



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



By **VIVIAN LaMOORE**, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe swore in three members to its Band Assembly, and one school board member, in a ceremony at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center on July 12. Sheldon Boyd was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer, Wendy Merrill is the incoming District II Representative, Harry Davis is the incoming District III Representative, and Joe Nayquonabe Sr. was re-elected to the Nay Ah Shing School Board.

"This swearing in, these changes in power serve as markers in time," re-elected Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd said during his speech at the ceremony. "Voting in elections is how people keep pushing government and remind elected leaders that it's about servitude, not power."

Boyd praised the staff in the Legislative Branch for their continued hard work and dedication. He welcomed the newly elected District Representatives Wendy Merrill and Harry Davis. He also took a moment to speak towards the onward officials of the Band Assembly. "I would like to recognize and thank Wally St. John and Marvin Bruneau for their service to the people of the Band and just being good guys to work with. Where in Marvin's case his years of service have spanned four decades."



Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd.

**SWEARING-IN** see page 5

## FEDERAL COURT TAKES TIME FOR JUSTICE

### *Mille Lacs Reservation Major Crimes Prosecution*

By **VIVIAN LaMOORE**, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

More often in recent months, serious major crime cases investigated on the Mille Lacs Reservation are being prosecuted in federal court. Criminals will be doing time in federal prisons, resulting in tougher sentences and ultimately reducing drug trafficking in the Mille Lacs communities.

On Thursday, July 7, 2022, U.S. Attorney Andrew M. Luger announced a Minneapolis man had been sentenced to 160 months in federal prison followed by five years of supervised release for methamphetamine trafficking on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

This case is one of several cases that have been sent to federal court under the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA). In 2016, the Department of Justice granted a request by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the United States to assume concurrent criminal jurisdiction on the 61,000-acre Mille Lacs Reservation under the TLOA.

The decision took effect on January 1, 2017. Tribal, state, and county prosecutors and law enforcement agencies continue to have criminal jurisdiction on the reservation.

The Department of Justice has jurisdiction to prosecute certain crimes wherever they occur in the United States — including on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

The change under TLOA expanded this existing jurisdiction to allow federal prosecution of major crimes such as murder, rape, felony assault, drug trafficking, and felony child abuse.

One of the most recent cases tried in federal court is the result of an investigation conducted by the Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department, Meeker County Sheriff's Office, and the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Caleb J. Dogeagle and Assistant U.S. Attorney Deidre Y. Aanstad.

Dogeagle has been serving as the Mille Lacs Band Solicitor

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## MCT REFERENDUM VOTES COUNTED

On Wednesday, July 20, 2022, the Constitutional Delegates met at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe headquarters to count the ballots received for the non-binding referendum on enrollment criteria. The goal of the non-binding referendum was to determine the consensus of tribal members on whether to remove or keep the blood quantum requirement to be enrolled in the tribe, and whether the six member tribes of the MCT can determine their own membership requirements individually.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin explained on May 3, "A non-binding referendum means that the outcome of this vote will not bind the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Executive Committee to taking any particular action at this time. It is not a decision-making vote. The purpose of the non-binding referen-

dum vote is to get an idea of the thoughts and opinions of MCT membership about enrollment.

The total number of vote cast was 7,470.

Question 1: Should the blood quantum requirement be removed from membership requirements of the MCT? Yes: 4,778 No: 2,629.

Question 2: Should the six membership tribes (Bands) be authorized to determine their own membership requirements by Band Ordinance? Yes: 4,236 No: 2,989.

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

### **BREAKING NEWS:**

#### **Mille Lacs Band vs. Mille Lacs County Federal Lawsuit**

What are expected to be the last oral arguments for this phase of the federal lawsuit will be presented by Band attorneys Marc Slonim and Beth Baldwin in Minneapolis on August 11. This is open to the public. For anyone who wants to attend the hearing, it will be in the Federal Courthouse in St. Paul, at 316 N. Robert St., in Courtroom 7B, beginning at 1 p.m. If you wish to attend, please allow time to get through courthouse security before the hearing. The hearing should last about an hour.

**NAY AH SHING SUMMER CAMP PERFORMS 'TAKE TWO!' See page 9**



# MESSAGE FROM THE

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! I want to begin by congratulating our new members of the Band Assembly who were sworn into office in July: District II Representative Wendy Merrill and District III Representative Harry Davis. I am excited to continue our positive work together on behalf of Mille Lacs Band members with the new Band Assembly. I also want to say Chi Miiigwech to Marvin Bruneau, who has retired after 28 years of service on the Band Assembly, and to Wally St. John for his service as well.

The Chief Executive is charged with conducting external relations for the Band, and July was a busy month. It began with a meeting with Secretary Granholm, of the U.S. Department of Energy. We met to discuss the Band's concerns regarding a proposed mine near District II of the Mille Lacs Band. The site of the mine is 1.3 miles from Band-owned fee lands. The Band has an expert team of attorneys and staff who are working with me to ensure that our lands, waters, and Band members are protected from mining activity. While grassroots efforts are ongoing at the community level, the Band government's role is through government processes. We have not been publicly discussing our efforts regarding this project, but I want all Band members to be aware that the Band is heavily invested in defending our environment and people from any environmental threats.

The National Unity Conference was held in Minneapolis this year, which many of our Band youth attended. This is an annual gathering of Native American youth that is intended to inspire and motivate our young people to pursue their education and become active in their communities. This was the first time in many years that our youth were able to attend. I was invited to speak at the conference and talked about how important it is that young people consider becoming involved in tribal government as our future leaders.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe also held a regular quarterly meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) this month at Grand Portage. The MCT now makes its meetings available via zoom, so any Band member wishing to observe these TEC meetings have an ability to do so. Speaker Boyd and I both attended the subcommittee and full TEC committee meetings via zoom. At this meeting, we were provided the results of the non-binding referendum election regarding enrollment, and there is an article in this edition of the Inaajimowin which I encourage you to read. In general, election results showed that

most MCT Members who voted believe that the MCT should look at doing away with blood quantum, and most believe that each band should be allowed to determine its own enrollment criteria. This election was non-binding, which means that these results just give the TEC an idea of whether MCT membership is interested in pursuing these changes further. It is just a first step in what would be a lengthy process.

I also held a planning meeting with my office staff, met with the Band Assembly on numerous matters, attended and spoke at the BIA Partners in Action Conference and held multiple other meetings on local, state, and federal topics.

July closed with the annual conference of Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations. Many Band women and girls who participated in the local WEWIN chapter's fundraising events attended the event, which was a very inspiring conference for all. Wonderful workshops were offered that focused on several different topics, all geared toward furthering the leadership development, career skills, grant-writing, working effectively with elected leaders, violence against women, and many others. Honorees this year included Treasurer of the United States Lynn Malerba, who is also Lifetime Chief of the Mohegan Tribe; Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltaise, of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head; CEO Stacy Bohlen of the National Indian Health Board; and, Director Tina Osceola of the Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

While the conference was outstanding, the absence of one important and beloved WEWIN voice was deeply missed by all. On July 22, Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo passed away surrounded by her family. Marlene was Pastor at All Nations Church in Minneapolis, a strong advocate for all of Indian country and a good friend to many Band members. She was a powerful agent of change who touched the lives of thousands.

For me, personally, Marlene was a mentor who was always there to provide support, compassion, and wisdom when I most needed it. She came to Mille Lacs for every State of the Band Address that she was able to attend, and we would often have an early breakfast together before the event. Marlene's compassion for others was limitless. To those who knew her, she was the kind of person who was not just your cheerleader — she was your champion. She delighted in lifting up Native people, and inspired and helped thousands who just needed



Harvey Helgemo, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Marlene Whiterabbit-Helgemo.

that nudge to believe in themselves and to know that others believed in them. She was one of the most connected leaders I have ever known, because people loved her immediately after meeting her, and she would use those connections to help Indian tribes and people every day.

Marlene was a warrior. She was not an elected tribal leader, but she was a leader of leaders. She spent her life fighting against injustice wherever she saw it, speaking truth to power and giving voice to those without power. She was a leader in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls movement, a cause she was passionate about, and a powerful advocate for the homeless. She tirelessly advocated for Standing Rock and took many groups to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline project.

Marlene was creative and courageous, and never shy about sharing her ideas, which was fortunate for Indian country because she was also a brilliant political strategist. Marlene was known for her deep love of Indian country and the positive change she brought about in so many areas. I will miss my dear friend.

I hope Band families are getting out to enjoy these warm summer days, but still taking precautions about protecting against the spread of COVID-19 when indoors. Outdoors enjoying nature is the best place and safest place to be!

Miiigwech!

## TADD JOHNSON FIRST NATIVE REGENT FOR UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan have appointed Tadd Johnson to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. Regent Johnson will fill a vacancy for a member from the Eighth Congressional District created following the resignation of Regent David McMillan.

Johnson currently serves as a senior advisor on government affairs for the Band. He is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. Johnson is a licensed attorney and graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School and is retired from the University of Minnesota system after serving as the first Senior Director of American Indian Tribal Nations Relations for the University of Minnesota, a full Professor, and the Director of Graduate Studies for the University of Minnesota – Duluth's Department of American Indian Studies.

"I learned the most about the educational needs of Native American people by working for the Mille Lacs Band as a young VISTA Volunteer, and then as an older man when the economic development enterprises started taking off and the Band's schools, clinics, and enterprises had new personnel needs," Johnson said. "I recognized that new types of education and training were needed for Native Nations and Indian people. I am hoping to bring the Mille Lacs perspective to the Board of Regents and the University of Minnesota, and I am

grateful for the wisdom I picked up from the Band members over the years."

Johnson previously served as a tribal court judge for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians, the Prairie Island Indian Community, the 1854 Authority, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and Leech Lake Appellate Courts. He also has served as the Solicitor General (General Counsel) and the Director of Government Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and he was appointed by President Clinton to serve as Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, the federal agency which regulates Indian gaming nationwide. Johnson was the creator, co-host, and co-producer of PBS "Native Report" for ten years; the founding senior partner for Johnson, Hamilton, Quigley, Twait and Foley law firm; and, from 1990-95, the Staff Director and Counsel for the U.S. House of Representative's Subcommittee on Native American Affairs. In 2017, he was appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Udall Foundation.

Established in 1851, the Board of Regents is the University of Minnesota's governing board. Regents articulate a vision for the University and work to ensure the University fulfills its mission of education, research, and outreach for the benefit of Minnesota, the nation, and the world.



Tadd Johnson, appointed to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.



# Q&A WITH LEGISLATIVE BRANCH STAFF

## Get to know Hanna Valento

By DIBIKWE, VALERIE HARRINGTON-WIND, CHIEF COMMUNICATION OFFICER

### 1. What is your title and what are your duties?

Title: Revisor of Statutes

Duties: drafting legislation and reviewing it with elected officials, codifying law, create Official Acts and Band Statute books on an annual basis, sign off on Orders (executive, secretarial, legislative, commissioner) and Opinions of the Solicitor as to numbering and form, keep original orders and opinions, and update the Tribal Register.

### 2. What does working in legislative mean to you and what do you value most about your engagement with legislative branch and Band members?

Working in legislative is more than a job. I truly enjoy my job and could talk about it for hours. I value Band member and Band employee engagement the most. As we keep drafting legislation and keep putting them out for public comments, the more comments we receive. And the more comments we receive, the more work we have to do with the elected officials to go through the comments, but the laws are for the people and that engagement means everything.

### 3. What motivates you in working in the legislative branch?

I'm constantly motivated, even by the little things. Within two years, we have made so many positive impacts, such as live-streaming, the tribal register, amending laws, creating a weekly meetings schedule, and being more transparent. I think this schedule and this motivation is here to stay, making the possibility of updating laws that much easier.

### 4. What is something significant that you are proud of accomplishing with the legislative branch?

I am most proud of the tribal register. I started compiling documents in May of 2021 and it took me until December to get everything we have (minus what's down in archives) scanned onto our hard drives and uploaded onto the website. It has been one of the most tedious tasks I've ever had, but one of the most rewarding outcomes. From it, we are starting to see more discussions, better legal analysis, and a historical record. In my opinion, nothing can beat it... except maybe live-streaming.

### 5. How would you describe the legislative branch to a Band member that may not know about the branch?



Hanna Valento, Revisor of Statutes, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

I would first ask if they can come into legislative, because I would love to give a tour and visually show them what we do. The legislative branch is where the laws are created. The process of creating a law is a long road of workshops, public comment period, formal public hearing (if applicable), and action from the Chief Executive. The Band Assembly also approves resolutions, contracts, legislative orders, and more.

