

# OJIBWE LINAAJIMOWIN

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THE STORY AS IT'S TOLD



## NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR HHS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SETTLES IN

The Mille Lacs Band's Health and Human Services Department has moved into a beautiful, state-of-the-art headquarters on Timber Trail Road in District I.

The move, which took place in mid-June, brings together Ne-la-Shing Clinic and Pharmacy, the Family Services Department, the Public Health Department, Substance Use Disorder Services, and Community Support Services.

Family Services had been temporarily located in Onamia, while Public Health and Community Support Services shared a decades-old modular unit on Noopiming Drive.

The new building is a warm and welcoming environment for Band members and a comfortable home for HHS employees.



Melanie Benjamin



Carolyn Beaulieu

## PRIMARY ELECTION NARROWS FIELD

*General election is August 18*

After the votes were tallied from the June 9 primary election, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and former Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu will advance to the August 18 general election, along with District I Representative Sandra Blake and challenger Virgil Wind.

Melanie received 43 percent of the vote to 30 percent for Carolyn. In third place with 16 percent was another former Secretary/Treasurer, Curt Kalk. Wanetta Thompson received 8 percent of the vote, Ronald Davis received 1.5 percent, and Tania Aubid received less than 1 percent.

"I'm both grateful and humbled by the strong showing of support from Band members," said Melanie. "I learned tribal politics from Art Gahbow and Roger Jourdain, who fought all their battles with joy, vigor, and with honor. We have achieved so many big wins for the Band over the past four years and there is more work to do. I look forward to us achieving those victories together."

Carolyn said, "Chi Miigwech to those Band members who voted and all the other candidates that participated in the primary election. The results of the primary election show that a majority of Band members want change. We can begin these changes by using our vote again at the general election on Tuesday, August 18, 2020!"

With over 48 percent of the vote in District I, Virgil Wind came in first in the race for District I Representative.

"Power to the people!" was Virgil's response. "A very grateful, gracious, heartfelt, THANK YOU to everyone who voted! This thank you extends to everyone who has shown support throughout this campaign. I am very humbled and honored to have the support of such great people. To everyone who entered the election, you are awesome! A special congratulations to Melanie, Carolyn, and Sandi. I respect you all. I am extremely excited, honored, and humbled by the turnout. Together we will change tomorrow!"

Sandra Blake, who has served as District I Representative since 2008, came in second with over 29 percent of the vote.

"Congratulations to Carolyn, Melanie, and Virgil for making it into the general election," said Sandi. "Miigwech to Ginger, Val, and Nick for a great campaign. You are all awesome, and any one of you would make a good district representative. Miigwech to each and every Band member who believes in me and came out and supported me in the primary."

**Primary election** see page 4

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

As COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the Mille Lacs Reservation and nearby communities, it is important to remember we are each responsible for our own health and self-care. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health and Human Services is here to support the community in many ways, and the best advice we can offer is for each individual to do their part to protect themselves and their loved ones. It is up to you to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We understand it may look like the greatest threat is over as businesses and activities across the state and on our own Reservation begin to re-open. However, the Minnesota Department of Health is predicting that the peak of COVID-19 has not yet hit Minnesota. MLBO HHS and Public Health recommend following the guidelines set forth by the CDC and MDH. It is safest to assume everyone you meet is positive for COVID-19.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 FOR WAYS TO KEEP YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE!

# 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. This past month brought about many changes as the State of Minnesota began to gradually reopen. Our two casinos, Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley, reopened in June, as did all other tribally-owned casinos in Minnesota with the exception of Grand Portage, which is dependent on the U.S.-Canadian border re-opening. Initial reports are exciting — both of our casinos have performed very well so far. Although it will be impossible to recover the lost revenue from three months of closure, we are on the road to economic recovery.

A very significant, positive change happened in June for Band members. After COVID-19-related delays, our Health and Human Services Department was finally able to move into our beautiful new facility, which will result in expanded and more efficient services for Band members. The opening of our new clinic is a huge achievement, which has been six years in the making. Mille Lacs Band members now have access to a state-of-the-art clinic that is one of the very best in Minnesota.

As Chief Executive, I continue to have daily telephone conferences with the Governor and Lt. Governor's office along with other tribal leaders to discuss policy changes and needs we have which state agencies can assist with. We have also continued our close communication with the U.S. Department of Interior, Treasury, and the White House as we advocate for a fair share of CARES Act funding through a fair formula. CARES Act funds at Mille Lacs are being used to replace casino revenue that previously funded government programs and services.

Throughout June, I've also been holding weekly Cabinet meetings with the commissioners. The Executive Branch is in the process of planning for a very careful, gradual phased-in expansion of programs and services that we were forced to

scale back due to COVID-19. There are many safety concerns to take into consideration for both employees and Band Members. Until a vaccine is available, there are adjustments that will be necessary including the continued use of technology to conduct government business and communicate. Band Members and employees will receive more information about this plan as it becomes available.

**"THE OPENING OF OUR NEW CLINIC IS A HUGE ACHIEVEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN SIX YEARS IN THE MAKING. MILLE LACS BAND MEMBERS NOW HAVE ACCESS TO A STATE-OF-THE-ART CLINIC THAT IS ONE OF THE VERY BEST IN MINNESOTA."**

In the Executive Branch, we continue to be very focused on ensuring that the basic needs of Band members are met during this crisis. Through a partnership with the Mayo Clinic, more than 300 Band members were tested for COVID-19 throughout all districts and the urban area. Food distribution has been regularly occurring for Elders in the three districts and in the urban area, and meal delivery continues for our Nay Ah Shing school children.

The Band is still urging Band Elders and Band members with underlying health conditions to remain home, due to the continued spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan are stressing that reopening of

business in Minnesota does not mean that it is safer to leave our homes than it was in March.

In fact, for outstate Minnesota and our tribal communities, there is now a higher chance of contracting COVID-19 because it has hit our tribal communities. Like other Band members, I have noticed that many Minnesotans seem to have quit wearing masks. This makes going to stores and other events even more dangerous. Please continue to comply with our health recommendations and remain home much as possible, and if you are required to leave the home, please be more vigilant than ever about wearing masks, practicing frequent hand-washing, and social distancing.

In response to the murder of George Floyd, many Americans who were not aware of how bad racism still is in America are now participating in a movement to end racist systems in Minnesota and the United States. The Band is working closely with other tribes and communities of color on these issues, and we recently issued the Statement of Solidarity printed below, which I encourage everyone to read.

On a final note, I want to give a shout out to Mille Lacs Band Members who helped protect our tribal businesses and organizations in the Franklin Avenue area of Minneapolis and Little Earth. Also, miigwech to our urban Indian community and leaders who organized this amazing effort. This was a powerful example of the impact American Indian people make when we come together as a united front, which also inspired other communities to begin organizing their neighborhoods to protect their people as well.

Miigwech to all Band members for your contributions to our Band and community. Remember to protect your health, and please have a safe 4th of July!

## MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE STATEMENT ON THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

On behalf of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of George Floyd and our friends and relatives in the African-American community of Minnesota. Our hearts break for the family.

Like many others, we too watched in horror as former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin took the life of George Floyd by kneeling on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. This heinous act was committed in broad daylight, and the unjust nature of how things unfolded has shocked the world.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and the African American community in their call for swift justice for the senseless killing of George Floyd.

We have seen the dark side of Minnesota. From attempts to remove us from our homelands by twice burning down our village in the 1920's by the local sheriff, to violence at boat landings in the 1990's as our people tried to exercise their treaty rights, to recent discriminatory law enforcement practices that led to obstruction and neglect during an opioid epidemic.

We have felt that knee on our necks with the color of law wrapped around it all too often from county and state law enforcement agencies, and have learned from the past that "Minnesota Nice" can be an illusion that leads to passive acceptance of the injustices that occur in our communities.

How do we honor George Floyd? By taking a hard look at the institutions that have consistently failed our respective communities. Like other states, Minnesota's systems were deliberately built on a foundation of advantaging certain groups over others. Minnesotans today may not have constructed those systems, but many are awakening to their responsibility to repair and rebuild what they inherited.

We stand with African Americans to work collectively to right the wrongs that have



The mural, located on the corner of 38th Street and Chicago Avenue South in Minneapolis, is the work of artists Xena Goldman, Cadex Herrera, and Greta McLain. The group started working on the mural on Thursday morning and finished it within 12 hours with the help of artists Niko Alexander and Pablo Hernandez. Photo by Lorie Shaull, Wikimedia Commons.

occurred in the past and in the present. We support justice for George Floyd and justice for the many others who have died or have been neglected or abused by oppressive systems that continue to dehumanize our community members and yours.

Change never happens without allies, and many have stepped forward from across the country and across the world. We believe that change will come, if we remain banded together by our common humanity and together hold these systems accountable for creating a new reality based on equity and justice for all. That is our hope for Minnesota, our respective communities, the nation, and the world.

Chi-Miigwech for receiving our words and our statement of solidarity.

# CARES FUNDS FINALLY REACH TRIBES

*Treasury missteps held up distribution of \$8 billion in coronavirus relief*

A series of missteps by the Treasury Department and resulting legal battles delayed the coronavirus relief funds from reaching Indian Country in a timely manner, but by mid-June, virtually all of the \$8 billion set aside for tribes in the CARES Act had been distributed.

Relief funds received by the Mille Lacs Band were used to make up for casino revenues that were lost during the 11-week closure of Grand Casinos. The dollars were spent on emergency assistance to Band members, special health measures, food packages for Elders and other vulnerable members, special educational support, and payroll support.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed in March 27 to address the economic fallout of the pandemic. The Act set a deadline of April 26 for payments to be made to tribes.

The first \$4.8 billion in relief funds was not distributed until May 5, and \$3.2 billion was withheld until June 12 due to lawsuits challenging the way the federal government allocated the money.

That left \$679 million, which Judge Amit Mehta of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ordered the department to release on June 15. Mehta said the delays had caused "irreparable harm" to tribes.

"Congress made a policy judgment that tribal governments are in dire need of emergency relief to aid in their public health efforts and imposed an incredibly short time limit to distribute those dollars," Judge Mehta wrote. "The 80 days they have waited, when Congress intended receipt of emergency funds

in less than half that time, is long enough."

Members of Congress agreed with the judge's ruling.

Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.), vice chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, said, "The Court is absolutely correct: this administration has and continues to do 'irreparable harm' to Indian Country as it inexplicably holds back funds that Congress intended to get to Tribal governments urgently."

Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), chairman of the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States on the House Natural Resources Committee, said, "It is unconscionable that it has taken court action to force this administration to distribute relief to Tribal governments as Congress intended and the law requires," said

Rep. Deb Haaland (D-N.M.), one of two Native American women in Congress, said, "Sovereign Nations shouldn't have to fight for money that Congress approves, ever. It's shameful that a judge has to force the Treasury to do their job."

**"SOVEREIGN NATIONS SHOULDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT FOR MONEY THAT CONGRESS APPROVES, EVER. IT'S SHAMEFUL THAT A JUDGE HAS TO FORCE THE TREASURY TO DO THEIR JOB."**

— U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DEB HAALAND

## HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

HHS is committed to offer support to families and households affected by COVID-19. When an individual has tested positive for the illness, the following steps are implemented:

- The household is recommended to quarantine
- Quarantine packs are delivered
- Contact tracing begins by members of MLBO Public Health
- Each individual meeting the requirements of exposure are notified
- Support is provided by HHS/PH to meet the needs of the quarantined household and individuals
- Quarantine is highly recommended.

**Please continue to follow the guidelines:**

### **Distancing**

- Stay home as much as possible.
- Stay at least 6 feet from other people if you are in public places.
- Telework if you can.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you are 65 and older or have certain underlying medical conditions, stay at home and avoid situations where you could be exposed, including travel.

### **Hands and face**

- Wash your hands often, with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds.
- Always wash your hands after being in a public place.
- Always wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol.

### **Face Masks**

CDC recommends that you wear a cloth mask over your

nose and mouth in grocery stores and all other public places where it is hard to stay 6 feet away from others.

When you wear a cloth mask in public, remember:

- Masks can help to stop your germs from infecting others. This is extra important if people without symptoms can spread the virus that causes COVID-19 disease.
- Wearing a mask does not protect you from others who may spread the virus. You will still need to wash your hands often, cover your cough, and stay 6 feet away from others.
- Wearing a mask does not mean people who are sick should be in public places. Stay home if you are sick.
- If you need to see a doctor, call your clinic first. Do not just go to the clinic. Wear a mask when you do go to the clinic.
- Do not buy or wear surgical or N95 masks. Health care workers need them so that they are protected when helping sick patients.
- Do not put facemasks or face covers on children under age 2.
- Do not put facemasks or face covers on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, or unable to remove the mask without help.

### **Important phone numbers**

- Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2
- Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397
- Nurse Line (after hours – Jenna Kuduk): 320-630-0855
- Mental Health appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2
- Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385
- Substance Use assessments/counseling: 320-532-7773
- Pharmacy: 320-532-4779
- Commodities and food shelf: 320-630-2432

Stay home, stay safe, and stay well!

— Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services

## GENERAL ELECTION IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

*Absentee voting encouraged for safety during COVID-19 pandemic*

The Mille Lacs Band Election Office will be open during regular business hours beginning July 13, 2020, through election day, August 18.

**Band members are encouraged to vote early at the Election Office or by absentee ballot this year to reduce the possibility of COVID-19 infection, but polling places in all districts will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day.**

Polling places are community centers in Districts I, II, IIIa, and III (Aazhoomog), and All Nations Church in Minneapolis for urban Band members.

Beginning on July 13, staff will be in the election office at the District I Community Center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. You can stop by to vote early!

If you do need to vote at the polling place on August 18, please continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands, and use hand sanitizer.

*If you have questions or would like an absentee ballot request form, please call Deanna Sam at 320-532-7586 or 320-279-0178, or email deanna.sam@millelacsband.com. You can also use the form that is printed on page 12.*

## ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHES PROTOCOL FOR DRAFTING LEGISLATION

Legislative Order 28-20, passed by a 3-0 vote of the Mille Lacs Band Assembly on June 10, establishes guidelines and procedures for drafting legislation.

