial affairs properly to avoid becoming victims. Proper management of their financial resources today will help them to minimize or eliminate future financial hardships as young adults.

Our Band children need to become informed consumers and financially secure adults. Minor Trust Training is a small beginning of a lifelong journey in developing these skillsets.

# CATCH-AND-RELEASE ONLY FOR STATE WALLEYE ANGLERS ON MILLE LACS

Walleye angling on Mille Lacs Lake will be catch-and-release only for this year's open water season, with the exception of the month of July, when walleye fishing will be closed.

Additionally, anglers will not be allowed to use live bait for any species in July, except sucker minnows greater than eight inches in length for targeting northern pike and muskellunge.

The new walleye rule is among several regulations changes this year. Bass and northern pike also have new regulations. The restrictive walleye rule for the open water season is due in part to a record ice fishing season on Mille Lacs this winter.

Poor ice conditions on other lakes focused attention on Mille Lacs, resulting in the highest fishing pressure there in 30 years: almost 30,000 pounds of harvest. This leaves only 57,800 pounds available for the state's open water season under the safe harvest level established for 2020 by the state and the eight Chippewa bands that have treaty fishing rights.

"We know any summer walleye closure is disappointing, but anglers have told us they prefer a planned temporary closure in July to an unplanned one later in the season," said Brad Parsons, fisheries section manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "The addition of the live bait ban allows for the shortest closure to ensure we remain within the set allocation and support the long-term interest of the walleye fishery."

Walleye are particularly vulnerable in July because, as water temperature increases, so too does "hooking mortality"—the tendency for fish to die after being caught and released. By implementing fishing restrictions when walleye are most vulnerable, and reducing angler take, anglers could potentially gain two months or more of late-summer and fall fishing.

Walleye season opens on Saturday, May 9, and continues through Monday, November 30.

### Other regulations

Mille Lacs also is a destination for quality bass, northern pike, and muskellunge fishing.

During the July live bait ban, anglers targeting northern pike and muskellunge can use sucker minnows greater than eight inches in length.

New regulations to maintain and improve fishing for bass and northern pike include:

Immediate release of all smallmouth and largemouth bass greater than 17 inches during the harvest season that begins Saturday, May 23.

Limit of three largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Release all northern pike greater than 30 inches.

Limit of three northern pike from Saturday, May 9, through Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## APRIL ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Roland Lee Anderson  
Susan Mary Antonelli  
Dorothy Ann Aubid  
Terry Louis Beaulieu  
Janet Lee Benjamin  
Myron Jay Benjamin  
Donald James Boyd  
Donivon Leroy Boyd  
Wayne Theodore Boyd  
Debra Lynn Ceballos  
Sharon Lee Chavarria  
Raymond Charles Daly  
Connie Lynn DeMarsh  
Wesley Dorr  
Kathleen Marie Earth  
Rhonda Kay Engberg  
Dana Rachele Fahrlander  
Nancy Mae Foster  
Denise Renee Foxx  
Duane Wallace Haaf  
Gwendolyn Marie Hanold  
Douglas Happy  
Darryl Vernon Jackson  
James Brian Jones  
Raymond Kegg  
Leroy Duane Kegg  
Victoria Jean Kroschel  
Glenda Marie Landon-Rosado  
Laura Ann MacClean  
Louis Kevin Merrill  
Gregory Allen Mishler  
Karen Nina Moe  
Russell Daniel Nayquonabe  
Bonita Louise Nayquonabe  
Donald John Nelson  
Gloria Jean Nickaboine  
Sherry Marie Nielsen  
Dianne Renee Olsen  
Penelope Ann Olseth  
Jamie Ernest Pardun  
Ricky Harold Pardun  
Gregory Allen Pawlitschek  
Elaine Mary Rea

Solita Efigenia Reum  
Richard James Reynolds  
Laurie Jean Rogerson  
Denise Fay Sargent  
Darlene Rae Savage  
Ruth Anne Schaaf  
George Augustus Sharlow  
Perry Don Skinaway  
Debra Ann Smith  
Rodney Wayne Smith  
Marvin Lee Staples  
Walter Charles Sutton  
Carmen Marie Tyler  
Gail Marie Tyson  
Brandon Lynn Vainio  
Robert Duane Wakanabo  
Deanna Louise Weous  
Eloise Alice Yanez

## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Henry** on 4/14 love mom, dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Montana, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, and Adam. • Happy birthday **Aiva** on 4/26, love Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla and Montana • Happy birthday **Kelia A.** on 4/20, from mom, Rachel, Railei, uncle Richard, Candace, Cyrell B, Camden, Carmelo, Grandma Marlys, and Grandpa Anthony • Happy birthday **Anthony B.** on 4/21, from your wife, Marlys.

## NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR 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](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or **320-495-5006**. The deadline for the April issue is March 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please contact the Government Affairs office at 320-495-5006 or email [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday. Send calendar items to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-495-5006.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. For stories of 500 words or more, compensation is \$400. The deadline for stories is the 15th of each month.

