



# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

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



Election Judge Deanna Sam has been assisted by Alternate Tellers like LeAnn Benjamin at the Election Office in District I.

## FINALLY, GOOD NEWS: ACTIVISM WORKS!

*Indian Country sees positive changes on pipelines, boundaries, mascots*

July 2020 was a memorable month for Native Americans, who witnessed huge victories in the fights for dignity, treaty rights, and environmental protection.

On Sunday, July 5, Dominion and Duke energy announced they are abandoning their Atlantic Coast Pipeline project, which would have crossed the Appalachian Trail. On Monday, July 6, a federal court ordered that the Dakota Access Pipeline, in which Enbridge is a partner, be shut down pending environmental review, a victory for the water protectors at Standing Rock. The same day, the Supreme Court denied the Trump Administration's request to stay a federal judge's order blocking construction on TC Energy's Keystone XL pipeline.

Those decisions gave Native activists hope that the era of the fossil fuel pipeline might be drawing to a close, but the battle continues over Line 3, which would cross sensitive manoomin waters in the District II area. (For an update on Line 3, see page 4.)

Following that good news came the Supreme Court decision on July 9 recognizing that the Muscogee Nation's reservation is still intact, which means about half of Oklahoma remains Indian Country.

More than 1.8 million people live on the land in question, which includes 400,000 in Tulsa, Oklahoma's second-largest city.

Conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote the ruling, joining the court's four liberals in the majority. Gorsuch referenced the forced relocation by the U.S. government of Native Americans, including the Creek Nation, to Oklahoma in the event known as the "trail of tears." At the time, the U.S. government pledged that the new land would be theirs forever.

"Today we are asked whether the land these treaties promised remains an Indian reservation for purposes of federal criminal law. Because Congress has not said otherwise, we hold the government to its word," Gorsuch wrote.

Finally, on July 13, the Washington NFL team announced that it would change its mascot from a derogatory image of an Indian — giving rise to hopes that other teams in Cleveland, Atlanta, and Kansas City might follow suit.

Mille Lacs Band members have been heavily involved in the fight against racist mascots in general and the Washington team in particular. The Band was a major participant in the biggest mascot rally ever outside U.S. Bank Stadium in 2014 when the Washington team played the Vikings.

The lesson from these three developments on pipelines, treaty rights, and mascots is that activism works.

Mille Lacs Band ancestors like Shawboshkung set an example by fighting for our reservation. Many Band members have followed their lead by marching against pipelines, Native mascots, and police brutality.

It may take years, decades, or centuries, but in the end, justice will prevail. Keep fighting!

## TRIBAL ELECTION IS AUGUST 18 EARLY VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT IS RECOMMENDED

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic will still be with us when the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe general election is held on August 18. In order to reduce traffic at the polls, Band members are encouraged to vote by absentee ballot or to vote early at the Election Office in the District I Community Center.

On the ballot will be Virgil Wind and Sandra Blake, who are running for District I Representative, and Carolyn Beaulieu and Melanie Benjamin, who are running for Chief Executive.

The Election Office will be open during regular business hours through election day, August 18.

Band members can vote early at the Election Office if they bring identification, wear a mask, and practice social distancing.

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, IIa, and III (Aazhoomog), and All Nations Church in Minneapolis for urban Band members.

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 need an absentee ballot, please call Deanna Sam at 320-532-7586 or 320-279-0178, or email [deanna.sam@millelacsband.com](mailto:deanna.sam@millelacsband.com). The absentee ballot request form is also printed on page 10. If you plan to vote by mail with an absentee ballot, be sure to act quickly, as the election is approaching.

In addition to the Tribal election on August 18, Band members will cast their votes in the state primary on August 11. For more on that election, see page 10.

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION IS AUGUST 11. SEE PAGE 10 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



# 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

Dear Band Members,

Boozhoo. Every month, there are new changes regarding how we do business during this global pandemic. Most recently, Governor Walz mandated that masks must be worn inside all public spaces. The Mille Lacs Band already had this order in place for nearly two months, which was the result of a Commissioner's Order signed by Nicole Anderson to protect our members. Sadly, several families in our Band community have now been impacted by COVID-19. The Band remains committed to doing everything possible to support families during quarantine and take whatever steps are necessary to protect the Band membership.

You may recall that at the 2020 State of the Band Address, Band members received an annual report that included information about all the Executive Branch offices and programs. Since COVID-19 changed all of our lives in March, much has also changed with how our programs are serving Band members. To ensure Band members are updated on all programs and services during the global pandemic, the Executive Branch has prepared a semi-annual report to inform Band members about how programs and services are functioning, the impact of COVID-19 on government operations, progress and challenges over the past six months, and what Band members can expect from Band government now and into the fall.

If you have any questions about any of the information in this report, please contact the Commissioner in charge of that department so you can get your questions answered. Their numbers are available on the website. You can also contact the Commissioner on Call, at 320-630-2994 and he or she will direct your question to the appropriate person.

July was a busy month across Band government. There is very exciting news to report for the urban area. The board of the American Indian Community Development Corporation (AICDC) just approved a purchase agreement for the Band to buy the land across from All Nations Church in Minneapolis, where we will build an apartment complex for Mille Lacs Band members, which will include a community gathering space and some offices. I will be establishing a committee of urban area Mille Lacs Band members to help design the building. This is going to be a wonderful housing option for Band Members in

the urban area, so look for more information about that project!

The stimulus payment for August was sent out and includes support for purchasing necessities for children who will resume school this fall, even though we don't know what that means yet as far as classes being delivered online or in person. We wanted to ensure that parents and grandparents have an opportunity to make sure that our children are ready to resume their studies and have whatever school supplies are necessary.

On financial matters, I also want to give a big shout-out to our amazing Grants Department. During the pandemic, every single grant that our Grants staff have written for the Band was successfully funded! That is a huge accomplishment because most grants are competitive. The Band heavily relies on these grants to support services we provide to Band members.

In addition to all the daily phone and video conference meetings I attend on behalf of the Band, on July 13, Secretary/Treasurer Boyd and I attended the first in-person meeting for official government purposes since March. All other official meetings for government businesses have been via video or phone conference. This was a meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, which was held at Fortune Bay Casino. Strict social distancing measures were practiced, and only approximately 10 people were allowed in attendance.

For your safety, MCT members were not allowed to attend in person, but were able to watch and have limited participation through Zoom video conferencing. Regular business was discussed, in addition to legal updates regarding a court decision in a case called *Hudson v. Zinke*, which involves the Secretary of the Interior's authority to approve tribal elections. A legal update was also provided about a lawsuit filed by some MCT members against the TEC regarding the possible transfer of MCT titled lands to the individual Band with jurisdiction over the lands.

One of the biggest outcomes of the TEC meeting pertains to enrollments. After the TEC approved enrollments for Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe adults and children, our official enrollment is now 4,843. This is the largest population we have ever had.

Scores of other meetings have taken place this month, including weekly Cabinet meetings with the commissioners and

Solicitor General to discuss ongoing projects and goals, weekly staff meetings via conference call with the staff of the Office of the Chief Executive, and meetings with the Band Assembly, which has been very busy with new legislation. Any Mille Lacs Band member or office can propose ideas for legislation, and right now we are working on a proposal with the Band Assembly that would create a separate division in Band government to provide assistance to Band members who want to start their own business.

On behalf of the four-state region, I serve as the tribal representative on the U.S. Attorney General's Tribal Nations Relations Council (TNLC). This is a group that advises the Attorney General (currently A.G. William Barr) on issues in Indian country that relate to the Department of Justice, such as law enforcement matters. During the Obama Administration, our TNLC met regularly in person with each Attorney General. During this Administration, we have yet to meet with or talk to the Attorney General in person.

When I attended the White House signing ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in fall of 2019, I made a request on behalf of the TNLC and asked Attorney General Barr if he would schedule an in-person meeting with us. He said "we will get that done." That has not happened yet, and with COVID-19 it might be a while. At our TNLC meeting this month, we talked with DOJ staff about the impact on tribal communities of social unrest and law enforcement reform.

Board meetings of the Minnesota Board on Aging (BOA) were also held this month. My role on this board is to ensure that as Minnesota carries out services funded from the Older American Act, that our tribal Elders are included in receiving services. MCT President Cathy Chavers also serves on this board.

There are many other topics I could discuss, but the most important message I have is to urge all Mille Lacs Band members to get out and exercise your right to vote in the MCT Elections on August 18. Voting is your birthright, and every Mille Lacs Band member who is eligible to vote should make sure your voice is heard. Please continue social distancing, wear your masks, and do everything possible to protect yourself and your families. Miigwech!

## EDUCATION LEADERS WILL FOLLOW STATE GUIDELINES THIS FALL

By **Toya Stewart Downey** Mille Lacs Band Member

Planning for the upcoming school year was not an easy feat for anyone who was charged with creating multiple scenarios based on the months-long impact and potential spread of the novel coronavirus.

School leaders were asked to create plans for three different scenarios — continuing distance learning, offering a hybrid of some distance learning combined with in-person learning, and having students back in classrooms full-time come this fall. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz made his decision known about what plans schools should follow during the last week of July (after this issue went to press), ending months of speculation about what would happen.

For Mille Lacs Band education leaders, the key consideration over the past few months was the safety of the students, staff, and community.

"We still want to provide equitable education, and we miss our students, but we know we have to do what's best for the health of the community," said Byron Ninham, the Nay Ah Shing Assistant Principal for grades 6 through 12. "With COVID-19, a spread that would be devastating." Byron said educators were staying abreast of the latest developments for

the schools and the community.

Like many parents, Mille Lacs Band School Board member Semira Kimpson said she was in a tough place, too. She has five children and works a full-time job in the Legislative Office.

In July, she said she didn't think going back to school was the safest thing to do, yet she also knows the burden it can be for families to try to work and be their children's teacher.

"What happens for parents who go back to work, but need help to educate their kids?" she wondered. "Plus, kids don't know how to social distance."

The Band schools will follow the Governor's orders for the upcoming school year and have been taking extra precautions to ensure the buildings are ready for the students' return — whenever that might be.

"We have been front-loading PPE (personal protective equipment) for all students and staff," said Byron. "We've updated equipment in our three buildings, including using medical-grade products to make upgrades to the air filtration systems to help block air particles."

In spite of the unknowns and the challenges they were asked to tackle, Byron said he wanted to give a shoutout to the staff.

"The instructors are doing a great job for our students, and we don't hear enough about that," he said. "It's reflected in the work we're doing to serve our students."

"We're still going to do our best to teach to the grade level they are at, even with 'COVID-19 slide' and 'distance-learning slide' that we know will be real for another year," said Byron, referring to the learning loss that happens when students are away from school or academic learning for an extended period of time.

This year, school begins after Labor Day. The administration worked to align the school calendar with other districts in the area to help create consistency for families who may have students in multiple districts.

During the past few months, school leaders have been busy with other important business. They've reviewed policies, aligned with the Minnesota Department of Education as needed, and worked on improving the student experience, Byron said.

The school board, which convenes using the tele-conferencing platform Zoom at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month, has continued to meet over the summer to discuss its work. The meetings are open to the public.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

# BRIANNA BOYD IS NEW DIRECTOR

By Valerie Harrington Mille Lacs Band Member, Legislative Communications Officer

Brianna Boyd is the new Legislative Affairs Director for the Legislative Branch, replacing Wendy Merrill, who resigned to take a position with Grand Casinos. Wendy's last day with Legislative was May 29, and Brianna filled her role beginning on June 22.

Legislative Branch staff and elected officials wish Wendy all the best in her future career endeavors and congratulate Brianna on her promotion.

"A few years ago, I was a two-time college dropout and gave up on myself along with my dreams to finish school," said Brianna. "While working as the Administrative Assistant in the Legislative Branch, I decided to finally go back to school. I juggled working full time as well as being a full-time student. I think that if you believe in yourself, no dream is too big to conquer."

Brianna started with Legislative on July 10, 2018, as Legislative Administrative Assistant. Some of her duties were to create purchase orders and check requests, answer phones, assist the office manager with special projects, and provide clerical support for all Legislative staff.

Brianna excelled at her position and has been an integral part of the Legislative Branch's critical projects. Her passion for our Band members and her amazing service are an asset to the Legislative Branch, and her dedication and commitment to education and the office are vital to the organization.

Brianna's parents are Dan Boyd III and Heather Boyd. She

has two older siblings and two younger siblings. She grew up ten minutes away from Mille Lacs and graduated from Brainerd High School. She graduated with High Honors from Central Lakes College, receiving her Associate of Arts Degree.

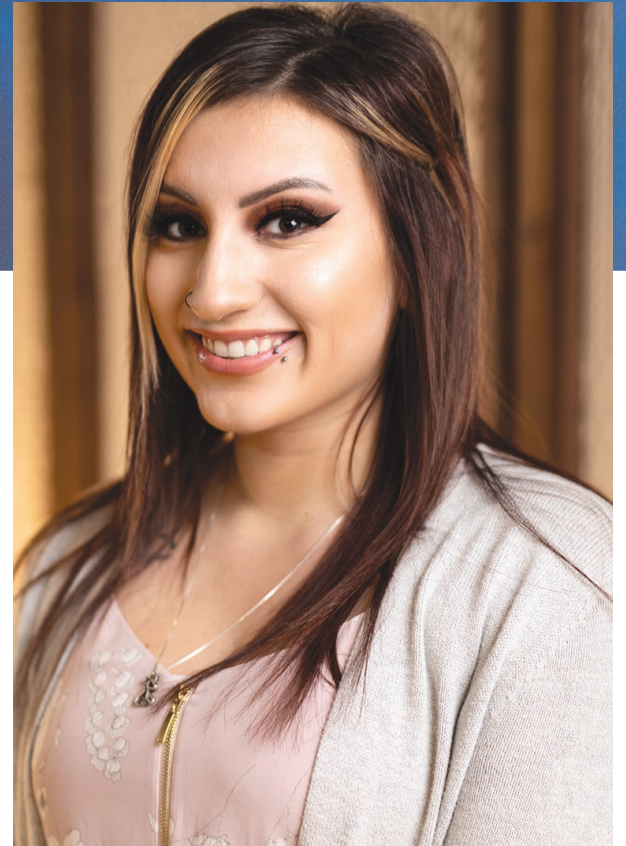
Brianna is now halfway to her Bachelor of Arts degree from Bemidji State University, where she is majoring in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management.

Brianna has learned a lot about herself as a full-time employee pursuing her degree. "You need to show up for yourself, day in and day out," she said. "I've learned that you can't throw in the towel when it feels like it's too much to handle. These are the times you really need to keep showing up for yourself."

Brianna graduated in May with High Honors, the highest academic achievement possible, and she is on track to graduate with honors again soon. "Education is something that no one can take away from you. You gain knowledge and also find yourself along the way. I encourage anyone who is thinking about going to school or going back to school, to take the leap and go. Hard work pays off."

Brianna's first job was with Grand Northern Grill at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. She has had professional experience with Grand Casino Mille Lacs Human Resources, where she worked in recruitment, staffing, and benefits. Her most recent experience prior to coming to the Legislative Branch was with Eddy's Resort as the Sales and Inventory Coordinator.

As Legislative Affairs Director, Brianna is responsible for



ensuring the smooth operation of the office by managing, evaluating, planning, and implementing the activities of the Legislative Office. She is considered "Second in Command." Her role in the office is critical for staff and the overall operation.

