



OJIBWE

INAAJIMOWIN

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



REMEMBER THEM

HONORING MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

More than 25 empty dresses cling to the fence lining a small stretch of U.S. Highway 169 on the Mille Lacs Reservation. The dresses flow and twist in the wind along the highway, giving a presence in their absence of the women, girls, and two-spirits who should be wearing them. The powerful display was installed as a part of National MMIW Awareness Day on May 5, 2022. The dresses remained on display until May 16 to increase awareness of the disproportionate violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls.

The Mille Lacs Band Family Violence Prevention Program hosted an event on the national MMIW Awareness Day drawing roughly 100 community members, friends, family, employees, and media to the grounds of the Health and Human Services campus in Vineland on May 5.

Native American women are 10 times more likely to be murdered and four times more likely to be sexually assaulted than the national average, according to a recent report by the U.S.

Commission on Civil Rights.

Data collection remains difficult because of poor record-keeping, underreporting, racial misclassification, and media coverage. Statistics from law enforcement and media reports create an inaccurate picture of MMIW and MMIR because these reports minimize the extent to which Indigenous women and girls experience violence.

To some, these are just statistics, but to many in this community, these reports are sisters, aunties, cousins, mothers, daughters, grandmothers and great grandmothers. They are relatives. And they are gone.



Juliet Rudie, Director of Minnesota's new MMIR office.

NOT FORGOTTEN see page 9



Niiyogaabawikwe "Niiyo" (Brook) Gonzalez.

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SWORN IN

Niiyo returns to ancestral lands to lead

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Niiyogaabawikwe "Niiyo" (Brooke) Gonzalez was sworn in as the new Commissioner of Education on Thursday, May 12, 2022, by the Honorable Rhonda Sam, District I Associate Justice. The dish setting and swearing in occurred in Band Assembly chambers and was live streamed for those who could not attend.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said Brooke has a huge responsibility ahead of her and is looking forward to witnessing the successes to come.

Niiyogaabawikwe "Niiyo" Gonzalez prefers to be addressed by her Ojibwe name, shortened to Niiyo. During her swearing in ceremony, Niiyo acknowledged the great work of the late Joyce Shingobe in her position as Commissioner of Education until her passing in January 2021. "I am very honored to take up where she left off too soon. And to acknowledge her today. I was very fortunate to grow up seeing her as a role model at drum and in our communities and seeing her working very hard for our communities."

Niiyo is a member of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and she currently resides with her family in Hayward. She is actively searching for a home to relocate her family to the Mille Lacs area. She has two sons, ages 12 and 14, who will make the move as well. Her son's father, the late Sean Fahrlander, was enrolled as a Mille Lacs Band member. "There are big stakes in this endeavor with my own children being Band members," she said. Niiyo is married to Chato Ombishkebinez Gonzalez.

Niiyo said she had been thinking about love recently. "Once upon a time, there was a man, who was born here and he walked to St. Croix because he fell in love," she said.

NEW COMMISSIONER see page 5

HARRINGTON RECEIVES BUSH FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

Mille Lacs Band member Bradley Harrington is one of 20 Minnesota community leaders, and four from out of state, to receive an annual fellowship from the prestigious Bush Foundation. The winners were selected out of nearly 500 applicants from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and 23 Native American nations in the three states. Each recipient will receive up to \$100,000 to fund leadership opportunities and further their education and training.

Harrington has a vision to combine contemporary digital resources with traditional nature-based Anishinaabe culture. Harrington has not been known



BUSH FELLOWSHIP see page 3

INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATES — SEE PAGES 10 and 11

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! This past week, about 40 Band elders enjoyed a wonderful trip to Las Vegas during our annual Elder Trip. It was very nice to have some quality time to be together with our elders, and I especially enjoyed seeing them have such fun as they laughed and told stories. I spent much of my days during the elder trip getting work done on a number of Band matters, including served as the moderator for a meeting of Tribal Women of Indigenous Nations (TWIN). There were many exciting meetings during the month of May, but this special time with Elders was the highlight of my month.

A "close second" was that I was very honored to have been invited by Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan to speak on their behalf on the stage at the DFL Convention held in Rochester on May 20. I talked about their wonderful work in support of tribal governments and our people. During the approximate 20 years that I have served in office, I have never experienced such an effective team as Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan when it comes to supporting and respecting tribal sovereignty and partnering with us to protect our people. On the second day of the convention, I was also asked to speak on behalf of State Auditor Julie Blaha, who I have come to know because we serve together on the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. State Auditor Blaha is a strong supporter of affordable housing in Minnesota.



Some big news for the Band is that we now have a Commissioner of Education. Niiyogaabawiikwe "Niiyo" Brooke Gonzalez (Lac Courte Oreilles) was sworn into office as the Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Education on May 12. Niiyo is already well-known to many in our community through our Drum society and she has children who are Mille Lacs Band members. She has an impressive background in Anishinaabe immersion education and we are very happy she has joined our team.

During May, the Band Assembly and I met several times in Compromise Hearings to discuss bills that were passed, including legislation intended to improve our tribal court system and the Band's Ethics Code. Under our Mille Lacs Band Statutes, the Band Assembly passes bills, or proposed laws. Anyone can propose a new law, including Band members and Band employees. The Statutes do not say that the Band Assembly alone write all proposed laws — anyone can propose a new law.

After a District Representative formally introduces a bill, the bill does not continue forward until it is voted on and passed by the Band Assembly. Next, the bill comes to the Chief Executive to either sign into law, or to veto if she/he has concerns about the bill and thinks changes are necessary. In a recent column, I wrote about the veto process, and that when I veto legislation, it does not mean I do not support intended goal of the legislation. Sometimes there can be very minor corrections that need to be made. While I support the goals of the two bills that I recently vetoed, there were issues I was concerned about that I thought could be resolved to improve the legislation. We have been working together to resolve these matters.

In early May, I attended the quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). For those who are unaware, MIAC is comprised of 10 tribal governments in Minnesota. It was formed as a way of tribes advising the State of Minnesota

about state issues that impact our people. The first day is spent in Executive Session and the second day we hear public reports from the Governor's office and the commissioners. Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan joined us to provide updates from the State legislative session.

As I write this column, I am attending the Reservation Economic Summit (RES). This is a national gathering of tribal leaders, federal officials and economic development, business and financial experts to discuss ways to improve tribal economies. I am participating in three sessions this week, including a session called "Native

Women Lead: Women Innovating in Business and Beyond;" a session called "Data is Critical," which is about how tribes can better access and use data to improve our economies and protect our data; and a roundtable discussion sponsored by the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

I hope that all families had a safe and happy Memorial Day Weekend, and kept our veterans in mind as we enjoyed the long weekend. Miigwech!

"WHEN I VETO LEGISLATION, IT DOES NOT MEAN I DO NOT SUPPORT THE INTENDED GOAL OF THE LEGISLATION."



POWERHOUSE OF POLITICAL LEADERS

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland held a Tribal Leader Listening Session at the Midwest Regional Office of the Bureau Indian Affairs in Bloomington, MN. Tribally Elected Leaders from MN were given the opportunity to share with Secretary Haaland issues of importance. In attendance were representatives from each of the 11 federally recognized tribes in the state, U.S. Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar, Congresswomen Betty McCollum and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan.

At this historic meeting Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin discussed several issues of importance to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe: Delays in processing fee to trust applications, update on the federal litigation, fixing the tribal list, Tamarack proposed nickel mine and trust responsibility of the Department of Energy.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

MCT REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

What's on your ballot?

On Friday, April 29, 2022, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) made an important decision. The MCT has been involved in a constitutional reform process for several years. Delegates from each Band have been meeting and talking about what changes could be made to the constitution that would improve it. The topic of how the MCT enrolls tribal members and the 25 percent blood quantum requirement have been front-and-center in these discussions.

On April 29, the TEC voted to hold a "non-binding referendum" vote on two questions for the upcoming election on June 12, 2022. The questions are:

Question 1:

Should the blood quantum requirement be removed from the membership requirements of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe?

Question 2:

Should the six-member reservations (Bands) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe be authorized to determine their own membership requirements by Band Ordinance?

A non-binding referendum means that the outcome of this vote will not bind the TEC to taking any particular action at this time. It is not a decision-making vote. The purpose of the non-binding referendum vote is to gauge the thoughts and opinions of MCT membership regarding the enrollment process.

This non-binding referendum vote is the very first step in what would be a long process of changing the constitution regarding enrollment.

When you receive your ballot, you may mail it in or you may also bring it to your polling place on election day. The Mille Lacs Band Government Affairs office will also be assisting with sharing information about the upcoming election. If you have any questions, please contact the Chief Executive Office at 320-532-7486 or the Legislative Branch Office at 320-532-7428.

You can read the draft TEC resolution regarding the Referendum on blood quantum changes at <https://tinyurl.com/yc5ehedv>.

ANIMAL PROTECTION CODE UNDER TITLE 11

By HANNA VALENTO, REVISOR OF STATUTES

During this last legislative session, District II Representative Marvin Bruneau sponsored the Animal Protection bill. Band Assembly passed Ordinance 42-22 on April 27, 2022. It was later signed by the Chief Executive on April 30, 2022. Its effective date is June 1, 2022, and will then be codified into law in Title 11 – Environment, Natural Resources, Animals and Plants as subchapter 2 of chapter 4.

It updates the dog protection language in subchapter 1 of chapter 4 and creates new provisions for dangerous dogs and dog houses. It also enacts subchapter 2 – Animal Protection. The purpose of the animal protection code is to respect, honor, and protect animals in a manner that is consistent with Band culture and tradition. It's broader than the dog protection subchapter, as it includes all animals. Originally, the language was taken from Minnesota's animal protection language, but through workshops with the elected officials, the language was changed so as to fit the community's needs and desires to protect the animals, such as adding a definition for emotional harm, changing the language for improper confinement, adding immunity for tribal enforcement officers, adding a Good Samar-

itan law, and more.

The Band Assembly put the draft bill out for public comment twice and held several workshops to improve the language. Tribal Police, the Commissioner for Natural Resources, and outside entities, such as MNSNAP, Secondhand Hounds, and the University of Minnesota Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Service were able to attend a workshop where we discussed the draft legislation. The discussion proved to be very beneficial and successful as the Band Assembly was able to get a better understanding of how all these entities work together to help the animals. From that discussion, the Band Assembly made changes to the bill to incorporate the requirement of dogs being microchipped, adding a purpose section to incorporate Band culture and tradition, making sure tribal enforcement officers have immunity, and the requirement for tribal law enforcement to create policy for animal protection.

In the end, this legislation was a huge success for the community and the animals. We hope to continue having great discussions to update the law to better serve the community.

Be sure to follow the Tribal Register on the Band's webpage for updates regarding draft legislation.

BUSH FELLOWSHIP from page 1

away from his past coming from a life of chemicals and crime, including two stints in prison. Serving his latest sentence in 2009 through 2012, he made the decision to change his path moving in a different direction as he began to seek knowledge of his ancestors and traditions. He started reading books, and studying his culture. When he was released in 2013, he began taking courses in community leadership and studying the Ojibwe language, culture, ceremonies, and history.

