

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

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



MORE THAN THROWING PUNCHES BOXING TEACHES LIFELONG SKILLS, DISCIPLINE, CHARACTER, & MORE

By **VIVIAN LaMOORE, EDITOR**

On a cold, raining, and windy Wednesday night in November, the M' Ali Meshakwad Community Center was alive and the intense energy was palpable. In the north corner upper-level, the Davis Boxing Gym was equally active where several kids were focused on finishing warmups of 30 sit-ups, 20 push-ups, and four laps around the track. One young boy was having a hard go with push-ups. Giving up wasn't an option. Harry Davis led the boy to the chest press machine. This machine gives a similar motion to push-ups helping to build the chest muscles along with biceps and triceps, and is helpful for beginners and seasoned athletes alike. The rest of the kids gathered around and helped the boy count and encouraged him as he finished his push-ups, and all walked away with smiles.

The kids all wanted to finish the warm-up session so they

could get to work practicing their jabs, hooks, uppercuts, and learn new combinations. They were there to learn to box. The reality is they are learning so much more.

Harry Davis, District III Representative, was 10 years old when his dad taught him how to box. Just as his father taught him, he is teaching his son and countless other kids how to become fighters. Not just in the boxing ring, but fighters in life. Whether they end up as champions in the boxing ring or not, they will walk away with lifelong skills and lessons.

Davis started the youth boxing club program in Aazhomog in the front yard of his home, with the assistance of the District III Representative Buzz Churchill. Later Bernida Churchill, Chief Executive Marge Anderson and a donation from Goff and Howard. In the last 30 years, he has coached countless kids in

BOXING PROGRAM see page 8



Adobe stock photo.

SCOTUS TO DECIDE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ICWA

What's at stake? Everything.

By **VIVIAN LaMOORE, EDITOR**

On November 9, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) heard oral arguments in *Brackeen v. Haaland*, a case that will decide the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA). ICWA protects the well-being and best interests of Indian children and families by upholding family integrity and stability, and by giving a preference to custody decisions that keep Indian children connected to their community and culture. ICWA also reaffirms the inherent rights of tribal nations to be involved in child welfare matters that involve their citizens. A Supreme Court decision is expected in early 2023.

The core argument in this case lays in the question: Who is an Indian? More specifically, is being an Indian a political classification or racial classification? With over 200 years of Indian law, including treaties, having been created and set as precedence based on Indian being a political classification, should the Supreme Court's final opinion determine Indian to be a racial classification, the entire house of cards of Indian law, including treaties, could tumble.

Tadd Johnson, legal consultant to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and former Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General explained this case is perhaps "the most significant case," to go before the Supreme Court in this century. "The worst possible scenario is if they look at the whole thing and said, 'Wait a second. We have been wrong for the last 200 years and we cannot have these special things for Indians anymore because they are a race and we cannot give a race special treatment like an Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.'" Johnson said. "...That would be taking

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MILLE LACS BAND vs MILLE LACS COUNTY LAWSUIT UPDATE

STAFF REPORT

Judge Susan Richard Nelson held a status conference in the law enforcement litigation on Wednesday, November 2, 2022.

Judge Nelson began by stating that the purpose of the conference was to discuss defendants' request for leave to file a supplemental response to plaintiffs' pending motion for summary judgment. She said she would hear from defendants first and had a number of concerns about their request. Brett Kelley responded for the defendants.

After a lively discussion with the defendants, Judge Nelson heard from the plaintiffs. Marc Slonim responded on behalf of the Band and gave a brief presentation summarizing the Band's position.

At the end of the discussion, Judge Nelson denied the defendants' request for leave to file a supplemental response, and indicated that she would be issuing a ruling on the motions that were argued last August. That ruling may end the case in the District Court, but there has been no ruling as of the printing of this issue.

HOW DO CHILDREN AT MILLE LACS EARLY EDUCATION SAY MIIGWECH? — SEE PAGE 9

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo!

I hope community members enjoyed time with friends and family on Miigwech Day. I have recently noticed many Band members talking about all that we have to be thankful for as Mille Lacs Band members, and all the benefits and services we receive compared to most other tribes in Minnesota and the United States. It can be easy to become caught up in negativity, so I appreciate when Band members speak up to remind us how fortunate we actually are.

We were blessed with courageous ancestors who worked hard every day and never stopped fighting for our homelands and our rights, and who laid the foundation for our three-branch division of powers government that has worked so well for the Band for nearly 40 years. We have much to be thankful for as the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band members.

In early November, I attended the annual conference of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). We heard presentations from many top federal officials about current federal-Indian policy issues, which included a focus on threats to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). ICWA has been under attack in the federal court system and the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on November 9 in a case called *Brackeen v. Haaland*, which poses a direct threat to the very foundation of much of federal-Indian law.

In response to policies that deliberately separated American Indian children from their biological families to be adopted by non-Native families, Congress enacted the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in 1978. ICWA provides that, among other things, if a state court determines that a child who is either “a member of an Indian tribe” or “is eligible for membership in an Indian tribe and is the biological child of a member of an Indian tribe” must be removed from their home, then the child should be placed with an American Indian family, with priority being a member of the child’s extended family or their own tribe.

On November 9, oral arguments in the Supreme Court

went on for over three hours as the Court heard plaintiffs attack ICWA by arguing that it is unconstitutional, constitutes reverse racism and undermines state’s rights. This is one of the most dangerous moments in federal-Indian law, because those attacking ICWA are claiming that it is racially based rather than being based on the political citizenship of Indian people as tribal members. If ICWA is struck down by the Court, many other federal programs, services, and rights we have as tribal

“I APPRECIATE WHEN BAND MEMBERS SPEAK UP TO REMIND US HOW FORTUNATE WE ACTUALLY ARE.”

citizens could be threatened. Mille Lacs is coordinating with other tribes and organizations to monitor this issue closely and begin preparing for any possible outcome.

On November 7 and 8, I convened a Cabinet meeting with commissioners. Detailed updates were provided along with discussion and planning around priority issues facing the Band spanning the areas of Education, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources, and Economic Development. Some of the other meetings I represented the Band at during November included the Indian Gaming Association (IGA), (previously called National Indian Gaming Association), the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee that is writing the regulations for the amended Self-Governance Act (PROGRESS Act); the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Tribal Nations Leadership Council that advises the U.S. Attorney General, the Minnesota Indian

Gaming Association (MIGA) and the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle and I had a very good meeting in November with the U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota, Andrew Lugar, who emphasized that he wants to keep communication open and is interested in how the U.S. Attorney can better support the Band in pursuit of efficient law enforcement. U.S. Attorney Lugar has reorganized the office so there are more staff assigned to Indian issues, which was very welcome news. We also made plans for him to do an on-site visit to the Mille Lacs Reservation in the near future.

On November 30, I will be representing the Band at the White House Tribal Leaders Summit in Washington D.C. I have been invited by the White House to serve on a panel to discuss the topic of language revitalization. The Mille Lacs Band is viewed as a pioneering tribe in this field due to our partnership with Rosetta Stone, the language books we have produced and printed and the incorporation of language and culture into our Aanjibimaadizing program. I am excited to report back about this meeting to Band members.

It was wonderful to see so many Band members at the Community Feast held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on November 19! Please mark your calendars for January 10, 2023, when I will present the annual State of the Band Address at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center. This is the first time we will be holding this event in person since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and I am very excited to speak to Band members in person about the progress we have made together in 2022 and what we have to look forward to in 2023.

Have a safe and warm holiday season, and I look forward to seeing Band members at the State of the Band Address on January 10.

Miigwech.

DISTRICT II HALLOWEEN PARTY



Tribal Police Chief James West handing out candy at the District II Halloween party.



Fitting costumes for the District II and IIa legislative aides.



This little boy was not impressed one bit by this scary Halloween pumpkin.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

LIVE-STREAMING REVEALS TRANSPARENCY

By VALERIE HARRINGTON-WIND, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, and VIVIAN LaMOORE, EDITOR

In the first week of June 2021, the live-streaming of sessions of Band Assembly began by Legislative Order and changed the level of accountability of the Mille Lacs Band government to the people and was one of the goals of Sheldon Boyd, Secretary/Treasurer and Speaker of the Assembly. Although there have been technical issues on occasion, the success of live-streaming Band Assembly sessions has never been more evident as it was during the Band Assembly session on Wednesday, November 2. The analytics reports indicate there were 672 live views with 62 playbacks of the video, totaling 734 total views. Prior to this, the live-streaming averaged around 100 views per session.

"Those numbers show that Band members are stepping up and taking ownership of these live-stream sessions," Boyd said. "The People are making history here, not necessarily the Legislature and staff in this case. The People are breathing life into the relationship to our government, the government of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. We cannot thank them enough."

What set the November 2 session apart from the others? The session opened with roughly two hours of a public hearing regarding a proposed bill that would change Section 4 of Title 4 of the Band Statutes. Title 4 governs the Executive Branch. The proposed amendment to section 4 would provide for a timeline in which the Chief Executive shall make a nomination for any vacant Commissioner position. The bill was introduced by District I Representative Virgil Wind. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin had publicly announced previously that should the bill pass Band Assembly, she would veto the bill.

Each of the three District Representatives gave opening statements before the floor was opened for Band members to speak. According to the Band Assembly minutes, testimony was heard from Nicole Anderson, Percy Benjamin, Irene Benjamin, Melissa "Baabiitaw" Boyd, Christine Costello, Michael Davis, Syngen Kanassatega, Katie Draper, Joe Nayquonabe, Wallace St. John, and Adrienne Benjamin. Speaker Boyd also read aloud a written statement prepared by John Mojica.

Compelling statements were heard from both sides. It appeared that all sides agree filling vacant Commissioner positions is of the upmost importance and should be fulfilled in a timely manner.

Those opposed to the proposed change argued that the Elders and ancestors who designed the three-branch form of government for the Mille Lacs Band did so to create a separation of powers with a system of checks and balances. Each branch — Legislative, Judicial, and Executive — are responsible for hiring staff to fulfill the needs in each respective branch, including appointed positions such as Commissioners. The proposed bill as it is currently written essentially crucifies a portion of the system of division of power destroying pieces of the checks and balances.

Arguments in agreement with the proposed change had one thing in common, and that was the length of time it takes to nominate Commissioners and for those nominated to be ratified, thus the length of time some positions are vacant is too long.

Band Assembly members all agreed there was work to be done to amend the proposed bill. No action was taken.

What was evident by the sheer number of viewers on the live-stream, the number of Band members present in the Band Assembly Chambers, and those Band members who gave testimony is that Band members are interested in how the government tasks are being conducted.

In his 2022 State of the Band speech, Speaker Boyd said live-streaming has "impacted protocol, etiquette, and preparation just to name just a few aspects, because people are now watching and are free to form opinions without influence which has increased transparency and oversight by the people."

Boyd said the Legislative Branch staff are working on ideas to expand live-streaming in the future with added features such as additional cameras and microphones in the chambers, the possibility of creating a mobile application for phones, and more. As more sophisticated internet access becomes available



Secretary/Treasurer and Speaker of Band Assembly Sheldon Boyd.

for Band members even in remote areas, the possibilities are infinite.

"The staff have taken note of problems and are working to improve the experience. Remember we are only just over a year into this long overdue practice and the impact is only now being realized and will impact government in the future," Boyd said.

Live-streaming opens opportunities for Band members to view Band Assembly meetings from anywhere, provided they have internet access. Boyd said the analytics also revealed the geographical locations of where Band members were logged in to view the sessions, indicating people were watching from as all around the country. Boyd also pointed out in his January 2022 speech that because the meetings are being viewed by Band members of all ages, that Band Assembly members "must represent all ages, and our behavior and our words are on display where current leadership is being viewed and assessed by future leaders."

Legislative Branch sent out a survey requesting Band members share thoughts regarding their experience with Band Assembly live-streaming. Below are all of the results of the survey.