If you have a story to submit or would like more information, please email [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-495-5006.

## ELDERS NEEDED!

The Government Affairs Department is seeking Elders to tell their stories for a new Moccasin Telegraph series as well as to preserve video and audio in the Mille Lacs Band archives for future generations. If you are willing to participate in a two-hour video interview to share your memories, please email [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-495-5006.



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Cedric Bearheart was named Nay Ah Shing's Student of the Month for Namebini-giizis (February). Cedric was chosen by unanimous vote among 6th-12th grade staff for his continued academic progress and leadership among his peers and classmates. Another highlight for Mr. Bearheart: He recently placed 2nd in his category (grass) at the Prairie Island Winter Wacipi. Assistant Principal Byron Ninham said, "Cedric is a strong example for his peers to look to, and we greatly enjoy our time together at NASS."

## STUDENT WRITERS WIN AWARDS

Four Nay Ah Shing students won awards through the Detroit Lakes Schools Native American Fine Arts contest earlier this month: Delilah Mitchell, Karli Nayquonabe, Caleb Sam, Chase Sam. Nice job!

## HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is sponsoring monthly contests this year in writing, visual arts, and photography. This month's contest is for high school photography. Students in grades 7 through 12 who are Band members, descendants, or community members from other bands/tribes can email their photos by April 15 to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com). The topic is up to you, since the topic we originally chose, Rez Life, may be difficult given the social distancing required due to coronavirus.

# 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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Spring Cleanup:** Due to the coronavirus situation, please watch Facebook or [millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com) for updates to the spring cleanup schedule. Cleanup was originally planned for the following dates: District I, April 18-24; District II, May 2-8; District III, April 25-May 1. Elders: Call the Public Works office at 320-532-7433 with questions or to be placed on the list for pickup.