Language is a critical component to traditional Anishinaabe lifestyle. Harrington's vision is to integrate Ojibwe language into interactive apps that include speech recognition and artificial intelligence technology to further the learning process. His vision is geared for the young and also the young at heart who do not know life without a cellphone or device.

"Technological resources for culture will need to compete with what's out there for the contemporary society," Harrington said. "If we follow our spirits, learn with the news apps on our own time, we will get creative and share with each other."

Harrington said he is humbled to know there is an organization such as the Bush Foundation who is willing to give resources to "somebody like me who grew up on a reservation, spent time in prison and jail, has been chemically dependent

and gone through treatment, but yet they see something in me that maybe I don't see yet and help me lift myself up higher and to be able to build others up also."

He said he missed some points in his life, like getting a college education, and he has plans to further his own schooling with help from the Bush Foundation fellowship. He also has a vision to trace the migration story from Mille Lacs to the east coast and gather the story of how the Anishinaabe got here to better understand where Ojibwe people came from in order to share his knowledge with others.

Other Minnesotans who received the fellowships were Kaltun Abdikarani, New Brighton; Jaime Arsenault, Bemidji; Rose Chu, Little Canada; Prince Corbett, St. Paul; Comfort Dondo, Plymouth; Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay, St. Paul; Rebekah Dunlap, Esko; Mike Elliott, Brooklyn Center; Devon Gilchrist, Minneapolis; Emilia Gonzalez Avalos, Richfield; Abdiaziz Ibrahim, St. Paul; Rania Johnson, Woodbury; ifrah mansour, Woodbury; Hoang Murphy, St. Paul; Rahel Nardos, St. Louis Park; Shirley Nordrum, LaPorte; Artika Tyner, St. Paul; Pahoua Yang, Cottage Grove; and Pang Yang, New Hope. Out of state fellowship recipients include Tashina Banks Rama, Pine Ridge, S.D.; Erin Griffin, Sisseton, S.D.; Janice Richards, Porcupine, S.D.; and Lori Walsh, Sioux Falls.

GENERAL ELECTION

POLLING PLACES

The regular Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Election of the Mille Lacs Reservation Committee, a/k/a Band Assembly, will be held on June 14, 2022, to fill the following positions and vote on the referendum questions:

DISTRICT III REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES:

Harry Richard Davis

Wallace Ervin St. John Sr. — Incumbent

DISTRICT I (OLD) COMMUNITY CENTER

43500 Virgo Road, Onamia

DISTRICT III Lake Lena Community Center Aazhoomog

45749 Grace Lake Road, Sandstone

URBAN

All Nations Church

1515 East 23rd Street, Minneapolis

District I is the designated polling place for absentee ballots.

Polls open: 8 a.m.

Polls close: 8 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Band Assembly Update: Week of May 16-20, 2022

Monday, May 16, 2022: Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

Reports and Presentations:

a) 10:15 a.m. Continued Compromise Hearing

Re: Vetoed Band Assembly Bill 20-01-43-22.

Compromise hearing was started with Madam Chief summary of issue. Honorable Representatives commented on issue. Hearing was closed and a new date will be set to meet compromise on issue.

Thursday, May 19, 2022: Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

Reports and Presentations:

a) 10:15 a.m. Continued Compromise Hearing

Re: Vetoed Band Assembly Bill 20-01-43-22.

Continued Compromise hearing was started with summary of issue. Compromise was reached on other issues. Bill will be revised to meet the negotiated changes. Compromise hearing was closed. Deadline to meet agreement is May 21, 2022. Continued Compromise hearing was restarted and Representative St. John withdrew his sponsorship. With the bill no longer having a sponsor the bill dies.

New Business: Band Assembly Bill 20-01-50-22: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Administration Policy Board on May 16, 2022.

Sponsor: District II Representative. Bill was introduced, read, amended, and approved.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Awareness day honors Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women:

The Family Violence Prevention Program of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe hosted an event May 5, 2022, on the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Several individuals also shared their personal stories of loss of daughters and other family members. The National Information Crime Center has documented more than 5,000 cases of missing Indigenous women. Experts say the real number is likely higher. In the United States, homicide is the third leading cause of death among Native women ages 10 to 24, according to the Urban Indian Health Institute, and Native women are victims of murder more than 10 times the national average, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. "It is our intent to draw attention so that action can be made," said Kristen Allord, Mille Lacs Band Family Violence and Prevention Program. Also, red dresses were collected and hung along Hwy. 169 near the Band's government center as a symbol of the Native American women and girls who have been murdered or remain missing. *Mille Lacs Messenger*

U.S. Sen. Tina Smith Announces Largest Ever Investment in Key Native Housing Program:

May 12, 2022, U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) – chair of the Senate's Housing Subcommittee – announced Minnesota Tribes will receive the largest ever housing investment as part of a key federal program dedicated to improving housing on Native land. The \$23 million in funding for Minnesota Tribes represents a more than \$4 million increase from last year, which Sen. Smith had pushed for. "If you don't have a safe, stable, affordable place to live, nothing else in your life works," said Sen. Smith. "I've had the great privilege of visiting and meeting with Tribal leaders from Minnesota and heard firsthand how the affordable housing crisis impacts their communities. This funding will make a real impact for Native families who have been disproportionately impacted by the affordable housing crisis." *Tina Smith Press Release.*

Minnesota House votes to legalize sports betting, but obstacles remain:

The measure is unlikely to move forward this session as key differences remain in proposals from the House and Senate. The Minnesota House voted Thursday, May 12, 2022, to legalize sports betting, marking the closest the Legislature has come in years to expanding for-profit gambling in the state. Minnesotans would be able to place bets at brick-and-mortar locations and online under the House measure, which passed on a bipartisan vote of 70-57, and was crafted with crucial input from the state's 11 tribal nations. "This is an idea whose time has come," said Rep. Zack Stephenson, DFL-Coon Rapids, the bill's chief sponsor. But what began as an optimistic bipartisan push has lost steam over the legislative session. Key differences remain in proposals from the House and Senate, which has yet to hold a hearing this year on its bill. With less than two weeks before legislators head home for the summer, it's unclear whether the two chambers will come to an agreement and make 2022 the year that Minnesotans get to legally bet on sports. *Star Tribune.*

AANJIBIMAADIZING

MILLE LACS RECEIVES DIVISION CHIEF'S AWARD

Aanjibimaadizing Recognized by the Department of Interior



Rae Belle Whitcomb, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tammy Wickstrom, Executive Director of Aanjibimaadizing, Baabitaw Boyd, Deputy Assistant, and Anthony Riley, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Aanjibimaadizing program was awarded the Chief's Award at the 42nd National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference (NINAETC). The award was issued by the Department of Interior on May 3, 2022.

NINAETC serves the needs of a broad membership of Indian and Native American tribal governments, consortia, and organizations by providing training for grantees who are funded under either Section 166 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Public Law 102-477 Act. There are 72 tribal programs that operate as grantees under PL 102-477 nationally. Each year, one PL 102-477 program grantee receives the Division Chief's Award.

"I would like to express my gratitude to the staff at Aanjibimaadizing for prioritizing the service, success, and overall wellbeing of our Mille Lacs Band community members who participate in the program," said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "The growth and the support administered is unparalleled across the region and the country. We couldn't be prouder."

Aanjibimaadizing was nominated for the award by Rae Belle Whitcomb, Workplace Development Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs. The nomination for the award cited Aanji's excellence in service as demonstrated by its statistical and narrative reports.

To be one out of 72 tribal organizations to receive the award is a testament to the passion, drive, and commitment of the Aanji staff, according to Tammy Wickstrom, Executive Director of Aanjibimaadizing.

"Aanjibimaadizing has come so far in three short years, and I am so proud of this department and of our staff who work tirelessly to provide multiple services to Band members and other tribal members in the state," Wickstrom said. "This award is a huge win for our staff, and a meaningful validation of our program model."

The Aanjibimaadizing program has expanded many services in the last few years. By absorbing the Niigaan and Wraparound programs from Education and Health and Human Services respectively; Aanji was able to save Band net revenue by moving the cost from those services under the umbrella of the 477 grant.

Niigaan was combined with Wiidoo to create Ge-Niigaanizijig youth services. Both programs were providing similar services for Band youth. Combining the two entities eliminated duplication of services and the need for competing for youth enrollment in each program. That in turn created a stronger, more enriching program for youth in all districts. Ge-Niigaanizijig activities and regularly scheduled meetings are designed to inspire and motivate youth to embrace a traditions-based pro-social lifestyle free of chemicals, anti-social or risky behavior, promiscuity, and dependency. These activities are offered to all eligible Reservation service area youth from kindergarten through age 20.

The same is true for the absorption of Wraparound. That program is now called Facilitated Services under Aanjibimaadizing and is able to provide a broad variety of services to better serve the needs of Band members. Aanjibimaadizing addresses barriers to employability, education, housing, health, mental health or any other holistic need a client has.

Wickstrom noted the Rosetta Stone project as another suc-

cess story. While the language-learning program in and of itself is a major win for the Mille Lacs Band and members, the project created employment opportunities and growth and development for many Band members. There were many part-time, temporary, and contract positions that enabled Band members opportunities to earn income and learn new skills. Ojibwe language and cultural skills are an area of emergent employment to maintain the Band's identity and values, while providing services to Band members. Employment opportunities may include, but not be limited to; curriculum developer, educator, administrator, traditional harvester, writer, and archivist, as well as, participate in cultural activities with a rich understanding and be able to support the transmission of Anishinaabe knowledge.

AANJIBIMAADIZING HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:-

- Client and youth participation has more than doubled from 307 in FY18 to 736 in FY21 for adults and from 180 in FY18 to 406 in FY21 for youth.
- Staffing was increased to meet the multiple needs of adult and youth clients (73% of Aanjibimaadizing staff are Native Americans and over half are MLBO members or descendants).
- Two counties of service were added.
- SNAP access was addressed.
- Youth Services were expanded to all districts and the Urban Area.
- Absorbed Wraparound and Niigaan to avoid duplication of services and save net revenue.
- The number of training sessions offered have increased over 1,800% — from 13 in FY18 to over 250 per year in FY21.
- Administration was provided for five separate COVID-19 funding streams.
- Improved data collection.
- Launched the aanji.org website.
- Put forms online for better access and transparency.
- Moved to Laserfiche to streamline payment process.
- Completed five monolingual books.
- Launched Rosetta Stone – Ojibwe, and have distributed nearly 2,500 accounts.
- Supported Mille Lacs Band Early Education Program
- Average adult earning gain increased from \$6.63 to \$12.75.
- Businesses assisted has increased from 1 to 126.
- Distributed over \$2.6 million in COVID-19 funding.
- One of the first in the nation to distribute pandemic funds.
- Developed processes pertaining to the pandemic funds that were copied across the state.
- Provided award-winning service to over 800 families.

All Aanjibimaadizing program services are offered to support obtaining and retaining employment, improving or creating a position of job readiness, and addressing barriers through the Mille Lacs Band 477 Program in accordance with Public Law 102-477.