### 6. Is there anything else you would like to share with Band members about you or the legislative branch?

I have never enjoyed a job so much and I would encourage anyone to ask questions as the process of legislating can be confusing. Also, we update the tribal register constantly and that is where you can find notices regarding public comment periods for draft bills, so check that webpage often! Last, Band members get free statute books and Official Acts, so if you want one, please email me at hanna.valento@millelacsband.com.

## LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

### SWEARING-IN CEREMONY AND NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

**July 12, 2022** — At 10 a.m., the Band Assembly conducted a swearing-in ceremony for Secretary-Treasurer and Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, District III Representative Harry Davis, and District I Nay-Ah-Shing School Board Member Joseph Nayquonabe Sr. At 1 PM, Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd initiated the second session of the 20th Band Assembly.

#### Band Assembly Meeting, July 12, 2022

Band Assembly approved the minutes from its July 6 meeting and conducted a confirmation hearing for Trisha Moose, whom Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin had previously nominated as Commissioner of Community Development. After the confirmation hearing, the District Representatives agreed to table the nomination of Trisha Moose until a later time.

District I Representative Virgil Wind congratulated the Secretary-Treasurer on his re-election and the new Representatives from Districts II and III for their electoral victories. Representative Wind also expressed his appreciation for the guidance he received from the outgoing Representatives from Districts II and III. Representative Wind concluded his remarks by expressing his gratitude for volunteers and employees within the District I office who helped plan a successful community event, which included swimming, snacks, hand drumming, basketball, and volleyball.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill stated that, beginning this month, she will be rescheduling the community meetings to occur every third Wednesday of the month in Isle and every third Thursday of the month in East Lake. Representative Merrill stated that this new schedule will allow her to begin attending community meetings in the Urban area. Representative Merrill also issued a reminder that the East Lake Powwow would occur on July 22 through 24 and encouraged Band members to attend.

Representative Merrill stated that she had signed a couple of letters in search of Band members interested to serve on either the Gaming Regulatory Authority Board or the Housing Advisory Board. Representative Merrill stated that the letters will be publicly posted and that the Housing Board, in particular, needs another member. Representative Merrill stated that she will need volunteers once she begins conducting community events and she would be excited to have community members participate. Representative Merrill concluded her remarks by welcoming Taria Aubid to her staff and thanking Cheryl Miller for her continued service to the District II Office.

District III Representative Harry Davis stated that he is excited to be a part of the Band Assembly again and is excited to accomplish many great things in the future.

#### Band Assembly meeting July 20, 2022

Band Assembly took from the table the nomination for Trisha Moose, as Commissioner of Community Development. After taking the item from the table, the District Representatives agreed to remove the nomination of Trisha Moose from the agenda on the grounds that, on Friday, July 15, 2022, at 9:02 p.m., Parliamentarian Darcie Big Bear had received a request from the nominee to withdraw her name from consideration.



Image Courtesy of Mille Lacs Band Member Alicia De La Cruz

### REPORT A MISSING & MURDERED REFERRAL TO THE BIA MISSING AND MURDERED UNIT

MMU Website: <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ojs/missing-murdered-unit>

MMU Hotline Number: 1-833-560-2065

Email: [OJS\\_MMU@bia.gov](mailto:OJS_MMU@bia.gov)

Tip line Text keyword: BIAMMU and your tip to: 847411





## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

### **Troubling stories surface as U probes its history with Native people:**

The federal government's hanging of 38 Dakota men from Mankato, Minn. gallows in December 1862 brought an end to the U.S.-Dakota war. It also triggered a financial bonanza for the University of Minnesota dubbed the "Minnesota Windfall." Sales and leases of parcels taken from the Dakota raised nearly \$580,000 for the young university — part of a massive grab of wealth cleaved from Native people and given to American universities. That troubling piece of American history remained largely hidden until two investigative reporters began digging into how colleges benefited from the Morrill Land Grant College Act of 1862, signed into law six months before the Mankato hangings. The University of Minnesota is now broadly reviewing its treatment of Native people going back to its founding in 1851. Researchers with the TRUTH (Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing) Project are expected to release a report this summer. What's come to light so far suggests that history will be painful to read. *Source: MPR.*

### **Fond du Lac and Grand Portage Ojibwe Tribes File Suit Against EPA:**

On July 14, the Fond du Lac and Grand Portage Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), citing the Clean Water Act. The lawsuit argues that the EPA approved recommendations by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to lower water quality standards, after tribes in Minnesota and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe voiced against lowering the quality of water.

"It's really powerful how the Tribes have stood together in this," Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's Secretary and Treasurer April McCormick told Native News Online. "Even during our consultation with the Minnesota Governor's Office and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, we listed fourteen talking points and their response was that the state was moving forward. The lawsuit is considered the first by any tribe, or tribes, filed against the EPA over changes to a state's water quality standards. *Source: Native News Online.*

### **'Beloved auntie' and reverend remembered:**

Minnesota dedicated July 26, 2022 to the late Rev. Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo, Ho-Chunk Nation: She was the first Native woman ordained in the Lutheran church, will be remembered as a strong source for many. Her obituary said she was constantly in touch with many people and "brought everyone warmth and a sparkle along with her signature purple eyeshadow." Marlene, Ho-Chunk Nation, died July 22. She was 75. She is survived by her spouse Harvey, two daughters and two grandchildren. It was announced Tuesday from Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, White Earth Nation, that July 26, 2022 will be Reverend Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo Day. Both recognized Marlene's advocacy for Indigenous people and their rights. "With our deepest gratitude, we recognize Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo for her many contributions to the people of Minnesota," Walz said in a Twitter post. Flanagan said in a Facebook post that Marlene was a beloved auntie whose "legacy continues to push us to serve with heart, compassion, bravery and humor." *Source: Indian Country Today.*

## MIIGWECH MARVIN

# A LEADER WITH A PURPOSE

## *Marvin Bruneau Retires After 28 years of Purposeful Service to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe*

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

In 28 years of service to Mille Lacs Band members, Marvin Bruneau took his oath of office seriously. "Every time I took that oath, I took it to heart — to serve to the best of my ability, so help me Gichi-manidoo," Bruneau said. Bruneau retired from his position as District II Representative on July 11, 2022, the date of his last Band Assembly meeting.

Bruneau was elected into office in 1990 to begin his first four-year term. Subsequently, he ran for office at the end of each term. Each year he was challenged by others, but held the office until 2014 when David Aubid won. Aubid served for four years when Bruneau got back into the race and was re-elected in 2018. Bruneau continued to serve the last four years for a total of 28 years of service.

Keeping his oath of office always in the forefront of his decision making, Bruneau said it was not always easy. "The number one thing I learned over the years is you can't please all of the people all of the time. You have to do your best to be able to serve the people as a whole and try as hard as you can to make the right decisions," he said.

Throughout his career, he has seen the Band go "from rags to riches," he said. His first year in office, the Band Government had a total budget of somewhere near \$2.2 million. "That funding all came from the federal and state government," he said. "Sometimes, it was hard to even make payroll."

The introduction of the casinos in 1991 began to change things for the Band. "Things started to turn around then. But it was a learning curve," he said. Making decisions that would change the lives of Band members for the better at the time and into the future was not always easy, he added.

Building a better community with services to help Band members and families to better their lives has always been a priority. "There were plenty of mountains to face and molehills to hurdle over," he recalls.

In 1990, the Band began to assert their treaty rights of 1837, whereby the U.S. government gave the Mille Lacs Band the right to hunt, fish, and gather free of state regulation on land ceded in the treaty. A lengthy legal battle was on the horizon in the foothills of that mountain when the Band filed a lawsuit against the State of Minnesota. Ascending an uphill climb, the Band and the Minnesota DNR worked out a settlement agreement that went before the State Legislature, who in 1993 denied the settlement. The court battles continued.

In 1994 and 1997, two U.S. District Courts ruled in favor of the Band to retain those hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. Each time the State appealed to a higher court, landing the case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

On March 24, 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on a 5-4 vote that the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa retain the hunting and fishing rights guaranteed to them under the 1837 treaty. In December 1999, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Davis ordered the state of Minnesota to pay the legal expenses of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa and six other bands. They were awarded a total of \$3.95 million.

Throughout that battle, decisions had to be made by Band officials regarding the lawsuit while keeping regular daily government business running on task. "I was just a part of the mechanism — a very small piece. There were so many people involved and it took all of us working together. We didn't always agree 100 percent of the time, but we made decisions that we felt would better serve all of the people in the community — all Mille Lacs Band members. A lot of the times it has been tough, but it was always rewarding," Bruneau said.

That is how Bruneau humbly faced all of the mountains and molehills along his decision-making process — thinking about how to better serve the Band members. "You have to follow your heart and do what you think is right," he said.

That is the legacy Marvin Bruneau leaves behind. He is soft-spoken, kind-hearted, and humble, yet a leader with a strong voice who follows through with integrity. He said he always remembers he is "a servant to the constituents of District



II and to all of the Band members. Politicians are here to serve a purpose. That's paramount."

To those who follow a political career, he said: "Do what you think is right. Listen first, talk later. Keep in mind it is all a learning curve. Lead with your heart."

Bruneau said the first couple of days of retirement left him looking for a new purpose to fill his days. "You can't just sit around. As much as I love fishing, you can't fish every day," he said with a chuckle. He is considering his options and there is no doubt he will follow his heart purposefully.

## TRIBUTES FROM STAFF MEMBERS

"Marvin took his position seriously. You know you could count on him to make decisions that he felt would make the Band better, even if they were unpopular with the few, he had to make tough decisions based on the majority. He is very selfless and simply a pleasure to work for and with."

### **Cheryl Miller, Legislative Aide**

"I had the pleasure of working with Marvin since 2019. Besides learning from his quick wit, I learned from his decades worth of knowledge on Band government, which has greatly helped me in my job. He will be missed and I hope to see him around."

### **Hanna Valento, Revisor of Statutes**

"It has been an honor working with and learning from one of the best elected officials, OgimaaBines. I have learned so much from his lifetime of knowledge. His dedication and leadership will continue to impact the future of the Mille Lacs Band. He will be greatly missed and I wish him and his family many blessings. Congratulations!"

### **Dibikwe Valerie Harrington-Wind, Chief Communications Officer**

"The thing I've learned over the years is that everyone brings their own unique aspect to a group that is like a revolving door. Everyone has different knowledge, experience, and we all can learn from them if we just sit back, watch, and listen when they speak. That is the best part about my job, is learning from leaders like Marvin who have served for many years and come with all that older institutional knowledge."

### **Darci Bigbear, Parliamentarian/Clerk of the Assembly**

"Marvin is perhaps the most sensible person I have ever met and I am so grateful to have received his mentorship on public service. Whenever I hear the word 'levity,' I will think of Marvin and remind myself to calm down a bit. Everything will be okay."

### **Adam Candler, Legislative Counsel**



## JUSTICE From page 1

General since May of 2019. He also serves as the Special Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Minnesota often prosecuting some of Minnesota's toughest criminal cases. The United States Attorney's Office District of Minnesota operates under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Justice. The office has set prosecution priorities, in the areas of violent crime and narcotics trafficking, Indian country, cyber-crime, national security, child exploitation, and human trafficking. Individuals convicted of crimes in this court are expected to serve the appropriate sentence in federal prison.

According to court documents, between June 2019 and October 2020, Xavier Jerome Buchanan, 47, conspired with others to traffic methamphetamine and other drugs from Las Vegas to communities in and surrounding the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation. Through the course of the investigation, law enforcement identified multiple packages containing drugs that were sent via the U.S. Postal Service from Las Vegas to a recipient in Eden Valley, Minnesota. On October 19, 2020, law enforcement conducted a controlled delivery of three packages that contained multiple bundles of methamphetamine. Officers arrested Buchanan when he arrived to retrieve the packages.

The investigation resulted in clearing more than 4.5 pounds of methamphetamine off the streets and out of the Mille Lacs communities.

Buchanan was sentenced in U.S. District Court before Senior Judge Michael J. Davis. On December 14, 2021, Buchanan pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Dogeagle has prosecuted other major criminal cases in the Minnesota district federal court that have resulted in lengthy sentences in federal prisons. The week prior to this, another case resulted in a woman sentenced to 107 months prison followed by 4 years of supervision for the defendant's participation in a major heroin case. Due to ongoing cases involving co-conspirators, the names have not been released in this case.

Earlier this year, on March 24, 2022, Dogeagle co-prosecut-

ed another case that handed another federal prison sentence to a McGregor felon, who was sentenced to 10 years for possession of stolen firearms.

