

O J I B W E

I N A A J I M O W I N

GASHKADINO-GIIZIS 2022 | VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 11

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



ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

Talon Metals Tamarack Project poses potential high risk to manoomin

Inaajimowin file photo of ricing in Sandy Lake area in 2014.

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

The landscape of our environment is vastly changing. Scientists around the world continue to sound the alarm that climate change is the single greatest threat to human health in the history of the planet. As the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas concentrations rise around the world, so does the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere. The effects of climate change are of great importance to Mille Lacs Band tribal leaders. Protecting Mother Earth is a priority, a duty, and a challenge. Mille Lacs tribal leaders are not willing to sacrifice their duty of protecting the land, the water, and the resources provided to them, no matter the cost.

"We are Anishinaabe," said Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band. "The Creator put all of these gifts here for us and we are to care for these resources and leave them untouched or nourished so our future generations can enjoy the things that we enjoy today and that our ancestors have enjoyed for generations before us."

That spirit is at the heart of Band leaders' concern related to the proposed Tamarack Mine. Talon Metals Corporation, a base metals company headquartered in the British Virgin Islands, has proposed a joint venture with international conglomerate Rio Tinto on the Tamarack Nickel-Copper-Cobalt Project located in Tamarack, Minnesota. The proposed mine would source nickel resources believed to be 800 to 2,000 feet below the earth's surface. Talon Metals' website claims it has the ability and resources to mine nickel at the Tamarack Mine with a small footprint in an "environmentally friendly and socially responsible way" and that "every step is carefully controlled."

Demand for green solutions

As our world focuses on addressing climate change, there is increasing pressure for American automobile manufacturers to produce electric vehicles (EVs). As such, demand for manufacturing rechargeable batteries to power EVs has skyrocketed. Nickel is one of the core elements currently used to produce these rechargeable batteries.

However, nickel mining has been shown to cause irreversible damage to the surrounding environment and water. The proposed Tamarack Mine is only 1.3 miles away from Mille Lacs Band housing in the Round Lake Neighborhood of the Minnewawa. Round Lake itself is much closer, bordering some sites Talon Metals could have access to for mining activities. The Round Lake Neighborhood of the Minnewawa community and Big Sandy community have high water connectivity,

ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE see page 11.



Adobe stock image of nickel mining waste runoff.



Adobe stock image.

LAWSUIT UPDATE

Status conference scheduled

INAAJIMOWIN STAFF REPORT

On August 11, 2022, there was a hearing in Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe et al (Band) v. County of Mille Lacs et al (County), case number 17-cv-05155-SRN-LIB, in U.S. District Court in St. Paul. The focus of the hearing was on the Band's motion for declaratory and injunctive relief, in which the Band is seeking an order declaring the scope of the Band's law enforcement authority and prohibiting the County from interfering with that authority. After arguments were heard from all parties, Judge Susan Richard Nelson ordered the parties to "meet and confer" (basically sit down, discuss, and reach a resolution). If the parties could not agree, the Judge said she would make a ruling on the motions before her.

The parties met on September 14, 2022, to see whether they could reach any agreements that would narrow the remaining issues in the case. However, the parties reached an impasse without reaching any agreements and notified the Court of the impasse on September 15, 2022. This left matters back where they were on August 11, with the parties expecting a ruling from Judge Nelson.

However, before the Judge could make a ruling, the County requested permission to file a new response to the Band's motion for declaratory and injunctive relief, even though the Band's motion had already been briefed and argued to the Court. Specifically, the County is requesting the Court grant them "leave to submit a supplement response to plaintiff's (Band) pending motion for summary judgement awarding declaratory and injunctive relief." In its request, the County asks for an additional 42 days to prepare new documents that will essentially relitigate the same argument that was before the Court on August 11, effectively delaying resolution of the motions currently before the court.

The Band opposes the defendants' request because: (1) the Band's motion for summary judgment awarding declaratory

LAWSUIT UPDATE see page

BAND MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS — SEE PAGE 10



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

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

CHANGING HOW COMMISSIONERS ARE APPOINTED

Aaniin, Boozhoo! This month, I am going to focus on one important topic. Many employees and Band members received notification that the Band Assembly will hold a public hearing on November 2 regarding a bill they are proposing to change Title 4 of our Band Statutes. Title 4 governs the Executive Branch. This hearing is likely to have occurred before you receive this newspaper. I have a number of concerns about this legislation, and if it is passed the way it is currently written, I will have no choice but to veto it. I would like to explain more about my position on this topic.

Over 40 years ago, our ancestors and some of our current elders who were present at that time decided they had enough of an RBC form of government. They decided that the RBC did not align with our values and was not working for the Band. In the old RBC system, the Chairperson, Secretary-Treasurer and three District Representatives were one body with all the authority. They voted on every issue before the Band. The RBC's did all the hiring and firing of government employees, they heard all appeals, they created all the policies for all programs, they served as the judge and jury, they decided who would get a new house and who wouldn't, how every dollar was spent, and they made all the business decisions even though they had no business background, which resulted in several failed economic development projects.

Those elders and ancestors held many meetings for years, and talked about and planned a new government with a division-of-powers system with three branches: Executive, Legislative and Judicial. Ultimately, they put this question to a vote and the people voted for this new three-branch system. In this system, we have checks and balances. The Legislative Branch writes the laws, approves budgets and appropriates funding, and the Executive Branch administers the programs and conducts external relations with other governments. The Legislative Branch hires its own staff, and the Chief Executive appoints qualified people who she or he believes in and trusts to serve as Commissioners on the Chief's Cabinet, subject to confirmation by the Band Assembly.

The amendments the Band Assembly has proposed to Title 4 would create a timeframe with a deadline that the Chief Executive must follow whenever there is a vacancy in a commissioner position. If the Chief does not submit a nomination by this deadline, the Band Assembly proposes to give itself a new power to recruit, appoint and hire a commissioner of their choosing for the Chief Executive's Cabinet, cutting the Chief Executive out of the process.

I have many concerns about these proposed amendments. First, this legislation is a tremendous violation of our division-of-powers government, and is only one of several examples in recent years of the Band Assembly attempting to take over executive branch authority a little bit at a time and go back to being more like an RBC.

It is my position that the Band members voted on and approved our division-of-powers government and the Band Assembly does not have the authority to dismantle it on a piecemeal basis. The Band Assembly has no authority to recruit, select and hire anyone for the Executive Branch and I will not approve legislation that creates that new authority.

Second, this legislation does not fix the problems with the confirmation process that are the responsibility of the Band Assembly, which I have been asking to talk with them about for the past 16 months. I sent a letter in June of 2021 and August of 2022 inviting Band Assembly members to a working lunch to discuss and work cooperatively to improve the overall process, but never received a response to either invitation.

I strongly agree with the Band Assembly that the length of time it takes to fill vacant commissioner positions is too long. We need a commissioner in every department for our government to function at highest efficiency. After the Band Assembly receives a nomination from me, it can take multiple Band Assembly sessions for them to complete their process, usually at least one month. Previous Band Assemblies have taken up to six months or even a year to act on a nomination.

But when nearly 50 percent of all nominations that I send to the Band Assembly are voted down, or the nominee withdraws their name, or I withdraw their name because we have

"OUR ELDERS DID NOT INTEND FOR THE BAND ASSEMBLY TO SERVE AS A HIRING COMMITTEE FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CABINET."

heard they are very likely to be voted down, that makes it very hard for the Chief Executive to recruit qualified Band member candidates.

Many Band members do not want to go through the confirmation process because they know they will be attacked on social media, which is very stressful for their families. In August, Band Assembly members stated on livestream that their reason for voting down one nominee is because they received negative phone calls about that person. Now qualified Band members know that their resumes and education may not be as important as the opinion of a handful of employees or Band members who dislike them. This makes the nomination process more of a public popularity contest that could end in humiliation for the Band member and their family.

Due to roughly 50 percent of my nominations being rejected over the last decade, I have repeatedly asked the Band Assembly to tell me what their criteria is for approving a commissioner and have not received a response. This is unfair to the Band members who might be interested in serving as a commissioner.

Our elders did not intend for the Band Assembly to serve as a hiring committee for the Chief Executive's Cabinet. Jay Kanassatega, who had significant involvement in writing the

Band Statutes in the 1980s, spoke about the appointment process and its intended application to Commissioners at the "Division of Powers" training. He explained that there were three principles of that process that were implicitly understood by the elected leaders in the 1980s.

First, the appointment process was based upon how Drum Keepers and Head Ladies put people on the drums. Second, as the popularly-elected leader of the Band, the Chief Executive is entitled to deference to appoint individuals to his or her administration that he or she believes will best carry out the policies that the Chief Executive was elected on by Band members. Third, those elected officials anticipated situations where no Band member would be qualified for a position, but they still understood that it was to be the Band's responsibility to exercise self-determination by putting Band members in those positions and to provide them the training necessary to carry out their responsibilities.

The Drum Keepers ask the members of their drums for input when they want to put someone in a position. The discussion that takes place does not begin with the presumption that someone should not be put in a position. The discussion focuses on whether that person will perform the responsibilities that will be asked of them and whether they will represent the drum in a respectful way. The confirmation process now seems rooted in mistrust and instead focuses on why a Band member would not make a good Commissioner because of prior mistakes and negative interactions, rather than whether the person can do the job, prove they learned from any mistakes and has the ability to carry out the duties respectfully. The confirmation process has veered away from what was originally intended.

My criteria for selecting commissioners is that ideally, they should have a formal education appropriate for the position, work experience in the field, and know our community and culture. In those rare instances when we are unable to successfully recruit a Band member with the desired experience or education, we should consider Band members who have potential to learn the position and carry out their duties respectfully. If I am wrong about someone and they fail to carry out their duties, the Band Assembly has the ultimate power to begin removal proceedings of that commissioner.

But unless there is something very wrong with a candidate, I believe that every Band member who the Chief Executive nominates should be given a chance. Instead of doubting whether a Band member can perform the job, we should be assuming they can perform the job. I am reluctant to put another Band member through a process where their name can be dragged through the mud until the Band Assembly is willing to talk about its own responsibility in the process, and respond to my concerns which I wrote twice to them about.

I am inviting Band members and employees who have thoughts about this process to call me or email me at melanie.benjamin@millelacsband.com.

Miigwech.

MIIGWECH TO ALL VETERANS

Native Americans have long history of serving in the United States military. Native Americans serve in the United States' Armed Forces at five times the national average and have served with distinction in every major conflict for over 200 years.

Young men of the Mille Lacs Band volunteered in high numbers to serve in the Civil War (1861-1865). Meanwhile in 1862, the Band was instrumental in keeping peace among the Ojibwe during the Dakota War in Minnesota. In recognition of good conduct during the Dakota War, the Mille Lacs Band received a guarantee in the 1863 and 1864 treaties with the U.S. government that Band members would not be forced to leave the Mille Lacs Reservation, becoming henceforth the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

To all who have served in the United States Military, we say miigwech for your service.

FEATURED MILLE LACS BAND VETERAN

Henry Bonga III, Mille Lacs Band Member, son of the late Hank Bonga. Henry is a U.S. Army Veteran, Infantry 11H (TOW), 7th Infantry Division, serving from 1986-1987.

Henry joined the Army when he was 17 years old. His mom signed the papers so he could join at a young age. "I wasn't making good decisions up until then," Henry said. "Joining the Army was finally a good decision." While serving he was part of Operation Golden Pheasant, an emergency deployment of U.S. troops to Honduras.

According to Wikipedia, the United States, under President Ronald Reagan, dispatched elements of the 7th Infantry Division (Light) Quick Reaction Force (QRF) on a no-notice deployment. This small force landed at Palmerola Air Base (now known as Soto Cano Air Base) and were moved quickly into position at a Honduran military base to facilitate the guarding of a local general. An international special operations unit led



by Orlando Lentini, and the aviation assets of Joint Task Force Bravo (JTF-B) stationed on Pamerola AB, worked along with the 7th Infantry Division and were on the ground several days when the 82nd Airborne elements arrived. The deployment evolved into a live-fire exercise, the light infantry soldiers, paratroopers, and special operations unit deployed ready to fight, causing the Sandinistas to rapidly withdraw back across their border.

