



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



Key ruling in lawsuit between the Band and Mille Lacs County

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

March 4, 2022, was a historic day for Mille Lacs Band members.

"We won," exclaimed Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin on March 4, 2022, after she was notified that U.S. District Court Judge Susan Richard Nelson issued a key ruling in the legal case between the Mille Lacs Band and Mille Lacs County.

In the 93-page opinion Judge Nelson wrote: "Over the course of more than 160 years, Congress has never clearly expressed an intention to disestablish or diminish the Mille Lacs Reservation. The Court therefore affirms what the Band has maintained for the better part of two centuries—the Mille Lacs Reservation's boundaries remain as they were under Article 2 of the Treaty of 1855."

The Mille Lacs Band filed the underlying lawsuit against Mille Lacs County because the county prevented Mille Lacs

Tribal Police from being able to exercise law enforcement authority within the Reservation boundary. While the federal government and State of Minnesota both acknowledge the 1855 Reservation boundary, Mille Lacs County has refused to do so. While one of the primary impacts of the ruling will be to strengthen law enforcement on the Reservation, the emotional impact for Band members goes far beyond public safety.

In her opinion, Judge Nelson repeatedly noted the relentless efforts of Shaboshkung and other ancestors to hold the United States accountable for keeping President Lincoln's word that the Band could remain on its homelands forever.

"This ruling reaffirms what Shaboshkung began fighting for in the 1860s, what every leader since has carried on, and what we have always known — that our Reservation was never diminished, that we are Non-Removable, and that this Reservation will be our home into perpetuity," said Chief Executive

COURT RULING see page 5



The Late Chief Executive Art Gahbow giving the State of the Band Address in 1990.

SOVEREIGNTY IS SACRED

Celebrating Art Gahbow Day — April 26, 2022

By MICHAEL LeGARDE, SR. COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Against a blue backdrop, in raised letters of gold at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, is a quote by the former Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive, the late Art Gahbow. It states, "Our sovereignty is as sacred as our land. It is our right and ability to control our own destiny."

Sovereignty. Land. Destiny. Those three words are what were important to Art Gahbow, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive from 1972 to 1991. Many from the Mille Lacs Community have memories of working for Chief Executive Gahbow.

"When I think about Art, he is the definition of our traditional values, and he was so funny. His humor was unbelievable, but he had a very serious side," said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "When it comes to tribal governance, he taught me about bravery and about focusing on the needs of the entire community, versus the needs of an individual. Art had so much integrity and always spoke the truth. People may not have always wanted to hear it, but he did not play political games. His actions were not about getting re-elected, but what was the best for the Mille Lacs Band as a reservation and as a community."

Tadd Johnson and Don Wedll are two more of the many people who had the opportunity to work for and with Chief Executive Gahbow on several important issues dealing with sovereignty, land, and yes, destiny.

"They [the Mille Lacs Government] had changed their statutes in the early 80s, to the separation of powers, division of powers form of government, which is why he was called Chief Executive and not Chairman. I got there [with the Band]

ART GAHBOW see page 2

LEARN FIRST AID/CPR

First Aid/ CPR class are now being offered on the last Wednesday of each month at the District I Aquatic and Fitness Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class is open to all community members, Mille Lacs Band and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and Casino employees with plenty of space to learn in a comfortable environment.

Please contact Kristina Abear, 320-532-8998 at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health and Human Services Family Services to register.

Together, we can save lives. Cultivating a safe healthy community is part of the Community Risk Reduction program.



SAVE THE DATE OF MAY 5, 2022 — SEE PAGE 7 — MMIW AWARENESS DAY

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, boozhoo,

In 1855, the United States Senate ratified a Treaty with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe that created our reservation of approximately 61,000 acres. Under the Constitution, treaties are the supreme law of the land.

March 4, 2022, will go down in history as being the day that the Federal District Court ruled that our Treaty of 1855 is, indeed, the supreme law of the land: The Mille Lacs Reservation boundaries remain exactly as they were promised to us. What does the reservation boundary mean to us? Why fight for it?

In 1862, a war party of other Ojibwe tribes traveled to Mille Lacs and tried to convince our ancestors to join an attack on Fort Ripley and white settlers. Mille Lacs did not join that effort, and instead, our warriors actually protected white settlers and Fort Ripley.

When the 1863 and 1864 treaties were negotiated, President Lincoln promised our chiefs that because of the “good behavior” of Mille Lacs warriors, we could remain on our reservation for 10 years so long as we were peaceful... and then 100 years... and then 1,000 years. The treaties promised that we would not be compelled to remove as long as we remained at peace. This is how we first gained the name, the “Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians,” because the treaties promised and President Lincoln told us we could remain here.