According to court documents, on July 15, 2020, Vaundell Duwayne Kingbird, 32, sold a Hi-Point, model 995, 9mm carbine rifle and a New England Firearm Company, model SB1, 12-gauge shotgun, both with obliterated serial numbers, to an individual for \$550. At the time of the sale, Kingbird was unaware that the individual who purchased the firearms was working with law enforcement. Both firearms had been reported stolen on May 29, 2020, from a residence near Kingbird's home. Kingbird admitted to knowing the firearms were stolen.

On September 16, 2021, Kingbird pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a stolen firearm.

This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department, the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office, and the Lakes Area Drug Investigations Division.

"The Office of Solicitor General and Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department will continue protect and serve our communities," Dogeagle said. "The ability to prosecute federal crimes in federal court is an important and useful tool to help combat the drug epidemic affecting so many people."

Dogeagle is enrolled with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and comes to the Mille Lacs Band after having served as supervising legal counsel to the Three Affiliated Tribes of Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara. He has also been appointed by Governor Waltz to the Commission on Judicial Selection. The Commission on Judicial Selection solicits, considers, and recommends candidates to the Governor for vacancies in the District Trial Courts and the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals. It is a joint commission appointed by the Governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court and includes nine at-large members and four district members from each of Minnesota's ten Judicial Districts.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**1st Native American treasurer to push economic development:** Mohegan Chief Marilyn "Lynn" Malerba, the nation's first Native American U.S. treasurer, comes from a line of chiefs who instilled in her the need to keep her tribe healthy and to survive. "It's our job to leave footprints on the path for those who come behind us — so they may find their way easily," she said in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press. Now Malerba, 68, will bring that mindset to two new jobs in Washington: Last week President Joe Biden appointed her U.S. treasurer and overseer of a new Office of Tribal and Native Affairs at the Treasury Department. *Source: Seattle Times*

**IOC reinstates Jim Thorpe as sole winner of 1912 Olympic decathlon and pentathlon:** Jim Thorpe, stripped of his 1912 gold medals because he'd been paid to play minor league baseball, was reinstated Thursday as the sole winner of that year's Olympic decathlon and pentathlon by the International Olympic Committee. Thorpe, voted the greatest athlete of the first half of the 20th century by The Associated Press, won the decathlon and pentathlon at the Stockholm Olympics. However, because he had played minor league baseball in 1909-10 — earning a reported \$2 per game to \$35 per week — he was stripped of the medals in 1913 for violating the existing amateurism rules. The Amateur Athletic Union in the United States withdrew Thorpe's amateur status, and the IOC unanimously stripped Thorpe for being a professional. The decision has been controversial ever since, especially to Native American communities. Thorpe was a member of the Sac and Fox Nation, and was the first Native American to win a gold medal. *Source: ESPN.*

**Pope in headdress stirs deep emotions in Indian Country:** It was a stunning image: Pope Francis briefly wearing a full Indigenous headdress, its rows of soft white feathers fastened in place by a colorful, beaded headband after he apologized for the Catholic Church's role in Canada's "disastrous" residential school system for Indigenous children. Chief Wilton Littlechild, a residential school survivor himself, gave Francis the headdress Monday, placing it on his head amid cheering by an audience in Maskwacis, Alberta, that included many school survivors. The Vatican and the pope clearly appreciated the gesture: Francis kissed Littlechild's hands after receiving the headdress, something he has done in the past as a sign of respect for Holocaust survivors, and has done on this trip for residential school survivors. The Vatican obviously understood the symbolic significance of the moment, putting the photo on the front page of the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* under the headline "I humbly beg forgiveness." *Source: Associated Press*

**Department of Interior disapproves new Middletown Rancheria tribal gaming compact:** For the second time in eight months, the United States Department of Interior has disapproved a proposed new tribal gaming compact between Middletown Rancheria and the state of California. In a July 22 letter, Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, cited state overreach and continuing problems with the compact language that hadn't been corrected since issues were first raised last year in a previous compact. *Source: Lake County News (Calif.)*

## SWEARING-IN From page 1



Secretary-Treasurer  
Sheldon Boyd.



District II Representative  
Wendy Merrill.



District III Representative  
Harry Davis.



NAS School Board Member  
Joe Nayquonabe Sr.

Boyd recalled the markers of the last four years and his first term in office. "There was a first-ever Mille Lacs Investment Review, a world-wide Covid-19 Pandemic, causing both our gaming facilities to close the doors. There was George Floyd, masks, vaccinations, no masks, boosters, a presidential election in 2020 and an aftermath that puts to test the democracy of the United States. And most recently a decision by the supreme court that affects women across the country," Boyd said.

He continued, "Through all this, what I remember is how people reacted; the gaming facilities retooling to provide lunches, the Tribal Emergency Response Committee in full response mode making Mille Lacs Government a model of efficiency and cooperation, the loss of many so dear to our communities. And now a local county court battle started over public safety that included the 1855 Reservation boundary as a factor."

The next four years, among important tasks included by Band Statute, Band Assembly will see the follow-through of the Institutional Investment Committee to represent the interests of the people of the Mille Lacs Band in the management of the investments. Boyd said, "The proper management of the investment portfolio is new ground with checks and balances clearly outlined in Band statute where none existed before."

But there are "things that money can't fix," Boyd said. "Money can't fix a branded history in this country and an educational system that continuously produces professionals and

politicians with a blind spot toward Indigenous people worldwide. Money can't readily repair a technological and scientific system that perpetuates that blind spot for Indigenous peoples and people of color. That's going take time. That is the individual journey ahead where hard work, kindness, and health must be our choice."

District II Representative Wend Merrill said she sought office "to make our communities a better place and to be your voice." She said miigwech to those who supported her throughout the election and gave special recognition to several community members who are already making a difference: Adrienne Benjamin, Mic Davis, Brenda Moose, Sherraine White, Cheyanne Peet, Melanie Garbow, "and Marvin Bruneau, who showed us a common man can be an uncommon leader."

To all of her constituents, she pledged: "I will show up for you every day."

District III Representative Harry Davis also thanked all who supported him during the campaign and expressed his gratitude for being elected. His goals for the next four years include "Exceeding all our expectations to enjoy a better life, keep our language and culture programs strong, and improve our Elder and youth programs."

School Board member Joe Nayquonabe Sr. also took a few moments to say a few words entirely in Ojibwe expressing his gratitude.



WIIGWAAS — BIRCH BARK

# GIFTS FROM MOTHER EARTH

By MASHKODE-BIZHIKIGAHBAW, BENJI SAM

Native people across the world have been renowned for centuries for finding some of the most creative ways to use items from Mother Earth to survive even in the most harsh conditions known to man. It has been described by historians that to survive in these conditions from -40 degrees to 100-plus Fahrenheit, the Ojibwe were some of the most creative in finding ways to scale the landscape, store food year-round, and maintain healthy living with the help of handmade items. Wiigwaas, birch bark, is one of the most important tools used by our people year-round and a case can be made that this is the single most important item harvested by Native People in the history of North America.

Wiigwaas is one of the most versatile materials in our region and was historically used to cook in, gather herbs and berries, haul items, store water, write historical markings and ceremonial teachings, build baskets, insulate homes, weave bags, decorate, start fires, boil sap, finish wild rice, and of course build bark canoes. Birch bark canoes may have been the single most important item in our own Tribe's history because of our teaching of traveling to where the food grows on water. It allowed Our People the ability to cross and navigate lakes, rivers, and streams as well as the ability to gather fish and deliver meat across long distances with changing of the seasons.

It has been written that with proper care, birch bark canoes can last a lifetime due to their strength and craft quality. William C. Bryant, who was a writer for the New York Times in the mid 1800s, once wrote that the birch bark canoe is one of the most beautiful, perfect things to ever be constructed by human art. But to call building a full-sized birch bark canoe simply art is an understatement and anyone who has ever gathered the materials and has taken the time to construct a birch bark canoe knows how much goes into each boat.

There is a reason our people were notorious for building just one single boat per year — there is a lot that goes into



Benji and his grandmother, Betty Kegg, could often be found spending time together making arts and crafts when he was young.



Benji, his late father David 'Amik' Sam, and late niece Tanya Skinaway shared the woods collecting a beautiful birch tree used for making baskets and canoes.

the process. Birch bark must be gathered in some of the year's most hot and humid days with bugs buzzing through the forest so that we may harvest bark without hurting the tree. Tamarack and spruce roots are also gathered when the swamps become navigable and are used to hold the boat together. You must also fell a straight cedar tree and age cedar planks to be split paper thin. Pine sap must also be harvested to seal the canoe in a pitch mixture to maintain its waterproofing. And lastly, you will always need enough hands to help shape, cut, tie, steam, bend, retie, and finish each piece to the puzzle to be used for decades to come. These instruments were so well built that each fall, instead of letting the harsh winter beat down on these tools, our people would wade into the shallow, muddy water bays to sink canoes in the water to preserve for the following spring.

I first learned about using birch bark from my grandmother, Betty Kegg, around the age of five years old. I can still remember spending hours a day gathering, preparing, painting, tracing, and cutting bark for her. I always seemed to make a mess in the garage, and I can remember her scolding my dad for getting paint on the floor, but she never seemed to mind when I did. She was renowned across Indian Country for her Ojibwe artwork, and her mother Maude Kegg was also known nationally for her beadwork and birch bark basket making, and as her hands became softer and more fragile, mine grew stronger and coarser. Memories like that are what helped shape me into the person I am today.

I have spent more time this summer returning to my teachings and building canoes, baskets, earrings, and remastering the craft of birch bark art. I still use many of the stencils we made throughout my childhood and have been practicing double running, double diagonal, and whip stitch variations with wiigoob, tamarack, and spruce root. I am so thankful for my grandmother for sharing her knowledge with me at such a young age on how, and when, to gather birch bark, basswood



Benji pictured with his first official replica birch bark canoe, standing at 6 feet in length, made with the guidance of his uncle Don Wedll.

bark (wiigwaas), and red willow vine (miskwaabiimag), and how to treat these items to build birch bark baskets, canoes, earrings, bowls, bags, and grass dolls, and also for my uncle, Don Wedll, for teaching me how our Ancestors first built birch bark canoes. I hope to continue passing these skills on to new generations so that our culture's history and art can be enjoyed until the end of time.

More information can be found on birch bark artwork at The Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, where many baskets, canoes, and other birch bark items are for sale and on display while depicting historical impacts across our Nation's history.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

## SUMMER TRADITIONS

By KEN WEYAUS SR., MILLE LACS BAND ELDER

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

In the past, I've written about some Ojibwe traditions for the fall, winter, and spring. This time, I'd like to write about summer traditions.

In the summer, the Ojibwe People would gather by the shores of the big lakes. They would go fishing and hunt small game animals. They did not hunt big game animals during the summer because they had no means of preserving that much meat, and it would spoil. They also had little gardens with corn, beans, and squash that they tended. The people worked hard to store up their food for the winter.

Summertime was when people did most of their planning for the year ahead and figured out what they would need. For example, if you needed a new canoe to go ricing in the fall, you gathered the birch bark for it in the summer. If you needed more bark for your home, you gathered it during the summer, too.

People would make sheets out of the bark and sew them together, then roll them up to make them easier to carry. People also gathered lots of berries in the summer and made them into little patties. Then in the winter, they would boil these patties and sprinkle them with maple sugar, and they tasted just as sweet and tasty as they had in the summer.

To get ready for the big, long winter, people would tan deer hides and work on clothing in the summer. Men did a lot of hunting and fishing. As I said, they hunted small game, like raccoons and ducks. When they fished, they knew how to make nets that were just big

enough to catch what they needed, rather than catch large quantities that would spoil.

They were good conservationists — they didn't waste anything. When they caught fish, they didn't just take the fish out and eat them. If they saw that a fish was female, they would squeeze the eggs out and deposit them back into the lake. If they killed a turtle for food, they used the shell for storage or as a plate. They also moved their camps each year to be good conservationists.

For example, in the summer they used elm bark when making their wigwams. Elm bark doesn't regrow within a year, so they wouldn't come back to the same area the next summer — they would leave the first area alone and move to a different area. That allowed the first area to regrow itself, and the trees and the animals would come back.





# ALL SET FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

## Tips to help prepare for success

By **MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM**

It's August and the new school year is right around the corner. For some kids, going back to school is exciting and they have so much to look forward to. For some, it's a mixture of excitement and nervousness. For others, the transition is a huge adjustment and raises fear and anxiety. As parents, grandparents, and others raising kids, being prepared and helping with the transition will help children be more successful. Being prepared takes time, but the payoffs are important. Below are a few tips to help with the transition from summer to school.