Henry now lives in Michigan and is currently a heavy equipment operator and going back to school. He has also been "clean and sober since 1989," he said.

Miigwech for your service.

FALL FEAST RETURNS

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is honored to host the Mille Lacs Band Community on Thursday, November 17, for an evening of seeing friends, catching up on MLCV happenings, and enjoying a great meal. It has been three years since we have gathered, and we could not be more excited to see everyone.

In addition to the Fall Feast, this year MLCV welcomes community members in early for the MLCV headquarters building

Open House from 3 – 5 p.m. This is a chance to tour the building, meet staff and learn more about Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. Refreshments will be served.

See below for a full detail of our events.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

On October 24, 2022, notice was sent to all Band members and Band employees signed by District I Representative Virgil Wind, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, District III Representative Harry Davis with notification of a public hearing scheduled for November 4, 2022.

The Band Assembly is currently considering legislation that would amend Section 4 of Title 4 (Executive Branch) for the purpose of ensuring continuity in vital executive officer positions of Band Government by providing a timeline in which the Chief Executive shall make a nomination for any vacant Commissioner position and establishing an alternative process should the Chief Executive choose not to nominate individuals to fill vacant Commissioner positions. Commissioners are responsible for overseeing numerous employees and government programs. A full cabinet of qualified executive officers ensures effective delivery of essential services to Band members.

Vacancies in executive officer positions often remain for significant periods of time. Current vacancies in these vital positions include the position of Commissioner of Community Development (vacant since March 2022) and the position of Commissioner of Administration (vacant since July 2022).

Previous notable vacancies include the position of Commissioner of Education (vacant August 2021 to May 2022) and the Commissioner of Community Development (vacant January 2020 to August 2021) These lingering vacancies affect not only the vital programs and essential services of the individual departments but also have resulted in multiple periods during which the Administration Policy Board lacks a quorum, resulting in the Executive Branch relying on Commissioner's Orders to continue operations.

According to 3 MLBS 17(a), "[t]he Band Assembly shall conduct formal public hearings on any bill which alters, amends, or repeals Titles 1, 3, 4, and 5, Chapter 1 of Title 2, and Subchapters I to III of Chapter 3 of Title 24 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes."

Therefore, the Band Assembly has scheduled a formal public hearing for Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 10:15 a.m. A copy of the bill is posted on the Tribal Register for ten calendar days following the formal public hearing.

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Legislative Branch sent a Legislative Priorities survey to Band members and Band employees to get a better understanding of statute changes Band members and Band employees feel would help move the Band forward. The Band Assembly will continue to send a Legislative Priorities survey to Band members and Band employees annually.

Band Assembly encourages input, not only from surveys, but for public comment periods and formal public hearings for draft legislation to improve the statutes for Band communities.

The letter was signed by Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd, District I Representative Virgil Wind, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, and District III Representative Harry Davis.

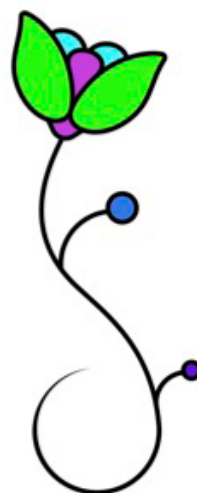
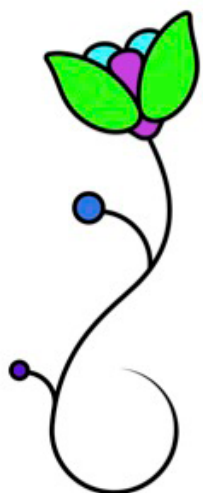
Please see inaajimowin.com for the letter and full list of suggested priorities.

MLCV Fall Feast & Open House Thursday, November 17, 2022

MLCV Building Open House
3 – 5 p.m.

Fall Feast
Doors open at 5 p.m.
Invocation/Welcome at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6 p.m.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center
Seating is first come, first served



STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

A proposed Minnesota nickel mine has Tesla's attentio: Underneath the ground in Aitkin County sit some of the highest-grade nickel deposits in the world. It could become the site of the state's first nickel mine. The first sign as to what Talon Metals is working on in rural Aitkin County is parked outside their company office in Tamarack, Minnesota: A Tesla outfitted with a vehicle wrap that sports the company name, and a license plate that reads "NI 4 EV," or nickel for electric vehicles. They've found what are some of the highest known concentrations of nickel in the world. They call the site the Tamarack Project. The company has captured the attention of the maker of the electric vehicle parked outside their office. In January, Tesla committed to buying 165 million pounds of nickel in concentrate from Talon to make the batteries for their vehicles. Talon says the amount is about three-quarters of their total resource. But the nearby Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe worries contamination from a mine could harm their sacred wild rice. "This is an environmental justice issue," said Kelly Applegate, the Band's Commissioner of Natural Resources. "This is yet another example of industry coming in and taking things from the area, from the land, which can affect our people." Source: *KARE11*.

Proposed Aitkin County nickel mine gets \$114M from infrastructure bill for North Dakota processing plant:

The plan would move processing facilities and tailings storage away from Talon's proposed underground mine near Tamarack and into North Dakota. A company hoping to open an underground nickel mine received \$114 million from the federal government to help build a mineral processing facility in North Dakota aimed at supplying the electric vehicle market with minerals used to make batteries. Talon Metals' subsidiary, Talon Nickel, was one of 20 processing and manufacturing companies in 12 states awarded a combined \$2.8 billion meant to "expand domestic manufacturing of batteries for electric vehicles and the electrical grid," the White House said news release Monday. The money comes from the federal infrastructure law passed last year. Source: *Duluth News Tribune*

Special grants become available to grassroots work for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives:

On October 11th, 2022, indigenous people's day was celebrated, and now, with the help of the Northland Foundation, a special opportunity is being offered through its Maada'ookiing program. This newly developed grant will help to provide resources to raise awareness and greater attention and action on this matter. According to a December 2020 missing and murdered indigenous woman task force report released by the Minnesota legislature, indigenous females make up 15 % of missing person cases and nine percent of female homicides. Northland Foundation will offer this grant to help support grassroots activities to raise awareness, urge change and focus on promoting healing around Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relations. Source: *WDIO*.

[Oct. 25] marks 20 years since Wellstone crash:

The crash claimed the lives of United States Sen. Paul Wellstone, his wife Sheila, daughter Marcia, three campaign staffers and two pilots. It happened just 12 days before the 2002 election while Wellstone was running for a third term. Source: *WCCO*.

AANJIBIMAADIZING

PUBLIC LAW 102-477 RECEIVES NEW MOA SUPPORTING TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

After several months of meetings with multiple federal agencies led by the Department of Interior with tribal consultations, they have reached a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on implementing Public Law 102-477 to better support tribal sovereignty. Public Law 102-477 reduces the burden of tribal administrative, reporting, and accounting costs, and gives tribes the power to best integrate and deliver federal services within their communities.

Tribal 477 plans allow federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native entities to streamline eligible employment, training, and related services, programs, and funds through the department. The MOA was signed by the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

Mille Lacs Band Aanjibimadizing was asked to be part of the consultations. The federal partners listened to tribes who were pushing for a MOA that followed the law and would not allow for agencies to overstep their boundaries. Representing the Mille Lacs Band was Baabiiyaw Boyd, Deputy Assistant Chief Executive Office, with Tammy Wickstrom, Aanjibimadizing Executive Director serving as an alternate. Boyd participated in the negotiations and provided discussions commenting on funding and the timeliness of the federal response. Several funding opportunities that should have been done in 90 days

had been taking several months to process. This new MOA will simplify the process.

"This was a very long process and is exciting news for the Aanji program," said Tammy Wickstrom, Executive Director of Aanjibimadizing. "This will help to allow us to better serve our clients with greater efficiency focused on our clients' need-based programs."

Participating tribes are required to submit a federal plan on funding needs and programs listing all of the federal funding necessary. Whatever agency the individual program falls under, plans need to be approved by that supporting agency. Each plan also identifies the goals of the particular programs and what each one will accomplish. Programs identified by Aanji include but are not limited to WEX, small business development, TANF, Ojibwe language and cultural activities. The federal funding agencies in the current plan include TANF under Health and Human Services, Department of Labor, Office of Child Care, and the Department of the Interior. The new MOA for 477 plans will help to simplify the approval process.

Wickstrom is pleased to announce the current Aanjibimadizing plan was approved within 90 days.

"The new MOA is written so that tribes are able to self-identify priorities with funding," Wickstrom added. "This is really good news for tribal communities."

GRA UPDATE

Shannon Thomas was sworn in as a Gaming Regulatory Authority board member on October 5, 2022. Shannon has previously served on the board from August 2008 to July 2014 and from November 2016 to July 2020. At the October 6 board meeting, he was voted as the Vice Chairperson based on his prior experience.

Shannon also works full-time for the Mille Lacs Band maintenance department for the last 15 years or so. He has five children and five grandchildren, and lives in Sandstone.

All vacancies have been filled and we have a full board. Members include: Chairperson Susan Klapel, Vice Chairperson Shannon Thomas, Secretary Michael Davis, Crystal Weckert, and Jim Kalk.

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.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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



Shannon Thomas (right) was sworn in as a Gaming Regulatory Authority board member by District I Associate Justice Rhonda Sam on October 5, 2022.

LAWSUIT from page 1

and injunctive relief has already been fully briefed, argued, and submitted to the Court for decision; (2) defendants have not identified any new information they could not have presented to the Court when they first responded to the Band's motion; and (3) defendants' argument that the Court lacks an adequate factual record to decide the Band's motion lacks merit.

The Court has scheduled a status conference for November 2, 2022, at 11 a.m. Central time to discuss the County's request and any additional motions that the parties may want to file.

The status conference will be held via zoom with an audio link for members of the public who would like to listen. If you would like to listen to the conference, please visit the District Court website at <https://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/court-sched->

ules for audio connection information for this hearing. Note that hearings might not appear on the court schedule or courthouse kiosk until one week before the hearing date.



EDUCATION NEWS



NAY AH SHING STUDENTS VISIT CLC

On Thursday, October 6, the 8th through 12th grade students of Nay Ah Shing attended 'Tales of Laughing Fox' as part of the Cultural Thursday series at Central Lakes Community College in Brainerd. The presentation was a weaving-together of traditional storytelling, and Charette's personal stories, accented with his performances on a variety of different Native flutes. Charette is a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. After the performance, the students took a tour of the college and heard about the different programs and services CLC offers, including TRIO Student Support Services and the Upward Bound programs. Many Nay Ah Shing high school students work with CLC Upward Bound Advisor Amanda Small to explore college planning and focus on school success.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

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



NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Supreme Court to consider challenge to law on adopting Native American children: The Supreme Court will soon hear oral arguments in a challenge to the constitutionality of the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, a measure that makes it difficult to remove Native American children from their parents, tribes, and heritage. The law was passed nearly 45 years ago to prevent future instances of abuse against Native American children, as historical records indicate that thousands of Native children were previously removed from their homes, often by force, and placed with families who had no relationship to their tribes of origin. As it stands, priority for adopting Native children is given to extended family members, tribal members, and, if no other options are available, another Native family. The law states that exceptions for "good cause" are permissible but are not directly defined, an ambiguity that several families are touting as one reason for the Supreme Court to reexamine the ICWA.... "Simply, for the court to overturn ICWA in this case would be a devastating blow not just to the welfare of our children but to congressional authority, legal precedent, and to the basic foundations of federal Indian law," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said during a virtual briefing over the high court case, *Haaland v. Brackeen*. An unfavorable ruling from the perspective of tribal leaders would bring into "question other areas of federal Indian law, and quite frankly, the modern day existence of Indian nations in our country," Nimmo added. Justices will hear oral arguments over the case on Nov. 9. Source: *Washington Examiner*.