"Working in the Legislative Branch around powerful leaders, I see how positive attitudes can bring forth positive change," said Brianna.

Brianna was a strong candidate for the promotion due to her tremendous commitment to the Legislative Office. She is well-versed in what it takes academically and skillfully to direct the Legislative Office. During this difficult time, Brianna has been key to the continuance of important office tasks. She gives the office a positive, warm environment, and you can see her bright smile through her mask. Again, please help us congratulate Brianna! Miigwech.

## ATTORNEY BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO NEW ROLE

*Adam Candler has been with the Band since 2015*

Adam Candler, the Mille Lacs Band's new Legislative Counsel, came to work for the Band in 2015 and has been involved in housing and child protection cases for the Department of Community Development and the Office of Solicitor General. A new opportunity in the Legislative Branch motivated him to shift gears and move his office down the hall.

"I decided to pursue the position of Legislative Counsel for a multitude of reasons, but foremost among them was the opportunity to help improve the Band's legislative process," said Adam. "As one of our elected officials stated recently, the Mille Lacs Band has 'a lot of irons in the fire.' I am energized by that prospect and embrace the challenge."

Adam decided to pursue a law degree when he was studying in Spain as a senior in college in 2007. He signed up for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) in Madrid, and after taking a bus halfway across Spain and staying the night in a hotel, he had less than five euros in his pocket. "I remember eating a cheeseburger at McDonald's the night before the exam and a pastry for breakfast the next morning," Adam recalled. "By then, I was completely out of money and only had a bus ticket back to my host family. I took the test and did relatively well."

Like that adventurous trip to Madrid, the road to his law degree also had some twists and turns. He initially enrolled at the University of Wisconsin, but personal struggles put his education on hold. After waiting tables and spending time in the Army, he decided to give law school another shot.

"Eventually I realized that I wanted to do something else in life, and it never sat well with me that I didn't finish law school. That's why I went back. It's been quite a journey, but it's one that led me here."

The second trip to law school wasn't without its challenges. During his first year, Adam was working 15-20 hours per week as an Aide to a General in the U.S. Army Reserve. He didn't do as well as he had hoped his first year, but he was able to improve his grades as time went on. He also branched out and took courses in many areas of the law.

"I have a law school friend who used to make fun of me for not specializing and for taking classes across such a broad range of topics," Adam said. "But I think that has helped me

working with the Mille Lacs Band. Since being here, I have had to deal with everything from corporate law and contracts to real estate and landlord-tenant law. Even my friend now admits that my choice of classes has worked out for me."

Adam's work hasn't always been easy, either. Working as a lawyer in tribal government means doing things that are not always popular, like representing various departments against enrolled Band members in tribal court. "Behind the scenes, I was always trying to create and revise policies to improve services provided by the government," said Adam.

Adam was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, and graduated from Barron Area Senior High in 2004. He is an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe through his grandfather, a Korean War veteran and pastor of a church on the reservation.

Adam followed his grandfather's path into the military. He joined the Army in 2007 and last year attained the rank of Major. One of his most memorable experiences was commanding the 309th Mobility Augmentation Company in Brainerd for nearly two and a half years. "This assignment exposed me to the challenges of leading a large organization where results are not guaranteed," Adam said. "I learned how important it is not only to constantly seek self-development, but also to help develop others. If people working within an organization are in unison, and each person is trained to do his or her job, the organization will usually succeed."

Adam will bring that experience and that wisdom into his role as Legislative Counsel, where he works closely with two other attorneys.

Among his duties will be to provide legal advice to the Secretary-Treasurer and District Representatives and to spearhead proposed revisions to the Band's statutes.



Adam Candler

## BAND ASSEMBLY WORKS ON DRAFT LEGISLATION

Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd informed Band members by letter on June 18 that the Band Assembly is working on draft legislation pertaining to the following statutes:

- Title 8 — Child Support;
- Title 8 — Child Protection;
- Title 9 — Education;
- Title 12 — Housing;
- Title 16 — Corporations;
- Title 18 — Commercial Practices;
- Title 21 — Real and Personal Property;
- Title 23 — Prohibited Drugs;
- Data Practices and Security Act; and
- Leasing Ordinance/HEARTH Act.

The Band Assembly is also working to maximize Band member participation in the legislative process. For example, the Band Assembly recently issued a legislative order requiring draft legislation to undergo a period of public comment prior to consideration by the Band Assembly. Thus, you as a Band member will have the opportunity to shape the laws of the Mille Lacs Band.

To have your voice heard, please submit your written comments or questions regarding draft legislation to the following email address: [legislation@millelacsband.com](mailto:legislation@millelacsband.com).

## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

**U of M under fire for treatment of Indigenous garden, caretaker:** Students, alumni, and community members have rallied around Cânté Sütá Francis Bettelyoun, the caretaker of the Native American Medicine Garden in St. Paul, after the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences did not renew his contract. The Garden, located near the Bell Museum in St. Paul, is owned by the Oceti Sakowin Indigenous peoples. It was intended as space for the sharing of Indigenous, land-based cultural knowledge involving food sovereignty, the history of the land and its people, the history of colonization, and health disparities of Indigenous peoples. *Source: mndaily.com.*

**Black and Native students more likely to experience death of family member:** A recent study by the University of Minnesota found that Black and Native American students are two to three times more likely to experience the death of an immediate family member than their white classmates. Those who experience the death of a parent or sibling during college are half as likely to graduate than students who haven't. With COVID-19 numbers increasing around the country, more and more college students will be put in the position of losing a family member. If colleges are aware of that, it could serve as an opportune time for them to implement policies and programs to address that. *Source: mspmag.com.*

**Sioux Chef plans to open Indigenous food lab:** Sean Sherman, aka "The Sioux Chef," and his partner Dana Thompson plan to open what they say will be the very first Indigenous Food Lab in Minnesota over the next few months. The space will include a restaurant, a training kitchen, and an education center. The lab will be part of their nonprofit organization, North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS), and aims to be a hub for Indigenous food education. Sherman hopes the lab and others like it will allow Indigenous people to reclaim cultural food traditions that have been absent for multiple generations. *Source: modernfarmer.com.*

**Minnesota's racist flag may be the next to go:** When most people think of racist flags, they don't think of Minnesota, but the North Star State's flag has an image that disparages Native Americans: a farmer with a plow in the foreground and an Indian on horseback apparently "riding into the sunset," and doing so willingly. In a commentary in the *Star Tribune*, Mark Grindy of St. Paul called for a new flag, saying of the current one, "This is not an attempt to honor our heritage or history, but to erase it. The truth is, state-sponsored violence against people of color is not merely part of Minnesota history but central to it." *Source: startribune.com.*

**Nelson statue still stands:** In a commentary in *The Circle*, White Earth activist Winona LaDuke wrote about the removal of statues of Columbus and Juan De Onate and recommended someone else whose statue should come down. "I'd like to put Knute Nelson right there on top of that list. Nelson was responsible for the death, misery, and theft of the lands of White Earth Anishinaabe people and went on to become governor." Nelson's statue stands in front of the Minnesota capitol building in St. Paul. *Source: thecirclenews.org.*

## LAWSUIT UPDATE

# JUDGE DISMISSES COUNTY REQUEST

## State will not pay legal fees for Sheriff, County Attorney

On June 16, Federal District Court Judge Sara Grewing dismissed a request from County Attorney Joe Walsh and County Sheriff Don Lorge for the State of Minnesota to pay their legal bills in a federal lawsuit brought by the Mille Lacs Band.

Walsh and Lorge filed the lawsuit against the State of Minnesota last December, claiming they were employees of the state and were acting "on behalf of" the state when they restricted tribal law enforcement authority to Band members and trust lands.

The judge dismissed the case, which means the State will not need to pay the County's legal fees (unless the decision is reversed on appeal).

This lawsuit between county officials and the state lasted six months, which increased legal fees for Mille Lacs County taxpayers.

A footnote in the dismissal order reiterates the state's official position on the Mille Lacs Reservation. The Court wrote: "The Defendant [that is the state] argues that the Plaintiffs [that is the County Attorney and Sheriff] cannot possibly be acting 'on behalf of' the state, because they are arguing a position that is contrary to the State's official position. The State argues this its official position has evolved over time and reflects more current federal case law that the Mille Lacs Reservation has never been diminished."

The Band's lawsuit against Mille Lacs County, Walsh, and former Sheriff Brent Lindgren was filed in November of 2017

and stemmed from the County's June 2016 decision to rescind its law enforcement agreement with the Band. The county's decision tied the hands of Tribal Police for two years and two months as the opioid epidemic ravaged the community.

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

The lawsuit also seeks a declaration that under a Deputation Agreement between the Band and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as Special Law Enforcement Commissions held by some Band police officers, those officers have federal authority to investigate violations of federal law within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation and to arrest suspects for violations of federal law. The Band's complaint also requests that the Court stop the County from taking any actions that interfere with the authority of the Band's police officers.

The Band and County approved a new law enforcement agreement in September of 2018, but the County insisted on a provision in the new agreement providing that the agreement will terminate 90 days after the lawsuit comes to an end. Thus, if the Band were to drop its lawsuit, the law enforcement agreement would terminate, and things would be right back where they were from July 2016 until September 2018.

## PIPELINE SETBACKS — IS LINE 3 NEXT?

Three oil pipelines — Atlantic Coast, Dakota Access, and Keystone XL — saw major defeats last month, raising an obvious question for Minnesotans: Is Line 3 next?

The Mille Lacs Band and its members, along with other tribal and environmental groups, have been fighting Line 3 since it was first proposed in 2015.

Most recently, the Band's attorneys filed a petition before the Public Utilities Commission calling for a rehearing of an order that approved the Environmental Impact Statement and granted the certificate of need and route permit for the pipeline.

The Band's petition focused on (1) the continuing failure of the Environmental Impact Statement to adequately analyze the potential impacts of the spill on the Lake Superior watershed and (2) the fact that in-trench replacement along the existing mainline corridor is the only route that is consistent with the Commission's obligation to "select a route that minimizes human and environmental impact."

The Band also fought the Sandpiper Pipeline, which was canceled in 2016 by Enbridge. The proposed Sandpiper pipeline would have transported oil from the Bakken fields in North Dakota through a new corridor crossing sensitive wetlands where District II Band members harvest manoomin and other foods and medicine.

After withdrawing its Sandpiper permit application, Enbridge put its efforts into a reroute of Line 3, which transports oil from the tar sands in Alberta, Canada through a deteriorating pipeline that crosses the Leech Lake Reservation. A judge has required Enbridge to replace Line 3, but instead of doing so in the existing corridor, the Canadian company wants to run the pipeline through the new corridor it proposed for the Sandpiper pipeline, which avoids Leech Lake but passes just north of Sandy Lake.

### Writing on the wall?

According to MN350, an organization devoted to fighting climate change, Canadian oil giant Enbridge Energy is likely seeing the writing on the wall for its Line 3 pipeline project after the three other pipelines were brought to a halt last month. "Oil pipelines are underground representations of our nation's failure to honor treaty rights and a direct manifestation of our perpetual failure to put people and planet above profit," said



Mille Lacs Band members like Tania Aubid helped bring an end to the Sandpiper pipeline in 2016 and have been fighting the rerouting of Line 3 pipeline since it was first proposed in 2015.

MN350 executive director Sam Grant. "They are monuments to a polluting past that is killing our collective future. We must do better."

Enbridge's Northern Gateway and Sandpiper pipeline projects were both killed in 2016, and TransCanada's Energy East and Eastern Mainline pipeline projects were killed in 2017.

Since the Line 3 project was approved in February by the Public Utilities Commission, the Canadian tar sands oil market has collapsed, according to MN350. Meanwhile, Minnesota has sued the American Petroleum Institute, which has promoted Line 3, for defrauding the public about how fossil fuel combustion causes climate change.

"Line 3 is greedy and blind bio-piracy in action, trading off long-term well-being and ecological integrity for the sake of short-term profits for a few billionaires," Grant said. "We have an obligation to offer future generations a stable climate. We need to move society wisely and effectively to a carbon-neutral world for the well-being of all."

"Minnesota is no stranger to pipeline cancellations," said Andy Pearson, Midwest Tar Sands Coordinator with MN350. "Enbridge pulled its Sandpiper project in 2016 after the company's oil market analysis turned out to be wildly out of touch with reality, and project opponents showed they were here for the long haul. The same market analyst, Neil Earnest, prepared the numbers used to justify Line 3. We're seeing now that the Line 3 numbers are also far off the mark, and Enbridge couldn't even produce a legally required forecast of oil demand. Line 3 isn't needed, and Enbridge knows it."

# OFFICE OF SOLICITOR GENERAL DOGEAGLE NAMED SPECIAL ASSISTANT

By Vivian LaMoore Director of Public Relations

Caleb Dogeagle, the Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General, was officially confirmed as a Special Assistant United States Attorney on May 10, 2020. This position is in addition to his duties as the Solicitor General.

"The SAUSA status gives the Office of Solicitor General another avenue to prosecute serious crimes arising out of the reservation in federal court and fulfill statutory obligations to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe," said Caleb. "Our hope is that this will reduce crime and increase public safety for the communities."

**"THE SAUSA STATUS GIVES THE OFFICE OF SOLICITOR GENERAL ANOTHER AVENUE TO PROSECUTE SERIOUS CRIMES ARISING OUT OF THE RESERVATION IN FEDERAL COURT AND FULFILL STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS TO THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE."**

— SOLICITOR GENERAL CALEB DOGEAGLE

The Band received a three-year grant from the Bureau of Justice Administration to fund the SAUSA position focused on public safety on the Reservation.

Obtaining this position was not an easy road. The SAUSA position requires an extensive background check that can take up to a year to complete. Once the background check was complete and approved, the training began.

Trainings for the position are through the United States Attorney's Office in Minneapolis, via remote videos due to the pandemic, and at the National Advocacy Center (NAC). The NAC is operated by the Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, and is located in Columbia, South Carolina.

Caleb will continue to perform both as both the Solicitor General and the SAUSA from the OSG office in Onamia.

Deputy Solicitor Angel Daher's job description and duties were also changed to allow for both the SAUSA duties along with the duties of Solicitor to be completed.



Caleb Dogeagle

## FINAL DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN MILLE LACS HEROIN TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY

United States Attorney Erica H. MacDonald announced June 29 the sentencing of David Lee Snoddy, 38, to 33 months in prison for his role in a heroin distribution conspiracy that targeted the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation and surrounding communities.

Snoddy, who pleaded guilty on February 12, was sentenced before Judge Eric C. Tostrud in U.S. District Court in St. Paul. Co-defendants Tyrone James Nelson, 39, Robert Dontell Sykes, 49, Ramon Ford, 60, Devonn Rose Mitchell, 24, Kristin Rae Boyd, 30, Duwayne Ivan Schwensen, 27, and Chase Reed Nickaboine, 21, have all entered guilty pleas and have been sentenced for their roles in the conspiracy.

According to Snoddy's guilty plea and documents filed in court, from March 2018 through June 2018, Snoddy knowingly conspired with Nelson, the main source and distributor in the conspiracy, and others to distribute heroin on the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation and surrounding communities. Snoddy admitted to distributing and assisting in distributing up to 400 grams of heroin.