- This is a wonderfully effective way for those of us who want to see the legislative meetings, but have obligations that keep us from attending in person. I appreciate this addition so much. Michele Berger.
- Live streaming has opened up Band Assembly to the many who cannot attend in person. I encourage those who can get involved in our government. We are the voices of our government. Let your voices be heard. Mike Davis.
- I have enjoyed viewing the live stream Band Assembly meetings so I am in the know of what is going on in my government and other departments. It is a great learning tool and easy to watch while I do my own work for the Band without taking too much time to go and sit in the Band Assembly Chambers. Brooke S.
- The live streaming now available from Band Assembly has allowed me to be more up to date and informed on important bills and happenings of not only the Legislative Branch but the tribe as a whole. Live streaming has allowed me to do this from anyplace where I have access to internet, whether it be at home, work, or in a vehicle. Carla Big Bear.
- I believe live streaming is a good way to see our elected officials carry out their responsibilities of their offices so that it will give me a good look to see if my [District] Representative is reflecting my and the Band's best interest on finance and social issues. Al Olson
- It only works sometimes, but damn we're proud of this. Jim Kalk.
- Sometimes the live streaming doesn't work it pauses a lot. Ruth Sam.
- Have not experienced live streaming yet. Steve L. Sam.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Band Assembly briefs from November 2, 2022

Band Assembly convened a formal public hearing regarding Section 4 of Title 4 (Executive Branch) of Mille Lacs Band Statutes. Representative Wind opened the meeting by providing an opening statement and reading a letter regarding the proposed legislation. Representatives Merrill and Davis also provided opening statements, followed by public testimony from several enrolled Band members, including Nicole Anderson, Percy Benjamin, Irene Benjamin, Melissa "Baabiitaw" Boyd, Christine Costello, Michael Davis, Syngen Kanassatega, Katie Draper, Joe Nayquonabe, Wallace St. John, and Adrienne Benjamin. Speaker Boyd also read aloud a written statement prepared by John Mojica. Boyd closed the public hearing at 12:25 p.m. after receipt of all public testimony.

Band Assembly convened an Annulment Hearing regarding Opinion of the Solicitor General 47-22. Speaker Boyd opened the meeting at 12:40 p.m. and Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle provided an opening statement and summary of his opinion. The Commissioner of Finance also provided a statement. The hearing continued with questions from the District Representatives and closed at 1:27 p.m.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-02-86-22 (A bill authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for the Executive and Legislative Branches for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2022, and September 30, 2023. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Administration Policy Board on October 20, 2022; DII Legislative Aide on October 20, 2022; and Commissioner of Finance on October 27, 2022).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-02-87-22 (a bill amending Title 25 to allow the Secretary/Treasurer and Commissioner of Finance to redact documents published on the Tribal Register that contain financial and proprietary information about Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and the Band. This bill also creates a public-facing Tribal Register and a private-facing Tribal Register in order to limit the documents available to the general public, with the intent that Band members, first-generation descendants of enrolled Band members, Band employees, and those who require access to the Tribal Register to fulfill their professional responsibilities to the Band or Band members may request access to the private-facing webpage).

The District Representatives amended and approved Resolution 20-02-43-22 (a resolution expressing support for comprehensive revisions to the Band's housing programs in order to address homelessness and the Band's broader housing deficiencies).

During regular session, Band Assembly conducts formal business every Wednesday at 10 a.m. during regular legislative session. You may view Band Assembly in-person or via live-streaming.

If you have any questions on any decisions or any of the daily business of Legislative, please contact the Legislative Office at 320-532-7428 or 320-532-7536.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

New map restores Native names to northern Minnesota: The names of many lakes, rivers and cities across northern Minnesota have roots in the Ojibwe language — Bemidji, for example, is derived from the word *bemijigamaag* meaning "Lake with crossing waters" — a reference to how the Mississippi River flows across Lake Bemidji. But the names of many more places have been lost to history. Now, a partnership between the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, the nonprofit Ely Folk School, and several volunteer artists is seeking to change that. This week they're unveiling a map that features more than 100 Ojibwe place names from across the Band's territory, including names uncovered in diaries stored in the Smithsonian dating back to the 1800s. "This project underscores our voice and our history in the region," said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers. "This map will serve as a tribute to all who came before us and to the future generations as well. Source: *MPPR*

Professors advocate for Tribal programing, Native faculty in Humphrey, Law schools: Professors, students and faculty discuss why Tribal curriculum, faculty and programs are necessary at the University of Minnesota and voice the importance of Native American inclusion in education. The University of Minnesota Law School and Humphrey School of Public Affairs currently does not have programs for Tribal governance or a Tribal law focus, although law school professors across the country have voiced its importance. The Law School and Humphrey School have classes in Native studies and Tribal law, but neither have additional classes, a Tribal governance program or tenured Native faculty members to teach the classes. As a land-grant institution, the University resides on Native lands and through the Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing (TRUTH) Project and MPact 2025 Strategic Plan, has a responsibility to improve relations with Minnesota's 11 Tribal Nations. Source: *MNDaily*.

Indigenous father brings story of missing and murdered daughter to UCCS: Last year, the disappearance and murder of Gabby Petito drew mass media coverage and sparked national outrage — unlike many cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous people, including Nada Fronk. On Nov. 7, the UCCS Criminal Justice Department hosted Nada's father, Monte Fronk, for an event titled "HONORING Nada Fronk: A Native father's experience with his missing and murdered Indigenous daughter." Source *UCCS The Scribe (University of Colorado Springs)*.

Red Lake Nation expects rapid decline in tribal membership over next 100 years under current enrollment criteria: The overall population of Red Lake Nation is declining rapidly under the current enrollment criteria of 1/4 Red Lake Nation blood quantum, according to a study by Wilder Research conducted on behalf of Red Lake Nation. Blood Quantum is a strategy used by the U.S. government to attempt to track the amount of "Native blood" a person has (although there is no scientific or DNA basis in blood quantum) and to limit the size of tribal membership. The amount of Indian blood a person has is measured in fractions, such as 1/4 or 1/2. This measurement can affect a person's tribal enrollment and their ability to be recognized as Native American by various state and federal programs. Source: *Red Lake Nation News*.

URBAN

MILLE LACS BAND URBAN AREA

Urban Office is a hub of activity

The Mille Lacs Band Urban office connects Band members from Twin Cities Metro area. According to the Enrollments Department, there are 894 Band members who identify as Urban Band members. While distance may set this area apart, the Mille Lacs Band spirit and energy unites them with continued support from the Band community.

Wahbon Spears is the Urban Office Site Director located on Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. She is constantly on the go with help from Kylee Sawyer, Urban Administrative Assistant. During the month of November, they organized and coordinated several different events and have more in store for the month of December.

"We had a wonderful time with the Veterans for our Veterans Day dinner," Spears said. "It was so nice to be able to

sit down and talk with them and thank them for their service."

There were six Band member Veterans and their families in attendance and were gifted maple syrup, wild rice, sweet grass, cedar, sage, chaga, abalone shell and Mille Lacs Band pins and totes, American flags, and some Aanjibimaadizing swag.

Spears also helped to coordinate the charter bus to bring Urban Band members to Mille Lacs for the MLCV fall feast and are now gearing up for the annual holiday party on December 18. Typically, there are 200 to 400 Band members in attendance for the holiday party.

Photos below are from the Urban Area Halloween party. Follow the Urban Office on <https://www.facebook.com/mlburbanoffice>.



ICWA from page 1

taking away our political designation and overturning 200 years of precedent with regards to the way the [Federal Government] treat being a Native American. It could be the beginning of the end of Federal Indian Law."

This Supreme Court case stems from an adoption case in the state of Texas. Chad and Jennifer Brackeen, a non-Native American couple with two biological children, filed suit last October for the right to adopt their Native American foster child who had lived with them for more than a year. A state court had denied their adoption petition based on ICWA, which gives adoption placement preference to biological family members of Native American children, other members of the child's tribe, or other Native American families.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton ruled in favor of the Brackeens, arguing that the law unlawfully "elevates a child's race over their best interest." That case has since been settled and the Brackeens have adopted the child, but the challenge to the law itself has gone on to the Supreme Court.

Native American tribes argue they are individual sovereign nations, and as such, their relationship with the United States is political, not racial. U.S. Justice Department attorneys stated that due to tribal sovereignty over their citizens and an established interest in the well-being of their children, "the question of how to weigh a Native child's cultural lineage in child welfare proceedings is different than for children of other races that don't have that legal history," they argued to the Supreme Court.

The Mille Lacs Band signed onto an Amicus Brief in the Brackeen v. Haaland case, along with 61 other federally recognized tribal nations. "[The Band] took a stand to protect the ICWA," Johnson said.

ICWA was enacted by Congress in 1978 in response to the extraordinarily high number of Indian children who were being removed from their families by public and private agencies and placed with non-Indian families. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the federal government forced Native American children to leave their homes and tribes to attend boarding schools. The boarding school practices forbid Native American children from using their own languages or their own names, as well as from practicing their religion and culture. They were given new "White" names, White clothes, and White haircuts, and told they must abandon their way of life because it was

inferior to White people's, according to History.com.

The now well-known phrase to describe the philosophy of assimilation: "Kill the Indian, and save the man," was delivered in a speech by U.S. Army Captain Richard Henry Pratt in 1892. The ideas expressed in Pratt's speech are central to the development of the Carlisle Indian School (founded 1879) and other boarding schools across the country, which aimed to "civilize" and "Americanize" Native Americans, according to the Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center.

Indian boarding schools and assimilation continued well into the 1970s. ICWA was enacted as a broad protection for Native children, to allow them to remain with their Native families and tribes. It required state courts to notify tribes when an Indian child is removed from their family, and it required that, in foster and adoption placement, preferences be given first to the child's extended family, then to other members of the tribe. And if neither is available, the preference is for a child to be placed with a different tribe. ICWA also sought to change decades of policies and actions by the federal government to dismantle tribes and tribal families. In addition, the act also recognized the sovereignty of the 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States by stating that tribal nations should have a say in what happens to their youngest citizens.

The Amicus brief states: "Congress enacted ICWA as an exercise of its well-established federal trust responsibility for Tribes and their members, legislating against the backdrop of a nationwide crisis: the wholesale removal of Indian children from their families by state and private child welfare agencies — often without due process — at rates far higher than those of non-Indian families. Congress carefully crafted ICWA to protect the legal rights of Indian children and parents and to incorporate important jurisdictional and political interests of Tribes in decisions concerning the welfare and placement of their children."

Johnson said this Supreme Court case has broad implications across all of Indian law and on laws governing the federal relationship with Native tribes. Supreme Court justices acknowledged during the November 9 hearing that a ruling of racial determination would result in the Court to "be busy for the next many years striking things down."

"This case is really important and could signal the beginning of the end of Indian law as we know it," Johnson said. "We are watching this decision very carefully."



Cheryl Miller, District Ila Legislative Aide, and Taria Aubid, District II Legislative Aide, serve the Mille Lacs Band community members and the Legislative Branch with impressive communication and organizational skills with a touch of humor to keep things interesting.

DYNAMIC DUO OF DISTRICT II & IIA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Communication is key

By **VALERIE HARRINGTON-WIND DIBIKWE, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

The District II Legislative Branch Legislative Aides serve the District II Representative and the community. Cheryl Miller is an integral fixture in the District Ila area and Taria Aubid is a bright fixture in the District II area. Cheryl has served the Band many years in different departments and has built a reputable background in providing support to the District II Representative and the community. Taria started her career with the Legislative Branch in 2022 and has shown a bright smile and personality. Her shine is masterful in providing support to the District II Representative and the community.

On top of the humor they provide, they work hard on their relationships with our Band members day in and day out. There are a number of services and Band member needs that are handled on a regular basis and they provide consistent balanced service. Some of the highlighted events and projects they have successfully held include family fun nights, community meetings, Elder dinners, Elder bingo, holiday parties, and holiday events. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes hard work performed by this duo that goes into so many details of the community events. They put a lot of heart and effort into their community. The community and program knowledge they provide is priceless. They go above and beyond to ensure they provide service to meet the needs of the District II community.

