

O J I B W E I N A A J I M O W I N

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



By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

Tuesday, April 2, started out like any other spring Tuesday, except this was the Primary Election Day for the Mille Lacs Band offices of Chief Executive and District I Representative. Polling offices were open until 8 p.m. and as darkness fell, the news of the “unofficial” election results for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe spread faster than a wildfire on a windy spring day. Virgil Wind took the victory spot in the Primary as the newly elected Chief Executive Elect for the Mille Lacs Band. He will assume the office full time in July.

Wind officially won the three-person race with 67.44% of the vote. Votes for Samuel Moose totaled 30.645%, and Wallace St. John, Sr. claimed the remaining 1.92%.

Generally, the two candidates with the greatest number of votes in each race move on to the general election in early June, according to the election rules of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. However, under the MCT election ordinance, if a candidate running in a primary election receives more than

50% of the votes, that candidate wins the race. In this case, Virgil Wind has been declared the winner in the race for Chief Executive. Valerie Harrington-Wind and Caroline Beaulieu will continue in the race for District I Representative. (See story on page 1.)

Having the confidence of nearly 70% of Mille Lacs Band voters, Wind said he is humbled. “There are no words to describe how grateful I am,” he said. “I believe it is all based around connection. People want to know that they matter. Whether it is a two-second



Virgil Wind.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ELECT VIRGIL WIND page 7



PRIMARY ELECTION

Virgil Wind elected as Chief Executive, Harrington-Wind & Beaulieu advance to General Election

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Primary Elections were held on April 2, 2024. For the Mille Lacs Band, there were two races in this primary: the Office of Chief Executive and the Office of the District I Representative. Longstanding incumbent Chief Executive, Melanie Benjamin, announced earlier this year she is not seeking re-election.

In the Chief Executive primary, Virgil Wind took the lead with 67.44% of the votes, while Samuel Moose followed with 30.64% and Wally St. John trailed with 1.92%. Per the MCT constitution, in the event one candidate receives more than 51% of the vote in the primary election, that candidate will be declared the winner with no need to advance to a general election. Therefore, Wind will assume the Office for Chief Executive beginning July 8, unless sooner seated.

In the Mille Lacs District I Representative primary, Valerie Harrington-Wind and Carolyn Beaulieu received the most votes (with 28.32% and 27.85% respectively) and advance to the General Election. The General Election will take place on June 11, 2024.

Less than 29% of all eligible voters cast a ballot in this election. Election turnout for the Mille Lacs Band comes in at 28.29% voter turnout for Chief Executive. There were 989 ballots cast, including in-person and mail-in absentee ballots, for the Office of Chief Executive with 3,496 eligible voters 18 and over. In this race, all Band citizens ages 18 and up are eligible to vote regardless of where they live.

For the District I Representative race, only Band citizens ages 18 and up who have lived in District I for 30 days or more are eligible to vote for the District I Representative, as well as those who live in the Urban Area but claim District I as their home District. With 2,808 Band members ages 18 and older calling District I their home, 632 actual votes were counted for

TRIBAL WILLS CLINIC MAY 20 – 23

Celebrate a well-lived life by making sure that your wishes are carried out by the next generation. To make sure that your wishes are respected after you pass, please consider drafting a will, either through the Tribal Wills Program or with a local attorney. The Office of the Solicitor General announced the dates for the Tribal Wills Clinic will be May 20 through 23, 2024.

The Tribal Wills Clinic is a group of volunteers including law students and licensed attorneys, who donate their time to help Tribal Members write wills. The service is being offered to Mille Lacs Band members at no cost.

The process will take approximately two hours on two different days. The first day, you will talk with a law student about what you would like to have included in your documents.

TRIBAL WILLS page 2

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS page 4

HOW THE BIRDS GOT THEIR SONGS — SEE PAGE 6

M E S S A G E
F R O M
T H E

C H I E F E X E C U T I V E

Aaniin boozhoo, fellow Band members! This past month, the Mille Lacs Band held our Primary Election. Miigwech to all those who voted and assisted in the election process! I encourage every single Band member to use your right to vote, particularly in elections that hold personal significance for you and your community. Congratulations and best of luck to the new Chief Executive and newly elected officials. While I will continue in office until the end of my term, I look forward to seeing the ways that you will positively impact the Band and carry out your duties for the betterment of all.

This past month, I had the opportunity to attend the 2024 Indian Law Conference alongside some young women aspiring to work in Tribal law. The Band and Indian Country at large are always in need of Native attorneys and legal aides, given the various threats to our sovereignty from all directions. This was a great opportunity for these individuals to network, gain insight on pertinent Tribal law issues and cases, and be inspired by the vast number of young Native law students and professionals in attendance. As young people in Indian Country aspiring to contribute to our Nation, it is incredibly important to expand your network according to your vision—remember, “who you know” holds as much significance as “what you know.”

I am deeply honored to have received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indian Gaming Association, an accolade bestowed annually to a Native American individual who has demonstrated exceptional representation in Indian Country. I am always proud to represent the Mille Lacs Band, and miigwech to the community for entrusting me to do so these past years.

There was a two-day Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Strategic Planning session in Cass Lake, Minnesota. During this session, myself and other leaders within the MCT delib-

“One position that I will always uphold is that no branch of the Mille Lacs Band Government should encroach on the duties and responsibilities of another. The current language of the bill threatens to allow the Legislative Branch to encroach upon the Executive Branch, which would not only impact the effectiveness of my role but also that of the next Chief Executive.”

~ Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

erated on our strategic plan for the upcoming years, especially with the recent election of new leadership in our Band and others. It is imperative for me to ensure a smooth transition of leadership roles to the next individuals, and to equip the Band and newly elected officials to the best of my ability. This brings me to our ongoing compromise hearings regarding pro-

posed language in an important budget bill. One position that I will always uphold is that no branch of the Mille Lacs Band Government should encroach on the duties and responsibilities of another. The current language of the bill threatens to allow the Legislative Branch to encroach upon the Executive Branch, which would not only impact the effectiveness of my role but also that of the next Chief Executive. I look forward to reaching a compromise that aligns with the duties and responsibilities of both the Executive and Legislative Branch.

At the end of April, I attended the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) Conference in Hollywood, Florida. NAFOA stands as the sole national organization focusing on financial topics and data specific to Indian Country. At this conference, Tribal leaders received updates from the Department of Treasury, explored implications for Tribal policy and finance during this election year, discussed new Tribal tax legislation, and engaged in various panels centered around financial well-being and our cultural traditions. Organizations like NAFOA empower tribes to create their own path to financial prosperity while keeping Tribal leaders in direct contact with the federal government.

Looking ahead, on May 2nd, we have our 3rd Annual Event for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. This event serves as a space for remembrance and raising awareness for our community, which has been deeply affected by this epidemic. I invite you to join myself and other presenters at the Health and Human Services Building, where there will be medicine bag crafts, T-shirts, activities for kids, information and resources, and a giveaway.

Miigwech!

TRIBAL WILLS from page 1

You will have plenty of time to ask questions. The law student will write up all of the documents, and have them checked by a licensed attorney. On the second day, when the documents are ready, you will come back for the signing ceremony, which will take at least an hour, as the law student goes over everything to be sure that it is right.

Why Write a Will?

Federal law includes provisions that say how Indian Trust Lands pass after a Tribal Member passes on.

Over time, parcels may have been split into hundreds of small shares as Indian Trust Land, passed from generation to generation. This process is called “fractionation.”

A federal law, A.I.P.R.A., is now attempting to decrease fractionation by providing that most Indian Trust Land will go only to the one oldest descendant — unless the owner writes a will.

To make sure that your Trust Land, and other important items of property go to the people you want to have that property, you should write a will.

If you have any questions, or to make an appointment, call Tabatha Boyd at 320-364-9539.



SAVE THE DATE!

**ADOPT-A-SHORELINE /
REZ-ROAD**

CLEAN UP

DISTRICT 3 CLEAN UP: 05/14/2024
DISTRICT 2 CLEAN UP: 05/16/2024
DISTRICT 1 & D2A CLEAN UP: 05/17/2024

WANT MORE DETAILS? FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK (FACEBOOK.COM/MLBDNR) FOR THE LATEST UPDATES AS THEY COME OUT OR EMAIL ALYSSA.WELSH@MILLELACSBAND.COM

GRA UPDATE

OVERVIEW OF THE GRA LICENSING DIVISION

The Licensing Division of the Band's Gaming Regulatory Authority is responsible for implementing the licensing and exclusion functions in accordance with Tribal Statutes, State Compacts, and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, through cooperation with the National Indian Gaming Commission and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Anyone who is employed at, or does business with, either casino must have a license prior to beginning employment or providing a service. The Licensing Department consists of three Background Investigators, one Licensing Specialist, one Community Liaison and one Licensing Director. The Team receives licensing requests for employee gaming licenses and vendor licenses and conducts the background investigations for each request. Depending on the level of the license being issued, they may also take fingerprints to be submitted to the State of Minnesota or the FBI for additional criminal history records checks. The background investigation also consists of public records checks through various courts websites, State of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension website and a third-party background site. Licensing applicants also need to submit at least three reliable references which the Investigators will contact for character reference. It is important to provide references who can be contacted, as delays in receiving responses from your references will delay your background investigation, and, subsequently, delay the determination of your license.

Once Investigators have received all the information they need, a determination is made whether to approve or deny the license request. One of the tools Tribal Statutes allow us to use to get people to work faster is the issuance of a Temporary Gaming License. This is issued within 3-4 days generally, if the applicant has not disclosed any information on their application that could be potentially disqualifying. The Temporary Gaming License is valid until the GRA Board approves or denies the final license. All Employee Gaming License requests are submitted to the GRA Board for final approval. Class B, A, and PMO license requests also must be submitted to NIGC, which can issue an objection to any of those requests if they have information that indicates the individual is not fit to hold a gaming license. However, all license decisions are referred to

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

the GRA Board for final approval or denial, and they make the final determination. Detailed Gaming Regulations 7, 7a, and 7b explain the licensing and background process in further detail and are a great resource to learn more about the requirements for each license class. We encourage you to read through these DGRs if you have any questions about your eligibility to obtain a gaming license.

Tribes are also required to maintain a list of excluded individuals. Individuals submitted for exclusion will receive notice via certified mail. This notice will include the reason for the exclusion as well as a hearing date for when the request for exclusion will be presented to and heard by the GRA Board. Individuals being submitted for exclusion are encouraged to attend these hearings on their own behalf and may also choose to be represented by an attorney. Individuals already on the exclusion list can request a review of their exclusion for the purpose of having it lifted. A hearing is scheduled in front of the GRA Board for these requests as well and individuals requesting a review are highly encouraged to attend on their own behalf. Once the GRA Board hears from both sides, a decision is made to accept, amend, or deny the recommendation to lift the exclusion or remain excluded. Additional information regarding exclusions can be found on the GRA website below.

Anyone who disagrees with a GRA Board decision regarding exclusion or a license denial can appeal the decision through the GRA appeal process or directly to the Central Court. DGR 2 explains the appeal process in further detail. The Licensing Division helps to ensure that the GRA achieves its mission by protecting the casino and the Band through ensuring that only reputable individuals are employed or contracted to work or provide services to the casinos. It also ensures that the general public's trust in the casino is not violated by questionable or criminal behavior by internal or external actors. For additional information on the GRA, refer to Title 15 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes or the GRA website at millelacsband.com/government/indian-gaming-regulation. The website will also have forms to request hearings or other licensing requests, as well as contact information for the Licensing Division.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Band Assembly Meeting April 10, 2024

The Speaker of the Assembly continued the meeting of the Band Assembly from Friday, March 22, 2024.

The District Representatives amended and approved the agenda.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-26-24 (A bill authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/ transfers) for the Executive and Legislative Branches for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025).