The Honorable District I Associate Justice Rhonda Sam provides the duty of performing the oath of office for the swearing-in of the new Commissioner of Education, Niiyogaabawiikwe "Niiyo" (Brooke) Gonzalez, on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

NEW COMMISSIONER From page 1

This was the family story of how her great grandfather, Mike Moose-akiiwenzi Moose "Mosay," Mille Lacs Band member, met her great grandmother Saangwewegizhigookwe, a St. Croix Band member, and they regularly attended Big Drum ceremonies. That is where they met and fell in love. "I think about how love works," Niiyo said. "I have two Mille Lacs Band member children and now my love for them has brought us back to what is our ancestral home as well. I will work very hard to do the best I can to use all of the different types of education that I have received. I have some really fancy paper education, but I also have the benefit of being the student of many Elder teachers of this community. I hope that I can bring both of those together to do my very best for you."

The fancy paper education to which Niiyo spoke of is an undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. She received her Master's Degree in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is in the process of completing her PhD in Hawaiian and Indigenous Language and Culture Revitalization, with her dissertation focusing on developing an Ojibwe values-based framework for leadership development. The process includes "discussing the concept of leadership with some of our Elders," she said.

Although her paper education is Ivy League, she places a greater emphasis on the education she has absorbed through

the teachings of a vast array of Elder women who have been very influential in her life, and also the vast life experiences she has obtained.

Niiyo said her biggest goal right now in the beginning is to "connect with the people." She said her success of management at Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Medium School at Lac Courte Oreilles, Hayward, Wisc., was building parent and family connections. "So I want to see how that is working here, and seek ways to improve it."

She will set out to get a real feel for the wants and needs of the community, identify the goals for the school, and determine how they are adjusting those goals.

Niiyo is completing the term of former Commissioner Joyce Shingobe. There were two years remaining in Commissioner Shingobe's term. "I am really taking it as finishing the term of Joyce. My children's father considered her to be a relative. I feel a sense of responsibility to finish her term. I would like to do some of the things she had hoped to accomplish. I am trying to stay realistic. This is two years to do something. What can you do in two years? So, I have an understanding to do whatever I do can continue on with Joyce's goals while integrating a bigger plan that will continue into the future."

Niiyogaabawiikwe "Niiyo" Gonzalez can be reached at Niiyo.gonzalez@millelacsband.com.



District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, District I Associate Justice Rhonda Sam, District I Representative Virgil Wind, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Commissioner of Education Niiyo Gonzalez, and Joe Nayquonabe Sr. take a moment to celebrate the new Commissioner of Education after the swearing-in ceremony.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Indigenous women leaders say Line 5 reroute project would be cultural, environmental 'genocide' Indigenous water protectors from Great Lakes tribes and their supporters are calling on a federal agency to fully review and reject a Line 5 project in northern Wisconsin, which they say would be "an act of cultural genocide" if permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The embattled Line 5 pipeline originates at the tip of northwest Wisconsin and continues for 645 miles into Michigan's Upper Peninsula, under the Straits of Mackinac and out into Canada near Detroit. Enbridge, the Canadian pipeline company that owns the oil infrastructure, is seeking to remove a 12-mile section of Line 5 from the Bad River reservation and replace it with a 41-mile section outside of the reservation. Though it would be off the reservation itself, the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians argues that the new route would still "cut through more than 900 waterways upstream" of their reservation and thereby threaten treaty lands and waters that belong to both them and the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The Indigenous leaders say the project places the tribes at "massive risk." All except the Oneida Nation are member tribes of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). *Michigan Advance*.

Abuse common at government boarding schools for Indigenous children, survivors say:

Sexual and physical abuse as well as exploitation were commonplace at Native American boarding schools, survivors told a House subcommittee on Thursday, May 12. The Interior Department report released Wednesday expands to more than 400 the number of schools that were established or supported by the U.S. government, starting in the early 19th century and continuing in some cases until the late 1960s. *Copy. Source: source.*

Indigenous Women on Roe v. Wade: The recent leak of the Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade has women across Indian Country talking. Here are some of their public statements on the issue.

Minnesota Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan:

Abortion is health care. Period. In Minnesota, your rights will stay protected.

U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho-Chunk: If this opinion holds true, it will be a monumental step backwards. And when Kansas votes on a constitutional amendment in August, we will be the first state to decide if we agree that the government has control over women's health care choices. I'll tell you this: I don't.

Mary Peltola, Yup'ik, Congressional Candidate:

Alaska (Democrat): I'm the only pro-choice woman in this race and as your U.S. Representative, I will stand up for women and fight to enshrine abortion protections in federal law. Vote Pro-choice. Vote Mary Peltola. *Read more comments at Native News Online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdd422bd>.*

Haaland seeks healing for Native American boarding school survivors:

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland will speak with survivors of Native American boarding schools as part of a tour called "The Road to Healing." Her department found that between 1819 and 1969, the federal government operated or supported more than 400 schools. Secretary Haaland had grandparents who were taken from their homes and placed in these schools. *NPR*

THE PATH OF A LIFELONG LEARNER

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR



Mille Lacs Band member Brian Dorr has gone from student to teacher to professor recently receiving his PhD.

Brian Dorr, Mille Lacs Band member was born and raised in Minneapolis and is the son of Carmen and Wesley Dorr Jr. His educational journey has led him to fascinating places meeting scores of interesting people and he has now reached another important milestone by receiving a Doctorate Degree in Business Administration, at the age of 38.

He graduated from DeLaSalle High School in 2002. He then immediately entered the University of Minnesota majoring in English. "I wanted to be a high school English teacher at one point," he said. Through his studies for his Bachelor's degree he studied abroad in London for one semester in fall of 2004 and interned at an international market research company in the training and development department.

"That gave me a sense of business and human resources and training. And I liked it," he said. He graduated from the UofM with a BS in English in 2006. From there he used his freshly gained knowledge to work as a sales manager in a department store leading teams of up to 50 people. And that led him to wanting more education.

He entered the Masters of Business Administration degree program at the College of St. Scholastica. During that degree he took a traveling course through China. "We went to Beijing, Hong Kong and Shanghai studying international business," he said.

After he received his Master's degree, he continued to work in management. He also started teaching at the Minnesota School of Business for several years as a side job part-time.

Then four years ago, he decided to go back to school and entered Metropolitan State University Doctor of Business Administration program while teaching business classes as well. Time flew by and in December of 2021, it was time for him to

defended his dissertation.

"As a teacher I was asked to teach a class at the Stillwater correctional facility teaching college classes to inmates. I found the inmates to be really good students, and wanted to do my dissertation on employment following incarceration." For his required original research project he paired human resources with incarceration looking at employers who are willing to hire formerly incarcerated people. He interviewed 15 employers who were willing to hire former inmates, and analyzed that data.

Dorr Currently works in Human Resources at Hennepin County where he has been for seven years managing a team of 24 people while overseeing compensation, benefits, employee engagement, culture, etc. "I really enjoy that job," he said.

Dorr defended the dissertation in December and took the scholarly walk to receive his PhD on Saturday, May 8.

It may seem like it took a long time to get there, but all of the years between colleges gained him experience that has helped him with every step. All with the benefit of being a lifelong learner and making lifelong friends along the way.

Reflecting on his education he said a lot of people may get discouraged that it takes a long time to earn a degree. "Don't be scared when you are looking at programs, thinking 'oh, this is going to take a long time.' When you are learning and engaged in the content, it just flies by," he said. "And if you are thinking about it, that shows that you have an interest that you want to do it, so just go for it. If you have the initial thought to start, that means you want to do it. You make a lot of great friends in educational programs."

The combination of his work experience and education has prepared well to become an instructor. He enjoys sharing his

knowledge with his students who are grateful for him to be helping them. Dorr recently also started teaching as a senior lecturer at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management — one of the top business schools in the country. He has 85 students in his class this last semester. "Each day, I talk about course concepts and share my own experiences," he said. And yes, he is still working a full-time job.

Dorr's advice to kids who are just graduating high school who maybe are undecided about their next step: "Keep your mind open. Look at all types of programs. There will be something out there that will suit you. There are a lot of resources that will help you with tutoring, counseling, housing, etc. Even if you feel you are not ready. The schools want to help you succeed. Education is all about wanting it. If you have that mindset, you can get the resources to help you. If you put effort and energy into your education and you use those resources that are available to you, you will most likely succeed. That all starts by inquiring. Talk to people. Look at school websites. And most important, the Mille Lacs Band Higher Education and Scholarship office is a huge help.

And to those who think they are too old to go back to school, he laughed and said, "You are never too old to go back to school."

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

GROWING UP AMONG NATURE

By BEATRICE TAYLOR

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

We lived in a log house on the reservation. We didn't have electricity, but we couldn't miss what we never had. My dad cut wood to use in our house and we were always warm. We never thought we were poor, either.

One of my earliest memories of growing up was visiting family. Often my mom put my little brother on her back and walked with me and my sister to relatives' houses. We had family all over the place.

When we weren't visiting family, my sister and I played together at home. In the mornings, we dug in the bread box and found biscuits to break up into our tea. During the day, we climbed trees like boys and played in our make-believe house that we set up with boards and blankets. We often walked by the river and found pretty rocks to bring back to my mom's rock garden. We had active imaginations and were carefree. It was one of the happiest times of my life.

We also played in the woods. If we were hungry, we ate what we found in nature — the little tender end of sumac, the tiny white part of grass blades, the tangy little clovers, and the cherry bark that turned our mouths red.

In the summer, we picked berries with my mom and ate them for dinner. My sister and I knew where all the berries grew and would take our mom to those areas. In the fall, we found gooseberries, blueberries, raspberries, choke cherries, and hazelnuts. We also

canned food so we could save it. Nature fed us.

Often when we were in the woods, my sister and I heard our mom calling us to fetch water. So we went home, walked down a steep hill, and hauled water from the well. We had other chores to do, too, like washing the dishes, but still had a lot of time to play.

When my dad got home, he sang songs as my sister and I danced around the stove heater. My sister and I used to dance around the house all the time. We had all kinds of fancy steps.

When the sun went down, we had to go inside. My parents wouldn't let us play outside after dark, because they said there were invisible spirits that would grab us. They told us an old lady with a knapsack went looking for kids playing in the dark. We always believed the story; it was just part of growing up.

Long ago, people got along so well together and helped each other more often. Everything we had we shared. If one person had rice and the other had corn, they traded.

Now, I notice that nobody wants to help someone else unless they get something in return. Before, you could ask for help and people didn't ask for anything. They did it because it was part of their way of life.

But I still see traditions that we had years ago, such as powwows. I attend powwows and love seeing the beautiful costumes and dances. The women dancing are so light on their feet — it's like there is nothing to it. My grandson dances, too, and I am so happy to watch him. I hope he continues dancing and sharing in the traditions.

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY CLASS GETS A WALL-EYE VIEW OF THE MILLE LACS DNR HATCHERY

Science without politics

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Becoming a biologist may not exactly be on everyone's wish list. But one group of students from Central Lakes College in Brainerd was given the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour and an up-close look into the biology of the Mille Lacs Band Fisheries department.