Interior Department Takes Next Steps to Update Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act: Following extensive Tribal consultation and review, the Department of the Interior today announced that proposed revisions to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act's (NAGPRA) regulations are now available for public comment. NAGPRA regulations provide a systematic process for returning human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony to Native American and Alaska Native Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. The proposed changes would streamline requirements for museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify human remains and cultural items in their collections. Source: *Red Lake Nation News*

Boarding School Survivors Recount Their Experiences at 3rd 'Road to Healing' Event on Rosebud Indian Reservatio: Secretary of Department of the Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo), Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland (Bay Mills Indian Community), and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Wizipan Garriott (Sicangu Lakota) visited Sinte Gleska University on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Looking back at them from folding chairs in the audience were rows of boarding school survivors, tribal leaders, and community members. Over the next several hours, those survivors would tell the federal officials—descendants of Indian boarding schools themselves—their stories. October 15 marked the third stop on the Road to Healing Tour, a yearlong DOI initiative intended to collect oral testimonies from survivors of the nation's more than 400 Indian boarding schools, as well as their descendants. Source: *Yahoo News*

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

KNOW YOUR DIABETES ABCs

By JACKIE GLUCK (BRAUN), MS, RDN
POPULATION HEALTH MANAGER



November is National Diabetes Month, a time when communities across the country come together to raise awareness about diabetes. Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when your blood glucose, also called blood sugar, is too high.

Diabetes disproportionately affects American Indian and Alaska Natives, but the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Diabetes Program is making a positive impact. The program strives to deliver practical and culturally sensitive approaches to diabetes self-management and increase access to quality diabetes care.

For those living with diabetes, everyday decisions can sometimes seem overwhelming. Although diabetes has no cure, you can take steps to manage and prevent diabetes.

Know Your Diabetes ABCs

A for the A1C test: This test shows you what your blood sugar has been over the last three months. The A1C goal for many people is below 7, but this goal is different for every person. High blood sugar levels can harm your heart and blood vessels, kidneys, feet, and eyes.

B for Blood Pressure: The blood pressure goal for most people with diabetes is below 140/90; however, this goal may be different for you. High blood pressure can cause heart attack, stroke, and kidney disease.

C for Cholesterol: Ask what your cholesterol numbers should be. LDL or “bad” cholesterol can build up and clog your blood vessels in your heart and brain. This can cause a heart attack or stroke. HDL or “good” cholesterol helps remove cholesterol from your blood vessels.

Move More

Limit time spent sitting and try to get at least 30 minutes of

physical activity, five days a week. Start slowly by breaking it up throughout the day.

Fuel Your Body

Build a plate that includes a balance of vegetables, fruits, proteins, and starches. Choose foods that are high in fiber and limit added sugar, sodium, and saturated fat. Drink water instead of sweetened drinks, such as soda or juice.

Seek Support

See your health care team at least twice a year to find and treat any problems early. Ask what steps you can take to reach your goals. If you have diabetes, at each visit, be sure you have a blood pressure check, foot check, and weight check.

Making changes to your lifestyle and daily habits can be hard, but you don't have to change everything at once. Small changes can add up to a big difference over time. Remember that setbacks are normal and do not mean you have failed — the key is to get back on track as soon as you can. National Diabetes Month is a time to come together and make decisions that will benefit you, your family, and your community.

For more information about the Mille Lacs Band Diabetes Program, contact Jackie Gluck at jackie.gluck@hhs.millelacs-band-nsn.gov or 320-362-0020 to learn more.



What Is Type 1 Diabetes?

People of all ages can develop type 1 diabetes. If you have type 1 diabetes, your pancreas doesn't make insulin or makes very little insulin. Insulin helps blood sugar enter the cells in your body for use as energy. Without insulin, blood sugar can't get into cells and builds up in the bloodstream. High blood sugar is damaging to the body and causes many of the symptoms and complications of diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes was once called insulin-dependent or juvenile diabetes. It usually develops in children, teens, and young adults, but it can happen at any age.

Type 1 diabetes is less common than type 2—about 5-10% of people with diabetes have type 1. Currently, no one knows how to prevent type 1 diabetes, but it can be treated successfully by:

Following your doctor's recommendations for living a healthy lifestyle.

Managing your blood sugar.

Getting regular health checkups.

Getting diabetes self-management education and support.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

THE MIGRATION STORY

By BEATRICE TAYLOR, MILLE LACS BAND ELDER

Aaniin. I am Beatrice Taylor, a Mille Lacs Band Elder, and I am happy to be writing this column and sharing some stories about the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe.

I'd like to tell you the story of how the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe came to live in this part of the world. We've been here for a long time, so it's an old, old story.

Many years ago, our ancestors lived on the East Coast. One day, one of our Elders had a vision that we were supposed to come west. We were supposed to travel until we came to the place where the food grows on the water. That was the mahnomen (wild rice).

So our ancestors migrated west. Some migrated up into Canada, some migrated over to Wisconsin and Michigan, some went to Iowa, and some came here.

The ancestors who went to Canada traded with the people there. In our Indian language, these ancestors were called the O-dow-wa. But I guess the English tongue couldn't get that tongue twister, so the people there called these Indians the Ottawa. That's the name that's still used today.

In Wisconsin, there was a group of Indian people who said to some of the other Indians who were migrating, “We're going to settle here, and we will keep the fire burning until you come back.” And those people were called Bu-da-wa-da-mi, or keepers of the fire. But again, that's a tongue twister, so they were called the Potawatomi.

Another group went a little further south and settled. These were called Mahnomen people — Menominee. Some other people who were migrating went west into Iowa and settled there. And their name was Mis-co-a-kee, but again that was shortened to Meskwaki, the red earth.

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

And some came to this part of Minnesota. They came to be near the big lake where the food grows on the water. And they stayed. These people were the ancestors of today's Mille Lacs Anishinaabe.

My family lived in Aazhoomog. That's our name for the area near Hinckley. Other Mille Lacs Anishinaabe lived around Onamia, Isle, McGregor, and other places.

There has been much that has happened to us since then and many reasons why some of us have had to move away from our home.

Sometimes Anishinaabe moved away to find work because they couldn't find any here. Some were sent away to schools against their will. But still we hung onto our traditions, and our language, and our culture, and we kept on working together for the betterment of our children.

I moved away from Aazhoomog for a while, but I came back for ceremonial powwows. But that wasn't enough for me. I missed my home, my language, my relatives, being with my people. Then I moved back to Aazhoomog. And I felt good about it — I was home.

Now I teach my grandchildren about our culture. I talk the language with them. I use the words with them constantly. When we go to a sacred ceremony, we make our tobacco offering, and we ask the Great Spirit to take care of our children, our grandchildren, and their children coming up.

I am glad to live in Aazhoomog, where my people have lived. My mother lived here. My four sisters are around here. When I moved back, I said this is the last move I'm ever going to make, and I still feel that way. I'm back home.



SIGNS OF OVERDOSE:

Recognizing the signs of opioid overdose can save a life. Here are some things to look for:

- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak, or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially in lips and nails)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK SOMEONE IS OVERDOSING

It may be hard to tell whether a person is high or experiencing an overdose. If you aren’t sure, treat it like an overdose — you could save a life.

- Call 911 Immediately.
- Administer naloxone, if available.
- Try to keep the person awake and breathing.
- Lay the person on their side to prevent choking.
- Stay with the person until emergency assistance arrives.

STEVE’S LAW

Steve’s Law grants immunity from prosecution to those seeking medical attention in cases of an overdose. Under this law, bystanders and overdose victims cannot be prosecuted for calling 911 in overdose situations, even if the caller is a user themselves. In case of an overdose or possible overdose, call 911 immediately.

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.

ONE PILL CAN KILL

If you didn't get it from your medical provider, don't put it in your mouth

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) recently issued an alert on rainbow fentanyl. In recent months, brightly colored fentanyl tablets, powder, and blocks that look like candy have been trending nationally. These products are known as rainbow fentanyl. Due to their potency, very small amounts can cause damage to the brain, and lead to overdoses or overdose death. However, while they are extremely dangerous, experts say the brightly colored illegally manufactured drugs are nothing new.

“We haven’t seen the rainbow fentanyl as of yet,” said James West, Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Chief. “But we have seen an increase in the blue counterfeit fentanyl pills.”

Blue counterfeit fentanyl pills are manufactured to look like actual prescription opioid medications and are easily accessible on the street and through the internet and social media platforms. Fentanyl is often added to other illegally or illicitly manufactured drugs because of its extreme potency, which makes drugs cheaper, more powerful, more addictive, and more dangerous. These “fake pills” have been manufactured in many different colors for years; however, the blue-colored fake pills are prevalent.

Powdered fentanyl looks just like many other drugs. It is commonly mixed with drugs like heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine. These fentanyl-laced drugs are extremely dangerous, and many people may be unaware that their drugs are laced with fentanyl.

In its liquid form, illicitly manufactured fentanyl can be found in nasal sprays, eye drops, and dropped onto paper or small candies.

What is fentanyl?

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that can quickly cause overdose. It is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine, making it a major contributor to the 150+ synthetic overdose deaths occurring every day nationwide. Just two milligrams of fentanyl, which is equal to 10 to 15 grains of table salt, is considered a lethal dose. Without laboratory testing, there is no way to know how much fentanyl is concentrated in a pill or powder.

“Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever encountered,” said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. “Fentanyl is everywhere. From large metropolitan areas to rural America, no community is safe from this poison. We must take every opportunity to spread the word to prevent fentanyl-related overdose death and poisonings from claiming scores of American lives every day.”

According to the CDC, there are two types of fentanyl: pharmaceutical fentanyl and illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Both are considered synthetic opioids. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is prescribed by doctors to treat severe pain, especially after sur-

gery and for advanced-stage cancer.

However, most recent cases of fentanyl-related overdose are linked to illicitly manufactured fentanyl, which is distributed through illegal drug markets for its heroin-like effect.

According to the CDC, 107,375 people in the United States died of drug overdoses and drug poisonings in the 12-month period ending in January 2022. A staggering 67 percent of those deaths involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Some of these deaths were attributed to fentanyl mixed with other illicit drugs like cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin, with many users unaware they were actually taking fentanyl.

Fentanyl use continues to increase in Minnesota and has been driving overdose deaths, both statewide and nationally. In 2021, the Minnesota Department of Health reported that fentanyl was involved in 76 percent of overdose deaths.

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police responded to 64 overdose incidents in Fiscal Year 2022. Of the 64 overdose incidents, six resulted in death.

Help is available

It is uncontested that drugs containing fentanyl, such as cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and fake pills, are highly addictive and dangerous. But there is hope. There is help available. The Substance Use Disorder Department can help guide you through the process. Please contact SUDs at 320-532-7773.

Naloxone saves lives by reversing opioid overdose. It is quick and easy to administer

Currently, all 50 states and the District of Columbia allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription. If you believe someone you know may be at risk for an overdose, you can request naloxone. This may be someone who uses drugs or was prescribed an opioid medication. Clinicians and pharmacists play a critical role in ensuring patients receive naloxone — ask them.

In case of an overdose, call 911 immediately, even if you are not sure if it is an overdose. You could save a life. In Minnesota, there are protections in place that grant immunity to people seeking out medical attention for an overdose, known as Good Samaritan laws. Minnesota has expanded its Good Samaritan laws in reaction to the opioid health crisis. “Steve’s Law” is named for Steve Rummeler, who died from a heroin overdose in July 2011 after he became addicted to prescription painkillers. Under this law, bystanders and overdose victims cannot be prosecuted for calling 911 for an overdose, even if they are users themselves. This encourages people to get the life-saving help needed in the event of an overdose.

You can read full statute here:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/604A.05>



Top photo indicates the differences between authentic oxycodone M30 tablet and fake pills containing fentanyl. As you can see it is difficult to tell the difference. The bottom photo indicates fake pills containing fentanyl known as rainbow fentanyl. Best rule of thumb: if you didn’t get it from your medical provider, don’t put it in your mouth.



Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that can quickly cause overdose. It is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine, making it a major contributor to the 150+ synthetic overdose deaths occurring every day nationwide.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLANDS FIRE VEHICLE DRIVER TRAINING

The Bureau of Indian Affairs proudly provides training for wildlands fire crews to ensure consistent training is offered across Indian Country.