1. Talk about school starting. Speak about school in a positive way. Your positive attitude and excitement about the year ahead will help them to be more successful.
2. Encourage participation in extra-curricular activities at the school and after school programs.
3. Getting the kids to bed at their regular school bedtime and getting up early can help make that first day of school easier. Trying to establish a routine early helps.
4. If your child is transferring schools, get registered now.
5. Are required vaccinations up to date? If not, schedule an appointment soon.
6. If the kids aren't reading books now, encourage fun reading to get them away from screen time.
7. Ask for help before the first day of school. If your child has experienced a medical issue, or crisis, loss, or is struggling with anxiety, depression, or addiction, reach out to a trusted support person at the school to explore support options for your child. Modeling and teaching our kids that it's okay to ask for help provides our kids with a great life skill. Never hesitate calling or emailing the school. Lean on the Indian Education staff, social work, or counseling staff.
8. Develop and talk about your expectations around homework. Where will they do their homework, where they won't be distracted? If there isn't a quiet space, can they stay after school to find a quiet space?
9. If there is an open house, attend! Meeting Indian education staff, teachers, principals, and support staff can help reduce some nervousness and the kids will have a familiar face to look to that first week of school. Tour the school, see the classroom, know where they will spend their days.
10. If you can print the school calendar, put it on your refrigerator. Knowing upcoming school events can help with your



- planning.
11. If time permits, get your kids' vision checked and dental work done early.
  12. If your child is interested in sports, make sure they sign up on time. Middle and high school students are required to have a sports physical done prior to the sport starting.
  13. Do you have before and after school daycare arranged?
  14. Part of the fun can be shopping for school supplies. Getting some supplies or school clothes early can help create some excitement.

### AREA SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Nay Ah Shing/Pine Grove: September 1 from 2 to 5 p.m.  
 Onamia: August 31 from 1 to 7 p.m.  
 Isle: August 31 from 5 to 8 p.m.  
 McGregor: September 1 from 12:30 to 7 p.m.  
 Hinckley/Finlayson: August 31. Contact the school for specific times for elementary, middle, and high school open house hours. 320-384-6277  
 Brainerd School District: Website ISD181.org or call 218-454-6900. Contact the district for specific times for elementary, middle, and high school open house hours.  
 Minisinaakwaang: August 24, 5 p.m.

### AREA SCHOOL FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school for Nay Ah Shing/Pine Grove, Isle, Onamia, McGregor, Hinckley/Finlayson, Brainerd Schools, and Minisinaakwaang is September 6, 2022. If you are unsure of the first day of school for your student, please contact the school directly.



### 5TH ANNUAL ANISHINAABE VALUES AWARENESS RIDE

The 5th Annual Anishinaabe Values Awareness Ride was held on July 5, 2022. The motorcycle ride brings awareness to the seven grandfather teachings of: love, respect, wisdom, honesty, humility, bravery, and truth. Kickstands were up after a prayer by Joe Nayquonabe Sr. and Dan Wind on hand drum and Max Blake on the flute. The ride began at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and ended at LCO with a stop at Mash-ka-wisen Treatment Center in Fon du Lac where the group did a presentation on the Seven Values. All together there were 25 riders and passengers, three cars, and a truck and trailer followed for safety.

## BRIEFS

### PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

### FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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



### COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

First aid and CPR class head at Aanjibimaadizing Thursday, July 21. 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.







## Women of the Big Lake

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AIYANNA MITCHELL, BAND MEMBER DESCENDANT

A new exhibit at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post opened in June. "The "Women of Big Lake" exhibit portrays the significance of our women and what they did and achieved. The women who made such a huge impact in their artwork and teaching are Mille Lacs Band members Maude Kegg, Batiste Sam, Margaret Hill, and Cheryl Minnema. They have showcased their talents through many ways, including their arts, writings, and teachings. Some of these women have taught or worked for the Mille Lacs historical museum and trading post.

There are many pieces of artwork showcased throughout the museum from these women, with the materials and a description of the work by it. Cheryl Minnema, Waabaanakwa-dookwe White Cloud woman was born in Minneapolis in 1973. She was raised on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Cheryl grew up watching the women in her family bead the traditional dance outfits.

Cheryl's hobbies include photography, making moccasins, and braiding. Cheryl also stated in the showcase, "Now I'm in the position where I can state how to make things, helping pass on what I have learned. It means a lot to me, because it's such a big part of our culture."



The American Girl Dolls traditional outfit was made by Cheryl Minnema in 2010, along with the beaded barrette made by Ed Minnema.

Batiste Sam, Naawigiizisookweban, (Noon Lady), was born October 3, 1914, and passed on January 25, 1998. She lived on the Mille Lacs Reservation her whole life and she was raised by her parents, who taught her many things throughout her life. Batiste was also a guide at the Mille Lacs history museum.

Her mother taught her how to make birch bark baskets and she gave workshops and taught it at the museum.

Maude Kegg, Naawikamigookweban, (Middle of the Earth Woman) was born August 26, 1904, and passed on January 6, 1996. Maude was a woman of many talents, and she showcased them through the museum. She was a storyteller, activist, artist, and she helped develop the four seasons room.

In 1990, Maude was awarded a national fellowship award, and Rudy Perch declared August 26, 1986, "Maude Kegg Day." Maude was a guide for the museum and passed on the many traditions about her life and childhood around Mille Lacs.

Margaret Hill, Wabooziban, (Late Rabbit) was born July 28, 1928, and passed on May 27, 2009. She worked at the museum and Nay Ah Shing schools. Margaret was very dedicated to passing her knowledge and teaching along to the community.

Margaret received the Community Spirit award from the First People Fund in 2008 for sharing her cultural values to many people. She states, "Creating quality art reflects directly back onto my people and community as well as myself. I am happy that my work helps to represent my people in a quality way.

In the showcase at the museum, there is artwork from



These moccasins were made by all three women, which were all made in the 90s.

these women. Gijpizonan belts are made for many decorative reasons and they sometimes showcase intricate beadwork. They are made by two different techniques: loom weaving and bead embroidery.

Batiste submitted two belt designs to *Percent for Art in Public Places* when she heard the museum was being built. Her artwork was not chosen but her oak leaf designs adorn the museum's walls.



April, 1947. Maude Kegg basket-making with American Basswood.



Maude Kegg was one of the first guides hired at the museum and made this dress to wear for work in the 1960s.



### AANJIBIMAADAZING CELEBRATES DIVISION'S CHIEF AWARD

Aanjibimaadazing staff gathered to celebrate winning the Division's Chief Award from the Department of the Interior. Staff are pictured with the award. Tammy Wickstrom, Executive Director, spoke about how hard staff have worked over the last three years and reviewed the program's multiple accomplishments at the celebration.



# UNUSUAL EDUCATION JOURNEY

*An honest look into one Band member's education which led to her understanding that education is a game changer*

By **TAWNIA STEWERT, BAND MEMBER**

Although I have completed three degrees and am thrilled about my accomplishments, the journey was not always easy. There were struggles, blunders, missteps, and mistakes along the way. I had to start over time and time again and get focused. It wasn't until I got focused and committed that I began seeing and creating the desired outcomes. Once I started and found my jam, nothing could stop me.

Education is a game changer. It grants the opportunities to increase your chances for new possibilities and a way to expand your worldview. Growing up in the city, my early days were filled with drama, drug violence, and many significant emotional events. Yet, reflecting on those early days, it would be fair to say some of us have been dealt a bad hand. Yet, deep inside of me, I realized I wanted and needed something different for my life despite all that was happening around me. But, to make that happen and change the next generation, I would have to make other decisions to change the trajectory of my life.

## High School and Undergrad Days

High school was a breeze, and I loved it; moving from a suburban school to an urban school was key. I got involved in just about everything from tennis, student council, snow daze court, newspaper, and yearbook, and graduated with no problem.

Next, college was on the list. The good news was that I wanted to go; the bad news was I did not have much guidance, assistance, or support — no one told me how to navigate it or what to expect once I got there. Unfortunately, I did not take college seriously when I started. I managed to get through a summer program, but things began to fall apart in the fall semester.

I was on my own and had a lot of freedom and no guidance. So I stopped doing homework, skipped class, and started to major in parties and more parties.

At some point, I was called into the office and placed on academic probation. Unfortunately, I didn't understand the implications of not following the academic plan, and soon after that got kicked out of college/dropped out.

## Life Lessons — A Girl in Limbo

I started working various jobs and living my best life. A couple of years had passed when I realized many of my friends were graduating while I was answering phones.

The turning point happened during the play "The Piano Lesson" by August Wilson, which explored our ancestors' hiding while learning to read. At that point, I decided it was time to pull it together and return to school.

I went back to the U of Minnesota but had to take night classes while working full-time. Typically, that meant 12-hour days. Go to work, go to night classes, repeat. To complete my degree in 3½ years, I mapped out all the classes I needed to graduate promptly. Planning was an essential step to graduating in three years vs. being in school for 5–6 years; I decided I would jump in full throttle and decided to go to summer school and triple my class load.

I was determined to complete my degree, and I did. I was the second person in my family to finish college. Side note, I was feeling motivated and determined, so I took the LSAT and applied to law school; I fumbled through the process and applied to Harvard and Yale but did not get accepted. So, when my company offered a move to Chicago, I went to continue my career in human resources.

## Graduate School

Since not getting into law school, I decided to get my master's in human resources from Loyola University, Chicago. So, once again, I was working full-time and going to school at night full-time. Working, personal issues, and buying a house were challenging while trying to finish school. I completed my de-



gree in two years and was fortunate to work for several big companies in Chicago like BP, Exelon, and Accenture, all while in HR. I always knew I wanted to come back and work for my Tribe and would wait for the right time and opportunity. It happened. In 2016, I joined Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures as Chief People and Culture Officer.

## MBA School

In 2020, after being out of school for many years, I decided to go back to school for what would be the most challenging degree, an MBA from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. With the support of Mille Lacs Band and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, I could once again work full-time and go to school every other weekend for the last two years.

I now hold three degrees; two master's degrees and a bachelor's degree. I dedicate these degrees to my mom (RIH), family, and Tribe. I share this story to encourage others to keep going on their journey. I feel fortunate, lucky, and happy to be where I am in my career and position; I always wanted to come and work for my Tribe, and now I have come home. This journey has been over 20 years, and I tried to follow the lessons below to help guide me for each degree.

## WAYS TO WIN

- You can always start over even if you failed on previous attempts.
- Learn from your mistakes.
- Winning self-talk; no matter what the obstacles.
- Stay positive with a can-do attitude.
- Dream big, set goals, write them down, and look at them daily.
- Be curious and always willing to learn.
- Become an avid reader.
- Worry less, achieve more.
- Identify the issue and create the solution to win.
- Get a mentor or personal advisory board or a cheerleader who keeps you motivated during the hard times.

SOURCE: Your 10 year plan for a remarkable life by Debbie Millman [https://youtu.be/FpUj1f5\\_4So](https://youtu.be/FpUj1f5_4So) copy.

## ENTER STAGE LEFT

SUMMERTIME DRAMA FUN

TAKE TWO!

Nay Ah Shing students gave a stellar performance of "Take Two!" with adaptations of Humpty Dumpty, Hickory Dickory Dock, and London Bridge is Falling Down, directed by Blenda Hagberg, at the NAS Summer Enrichment Camp, Wednesday, July 13. This is what is referred to as backyard theatre. The intention with staging and props is that students would, theoretically, be able to recreate such a presentation in their own backyard with little investment in materials. The goal is to inspire students to see the possibilities rather than be deterred by obstacles.

Cast members included: Mercedes Anderson, Craig Bellanger, Bryce Cash, Kofi Cash, Arther Gahbow, Fia Garbow, Leighnah Garbow, Quentin Garbow, Lilianna Kimpson, Stefan Kimpson, Phoenix Potter, Cass Sam, Kayden Chirchhill, Xavier Sam, Carsten Berry, Jeremy Drumbeater, Danileigh Sam, Nevaeh Sam-Nickaboine, Mina Bouvette, Baylee Doonan, Chance Kegg-Nickaboine, Maria Mattinas, Cory Nadeau, Hayden Nickaboine, Bella Sam, and Arieana Whiteeagle.