To describe this duo is momentous and appreciative. To know them is to admire them. Cheryl is calm, cool, and collected. Taria is true, triumphant, and terrific. You can see how much they care and appreciate by how much they give back to

their community in many ways. A couple of examples are Cheryl serving as an emergency medical technician and tribal employment rights office commissioner and Taria with her sharing of her gift of dancing and being an integral part of the pow wow trail while being a positive role model to our young women. Please reach out to the ladies anytime regarding District II.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill said she wanted to make sure that there was continuity within the district and people knew who to continue to go to. "Cheryl was already working for Marvin and I knew she was a hard worker, funny, very organized, and got things done for the community," Merrill said. "She understands the three-branch government system well and is a huge resource for me. I worked in Legislative, she reported to me under Marvin, so I already had a great working relationship with her. I was excited to know she wanted to stay on as my aide."

Merrill said she approached Taria after elections to see if she would be willing to represent the District by working as her aide. "She reluctantly said yes because she was passionate about working for Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy. Taria is hard working, funny, a great dancer, involved in ceremony, organized, and passionate about her kids, education, and her community," Merrill said.

These ladies work hard for our communities because every day is different and a lot of planning/details take place to make sure we are serving the communities in East Lake and Isle in a good way. I am grateful for these two amazing people to work with. They keep the Legislative staff and community informed and communicate well.



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

In Native American adoption case, Supreme Court explores race and tribal sovereignty.

One family's fight could upend decades of federal law: Dr. Jennifer and Chad Brackeen and their four kids are a blended family in a fight to stay together. But in the process, they could upend more than 40 years of federal law on the sovereignty of America's Native tribes and affect the fate of numerous Native children. Congress enacted ICWA as an answer to the forced removal of hundreds of thousands of Native children from their tribes over generations, separating them from families and placing them in government-run boarding schools or in Christian churches through the 1960s. "The interest in a young tribal citizen -- the child -- in staying with her tribe is a high interest and it should matter, [it] should not be diminished," said Chuck Hoskin Jr., principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, one of the nation's largest tribes with more than 400,000 members, which defends the law. "If you start to remove the next generation of any society, you really start to erode that society," Hoskin said. But the Brackeens, in their appeal to the high court, argue ICWA is unreasonable and unconstitutional. By giving adoption priority to American Indian families over white families, they say, the law discriminates on the basis of race. "The Court has always held that Indian law is not race-based," said Cherokee Nation Deputy Attorney General Chrissi Ross Nimmo. "If the [Brackeens] are successful here, that whether or not a child is subject to ICWA turns on their race, then it could allow some groups to question other areas of Indian law and the very existence of Indian nations in our country." "Being American Indian is not a racial matter. It's a political matter. We're members of tribal nations that are sovereign nations," said Autumn Adams, a member of the Yakima Nation, who is among dozens of former foster youth asking the Supreme Court to uphold the law. "It is the inherent right of a sovereign nation to protect those youngest citizens." *Source ABC NEWS.*

Former Tribal Official Sentenced to Prison for Bribery Scheme:

A former Tribal government official of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (MHA Nation) was sentenced November 21, 2022, to six years and three months in prison for a bribery scheme involving soliciting and accepting bribes and kickbacks from a contractor providing construction services on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, which is the home of the MHA Nation. According to court documents, from November 2014 through November 2018, Frank Charles Grady, 54, of Billings, Montana, was an elected representative on the Tribal Business Council, the governing body of the MHA Nation. Beginning around 2016 and continuing through 2017, Grady solicited and accepted bribes and kickbacks totaling more than \$260,000 from a contractor operating on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. In exchange for the payments, Grady used his official position to help the contractor's business, including by awarding contracts, fabricating bids during purportedly competitive bidding processes, advocating for the contractor with other Tribal officials, and facilitating the submission and payment of fraudulent invoices. *Source: United States Department of Justice Press Release.*

TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

NAUMANN PROMOTED TO DEPUTY CHIEF OF TRIBAL PD

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, EDITOR

After 15 years of service to the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department, Derrick Naumann has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Tribal Police. Naumann began his career in February 2007 as a patrol officer, primarily working overnights in the Aazhoomog community. After seven years there, he moved over to District I, where he has been ever since.

Naumann has been a field training officer, patrol training officer, fitness coordinator, member of the TPD SWAT team, and Commander of the TPD SWAT team. In 2015, he was instrumental as an investigator in the multi-agency Great Nations Tribal Drug and Gang Task Force going after those involved in the heroin/opioid epidemic. The task force involved members from Upper and Lower Sioux, Leech Lake, and Mille Lacs tribal police departments as well as other state-funded task forces. In the short period of time of operation, the task force was successful in taking thousands of dollars' worth of illicit drugs off the streets and respectfully possibly saving many lives. The task force was perhaps on their way to becoming one of the most successful drug and gang task forces in the state. However, after the revocation of the law enforcement agreement in 2016, the task force was forced to disband.

In November of 2016, Naumann was promoted to Patrol Sergeant with TPD. As of October 31, 2022, he has been Deputy Chief.

Naumann grew up in Milaca and watched his dad's career as a paramedic in the Metro Area for 20 years. "I was going to be a paramedic, too," Naumann said. He received his EMT certification from St. Cloud Technical College at the time he

graduated from Milaca High School in 2001. He then worked for North Memorial in the Milaca area and took the position of a 911 dispatcher with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office. There, he learned building relationships was paramount in law enforcement. "Working with deputies, state troopers, EMTs, and the public, you have to be able to work with very diverse people," Naumann said. "And after getting to know the law enforcement side, I knew that was the direction I should go."

While working at the Sheriff's Office in 2004, he began attending Central Lakes College studying Criminal Justice and earned his Law Enforcement Certificate. "I was hired here in 2007 and I have been here ever since," Naumann said.

The most memorable experience he has had while working with TPD in the community happened during the period of the law enforcement agreement revocation. "There was a real outpouring of support from the community. There was a Sober Squad thing out in front of the Market one day and Terry Kemper asked James West and I to participate in the drum. That was something I will never forget," Naumann said.

"Based on his level of experience, training, expertise, team leadership on the Great Lakes Task Force, experience in investigations, supervisory experience, Naumann was hands-down qualified for the position," Tribal Police Chief James West said. "The other aspect is his leadership missions and partnerships with community members and other Band departments bleed into the TPD's objective to provide the best possible service to the Band members and the community."



Mille Lacs Tribal Police Deputy Chief Derrick Naumann.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

RESPECTING EACH OTHER'S BELIEFS

By JIM CLARK, MILLE LACS BAND ELDER

I'm told there are people within 20 miles of the reservation who know nothing at all about the Anishinaabe people in this area. That's too bad, because if you don't know people, it can make you afraid. We need to try and understand each other better. I'm happy to have this chance to help.

Many years ago, in the 1800s, some people were so afraid of Indian religions that they had them banned. Even in the 1920s, when the government eased up on these restrictions, our religion was still frowned upon.

When I was a boy, our boarding school tried to teach us that our religion was false, that it was nothing, that we should not believe in it. They tried to baptize all the Indian children who attended school there.

But we would go home for the summer. If you had real Anishinaabe relatives, like my grandmother, you would learn the Indian ways all over again. My grandmother would get after us, insisting that we speak Ojibwe, even when we wanted to practice our English. And she made sure we didn't forget our ways. We were the lucky ones, because some schools succeeded in wiping out the Indian from many Indian children.

Today, there are still a few people who think that when we hold our ceremonies, we are building something that is intended to hurt others. That's a sad thing, because if they could understand Ojibwe and hear our prayers and songs, they wouldn't be afraid. They would know that our ceremonies are about asking the Creator to better our people and to better others as well, Indians and non-Indians alike.

I think it is important for Anishinaabe people to help our neighbors understand just a

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

little about our religion, because it's who we are. We believe that our religion was one of the first gifts the Creator gave to our people. Our ceremonies are always in the Ojibwe language, which we believe to be another gift from the Creator. Our language cannot be split apart from our religion because many of our prayers cannot be translated into English. There are no English words that have the same meaning.

Today, we've come a long way since the 1920s. Our ceremonies are growing stronger than ever before. We hold traditional ceremonial powwows twice each year and we invite people to come and see and watch what we're doing. No alcohol or drugs of any kind are allowed into these ceremonies. We don't even allow political papers or brochures to be passed out. Everyone who comes out of respect is welcome.

When I was young, I learned that even though we have our own traditional things that we do, there are other people who need to do something else. We were taught not to ever say anything negative about other people or their beliefs. That's theirs — let them believe, and respect them.

That's all we really ask in return.

We also invite our neighbors to ask us questions if you have questions, because many of us like to talk about these things. We invite our neighbors to attend our powwows if you wish, because you are certainly welcome. Get to know us. Because when we learn more about each other, we gain more respect for one another and become better friends. That's a wonderful thing for any community.

TRIBAL COURT REMODEL OPEN HOUSE

Tribal Court has moved and gone through a complete makeover. The newly remodeled and redesigned courtrooms and office space are comfortable, welcoming, and full of highly technical items to make the court experience calmer and more efficient for the staff and those who appear in court. Top of the line sound-proofing techniques have been integrated directly into the court rooms and high tech audio/video equipment is provided for smoother remote [Zoom] court experiences and

meetings. The remodel was grant-funded and organized by Gilda Burr with input from all staff members.

Tribal Court held an open house complete with tours of the spacious new area on Friday, November 4, 2022. Band members and staff were invited to tour the area and enjoy some time visiting with the tribal court staff while enjoying light breakfast snacks.



Tribal Court staff take a moment for a photo op. FRONT: Theresa James, HTWC Case Manager, Arlene Bentley, Civil Court Clerk, Kristine Starr, Child Support/Probate Court Clerk, Melissa Taylor, Family Court Clerk, Maria Stobb, Criminal Court Clerk, Carrie Boyd, Admin Assistant/Assistant Clerk.

BACK: Brett Haskin, Police Officer/Bailiff, Laurie Vilas, Peacemaker, Magistrate Tammy Swanson, District Court Judge Richard Osburn, Gilda Burr, Court Administrator.



Laurie Vilas, the Peacemaker.



Gilda Burr gives tours of the new Tribal Court courtrooms, offices, amenities.



One of the new additions to the Tribal Court spaces in the Government Center is a state-of-the-art metal detector.



The Healing to Wellness Court is a separate courtroom from the main courtroom.

HHS/HEALTH BRIEFS

HEALTHY HOLIDAY TIPS

By JACKIE GLUCK, MS, RDN, POPULATION HEALTH MANAGER

The holiday season is a time for celebrating with family and friends. With a little planning, you can still enjoy all the holidays have to offer while keeping good nutrition and physical activity in mind.

1. Eat regular meals

Don't arrive on an empty stomach! Skipping breakfast or lunch so you can splurge later in the day may cause you to overeat and consume more calories than if you ate something beforehand. If the meal will be served later than your normal eating time, have a filling snack, such as a small handful of nuts or cheese and crackers, to help curb your appetite and prevent overeating.

2. Sip smart

Choose water and unsweetened drinks like tea instead of sugary drinks such as eggnog or hot chocolate. A 4 oz. or half cup serving of eggnog can contain up to 200 calories. Avoid or limit alcohol. If you have an alcoholic drink, have it with food and in moderation. Alcohol can lower blood sugar and interact with diabetes medicines.

3. Choose indulgences wisely

No food is on the naughty list this season. When you choose to indulge, choose foods that are special to the season, and you can't get any other time of the year. Slow down and savor a small serving.

4. Make time for Fitness

Exercise is a great way to balance some of the extra holiday indulgences. Go for a walk to look at holiday lights. Take the stairs instead of the elevator when holiday shopping. Try a new winter activity such as snowshoeing or playing in the snow. Aim for at least 30 minutes per day of physical activity.