**Chiminising Pet Clinic:** April 25-26

**Art Gahbow Day:** April 27. Government offices closed.

**Noon Closing:** May 22

**Memorial Day:** May 25. Government offices closed.

**Hinckley Pet Clinics:** May 24, August 30

**Minisinaakwaang Pet Clinic:** June 27-28

**Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow:** August 21-23

**Aazhoomog Pet Clinic:** October 10-11

**Nay Ah Shing Pet Clinic:** November 14-15

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>BAND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS</b></p> <p>For the duration of the Stay at Home Order, Band Assembly will meet as necessary via telephone conference call. Please watch for updates on Facebook. When the State of Emergency is over, Band Assembly meetings will once again be open to all Band members and held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. Band members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181 with questions or follow the Legislative Branch on Facebook at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/millelacsbandlegislativebranch/">www.facebook.com/millelacsbandlegislativebranch/</a>.</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p><i>Given the cancellation of most events this month, we'll use the calendar to share useful ideas for keeping yourself and your kids active and educated! Miigwech to Native Governance Center, Aanjibimaadizing, and Sharyl WhiteHawk for ideas!</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><i>Check out Indigenous online films at <a href="http://www.nfb.ca/indigenous-cinema">www.nfb.ca/indigenous-cinema</a></i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Mic and Syngen's Ceremonial Drum Mille Lacs</b></p> <p><i>Try these nature activities for children during pandemic: <a href="http://www.childrenandnature.org/2020/03/16/10-nature-activities-to-help-get-your-family-through-the-pandemic">www.childrenandnature.org/2020/03/16/10-nature-activities-to-help-get-your-family-through-the-pandemic</a></i></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Mic and Syngen's Ceremonial Drum Mille Lacs</b></p> <p><i>Ojibwe Inaajimowin is sponsoring a high school photography contest this month. Students in grades 7 through 12 are invited to send photos by April 15 to <a href="mailto:news@millelacsband.com">news@millelacsband.com</a>.</i></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><i>Find educational resources from the Museum of the American Indian at <a href="http://americanindian.si.edu/nk360">americanindian.si.edu/nk360</a></i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><i>Thunderbird Strike is an online video game with an Indigenous theme <a href="http://www.thunderbirdstrike.com">www.thunderbirdstrike.com</a></i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Inaajimowin Conference Call 11 a.m. If you would like to participate, call 320-495-5006 or email <a href="mailto:news@millelacsband.com">news@millelacsband.com</a>.</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><i>Give an Elder a call today to see how they're doing and give them someone to talk to.</i></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Millelacsband.com</b> is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Ralph and Andy's Ceremonial Drum Mille Lacs</b></p> <p><i>Try this Indigenous paper mache doll project with your kids: <a href="http://www.marissamanitowabi.net/blog/creating-gratitude">www.marissamanitowabi.net/blog/creating-gratitude</a></i></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Ralph and Andy's Ceremonial Drum Mille Lacs</b></p> <p><i>The deadline for the May issue is April 15. Send submissions to <a href="mailto:news@millelacsband.com">news@millelacsband.com</a> or call 320-495-5006.</i></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><i>Do you need sobriety support? Search <b>Mino Miikana (A good path)</b> on Facebook!</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><i>Our Elders and Ancestors were gardeners! Consider starting some seeds and planning your garden. <a href="https://kidsgardening.org/lesson-plans-three-sisters-garden/">https://kidsgardening.org/lesson-plans-three-sisters-garden/</a></i></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><i>Watch "The Woodlands: The Story of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe" at <a href="https://youtu.be/p29pYy0kW3g">https://youtu.be/p29pYy0kW3g</a></i></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><i>Learn about Indigenous rights by reading the U.N. Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples: <a href="https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html">https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html</a></i></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><i>"When Rivers Were Trails" is an adventure game about the impact of colonization on Indigenous communities: <a href="http://indianlandtenure.itch.io/when-rivers-were-trails">indianlandtenure.itch.io/when-rivers-were-trails</a></i></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Lynda and Joyce's Ceremonial Drum Mille Lacs</b></p> <p><i>Learn to make traditional Ojibwe foods. For manoomin recipes, visit <a href="https://www.glifwc.org/publications/pdf/Fall2008_Manoomin_Supplement.pdf">https://www.glifwc.org/publications/pdf/Fall2008_Manoomin_Supplement.pdf</a></i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Lynda and Joyce's Ceremonial Drum Mille Lacs</b></p> <p><i>It's okay to go for a walk if you maintain 6-foot separation from anyone you don't live with! Get out and enjoy <i>ziigwan!</i></i></p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><i>The spring migration is underway! Learn to identify <i>bineshiinhyag</i> at <a href="https://www.birds.cornell.edu">https://www.birds.cornell.edu</a>.</i></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><i>Learn about Great Lakes Native Culture and Language by watching "The Ways": <a href="https://theways.org/story/spearfishing">https://theways.org/story/spearfishing</a></i></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><i>Play "Growing Up Ojibwe: The Game" at <a href="https://glifwc.itch.io/growing-up-ogjibwe-the-game">https://glifwc.itch.io/growing-up-ogjibwe-the-game</a></i></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><i>Are you ready for spring netting, spearing, and angling? If not, call an Elder or the DNR for advice on how to join the harvest this spring!</i></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><i>Learn about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's history with the Student Government Handbook: <a href="https://millelacsband.com/news/mct-student-handbook">https://millelacsband.com/news/mct-student-handbook</a></i></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Joe and George's Ceremonial Drum Mille Lacs</b></p> <p><i>Take a free class from Saylor Academy! <a href="http://www.facebook.com/SaylorAcademy">www.facebook.com/SaylorAcademy</a></i></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Joe and George's Ceremonial Drum Mille Lacs</b></p> <p><i>Play Indigenous educational games at <a href="http://www.7generationgames.com">www.7generationgames.com</a></i></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><i>Learn to identify medicinal and edible plants this spring! Start with ostrich fern fiddleheads, which should be coming up any day now! Cook them like broccoli or green beans. <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiddlehead_fern">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiddlehead_fern</a>.</i></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Art Gahbow Day Government offices closed.</b></p> <p><i>Learn a traditional craft like beading, sewing, or birch bark. Don't know where to begin? Ask an Elder or check out <a href="https://intersectingart.umn.edu/?lessons">https://intersectingart.umn.edu/?lessons</a> or <a href="https://www.powwows.com/main/craft-tutorials/">https://www.powwows.com/main/craft-tutorials/</a></i></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><i>Zaagibagaang: Anishinaabe Values in Action shares all kinds of useful information about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: <a href="http://zaagibagaang.com">https://zaagibagaang.com</a></i></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><i>Look up words or practice your Ojibwemowin at <a href="https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu">https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu</a>. And check out these materials for kids (and adult learners) from GLIFWC: <a href="https://www.glifwc-inwe.com">https://www.glifwc-inwe.com</a></i></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><i>Read back issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin at <a href="https://millelacsband.com/news/inaajimowin-archive">https://millelacsband.com/news/inaajimowin-archive</a></i></p>	<p><b>VISIT THE WEBSITE!</b></p> <p>Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services. The homepage, <a href="http://millelacsband.com">millelacsband.com</a>, has links to all of those pages as well as government departments, programs, and services.</p> <p><b>SPRING CLEANUP</b></p> <p>Due to the coronavirus situation, please watch Facebook or <a href="http://millelacsband.com">millelacsband.com</a> for updates to the spring cleanup schedule.</p>	



**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE**  
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[millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com)

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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](http://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](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-495-5006. The May issue deadline is April 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



The Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) and Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk have been preparing for years for an emergency like COVID-19. Thanks to their planning efforts, the Band was ready to respond.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
ISSUES STAY AT  
HOME ORDER**  
page 2

**SCHOOL STAFF  
STEPS UP AS  
CRISIS DEVELOPS**  
pages 3, 5, 7

**AADIZOOKEWIN IS  
MORE THAN JUST  
STORYTELLING**  
page 9

**STAFF CONTACT  
NUMBERS DURING  
EMERGENCY**  
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