

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



ROAD TO HEALING

SECRETARY HAALAND VISITS MILLE LACS RESERVATION

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is honored to have hosted U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) and Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland (Bay Mills Indian Community) on Saturday, June 3, 2023, as part of the “Road to Healing” tour led by Haaland and her staff. This is the seventh stop on a year-long tour as part of the DOI Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. This is an effort to uncover stories from federally run boarding schools for Indigenous children.

Haaland and Newland listened to testimony from survivors of Indian boarding schools and from descendants of survivors.

Haaland and Newland were joined by other Interior Department staff from Washington, D.C. as they listened intently to testimony made by Indian boarding school survivors and descendants for several hours.

“This is one step among many that we will take to strengthen the bonds within Native communities that federal boarding

schools set out to break,” Haaland said.

The trip is part of the Department of the Interior’s Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative — an effort to uncover stories from federally run boarding schools for Indigenous children. These schools operated between 1819 through the 1970s, forcibly taking children from their families to assimilate them and gain control over Indian land and resources.

Chief Executive Benjamin thanked Haaland and Newland for the good work her cabinet has done for all of Indian Country and coming to Mille Lacs to listen to Band members.

“As Native people we have long memories that span generations,” Benjamin said. “The United States has much to be held accountable for that many would rather forget.”

Benjamin told the story of agents coming to the Reservation to forcibly take the children, as the story was told to her by her Elders. “As soon as someone would recognize an agent coming, they would blow a whistle to warn others” so they could

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WORKING-LUNCH WITH THE GOVERNOR

Government to government relationships matter

By VIVIAN LAMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Governor Tim Walz was greeted at the door of the Mille Lacs Band Government Center Wednesday, June 7, 2023, by the newly crowned Onamia Schools Jr. Princess, Kinsley Benjamin, Anan-gookwe, 8 years old. Gov. Walz made a brief stop at the Mille Lacs Band Government center on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Walz met over an impromptu working lunch with the elected officials and others for a brief discussion on the previous legislative session and issues for future discussions with the state. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin congratulated Walz on what she believes is “the most successful legislative session in several decades,” further stating it was the “most productive of any sessions” she has experienced.

Chief Executive Benjamin thanked Walz and extended a thank you to the state House and Senate leaders as well. “The Mille Lacs Band is very proud that, under your leadership, the state of Minnesota is still a safe place in the nation that respects the basic human dignity of all Minnesotans. Together, you [and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan] have both done more to collaboratively work with tribal governments than any governor or any other state in the union, for which the Mille Lacs Band is very grateful,” Benjamin said.

The Chief Executive and Mille Lacs Band Legislative Branch personnel then briefly discussed a summary of legislative wins, judicial issues, and pending executive/administrative matters that are important to the Mille Lacs Band.

Benjamin said the issue of legalization of recreational marijuana has opened discussions and the need for processes to create new policies “as it will impact everything across the board” for the Band, including personnel policies, and housing policies. “There is a lot of discussion” that has begun with much work ahead. The legalization of recreational cannabis

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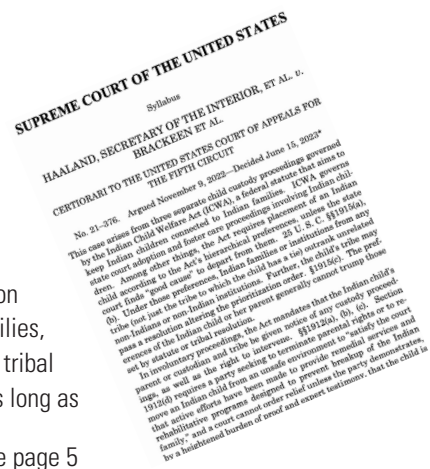
ICWA STANDS

SCOTUS ruled against Brackeen’s upholding ICWA

By VIVIAN LAMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Indian Country is breathing a little easier after the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled on June 15, 2023, against the Brackeen’s and upheld the constitutionality of the the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The opposite decision could have had devastating consequences for Native American children and families, jeopardizing key foundations for all federal Indian law undermining the status of tribal sovereignty entirely. This monumental decision ensures tribal “sovereignty for as long as [tribes] wish to keep it,” Justice Gorsuch wrote.

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ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL VANITA GUPTA VISITS MILLE LACS — SEE PAGE 17

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! Many years ago, back in the days before Indian gaming, the Band had very few programs to operate and very little funding. We had one of the highest poverty rates in the United States, and very few Band members had ever had an opportunity to take trips or travel by air. After I became the Commissioner of Administration in 1989, Chief Executive Arthur Gahbow asked me to travel to Washington D.C. for a meeting. He told me that it could be hard to explain to the people that these trips were not fun for tribal leaders, but were necessary to make sure the decision-makers in Washington D.C. heard our voice.

He said that if we didn't advocate for our Band, nobody would. His advice to me was that every time I traveled anywhere for the Band, "you have to get at least one thing done for the Band." That would not have happened without traveling. It's a principle I follow whenever I travel, and I think of him every time I go to Washington D.C. I make sure that I accomplish something important for the Band each time, even if it is a new connection with an official who might help the Band in the future.

I discovered, like Chief Executive Gahbow and Chief Executive Marge Anderson, that making contacts with national leaders was a critical part of the job of Chief Executive. Under the Band Statutes, the Chief Executive is required to conduct external relations with other governments. In Washington, that includes meeting with our senators, U.S. House Members, and key executive branch officials, and sometimes they come to visit us. Lately, they have been coming to us more than ever before. This is a tribute to the leaders of the past, our team today, and the strength of the national reputation of the Mille Lacs Band.

This edition of the Inaajimowin is especially packed due to all of the exciting news we have to share. I do not recall a previous time when we had as many high-level state and federal visitors in one month. Each meeting was very important, and presented new opportunities for the Band to talk about our priorities and request support for them, and to advocate for the safeguarding of our rights for future generations.

On June 3, U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland made a historic visit to the Reservation for the "Road to Healing" tour through Indian country, which is part of the Interior Department's Boarding School Initiative. The purpose of the meeting was to provide survivors of boarding schools and descendants of survivors an opportunity to speak about their experiences. The day was an emotional one for many.

During her stop at Mille Lacs, Secretary Haaland and I had a one-on-one meeting to discuss priority issues for the Mille Lacs Band. Some of the issues we touched on included the proposed nickel mine in Tamarack, as well as law enforcement and public safety issues. Several years ago, in the midst of our law enforcement crisis, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke flew from D.C. to offer help to the Band. With 580 tribal governments in the United States, we might be one of the only tribes to have been visited by two Cabinet Secretaries in six years.

On June 7, Governor Walz came to the Reservation to talk with us about the Legislative session that just ended, which resulted in landmark legislation that benefits our Tribe. We took this opportunity to thank Governor Walz for signing into law many bills that will benefit our Tribe, including removing the provision in state law that previously required the Band to enter into a joint powers agreement with Mille Lacs County in order to enforce state criminal law. We talked about many of the new changes that will benefit Indian tribes in Minnesota, but I also stressed that there is more to do in the future. I am grateful for our strong partnership with Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan.

On June 15, the third highest ranking official in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) visited the Reservation with her team from Washington D.C. Associate U.S. Attorney Vanita Gupta spent the day touring the Reservation. An interesting fact is that Attorney General Gupta had never visited an Indian reservation before. Of the 580 Indian tribal governments nationwide, she chose to visit Mille Lacs first. Associate Attorney General Gupta is responsible for DOJ grants to Indian tribes, so this was a chance for her to see DOJ-funded programs in action. She visited our remodeled courtroom and learned about the Healing to Wellness court, our victim services programs in HHS, the Tribal Police Department, and other areas like the new clinic and Aanjibimaadizing.

Miigwech to Associate Justices Brenda Moose and Rhonda Sam, as well as our HHS team, our Aanjibimaadizing staff, tribal police officers, and police and court staff for providing an

"THAT IS WHY WE NEED TO USE TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY WISELY AS OUR SWORD AND OUR SHIELD AND FEND OFF ALL ATTACKS. ...WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US, AND IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD TO ADVOCATE FOR OUR RIGHTS, PROTECT WHAT WE HAVE, AND BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.

— MELANIE BENJAMIN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OF THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

outstanding tour of the Reservation. The highest officials in the Department of Justice now understand the wonderful work our Band is doing on behalf of our Band members, which may help federal officials understand that increased funding for tribal programs within the DOJ is needed.

At the time of this printing, I'm preparing for an upcoming meeting on June 28 with another Washington D.C. visitor. When the Mille Lacs Band and other Chippewa ceded lands in the 1837 territory to the federal government, a deal was made. In exchange for ceded lands, the Bands reserved hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and we also secured other promises from the federal government to provide funding for services to American Indians.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, a committee called the Appropriations Committee is in charge of funding all of the federal agencies that provide services to the Band. On June 28, Representative Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) will visit Mille Lacs. She is the highest-ranking democrat on the Subcommittee for Interior Appropriations and the Environment. This Subcommittee has authority over funding for all Interior agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as other departments that provide services to tribes, including the Indian Health Service, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and many other agencies. At this meeting, we will talk about our funding needs that fall under these agencies.

I was asked by a Band member about why we had so many high-profile visits in such a short period of time. These are historic visits from federal officials who have authority over fund-

ing and programs that directly benefit the Mille Lacs Band and all of Indian Country. These kinds of visits from national leaders who have the power to impact the lives of our Band members don't just happen by coincidence. They are happening because the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has the reputation of being among the most progressive, responsible, and effective tribal governments nationwide.

The Mille Lacs Band is often referred to by state and national leaders as an example of strong tribal governance. The reason for that reputation is because over the past several decades, beginning with Chief Executive Arthur Gahbow and then Chief Executive Marge Anderson, our Executive Branch has consistently and expertly done the hard work necessary to build our reputation by promoting the outstanding and cutting-edge work our employees are doing on behalf of the Band, by always having a seat at the table in Washington D.C., and because whenever a door in Washington D.C. appears to have closed, we have always just kept knocking until it opened again. There are always ways that a government can improve to serve its citizens, but too often, we don't take the time to explain to the Band membership how our collective hard work and commitment of Band members and Band employees is paying off for our people.

When Art Gahbow was Chief Executive, one day the phone rang. The operator ran back and told the Chairman that the White House was on the line, and President Jimmy Carter wanted to talk to him. He did not act surprised, but just took the call in stride, and listened to the President. These are the days before internet, email, fax machines, or cell phones. Somehow, a bill had made it all the way to the President's desk that would have taken some Band land within our Reservation boundaries and given it to a private citizen. President Carter wanted to know what Chief Executive Gahbow wanted him to do. Art said, "Veto it!" and President Carter did. A tribal leader's mission is to serve the Band, protect the Band members, and protect the Reservation. That's why he took all those trips to D.C., as did Chief Executive Anderson and me as well.

Finally, as noted in an article in this paper, the tribes had a victory in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of the United States upheld the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) on June 15, 2023. This case was not only about ICWA, but about the very nature of what it is to be a Native American. In the history of the United States, Indian tribes were always treated as "political" entities. We are viewed in the Commerce Clause and in Treaties as sovereigns. In this case, the Brackeen family and others were saying that being an Indian is a "racial" classification. If the Court had ruled against the tribes, ICWA would have been unconstitutional and other statutes could have begun to fall.

That disaster could have included the dismantling of the HIS and BIA and the end to our economic success through gaming. This threat is not over, as one Justice said he still wants to hear this argument about the classification of Indians under the Constitution. That is why we need to use tribal sovereignty wisely as our sword and our shield and fend off all attacks. This time the Court ruled in our favor, and we are grateful for the lawyers who argued it and the seven Justices who ruled in the favor of tribal sovereignty. We live to fight another day. As Band members, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and it is critical that we continue moving forward to advocate for our rights, protect what we have, and build a better future.