Although food is an integral part of the holidays, put the focus on family and friends. Keep in mind, overeating for one day is not going to make or break your health. Let go of the food guilt and take time to enjoy the special foods of the season. Your long-term health is a result of the healthy habits that you practice on a daily basis.

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. 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.



BOXING PROGRAM from page 1

Howard. In the last 30 years, he has coached countless kids in the boxing ring, including some like Tim Taggart, who went on to become pro, and Wallace St. John Jr., who made it to the National Silver Gloves Tournament. "I coached Tim when he was about 8 years old, and he went to the National Silver Gloves tournament when he was 11, and coached Wallace when he was about 14," Davis recalled.

"Back in the beginning we used my own front yard," Davis said. "Now we have this nice gym and equipment, we are registered with USA Boxing and all of the coaches are registered, too. Our present coaches are Fred Davis, Kate Davis, and Cayman Audie (Pro Boxer)."

Looking around at the various pieces of equipment, including a full-sized boxing ring, it is easy to see the program has continued to receive support from the various District III Representatives in the past three decades. In 1998, Davis was elected to his first term as District III Representative. Soon, the boxing club hosted the National Indian tournament with teams from all over United States. "We've have three gold medal champions: Weylin Davis, Tim Taggart Jr, Jimmy LaFave, and four past silver medals, and two bronze," Davis said. With cooperation from Grand Casino Hinckley, the boxing club has gone on to host the National Silver Gloves Tournament (ages 10-15) twice and the Upper Midwest Golden Gloves Tournament semi-finals (amateur athletes ages 16 and up).

"My first pair of gloves were 16 ounces," he said with a grin and chuckle as he reminisced of his childhood. Those are very heavy gloves with a lot of thickness on and around the fist. They offer more padding for both the boxer and the opponent, but also require more power to deliver a good solid punch. Originally, they were made for heavyweight fighters who had powerful punches and big hands. Today, a 10-year-old child would more than likely start out with 6- to 8-ounce gloves.

"My mom didn't want me to get hurt. She thought I was too small," Davis laughed. "But I love the sport. They call it 'The loneliest sport' because when you are in the zone you are so focused on just your techniques and the fight right in front of you."

That is one of the disciplines Davis instills in the athletes as he supervises and coaches the kids in the youth boxing program at Meshakwad. Davis has been passionate about the program for 30 years providing an opportunity and environment for young athletes to develop lifetime skills that not only build physical strength, but also assist in the development of personal character, work ethic, discipline, sportsmanship, self-respect, and pride.

This session runs November 2022 through December 2023. There are about nine kids ages 8 to 11 and two registered coaches other than Davis. "The kids have to do more than just sign up. They have to show me they are actually committed. They have to be on time and they have to put in the work," Davis said. On this Wednesday evening, there were five kids

"CHAMPIONS AREN'T MADE IN THE GYMS. CHAMPIONS ARE MADE FROM SOMETHING DEEP DOWN INSIDE OF THEM — A DESIRE, A DREAM, A VISION."

~ MUHAMMAD ALI



District III Representative Harry Davis has been leading the boxing club at Meshakwad for nearly 30 years. Davis put on the boxing mits to coach his son, Aaron Benjamin in the ring going through combinations.

who attended: Mike Christianson Jr., Arthur "Arbie" Mustache, Hayven Dimmick, Aaron Davis Benjamin, and Adrian Bengston. Youth not present were: Brandon Snyder, Kianta Christenson, Damion Taylor, and Sonny Benjamin.

Boxing practice was three sets of one-minute-thirty-second rounds with 60 seconds rest in between and then rotating to various punching bags, speedballs, and other practice devices each designed to improve various techniques, enhance reaction time, and improve strength and punching accuracy.

"I want to go to the Silver Gloves tournament. I want to be a fighter," Arron said. "I want to win so I know I have to train every day to be better."

Setting goals and working towards achievement are part of the lessons Davis brings to the club. "I know the kids," Davis said. "We work on boxing skills, but it also teaches them to work harder in everything. These kids are focused and they tend to do better in school, too."

Boxing teaches the youth how to tackle obstacles and overcome adversity. With perseverance and persistence, learning new techniques and skills, the kids become more focused inching towards perfection.

"The harder you work, the more successful you become," Davis said. "Hard work is a key ingredient to success, not only here in the ring, but out there in life, too. You can have all the talent in the world, but if you don't put the work in, you will never be successful. It takes hard work to go from good to great."

Davis said while working hard toward their goals, they are building self-confidence and learn to believe in themselves. Knowing and understanding their own capabilities while learning to trust themselves is also part of the learning curve. And understanding that a little humility goes a long way is also

helpful. "Boxing also teaches you to be humble," Davis said with a sideways grin. "The kids learn to learn from their mistakes."

Hayven was the only girl at practice that night. You can see the look in her eyes as she packs determination, power, and willingness to fight that comes from deep within her 8-year-old pint-sized body. "I want to be a fighter. It is fun," she said. "I can do it."

"Sometimes they start out being here because they are told to. This was someplace for Hayven to be while her mom is working out. But it turns out, the kid loves it and she is good. I might have to recruit her," Davis said with pride.

Davis is also proud of all of the kids. Aaron, his son, set his first goal to make it to the Silver Gloves tournament. Davis and Aaron put on punch mits and stepped into the ring working on combinations for a few rounds before the session was over. Both were focused on the fight ahead of them. And neither of them appeared to be lonely at all.



Learning how to throw proper combinations of jabs, hooks, and punches is essential to boxing.



Concentration and focus comes from within.



Learning new combinations is challenging and rewarding.



Determination is a key element in learning.

MILLE LACS BAND COURT ADMINISTRATOR RECEIVES HIGH HONOR AND AWARD

Burr serves the Band in tribal justice

By MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM

Gilda Burr, Mille Lacs Band Court Administrator, was given the 2022 National American Indian Court Judges Association's Board of Directors (NAICJA) Court Support Excellence Award. According to the NAICJA, the Court Support Excellence Award "honors a person serving a tribal justice system in a non-judicial clerical or administrative role who has worked in the tribal justice field for at least three years or more serving in a tribal justice system." NAICJA works with approximately 300 tribal courts across the United States, providing support, training, and technical assistance.

Burr was nominated by Chief Justice Sylvia Wise and Court Attorney Jill Tompkins to be considered for the NAICJA Award. In their recommendation, they noted in her 16 years serving as the Court Administrator, Gilda is a skilled grant administrator. Grants have provided funding to support court renovation and moving the Family Healing to Wellness Court forward to assist with much-needed healing in our community. In addition to winning grants and leading the work, she advised the courts team working with both Band Assembly and the Chief Executives Office in the work to pass MLB Statute Title 5, Chapter 4, Family to Healing Wellness Court.

During the COVID-19 shutdown, Burr remained at work to meet the needs of the courts and families. This environment tested Gilda's tenacity and creativity, which opened the door to secure a video conferencing system to allow for remote video hearings and trials. In addition, Burr assists the justices by providing them with the necessary training, including helping with procedures, while protecting their independence in their decision making. The NAICJA nomination included a final note about Burr's commitment to volunteering in the community, stating she is an "extraordinary Court Administrator, phenomenal Native woman, and leader."

In response to hearing Burr was the recipient of the NAICJA Award, tribal court staff had a great deal to share about the leader they admire, honor, and respect. She is described as a relationship builder, leading through humility to ensure the courts are serving families through a lens of culture, family, and healing. Judge Richard Osburn shared Burr "makes everything work" in the tribal courts. "She keeps things running smoothly, is 100 percent competent, and puts in more hours than anyone here. We never have to worry about anything going wrong when Gilda is leading the work. Gilda led the court renovation project, worked with contractors, and helped make this happen." Judge Osburn praised Burr for her steady ongoing leadership within the tribal courts.

Carrie Boyd, Burr's Administrative Assistant, described



Mille Lacs Band Court Administrator Gilda Burr, recipient of the 2022 National American Indian Judges Association Board of Directors Court Support Excellence Award. Behind Gilda, is Oboodashkwaanishiinh, the dragonfly, which is the court's symbol of hope and healing.

Burr's dedication to the courts as being "immense, serving with integrity, confidentiality, and fairness."

When asked about why an award like this was "long overdue" as many reported, Court Clerk Kristine Starr said "Gilda lives her values and ethics. She's not a boss, Gilda is a true leader." Also, many noted that Burr does not seek praise, as she simply just "does her job."

Case Manager Theresa Romard-James said Burr "models and expects us to be our best. Gilda values cohesion, dealing with conflict head-on to avoid negativity within the team. We back her and she backs us, and we are stronger because of her leadership."

As a humble leader within the courts, Burr's response to being named an award winner was, "I am just doing my job, serving my people." She expressed loving her job, helping our people and the challenges that each new day brings. She described her family upbringing, which provided the foundation to find herself, using it now to help others and coming full circle. Growing up with parents who were both deaf, she learned that it was only society that limited them, and the empathy she learned growing up has helped guide her values in the courts, and to find and support measures that are limitless in individual and family healing.

"I am fortunate to have a great team," Burr said. "If it wasn't for my clerks and others doing a great job, I could not do mine. I have a dedicated staff."

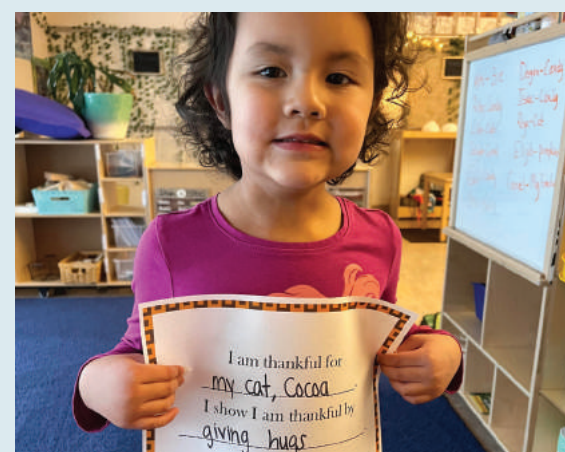
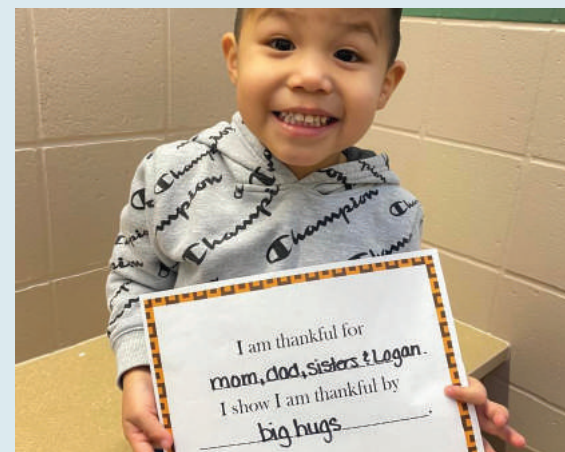
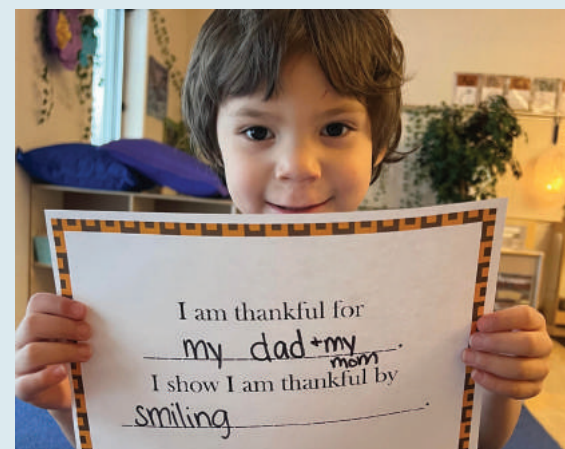
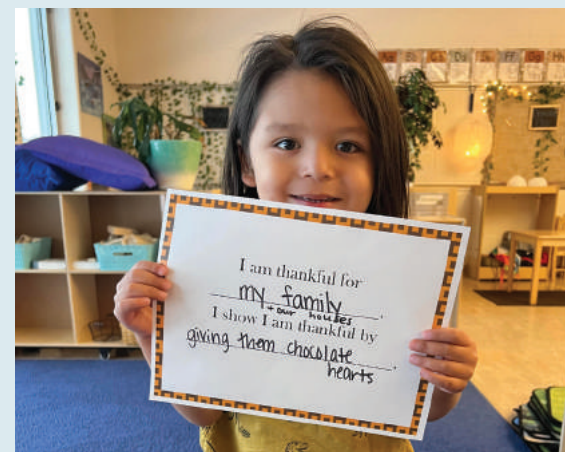
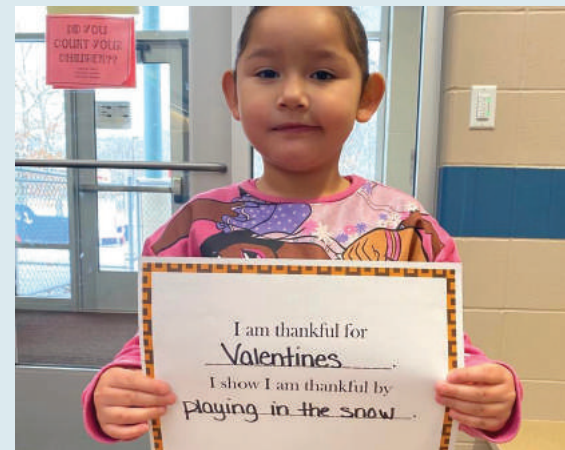


HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT REVIEWS FIRST CASE

The Healing to Wellness Court staff are reviewing and discussing the first case in the new court. Some staff were present in person while others appeared via Zoom.