Each year, wildland firefighters must demonstrate their abilities to perform specific tasks that show they know how to safely operate the fire vehicle. The Engine Operator (ENOP) course is designed to provide students with the knowledge/

skills necessary to perform the functions described in the Engine Operator Position Task Book as well as address the standards, procedures, and techniques to be an engine operator on a wildland or prescribed fire. This year, the vehicle training was held at Mille Lacs for tribal wildland fire crews from all across Minnesota. Students in attendance come from: Mille Lacs, White Earth, Bois Forte, Grand Portage, Menominee (WI),

BIA MN agency. The instructors are from BIA MN agency, BIA WI-Great Lakes Agency, Menominee, BLM National Engine Training Cadre, and NIFC (National interagency fire center) BIA Fire Fleet Coordina.

The Mille Lacs Band wildlands fire crew has been called upon to assist fighting fires across Indian Country. The crew is highly trained and ready to assist wherever necessary.



2021 FAST FIRE FACTS FROM BIA

In 2021, there were over 4,600 wildfires that originated on Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) protected lands, resulting in nearly 400,000 acres burned.

In 2021, the Indian Country Wildland Fire Management program encompassed:

- 1,385 firefighters and 1,473 administratively determined (hired as needed) firefighters
- 7 Interagency Hotshot Crews; 4 tribally managed and 3 BIA crews
- 9 helicopters, 6 single-engine air tankers, 2 single-engine water scoopers, and 3 Air Attack Platforms
- 3 Fire Fleet Centers (located in Eagle Butte, Jicarilla, and Missoula) that provided service to approximately 240 engines of various models and types, including other fire apparatus in support of programs such as Interagency Hotshot Crew, fire helicopters, etc.
- 40 wildfire prevention programs, including 22 tribally managed programs, that serve 1,102 communities

In support of the mission, the Division of Wildland Fire Management (DWF) provides wildland fire protection and ecosystem improvement to federal trust lands held in trust for federally recognized tribes and individual Indians. The DWF's support is implemented through direct services, cooperative agreements, self-determination, and self-governance, where applicable.

NAY AH SHING

FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY DAY AT NAS

Wednesday, October 19, was Fire Prevention and Safety Day for students at Abinoojiiyag and Mille Lacs Early Education. The Garrison Fire Department started out the morning with the MLEE students before going over to Abinoojiiyag. Each class had an opportunity to learn from various agencies from the area. Abi kindergarteners learned about bunker gear from the Garrison Fire Department; first-graders toured the GFD fire truck; second-graders learned from the Mille Lacs Band DNR wildland crew with a special visit from Smokey the Bear; third-graders learned from Mille Lacs Health System EMTs with an ambulance tour; fourth-graders learned about electricity from Mille Lacs Energy Coop with a miniature town and a bucket truck outside; and fifth-graders learned about natural gas safety from Reliant Energy.

Mille Lacs Band Emergency Management reminds all Band members as the weather turns cooler and furnaces are in use, now is the time to make sure smoke alarms and carbon monoxide

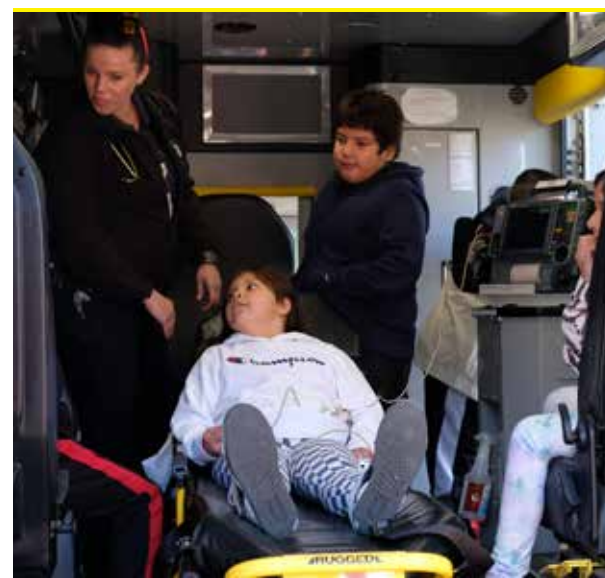
detectors are in working order. Check the batteries in both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

If you have a smoke alarm and/or carbon monoxide detector that is over five years old, it should be replaced. The chemical sensor's wear out and may not operate correctly. If you live in a Band home and the smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors have not been changed in your home, please contact Housing Maintenance to have them replaced. If you live in a privately owned home, please contact Monte Fronk at 320-362-0435 to have new units installed in your home.

New carbon monoxide detectors are available at no cost to Band members. Emergency Management is expecting to have supplies located at each District Community Center and the Urban office for Band members to pick up.

Stay safe, everyone.

See more photos at inaajimowin.com/galleries.



START-TO-FINISH DEER HARVEST PROCESSING

By MASHKODE-BIZHIKGAHBAW, BENJI SAM



Top: Nay-Ah-Shing students and DNR staff, Keith Wiggins and Jordan Williams, and Carla BigBear asked for helpers to work on removing the hide, baskstraps, front and hind quarters, and taught students and community members how to separate each individual compartment without losing meat in the process.

Bottom: Wiggins and BigBear demonstrate how to use the natural lines of silverskin to separate muscle groups for roasts, jerky, burger, and other various goods from a venison front and hind quarter.

CARING FOR YOUR HARVEST

On October 14, the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources put on a deer processing event open to all tribal members as well as a group from Nay Ah Shing school to learn how to cape, quarter, debone, trim, grind, package, and enjoy a freshly harvested white-tailed deer. There is an art to being able to care for your harvest from start to finish and many people are unaware of how simple and rewarding the process can be.

This deer processing class started as a vision by Band member Carla BigBear, who grew up enjoying deer meat, but never knew how to process on her own. After learning how to butcher, she realized the importance of being able to share this with her friends, loved ones, and her community so that others may also ask questions and learn simple processing to enjoy their own fall harvest.

"When we first started hunting more, I didn't know how to process my own deer," said BigBear. "I was so used to bringing my deer to the meat market to get processed, and although it was always enjoyable, it also cost quite a bit of money every fall," she said. Now, BigBear, after learning from Keith Wiggins, helps butcher and process all their meat, and they have found enjoyment from being able to share their food with others around them.

The class brought a total of nearly 40 people, including many students, to watch and learn as a beautiful young buck was harvested for the demonstration. As Wiggins and other DNR staff began removing the hide, Jordan Williams, who is a biologist for the Band, explained how to age a whitetail, how to tell if a deer is showing signs of CWD/other sickness, and the importance of safe handling when caring for your harvest. Students began jumping in to aid in the skinning, quartering, and removal of the meat in preparation for the next step. Wig-

gins and Williams explained how to trace boney landmarks to reduce loss of meat and how to keep the hide intact, and even showed the spinal ligaments that were once used by Native people across the world for making bowstrings and twine.

Once quartered and deboned, Wiggins and BigBear began to demonstrate how to break down each quarter to keep muscle groups intact by using the natural lines between muscles to direct their precise cuts. Both stressed the importance of a sharp knife and safe cutting techniques to reduce risk of injury while butchering.

Once separated into roasts, shanks, steaks, backstraps, and others, they explained how to help draw the excess blood from the meat with a simple water/salt brine overnight to reduce gamey flavors. Once fat, fascia, and bones were removed, they walked the class through basic meat grinder use, stuffing tubes, vacuum sealing, and proper mixing of all ingredients to make the best table fare possible. Wiggins and BigBear also brought fresh venison jerky as well as a crockpot of shredded venison that blew the crowd away.

There are many ways to enjoy deer meat, and learning how to properly care for your own animal ranks among one of the most rewarding tasks a hunter or huntress can do. BigBear said, "I hope this is just the first of many classes we can help with, and maybe more people will get in the woods if they are



able to learn how to take care of processing on their own."

The DNR would also like to remind hunters that they are willing to take a limited number of whole deer heads for testing purposes, and if anyone is interested, you may be eligible for a \$25 Reeds gift card for your assistance in watching the health of our herds. Please contact the MLB DNR office at 320-532-7439 with any questions or to arrange drop-off.

BAND MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

BELLA NAYQUONABE CURATES ART INSTALLATION AT MLCV

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

As we shared last month, interns are the future leaders of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. Each of this summer's interns brought their own unique skills and passions to the team. A wonderful example of this is Bella Nayquonabe. During her internship, she took on a special project — an Indigenous art installation at MLCV headquarters.

Bella, alongside MLCV's Director of Planning and Community Engagement, Beth Gruber, curated a colorful art installation featuring over a dozen handpicked pieces. To help this project come to life, Bella researched and sourced artwork from artists across the country, including pieces from the Midwest, the Southwest and even an Indigenous Hawaiian piece. The collection represents Native artists from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the Navajo Nation, Kiowa Choctaw, Polynesian Hawaiian, Red Cliff Band of Superior Chippewa, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, the Cherokee Nation, and Laguna /Kewa Pueblo.

As the daughter of an artist herself, Bella knows how important it is to give a platform to Indigenous artists. "In this project, we wanted to give Native artists a chance of publicity along with exposing ourselves and others in the community to different types of art," she says. This summer's project was much more than a business lesson for Bella. In the end, it was

more of a cultural and life lesson.

"Through all the art purchased, when analyzed carefully, you can see a story being told. I have learned to cherish and admire this," Bella shares.

With November being Native American Heritage Month, it is the perfect time to visualize and admire the stories that Native art holds. From history to traditions to personal events, Native art is a purposeful way for the viewer to learn about the beauty that lies in American Indian cultures.

Bella and Beth plan to continue evolving the art installation by bringing in Indigenous street art. To learn more about the art installation and see more photos, please visit MLCV.com.



Pinwheel, by Lynda Mitchell. Native art is so much more than painted pictures. We see it in nature and in the beautiful quilts that the ladies of the Mille Lacs Band Community carefully design and sew.



Gashkibidaaganan (Bandolier Bags), by Anthony Buckanaga. To Anishinaabe, these bags are treasured and considered one of the most honorable gifts to be given. Acrylic on Canvas.

ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE from page 1

including wetlands, watersheds including the St. Croix and Mississippi, and several lakes, rivers, and streams.

"These areas are really close to the proposed mine," Applegate said. "When nickel is extracted from the Earth, it produces waste stream called tailings. When tailings react with water, they create sulfuric acid. Which is essentially the same chemical composition as battery acid. It is highly reactive and is not something you can easily neutralize. Once it is in the environment, it is extremely toxic. The way these wetlands function, it is a delicate ecosystem. It is an environmental Jenga puzzle that builds up on itself and if you jeopardize the water — the base of everything — everything else can crumble at the top and the ecosystem can fall apart."

Mille Lacs Band government leaders are poised to protect their resources.

"Our duties as a government are to protect our people and put it forward through law, policy, and legislation, Applegate said. "We will use those tools to combat this and argue against it. Yet at the same time keeping our traditional ways of being close to the land and as protectors of our people, our culture, our area, and our resources."

Talon Metals has positioned the proposed Tamarack Mine as an opportunity to domestically mine and produce nickel. It has obtained mining leases to 31,000 acres in Aitkin County and is currently drilling for core samples within this leased area. Before the company can begin operating the proposed Tamarack Mine, it must submit detailed mining plans to the State of Minnesota for environmental review. While this process can take years, Talon has announced its intention to begin operations by 2026.

Applegate said this proposed mining project, should they succeed in obtaining permits, is an "environmental injustice."

"The proposed mine is yet another example of an Indian tribe dealing with the proposal of the removal of resources. There have been a lot of assaults on the way we live on the earth," Applegate said.

Manoomin is sacred

The wetlands and lakes in District II near the proposed mining site, such as Rice Lake, are rich manoomin (wild rice) beds and traditional ricing areas for Band members. Manoomin is the heart and soul of the Anishinaabe migration story.

"Our ancestors were told to go where the food grew on water," Applegate said. "We found that food that grew on water to be manoomin. It is sacred."

Band members have harvested rice in that area for generations. Respected Band Elder Brenda Biidwaawegizhigokwe Moose, a District Court Associate Justice learned to harvest manoomin when she was 12 years old. Ricing has been a family tradition for her family for generations as well as a tradition for many Mille Lacs Band families. (See her story in the October 2014 issue of the Inaajimowin.)