Miigwech.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

BAND ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT POWERS AND AUTHORITIES

Minnesota Statute 626.90 and 616.93

By VALERIE HARRINGTON-WIND, DIBIKWE,
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The Band Assembly recently approved Resolution 20-03-23-23 which is a resolution accepting and meeting the requirements for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to have law enforcement powers and authorities specified in Minnesota Statute Sections 626.90 and 626.93.

The bill is sponsored by District II Representative Wendy Merrill and is available for public review on the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Register. The resolution was discussed at the Band Assembly meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2021, at 4 p.m.

"This ensures that law enforcement will continue to serve

our communities," Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle said. "With the change in state law through the amendment of sections 626.90 and 626.93, this ensures that the Band meets the requirements to exercise state law enforcement authority even in the absence of a cooperative agreement with local county sheriffs."

This resolution furthers the Band's sovereignty by ensuring that our law enforcement officers are fully able to enforce our laws on our territory. Dogeagle, Chief of Police James West, along with Marc Slonim and Beth Baldwin of Ziontz Chestnut, provided valuable testimony in support of the resolution, which is available on the live-streaming page of the Band's website.



Elvis Sutton (center) was sworn in as a Gaming Regulatory Authority board member in Band Assembly chambers on June 7, 2023, by the District I Associate Judge Rhonda Sam. Sutton is flanked by Sheldon Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer, District I Rep. Wendy Merrill, District III Rep. Harry Davis, District I Associate Judge Rhonda Sam, and District I Rep. Virgil Wind.

GRA UPDATE — MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS

After a two-and-a-half-month vacancy, Elvis Sutton was sworn in as a GRA Board Member on June 7, 2023. We now have a full board again with five Mille Lacs Band members representing the community.

Susan Klapel, Chairperson

- Nominated by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.
- Served on the board since December of 2020 and previously worked for the GRA as an Investigator.
- Lives in Mora with her cats.
- Works for the Band as Executive Director of Natural Resources.

Crystal Weckert, Vice Chairperson

- Nominated by Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd.
- Served on the board since August of 2021.
- Lives in Brainerd with her six kids, dog, and cat.
- Works in mental health, social work for the Band.
- Enjoys sewing, board games, swimming, and spending time with family.
- As a board member, Crystal likes to learn about gaming and be part of protecting the Band's assets.

Michael Davis, Secretary

- Nominated by District II Representative Wendy Merrill.
- Served on the board since May of 2017.
- Lives in McGregor and has one daughter, Jewel.
- Works for the Band as an Elder Abuse Advocate.
- Enjoys hunting, fishing, and wood-working.
- As a board member, Mike enjoys working with others on the board and learning about our GRA team. He is looking forward to working with the board through his term.

James Kalk

- Nominated by District I Representative Virgil Wind.
- Served on the board since September of 2022
- Jim has recently retired and lives in Garrison.
- He enjoys his grandkids, fishing, biking, and true crime stuff. But does not like winter!
- As a board member, Jim enjoys listening to Teresa (Executive Director).

Elvis Sutton

- Nominated by Band Assembly on behalf of District III Representative Harry Davis.
- Recently sworn in on June 7, 2023.
- Lives in D3 Lake Lena Community
- Works for the Band HHS Facilities as Lead Environmental Service Tech, DIII ALU and Aazhoomog Clinic.
- Worked for Grand Casino Hinckley for 26½ years in the Slot Technical department.
- Elvis enjoys riding his Harley, netting/spearing, fishing, hunting, maple sugarbushing, and wild ricing.
- As a board member, Elvis plans to use his previous gaming experience working with the GRA and looks forward to the new experience and knowledge he will gain while serving on the board.

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 <https://millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Microsoft Teams.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

CANNABIS CODE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

June 19, 2023

To Mille Lacs Band Members and Employees:

Please accept this letter as notice that the Band Assembly is seeking public comments on proposed legislation, available on the Band's Tribal Register, enacting a Cannabis Code within Title 16 - Corporations. This bill will create a Department of Cannabis Regulation within Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, which will issue business licenses and create policies. The Cannabis Code allows for cultivation, manufacturing, retail, and testing. This bill also amends section 7 of Title 23 regarding possession of cannabis within a vehicle.

This bill is only a draft and will continue to be worked on through the public comment period. The last two weeks of this month, the District Representatives are each having community meetings with this bill as a topic of discussion. Community members are encouraged to submit written comments and attend all meetings to become as informed as possible on this topic.

The public comment period has been set at 22 calendar days. Therefore, please submit any written comments to legislation@millelacsband.com no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2023. Please use "Cannabis Code" as the subject title. Band members and employees may also submit written comments in person to the District I Legislative office.

The Band Assembly requests that any Band employee submitting public comments state whether said comments are provided in his or her personal capacity or on behalf of a specific branch, department, office, board, or entity.

Signed:

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly

Virgil Wind, District I Representative

Wendy Merrill, District II Representative

Harry Davis, District III Representative

BAND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

Band Assembly is currently in Special Session. Please watch the Legislative Branch Facebook page for meeting dates, times, and agendas. Remember, Band members who cannot attend in person are encouraged to watch the meetings via live-streaming. You may also go back and watch any meeting by finding them in the live stream archives on the Band member website.

Regular Band Assembly meetings are open to the public at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays.

HAVE A LEGISLATIVE QUESTION?

Call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181 with questions.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Talon Metals releases plan for Minnesota nickel mine that would supply Tesla: Talon Metals took a major step Wednesday June 21 toward opening an underground nickel mine in northern Minnesota, submitting a plan to the state that will trigger a new discussion over the risks and benefits of hardrock mining. The company, based in the British Virgin Islands and run from Canada, has stressed the need for minerals to speed the transition away from fossil fuels. Talon signed a memorandum of understanding last year to supply roughly half the nickel it produces to Tesla for electric vehicle batteries. The details of this preliminary mine proposal will come under heavy scrutiny for the potential to harm the environment. Those concerns have stalled two copper-nickel mines proposed by other companies in northern Minnesota. One group keenly interested in Talon's plans is the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The tribe has said it will closely monitor the project for potential damage to wild rice and other natural resources. "There is much at stake; the proposed mine would be located just 1.3 miles from our communities and has the potential to impact our forever home and critical environmental and cultural resources," Mille Lacs Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin wrote in a prepared statement. Source: *Star Tribune*.

Minnesota U.S. Attorney's office to direct more lawyers to cases of missing, murdered Indigenous people: Amid calls by Indigenous families to do more to find their relatives, the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Minnesota has created a new Indian Country section focusing on closing missing and murdered person cases. U.S. Attorney for Minnesota Andrew Luger said Tuesday five newly hired attorneys staff the new section. Luger said most of the work previously was handled by one or two lawyers in the U.S. attorney's office. The funding for the attorneys came from the U.S. Department of Justice. Monte Fronk, a citizen of the Red Lake Nation, is a public safety officer with Mille Lacs band of Ojibwe's Tribal Emergency Management service. Fronk testified as a parent of a murdered daughter. He said the day she was found dead was "the worst day of my life." Source: *MPR*.

Sharing the story of the jingle dress: A powerful story of healing is told across North America about a dream that was had here in the Mille Lacs area over one hundred years ago. Many people on the Mille Lacs Reservation know the story, but many of our visiting neighbors don't. So, when I was asked to write an article in the Messenger, I felt it important to share this story for those who may not know it. A treasure exists in our own area and has spread throughout the continent, and one of its origins is right here in Mille Lacs; it is called the Jingle Dress. A beloved elder of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe told this story across the United States and Canada at the many pow wows he attended, universities he taught at, and everywhere he was asked to share his knowledge and gifts. He was a famous MC with an unforgettable voice, style, and charismatic personality; his name was Amikogaabaw (Larry Smallwood). [Written by Band member Adrienne Benjamin.] Source: *Mille Lacs Messenger*.

AANJIBIMAADIZING

GARAGE AUTO REPAIR & TRAINING SITE

One-stop shop for service of Mille Lacs Band fleet vehicles

Aanjibimaadizing has auto repair service for Mille Lacs Band fleet vehicles and auto mechanic training services available for Aanji clients. Renovation of a Mille Lacs Band-owned space into a light-mechanic garage with a lift was completed in February 2022 and the Aanji Garage opened in April of that year.

The Aanji Garage was developed as a training program for clients to learn mechanical skills that lead to employment while providing automobile services for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe departments. The automotive technician is a high-demand field in our service area. This work experience can be done in conjunction with taking auto technician classes from Pine Technical Community College.

The goals of the program are to:

- Introduce clients to auto repair as a potential career while helping them gain talent, confidence, and skills that can build a lifetime of self-sufficiency.
- Protect the Mille Lacs Band investment and provide a reliable and trustworthy place to service their vehicles.

Do you like working on vehicles and helping others with your skills? Do you enjoy spending time detailing your car and getting compliments on how great it looks? Have you thought about turning your love of cars into a career? If so, then becoming an auto technician may just be the career you are looking for.

Industry and career outlook

The auto technician is a high-demand career. With more than 276,000,000 light-duty cars and trucks on the road in the United States alone, there will always be jobs for qualified technicians.

One of the automotive technician's most in-demand and valuable skills is the ability to make a quick and accurate problem diagnosis. This requires a thorough knowledge and understanding of light-duty vehicles and their systems. Good reasoning abilities and critical thinking along with the ability to locate and understand vehicle service information is also important.

Due to the ever-increasing use of electronics and new technology in the vehicles of the future, the ability to adapt and continue learning is very important.

What trainees learn

Training is 100% hands-on instruction, allowing participants real-world experience working on a variety of cars, trucks, vans, and SUVs.

As they work through our program, they will:

- Develop the knowledge and demonstrate an understanding of automotive-related systems, components, terminology, and acronyms.
- Develop and demonstrate knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to the automotive repair industry's expectations of performance.
- Demonstrate the ability to utilize vehicle service information systems.
- Use automotive tools, shop and test equipment, materials, and chemicals safely and effectively.
- Develop critical and creative thinking processes required

to effectively and efficiently diagnose and repair vehicle technical problems.

Why should your department use the Aanji Garage

Currently, the Aanji Garage can only service Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government vehicles. The Aanji Garage is not able to provide service for private vehicles or the casino. Each department is responsible for the expense of all labor, parts, and/or supplies which are needed to complete the project.

All services provided at the Aanji Garage are performed by a trained mechanic with the assistance of trainee WEX workers as part of a learning project. Following are several compelling reasons to utilize the Aanji Garage:

- Support projects the Mille Lacs Band has invested in.
- Protect your department's investment.
- Receive consistent, quality service and competitive prices.
- Receive trustworthy diagnosis and know that the Band isn't being taken advantage of.
- Most of the money spent stays within the community.
- Ensure safety of staff and those you serve.
- Community members gain skills and knowledge that is often shared and passed onto others.

To schedule service, call David Sam Jr. at 320-674-4374 or Mitchell Kadlec at 320-362-4586.

PROTECT YOUR DEPARTMENT'S INVESTMENT WITH QUALITY VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE AT THE AANJI GARAGE

Your Department's One-Stop Shop for:

- Oil Changes & Fluid Checks
- Tires, Brakes, & Suspension
- Belt & Hose Replacement
- Diagnostics
- Tune-Ups
- Light Vehicle Repairs
- Auto Detailing
- Small Engine Repairs

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hide their children.