The investigation, which covered a span from December 2017 through June 2018, was led by the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Drug Enforcement (BIA DDE).

The DDE was instrumental in the investigation, according to Mille Lacs Band Chief of Police Sara Rice. "We worked hand-in-hand with the BIA DDE drug agents," Rice said. "They were incorporated into our department throughout the entire process of investigation during this case. Several other agencies were critically involved in the lengthy investigation as well, and we thank them for their assistance."

Additional assistance was provided by investigators from Mille Lacs, Crow Wing and Sherburne county sheriff's offices, Lakes Area Drug Investigation Division, Paul Bunyan Drug Task Force, Red Lake Tribal and Minneapolis police departments, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Drug Enforcement Agency, Minnesota Department of Corrections, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Marshal's Office.

According to the guilty plea and other documents filed in court throughout the investigation, Nelson obtained heroin from individuals in Minneapolis and transported it to commu-

nities in and surrounding the Mille Lacs Reservation. Nelson, who was the main source and distributor of heroin in the Mille Lacs area, had befriended enrolled Mille Lacs Band members and utilized their homes to operate his business. Nelson was sentenced last November to 77 months in prison.

**"I AM PROUD OF OUR OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATORS FOR THEIR STEADFAST DETERMINATION AND UNRELENTING ATTENTION TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT THESE AND ALL DRUG DEALERS IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE OUR RESERVATION SAFE FOR OUR BAND MEMBERS AND OUR NEIGHBORS."**

— POLICE CHIEF SARA RICE

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

"The Band is very grateful for the critical assistance provided by Bureau of Indian Affairs and federal law enforcement officers, and the U.S. Attorney," said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "I would especially like to thank our Mille Lacs Tribal Police force. They have done outstanding work in leading this effort with our federal partners to address the drug epidemic on our Reservation."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Deidre Y. Aanstad prosecuted the case.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Tribal leader calls for removal of Mt.**

**Rushmore:** Harold Frazier, chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, said last month that "Nothing stands as a greater reminder to the Great Sioux Nation of a country that cannot keep a promise or treaty than the faces carved into our sacred land on what the United States calls Mount Rushmore." Frazier also criticized the July 3 visit from President Trump, where he and Governor Kristi Noem worked to bring back the monument's annual fireworks show, which one fire expert called "ill-advised" due to dry conditions. *Source: www.argusleader.com.*

**Warren: Revoke medals awarded to**

**Wounded Knee troops:** Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts authored an amendment to a defense policy bill that would revoke Medals of Honor awarded to troops of the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry Regiment in the Wounded Knee Massacre. The amendment is similar to the "Remove the Stain Act" introduced in the House and Senate last November. It would revoke Medals of Honor granted to 20 troops in the Dec. 29, 1890, action, a Senate aide said. More than 300 Lakota people, mostly women and children, were killed at Wounded Knee. *Source: www.military.com.*

**Senator blames tribes for delay in coronavirus**

**relief:** The Department of Treasury repeatedly missed deadlines to get the coronavirus relief fund out to the communities that need it the most. The agency's broken promises resulted in tribes waiting more than 80 days to receive complete payments, long after states and local governments were paid. But Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said "litigation" was the cause for the delays. Her view of the situation absolved Secretary Steve Mnuchin of his failure to comply with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act. *Source: www.indianz.com.*

**As coronavirus raged, feds failed tribal**

**schools:** After schools started closing in mid-March, the Bureau of Indian Education provided only limited guidance on how they should handle distance learning at a time when other systems had already fully implemented detailed contingency plans. In some cases, nonessential school employees were asked to show up to school after these closures, putting them and their families at increased risk for COVID-19. And later in March, federal lawmakers awarded \$200 million to help BIE and tribal schools get students connected to online lessons, but by late June, only a fraction of that cash had been distributed. *Source: huffpost.com.*

**MHA sues feds over mineral rights:** The

Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (MHA Nation) is suing the U.S. government due to the Department of the Interior's failure to complete title and mapping work in a portion of the Missouri River riverbed within the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota. According to the lawsuit, the Interior Department is seeking to illegally strip the MHA Nation of part of their reservation that was ceded to the tribes before North Dakota became a state. At issue is mineral rights ownership underneath the Missouri River that North Dakota maintains is the state's property. *Source: nativenewsonline.net.*

*Follow local, state, and national news on the website at millelacsband.com/news.*

ALVERA SMITH

# GRANDPA'S GOOD MEDICINE

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

The "good old days" on the Mille Lacs Reservation seem romantic now — the one-room houses with wood heat, no electricity, and no running water. Women selling crafts on the roadside; men providing healthy meals of fresh game; families joining together at the sugarbush or the ricing grounds; fluent Ojibwe heard in homes and on the dirt roads.

But in reality, it was a tough life. Band members worked hard to make a living or put food on the table, and when they came home there was water to haul, wood to cut, and a cold night ahead.

For some, like Vera Smith, a hard life was made harder by a nemesis that has haunted too many families, not just at Mille Lacs, but across the country.

Vera was raised in an alcoholic family, and by the time she broke the cycle, she had faced tragedy that still hurts, decades later.

After spending her early childhood in Nisswa, Vera lived near the cemetery in District I. She and her siblings were the only Indian kids in the Nisswa school, and on the reservation, Vera was still isolated.

"We didn't go anywhere too much; we just stayed where we lived," Vera recalled. "It was just a one-room log cabin. We didn't have electricity; we just had kerosene lamps, and a wood stove in the middle of the room. Later they built a pump outside."

Vera remembers trapping and hunting with her dad, who taught her to clean and cook rabbits.

But more than that, she remembers the drinking. "I didn't really know my mom, because she was always off getting drunk somewhere," said Vera.

Her family didn't come into the village often but socialized at home, where parties turned to fights, and Vera retreated to the lakeshore to avoid the conflict.

"They used to leave me in the car when they were at the bar," said Vera. Sometimes she would find other kids to play with who had also been left to fend for themselves.

Vera's dad's dad, James Smith, was a bright spot in her

childhood. "My grandpa did everything for me. He used to buy me clothes and whatever I wanted. When I used to go to school in Nisswa, he would come at recess time and give me candy."

Her grandmother made crafts and sold them on the roadside, but she didn't pass her skills on to Vera.

The lack of strong parenting meant Vera was on her own during the day as well. "I wouldn't go to school because we didn't have nice clothes to wear," she said. "I would hide from my parents until after I saw the busses go by. Then I got in trouble for not going to school."

At age 13, Vera was sent to Lino Lakes and then to Sauk Centre to a home for girls. Once she was there, she didn't want to go home because she knew her parents would be drinking.

Eventually she was sent back to the reservation and started school in Onamia, but she and her friends would skip school and walk all the way home.

She quit at 16 and went to live in Minneapolis with her sister, but she didn't stay long. She started hanging around with boys and finally met the father of her children and moved in with him.

The hardest time was still to come. Vera's two children were taken away from her because she had started drinking, and while they were in foster care, her baby girl died.

That was the turning point for Vera. "I just went my own way," she said. "I stayed away from men."

Vera didn't want to be the kind of mother who left her kids sitting in a car outside a bar.

In addition to raising her own children, she has also helped raise her grandkids, but since the COVID-19 pandemic, she hasn't been able to see much of her children.

"It was just me and my kids and grandkids, until I got sick."

Two years ago, Vera moved into the ALU, and although she does her best to stay active in the quarantine, she misses her family.

Her gray cat Angel keeps her company, even though, as Vera says, he's no angel. "My granddaughter found her walking on the road, and picked her up and brought her to me," said Vera.



Alvera Smith is missing her family during the pandemic, but she's doing her best to stay active by learning traditional crafts.

She's learned to sew moccasins, paint watercolors, and make medicine, and according to ALU director Carol Hernandez, Vera is a natural. Her family is also amazed. "When I painted that watercolor, they couldn't believe I did that," she said.

Vera also has a garden with cucumbers, radishes, pumpkins, beans, peas, watermelon, and green pepper. She tends flowers in a large pot and has a good view of the purple martin house. She cooks fry bread, beef stew, and browned oatmeal. Whenever there's a potluck, Vera goes all out, Carol said.

As she's making medicine, Vera remembers her other grandfather, Jim Littlewolf, a renowned medicine man. She's been learning to use some of the plants that he used to treat people, like milkweed.

"I never saw him get mad," said Vera. "He used to try to encourage us." Her grandfather's good medicine ended up helping Vera find her path.

"I think the way I grew up stopped me from being an alcoholic," she said. "I just had one bad bout, one bad time with that. But I knew I wasn't gonna be an alcoholic for my kids."

## MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

# RESPECTING OUR CREATOR'S CREATION

By Amik

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

When the Europeans first came over to this land, they saw Native people and they stereotyped us as savages. They thought we were a lost people with no sense of direction, no kind of organization, no beliefs.

That's not so. Indians had a form of government, and we also had our beliefs.

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

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

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

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

Our messenger was funny. He was also serious. He was all things a human could possibly be, even though he was spiritual. He showed the people things that would happen if you do wrong, what would happen if you do good, what would happen if you are foolish. He lived a

lifetime doing these things to show the people.

And he told the people about the Creator. He also told them to treat all things with respect because they are the Creator's creation.

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

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

Some people say Indians worship the trees, the waters, and the animals. We don't worship them — we respect them because of where they came from.

We have to respect everything because, if you don't, you're disrespecting what the Creator created. And the day is coming when you will have to answer for that.

If I disrespect another person because he is a different color, I'm disrespecting what the Creator created. Some people say you have to earn respect. I say no. When I meet someone, they have all my respect because they're from the Creator.

# AUGUST IS BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

## BREASTFEEDING PROTECTS BABIES FROM GERMS

By Mille Lacs Band Public Health

With the world in the midst of a global pandemic, it is a good time to recognize the important role breastfeeding plays in protecting babies from germs all across the planet. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health WIC Program is celebrating Minnesota Breastfeeding Awareness Month throughout August.

As the world's leading scientists race to find a COVID-19 vaccine, humans have their own, natural way of protecting the next generation. Moms, through breast milk, pass on helpful antibodies that fight germs.

Parents may worry about the safety of breastfeeding during the pandemic. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends breastfeeding. The benefits outweigh the potential risk of spreading the virus to the baby. In addition, researchers have not found the infectious virus in breast milk. Even when a mother has COVID-19, she is advised to still breastfeed while doing hand hygiene and wearing a mask when with baby.

Though it is too early to know for sure, researchers are finding evidence that moms who previously had COVID-19 may pass on helpful antibodies that can fight the virus.

This year's worldwide breastfeeding week also emphasizes how "green" and climate-friendly breastfeeding is. Human milk is a natural, renewable food produced and delivered to babies without pollution, packaging, or waste.

Finally, promoting and removing barriers to breastfeeding for people of color is one way to address structural racism in Minnesota. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected American Indians and people of color in Minnesota due to underlying social, economic, and health disparities. These same underlying factors have made it more difficult over the years for Minnesotans of color to breastfeed. Supporting breastfeeding through culturally appropriate care increases initiation and duration rates across all racial and cultural groups.

The pandemic has illuminated the many ways health is interconnected. Given all we face in 2020, let's not forget to promote breastfeeding. Breastfeeding is one of these pathways to health, right at the start of life, with far-reaching benefits for families, communities, and the planet.



### WIC is here to help

Did you know that WIC serves about half of all infants born in the United States?

WIC serves pregnant women, infants, and children aged 1 through their 5th birthday. Benefits include health foods, breastfeeding education and support, nutrition education, and formula for infants not breastfeeding.

You are automatically eligible if you are currently enrolled in Head Start, Medical Assistance (county insurance), MN-Care, foster care, or school meals. Or, check the eligibility on the WIC website at [www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/eligibility.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/eligibility.html).

The Mille Lacs Band's WIC Clinic is available every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Donna Sutton, RN, at 320-630-2443.

## HHS NEWS BRIEFS

**Circle of Health update:** Circle of Health is a tribal member benefit program for enrolled members and their descendants under 18 years of age.

Circle of Health is not an insurance company. Circle of Health supplements the Band member's primary insurance coverage by paying or reimbursing premiums, co-pays, and deductibles for insurance-covered services.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, Band members should be aware of the following:

If you are enrolled with the state in Minnesota Care, all co-pays, fees, and deductibles will have no cost if it is related to COVID-19 or for American Indian people and their households generally.

If you have purchased private insurance through MNSure, all four medical insurance companies that sell health insurance plans through the state are waiving co-pays, co-insurance, and deductibles for in-network coverage for COVID-19. There should be no costs for COVID-19 healthcare, including for hospitalization.

If you are a Band member, no matter who you have insurance through, Circle of Health is available to assist with any costs that your insurance policy does not cover.

Circle of Health is a special benefit the Band provides that most tribes do not provide. AFTER your insurance policy pays out everything it will cover, the remaining balance can be submitted to Circle of Health to see if it is eligible for reimbursement.

Circle of Health is NOT an unlimited pot of money. It is funded by 5 percent of our monthly gaming revenue. That is a requirement of our Net Revenue Allocation Plan. The Net Revenue Allocation Plan is our agreement with the federal government about how our gaming revenue will be divided up. Within that agreement, 5 percent goes to the Circle of Health Fund.

As Indian people, we have a much higher number of serious health issues than other populations. With 4,800 enrolled tribal members, and with the cost of healthcare in America being very high, there are some things Circle of Health might not pay for, because that pot of money is limited and has to be spread out among all Band members.

If you have any questions about Circle of Health, please call 320-532-7741.

**Medical Assisted Recovery update:** Effective July 20, 2020, the Health and Human Services Department has begun integrating a whole person model of care into the MAR (Medical Assisted Recovery) Program. These changes are being implemented to enhance service to the community. We look forward to being a part of your recovery journey.

The following are the changes:

- Visits will be scheduled to allow clients to have dedicated quality time with their clinical team.
- The program is integrating a mental health therapist to provide whole person focused care.
- Each appointment will include time with the full clinical team, nursing, provider, and therapist.
- Days will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Inductions will be scheduled to allow for the support needed during this first step of the recovery journey; however, we will address patient/client needs as they are needed — patients/clients will not be turned away.



### MEDICINE AND BEADWORK!

The ladies at the DI ALU have been busy learning about the "weeds" in their backyard and have used them to make medicine. They made a first aid salve and a salve for arthritis. Joyce Drumbeater, Kathy Hill, Barb Cooper, Alvera Smith, and Marilyn Gurneau have found dandelion, clover, milkweed, curly dock, plantain, chickweed, calendula, yarrow, wild roses, pineapple weed, cedar, mullein, cow parsnip, and purslane so far. They are excited to learn more about plants and to make more medicine. Top right: Alvera and Marilyn were excited about all the plantain they found in front of the ALU. Bottom: The ladies at the DI ALU were busy crafting earrings in the month of July. Patricia Pindegayosh, Carole Higgins, Pauline Moose, and Darlene LaFave (not pictured) participated.

# PINE GROVE LEARNING CENTER HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

It's an age-old question, and in the case of Pine Grove Learning Center, the answer is clear: Pine Grove's garden will grow next year with help from a \$2,200 grant from Essentia Health System's 2020 Healthy Schools Challenge.