"We rely on the environment to be clean and usable for traditional ways. Our interaction with the natural world is who we are. It is in our identity to care for our Mother Earth. We are taught that throughout our lives," Applegate said. "We don't believe that mining is ever going to be an environmentally responsible process, even for producing electric vehicle batteries. At that point we are just swapping one form of pollution for another."

Applegate notes that mining is not the only option to power EV battery production. Similar outcomes can be found through sodium-ion batteries, harnessing the power of hemp, or mining landfills to extract the nickel and copper that has already been discarded and buried in the ground. These solutions are much safer for surrounding land and water.

The nearby watersheds, high-water table, and the water-rich resources of the proposed Tamarack Mine site are of great concern to the Band. Any contamination to the nearby wetlands could have a devastating effect.

"The high-water table is interconnected with wetlands, ponds, streams, lakes, beds of cattails, beds of manoomin, and tamarack bogs; it is all connected," Applegate explained. "And the effects could extend beyond our community. We have the St. Croix and Mississippi watersheds that all of our waters



† a March 1999 ceremony on the northwest shore of Sandy Lake, Mille Lacs' Jim Clark (right) shares a moment with Archie McGeshick, Lac Vieux Desert Band. Ceremony leader, Tobosanakwut Kinew, smudges a string of spirit sticks, which were later released into the Sandy River below the Army Corps of Engineers dam. (COR/Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife photo)

connect to. A potential mining accident could result in toxins getting into the watershed and make their way down the St. Croix, impacting drinking water and recreational water, making the way down that side of the Twin Cities, then you've got the danger of it spilling into the Mississippi watershed leading to the ocean. That makes it a national concern."

Plans for processing

On October 19, 2022, Talon was awarded a \$114 million grant from the Department of Energy to go towards "project construction and execution costs" for a minerals processing facility in North Dakota. The North Dakota facility would process nickel from the Tamarack Mine and other potential nickel sources in North America. Talon claims that "removing the processing facilities from the Tamarack Mine site in Minnesota significantly reduces land disturbance and the scope of environmental review and permitting."

An acquisition for the North Dakota processing site is currently under negotiation for a brownfield site (land previously used for industrial or commercial purposes with known or suspected pollution including soil contamination due to hazardous waste) in Mercer County, North Dakota.

Despite Talon's decision to move nickel processing operations out of Minnesota, the mine still presents environmental risks from both the mining process itself and transporting tailings via truck and railway to North Dakota.

"Talon Metals' announcement that it intends to move components of its nickel processing operations to North Dakota acknowledges the risks that this proposed mine poses to our community and land," said Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive. "We still assert that mining is not the only option to source the nickel needed to produce electric vehicle batteries, and do not believe that it should ever be the first option. A change in location does not eliminate our continuing concerns about the impact that a nickel mine, including its extraction and transportation activities, will have on the environment, surrounding communities, and our Band's cultural practices."

"Talon Metals still has not provided data to verify its claims of experience with responsible mining practices," Benjamin said. "It has not yet revealed its mining plan details. It has not yet submitted an Environmental Review. It has not yet applied for or received a permit to develop the Tamarack Mine. Accordingly, we caution against advancing plans without proper due diligence and full documentation. We will not tolerate any risks to our land, water, wild rice, or people."

Talon's claims of "new" and "safer" technology are familiar to the Mille Lacs Band. Enbridge boasted that its Line 3 project was the most studied pipeline project in state history and the result of "exhaustive scientific review exceeding legal and reg-

ulatory requirements" that was "developed and executed with the most state-of-the-art approach to design, construction, and environmental management."

Yet Enbridge repeatedly violated water quality regulations and requirements that damaged and polluted the environment during construction. In October 2022, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announced that Enbridge has been ordered to pay \$3.5 million in fines and \$7.5 million in other penalties to go towards "payments, environmental projects, and financial assurances from Enbridge."

"We don't want to be part of a grand experiment," Applegate said. "If these new technologies work, prove it to us. Where is the data? Where are the scientific studies that show that there will be no environmental harm? We haven't seen any of that yet. Until the scientific data is provided to us, we are going to be very uncomfortable. We oppose pollution. We oppose trading the benefits of one pollution for another pollution."

Tribal government officials, including the DNR, are working to combat the risk presented by the proposed Tamarack Mine in partnership with federal and state agencies and legal resources.

Applegate anticipates that this will be a continuing effort for several years. Updates will be provided for Band members as this issue moves forward.



Inaajimowin file photo of Mille Lacs Band Elder Brenda Moose ricing in Sandy Lake area in 2014.

TRAVELING TO DIFFERENT CEREMONIAL DANCES

Gaa-tibaajimod (told by) Joe Nayquonabe Sr., Waabishkibines

Gaa-tibaajimotawaajin (transcribed by) James Clark, Ozaawaanakwad

This fall, Joe was asked to head to Bad River reservation for their ceremonial dance, for a special ceremony. This special ceremony was one that Joe was taught by a respected Elder. He was asked to help out and Joe did as he was taught years ago. When they were done, this Elder told Joe that if he ever did that in other places, to do it the way he was taught how to do it. He would like people to know that there is more than one way to do it — it all depends on who is leading or if someone is asking for advice. For example, if Joe is merely assisting and not leading said ceremony, then he is going to follow their lead. If someone were to say to him, "Joe, that's not the way we do it," Joe said he would reply by saying, "that's fine, then you can have someone else lead."

Bad River just started their Ceremonial Drum not too long ago, so they are in their learning stages, which is another reason Joe and others travel over to help them. "I felt good, that I was able to share some of what I was taught, so that I could assist fellow Anishinaabeg," Joe said. Instead of writing it out, Joe wanted to make sure he showed the people of Bad River how he was taught, like our ancestors were taught, in person rather than trying to explain it either over phone or in paper format. In addition, after that ceremony ended, those local to the area were appreciative for what was taught to their people. Joe felt

so honored that they asked but also that they took such love and devotion to learn for their future generations.

Also this fall, Joe recently went to Zoar, Wisconsin, for the Menominee ceremonial dance. He had been asked before to come and observe their "belt dance," a crucial piece of their Ceremonial Dance. Being a keeper of the belt here in Mille Lacs, he was sought year after year to bring himself and said belt. Due to dances overlapping here, in LCO, and in Zoar, he has been unable to attend in past years. Until this fall, when Joe and a few others were able to head east to not only visit, but observe how other Native people do similar ceremonies. They went and had three ceremonial drums all in one weekend, finishing the weekend with that belt dance that Joe was asked to attend.

"It was very ceremonial; to listen and watch what they did was amazing," Joe said. Something of note is that in 1920, they did the same ceremony in Mille Lacs that Menominee people can recall. Something that originated here but hasn't been done in a century hit close to home in Joe's heart. And yet these people do it twice a year. Joe noted that many other of the reservations that also partake in the dances don't even do the belt dance anymore and possibly never did. This belt dance was the very last thing that they would have for the dance that weekend. A special note is that all belt carriers are invited, but it is not up

NOTES FROM JOE:

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

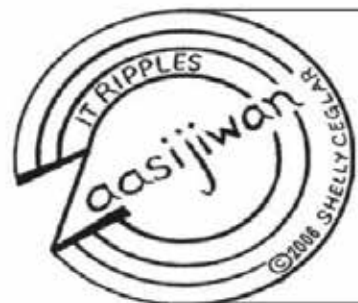
That being said, as Anishinaabe, we all experience life differently. This disclaimer is needed for all intents and purposes as the goal of this article is: to better equip our people who'd like to learn, and for topics people may not have the ability to ask an Elder about. If these teachings are not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

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

to the single care-taker of it; it is up to the drum members who takes care of that belt.

Joe and the others impressed the local people in Zoar so much that those who could get up and talk, raved about their "guest from Minnesota" or "visitors that came to be here with us." Nothing but respect and care was given to people who went to Zoar — just the genuine nature of the drum members rejoicing in their visitors for the entire weekend.

Miigwech mii iw!



Dagwaagin — It is Fall

Agwajjig, baatayinoway mitigoog. Besho endayaan niibawiwag. Gichi-Zhingwaak idash Okikaandag idash Wiigwaai-mitig idash Wiigoobaatig, izhinikaazowag. Ganawaabamaag ingiw mitigoog, niwaab. Ninisidotam. Gigichi-giwenamawigonaanig. Bagidanaamowag mii dash gibagidanaamomin. Bimaadiziwag mii dash gibimaadizimin. Gaye gakina-awiiya manidoonsag bimaadiziwag. Mitigoog, ozhizhoobii' aanaawaa akiing. Bimaaji' a'aw mitig!

(Outside, they are many trees. Nearby my house they stand. Great White Pine and Jack Pine and Birch and Basswood they are named. When I look at them those trees, I see, I understand. They give great gifts to us. They breathe and then we breathe. They live and then we live. Also, everyone of the little spirits they live. Trees, they paint the earth. Save that tree!)

Bezhig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin. —Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Wiigwaas—as in father
Miigwech—as in jay
Wiigob—as in seen
Mitigoog—as in moon

—Short vowels: A, I, O
Dash—as in about
Ikwé—as in tin
Wiigob—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.

Nouns Animate

- These are living beings.
- Inini (wag)—Man (men)
 - Ikwé (wag)—Woman (women)
 - Ikwézens (ag)—Girl (s)
 - Gwiwizcens (ag)—Boy (s)
 - Abinoojiiyens (yag)—Baby (babies)
 - Asemaa—Tobacco
 - Asin (iig)—Rock (s)
 - Miigwan (ag)—Feather (s)
 - Opwaagin (ag)—Pipe (s)
 - Dewe'igan (ag)—Drum (s)
 - Mitig (oog)—Tree (s)
 - Awesii (yag)—Wild Animal (s)
 - Manidoons (ag)—Insect (s)
 - Bineshii (yag)—Bird (s)
 - Giigoo (yag)—Fish (plural)

Niizh—2

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

A. Bimosedaa! Giwii-pimosemin megwaayaak.
B. Apane ininaatigoog, miskoziwag dagwaaging.
C. A'aw gaawaandag odakonaan wadisiwan iwidi.
D. Nindaabijitoon wiigob dakobidooyaan makak.
E. Nindoozhitoon wiigwaasi-makak, nooshkaachinaagan.
F. Inashke! Makwa ayaa iwidi mashkiigwaatigong.
G. Nimbiindaakoonaa a'aw zhingwaak.

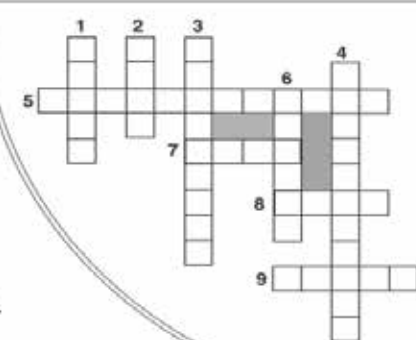
O T M I
Z N E L A P
H T G W Z S B
I M W I I G O B
N A A A Q I R C S
G K A Y D X G T G R
W W Y M E I I W I D I
A A A N R D S W A E N F
A M A K A K E W I A H S
K P K I L T J O A I S K
A I N A S H K E U N V I

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- over there
 - please
 - Try it!
 - I understand.
 - tobacco
- Across:
- basswood tree
 - woman
 - rock
 - tree, stick



Niwin—4

VTA-Verbs-Animate-Transitive

Root/Command VTA, then conjugate VTA.
Waabam! — See him/her!
Bimaaji! — Save his/her life!
Wiidookaw! — Help him/her!
Ganawenim! — Take care of him/her!
Niwaabamaa. — I see him/her.
Gibimaaji'aa. — You save his/her life.
Qwiidookawaan. — S/he helps him/her.
Giganawenimin. — I take care of you.
Giga-waabamin. — I shall see you.
Naagaj. — Later.