The order states that an individual wishing to propose new legislation must first consult a District Representative, who may request legislative attorneys to assist in evaluating the proposed change and drafting the proposed law.

The District Representative may also create a subcommittee composed of Band members and employees with direct knowledge of the subject of the proposed legislation.

When the draft legislation is complete, the Legislative Branch must post the draft legislation and may establish a comment period, the results of which will be compiled by legislative legal staff and presented to Band Assembly at a working session.

The Court of Central Jurisdiction will also be permitted to comment on proposed legislation that pertains to court processes and procedures.

District Representatives will then consider the comments and make the final decision to act or not act on the draft legislation.

To read the entire Legislative Order, go to <https://millelacsband.com/government/legislative-branch>.

## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

### MPCA to hold contested case hearing on Line 3 permit:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has determined that a contested case hearing will be held before an administrative law judge to take additional testimony regarding Enbridge Energy's Line 3 pipeline permit. In February, the MPCA released a draft of the permit and said it believed the project met the water quality rules, but on June 1, the MPCA said the permit's public comment period drew more than 20 requests for a contested case hearing on the permit and the agency "determined that requests related to wetlands and stream protection issues met the threshold to grant a hearing." *Source: stopline3.org.*

### Officer accused of murder was involved in shooting of Ojibwe man:

The family of Wayne Reyes, who was a member of the Leech Lake Band, says Derek Chauvin, the officer who is charged with the murder of George Floyd, is the same man who killed their relative more than a dozen years ago. In October 2006, he was shot and killed by six Minneapolis police officers who were answering a call about a stabbing outside a pharmacy. After a car chase, Reyes allegedly got out of his vehicle with a shotgun. According to the autopsy report, Reyes was shot 23 times. According to media reports, Chauvin was one of the officers who responded to the call. *Source: aptnnews.ca.*

### Red Lake Nation passes medical marijuana referendum:

Members of the Red Lake Nation approved legalization of medical cannabis within the nation's boundaries last month. The referendum was approved 80.59% to 19.41%. The nation would be the only tribe in Minnesota to have this program. Red Lake District Representative Robert "Bob" Smith, Little Rock Representative Michelle Barrett-Cobenais, and Ponemah District Representative Glenda J. Martin were also reelected. For the Redby district, a run-off election will be held between incumbent Allen D. Pemberton and Herman D. Donnell. *Source: lptv.org.*

### Study finds pharmaceuticals, other chemicals in remote lakes:

A study has found pharmaceuticals and other chemicals in remote lakes in and around the Grand Portage Indian Reservation in northeastern Minnesota. Researchers from the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa collected samples from 28 different lakes on the reservation and on land ceded to the U.S. government in the Treaty of 1854. They tested for 160 chemicals and detected 117, including antibiotics, hormones, antidepressants, cancer drugs, cocaine, DEET, insect repellent, and plasticizers like bisphenol A. *Source: mprnews.org.*

### Historical Society director reflects on removal of Columbus statue:

Dr. Kate Beane, the director of Native American Initiatives for the Minnesota Historical Society, said the original intentions behind the statue were good. "It was put up as a way of speaking to discrimination that Italian Americans had been dealing with," said Beane, who is a member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe. However, Beane said the statue is problematic because it served to erase centuries of Native American history and glorified a person who enslaved Native people. *Source: mprnews.org.*

# HARRINGTON FILES FOR COUNTY BOARD

Mille Lacs Band members have served on township boards and school boards and have run for State Senate, but for the first time ever, one of our own is aiming for a seat at the table on the Mille Lacs County Board — a governmental body that has a history of antagonism toward the Mille Lacs Band.

Bradley E. Harrington, former Commissioner of Natural Resources for the Band, put pen to paper on the steps of the Historic Courthouse in Milaca on June 2, as he filed office with a vow to serve all the people of northern Mille Lacs County — and with optimism about his chances.

"Even though the north end of the county has elected people who drove a wedge between us for many years, I believe that most people, Native and non-Native, are ready to move beyond controversy and division to work together for a better future," said Bradley. "The Band is the county's biggest employer and a good chunk of the population, so it just makes sense for the county to move in a different direction that would work with us, and I'd love to be part of that change."

In 2016, the County Board voted 5-0 to rescind its law enforcement agreement with the Band, an act that tied the hands of the Tribal Police during the opioid epidemic and gave the Band no choice but to file a lawsuit in federal court.

"That act cost the taxpayers a lot of money, and I think with a Native voice on the board, they'd be less likely to make bad fiscal decisions," Bradley said.

Prior to serving as Commissioner, Bradley worked for the Mille Lacs Band DNR and also ran his own business. He is a serious student of Ojibwe language and culture. He is also a lifelong resident of Mille Lacs County's District 5, which is made up of the townships of Kathio, South Harbor, Isle Harbor, and Eastside, including the cities of Isle and Wahkon.

**"I BELIEVE THAT MOST PEOPLE, NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE, ARE READY TO MOVE BEYOND CONTROVERSY AND DIVISION TO WORK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE."**

— BRADLEY E. HARRINGTON

With the exception of Eastside Township, District 5 corresponds with the 1855 Mille Lacs Indian Reservation — which the County has said no longer exists, a position that led the county to sue the Band in 2001. Bradley's opponent, Commissioner Dave Oslin, was part of a group of citizens who petitioned the Board, and former Commissioner Frank Courteau, to file the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was thrown out when a federal judge said no one was being harmed by the Band's and U.S. government's position that the Reservation still exists.

"When I'm elected, the first thing I'll do is have conversations with my fellow Commissioners to let them see that they have nothing to fear by recognizing the Reservation, and there would be more opportunities by working with Shinaabs rather than against," Bradley said. "This is important to us as Anishinaabe People because our ancestors worked very hard to ensure we have a home. In fact, when the County recognizes the



Bradley Harrington hopes to serve residents of the north end of Mille Lacs County as a commissioner on the county board.

Reservation, this will allow for more partnerships that bring additional funding to our area."

The County Board has a surprising amount of power and authority in rural communities. Although the County Sheriff and County Attorney are elected officials and are not under the Board's authority, the Board does hold the purse strings for their departments. The Board determines the tax levy and sets the budget for county roads, social services, public health, libraries, elections, and other services. Commissioners also oversee planning and zoning and pass local ordinances regulating dogs, gravel pits, cellphone towers, ditches, and buildings.

"I think it will be a lot of fun to serve on the Board, and I'm looking for support from my fellow Band members and also my friends and neighbors throughout District 5," said Bradley. "Together we can create a brighter future for all residents of Mille Lacs County. Miigwech."

### Primary election

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"I look forward to meeting with constituents and sharing my goals, values, and current work being done in Band Assembly," Sandi continued. "My colleagues, Representatives Bruneau and St John, support me and the work that I do in Band Assembly, and that vote of confidence says a lot about me. I thank them as well."

Valerie Sam-Harrington came in third in the race for District I Representative with 13 percent of the vote.

A total of 869 ballots were cast: 296 in District I, 44 in District II, 55 in District IIa, 119 in District III, 104 in Minneapolis, 224 by in-person absentee ballot, and 27 by mail-in absentee. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Band members were encouraged to vote by in-person or mail-in absentee ballot.



Valerie Sam-Harrington



Sandra Blake



Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice, second from left, was one of 16 members of the Attorney General's Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounters Working Group, whose recommendations are being considered by the Minnesota Legislature.

## POLICE CHIEF PARTICIPATED IN WORKING GROUP ON USE OF DEADLY FORCE

Mille Lacs Band member and Tribal Police Chief Sara Rice served on a working group that investigated police-involved deadly force encounters and prepared a plan that has received renewed attention after the murder of George Floyd.

Sara, who is also a member of the state's Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board, was one of 16 members of the working group, which held public hearings for six months and issued its final report in February.

Attorney General Keith Ellison and Department of Safety Commissioner John Harrington convened the group because, in Harrington's words, "The time to discuss deadly-force incidents is not when one occurs."

Commissioner Harrington, who knew of Sara's work on the POST Board and her tribal affiliation, invited her to participate as a representative from Indian Country.

Sara valued the diversity of the working group and said it gave her the freedom to voice her opinion freely — not just from a law enforcement perspective.

"It was very enlightening to come together as an entire group and collectively come up with recommendations that will have a huge impact, not just in law enforcement, but also for the communities we serve," said Sara. "Being on a group that's so diverse, seeing things from different perspectives — not just law enforcement — provides true insight."

The working group held a series of four hearings between October of last year and January of this year. Each hearing was followed by a working group session.

### Special session

At a special session in June, the State Legislature looked at the working group's recommendations, which Chief Rice had a role in developing.

"In this unprecedented moment, we must take unprecedented action on police accountability, equity, and economic recovery," said Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan. "This is not business as usual. We have an extraordinary opportunity to create meaningful, lasting change. We cannot waste this moment with hesitation."

Governor Tim Walz supports the recommendations on police reform and accountability that were introduced by the Minnesota People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) Caucus and the Attorney General's Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounters Working Group. The proposals support use of force reform; funding for alternatives to policing; greater police oversight; voting restoration; community healing; and prosecutorial, investigatory, and training reform.

Some of the recommendations from the working group's report are already in place with the Mille Lacs Tribal Police or do not apply.

One recommendation calls for the Legislature to evaluate the use of body cameras, and if they are found effective, to encourage their use in local law enforcement and provide funding.

The Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department already requires

body cameras.

The power of police unions has also been an issue, making it difficult for agencies to discipline or fire officers who violate policies. One recommendation calls for an increased role of the POST Board to approve, suspend, or revoke officer licenses at the Chief Law Enforcement Officer's request, which would strengthen accountability and transparency of officers who violate State standards.

Mille Lacs Tribal Police officers are not members of a union.

**"IT WAS VERY ENLIGHTENING TO COME TOGETHER AS AN ENTIRE GROUP AND COLLECTIVELY COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL HAVE A HUGE IMPACT, NOT JUST IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, BUT ALSO FOR THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE."**

— TRIBAL POLICE CHIEF SARA RICE

Attorney General Ellison talked about the report after the murder of George Floyd. "I urge us to really reflect upon the recommendations in this report," Ellison said. "Because at some moment, sadly, George Floyd will be laid to rest. At some moment the criminal and civil rights process will be concluded. But will we have made any real substantive changes or will we just be setting ourselves up for it to happen all over again?"

### Sanctity of Life

One recommendation from the report is for departments to adopt policies that "make sanctity of life a core organizational value," to require only reasonable and proportionate use of force, and to require officers to intervene when witnessing an unreasonable use of force.

Minneapolis already had a "sanctity of life" policy and a requirement to intervene, but officers did not follow them in their interaction with George Floyd.

Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo, who was also a member of the task force, used those policies to help justify firing the four officers involved in the incident leading to the murder.

Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington said some of the working group's recommendations are especially relevant after George Floyd's death, including one that says law enforcement should train officers "to be aware of the impact of current and historical racial trauma in communities."

"The question that we asked (at the task force) and that I ask here with you is how does a community recover when its heart has been ripped out?" Harrington said.

Senate Republicans ended the special session with no progress on police reform.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Native women confront missing and murdered task force over Trump's role:** The Trump administration's efforts to address the crisis of missing and murdered women in Indian Country are being undermined by the president himself, Native women asserted as outrage over police violence grew. During a listening session last month, Native women said Donald Trump's hasty approval of pipelines through tribal territory will contribute to higher rates of violence by bringing in outsiders to their communities. The task force is accepting written comments through OperationLadyJustice@usdoj.gov. Source: [indianz.com](http://indianz.com).

**American Indian Congresswomen stand in solidarity with African American community:** Rep. Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) and Rep. Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk), the first two Native American women to serve in Congress, released a statement last month in solidarity with the African American community: "We share in the heartbreak and pain felt by millions across the country in response to the killing of George Floyd, as well as the countless other Black Americans who have died at the hands of brutality and injustice in this country . . . Together we can build a more equitable and just society—one that lives up to the ideals we expect of our nation." Source: [nativenewsonline.net](http://nativenewsonline.net).

**Some tribes open casinos despite state opposition:** Drivers heading down state roads leading to Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun in Connecticut are greeted by flashing warnings: "Avoid Large Crowds" and "Don't Gamble With COVID." Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont pleaded with tribal leaders to not reopen and raised the possibility of pulling their state-issued liquor licenses, before ultimately ordering state transportation workers to put up the signs. Tribes in other states have also decided to welcome back gamblers even though their states haven't allowed large gatherings. Source: [apnews.com](http://apnews.com).

**Tribes thwarted in effort to get coronavirus data:** Federal and state health agencies are refusing to give Native American tribes access to data showing how the coronavirus is spreading around their lands, potentially widening health disparities and frustrating tribal leaders. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has turned down tribal epidemiologists' requests for data that it's making freely available to states. Authorities in Michigan and Massachusetts have also resisted handing over information on testing and confirmed cases and refused to strike agreements with tribes on contact tracing or other surveillance. In some instances, officials questioned tribes' legal standing as sovereign entities. Source: [politico.com](http://politico.com).

**New Mexico investigates hospital for racial profiling:** New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced last month that state officials would investigate allegations of racial profiling of pregnant Native American women at a top hospital in Albuquerque. Lujan Grisham was reacting to a story revealing that Lovelace Women's Hospital had a secret policy for screening Native American women for coronavirus based on appearance and ZIP code. Described as racial profiling by medical ethicists, the policy resulted in some Native American women being separated from their newborns as hospital staff waited for test results, according to the clinicians. Source: [propublica.org](http://propublica.org).

## MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

# HELP IN TIMES OF CRISIS

By Brett Larson Inaaajimowin Editor

Mental Health Supervisor Crissy Wade describes herself as "a natural helper" who has found her calling as a counselor.

Crissy is working to build the Band's mental health program and is currently the only therapist on staff. Given the mental and emotional strain the COVID-19 pandemic is inflicting on individuals throughout society, it's a difficult time to be on her own.

"There's a lot of anxiety out there," Crissy said. "With the recent positive cases, people are calling and asking questions. There's also been some depression because people are feeling lonely. Some call just for somebody else to talk to, and that's fine with me. I invite that because it's a hard time."