The Environmental Biology class led by Robb Kolodziej offers students an introductory basic look into science. A lot of the students enrolled in his class are simply undecided of their major or are just checking a box towards their degree, Kolodziej said. The class is a wide-variety combination of students, including some non-traditional, first year AA or AAS students, Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), and students who are truly undecided. His class focuses on science without pressures of politics and exposes students to a variety of experiences and careers that could go along with a major in Environmental Studies, such as touring a wastewater treatment center, a water testing facility, and the fisheries department of the Mille Lacs Band DNR.

Giving students the opportunity to learn how to focus on the science behind many issues helps be informed citizens and recognize there are many different views and opinions about many different hot topic issues. "We keep it focused on what we know through science/biology and look strictly at the data," Kolodziej said.

Before the class attended the tour of the fisheries department, Kolodziej assigned the students to do a research paper and instructed them to analyze the DNR historical data of the fish population of Mille Lacs Lake. They looked at all of the data as scientists would, drawing hypotheses and conclusions, using fish harvest numbers only. He said in looking at the numbers of fish harvested by non-tribal anglers verses tribal harvesting there is no comparison of the number of fish harvested. "The kids really get that. They focused on the science," Kolodziej said.

The tour was led by Carl Klimah with Keith Wiggins, Harvey Goodsky Jr., and Jalyn LaBine of the fisheries department. Klimah guided the students through the hatchery, explaining how the eggs and milt are collected from tribally harvested fish and put into the hatchery. Because each and every fish of every species that is tribally harvested is counted, measured, and sexed, the milt and eggs are also collected at the time of harvest. The eggs and milt are then mixed in a bowl immediately and placed into the jars at the hatchery, where they are incubated, hatched into fry, and released into the hatching ponds on the Reservation, where they will grow into fingerlings which are then released into area lakes within the 1855



Fertilized ogaa (walleye) eggs incubating at the DNR hatchery.

treaty territory, as well as the 1837. The Mille Lacs Band DNR also provides fry and fingerlings to the Minnesota DNR to supplement their stocking programs.

Because of the late ice out and brief harvest season this year, the hatchery is also behind in progress. As of this writing, there were approximately 4,510,000 eggs in the incubation stage. Klimah says they have an average success rate of 70% and are expecting to produce 3,157,000 fry this year. The fry will be released into the Band's holding ponds until they reach fingerling stage, when they will be released into area lakes within the Mille Lacs Reservation area, including lakes such as Shakopee Lake. Shakopee Lake, and many shallow lakes like it, experienced a severe kill rate over the winter due to drought conditions leading to low water levels, resulting in freeze out. Many of these fry/fingerlings will help the process of re-stocking many of those lakes.

Klimah explained how the hatchery has been created and built from the ground up with unprecedented creative designs and what each piece is designed to do. He also gave an overview of many of the plants and forage found all around in nature and some of the edible, medicinal, and cultural aspects of nature.

After the tour of the fisheries, Kolodziej said in quick conversations with the students who attended that many were interested in the biology pieces of the walleye hatchery but what really caught their attention, he said, was the cultural pieces and learning about the medicinal and edible components of many of the plants found in the woods.

Many of the students have grown up in the Brainerd Lakes Area (BLA) and have a firm grasp on the issues of Mille Lacs Lake. What is interesting, Kolodziej said, is that the students recognize the part that science plays in the management of the lake, and leave politics out of the picture.



FUTURE BIOLOGISTS PERHAPS?

Central Lakes College biology students showed interest in the biology of the Mille Lacs Band DNR Fishery department during a tour led by Fisheries Manager, Carl Klimah.

BRIEFS

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

SNAP — safe Native American passenger training — is held on the first Tuesday of each month from 1 to 5 p.m. Contact Kristina Abear at 320-532-7814 or kristina.abear@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov to sign up.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

The Women's Healing Group meets on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., and the Men's Empowerment Group meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. Both groups meet at the old District I Community Center across from Grand Casino Mille Lacs. All are welcome!

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

As part of the Band's Community Risk Reduction or CRR efforts, First Aid and CPR classes are held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month in the Family Services training room at the Health and Human Services building in District I. Family Services staff and foster parents have priority, after which it is open to other departments and community members. There is a \$10 fee for certification cards if participants would like them. Cards are free for Family Services staff and foster parents. Contact Kristina Abear at 320-532-7814 or kristina.abear@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov to sign up.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Are you looking for a COVID-19 vaccination or booster shot for you or any household member? Please call the Ne-la-Shing clinic to set up an appointment for the COVID vaccination at 320-532-4163, option 2 for scheduling.

CEREMONIAL DANCE DATES

Nibb and Iyaabens, Mille Lacs June 3 and 4

Bob and John, Mille Lacs June 10 and 11

HINCKLEY POWWOW

Friday, June 17 through Sunday, June 19



SUPPORTING THE DFL

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was asked to support Governor Tim Walz's endorsement for a second term at the State DFL Convention on May 20, 2022. Chief Executive Benjamin enthusiastically supports Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan due to their respect of tribal sovereignty, government to government consultation, and the strong support the administration has shown for many tribal initiatives.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

NAY AH SHING



STUDENTS ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Nay Ah Shing Upper School students and staff took time to take care of the community in the Adopt a Highway program as they cleaned up trash alongside of U.S. Highway 169 under the supervision of staff and traffic control performed by Tribal Law Enforcement and Emergency Management.



POWERFUL PRESENTATION

"Understanding Indigenous Trauma Experiences: Historical, Intergenerational and Collective" training was held at Central Lakes College for educators, service providers, professionals, on April 25, 2022. Facilitators Briana Matrious (Mille Lacs) and Susan Beaulieu (Red Lake), and panelists Michele Berger (Mille Lacs) and LeeAnn Woiteshek (Mille Lacs). Training provided an overview of what trauma is, intergenerational, trauma and collective trauma experienced by Indigenous people in the United States and how it continues to have impacts today. Healing practices were integrated into this powerful



NOT FORGOTTEN from page 1

Violence against women is a national crisis. It is an issue for all women in all walks of life. But Native women and girls suffer disproportionately high levels of attacks, sex trafficking, domestic violence, and rape. In Minnesota, Native American women account for 1 percent of population and account for 15 percent of missing cases.

Juliet Rudie, director of Minnesota's new Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR, a tribal member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community and lifelong Minnesota resident, leads the first office of its kind in the nation. She was a guest speaker at the Mille Lacs event. Her new office will work with the 11 sovereign Minnesota tribal nations; federal, state, and local law enforcement; federal and state agencies; and community-based organizations and advocates. Additional staff for the office will be hired in the coming weeks.

A law enforcement officer for 28 years, Rudie said her own family has been touched by violence against women. "This is very personal to me," she said citing that she has a cousin missing since 2017, another cousin murdered with no justice, and a friend's daughter killed by gun violence. "We need to do something."

Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health and Human Services said, "This is a real issue. This is not something that is just happening on TV. It's not just something you see in the movies. This is happening every day, all around us, all across the nation." Commissioner Anderson said she will continue to have discussions and open public conversations about the issue of violence against women and other topics like trafficking, harassment, and gang violence. "We need to discuss these things in the open to bring awareness."

Several community members spoke to remember and honor relatives who are gone.

Monte Fronk spoke about his daughter, Nada, who was found in her Brooklyn Park apartment just one year ago. She was the apparent victim of a murder suicide. After years as a troubled teen, runaway, and victim of trafficking, Nada was finally getting her life back on track when she was gunned down at the age of 24.

Kate Kinard shared a story of her great Aunt Ruby Keggs who was murdered in 1942. She was 16 years old. Kate said the family didn't speak much of the murder at the time and as far as she knows, there was never an investigation by law enforcement.

Dana Skinaway shared how her daughter Tanya was murdered in 2016 leaving behind two children, Anthony, 5 years old, and Star Love was barely 2 months old. "This has been six years, and it is still hard," Dana said through streams of tears.

Mary Sam is Dana's mother, Tanya's grandmother and great grandmother to Tanya's children. She spoke of the pain of losing a loved one, but also, she spoke to one piece of the issue that must change, she said. "When we ignore and protect the sexual harassment, sexual violence, domestic violence, initiations, and trafficking occurring here in our community and region, the secrets, the silence, the loyalty we have for one



NO MORE STOLEN VOICES

Mille Lacs Band community members stand in solidarity to bring awareness and heal the community at a powerful event held on the National MMIW/MMIR Awareness day on May 5, 2022. See more photos at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.

another is killing our communities," Mary said.

Ahnung Matrious spoke of her daughter Pennie Robertson who was missing and later found murdered in 2019. While all of the incidents shared that day were heartbreaking the pain was palpable leaving a wake of tears flowing throughout the audience as Ahnung spoke about her daughter. "Mille Lacs Band members came to help us search. That's one thing you never forget. You never forget the screams of your family members." She tearfully recalled the moment they found Pennie's body hanging from a tree in a muddy swamp. And while all of the search party had mud-covered shoes and boots, Pennie's shoes were clean. Her death was ruled as a suicide and the case was closed.

FVPP Advocates stood near the guest speakers to offer their support. Advocates were also available to talk with others if needed.

Community members spoke the names of their loved ones so they would not be forgotten — to give meaning to the tragic deaths and unthinkable violence that happens to Native women, girls and two-spirits on a daily basis. The red dresses hanging on the Highway 169 represent both vitality and the violence and left a powerful message to an estimated 11,300 drivers daily as they passed through the casino corridor. An estimated 52,000 to 54,500 vehicles passed through on the weekend of Minnesota fishing opener alone, May 12 through May 16, according to MnDOT.

They will not be forgotten.

(EDITORS NOTE: The red dress installation was created with advanced permission from MnDOT. Traffic count data obtained from MnDOT staff who ran queries and pulled data from the streetlight and automatic counters to estimate traffic counts. Other historic data indicated 11,300 is the daily average over a span of 30 days 24/7 of vehicles passing through the casino corridor reported by MnDOT in 2019, the last time the automatic counter was used at that exact intersection, according to MnDOT.) The Family Violence Prevention Program is appreciative and grateful for the opportunity to spread awareness.