CINDERELLA PHOTOS BY AIYANNA MITCHELL

21st Century Learning Centers with Prairie Fire Children's Theatre worked with a group of Mille Lacs Community students for one week to learn the script and rehearse for the play "Cinderella." The students rehearsed all week to perform on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at the Chiminising Community Center. The cast included Keira Gray as Cinderella, Alisha Karst as Rona (step sister), Taliya Hansen as Zona, Rose Never as Dinah, Olivia Gray as Click Dark, Kylee Miner as King/Queen Cash, Jayden Nelson as The Assistant, Elsa Gray as Mikey, Avery Nayquonabe as the Mistake, and Maddie and Reece Moore as the Mice.



See more photos at [www.inaajimowin.com/galleries](http://www.inaajimowin.com/galleries)



## SHE BEADS

# MAZINIGWAASO A'AW IKWE

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR



This piece will be displayed on the walls of Concourse C at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport, showcasing Ojibwe floral design with beadwork.



This piece will be displayed on the walls of Concourse C at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport in honor of MMIW. It is a combination piece of a painting done with nail polish and beadwork.

"I am an artist," Alicia De La Cruz described herself. Within minutes of meeting her, you will find she is grounded with a hint of whimsy. She is confident, focused, and educated. She is colorful, creative, and spontaneous, yet gracious and humble. And she is proud to be a Mille Lacs Band member living in the Northeast Minneapolis Windom Park neighborhood surrounded by artists. Alicia De La Cruz is cultivating her talents, turning her artwork into her lifework and business.

"I would have been a Rez Baby," she said with a quiet smile one can feel as well as see. She explained both of her parents had lived on reservations — her mom originally resided



Alicia De La Cruz.

on the Leech Lake Reservation and her dad originally called the Mille Lacs Reservation home. That is, before the Indian Relocation Act tore them away from their traditional homelands and separated their families. They did not realize it then, but it is also what brought her mom and dad together later in life.

"My dad was born in 1955. His family was separated as part of the Indian Relocation Act," Alicia said. "Some were sent to Texas, some to North Dakota, and some to Minneapolis. My dad was born in North Dakota so they sent him there first. His family then moved to Minneapolis instead of staying in North Dakota, because they thought it would be more lucrative. That is where he met my mom."

Her parents, Rodney and Sharon Dorr, currently reside in Columbia Heights but have never forgot from where they came, their Anishinaabe values, and cultural traditions. They have passed on their knowledge of Ojibwe culture to their daughter Alicia. Particularly the art of beading.

"My Grandma and Aunties on my mom's side first taught me to bead when I was a little girl," she said. "I kind of put it aside for a while, but after graduating from high school, I picked it up again."

After high school, she continued her education, obtaining a handful of degrees including one each in business, Indian



Alicia De La Cruz holds a hat she will be beading.

studies, and AFA and design visual arts. She is now combining her knowledge with her passion for art and is turning her love for beading, color, design, and culture into her life's business. She has recently been awarded a grant and fellowship at the esteemed Bell Museum.

"I first heard about the Bell Museum while I was in college — you can see it from the U of M campus — and I just thought I was never good enough to apply," she said. "But then this year, I did [apply]. I was thrilled to have been selected as one of four out of 30 applicants and then I waited. Finally, one day I opened my email and there it was... 'Congratulations! You have been selected...' and I was just so excited and happy!"

The Bell Museum is Minnesota's official natural history museum, established by the legislature in 1872 and held in trust by the University of Minnesota. According to their website, for over a century, the museum has preserved and interpreted the state's rich natural history and served learners of all ages. Additionally, the scientific collections contain over one million specimens, representing every county in Minnesota and various locales around the globe.

The fellowship will allow Alicia to spend June through December studying at the Bell Museum with unlimited resources to complete her project. Her focus of the project is to "fuse my beaded art with science and nature to bring awareness as to why we need to protect endangered plant species here in Minnesota. Particularly, looking at plant species that are not only endangered, but are also important to Ojibwe people."

She was awarded a \$4,000 grant to spend as she wishes. "That will go a long way to buy beads!" she said with a laugh. Also, she received a \$500 stipend to be used specifically towards her museum project. The fellowship also awards her unlimited assistance from research materials at the University of Minnesota, and they will also help fund travel expenses to dig in and get hands-on cultural resource experiences at the Mille Lacs Reservation. "I will definitely be poking around up there [on the Mille Lacs Reservation] to learn as much as I can and experience the natural resources and learn the plants, and so much more," Alicia said.

In her beading, she attempts to capture the traditional Ojibwe florals while also adding her own style, giving it a "sort of modern twist," she said.

Alicia loves to bead the floral designs traditionally used by Ojibwe. Displaying a piece she recently made, she said she would like to learn more. "See this is all floral, but I made this up. I want my work to be more factually based to engage the Native community but also other communities. The fusion of science and art is amazing to me. To bring subjects that seem like polar opposites together into something beautiful and meaningful is the goal."

"I am really excited they gave a Native artist this opportunity and accepted a Native artist into this program," she said.

Combining different artistic methods is also a passion of Alicia's. She is also known for her style of painting and giving her work a 3D element by adding bead work to the painting in many different works such as the piece she created to honor and bring awareness to the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Alicia gave her permission for a photo version of that piece to be used in the posters for the Band's MMIW event, which was held at Health and Human Services on May 5, 2022, and the information on MMIW on page .

From now through December, she will also be sharing her MMIW original artwork with the world, as it will be featured at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport on the walls of Concourse C. Two other pieces of her beaded artwork will also be on display

at the airport. Those pieces of art will be available for purchase after the exhibit has ended.

A lot of her jewelry and other pieces are also a combination of traditional Ojibwe beadwork and Mexican traditional styles. "My husband is from Mexico. We have been married for ten years. I see my family often, but we do not get to visit his family as often. So, when we visit Mexico, I am inspired by the cultures and places we go when we travel," she said.

She pointed to one of her beaded creations. "They do beadwork in Mexico, too. So, this is a thunderbird but it is also a sugar skull. See the eyes, and the wings are the teeth. And then I added the Ojibwe florals."

Alicia is also inspired by other Mille Lacs Band artists. "I love Adrienne Benjamin's work! I follow her on Instagram, and am so proud of the accomplishments and contributions to the art world she has made for Anishinaabe artists."

Alicia sells her beadwork through Etsy and Instagram where you can follow her as @waboozbeading. When she is not busy beading, she can be found creating her own regalia and making and selling her own line of nail polish. The polish can also be found on Instagram at @leeshaslacquer. "Creating the nail polish is easy, but I shouldn't tell people it is easy!" she said with a giggle. Interestingly, she often uses her own nail polish to paint the backgrounds for her artwork and combines the beading and painting.

She plans on attending the Mille Lacs annual traditional powwow in August, wearing her new jingle dress she is currently sewing and a new bead-trimmed hat she is working on. "Stop by and say Boozhoo!"

Alicia is combining her love for science and the Earth with her passion for art and her own unique business style. "Oh, you will be hearing from me again in the future!" she said confidently.

There is no doubt in that.



Alicia showcases a thunderbird/sugar skull combination honoring her husband's Mexican culture.



# PIGSKIN SCRAMBLE ON THE GRIDIRON

FOOTBALL CAMP TEACHES SKILLS FOR LIFE BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD

By MASHKODE-BIZHIKIGAHBAW, BENJI SAM

The dog days of summer came a little early this year when members of the University of Minnesota Duluth coaching staff as well as some current Bulldog football players arrived in Hinckley on a Thursday morning in late June. The Bulldogs' coaching staff was coming off a two-week stint of team camps where they were able to work with dozens of teams from around the region to develop individual and team skills, give a chance for teams to scrimmage against teams within their class, and experience on-campus living. With the help of the Mille Lacs Band, these same coaches made the trip to Hinckley to give local players the chance to develop small group skills and practice with the speed and tempo of the collegiate level. In total, 25 area players between 7th and 12th grade showed up at the inaugural UMD Bulldog camp, and there was a familiar energy in the air that can be found across thousands of football fields around the country every fall.

The layout of the day was simple: players would be split into groups and go through introductory performance testing very similar to incoming collegiate or professional players at the beginning of their seasons. These players were tested on their agility, their broad jump distance, and 40-yard dash, and had height and weight taken down to complete the testing portion of the day. The coaches then split into small groups to work on offensive-specific drilling including footwork, attacking the hole, blocking, and many other techniques to build offensive-minded players with an improved understanding of what makes great teams click. They also spent plenty of time working on defensive skill work including footwork, use of hands at the line, angle of pursuit, and most importantly, tackle technique.

Coach Jason Balts of UMD described safe and efficient tackling as an incredibly important part of every defensive player's game for on the field success. He also described tackling as a major concern for player's safety and that's why their staff emphasizes safe tackling in every single snap played. After offensive and defensive skill work, camp gathered for a large group drill the UMD staff calls a razzle dazzle to finish camp with a little fun but also to finish with a competitive aspect of camp. Once the dust settled and the competition was over, the coaches gathered all of camp together for final words, thoughts, and a team breakdown.



Upperclassmen Jacob Wilson and Marcell Richey, who took home the UMD Upperclassmen Camp Dog of the Year, take on UMD coaches in a defensive lineman drill.



Campers surround Coach Balts wrapping up camp and speaking to the young group about developing skills on and off the field as players, as men, and as valuable members of their community.

The coaches gathered around and each took turns giving advice, and praise, to the group of participants. Coach Balts took the lead and spoke of the UMD Bulldog team mantra: Classroom, community, and competition. "Academics: It's time consuming, it isn't always easy; it takes consistency and effort to be great," he said. "Gentlemen, good football players are first built in the classroom, because without the classroom, you won't be able to see the field." He then spoke of community and the importance of giving back, while noting that volunteering to help others can be the most rewarding part about being a team. At UMD, he described, players are asked to volunteer each week to give back to the Duluth area. And finally, the coaching staff spoke about being competitive in anything and everything you are doing and to be a great teammate every chance you get. Every high five, hug, question asked, and hand lent to one another creates a bond strong enough to stand the test of time.

In wrapping up camp, players and coaches alike enjoyed a meal together and sat around for a Q&A with some of the current UMD players. The Bulldog players covered topics on how to stay ahead in the classroom, how to be a great teammate, and the importance of addressing, recognizing, and asking for help with mental health in athletics. "Our team stands with mental health and it's our job to help end the stigma," spoke a current Bulldog, "it's okay to struggle and ask for help sometimes. Your coaches have resources and a drive to help, but you must be open and honest with yourself above all." That's the beauty of a team sport like football — it's about building people up to be a better version of themselves each day.

Tim Taggart, Fitness Director at Meshakwad Community Center, believes this camp can annually be used as a stepping-stone for our youth to become more involved as a team. "I grew up around here and never got a chance to do anything like this; we never got the opportunity to see what football, coaching, and life is like after high school," said Taggart. "This is just our first year of this camp, but it was received well, and all the campers enjoyed it. I think this could really grow into being something special and become a tool to help our youth want to get and stay more involved. I think when they get to see col-

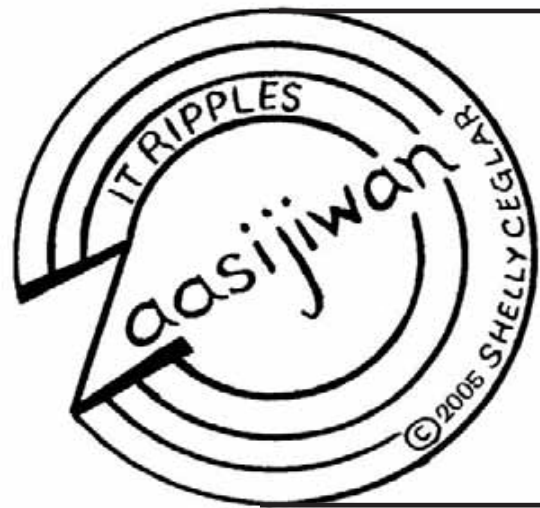
lege coaches, players, and the atmosphere of college football, we can really help make a difference in these kids." At the end of the day, that's what sports is all about.

Fifty years from now, nobody will remember who won the Town championship in 2022, but they will remember the kind of person you became and how you treated those around you. Building better sporting and artistic programs not only gives kids activities to participate in, but they also help build a sense of responsibility, community, ownership, and respect for the rest of their lives. As far as this single-day football camp goes, it was great to see some excitement build around the sport and was a great chance for our youth to hear from coaches and players from one of the most successful Division 2 football programs in the country. Thanks to UMD football, Hinckley/Finalyson High School, and the Mille Lacs Band for putting together a special day on the gridiron.