Messages from the District Representatives:

District I Representative Virgil Wind said thank you to partnerships and hard conversations we have had as an Assembly and the work we have done together as an Assembly. He said he appreciates you all and he's sure we will have conversations regarding that going forward.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd congratulated Chief Executive Elect Wind. He discussed the sessions of Band Assembly and how they account for these changes in power. He noted that the Band Assembly session will end on April 30, 2024, and the Assembly will be out of session until the 2nd Tuesday in July when the new session will begin with a new person in the District I Representative's seat.

When the new session begins, the agenda will have no old business and that's so the new Representative coming in won't have any business from previous Representative, he said. That's how that works, these sessions are built for the changes in power and how it applies during these times, he added.

Band Assembly Meeting April 15, 2024

The Speaker of the Assembly continued the meeting of the Band Assembly from Friday, March 22, 2024.

Band Assembly conducted a continued compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 19-24 enacting a bill of appropriation for governmental operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Gaming Regulatory Authority; Department of Athletic Regulation; Supplemental Income Program for Elders; Tribal Employment Rights Office; and Band Member Legal Services of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal years ending September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025. The hearing commenced at 1:30 p.m. with an opening statement by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and District II Representative Wendy Merrill. Following the opening statements there was a comment from District I Representative Virgil Wind.

Further comments were made by Representative Virgil Wind, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, and District II Representative Wendy Merrill. The continued compromise hearing will be scheduled. The compromise hearing was closed at 2:11 p.m.

The next Band Assembly meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 10 a.m. The official review of the Legislative Branch weekly update was not available as of press time.

GRAND MARKET CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



Wewinabi, Inc. is excited to share that the Grand Market is celebrating its 20-year anniversary!

We sincerely thank all our valued customers for their unwavering support throughout these two decades. Please join us from May 20 to May 24, 2024, as we commemorate two decades of serving our community with quality products and exceptional service. It's been an incredible journey, and your support has been instrumental in our success.

Leading up to the anniversary, please look for weekly specials starting in early May. Additionally, watch for a display near the produce section highlighting special discounts and exciting raffle prizes. You need not be present to win a prize; please include a good contact number.



Reflecting on these last two decades, we eagerly anticipate the years to come. Thank you all for being an integral part of our story. Chi miigwech for 20 incredible years.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

TCB's 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees Announced:

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin is among the list of the 2024 TCB Hall of Fame inductees. These six individuals join a long list of esteemed Minnesota business leaders who have been inducted into the Minnesota Business Hall of Fame over the last 20-plus years. Their names are displayed on a wall at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. The 2024 inductees will be featured in the June/July issue of Twin Cities Business and honored at an event at the McNamara Alumni Center on July 23. Source: *Twin Cities Business*.

Work still to be done on American Indian education in Brainerd:

The American Indian Parent Advisory Committee once again issued the Brainerd School Board a vote of nonconcurrency. Some steps were taken over the last year, but there's still work to be done on American Indian education efforts at Brainerd Public Schools. The American Indian Parent Advisory Committee once again issued the Brainerd School Board a vote of nonconcurrency, meaning the district is not aligned with the committee's vision for American Indian education. The annual vote is a requirement under state statute to meet the needs of Native American students. At the School Board meeting Monday, April 8, committee members issued a new set of recommendations for the upcoming year, after thanking district leaders for the work that has been done and presenting Superintendent Heidi Hahn with a handmade quilt as she prepares to end her tenure with the district in June. Committee member Michele Berger, who has two foster nephews who live with her and attend Brainerd Public Schools, said she appreciated seeing tribal flags from sovereign nations on display at the high school. "My nephew came from a tribal school to Brainerd High School, and upon walking in, for him to see all those (flags), he said he got goosebumps. He got swelled up with pride, and that is the kind of thing we were going for," Berger said. "So to hear that from him directly was wonderful for me." Source: *Brainerd Dispatch*.

Minnesota Sports Betting Chances Dim As Track Sues Tribes:

The battle over Minnesota sports betting legislation took a contentious turn this week as a horse racing track took legal aim at several tribal casinos. Running Aces Casino, Hotel & Racetrack announced Tuesday it filed a lawsuit in the US District Court for the District of Minnesota against three Minnesota tribal casinos for violating the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, through illegal card games. The lawsuit follows a bill introduced this month in the legislature that outlaws historical horse racing (HHR) at the tracks. Rep. Zack Stephenson's legislation is based on tribal opposition to a recent Minnesota Racing Commission decision that would allow HHR at the tracks beginning this summer. These developments come as the horse racing tracks and tribes are at the center of the legislative Minnesota sports betting negotiations. The Minnesota legislative session adjourns May 20. Source: *Legal Sports Report*.

DELEGATE UPDATE

CONSTITUTION REFORM DELEGATE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

The Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band Reform Constitution Reform Delegation Committee released a report on the organization known as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and its Constitution. The committee is providing the Mille Lacs Band members a review of this report, which will be broken into five sections over the next five months. The first two sections to be reviewed this month are the Executive Summary and Background Information.

Let it be known these are the opinions and views of the Mille Lacs Band Delegate Committee only and do not represent the views of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The report may not be cited as a statement of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's position or viewpoint on any matter discussed within the report or summary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After extensive research the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band Constitution Reform Delegation Committee released a report revealing they have determined that the MCT and its Constitution are not a matter of Mille Lacs Band law or any other tribal law but instead, they were created through United States law. Because of this, they determined the foundation of their work as they reviewed the MCT Constitution must be supported by the Mille Lacs Band's sovereignty and self-determination efforts and opportunities.

Their examination of many documents led them to a number of significant points.

Sovereignty is the foundation of this report because the true source of the Band's sovereignty is the people. The committee believes the people determine the direction and power given to the people's government. The committee also emphasizes the importance of protecting, preserving, and advancing sovereignty for the people's continued existence under United States law.

According to their research, the Delegate Committee has concluded that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is not an "Indian Tribe" since it was created by the United States Secretary of Interior in 1936 by including six tribes under the umbrella of the MCT. The committee questions the Mille Lacs Band's association with an organization that is erroneously believed to be an "Indian Tribe" and lacks a solid foundation in United States law.

The Federal Register lists Indian Tribal Entities, not "federally recognized Indian Tribes." The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is listed as an Indian Tribal Entity consisting of six reservations — not Bands or Indian Tribes. This is significant as reservations are not political entities but rather merely geographical locations. The Federal Register states that being listed on the Federal Register is a condition of eligibility for services and funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It does not establish the political relationship between the U.S. and Indian Tribes.

The Delegate Committee affirms that amending the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe does not fix the legal problems underpinning the creation of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act. It can't fix the problem that membership in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is based on the Nelson Act's Permanent Roll and not based on being a person of Indian descent, or the offspring of a person of Indian descent, or some percentage of Indian blood.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On February 8, 2017, Resolution 41-17 was passed by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) to develop a curriculum regarding the Revised Constitution's history, development, and bylaws.

In June 2017, the Tribal Executive Committee of the organization known as the MCT agreed to hold three Constitutional Convention meetings throughout the state in August, September, and October of 2017. The TEC called for the Constitutional Convention to address several critical concerns within the MCT document adopted in 1936 and revised in 1964. For example, the current MCT Constitution reflects the United States' influence on many early Indigenous constitutions after the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA). They offered a model for Native Nations to organize that often conflicted with their own governing traditions.

From April 27, 2018, through October 30, 2018, the TEC revamped its approach by discontinuing the Constitutional Conventions and instead moved to initiate six Constitution Delegation committees. The six Delegations would represent Bois Forte, Fond Du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs Band, and White Earth Tribes. The six Delegations representing the Constitution Reform Delegation Committee would meet regularly and recommend revisions to the current MCT Constitution. No guidelines or timelines were established before the initiation of the Delegation Committees.

The Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band Constitution Reform Delegation Committee was officially formed on December 13, 2018, consisting of ten Delegates. The areas represented are District I, District II, District IIa, District III, and the Urban Area.

The first step taken as a committee was to identify the priorities they needed to address before making any recommendations to revise the Constitution. First and foremost, the Committee decided it was necessary to learn the MCT's history and thoroughly understand the legal opportunities and limitations surrounding this Constitution.

The first educational session was conducted on July 1, 2019. During this session, they reviewed the chronological history of the Mille Lacs Band and the U.S. Government.

A more extensive educational session was conducted on March 20, 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this session was interrupted and not completed. The educational sessions resumed via video conference and continued between February 2021 and July 2021, with the final in-person session between October 12, 2021, and October 14, 2021.

The Committee continues to meet regularly. In addition, the Committee will conduct educational presentations on this Analysis Report providing updates on the work being conducted, what has been completed, and what work lies ahead.

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS from page 1 eligible voters casting a ballot in the District I Representative race.

While the voter turnout appears to be a low percentage of eligible voters, turnout was still relatively average across the Reservation.

Election results by the numbers

Chief Executive Candidates

Candidate Name	Total Ballots
Samuel Moose	303
Wally St. John	19
Virgil Wind	667



Carolyn Beaulieu (left) and Valerie Harrington-Wind (right) advance to the General Election on June 11, 2024.



District I Representative

Candidate Name	Total Ballots
Valerie Harrington-Wind	179
Megan Ballinger	68
Melissa Boyd	68
Carolyn Beaulieu	176
Curt Kalk	94
Billie Jo Boyd	47

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES SUGAR MAPLE CROSSING



Ground breaking ceremony for the Sugar Maple Crossing workforce housing development in Hinckley held on Friday, March 29, 2024.

Bridging the Gap in Hinckley's Workforce Housing Supply

By Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

The pressing need for quality workforce housing in Minnesota has reached a critical juncture. In response to this demand, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) broke ground today on its third workforce housing development in Hinckley, Minnesota — Sugar Maple Crossing. This development will help alleviate the housing strain in Hinckley and support the local workforce.

Sugar Maple Crossing will have 40 units with 10 one-bedroom and 20 two-bedroom apartments and 10 three-bedroom townhomes, each featuring one or two baths. The development includes a solar array roof, premium finishes, state-of-the-art stainless-steel appliances, centralized laundry facilities, and a versatile meeting room equipped with a kitchenette. The development will also have outdoor community areas, including a community garden, covered picnic shelter, firepit, half-court basketball area, picnic tables and benches, enhanced playground equipment, and a walking trail, elevating the overall quality of life for its residents.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Dustin Goslin, MLCV's VP of Business and Economic Development, shared that this project is tailored for the middle class. "Sugar Maple Crossing takes care of the 'Missing Middle' in housing development," he shared. "For this development, we opted not to utilize tax credits, which generally target lower-income households, or a market-rate approach, aimed at higher-income bracket households."

MLCV's CEO, Joe Nayquonabe, has underscored the necessity of developments like Sugar Maple Crossing, highlighting the all-too-common reality of individuals having to seek housing an hour or more away due to the lack of affordable options nearby.

In Hinckley specifically, the average commuter travels 30-50 miles for a one-way commute, resulting in approximately ninety minutes in transit daily. This commute not only drains time but also diminishes the quality of life for individuals and families alike.

"Workforce Housing will bring in a lively workforce, help entrepreneurs thrive, keep young families around, and maintain a strong community," said Nayquonabe.

Sugar Maple Crossing also represents a vital collaboration between local and tribal governmental entities. With support from the Mille Lacs Band, particularly from District III Representative Harry Davis, whose District encompasses the project area, the imperative for quality workforce housing in Hinckley is needed.

"A strong workforce helps area businesses — including the Mille Lacs Band's businesses, which support the ability to provide essential programs and services to tribal members," said Harry Davis, District III Representative of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. "Affordable housing isn't just a matter of shelter; it's crucial for the workforce. There are a lot of individuals that struggle with housing instability due to increased living costs."

Additional support was also shared from the City of Hinckley, "We are so fortunate that Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures has been able to develop these projects," said Don Zeman, Mayor of Hinckley. "When you add 40 apartments to the city of Hinckley, that's a big deal."