Heartbreaking stories were told by survivors. One Elder remembered asking the nuns at the school, "Where's my brother?" Day after day she would ask. She said the nuns gave the same answer over and over, "It's none of your business."

There were roughly 21 federal Indian boarding schools in Minnesota and 20 day schools. Overall, 408 federal boarding schools have been identified across the country.

"Federal Indian Boarding School Policies touched every Indigenous person I know," Haaland said. "We all carry this painful legacy in our hearts. Deeply ingrained in so many of us is the trauma that these policies and these places have inflicted."

RIGHT: U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland (right) and Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland (left) stop at Mille Lacs Reservation on the Road to Healing Tour to listen to survivors of federal Indian boarding schools and their families.





Adobe photo.

ICWA STANDS FROM PAGE 1

"This case demonstrates how our rights to something as basic as our children could have been taken away. For Tribal Governments, it shows that every day is a struggle to keep our sovereignty," Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said. "Miigwech to the attorneys, tribal leaders, and child welfare advocates who worked so hard to get the Court to do the right thing, and the seven Justices on the Court who kept federal Indian law intact."

Congress enacted ICWA in 1978, after concerns that Native American children in need of foster care or adoption were being moved by non-tribal agencies to non-Native families. Prior to enacting ICWA, many Native American children were placed in non-Native foster care or adoptive homes. This often led to the loss of their tribal identity and connection to their communities. The intent of Congress under ICWA was to "protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families" (25 U.S.C. § 1902).

When a court determines that a child cannot be safely returned to the custody of the parent or custodian, the law prioritizes placing Native American children with extended family, tribal adoptive or foster families, and is intended to protect the rights of Native American children and families in child welfare proceedings, making it harder to separate them from their communities and ensuring that their cultural heritage and identity are preserved.

The Haaland v. Brackeen case challenged ICWA as unconstitutional on multiple grounds, stating it exceeded federal authority, infringed on state sovereignty, and was discriminating on the basis of race.

But SCOTUS did not agree as shown by the 7-2 decision.

Justice Barrett delivered the 133-page opinion of the Court. "This case is about children who are among the most vulnerable: those in the child welfare system... As Congress put it, there is no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children."

The issues are complicated," Justice Barrett wrote. "But the bottom line is that we reject all of petitioners' challeng-

es to the statute, some on the merits and others for lack of standing."

In a concurrent opinion, Justice Gorsuch wrote that "the Court safeguards the ability of tribal members to raise their children free from interference by state authorities and other outside parties."

As what is likely one of the most powerful statements in the SCOTUS opinion, Justice Gorsuch added, "Often, Native American Tribes have come to this Court seeking justice only to leave with bowed heads and empty hands. But that is not because this Court has no justice to offer them. Our Constitution reserves for the Tribes a place — an enduring place — in the structure of American life. It promises them sovereignty for as long as they wish to keep it. And it secures that promise by divesting States of authority over Indian affairs and by giving the federal government certain significant (but limited and enumerated) powers aimed at building a lasting peace. In adopting the Indian Child Welfare Act, Congress exercised that lawful authority to secure the right of Indian parents to raise their families as they please; the right of Indian children to grow in

their culture; and the right of Indian communities to resist fading into the twilight of history. All of that is in keeping with the Constitution's original design."

Had the opinion been flipped, it could have brought far-reaching damage, not only to Indian child welfare, but potentially to other areas of Federal Indian Law as well, including challenging tribal sovereignty and the basic survival of tribes. Testifying before Congress, the Tribal Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians was blunt: "Culturally, the chances of Indian survival are significantly re-

duced if our children, the only real means for the transmission of the tribal heritage, are to be raised in non-Indian homes and denied exposure to the ways of their People."

"I don't know that I have ever wept (tears of joy anyhow) reading a Supreme Court opinion before," Caleb Dogeagle, Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General said.

"OUR CONSTITUTION RESERVES FOR THE TRIBES A PLACE — AN ENDURING PLACE — IN THE STRUCTURE OF AMERICAN LIFE. IT PROMISES THEM SOVEREIGNTY FOR AS LONG AS THEY WISH TO KEEP IT."

~ JUSTICE GORSUCH



MLCV TRIBAL ECONOMY AWARD WINNERS

Entrepreneur of the Year award winners are Kaari Weyas and Steve Premo. Community Partner award winners are Brittany Wind, Grants Director for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Mark Perry, Planner from the City of Hinckley. The Enigiikisijiged award goes to Jeff Wig. That award is designed as a special recognition for an individual who is highly respected, who is visionary, and who has been active in economic development for at least 10 years.

Pictured here left to right are: Mark Perry, Steve Premo, Jeff Wig, Kaari Weyas and Brittany Wind.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Dylan Bizhikiins Jennings is first Native American appointed to Wisconsin's DNR board:

Dylan Bizhikiins Jennings, a citizen of the Bad River Ojibwe Nation in northern Wisconsin, was appointed to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Board by Gov. Tony Evers. A recent Wisconsin Climate Change Report led by former Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes had incorporated Indigenous knowledge and expertise. Experts said that input was critical because it includes thousands of years of traditional knowledge of local ecology and how it has changed over time. Wisconsin DNR officials have already been learning from Indigenous knowledge. For example, DNR researchers have learned from Ojibwe Elders that a certain species of tree in the Northwoods used to bud at the same time the walleye fish were starting to spawn, but now those times are becoming off because of a quicker warm-up in the season as a result of climate change. One major recommendation in the Climate Change Report by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), which manages natural resources for the Ojibwe bands in northern Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, is the need for more state involvement in a wild rice stewardship program. Jennings, who had served on the Climate Change Task Force and is a former spokesman for GLIFWC, said state officials should listen to Ojibwe rice chiefs who monitor the health of the rice wetlands. His work with GLIFWC had required him to work closely with DNR officials. Together the two agencies manage what is known as the Ceded Territory in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, where Ojibwe members have treaty rights with the U.S. to hunt and fish on land that was once theirs. Source: *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

Tribal gaming revenues hit \$2 billion for Arizona:

Tribal gaming in Arizona reaches a major milestone. The Arizona Indian Gaming Association said the state has received \$2 billion in gaming revenue and an official recording of the amount is expected in July. For nearly 20 years, tribes have shared a portion of their gaming revenues with the state. "Funding to offer free vision screening for 7,000 children, purchase of sporting equipment, active shooter rescue task force, park shades, the lists go on and on," said Judy Ferreira, a member of the San Carlos Apache tribe and executive director of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association. Funds are dedicated to wildlife conservation, tourism, cities and counties, emergency services and trauma care, and the largest chunk to education- so far, nearly \$900 million. Source: *fronterasdesk.org*.

Judge gives Enbridge 3 years to close oil pipeline on tribal land in Wisconsin:

A federal judge has given Enbridge three years to shut down parts of an oil pipeline that crosses reservation land and ordered the energy company to pay a Native American tribe more than \$5 million for trespassing. The order from U.S. District Judge William Conley came after members of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa told him during a hearing in Madison that the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline is at immediate risk of being exposed by erosion and rupturing on their land. The tribe argued that an emergency exists because large sections of nearby riverbank have washed away this year, leaving less than 15 feet (4.6 meters) of land between Line 5 and the Bad River as it meanders on the reservation. Source: *Associated Press*.

TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH — IT'S OKAY

CHANGING THE STIGMA OF MENTAL HEALTH

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

When you have fallen and twisted your arm trying to break the fall, you often experience pain. Is it broken? Is it sprained? Will the pain just go away on its own? You just don't know for sure what is wrong, but you know it hurts and you want to feel better. So you don't think twice about seeking medical attention to find the answers. But the same is not always true when someone is experiencing a mental health issue. Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services Mental Health Department recognizes the need to normalize mental health and they are here to help. It's okay to talk about it.

Aaron S. Bucci, MSW, LICSW is the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Associate Director of Behavioral Health. Thinking along the lines of mental health awareness, but outside of the box, he pictures a T-shirt with the graphics appearing as a road intersection. At the intersection would be two roads. One direction the road is bumpy, a little jagged, and zig-zagging; and the sign is a little crooked, with tarnished letters that say "Mental Illness." The other road is smooth, nicely paved with gradual curves, maybe leading to a mountain; the sign is nice and straight, freshly painted with bright letters that say "Mental Wellness." When you don't know which way to go, it's okay to ask for help.

Sometimes, we all need a little help navigating the zig-zagging bumpy roads in order to get back to a smoother surface and on the right track to wellness. But there are many reasons people often do not seek attention when the road they are on becomes more bumpy than usual. "Often, people suffer in silence fighting that battle, and they do so for a wide range of reasons," Bucci said. "They feel shamed, they feel guilty. They feel indifferent. And historically to show indifference, or weakness, or vulnerability would make you a target for exploitation, for violence, a wide range of difficult and/or dangerous encounters. Those reasons have historically kept mental health out of the limelight. People did not want to be recognized for that. So, in order to maintain their baseline of function, self-medicating would happen, illegal substances were acquired to stay off the radar. That is kind of an overview of where a lot of dysfunction from substance use and addiction comes onto the scene."

Mental illness is common, as nearly one in five Americans live with a mental health condition in some form, according to MakeltOK.org. The good news is, most mental illnesses can be treated effectively with the proper care. HHS approaches mental wellness from a medical model with a complete wraparound approach to find the root of the challenges, whether medial, physical, or emotional. Anything that disrupts a person's thinking,

feeling, mood, ability to relate to others, and daily functioning.

"When you find yourself inundated with an inability to recover from grief, from loss, from mental duress, from job stress, from compassion fatigue, all of these things can compound our normal range of emotions," Bucci said. "As professionals, we came together and came up with effective ways to displace, reduce, and/or remove those barriers and challenges. To get community and society by-in, the direction had to come forward from the medical model with evidence-based practice."

Therapy only goes so far when wounds are very deep. You can't put a band-aid on a broken bone and expect it to heal. "When you have a very deep mental wound, sometimes just talking about it doesn't help," Bucci said. "So, we bridge the gap with psychiatry and begin to utilize medical assisted therapies in that healing journey."

Difference between therapy and psychiatry

Bucci provided a simple analogy to explain the difference between therapy and psychiatry. A therapist is much like a coach. They help to move you through goals that you set for yourself. Also, a therapist can be thought of like a general practitioner who is well rounded in many areas of health.

A psychiatrist, on the other hand, would be classified more as an orchestra conductor, because they are helping to direct healing in certain parts of the brain through medicine when there is a chemical imbalance. Another way to look at it is a psychiatrist is more like a surgeon who specializes in certain areas of health.

Youth are the future

Although Bucci is new to the Mille Lacs community, he has worked in Indian Country for roughly 10 years, most recently from the Fond du Lac community. His practice as a therapist has been well rounded, working with children, youth, adults, Elders, addictions, and with a strong focus on trauma-based needs. He has been connecting with the youth in the Mille Lacs Community. HHS is currently working with youth staff through Aanjibimaadizing, Family Services, Nay Ah Shing school, social workers, and other staff. Their feedback directly fed the need for more services.

"The number of Mille Lacs community youth being screened are disproportionately higher than most communities for suicidal idealization and/or attempt," Bucci said.

The statistics are startling. Mille Lacs youth were screened through a process initiated by the Band internally over concerns brought forward from the community.

L. Read Sulik, MD, Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatrist at Ne-la-Shing Clinic reported their findings "indicate that many youths in our community are suffering. Of 56 adolescents ages 11 to 17 who have completed a mental health and wellbeing screen over the past two months, 76% were identified as being at risk due to signs of serious depression, anxiety, or other identified concerns; 56% were identified as being at high risk; 40% reported having current suicidal thoughts; and 25% have made a previous suicide attempt. Of these 56 adolescents screened, only four had been in care with a community therapist already.