The grant will be used to improve the school's garden with a permanent fence, new raised beds, and seed-starting supplies. Teacher's aid Teri Holgate, who applied for the grant, attended an awards ceremony at Essentia Health in Sandstone on Thursday, July 9, with Nay Ah Shing Principal Lehtitia Weiss and Pine Grove Teacher Erica Gustafson.

The grant was supposed to be awarded in April, but due to COVID-19, it was delayed until summer. The school will have a full year to implement the changes.

"We will have a busy fall and spring," said Teri. "Hopefully the weather will cooperate for us, and we can do some of the hard work in the (hopefully cooler) temperatures."

Pine Grove Director Karrie McCurdy supported the effort. "Building a garden is not an easy task," said Karrie. "It involves planning, cooperation, and a lot of hard work. Our students and staff are ready to meet this new challenge."

Pine Grove students have helped in every aspect of the garden since it was started: starting seeds in the spring, building raised beds, pounding fence posts, hauling wheelbarrows of soil to garden beds, planting seedlings, and eating green beans as they pull weeds.

"The kids realized early on that they have a stake in this venture," said Teri. "The confidence they've gained in their knowledge and ability to maintain a garden is immeasurable.



Braydon, Darius, Tionne, Niindy, Xzavier, and Shawn are some of the Pine Grove students who have helped with the gardens. Below: Erica Gustafson, Lehtitia Weiss, and Teri Holgate received a check from Tanya Christopherson of Essentia Health Systems.



To expand and fortify our garden area will not only produce yields, but also further our students' knowledge and capabilities to become productive members of their dual cultured society."

The application explained how the garden is used for educational purposes: "Through our school's garden, our kids are able to help contribute to their families' well-being. Students enjoy working in the garden, and especially eating what they've grown. They are learning how to prepare and preserve garden produce and are able to take home their harvest to share with

**"BUILDING A GARDEN IS NOT AN EASY TASK. IT INVOLVES PLANNING, COOPERATION, AND A LOT OF HARD WORK. OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE READY TO MEET THIS NEW CHALLENGE."**

– PINE GROVE DIRECTOR KARRIE MCCURDY

their families, supplementing their food stores at home. Students learn responsibility; they develop a work ethic; they are caring for their environment; they learn they can be successful and productive in raising a garden. They learn life skills and ultimately are able to create a healthier lifestyle. Students are able to take this knowledge with them into adulthood. Expanding and improving our schoolyard garden will help our students in making positive changes for healthier eating and clean living, now and hopefully for years to come. They'll be able to share their knowledge in their families and community, helping pave the way to a healthier way of life for their tribe."

## SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

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

Symptoms\* can include

FEVER

COUGH

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

SHORTNESS OF BREATH

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



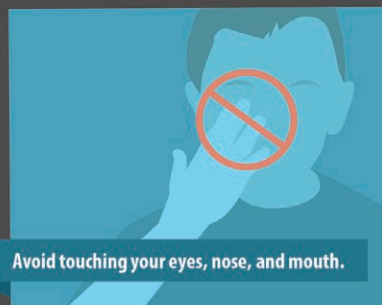
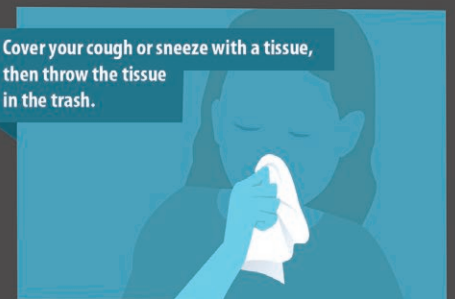
For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms)

## STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

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

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

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

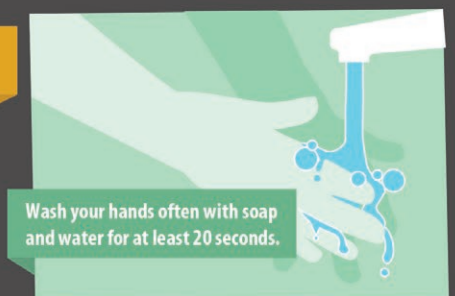


Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



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



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



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



## CENSUS 2020

# BAND MEMBERS NEED TO COMPLETE CENSUS BY OCTOBER 31

Mille Lacs Band members have an opportunity to take a bold step towards changing the future through two major civic engagement efforts this year — participating in the 2020 Census and by heading to the polls to vote in the tribal, state, and federal elections.

The census, which happens every decade, is usually completed months before the fall election cycle, but this year the census efforts have been delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

While census efforts have resumed, and teams are mobilizing to encourage people to participate in the decennial count, there's still a lot of work to do in Indian Country. The deadline to complete the 2020 Census is Oct. 31, and the election will be held on Nov. 3.

In-person efforts to collect information from Mille Lacs Band families will begin in mid-August, said Band member Shelly Diaz, Urban Liaison and Project Coordinator, and Coordinator of the Minnesota Tribal Coalition (Hub) for the 2020 US Census.

"One message I tell people is that the census results determine the next 10 years of funding," Shelly said. "Whatever the numbers are, this count is what is used until the next census. If we're not all counted, it means we could lose a Congressional seat."

"An undercount could impact election boundaries. They could be redrawn, and that could hurt us," said Shelly. "It's also important that when we do the census we count our kids. Sometimes people don't think they have to count their kids and they skip them."

"If kids aren't counted, it impacts 10 years of their educational life," she added. "It impacts clinics, hospitals, roads, and schools. Even the CARES Act for COVID was based on the census from 2010."

Native Americans have long been undercounted for a variety of reasons that include mistrust of the government, not fully realizing how the census works, and in some tribes lack of resources to help market the census.

Another challenge in completing the 10-year-count is the digital divide that exists for some Tribes. A lack of technology, or reliable internet service, is a barrier both on and off the reservation, according to Janeen Comenote, Executive Director of the National Urban Indian Family Coalition.

"This is especially troubling since this is the first time ever that the Census could be completed online on the government's official website," she said.

"A significant portion of urban Indians and reservation-based Natives generally access the web through their phones and their phones only," Comenote said, adding that because the data collection was pushed to the end of October, the census advocates are hopeful for better results this year than in previous years.

According to some experts, it's harder to get an accurate count in Native communities because of residential mobility. People move two or three times a year because they may experience low-income circumstances.

Another challenge is the number of people who live in one household. The census goes to the primary resident, but multiple heads of household may share the residence. In general, there is also a lack of education and understanding about the purpose of the census.

"The census is a long-term benefit — but it is so important right now," Shelly said. "We have to look long term. If we're not counted, we lose out."

People often get reminders and other information sent to their homes about the census. However, many people have P.O. boxes as their permanent address, and those people don't receive the mailings, Shelly said.

"Not mailing to P.O. boxes is an issue because a lot of residents in other tribes [in rural areas] don't have mail boxes," she said. "The Band properties do have mailboxes, so they are getting the information, but we still need to encourage families to participate."

Another reason for the undercount is many families are multi-racial — especially in urban areas — and the head of household may not be Native American.

That's why Shelly said she drives home the message that the Native American adult member of the family completes the census as the head of household.

The COVID-19 crisis has meant shifting from in-person efforts to Facebook and other ways of getting the word out.

"We had big plans for in-person efforts," said Shelly. "At any kind of public meeting, we would have been there to push the efforts, but COVID stopped those plans."

Instead, Shelly is putting Census 2020 swag and fact sheets



## CENSUS TAKERS COMING

Beginning in mid-August, the US Census Bureau will be sending out Census Takers (Enumerators) to knock on doors. The enumerators will carry identification, census bags and tablets and will help families respond to the Census.

To respond to the census questionnaire online, go to [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). If you have questions, you can also call toll free: 844-330-2020.

in the meals distributed to students and the Elders. She has also ordered masks that say "Indian Country Counts — Our People, Our Nations, Our Future" and plans to distribute those, too.

The message that Shelly wants to share is that there is still time for families to complete the decennial count.

From August 11 to October 31, census takers will make household visits to those who have not responded by mail or online.

Census 2020 will end on October 31, so all Band members who have not completed the census yet should do so as soon as possible.

"We need to 'Get Out the Vote' and 'Get out the Count,'" said Shelly. "Both the election and the census are civic engagement opportunities. It's time for us to make a difference in two big ways."

To respond to the census questionnaire online, go to [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). You can also call toll free: 844-330-2020.

# INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL SEEKS ACTION FROM U OF M

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) is calling on the University of Minnesota to take swift and immediate actions to address institutional racism and improve the school's relationship with Minnesota's 11 federally recognized tribal nations. These actions include acknowledging past injustices and exploitation of Native American people and lands and taking steps to remedy them.

A key focal point was the University's failure to fully comply with a 30-year-old federal law requiring it to return the stolen Native American human remains to the tribal communities the deceased people came from, along with funerary objects buried with these people for use and display at the University's museum. MIAC passed resolutions demanding University action on this and other issues MIAC says need to be resolved as a part of building a long-term relationship based on trust and mutual respect.

"We are living in a moment in time when institutions and organizations everywhere are re-examining their practices and past deeds through a lens of racial awakening to understand how they may have contributed to institutional racism and oppression of people based on race," said Robert Larsen, MIAC Board Chair and President of Lower Sioux Indian Community. "On behalf of Minnesota's tribal nations, MIAC decided it is time for the University of Minnesota to own up to its own policies and actions rooted in institutional racism and call for immediate action to correct its past actions."

MIAC passed the following resolutions that highlight the University of Minnesota's practices of institutional racism against Minnesota's tribal nations and provide a path for remedy by the university:

### **Resolution 06262020-02: Repatriation of American Indian human remains and funerary objects**

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a federal law passed in 1990 requiring all federally funded institutions to repatriate and return any American Indian human remains and funerary objects in its custody. Despite NAGPRA having the force of law for 30 years, the University of Minnesota has failed to fully comply with returning human remains and continues to treat stolen sacred objects as University property for use and display at the University of Minnesota's Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum.

"The University of Minnesota gives lip service to valuing racial justice and equality, yet for 30 years it has refused to obey the law requiring them to return the human remains and sacred objects of our deceased relatives which they acquired from grave robbers and profiteers," said Chairman Larsen. "MIAC demands that the University of Minnesota take immediate steps to end the inhumane practice of displaying these items, repatriate our deceased American Indian relatives to their home reservations, and return all funerary objects to the Native Nations from which they came."

### **Resolution 06262020-03: Fulfilling the university's ob-**

### **ligations to Minnesota's 11 tribal governments**

MIAC commended the University's recent outreach toward tribes under the new leadership of President Gabel, but cautioned that before new relationships can be forged, past injustices must be acknowledged.

"For a new partnership to grow, we need regular consultation at the highest level of the University, just as we do with the state and federal government," said Chairman Larsen. "We need to see a commitment to addressing racist policies of the past and righting the wrongs."

Injustices MIAC cited in the resolution include the University Medical School's research in the 1950s on Red Lake children without parental knowledge; financial profiting from theft of tribal lands; attempting to replicate the DNR of manoomin without involvement of tribal governments; and failure to provide adequate students services and to recruit and retain Native faculty

The resolution also cites key facts about the university, including its history as a "land grant university" created from wrongfully taken tribal lands, and the University's ongoing claim to lands within the Fond du Lac Reservation.

The resolution also acknowledges the current administration's desire to build positive relationships.

MIAC mailed copies of the resolutions, as well as additional supporting information, to the office of University of Minnesota President Joan Gabel, as well as to the Board of Regents.

GET OUT THE NATIVE VOTE!

# MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN MCT, PRIMARY, GENERAL ELECTIONS!

STATE PRIMARY IS AUGUST 11, TRIBAL ELECTION AUGUST 18, U.S. GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3

## DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS SEEK TO UNSEAT INCUMBENT SENATOR SMITH FACES PRIMARY CHALLENGERS

Minnesota's primary election on August 11 will determine which candidates will appear on the November 3 general election ballot. In the primary election, voters can only vote for candidates from one party. In other words, if you vote for a Democrat in one race and a Republican in another, your ballot will be rejected.

Across the state, the ballot will include several Democrats and Republicans running for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Tina Smith.

Smith is being challenged by four other Democrats and five Republicans.

In the Eighth U.S. Congressional District, Republican Incumbent Pete Stauber is challenged by fellow Republican Harry Robb Welty. The endorsed Democratic challenger, Quinn Nystrom, is the only Democrat in the race.

Other candidates on the primary ballot for U.S. Senate and

House of Representatives are from the Grassroots – Legalize Cannabis and Legal Marijuana Now parties.

Depending on where you live, there may also be primaries for other races, including state senator and representative, county offices (commissioner, sheriff, attorney, and others), city offices (mayor and council), and school board.

In Kathio Township and the city of Isle in Mille Lacs County, where Districts I and IIa are located, there are no other primary contests. There are also no other contests in District III communities of Aazhoomog and Hinckley.

In District II, two Republican candidates are competing to run for State Senator against Democrat Steve Samuelson. There are also two McGregor School District questions on the approval of school building bonds.

You can see what's on your ballot at <https://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us>.

## HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE

In order to reduce traffic at polling places for the Minnesota primary election on August 11 and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe election on August 18, Band members are encouraged to vote by mail with an absentee ballot, or to vote early.

### In state elections:

There are two ways to vote early by absentee ballot in the August 11 Minnesota primary election — as well as the November 3 general election.

**Request an absentee ballot at [mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us](https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us).** In Minnesota, you can vote early with an absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day. You do not need to be registered to apply. For your ballot to count, remember this important information:

Read the instructions that come with your ballot carefully. Your signature envelope might have a box for a witness to complete and sign. Due to COVID-19, there is no witness requirement for registered voters for the August 11 State Primary. Non-registered voters will still need a witness to indicate their proof of residence.

Mail the ballot and forms back right away after you finish. Your returned ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day (August 11, 2020) and received by your county by the day before the county canvass, which may take place on the second or third day following the election.

**Vote early in person.** You can vote early with an absentee ballot at your local elections office. If you are not registered, you can do so in person if you show proof of residence.

For most elections, absentee voting locations must be open during their normal business hours starting 46 days before the election. In addition, locations offering absentee ballots for federal, state, or county elections must be open the last Saturday before Election Day (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) and the day before Election Day until 5 p.m. (This does not apply to school districts holding standalone elections.)

You can request an absentee ballot and find more information about voting at [www.sos.state.mn.us](https://www.sos.state.mn.us).

### In tribal elections:

There are two ways to vote by absentee ballot in the August 18 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe election.

**Vote by mail:** You can also use the form printed on this page to request an absentee ballot, or you can email [deanna.sam@millelacsband.com](mailto:deanna.sam@millelacsband.com) or call 320-532-7586 or 320-279-0178. The ballot must arrive back at the election office by August 18.

**In-person absentee:** You can vote in person at the District I Community Center from now through the day before the election. You will need to bring your ID, wear a mask, and practice social distancing.

If you request an absentee ballot but don't have time to put it in the mail before election day, or you are afraid it won't arrive in time, you can bring the absentee ballot to your polling place on election day. The election judges will void the absentee ballot and give you a regular ballot instead.

IF YOU NEED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT NOTARIZED, WOODLANDS NATIONAL BANK HAS WAIVED FEES FOR NOTARIZATION THROUGH THE FALL ELECTIONS. DRIVE-THROUGH SERVICE MAY BE AVAILABLE.