Angus Benjamin shown here demonstrating proper tackling technique during one of the defense drills promoting safety and efficiency.





# Niibin

Gizhaate na? Izhaadaa zaaga'iganing! Eya, niibing nindizhaamin zaaga'iganing. Dagoshinaang, nimboozimin. Gaye niibowa bebaamaadizijig. Gijiime na? Gidayaawaa na a'aw akikoons? Gidayaana ina waasamoo-jiimaan? Gakina-awiya baapinakamigiziwag. Niminwendam jiimeyaan agaaming. Inashke! Bizaan! Maang mookibii.

## It is Summer

(Is it hot weather? Let's go to the lake! Yes, when it is summer we go to the lake. When we arrive, we get in the boat. Also there are plenty of tourists (those who travel about). Do you paddle? Do you have her that outboard motor? Do you have a powered boat? Every-body they are excited. I am glad when I paddle across the lake. Look! Quiet! A loon emerges from the water.)

### Bezbig—1

### OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Gaawin—as in father

Miigwech—as in jay

Wiidige—as in seen

Nookomis—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O

Idash—as in about

Imaa—as in tin

Omaa—as in only

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

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

### Changing the meanings

- 1) Verbs can change to nouns.
- 2) Nouns can change to verbs.
- 3) To “each other.”

Wiidige.—S/he get married.  
 Wiidigewin(an)—Marriage(s)  
 Wiisini.—S/he eats.  
 Wiisiniwin(an)—Food(s)  
 Manoomin—Wild Rice  
 Manoominike.—S/he makes wild rice.  
 Wiigwaas—Birchbark  
 Wiigwaasike.—S/he gathers birchbark.  
 Bimose.—S/he walks.  
 Bimosediwag.—They walk to each other.  
 Giigido.—S/he speaks.  
 Giigidodiwag.—They speak to each other.

### Niizh—2

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

A. Giwiidige na? Niwiidige. Wiidige na Amber?

B. Gaawiin niwiidigesii. Eya, Amber wiidige.

C. Sam idash Amber gii-wiidigediwag gii-niibinong.

D. Zaagi'idiwag. Amber bimiwijige.  
 Mashkikiwinini gii-ikido,  
 “Ikwezens a'aw.”

E. Giin Nookomis! Howah!  
 Gibaapinakamigizi na?

F. Eya, nindinaa, “Gego zagaswaaken!”

G. Nindinaa, “Gego minikweken!”

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

### Niswi—3

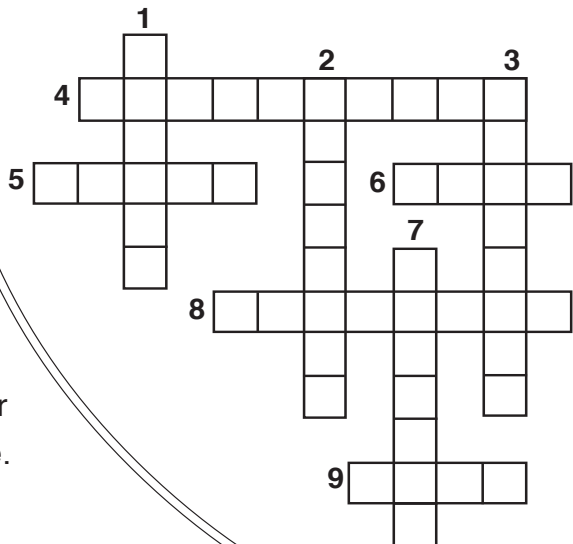
### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. Quiet!
2. Outboard motor
3. Across the lake.
7. You paddle.

Across:

4. You have him/her (animate).
5. Loon
6. That (animate)
8. Emerges from the water.
9. Here



### Niwin—4

### Changing the Meanings

Ondaadizi.—S/he is born.  
 Ondaadiziwin(an)—Birth(s)  
 Izhinikaazo.—S/he is named so.  
 Izhinikaazowin(an)—Name(s)  
 Bakwezhigan—Bread  
 Bakwezhiganike.—S/he makes bread.  
 Ojibwemo.—S/he speaks Ojibwe.  
 Ojibwemodiwag.—They speak Ojibwe to each other.  
 Ojibwemowin.—Ojibwe language.

—win

—ike

—diwag

—winan

Goojitoon! Try it!  
 Translation below.

1. Waabang Nookomis bawezhigan\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Bijiinaago, miikanaang, ikwezensag bimose\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Ziigwang Nimishoomis wiigwaas\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan? Daga ozhibii'igen gidizhinikaazo\_\_\_\_\_ omaa.

5. Ninzaagitoonan niibowa wiisini\_\_\_\_\_. Mii'iw.

### Translations:

**Niizh—2** A. Are you married? I am married. Amber, is she married? B. No I am not married. Yes, Amber she is married. C. Sam and Amber were married to each other last summer. D. They are in love with each other. Amber is expecting. The doctor said, “That is a girl.” E. You Grandma! All right! Are you excited? F. Yes. I said, “Don’t smoke!” G. I said, “Don’t drink!”

**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Bizaan 2. Akikoons 3. Agaaming 7. Gijiime Across: 4. Gidayaawaa 5. Maang 6. A'aw 8. Mookibii 9. Omaa

**Niwin—4** 1. At dawn, my Grandma she makes bread. 2. Yesterday on the trail the girls walked to each other. 3. When it is spring my Grandpa he gathers birchbark. 4. What is your name? Please write your name here. 5. I love them, many foods. That's it.

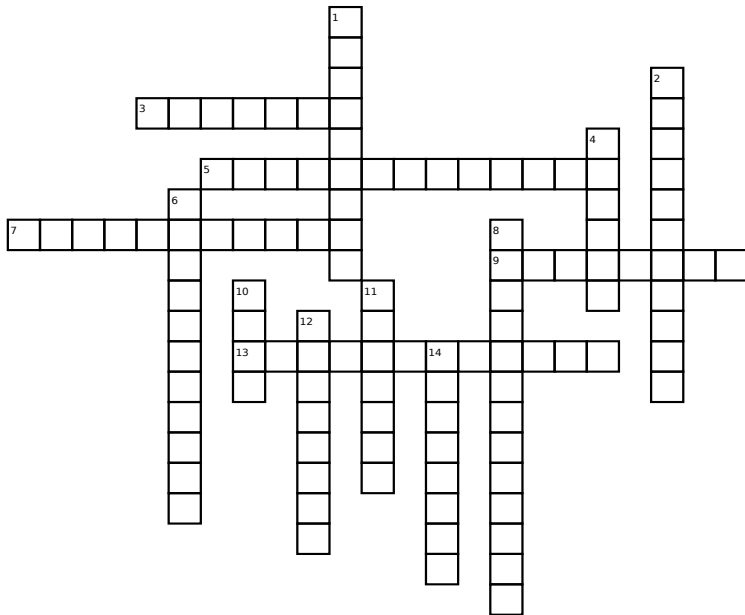
There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation.

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# AAZHAWAAKWASING IKIDOWINAN MANOOMINIKE-GIIZIS 2022

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

1. Indizhaa imaa \_\_\_\_\_. (I am going to town.)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ ezhi-dazhiikamaan o'ow Xbox. (Watch me be occupied(play) with this Xbox.)
4. Indaa-\_\_\_\_\_ waabang. (I should go to work tomorrow.)
6. Mii o'ow babinzikawaagan waa-\_\_\_\_\_. (This is the jacket I want to wear.)
8. \_\_\_\_\_. (I should use the bathroom.)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ naadamawishin i'iw menwaagamig. (Please go get me a pop.)
11. Mii \_\_\_\_\_ ji-nibaayaan ishpi-dibikad. (It's time for me to sleep it is late.)
12. Gagwejim \_\_\_\_\_ ji-wiidoookook. (Ask your younger sibling to help you.)

Across:

3. \_\_\_\_\_ ningana-waabandaan (I am watching Youtube.)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ o'ow Xbox. (I am occupied(playing) with this Xbox.)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ gaagiigidoyan. (I am listening to you as you speak.)
9. Gi-\_\_\_\_\_ ina? (Are you coming with me?)
13. Gidaa-azhe-giawe \_\_\_\_\_. (You should go home when you're done.)

## WHO ARE WE?

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, this question may have crossed your mind throughout your life: Who are we? As individuals, we may have an idea of who we are. But, who are we as a group? Anishinaabe are communal beings. We rely on one another for a variety of things related to the parts of our being: mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual.

Throughout your life you may have heard an elder say, "we are all connected," or "all my relations." "Indinawemaaganidog" is a popular one, "all those that must be my relatives." We are spiritual beings, remember, living out a physical existence. We are one people because of our spiritual connections.

As we approach our fellow Anishinaabe, we can sense their presence. We may ask ourselves, "Is he or she shinnab?" That is our spirit recognizing their spirit. Have you ever felt uplifted after leaving an energetic event with plenty of your fellow Anishinaabe there? That is our spirits being nourished. Everything is energy. When you smile at your fellow Anishinaabe, chances are they will smile back.

We are spiritual beings having a physical experience. Your name is what connects you to the spirit world. Your special connection. Your very own Caller ID. Learn more about your name. There is a story there and more than likely, there is an ancestor who has that name. There is an ancestor who enriched that connection and the spirits chose you to carry that connection on.

Our clans further expand our spiritual energy. Not only do we have names, we have additional support that manifests as roles and responsibilities to the community. Our clan connections have been running low lately. Then, our connection to place. Our place where we were raised, our place where we visited our relatives, the place where we spent time with our role models. We have connection. We eventually will pass away and visit every place



we ever been. Our ancestors knew that there was a deeper connection than physically to place. There is a spiritual connection.

If these words cause a curiosity that compel you to seek, do it. What you may learn can mean the difference to our relatives in the future. If you are ever so motivated to grow what you know as an individual, our collective knowledge grows. One day someone is going to ask the questions you may have. It would be of great service to our relatives yet to come to have answers for them, guidance they can use to answer the question, "Who are we?"

Miigwech

## GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

A repetitive action builds muscle. The same as our Ojibwemowin muscle. You already have it, you just need to use it. Exercise it and it will become stronger. Use the language you know and you will learn what else you need to know. Then, learn that too.

**Nindaa-zaaga'am** = I should use the bathroom.

(Nind dah zah guh umm)

**Aandi izhaayan?** = Where are you going?

(On dih izh zhah yun)

**Indizhaa imaa Oodenaang.** = I am going to town.

(In dih zhah ih mah Ooh day nahng )

**Mii o'ow babinzikawaagan waa-piizikamaan.** =

This is the jacket I want to wear.

(Me oh oh bub beanz zik cow wah gun wah peez zik kuh mahn)

**Daga naadamawishin i'iw menwaagamig.** =

Please go get me a pop.

(Duh guh nah dum maw wish shin ih iw mayn wah gum mig)

**Gagwejim gishiime ji-wiidoookook.** = Ask your younger sibling to help you.

(Gug gway jim gish she may jih wee doo koohk)

**Nindazhiikaan o'ow Xbox.** = I am occupied

(playing) with this Xbox.

(Nind duzh zhee khan oh oh Xbox)

**Waabamishin ezhi-dazhiikamaan o'ow Xbox.** =

Watch me be occupied (play) with this Xbox.

(Wah bum mish shin ayzh zhih duzh zhee kuh mahn oh oh Xbox)

**Youtube ningana-waabandaan.** = I am watching

Youtube.

(Youtube nin guh nuh wah bun dawn)

**Mii azhigwa ji-nibaayaan ishpi-dibikad.** = It's

time for me to sleep it is late.

(Mee uz zhig gwuh jih nib bah yawn ish pih dib bik kud)

**Indaa-anokii waabang.** = I should go to work

tomorrow.

(In dah oh uh no key wah bung)

**Gidaa-azhe-giawe giizhiitayan.** = You should go

home when you're done.

(Gih dah uz zhay gee way gee zhee tah yun)

**Gi-izhiwizh ina?** = Are you coming with me?

(Gih izh zhiw wizh in nuh)

**Gibizindoon gaagiigidoyan.** = I am listening to you

as you speak.

(Gih biz in doon gah gee gih doe yawn)

*You can hear many words and sentences pronounced by native speakers at [ojibwe.lib.umn.edu](http://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu).*



# GII-ISHKONIGEWAG 5TH ANNUAL POWWOW

The Gii-Ishkonigewag 5th Annual Powwow Was held in East Lake Friday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24, 2022. The powwow was moved indoors to the East Lake Community Center on Saturday, July 23 due to weather.