When the pandemic hit, Crissy had to transition quickly from face-to-face appointments to telehealth. Although she prefers meeting people in person, she's making the best of the situation and is happy to be working at Mille Lacs.

Crissy is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, and she just finished her schooling for Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, or LADC, so she will soon be dually licensed.

With training in both fields, she can provide mental health assessments as well as Rule 25 assessments, and she is also involved in the Medication Assisted Recovery program.

Crissy's original plan was to become a lawyer, but she had a change of heart. "After being accepted to law school, I realized the help needs to start before people fall through the cracks in the legal system," said Crissy.

She shifted focus to psychology and found a mentor at Bemidji State. After earning her bachelor's degree, she went to Bethel University for her master's.

Since her father-in-law, Michael Wade Sr., was living at Mille Lacs, she decided to take a job at Mille Lacs Academy,



Crissy Wade, right, with her husband Michael Wade Jr. and father-in-law Michale Wade Sr.

where she worked for six years.

"I got to the point where I wanted to have more experience in the outpatient world and really wanted to know the community here, so I decided to apply to work for the Band," said Crissy. "I live the culture with my husband and my father-in-law, and I keep learning more and more. It's so friendly here, I really enjoy it."

Crissy has moved into an office in the new Health and Human Services building, but she'll continue to work with Band members in all districts either in person or via telehealth.

She works with children, Elders, and all ages in between. She has an interest in intergenerational trauma and enjoys integrating storytelling and culture into the therapeutic process.

She invites all Band members with questions about mental health to bring their questions. "It's normal to ask questions about mental health, and it's also confidential," said Crissy.

Mental health diagnostic assessments and counseling are provided to individuals and families. Some of the programming

and counseling services include: individual therapy for adults, individual therapy for children and adolescents, trauma-informed therapy, play therapy, and mental health case management. To make an appointment, please call 320-532-4163.

"I really want people to know that when you call a therapist, it doesn't mean you have a mental illness," said Crissy. "We need to get rid of the stigma. It's okay to have anxiety, it's okay to be depressed, and it's okay to get help. We're not here to be judgmental; we're here to help."

**"IT'S OKAY TO HAVE ANXIETY, IT'S OKAY TO BE DEPRESSED, AND IT'S OKAY TO GET HELP. WE'RE NOT HERE TO BE JUDGMENTAL; WE'RE HERE TO HELP."**

- CRISSY WADE

## MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

# RESPECTING EACH OTHER'S BELIEFS

By Jim Clark

*This article by the late Jim Clark was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to preserve his teachings and bring them to the next generation.*

I'm told there are people within 20 miles of the reservation who know nothing at all about the Anishinaabe people in this area. That's too bad, because if you don't know people, it can make you afraid. We need to try and understand each other better. I'm happy to have this chance to help.

Many years ago, in the 1800s, some people were so afraid of Indian religions that they had them banned. Even in the 1920s, when the government eased up on these restrictions, our religion was still frowned upon.

When I was a boy, our boarding school tried to teach us that our religion was false, that it was nothing, that we should not believe in it. They tried to baptize all the Indian children who attended school there.

But we would go home for the summer. If you had real Anishinaabe relatives, like my grandmother, you would learn the Indian ways all over again. My grandmother would get after us, insisting that we speak Ojibwe, even when we wanted to practice our English. And she made sure we didn't forget our ways. We were the lucky ones, because some schools succeeded in wiping out the Indian from many Indian children.

Today, there are still a few people who think that when we hold our ceremonies, we are building something that is intended to hurt others. That's a sad thing, because if they could understand Ojibwe and hear our prayers and songs, they wouldn't be afraid. They would know that our ceremonies are about asking the Creator to better our people and to better

others as well, Indians and non-Indians alike.

I think it is important for Anishinaabe people to help our neighbors understand just a little about our religion, because it's who we are. We believe that our religion was one of the first gifts the Creator gave to our people. Our ceremonies are always in the Ojibwe language, which we believe to be another gift from the Creator. Our language cannot be split apart from our religion because many of our prayers cannot be translated into English. There are no English words that have the same meaning.

Today, we've come a long way since the 1920s. Our ceremonies are growing stronger than ever before. We hold traditional ceremonial powwows twice each year and we invite people to come and see and watch what we're doing. No alcohol or drugs of any kind are allowed into these ceremonies. We don't even allow political papers or brochures to be passed out. Everyone who comes out of respect is welcome.

When I was young, I learned that even though we have our own traditional things that we do, there are other people who need to do something else. We were taught not to ever say anything negative about other people or their beliefs. That's theirs — let them believe, and respect them.

That's all we really ask in return. We also invite our neighbors to ask us questions if you have questions, because many of us like to talk about these things. We invite our neighbors to attend our powwows if you wish, because you are certainly welcome. Get to know us. Because when we learn more about each other, we gain more respect for one another and become better friends. That's a wonderful thing for any community.

# AANJIBIMAAZING PARTNERSHIP BRINGS TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO DISTRICTS

Aanjibimaadizing is partnering with Pine Technical College to bring some great educational and job training programs to our communities — Commercial Driver's License training in District III, Certified Nursing Assistant Training in District II, Auto Technician Training in District I, and Career Exploration/Small Business Certification in District I.

The partnership developed through a Pathways to Prosperity grant from the State of Minnesota. Pathways to Prosperity was developed by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to make Minnesota more competitive by meeting the common skills needs of businesses and individuals.

Working with Pine Tech made sense because the school had already reached out to Aanjibimaadizing to pursue a partnership.

According to Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom, the courses were chosen because they can help Band members develop skills in professions that have been in high demand.

"Even with coronavirus, there is still a need for people to make deliveries, to drop off their supplies for school children, to staff nursing homes and care centers, and to maintain vehicles," said Tammy.

In addition, CDL, CNA, and auto tech jobs are great stepping stones to more advanced — and more lucrative — careers. A

CDL Class B license can lead to Class A; many Certified Nursing Assistants move up to become Licensed Practical Nurses or Registered Nurses; auto technicians often advance to more specialized auto repair professions.

The Career Exploration/Small Business class is perfect for those who are unsure what type of training or education to pursue. The Career Exploration part of the class will help students determine their interests and strengths, and the Small Business portion will provide an overview of what it takes to start and run a small business.

A long-term goal of the Aanjibimaadizing program is to build an auto maintenance facility in District I where trainees can learn auto mechanics by helping to maintain vehicles owned by the tribe or Band members.

"I'm really excited about it," said Tammy. "It can be hard for people to travel long distances for education, but with this program, Band members can get a start on a good career while staying close to home."

To sign up for a class, you'll need to be enrolled in Aanjibimaadizing, which is open to Band members, descendants, and community members from other tribes. If the classes don't fill, they may be opened up to others. Call Karen Pagnac at 320-362-4139, or email [karen.pagnac@millelacsband.com](mailto:karen.pagnac@millelacsband.com).

If you're already enrolled with Aanjibimaadizing, you can speak with your case manager.

## AROUND THE RESERVATION

**Online summer school in progress:** Nay Ah Shing Summer School, including Pine Grove Learning Center in District III, is being offered via Zoom. Programming is for all NAS students who will enter grades 1 and 2 this fall. Students participate in online learning activities Monday through Thursday with a science focus.

- Week 1 Sharks and Sea Animals
- Week 2 Insects
- Week 3 Force
- Week 4 Planets and Space
- Week 5 Jungle Animals

There is also delivery of weekly hands-on STEAM activities, and the summer food program is also running in conjunction with the academic program. Lunches are delivered Monday through Thursday with summer school supplies and materials.

Nay Ah Shing High School students are meeting at the school Monday through Thursday until July 16 to catch up on school work that wasn't completed during the pandemic shutdown. Social distancing practices are observed. The morning session is 9:30–11:30, followed by lunch and an afternoon session from noon until 2 p.m.

**Higher Ed update:** The Higher Education Program, in partnership with Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, began summer classes via online or ZOOM June 1. Six students are enrolled at FDLTCC and one student enrolled in the Bachelor of Tribal Administration and Governance program at UMD. Anyone interested in taking a summer class at FDLTCC can contact Joyce Shingobe at extension 7831.

**Job openings:** As we move towards reopening our government, there are quite a few new job openings. You can see those openings at [millelacsband.com/jobs](http://millelacsband.com/jobs). Current openings include Surveillance Agent, Substance Disorder Case Manager, and Waivered Services Initiative Planning Coordinator.

**Drug tip hotline:** Although it seems like everything has changed in recent months, some things — unfortunately — remain the same. We still have drug dealers in our communities, and some have used the pandemic situation to take advantage of our community members who suffer from Substance Use Disorder. Remember to keep those who suffer in your thoughts and prayers, and you can be part of the solution by using the anonymous drug tip hotline at 320-630-2458.

**Tax prep help for Elders:** Elders can get help with their tax preparation. The VITA Tax Program is available for virtual appointments. Call 320-532-8348 to make an appointment.

**Band member wins "maskie":** Congratulations to Adrienne Benjamin, whose mask with a jingle dress theme won a "maskie" award. Adrienne sent a photo of a mask she made to a nationwide mask contest and won the "Judge's Choice" category. Her mask was also a finalist for "Best in Show" and "Historic." Well done, Adrienne!

**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 320-237-6851.

*Send your news tips to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com).*

## Pine Technical and Community College Classes

OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AANJIBIMAAZING AND STATE OF MN PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY GRANT

**ALL CLASS DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO DUE COVID-19. CLASS SIZES ARE LIMITED. Support for materials needed in class will be provided.**

### Commercial Driver License (CDL)

There will be class instructional time and behind the wheel practice.

#### CDL Course Requirements:

- Have a valid driver's license to get their CDL permit test.
- Complete a Department of Transportation (DOT) physical.
- Submit to a drug screen after getting their permit. A student may also be required to submit to a possible random drug screen by our medical TPA while driving behind the wheel (btw). A positive screen result will prohibit them from driving the trucks.
- Driving record check - A bad driving record would not prohibit them from taking the class but may affect a potential company from hiring them depending on what the violations are.
- Pine Tech does not conduct background checks per se, since students are operating equipment under the supervision of our instructors. Though, a company that might consider hiring the CDL student could conduct a background check which results may or may not affect getting hired.

Date: **July 7 to July 31, 2020** Classes will be held Tuesday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm.

Location: **Meshakwad Community Center, Hinckley, MN**

### Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

A CNA provides basic care to patients and assists them in daily activities as needed.

#### CNA Course Requirements:

- DHS Background with fingerprinting required. Any felony would keep them from taking the course or getting hired with a healthcare organization. Driving/speeding tickets won't disqualify a person from taking the class or getting a job. If they have had any kind of theft or crime with violence against another person, that would disqualify them from getting a job in a healthcare setting.

Date: **August 3-21, 2020**. Dates of clinical practice will be August 20-21, 2020. A skills review will be held on August 24, 2020.

Class will start at 10 am and end at 3 pm. Clinical practice days will be 7 am to 3:30 pm.

Location: **Class will be held in East Lake. Location to be Determined.**

### Auto Technician

All students will receive a set of tools upon completion of this class. The class will allow for entry level employment at a mechanic garage or car dealership.

Date: **Classes will be held Monday through Thursday in District 1. Location to be determined. Time of class will be 9 am to 1 pm.**

**Friday class will be held at Pine Tech for practical experience. Class dates July 6-September 16, 2020.**

Location: **Location to be determined.**

### Career Exploration & Small Business Series Certificate

Michael Monroe Kiefer will teach a class to help identify interests and start planning for a small business if interested.

Date: **August 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12noon AND 1-3pm, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12noon**

Location: **District 1. Location to be determined.**

# GE-NIIGAANIZIJIG PROGRAM NEW DIRECTOR STRESSES MENTORSHIP, TRANSITIONS

By Brett Larson Inaaajimowin Editor

Just after the Ge-niigaanizijig youth program was launched and a new director hired, COVID-19 changed everyone's plans, creating unforeseen challenges and requiring a quick response by staff in order to continue providing services to youth.

Ge-niigaanizijig is a comprehensive after-school mentoring program with four main components or pillars: culture, community, career, and education. The new program grew from a merger of the Niigaan program, which was operated by the Education Department, and the WiiDoo program, which was operated by Aanjibimaadizing.

The Education Department continues to employ youth mentors for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Aanjibimaadizing, using federal funding, employs teen mentors to work with students from grade 7 through 20 years of age.

Aanjibimaadizing Director Tammy Wickstrom, who developed the new program with former Niigaan Director Byron Ninham, said Ge-niigaanizijig provides more structure for kids and parents, with less paperwork, more consistency, and better partnerships with families and schools.

Carlos Merrill was hired as Ge-niigaanizijig Director and came on board in early March. A week later, most of the staff was furloughed due to the Stay Home order and the closure of Grand Casinos.

"It was a little bit of a challenge, but Tammy really knows what she's doing," said Carlos. "I have a pretty extensive background in technology, so the transition into a digital environment was not as difficult as it might have been."

Carlos describes Ge-niigaanizijig as "a youth empowerment program" that provides mentorship to students, gives them healthy ways to spend time after school, and helps them with transitions from childhood through adolescence to adulthood.

Carlos understands the challenges students face growing up with one foot in tribal communities and another in a society dominated by non-Indians. He wants to give students a strong sense of their culture while helping them avoid some of the usual pitfalls like drugs and alcohol.

He emphasizes mentoring in part because of his experience growing up. Carlos moved around a lot as a kid — attending schools in Wisconsin, Mille Lacs, and Brainerd — and his mentors helped him through those changes. "When I was younger, I did have mentors, people telling me what path to take, and for the most part I listened," said Carlos. "My mentors helped me



stay on that path."

The K-6 program focuses on fun group activities including sports, games, and arts. "We want to keep them interested in the program so they stick with it," said Carlos.

Engaging the younger members with an interesting program will hopefully keep them in the program throughout their teenage years.

As they move into adolescence, the program will shift to self-discovery, work experience, career exploration, and college prep. Carlos would like the program to become a positive stepping stone for teens to ease the transition into college, work apprenticeships, and adulthood. Having members look back and credit Ge-niigaanizijig as a major influence in their success is one of the many goals of the program.