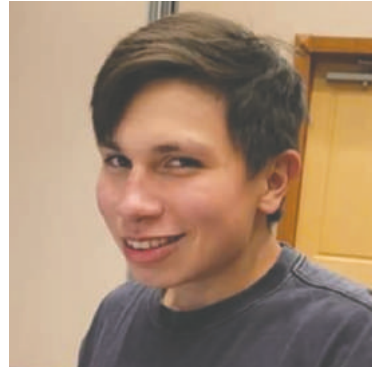
Chase Sam, Nay Ah Shing, HS



Ziigaanikwadookwe Weous, NAS

HIGH SCHOOL

Bagwajikwezenz, Chase Sam, Nay Ah Shing High School
 Lorn Anderson, Onamia High School
 Jenai Beaulieu, Onamia High School
 Dalylah Benjamin, Onamia High School
 Trinity Blake, Onamia High School
 Eric Doust, Onamia High School
 AJ Drift, Onamia High School
 Jason Garbow, Onamia High School
 Aiyanna Mitchell, Onamia High School
 Val Nadeau, Onamia High School
 Shayla Nayquonabe, Onamia High School
 Alaiysha Nickaboine, Onamia High School
 Mackenzie Osburn, Onamia High School
 Payton Pawaush, Onamia High School
 Kitana Poignee, Onamia High School
 Molly Saboo, Onamia High School
 Gordon Sam, Onamia High School
 Robert Louis Whiteman-Cram, Onamia High School
 Jakob Wind, Onamia High School
 Ashton Smith, Onamia High School
 Arriana Benjamin, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Byron Benjamin, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Madelyn Churchill, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Caiarah LaFave, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Bella Nayquonabe, Cathedral High School, St. Cloud
 Willow Thomas, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Josh-William Archambault, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Cameron Staples, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Savannah Goodsky, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 L Swanson, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Alexis Staples, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Nemer Abuhamed, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Bennett Kegg, Hinckley-Finlayson High School
 Kaitlyn Samantha McCosar, Alvarado High School, Alvarado, Texas
 Anthony Rogers Jr., Columbia Heights High School
 Alexandra Ava-Mattie Merrill, Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy, HS
 Ziigaanikwadookwe, Theresa Weous, Nay Ah Shing, Oshki-Maajitaadaa
 Jade Fredin, Bradley University, BS, Biology
 Christian Kegg, Hastings High School
 Rheannah Starr Rodriguez, Jefferson High School, Daly City, Ca.



Lorn Anderson, Onamia HS



Jenai Beaulieu, Onamia HS



Dalylah Benjamin, Onamia HS



Trinity Blake, Onamia HS



Eric Doust, Onamia HS



AJ Drift, Onamia HS



Jason Garbow, Onamia HS



Aiyanna Mitchell, Onamia HS



Valerie Mitchell, Onamia HS.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Justine Petersen, Central Lakes College, Associates of Arts degree
 Autumn Ballinger, Fond du Lac Tribal Community College, Associate of Arts Degree
 Daphne J Shabaiash, Fond du Lac Tribal Community College, Associate of Arts Degree
 Wendy Merrill, University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management Masters of Business Administration (MBA)
 Brian Dorr, Master? PhD
 Chandell Boyd, Biidwebewinesiiikwe
 Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School of Addiction Studies with 2nd Masters degree, Master of Arts in Addiction Counseling: Integrated Recover for Co-occurring Disorders
 Tawnya Stewart, University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management, Executive Masters of Business Administration (MBA)
 Jade Fredin, Bradley University in Peoria, IL, Bachelors of Science, Biology
 Bailey Woommavovah, St. Cloud State University, Summa Cum Laude, Bachelors of Science in Mass Communications



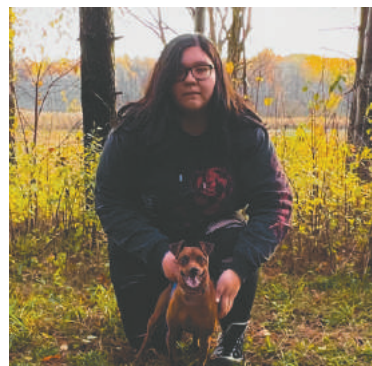
Talia Nadeau, Onamia HS



Shayla Nayquonabe, Onamia HS



Alaiysha Nickaboine, Onamia HS



Mackenzie Osburn, Onamia HS



Payton Pawaush, Onamia HS



Kitana Poignee, Onamia HS

Did we miss someone? Don't worry. Send your photo and information to News@Millelacsband.com by June 15 to be included in July.



Molly Saboo, Onamia HS



Gordon Sam, Onamia HS



"Louis" Whiteman-Cram, Onamia HS



Ashton Smith, Onamia High School.



Jakob Wind, Onamia HS



Ale Big Bear-Merrill, Isle HS



Nemar Abuhamed, HFHS



Josh William Archambault, HFHS



Arriana Benjamin, HFHS



Byron Benjamin, HFHS



Madelyn Churchill, HFHS



Savannah Goodsky, HFHS



Caiarah LaFave, HFHS



L Swanson, HFHS.



Willow Thomas, HFHS



Bella Nayquonabe, Cathedral HS



Christian Kegg, Hastings HS



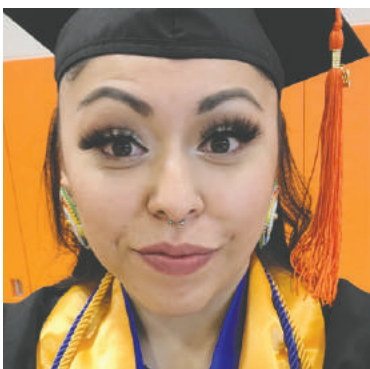
Rheannah Starr Rodriguez, Jefferson HS, Daley City, CA.



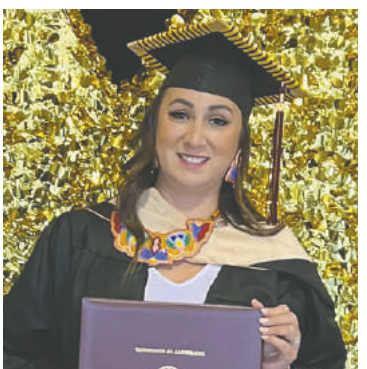
Anthony Rogers Jr., Columbia Heights High School.



Alexandra Ava-Mattie Merrill, Minisinaakwaang



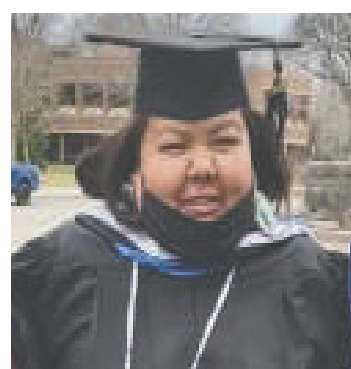
Daphne J Shabaish, FDL TCC, AA



Wendy Merrill, UofM, MBA.



Brian Dorr, PhD.



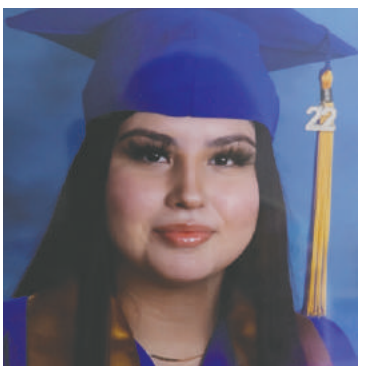
Chandell Boyd, HBF, MA



Tawnya Stewart, UofM, MBA.



Jade Fredin, Bradley University, BS, Biology



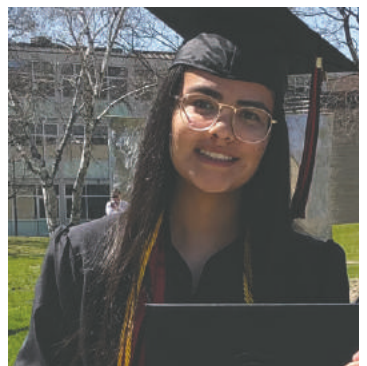
Kaitlyn McCosar, Alvarado HS, TX



Justine Petersen, CLC, AA



Autumn Ballinger, FDL TCC, AA



Bailey Woommavovah, SCSU, BS Mass Communications

JOE'S GUIDE TO DISH SETTING

By Gaa-tibaajimod (told by) Joe Nayquonabe Sr., Gaa-tibaajimotawaajin (transcribed by) James Clark

The reason this was brought about was due to an overwhelming request to let people know how Joe sets a dish at the drum he and his nephew take care of. In addition, there are instances of the community members needing assistance that Joe deems it necessary to set a dish as well.

The reason you're putting the dish down is because someone in your life is in need of assistance and you are asking the drum for help.

To start off you'll want to prepare a meal that you made that day (no matter the size) and bring Asemaa to the dance hall. There is no need to bring silverware, dishes, or plates.

Once you get to the dance, then you'll want to approach the drum keepers and let them know you want to put a dish out and why (physical, emotional, service members, and both good and bad life instances, for example) so they can let the speaker (who will speak Ojibwe for the dish that is directed at the drum) know.

The speaker will instruct the people so they know where and how to set the dish out. Anytime during the dance people can

offer the speaker a gift of any sort, but it is not required.

The drum members will encourage those in attendance to accept that food, and in doing so, they are helping the person/people for whom the dish was set.

Something to note is that dishes are not to be set for personal gain or decisions, only that the creator look over those included in the dish.

People will line up to eat and accept the food. There is no order, only first-come, first-served.

Everyone is encouraged but not required to accept the food.

Once the dish is near or fully empty, the helper will either bring it back to the kitchen, or the people who set the dish. However, if it is not empty, then the helper will offer the rest to the guests in the audience.

During this time, the drum will not be sounded until the dish is finished and away from the drum unless there is unnecessary noise in the dance hall preventing the speaker from being heard.

If this occurs, then a member will hit the drum only once for

everyone's attention.

If there are multiple dishes, then the process will start over until everyone's dishes are finished.

Then the dance will continue on. The dishes will be done either before or after the ceremonial songs.

On occasion, people can put a dish out to remember those who have passed on. These are typically done at night.

Even if they've started, don't feel discouraged. The drum keepers will make sure it gets put out.

Also, when a child is brought into the dance hall for the first time, the parents are encouraged to set a dish for the child and welcome a new member into the community, and in this instance, the helper will pass the dish around instead of lining up.

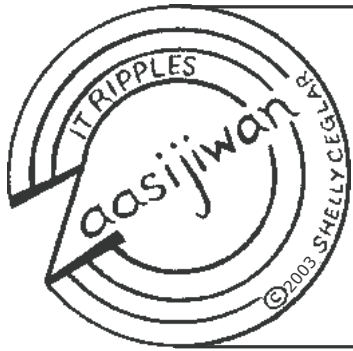
Additional instances of dish setting

Community members put dishes out with asemaa on their own accord apart from the drums for their own reasons.

If there is something that will affect the community as a whole, then the drums will have dishes set before them (e.g., 1999 treaty court case). This can also be an outside community (Chernobyl, 1986) that will be affected as well and overall to aid those inside and out of the community for the creator to look over them.

If people are in need of an urgent dish, or during the off season, then they can bring a dish to the homes of where those drums are taken care of. There is no off time to set a dish whenever the community needs it.

"These drums were given to us to help, and one of the ways we are able to do that is by setting dishes. To stress they were for your ancestors, you, and for future generations"



Ziigwan—It is Spring

Aabawaa. Awesiiyag ondaadziikewag. Wii-kizhaawasowag. Goon da-ningizo dash wii-kimiwan. A'aw aandeg wii-piidwewidam. Makwag wii-koshkoziwag. Anishinaabeg wii-iskigamizigewag. Ginzhizhawiziwag. Gichi-aya'aag wii-manidookewag. Biboonagad. Mino-oshki-gikinoonowin!

(It is warming. Wild animals they give birth. They will protect their young. Snow s/he will melt and it will be raining. That crow will come speaking. Bears will wake up. Ojibwe people will make maple sugar. They are hard workers. Elders they will conduct ceremonies. A year (winter) passes. Happy new year!)