More photos can be found online at [Inaajimowin.com/galleries](http://Inaajimowin.com/galleries).

PHOTOS BY BILL JONES, BAND MEMBER





## BAND MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

# MEET JULIUS AUBID, RED WILLOW ESTATES PROPERTY MANAGER

By LISA NOLAN, COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA SPECIALIST, MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

Humble and proud. Those are the two words that Band member Julius Aubid uses to describe how he feels about being selected as the Property Manager for the forthcoming workforce housing development, Red Willow Estates, in Onamia. At just 24 years old, Julius is well prepared to excel in his role.

In 2016, Julius moved to Hinckley with the dream of creating a better life for his family. This is when he started his career as a table games attendant at Grand Casino Hinckley. His drive and work ethic were already on full display as he was quickly offered a supervisory position. Julius continued his career with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as the Program Administrator for District III. The role required Julius to become a jack-of-all-trades. There was never a task he was unwilling to tackle.

During his tenure as Program Administrator, Julius earned an associate degree. "Working full-time and going to school full-time was difficult. It was hard to find the balance between work, school, and family," he says.

Julius credits his wife, Shana, for her support and encouragement during those times. Her belief in him helped him succeed and has motivated him to want to continue his education. His next goal is to earn a four-year degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Armed with the communication, speech, and critical-thinking tools that college provided Julius, he was ready to take on a new challenge in his career. So, he applied for the role of Property Manager at Red Willow Estates. The Circle Sage hiring managers saw something special in Julius.

"When we started reviewing candidates for the property manager role, it was clear the competition was fierce," says Dustin Goslin, Vice President of Business and Economic De-



velopment for MLCV and Chief Executive Officer for Circle Sage Property Management. "Even though Julius was not as qualified as the others... he was powered by things the others weren't, including community leadership, capacity to learn, and being a role model outside of work. We all immediately knew he aligned with our core values."

While Red Willow Estates is under construction, Julius is working at Lady Luck Estates in Hinckley and going through extensive training. "I have been training for this role for almost a year. At first, the training was intense. I had to earn three accreditations through the state to become a property manager," Julius explains.

The company is excited to see Julius' growth — both personally and professionally. "We invested heavily in his technical development. It is beautiful to see him grow as a leader and tackle this important new project."

As the tactical training is ending, he's excited to hit the ground running. "Honestly, I'm looking forward to building relationships with the tenants and creating a community that everyone can enjoy at Red Willow Estates," says Julius.

With a new job and the purchase of his first home, it is clear that Julius is making his dreams come true. Through hard work, tenacity, and determination, he has been able to create a great life for his young family.

## AROUND THE RESERVATION

### HEALING CIRCLE RUN

The Mille Lacs Band participated in The Healing Circle Run on Thursday, July 14, 2022. The Healing Circle Run is a prayer for healing with every step. It is an opportunity to pray for healing for ourselves, our families, our communities, our nation, Aki, and all our relatives. This 7-day run from July 9 through 15 connects 10 tribal nations throughout the Ojibwe Ceded Territory. Each nation runs a path through their homelands to create a connection to one another and strengthen the prayers for healing.

This annual event began in 1989 as the Anishinaabe Solidarity Relay. Today, The Healing Circle Run continues to connect Ojibwe communities across Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and through collective running, walking, and prayer, provides healing and relief. The annual event also serves as a reminder to both participants and observers of the commitment, efforts, and resiliency of the tribal nations that have survived decades of trauma.



## GRA UPDATE

# ETHICAL USE OF CCTV

GRA Surveillance Department employees have access to a variety of tools that allow them to protect the Tribe and its assets. A comprehensive protection plan requires sensitive data, technology, and resources be available, and used in both proactive and reactive or investigative functions to identify individuals or even processes that inflict damage or loss to the Tribe, or the casino as its entity.

One of the most misunderstood tools at the Surveillance Team's disposal is the CCTV system of surveillance cameras. This technology is critical to asset protection, and a necessity throughout the property. Having such tools in place requires targeted training and clearly defined policies and procedures for the staff with access, and this is a priority of the Surveillance Team. Both appropriate/ethical use of the system and inappropriate/unethical use of surveillance cameras, equipment, information, data, and recordings containing images from cameras are covered at length, and team members are required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Expectations for all GRA employees include refraining from engaging in any behavior or activities that might adversely affect the trust, integrity, or reputation of the GRA or the Band.

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

While focusing on the legitimate needs of the Surveillance

## GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

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

The GRA will not engage in nor tolerate retaliation against individuals who raise genuine ethics concerns in good faith. Feel free to contact the Executive Director of the OGR&C or the Surveillance Director with any questions you may have regarding applicable policies, procedures, and ethical expectations.

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



## AROUND THE RESERVATION

### NEXT GENERATION

Welcome to the Reservation, Ode Morris! He was born on June 4, 2022, weighing 6 pounds 8 ounces. Proud parents are Airiana Williams and Migizi Morris. Airiana came into the District I Legislative Office to meet with District I Representative Virgil Wind to receive her baby boy basket (pictured below). We welcome baby Ode to the District I community. Best wishes to the family!



#### FUNERAL NOTICES:

(Full obituaries for the following notices were not available as of press time. Full obituaries will be posted online at Inaajimowin.com as soon as they become available and printed in a future edition.)

#### Zhaagajwiigaabawiikwe, Wanda Misquadace

Wake: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at Dusk  
Funeral: Thursday, July 28th, 2022 at 10 a.m.  
Officiating: Vincent Merrill

#### Aazhoowanang Christina Marie Boyd

Wake: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at Dusk  
Funeral: Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 11 a.m.  
Officiating: Baabiitaw

## MEKWENIMINJIG THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

#### Neegonigobo, Henry Bonga Jr.

Neegonigobo, Henry Bonga Jr., age 85, of Breezy Point, Minn., died on June 29, 2022. Visitation was at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 3, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Nazhike officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Neegonigobo, Henry Bonga Jr. was born on December 5, 1936, to Caroline and Henry Bonga Sr. Since the 1970s, Hank Bonga has been working tirelessly to advance American Indians. From his work at American Indian Centers in Detroit and Chicago, to writing (and receiving) grants that supported programming for Native artists and housing for Elders. In the late 1990s, he and his wife Carol owned and operated Kathio Trading Company, a Northwoods themed specialty gift shop within Grand Casino Mille Lacs. He was most proud of the work with Excorp Medical along with Dan Miller. He will be greatly missed by all.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters, Kim Brock, Lisa (Kurt) Handlend-Liebold, Tina (Roger) Pawlu; sons, Henry (Rebecca) Bonga III, Sean (Theresa) Bonga, Jeff Bonga, Ryan (Moe) Antone; and many, many, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Caroline and Henry Bonga Sr.; and sisters, Jeannie and Patricia.



#### Manidookwe, Virginia Davis

Manidookwe, Virginia Davis, age 76, passed away on July 11, 2022. Visitation was at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 15, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation, with Nazhike officiating. Interment will be in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Manidookwe, Virginia Joyce Davis was born on May 19, 1946, in Cloquet, Minnesota, to Emma (Jekey) and John Davis. She enjoyed spending her time doing crossword puzzles and going to the casino. Virginia had fond memories of days spent fishing and camping. She loved being with family, especially with the children.

Virginia is survived by her sister, Viola Hendren; and many loving grand nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded by her parents, Emma (Jekey) and John Davis; her adopted son, Jason Eagle; and sisters, Isabelle, Katherine, and Irene.



*This page is offered as a service to those families who would like to share the news of their loved ones' passing. Please submit memorials for Mekweniminjig to news@mille-lacsband.com. Photos are accepted but not required.*

## BAND MEMBER VOICES — MY JOURNEY BACK TO THE DANCE HALL, PART II

GAA-TIBAAJIMOD (TOLD BY) JOE NAYQUONABE SR.

GAA-TIBAAJIMOTAWAAJIN (TRANSCRIBED BY) JAMES CLARK

In 1975 when Public Law 93-638 or the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act was passed within the U.S government stating that Indian tribes have the authority to contract with the Federal government to operate programs serving their tribal members and other eligible persons. At First Joe was hired at the Band to write a health plan, and he eventually got a full-time job so the family could move back home.

Upon settling in, Rita started working at the clinic, and had a lot of respect given to her due to her awareness knowing she's a white catholic women married to a native person with native kids. In addition, she would become very helpful during the Ceremonial Dances cooking, setting the table and she was always sincere no matter who she was around.

Joe and Rita were talking about spirituality, she was saying that it was Joe's time to really bog back down into the ceremonial dances. They were going more often and having more kids, but he was still drinking. For some reason out of the blue Joe quit drinking and was sober for about two or three years but he wasn't happy with life during that time. He sought the advice of elders, one from Aazhoomog or Lake Lena who he asked about his problem. "I see you at the dances, I think you need to understand why you're doing it." He sought another elder for her advice "Joe it's good to see you back at the dances, but I don't think you know the purpose of you being there." Joe started asking questions, and being more proactive (listening was a key part) and he found what he was looking for. Once that happened, the nightmares left once and for all. All aspects of life changed in ways that benefited him, his family, and the community, yet he noticed many around were struggling and have sadly perished in the process.

Joe went back to school St. Cloud State University (SCUS),

where advisors suggested he go into chemical dependency counseling. At first, he went for a certificate in C.D which would have only been for two years but school requirements changed to needing a full degree and a license to work in the field.

Back to the dances. People showed Rita a lot of respect and they even liked to talk to her and visit because she treated them like people unlike many non-native people at the time.

One time during the social part of the dance, they gave her a blanket which means to dance with them, and they tried to teach her how to dance. The dance hall was roaring in support of her learning how to dance and both parties were having tons of fun and encouragement. Once she had the beat down, they had to include that hand movements and she got frustrated but they continued help her. The moral is that she was always considerate of her roots and where she was and that was what the natives loved about her.

Joe got his degree after years, because he was both a veteran and an Indian thus he did his internship at Fourwinds Lodge Treatment Center. His schooling taught him respect, care, and dignity. No matter if Joe was with native people or veterans, that's how he treated everyone. He took that and used that perspective with all the people in the world he came into contact with.

The world began to turn a new leaf for Joe. He was happier and nicer. Good life times with no more nightmares. He was working with chemical dependency, and being a strong part of the community. One day he was going to the dances he was told "your mom put dishes and asemaa to the drum to look over you" and he realized it wasn't luck all them years ago when he was injured but those drums who looked after and brought him home.

"I thank those drums for where I am today, without them I would be in a bad spot," Joe said.

After 40 years together, Rita left five years ago. "If it wasn't for my spirituality, I would be back to square one and dealt with

even more pain," Joe said. He also participated in a washing up ceremony that was done over at one of the Ceremonial Dances. It is a ceremony meant to help further assist with the release of grief created after losing a relative. A treasured memory of Joe's is her funeral which was held at a local church and yet the church was packed that the line was out the door, showing the respect that the Band and its members had for her.

To this day Joe is still fighting agent orange after having a triple bypass and is now considered 100% disabled, yet his mission is to help rather than his military training all those years ago which told him the opposite. Joe offers his asemaa at the dance hall to the vets because he knows what they have been through. He also does it for the chemically dependent because he knows what it is like. And he offers for his namesakes and wish them the best in life. Due to Rita's soft push all those years ago, you'll see Joe wherever there is a drum. Without a degree and sobriety, he wouldn't be where he is today. She never imposed her beliefs or tried to convert him, she always cherished and respected his culture, language, and identity. Joe misses her each and every day but he's still here because people who lifted him up. On April 15th Joe celebrated his 42 years of sobriety which was posted on Joe's Facebook and was quite a hit. At his next dance a well-respected professor and a well-respected language teacher congratulated him "had I not started my journey 42 years ago I never would have met them, nor any of the other countless good people". To this day Joe continues to do things for Ojibwe people all over no matter if it is speaking at a ceremonial dance or being a spiritual advisor at a powwow, Joe finds great solace in helping others along their journey as so many have done for him through his time on this Earth.

Miigwech, mii iw.



# EDUCATION AND AANJIBIMAADIZING VISIT CHEROKEE NATION

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Deep in the woods of Eastern Oklahoma on lands of the Cherokee Nation, a group of Anishinaabeg gather near a creek. They are taking part in a ceremony that will wash away what you're ready to let go of and then the creek will take it far away from you. Throwing water over their shoulders as the singer chants in the Cherokee Language, the group faces the rising sun that is blaring heat as the clear water passes by their feet. The visit starts this way. They are there to learn how the Cherokee Nation is going about language and cultural revitalization.