Ge-niigaanizijig doesn't end when students finish high school, but helps students make the transition to adulthood.

Carlos's experience also helped him see the need for guidance beyond high school, as he moved to the Twin Cities and bounced around from job to job. "Not everyone has it figured out by the time they're 18, so we don't want to cut them off when they finish high school," Carlos said. "We want to keep providing guidance and good experiences into adulthood to keep them on a positive path."

The Ge-niigaanizijig program is available in all districts, with local coordinators overseeing mentors. Each district program will have a mentor for K-6 and another for 7th grade through age 20.

Carlos would like to thank his team of Coordinators and

**"NOT EVERYBODY HAS IT FIGURED OUT BY THE TIME THEY'RE 18, SO WE DON'T WANT TO CUT THEM OFF WHEN THEY FINISH HIGH SCHOOL. WE WANT TO KEEP PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND GOOD EXPERIENCES INTO ADULTHOOD TO KEEP THEM ON A POSITIVE PATH."**

— CARLOS MERRILL

youth mentors for the work they do and who make the success of this program possible. Coordinators are Stacy Boyd in District I, Cheyanne Peet in District II, Jennifer Gahbow in Ila, Stanley Nayquonabe in Hinckley, and Mardell Thomas in Aazhoomog. District III has two coordinators because the program has two locations: Aazhoomog Community Center for the K-6th grade tier and Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley for 7th graders and up.

For now, programming is online, but once schools are back in session, staff will work on safely returning to traditional, face-to-face activities.

Ge-niigaanizijig is enrolling students now. To sign up, call Carlos at 320-674-4347 or any of the District Coordinators: Stacy in District I at 320-674-0407, Cheyanne in District II at 320-362-1608, Jennifer in District Ila at 320-630-0968, or Stanley in District III at 320-364-3858.

## ENROLL OR RE-ENROLL

Enroll or re-enroll students in Ge-niigaanizijig youth program: To sign up, call Carlos at 320-674-4347 or any of the District Coordinators: Stacy in District I at 320-674-0407, Cheyanne in District II at 320-362-1608, Jennifer in District Ila at 320-630-0968, or Stanley in District III at 320-364-3858. Or send an email to [carlos.merrill2@millelacsband.com](mailto:carlos.merrill2@millelacsband.com).

# SEND US YOUR EMAIL!

The Mille Lacs Band's communications team is planning additional ways to deliver important and emergency information to Band members — and to give you more choices how to receive that information.

If you'd like to receive news summaries and emergency updates via email, please send your name and email address to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com).

**ALL EMAILS RECEIVED BY JULY 15 WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING FOR A \$250 GIFT CARD!**



# BAND WAS PREPARED FOR PANDEMIC – THANKS TO THE TERC

## *Decades of investment made Mille Lacs a role model during crisis*

Preparing for a disaster that may never come can seem expensive and time consuming — but when disaster hits, it quickly becomes clear that it was worth the effort and investment.

The Mille Lacs Band has been preparing for an event like the COVID-19 pandemic for decades. At the forefront has been Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk, who has been with the Band since the early 1990s.

He started out as one of the three original officers in the newly formed Tribal Police Department, but a decade later an opportunity arose that fit his skills and interests perfectly.

"In 2000, when President Clinton gave an Executive Order for tribes to assume their own emergency management," Monte explained. "FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) put out grants to each federal region, and we were one of five tribes that received the initial funding."

Part of that federal grant was used to create a Tribal Emergency Response Plan and develop the TERC — Tribal Emergency Response Committee — a team approach to emergency management that Monte says reflects the way tribes have always made decisions.

Over the next 20 years, Monte worked on building the TERC's capacity — with direction from elected leaders and help from former Commissioners and other employees.

"TERC members — Commissioners and a backup appointed by commissioner — have changed many times in the TERC's history," said Monte. "Through all of that, the TERC and its members have made the commitment to be ready to respond to any incident that is beyond normal day-to-day operations."

The TERC was activated twice prior to the COVID-19 pandemic: in 2011, when floods hit the District II community, and in 2012, when a blowdown hit District III.

In the meantime, Monte has attended countless trainings and seminars and organized exercises for TERC members to gain experience in responding to emergencies.

"Being an active participant in county, regional, state, and federal trainings, exercises, webinars, and conference calls has helped me to see and hear about how this would affect our area and pass it along to TERC members," said Monte.

On March 9 of this year, the TERC was activated again as it became clear that the COVID-19 epidemic was certain to hit Minnesota and Mille Lacs communities. (The timing was interesting for Monte; he spent his birthday weekend at work.)

Monte credits Commissioner of Administration Baabitaw Boyd with making a quick decision to activate the TERC. "That helped us respond and plan better to reduce the spread, and we're seeing the effect of that now with limited cases in our communities."

Monte also says teamwork has been key to the Band's success. "Our response to the pandemic has been done in a unified manner. Every member has an equal voice, and when any critical decision is made, and the Chief Executive is notified, she knows it was a group decision."

Finally, Monte points to the TERC's Public Information Officer (PIO), Vivian LaMoore, as another important contributor. Vivian has been to TERC trainings and learned the key role that information plays. "Mille Lacs is the only tribe I know of with a designated and certified PIO," said Monte. "That was the key to keeping the community informed about what was going on."

Monte and other TERC members have received many calls

since the pandemic began from other tribes hoping to learn from the Mille Lacs Band's experience.

Monte and his colleagues are always willing to help. "It's just role-modeling what Chief Executive Benjamin wants us to do," he said. "During tough times, our history is respected and we're called upon, and that shows the good relationships we have with all the Nations. It has been an honor to be of service to the Band, under three excellent Chief Executives — Art Gahbow, Marge Anderson, and Melanie Benjamin," Monte concluded. "That has been a gift. I've been lucky and humbled to work under amazing leadership and to watch where Mille Lacs Band has come from and where it is now, and how many other tribal nations look to the Mille Lacs Band for best practices."

Several TERC members also shared their impressions of the committee and what it has been like to serve.

Valerie Harrington, Chief Communications Officer with the Legislative Branch, said, "My experience and role with TERC has been a definite learning experience. Listening and witnessing the concern for our community and hearing decisions be made with minimal time has given me a secure feeling. Knowing we have amazing leadership that is constantly thinking about what is best for us all has helped me to feel safe. I hope Band members know that during these times, Band members are constantly on the mind of TERC. What has stood out to me the most has been the commitment and hard work of all the employees, departments, and branches. All the willingness to help and work together has been a key part of TERC."

Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle said, "Despite the challenges the pandemic has brought upon us, a tremendous amount of work is getting done, and important decisions being made every day. Things like food delivery, payments to Band members, health/pandemic preparedness, grants/CARES Act financial and data submissions, and numerous other actions, decisions, and strategy do not just happen. It takes a tremendous amount of coordination, communication, dedication, and teamwork. That is what the TERC and supporting staff are doing for the good of the Band and our region during this pandemic."

Assistant Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe added, "It has been a humbling and trying time since the second week in March! Working with the TERC committee during this time has shown me the commitment that TERC members have to keeping the Band community as safe as possible. As a cohesive group, we have made common-sense decisions to protect the community and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Health and Human Services staff has provided great health information to the TERC, and they work long hours to keep this virus at bay as much as possible, which speaks volumes to the leadership of Nicole Anderson. Lisa Blahosky-Olivarez has led by example for her Public Health Department. I would also like to thank the elected leaders for fully supporting the TERC committee. My personal favorite interactions during this time have been with the Elders every two weeks at the Elder food distributions. Their smiles and words of encouragement keep me going and let me know that we are doing the right things. Lastly, we are the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. We have been through trying times before, and once again we will come through this time a strong community."

## TERC TESTIMONIALS

"Niwenda-apitiitenaag ingiw niwiidanokiimaaganag imaa TERC. Bebakaan netawichiged bebezhiq. Indishpenimaag gakina ani-maamoowinikeniaad da-wii-naadamawangwaa giwijji-bimaadiziimanaag."

"I really value all of my fellow TERC members. Each one of them has an expertise. I think highly of their ability to come together as we help our community."

— *Commissioner of Administration Baabitaw Boyd*

"COVID-19 is an invisible enemy — you cannot see it, but there is no question that it is here, and it is having a major impact on our day to day lives. Ironically, in a way, there exists a similarity to the TERC in that there is a tremendous amount of impact as a result of something that you probably cannot see. You don't always see what the TERC is doing, as meetings are held over the phone and via Zoom, members are either in their offices, or working remotely. I have been especially impressed with the level of dedication by my fellow TERC members. No matter what time of day, or what day of the week — If I have an issue that I need help with right now, I can count on fellow team members to get me what I need and when I need it. Everyone has really stepped up, there is no "business as usual", and noticeable that there are no complaints. We do what we have to do."

— *Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle*

"Over the years, the Band leadership has worked to implement an emergency response committee for various types of scenarios. With this planning and preparedness, a foundation has been formed to help government operations continue for the greater good of our communities. I'm proud to work with the members of the TERC committee as we navigate this unknown territory of the COVID pandemic. Departments and staff have worked well together during this time, and we could not have done our jobs without the sound leadership of the Elected Officials."

— *Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper*

"The TERC was formed quickly and effectively and was a great tool to help formulate a unified government response to the coronavirus pandemic. The TERC has been extremely helpful to ensure services and information are distributed to the communities. It also has been a good way to stay connected to our colleagues during this time, and I have enjoyed serving on the TERC."

— *Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle*

"The TERC has been a great team to work with. I personally enjoy the differing perspectives and believe that gives any great team balance."

— *HHS Commissioner Nicole Anderson*

"Working with the TERC has been extremely informative. I joined the TERC in week four, but what I quickly learned is that this team of individuals is dedicated to the Band, serving our tribal communities, including the urban area, with a wide-range of leadership skills and demonstrated results. What stood out the most for me is that even we, as the committee, have some angst and anxiety due to the pandemic and social unrest, but a few individuals within the team always have a cool, calm demeanor with a focused composure. It helps alleviate the uneasy feeling, and it is reassuring to know that this is the team to help get us through this crisis."

— *Tribal Court Administrator Gilda Burr*



## HHS CONDUCTS TESTING FOR COVID-19

In partnership with the Mayo Clinic, the Band's Health and Human Services Department conducted COVID-19 testing in all three districts and the urban area in June.



## AIM PATROL

Members of the Mille Lacs Band and other urban Native Americans banded together to protect Native businesses and properties like Woodlands Bank and the Red Lake Nation Embassy during the unrest in Minneapolis in May. Among those who joined the patrol were (center) Nick Sciacia, Colin Cash, Luther Sam, Tom Howard, and Randell Sam. Photos by Colin Cash.

# BAND MEMBERS JOIN AIM PATROL TO PROTECT COMMUNITY

The year 2020 was already one of the most memorable in a century due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. That was before the Memorial Day murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, which led to worldwide outrage and protests, but also inspired hope that police brutality against non-whites might finally be brought to an end.

As riots spread to the urban American Indian community — along with non-violent protests by the majority of demonstrators — volunteers made an effort to protect businesses and neighborhoods along Franklin Avenue.

Among the protectors were members of the Mille Lacs Band, including Colin Cash, Luther Sam, and Randell Sam.

Colin said he was contacted by Frank Paro, President and Director of the American Indian Movement, who asked him to take part in protecting businesses in the area, like Woodlands Bank, which is owned by the Mille Lacs Band.

"It's nice to have some direction and purpose throughout this for something good," said Colin. "It makes me feel good that in the midst of this, I feel like I'm standing on the right side, that I have purpose, that I'm contributing, doing what I can, and leading by example. I'm thankful to that brother that reached out, Frank, and the direction that he's given all of us to follow. It's really powerful."

Frank Paro held a press conference on Thursday afternoon, May 28, as the protests heated up.

"The Indian business owners on Franklin Avenue have asked the American Indian Movement to provide security this evening," Paro said. "The last few months, a lot of community

members asked when we would start the AIM patrol again. Tonight, we're starting the American Indian Movement patrol again on Franklin Avenue."

The Native American community in Minneapolis, which has had a long and sometimes antagonistic relationship with the Minneapolis Police Department, immediately expressed solidarity with the African American community.

Recent studies have shown that Native Americans are slightly more likely than African Americans to be killed by police, and both groups are overrepresented in prisons. African Americans make up 6 percent of the state population but 24 percent of prisoners; Natives are only 1 percent of the population but 10 percent of prison inmates.

On May 27, Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) issued a strong statement not only condemning the murder but also pointing out the Minneapolis Police Department's history of racism and brutality. (See page 11.)

Native Americans continued to show their solidarity as the city returned to order and nonviolent protests continued. On Monday, June 1, jingle dress dancers gathered near the site of George Floyd's murder to share the healing tradition of the ziibaaska'iganagooday.

On Sunday, June 7, a Native Lives Matter and Black Lives Matter caravan, with a drum group on a flatbed trailer, drove from north Minneapolis through downtown to the American Indian Center in south Minneapolis.

On Thursday, June 11, protesters led by Bad River and AIM member Mike Forcia tore down a statue of Christopher Columbus on the grounds of the State Capitol.



At the request of AIM president Frank Paro, pictured below left with Mille Lacs Band member Colin Cash, the AIM Patrol met at the Powwow Grounds on Franklin Avenue May 28. Photos by Colin Cash.



Colin Cash and Frank Paro

# MLCV ISSUES STATEMENT AFTER MURDER

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures was created by the tribal government of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to manage the business affairs of the Band, including Grand Casinos and many other businesses in East Central Minnesota, the Twin Cities, and other states.

On Friday, June 5, MLCV issued the following statement about the murder of George Floyd:

As we think about the tragic murder of George Floyd, his final words still haunt us: "I can't breathe."

For centuries in this country, Black and Indigenous communities have endured the ugly reality of racism, and the weight of that hatred at times is enough to take our breath away. This nation was organized around the ideals of freedom and equal rights, yet it was built through the systemic oppression of people of color.