One of our leaders, Shaboshkung, repeated the story of President Lincoln’s promise many times. Shaboshkung said that President Lincoln told the Mille Lacs leaders to “Sit quiet where you are,” which meant “do not fight.” Shaboshkung explained:

“Why we were told this was because we had always been quiet and peaceable. They told us we might stay here a thousand years if we wished to. For 10 years we will sit quiet here. Then for 100 years, and for 1,000 years, and if there be even one Mille Lacs living, then he will stay quietly by Mille Lacs.”

Over the years, there were repeated attempts to take our Reservation from us. First the timber companies came after our timber and then settlers came after our land.

In 1880, Chief Mazomany, whose father Rice Maker participated in the 1855 Treaty, asked for help from the citizens of Little Falls to prevent timber companies from stealing the reservation. Mazomany said, “my father helped make the treaty; and before he died he called me and asked me to preserve and keep the Reservation.”

In 1889, our ancestors agreed to the Nelson Act, because it promised that they would receive secure allotments of land on the reservation and be able to remain here forever. However, in direct violation of the Act, settlers came onto the Reservation and forced our ancestors off their homelands.

In 1897, another Band leader, Ayndusogeshig testified that the whites “took possession of all our property, our little gardens, even our blueberry patches” and “drove us out of our rice fields.” He said that he himself “was driven twice out of [his] little house” and “they did the same thing to all the Mille Lac Chippewas” on the reservation. He said when the Indians “didn’t go they would take our household stuff and set it on fire and drove us away and scattered us all over.”

“It means that the Reservation our ancestors fought to preserve survived. No matter what else happened in history — even when our lands were stolen and our ancestors were burned out of their homes — our Reservation still existed and will exist forever.”

Despite these hardships, our ancestors refused to leave. Shawboshkung and other leaders fought for their rights on the reservation for their entire lives. Generations of our Band elders told us we must continue the fight to have the existence of our reservation acknowledged. In the 1970’s, a tribal Elder named George Bedausky gave a copy of Kappler’s Treaties to Chief Executive Arthur Gahbow and DNR Commissioner Don Wedll. George had marked the Mille Lacs Band’s rights under the Treaties of 1837 and 1855 — these were our rights that he knew still existed. Chief Executive Gahbow promised George that he would continue the fight of our ancestors to have our rights recognized as our ancestors understood them.

I worked for Chief Executive Art Gahbow and Chief Executive Marge Anderson. When Mille Lacs County began attacking the existence of our reservation in the 1990s, we all knew that our jobs as elected officials was to fight to preserve the Reservation that the United States had promised to us in our treaties, just as our ancestors had done. This was a matter of principle.

The principle is we fished, gathered rice, and hunted deer in this area for the last three centuries. We held ceremonies, built our homes, made our clothing, we did beadwork, we tapped

the maple trees, we were born, we lived, and we died on these lands. Our people lived grand and noble lives. They kept their traditions, their language and their culture.

And they remained at peace, despite endless provocations and wrongs. Despite everything that was done to make them leave they stayed. Even many who were forced off their lands returned, firm in the belief that the Reservation was our home. Just as our ancestors were promised by President Lincoln, Mille Lacs Band Members stayed for 10 years, and then for 100 years, and we are now into another 100 years of refusing to leave. And just as promised, we will remain for another 1,000 years and more.

The principle is that this is our home, and these are our homelands that were ratified as the supreme law of the land.

The United States agrees with us and has recognized the existence of our Reservation for many decades, through one administration — Democratic or Republican — after another. And while the State at times has argued otherwise, it too recognizes the existence of our reservation. Only the County has persisted in challenging our reservation’s existence, triggering a law enforcement crisis in the process. It was that crisis that led us to file suit in 2017 and resulted in Judge Nelson’s historic ruling.

Judge Nelson ruled that only Congress can disestablish a reservation. In her 93-page opinion she thoroughly examined the history of our reservation and our people. And she concluded that Congress never disestablished our reservation. Simply put, she ruled that our reservation still exists, just as our ancestors always said it did. It is our homeland, now and forever.

County citizens living on our reservation have nothing to fear from Judge Nelson’s ruling. We filed the case because of the law enforcement crisis, with the goal of allowing tribal police officers to go back to doing their jobs and preventing another such crisis in the future. We have no intent to and no legal authority to tax or zone non-Indian lands.