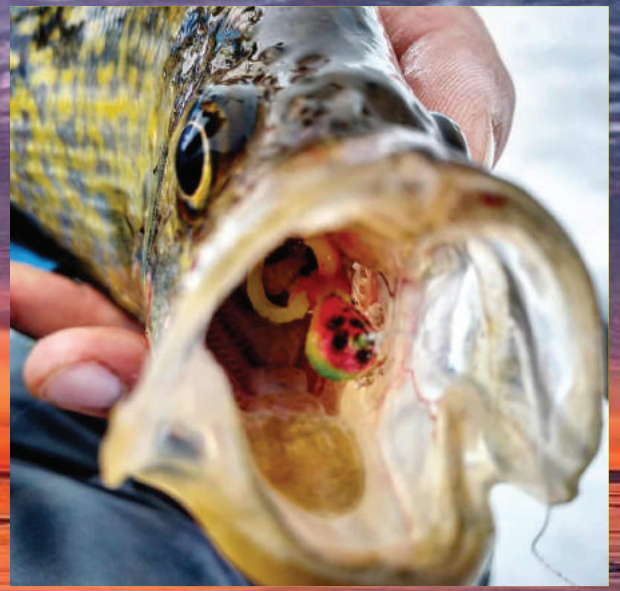
EDUCATION BRIEFS

Mille Lacs Early Education children were asked what they are thankful for and how do they show their gratitude.



WINTER OUTDOORS ICE FISHING SAFETY

By MASHKODE-BIZHIKGAHBAW BENJI SAM



As we transition from fall to winter and the lakes begin to ice up, it is important to remember to respect the water for the life it provides us. The Elders always spoke of that water spirit having power beyond comprehension and when the ice first hardens across the bays and main lake, the water only becomes more powerful. It's important to remember when heading out to your favorite fishing hole around first ice, don't ever assume the ice is ever completely safe — even if others have already ventured out ahead of you. As someone who fishes regularly on early ice, I always recommend a few basic safety items to keep you topside when venturing out for fresh fish in December.

First and foremost, I recommend a sturdy ice chisel to check the ice in front of you as you begin to walk out. It is recommended by our DNR that ice widely accepted as safe for walking is about 4 inches of hard, clear ice. Each chisel has a different weight and sharpness that may indicate safe/unsafe ice per swing and it takes a bit of practice to know your own chisel's effectiveness.

Next, is a bungee-style ice pick set around your neck — if you fall through the ice, these are essential to helping aid you to safety on slippery ice.

In today's day and age with the technology of floating ice suits, it makes sense to buy a matching jacket and bib suit if you fish regularly as they are heavily insulated, wind and water resistant, and of course float in the event of falling through the ice. With the amount of companies out there on the market, there is something to fit everyone's favorite color, style, and comfort to keep you safe when venturing on the ice.

And last but not least, 50 feet of heavy-duty rope and the use of the buddy system is always recommended. In the event of someone falling through, it is imperative to have someone with you who can call for emergency services, because hypothermia can take effect within minutes if wet to the bone.

While it is important to keep safety in mind and only venture out when taking the proper safety measures, first ice can bring some of the best fishing of the entire year. Fish haven't seen a lure or decoy in over a month and are susceptible to being caught or speared in high numbers. If spearing, look to the outside edge of shallow weeds or where sand, rock, or gravel cross paths and you will be sure to see some pike and walleye cruising for an easy meal.

If fishing with rod and reel, set tip-ups or jig near underwater drop-offs close to deep water around early or late in the day and you'll be sure to find a few for the pan. Walleyes can't resist a spoon bait tipped with a minnow head or a plain hook and minnow one foot off the bottom.

When looking for panfish on deep lakes, you'll want to set up in deep water out away from a weed-filled bay. Perch, bluegills, and crappies will often school together in water between 20-30 feet on most lakes around first ice. It is important to respect the resource as fish are susceptible to over harvest this time of year when they are grouped in large numbers.

If you're fishing a shallow lake, look for any standing weeds next to the deepest water on the lake and stay quiet. These fish can be spooky in shallow water. My go-to is a small jig with a light piece of artificial bait, wax worm, or crappie minnow to bring home some fresh panfish.

If you have any specific questions or interest in getting involved with fishing this coming winter, check out the MLB DNR's Facebook page or call the main office for updates on spearing house use and local safe ice conditions.

Stay warm, stay safe, and good luck on the ice.



ABOVE: Benji Sam holding a 15-inch Mille Lacs Lake walleye on early ice, sporting a floating ice suit and enjoying the resources our lake has to offer.

BELOW: The Minnesota DNR has issued safety guidelines for safe walking and driving each year on Minnesota waters and recommends these thicknesses before using each mode of transportation on the water this ice season.

Ice is Never 100% Safe!

4"

5"

8-12"

12-15"

Minimum Ice Thickness Guidelines
For New Clear Ice Only

mndnr.gov/icesafety

SMOKING TULLIBEE WITH THE DNR CULTURAL RESOURCES TEAM

COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND NAY AH SHING STUDENTS LEARN NEW SKILLS

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, EDITOR

The Cultural Resources division of the Department of Natural Resources provides an education piece and opportunities for Band members to exercise inherent treaty rights of harvesting. Todd Moilanen and his crew are appropriately knowledgeable about harvesting knowing and understanding when to harvest, watching the weather, how to prepare to harvest, tools needed, how to harvest, and then how to take care of the harvest. This is a great education piece for both experienced harvesters and those who may not have previous guidance opportunities from others. Sharing their knowledge with Band members is an essential piece for the Cultural Resources group to ensure future generations will carry on the traditions of harvesting.

As the autumn air began to turn over to winter fog settled in the Mille Lacs Area and Todd Moilanen, DNR Cultural Resources, was preparing for a demonstration to community members and Nay Ah Shing students to learn how to clean, brine, and smoke tullibee.

The tullibee is a member of the trout/salmon family and when prepared properly they make for very tasty tablefare with a mild and slightly sweet flavor. A 1 gram serving of smoked

tullibee packs in 100 calories, 1 gram of carbs, 20 grams of protein, and 2.5 grams of fat with (zero saturated, polyunsaturated, monounsaturated, or trans fats) according to myfitnesspal.com. Tullibee is an oily fish and as such is an excellent source of healthy fats called omega-3 fats.

The DNR invited the community to learn how to set nets two nights in November and received enough tullibee to share with community members and to provide a tullibee smoking demonstration. Moilanen and the team gave a hands-on demonstration on how to clean the fish to prepare them for smoking. The students were thoroughly engaged as they learned step-by-step how to use knives safely, where to cut, what to remove from each tullibee.

After the fish were cleaned and rinsed, they prepared the brine. Tullibee should soak in a brine overnight in cool temperature water, sugar, and salt mixture. This helps to preserve the meat and prepare for smoking. Moilanen said they use canning pickling salt mixed with brown sugar in clean spring water to make the brine.

After soaking, remove the tullibee from the brine and let

them sit out for three to four hours until a nice pellicle forms. A pellicle seals moisture inside of the fish and creates a sticky surface for the smoke to adhere to. "Setting the pellicle is the most important part," Moilanen said. "Do not wash the stickiness off because that is what the smoke sticks to."

Once there is a good sticky pellicle, lay the fish on the rack of the smoker so that the pieces are not touching. Use whatever flavors of wood chips you choose to create the flavor and end result of a rich smokey scent. Moilanen said he was using a mixture of cherry, apple, and hickory chips on this day.

"Low and slow is how to smoke tullibee," Moilanen said. He smokes the tullibee at about 175 degrees fahrenheit for three to four hours for the fish to come to an internal temperature of 145 to 160 degrees.

The smoked tullibee can then be eaten, or wrapped and stored in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

The Nay Ah Shing students enjoyed learning how to prepare the bounty of a harvest. One student said, "Because it is important for me to know how to so that I can help my family."

*** See more photos at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.**



Demonstration of cleaning tullibee.



Demonstration of cleaning tullibee, including the various methods of removing the blood membrane.



Preparing the brine mixture with fresh spring water.



Johnathan "John" Benjamin adding the pickling salt for the brine to soak the tullibee.



Todd Moilanen, DNR Cultural Resources division, discusses the various types of woodchips used in smoking.



Anticipation rises as the smoking begins.



Biboon—When it is Winter

Biboong, giizhoo' o. Agwajjiing gigibabiinzikawaagane.
 Giizhootawage' o dash gigiminjikaawane gaye. Abinoojiiyag biitookizineewag, gisinaamagak.
 Odozhi' awaan a' aw goon-ininiwan. Omikaanaawaan odishkiinzhigoon.
 o' ow Odookaadaakijaane, miinawaa odoon. Omikaanaawaan omitiginikan.
 Odayaan miskaa-wiiwakwaan idash odayaan ozhaawashko-giizhoopizonan.
 Minwendam zoogipong. Biiwang, niibawi. Zhoomiingweni apane biboong.

(When it is winter, s/he dresses warmly. Outside s/he wears a coat. S/he wears earmuffs and s/he wears mittens also. Children they wear boots, when it is cold weather. They make him/her that snow-man. They find them, his/her eyes, carrot-nose, also his/her mouth. They find his/her stick arms. S/he has a red-hat and s/he has a blue-scarf. S/he is happy when it is winter. When it is a blizzard s/he stands up. S/he is smiling always, when it is winter.)

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
 — Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
 Waabooz—as in father
 Miigwech—as in jay
 Aaniin—as in seen
 Mooz—as in moon

— Short Vowels: A, I, O
 Dash—as in about
 lngw—as in tin
 Niizho—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.

Proper names in Ojibwe

From *Survival Ojibwe* by Patricia M. Ningewance, Mazinaate Press, Winnipeg, Manitoba ISBN 0969782608

Elder speakers may speak English names by substituting Ojibwe vowels, consonants and consonant clusters. L, F, V and R are not used in Ojibwe. L, R are replaced by N, F, V are replaced by P, B. TH (unvoiced) is replaced by T. TH (voiced) is replaced by D.