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

I am requesting an Absentee Ballot for the August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 General Election and acknowledge that I meet one of the MCT Election Ordinance 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

# MLCV ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS

By Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures has promoted two Mille Lacs Band Associates — Nicholas Shaw and Jenny Buchholz — to leadership positions within the company.

Nicholas Shaw was promoted to the Area Store Manager for Wewinabi, Inc. and Jenny Buchholz was promoted to the Director of Talent Collaboration with Grand Casino.

## Nicholas Shaw

In this new role, Nicholas will manage the Grand Market and the Grand Makwa Cinema. He began his career with the company in 2005 as a part-time Associate at the Grand Makwa Cinema. He has served in several positions throughout his tenure, including roles with the Gaming Regulatory Authority, the Mille Lacs Band Government, Audio/Visual, and most recently working with the Advertising department at Grand Casino.

He comes to the team with new energy and keen insight to a variety of ideas to drive store improvements, including expanding the customer base, innovating technological options, and focusing on Band member employment and development. His responsibilities will also include assessing and improving



Jenny Buchholz

inventory, reorganizing the store, developing a cross-training opportunity for Associates, and looking at the strategic direction of both locations.

Nicholas holds a bachelor's degree in Marketing and Business Management from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

## Jenny Buchholz

In Jenny's new role as the Director of Talent Collaboration, she will be learning everything related to the Human Relations function of a company. She is also looking at ways to make improvements and implement various strategies to keep Grand



Nicholas Shaw

Casinos in the forefront when it comes to all things Talent.

Jenny began working for the company in 1992 as a food runner in the Buffet. Her experience throughout the years in various roles in the company will help her as she collaborates with different departments within casino operations.

Jenny graduated with a bachelor's degree in community psychology from St. Cloud State University. Her focus was to help individuals become stronger contributing members of their community — ultimately building a stronger network of people. That is no different than the work environment she hopes to create at the company. Jenny is also getting her HR certification in 2020.

# DII, DIII CONVENIENCE STORES REOPEN IN AUGUST

By Wewinabi, Inc.

Welcome Back!

We are thrilled to announce the reopening of the Crossroads Convenience Store in District III and East Lake Convenience Store in District II. Both openings are set for Monday, August 10, 2020.

The stores closed shortly after the Mille Lacs Band and State of Minnesota released Executive Orders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the closure, Associates continued to work to deep clean the stores, and management began to strategize what new offerings and store resets would complement what already exists. We are currently working closely with vendors to ensure that products will fill the shelves, maintenance will be complete, and other tasks will be fulfilled. As expected, some of our vendors and partners have also been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this has unfortunately added weeks to our original reopen schedule.

Just as Grand Casinos set phases into motion, the Band's non-gaming businesses also have identified protocols to keep our community, Associates, and customers safe. A document has been outlined for each business, which is based on a plan that was developed by industry leaders with the assistance of the best available sanitization practices, so our customers can rest assured that we are doing everything possible to protect

everyone as we adjust to a new normal.

Wewinabi, Inc. will continue to update our guidelines as guidance continues from trusted sources, including the Mille Lacs Band, the CDC, the Minnesota Department of Health, and our state and federal leaders.

## Wewinabi, Inc. headquarters

We have been pleased to serve Associates and Band members and to be part of the Onamia business community since fall 2017. Due to immediate changes, our office will relocate back to the MLCV Corporate Building as early as mid-August.

The Talent Team located on the first floor will be instrumental in providing resources to our applicants and Associates, as well as scheduling any follow up interviews or other processes.

Make sure to watch for updates via text and the Wewinabi Facebook page where we will officially announce the move date, where we will be located, and our new contact information. We are happy to embrace the opportunity to once again be located more centrally to serve all Associate and Band member needs.

## Band member special bonus program

The Band Member Loyalty program began in 2017 to attract and retain Mille Lacs Band member Associates.

Eligible Band members were defined as those who make less than \$15 an hour. Once 500 work hours are reached, Band members would be paid the difference of \$15 an hour (varied for each individual and position).

The success of this program has moved us to a huge milestone: Beginning pay will now be \$15 for federally recognized Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe members who work for Wewinabi, Inc. non-gaming businesses. If you chose to leave Wewinabi, Inc., this amount is subject to change. This is a huge change, and it is our hope that this allows more time to focus on the training and development of Band members and continue to grow the percentage of working Band members in our communities. One final note is that most of the positions are part time (24-30 hours per week).

Come join our team and be part of the pride we instill at each of our stores. We look forward to continuing to provide the safest locations for our customers.

## Facemasks

Health and Human Services Commissioner Nicole Anderson issued a Commissioner's Order on May 27 requiring masks in all Band-owned buildings. Minnesota's mask mandate went into effect on July 25. We will continue to mandate our Associates and guests adhere to these rules.



## VICKI KROSCHEL AND REINE GARBOW CHARTER ASSOCIATES (AND SISTERS) BID A GRAND FAREWELL

By Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

Vicki Kroschel and Reine Garbow started at Grand Casino Hinckley in 1992. Since that time, they both have tried their hand at various roles within the company. Vicki ultimately found her niche as a Band Member Recruitment Manager and Reine as the Shipping and Receiving Supervisor.

These two sisters now have embarked on a new journey as they celebrated their retirement from Grand Casino Hinckley on July 2.

A proper send-off after 28 years on the job would usually mean a celebratory retirement party. However, much like everything else with the pandemic, that couldn't happen, but Vicki and Reine say they're getting a gift much better than that; they get to spend time doing the things they love outside of work.

Vicki will enjoy traveling, golfing, gardening, and running her six granddaughters places. Reine will also enjoy traveling and spending time with their huge family.

If you see Vicki and Reine, please join MLCV in congratulating them on their retirement.

Right: Vicki and Reine look forward to more time for family and fun during retirement.



Sisters Vicki Kroschel and Reine Garbow retired on July 2 after long and successful careers with Grand Casino Hinckley.



## MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES OBTAINS 8(A) CERTIFICATION

By Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

In August 2019, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) devised a strategy to focus on competing in the Government Contracting arena by establishing Makwa Global, LLC. This line of business within the MLCV portfolio started with the application for 8(a) certification through the United States Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA 8(a) certification provides preferential access to enterprises owned by Federally Recognized Tribes and certified under Section 8(a) of the Act to government agency procurements with direct award benefits.

With the SBA 8(a) certification, Makwa Global companies receive eligibility for sole-source contracts up to \$22 million, and up to \$100 million for DoD contracts, without Justification and Approval. Other (Non-Tribal) 8(a) companies can only receive sole-source awards up to \$4 million (\$6.5 million for manufacturing). According to the SBA, businesses that are 8(a) certified can get help securing SBA-backed loans, join in business-education and guidance programs, and partner with other companies to bid on contracts.

During the State of the Band in 2020, MLCV shared that Makwa Global was amid its application process to become certified. After the rigorous application process, we received notification in early March that four Makwa Global companies had been accepted and received official certification for this highly desired federal program in an unprecedented amount of time.

"These certifications will help the organization's visibility and, more importantly, provide another revenue source for the Mille Lacs Band," said Joe Nayquonabe, CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

In less than three months after certification, Makwa Global



has already secured two contracts. They were selected to be a part of a group of companies who will be awarded nearly 100 construction projects worldwide. Those projects will be split between several companies over the next 12 months. Additionally, Makwa Global has received a significant contract for five years to assist the Department of State with its Counterterrorism Bureau training needs. While the details of these contracts are confidential, this is a giant leap for MLCV and the Mille Lacs Band to join the ranks of a limited group of Tribal Enterprises eligible to compete for contracts through the 8(a) program.

"Having the 8(a) designation provides a foot in the door," Nayquonabe continued. "Certified companies must still be able to back up their capabilities and prove they can perform. That's where the strong leadership team of Makwa Global comes in."

The experience and expertise of this team in the government sector played a significant role in securing their latest contract. The team is led by Mille Lacs Band descendant Derek Dorr, who strategically led the growth of a three-employee

**"THESE CERTIFICATIONS WILL HELP THE ORGANIZATION'S VISIBILITY AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, PROVIDE ANOTHER REVENUE SOURCE FOR THE MILLE LACS BAND."**

— JOE NAYQUONABE

government contractor to more than 2,000 employees working in 91 countries worldwide. Makwa Global's senior leadership team has over 75 years of combined experience working with government agencies, spanning every industry from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, Department of Defense, NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Health & Human Services.

Makwa Global is a service-based company with experience in multiple domains. Makwa Global companies provide tactical and creative solutions to vital assets and infrastructures throughout the world through training, safety, and security services. They offer tailored IT and cybersecurity solutions, professional staffing for administrative and technical roles, health care offices, and emergency services. Makwa Global companies manage the building of substantial commercial, residential, and industrial construction endeavors, and the maintenance and facility services to support facilities post-construction. They provide solutions for supply chain management, warehousing, project management, fulfillment, and dispatch services. Makwa Global companies also offer travel, marketing, printing, and communication services.

To learn more, visit [www.makwaglobal.com](http://www.makwaglobal.com).

# MAAMANDOOGWAASONAN ENI-ATOOJIN A'AW ANISHINAABE MANIDOOKED QUILTS OFFERED UP BY ANISHINAABE IN THEIR CEREMONIES

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



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

Mii i'iw waa-onji-dazhindamaan iniw waabooyaan, geget niwenda-wanishkwe'igon waabandamaan eni-izhichiged a'aw aanind Anishinaabe ani-bagijiged noongom.

The reason why I am going to talk about blankets, is that it really bothers me to see how some of our Anishinaabe are doing their offerings today.

Mii i'iw aanind ezhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe ani-baabii-taw-aabajitood iniw waabooyaan ani-manidoowichiged. Ishke ayaapii iko ninisidawinaanan iniw waabooyaan gayat gaa-atooyaan gii-pagijigeyaan ani-aabajitood aanind a'aw Anishinaabe ani-bagijiged.

What some of our Anishinaabe are doing, they are reusing or recycling blankets that they put down as an offering at a ceremony. There are times that I recognize blankets that I had originally put down as my offering and then they show up later as an of-

fering being put down by another Anishinaabe as their offering.

Ishke imaa niimi'iding ani-okosijigeng ayaapii imbi-wiin-damaag a'aw Anishinaabe ani-nisidawinang i'iw waabooyaan ani-aabajichigaadenig ani-bagijiged awiya. Mii iko enendamaan, mii iwidi nanaamadabiwaagwen ingiw Manidoog ganawaabandamowaad ina'oonindwaa, mii imaa ikidowaagwen, "Tayaa! Mii imaa bi-dagoshimoonagak miinawaa o'ow waabooyaan gayat gaa-miinigoowiziyang."

There are times at the ceremonial dances where people have come up to me to say that they recognize a blanket that they had used as a previous offering now being used as an offering by someone else. My thinking is, the Manidoog must be sitting there looking at their gifts saying, "What is this! This same blanket has arrived here again that them Anishinaabe had already gave us."

Booch i'iw oshki-waabooyaan da-atood a'aw Anishinaabe ani-bagijiged weweni ani-doodawaad iniw Manidoon. Gaawin oadaa-baabitawi'oonasiin iniw Manidoon i'iw waabooyaan gayat gaa-ininamawindwaa ingiw Manidoog. Iniw waa-booyaan waa-aabajitoojin wii-pagijiged a'aw Anishinaabe, mii iniw noomaya gaa-kiizhi- gashkigwaadegin ge-aabajitooapanen.

The Anishinaabe has to offer up a new blanket as a way to treat the Manidoog respectfully. They cannot offer up a blanket that has already gone to the Manidoog in a previous offering. In their offerings the Anishinaabe should use blankets that they know were recently sewn.

Ishke dash waa-ni-izhichigeyaan niwii-ni-ayaangwaamimaa a'aw Anishinaabe da-atood i'iw waabooyaan gaa-kashkig-waadang maagizhaa gaye gaa- kashkigwaadamawind noomaya. Gego wiin iwidi oadaa-apatoosiin i'iw Waalimaating da-adaawed i'iw waabooyaan waa-atood. Ishke mii i'iw debinaak ani-doodawaad iniw Manidoon wii-ni-izhichiged i'iw akeyaa.

What I am going to do now is encourage Anishinaabe to use quilts that they had personally sewn, or quilts that may have been sewn for them recently. They should not run over there to Wal-Mart to buy the blanket that they will use as their offering. Anishinaabeg are being disrespectful to those Manidoog when they are not doing the best they can by running to Wal-Mart to buy the blankets they are going to offer.

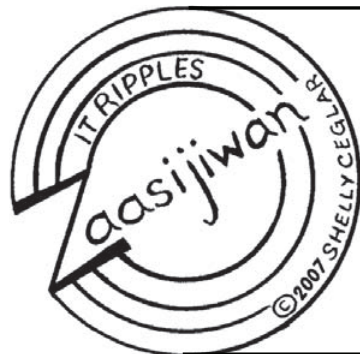
Ishke iko imaa ani-dazhinjigaadeg iniw maamandoo-gwaasonan eni-atamawaajin iniw Manidoon a'aw Anishinaabe, mii a'aw eni-gaagiigodod, mii imaa ani-dazhindang izhi- minochigewaad geshkigwaasojig. Ishke mii imaa anooj da-gii-paa-izhichigewaapan, mii imaa awashime dash inendamowaad weweni wii-toodawaawaad iniw Manidoon. Mii imaa akawe awashime inendamowaad wii-ni-nanaamadabiwaad weweni wii- ni-doodawaawaad iniw Manidoon ani-gashkigwaadamawaawaad i'iw waabooyaan waa-ininamawaawaajin. Mii imaa wenjikaamadinig da-naadamaagoowiziwaad debinaak ani-doodawaasi-waawaad iniw Manidoon.

When the Anishinaabe brings in a quilt as his or her offering, the one who speaks for him or her talks about what a good deed that person has done by spending their time sewing that blanket. During that time they could have been out doing other things, instead they decided to spend their time doing good for the Manidoog. They are doing the Manidoog good by deciding to spend their time sitting there sewing the quilt that they are going to offer to the Manidoog. That is where they will get their help from when they do not put a half-hearted effort in their offering to the Manidoog.

Ishke imaa Misi-zagaa'iganiing ishkoniganing ani-niimi'idiikewaad ingiw Anishinaabeg, geget ominwaabamigowaadogenan iniw Manidoon waabandamonid inigokwekamig iniw maamandoo-gwaasonan eni-atoowaajin ingiw Anishinaabeg apii okosijigeng.

When they have their ceremonial dances on the Mille Lacs reservation, the Manidoog must appreciate seeing all the numerous quilts that the Anishinaabe put down for them in the bundle as their offering.

Maamandoo-gwaasonan to page 15



## Niibin—It is Summer

Gaagiigododaa! Nindikid, "Aaniin. Aaniindi waa-izhaayan niibing?" Gidikid, "Boozhoo, "Niwii-izhaa Miskwaa-zhibikaag. Niwii-mawadishaa Ninoshe." Niin, "Niwii-pabaamaadiz Waswaaganing ganabaj idash Naagaaajiwonong." Giin, "Giniim ina?" Niin, "Eya. Niimi'iding gabe-giizhig niiniim." Giin, "Nimbizindawaa a'aw dewe'igan." Niin, "Nitaa-nagamowag gaye Ingiw negamojig." Mii'iw.