Sulik reported that 36 of these youth identified at risk have now been referred to and are engaging in care with a team at HHS. Mental Health Care at HHS for children, adolescents, and adults now includes having a team available that includes a mental health and a wellbeing coach, a therapist, and when needed, a psychiatry provider.

Changing the conversation

"As we strive to normalize mental illness, our effort is to gain increased mental wellness," Bucci said.

The more you can connect with youth at a younger age, the healthier they will become as adults. "Think of it like growing a garden. What you feed your garden is directly proportionate to the yield. With the youth being the future of the Band, to bring about a sense of awareness and destigmatize mental health can transcend generations in breaking down those barriers to accessing services and facilitating mental wellness at a much earlier age, therefore reducing the need for self-medicating, reducing the levels of addiction in the community, and bringing about a collective wellness."

Bucci brings the discussions of the seven teachings into his practice. "When you have that presence of those teachings bringing forward those values daily that are steeped in ancestral tradition and showing the value of walking that life, it gives buy-in for the next generation to carry those values forward."

In order to break a cycle, it takes about three generations, Bucci said. The first is to recognize that there is a problem. The second is to see the problem as a need for change and to make those changes. "By the time you get to the third generation, they don't see those challenges anymore and they go on to a different trajectory."

It is time to begin the transition to make it normal to talk about mental health for the future generations.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

HEADLINE

By JIM CLARK, MILLE LACS BAND ELDER

I was born near the south shore of Shakopee Lake (where the Onamia Children's Camp is now located). My mother was born and grew up here; my father was born and reared in the Aazhoomog (Lake Lena) area on a piece of land my grandfather leased from the state. We were frequent visitors here during the summer and at ricing time, and then in the fall, we went back to the home my father built in Aazhoomog.

I lived there until I was drafted into the Army. I was assigned to the medical department, where I worked in Army hospitals. After I got out of the service, I worked various jobs in the woods and driving trucks. I wanted a job that was less physically demanding, so I headed to Minneapolis.

I found a job at Fairview Hospital in 1953 as a storekeeper handling material. I left Fairview in 1967 when smaller hospitals were merging with larger hospitals. I then did a lot of moving around to different hospitals, including Lutheran Deaconess Hospital, Abbott Northwestern, and Children's Hospital, then I retired in 1983.

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

A couple years later, I was lucky enough to get an Ojibwe teaching license, and then I taught for eight years before retiring again. I am lucky my wife still works so I have something to eat.

I was with non-Anishinaabe people for so long, it's hard for me to say how living on the reservation is different from living somewhere else. But, I do believe that if we — by some quirk of nature or unseen reason — lose our reservation, our language, culture, and traditions would be gone.

The reservation IS our language, culture, and traditions. If we lose that, we've lost our home.



GOVERNOR VISITS MILLE LACS TRIBAL OFFICIALS

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz joined Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive for an informal meeting. The Governor made a brief stop at the Mille Lacs Reservation to visit with tribal officials to hear first-hand of the legislative priority requests from Band leaders.

GOVERNOR from page 1

goes into effect on August 1, 2023.

Of all of the legislation to pass in the state legislative session, one of the biggest is the legislation that lifted the state requirement that tribes must enter into a cooperative agreement with a county as a precondition to providing law enforcement coverage for the Mille Lacs Reservation. Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle gave the Governor a brief update on the lawsuit and reiterated the boots-on-the-ground collaboration in Mille Lacs County law enforcement is improving since the revocation of the cooperative agreement in 2016. Further he said, the Mille Lacs Band has had and continues to have a good working relationship with Pine County. “We appreciate the State’s support getting that initiative across the board with respect to the tribal sovereignty and tribal police department’s concurrent authority with state law. This really is going to improve public safety for all Minnesotans; not just Band members and Indians, but all Minnesotans and tourists.”

Dogeagle also recognized and thanked the state for submitting an amicus brief at the District Court level and the upcoming amicus brief in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. The amicus briefs are another sign of the continued recognition and respect for the sovereignty of the Band.

The Governor recognized that the Corps of Engineers recently revoked the permit for PolyMet’s NorthMet copper-nickel mining near Holt Lakes, as the Corps says it does not ensure compliance with the water quality requirements of the Fond du Lac Band.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill discussed the importance of the water and land, specifically in the area of East Lake and McGregor, and the potential hazards to the area should the proposed Tamarack mine be approved. The proposed mine is only 1.3 miles from Mille Lacs Band tribal lands in an area that is interconnected with streams, rivers, lakes, swamps, and wetlands that recharge the waters. Nickel ore produces sulfuric acid when it comes into contact with water, the same chemical found in car batteries.

“This [proposed] mine is a huge concern of ours,” Merrill said. “We have community members who are very concerned. People really value the land and resources. I just want to make sure you are aware of that.”

The Governor said the revocation of that permit after the fact was “grounded in the lack of recognizing the sovereignty of Fond du Lac when they issued the permit” and thus voided the permit. “We think that is the first time in history that has happened.”

The Band provided a document with brief points on some of the major issues for future discussions with the state including nickel mining. Gov. Walz said the decision by the Corps of Engineers has a “ripple effect on all of permitting” going forward. The law will “now require sovereign nations to be a part of decision making.” He reiterated that the state is listening. “We hear you.”

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd mentioned he is grateful for the relationship the Tribe currently has with the state and that it is a vast comparison to the past decades. “These relationships matter,” Gov. Walz said. He said he hopes the

state of Minnesota will be recognized for tribal relations and recognition of sovereignty. “I am proud of the progress we are making.”

Representative Wind discussed the need for more funding for tribal law enforcement. Governor Walz pointed to the recently passed public safety omnibus bill which contains sources for funding available for tribes that can be accessed for public safety concerns, including efforts for recruitment and retention of officers and other needs.

Wind also touched on potential business and financial benefits for tribes due to the legalization of cannabis and the need for stronger language revitalization support in both the public schools and tribal schools.

Baabitaw Boyd discussed Indigenous language instruction that is available to students across the board for all students. Boyd mentioned the Ojibwe language learning program with Rosetta Stone and the need to educate the educators in order to teach students. Boyd said on the Reservation there are currently “maybe four or five kids who are proficient” in Ojibwe language.

Changes to the education standards development to include participation from tribal Indian representatives and to embed Indigenous education into the curriculum for all Minnesota students is historic. Now all students will learn about tribal governments, history, language, sovereignty, issues, culture, and treaty rights.

Other issues included in the briefing document for further future discussions with the state included but are not limited to Northern Lights Express, American Indian Scholars Program, DHS/Tribal Child Welfare Initiative, promoting best practices and communications, supporting the Office of the State Archaeologist and implementing the Private Cemeteries Act, sports betting, treatment centers for substance use disorders, education, and TANF, SNAP, and SNAPE&T for tribal members.

The Band looks forward to continued conversations with the State of Minnesota to continue to move forward in a respectful partnership that benefits all Mille Lacs Band members and all Minnesotans.



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.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is the identification and prioritization of risks, threats, and hazards followed by the implementation and evaluation of strategies to lessen their impact. What does that mean for Band members and the community? Simply helping Band members, employees, and the community keep themselves and others safe. Emergency Management has identified certain risk factors in the Mille Lacs Band Community and will provide training and free products when possible.

The list of services provided include:

- Free smoke alarms and CO detectors
- Child safety seats
- Fire extinguisher, first aid, CPR, AED, Narcan, and Safe Native American Passenger (SNAP) training
- Annual Pet Wellness Clinics

Please contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430 with any questions or to schedule a training.



Send your news tips and ideas to us at News@millelacsband.com.

CELEBRATING GRADUATION SUCCESSES

WHEREVER YOU GO, REMEMBER YOU CAN ALWAYS COME HOME

By INAAJIMOWIN STAFF

During the pandemic, many graduates were unable to celebrate completing a major milestone in their lives — graduation. However, now that restrictions are gone, the Mille Lacs Band Education and Higher Education departments collaborated to make up for lost time. A grand celebration to commemorate the successes of graduates from high school and beyond during the timeframe of 2020 through 2023 was held at Grand Casino Hinckley on June 15, 2023.

Graduates and their families attended the event to help celebrate this monumental occasion. The event kicked off with a special treat with a performance by the Nay Ah Shing Singers, a musical group led by high school social studies teacher Joseph Covert, who has been working with the students to teach them to play instruments such as keyboards, guitar, and percussion, as well as singing and performing in front of an audience. The students regularly practice at the Upper School.

Learning to play an instrument and/or sing in front of a crowd takes time, dedication, and mostly courage. But this group of students did not let any form of stage fright come through in their stage presence. This was their first public performance in front of a crowd other than their own school peers. And this group kicked it and rocked it like they owned it.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin delivered an inspirational message for the students and their families. She said, “Anishinaabe people are taught that everyone in our community has a part to contribute, whether here on our land or representing our people somewhere else. We live the good life when we serve our community. This life is one that acknowledges all of our connections, human and nonhuman. As Native people, our community has never centered on one person or one thing but how we are able to move together co-dependently. This sacred teaching of responsibility to one another is our strength and is a reminder that we all do better when we all do better.

“As you depart on your next journey, remember that the work and your effort will touch many around you. And when you think about it, you have already touched many. Many are looking up to you today. You have inspired your community immensely, myself included. I hope that we have inspired you in turn to continue becoming the strong leader and relative that you are destined to be.

“Wherever you go next, and whatever you do, remember that you are not alone. If you find yourself in need of inspiration and strength, come back home. And remember that the flourishing community that you helped to create is there to help you in all of your areas.”

Congratulations and best of luck to all graduates.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.



Under the direction and guidance of Nah Ah Shing High School Social Studies and Band Elective teach Joseph Covert the all new NAS Band gave an outstanding performance at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Higher Education Achievement Awards dinner on June 15, 2023, in front of hundreds of people at Grand Casino Hinckley. This was their first performance of this magnitude and the students rocked it! Congratulations to each and every one of them. Below left: Commissioner of Education Niiyo Gonzales shared congratulations to all graduates. Right: District I Representative Virgil Wind congratulates a graduate. See more photos at inaajimowin.com/photogalleries.



PROPOSED TAMARACK MINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

The submission of the Tamarack Mine draft environmental assessment worksheet to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will provide a long-awaited opportunity for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to review and evaluate a detailed proposal for the project.

This is the beginning of a long environmental review process. The Band is committed to coordinating closely with the State of Minnesota to conduct a thorough evaluation of potential impacts and ensure that our land, water, wild rice, and people are protected. As a sovereign nation, the Mille Lacs Band must have an equal voice in this process and is entitled to equal protection.

There is much at stake; the proposed mine would be located just 1.3 miles from our communities and has the potential to impact our forever home and critical environmental and cultural resources. The Band supports transitioning to a green economy, but in a way that does not cause further harm. Earlier this year, the Band launched Water Over Nickel to ask Minnesota leaders and regulators to prioritize fresh water over nickel, and we expect all state and federal agencies to act in the best interest of tribes as part of the federal trust responsibility.

The Minnesota DNR has launched a new webpage to update all Minnesotans on the progress of the proposal. It can be found at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/tamarack-nickel-project.html>.

DON'T WAIT — BE COLLEGE READY

By MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM

Making the decision to attend a college or university is a big decision. For some, completing all the steps to begin college comes easily; for others, it can create fear, anxiety, and self-doubt. Preparing for college involves a lot of paperwork. For many of us, we didn't have people in our lives that could show us or walk us through those first steps embarking on a new path in education. The MLB Scholarship Program is ready to help and provide the support and direction to help you along the way. Meeting with your college advisor early ensures success. Getting started early and being prepared will help you be a successful college student.