Through projects like Sugar Maple Crossing, MLCV invests in its business communities and supports the workforce to keep each community thriving.



Artist rendering of the future Sugar Maple Crossing housing development.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

In Indian Country, federal budget dysfunction takes a toll: The annual Reservation Economic Summit brings thousands of tribal leaders to Las Vegas. This year, a lot of them were breathing easy for the first time in a while. Two days before the summit began and just hours before a March deadline, Congress passed the first of two packages to fund the government through September. In many tribal communities, everything from police and fire departments to medical clinics to K-12 schools are paid for with federal dollars. That's because of the United States' trust and treaty obligations to tribal nations. That also means those nations' yearly budgets and economic fates are entangled with the federal government's at a time when Congress has struggled to pass spending bills on time. Melanie Benjamin is chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and board secretary with the Native American Finance Officers Association. She said provisions laid out in treaties between tribal nations and the United States are protected by the constitution.

"In today's terms, those are contracts and they're valid. They're the supreme law of the land. When you're in a shutdown, how are you supposed to uphold that contract?" Benjamin said. Source: *Marketplace.org*.

When Trump Said, "They Don't Look Like Indians to Me: On March 6, 2024, The New York Times wrote: "Polling suggests voters' views on Mr. Trump's policies and his presidency have improved in the rearview mirror. In interviews, voters often have a hazy recall of one of the most tumultuous periods in modern politics." The amnesia includes the short-term memories Americans have about what happened on January 6th when Trump encouraged his followers to march up to the U.S. Capitol to get then Vice President Mike Pence to certify the election for Trump even though he lost the 2020 presidential election. Recently, Melanie Benjamin made the keynote address at the Indian Gaming Association 2024 Tradeshow and Convention in Anaheim. Benjamin, who has raised billions of dollars for her tribe during her leadership, chose not to run for reelection this year. Her topic was the future of Indian gaming. She said in order to look ahead, you must look behind because history has a way of repeating itself. You have to ask: "When or where will the next attack come?" To drive home her point about threats to gaming, Benjamin showed a clip from a U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources hearing from 1993 where Donald Trump was the key witness. That day Trump expressed his opposition to Indian gaming focusing on his opinion that 1988 Indian Regulatory Act had given the tribes an unfair advantage over his two own gaming enterprises that he soon thereafter sent into bankruptcy. During the testimony, Trump had a fiery exchange with the committee's chairman, George Miller (D-CA): Chairman Miller: Is this you discussing Indian blood: "We are going to judge people by whether they have Indian blood," whether they are qualified to run a gaming casino or not?

Trump: That probably is me, absolutely, because I'll tell you what, if you look — if you look at some of the reservations that you have approved—you, sir, in your great wisdom, have approved— will tell you right now, they don't look like Indians to me, and they don't look like Indians. Source: *Native News Online*, Opinion of Levi Rickert.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2024 WILDFIRE SEASON IS IN FULL SWING

"Only YOU can prevent forest fires." — Smokey Bear

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

Wildland fires spread quickly and can easily grow out of control in a matter of minutes and destroy hundreds to thousands of acres of everything in its path, including woodlands, homes, and infrastructure. The Mille Lacs Band DNR Wildland crew is prepared to help mitigate that threat. The Wildland crew is a highly trained group of individuals prepared to battle the blazes should sparks begin to fly.

The Mille Lacs Band Wildland service area is currently in moderate drought conditions. The latest snowfall that occurred in April and recent rains have helped but have not gotten us completely out of drought conditions. According to the DNR, typically about 80% of fires in Minnesota burn in April and May after the snow melts and before vegetation begins to leaf out, otherwise known as green-up. But this year, everything is ahead of schedule.

Due to lack of snow during the past winter and continued drought conditions brought on by lack of rain last summer and fall, much of Minnesota is experiencing various levels of drought. Drought conditions mean there is less fuel moisture and that fuels dry out faster creating higher potential for wildfire and more severe fire conditions. Low fuel moisture also means that larger fuels ignite more easily.

With less fuel moisture and faster drying out of fuels, the risk of wildfires increases. That means the Wildland crews typically do not respond to out-of-area fires, focusing only on the Mille Lacs Community and ensuring proper resources are available.

Last year, the wildland crews responded to 13 recorded fires in the area, with eight reported since January 1, 2024. "We started to see fires in late February this year. Most years we wouldn't see fires until mid to late March," Jake Horbacz,

Forester of the DNR Wildlands Program said. "We have provided aide on fires as well.

The Mille Lacs Wildland fire program also assists the Bureau of Indian Affairs in fighting wildfires across the country as well as providing assistance to local fire events as needed.

To prepare for emergencies, people should keep their yards clean and avoid burning debris on dry windy days.

Below is a link to fire wise information homeowners can use to better prepare and prevent wildfires near their homes:

- <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/wildfire/preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

Band members can contact the DNR office for a wildfire home safety risk assessment. This would include some specific actions that could be taken by home owners to reduce wildfire risk to property.

The recent rains are giving us some reprieve and ushering in green-up. There are still a lot of areas that are of significant wildfire risk. As of now we still have moderate drought conditions but if we continue to see consistent rainfall this spring and summer, we can hopefully get out of these drought conditions.

Pay close attention when the Minnesota DNR issues a Red Flag warning. A Red Flag Warning means fires can spread quickly and easily progress out of control under the current weather conditions, including strong wind gusts and low relative humidity. Residents should not burn in counties where a Red Flag Warning is in effect and should check any recent burning they may have done to ensure the fire is completely out. The DNR will not issue or activate open burning permits for large vegetative debris burning during the Red Flag Warning, and campfires are discouraged.

"Any spark could become a wildfire under Red Flag conditions," said Karen Harrison, DNR wildfire prevention specialist.



Inaajimowin file photos by Vivian LaMoore.

Red Flag Warnings are evolving situations. Visit the National Weather Service, ([weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)) for updates.

And remember, Smokey Bear says, "Only you can prevent forest fires."

"HOW THE BIRDS GOT THEIR SONGS"

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

Travis Zimmerman is the site manager for the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post. Zimmerman grew up listening to the stories told by his Elders that had been handed down generation after generation. Over time, these stories from our Elders vanish if you don't record them or if you don't write them down. Then what will happen to them? They just disappear like pencil markings on paper. Zimmerman has published his first book in an effort to honor his relatives and preserve their stories for future generations.

"My great grandma, Josephine (Drouillard) Zimmerman, told the story to my dad, who told it to me," Zimmerman said. "My dad wrote a lot of these stories down. The stories were written in pencil, so they were literally starting to disappear off the pages. So, this is really about preserving that story. I wanted to pay tribute to my dad, who is now 83 years old. I wanted to get the story published so that he could enjoy it."

Zimmerman partnered with his cousin Sam Zimmerman, who is an artist with a studio in Duluth. Sam Zimmerman beautifully illustrated "How the Birds Got their Songs."

The book is dedicated to the all of the Zimmerman and Drouillard relatives.

This treasured story, handed down through the Zimmerman family, features traditional knowledge from the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Grand Portage direct descendant Sam Zimmerman's vibrant illustrations showcase his deep love and respect for feathered creatures. And Marcus Ammesmaki's Ojibwemowin text brings the story full circle, en-

couraging language learners to explore this age-old depiction of our natural world—and inviting all readers to cherish the gift of birdsong.

The story is about when Mother Earth was very young. The Great Spirit noticed how quiet everything was. So the Great Spirit held a contest so that each bird could earn the song that was just right for its species. He called together all the birds, from the smallest sparrow to the largest hawk, and told them the plan. Each would fly as high in the sky as it could, and when it returned to Mother Earth it would receive its song.

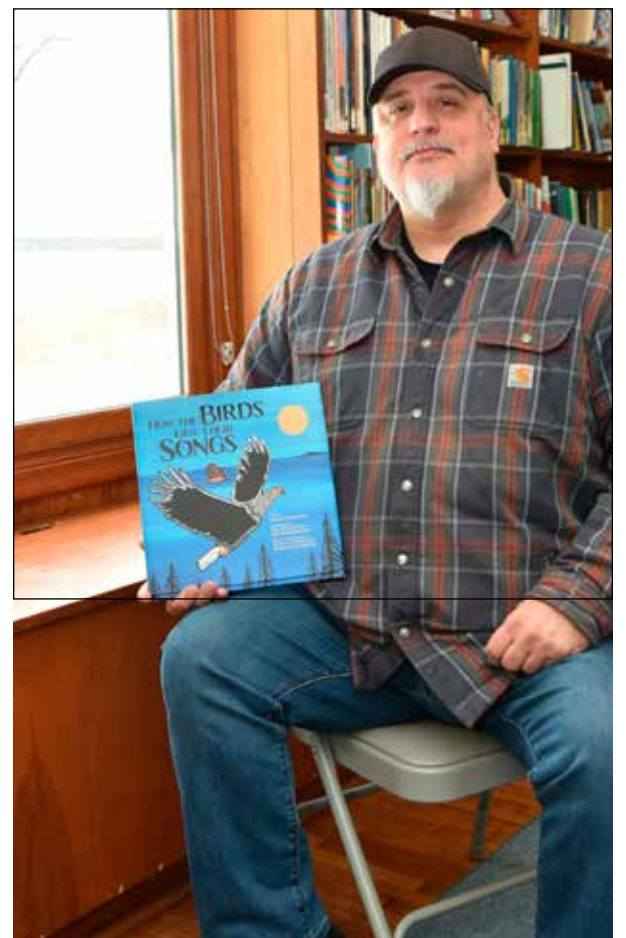
Eagle was certain his strong wings would help him fly highest of all and earn the prettiest song. But he did not know that, while the Great Spirit was talking, the tiny hermit thrush had snuggled into eagle's feathers to take a nap.

All the birds flew and flew, higher and higher, each descending to receive its own special song from the Great Spirit. But which bird flew the highest? Which one received the prettiest song?

The publication date is set for May 7. The books will be sold in bookstores everywhere on the usual online websites (Amazon, Bookshop, and more) and on the Historical Society website: <https://shop.mnhs.org/products/how-the-birds-got-their-songs-bilingual-edition>

People can pre-order copies online now and they will ship out closer to the publication date.

Watch for details of book signings with one scheduled at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum for August 18.



Travis Zimmerman Photo by Vivian LaMoore.



Fostering his philosophy of community connection beyond the Reservation, Virgil Wind as the District I Representative spoke about “connecting our communities” at the Garrison VFW 50th Anniversary celebration, summer of 2023. The Mille Lacs Band color guard and jingle dancers were invited to participate in the event.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ELECT VIRGIL WIND from page 1

handshake and a hello or a long talk about some issue that we are facing, people want to know — they have to know that they are valued. Whether you are a Harvard grad or an addict who needs help, there is a comfort for people in knowing they can come to me with any woes, and we will do the best we can. Being truly fair to people and I don't lie. It is one of the things that makes me who I am.”

Wind plans to focus on bringing that mindset into the Chief Executive office. “I always believe you should speak your truth and do what you believe in and not change with the direction of the wind.”

“Heart, passion, ethics, character, empathy, and more play” a part in his belief of servant leadership, he said. He hopes to represent the Mille Lacs Band on all levels whether it is in government-to-government relationships or one-to-one with someone in need; he is determined to bring that philosophy into his new role to “lead with inspiration and not fear.”

As he exits his role as District I Representative, he is leaving a legacy of connection for the District I community. Wind has spent the last four years as the District I Representative where his focus was not only on the legislative process, laws, and policies, but he also held a firm belief in creating a strong sense of community and connection. He understands that each District is a distinctively different community with unique needs he will move forward in a manner to ensure the Band government is addressing those needs distinctively. With that,

he hopes to focus on fostering a sense of community across all districts and throughout the Tribe as a whole. He discussed his role as being a conduit between government and the people in order to align the Band members with the programs, services, and grants that they need.