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Aandeg—as in father
Bineshii—as in jay
Zhiishii—as in seen
Biboong—as in moon
—Short vowels: A, I, O
ldash—as in about
Imaa—as in tin
Opichi—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.

Diminutives

Adding these endings to nouns to mean young or small *-ns, -ens, -yens, -oons, -iins, or -ans (*add the plurals after that)

bear—makwa, cub(s)—makoons(ag)
bird—bineshii, bineshiiyens(ag)
fly—oojii(g), oojiins(ag)
crow—aandeg(wag), aandegoons(ag)
robin—opichi(yag), opichiins(ag)
kettle—akik(oog), akikoons(ag)
paper—mazina'igan, mazina'igaans(an)
shoe—makizin(an), makizinens(an)

Niizh—2

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

- A. Waawaashkeshiiyens gema gidiga akoons.
B. Makoonsag gii-ondaadziwag gii-piboong.
C. NindoZHitoonan abinoojiyens-makizinsan.
D. Daga naazh a'aw akik idash akikoons iwidi waaka'iganing.
E. A'aw opichi odayaawaan niso-opichiinsan wadiswaning.
F. Amikoons odamino agamiing.
G. Naasanaa! Ezigaans bimoodewag.
- B I N H
E D C A E D
A A Q I A Z G
R S G F P Z I O
S H Q E M F H G L
S O D A M I N O A E
N P H T M A U N D A V
G I D I G A A K O O N S
K C B P A C I J Z K Y S
O H I M A K O O N S A G
L I N A A S A N A A W X

Niswi—3

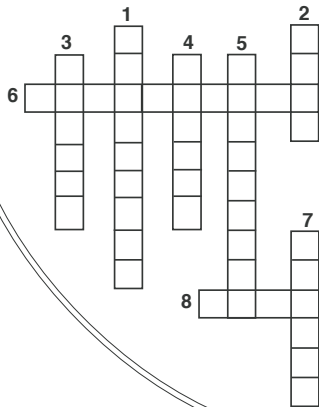
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- Duck.
- And.
- Crow.
- Eagle.
- Butterfly.
- S/he is swimming.

Across:

- Little shoe.
- Porcupine.



Niiwin—4

Diminutive Usage

zhiishii(ag)—duck(s), zhiishiibens(ag)
migizi(wag)—eagle(s), migiziins(ag)
ogaa(wag)—walleye(s), ogaans(ag)
iskigamizigan(an)—sugar camp(s)
iskigamizigaans(an)—little sugar camp
memengwaa(g)—butterfly, memengwaans(ag)
gaag(wag)—porcupine, gaagoons(ag)

Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

- Niwaabamaa a'aw memengwaa_____.
- Inashke! Gaag _____ ayaa gichi-miikanaang.
- Bezbig zhiishii _____ bagizo.
- Niwii-pimosemin ina iwidi iskigamiziga _____ ing?
- Niizho migiz _____ bimisewag zaaga'iganing.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. A young/baby deer or little spotted one (fawn). B. Bear cubs they were born when it was winter. C. I make them those baby moccasins. D. Please fetch that pail and little kettles there by the house. E. That robin has three young robins in the nest. F. Little beaver is playing on the shore. G. Look out! Little ticks are crawling about.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Zhiishii 2. Dash 3. Aandeg 4. Migizi 5. Memengwaa 7. Bagizo Across: 6. Makizinens 8. Gaag
1. I see that little butterfly. 2. Look! A little porcupine is there on the highway. 3. One little duckling is swimming. 4. Can we walk there to the small sugar camp? (-ing is the locative (location, to the)). 5. Two young eagles they are flying by the lake.

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 foreign language translation.

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JOE'S DISCLAIMER

Aaniin Anishinaabedog! Waabishkibines omaa. Hello fellow Anishinaabe! Joe Sr. here! With the times we live in, I must tell you about the article I have written. This article is full of my words, observations, and experiences that I have encountered throughout my life, and it is time to have these subjects written down. Understand not everything needs to be written, but various teachings cannot be lost.

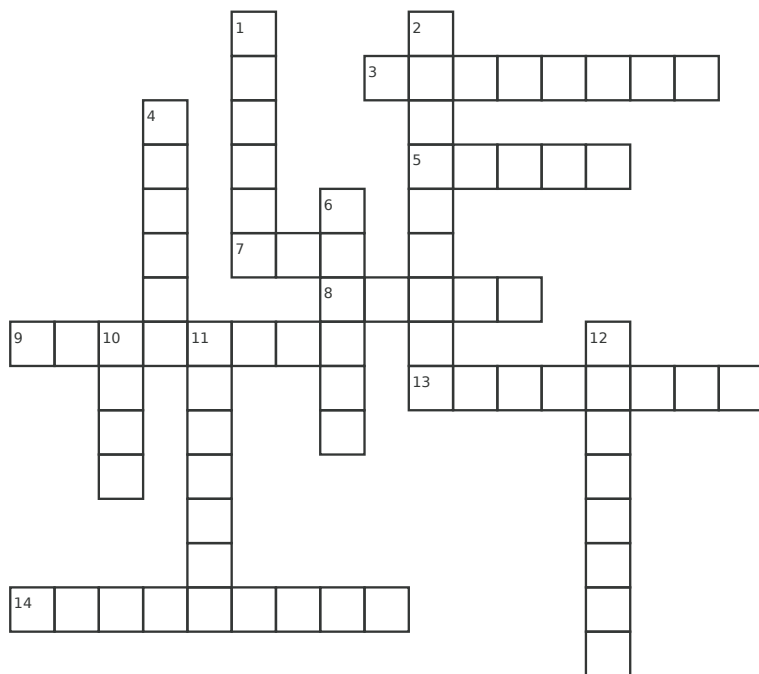
That being said, as Anishinaabe, we all experience life differently. This disclaimer is needed for all intents and purposes as the goal of this article is: to better equip our people who'd like to learn, and for topics people may not have the ability to ask an Elder about. If these teachings are not as you learned them, that is okay. It is not our way to blame and criticize but to teach and show compassion.

Any comments, questions, or further discussion, please feel free to reach out to me and I'd be happy to have a conversation. Miigwech.



AAZHAWAAKWASING ODE'IMINI-GIIZIS

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

1. Eagle
2. Alot of Mosquitos.
4. Woodtick
6. Mosquito.
10. Pileated Woodpecker
11. Gwaashkwani a'aw ___ (The Chipmunk is jumping.)
12. Ni-___ a'aw Memengwaa(I see the Butterfly)

Across:

3. Woodpecker
5. Gi-noondawaag ina ___ Binesiwag? (Do you hear the Thunderbeings?)
7. Gi-waabamaa ___ a'aw Migizi?(Do you see the Eagle?)
8. Hawk
9. ___ a'aw Migizi (The Eagle is soaring.)
13. Squirrel
14. Duck

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Identifying other beings is a helpful way to build your language and connection to the world. What their names are is a reflection of our ancestors and their relationship to other beings. When we greet Migizi, we greet with a connection to the ancestors. Building our connection is important. It's best to know the names of our relative beings for access to spiritual energy.

Migizi = Eagle

(Mih gih zih)

Baapaase = Woodpecker

(Bah pah say)

Meme = Pileated Woodpecker

(May may)

Ezigaa = Wood tick

(Ayz zig gah)

Gi-waabamaa ina a'aw Migizi? = Do you see the Eagle?

(Gih wah bum mah inuh uh ow Mih gih zih)

Ni-waabamaa a'aw Memengwaa = I see the butterfly

(Nih wah bum mah uh ow May mayng gwah)

Zagime = Mosquito

(Zuh gih may)

Zagimekaa = A lot of Mosquitos

(Zuh gih may kah)

Bimaashi a'aw Migizi = The Eagle is soaring

(Bih mah shih uh ow Mih gih zih)

Gi-noondawaag ina ingiw Binesiwag? = Do you hear the Thunderbeings?

(Gih noon dow wahg in nuh in giw Bin nay sih wug)

Ajidaamo = Squirrel

(Uh jih dah moh)

Gekek = Hawk

(Gake cake)

Gwaashkwani a'aw Agongos = The Chipmunk is jumping

(Gwah shkwun nih uh ow Ug gong gos)

Zhiishiib = Duck

(Zhee sheeb)

Woigoshkoz ina? Miigwech.

You can hear many words and sentences pronounced by native speakers at ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.



Migizi.

THE SPIRIT WORLD IS...COMPLEX?

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe seek deeper connection due to limited access and oppressive tactics by Europeans and America, we may ask ourselves, "What is the spirit world?" The research of Boarding Schools by the Department of the Interior indicates there is a complex story to be told. One of unimaginable abuse and one of kindness plus opportunity. Both contribute to the detriment of our way of life. They both attempt to remove our access to spiritual energy either by force or kindness. Talk about complexity.

All stories tell of an Anishinaabe experience we all identify with. We may have experienced a combination of tactics throughout our own lifetimes. One thing to keep in mind: the energy we rely on today is from prayers from this morning all the way back to prayers from distant ancestors *and* from prayers yet to be said for us by our relatives in the future. They are going to pray for all we have been through, and give us gratitude for all we are saving for them today.

I think of the spirit world as no place and everyplace, as no time and all the time. It's the culmination of everything and nothing. Think of every decision you ever faced and then imagine that there are separate parallel worlds based on different decisions we make as Anishinaabe. That time you took a left instead of a right, there are parallel dimensions representing both decisions. Let's say I decided to stay in school rather than drop out; there is a parallel me somewhere with a high school diploma living life. Plus all of the combinations of decisions made after that. Complex is the spirit world, but simply, it is everything and nothing at the same time, it has no concept of time but yet contains all of the time in the world multiplied by all the decisions we

have made and didn't make.

Why is this important? Understanding the spiritual world is a great mystery. What may happen and is yet to happen will be determined by our choices. Knowing that there are going to be otherworldly consequences of our choices will help us to make decisions based on our own connections to that energy. Which life do you want to live? The spirit world has all of our possible decisions predetermined; our worldly experience allows us to choose. The Manidoog know what is going to happen; every decision and its variable equivalent have been predetermined, yet we still have the choice. Which life are we going to experience? Which energy are we going to send backward in time and forward in time? We can bless the past, present, and future with energy due to our connection and decisions. Let's come together and send our gratitude to our ancestors, prayers to our future ancestors and to each other. It's all energy and whether it happened a hundred years ago, today, or a hundred years from now, we are all connected to all of the time of the world and every place everywhere.

Miigwech.



BAND MEMBER VOICES

SPRING OGAA HARVEST IS TIME FOR TRADITIONS, FAMILY, FRIENDS

By MASHKODE-BIZIKIGAHBAW, BENJI SAM
PHOTOS BY AIYANNA MITCHELL and BENJI SAM

Every spring as the ice thaws and gives way to open water, the Ogaa begin their annual trip to the shallows to help replenish Mille Lacs for years to come. This presents us Anishinaabe an opportunity to practice within our treaty rights, and dozens of families from Mille Lacs as well as many others from tribes around the region gather on the shores of Mille Lacs to take part in the annual spring walleye harvest. In our rich history, the Ogaa was known as a vital food source to the Ojibwe and much of our historical annual movement revolved around where the fish go. I visited a few harvest sites around the lake this spring and had many conversations with friends, family, and folks I have never had the chance to meet. The consensus was that it was a good spring for Ogaa. Although, good might be an understatement, according to many of the nets and harvests we saw coming in this spring.