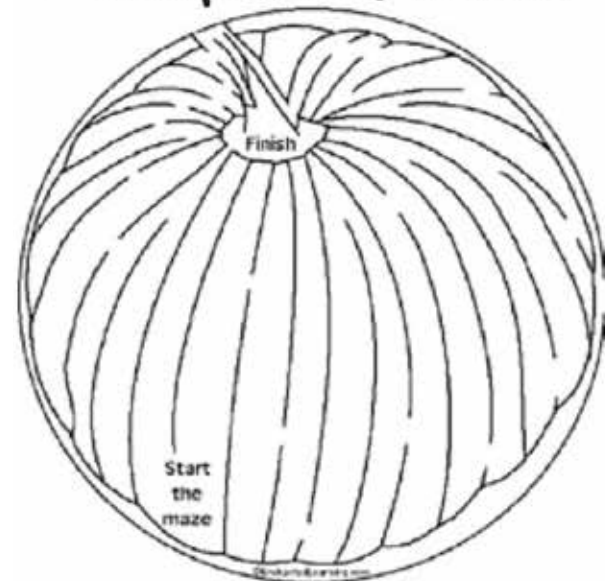
Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

- _____ ganawenim _____ aakoziyan noongom.
- _____ waabam _____ a'aw bineshii ishpemiing iwidi.
- Daga _____ bimaaji' _____ wa'aw mitig.
- _____ wiidookaw _____ ikwewaan adaawewigamigong.
- Ojibwemowin! Miigwech! _____ -waabam _____ naagaj.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Let's all take a walk in the woods. B. Always the maple trees are red when it is fall. C. That white spruce holds a bird's nest over there. D. I use the inner bark of the basswood when I tie/lace a basket. E. I make a birch bark basket, a winnowing tray. F. Look! A bear is there by the tamarack tree. G. I make an offering of tobacco to him/her that white pine.
Niswi—3 Down: 1. iwidi. 2. Daga. 3. Goojitoon! 4. Ninisidotam 6. Asemaa Across: 5. Wiigoobaatig 7. Ikwé 8. Asin 9. Mitig
Niwin—4 1. I am taking care of you when you are sick today. 2. I see him/her that bird in the sky over there. 3. Please you save the life of him/her this tree. 4. S/he helps her the lady at the store. 5. Speak Ojibwe! Thanks! I shall see you later.
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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Pumpkin Maze



Published in the 2005 edition of *Mazina'igan*. Reprinted with permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC.



BAND MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

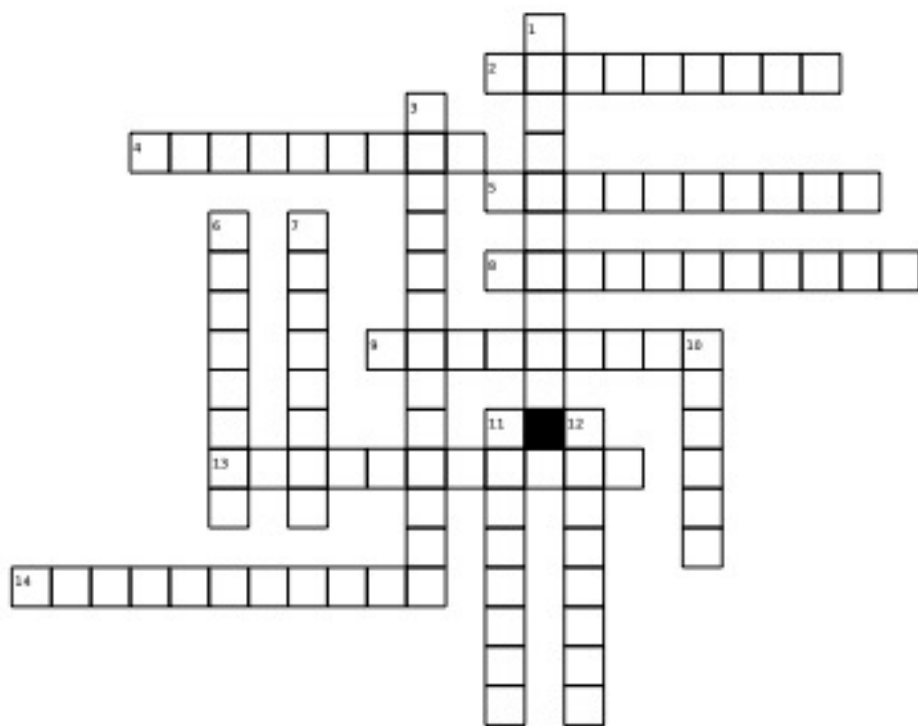
The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is once again holding a photo contest for all Band members. We are looking for photos, taken by you, that represent the Mille Lacs Band people and places, culture, and tradition.

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
See complete list of rules at millelacsband.com

AAZHAWAAKWASING GASHKADINO-GIIZIS

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

1. It is cold wind.
3. It is wind you can hear.
6. Snow is coming.
7. It is cool weather.
10. The wind blows.
11. He/She is cooled by the wind.
12. It is cooled by the wind.

Across:

2. When it is Fall.
4. a dry leaf.
5. There are bright leaves.
8. There is a good/nice breeze.
9. It is Fall.
13. There are brown/yellow leaves.
14. The wind comes.

PURPOSE — ANISHINAABE IZHITWAAWIN

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, there should come a point in life where we find our purpose. How much impact intergenerational trauma has had on our ability to do so has yet to be determined. That trauma seems to have disconnected us in ways we don't even know. Yet, they say that every Anishinaabe has a purpose — a contribution to our community. What purposes do we see? Hunters, organizers, supporters, planners, leaders, singers, dancers. What others do you see?

Our clan systems play a role also. Through our clans we find strengths and roles in the community. Our speakers, protectors, healers and so on. Our clans establish our spiritual strengths and general roles in the community which would help narrow our purposes down. It would help us know where our communal strengths originate so we can use them in our own personal lives. As we increase ourselves, we increase our impacts which would increase our contributions and increases our community.

When an Anishinaabe finds their purpose, there must be a way to sense it. Our connections to a greater force must have an impact on our ability to sense it. It must be a good feeling. Unlike any we have ever felt, maybe? Just think, it is your purpose for living. There must be a way to detect it. It must make us feel a certain way. Make us feel correct, maybe? Does our heart beat differently? Are there butterflies in our stomachs? It may be a balanced sensation of motivation and accomplishment at the same time.

Using our gifts to build us individually would help us be directed to our purpose. Putting our asemaa and asking for it is one thing. Being aware of when it shows up is up to us. Much like we need to represent physically what happens spiritually. The manidoog aren't going to do our work for us. Our jichaagwan is what is having the experience, so maybe our spirits need to do the work through our physical being. Then maybe our jichaagwan lets us know when we are on the path meant for us. Kinda like our own spiritual Siri guiding us along.



What do you feel or hear when you are off track? Using our way of life to build up our being would allow us to be more aware of when we veer off track, further from our purpose,

As we increase our individual consciousness and awareness of our purposes, we increase our collective consciousness causing us to be more aware of our situation. Our purposes are products of our environment. What we as a people are experiencing today, and we are guided to help our fellow anishinaabe as communal people. What is your purpose?

The Manidoog gifted us in so many ways. We have Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin, the Anishinaabe way of life. When we live our lives in practice of our customs, we connect to the spirit world in ways that are greatly beneficial to us as Anishinaabe and to us as Anishinaabeg.

Miigwech

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Our senses que up our expressions. When we experience the world in an anishinaabe fashion, colors have distinct meaning, sound has a meaning and so does what we feel. When the seasons change, our senses pick up on the change and create great expressions.

Dakaasin = It is cooled by the wind.

(Duk kah sin)

Dakaashi = He/She is cooled by the wind.

(Duk kah shih)

Dagwaagin = It is Fall.

(Dug gwah gin)

Dagwaagig = When it is Fall.

(Dug gwah gig)

Waatebagaa = There are bright leaves.

(Wah tay bug gah)

Ozaawibagaa = There are brown/yellow leaves.

(Oh zah wib bug gah)

Gaaskibag = a dry leaf.

(Gah skib bug)

Dakaayaa = It is cool weather.

(Duk kah yah)

Biijipon = Snow is coming.

(Bee jip pohn)

Noodin = The wind blows.

(Nue din)

Dakaanimad = It is cold wind.

(Duk kah nim mud)

Madweyaanimad = It is wind you can hear.

(Mud way yah nim mud)

Biidaanimad = The wind comes.

(Bee dah nim mud)

Minwaanimad = There is a good/nice breeze.

(Min wah nim mud)

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

BAND MEMBER VOICES

ENJOYING THE JOURNEY OF FAMILY SUCCESS

By **DAWNE STEWART, BAND MEMBER**

Life is a journey with many adventures that bring families many challenges, yet having a plan in place will relieve stress and help establish your family's success. School is in full bloom and each child has new opportunities ahead of them. It's an adventure for everyone, and finding a way to relax throughout the journey ensures everyone is ready to embrace the new year.

Connect with your family in a special way, spend time talking to your children about the rewards of hard work, have fun making a treasure hunt around the house. Make an imaginary fishing pond in your living room, with a little fishing rod with a string on the end, cut out different colored fish, and write a funny joke on the back. Everyone gets to read the joke once they catch the paper fish. This will encourage them to read. Play fishing will encourage them to learn. As a result they are bound to catch good grades. Making learning fun is a way to engage their participation, opening the way for the family to bond.

Education, as we parents know, is beneficial and will open many doors not only for themselves but for future generations. Perhaps learning is like flying a kite; once you give it a try, you can fly so high, nothing can stop your successful journey. How we think about our journey can bring great rewards, or, if we allow fear to hold us back, we never get into our boat called life. We were born to do great things and enjoy the many wonderful adventures that await us.

School Tips

As school is in full motion, encourage your children and grandchildren to be students who are respectful, kind, good listeners, and respectful of themselves. If they encounter trouble with other students who are being unkind to them, encourage them to immediately share their concern to their teachers. Reassure your child of their great worth and know that it's not

their fault someone is acting unkind. Let them know this isn't okay and that they are special. Allow the children who are experiencing the bullying to have calming activities like painting, or share good memories from your family road trips or bake cookies with them. Spend time sharing their pain and reaffirming them. Let them know you are on their side.

Bullying

More than likely the person who is behaving this way or bullying feels really sad about themselves, and this could be a cry for help, opening the door to their healing. School counselors are great resource to help the child turn their energy in a positive way.

Routines are good

Parenting is no easy job. However, establishing a weekend prep system is a good way to have a calmer week. Ensure your children learn early to wash their beautiful faces and brush their teeth. Fresh breath gives the greatest of confidence. When my children were young, I would wash clothes and have them pick out five outfits for the week. We would take the clothes and place them on the hangers; shirts, pants, socks, under garments, etc., in order of the days. This eliminates the rush in the morning as each child picks out their outfit for the next day on the night before.

Making a list for morning and evening routine is also a great tool for the child. Success is built on the daily routine.

Meal prepping also makes life easier for the week. Packing lunches the night before is good too. Give the children an orientation on how things work and how great the school year will be just because they learned the rhythm of life.

Evening Routine

A winding-down routine is also essential for each child's success. Try to serve dinner at the same time, and establish a cleanup system for them to be responsible for their own plates

and loading them into the dishwasher. My father would say that I was the dishwasher and I learned how to wash dishes. At times, he seemed so structured that I thought it was a bit much, but now I see how essential it was for me. This no-nonsense approach to a school year brought order, and I learned early how to be successful. To bed I would go at 9 p.m. and could read a book quietly in bed. You can also provide a night light so they are comfortable to rest peacefully.

Rhythm of life is essential for everyone and makes things less stressful. Spend time building a great routine, and show kindness and smile at them. Before you know it, they grow up and become who you dreamed they would be.

BIO: Dawne Stewart, Mille Lacs Band Member

Dawne Stewart is entering her first season with the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx, and her first year as the Administrative Assistant to three of the senior officers within the organization. Previously, she spent 15 years at a utility firm which gave her firsthand perspective on ways to manage energy both from a residential and business perspective. She enjoys interacting in the human resources area, cultural diversity and inclusion awareness, and supporting the general counsel, being skillful within diverse parameters. Dawne is presently a member of the American Administrative Professional Society and is very aware of the necessity of organizational planning, being a key player within her field. Stewart earned her degree from Augsburg University in 2002. She resides in Minneapolis with her grandson, Mekhi, and family. She enjoys writing, singing, and reading literature with respect to growth and development. As an urban Band member, she seeks to aid others in understanding ways to connect with one another and show kindness.