Having won the election in the primary is a great advantage when it comes to transitioning into the new role as Chief Executive, he said. Having 90 days to prepare in lieu of 30 days, will offer opportunity for a smooth transition, and he will be able to prepare for putting key players into place before taking office.

He additionally discussed the challenges and priorities of a newly elected official and building competent teams to be able to focus on the issues. The first 30 to 100 days in office will be spent learning and assessing the position and building a strong team. He plans to have a strong focus on education that will benefit all of the youth. He is determined to establish a detox center and enhanced services to address the opioid epidemic. He will also emphasize programs to help break the cycle of addiction.

Wind outlined his mission to build a stronger relationship between the government and its citizens over the next four years with the support of his family, the communities, and all of the people of the Mille Lacs Band. He holds fast to his “commitment to fairness, truth, and connection,” thanking his supporters for their confidence, and expressed his determination to continue serving the people of the Mille Lacs Band.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.



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 Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., and the Men's Empowerment Group meets Mondays at 5:30 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.

UP COMING PET CLINIC SCHEDULE

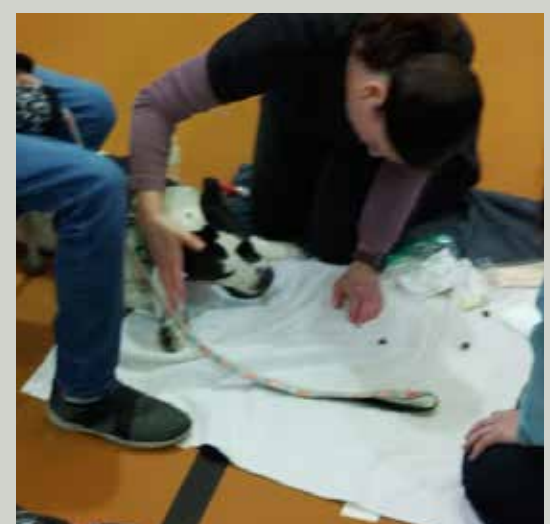
District II East Lake Minisnakwang Pet Clinic on Sunday, May 5, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

District Ila Chiminising Pet Clinic at the Community Center Saturday, May 18, 2024, (wellness only) 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, May 19, 2024, (surgery and wellness) 9 am - 2 pm

Urban Area Pet Clinic — October 2024

District I Pet Clinic — November 2024

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.



SPOTLIGHT ON READING

3-YEAR-OLD WEWINABE STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN THE '1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN' CHALLENGE

Photos and story by Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

"I wholeheartedly believe that introducing books is one of the best (and easiest!) parenting moves I've made," said Jamie Rancor, mother of a 3-year-old girl who is on track to read 1,000 books before kindergarten.

Antonelle (Toni) is an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band and a student at Wewinabi. Jamie has worked for Health and Human Services since the fall of 2011 including four years in Family Services. She has lived in the Mille Lacs area most of her life.

On a bright sunny spring day, Toni and Jamie were in the Isle public library in the children's section. Toni waddled through the library and suddenly crouched down to the floor level shelf. "This one is good book!" She exclaimed in a tiny soft voice, picking out a book with a colorful cover, quickly stuffing it into her "pack-pack."

"Do you want to check that one out?" Mom said. "Yes!" Toni's eyes lit up as she exclaimed and instantly continued down the aisle to select another book. Opening the pages to the book, she asks her mom, "What is this boy name?"

Jamie has always read books to Toni, but she started participating in "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" through the local East Central Regional Library in Isle. She started this challenge around Halloween, and as of late April, they have read 613 books and are at 88 days of consecutive reading, Jamie said.

As remarkable as that total number of books is, what Jamie has noticed is the significant improvement in Toni's vocabulary and comprehension. Not only that, but reading together creates a fun time for closeness and togetherness with family members. Toni loves to read with "Grandma, papa, and momma," Toni said.

"She enjoys doing it, too," Jamie said. "I love the education piece, but as a family it is great bonding time. She actually prefers reading to screentime."

The family often makes trips to museums such as the Historical Society, the Children's Museum, the Science Museum, and the Bell Museum. The museum trips are often followed by a trip to the library where Toni will pick out books that correspond to the museum the visit. "She loves to go to museums. Recently, we checked out a book about mammoths after visiting the Bell Museum, and now she talks about museums and mammoths all the time."

Reading is a magical way to spark creativity and open the windows of endless imagination. Reading with young children can enhance brain development and develop a skill they will



Three-year-old Toni and her mom, Jamie Rancor, get comfortable on the floor at the Isle public library. Toni picked out a book about bears to bring home to read.



Three-year-old Wewinabe student checks out books with her own library card. Toni is participating in the 1000 Books before Kindergarten challenge.

use for the rest of their lives. Studies have shown that children who are exposed to reading prior to preschool tend to develop larger vocabularies and are more likely to succeed during their formal education.

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is a reading program designed to help caregivers prepare children for success in kindergarten. Children get ready to read years before they begin formal education. The most effective way to help children in your life is to read to them. This program is designed to encourage that endeavor.

"In my opinion, the most important benefits of reading to children are the togetherness it provides with our loved ones and connection to the larger world. The academic benefits follow," said Caroline Avaire, Isle Branch Librarian, Mille Lacs Lake and Milaca Community Libraries.

Getting started is easy. Create a family account in Beanstack and enroll in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge. Access Beanstack by visiting eclib.beanstack.org to view the desktop version, or download the Beanstack Tracker app on your smart phone or tablet.

How it works:

Keep track of books read to the child in your life. Books can be read by parents, grandparents, teachers, siblings — anyone! You can even count their favorite book each and every time it's read.

Prizes are earned for every 100 books read. You will receive a Beanstack badge telling you when you have earned a prize. To claim the prize, simply visit the East Central Regional Library branch of your choice.

"The app is really cool because it motivates you to keep going," Jamie said. "I like the accountability, too."

The 1000 Books Foundation is a Nevada 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity which operates the nationwide (and in Canada) 1000 Books Before Kindergarten early literacy challenge. The challenge was designed to help parents and caregivers give

young children the confidence to become strong readers and successful in school and life.

"We are happy to hear that we have students accessing books outside of school with their families!" said Tricia Thomas, Head Start Services Coordinator at Mille Lacs Early Education. MLEE encourages families to read to their children daily. They also incorporate a reading challenge, "Drop Everything and Read," annually, which encourages families to read at home and get rewarded at the end of the challenge.

"We provide our community books during every State of the Band address," Thomas said. "We recently acquired a grant that allowed us to receive a Free Little Library that is in the front of the Wewinabi Early Education building. One of the benefits of reading

to children is having a cherished bonding experience while learning words and language that can be expanded for many years to come."

Toni is developing a love for books and reading, not to mention a love of going to the library. "She wants to go to the library all the time," Jamie said. "Almost every day, she asks, 'can we go to the library today?' and is heartbroken when we can't go. She even has her own library card she carries in her own purse."

The family loves to visit the library to read stories and check out books and activity pack-packs to bring home. Toni especially enjoys story time on Saturdays.

Jamie reads to Toni several times a day and before bedtime. "Since we have been reading to her more, she will tell us the stories and tell us what is happening on the pages. In such a short period of time, reading has really made a difference in her vocabulary, and her imaginative play is at a completely different level — it's like day and night. I swear it is all because of the books. Whether she is playing by herself, or with others, she has such a huge imagination. And it is growing all the time."

Libraries are full of ideas. Check out your local public library in Isle, Onamia, and beyond. It's never too late to experience the magical world of books.

"THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW. THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO."

—DR. SEUSS, "I CAN READ WITH MY EYES SHUT!"

EARLY SEASON FISHING SETTING THE HOOK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

By Mashkodebishikigahbaw, Benji Sam



Lucas Faue, nephew to the author, hoisting a beautiful ogaa that fed his family early in the spring of 2023 caught on a jig and minnow fished slowly in 8-10 feet of water.

As the spearing and netting season begins to wrap up and fish are no longer as plentiful in shallow water for gathering in mass quantities, the early ogaa (walleye) fishing at and after the state fishing opener can still be found in great numbers if you know where to look.

Ogaa are a very predictable species driven by many factors that affect their behavior such as water temperature, wind speed and direction, and available food sources to them. This combination makes them predictable and ultimately susceptible to harvest early in the year. Ogaa are driven by the biological clock built from nose to tail to be in the shallows cruising the rocky, sandy, and gravel shorelines that offer quick access to deeper water and high abundance of baitfish to feed their massive appetite after the spawn.

Ogaa are known to spawn and inhabit depths of 8 feet or less on Mille Lacs Lake in the springtime and generally begin to spawn when the water begins to warm up between 38-44 degrees. Ogaa will continue to spawn until the water reaches nearly 50 degrees or until all the females have laid their eggs to begin the lifecycle of the next generation of Ogaa. During this timeframe, their number-one priority is to reproduce, and catching these fish can sometimes be a difficult task that requires slow-moving baits like a jig and minnow, shallow-diving crankbaits that resemble perch, or reactionary baits like jerk baits or jig and plastic fished more aggressively.

When the water is cold, sub 50 degrees, these fish prefer to eat up shallow around the golden hours of sunrise and sunset but can be found near the shoreline breaks near sand, rock, or gravel awaiting an easy feast. When the water begins to rise above 50 degrees in the daytime, these fish will become more active and look to recover from the last few weeks of spawning and expending a significant amount of energy. When the water begins to warm, they will begin to bite throughout multiple hours of the day and will slide off the edge of shoreline structures in 10-18 feet of water.

From the early evening until darkness falls, Mille Lacs shines — the primary tactic to boat dozens of beautiful Ogaa will always be fishing a minnow or leech under a bobber. Start the year up shallow in 8 feet of water, or less on windblown shorelines, and work deeper as the summer drags on and the fish begin to migrate out to the mud flats and deeper water. Bobber fishing is the number one most tried and true Ogaa catching method used from beginners to guides across the Big Pond. Watching a bobber sink as the sun sets will always be

one of the most exciting and effective fishing tactics to target this sacred species. I prefer using a slip bobber set up to a small jig and leech 12-18" off the bottom on a spinning rod and reel with 10-pound monofilament line. This offers enough abrasion resistance while maintaining enough strength to handle an occasional northern pike cruising shallow water.

This is also the same timeframe when the smallmouth bass begin their ascent into the shallows looking for a place to make their beds. Once the water gets between 55 and 60 degrees, they will spawn near boulders, docks, weed and reed edges, and under deadfall to protect their young-of-the-year hatchlings. Smallmouth bass offer a unique thrill as one of the finest fighting fish in fresh water, and Mille Lacs Lake is one of the premier smallmouth bass fisheries in the world. Pre-spawn these fish will begin to move up into 6-10 feet of water near most rocky boulder-littered shorelines and prominent reeds that offer safety near the spawn. Fish will be most active on jerk baits, hair jigs, and finesse rigs such as Ned Rigs, tube jigs, and imitation crayfish soft plastics which makes up 80% of their annual diet.

It is important to respect the fishery in front of us and to remember that these fish are very susceptible to heavy pressure with sport fishing and tournament fishing during the spawn that pressures a significant amount of the walleye and smallmouth populations in Mille Lacs Lake. As stewards of the lake and advocates for the water, the health of the lake, and ultimately a healthy economy around Mille Lacs Lake, we owe the fish and the spirit of the lake our respect today and every day.



EDUCATION BRIEFS

MN COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION VISITS NAY

Minnesota Commissioner of Education Willie Jett visited Nay Ah Shing Schools the first week in April, 2024. He toured the elementary and middle/high school, met with school leaders, and engaged with students. The school, in partnership with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, provides educational opportunities rooted in the Ojibwe culture and language.



Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

BAND MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DAY DAYZ ON DECK

MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER HIP HOP ARTIST

By Mashkodebzhikigahbaw, Benji Sam

Everywhere you look, there is music around us. The very fabric of the world is built around sounds and interactions between musical instruments. Some of those natural instruments might be rustling of leaves in the wind, the calmness of flowing water against shoreline rocks, or birds singing in unison across the forest around us. The Ojibwe have always held music in a special place as our own cultural practices revolve around teachings of the drum in ceremony and celebration. Through the years, that musical dream has changed for some more than others, and has taken many people on their own journey through life.