(Let's all speak! I say, "Greetings. Where are you going in the summer?" You say, "Greetings, I want to go to Red Cliff. I will visit my Auntie." Me, "I want to travel about to Lac du Flambeau maybe and Fond du Lac." You, "Do you dance?" Me, "Yes. At the Traditional Dances, all day I dance." You, "I listen to that drum." "Me, They are good singers, also those singers. That's all.")

### Bezhiq—1

#### OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.  
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO  
Jiimaan—as in father  
Miigwech—as in jay  
Gaawin—as in seen  
Noongom—as in moon  
—Short Vowels: A, I, O  
Gaye—as in about  
Gitigaan—as in tin  
Bimose—as in only

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

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

#### Future Tense

Future tense markers.  
wii—want to **ga**—will  
3rd person: **da**—will  
Personal prefix, tense marker, hyphenated to the verb.  
Bimose—S/he walks. Nimbimose—I walk.  
Ninga-bimose.—I will walk.  
Gibimose.—You walk.  
Giga-bimose.—You will walk.  
Da-bimose.—S/he will walk  
Niwii-bimose.—I want to walk.  
Wii-bimose.—They want to walk.  
Giwii-bimibaatoo ina? Do you want to run?  
Miikanang niwii-bimibaatoo.—On the trail, I want to run.

### Niizh—2

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

A. Niibing, niwii-gitigaan. Niwii-izhichige agwajiiing?  
B. Gichi-gigizheb, niizho-diba'igan ninga-bimose.  
C. Giwii-bimoomig ina? Niwii-bimoomig noongom!  
D. Gaawin niwii-aakozisii. Niwii-mino-ayaa.  
E. Giwii-bagiz ina? Eya, gaye niin!  
F. Giga-giigooyikemin jiimaaning!  
G. Apegish menoseyeg!

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

### Niswi—3

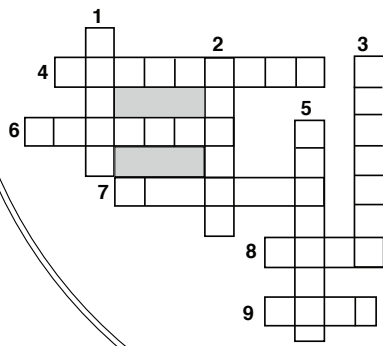
#### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- S/he walks.
- Now, today.
- You eat it.
- drum

Across:

- On the trail/road.
- greetings
- My mother's sister/aunt.
- you
- also



### Niiwin—4

#### VTI-Verbs-Inanimate-Transitive

Root/Command VTI, future tense added Miijin! Niwii-miijin. Giwii-miijin. Owii-miijin. Eat it! I want to eat it. You want to eat it. S/he wants to eat it. Aabajitooon. Ninga-aabajitooon. Giga-aabajitooon. Oga-aabajitooon. Use it! I will use it. You will use it. S/he will use it. Try Baakinan!—Open it up!

Naagaj—later. Goojitooon! Try it! Translation below.

- Wii-gigizheb \_\_\_\_ baakinaan adaawewigamig.
- Baanimaa \_\_\_\_ aabajitooon o'ow jiimaan Niikaanis.
- \_\_\_\_ aabajitooon i'iw maangaanibaajigan.
- Wii-naawakweg, \_\_\_\_ miijin giigoowaaboo.
- Gego maajaaken! \_\_\_\_ miijin ina giigoowaaboo?

#### Translations:

Niizh—2 A. A. When it is summer, I want to garden. I want to do things outside. B. Early in the mornings, two miles I want to walk. C. Do you want to go ride horse? I want to ride horse now. D. I don't want to be sick. I want to be healthy. E. Do you want to go swimming? Yes, also me. F. We all want to go fishing in the canoe/boat. G. I wish you good things!

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Bimose 2. Noongom 3. Gimiijin 5. Dewe'igan

Across: 4. Miikanang 6. Boozhoo 7. Ninoshe 8. Giin 9. Gaye

Niiwin—4 1. In the morning you will open the store. 2. Later he wants to use this canoe, my brother. 3. I will use that shovel. 4. When it is noon, I want to eat fish soup. 5. Don't leave! Do you want to eat fish soup?

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. Some spellings and translations from *The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 pio@glifwc.org.

Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Summer 2007. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.

# THE 2020 MINNEAPOLIS UPRISING — A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

By Sierra Edwards Mille Lacs Band Member

The uprising that's taken place in the Twin Cities has been one of the most destructive incidents of civil unrest in this country — second only to the 1992 LA riots/uprising. As of mid-June, there have been 2 deaths, 617 arrests, and more than 500 million dollars in property damage in relation to this period of civil unrest in the Twin Cities. The following is a timeline of the first couple weeks of the uprising, told from the way I experienced it.

I had lost my campus housing back in mid-March due to the pandemic. So, on the evening George Floyd was murdered, Monday, May 25, I was living with my father on the St. Paul side of the Mississippi River — right where Lake Street turns to Marshall Avenue. On Tuesday, there was a peaceful demonstration near Hiawatha Ave. that became a march to the Third Precinct of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). Though I hadn't known about the protest beforehand, I learned it had taken place through pictures and videos on a friend's Instagram.

But it wasn't until the night of Wednesday, I began — as did the rest of the world — to realize how loud the response from the community was becoming. I had just finished my late evening class over Zoom when I began to scroll through social media. Trending on Twitter were videos of the Lake Street Target being looted, smoking, flooding, and of course the infamous white lady in the motorized wheelchair who was trying to stab Black people. I had shopped at that Target before, so it was really odd to see it in the public eye and in this way. But what I most remember about that night, is being able to see the actual flames of Minnehaha Commons — the under-construction apartment complex — above the trees. For almost a week, my dad and I were able to see the orange glow and dark smoke of Lake Street — and later other parts of Minneapolis — on fire, from dusk till dawn, over the trees and across the Mississippi River.

It wasn't until Thursday evening I actually got physically involved. I geared up — goggles, mask, water, washcloths, bandages, all-black clothing, sneakers, asemaa — and went to Lake Street with a group of friends to warn protesters that the National Guard had been called in. I walked over the broken glass of ALDI, heard fireworks being lit off in a nearby parking lot, and watched fire consume buildings a block from me. Though I didn't realize it at the time, I was witnessing the burning of the Third Precinct — a symbolic victory in many eyes. Here was, for the whole world to witness, the physical tearing down of a policing institution that has harmed and traumatized the Black and brown communities of South Minneapolis for generations. That was also the first night I was unable to sleep because I was terrified of the loss of more Black lives.

The next morning, Friday, May 29, my father and I went to see the damage in daylight. Some buildings were charred with gaping holes, while others were just gone. There was active flooding and smoking in some areas. Volunteers were cleaning up what they could — mostly broken glass. And notably, the National Guard had moved in, creating a perimeter around a central area. But what left the deepest impression on me were the graffiti tags: "NO MORE TYRANNY!" "I Can't Breathe!" "Our Message is Clear" "Killer Cops" "History in Making" "GEORGE FLOYD WAS MURDERED." The tags were everywhere, and they were raw, painful, angry, in mourning — all of it.

That evening, I had my first experience with teargas. For breaking the 8 p.m. curfew imposed on the city by the governor, round after round of teargas was fired at a crowd of people that had accumulated by the heavily damaged Target on Lake and 26th Ave. Though it remains unclear to me as to why, the line of cop cars and riot police eventually dispersed, and so we began to march west. As we marched, I saw more damaged buildings, mostly chain stores, and two cars on fire in a parking lot. Though what kept me on edge was the plate-less SUV that attempted to bulldoze through the crowd along the way. It luckily did not hit anyone — just barely missing one woman who was able to jump onto the curb at the last second — but every time I heard a motor the rest of the way my whole body tensed.

Finally, with the sun having gone down, we arrived at the Fifth Precinct. Armed cops stood on the roof of the precinct. Though some had colored guns that I assume held either tear gas or rubber bullets, many of the guns looked like regular machine guns. My friend and I left before the fires and looting began later that night.

Over the weekend, a lot of the looting and burning abated, with more organized marches and rallies consistently taking place. However, there was still a heightened presence of the police and military everywhere. On June 1, I attended a rally outside of the Governor's Mansion — which was broken up mid-speech by organizers after a threat from the KKK. The following weekend, June 6, I went to the Defund the MPD march led by Black Visions Collective. I made a sign for that march on cardboard I had been saving. On one side I scrawled: "DIVEST FROM POLICE, INVEST IN COMMUNITY," and on the other: "IN HONOR OF MY GRANDFATHER, HENRY EDWARDS, MURDERED BY MPD IN 1973." We marched from Bottineau Park in North Minneapolis to Mayor Frey's doorstep Downtown. I was in the crowd of Black folks when Frey announced he did not support the abolishment of the Minneapolis Police Department — and was subsequently booed away. The next day, I witnessed the majority of the Minneapolis City Council pledge to defund the MPD at Powderhorn Park. And during those first couple of weeks, I visited the George Floyd memorial on Chicago and 38th a handful of times. It hurt to be there, but the art and the flowers and the community are so beautiful and healing.

And while protesting and marching is an important component of any movement, it is not the only way to be involved. Since the end of May, I have been actively donating, signing petitions, learning, and sharing resources on social media. Mobilizing my own money, and encouraging others to do so as well, has been a really great way to support and keep up with everything going on (speaking of which, I have included some resources at the end of my note to the right). Additionally, I have become more connected with organizations, collectives, activists, artists, and friends doing important work both locally and beyond. Building these relationships has been really fulfilling, and ultimately is what has kept me going when things begin to weigh most heavily on my heart, mind, and soul.

Although things in Minneapolis and St. Paul have melted, as have the national conversations on racism and anti-Blackness, there is still protesting and community building happening. And even though it stopped making headlines, there is still major civil unrest occurring in the United States — most notably in Portland, where federal forces are currently occupying the city and brutalizing protestors daily. Of course, this nationwide uprising will not single-handedly achieve racial justice and equity in this country. There is still a lot of work that must be done. However, I have witnessed so many important changes in the last few months: the vowing of a city council to defund its police department; the retiring of the Washington Redskins name and logo; the breaking of police contracts by companies, universities, school districts; the toppling of statues related to genocide and enslavement across the country; the banning of the confederate flag by the Marine Corps. This is an absolutely historic moment, for Minnesota, for the United States, even for the world. And I have been trying to play my part in creating much-needed change. What about you?



Sierra Edwards, a student at Stanford University, participated in some of the protests following the murder of George Floyd.

## A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Aniin, Boozhoo. My name is Sierra, my Anishinaabemowin name is Ikwe, I am a rising senior at Stanford University, and I hope you enjoyed my story. In this note, I would like to mention a few things that have informed my interaction with and perception of this movement. For starters, I am Black, Ojibwe, and white. Second, I am majoring in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, with double minors in Black Studies and Indigenous Studies. This means for the past three years, I have dedicated my education to engaging with the past, present, and future realities of my communities. Third, I intend to continue to be involved with Black and Indigenous communities — ideally together — upon my graduation. Lastly, you could call me radical.

I would also like to take this space to explain my intentional use of certain words throughout this article, including "murdered" instead of "killed," and "uprising" instead of "riot." George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, was murdered by Minneapolis police officers when Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly 8 minutes, as officers Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane, and Tou Thao watched, used force against Floyd, and kept bystanders from intervening. Floyd repeatedly told the officers "I can't breathe." Autopsies have ruled George Floyd's death a homicide. To use the word "kill" is to diminish the reality that Chauvin's knee remained on Floyd's neck for almost 3 minutes after he became unresponsive.

Now, let's talk about the difference between "riot" and "uprising." A riot is what happens when the fans of a sports team burn cars and trash cans after their team loses or wins. It is a disturbance of the peace. But what happened in Minneapolis is an uprising, a rebellion, an insurrection — the active resistance against the systems in place through disturbing the peace. To call it a riot belittles the build-up of racial oppression that led to this breaking point, reduces George Floyd's murder to a singular event rather than a systemic issue. To call it a riot ignores the reality of people, disproportionately people of color, struggling to keep their housing, pay their bills, feed their kids, all amid a pandemic. And to call it a riot invalidates the Black anger and trauma that has been expressed in the language our capitalist society understands best: wealth and property. The term "riot" incites the idea of blind violence. What has happened in Minneapolis and across the country has been anything but.

If you are interested in finding petitions, donation links, and other resources, I would suggest this incredibly comprehensive website: <https://www.theradicaldatabase.com/>. This website is also a great resource: <https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>. If you have any questions or comments about this article, or advice on how to navigate the resources I provided, you can reach me at [sedwar@stanford.edu](mailto:sedwar@stanford.edu).

## MILLE LACS BAND VOICES

# AN OJIBWE INTRODUCTION HOLDS ENERGY

By **Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member**

In the beginning of my Ojibwe Language learning, I placed the weight of the world on my shoulders to push through my first phrase I was going to master. "Nazhike-awaasang indizhinkaaz, migizi indoodem, (now the tough part) Misi-zaaga'igan indoonjibaa." Whew!! I did it! I fumbled "misizaagan" a bit but I nailed "indoonjibaa." No one ever said "indoonjibaa" so good, not even Wenabozho. I practiced so hard and now I am passing my Intro to Ojibwe Course!



Eventually, I started questioning the Ojibwe Intro we all strive for. What is its purpose? Why do we place so much stress on it? What does it have to do with the price of beans? I was now an esteemed fumbler of the language. I can name off what I like, "Niminwendaan wiisinyaan" with the highest degree of traditionalism. But, what is the need for an intro? Is it necessary? Is it a linguistically inclined way to establish one's cultural awareness? Is it more than what we understand?

My assimilated mind told me that the Intro was nothing more than a way to demonstrate one has a sort of cultural competency but not willing to learn more than that. I was questioning my language acquisition. Was I learning relevant language in order to honor the Manidoog? Was I doing right by my ancestors? I did not want my language to be ornamental.

This is where talks with others came into play. Within the

language there is knowledge. Gaawin anishaa gii-izhichigesii-wag ingiw Anishinaabeg. The anishinaabeg did not do things for no reason. Others know more, and I strive to further my understanding. Here is what I come to understand.

**Indizhinkaaz** — What we are called. Our names come from the spirit world through ceremony. It refers to the energy source in order for you to have access to spiritual energy. Your own frequency, your caller ID. It is where your energy comes from.

**Indoodem** — Our clan . . . DUH!! This describes your strengths, your characteristics. Using this tells everyone how we are and what our roles and responsibilities are within the community. How our energy gets used.

**Indoonjibaa** — Where we are from. Where we originate. But why? This tells others where our knowledge comes from. Where we received our Higher Shinaabe Education. What techniques, teachings, methods, intuitions, and practical data we have in order to use our energy to apply our strengths in order to fulfill our roles and responsibilities within the community.

Using your intro, when we all understand the components, will tell any shinaab everything they need to know about you. Where our energy comes from by way of our names, where our knowledge comes from by way of the community we were brought up in, and our clan tells others not only if we are suitable mates but also what our strengths, roles, and responsibilities are for our community. Imagine if we were to learn more about this intro. We would then be setting up the next generation to have even more understanding of their own energies and how to apply them.