Ever since I can remember, we Anishinaabe have had some very good success chasing Ogaa on Mille Lacs. Setting and pulling nets are some of my favorite childhood memories with aunts, uncles, cousins, children, parents, etc. I can even remember getting yelled at by some of the Elders for running around on the rocks next to the lake waiting for my dad and Lenny Sam to bring in their catches when I first learned how to set net and spear. Some of the most remarkable fish would come in, and the larger the pull, the more work we had for the day to come. From picking nets, cleaning the fish, and knocking on doors to give most of the fish away to Elders and folks who don't have the means to fish — it was always worth the sore, beat-up hands.

I have always shared an intense connection to Mille Lacs, as have many others within our community, in part because my parents had me in a boat fishing before I was even one month old. I miss going out on the water with my dad and Leonard Sam, but I am eternally thankful for their impact on my knowledge and respect for the lake that we all call home. It brings joy into my life to know that so many people were able to get out on the water this year to share in the wealth of resources those water spirits have shared with us this year. It also brings me joy to know that many families got their children involved



PHOTO BY AIYANNA MITCHELL

this year and shared knowledge on to the next generation how we were taught as Anishinaabe.

Most of the fish consumed in our community annually is harvested in the springtime and many, many people were sharing laughs, smiles, and appreciation together to the lake that provided our community with food aplenty. I even watched the power of community come together when a boat trailer tire went flat while trailering a boat out of the lake — nearly a dozen community members instantly surrounded the trailer to help change the tire and get the boat out of the water.

This kind of community togetherness is what makes our cultural practices and traditional harvesting, gathering, and craft-making so important to us as a people. Without our language, our traditions, or our cultural practices, we lose major pieces of who we are as beings. So I am thankful for this spring; even though I did not set my own net or go out spearing, I was still able to partake practicing our Treaty Rights as a community and look forward to the next adventure.

More photos available at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.



PHOTO BY BENJI SAM



PHOTO BY AIYANNA MITCHELL



PHOTO BY AIYANNA MITCHELL

NAY AH SHING NEWS

NAS STUDENTS LEARN GARDENING FROM SEEDS TO TABLE

The month of May brings with it anticipation for the end of the school year and summer vacation for students. Some Nay Ah Shing students were also anticipating crunching on healthy vegetables from the school garden.

Deb Foye, the NAS schools cook has been spending time with each class at the elementary school teaching students how to grow their own healthy garden fresh veggies from seed. Students learn everything from how deep in the soil to plant the seed, how much water they need, and how to transplant them. It will take all summer for most of the vegetables to be ready for harvest. Students are encouraged to visit the garden during the summer to see how their plants are doing.

In the mean time, students are also encouraged to create their own gardens at home. Seven out of 10 students asked, said they have a garden at home, or at an auntie's or grandma's house.

More photos available at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.



GRA UPDATE

DETAILED GAMING REGULATION REVISION PROJECT UPDATE

The Gaming Regulatory Authority ("GRA") is pleased to announce we have officially kicked off the Detailed Gaming Regulation ("DGR") revision project. Going forward, updated regulations will be done in a slow and consistent manner. The GRA will begin the notice and comment rule-making process as required in 15 MLBSA section 305. We will give notice of our intent to adopt the regulations by posting and delivering copies to the Government Center, Community Centers, Elected and Appointed Officials, and MLCV and casino leadership.

Notices will include a copy of the proposed regulations and a description of the nature and effect of those updates. In addition, the notices will give instruction on how comments may be submitted and reviewed. The GRA will review all comments received during the comment period, make such changes to the proposed regulations as it deems reasonable and appropriate, and approve the regulations by resolution. The GRA will set the effective date of the regulations and publish and post copies of a notice of adoption in the same manner as for the notice of intent to adopt the regulations.

The GRA hired RSM US LLP to assist and advise us on a large-scale revision of the detailed gaming regulations (DGRs)

with the goal of updating our entire library to meet current relevant guidelines and standards. With the help of industry experts, we wanted to consider and incorporate, as appropriate, updated regulations to enhance the control environment of the DGRs and explore opportunities for regulatory and operational efficiency and effectiveness of operations.

New formatting and organization of regulations will look different; however, we consider 90% of the changes to be stylistic and only about 10% to be substantive changes. Reformatting and reorganizing thirty-four (34) regulations is the largest change our library has seen since its creation.

For questions about GRA DGR revisions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mike Hogan, Senior Deputy Solicitor General, at 320-362-4997 or mike.hogan@millelacsband.com or Teresa Kozumplik, Executive Director, at 320-384-4811 or tkozumplik@mlbgra.com.

The GRA has the power and duty to develop, adopt, and promulgate gaming regulations regarding licensing and background investigations; conducting annual independent audits of all gaming operations of the Band; permitted games and the conduct thereof; audio and video surveillance standards; and

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

more (15 MLBSA section 305).

RSM US LLP is a limited liability partnership and the U.S. member firm of RSM International, a global network of independent audit, tax, and consulting firms. RSM is a leading provider of consulting services to Tribal Nations, serving Tribal clients in more than 15 states.

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.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

NAY AH SHING SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided on a first come, first serve basis, at the following sites, times, and dates/days during the summer.

Nay Ah Shing School

Monday — Thursday, June 21—August 18, 2022

Closed July 4

Breakfast — 8:30 to 9 a.m.

Lunch — 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Aazhoomog Community Center

Monday — Thursday, June 21— August 18, 2022

Closed July 4

Lunch — 11:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

Chiminising Community Center

Monday — Thursday, June 21—August 18, 2022

Closed July 4

Lunch — 12 to 12:30 p.m.

Meshakwad Community Center

Monday — Thursday, June 21 — August 18, 2022

Closed July 4

Lunch — 1 to 2 p.m.

All meals are served on site only. No delivery.

For more information, contact Deborah Foye at Nay Ah Shing School, 320-532-4690, ext. 2213.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992.

Submit your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by:

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Fax: 202-690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Nickena Marie Peet

Nickena Marie Peet, of Onamia, passed away on May 7, 2022, in Onamia, Minnesota. She was 57 years old.

Nickena was born on November 17, 1964, to Dennis Peet and Bernice Durant, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She grew up in McGregor and later resided in Onamia. She received her AAS degree in Message Therapy from St. Paul Community College. She graduated with a 4.0.

She worked as a massage therapist and a cashier at the Super Stop. Nickena enjoyed playing Bingo and slots and spending time with her family. She also enjoyed attending ceremonies.

Nickena is preceded in death by her parents; Bernice Durant and Dennis Peet Sr., her son Daniel Peet, and brothers; Kim Peet, Terry Peet, Dennis Peet Jr., and Edwin Peet.

She is survived by her sons; Adam Grimm, Jake Peet, Sir Peet, Richard Truong (Alyssa Wilson), and Avery Wilson, daughters; Souttida Norasingh (Jesse Leal), and Nikki Wilson (Fabian Skinaway), sisters; Rhonda Peet and Lisa Carpenter, grandchildren; Anissia, Jashaun, Jamison, Jayla, Aviana, Raine, Jasiah, Josette, Johnathon Jr., Jaiden, Jasmine, Fatimah, and special granddaughter Adele and great-grandson Jaxon.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at East Lake Community Center with Skip Churchill officiating. Visitation was at dusk on Monday, May 9, 2022 also at the center. Burial was at Sandy Lake Burial Grounds.



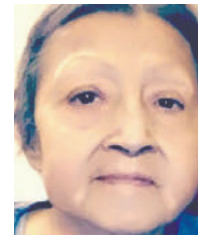
Anakwadookwe, Alvera Smith

Anakwadookwe, Alvera Smith age 66, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, died on May 4, 2022. Visitation was at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. Funeral Ceremony was at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 8, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation with Nazhike officiating. Interment will be in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Anakwadookwe, Alvera Smith was born on February 20, 1956, in Cloquet, Minnesota to George and Frances (Littlewolf) Smith. She enjoyed doing beadwork, sewing, making moccasins, and attending powwows. Alvera liked to spend her time fishing, doing yard work, cooking, watching her TV shows, and cookouts. She loved being with her grandchildren and family.

Alvera is survived by her daughters, Mary (Chey) Boyd, Rachel (Joseph) Boyd, and Danielle Boyd; son, Jack Smith; sister, Ramona Washington; grandchildren, Frances, DeaLayna, Stone, Derek, Love, Sheila, Shawsha, Selena, Simone, Soul, Daymon, Maysun, Joey, Donnie, Simon, Dante, Jeanette, and Zion, Brynlee; great-grandchildren, Carlyle, Atticus, Minette, Malakia, Makaveli, Ximena, and Kortwyn; and many loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her sons, Jim and Bruce; and daughter, Sheila; parents, George and Frances (Littlewolf) Smith; sisters, Barbara Machen, Sandy Smith; brothers, Steve and Duane Smith; grandsons, Simon Boyd, Jack Smith III, and Jack Smith.

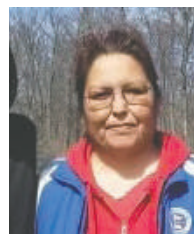


Waasekamigookwe, Sharon Pendegayosh

Waasekamigookwe, Sharon Pendegayosh age 51 of Crystal, Minnesota, formerly of Onamia, Minnesota passed away on May 15, 2022. Visitation was at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2022,

at the Mille lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment will be in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Waasekamigookwe, Sharon Pendegayosh was born on August 6, 1970, in Onamia, Minnesota, to George and Agnes (Day) Pendegayosh. She worked for Grand Casino as a clerk in



the bingo hall in the first years of its opening. Sharon loved her family, especially being able to raise her granddaughter. She was known for being feisty, having no filter, and being able to beat anyone at a game of pool or cribbage. Listening to classic rock, singing karaoke, and watching her television shows was how she liked to spend her time.

She is survived by her daughter, Ravin Pendegayosh; granddaughter, Melodie Pendegayosh; sisters, Karen Harrington, Nicole (Chris) Anderson; brother, Bradley K. Harrington; aunt, Shirley Boyd; and many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Waasekamigookwe was preceded in death by her parents, Agnes and George Pendegayosh; daughter, Treasure Benjamin; son, Wallace Benjamin III; brothers, Gerald Harrington, Bruce A. Harrington, Mark Harrington, Richard Pendegayosh, and Dennis Pendegayosh Sr.



PHOTO by Rhonda Mitchell

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

A special dinner and presentation was given at Grand Casino Mille Lacs to honor the graduating class of 2022. Find more photos at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.