One individual who is beginning to open his wings and is prepared to fly is District I Band member Eldayshun Big Bear, better known as Day Dayz to his community and followers. What started as hobby, creating beats and rapping with his brother and friends, has now turned into performing on larger stages in the world of music. "I've been into music my whole life, and I've been writing lyrics since I was about 16 years old," said Big Bear. "My friends and family used to ask when I would start taking it seriously, and here we are."

Like many young artists, Big Bear attributes the help of his loved ones and his community upbringing for his success. "When I decided I wanted to really give music a try, I approached my big brother, Todd, because I knew he would give me the tough love I needed to hear, and he loved it. That's when I knew I could do something with this and until this day, he's a huge reason for my success," Big Bear said.

Releasing new music on a regular basis is often a complaint of many mainstream artists around the world and writing music consistently while finding inspiration is often the Achilles' heel of new artists everywhere. When asked about where he finds inspiration, Big Bear notes that most of his music revolves around life experiences, the community in which he was raised, and the vision he has looking to the future. "Sometimes it takes me 15 minutes to come up with new lines while some songs might require a few weeks before I can make it all sound put together," said Big Bear. "My mother was always a big advocate for expressing your feelings in a healthy way instead of bottling it inside, my way of doing so is sharing the game of basketball and in sharing my love of music."

Along with releasing a number of singles, Big Bear has also released a music videos with the help of JKFilmedIt, who recorded videos for three of his singles including "Cold Stories," "Strike Down," and "Rhythm Therapy." After working on mul-



Snapshot taken during the filming of the recently featured music video for "Right Now" filmed at the District I Community Center featuring Big Bear and many Mille Lacs Band youth who Big Bear has coached the last few years. Photo by Darcie BigBear.

tip songs and paving the way for music videos to each, the musical journey has taken Big Bear to larger places than he thought possible. "From making a song with my favorite rapper to performing shows outside of Minnesota, this journey has been special in itself," he said. "Making my music is so much more than just rhyming on a beat and I hope it helps bring hope to those listening and bringing peace from within."

Big Bear has performed in multiple shows over the last year and hopes to add larger shows and venues in 2024. From venues like The Pourhouse to the Skyway Theater, the possibilities seem endless when you spend time on your craft. "We don't have any current shows coming up soon, but I will be performing at home during Isle Days this coming summer," he said.

It goes to show what hard work, talent, dedication, and community support can help bring into existence. Big Bear, rather Day Dayz, attributes this newfound success to the support of his mother, brother, immediate friends, and the Mille Lacs Band community. "It's truly a dream come true," he said.

Big Bear is hopeful that the next few years continue opening doors into music and that he will be able to travel to larger venues with other Indigenous rappers as well as other local artists who are looking to expand to new heights.

While this journey is to highlight one individual living out his dreams, it is important to remember that when we support our children and help hold doors open instead of limiting ourselves to live behind closed doors, the possibilities are endless in the world of success. When we stand behind our youth and create a community that highlights individual talents and celebrates one another for who we want to be, we can truly all "Make A Difference."

To listen to Day Dayz, listeners and fans can look to all major music platforms including iTunes, TouchTunes, Apple Music, Pandora, and Spotify, and find his latest videos on YouTube.



DayDayz performing live at the Pourhouse in Minneapolis. Photo by Darcie BigBear.



Big Bear performing in front of an electric crowd while being featured alongside other local Minnesota artists. Photo credit: Ailah Reynolds.



Big Bear recording songs in the GoodLooks Studio in Minneapolis. Photo credit JK FilmedIt.

INVASIVE SPECIES: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

We owe it to future generations to protect our resources.

By Mashkodebishikigahbaw, Benji Sam

Lakes, streams, rivers, oceans, and wetlands all provide a sacred connection to life and wellness throughout Indian Country. From nickel mining to pipelines to fertilizer runoff, protecting the quality of water that surrounds the Mille Lacs Reservation and connecting waterways from human impact has been an important staple of our duty as Anishinaabe. Yet, another challenge faces the waterways of the Mille Lacs Band (MLB) that may have a more lasting impact than all the previously mentioned. So why are we not talking about it?

Over the last two decades, a series of invasive species were introduced that have not only survived in Mille Lacs Lake, but are now thriving. These species have developed a cascade as large as any in the history of the lake to current biological knowledge and yet almost nobody wants to acknowledge it. Since the early 2000s several changes have been seen across the unbelievably biodiverse ecosystem that creates Mille Lacs Lake. With such an economic impact to the MLB, the local communities that surround the lake, and an entire region of central Minnesota that rely heavily on the resources at hand, maybe more people should be talking about it.

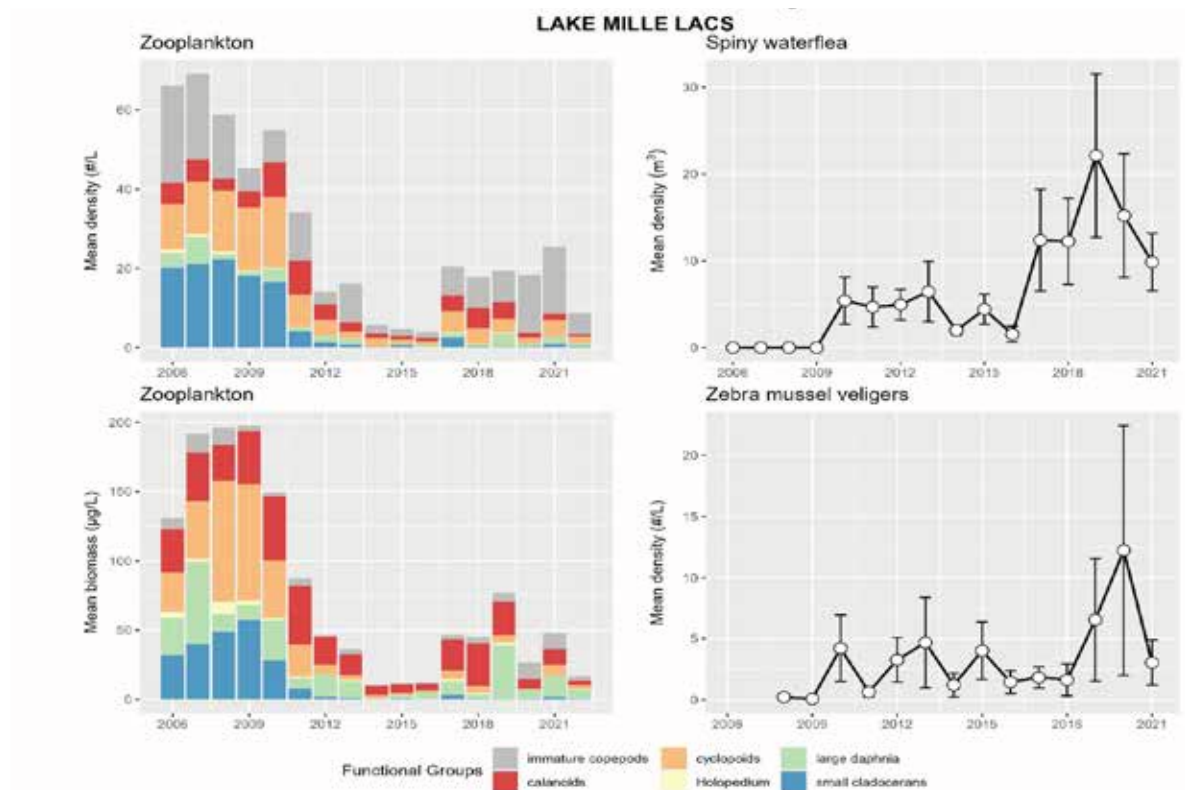
Biologists from the MLB Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the state of Minnesota DNR, independent study groups from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis and Duluth campuses, and many other concerned outdoor-folk have noticed a sweeping change across the lake that began in recent memory. Changes include the introductions of the spiny waterflea, Eurasian watermilfoil, Chinese mystery snail, rusty crayfish, and the curly-leafed pondweed. These species have been found in Mille Lacs or existing watershed and have left a tremendous footprint in the ecosystem that has changed the projection of the health of the fishery for the foreseeable future.

Carl Klimah, who is the fisheries manager for the MLB DNR, has been a part of the invasive species conversation during his tenure with the Tribe and has conducted years of research into the depth of the environmental impact of invasives each of the last few years. "Invasive species changed an entire ecosystem from the soil to the water and act like viruses to plants, fish, birds, and the water itself," said Klimah. "We have seen an entire forage base collapse, and an entirely new food chain has begun to emerge in the lake that we have not seen across all the historical data we have available."

Large lakes across the state of Minnesota are not entirely unique in the build of their complexity from soil content to their susceptibility to contract such invasives with high levels of travel to and from the Mille Lacs area. Most of the large lakes managed across Minnesota under the MN DNR large lake division also deal with multiple invasives whose affect is still relatively adolescent in their impact. "We aren't even sure where most of these invasive species came from, but we estimate that their impact might be one that lasts the next few hundred years," said Klimah.

It has been well documented that invasive species contact new bodies of water through poor transportation practices such as incomplete emptying of live wells, bait bucket dumping across bodies of water, live vegetation on boats and trailers, and by neglect in managing dock systems that may harbor live specimens of invasives looking for new water to invade. These are the factors that we have some control over — manmade or influenced factors such as drying boats out at least 48 hours before traveling to a new body of water, practicing smart bait transfer practices, etc. They should be at the top of the priority list for all outdoorsmen and women.

However, there are also some biological factors that may



contribute to ongoing invasive species traveling between bodies of water, including high water flooding that spreads waterways and carries live vegetation and species from one body of water to the next. There has also been speculation that marine-based birds including ducks, geese, and cormorants may also impact natural species in bodies of water in transport from lake to lake. In either case, we now understand that the effects of these invasives outcompete native species for both food and habitat.

Invasive species like the spiny waterflea, Eurasian watermilfoil, and zebra mussels have changed the entire food chain — not simply affecting the fish or lake themselves. Most of these species have had a detrimental impact on the soil conditions and the presence of zooplankton, which is the baseline of the major forage base in Mille Lacs. For example, between 2006 and 2012, zebra mussel adult density expanded their population from 0.0015 per square meter of lake floor in 2006 to 13,651 per square meter in 2012 (Jones & Montz, 2020). In this timeframe, the expansion of the spiny waterflea also impacted the foodchain in the lake and has competed against natural plankton, and their long, sharp tails make them a difficult food for native fish like walleye and perch.

"When we look at all the data we have in front of us, it's impossible to ignore the impact invasive species have had on the overall biodiversity and biomass in the lake," said Klimah. "There has been a chain reaction in isolated drop in zooplankton that correlated perfectly with the significant drop in walleye population." And it's true — when the data is observed it is undeniable that when the invasive species boomed and the zooplankton crashed to historically low levels, so did the walleye. Evidence is proving that the survival rate of hatchlings and fingerling walleye is at a historically low level, and one could conclude that when the food that provides nutrients for the majority of all minnows, fry, and fingerlings throughout the lake is disappearing, then so too will the forage base that survives on that food source.

"The chain reaction is incredible, and we are not even yet aware of the impact on other vegetation, birds, water quality down river, and the future of the Ogaa (walleye)," Klimah said.

"It's like playing with multiple wild cards and nature keeps shuffling the deck. We need to do everything we can to reduce the impact of invasives because this might be something that still affects this community generations from now." This means utilizing the mobile and permanent boat cleaning stations every time we trailer a boat off Mille Lacs, reducing harmful fertilizers and pesticides on lake shores, maintaining shoreline integrity to reduce erosion, and remembering to clean, dry, and transport fish/bait in a responsible manner.