We stand with the Black community against racial injustice. Like African Americans, Native American communities — like the Mille Lacs Band — have experienced centuries of racially motivated discrimination and oppression.

In 2020, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) still face

public acts of racism daily. The murder of George Floyd shocked the world and served as a spark to fight against racial injustice across the country, but for the Black community it was just the latest example of society disregarding the value of a human life based on the color of his skin.

As an Indigenous owned and operated organization, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is committed to defending equality and celebrating diversity. We are committed to making a difference where we can, and our biggest opportunity for influence is within our own organization.

We have the opportunity to leverage our corporate culture and our training opportunities to make a lasting impact. As we move ahead, MLCV will emphasize being leaders for equality alongside our commitment to servant leadership, and we will use our influence to shape our workforce and ultimately the communities in which we operate.

BIPOC shouldn't have to hold their breath waiting for equality and justice. Join us as we memorialize George Floyd's last words as a call to action to make our world a place where diversity is valued and respected.



Minneapolis became the epicenter of a worldwide protest movement last month. Native Americans joined the African American community and other allies to protest police violence. Photos by Chad Germann.

# URBAN INDIAN DIRECTORS RESPOND TO POLICE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

**MUID — Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors — issues strong statement of solidarity**

May 27, 2020 — To All Our Relations,

This letter has been written on behalf of the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors Group (MUID) — a collaborative of some 30 American Indian organizations operating within the Twin Cities metropolitan area of Minnesota. The purpose of this communication is to state our collective response to the tragic death of George Floyd on Monday, May 25, 2020.

In no uncertain terms, the membership of this collaborative strongly condemns the murder of one of our fellow citizens, at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. Furthermore, MUID condemns the ongoing and systemic racist ideologies that continue to run strongly through the department like a virulent and lethal pathogen. This disease of spirit is actively polluting the minds of some of the rank and file to the point where they are no longer able to perform their taxpayer-funded jobs with any degree of professionalism, or with any legitimate capacity to restrain themselves from brutalizing and murdering fellow human beings. To this we collectively and loudly proclaim NO MORE.

The murder of George Floyd was an unmitigated and horrific tragedy that has brought shame onto our community. Without question, it was a complete failure of any form of moral decency or the most basic expressions of humanity by officers who have taken an oath to "serve and protect." The eyes of the world are now upon us. How we come together to permanently rectify this situation and prevent it from happening again is now paramount. However, we must first acknowledge that this unspeakable act of evil is not new, that in fact it is a recurring problem suggestive of a deeper systemic sickness.

The MPD has a long history of violence against Indigenous people and people of color. The American Indian Movement was founded in Minneapolis in 1968 as a direct response to unchecked brutality being perpetrated by the Minneapolis Police Department upon our community members. In 1992, two members of our community were forcibly constrained into the trunk of a Minneapolis Police Cruiser. In 2008, the officer who killed George Floyd, Officer Chauvin, shot and wounded an individual during a domestic violence call, and then again in 2011, Officer Chauvin shot and injured a man at Little Earth. In 2015, Jamar Clark was murdered at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. Sadly, these are just some examples of many such incidents.

Still, in 2020, the MPD are openly murdering black and brown people in broad daylight without hesitation, and without any concern from the open shouts of local bystanders who pleaded for the life of Mr. Floyd — who were in essence pleading for the lost humanity that had apparently vacated the four responding officers. And these are only the most high-profile symptoms of the spirit of hate and racism in our police department. There have been so many more instances that, while not making the papers, left undeniable scars on our people. No more. We demand action and improvement, nothing less.

We reject outright as false the defense of the MPD that contends that the actions of a handful of depraved individuals cannot overshadow the department as a whole. Any attempt at minimizing such pervasive sickness by localizing it to a "problem few" is in actuality a demonstration of willful ignorance, and perhaps an act of complicity. It minimizes the scourge of lethality that these "few" repeatedly wield upon our people. Moreover, it neglects the fact that the Minneapolis Police Department provided the very context within which these attitudes were developed and potentially cultivated into full maturation. The department itself was either too inept to detect these sick individuals before they were given free rein to commit atrocious acts of murder in broad daylight, or worse yet, the department actively fostered and endorsed these attitudes and then turned them loose onto the public.

As has been established within the public record, two of the terminated officers involved in the murder of Mr. Floyd have already been involved in numerous previous shootings of civil-

ians, as well as stood accused within previous police brutality lawsuits that were eventually settled out of court. This demonstrates a clear pattern of behavior either endorsed by the MPD, or a chronic and severe negligence by the department to root out and remove such dangerous and sick individuals from further service. Either way, all indicators of contact tracing points towards the MPD as the very source point for this infection that continues to spread and kill.

The Minnesota State Attorney General Keith Ellison praised the immediate termination of the assailants responsible for the murder of Mr. Floyd, explaining that the move was necessary "to clean the wound." We agree with the Attorney General's characterization that the perpetrators represent a dangerous bacterium that left untreated, will continue to infect the society as a whole. The time is now to make wholesale and discernible changes to the department lest we all succumb to the death that continues to seep out of local precincts onto our streets, and into our homes.

The membership of MUID stands in support of the recent actions and words taken by Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, but strongly urge further, demonstrable actions to be undertaken.

MUID calls on the swift and vigorous prosecution of the four offending (and now terminated) officers complicit in this murder to the fullest extent of the law.

MUID stands with the African American community, and all other communities regularly target for violence by the MPD.

We believe that this department-wide sickness emanates directly from leadership — specifically the President of the Minneapolis Police Federation. Mr. Bob Kroll has a long history of bigoted and ignorant remarks in the press, and public displays of allegiances with known purveyors of racism. Mr. Kroll has repeatedly and openly propagated racist ideology within the public sphere while serving on the Minneapolis Police force. The vitriol emanating from the words of Mr. Kroll are the very same ideology represented within the infected minds of the responding officers who murdered George Floyd, and for all the others who have brutalized black and brown people with impunity while wearing a badge. We therefore also call on the immediate termination of Bob Kroll from the Minneapolis Police Department. By retaining his position amongst the force, Mr. Kroll is able to retain his position as the union lead. This by its very nature serves as a powerful signifier to those "problem few" within the Minneapolis Police Department that they have a benefactor in a position of authority, and by virtue of his position, will protect them at all costs, no matter how villainous or lethal their exploits become on the streets of Minneapolis against the very citizens they have pledged to protect.

MUID demands these recommendations will be implemented without delay. MUID also demands that more strategies will need to be developed and implemented to properly protect black and brown people from its own police force that it subsidizes.

Great strides have been made in recent years under the leadership of Minneapolis Chief of Police Medaria "Rondo" Arradondo to bolster a more positive relationship between the Minneapolis Police Department and the Urban American Indian community. MUID and our community appreciate the positive, long-term partnerships and relationships within the MPD, especially in the 3rd Precinct. MUID stands ready to work with Chief Arradondo and his officers to create positive, sustainable, systemic change with the MPD.

Additionally, MUID will continue to engage with the Native community, and with all stakeholders to create a collaborative and sustained efforts to combat these very serious issues now gravely impacting the Minneapolis American Indian population.

Let us start to heal. Let us move forward in peace and harmony. Let us see what we can create together.

Wopila Tanka, and Chii Miigwetch.

# COMMUNITY MEMBER HIRED AS CENSUS 2020 RECRUITER

## Mikayla Schaaf hired to assist Band members with census

COVID-19 has shifted the focus of our daily lives and how we look at the future. Face it, there are things in life we cannot control. But one thing we can all do is take control over the 2020 Census by making sure every single Mille Lacs Band member is counted.

Have you responded to the 2020 Census yet? If not, there is still time. You can respond online in the safety of your own home with just a few clicks. Just go to: <https://my2020census.gov/>. It only takes a few minutes.

Or, you can call in your responses from your own phone by dialing 1-844-330-2020. If you get put on hold, you will have the option of requesting someone call you back at the time of your choosing.

If you do not have access to a phone or internet, a census enumerator may be knocking on your door soon. Beginning in mid-August, the Census Bureau will be sending the census takers out into the field to conduct in-person interviews. But there is no need to worry. Here on the Mille Lacs reservation, District I community member Mikayla Schaaf has been hired by the US Census Bureau to be a recruiter in an effort to find Band members to be census takers.

"It is important to have our own trusted community members knocking on doors," said Band member Shelly Diaz, Urban Liaison and Project Coordinator, and Coordinator of the Minnesota Tribal Coalition (Hub) for the 2020 US Census. "We want to count 100 percent of our people. Our children are counting on us to make sure they are included. Our numbers reported

now will affect the next 10 years of our lives. The Census numbers help determine the funding for schools, school lunch programs, clinics, hospitals, even the roads that our children will travel on far into the future."

Mikayla was hired by the US Census Bureau for the Mille Lacs area. She is currently going through the background check process, and she will then go through paid training and begin her recruitment activities.

**"THIS CENSUS IS CRUCIAL TO OUR FUTURE, EVEN MORE SO NOW WITH THIS PANDEMIC. A PORTION OF THE CARES ACT FUNDS WERE DETERMINED BY USING THE 2020 CENSUS DATA. THAT IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US IS COUNTED."**

— SHELLY DIAZ

"In 2010, my father, William Schaaf worked in Mille Lacs for the US Census," Mikayla said. "He really enjoyed making a difference and told me that it is imperative that we as Anishinaabe should respond to the US Census because that is how we are funded for programs and counted to show that we still remain."



The Census Bureau is still accepting applications for part-time, temporary positions, Shelly said. The process does take time, and you will need to create an account by logging into the Census website at <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>. Due to the guidance of federal, state, and local social distancing and stay home orders, the operations and hiring process were suspended for a time but are now up and running.

If someone has applied for a census job previously, they can check their account that they created for the status of their application, or can call 1-855-JOB-2020 (1-855-562-2020).

If they have any questions about their application or if they've been denied a job, they can contact our Tribal Partnership Specialist, Marilyn Miller, from the US Census Chicago Regional Office at 1-630-624-9448. Marilyn is assisting with making sure Band and/or community members are being hired for these jobs.

For Mikayla, it has been a long process. "I was at a Minnesota powwow in June of 2019 when I saw a census recruiter," Mikayla said. "They were recruiting Native Americans to assist with the census of 2020, and I applied soon after. When I applied online, it was a short, easy form, which then moved on to a basic aptitude test to see which job I would qualify for. I received a call in June of 2020 with an offer for an enumerator position, and I accepted. The following day, I received another call and was instead offered the job of a census recruiter. I accepted that position. I received an email with instructions to get my fingerprints and am in close contact with my recruiting manager. After I had accepted the position, things have moved very swiftly. Besides waiting a year since my application date in 2019, it has been a very smooth and easy process. I am currently awaiting the next instructions for training, and I look forward to making a difference in Indian Country."

Previously, Shelly has held job fairs at the Aanjibimaadizing offices in the three districts and had a table at the Corporate Ventures Holiday Feast trying to recruit Band members to apply for 2020 Census jobs. She has also made a few rounds to the communities to drop off Census promotional items at the school and at Elder meal distribution programs to remind families about the 2020 Census. She will continue to distribute census swag throughout the 2020 Census campaign.

"This census is crucial to our future, even more so now with this pandemic. A portion of the CARES Act funds were determined by using the 2010 Census data. We were undercounted in that Census. That is why it is so important to make sure each and every one of us — from our oldest Elders to our tiniest babies and every person in between — is counted."



## Absentee Ballot Request Form Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe General Election August 18, 2020

I am voting for the August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 General Election and acknowledge that I meet one of the following criteria to receive an absentee ballot:

- (1) I live outside the reservation boundaries;
- (2) live within the reservation boundaries, but I will be absent from the reservation on Election Day; or
- (3) live within the reservation boundaries, but am physically disabled or too ill to vote in person.

My full name, which I am enrolled under, is:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my Absentee Ballot to:

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

District selected for voting purposes: (Please Choose 1)

District 1 – Nay ah shing \_\_\_\_\_ District 2 – East Lake/Isle \_\_\_\_\_ District 3 – Hinckley/Lake Lena \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail, email or phone Request for Absentee form to: Deanna Sam, Election Judge

MLB General Election Board  
P.O. Box 96  
Onamia, MN 56359  
Telephone: (320) 532-7586 or 800-709-6445 ext. 7586  
Cell: 320-279-0178  
Email: deanna.sam@millelacsband.com

For office use only  
In Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Date voted: \_\_\_\_\_

By Mail

Request Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Request form sent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Request form received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ballot Sent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ballot received: \_\_\_\_\_

An advertisement for MyLifeMyQuit. It features a woman holding a piggy bank and the text "WANT TO SAVE \$600 A YEAR? CUT OUT VAPING". Below this, it says "Text 'Start My Quit' to 855-891-9989 or call. Free, confidential help. Just for teens." The bottom right corner has the "MYLIFEMYQUIT" logo.

# MAKIZINENSAN, ASABIKEŠIINH WANII'IGAN

## MOCASINS AND DREAM CATCHERS

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

This article was originally published in the July 2016 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.

### Bashkwegino-Makizinensan A'aw Abinooyi-yens — A Child's First Moccasins

Ishke wayeshkad ozhitamawaad bashkwegino-makizinensan iniw abinooyi-yens a'aw Anishinaabe, mii iw ezhichigaadang iniw bashkwegino-makizinensan. Mii imaa bapagone'ang imaa onagaakisidaang iniw bashkwegino-makizinensan. Mii dash iw wenji-izhichigaadang a'aw Anishinaabe, owaabandaanaawaa ingiw abinooyi-yensag gakina gegoo wawaaj-igo Manidoon. Bagakaamagadini odinendamowiniwaan, mii iw wenji-waabandamowaad gakina gegoo wawaaj-igo iniw Manidoon bimi-ayaanid. Nawaj gechi-aya'aawijig nebowa odayaanaawaa imaa odinendamowiniwaan wenishkwe'igowaad. Gaawiin wiinawaa gakina gegoo owaabandanzinaawaa dibishkoo ingiw

abinoooyi-yensan wayaabandaminid.