- Allan—Aanan
- Eugene—Yoojiin
- Charles—Jaanis
- Mary—Menii
- Jerry—Jenii
- Thomas—Daamas

Niizh—2

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

A. Biboong, ningagwedwe, "Aaniin ezhinikaazod wa'aw giizis?"
 B. Gidikid, "Izhinikaazo Manidoo-giizisoon wa'aw giizis."
 C. Ikido, "Gichi-manidoo giizis wa'aw giizis." Gichi-gisinaa!
 D. Nindikid, "Daga gibiindiganaag ingiw animoshag idash gaazhagensag."
 E. Ikidowag, "Izhinikaazo Namebinigiizis wa'aw giizis." Gegaa ziiigwan!
 F. Azhigwa nindibaajimomin idash nimazinigwaasomin.
 G. Nindikidomin, "Miigwech. Gichi-manidoo."

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

Niswi—3

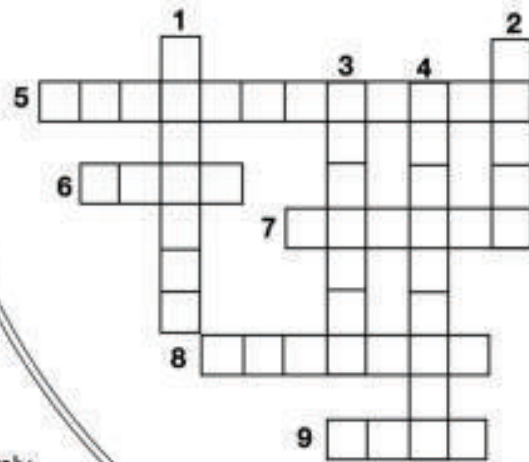
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. S/he stands.
2. S/he says.
3. Spirit
4. S/he dresses warmly.

Across:

5. When it is cold....
6. Come
7. 2 (in counting)
8. S/he sets a snare.
9. Snow



Niiwin—4

Proper Names

I say..., We say..., You say...
 Alexander—Nindikid, "Aniksaandan."
 Daniel—Nindikid, "Daaniyan."
 Charlotte—Nindikid, "Zhaanat."
 Andrew—Nindikidomin, "Aandanoo."
 Nancy—Nindikidomin, "Naanisii."
 Sharon—Nindikidomin, "Zhenan."
 Katie—Gidikid, "Getii."
 Jennifer—Gidikid, "Jinipen."
 Matthew—Gidikid, "Maatiyoo."
 John—Gidikid, "Jwaan."
 Izhinikaazowin—Name

Goojitoon! Try it!

Translation below.

1. _____ (Elizabeth) gii-ikido, "Waabooz bi-izhaa omaa."
2. _____ (Kevin) gii-ikido, "Gaawiin bi-izhaasii. Izhaa imaa noongom."
3. _____ (Mike) gii-ikido, "Ambe omaa Waabooz!"
4. _____ (William) gii-ikido, "Gego bi-izhaaken!"
5. _____ (Christopher) gii-ikido, "Ninga-agoodoo dash ninga-naandagoodoo ga-waabang."

Gebin
 Ma'ik
 Wiiniyam
 Ganistapan
 Anizibat

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. When it is winter I ask, "What is she named this moon (month)?" B. You say, "She is called the Little Spirit Moon (Dec.) this moon." C. She says, "She is named the Great Spirit Moon (Jan.) this moon. It is very cold. D. I say, "Please bring them in those dogs and cats." E. They say, " It is called the Sturgeon Moon (Feb.) this moon. Almost it is spring." F. At this time we tell stories and we do beadwork. G. We say it, "Thank you Great Spirit."

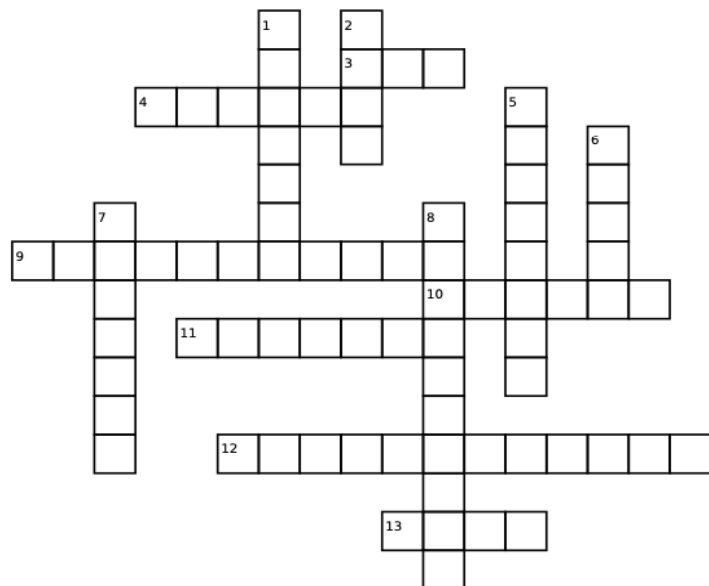
Niswi—3 Down: 1. Niibawi 2. Ikido 3. Manidoo 4. Giizhoo' o Across: 5. Gisinaamagak 6. Ambe 7. Niizho 8. Agoodoo 9. Goon

Niiwin-4 1. Anizibat did say, "Rabbit is coming this way here." 2. Gebin said, "No S/he isn't coming this way. S/he is going there now." 3. Ma'ik said, "Come here Rabbit!" 4. Wiiniyam said, "Don't come in this direction!" 5. Ganistapan said, "I will set a snare and I will check the snares when it will be tomorrow.

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. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. Some spellings and translations from *The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to **MAZINA'IGAN**, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 pio@alifwc.org.

AAZHAWAAKWASING MANIDOO-GIIZISOONS

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

1. When?
2. Aanapii ___maagoziyan?(When do you smell good?)
5. What?
6. Where?
7. Mino ___ ina?(Does it smell nice Y/N?)
8. Aaniin ___?(What's happenin?)

Across:

3. Niminomaagoz ___?(Do I smell nice Y/N?)
4. ___ menomaagozid?(Who smells good?)
9. Aandi mino ___?(Where do I smell good?)
10. ___ dash(Why?)
11. Awegonen meno ___?(What smells good?)
12. Aaniin ___(How does s/he smell?)
13. Aaniin ___ wenji-minomaagoziwaad?(Why do they smell good?)

THE PATH THROUGH GRIEF WITH PURPOSE

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, there will come a point in our life where we would complete our purpose. We all have a purpose, Elders of Lee shared, and it's up to us to seek that purpose out then do it. Spiritual bliss, as it's called, shall fill our existence as we leave this world to the place of everlasting happiness. We will be filled with all the love and compassion our relatives have for us and that we have for our relatives at the same time. We are all related. That is plenty of love. It is powerful. When our relative completes a purpose, they pass on to the next existence and we have a loss here in this one. A loss of physical presence and being-to-being energy. Experiencing loss in our community is compounded by the pain we have experienced throughout trauma. There is still grief we haven't grieved yet; maybe we don't know what the grief is or even how to grieve for it. Also, when a community member loses a relative, we are reminded of a loss we experienced and may not have grieved fully for or even know how to grieve for. We would then attempt to stay away from the ceremonies that are meant to assist our relatives as they pass on which help us grieve, a labor of love as Bine would say. Regardless, there is a point in our lives where we would complete whatever purpose we were meant to fulfill and continue on to the next existence.

We are told of a time when if anything happened to an Anishinaabe's vessel (owiiyaw), their spirit (ojichaagwan) would be carried wherever the wind blew. The Anishinaabe were very pitiful much like any other story told about Anishinaabe, traditional or contemporary. There were two manidoog that came to our rescue. It was through these manidoog's compassion for their Anishinaabe that a place was created for ojichaagwan to go should anything happen to owiiyaw. A wondrous place with no dust or pain. A place where everything the Anishinaabe were gifted is. A place where the happiness is everlasting. They made a path to this place very deliberately and with great care as they had great love and compassion for their Anishinaabe people. They wanted the best for them. Since the time of these manidoog our people have been sent down this path when it has been determined that their purpose in this world has been completed.

We are all destined, gifted, and blessed as Anishinaabe to have such a place guaranteed to us when it is our time to pass. We all would eventually take that path.

Until then, we are encouraged to help our relatives who have passed on. There is support needed for their grieving spirits. Even though ours may be grieving as well, helping others through grief helps with our own. Carve a spoon, make a bag, bring asemaa, be present, bring food. Try to take care of something for them as they may be in a fog, stressing within all while trying to be strong for a relative or themselves. Being available for our relatives in their toughest time of need is one of the greatest forms of community healing we can create. We are all grieving and we all grieve differently. The complex web of grief over our community can be met with our service to each other's grief and in turn heal our own grief whether we understand it or not. And remember, there will come a time when the community would help your relatives through losing you. We can charge our community with bimaadiziwin should we take the time to help one another through these times. Much like the compassion those manidoog have for the Anishinaabe, we shall have the same for our fellow Anishinaabe. After all, Wenabozho ina gidayaa? Remember, we are also meant to be honoring our relatives that passed. They completed their purpose. They are having spiritual bliss. They are leaving their footprints in the path we are all destined to take. We can help their relatives as they are on that path to give them piece of mind that they can go to the place of everlasting happiness and their family would be cared for.

As I write this knowing the holidays are coming up, I want to portray that our lifestyle as Anishinaabe is great. We are very blessed to have this way of life. We can still honor our relatives through our grief. We often tell stories of them. We share tales of the spirit we know as our relative. The greatest gift we can give each other is bimaadiziwin. I encourage us all to think about how we can share bimaadiziwin with each other and do it.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Where, who, what, when, why? All the questions we can ask. As the time comes to learn or seek information, we must know how to ask. Don't let the college way of speaking the language get to you. It's just that English is insufficient to express an Ojibwe expression. We are meant to understand it even when we use English to describe it. Yes or no questions just add "ina" in the second place. Also, asking questions sets us on our quest to know more. We must ask to know.

Aaniin = How, in what way, what?

(Aahn neen)

Awenen = Who?

(Uh way nayn)

Awegonen = What?

(Uh way go nayn)

Aanapii = When?

(Aahn nup pee)

Aandi = Where?

(Aahn dih)

Aaniin dash = Why?

(Aahn neen dush)

Aaniin ezhimaagozid? = How does s/he smell?

(Aahn neen ay zhih mah go zid)

Awenen menomaagozid? = Who smells good?

(Uh way nayn may no mah go zid)

Awegonen menomaagwak? = What smells good?

(Uh way go nayn may no mah gwuk)

Aanapii minomaagoziyan? = When do you smell good?

(Aahn nup pee min no mah go zih yun)

Aandi minomaagoziyaan? = Where do I smell good?

(Aahn dih min no mah go zih yawn)

Aaniin dash wenji-minomaagoziwaad? = Why do they smell good?

(Aahn neen dush way jih min no mah go zih wahd)

Aaniin enakamagak? = What's happening?

(Aahn neen ay nuk kuh muh guk)

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



CULTURE

ENROLLMENTS — THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

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

Gaa-tibaajimotawaajin (transcribed by) James Clark, Ozaawaanakwad

To Joe and many others, this is a very concerning subject. To many, it feels like an elephant in the room, yet a majority of people aren't interested in hearing about the subject. Joe sees his newly born grandchild and wonders, "what about their kids? Will they be able to be enrolled?" He talks about blood quantum and the change over time in his own family. It is heartbreaking that this is not the first time, nor the last time an Elder in the family has to wonder about their future generations.

"In a few years from now, will there be any Indians here? Does anyone really care?" he pondered. Blood quantum will affect Band members for generations to come, no matter if you lower it, abolish it, or keep it the same.

Our relatives who remain un-enrolled are Indian to us, but not to the bureaucracy. Who determines their quantum? Something about this just doesn't seem right to Joe, knowing "full-blooded" Indians have children that are only considered half-blood to tribal government. According to Joe, when mothers had children in previous generations, they would ask the mother who the father was. They would respond, "why do you need to know?" Then, the answer was they needed to know the person's name to send the hospital bill to. However, during this time, most Indians were unemployed with little to no money to pay a hospital bill. Thus, the mother of the children didn't always place the name of the father on their birth certificate. This affected the blood quantum of the child, which has created problems down the line for many families.