With these invasive species leaving such a lasting impact, we owe future generations our complete focus and attention to maintain our stewardship of the land, the water, and building healthy habits around protecting these resources. The land and water are our greatest resource as Anishinaabe, not only for food but also for the greater economic impact on the Tribe and the community that calls this place home. When the lake does well, so does the Mille Lacs Band. Our duty to the water that provides for us has been and should always be our top priority.



Zebra mussels. Photo MN Department of Natural Resources.

NANDA-WAABANDANAN IKIDOWINAN ZAAGIBAGAA-GIIZIS 2024

By Nazhike, Mille Lacs Band Member

CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?



- Gizhiyaanimad
- Gezhiiwang
- Gezhiiyaanimak
- Gizhiiwan
- Bemosed
- Bimose
- Ezhaad
- Izhaa
- Meskwaag
- Miskwaa
- Waashkobizid
- Wiishkobizi
- Waasinid
- Wiisini
- Dekaag
- Dakaa

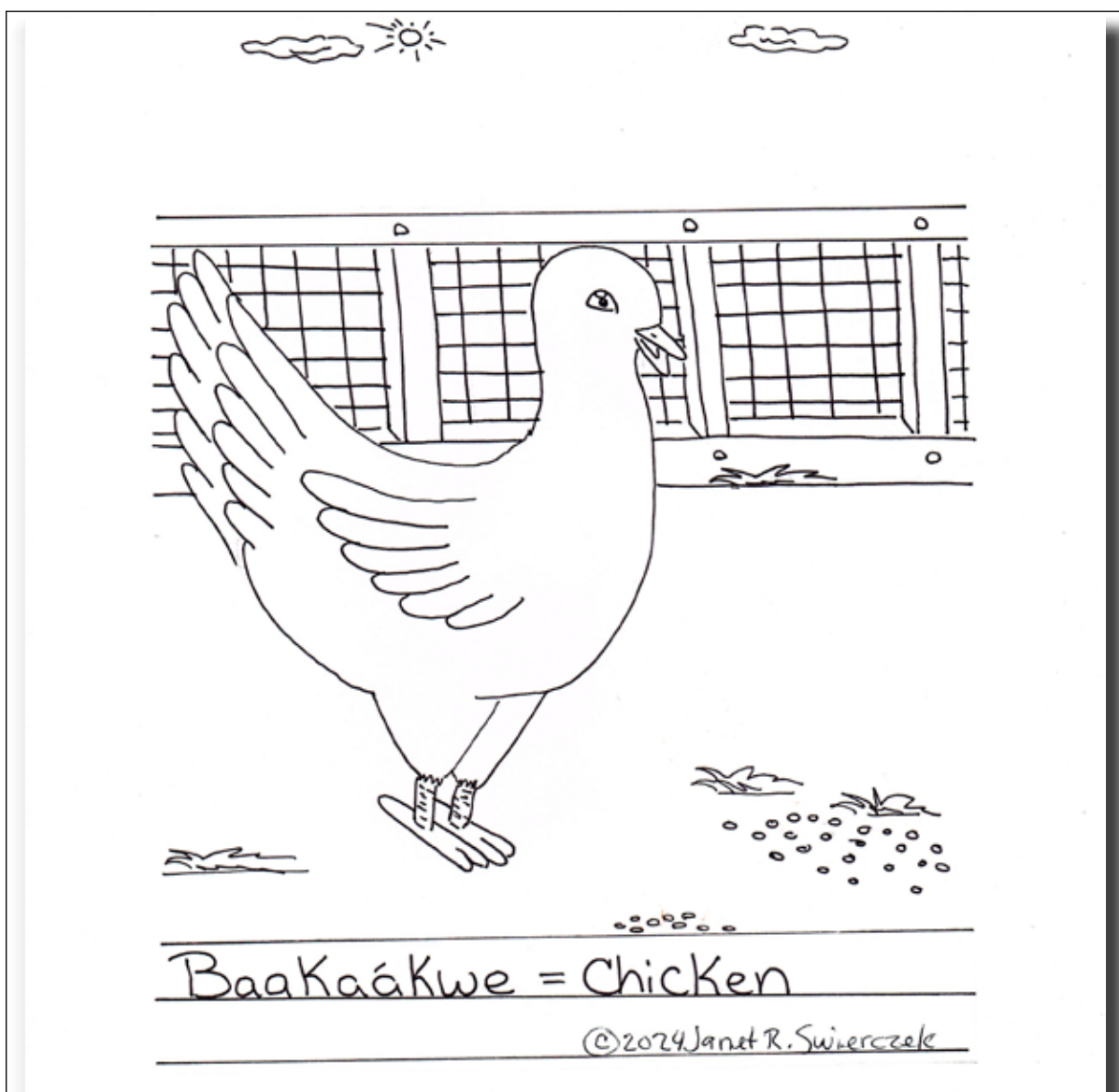
KID'S COLORING CORNER

BAAKAAKWE = CHICKEN

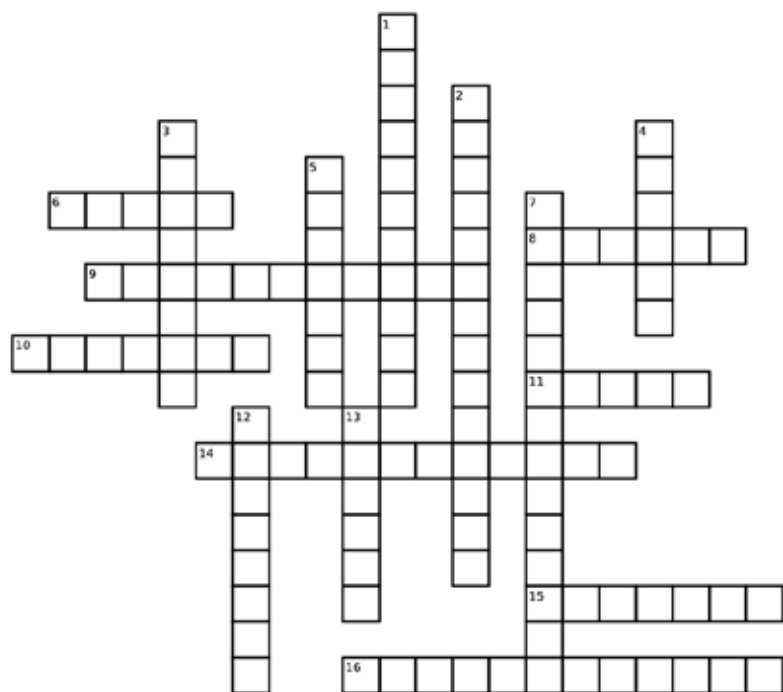
Artwork by Janet Swierczek, Mille Lacs Band Member

Janet Swierczek is an artist and Mille Lacs Band member Elder who lives in Minneapolis. She has developed over 50 coloring books. Find out more about her work by checking out the archives of the Inaajimowin at <https://www.inaajimowin.com/news-blog/meet-the-artist-behind-the-kids-coloring-corner>. You can also check out her website at www.janetscoloring-books.com and follow her on Instagram at @coloringbookgirljanet and Twitter at @Booksbyjanet.

"I'm always open for more requests," Janet said. "So feel free to email me at janetswierczek06@gmail.com."



AAZHAWAAKWASING ZAAGIBAGAA-GIIZIS



Down:

1. It flows fast.
2. The wind blows fast.
3. The one who is eating.
4. That what is cold. (Ice Cream)
5. The one who is walking.
7. The wind that blows fast.
12. That what is red.
13. S/he is walking.

Across:

6. It is cold.
8. The one who is going somewhere.
9. S/he is sweet.
10. S/he is eating.
11. S/he goes somewhere.
14. That what flows fast.
15. It is red.
16. The one who is sweet.

MII WAAD “WHO ARE WE?”

By Nazhike, Mille Lacs Band Member

As Anishinaabe, we have always determined membership of our community with a few criteria. However, the Anishinaabe, as well as other tribal groups, have been forced to use a criteria known as blood quantum. Blood quantum was put in place to create a distinguishable method to determine the “headcount” of a tribe or community for the formula used to establish the amount of rations to deliver. The U.S. government did not want to pay more than what they needed. They also say that blood quantum was set up as a way to “breed” indigenous people out of existence. Studies have shown that for the Mille Lacs Band, our demise will come in the next century if we continue using the blood quantum method to determine membership. In other words, according to our own laws, we will not be able to produce another Band member, thus the tribe will no longer have a membership.

There is not just blood quantum that takes us away from who we are. The religions of the Europeans have had major impacts on the identity of the Anishinaabe. All the way to some individuals striving to connect the fabrication of Wenabozho being Jesus. The Church is one of the root causes of mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical imbalance for Anishinaabe. Some elders have told stories of being constantly told they were going to hell when they were kids. Being made ashamed of taking part in customs, speaking Ojibwe, and using their Anishinaabe names. This is not saying that all church people are bad. It is the system of organized European religion that is taking away Anishinaabe identity. Much like blood quantum takes away the physical aspects, our spiritual quantum is then lowered, some to the point that it is no longer detectable in an individual.

What we are taught about life, the world, history and biology has major impacts on our worldview. The Anishinaabe were heavy into education. Often known as gifts or teachings that were given to the Anishinaabe. It’s knowledge that reflects the spirit, identity, and perspectives of Anishinaabe. Our teachings around Wenabozho are very deliberate. Our stories about maple



camps help share our experience with others and the youth. We are sharing our teachings that we receive by experience, visions, and dreams with the rest of our people. Sometimes our dreams aren’t only meant for us to learn but for us to share with another that may have a deep impact on their life.

We must determine our community members in a manner that reflects our ancestors in regards to language, customs, and knowledge. As we are spirits having a physical experience, we must recognize that in our criteria. Focusing on one aspect would have a physical Anishinaabe with no spiritual connection or the deletion of the physical Anishinaabe altogether. We must learn our language, our customs, and history and resist all colonial tactics to remove our identity via blood quantum and the chimookomaan church.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Ojibwe language is mainly verbs and those verbs can create nouns. We can say, “He is hungry,” by using “bakade”. We can then turn the word into a noun by adding grammar. Initial vowel change with B-form ending. “bekaded” is “the one that is hungry”. Give it a try!

Wiishkobizi = S/he is sweet.
(wee shko biz zee)

Waashkobizid = The one who is sweet.
(wah shko biz zih)

Bimose = S/he is walking.
(bim moh say)

Bemosed = The one who is walking.
(bay moh sayd)

Izhaa = S/he goes somewhere.
(ih zhah)

Ezhaad = The one who is going somewhere.
(eh zhahd)

Wiisini = S/he is eating.
(wee sin nih)

Waaasinid = The one who is eating.
(wah sin nid)

Miskwaa = It is red.
(mis skwah)

Meskwaag = That what is red.
(may skwahg)

Gizhijiwan = It flows fast.
(gih zhee jih wun)

Gezhijiwang = That what flows fast.
(gih zhee jih wung)

Gizhiyaanimad = The wind blows fast.
(gih zhee yah nim mud)

Gezhiyaanimak = The wind that blows fast.
(gay zhee yah nim muk)

Dakaa = It is cold.
(duk kah)

Dekaag = That what is cold. (Ice Cream)
(day kahg).



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

NIMISHOOMENH

GAA-TIBAAJIMOD (told by) JOE NAYQUONABE SR.,
WAABISHKIBINES

GAA-TIBAAJIMOTAWAAJIN (transcribed by)
JAMES CLARK, OZAAWAANAKWAD

This month I would like to talk about my uncle Johnson Nayquonabe. I met him very early in my life when I was staying with my grandparents. In the summer months, we'd go up by Pequot Lakes and hang baskets. We were living in a wigwam during that time, and we'd tend to visit at Johnson's house up there a lot since we were such a close family. That was my first interaction I could remember with him.