BETTE AND SHIRLEY: THOUGHTS ON REVIVING THE MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

By **JAMES CLARK**

"Because one of these days the kids are gonna ask about it, they are getting to the age that they are gonna need to know. They are gonna want to know how it was to live without the age of technology," said Shirley Boyd, Mille Lacs Band Elder.

"Maybe they want to know what we did when we were little. We used to make the forks from sumac trees and we'd put a wheel on and tie it onto it and ride around," said Bette Sam.

The Elders were talking about how resourceful they were long time ago. The fun that they had as kids without all the technology or toys they have today. They seek to tell people stories of how it was with not having a lot of money, but rich in culture and our natural foods. When asked if they ever felt poor, they replied, "no never." They continued to tell of the homemade toys they would make, or the games they would make out of everyday objects.

Bette and Shirley said they did not play after dark when they were kids. Either because of the lack of lighting, or the stories of the maazhi-manidoog (bad spirits) that will play along with you.

Family time was a big component when they grew up, which is different from how they see it today. Their parents would make time for games and other activities, and Bette and Shirley do not see a lot of family games in these days. So many things are different now compared to how they were able to raise their kids. The ladies noticed even as the roads, cars, and jobs started to get better on the Reservation, that the kids would be out and about more than they were growing up.

Even the grandchildren are spending time in a different world; i.e., on their

phones and computers. Less and less the generations are learning from their Elders, learning about the world and our practices as Anishinaabe people. Bette and Shirley feel that modern life is very busy for our youth with jobs, school, technology, and the responsibilities of today's world. They feel many of our youth are not participating in exercising our treaty rights and in our ceremonies as well. But they are learning about them in schools, so what they do with what they learn is up to the individual child.

Their hope for these stories is to give the future generations things they will be able to learn from and continue their rights. No matter what age or background they are, there are still opportunities to partake in our culture. That is what the ladies were talking about. They were raised with culture every day; they had no choice as girls. It was just what they did on those nights during the ceremonial dance season and in learning from their families.

Miigwech!

Editor's note: A revival of the Moccasin Telegraph from the 1990s is underway. If you, or someone you know, is a Mille Lacs Band member Elder and would like to be included in the new Moccasin Telegraph, please call 320-630-8195 or email news@millelacsband.com.



BAND MEMBER VOICES

HUNTING TRADITIONS AND NEW MEMORIES

By MASHKODE-BIZHIKGAHBAW, BENJI SAM

November stands as one of the biggest traditions in my life that means not only putting meat in the freezer, but also a rite of passage as a provider for my family and Ojibwe outdoorsman. My parents first brought me into the woods when I was around four years old. I remember my dad would make me bring my BB gun in case of squirrels, grouse, and other small game – but in hindsight, it was likely, so I felt the importance of safe firearm handling for the rest of my life. My mom, dad, and I used to climb 20 feet in the air on a few 2x4 pieces of wood notched between three trees swaying back and forth in the wind.

We have hunted, proudly, as a family since our tribal rights were officially recognized and upheld in 1997 as the first allowable hunt outside of State jurisdiction. My dad was lucky enough, with my mom hunting at his side, to harvest the first deer taken under the now protected Treaty of 1837. From that point forward, hunting was solidified in my life as not only a great hobby, a family pastime, and a way to feed ourselves and those around us, but more so a way of life.

When I was a kid, one of my favorite things was bringing deer meat to Elders in the area. A core teaching that we were taught was that when you have more to give, you owe more to your community. When I was young, we had a group of the Elders who helped my family throughout life who didn't have children or grandchildren who hunted, and they were no longer able to get into the woods. It always feels like a way of giving back to the village that raised me when I can help place lean venison in the crockpots of our loved ones.

Those Elders used to speak of the importance of eating those foods that brought us life for generation after generation upon our Tribe's arrival to the Mille Lacs region. Wild rice, maple syrup/sugar, deer meat, walleye, and many homegrown and harvested fruits, vegetables, herbs, and natural medicines are what kept our people well for thousands of years.

Fall always brought a beautiful change in temperature, wind direction, new moons rising, and deer movement which becomes more predictable. Our favorite ways to harvest deer were gathering in large groups to perform drives across tracts of land as far as western Wisconsin. I was always the youngest in the group and often was given the role of dragging deer out of the woods. Thinking back, what I wouldn't give to gut and drag a deer out of the woods for some of the Elders we used to share the woods with. The laughs, struggles, camaraderie, jokes, and brotherhood from group hunting are something that cannot be replaced.

Today, most of my deer hunting is done in the same woods I grew up hunting in — setting up in the same trees that my parents did since the day we were first legally allowed to hunt under our own jurisdiction. Though the forest changes little year by year, the feeling of putting on the same hunting clothes I have had since I was a kid never changes. Every year we have a good laugh about me wearing the same tattered, three-sizes-too-small, blaze orange vest that has never been washed into the woods. I also carry with me the same rifle my father carried in his time on this earth, and carrying on the tradition of bring-



Benji Sam credits most of his hunting experience from his father and niyawen'enh Lenny Sam, pictured here, as he looks on as Benji hoists a buck and doe to hang in his garage. Photo from 2016.



Involving youth and exposing them to death in a healthy, constructive, and productive fashion can help grow the knowledge and wealth of our people — a wealth of understanding what it means to provide for your loved ones. Photo from fall of 2004.

ing my family out into the woods reminds me of the importance of living how the old ones wanted us to.

This fall, I hope to help my oldest nephew create new core memories as he joins our hunting party in search of his first kill. I look forward to the day he is given the opportunity to make the decision to become an adult within our culture, when he begins to provide for his family as many of us have before him.

May we all find happiness, peace, and safe harvest this hunting season, and I hope you enjoy carrying on your own traditions this fall on the road to happy hunting.



From an exert in the 1997 Winter edition of the Mazina'igan: Mille Lacs band member David Sam harvested this forked-horn buck west of Lake Mille Lacs. His wife Mary (right) joined him on the historic deer hunt on November 8, 1997. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen, GLIFWC.)

AROUND THE RESERVATION



ASK AUNTIE

Dear Auntie,

I am a 13-year-old ikwezens and I am told I am kind of small for my age. My brothers are all older and bigger and have always treated me like a baby. But I am not a baby! I might be small, but I am strong. I want to go hunting and spearing and learn how to do that for myself. My brothers say it is the job of the men to gather the food. But I say to them, I can do it.

What do you think? Should I be allowed to learn to hunt and fish like my brothers?

Signed,
Small But Mighty.

Dear Small But Mighty,

Aaniin Nishimis,

Miigwech for reaching out. I get many questions about hunting and fishing. First, I want to say that it's not the size of physical body but the size of our spirit that is most important. I also encourage you to speak with a female Elder in your area about the traditional roles and also the importance of our treaty rights. Also, sometimes young females that have just been given their moon time have to take precaution for a year once becoming a young woman.

Traditional roles are different and can vary for each tribe; they can also vary for each household. Historically, Ojibwe women were gatherers and fishers and were often responsible for taking care of the children and cooking. Ojibwe men, on the other hand, were responsible for hunting and in some cases would go to war to protect their families and communities. Both genders practiced storytelling, beadwork, music, and traditional medicine. The harvesting of wild rice was a task often completed by both men and women, with the man assuming responsibility of steering the canoe through the reeds while the woman would knock grains of rice into the canoe. Today, the Ojibwe still harvest wild rice by canoe, but both men and women partake in the knocking. Spearfishing is a tradition practiced every spring by Ojibwe tribes. It's a practice that's been passed on for generations, and it's part of tribal rights to hunt, fish, and gather on lands ceded to the U.S. government under federal treaties.

Spearing is a time-honored tradition and one of our cultural practices that has been passed down from generation to generation, and our Elders want our future generations to be able to practice this while saving for the future. It's important for spearing to feed our family and please remember to always share with the Elders first.

I hope this helps you and I encourage you to talk to the strong females and males in your life — it's important to talk to family and share how you feel while learning about your culture and traditions.

Auntie says you can do anything you want! You were created for a purpose!

Happy hunting!

Auntie.

Do you have a question for Ask Auntie? Send your question to news@millelacsband.com. Your identification will remain anonymous.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

THE NEXT GENERATION

The Office of District I Representative Wind welcome new babies to our community and wish each of them and their families all the best!

Parents Arielle and Nicholas Shaw welcomed baby boy Nicholas Michael Shaw on June 6, 2022. He weighed 6 lbs. and 14 ozs., and was 21 inches long. Baby Nicholas was welcomed home by his four older sisters Jenai, Jayla, Abigail, and Reese.



Bobbi Oswaldson and baby girl Ryder Rose Oswaldson on Thursday, October 6. Proud parents Bobbi and Ruben Wind who welcomed Ryder on August 9, 2022. She weighed 9 lbs., 12 ozs. and was 23 1/2 inches long.



A naming ceremony was held for Ayaabens, Cash Richer born on July 28, 2022. In the photo is Cheyenne Eagle, Ashlynn Eagle, Bob Eagle and Alana Goodman, and Vivian Tuma.

Mom is the late Vala Eagle and Dad Chad Richer. Cash is welcomed by a whole bunch of cousins from the Eagle family.



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

CURTIS LEE MARTIN

Curtis Lee Martin passed away at the age of 62 on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth, Minn., surrounded by his family.

Curtis was born on January 5, 1960, at home in Rush City, Minn. to Lucille Martin and Ralph Pewaush.

He attended school in Pine City, Minn. and Askov, Minn.

Curtis worked a variety of jobs, mostly construction from working maintenance on the railroad to planting trees in the southern states, Rite Way Waterproofing, and project manager at Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

He enjoyed fishing and visiting friends near and far. He went on constant adventures, and he enjoyed life with a unique sense of humor.

He is survived by his sons Terence Martin of Askov, Minn. Curtis LaFave of Hinckley, Minn., Tyler Martin of Grantsburg, Wisc., and Ruben Benjamin of Hinckley, Minn. Grandchildren; Makenah Martin, Austin Martin, Damion Martin, Cameron Martin, Harlyn Martin. Brothers; Loren and Toney Pewaush of Wisc., Robin Jorgensen of Sandstone, Minn. and Brad Shermer of Pine City, Minn. Sisters; Sara Warner of St. Paul, Minn. and Loretta Shermer of Pine City, MN, and many nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Curtis was preceded in death by his mother Lucille Martin, his father Ralph Pewaush, son Travis Martin, sister Ramona Martin, niece Lisa Martin, and nephew Brian Martin.

Funeral was at 10 a.m. Monday October 10, 2022, at Aazhoomog Community Center, Ogema Township, with wake starting at 7 p.m. Sunday, October 9, 2022. Burial at Stevens Lake Cemetery.

Arrangements by Tatting-Methven Funeral and Cremation Services of Hinckley, Minn.



WAASAYAANAAKWAADOOKWE MARSHA COLLEEN SAM

Waasayaanaakwaadookwe, Marsha Sam, age 59, of Onamia, Minn., died on October 11, 2022. Visitation was at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Nazhike officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds.

Waasayaanaakwaadookwe, Marsha Colleen Sam was born on October 1, 1963, in San Francisco, California, to Douglas and Christine (Skinaway) Sam. She attended and graduated from Nay Ah Shing School. She enjoyed playing bingo, having family get-togethers, beading her signature earrings, and dancing at pow-wows traditional style. Marsha worked various positions at Grand Casino. She finished her career working with her good friend Lana at Corporate Commission. She will be remembered for her crazy sense of humor and goofy jokes.