First steps to becoming a college student:

1. Find a school and create a plan with an end result (a degree or diploma) in mind. The college or university must be accredited.

2. Apply early to the school and get accepted, and then send your acceptance letter to MLB Scholarship and Career Counselor Michele Berger at 320-532-4775 or MLB.Scholarships@millelacsband.com. Mille Lacs Band Scholarship Program offers financial support to Band members and first-line descendants who will be full-time students (12 credits), but can also offer funding to assist part-time students.

3. Apply for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) early! This will require that you have completed your IRS taxes, as they need documentation of earned income. If you are unable to complete a FAFSA due to a "financial hold," talk with Michele to explore options. Work with your college to work out a payment plan, discuss loan forgiveness, or explore the option of a settlement. Explore additional college scholarships.

4. Meet with a college advisor to explore degree options, courses and then get registered for your classes. Lean on them and ask lots of questions. It really is ok to not know and to ask. College is about learning to ask for help, taking risks and be challenged.

5. Purchase your books and any course supplies so you are prepared on day one of class.

6. Attend any new student orientation sessions. Be informed and be prepared.

7. Tour the campus, know where to park, find your classrooms.

Our traditional knowledge and teachings can serve as our foundation in all that we do. We all carry with us the strength and resiliency of our ancestors. College is an opportunity to start over. And remember, letting your brilliance shine is okay. We believe in you.

Accessing college resources:

- Connect with your college advisor early and often. Know class drop and add deadlines.
- Meet with financial aid staff early; there are many scholarship and work study opportunities.
- Register for the right classes. Find success early. Take a class or two that will help you build confidence your first semester of college. Take Ojibwe or cultural classes to meet other students and feel a sense of belonging.
- Build relationships: Connect with a diversity center, Native Resource Center, or Native staff. Find a mentor.
- Meta 5 Family Resiliency Programs for individuals starting over in life, whether that be from incarceration, treatment, divorce, separation, loss of a job, or a death of a partner/spouse.
- TRIO Programs: For students who are first generation, students with a disability, or a student of color.
- Accessibility Services: If you are a student with a disability, which includes mental health diagnoses, you are likely able to receive accommodations.
- Find Adult Basic Education services on campus to provide additional support and tools.
- Sober support: Recovery support, mental health support (telepsychiatry, health centers on campus).
- LGBTQ supports and allies on campus.
- Utilize tutors, writing tutors, alumni, peer-to-peer supports.

SELF CARE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

- It's okay to not know. For most of us, navigating college resources is a new experience.
- Set a goal and career plan. Be easy on yourself as this may change as you explore the new opportunities in front of you.
- Rest, walk, eat healthy, drink lots of water.
- If you are living on campus, visit family as you are able, or via video chat if possible. Can your family send you a care package with some traditional foods or other items?
- Attend community cultural activities and ceremonies, within your college community; smudge, use your asemaa.
- Embrace your identity. Incorporate your perspectives into your class assignments.
- Participate in a student club, activities like yoga, mental health events, or sports.
- Remember to breathe, talk to others and reach out.
- Practice time management. Find a study space that works for you.

- Self-advocate.
- Surround yourself with others who want to set and reach their goals.
- Get to know your faculty and Dean of Students.
- Know how to read your class syllabus and what the expectations are for completing the class.
- Check your email every day.
- Communicate clearly and respectfully, even when frustrated, and document any concerns.
- Come to class on time, be prepared, be engaged, use your voice — verbally or in writing.
- Put your phone down; don't let yourself be distracted.
- Write down the questions you want to ask your instructor; ask their advice on how you can be more successful in their class; go to the instructor's office during their office hours.
- Practice positivity and gratitude for the opportunity in front of you. Know you are strong and capable.
- Be bold and be brave. Become a campus leader. Keep your eye on your goal!
- Remember the work we put in now will impact the next generation.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Scholarship Program student checklist:

What you need for the Higher Education Application

- Consent for Release of Confidential Information
- Authorization for Agreement of Terms
- Student Education Plan (SEP); requires both student and academic advisor signatures
- Assignment of Per Cap Distribution Funds Form (Band members) OR Promissory Note (first-generation descendants)
- Class schedule and syllabus
- Tuition and fees billing statement (students on trial quarter and/or part-time status)

Online internet classe requirements:

- Acceptance Letter (new students only)
- Semester/quarter grades (returning students only)
- Forms may be downloaded at: <https://millelacsband.com/government/resources1/scholarship>

Additional funding sources:

- Minnesota Office of Higher Education-Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program Liaison, Lara Gerhardson at 651-259-3939 or <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=149>.
- Minneapolis Workforce Program, Minneapolis American Indian Center, Career Counselor, Vicky Reyes at vreyes@MAICNET.org, 612-554-2359. Provides financial assistance to Native technical program students in the 71-county area, including Brainerd, but not students who reside within Reservation boundaries.
- American Indian College Fund at <https://collegefund.org/students/scholarships/>.

DO-IT-YOURSELF AIR CLEANER: CHEAP ALTERNATIVE TO KEEP YOUR HOME'S INDOOR AIR CLEAN DURING HIGH OUTDOOR PM DAYS.

BY CHARLIE LIPPERT, AIR QUALITY SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

When the region is experiencing those high particulate matter (PM) air pollution days due to the thermal inversion layer trapping ultra-fine dust and vehicle exhaust close to the ground, or when western United States or Canadian wildfire smoke rolls in and lingers, be sure your home is shut so that the outdoor PM doesn't readily get into your home. But indoor PM can be just as bad as outdoor PM if there isn't a proper air filter in your furnace filtering the ultra-fine dust and smoke particles that make up PM. Sometimes this is because a non-HEPA filter is used in your furnace. Other times, a furnace filter with too low of a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) rating is used.

- MERV 5–MERV 8 removes PM of 3.0–10.0 μm (pollen, dust mites, dust, carpet fibers, and mold spores).
- MERV 9–MERV 12 removes PM of 1.0–3.0 μm (all of the above plus lint and bacteria).
- MERV 13–MERV 16 removes PM of 0.3–1.0 μm (all of the above plus smoke and automobile fumes).
- HEPA removes PM of 0.1–0.3 μm , but depending on its setup can remove PM as small as 0.01 μm (all of the above plus pet dander, powders, viruses, and microscopic allergens).

High MERV rating (MERV 12 and above) filters take out a lot of PM but also make the furnace fan work much, much harder, and drastically shortens the life of an expensive furnace fan motor. If you or someone in your home are lung health-sensitive, then opt instead for a stand-alone true HEPA filter containing an air cleaner system. But for most people, there is a cheap alternative to get around this problem: build a do-it-yourself air cleaner.

You will need:

- One 20"x20" box fan (costs about \$20–\$25)
- Four MERV 13–MERV 16 filters (costs about \$40–\$100)
- One roll of duct tape (costs about \$4)
- One 20"x20" cardboard box (box-fan box works)

You will be building a cube with a fan as the top, cardboard bottom, and filter walls.

Take the four filters and duct-tape their edges together to form four standing walls of a cube. If the filters have arrows, have the arrows point into the cube. Be sure the pleats are vertical. Make sure that the duct tape completely seals where the filter frames meet.

Take the cardboard, and attach it to the filters. Again, be sure that the duct tape completely seals where the cardboard attaches to the filters.

Attach the fan to form the sixth face of the cube. Determine which way the box fan blows. You want the box fan to blow away from the cube. Again, be sure that the duct tape completely sealed where the box fan attaches to the filters.

If you have questions, there are many videos available online that you can watch for reference.



PHOTOS BY VIVIAN LaMOORE See more photos at Inaajimowin.com/photogalleries.





37736 State Highway 65,
McGregor, MN 55760

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



East Lake Powwow 2023

Emcees:

Migizi Sullivan
Joey Awonohopay
Arena Directors:
Sherwin Obey
Harvey Goodsky

Head Singing Judge
JC NDN Killspotted
Head Woman

Mianna Killspotted
Head Man
Reuben Crowfeather Jr.
Sound
RC Soundz

Visiting Host Drum
Smokey Town

Local Host Drum
Red Willow

Invited Drums

- *Motown*
- *P~Town Boyz*
- *Little Bear*

Registration

5:00PM on Friday,
11:30AM & 6PM Saturday,
12:00PM Sunday (no new
registration)

Grand Entries

Friday- 7:00pm
Saturday- 1:00pm & 7:00pm
Sunday- 1:00pm

*Dancers will receive day
pay*
Non Contest drums will
receive drum split

Dance Specials

Singing Contest

- 1st - \$10,000
- 2nd - \$8,000
- 3rd - \$6,000
- 4th - \$4,000

Men's vs. Women's Fancy 18+

\$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100

Luck of the Draw 18+

\$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100

Women's Back Up

- 1st - \$500
- 2nd - \$300
- 3rd - \$200

Hand Drum

- 1st - \$500
- 2nd - \$300
- 3rd - \$200

Youth 17 and under Boys Traditional

\$300, \$200, \$100

Youth 17 and under Girls Traditional

\$300, \$200, \$100

Food Vendor

Contest

- 1st - \$500
- 2nd - \$300
- 3rd - \$200

~Other Specials TBD~

CONTACT INFO:

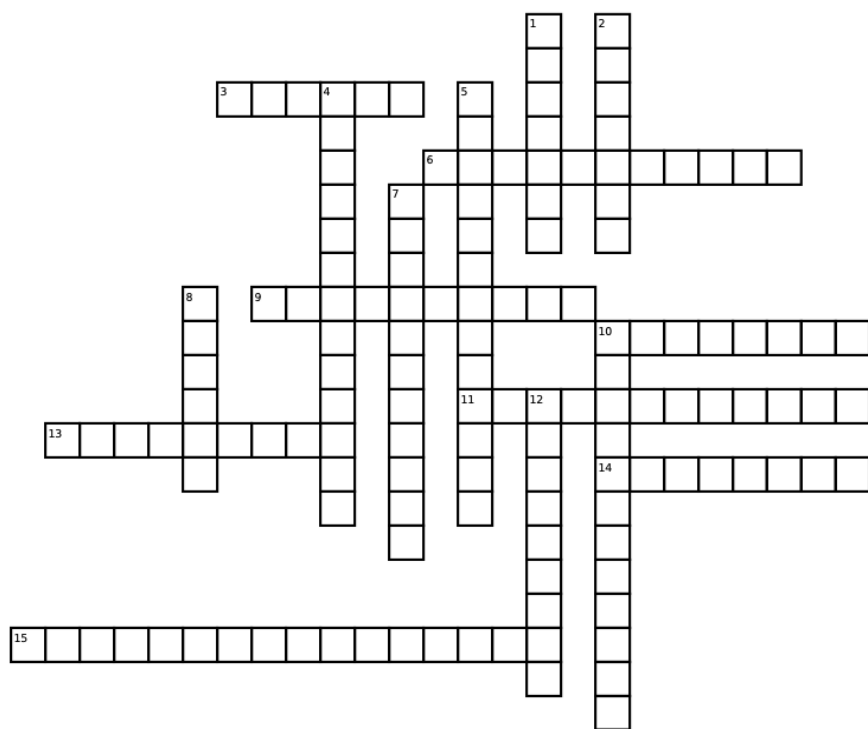
VENDORS: RAINA KILLSPOTTED
RKILLSPOTTED1972@GMAIL.COM
GENERAL INFO: TARIA AUBID (320)630-5086
TARIA.AUBID@MILLELACSBAND.COM

Check for updates on our
facebook page

 [https://www.facebook.com/
EastLakePowwow](https://www.facebook.com/EastLakePowwow)

AAZHAWAAKWASING MIINI-GIIZIS 2023

BY NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

1. a Fly.
2. Woodticks.
4. I have woodticks.
5. S/he is driven away by mosquitoes.
7. There are a lot of flies.
8. a Woodtick.
10. Deerfly.
12. There are a lot of mosquitoes.