After the summer season, my grandparents and I would come back to Mille Lacs and we wouldn't see him again till the following summer season. Eventually when my father passed away, something happened between Johnson and his wife. The wife took the kids and went to LCO. Johnson stayed in Mille Lacs and eventually became my stepfather. He and my mom had several children together. The memories around that time are of him singing around the ceremonial drum. Eventually, he became a drum chief, only because the man who was supposed to be in that spot was not attending. Later, they also put me in that spot.

Later on, I noticed that Johnson would drink a lot. As I got older, I remembered he was a WWII veteran, and he'd seen the horrors of the war. After Vietnam, I suffered from PTSD. I still believe to this day that Johnson suffered from that as well but it was not as known or talked about. In my day, there were meds and things to assist with PTSD but Johnson didn't have that, so what did he turn to? Alcohol. I did not understand at the time, but I gained more and more respect for him for all the hardships he had to face during and after the war. Sometimes he and I would share some war stories and you wouldn't believe the things that man had come back from.

After he and my mom separated, he lived alone. I remember him working at the lumber yard in Garrison. But as a drum keeper we have a lot of responsibilities like making the blankets for the bundles and the food for the day. Yet, season after season, he fulfilled his duties, only with the help from about five ladies that he was able to complete his role as drum keeper. I think a lot of that is just how much they loved and respected him. And some of the things that I talk about today is what I remember him talking about long time ago. Especially about those that were helping him were being seen by the manidoog differently. So, he always made sure to thank them for all the help they gave him.

He never really did completely sober up; it always seemed like he was a very social drinker when people would come and visit. If they were to bring booze, then he'd indulge. I believe that is because of his position on the drum. It seems to reflect

my life of getting sober from alcohol, because of those drums. This month marked 44 years of being sober for me.

As the years went by, I gained more and more respect for him. A lot of the leadership skills that he radiated still stick with me to this day. I think more and more people had respect for him than I initially thought. When I hear people talking about him, they understood everything he had been though, for those who don't, have you ever seen the movie "Saving Private Ryan"? Remember the opening scene when they storm the beach? He was a part of that, and lived to tell the tale to fellow vets. Even today when I put my asemaa out, I put it out for those veterans knowing what they've been though.

The other thing that I remember about him is that he had a really good sense of humor. And when I talk about his leadership at the dances, he never was talking there a whole lot or directing people, yet everything got done every dance. They saw stable and strong leadership in him that didn't need to be communicated through words.

One day we were going to a dance at Lake Lena. I drove Johnson and myself there. While I was there, he told me "I should also be in East Lake, I belong on that drum, too." Then he told me that he gave someone a blanket and asemaa that he wasn't going to be able to make it due to being on another drum. Following that I asked him, "how many drums do you belong on?" To which he replied, "almost all of them." There were a lot of people who helped him. The ladies and other people would bring gifts for him for more food to have at the dances. To me, that is respect.

Again, his closing prayer before the dance would end would consist of making sure that everyone got home and all those relatives are safe, and for those that didn't sit on the drum who came to help the manidoog looked over them. That tells me a lot about what people thought about him; he was just a common man. He wasn't well off or given abilities by the manidoog, just a man who knew his duties to the drums, the community, and the future of the Anishinaabe people.

I always try and follow the things that he used to do, especially when it comes to putting someone on the drum. He'd call all the members and talk with them about who should be put in that position — he always wanted everyone's input. "We'll have another meeting and decide on the candidate," he'd say. In short, he never picked the person, the members did. After the members did, then he'd go and offer that person asemaa.

There was one time, however, he told us, "Also make a second choice just in case they don't accept." Sure enough, the first guy didn't accept — he must've known something we didn't.

I took him all over to dances that he was a part of and other drums. Every time I took him somewhere, I could see the love

NOTES FROM JOE:

Aaniin Anishinaabedog! Waabishkibines omaa. (Hello fellow Anishinaabe!) Joe Sr. here. With the times we live in, I must tell you about the article I have submitted. 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.



and respect the Anishinaabe had for him there. They'd always acknowledge and thank him for coming. When he'd go, he'd talk for the dishes, the talks, and anything that needed to be done in the dancehall. And beside that, he also did funerals, with that I especially noticed he'd wear sunglasses. I can only assume that he was hiding the tears. I believe he really felt heavily for the people he was helping in their time of need. The one thing I wasn't a fan of was that he was often taken advantage of. Someone in particular used to bring Johnson gifts from his travels. People would often say, "That's a nice _____" and every time, he'd give it away. The faults of a good man, I suppose.

All in all, I hope to continue his legacy of silent but strong leadership.

Miigwech mii iw.

NEXT GENERATION — WELCOME

District I Representative Wind offers Celebration of Life baby baskets for our members who have recently had a baby. These baskets contain some necessities: diapers, wipes, outfits, grooming kit, soother, bath kit, and some custom-made items. Contact the District I Office at 320-532-7423 for more information or with questions.



Ruth Sam, proud grandmother, and Auntie Kaitlyn, brought baby Olivia in to meet Representative Wind. Olivia Kaylee Roy was born on 3/13/24, weighed 5 lbs., 5 ozs. and measured 19 inches long. Her mom is RaeAnn Sam (not pictured). Baby Olivia is welcomed to the family by brothers and sisters; Kaitlyn, Andrel, Brevin, RaySean, and Xavier. We're happy to have this little blessing join the DI Community!



The Office of DI Representative Virgil Wind met with Tes Sam and her newborn baby. Tes Sam and Donovan Johnson welcomed their baby boy, Robert Wyatt Johnson, on March 13, 2024. He weighed 7 lbs., 9 oz. and measured 19 inches long. Baby Robert joined his brothers and sisters; Arieauna, Michael, and Donovan Jr. at home. Please join us in welcoming Robert to the DI Community!



The Office of DI Representative Virgil Wind recently met with Loretta ElMBERG and her baby girl for a Celebration of Life baby basket. Loretta ElMBERG and Charles Davis are the proud parents of Miley Jae Davis who was born on February 28, 2024. She weighed 7 lbs., 8 ozs. and measured 19 inches long. Miley is welcomed home by brothers and sisters; Adrianna, Jadenn, Alanna, and Charles Jr. We welcome her to the DI Community.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

QUIETLY SUPPORTING OUR HONOR GUARD OVER THE YEARS: MILLE LACS BAND LADIES AUXILIARY

By Maajiitaaziibikwe Mary Sam

Mille Lacs Band women have served as members of the Minnesota Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States since 1994. Historically the organization was made up of mostly women: wives, partners, aunts, sisters, and daughters of those who served. In 1994, the late Kenny Weyaus, AMVETS Post 53 Commander, encouraged and assisted the late Beatrice Mitchell to work with the Little Falls AMVETS Chapter to start a local Mille Lacs Band AMVETS Auxiliary chapter in District I.

The AMVETS Post 53 was started about the same time, said current MLB Auxiliary President Bette Sam. "Supporting those who enlisted, served, those coming home from duty, and their families, needed to know that we are there to support them." According to Tony Pike, Commander of the MLB Color Guard, his organization stepped away from AMVETS in recent years, so the women's group followed and renamed itself the Mille Lacs Band Ladies Auxiliary, for which Bette still serves as President.

Commander Tony Pike noted that the "MLB Honor Guard is much broader than the role of AMVETS, and paperwork required to be a part of the organization conflicted with our broader needs and purpose." The Honor Guard is currently exploring partnerships with the Garrison VFW and the Onamia Legion. The collaboration and support from the Ladies Auxiliary have been invaluable over the years and will continue.

Long-time President Bette Sam lights up with pride, noting that the Ladies Auxiliary made a local impact. The group met monthly, sharing a meal together, brainstorming ways to support enlistees, their families and those returning home from duty, and trying to educate and be visible in the community. Bette noted "We tried to build relationships with the white community and teach them about us and how so many of our relatives served in wartime and other duties." Past activities included:

- Hosting lunches and dinners for members and their families
- For many years, they participated in local city parades (Onamia, Isle, Brainerd, and Aitkin) and each year still participates in the annual MLB Powwow parade
- Made donations to local school powwows, kids' graduation programs and at one time created a scholarship to recognize a high-achieving Mille Lacs Band member high school graduate
- Provided hats and mittens to local schools
- Donated dollars for flags
- Helped start and support the annual Memorial Weekend Powwow held at the Trading Post, scheduled for Monday, 5/27/2024, noon to 5 p.m.
- Helped raise funds towards a veteran's monument in 1998

This is a volunteer organization, who needs to fundraise to host activities. Over time and with the passing of legendary women who gave so much of their time to this organization, Bette's team of 20 or so members has decreased to just a handful. Bette said, "With new fundraising policies, we needed to stop doing some of the things we enjoyed doing that helped many of our relatives." Bette has so many questions about this new generation. How many our young ones really understand volunteering, the need for supporting those who are or have served, and wonder if volunteering and honoring those who served if this a thing of the past? "We get together now and then, but we



A beautiful stone monument was donated to the Mille Lacs Band by the Mille Lacs Reservation AMVETS Post 53 to honor veterans. This monument gives all who pass by the opportunity to reflect on the service of the men and women who have served in the military. Names are engraved in the stone for eternity. The engraved names are flanked by plaques dedicated to Band member veterans of World Wars I and II respectfully dedicated in 1948, and in honor of the men and women from Mille Lacs Indian Reservation who faithfully served their country respectfully dedicated in 1998."

no longer have a budget or community interest. Younger women just never were interested in this organization or supporting our veterans." Again, lighting up, she shared the memories of good experiences like reporting to the national headquarters in Washington, and having fun times with Kenny, Bea, Debbie, Doreen, Diane, Mary and Dave, Darlene, Deloris, Juanita, Joni, Sherry, Cheryl, Allen, Tony, and many others.

Like Bette, Tony noted some changes over the years. The COVID-19 pandemic created a decline in our community wanting to serve. Years ago, the military used to be a source of income and opportunity for so many of our relatives. "Now, with per-cap, many don't need the extra funding like they once did — those were tough times." Young people are no longer needing that 'out' or looking at this through the lens of defending our country, or receiving life-long training; earning money while achieving the training skills. "For me, the military changed my life. I needed and make a 180-degree change."

Commander Pike is concerned about who will take over when we are no longer here, who will lead the Honor Guard, and who will remind the next generation about why it is important to serve this country. "I am worried about this for us and for our community."

This Memorial Day, keep in mind there are those who need our support. The Ladies Auxiliary and Color Guard would be happy to visit with you, share stories, or answer questions. Come visit the Memorial Day Powwow from 12 to 5 p.m. at the Trading Post.



Hi Auntie,

My sister and I are in high school. Last week, we helped our friend search for their missing family member. What can we do to raise more awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives?

Signed,
Concerned Niece.

Aaniin Nishimis,

I am proud of you, my girl, for helping your friend's family. Continue to be there for your friend during this difficult time.

There are many ways we can help raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR). Here are some effective ways to do so:

- Attend Community Events: Participate in local events, workshops, and discussions that focus on Indigenous rights and justice.
- Social Media Campaigns: Use hashtags like #MMIWG2S and #MMIR to spread the word and find local events.
- Support Indigenous Organizations: Contribute to groups working towards justice and safety for Indigenous people.
- Educational Initiatives: Organize or attend educational sessions to inform others about the issues faced by Indigenous communities.
- Public Marches and Vigils: Join marches like the one held annually on February 14 in Minneapolis to honor the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Day of Remembrance.
- Wear Red: On May 5, wear red and share a photo on social media with relevant hashtags to show solidarity.
- Fundraising: Support initiatives like the new Minnesota license plate, where proceeds go to the MMIR reward fund.
- Local Community Events: Support the REDress Project through Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services Victim Services by donating to the project. The empty red dresses hung represent missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and to bring awareness to the issue. Once the project is assembled on highway 169 in front of Grand Casino Mille Lacs take pictures and videos and share on social media. Attend the upcoming MMIR awareness event at Health and Human Services Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Every action, whether big or small, contributes to the larger movement for justice and recognition.