COURTSIDE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT GROWS

By MASHKODE-BIZIKIGAHBAW, BENJI SAM

On April 29 to May 1 for the fourth consecutive year, the Onamia Indian Education program put on the Misizaaga'iganing Basketball Tournament at Onamia High School. This tournament has found great success and a large community and extended Indian Country following over the last few years and has even expanded to become a men's, women's, boy's high school, and girl's high school division tournament, although was not able to register enough high school girls' teams to participate this year. Players traveled from around region and even the country to gather to compete against each other for their chance at some unbelievable prize packs.

Tournament director Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe indicated that dozens of tribes were represented in this year's tournament with players traveling from as far as Oklahoma to come play basketball. "This year, we had 12 Men's, 6 Women's, and 7 High School Boys teams participate and over 60 participants in the three-point contest," said Clitso-Nayquonabe. This year's three-point competition was created in honor and memory of the late Cayden Eagle, a high school academic and athletic standout who recently took his journey to the next life. Eagle was a tremendous young leader who loved basketball, competition, and spending time with his family, and was honored well with so many competitors and spectators in the stands.

There was some great basketball played over the weekend, and each division had some really spectacular talent on the court. In the Women's division, the Lady Ballers took home first place, followed by Burning Feather and Razor Sharp finishing second and third respectively. Jenna Plumley, who played at both Oklahoma and Lamar University, of the Lady Ballers took home the Women's MVP award demonstrating an almost inhuman range from three-point land. In the High School Boys' division, the Rez Elite took home first place while led by Cloquet High school standout Connor Barney taking home MVP Honors demonstrating flash, flair, long-distance shooting range, and explosivity to the rim. In second place for the Boy's division stood Team Wambdi, and in third, Redwood Valley, as they both had great runs throughout the tourney. Finally, in the Men's division MWP squad took home the championship in a close game with Sota boys, and coming in third was the Blue Water Express. Men's MVP awards went to Darius Lasley, who is a former standout from Ellsworth Community College and Clarke University, after showing out the entire tournament.

"People came from all over the place: Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and all over Minnesota to play

basketball this weekend," said Byron Ninham, who assisted in promotion and tournament vision. "I don't even know how many tribes we have represented this weekend, but I know that there were a ton and it's great to see the game of basketball hold such a special place across Indian Country." Both Clitso-Nayquonabe and Ninham shared a love for the game of basketball growing up. "Both Byron and I came from places where basketball was king — town would shut down when there were games. Businesses would close their doors and hang signs when our teams would travel to compete at the state tournament," said Clitso-Nayquonabe. "Our vision was to bring something to our community to be proud of, and to feel like we could compete together was important to us and basketball became that tool," she said.

All proceeds from the Misizaaga'iganing Basketball Tournament are going towards Unity — a tribal initiative program for young leaders that holds a national conference on topics such as leadership, education, community service, health, etc. This would be a tremendous opportunity for some of our youths to be able to attend to learn about growth, development, and becoming stronger, more well-rounded leaders.

Clitso-Nayquonabe said, "Since we started this basketball tournament and have put in more effort to get community involvement with events like this we have seen a significant increase in involvement in sports, academics, and even arts without these school walls." Historically speaking, Native students' attendance and graduation rates are lower than the average student in Onamia High School, as well as sport and arts participation. Clitso-Nayquonabe said, "At one point in the last year one of our teams had all five players being enrolled Band members on the court at the same time. When is the last time you saw that?"

The answer to that question is never, but we all do better when we all do better. Having something competitive that gets our youth, community members, and members from across Indian country involved is something very special. The goal is that this tournament continues to grow and grow in the years to come so that we may continue giving our youth and community more opportunities to become strong leaders and independent thinkers for the betterment of our community. Keep an eye open to the future next April/May for the Fifth Annual as Clitso-Nayquonabe and the Onamia Indian Education program look to make it the biggest and best tournament yet.



MISI ZAAGA'IGANING BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT GETS BIGGER EVERY YEAR

The 2022 Misi zaaga'iganing Basketball tournaments was played on April 29 at the Onamia High School with several men's, women's and boys teams competing. The action was intense and a good time was had by all.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

JUNE ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Ann Ailport
 Donald Ray Anderson
 Randall Wayne Anderson
 Ronald Dale Anderson
 Kathleen Denise Aubid
 Ronald Roge Audier
 Von Shane Aune
 Lisa Ann Ballinger
 Shirley Ann Beach
 Desiree Denise Benjamin
 Sharon Lee Benjamin
 Rhonda Marie Bentley
 Bonnie Kay Boyd
 Judy Lynn Boyd
 Shirley Jane Boyd
 Curtis Bradley
 David Bradley
 Gilda Elsie Burr
 Clifford Kenneth Churchill
 Sherry Elaine Colson
 Mary Louise Colton
 Simon Eugene Day
 Leana Kay DeJesus
 Ellagene Diane Dorr

Peter Jerome Dunkley
 Pamela Jean Eagle
 Rosetta Marie Eagle
 Steven Richard Firtko
 Bruce Wayne Frye
 George Allen Garbow
 Kat Anne Garbow
 Melanie Raemel Garbow
 Marilyn Ann Gurneau
 Monica Louise Haglund
 Steven Jerome Hanks
 Bruce Duane Hansen
 Devona Lee Haskin
 Carmen Jean Hernandez
 Cheryl Renee Hietanen
 Shirley Ann Hillstrom
 Dorothy Jean Hofstedt
 Lisa Gaylene Jones
 Darryl Joseph Kalk
 Robert Dwaine Kegg
 Connie Lou Kevan
 Coleen Marie Lueck
 LeRoy Joseph Mager
 Robert Wayne Mayotte
 Kevin William Moose
 Barbara Jean Mulhall

Dana Lou Nickaboine
 Alof Andrew Olson
 Gordon Gail Parr
 Patricia Pindegayosh
 Brian Keith Pippett
 Alan Duane Ray
 Donald Gregory Shabaiash
 Charlene Ann Shingobe
 Charles Duane Shingobe
 Warren Skinaway
 Edward James St. John
 Pearl Anne St. John
 Wallace Ervin St. John
 Dean Ray Staples
 Elvis John Sutton
 Judy Ann Swanson
 Ann Marie Thalín
 Shannon Wynne Thomas
 Arlene Rene Weous
 De Etta Marie Weyaus
 Judy Jo Williams
 Robin Lee Williams

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Galli** on June 16
 Love Mom, Dad, Daphne, Braelyn,

Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn,
 Trin, Henry, Binesiikwe, Grannie,
 Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val,
 Dan, Kev, Pie, Ogimaa Binesiikwe
 Myla, Auntie Randi, Auntie
 Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah,
 Jay, Taylor and Adam • Happy
 birthday **Rory** on June 16 Love the
 Harrington Family • Happy birthday
Aidan James on June 20 love the
 Harrington Family • Happy birthday
Kevin on June 23 love Mom, Dan,
 Sister, Ogimaa Binesiikwe Myla,
 Gram, Papa, Auntie Randi, Auntie
 Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla,
 Lileah, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle
 Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton,
 Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Bianca,
 Henry, and Binesiikwe •

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAYS

Harvey Goodsky III on April 20,
 • **Aanungookwe Shabaiash** on

May 10 • **Chinoodin Shabaiash**
 on May 13 from mom, dad,
 brothers, and sisters • Hugs and
 kisses, Happy belated 2nd birthday
 to a remarkable grandson **Leon
 Nicholas Robertson** on May 26.

ELDERS NEEDED!

The Government Affairs
 Department is seeking Elders to tell
 their stories for a new Moccasin
 Telegraph series as well as to
 preserve video and audio in the
 Mille Lacs Band archives for future
 generations. If you are willing to
 participate in a two-hour video
 interview to share your memories,
 please email news@millelacsband.com
 or call 320-237-6851.

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

*Please refer to the following list to find answers to your questions
 or to reach the individuals or departments you need.*

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Commissioners:

Administration: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Community Development: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

Health and Human Services: Nicole Anderson: 320-364-9969

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Chief Executive's Office

Baabiitaw Boyd: 218-670-0745

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

Brianna Boyd, Legislative Affairs Director: 320-532-7536
 (work); 320-630-8702 (cell); 320-532-7506 (fax)

Band Assembly Inquiries

Darcie Big Bear, Parliamentarian/Clerk of the Assembly: 320-
 532-7420; darcie.bigbear2@millelacsband.com

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

Deanna Sam at 320-279-0178 or 320-532-7498 to make an ap-
 pointment.

Aanjibimaadizing

District I — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case Management:
 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus, Case Manager: 218-316-2437

District II — Winona Crazy Thunder, Case Manager: 320-364-
 3049

District III — Renee Allen, Case Manager: 320-591-0559

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

Brian Schienost, Public Works Director: 320-630-2624

Tony Pike, Roads/Solid Waste Supervisor: 320-980-5367

Sean Racelo, Waste Water Supervisor: 218-838-8391

Mike Moilanen, Director of Planning: 320-630-2623

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

Mental Health appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

Emergency Services: 320-532-1755 or 320-532-1757. After
 hours: 320-362-4672

Family Violence Prevention 24/7 Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

Office of Management and Budget

Economic Support and Per Cap: Email address updates to:
kathy.heyer@millelacsband.com or call Danni Jo Harkness:
 320-532-7592

NOTE: The Office of Management and Budget will continue to
 provide essential services with further increased efforts to-
 ward a virtual and paperless environment.

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
 or **320-630-8195**. The deadline
 for the July issue is June 15. Photos may be included
 if space allows.

If you would rather not have your name included in
 the Elder birthday list, please contact the Government
 Affairs office at 320-237-6851 or email news@millelacsband.com
 before the 15th of the month
 preceding your birthday. Send calendar items to news@millelacsband.com
 or call 320-630-8195.



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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference. The Sunday Wellbriety ID is 601 532 2869 and the password is 456 267. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. Urban recovery groups meet Tuesdays at 7 (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245; password: Redroad.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Chiminising Community Sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Nibb & Iyaabens East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p> <p>Chiminising Community Sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Nibb & Iyaabens East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p> <p>Chiminising Community Sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>7</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP see page 7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Bob & John Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Bob & John Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>14</p> <p>General Election get out and vote!</p> <p>See polling places on page 3</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Third Wednesday (check):</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Hinckley Powwow Government Office Close at noon.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Hinckley Powwow</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Hinckley Powwow Juneteenth</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Juneteenth Holiday Government offices closed.</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	



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



NAS STUDENTS ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

See page 8

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

If your address on file with the Enrollments Office or Office of Management and Budget is incorrect, you may not be receiving important mail from the Band. Each time you move, you need to fill out a Change of Address form from Enrollments (320-532-7730) and OMB. You can download a Change of Address form at millelacsband.com/services/tribal-enrollments.

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaa Jimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195. The July issue deadline is June 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:
Family Violence Prevention.**

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

District II: 320-630-7666

District III: 320-362-4995

24 Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Batters Intervention: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

Elder Services: 320-532-7854

Emergency Services Loans: 320-532-4163 ext. 1755 or 1757

Food Shelf: 320-362-4672

Waivered Services: 320-362-0027

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: 320-532-4163. on call social worker/After Hours Emergency 320-630-2444.

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TOURNAMENT**
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HARVEST**
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**CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES**
pages 10 and 11

**DNR FISH HATCHERY
VISITORS**
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