Across:

3. a Mosquito.
6. Horseflies.
9. S/he has woodticks
10. a Horsefly.
11. There are a lot of Horseflies.
13. There are a lot of woodticks.
14. Mosquitoes.
15. There are a lot of Deerflies.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, we are now in a crucial time for who we are as Anishinaabe. Within a world society starting to take form with the expanse of social media, distractions being formed with artificial intelligence, and our teachings being lost with every Elder passing, we are now the generation that needs to do something. The can has been kicked far enough. The thread has been unspun to the point you can see the spool. The wheels are almost falling off. And so on. We are now at a point where we need to load the bases, so to say, and setup a lineup in a way that we can get on base further advancing our goal around the bases. In other words, we need to do something and a homerun will actually set us back that provide us what we need. If you think of how Anishinaabe people went about the world, it was all about setting up the next season, setting up the next generation, setting the future to have access to resources, needs not wants, and providing forth a series of tried and true teachings to ensure efficiency and, most importantly, our identity.

Identity is the binder — it's the glue that holds all we hold dear together. Identity is the key to our resources, the line to the next generation and the whole reason why we have what we have. We don't have our current capabilities because we hold a certain blood quantum or reside in a certain area. Our ancestors had Anishinaabe spirits and relied on our identity to pass on to the next generation a strong identity. The reason why our hearts hear the drum, our passion is for the world, why we seek connections not of this world. Our identity is energy and it strives to keep us safe and make sure we are provided for. Our identity is who we are individually and collectively.

Our world is changing fast. Its tough enough to keep up with the world and hold onto our pasts. There are plenty of distractions out there that can keep us pacified until our future ances-



tors realize what we need is nothing our current society can provide. Our energy is strong enough to endure should we put our trust and energy back into seeking who we are as a people and performing our purposes while relying on the manidoog.

What will it take? Even the most assimilated of us seek a connection. Our people are relying on us. There will be no savior, there is no homerun, there will not be a solution that involves some of us. We need to be in this together.

What will it take for you to put someone on base and advance to the next? What will it take for you to share what you know and seek what you don't? What will it take for you to seek your purpose to help us? We need to act now and when we rely on each other and the manidoog, we can accomplish anything.

Miigwech

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

BY NAZHIKE MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Summertime is here and so are the Manidoonsag (insects). Yes they are called manidoons as in "little manidoo." Knowing them, and how to mention their presence is a good way to practice. If you find yourself not getting one on you, you may need to spend more time in nature.

Ezigaa = a Woodtick

(Eh zig gah)

Ezigaag = Woodticks.

(Eh zig gahg)

Odezigaami = S/he has woodticks

(Oh day zig gah mih)

Indoodezigaam = I have woodticks.

(In doo day zig gahm)

Ezigaakaa = There are a lot of woodticks.

(Eh zig gah kah)

Zagime = a Mosquito.

(Zug gim may)

Zagiimeg = Mosquitoes.

(Zug gim mayg)

Miiwizagimewe = S/he is driven away by mosquitoes.

(Mee wih zug gim may way)

Zagimekaa = There are a lot of mosquitoes.

(Zuh gim may kah)

Oojiins = a Fly.

(Ooh jeens)

Oojiinsikaa = There are a lot of flies.

(Ooh jeens ih kah)

Mizizaak = a Horsefly

(Miz ziz zahk)

Mizizaakwag = Horseflies.

(Miz ziz zahk wug)

Mizizaakikaa = There are a lot of Horseflies.

(Miz ziz zahk kih kah)

Mizizaakoons = Deerfly.

(Miz ziz zah koons)

Mizizaakoonsikaa = There are a lot of Deerflies.

(Miz ziz zah koons ih kah)



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

DID BOARDING SCHOOLS SUCCEED?

GAA-TIBAAJIMOD (told by) JOE NAYQUONABE SR.,
WAABISHKIBINES
GAA-TIBAAJIMOTAWAAJIN (transcribed by)
JAMES CLARK, OZAAWAANAKWAD

Did boarding schools succeed? Does anyone even care? Twenty years ago when Amik was alive, we had a meeting at UMD. Amik was concerned about the state of the language. We had met with a linguist. This linguist was able to shed light on things I had never realized about language. Amik asked us all in attendance, "Where do you think we are with the language?" To which I responded, "I think it's on life support." So Amik would tell people after that conversation that our language was on life support. Dorothy Sam said if we don't have our language we're just like other people. People can complain all they want about the boarding school, but I believe that they succeeded, they did their mission of wiping out mass pieces of Native language and culture.

Maybe I should ask what we need to do to get the language into people's homes and minds? Where is it on our priority list? All the distress signals we've sent out over the years seem to have fallen on deaf ears and closed minds, because it hasn't seemed to move up on many people's priority lists.

Like Uncle Sam said years ago, "We need you." It's true: rather than worrying about trivial things, it's time for our people to collectively decide it's time to take back who we are as a people. Any and all programs within the tribal government right now that are focused on language and culture are clearly not enough of an effort to create speakers, otherwise we'd see results. There

SMUDGE WALK

A neighborhood smudge walk was organized by a handful of Band members in District I and sponsored by District I Representative Virgil Wind on June 7, 2023. Over 50 Band members came out to walk, sing, and smudge for community healing. Miigwech to all who volunteered and participated. See more photos at Inaajimowin.com/photogalleries.

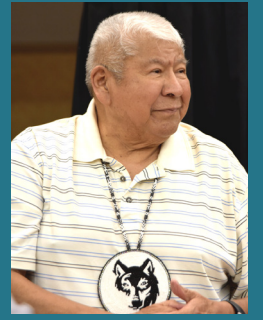


has been much talk about our treaty rights and our Reservation boundaries lately. I don't think that those will be important if there are no people to speak the language to care for the land and things given to us by the Creator. Not to mention the number of people who are not employed in a full-time job should have a good amount of time to sink into the language. I've been told that some people might be afraid of saying things wrong or not having someone to speak with. Find me and talk Ojibwe with me. I am always more than willing to take some time with young speakers and I can get you into contact with people and resources that can further assist your learning.

Overall, I am doing a call to action to our Anishinaabe members: this is your language, your culture, so let's not lose it. Let's all start moving it up slowly on our priority list to ensure that after my generation and I are gone, there will be others to continue on. I understand it might take a few generations before our homes and meetings are filled with Ojibwe again, but let's start today.

Miigwech, mii iw.

WAABISHKIBINES ENENDAANG — JOE'S THOUGHTS



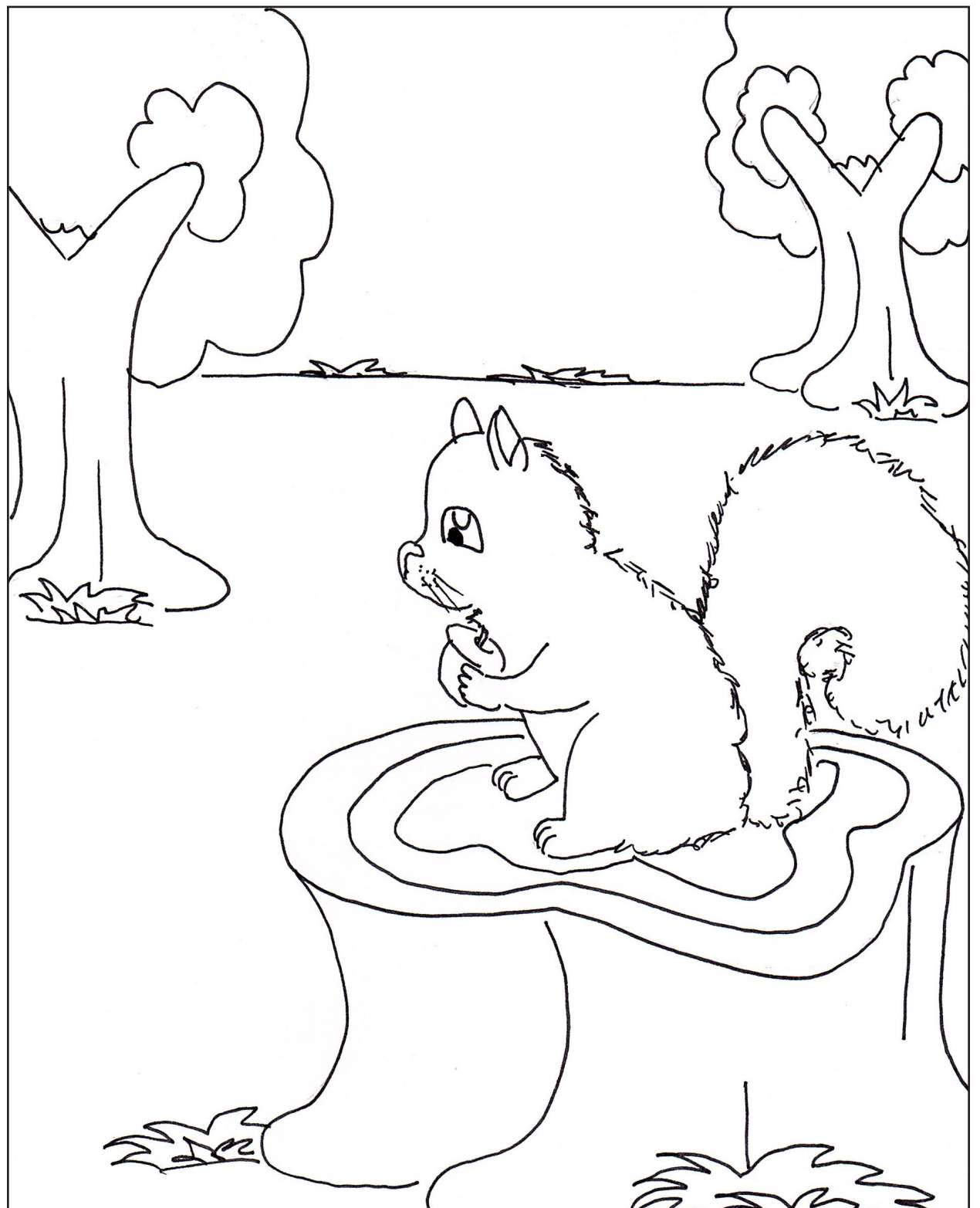
Aaniin Anishinaabedog! Waabishkibines omaa. This article is full of my words, observations, and experiences that I have encountered throughout my life, and it is time to have these subjects written down. Understand not everything needs to be written, but various teachings cannot be lost.

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.

KIDS COLORING CORNER

By JANET SWIERCZEK, BAND MEMBER



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

MILLE LACS BAND CONNECTING CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES ONE STEP AT A TIME

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR



The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Color Guard brought in the flags with the traditional honor song, flag song, and veterans song to honor all local veterans at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Garrison Andrew Kokesh VFW Post 1816 on June 10, 2023. Royalty representing the Chiminising District and Onamia Public Schools humbly share the Mille Lacs Band culture.

The Mille Lacs Band Color Guard was honored to have been invited to participate in the small-town celebration commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Andrew Kokesh VFW Post 1816 in Garrison, a mere nine miles from the Mille Lacs Band Reservation. "Finally. Two very distinct cultures coming together to have a celebration as one. Two worlds," District I Representative Virgil Wind said as he opened his remarks.