While the ruling will have little impact on our non-Indian neighbors, the affirmation of our Reservation boundary has a deeply emotional impact on our Band Members. It means that the Reservation our ancestors fought to preserve survived. No matter what else happened in history — even when our lands were stolen and our ancestors were burned out of their homes — our reservation still existed and will exist forever. It means that our ancestors were right, and their dreams, which became our dreams, have now come true.

ART GAHBOW from page 1

in 1987,” explained Tadd Johnson, former Solicitor General for the Band, who at that time was with the VISTA program. “We had a fairly rough first meeting. He was asking, ‘What the hell are you doing here? I don’t know who you are. What are you doing here as a VISTA volunteer?’ I was told later that he thought I was an FBI agent, because he couldn’t figure out why an attorney would come to the Reservation.”

It was after Chief Executive Gahbow did some background checks that he figured he could put his trust in Johnson. It wasn’t suspicion as much as it was caution. Chief Executive Gahbow only wanted the best for the Band, and that included the people who would work for the Band.

“He was a real powerful advocate for rights of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe,” Johnson said. “He was always taking on the feds and the state. Art was a warrior and not afraid of a fight. He set the vision out there for what the Band could become. Gaming was taking off in the last year of his life, and his vision was that everybody could have a job.”

Another vision he had was the reestablishment of hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. Don Wedll was Commissioner of

Natural Resources during this era and remembers Chief Executive Gahbow’s efforts to reestablish the Band’s treaty rights.

“There were all kinds of things happening in the greater sphere of things about tribal governments,” Wedll recalled. “One of the things I remember mostly is Art talking about tribal sovereignty. I had no clue what it meant at that time.”

The Chief Executive’s goal was to make things better. “Did he make mistakes along the way? Yes, he did,” Wedll said. “But he also made some real valid and ground-breaking changes: The separation of powers for instance, and giving the State of the Band Addresses was his idea. He did the first State of the Band in 1984. That was totally unheard of, that a reservation would give a State of the Reservation status. It’s like the State of the Union address, but it was for the Reservation, it was telling the people what the status of their government was, and what they could expect in the future.”

Earl Barlow, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Director in Minneapolis, attended that first address and confided in Wedll that the State of the Band was a tremendous idea, and was most likely to be copied by tribal governments across Indian Country. It was

Other historic milestones, in no particular order, included the development of Nay Ah Shing School, the recognition by the State of Minnesota that tribes, in this case the Mille Lacs Band, did not have to waive their sovereign immunity to receive any kind of state funding, and his assertion of the concept of self-governance as opposed to self-determination. Self-governance was key to the Band litigating the 1837 Treaty.

“Art wanted the treaty rights litigated,” Wedll said. “Every State of the Band Address from 1984 on, he directed me to file a lawsuit against the State of Minnesota. It was in 1990, when we had enough money saved, and this provision in ‘self-governance’ where we could use funds to file the case and proceed with the lawsuit.”

Chief Executive Art Gahbow Wewinabi was born on April 26, 1935, on the Mille Lacs Reservation. He was a fluent Ojibwe first-language speaker. On June 10, 1972 he was elected Chairman of the Mille Lacs Reservation Business Committee, later to be known as Chief Executive with the statute change in the 1980s, and served until he passed away in 1991.

April 26, 2022, is recognized as Art Gahbow Day, a day to celebrate a dedicated leader.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Q&A WITH LEGISLATIVE BRANCH STAFF

Get to know Adam Candler

By VALERIE HARRINGTON-WIND — DIBIKWE, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER.

1. What is your title with Mille Lacs Band Legislative Branch?

My job title is Legislative Counsel.

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

Working in the Legislative Branch is not just a job to me; it is a commitment. I am most motivated and feel the most energetic when I know that my work means something. Working in a branch of government that possesses the ability to shape the way the Band government will look for many years to come can be very rewarding. I value the Legislative Branch elected officials and other Band members who cross paths with the Band Assembly in the sense that it is good to see so many people fighting for the different causes they believe in.

3. What motivates you in working in the Legislative Branch?

I am motivated mostly by the ability to pass good laws that will improve Band government in the future. Though passing a law can be very difficult, I am motivated to make progress in any way that is feasible.

4. What is something significant that you are proud of accomplishing with the Legislative Branch?

I am most proud of the Band Assembly's adherence to procedure, (including the adoption of a legislative process, live-streaming, and rules for Band Assembly meetings.