Joe has met countless Indians in his life that do not qualify for services solely because their blood quantum denies them enrollment. Joe sees this as a modern-day genocide against his people, but not just his people, his family, and friends. "The federal government has been trying to exterminate us for generations. From smallpox blankets that were accidentally given to natives, to boarding schools, where the motto was "kill the Indian, save the man," Joe said. "Then came the self-determination and relocation acts that moved Natives to urban areas to create tax-paying citizens and remove them from their tribal nations. And currently one of the largest exterminators: alcohol. The way the Natives were treated as second-class citizens or less may drive anyone to drown their sorrows with booze. All of these have attempted to eliminate or exterminate Native people. Yet we as Anishinaabe people are still here, after decades of attempts to get rid of us.

Joe believes that the government has one trick left up their sleeves, and that is blood quantum. Blood quantum continuously decreases with each generation unless you marry within the same band to a person with the same or higher blood quantum. This is eliminating our people from being able to enroll and eventually we will run ourselves out.

What does it mean to be Indian? Having to address this is crucial for our people now and in the future. Joe sees very little to no movement in regards to this. "Maybe there is movement, but does anyone care? It only seems to affect people when their kids, grandkids, or great-grandkids are denied. A problem for the few that will affect the many. How do we tell the Ceremonial Drum that this descendant isn't Ojibwe, and thus doesn't belong on the drum? What would Manidoo say?" Joe poses this question to people. "We will never know what they truly say or what their concerns are. Because they take care of us, a critical question to ask is what happens when there isn't anyone to take care of Manidoo anymore?"

Years ago, when scholarships were taken away from the descendants, it was shown that our children, our people were not a priority by a few in a position to make that call. It took the change of an elected official to make it right so that we can take care of our people. Why don't we enroll them? "Are we denying people and refusing to change things for monetary reasons? The more people, the less we get? Should that matter?" Joe asks as a concerned Band member. He feels strongly that there needs to be reasoning behind why things are and aren't done in regards to quantum.

The chiefs a long time ago were able to think of what our people needed and it has helped us prosper. Joe calls for elected officials to take action, be like those chiefs of old and take a stand that will protect our people for generations to come. Otherwise, what good are those rights and lands that our ancestors fought for? Joe calls to have things taken care of for those who aren't here yet, those not enrolled, those who come from our people, yet aren't given the rights fought for by their ancestors. "Who's going to be singing our songs? Running our ceremonies? Dancing at pow-wows?" Joe feels like it's a question that a majority of Band members refuse to answer, creating more problems by doing nothing. Everything that the federal government has brought forth has been conquered by Band members, all but one: blood quantum. Joe is a firm believer that this has to be

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.



dealt with now instead of waiting for someone else to. Someone is going to have to be the "bad guy" and propose changing the way we see our people.

Joe asks, "I'm full-blooded, does that make me more Indian than someone less than full?"

Miigwech mii iw!

"COLD-SLAW"

By BETTE BOYD SAM, MILLE LACS BAND ELDER

Years and years ago when we were just kids, we were camping on a lake close to the road up there.

That farmer's wife used to be really nice to us, she used to feed us and let us pick the apples we wanted.

We used to rice with Martin and Maude Kegg and their kids. This one time it was kind of rainy and we couldn't go ricing so they were going to go to Brainerd. So, I had to baby sit. There were four or five of us kids. One of the boys wanted to know what he should do and it was to "stay and help," they told him and he said "okay."

But as the adults started driving, he started crying, this older boy starting running after the car and every one of us watching were laughing just hard. "Just put shoes on and you can go with," I told him. So, the car stopped and Maude was going to get out and hit him I suppose for chasing after them.

After stumbling into a mud pile, he got all dirty. He got his

shoes on but he was still so covered in mud even after the sun started to shine.

"Oh, you poor kids," the farmer's wife said "I will feed you some coleslaw."

The Indian kids didn't know what that food was. We had never heard of it before. All we saw was shredded cabbage on the plate and no one wanted to eat it. It was unknown to the Indian kids. We looked around at each other till the first one took a bite. "Oh my this is just good!" one kid said.

All the kids started eating with nonstop forks and plates moving all around the table. I think they wanted some more, but that farmer's wife told us to go play outside.

Once we got outside that "cold-slaw" is all we could talk about and how good it was. And that was my first time eating coleslaw.

THE NEW MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

Ozhaawashkogizhigookwe: Bette Sam, Mille Lacs Band Elder

Bette Boyd Sam was born on February 19, 1938, on the Mille Lacs Band Reservation to the late Dan and Daisey Boyd. She grew up in a non-English household speaking mostly Ojibwemowin up until she started grade school. The only time in Bette's life that she did not live on the Reservation was when she and her young family moved to Chicago under the Indian Relocation Act (IRA). This move was only for a few years. Bette, like countless other Elders, did traditional crafts and harvesting from the time she can remember up until the present day. Today she works for the local school and Aanjibimaadizing doing language preservation and revitalization.

BAND MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

BLAZING HER OWN TRAIL

By LISA NOLAN, COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA SPECIALIST
MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

Sherraine White dreams with her eyes wide open, but she's no daydreamer. At just 23 years old, she has the rare ability to reach for the stars while knowing the necessary steps to get to them. This could be because Sherraine has already conquered more than some do in an entire lifetime.

Born and raised in Isle in the Chiminising district, Sherraine admits she did not have the same community connections as she does today. Attending public school, she was one of only a couple Native American students in her school. Once high school was finished, Sherraine went to Central Lakes Community College, where she earned a business management certificate.

During this time, she worked as a housekeeper at Grand Casino Mille Lacs and for the Mille Lacs Band government. In August 2020, Sherraine was hired as an intern in the People and Culture department at Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. It was the start of a promising career, and then the unthinkable happened.

Tragedy struck Sherraine's family just a couple months later when her mother passed away. In the midst of her grief, she made the courageous decision to become the primary caretaker for her five younger siblings. "I just take it day by day and put one foot in front of the other. I know I made the right decision for my family because I'm so close to my siblings," explains Sherraine.

Not only did she take on a new role at home, but she also took a major role change at work. In December 2020, Sherraine applied and was offered the role of executive administrative assistant at MLCV. In her position, she supports the entire MLCV executive team. Some of the items she's responsible for are running monthly meetings, planning events (annual family golf outing, Fall Feast), and acting as chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) council.

Learning her new role has taken tenacity, dedication, and the ability to form meaningful connections. Sherraine has taken her on-the-job-style training extremely seriously. Being the self-starter that she is, Sherraine has taken the initiative to learn about the different businesses within the MLCV portfolio and has taken the opportunity to work closely with MLCV's Chief People Officer, Andrea Bolin.

"Andrea has become a mentor of mine. I have learned so much from her already and hope to be able move to that role [Chief People Officer] one day," says Sherraine.

Chief People Officer is just one goal that Sherraine has set for herself. The ultimate goal? Chief Executive Officer of MLCV – the role currently held by Joe Nayquonabe. Not surprisingly, she has a blueprint to make her dream role come true.

She has returned to college at Fond du Lac Tribal and



Community College and is taking three classes this semester, including a business law class. She says, "I love anything law-related!" Aside from continuing her education, Sherraine is committed to learning everything there is to know about MLCV and growing her business relationships.

A key component of her plan is to soak up the leadership lessons she experiences while at MLCV. "I appreciate the leadership style at MLCV. Leaders put the needs of others before themselves. It really shows how we are all working towards one common goal — improving the quality of life for Band members," she says. "Joe has created a great team. Everyone here truly cares about the Band. That means a lot to me."

These lessons in leadership are serving Sherraine well at work and at home. "I want my siblings to know they can shoot for the moon. I want to show them that anything is possible, if you're willing to work hard enough," she says. Her younger siblings are already making great strides for their future using Sherraine as an example of what is possible.

"School wasn't a huge priority for my siblings. Now they get to see all the cool things I get to do because of my job, like traveling, meeting the Lieutenant Governor and planning events. Now they're realizing how important school is," says Sherraine. In fact, one of her sisters wants to follow in Sherraine's footsteps and work at MLCV.

Another important part of being a strong leader is being truthful and authentic. "I know they're watching, and that makes me want to be the best example that I can be. At the same time, I make sure that I'm honest when I have my bad days. Especially as the anniversary of my mother's death approaches," says Sherraine.

Strength and vulnerability are marks of a great leader, more specifically a great servant leader. If Sherraine continues to implement all the knowledge she is learning, the stars are definitely within reach.

"I know I'm blessed. Not many people get to work with a team that is like family in their career — I've gotten that at such a young age. To be able to step into a company and feel at home so quickly is rare, and I don't take it for granted," Sherraine proclaims. We cannot wait to see Sherraine make all her dreams come true.

AROUND THE RESERVATION



Dear Auntie,

Miigwech for having a safe place I can ask a question. I am a young single father and have a beautiful daughter. She has been asking for many expensive things for Christmas. I want to give her everything she wants but I can't afford it right now. I feel ashamed and I have been feeling really low lately with the holidays coming up. I don't want to work more hours I would be away from my daughter more and I don't want to ask my family for help because I don't want to be a burden to anyone. Auntie, what can I do to give my daughter a good Christmas with a limited budget? Holiday Worrier.

Dear Nindoozhim aka Holiday Warrior,

I love this question. And I also have a question for you: What are you grateful for?

First, I want to applaud you for being a single father. I bet your daughter thinks you are the best father in the world. Most parents want to give their children the world, but being an even better parent is knowing your limits in finances and to remember the best gift is a parent being present. I think your daughter would love it more if you are there with her for the holidays. Sometimes the best gifts are also creating something personalized.

Secondly, I am concerned about how you feel about the situation and the impact it could have on your mental health. The holidays are when people suffer more stress and mental health issues. Anyone can be affected and it is important to reach out to your family or a local mental health specialist. They have an amazing mental health team at Health and Human Services. Anytime you need to, please reach out — even if you think it's not a big deal. Talking to someone can help.

Now, in response to you not wanting to work more hours or ask your family for help you, well, working more or less hours is your choice and asking or not asking your family is also your choice. My advice is to talk to your family and let them know what you're dealing with and how you're feeling. They may offer to help or they may be going through the same thing. Either way, this would be a great way to connect with your family and always keep an open honest connection with them. I honestly think that you are being a courageous warrior for seeking advice on a difficult subject. It's not easy to share when we struggle but it's important to share the good times and the bad times.

Lastly, I advise you to talk openly and honestly with your daughter. Sometimes children are too young to understand but if she is mature enough to be open and understanding that could lead to you to a closer connection with each other. When I asked you what are grateful for, it was my attempt to bring you back to the most important thing in your life, which is your daughter, your family, and your community. There are also many things you can do with your children to give back to the community, research events locally and find something you both would like to volunteer for. You could both even select a family in need and purchase groceries or small gifts for them. Whatever you do, do it from your heart. You are now becoming a Holiday Warrior.

Happy Holidays,

Auntie

*Send your questions for Auntie to News@millelacsband.com.

GRA UPDATE

For those fighting problem gambling issues, the holiday season can add extra pressure and temptation. Stressors may include strain on a budget, family "poker" parties, dangerous gifts (scratch-offs), alcohol, and extra time off from work causing feelings of boredom and loneliness. Try avoiding these triggers if you find yourself struggling with problem gambling. However, if you are realizing the holiday season is difficult or just need someone to talk to about gambling temptations, please call the Problem Gambling Hotline: 1-800-333-4673 (HOPE).

If you feel a strong urge to gamble beyond your means and have thoughts of regret about gambling, you can pursue a self-exclusion to give yourself some time away from the casinos for as little as six (6) months at a time. Please text or call our office (320-532-8135) or visit the GRA page on the Mille Lacs Band website to obtain a copy of a "Self-Exclusion Form" to help streamline your request for exclusion: <https://millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation>.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

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.

MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Waawaatesi, Dawn Benjamin

Waawaatesi, Dawn Benjamin, age 44, of Minneapolis, Minn., passed away on November 4, 2022. Visitation was at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at the District I Community Center on Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at the District I Community Center on Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



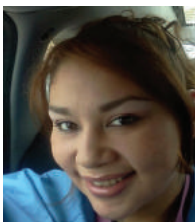
Waawaatesi, Dawn was born on May 29, 1978, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Don and Gladys. She enjoyed making her family happy, joking around, and laughing as much as possible. Dawn liked to spend her time playing with her kitten, watching movies, walking around the lake, and enjoying Mother Nature. She loved her family so much. She was very family oriented. She was always willing to help in any way she could.

Dawn is survived by her daughters, Antoinette and Brianna; son, Darren; parents, Donald Stone and Gladys Benjamin; grandchildren, Chey, Tony, Avah, Eli, Nikki, Alex, AJ; and many loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Gladys; her sister, Tina; two brothers, Tony and Troy.

Aazhoogizhigookwe, Ana-Lise Aune

Aazhoogizhigookwe, Ana-Lise Aune, age 36, of Onamia, Minn., passed away on November 10, 2022. Visitation was at 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 13, 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 Monday, November 14, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment will be in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Aazhoogizhigookwe, Ana-Lise Aune, was born on January 22, 1986, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Elisse Aune and Elroy Rausch. She enjoyed doing her hair, drawing, and being with friends and family.

Ana-Lise is survived by her husband, Cory Stone; daughters, Leonice Ballinger, Lupita Stone; sons, Nicholas Ballinger, Cory Stone, Jr., Samuel Aune, Rhett Stone; mother, Elisse Aune; brothers, Shane Aune, George Edgington, Joseph Edgington, Jr.; sisters, Theresa Edgington, Erin Hillier, Penny Olseth. She was preceded in death by her father, Elroy; and her brother, Troy.

FUNERAL NOTICES:

Bebiskineyaash, Eugene "Tuggy" Carpenter

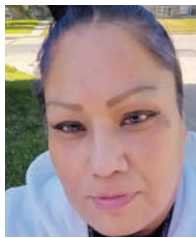
Services were held for Bebisikineyaash, Eugene "Tuggy" Carpenter. The wake was held on Sunday, November 20, 2022, at dusk. The funeral was held on Monday, November 21, 2022, at 10 a.m. with Vincent Merrill officiating. The wake and funeral were held at the East Lake Community Center, McGregor, Minn.

Baamikawaanijii Robert Patrick Benjamin

Services were held for Baamikawaanijii Robert Patrick Benjamin. A wake was held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 5 p.m. Funeral services were held on Friday, November 18, 2022, at 10 a.m. with Lee "Obizaan" Staples, officiating. Both the wake and funeral were held at the District III Community Center.

Miskwaadesi ikwe, Christine Benjamin

Miskwaadesi ikwe, Christine Benjamin, age 47, of East Grand Forks, Minn., passed away on November 4, 2022. Visitation was at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at the District I Community Center on Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at the District I Community Center on Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



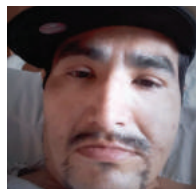
Christine was born on July 28, 1975, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Don and Gladys. She enjoyed being with her family. Christine liked to spend her time beading, shopping, and taking care of her niece Nikki. She loved her family very much.

Christine is survived by her daughter, Cheyanna; her son Eric; and her father, Don; and many loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Gladys; her sister, Dawn; and her two brothers, Tony and Troy.

Eugene Riley Carpenter

Eugene Riley Carpenter, 44, passed away Wednesday, November 16, 2022, in Minneapolis. He was born December 11, 1977, in Minneapolis to Kelly and Kay (Beaupre) Skinaway. After graduating high school he attended trade school and worked in construction. Eugene was a jokester and loved to make people laugh. He enjoyed going on long trips and spending time with family and friends. He was a member of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Christine Beaupre. Eugene is survived by his son Recieo Carpenter; brother Travis Beaupre; Aunts: Lisa Carpenter, Melissa Zahradka, Kim Skinaway and many other special relatives and friends who mourn his passing.

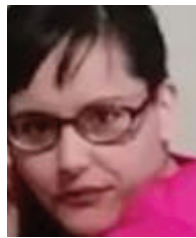


Visitation was at dusk on Sunday, November 20, 2022, at the East Lake Community Center in East Lake, McGregor. Tribal Rites services were held at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 21, at the East Lake Community Center. Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to leave a message of condolence.

This page is offered as a service to those families who would like to share the news of their loved ones' passing. Photos are accepted but not required.

Sherry Ann Sargent

Sherry Ann Sargent, age 35, passed away on November 2, 2022.



Sherry is preceded in death by her parents Alvin Sr. and JoAnne Sargent; grandparents Melvin and Ozilda Sargent, Eloise Durant, and Lawrence Taylor; nieces Karina Chosa, Kayle Chosa, and Reina Brown; and nephew Joshua.

She is survived by her children Dustin Jr., Ningoosis, Dade, Katie, and Jackson; the father of her children Dustin Keezer Sr.; brother Alvin (Colleen) Sargent Jr.; sisters Michelle (Erasto) Gonzalez, and Ozilda Sargent; aunt Lisa Carpenteur; many nieces and nephews; and countless other family and friends.

A wake was held on Sunday, November 20, 2022, at dusk. The funeral service was Monday, November 21, 2022, at 10 a.m. with Vincent Merrill officiating. The wake and funeral were held at the East Lake Community Center, McGregor, Minn.

Equayzaince, Dana Nickaboine

Equayzaince, Dana Nickaboine, age 63, of Brooklyn Park, Minn., passed away on November 19, 2022. Visitation was at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22, 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 Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Equayzaince, Dana Lou Nickaboine was born on June 15, 1959, in Minnesota to Clementina Bugg and Alvin Nickaboine Sr. She loved riding her bike and visiting friends. Dana worked for many years as a social worker at CEAP and had her own office. She also worked as a security guard at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. She enjoyed having family time with her children.

Dana is survived by her brother, Michael (Shelly) Nickaboine; her sons, Chance Nickaboine, Chase Nickaboine, Michael Nickaboine; her daughter, Miranda Nickaboine; and several grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her mothers, Clementina Bugg, and Carol (Thompson) Nickaboine; father, Alvin Nickaboine Sr.; brother, Alvin Nickaboine Jr.; sister Linda Nickaboine; and grandparents, Frank and Sadie Nickaboine; Thomas Bugg, and Emma (Weyaus) Bugg.

DISTRICT I PET CLINIC PROVIDES PET CARE



MILLE LACS BAND FALL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

SEE MORE PHOTOS OF EACH EVENT AT INAAJIMOWIN.COM/GALLERIES.

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN DISTRICT I

PHOTOS BY VIVIAN LaMOORE



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

PHOTOS BY RHONDA MITCHELL



MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES FALL FEAST

PHOTOS BY RHONDA MITCHELL



TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

DECEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Susan Anderson
Janice Christine Dorr
Richard Bruce Dunkley
Eugene Erik Garbow
Terry Leonard Wind
Thomas Stephen Applebee
Michael Robert Aubid
Judith Louise Beaulieu
Marvin James Beaulieu
Gayle Marie Bender
Loann Dana Boyd
Phyllis Ann Boyd
Terry Lee Bradley
Vicki Marie Burton
Kyle Matthew Cash
Lawrence Churchill
Marilyn Ann Davis
Winifred Marie Davis
Delsie Louise Day
June Louise Day
Norma Bea Diver
Randy James Dorr

Rodney John Dorr
George Steven Edgington
Ruth Elaine Garbow
Colleen Margaret Garcia
Diane Marie Gibbs
Rosalie Marie Gopher
Corwin John Graikowski
David Darryl Granger
Dale HerbertGreene
Angeline Hawk
Viola Mary Hendren
Michael Ray Hensley
Julie Ann Hernandez Corado
Carole Anne Higgins
Frank Hill
Esther Marie Johnson
William Reinhardt Kegg
Christine O'Madwe
Kegwedose
Cheryl Ann Keller
Larry Allen Koeppe
Renda Lynn Leslie
Michael Allen Mager
Daniel Rae Matrious
Gordon Wayne Matrious

Vincent Edward Merrill
Colleen Gay Minger
Kim Alane Modaff
Connie Rose Moose
Debra Jean Morrison
Richard Raymond Mortenson
Linda Lou Moxness
Maureen Cynthia Nickaboine
Jay Jay O'Brien
Anita Rose Parker
Phillip Dale Pawlitschek
William Richard Premo
Doreen Ellen Sam
Corrina Marie Sheff
Susan M. Shingobe
Lisa Ann Smekofske
James Francis Thomas
Minta Marie Thomson
Vanette Louise Todd
Carol Ann Turner
Anita Louise Upegui
Arlene Louise Victor
Kevin Duane White
Yvonne Cecelia Winiecki
Douglas Alan Wistrom

Lyle David Woyak

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday Happy birthday, **Tiny**, on December 16 with love from Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Waase, Eric, Brynley, Trinity, Bianca, Henry, Binisiikwe, Papa Brad, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Auntie Val, Dan, Pie, Myla, Kevin, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, and Lileah

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 January issue is December 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

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

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

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

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

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



The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin cordially invites you to attend the 39th Annual State of the Band Address on Tuesday, January 10, 2022, at 10 a.m. at Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events and Convention Center. Dignitaries and non-Band member guests are warmly welcomed and encouraged to RSVP to 320-532-7486. Band members need not RSVP.

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Updated: November 22, 2022

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

Community Development:

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

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

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

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

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

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.

Aanjibimaadizing Case Managers

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

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

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

Urban — Winona Spaulding: 612-360-7219

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; or Kristen Allord: 320-630-2677

Elder Advocate: 320-630-4395

Office of Management and Budget

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

Enrollments: 320-532-7730

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. regularly held in the Aanjibimaadizing building is temporarily being held at the 17222 Ataage Drive location while Aanjibimaadizing is under construction.</p> <p>Calendar Updates must be emailed to News@millelacsband.com by the 15th of each month.</p>				<p>1 Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>2 Dereimonial Dance Mille Lacs Bob & John</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>3 Dereimonial Dance Mille Lacs Bob & John</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p>
  						
<p>4 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>5 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>6 First Tuesday SNAP see page 7 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Sa Miikana</p>	<p>7 Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8 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>9 District II Holiday Party Grand Casino Hinckley 6 p.m. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>11 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>12 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>13 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>14 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>15 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>16 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>17 Elders Holiday Party Grand Casino Mille Lacs Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>18 Urban Holiday Party 2-5 p.m. Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>19 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>20 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>21 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. Chiminising Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m. District III Holiday Party 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley.</p>	<p>22 Minisinaakwaang Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. 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>23 Mid-Winter Break Government Offices Closed Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>25 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>26 Mid-Winter Break Government Offices Closed. 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>27 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>28 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7.</p>	<p>29 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>30 New Year Break Government Offices Closed Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><i>Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with new job postings and information about programs and services. Check it out!</i></p>



OJIBWE

INAAJIMOWIN

MANIDOO-GIIZISOONS DECEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 12

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

SMOKING TULLIBEE

DNR CULTURAL RESOURCE TEAM PROVIDES HELP TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND NAYAHSING STUDENTS
SEE PAGE 11



NAUMANN PROMOTED TO DEPUTY CHIEF OF TRIBAL POLICE
page 6

TRIBAL COURT REMODEL OPEN HOUSE
page 7

ICE FISHING SAFETY GUIDELINES AND TIPS
page 10

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS: SHERRAINE WHITE
page 15

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 January issue deadline is December 15.

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

Community Support Services: Family Violence Prevention.

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

District II: 320-630-7666

District III: 320-630-2691

24 Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Batters Intervention: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

Elder Services: 320-532-7854

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

Food Shelf: 320-362-4672

Waivered Services: 320-362-0027

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

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

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

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



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