*When Anishinaabe makes the baby's first pair of moccasins, this is what is done with those moccasins. Anishinaabe makes small holes on the soles of the moccasins. The reason why Anishinaabe makes the moccasins this way is, because babies are able to see everything including the spirits. Their minds are clear, that is why they are able to see everything even the spirits as they go by. Those who are older have a lot on their minds that distract them. Therefore they are not able to see everything that a baby is able to see.*

Ishke dash awiya apii ishkwaayaa-ayaad, mii imaa ganawen-jigaaazod niiwo-dibik dabwaa-na'inigaaazod. Mii dash owapii babaamaadizinid iniw ojichaagwan baa- mawidisaadaminid aaniindi-go gii-pabaa-ayaanid megwaa maa gii-pibizhaagiinid omaa akiing. Ishke dash bimi-ayaanid ojichaagwan awiya maagizhaa gaye iniw Manidoon besho imaa ayaad a'aw abinooyi-yens, mii dash ge-izhi-wiindamawaad inow bemi-ayaanijin,



"Gaawiin gidaa-ni-wijjiwisinoon, onzaam bapagoshkaamagadoon nimbashkwegino-makizinensan." Mii iw epenimod a'aw Anishinaabe weweni da- izhi-ayaanid onijaanisensan.

*When someone passes on they are kept over for four nights before burial. It is at that time that the spirit of the individual travels and revisits every place they had been while they lived on this earth. When the spirit of the individual is traveling by, or maybe a Manidoo gets close to where that baby is, the baby speaks out and says, "I cannot travel with you, because my moccasins have holes in them." This is what Anishinaabe relies on to ensure their baby's safety.*

### Asabikeshiinh-Wanii'igan — Dream Catchers

Mii dash omaa waa-ni-dazhindaaman i'iw asabikeshiinh-wanii'igan iko gaa- agoojigaadenig omaa odikinaaganing ingiw giniijaanisinaanig. Mii o'ow asabikeshiinh-wanii'igan wenji-wiindamaan i'iw, mii iw ezhinaagwak. Mii ingiw mindimoonyibaneg gaa-ikidowaad, gaawiin gii-ayaamagasinoo gaa-izhi- anishinaabewinkaadeeg i'iw niin igo nimichi-giizhitoon. Mii dash gaa-inabadading a'aw abinooyi-yens eta-go enaajiwaniig akeyaa da-izhingwashid. Mii dash i'iw iko awiya zegingwashid, mii imaa ani-baataasininig imaa egoojigaadenig odikinaaganing. Mii dash gaawiin da-zegingwashisiin a'aw abinooyi-yens. Mii dash i'iw enabadak.

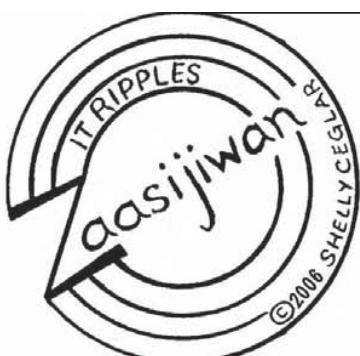
*What I want to talk about are the dream catchers that were hung on the cradleboards of our babies. The reason I call them spider webs is because that is what they look like. Those old ladies had said there was not an Anishinaabe name for those dream catchers. It was I who created the Anishinaabe name for them which means spider web. It was used to help the baby to have only good dreams. When any bad dreams or nightmares came the baby's way got caught in those dream catchers so they only had pleasant dreams when it was hung on their cradleboards. So as a result the child or baby did not have bad dreams. That was the reason these dream catchers were used.*

Mii iw wayeshkad gaa-onji-miinigoowiziyan iniw asabikeshiinh-wanii'iganan ezhinaagwakin da-naadamaagod a'aw abinooyi-yens eta-go enaajiwaniig akeyaa da-inaabandang. Ishke dash i'iw noongom niwaabandaanan anooj inaabadak iniw. Wawaaj igo biinji-odaabaaning agoojigaadewanoon. Maagizhaa gaye wii- zazegaatood imaa endaad a'aw bemaadidiz, mii imaa aasamisagong wawaaj egoojigaadenig iniw.

*We were originally given the dream catchers to help filter the baby's dreams so that the baby will only have good dreams. Nowadays I see dream catchers used in different ways. They are even hung inside of cars. People are also using them as decoration placed on the walls of their homes.*

Gaawiin gidaa-wii-baapiendanziaa in gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyan anishinaabewi- yang. Gaawiin i'iw anooj daa-inaabadasinoon iniw Manidoo-aabachichiganan gaa-mi- inigoowiziyan anishinaabewiyan. Ishke mii imaa wanitood a'aw bemaadidiz i'iw wayeshkad gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyan da-inaabidak iniw asabikeshi- inh-wanii'iganan. Mii i'iw wayabishkii-wed ezhi-wiindang, "Dream-catcher."

*We should have respect for those things that were given to us as Anishinaabe. We should not use our spiritual items that were given to us as Anishinaabe in ways they were not intended to be used. This is where Anishinaabe has lost the original teaching of how to use a dream catcher. This is what the white man calls a dream catcher.*



## Niibin — It is Summer

Chi-noodin idash aabawaa agwajiing. Megwaayaak, ningii-wiigwaasikemin. Weweni i'iw apii, ningii-maniwigwaasemin. Gaawiin ningii-nisaasiinaanig, ingiw wiigwaasi-mitigoog. Nooshkaachinaagan idash ziinibaakwado-makak, niwii-ozhitoonan. Wayiba niwii-mawinz. Niwii-aabajitoonan onow makakoon. Gaye, Ninoshe odoozhitoonan oziisigobimizhi-makakoon.

(It is very windy and warm weather outside. In the woods, we removed birchbark from the tree. Correctly at that time, we gathered the birchbark. No, we do not kill them, those birch trees. That fanning basket (winnowing tray) and sugar basket, I want to make them. Soon I will go pick berries. I want to use these baskets. Also, my Aunt she makes willow-baskets.)

### Bezhig—1

#### ojibwemowin (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Omaa—as in father

Miigwech—as in jay

Wiigob—as in seen

Boozhoo—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

#### Verbs Transitive Inanimate

These are the "to it" verbs; the action goes to an inanimate non-living object.  
Ziinibidoon—Squeeze it!  
Ninziinibidoon.(an)—I squeeze it. (them)  
Gizziinibidoon.—You squeeze it.  
Ozziinibidoon.—S/he squeezes it.  
Oziinibidoonaawaa.—They squeeze it.  
Waabanad!—See it!  
Njiwaabandaan(an).—I see it (them).  
Giwaabandaan.—You see it.  
Qwaabandaan.—S/he sees it.  
Qwaabandaanaawaa(n).—They see it.

### Niizh—2

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

A. Biijinaago wiigob ningii-pisha'igobii omaa.

B. Ningii-pishagibidoonan wiigobiin. Minwendaagwad.

C. Ningii-kashkigwaanaa oziisigobimizh-mitigoog.

D. Aabajitooyaan oziisigobimizh, mashkawaa i'iw makak.

E. Dakobidoon i'iw makak. Aabajitoon wiigob. Wewiib, ozhitoon!

F. Izhinikaazo "ode'miini guizis!" a'aw guizis!

G. Izaadaa. Mawinzoadaa. Ikidon miigwech.

H. Omaa. Maa-zaa-zaa. Omaa-zaa-zaa.

I. Omaa. Maa-zaa-zaa. Omaa-zaa-zaa.

J. Omaa. Maa-zaa-zaa. Omaa-zaa-zaa.

### Niswi—3

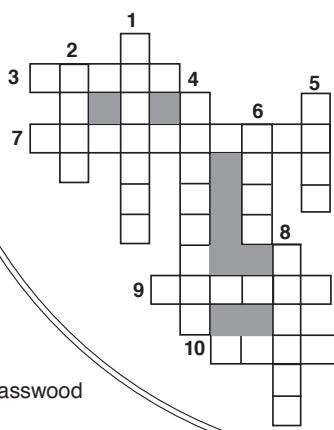
#### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. my aunt
2. there
4. trees
5. these (inanimate)
6. here
8. inner bark of the basswood

Across:

3. tree
7. Tie something.
9. It is windy.
10. please



### Niwin—4

#### VTI—I, You, He/She, They

Bimividoon!—Bring it along!

Nimbimidooon(an).—I bring it (pl) along.

Gibimidooon(an).—You bring it (pl) along.

Obimidooon.—S/he brings it along.

Obimidooonaawaa(n).—They bring it (them).

Nagadan!—Leave it behind!

Ninagadaan(an).—I leave it (pl) behind.

Ginagadaan (an).—You leave it.

Onagadaan.—S/he leave it.

Onagadaanaawaa(n).—They leave it.

#### Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

1. \_\_\_\_ waabandaan i'iw makak adoopowining.

2. Dibikak \_\_\_\_ ziinibidoon i'iw apikweshimon.

3. Daga \_\_\_\_ nagadaan i'iw makak.

4. \_\_\_\_ gii-bimividooon i'iw wiisiniwin imaa.

5. Nimaamaa \_\_\_\_ waabandaan i'iw onaaganan.

O.....

O.....aawaa

Ni....

Gi....

Translations:

**Niizh—2** A. Yesterday, the inner bark of the basswood tree, I peeled wiigob here. B. I peeled them by hand, the wiigob strips. It is fun. C. I sew them willow sticks. D. When I use willow, it is strong, that basket. E. Tie up! that basket. Use it! inner basswood bark. Hurry, make it! F. She is called "strawberry" moon (June) this moon. G. Let's all go. Let's all pick berries.

**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Ninoshe 2. Imaa 4. Mitigoog 5. Onow 6. Omaa 8. Wiigob

Across: 3. Mitig 7. Dakobidoon 9. Noodin 10. Daga

**Niwin—4** 1. I see it that basket (box) on the table. 2. At night she squeezes it that pillow. 3. Please you leave them, those baskets. 4. They brought it that food there. 5. My mother she wants to see them, those dishes.

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

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# MLCV ANNOUNCES BAND MEMBER LEADERSHIP ROLES

By Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

As most of the world was in lockdown at home due to the recent pandemic, and many of the Band's businesses were temporarily closed, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) leadership began to put a plan together on what a post-coronavirus business world might look like.

While there's a lot unknowns about how things will transform after the novel coronavirus is under control, the one thing MLCV did know is that having the right people in the right roles to navigate each business reopening was going to be key — especially for the casino operations as the leading revenue-generating companies in the MLCV portfolio.

Which is why MLCV is pleased to announce the following new Band member leadership roles:

## Michael Fahey – Super Stop Manager

Michael Fahey has been promoted to the Super Stop Manager under Wewinabi, Inc. In this new role, Michael will manage the daily operations of the Super Stop, Taco John's and Hot Stuff, assisting with all aspects, including hiring, training, and mentoring Associates, creating merchandising and marketing plans, and ensuring that all regulations are followed. He will also manage the operating budget, including the P&L for Super Stop.

Michael joined the Wewinabi team last October working in Human Resources. MLCV is excited to have Michael leading the day-to-day operations of Super Stop. He is a valuable member of the Wewinabi team, and with his experience, strong organizational skills, and HR background, he will be a great asset to this business.

Michael is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Capella University.

## Kelly Sam – Director of Marketing

Kelly Sam, who has been MLCV's Director of Strategic Relationships for four years, has been promoted to the Director of Marketing at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Kelly is a strategic hire for MLCV as the casino focused on building relationships with our Guests post-COVID. In this new role, Kelly oversees all facets of Grand Casino Hinckley's mar-



Top: Michael Fahey, Kelly Sam, Alyssa Enno. Bottom: Wendy Merrill, Bradley Kalk, Ryan O'Brien

keting efforts, including player development, loyalty marketing, entertainment, events and promotions, and more. Kelly is a dynamic young executive with an impressive background in both gaming and non-gaming environments — and her experience will serve the company well.

Kelly is pursuing her bachelor's degree in marketing management at Western Governors University. MLCV is excited to welcome her into this new role.

## Alyssa Enno – Director of Brand Strategy

Alyssa has been a staple in the MLCV Communications Department for the past three years. During her tenure, she has played a major role in building, managing, and evolving the Grand Casino, MLCV, and NLDC brands.

On June 1, she was promoted to the Director of Brand Strategy for MLCV where she will lead the internal creative team and outside agency to evolve, protect, and build our brands — especially the Grand Casino brand. Alyssa is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas with a bachelor's degree in marketing management, with an emphasis in marketing communication.

She has already implemented data-based insights and best practices that have helped shape media buys, key message development, Out-of-Home (billboard), and social strategies. MLCV is confident that these insights paired with her talent will provide a rewarding impact to the brands in the portfolio.

## Wendy Merrill – Assistant General Manager, Grand Casino Mille Lacs

Wendy began her career serving the Mille Lacs Band in 2004. Since then, she has held various roles within education and the Gaming Regulatory Authority. Her career now continues as the Assistant General Manager (AGM) of Grand Casino Mille Lacs where she will work in partnership with Tracy Sam, General Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the casino.

Wendy's path to Assistant General Manager included her most recent leadership role as the Legislative Affairs Director for the Mille Lacs Band's Legislative Branch where she oversaw all monthly accounting responsibilities including the management of the overall department budget. She also was responsible for the development, review, and implementation of all department policies and had to maintain a working knowledge of Federal, State, and Band laws and regulations. Her extensive experience within the Legislative Branch and Gaming Regulatory Authority will serve her well in her new AGM position, and MLCV is excited to welcome her in this leadership position.

Wendy has her bachelor's degree in Organizational Behavior from the College of St. Scholastica and her Master of Tribal Administration and Governance degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. She is currently pursing her MBA.

## Vice President of Operations – Bradley Kalk and Ryan O'Brien

A Vice President of Operations was added to the leadership team at each casino. This position is at the helm of the organization's core development and will head capital expenditure planning for building maintenance, security, risk management, and safety for the properties.

Bradley Kalk has been hired as the VP of Operations at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, and Ryan O'Brien has been hired as VP of Operations at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Both Bradley and Ryan have extensive, proven gaming industry experience that is an excellent match with their new positions at each property. MLCV is confident that the facilities will benefit greatly from Bradley and Ryan's leadership. Their ongoing commitment to driving operational excellence, unparalleled guest experiences, talent development, and a positive corporate culture will support Grand Casino's continued growth and makes them both ideal leaders as we work toward an exciting future.