**Maamandoogwaasanan** from page 13

Mii imaa booch wenjikaamagadingwen ani-naadamaa-goowiziwaad ingiw Anishinaabeg ani-niimi'idiikewaad. Mii imaa waabanjigaadeg, gaawin debinaak odoodawaasiwaawaan ingiw Manidoon.

*That has to be the source of the help that the Anishinaabe is given as a result of their dances. This shows that the Anishinaabe are giving their all to the Manidoog in their offerings.*

Gaawin eta niimi'iding indazhindanziinan ingiw waa-booyaan ayaabajichigaadegin. Mii-go gaye ingiw waa-booyaan ayaabajichigaadegin imaa midewing, miinawaa gaye ingiw waa-booyaan epigaabawijin Anishinaabe ani-zagas-we'iwed. Awegonen igo a'aw Anishinaabe eninamawaad ingiw Manidoon, booch da-oshkayi'iiwang.

*I am not only referring to the quilts being used during the ceremonial dances. I am also talking about the blankets used in Midewiwin, and also the blankets used as an additional offering in our everyday ceremonies or feasts. Whatever Anishinaabe is going to use as an offering in our ceremonies has to be brand new.*

Booch gaye wenaajiwaniing akeyaa da-wii-izhi-naanaagad-awendam a'aw Anishinaabe eni-gashkigwaadang ingiw waa-booyaan waa-atamawaad ingiw Manidoon. Ishke ingiw Manidoog, mii i'iw gegigaabawiwaad gegabiwaad i'iw wenaajiwang. Gaawin da-minwendanziiwag ingiw Manidoog iwidi ani-dagoshmoonagadigin i'iw waa-booyaan imaa mayaanaad-ani-dagosijigaadeg. Mii i'iw wenji-abaabasamaan ingiw waa-booyaan etooyaanin. Aaniin gaye gii-ni-maji- inendang megwaa imaa gaa-kashkigwaadamawid i'iw waa-booyaan.

*Anishinaabe must also have good thoughts as they sew these quilts that they are using as offering to the Manidoog. The Manidoog only stand and sit with that which is good. The Manidoog would not be happy to have a blanket arrive and placed before them that contains all those negative vibes. That is the reason why I smudge the blankets that I put down as my offering. There is always a possibility that the one who sewed the blanket for me may have had negative thoughts as they were sewing my blanket.*

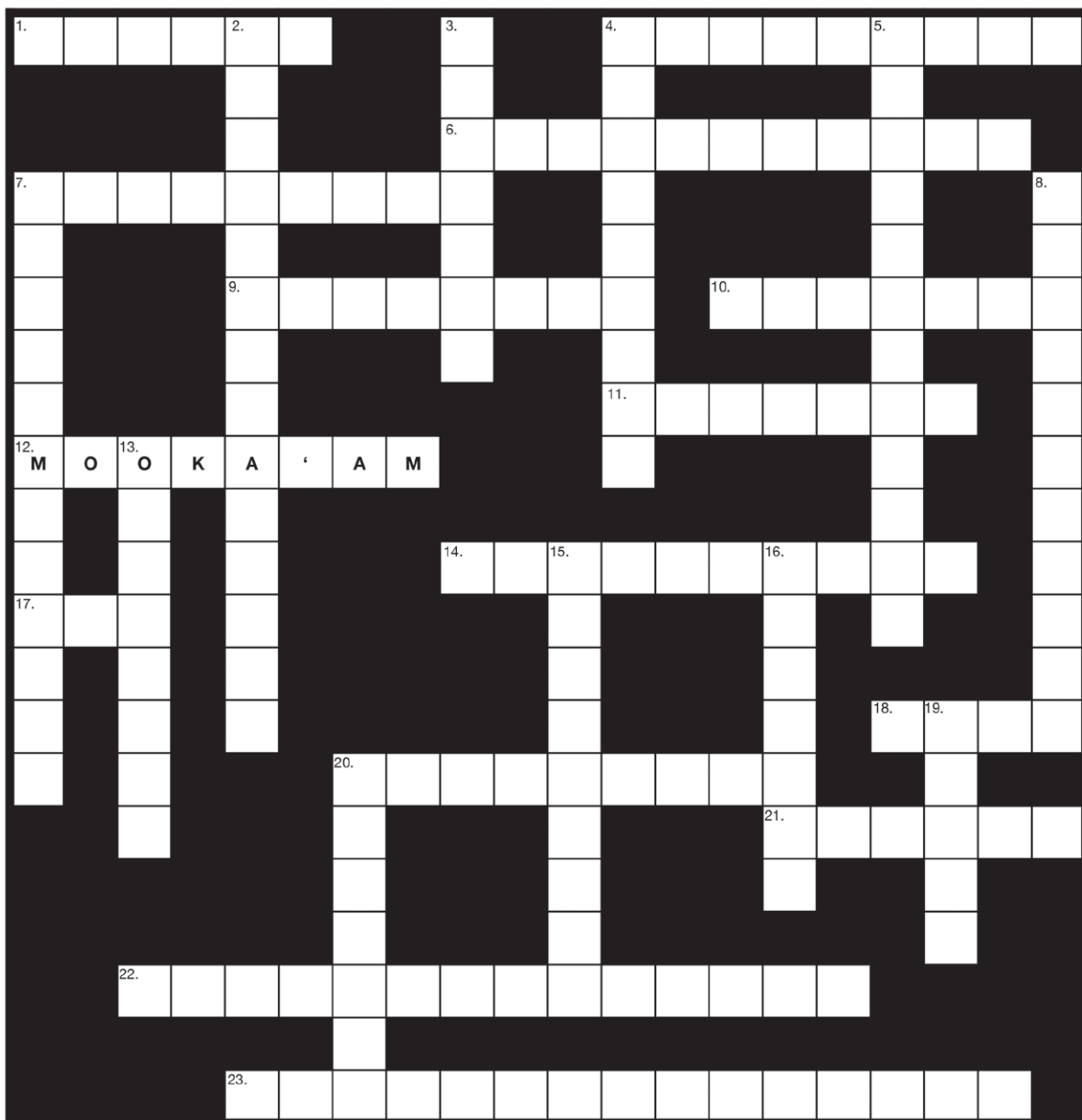
Mii imaa ani-ikwe-niimi'iding, gaawin memwech eta-go ingiw weshkayi'iimagakin waa-booyaan da-ni-aabajichigaades-inoon ani-wiizhaangeng. Mii-go gaye imaa ingiw waa-booyaan gaa-ondinigaadeg imaa okosijigeng niimi'iding, midewing, miinawaa anooj ani-bagijiged a'aw Anishinaabe da-ni-aabajichigaadegiban. Gaawin ingoji izhaamagasinoon ingiw waa-booyaan imaa apii wiizhaangeng. Mii eta-go ani-miinad a'aw eni-wiizhaamad dibishkoo gidani-odaminowaadaamin ingiw waa-booyaan, mii imaa ani-minawaanigoziyang ani-wiizhaangeyang ani-ikwe-niimi'idiyang. Bi- wiizhaamigooyan i'iw maamandoogwaason bi-miinigooyan, ishke dash ayaanziwan waa-booyaan aazhita ge-aabajitooyan da-azhe-wiizhaangeyan, wiikwajitoon igo niizhitana awashime daswaabik da-o-miinad gaa-pi-wiizhaamik.

*During the side-step dancing it is not necessary that only new blankets are used. It can be a blanket that someone was given from the bundles, given at a Midewiwin ceremony, or maybe a blanket that was used as an offering at any other ceremony. The blanket is not offered to the Manidoog during the course of side-step dancing. The blanket is only going to the one that you have asked to dance with you as if we are having a fun time using these blankets to ask each other to dance during the side-step social dancing. When someone asks you to dance and they give you a quilt and if you do not have a quilt to give back during the return song, try to give them twenty dollars or more during that return song.*

Ishke gaye imaa endazhi-niimi'iding, bi-miinikwaa gidagiigin ingiw Ogichidaakweg, mii-go ge-izhi-aabajitooyamban da-waa-booyaanikeyan da-ozhitooyan ingiw waa-booyaan waa-pagijigeyanin. Aaniin igo apii ani-miigiweng i'iw gidagiigin booch niizho-diba'igan maagizhaa niso-diba'igan da-akwaamagad. Ishke mii i'iw da- debisemagak dash da-waa-booyaaniked.

*Also if you are given cloth by the Ogichidaakweg during the ceremonial dance, you can use that cloth to make a blanket for your future offerings. Whenever cloth is being given out, it should be between two to three yards long. It has to be that length to be in order to have enough to make a blanket.*

Aazhawaakwasing ikidowinan



### ACROSS

1. S/he is sick. 4. Look at it! 6. It is blue. 7. S/he runs 9. Collect it! 10. Rabbit. 11. S/he plays. 12. The sun is rising. 14. I see him/her. 17. Earth, land, ground. 18. Snow. 19. Understand him/her! 20. A buck, a male deer. 21. Tell me about it! 22. You are looking for him/her.

### DOWN

2. A jingle on a dress. 3. A grape. 4. Eggs. 5. I see it. 7. S/he runs around. 8. S/he talks too much. 13. Write h/down! Vote for h/! 15. Tell him/her about it. 16. It is warm weather. 19. His/her calf (leg). 20. Hear it!
- Created by Nazhike. Answers on 18.*

## AROUND THE RESERVATION

### REMINDERS FROM YOUR HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Mille Lacs Band's Housing Department has a few friendly reminders for Band members as we head into fall.

**Weatherization program:** This grant-based program can help you make your home more energy efficient. One of the pre-qualifications is the household must have qualified for either fuel assistance or energy/electrical assistance. Call 320-532-7483 for more information.

**Energy assistance:** Energy assistance applications should be submitted soon. Visit [lakesandpines.org](https://lakesandpines.org) for an online application or call 320-679-1800 option #2 for energy assistance questions.

**Watch for temporary jobs:** The Housing Department may be hiring temporary workers as government begins to reopen. Call 320-532-7483 for more information.

**Furnace filters:** Remember to check and replace your furnace filters monthly!

Please note the following housing on-call numbers: District I and IIa: 320-630-2498; District II: 320-630-2492; District III: 320-630-2497.

For more information, visit <https://millelacsband.com/services/housing>.

### REMEMBERING RESILIENCE CONVERSATIONS

A series of live conversations on the Remembering Resilience podcasts will continue this month. The conversations help deepen our collective understanding of the roots and impacts of historical trauma, ACEs, epigenetics, and resilience across Indigenous communities in Minnesota and beyond. Please listen to the podcasts prior to joining the conversations. The podcasts can be found at <https://rememberingresilience.home.blog/>.

To register for the conversations, which take place at 1 p.m. on the following dates, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9n2myat>.

July 29 — Episode 3: Understanding Epigenetic Inheritance: How the Experiences of our Ancestors Impact our Communities Today

August 12 — Episode 4: Healing Ourselves to Heal our Communities: Reawakening Resilience Individually and Collectively

August 26 — Episode 5: Voices of Resilience: Linda Eagle Speaker

September 9 — Episode 6: Voices of Resilience: Janice Badmoccasin

The live conversations will be hosted by Linsey McMurrin, the current Tribal Project Director at Minnesota Communities Caring for Children (MCCC), and Susan Beaulieu of the University of Minnesota Extension.

### 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, send your name and email address to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com).

Congratulations to Skylar Premo, who won our \$250 gift card drawing. As announced in the July *Inaajimowin*, emails received by July 15 were entered in the drawing.



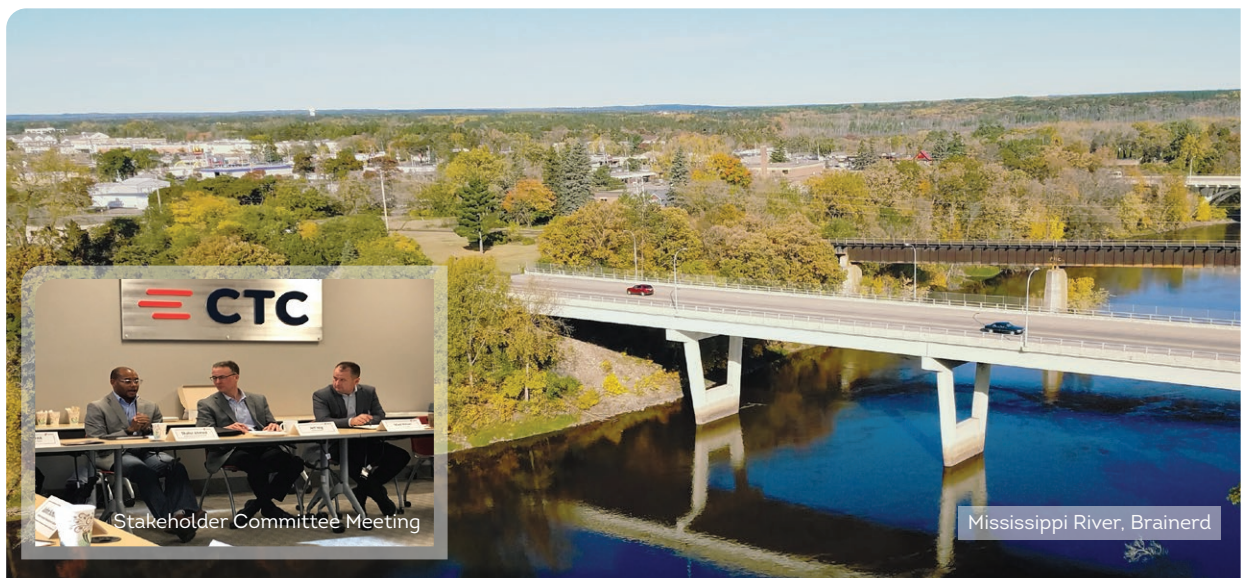
### PURPLE MARTIN NEST CHECKS

Last month, the Mille Lacs Band's DNR completed their annual purple martin nest checks. Purple martins are completely dependent upon humans to provide housing for them. If human-supplied housing was not available, the species would have no place to raise their families. This tradition actually started with Native Americans hanging hollowed-out gourds for them, and the birds have evolved with Native people caring for them for hundreds of years! Here at Mille Lacs, we have beautiful purple martin habitat with plenty of clean water, insects, and safe places for the birds to nest. It is easy to view these gracious birds along the shores of Mille Lacs feeding their young in the houses. One of the best viewing places is a property owned by the Band along Twilight Road on the Southwest shore. Simply pull in and watch the birds!

If you are an entrepreneur who wants to start or grow a business, this program is for you!

# Enterprise Academy PROGRAM

BUILDING LOCAL ECONOMIES FROM WITHIN.



Are you an entrepreneur who wants to start or grow a business?