"I cannot emphasize enough how great it feels to be standing here today," Rep. Wind said.

The celebration opened with the Mille Lacs Band Color Guard bringing in flags with the honor song, the flag song, and the veteran's song by a group of Mille Lacs singers as well as some Mille Lacs Band royalty jingle dancers.

In a heartfelt speech, Rep. Wind focused on the benefits of communities embracing each other's differences, learning from each other, and coming together for a common goal as an "essential idea that must be embraced by all of us. By working together, we can accomplish more than we ever could on our own," he said.

Communities are faced with multiple challenges that require collective action and effort. "We have one common goal: to make the world a better place. Imagine the mountains that we could move and the things that we can get accomplished if we all work together. There is no better way to achieve this than by working together in collaboration across these communities."

Each person sees the world through "different lenses," but

when coming together, each person "brings unique skills, experiences, and perspectives to the table," Rep. Wind said. "When people work towards a common goal, they create a bond that transcends their differences. This will lead to a greater understanding, empathy, and respect of the different groups. Coming together as different communities can promote diversity and inclusivity. We can learn from each other and appreciate those differences. This can lead to a more accepting and inclusive society."

Garrison Mayor Loren Larson thanked the VFW for 50 years of service to all local veterans and the extended community, and he thanked the Mille Lacs Band for participating and sharing the culture. "It is good to see the communities coming together." He recognized the Mille Lacs Band's contribution to assisting in the cleanup of the public access.

The celebration also included recognizing and honoring several members of the VFW by gifting them each with handmade quilts.

The VFW has contributed much to the local community and beyond not only in services to veterans, but also generous donations to several local organizations.

Rep. Wind quoted Henry Ford as saying, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Rep. Wind closed with the words spoken to him by a Mille Lacs Band veteran who took "a couple bullets to the back" while serving. He said, "Indinawemaaganidog, which means 'All of our relatives.' We are all interconnected."



ASK AUNTIE

Hi Auntie,

I am a young positive woman and a sophomore in high school. There are so many beautiful people in our community. Last week, I noticed a community member helping another community member fixing a flat tire. I also saw a young community member carry an Elder's groceries out to their car. I see this often — positive community members in our community doing things just to be kind and not to be praised or acknowledged.

Is there a way we can praise and give thanks to them in a public setting? Possibly they don't want to be publicized for their good deeds, but I think there should be some way to highlight these wonderful community members. I was thinking of starting some type of "high five/fist bump/air hug" praise in our high school. Auntie, what is a good way to praise people that may not want it?

Thank you,

Gizhewaadiziwin

Aaniin Nishimis,

You are the perfect definition of unconditional love and kindness. It is such a beautiful thing for people to see the beauty in others. You are such a beautiful, wise spirit and I love this question.

My opinion is that sometimes people don't want to be acknowledged for these kind of things because these are things that we should be doing as a community member. Sometimes people don't want to be the center of attention, and they do kind things because that is who they are. Maybe some people are shy, introverted, and/or have social anxiety, and that is why they don't want attention.

You could ask people to nominate people for your praise project and they could be publicly named or submitted anonymously, if they don't want to have their name announced publicly. If it's done anonymously you could be praising a number of people and they could all feel good.

I think your idea is amazing. Here are some ideas to try:

- Create a wall at school to use for a name of the student and what they did in the community or at school.
- A section in your school newspaper or school social media.
- You could hand out a daily award to fellow students.
- You could ask a local business like the Grand Market if you could post a positive person of the week and you could find a person or get the community to nominate other community members and you could hang a sign that says their name and what they did for the community.

I think this would be fun and you can implement the project however you want. You could also get help from family, friends, students, teachers, commissioners, elected officials, and other community members. I encourage you to keep being you and being that brightness we need in our community. I am learning from you because Auntie yells at all the nieces and nephews when they're doing something wrong, and now I will look at the good they do.

Do you know what the most beautiful thing about a human being is? The ability to see the beauty in other people.

I nominate Gizhewaadiziwin for being a positive young woman who sees beauty in others.

Zhawenim giijibimaadizii weweni doodaa gaye (Be kind to others and treat them well).

Auntie



AROUND THE RESERVATION

CONNECTING CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES

The annual Onamia Days event was held June 9 through 11 in Onamia and Mille Lacs Band members and the District I Representative's Office participated in the Sunday, June 11 parade showcasing the culture and heritage of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe led by the Mille Lacs Band Color Guard and royalty as they powwowed down Main Street. The District I float titled #POWWOWDOWNMAIN won first place in the Sunday parade. The highly decorated float featured singers and several Band members. Others danced, walked, and motored along as they enjoyed connecting the local communities. District I Representative Virgil Wind said the event was "magical. We all came together as one."

Photos by Mary Sam



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

ENABIITANG, RANDOLPH "SKINS" RAY DORR



Enabiitang, Randolph "Skins" Ray Dorr passed away at the age of 53. Visitation was held at dusk on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with a funeral ceremony at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 9, 2023. Interment is in the Vineland Burial Grounds.

Enabiitang, Randolph "Skins" Ray Dorr was born on April 20, 1970, to Genevieve and George Dorr Sr., in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He passed away on June 4, 2023, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Randy will be missed by all who knew him but remembered for his loving nature and sense of humor.

Skins was a kind uncle, a caring brother, and a dad who loved his daughters with all his heart.

Randy was the youngest child born to Genevieve Dorr, minutes after his twin brother Ronald Dorr, both of whom spent their lives caring for her until her death in 2002, after which Skins became a connection within the family. His steady relationships with us all were separate and special for each one of us. He maintained friendships within the city that only he alone could express the sincerity of what that meant to him.

Life took Randy all over the city of Minneapolis, walking, riding his bike, or catching public transportation; he was a free body, and he liked to move. On his excursions, Randy would take videos of places he found interesting. Sharing with us a part of his life from his point of view.

Skins liked to cook, and having recently perfected his fry bread recipe, he credited it to having memories of his mother's fry bread-making skills. Randy was a great son, and we are thankful to have witnessed the bond they shared.

Randy is survived by his twin daughters, Amber and Alyssa Dorr; sisters, Glenda Landon-Rosado, Wanda Mendoza, and Janice Dorr; as well as many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Genevieve Dorr; father, George Dorr Sr.; twin brother, Ronald Dwayne Dorr; brothers, James Dorr Sr., and George Dorr Jr.; sisters, Bonnie-Bell Dorr, Marina Dorr, Elizabeth Dorr, Rosemary Dorr, Annabelle Dorr, and Faith Dorr.

ANANGOOWE, TARA KANGAS



Anangookwe, Tara Kangas, age 52, passed away on June 17, 2023. Visitation was held at dusk on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District II Ceremonial Hall, East Lake, Minnesota. The funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District II Ceremonial Hall, East Lake, Minnesota, with Baabitaw officiating. The interment is in the Big Sandy Burial Grounds.

Anangookwe, Tara Kangas was born on May 24, 1971, to Franklin and June (Sargent) Boyd. She enjoyed playing cribbage, darts, and bingo. Tara liked to spend her time with her family, with whom she enjoyed eating, traveling, fishing, and swimming. She loved doing beadwork, gardening, and watching her television shows.

Tara is survived by her children, Cheyanne, Samantha, Nathan, Demetrius, Jason (Aliyah), and Brianna (Curtis); siblings, Tabatha (Jeff) and Chrissy (Tom); grandchildren, Shay, Nyah, Nagweyaab; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She was preceded in death by her mother, June Boyd, father, Franklin Boyd; sisters, Tammy Taylor, Kim Zgodava; brothers, Richard Kangas, Franklin Boyd Jr., Richard Boyd; husband, Jason Friend Sr.; friend, Edwin Peet; and many other loving relatives.

ROBERT ANDREW FAIRBANKS



Robert Andrew Fairbanks, age 48 of Bemidji, Minnesota, passed away on June 14 at 1:15 a.m. peacefully in his home, surrounded by his loved ones.

Robbie grew up in Tamarack, Minnesota. He enjoyed playing video games with his siblings, running track and field in high school, listening to many genres of music, and enjoying good food. You could often find Robbie on the powwow trail with his family. Robbie loved meeting new people at powwows and making new friends everywhere he went. There wasn't a room Robbie couldn't make laugh. May he live on in our hearts forever.

Memorial services were held beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 17, 2023, at the Ball Club Community Center in Ball Club, Minnesota and continued until 3 p.m. Sunday, June 18, 2023.

ZAANGWEWEGAABAWIJKWE, GERALDINE DeFOE



Geraldine Louise DeFoe (Zaangwewegaabawijkwe) was born on August 29, 1939, to George L. and Mary L. (Churchill) Benjamin in Ogema Township, Minnesota. She grew up in Hinckley, Minnesota, and graduated from Sandstone High School in 1954.

Following graduation, Geraldine worked as a dietician at the hospital in Sandstone for a number of years. She was united in marriage to Kenneth L. DeFoe Sr., and together they had three children; Kenneth Jr., Kevin, and Keith.

Geraldine passed away on June 16, 2023, at her home in Cloquet at the age of 83 years. Starting from a young age, Geraldine was a mother figure to many, helping raise her younger siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. She found joy in raising her family and providing them the best of everything she could while supporting them in their own endeavors. If she wasn't at home cooking her favorites (fry bread, wild rice, and fry bread dogs) or watching the Price Is Right, you would find her at bingo, her next love after her family and cooking. Geraldine will be missed for her leadership, humor, and above all, her strong will and stubborn spirit.

Geraldine is survived by her sons, Kevin L. DeFoe of Cloquet and Keith L. DeFoe of Isle, Minnesota; daughters-in-law, Doreen Diver and Shelly Brenny; grandchildren, Deanna, Ken III, Josh, Randi, Amanda, Kevin Jr., Ashley, Cody, Keith Jr., Tim, Missy, Katrina, Sami-Jo, Kyle, Taryn; Winnie, Sequoia, King, Kenny IV, amongst many other great grandchildren; brothers, Richard and Delbert Benjamin Sr. of Danbury, Wisconsin; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth L. DeFoe Sr.; son, Kenneth L. (Angela) DeFoe Jr.; brothers, Edwin, Bernard, Robert, and Marvin DeFoe; and sisters, Evelyn Reynolds, Delphine Shabiash, and Deloris Pike.

A traditional wake service for Geraldine was held on Monday, June 19, 2023, at dusk in the Aazhoomog Community Center, 45749 Grace Lake Rd., Sandstone, Minnesota, until the 10 a.m. traditional funeral service on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Burial is in the Aazhoomog Community at the cemetery near Stevens Lake. Arrangements are entrusted to Nelson Funeral Care of Cloquet.

BEZHIGOBINESIJKWE, DAISHA HONSEY

Funeral Announcement:

Funeral services for Bezhigobinesijkwe, Daisha Honsey were announced. The wake was held, Saturday, June 24, 2023, at 8 p.m. The funeral was performed on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at 10 a.m. with Baabitaw Boyd officiating. Formal obituary not available by press time.

GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL VANITA GUPTA TOURS MILLE LACS RESERVATION ON HER FIRST TOUR OF INDIAN COUNTRY

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta traveled to Minnesota last month and met with Mille Lacs Band officials and staff on June 15, 2023. The trip focused on areas where the Justice Department provides substantial grant funding to support tribal self-governance, including public safety, justice administration, reentry, and victims' services. The Associate Attorney General's trip to the Mille Lacs Band is the first in a series of meetings with tribal governments on tribal land in the coming months and is part of the Justice Department's continued efforts to strengthen ties to Indian Country and elevate the voices and concerns of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin welcomed AAG Gupta and her staff, including Director Tracy Toulou of the Justice Department's Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ), to the Reservation with a working lunch and meeting beginning at Eddy's. Officials and staff from the Band introduced themselves with a brief explanation of their official duties. Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, District I Representative Virgil Wind, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, Associate Justice Brenda Moose, Associate Justice Rhonda Sam, Family Healing to Wellness Court Case Manager Theresa James, Tribal Police Chief James West, Deputy Chief Derrick Naumann, Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle, commissioners Kelly Applegate, Nicole Anderson, and Sam Moose, and Legal and Policy Counsel Syngen Kanassatega, along with other staff members, attended the meeting.