## BUILD YOUR DREAM – ENTREPRENEURS NEEDED

MLCV has long enjoyed a partnership with the Initiative Foundation. Both organizations work to improve the economy of Central Minnesota and like MLCV, the Initiative Foundation believes that entrepreneurs contribute to the revitalization of their communities.

In 2018, the Initiative Foundation started a pilot program called the Enterprise Academy, modeled after Entrepreneur Development Program by the Neighborhood Development Center. The Enterprise Academy aims to help people start small businesses. Participants who complete the course will have access to targeted business lending and customized one-on-one technical support in many of the areas that challenge new entrepreneurs — from developing logos and handouts to creating a bookkeeping

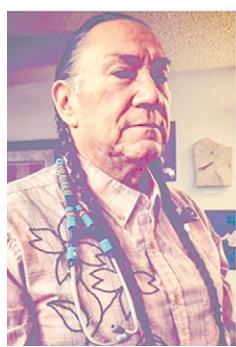
system or a pleasing store layout.

A new cohort for the Academy is in the planning stages, and they are looking for interested participants. MLCV has been asked to see if any Mille Lacs Band members would be interested in applying to the next 12-week cohort. There would be five spots to fill. For more information on the program, please visit <https://www.ifound.org/economy/enterprise-academy/> or if interested in learning more, contact info@ifound.org.

Any Mille Lacs Band member who is accepted into the Enterprise Academy will be provided a stipend to help with their expenses from MLCV. For more information on the stipend, please contact inquiries@mlcv.com.

# DR. ARNE VAINIO

## BLACK LIVES MATTER



Difficult times. Uncertain times. How many times have we heard that in the past few months? The COVID-19 pandemic came to us in March and social distancing has caused millions to lose their jobs and countless businesses won't make it.

Hospitals in some parts of the country are overwhelmed. In other parts, surgical floors are empty and people are afraid to come in to the Emergency Room. Clinics have changed the way they see patients and much of medicine is changing to virtual visits by computer and phone. Some of those changes will likely be permanent.

There are stories upon stories of people dying in the hospital without family members allowed to be there because of the pandemic. Health care workers are in harm's way and they worry about bringing the virus home to their loved ones. Elders are isolated and lonely and afraid.

We weren't ready for this as a nation and that lack of preparation cost lives.

Wearing masks and social distancing have become a flash point and have become a way to further divide us. Essential workers have been required to work and many of those jobs are low paying. Minorities and those living in poverty have been hit especially hard. COVID-19 has spread like wildfire through the Navajo Nation and resources are spread thin.

In the middle of all that uncertainty and fear arose a recurrent nightmare. A police officer in Minneapolis knelt on the neck of a Black man and three other officers were complicit in his death. Life left George Floyd on a live video seen around the world. He cried for his dead mother and she couldn't save him.

Protests followed and neighborhoods burned. My son was close to that burning and took turns with his neighbors watching their building through the long and dangerous nights. I wonder about rites of passage and I wonder when I became a man and left boyhood behind.

Defending and protecting your neighbors is certainly one of those passages.

I was 10 years old when Martin Luther King Jr. was shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. I remember seeing those

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images in the stack of black and white Life magazines in my Finnish grandmother's house. I remember seeing photos of fire hoses and police dogs being turned on Black people who dared to take a stand. I remember the photos of a little Black girl walking between U.S. Marshals on her way to school. I remember wondering how she got herself into that situation.

It took me a long time to realize she didn't do anything. That situation was waiting for her for hundreds of years. I remember staying with my Ojibwe grandparents in Minneapolis when I was young. My grandmother read True Detective magazines and kept the doors locked and the shades pulled down. She was suspicious of anyone different than her. She locked the car doors when my grandfather drove through the Black part of Minneapolis. She would keep them locked until we got back to their run-down apartment with the run-down apartments surrounding it. I remember the broken tiles and cockroaches scurrying under the bathtub when I pulled the chain for the single light bulb hanging in the bathroom.

Fast forward fifty-two years. Death was waiting for George Floyd and it had also waited for hundreds of years. Death has always been patient. For some it comes after a long and full life with boats and vacations and mortgages and big weddings and handshakes and Christmas cards from bankers. It comes with friendly nods and gentle warnings for driving a few miles above the speed limit.

For others it comes randomly with agony and pain and humiliation for a twenty dollar mistake. Eight minutes and forty-six seconds is enough time to realize you are dying. It's an eternity and it's no time at all.

My wife sought out her family on her father's side after our son was born almost 22 years ago. We went to Florida and we found them in some of the poorest parts of Tampa. We had never been immersed in Black culture like that and we were welcomed with open arms and love that grows deeper each time we see them. This is an entire community held together by faith and devotion and spiritual strength.

They believe.

We met Clarence on one of those trips. He was maybe 50 and missing most of his teeth. His only possession was a rickety old bicycle he rode everywhere. He loved knowing a doctor's family and he was always proud when we wanted to visit him. On one of our trips we found out he had died from complications of poverty. He was too young and his death left an empty place in us. I still miss hearing him laugh.

George Floyd's death leaves an empty place in us. We need deep changes as a society and we need to live by the principles that are in us when we're born. Within us all is the knowledge of the difference between right and wrong. The more you treat all other people fairly, the stronger that part of your spirit becomes.

Our Grandfather teachings are humility, truth, honesty, respect, wisdom, and courage.

And love. Zaagi'idiwin is the Ojibwe word for love. Zhawenim is unconditional, compassionate love, and I learned its meaning in the poorest parts of Tampa. Martin Luther King Jr. lived by these principles and maybe used different words.

We need to see the best in each other.

We're better than this. We have to be. Four hundred years of oppression is too long. I stand with my relatives in the Black community everywhere and I feel their pain.

Black lives matter. Say it out loud.

Black lives matter.

Arne Vainio, MD is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, Minnesota. He can be contacted at [a-vainio@hotmail.com](mailto:a-vainio@hotmail.com).

## HOMELESSNESS IS STILL PREVALENT ON RESERVATIONS

By Lee Egerstrom, *The Circle*

Homelessness and near-homelessness are continuing problems at six Ojibwe reservations in northern Minnesota.

A survey by Wilder Research of residents at collaborating northern reservations conducted in 2018 found at least 2,315 people who researchers classified as homeless or "near-homeless."

The situation has undoubtedly gotten worse since then, said Nicole MartinRogers, senior research manager and Minnesota Reservation Homeless Study co-director at Wilder.

With COVID-19 shutting down businesses, she said, "We know people have lost homes, can't afford rents, and are doubling-up with friends and relatives."

Tammy Moreland (Mille Lacs Ojibwe), chair of the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent and End Homelessness, said data from the survey helps cooperating tribes develop homelessness and housing programs. The collaborative is a joint information and research for five of the six reservations participating in the Wilder study.

She said current data are taking on additional importance as tribal governments deal with health and safety issues under threat from COVID-19.

"We have identified people who are doubled-up. We use the data when we are having discussions about COVID. If someone gets sick, it could be infecting three different families in that household," Moreland said. "It can often be a mom, dad, a grandmother, and a cousin all put at risk."

Participating Ojibwe Tribal Councils include Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Bois Forte, and Fond du Lac Bands.

The study shows there are waiting lists of more than a year to find housing on some reservations.

Rental costs are an enormous factor, and nearly half of the respondents reported either physical health or mental health conditions that limit their ability to find jobs, perform work, or secure employment to improve household incomes.

Further, the survey found that employment rates for homeless people on reservations had not kept pace with the overall employment gains enjoyed in Greater Minnesota.

Surveyed respondents had only 24 percent employment in 2018, and 81 percent of them were earning wages less than \$15 an hour, a benchmark of what is considered "a living wage" across America.

Children, youth, and Elders made up half the homeless and near-homeless on the reservations.

The Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent and End Homelessness consists of members from the Bois Forte, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Red Lake, and White Earth Bands who usually meet monthly to share ideas, apply for funding, and advocate for state and sometimes federal programs for the homeless.

The current study can be accessed at: [https://www.wilder.org/sites/default/files/imports/2018\\_HomelessInMinnesota\\_Reservations\\_Summ\\_4-20.pdf](https://www.wilder.org/sites/default/files/imports/2018_HomelessInMinnesota_Reservations_Summ_4-20.pdf).

## 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 the 24/7 Crisis Line: 1-866-867-4006.

### WIC PROVIDES REMOTE SERVICE

The Mille Lacs Band's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program holds a telephone clinic every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. WIC benefits are loaded directly to the WIC card. No in-person contact is needed.

Certifications and re-certifications will be done over the phone, along with nutrition and breastfeeding information. Documentation of ID, residence, and income (or automatic eligibility) can be sent via text.

WIC serves pregnant women, infants, and children age 1 through their 5th birthday. WIC serves about half of all infants born in the U.S.

If you would like more information or assistance, call Donna Sutton R.N. at 320-630-2443.

### STRONGHEARTS OFFERS ONLINE CHAT FEATURE

If it's not safe to call 1-844-762-8483, StrongHearts Native Helpline's new online chat advocacy sessions might be a better option. Users receive one-on-one, real-time, confidential information from a trained advocate. Visit <https://www.strongheartshelpline.org/> to get started.

Unfortunately, StrongHearts Native Helpline is not able to provide internet-based services to people younger than 13. The phone services are available to people of all ages.

All of StrongHearts Native Helpline's advocacy services are available daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT.

Chatline users reaching out after hours will receive a message re-directing them to reach out during operating hours or to reach out to The National Domestic Violence Hotline, a non-Native based 24/7 domestic violence helpline.

Click on the purple Chat Now button to connect with an advocate, located on each page of the website in the same location. There is no need to download anything. This is not a public chat room — it is a private one-on-one chat. It is completely confidential and anonymous.

Chatline users are asked to complete a series of optional non-identifying demographics questions first. When the answers are complete (or left blank), click on the Start Chat button to open a chat session with an advocate. To close a chat at any time, click on the X in the top right corner of the chat window, followed by End Chat.

As always, your safety is most important to us at StrongHearts Native Helpline and it could be helpful to remember to click out of the site when you're done chatting and clear your online history.

The StrongHearts Native Helpline (1-844-762-8483) is a culturally-appropriate domestic violence and dating violence helpline for Native Americans, available daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT. StrongHearts Native Helpline is a collaborative effort of the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.

# HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT EARNS MASTER'S

By Chilah Brown **Mille Lacs Band Member**

I am a high school dropout. Growing up, I always had this awkward feeling that I was different, or that I didn't belong in a public school system. My peers did not resemble myself, and my educators didn't have much knowledge about the real history of this country or my cultural traditions. I can recall at times being the only minority or Indigenous person in the classroom. In grade school there would be days where my fellow classmates would try to touch my beaded barrettes or grab my braids. It wasn't long before I became irritated and withdrawn in class, and I started getting into fights and skipping school. As I grew older I had very little interest in academics. Public school took its toll on my educational aspirations.



When I turned 18 and had the opportunity, I acquired my GED, leaving the public school system behind me, with the mindset that public education was designed for the majority of society to succeed. Once I acquired my GED, I went to work for Mystic Lake casino for six years. When my siblings (who attended Heart of the Earth Survival School) approached graduation and aspired to attend college, a fire was sparked inside of me to enroll at Haskell Indian Nations University.

Attending Haskell was one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever encountered as I was finally in a setting with peers who resembled me and understood my cultural traditions. Having students, faculty, and staff that I could relate to helped create a positive learning space for me, and I began to find academic success. I graduated with an Associate of Arts with an emphasis in Tribal Management in 2006 and quickly enrolled in a four-year program to acquire my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Tribal Management.

After graduating from Haskell, I returned to work for the tribe. As I was walking through the government center hallway I noticed the flyer for the Masters in Tribal Administration and Governance program at the University of Minnesota Duluth. As I gathered more information regarding the program, it was

plain to see that it was an exceptional opportunity that I had to take advantage of, so I enrolled and became a Bulldog in 2014. The program was a great educational experience, and I encourage anyone working with tribes or seeking a Masters or Bachelors in Tribal Administration to apply. In 2016, my commencement was a success, but my academics were cut short due to my historical endorsement to run for Minnesota Senate as the DFL candidate. Running for Senate was a great learning experience, but in the back of my mind I knew I had to finish my Master's degree.

In 2018 I applied to Augsburg University's Minnesota Indian Teachers Training Program for a Master's in Education. I successfully completed the program Dec. 19, 2020, and with the excitement of commencement at US Bank Stadium, myself along with 900 other Auggie graduates were eager to walk across the stage in a ceremony scheduled for May 4, 2020. Unfortunately, the coronavirus epidemic canceled Augsburg's commencement, which was replaced by a virtual graduation. This was very upsetting to me as I was ecstatic to walk across the field, to take pictures with my family and friends. Being in a large commencement of thousands of students and hearing your name called as your family watches you walk across the stage was one of the main reasons I went back to school because I never had that as a high school dropout. Although virtual graduation was small and informal, seeing the look on my mother's face and listening to her "lee lee" was better than any of my commencements as normally I would be searching for her in a massive crowd.

Graduation will be rescheduled, and I look forward to that date, but for now I have once again found another program online to keep me occupied during this pandemic. I am happy to say I am accepted into the Post University's Leadership and Change Management Graduate Program to acquire a certification beginning June 29, 2020.

Although I am a high school dropout, once I found a successful learning environment, I began to find my potential and to thrive. Finding your passion for learning is a great path that is different for everyone. I don't have any regrets about dropping out of school because it has led me to where I am today. I encourage everyone of all ages to find their own educational path to success and hope that maybe by sharing my story it can inspire others to find theirs as well.

## GRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEEDS YOU!

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Next, you should know that there are a few reasons why someone might not be able to serve on the GRA Board. During a criminal background check, certain convictions can be temporary or permanent bars. In addition, there cannot be any open warrants. Mille Lacs Band elected officials and people with an interest in vendors or businesses that serve the casino cannot serve.