### BRAINERD ENTERPRISE ACADEMY CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 15

Apply to participate in the Enterprise Academy, where you'll learn from business experts and create your own individual business plan. Classes are held once per week for 12 weeks and feature training specifically tailored to you, with one-on-one assistance available to help create a realistic business plan. Successful applicants will be assessed a minimum \$100 fee based on a sliding income scale. Priority will be given to applicants who are interested in creating or expanding visible businesses in Brainerd's River-to-Rail corridor and, secondarily, Brainerd's other legacy commercial districts.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Abdi Daisane, Program Officer  
(320) 207-4888 | [adaisane@ifound.org](mailto:adaisane@ifound.org)

Jessy Beto, Program Assistant  
(320) 224-1713 | [jbeto@ifound.org](mailto:jbeto@ifound.org)

Learn more and view priority neighborhoods at [ifound.org/economy/enterprise-academy](https://ifound.org/economy/enterprise-academy)



MILLE LACS  
CORPORATE VENTURES

This Enterprise Academy cohort is supported through partnerships with the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce, the Brainerd Destination Downtown business coalition and a host of Brainerd area businesses and organizations, including Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. The Enterprise Academy is based on the Entrepreneur Development Model, a program of the Neighborhood Development Center's Build From Within Alliance. Visit [ndc-mn.org](https://ndc-mn.org) for more information. The Enterprise Academy is supported by a grant from Wells Fargo and its Diverse Community Capital program. Additional supporters include the Central Minnesota Community Foundation, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

**For Mille Lacs Band members accepted into the Enterprise Academy program:** Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures will provide a \$2,500 stipend. If the Brainerd dates do not work, watch for a spring 2021 Mille Lacs Tribal Economy cohort.

405 First Street SE | Little Falls, MN 56345 | (320) 632-9255 | [ifound.org](https://ifound.org)



7.20.20



# MILLE LACS BAND VOICES REFLECTIONS FROM A 2020 GRADUATE

By Eldayshun Big Bear Mille Lacs Band Member

Band member Eldayshun Big Bear gave this speech at the graduation ceremony for Isle High School on July 17.

Growing up as a young Native American kid in America has its pros and cons. At a younger age, I was always viewed a little different because of my skin color, the clothes I wore, and the music I listened to. It

took some years to grasp, but eventually I embraced it. Growing up, I started to realize that motivating and inspiring people has always been my interest, so I hope this speech has true meaning to some of you.

I was never the smartest kid in the classroom. I don't remember a lot of times that my test scores stood out to anybody, or many times that I made the A and B honor roll. I would just show up, learn, and turn in my work. My grades were never the best, but as long as my mom knew I was trying my best and was able to dress up on game day, we were good, so that motivated and scared me into getting my work done.

I made a lot of memories with these amazing people right here; we are a family and one of a kind. I've learned a lot on this long (but short) journey. First, no matter what, you're always going to have people criticize you, no matter the accomplishment, no matter how much money you make, or how many followers you have. Whether it's to help you out or not, you're going to have some words said to you that may hurt your feelings. Just take in what you want and sometimes consider it. Only you know what's best for you.

Another thing I learned is to accept people for who they are. Every single one of us is unique in our own way. If their intentions are bad, you know you shouldn't associate with them, so just always do what's best for you and your future.

Life isn't fair sometimes. This is a touchy subject for me, but for example, when my father passed away, it hit me like a truck, out of nowhere. I asked myself, "Well, what now?" I didn't know what life would be like without my father, who I wanted to impress every day of my young life. But you need to make goals, small goals even, to keep yourself going. Don't get stuck in your head with those everlasting negative thoughts that kill your mood, and remember, you live to fight another day. My favorite music artist, Montana of 300, says a lot of motivational quotes, but one of them stuck out to me: "Success is proof that you've evolved and mastered difficult times." You have to go through some rain to see the sun some days.

Another important thing I've learned throughout high school is that it's okay to have fun and it's okay to stick to yourself sometimes, like myself. All my friends and teachers know I'm not much of a "people person" unless I'm comfortable around you (so this public speaking stuff is not my thing).

Another thing is, be your own kind of "different." Don't go miles and miles to try and impress people; just be yourself no matter what people think. Like I said, we're all unique in our way. We all have a story behind us, so don't let negative words determine how your path is going to turn out. Appreciate your loved ones, of course, and just BE YOU. Be great at what you're doing and take opportunities. Greatness has no limit. It takes all of us together to bring this world to what it was before.

Lastly, something I've learned within these past 5-6 months is to cherish high school and enjoy being a kid. These are the most important years of your life, and it goes by way too fast. Enjoy listening to all the drama in high school, because in the end, none of it will matter later in life. It's a journey worth taking, if you view it from a positive angle.

Now to move on, there's a couple people that I want to



thank, but first, I want to thank all of my teachers, coaches, family, and friends throughout the years. You're all loved and appreciated. Thank you for the endless amount of support.

The first person I'm going to start off with is my brother Todd, one of the only men I've ever had in my life. We both had to fight through adversity. We've seen each other both laugh and cry, and of course we would fight sometimes, but at the end of the day, that's my best friend. He's a good father and an amazing brother, and fun fact: He's the one that told me to start playing basketball, so thank you for that. I love you, Todd.

Next, I want to thank my stepdad, Joel Potter, a true man in my eyes with a sense of humor like nobody else (but when he gets mad, watch out). But dad, I just want to say thank you for showing me what a real father looks like. You're the heart and soul of the Potter family. You gave me one of the most important people in my life, and that's my little big brother Joel Potter Jr. If you're listening to this, bro, I love you.

Real quick, before I move on, I want to make a tribute to my father, Michael James Day, in heaven. Dear Dad, if you're listening to this, I did it, 18 years later, with only a handful of memories that we share. I still fight through every day, wondering if you're still as proud of me as you were when you left this world. I will never forget you and your voice; it's forever engraved in my heart. Thank you for motivating me to not go down the wrong path, and thank you for trying to be there. I love and miss you every single day. Love, your baby boy, Eldayshun James Big Bear.

Okay, there's two more really important people that I want

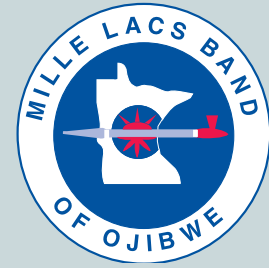
**"BE YOUR OWN KIND OF DIFFERENT. DON'T GO MILES AND MILES TO TRY TO IMPRESS PEOPLE; JUST BE YOURSELF NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE THINK. LIKE I SAID, WE'RE ALL UNIQUE IN OUR OWN WAY."**

to thank. One of them happens to work here at the school and goes by the name of Travis Turgeon. You either love this guy or you hate him, there's no in between. He's a family man, a natural coach, and a bucket getter. That man can hoop, but can't guard me. In all seriousness, Coach, you're my idol. You're a family man who works hard day in and day out to provide for your loved ones. You're always putting smiles on people's faces, and you're always in the mood to help someone and coach them in any way possible. We've had some deep talks throughout my high school career. This man knows a lot about me, and he's one of the few people I trust with my feelings and words. Thank you, Coach, for giving me the opportunity to be myself around you on and off the basketball court, but most importantly for being there for me when I needed you the most. You give me hope that there's still positivity in this world, and better yet in this town. God bless you, Coach.

Lastly, I want to thank my mom, Darcie Big Bear. Everybody give her a hand for me. Mom, you're my hero. You took the role of being both the mom and the dad of our little family, and I never once saw you make excuses or give up at any point in time. You're a warrior, one of the strongest, most hard-working people I know. You never failed to put food on the table, never failed to get us gifts for Christmas, never failed to be the loudest one cheering at basketball games. You're the Michael Jordan of all moms in my eyes. Raising two boys at a young age is a hard task to do, but look where we're at now. Your youngest son graduated high school, and it's only up from here. We're gonna make it together, Mom, I promise you that. It always has been and it always will be me, you, and Todd for life.

Thank you everybody for listening. I love y'all, and stay safe and healthy.

## GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

## ETHICAL USE OF CCTV

Surveillance is a highly valued, sometimes misunderstood, necessity in the casino world. The Gaming Regulatory Authority's Surveillance Department employees have access to numerous cameras, equipment, information, data, and recordings containing images from cameras. While it would be impossible to anticipate all potential situations, it is in the best interests of the employee, the GRA, and the Band to identify a set of rules, prohibitions, restrictions, and guidelines regarding the unethical and inappropriate use of Surveillance cameras, equipment, information, data, and recordings containing images from cameras.

GRA employees will not engage in any behavior or activities that might adversely affect the trust, integrity, or reputation of the GRA or the Band.

The GRA Surveillance Department employees agree that surveillance cameras, and recordings made thereof, will not be used to watch, monitor, or review individuals without a specific business-related reason as determined by the GRA. Further, information on persons, groups, or other entities will not be accessed, copied, shared, or disseminated without a specific business-related reason as determined by the GRA.

While focusing on the legitimate needs of the Surveillance Department, the GRA, and other entities we work with, every effort is made to protect the dignity and privacy of persons in an ethical and respectful manner.

The GRA will not engage in nor tolerate retaliation against Individuals who raise genuine ethics concerns in good faith. The Executive Director of the OGR&C, Assistant Executive Director of the OGR&C, Surveillance Director, and Surveillance Manager welcome questions or inquiries on ethical use of CCTV cameras, equipment, recording, and data.

### Employee contacts

- Becky Houle, Executive Director, OGR&C, 320-532-8194
- Teresa Kozumplik, Assistant Executive Director, OGR&C, 320-384-4181
- Kevin Cheesman, Director of Surveillance, 320-384-4786
- Isaac Merrill, Grand Casino Mille Lacs Surveillance Operations Manager, 320-532-8213
- David Parritt, Grand Casino Hinckley Surveillance Operations Manager, 320-384-4958

### About the GRA

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises. More information and contact numbers can be found at <http://www.millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA? EMAIL NEWS@MILLELACSBAND.COM OR CALL 320-237-6851.

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## AUGUST ELDER BIRTHDAYS

James Monroe Ballinger  
 Diane Marie Barstow  
 Barbara Jo Bearheart  
 Wendy May Benjamin  
 Clarence Roy Boyd  
 Clayton Jay Boyd  
 Debra Elaine Brooks  
 Marlys Louise Bushey  
 Myrna Joy Ceballos  
 Albert Joel Churchill  
 Karen Marie Clark  
 John Dewey Colsrud  
 Karen Lee Davis  
 Geraldine DeFoe  
 Shelly Arnell Diaz  
 Edward Ernest Dunkley  
 Roxanne Julie Emery  
 Dorinda Fay Garbow  
 Samuel Garbow  
 Diana Guizar  
 Rosalie Noreen Hallaway  
 Mary Jean Harpster  
 Bradley Harrington  
 Stephanie Ann Houle  
 George Ben Jackson  
 Patricia Clarise Jones  
 William Allen Jones  
 Doris Kegg  
 Manfred Lynn Kegg  
 Joseph Franklin Knudtson  
 Carol Elizabeth Kornkven  
 James Matrious  
 Sydney Leigh Miller  
 Andy Mitchell  
 Lynda Lou Mitchell  
 Robert James Mitchell  
 Trisha Lynn Moose  
 Gerry Warden Mortenson  
 JoAnne Sue Nail  
 Delia Ann Nayquonabe  
 Duane James Pawlitschek  
 Herbert Jay Pawlitschek

Margaret Rose Premo  
 Linda Christine Quaderer  
 Bruce Anthony Ray  
 Terry Lee Ray  
 Sharon Marie Rogers  
 Bradley Thomas Sam Sr.  
 Kimberly Ann Sam  
 Alexander Laverne Schaaf  
 Theresa Joy Schaaf  
 William David Schaaf  
 David Duane Shaugobay  
 Janice Marie Shaugobay  
 Daniel John Staples  
 Kathleen Marie Staples  
 Connie Jean Taylor  
 Janice Louise Taylor  
 James Martin Thomas  
 Richard Henry Thomas  
 Sylvester W Thomas  
 Barbara Ellen Toth  
 John Wayne Towle  
 Michael Laverne Wade  
 Alrick George Wadena  
 Carmen Denise Weous  
 Donna Jean Wind  
 Eloise Betsy Wind  
 Franklin John Woyak

## HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Dayaunna Nadeau** on August 3 from Auntie Sarah, Lillian, and Sunny • Happy birthday **PJ** on August 5 with love from the Harrington family • Happy birthday **Sharon** on August 6 with love from the Harrington family • Happy birthday **Tarz (Clarence Boyd) and Sunny Rae** on August 9 from Sarah • Happy birthday **Mom and Dad** on August 15 love Val • Happy birthday **Gram Kim and Papa Brad** on August 15 love Pie and Kev • Happy birthday **GG and**

**Papa** on August 15 love Myla • Happy birthday **Jay** on August 16 with love from your brothers and sissys • Happy birthday **Terrence "Baby T" Flores** on August 17 we love you so much! Love, Mom, Dad, Ella • Happy birthday **Gabbi** on August 20 with love from the Harrington family • Happy birthday **Mickey** on August 20 with love from the Harrington family • Happy first birthday **Jaden Shingobe** on August 24 with lots of love from, Mommy, Daddy, big brothers Caden and Carter, Auntie Destanie, uncles Jordan and Dallas Jr. and great-grandma Gina

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Desirae Schwartz and Manners Whiteagle on the birth of my granddaughter Dailana Mellow Schwartz-Whiteagle on July 9, 2020 Thank you both. You're amazing parents. Love Mom, Dad, Gram, Jade, Neomonie, Lailoni, Salina, the dogs and cats.

## 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.



## DAD AND GRAD

Lanicia Fronk, center, was joined by dad Monte and sister Nada at Isle High School's graduation ceremony on July 17. Congrats, Lanicia!

Send your shout-outs to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto: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 September issue is August 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](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday. Send calendar items to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-237-6851.

## 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](mailto: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.



## STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE

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. Visit <https://www.strongheartshelpline.org/> for more information.

To explore your options for safety and healing, call 1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483) daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT. Callers reaching out after hours may connect with the National Domestic Violence Hotline by selecting option one.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across: 1. aakozi, 4. waabandan, 5. ozhaashkwaa, 7. bimibattoo, 9. asiginan, 10. waabooz, 11. odamino, 12. mooka'am, 14. niwaabamaa, 17. aki, 18. goon, 20. nisidotaw, 21. ayaabe, 22. wiindamawishin, 23. ginandawaabamaa

Down: 2. ziibaaska'igan, 3. zhoomin, 4. waawanoon, 5. niwaabandaan, 7. babaamibattoo, 8. onzaamidoon, 13. ozhibii', 15. wiindamaw, 16. aabawaa, 19. onaan, 20. noondan

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!</b></p> <p>Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in <i>Ojibwe Inaajimowin</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.</p>						<p><b>1</b></p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Look up words or practice your Ojibwemowin at <a href="https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu">https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu</a>.</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>The deadline for the September issue is August 15. Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com.</i></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Remembering Resilience</b> 1 p.m. <i>See page 16</i></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Remembering Resilience</b> 1 p.m. <i>See page 16</i></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE</b></p> <p>All recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. ID 601 532 2869 Password 456 267.</p> <p><b>VISIT THE WEBSITE</b></p> <p>Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services. The homepage, millelacsband.com, has links to all of those pages as well as government departments, programs, and services.</p>				



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



## A HISTORY-MAKING MONTH

July saw big wins for Indian Country on mascots, pipelines, and treaty rights. See page 1. Photo by Bradley Roache Jr.

**ABSENTEE VOTING  
ENCOURAGED FOR  
TRIBAL ELECTION**  
page 1

**BRIANNA BOYD IS  
THE NEW LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS DIRECTOR**  
page 3

**GRANDPA'S MEDICINE  
HELPED ALVERA FIND  
HER PATH**  
page 6

**STATE PRIMARY  
ELECTION IS  
AUGUST 11**  
page 10

### 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 September issue deadline is August 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 IIa: 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; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 866-867-4006.



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

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