Kanassatega gave a brief summary of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's constitution and sovereignty as well as the Mille Lacs Band's constitution and sovereignty, and the division of powers form of government.

AAG Gupta opened her remarks with a brief statement on the Supreme Court's decision to reject constitutional challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act, a landmark statute that protects Indian children and families and safeguards tribal self-governance. As Attorney General Merrick B. Garland said in a statement following the decision, the Justice Department vigorously defended the Act before the Court and will continue to do everything in its power to protect tribal communities and affirm tribal sovereignty.

During the meeting, the AAG learned more about the operations of the Band's government, day-to-day challenges, and exercise of sovereignty over their homelands. Chief Executive Benjamin is the Midwest representative on the Attorney General's Tribal Nations Leadership Council.

AAG Gupta said she chose the Mille Lacs Reservation as a starting point on her tour of Indian Country in part because she had worked in the Anishinaabe Counsel and Job Developers in



Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta toured the Mille Lacs Band Reservation on June 15, 2023 as part of the Justice Department's continued efforts to strengthen ties to Indian Country. The tour included a working lunch at Eddy's, followed by tours of the government center, court rooms, Band Assembly, tribal police department, Aanjibimaadizing, and Health and Humans Services. Front row: Office of Tribal Justice Director Tracy Toulou, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, AAG Gupta, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Speaker Sheldon Boyd. Back row: Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle, District I Representative Virgil Wind, and TPD Chief of Police James West.

Minneapolis for a summer while in college. "But also, I had heard so much about Chief Executive Benjamin that I thought it was an important place for me to start. I think it is important for me to listen and learn, given in my portfolio are all of the grant-making components that can provide funding and support for the types of programs and services I have been inspired to see here."

Throughout the visit, the AAG and tribal leadership discussed the Justice Department's grant programs and how they assist the Band's self-government initiatives. Through the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), the Justice Department has provided the Band resources to construct new courtrooms, recruit and retain police officers, revise the Band's statutes, and provide shelter and services for victims of domestic violence. The Justice Department has also designated a Band attorney as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney to enable the Band to more effectively prosecute serious crimes.

AAG Gupta noted that the Deputy Attorney General sent out a memo to all 94 U.S. Attorney offices to make the MMIR crisis a priority. "We needed to bring more investigative resources, more prosecution resources to it. I think it is important for the

Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and I to uplift this crisis to move it out of the shadows and move it into visibility just like the tribal leaders and the tribal young people are doing and inspiring us to do," AAG Gupta said. "These partnerships that we can make with tribal leaders and other government officials is really important for us to be able to address the crisis."

The group provided a tour of the Reservation, opening with a tour of the government center, visiting Band Assembly Chambers and the police department, and an extensive tour of tribal court. The tour also included stops at Aanjibimaadizing and Health and Human Services.

OTJ, among other duties, serves as a primary point of contact for tribal governments and organizations regarding policies, programs, and issues relating to public safety and justice in Indian country. In line with a whole-of-department approach, the department recently announced the hiring of 44 additional Assistant U.S. Attorneys and support staff to serve Native communities nationwide. In Minnesota alone, five new department personnel will be added to address issues arising within Indian Country.

During her closing interview, AAG Gupta added, "What Mille Lacs really showed is an understanding of how people's situations require an integrated approach," she said. She provided an example of addressing domestic abuse. "There's making sure the health and human services needs are met, the public safety needs met, the shelter needs met, and that is what I see is really building here in very powerful ways."

AAG Gupta said her biggest takeaway from the trip was, "That Mille Lacs is an amazing community with amazing people. The infrastructure that the Tribe has developed is really inspiring. It has been great to see federal government support for all of these programs and services that, to me, fundamentally are also about self-determination and self-governance. The federal government can provide the support, but this community is building very long-lasting infrastructure. I was here to listen today, but I have met some amazing people and I will carry this with me in all of the meetings I have with our grant-making components as I think about how we can address tribal needs and what tools the federal government has to support self-determination."



Associate Attorney General Gupta was gifted a small token designed by the students in the Ge-Niiganizijig program. The gifts were presented by Temple Thomas and Senicka Hardy.



Associate Attorney General Gupta said the U.S. Deputy Attorney General is requiring that all U.S. Attorney Offices make the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives crisis a priority.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

JULY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Tania Rae Aubid
Ardana Jo Beaulieu
Gail Laureen Korich
William Lawrence
Peel
Robert Duane
Anderson
David Niib Aubid
Cynthia Pauline
Backora
Jeffrey Allen Beaulieu
MaryAnn Sophia
Belgarde
Faith Caylen
Bellecourt
Anita Lynn Benjamin
James Oliver
Benjamin
Roberta Joy Benjamin
Timothy Adam
Benjamin
Lisa Marie Brooks
Roxann Lynn Carr
Archie Dahl Cash
Kevin Scott Churchill

Randall Clark
Rosa Mae Colton
Christine Marie
Costello
Lori Ann Craker
Gary Lee Davis
Michael Wayne Davis
Brian DeSantis
Victoria Lynn Dunagan
Rosella Marie Eagle
Marc Alan Fahrlander
Lisa Rosanne
Frolichman
Carla Jean Gargano
Jay Alex Graikowski
Kenneth Karl Hacker
Karen Harrington
Lisa Michelle Jackson
Rhonda Lynn Jones
Debra Ann Kamimura
Dixie Marie Kamimura
Judith Joan
Kanassatega
Vivian Roxanne Keg
Richard Joseph Keller
Terry Bruce Kemper
Deborah Jean
Kersting

Darlene Ann LaFave
Jennifer Carole
Mancini
Brian David Matrious
Kwad Meskwanakwad
Alan Douglas Mitchell
Doreen Kay Mitchell
Jo Ann Mitchell
Letitia Mitchell
Thomas Wayne
Mitchell
Darren Wayne Moose
Andrew Charles
Nelson
Carol Jean Nickaboine
James Gregory
Nickaboine
Wanda Marie
Nickaboine
Alan Michael O'Brien
Debra Ann Olson
Kevin Dean
Pawlitschek
Karen Peterson
Joseph Vincent
Pewaush
Frederick Allen Pike
Steven Edward Premo

Daryl Alan Quaderer
Deanna Louise Sam
Elfreda M Sam
Lauretta Marie Sam
Steve Leroy Sam
David Frederick
Schaaf
Orretta Faye Sharlow
Valerie Jayne
Shingobe
Alicia Lydia Skinaway
Geraldine Ellen
Skinaway
Darryl Gene Smith
Andrew Felix St. Clair
Kevin William Sutton
Patricia Louise
Thomas
Elizabeth Annette
Wilson
Jollette Marie Zapf

12th. love you son!
Love dad! • Happy birthday **Nicole** on July 2, Love, the Harrington Family • Happy birthday **Max Dean** on July 12, Love, the Harrington Family • Happy birthday **Karen** on July 13, Love, the Harrington Family • Happy birthday **Rachel** on July 21, Love, your sissys and brothers • We would like to wish our uncle **Joe Pewaush** Happy Birthday on July 4 From your Brother and nieces • Shara'lane' Staples-Skinaway wishes happy 5th birthday to her son!

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS

Happy 15th birthday to **Mark** on the

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 **August** issue is **July 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.

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

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send weekly news summaries and breaking news updates to Band members. Send your email address to news@millelacsband.com so we can add you to the list!

DID YOU KNOW?

You can get paid to write and be published in the Inaajimowin. For more details, send your questions to News@millelacsband.com.

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Chief Executive's Office

320-532-7484

Commissioners:

Administration: Sam Moose: 320-630-2607; Assistant Commissioner: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643, or 763-260-0164

Community Development: 320-630-7643, or 763-260-0164

Education: Niiyogaabawikwe, Brooke Mosay Gonzalez: 320-362-4245

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

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

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

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

Public Works

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 320-532-1756. After hours: 320-362-4672

Family Violence Prevention 24/7 Crisis Line: 866-867-4006; or Kristen Allord: 320-630-2677

Elder Advocate: 320-630-4395

Other frequently requested phone numbers

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 appointment.

Aanjibimaadizing Case Managers

District I — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case Management: 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus: 218-316-2437; Rosa Sam: 320-364-3187; Julie Peterson: 320 290 8729; Camille Smith: 320-982-0836

District II/IIa — Winona Crazy Thunder: 320-364-3049;

Autumn Ballinger: 320-674-0655; Mary K Boyd: 320-630-1307

District III — Renee Allen: 320-591-0559; Kathy Nelson:

320-630-2671

Urban — Winona Spaulding: 612-360-7219

Office of Management and Budget

Economic Support and Per Cap: Katy Radunz: 320-532-7471, or Per Cap: 320-532-8928

Enrollments: 320-532-7730



HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY!

We want to wish Rory James Boyd-Bugg a belated happy 6th birthday on June 16. We love you my butters XOXO!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Urban Office would like to congratulate band member Shania Nichols-VanNett on graduating from Como Park Senior High School. Shania was named Student of the Year, Student Female Athlete of the Year, received the Winfield Award and received an award from NCHS Scholars. This fall, Shania will be attending college at the North Dakota School of Science. Her mother, Tanya Nichols, and father, Michael VanNett, are so unbelievably proud of the young woman they've raised. Congratulations Shania! Keep doing big things!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. regularly held in the Aanjibimaadizing building is temporarily being held at the 17222 Ataage Drive location while Aanjibimaadizing is under construction.</p>		<p>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.</p>				
<p>2 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>3 Mid-Summer Holiday Government Offices Closed.</p>	<p>4 Mid-Summer Holiday Government Offices Closed.</p>	<p>5 Mid-Summer Holiday Government Offices Closed. Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>6 Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>7 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>8 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>9 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>10 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>11 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>12 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>14 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>15 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>16 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>17 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>18 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>19 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m.</p>	<p>20 District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>21 East Lake Powwow Government Offices Closing at noon.</p>	<p>22 East Lake Powwow</p>
<p>23 East Lake Powwow Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>24 East Lake Day Government Offices Closed.</p>	<p>25 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>26 District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District I Aquatic & Fitness Community Center</p>	<p>27 Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>28 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>29 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>30 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>31 Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>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 video interview to share your memories, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.</p>				



OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

MIINI-GIIZIS • JULY 2023 | VOLUME 25 | NUMBER 7

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



GRAND CELEBRATION HINGKLEY POWWOW

POWWOW PHOTOS. See pages 10 and 11

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195. The August issue deadline is July 15.

NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know is injured or in immediate danger, call 911 first.

Tribal Police Department dispatch:
888-609-5006; 320-532-3430.

Emergency Management Services:
24-hour fire, disaster, and emergency management response: Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator: 320-362-0435.

Addiction/Behavioral Health: 800-709-6445, ext. 7776.

**Community Support Services:
Family Violence Prevention.**

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

District II: 320-630-7666

District III: 320-630-2691

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, ext. 1714

On-Call Social Worker/After Hours Emergency 320-630-2444.

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millelacsband.com

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COMMUNITIES**
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**TALK ABOUT MENTAL
HEALTH**
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GARAGE & TRAINING**
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