She is survived by her sister, Mickey (Phillip Harrington Sr.) Sam; children, Rachel Bugg and Marcus (Kassandra Bugg) Bugg; grandchildren, Andrei, Adriana, Adrian Jr. (Noel), Brevin, RaySean, Kaitlyn, Jade, Rory, Hevin, Marcus Jr., Jasper, Marcello, LeiAuna, Lucielle, Donnie, Ingodwaakwe, Quilla, Akyllius; great-grandchildren, Alayah and Alexa, James Jr., Littlefeather, Quincy, and Teagan.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Douglas and Christine (Skinaway) Sam; son, Adrian D. Bugg, Baby Boy Bugg; sisters, Rebecca Sam, Maxine Sam; brothers, Dallas Sam, Douglas R. Sam, Joseph Bastedo, Doran Sam; granddaughter, Ra-Quel Guevara; nieces, Charlotte Harrington, Camille Wade, Tila Ballinger, Memorie Ballinger; nephew, Ross Ballinger; and great-grandson, Whitecloud. Funeral was at 10 a.m. Monday, October 10, 2022, at Aazhoomog Community Center, Ogema Township, with wake at 7 p.m. Sunday, October 9, 2022. Burial at Stevens Lake Cemetery.

Arrangements by Tatting-Methven Funeral and Cremation Services of Hinckley, Minn.



NAZHIKE-AWAASANOOKWE JULIE ROSE SAM

Nazhike-awaasanookwe, Julia Rose Sam, age 33, passed away on October 5, 2022. Visitation was Saturday, October 8, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was Sunday, October 9, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Nazhike officiating. Interment was in the Bedausky Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Nazhike-awaasanookwe, Julia Rose Sam was born on March 21, 1989, in Onamia, Minnesota, to the late Jeffrey and Melanie Sam. She attended Nay Ah Shing High School on the Mille Lacs Reservation. She enjoyed spending time with her son Brayden, laughing, and spending time on social media. She enjoyed going for rides, going out to eat, watching movies, and socializing with friends and family.

Julia is survived by her only son, Brayden Mitchell, whom she loved very much; sisters, Wendy Merrill and Susan Hendrix; brothers, Corey Sam, Cody Sam, and Carlos Merrill; nephews, Amelio Merrill, Derek Merrill, Blake Smith, Daniel Beaulieu, Joseph Beaulieu Jr., and Landon Hendrix; nieces, Brooklynn Smith, Nevaeh Merrill, Rihanna Smith, Bionca Sam, and Lay'liana Sam; She also had many aunts, uncles, and cousins that she loved and cared for dearly.



WELLBRIETY FEAST AND GATHERING RETURNS

By **MAAJITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM**

On October 14, 2022, over one hundred community members attended the Mille Lacs Band Wellbriety Feast hosted by Behavioral Health and the SUDS Department and held at the old District I Community Center. Attendees participated in a dish being set, a potluck food competition and singing and dancing. Due to COVID-19, this event has not been held since March of 2020. A few of the project staff stated the turnout was fantastic for the first gathering, and it was very encouraging to see and hear so many community members want to take part. Rich Hill, one of the project leaders said, "The community is ready for this to happen again."

Asiniikwe, Carrie Sam said, "It was a very important event to everyone; a new beginning for our community."

Theresa Sam said she "really enjoyed seeing the community come together and feeling more connected."

Chandell Boyd, one of the project leaders said, "The SUD Department's work, vision, and events like these are about our shared journey of creating hope and healing. This event was a great start to pulling community back together."

Rich added, "The community needs Wellbriety. We are all healing from something, not just drugs and alcohol. We all have personal work to do on so many levels."

According to White Bison, the Wellbriety Movement "provides culturally based healing for the next generation of Indigenous people." It is about going beyond. They go on to say the "Well" in Wellbriety is the inspiration to go beyond sobriety and recovery, committing to a life of wellness and healing everybody. Like White Bison's mission, Chandell shared the "Mille Lacs Band's Behavioral Health Department and SUD division are striving to energize all of the Band's districts by providing culturally based activities, education materials, and teachings to support a healthy community, providing servant leadership opportunities and supports in healing from addiction, mental health issues, and generational trauma."

Committing to a life of healing and health takes time, effort, and relationships with others. Our interconnectedness helps us heal; the more of us that are walking this path together, the healthier our communities will be. When our community embraces being clean and sober, the leaders and the children will follow. It takes all of us to heal our communities. White Bison refers to this work as creating a "healing forest" within our communities.

Rich hopes the other entities within Band government programs and even other community agencies take advantage of this opportunity and join at some point. "It takes all of us to create the forest," he said.



Bobby Eagle and Chandell Boyd, one of the event coordinators.

Chandell serves on the Mille Lacs County Drug Court and was grateful to welcome Judge Kulick and staff to the feast.

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson said, "It was super awesome for the community to meet the SUD staff in a setting where people got to know each other and came together as a community. Seeing our community come back together face-to-face in our center laughing, singing, and dancing was needed and a great evening. My staff look forward to hosting this and other events in each district." Commissioner Anderson encourages anyone wanting more information on upcoming events to contact Chandell Boyd at 320-362-4238 and anyone needing behavioral health services can call 320-532-4163.



Rich Hill.



Attendees, including children, were invited to get creative and share what Wellbriety means to them and comment about living gratefully in their new path on a Wellbriety Wall Banner.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

There are over 9 million Native Americans and Native Alaskans living in the United States today. And with over 574 federally recognized tribes, there are hundreds of various cultures that are as individually unique as the people they represent. Although each tribe is distinct and sovereign, we are all interconnected in various ways and there is much to learn from each diverse community from languages, artwork, music, and food.

November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, according to the National Congress of American Indians.

The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

CELEBRATE AT GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS EVENT AND CONVENTION CENTER

NOVEMBER 13, 2022 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MILLE LACS BAND - HOME OF THE SIDESTEP

This event will feature arts and crafts fair showcasing Native American Artists. Any artists interested in featuring artwork should contact Lana Oswaldson to sign up 763-238-6629.

This event is hosted by the District I Representative's Office and Band Member Development Teams with Mille Lacs Grand Casino.

Attendance is FREE! A meal will be provided.

Several contests will be featured with huge cash payouts. See the list below. Watch for more information on Facebook as more details will be provided.

HAND DRUM CONTEST

Adult Men 1 to 3 Man Payouts:

1st place- \$3,000
2nd place- \$2,000
3rd place- \$1,000

Youth 1 to 3 Man Payouts:

1st place- \$1,500
2nd place- \$1,000
3rd place- \$500

SIDESTEP SPECIALS CONTEST:

Women Sidestep 18+

1st Place- \$300
2nd Place- \$200
3rd Place- \$100

Men Sidestep 18+:

1st place- \$300
2nd place- \$200
3rd place- \$100

Youth Sidestep:

1st place- \$300
2nd place- \$200
3rd place- \$100

Check out more online events regarding Native American Heritage Month by visiting: <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov>

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

NOVEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Linda Applegate
 Maria Rea
 Lana Sue Oswaldson
 Ann Marie Mitchell
 Laura Jean Schaaf
 Cherie Jean Ambrose
 Floyd Monroe Ballinger
 Clifford Wayne Benjamin
 Franklin James Benjamin
 Irene Bernice Benjamin
 Barbara Jean Benjamin-Robertson
 William Boyd
 Kimberly Sue Brock
 Deanna Marie Bullchild
 Donna Lisa Bullchild
 Alice Elizabeth Carter
 Mary Maxine Conklin
 Mary Ann Curfman
 Michael Roger Dorr
 Douglas Duane Dunkley

Donald Ross Eubanks
 Terrance Wayne Feltmann
 Roger Granger
 Carol Holmes
 Eileen Marjorie Johnson
 Michael Anthony Juarez
 Bridgette Marie Kilpela
 Christopher James Kuntz
 George Virgil LaFave
 Barbara Ellen Lobejko
 Sidney Ray Lucas
 Darlene Doris Meyer
 Mary Ellen Meyer
 Marie Linda Nahorniak
 Judith Marie Nickaboine
 Paul Benjamin Nickaboine
 Bernadette Norton
 Elizabeth Anne Peterson
 Dale William Roy
 Rhonda Lee Sam
 Karen Renee Sampson
 Mary Ann Shedd
 Kenneth Daryl Shingobe

Ronald Eugene Smith
 Maria Ellena Spears
 Nora Grace St. John
 David Le Roy Staples
 Donald Gerard Thomas
 John Henry Thomas
 Jerry Lee Torgerud
 Joyce Laverne Trudell
 Shawn Henry Wellner
 Natalie Yvonne Weyaus
 Sylvia Jane Wise
 Patricia Beatrice Xerikos

ELDERS NEEDED!

The Government Affairs Department is seeking Elders to tell their stories for a new Moccasin Telegraph series for future generations. If you are willing to participate in an interview to share your memories, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

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

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

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send important information and breaking news updates to Band members.

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

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: Assistant Commissioner: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Community Development:

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

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Chief Executive's Office

Deputy Assistant: Baabiitaw Boyd: 218-670-0745

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

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

Band Assembly Inquiries

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

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

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

Aanjobimaadizing Case Managers

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

District II/Ila — Winona Crazy Thunder: 320-364-3049; Autumn Ballinger: 320-674-0655; Mary K Boyd: 320-630-1307

District III — Renee Allen: 320-591-0559; Kathy Nelson: 320-630-2671

Urban — Winona Spaulding: 612-360-7219

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 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.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

JAMES HOWARD JR.

Please contact Health and Human Services,

Samantha Merrill at 320-532-1772.

Miigwech..

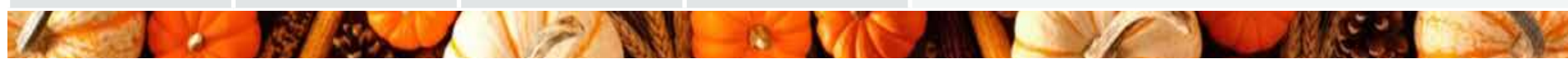


DRUG TIP HOTLINE

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>IMPORTANT NOTICE: The Rez NA 6 p.m. regularly held in the Aanjibimaadizing building is temporarily being held at the 17222 Ataage Drive location while Aanjibimaadizing is under construction.</p>		<p>1 First Tuesday SNAP Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Sa Miikana</p>	<p>2 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>3 Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>4 Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>5 Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>6 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery See above The Rez NA 6 p.m.</p>	<p>7 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's Group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>8 Election Day! GO VOTE Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Sa Miikana</p>	<p>9 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10 Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>11 Warrior's Day Government Offices Closed Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>12 Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>13 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery See above The Rez NA 6 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's Group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>15 District II Community Meeting Chiminising 5:30 p.m. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Sa Miikana</p>	<p>16 District II Community Meeting Minisinaakwaang 5:30 p.m. Third Wednesday (check): District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>17 District III Community Meeting Aazhoomog Community Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. MLCV Fall Fest Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>18 Raider Roundy Chiminising Dinner 6:30 p.m. Roundy 7 to 11 p.m. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>19 Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>20 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery See above The Rez NA 6 p.m.</p>	<p>21 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's Group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>22 Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Sa Miikana</p>	<p>23 Miigwech Days Government offices closed Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24 Miigwech Days Government offices closed Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>25 Miigwech Days Government offices closed Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>26 Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p>
<p>27 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference Zooming Towards Recovery See above The Rez NA 6 p.m.</p>	<p>28 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's Group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>29 Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference Sa Miikana</p>	<p>30 Ge-Niigaanizijig Elder Dinner 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Last Wednesday First Aid CPR Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming Towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference. The Sunday Wellbriety ID is 601 532 2869 and the password is 456 267. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. Urban recovery groups meet Tuesdays at 7 (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245; password: Redroad.</p>		





NAS AND MILEE STUDENTS FIRE SAFETY DAY. See page 9

FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

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

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

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

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

District II: 320-630-7666

District III: 320-630-2691

24 Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Batters Intervention: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

Elder Services: 320-532-7854

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

Food Shelf: 320-362-4672

Waivered Services: 320-362-0027

Heating, water, or other home-related

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

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

Mille Lacs Band Family Services: 320-532-4163, ext. 1714

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

PRESORTED
 FIRST CLASS MAIL
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 TWIN CITIES MN
 PERMIT NO 30308

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
 43408 Oodena Drive
 Onamia, MN 56359
millelacsband.com



**NEW FEATURE:
 ASK AUNTIE**
 page 15

**DNR DEER
 PROCESSING CLASS**
 page 8

**KNOW YOUR
 DIABETES ABCS**
 page 6

LAWSUIT UPDATE
 page 1