If you want more information on anything involving the Board, please call the Office of Gaming Regulation and Compliance at (320) 532-8194. Or contact your District Representative and the Chief Executive's Office directly! Vacancies fill up soon, so hurry!

# MAUDE KEGG — PRESERVING TRADITIONS

By Carissa Thomas MNopedia

In 1904, along Portage Lake, in a birch-bark-and-cattail wigwam, a baby named Naawakamigookwe (Middle of the Earth Woman, also called Maude) was born to Agwadaashiins (Nancy Pine) and Gwayoonh (Charles Mitchell). She took her first breath in the traditional Ojibwe home of her family. It was the beginning of a life guided by cultural traditions, continuous adaptation to a fast-changing world, and an inherent skill for interpreting her people's culture and history.

The exact date of Maude's birth is unknown because her family did not measure time according to the Western European calendar system. Later in life, she chose August 26 for a birthday because she recalled her family saying that she was born during the wild rice harvest. When her mother died, while she was still an infant, her grandmother became an important caregiver and teacher.

The Mitchell family, like other Ojibwe people in the early twentieth century, were adapting to a changing world. During the winter, they lived in a farmhouse northwest of Mille Lacs. By 1911 Maude was attending school in a one-room schoolhouse, which she enjoyed. Although she was the only Native American in her school, she never experienced bullying from the other children. Along with most of her classmates, she completed school through the eighth grade. Unlike her classmates, however, she continued to receive an Indigenous education from her community and family.

Although Maude spent each winter (biboon) living in a farmhouse and attending a school, she spent the rest of the year following the traditional Ojibwe seasonal cycles. In the spring (Zigwan), she and her family moved to a sugar bush camp along Misi-zaaga'igan (Grand Lake, or Mille Lacs). There, they harvested sap from maple trees and processed it into maple sugar. They also returned to their farmhouse to plant gardens and harvest berries along the Gichi-ziiibi (Mississippi River).

In the summer (Niibin), Maude learned how to prepare fish caught from the lake, and to maintain the gardens that provided both food and medicine. When the fall season (Dagwaagin) arrived, her family moved to the relatively small Rice Lake, which was filled with manoomin, or wild rice. Maude learned to set up the ricing camp by making birch bark homes and creating areas for parching, threshing, and winnowing the wild rice.

Maude experienced common childhood illnesses like chicken pox, measles, and mumps, but she always recovered. There were no Western-medicine doctors in her area. Ojibwe medicine men treated her and others in the community using the traditional, sacred medicine practiced during the ceremonies of the Midewiwin, or Grand Medicine Society. Maude later remembered that although the medicine men treated Native people with frequent success, those same treatments rarely worked on the white people in the area.

Midewiwin became an important part of Maude's life, and in 1917, she met Martin Kegg, another Mille Lacs Band mem-



Maude Kegg

ber, at a Midewiwin ceremony. She married him in 1920 in a traditional Ojibwe ceremony; two years later, the couple had a Christian church wedding.

In the 1920s, Maude traveled with the owners of the Mille Lacs Indian Trading Post to various Ojibwe communities, including Leech Lake and White Earth, to help them buy craft items and serve as a translator. By 1930, she moved to Vineyard Bay on Mille Lacs, where she started selling bead chains, moccasins, and other work to the trading post. As an artist, Maude is widely known for her traditional beadwork, rugs, and basswood-fiber dolls.

In 1929 the owners of the trading post opened an on-site museum. Maude aided in the construction of the museum's main attraction, the Four Seasons Room. She began working as a tour guide, interpreting her people's culture and history for visitors. When the owners of the trading post and museum donated their collections to the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) in 1959, Maude continued her cultural interpretation as a MNHS employee. Outside of this work, she and her husband and children continued the traditional labor of the Ojibwe seasonal cycles.

In the 1970s, Maude became concerned that Ojibwe people were forgetting their history and culture. Inspired to make a change, she set out on a mission to lift her memories from her mind and record them on paper. She enlisted the help of scholarly writers and produced several books: *When I Was A Little Girl* (1976), *At The End of the Trail* (1978), *What My Grandmother Told Me* (1983), and *Portage Lake* (1991).

On January 6, 1996, Maude Kegg took her last breath and joined her ancestors.

Source: <https://www.mnopedia.org/person/kegg-maude-1904-1996>. Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported.



## MARTIN KEGG

This photo of Martin Kegg making maple sugar cakes was taken on April 19, 1947, and published in 'Against the Tide of American History: The Story of the Mille Lacs Anishinabe,' along with the photo above of Maude Kegg splitting wiigob (basswood) bark. Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

## BACK IN TIME

### 10 years ago — 2010

The Tribal Emergency Response Committee participated in an exercise designed to help prepare for an environmental emergency. Education Commissioner Dennis Olson said the exercise was both informative and enlightening. "Band members should feel confident that the TERC is constantly being trained to respond to emergency situations with the best interests of the community and its members at the forefront of their minds," said Dennis.

Mille Lacs Band members and other Ojibwe tribal members attended the Mille Lacs Tribal College and received their master's degrees in education from the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD): Phyllis Y. Lowe, Erin Michelle Bruneau, Chris Tyna Howes, Melanie Ann Benjamin, Tabatha Jean Boyd, Amanda Lee Bruneau, Jodell Marie Meyer, Gabriel Bradley Desrosiers, Brian James Jackson, Jeffrey Scott Tibbetts, and Jacqueline Crowe Fraedrich.

The new transfer station near the wastewater treatment facility was up and running.

### 15 years ago — 2005

The Tribal Emergency Response Committee held a preparedness drill in conjunction with neighboring counties and other agencies. "All of the agencies work very well together," said Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Mille Lacs Band. "It's important to have partnerships like these in place before an emergency occurs so that everyone knows each other's roles and is working off the same page."

Tenth-grade Band member Samantha Burr, who attended Isle High School, recently made it to the state golf tournament for the second year in a row.

Nay Ah Shing graduates were Sarah Oswaldson, Crystal Garbow, Cassandra Garbow, Kenneth Mitchell Jr., Chris Gahbow, Mary Deleon, Mary Green, Stacy Boyd, Quintin Sam, and Bradley Buckanaga Sargent.

Rafael Eubanks graduated from Cretin Derham Hall and was planning to attend Iowa State University.

### 20 years ago — 2000

On July 11, Melanie Benjamin was sworn into the office of Chief Executive, and Sandi Blake took the oath as District I Representative.

A new "Honoring Our Veterans" display was installed at the Government Center with help from Lana Oswaldson.

Ground was broken for a new convenience store in East Lake.

Gordon and Kathy Matrion opened Running Home Farms.

Don Pawaush organized a ceremony for urban American Indian graduates at Grand Casino Hinckley. Don's daughter Michelle was one of the honorees. Chief Executive Marge Anderson and Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus attended the event.

Brittany Wind was named the White Clover Princess by the AMVETS Post 53 at their Memorial Day powwow.

*The information above is from the July 2000, 2005, and 2010 issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin. Many back issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin are available at [millelacsband.com/news](http://millelacsband.com/news). Click on "Inaajimowin Archive."*

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## JULY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Robert Duane Anderson  
David Niib Aubid  
Cynthia Pauline Backora  
Darline Ann Barbour  
Jeffrey Allen Beaulieu  
MaryAnn Sophia Belgarde  
Faith Caylen Bellecourt  
Anita Lynn Benjamin  
James Oliver Benjamin  
Roberta Joy Benjamin  
Timothy Adam Benjamin  
Roxann Lynn Carr  
Archie Dahl Cash  
Kevin Scott Churchill  
Randall Clark  
Roger Erick Colton  
Rosa Mae Colton  
Christine Marie Costello  
Gary Lee Davis  
Michael Wayne Davis  
Brian DeSantis  
Victoria Lynn Dunagan  
Rosella Marie Eagle  
Marc Alan Fahrlander  
Joni Lee Fox  
Lisa Rosanne Frolichman  
Carla Jean Gargano  
Donna Lou Gilmore  
Jay Alex Graikowski  
Karen Harrington  
Lisa Michelle Jackson  
Lawrence Gene Johnson  
Debra Ann Kamimura  
Dixie Marie Kamimura  
Judith Joan Kanassatega  
Vivian Roxanne Kegg  
Richard Joseph Keller  
Terry Bruce Kemper  
Deborah Jean Kersting  
Darlene Ann LaFave  
Bonita Marie Lucas

Jennifer Carole Mancini  
Virginia Mann  
Brian David Matrious  
Meskwanakwad  
Alan Douglas Mitchell  
Doreen Kay Mitchell  
Jo Ann Mitchell  
Letitia Mitchell  
Darren Wayne Moose  
Carol Jean Nickaboine  
James Gregory Nickaboine  
Wanda Marie Nickaboine  
Alan Michael O'Brien  
Debra Ann Olson  
Kevin Dean Pawlitschek  
Karen Peterson  
Joseph Vincent Pewaush  
Frederick Allen Pike  
Steven Edward Premo  
Daryl Alan Quaderer  
Deanna Louise Sam  
Elfreda M Sam  
Steve Leroy Sam  
David Frederick Schaaf  
Orretta Faye Sharlow  
Valerie Jayne Shingobe  
Alicia Lydia Skinaway  
Geraldine Ellen Skinaway  
Darryl Gene Smith  
Loretta June Smith  
Andrew Felix St. Clair  
Kevin William Sutton  
Patricia Louise Thomas  
Christine Lynn Torres  
Elizabeth Annette Wilson  
Jolette Marie Zapf

## HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **William Sayers Sr. (Sonny)** on July 5 with love from Auntie Barb • Happy birthday to **Jenny Joseph** July 7 from Barb and

Sami • Happy birthday to **Aaron P. Bearheart (Boy)** July 9 with love from Mom and little Brandon • Happy birthday **Dezerrey Gordon** July 9, love from Auntie Barb • Happy 17th birthday to **Ceddy Bearheart** July 20, with love from Grandma and Cousin Brandon • Happy birthday **Priscilla Greenleaf** July 22 from Auntie Barb and Cousin Brandon • Happy Heavenly Birthday to our beautiful Mom, **Tina Anderson**, on July 23. You were taken from us too soon. We miss you and will always love you. Jordan, Shyla, Destanie, grandkids, Caden, Carter, Mayleena, Jaden and Mom • Happy 5th Birthday **Caden Shingobe** on July 24, with lots of love, from Mom, Dad, cousin Carter, Auntie Destanie, Uncles Jordan and Dallas Jr. and Great Gramma Gina • Happy 5th Birthday **Carter Anderson** on July 25, with lots of love from, Mom, Dad, Auntie Shyla, Uncles Jordan and Dallas Jr., cousins Caden, Jaden and Great Gramma Gin.

## 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 or call 320-237-6851.



## CONGRATS TO TYLER!

Tyler Selin graduated from Cloquet High School this spring. Way to go, Tyler!

Send your shout-outs to news@millelacsband.com!

## 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 **320-237-6851**. The deadline for the July issue is June 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 320-237-6851 or email news@millelacsband.com before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday. Send calendar items to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

## SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send weekly news summaries and breaking news updates to Band members.

Don't worry — we will not share your email or overwhelm you with emails. This will be used for weekly news summaries and important updates that need to be shared immediately.

Send your email address to news@millelacsband.com so we can add you to the list!

# MILLE LACS BAND RECOVERY GROUPS

See page 19 for information on recovery groups during the COVID-19 Stay Home order.

### 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 IIa 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.



## GLIFWC SEEKS COORDINATOR

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission is seeking an Outreach Coordinator in the Division of Intergovernmental Affairs.

This is a one-year full-time position that may be renewed with continued funding through the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's (GLIFWC's) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants.

The Outreach Coordinator will work in Odanah, Wisconsin, under the direction of the Director of the Public Information Office, the Wildlife Section Leader, and the Environmental Biologist, and under the supervision of the Great Lakes Program Coordinator.

The closing date for applications is August 7.

For more information or to apply, contact Leanne Thannum at 715-682-6619 or [ithannum@glifwc.org](mailto:ithannum@glifwc.org).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE</b>						
All recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. ID 601 532 2869 Password 456 267.						
<b>CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!</b>						
Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in <i>Ojibwe Inaaejimowin</i> . 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 or call 320-495-5006.						
<b>5</b> <b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. <b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>6</b> <b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>7</b> <b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>8</b> <b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>9</b> <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>Look up words or practice your Ojibwemowin at <a href="https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu">https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu</a>.</i>	<b>10</b> <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>The deadline for the August issue is July 15. Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.</i>	<b>11</b> <b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>Play Indigenous educational games at <a href="http://www.7generationgames.com">www.7generationgames.com</a></i>
<b>12</b> <b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. <b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>13</b> <b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>14</b> <b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>15</b> <b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>16</b> <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <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>	<b>17</b> <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <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>	<b>18</b> <b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.
<b>19</b> <b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. <b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>20</b> <b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>21</b> <b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>22</b> <b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>23</b> <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>Zaagibagaang: Anishinaabe Values in Action shares all kinds of useful information about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: <a href="https://zaagibagaang.com">https://zaagibagaang.com</a></i>	<b>24</b> <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>Watch "The Woodlands: The Story of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe" at <a href="https://youtu.be/p29pYyOkW3g">https://youtu.be/p29pYyOkW3g</a></i>	<b>25</b> <b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.
<b>26</b> <b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. <b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>27</b> <b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>28</b> <b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>29</b> <b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.	<b>30</b> <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>Thunderbird Strike is an online video game with an Indigenous theme <a href="http://www.thunderbirdstrike.com">www.thunderbirdstrike.com</a></i>	<b>31</b> <b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>Do you need sobriety support? Search <b>Mino Miikana (A good path)</b> on Facebook! <a href="https://www.facebook.com/mino.miikana">https://www.facebook.com/mino.miikana</a></i>	<i>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</i>



# A NEW HOME FOR HEALING

The Health and Human Services Department has shifted operations to a state-of-the-art facility in District I. For more photos, see page I.



## 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 320-237-6851. The August issue deadline is July 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 at one of the following on-call numbers:

District I and II: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497.

**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; Aazzoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 866-867-4006.

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE  
43408 Odena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359  
[millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com)