You are a MMIR aware Niece,

Auntie

AROUND THE RESERVATION

URBAN AREA CHILD CAR SEAT CLINIC

In coordination with Children's Minnesota, Minneapolis Fire Department Fire Station 5, and Mille Lacs Band Community Risk Reduction services and Emergency Management, the Urban Area held car seat clinics offering free car seats for newborn to booster seats on Friday, March 29, and Friday, April 5. Volunteers gave instructions on how to properly install car seats, and participants received free car seats.



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

ZHAAWAN, RAYMOND DALY

Raymond Charles Daly was born April 20, 1959, and passed away April 7, 2024, at the age of 64. He was preceded in death by his parents Isabel Skinaway and George; siblings Karen, Tammy (Pamela) Bixby, Richard and Kathy; and niece Karen Bixby Small. He is survived by his sister Shelly Diaz; nieces Robyn, Shadiyah and Laneya; nephews Tariq, Zachary, Sergio, Kyle and Richie; and many cousins, grandnieces and nephews.

Raymond grew up in East St. Paul and graduated from Career Study Center. He loved photography, exploring, and KQ92! For much of his adult life, he fought a difficult battle with mental illness and traumatic brain injury. His body got tired. He is at rest in peace.

Raymond loved his family very much. When he would phone us, he always began with "Hello, Uncle Raymond here, what's happening in your neck of the woods?" He will be deeply missed.

Raymond is a proud member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. His traditional funeral service and burial was held in Aazhoomog, Lake Lena, Minnesota with Nazhike, Bradley Harrington officiating.



ZHAAWAN, KENNETH MITCHELL, JR.

Zhaawan, Kenneth Mitchell, Jr., age 37, of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on April 11, 2024. Visitation was held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. The funeral ceremony will held at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Nazhike officiating. Interment was in the Boyd Family Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Kenneth Wayne Mitchell Jr. was born on June 27, 1986, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Diane Nickaboine and Kenneth Mitchell Sr. He attended and graduated from Nay Ah Shing High School. Kenneth worked in security at Grand Casino and in the deli department, and as a cashier at the Grand Market. He loved playing his PS5 and spending time with his sons and grandson. Kenneth enjoyed playing basketball, watching movies, and singing in the shower. Being with his mom and grandma was how he liked to spend his time.

Kenneth is survived by his children, Kenneth Mitchell III, Arkadian Mitchell, Adrian Mitchell, Lilianna Mitchell; grandson, Jackson Nayquonabe; mother, Diane Nickaboine; grandmothers, Bette Sam, Susan Shingobe; brother, Randall (Teresa) Nickaboine; sisters, Kendra, Sunny, Sherry, and Chasity; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Mitchell Sr.; sister, Kelly Mitchell; and brother, Fabian Mitchell.



NIIGAANIGAABAWQUAY, ALANDREA RENEE GOODWIN

Alandrea Renee Goodwin (Niigaanigaabawquay.) was born on June 2, 1997, in Minneapolis to Rosalind Leon (Hunt). She died on April 12th, 2024 in St. Paul.

Alandrea was an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Alandrea attended Center School on the Southside of Minneapolis, where she had grown up her whole life.

She was a great artist; she could draw anything you would put in front of her. She also had passion for make-up and hair. She was very funny and always had everyone laughing. Family was very important to her and she loved to spend time with her mom and siblings and daughter.

She is survived by her mother Rosalind Leon; dad Tomas Leon; sister Leticia Garcia (Leon), Aleila Leon, Angelina Hofmann; brothers Armondo Leon and Tomas Hofmann; daughter Rosaleigh Denny. Many aunts, uncles, cousins, and family friends.

She is preceded in death by her son Rey Rainey; grandmother Arlene Hunt; uncle Roland L. Hunt Jr; and many loved ones.



WAAWIYEKAMIGOOKWE, ELYSSIA RODRIGUEZ

Wawiyekamigookwe, Elyssia Rodriguez, age 36, passed away on April 10, 2024. Visitation was held at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 19, 2024, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Baabitaw officiating. Interment is in the Vineland Burial Grounds.

Elyssia was born on January 29, 1988, in California to Michael and Wanda (Skinaway) Rodriguez. She enjoyed listening to music, cooking, being outdoors, and playing basketball in the park.

Elyssia liked to spend her time with her children and friends. She had a great sense of humor and was always laughing.

Elyssia is survived by her sons, Jeramiah Michaels Rodriguez, Franklin Lou Rodriguez; sister, Sarah Douglass (Rodriguez); brother, Rueben Rodriguez; aunt, Dora Sam; father, Michael Martinez Rodriguez; and nieces, Cellena Velasquez, Rheannah Rodriguez.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Wanda (Skinaway) Rodriguez; grandparents, Frank and Starry Skinaway.



NIIBAWISEKWE, KAREN SAM

Niibawisekwe, Karen Sam, age 70, passed away on April 23, 2024. Visitation was held at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 26, 2024, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment is in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



CELEBRATE OUR LAND & WATER – JOIN THE WATER OVER NICKEL EVENT COMMITTEE!

Water Over Nickel, a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe initiative, needs your help! We're looking for Mille Lacs Band member volunteers to plan a fun late-summer event (August or September 2024).

WHAT YOU'LL DO

- ✓ Join two virtual meetings (May-July)
- ✓ Share your ideas for the location, entertainment, food, and more
- ✓ Help spread the word about why protecting our people, resources, and culture from nickel mining is so important

Interested? Email Alyssa Welsh
alyssa.welsh@millelacsband.com
by Monday, April 22.



AROUND THE RESERVATION SPRING HARVEST UNDERWAY

As part of the 1837 Treaty lawsuit agreement, Mille Lacs Lake is co-managed by tribal biologists of the Mille Lacs Band and GLIFWC and the State of Minnesota. After ongoing research each year, the tribal and state biologists determine an agreed upon safe harvest level. The new overall ogaa allowance for Mille Lacs Lake is set at 157,500 pounds. The total tribal harvest is set at 65,950 pounds state's allocation of that walleye quota is 91,550 pounds.

When fish are harvested by netting and/or spearing, each individual fish is measured, weighed, sexed, and recorded. The harvest is observed and/or processed by Mille Lacs Band DNR Conservation Officers as well as creel clerks. The state harvest numbers are a calculated estimate of the actual number of fish harvested and those caught and released.

As of press time, the tribal spring harvest has netted 27,502 pounds of northern pike and 18,291 pounds of walleye.



AN EVENT TO REMEMBER AND RAISE
AWARENESS FOR OUR INDIGENOUS RELATIVES



3rd ANNUAL EVENT
MISSING & MURDERED
Indigenous
RELATIVES

MAY 2, 2024 | 12:00PM

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING | 18562 MINOBIMAADIZI LOOP ONAMIA, MN



Health and Human Services
Victim Services
(320) 532-7793



TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

MAY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Gina Louise Anderson
Richard Dean Anderson
Kathryn Ann Armstrong
Alvina Mae Aubele
Elisse Joanne Aune
Thelma Emma Baker
Gerald Duane Beaulieu
Kim Alan Bengtson
Robert Patrick Benjamin
Wallace James Benjamin
Maurice James Boyd
Denise Lorette Chamblin
Debra Ann Contreras
Anthony Joseph Davis
Cynthia Renae Davis
James Daniel Davis
Ronald Dean Davis
Dale Wesley Day
Edna Mae Day
Stephanie Elaine Day
Winona Evens
Michael Joseph Fairbanks
Beverly Gay Fairchild
Lorraine Farah

Sharlene Anita Fisher
Dale Allan Garbow
Geraldine Ann Germann
Harry Lee Granger
Cynthia Ann Guernsey
Gary Lynn Haglund
Tamia Rose Hamilton
Robert Lewis Heinze
Allen Wayne Hemming
Terrance John Hendren
John Paul Hill
Charles Anthony Houle
Molly Sam Judkins
Michael Wayne Kalk
Pamela Louise Keys
Cynthia Lee Lester
George Allen Machen
Harold Duane Matrious
Jeffrey Wayne Matrious
Mitchell Lee Matrious
Valerie Jean Matrious
Dominic Walter Mayotte
Janelle Arlene Meehl
James Roger Mitchell
Michele Elena Mueller
Arlyn Nickaboine
Lorraine Marie Nickaboine

Brian George Pike
Patricia Regguinti
David Wayne Sam
Laural James Sam
Victoria Lea Smith
Eugene Raymond Staples
Beverly K. Sutton
John Sutton
Heather Lea Thomas
Michael Allen Trudell
Carl Leslie Weous
Lorna Jayne Weous
Herbert Weyaus
Nancy Lee Wheeler
Sarita Inez White
Theresa Marie Williams
Ginette Marie Zustiak

May 12 love you son! Love dad! • Happy birthday **Sissy** May 12, love, your brothers and sissys • Happy birthday **Taylor** May 19, love Dad, Adam, Papa Brad, Granny, Papa Kyle, Val, Dan, Myla, Pie, Kev, Lily, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Trinity, Galli, Bam, and Binesiikwe • Happy birthday **Brynley** May 26 love Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Trinity, Galli, Bam, Binesiikwe, Papa Brad, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Val, Dan, Myla, Pie, Kev, Lily, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor and Adam • Happy birthday **Gramma** May 27, love, Ogimaa Binesiikwe Myla • Happy birthday **Baby**

Girl May 31 love, Mom • Happy birthday **Pie** May 31 love, Myla, Mom, Dan, Kev, Lily, Gram Kim, Papa Brad, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Trinity, Galli, Bam, and Binesiikwe • Happy 66th birthday **Robert Livingston** on May 31! Love, the kids and your wife • Happy 8th birthday to my beautiful, **Layla Mary-Esther Snyder** on May 13, from Gramma Monica, grandpa and Uncle Landon, and Milo.

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 June issue is May 15. Photos may be included if space allows.*

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please call 320-630-8195 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!

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Jarvis** on May 5, love, the Harrington Family • Happy birthday **Shelby** May 9, love, the Harrington Family • Happy 15th birthday to **Mark** on

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations **TaiAnn Bearheart** for obtaining your GED! I am so proud of you! Love, Grandma.

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: Niiyogaabawiiikwe, 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

On Call Social Worker: 320-630-2444

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

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.



DRUG TIP HOTLINE

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department's anonymous drug tip line is 320-630-2458. Feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and phone number. In case of emergency, dial 911.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>SPRING CLEANUP CONTINUES</p> <p>District II East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake, and Isle - Saturday, May 4 through Friday, May 10, 2024. *NOON CLOSING on LAST DAY. Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the East Lake Maintenance facility for District II and Isle Community Center for District IIa.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Sheldon & Joe Jr. Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Sheldon & Joe Jr. Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Keepin' it Real Recovery 6 p.m. Red Brick Building</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP see page 7</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Darrel Lake Lena</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Darrel Lake Lena</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Keepin' it Real Recovery 6 p.m. Red Brick Building</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Tim & Tom East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Tim & Tom East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Keepin' it Real Recovery 6 p.m. Red Brick Building</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Minisinaakwaang Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Chiminising Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mike & Lee Lake Lena</p> <p>Memorial Holiday Government Offices Closed</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mike & Lee Lake Lena</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Keepin' it Real Recovery 6 p.m. Red Brick Building</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Memorial Day Government Offices Closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Aquatic and Fitness Center</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Last Wednesday first aid CRR CPR class see page 7</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Nib & Iyaabance East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. For stories of 500 words or more, compensation is \$400. The deadline for stories is the 15th of each month. If you have a story to submit or would like more information, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.

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 updates to Band members.

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

O J I B W E

I N A A J I M O W I N

ZAAGIBAGAA-GIIZIS | MAY | VOLUME 26 | NUMBER 5

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

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN CHALLENGE ACCEPTED



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UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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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 June issue deadline is May 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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DIVISION**
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