Commissioner of Education, Niiyogaabawiikwe Gonzalez, has a vision to shift the infrastructure of Education for the Mille Lacs Band. "That is my biggest focus and the benefit of a comprehensive plan," gaa-ikidod a'aw Niiyogaabawiikwe, "which is why I look to the Cherokee." The Cherokee Nation has roughly 2,000 first Language Speakers left today and they have been in a critical state for 20 years. The team has been building for the two decades and major shifts have been taken in recent years as their Language Speakers have been dying. 150 have changed worlds in the most recent year alone.

Why is an Indigenous Language Important? For the Cherokee, it is crucial that their language continues. They believe that once their language is no longer spoken, there will not be any Cherokee left. For one young Cherokee speaker it has greatly connected him to the ancestors and his own self. "I know who I am", gaa-wiindamawaad the Anishinaabeg. The Language of our ancestors is more than mere words to speak to one another in the physical world. The sounds resonate through our spirits, offerings and helps to the spirit world which binds us together in a divine way.

The Cherokee programs were once scattered about their government infrastructure. A language program here, a culture program there or a grant funded activity with a piece of their culture tied into it. Today, there is a third immersion school going up in one of their communities, the start of Cohort 6 of Apprenticeship Programming and a newly created fast track for apprentices to become teachers at the immersion schools. With all programming under one department, they use the various aspects which allows them to take a holistic approach to language and culture revitalization, you can't have one without the other.

They use internal resource development to fulfill the needs of students, youth and adults alike. Technological resources for devices as well as the common books and posters are created on an as needed basis by a team of three to six staff. To support resources there are translators in charge of the language usage. And to further support the program there are also language documentors whose sole job is to record and categorize the language. Then it's all used in books, posters, videos, social media, signage, websites and so on.

Mille Lacs is in a similar situation with a decline of Ojibwe first language speakers, programs being housed in different areas and teachers having to create curriculum, lesson plans and resources on the fly. There is also immersion programming at the schools, apprenticeship programming in Aanjibimaadizing and great interest from community members to know more about who we are.

The end of the visit concluded with an invitation to a Stomp Dance. A long held ceremony that honors their ancestors and the spirits. They gather according to clan and hold a feast. Lots and lots of food. As the sun sets, a fire is built. The Cherokee move closer to the firepit, a local leader of the ceremony says words in the language with deliberate cadence. The ladies strap turtle shell rattles to their legs. The helpers build up the fire and a few members of each clan approach. The singing starts by the men and the ladies stomp their legs one by one that shakes the rattles tied to them. Male, female, male, female is how the line goes and they all stomp with their legs one by one going around the fire in a counter-clockwise fashion. They dance well into the night until near sunrise.



## CHEROKEE CULTURAL GROUNDS LISTENING SESSION

Bette Sam, Shirley Boyd, Carol Nickaboine and Ningaabi'anookwe are listening to hosts at the Cherokee cultural grounds.

**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe**  
**Welcomes You To Our**  
**Traditional Powwow**

Home of the Jingle Dress  
**ISKIGAMIZIGAN**  
 Est. 1966

**56th Annual**

**Aug. 19, 20, 21 2022**  
**Grand Entries Fri. 7pm, Sat. 1pm & 7pm & Sun. 1pm**

**Register Each Session For Pay Each Session**  
**MUST BE IN REGALIA TO GET PAID**

**No Pictures of Ceremonial Drum**  
**Don't Leave Children Unattended.**  
**No Raffles**  
**Meal Served on Saturday Evening**

**Emcees:**  
 Brad Harrington  
 Joel Syrette

**Arena Directors:**  
 Duck White LCO  
 Gabe Gahbow Sr. MLE

**Host Drum: Little Otter**  
**Co-Host Drum: MNX**  
**Invited Drums: Young Kingbird,**  
**Iron Boy & Southern Boys**

**Saturday Mid Morning**  
 - Parade  
 - Rez Car  
 - Horse Shoe  
 - Moccasin Games

**Specials:**  
 - Women's Old Style Jingle Dress  
 - Men's Woodlands Dance  
 - Switch Up Dance Specials

**ISKIGAMIZIGAN Powwow Grounds**  
**West Side of Lake Mille Lacs 12 miles North of Onamia, MN and North of Grand Casino on HWY 169, Follow Signs!**



# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## AUGUST ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Raymond Benjamin  
 Ruby Gayle Benjamin  
 Caryn Arlene Day  
 Leonard Paul Garbow  
 Alberta Lynn Loso  
 Caryn Annette Mitchell  
 James Monroe Ballinger  
 Diane Marie Barstow  
 Barbara Jo Bearheart  
 Wendy May Benjamin  
 Clayton Jay Boyd  
 Debra Elaine Brooks  
 Myrna Joy Ceballos  
 Albert Joel Churchill  
 Karen Marie Clark  
 Catherine Lynn Colstrud  
 John Dewey Colstrud  
 Karen Lee Davis  
 Geraldine DeFoe  
 Shelly Arnell Diaz  
 Edward Ernest Dunkley  
 Roxanne Julie Emery  
 Dorinda Fay Garbow

Samuel Garbow  
 Diana Guizar  
 Rosalie Noreen Hallaway  
 Mary Jean Harpster  
 Bradley Harrington  
 Richard Dee Hill  
 Stephanie Ann Houle  
 Valerie Lee Jiminez  
 Patricia Clarise Jones  
 William Allen Jones  
 Doris Kegg  
 Manfred Lynn Kegg  
 Joseph Franklin Knudtson  
 Carol Elizabeth Kornkven  
 James Matrious  
 Sydney Leigh Miller  
 Andy Mitchell  
 Lynda Lou Mitchell  
 Robert James Mitchell  
 Trisha Lynn Moose  
 Gerry Warden Mortenson  
 JoAnne Sue Nail  
 Delia Ann Nayquonabe  
 Ole Nickaboine  
 Michelle Rae Pagel  
 Duane James Pawlitschek

Herbert Jay Pawlitschek  
 JoMarie Ann Potter  
 Margaret Rose Premo  
 Linda Christine Quaderer  
 Terry Lee Ray  
 Sandra Jean Reynolds  
 Sharon Marie Rogers  
 Kimberly Ann Sam  
 Todd Leonard Sam  
 Alexander Laverne Schaaf  
 Theresa Joy Schaaf  
 William David Schaaf  
 David Duane Shaugobay  
 Janice Marie Shaugobay  
 Daniel John Staples  
 Janet Rose Swierczek  
 Connie Jean Taylor  
 Janice Louise Taylor  
 Richard Henry Thomas  
 Sylvester W. Thomas  
 John Wayne Towle  
 Michael Laverne Wade  
 Alrick George Wadena  
 Carmen Denise Weous  
 Donna Jean Wind  
 Franklin John Woyak

## ELDERS NEEDED!

The Government Affairs Department is seeking Elders to tell their stories for a new Moccasin Telegraph series as well as to preserve video and audio in the Mille Lacs Band archives for future generations. If you are willing to participate in a two-hour video interview to share your memories, please email [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-630-8195.

## HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **PJ** on August 5, with love from the Harrington Family • Happy birthday **Mom and Dad** on August 15, with love, Val • Happy birthday **Gram Kin and Papa Brad** on August 15, with love, Pie and Kev • Happy Birthday **GG & Papa**, on August 15, with love, Ogimaa Binesiikwe • Happy birthday **Jay**, on August 16, with love, your brothers and sissy's • Happy Birthday **Gabbi**, on August 20, with love, the Harrington family • Happy Birthday **Mickey**, on August 20, with love, the Harrington Family

## NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

The Tribal Noteboard welcomes Band member submissions, including birthdays, congratulatory messages, and memorial tributes. For birthday messages, send name, birthday, and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or **320-630-8195**. The deadline for the September issue is August 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please call 320-630-8195 or email [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday. Send calendar items to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com).

# IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

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

**Mille Lacs Band Government Center:** 320-532-4181

**Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police:** 320-532-3430

**Non-Emergency Phone:** 320-630-2994

### Commissioners:

Administration: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Community Development: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

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

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

### Chief Executive's Office

Baabiitaw Boyd: 218-670-0745

### Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

### Legislative Inquiries

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

### Band Assembly Inquiries

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

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

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

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

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

### Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

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

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

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

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

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

### Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider Appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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

Mental Health Call Line: 320-674-4385

Substance Use Assessments and Counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental Emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

Emergency Services: 320-532-1755 or 320-532-1756. After hours: 320-630-2432 or 320-362-4672

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

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

### Office of Management and Budget

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

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

Send your shout-outs to  
[news@millelacsband.com!](mailto:news@millelacsband.com)



It is time once again for the Mille Lacs Band Member Photo Contest! We are looking for photos, taken by you, that represent the Mille Lacs Band people and places, culture, and tradition.

Please submit your photos by November 4, 2022.

Twelve winning photos will be featured in the Mille Lacs Band 2023 Calendar and receive \$200!

Submit photos to: [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com)

A complete list of rules will be posted on the website.

## DRUG TIP HOTLINE

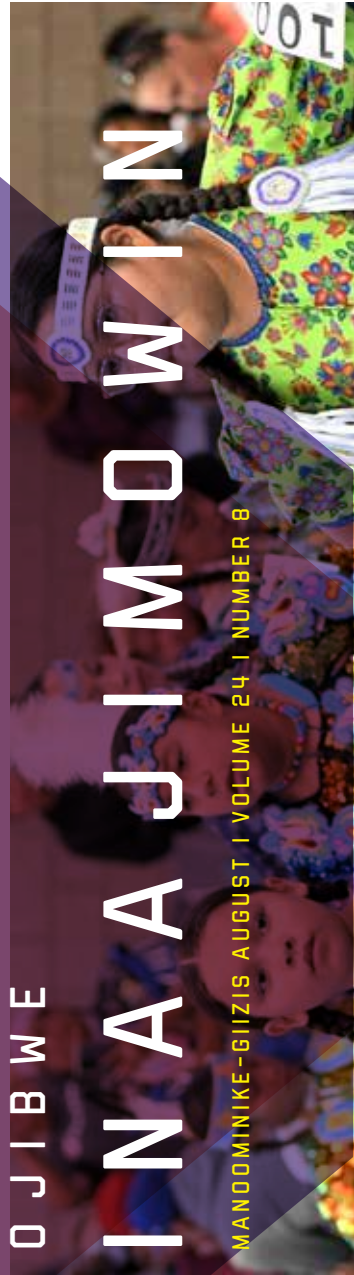
The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department's anonymous drug tip line is 320-630-2458. Feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and phone number. In case of emergency, dial 911.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Women's group</b> 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>First Tuesday SNAP Women's Healing Circle</b> 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Sa Miikana</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Candidate forum</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs 5 – 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Men's group</b> 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>On the RedRoad</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery</b></p> <p><b>The Rez NA</b> 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Women's group</b> 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Women's Healing Circle</b> 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Sa Miikana</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Men's group</b> 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>On the RedRoad</b> See above</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery</b></p> <p><b>The Rez NA</b> 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Women's group</b> 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Women's Healing Circle</b> 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Sa Miikana</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> Chiminising</p> <p><b>District III Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> East Lake</p> <p><b>Men's group</b> 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Mille Lacs Powwow</b> Noon Closing of Government Center Grand Entry 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>On the RedRoad</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Mille Lacs Powwow</b> Grand Entry 1 and 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Mille Lacs Powwow</b> Grand Entry 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery</b></p> <p><b>The Rez NA</b> 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Women's group</b> 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Women's Healing Circle</b> 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Sa Miikana</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Men's group</b> 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p><b>Wellbriety</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>On the RedRoad</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery</b></p> <p><b>The Rez NA</b> 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Women's group</b> 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Women's Healing Circle</b> 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Sa Miikana</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7</b></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming towards Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>			





O J I B W E

# I N A A J I M O W I N

MANOOMINIKE-GIIZIS AUGUST | VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 8

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



## EAST LAKE POWWOW

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### UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

### ABOUT US

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

### NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

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

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

District II: 320-630-7666

District III: 320-362-4995

**24 Hour Crisis Line:** 866-867-4006

**Batters Intervention:** 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

**Elder Services:** 320-532-7854

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

**Food Shelf:** 320-362-4672

**Waivered Services:** 320-362-0027

**Heating, water, or other home-related maintenance problems:** If you live in a Mille Lacs Band Housing-maintained home, call our Customer Service Representative at one of the following on-call numbers:

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

**Mille Lacs Band Family Services:** 320-532-4163. on call social worker/After Hours Emergency 320-630-2444.

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