5. How would you describe the Legislative Branch to a Band member that may not know about the Legislative Branch?

I would describe the Legislative Branch to a Band member as a hybrid body of government which retains both the law-making power of the Band and certain approval authorities



Adam Candler

(such as large contracts, land leases, and foster care licenses). The Band Assembly also retains the authority to confirm or deny many appointed officials. As time goes on, it is up to the Band's elected leaders to determine how these powers are exercised.

6. Is there anything else you would like to share with Band members about you or the Legislative Branch?

I would just like to share that I have had a great time working with all of the elected officials and staff members who currently make up the Legislative Branch. Although each of the elected officials sometimes have diverging interests and points of view, they all care a great deal for the well-being of the Band. They also all have terrific senses of humor, which is something that all of us staff members enjoy.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

PRIMARY ELECTION IS APRIL 5, 2020

Candidates for Secretary/Treasurer — 4-Year Term

Wanette Jo Thompson
Carolyn Marie Beaulieu
Sheldon Ray Boyd — Incumbent

Candidates for District II Representative — 4-Year Term

Wendy Megan Merrill
Thomas Lee Benjamin Sr.
Iyawbance LaPrairie-Mushkoob
Daryl John Aubid
Michael Robert Aubid

Candidates for District III Representative — 4-Year Term

Only two candidates. No primary election.

POLLING PLACES

District I Community Center

43500 Virgo Road
Onamia, MN 56359

District II Minisinaakwaang East Lake Community Center

46666 State Hwy. 65
McGregor, MN 55760

District IIA Chiminising Community Center

2605 Chiminising Drive
Isle, MN 56342

District III Aazhoomoog Lake Lena Community Center

45749 Grace Lake Road
Sandstone, MN 55072

URBAN — All Nations Church

1515 East 23rd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404

**** District I Community Center is the designated polling place for absentee ballot voting.**

BRIEFS

Wednesday, March 2, 2022: Joseph Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, presented regarding Wewinabi formal request of economic development funds. Presentation was completed in Executive Session.

Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Natural Resources and Brandi Sam, Interim Director of Land Management, presented regarding land acquisition. The presentation was completed with questions and comments.

Notice of a public comment period

Band Assembly is seeking public comments on proposed legislation available on the Tribal Register amending Title 25 — Revisor of Statute and Title 3 — Legislative Branch. Please see the website Tribal Register for further details.

Band Assembly will be holding a formal public hearing at 10 a.m. on April 6, 2022.



Swearing-In Ceremonies in Band Assembly

Left: Richard Hill was sworn in virtually on March 22, 2022, by Sylvia Wise, Associate Justice, to serve as Elder Representative on the Housing Board.

Lower left: Leanna DeJesus was sworn in on March 2, 2022, to serve as a Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Board Member.

Lower right: Rhonda Sam was sworn in on March 2, 2022, to serve as District I Associate Justice.



STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Pine County receives federal grant to construct fiber broadband: Pine County announced March 18 that it was awarded \$5,576,250 of federal funding in the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill. The bill was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on March 9, by the U.S. Senate on March 10, and then signed into law by President Biden. The funding is the result of an application for a community project through Congressman Pete Stauber and supported in the senate by Senators Klobuchar and Smith. Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) initiated the project and worked with Pine County to complete the application. *Brainerd Dispatch*.

DNR releases details of two more Line 3 aquifer breaches: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has released details of more groundwater leaks caused by the construction of the Line 3 oil pipeline last year. The DNR has completed its investigation of three sites where crews installing the pipeline breached underground aquifers, causing uncontrolled — and unauthorized — flows of groundwater. State regulators previously identified one of the three locations, near Enbridge's Clearbrook terminal. In January 2021, crews installing the replacement pipeline dug deeper than planned, piercing the top layer of an aquifer under pressure. Enbridge reported that flow was stopped nearly a year later, after releasing at least 50 million gallons of groundwater. *MPR*.

First-in-the-nation state office takes on epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous Minnesotans: Juliet Rudie leads the new office after nearly 30 years in law enforcement. The office has a huge task ahead, including wrangling missing person reports across many agencies and databases, fielding calls on active and cold cases and establishing protocols to try and prevent others from disappearing without a trace. The problem is particularly acute for Native American women and girls, who comprise only 1% of the state's population yet made up 8% of all murdered women and girls in Minnesota from 2010 through 2018. Between 27 and 54 Native American women and girls in Minnesota were missing in any given month from 2012 to 2020. *Star Tribune*.

1 walleye limit on Mille Lacs this spring, fall: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has set a limit of one walleye per angler this spring and fall on Mille Lacs Lake. The [Minnesota] DNR announced that anglers will be able to harvest one walleye between 21 and 23 inches, or one longer than 28 inches, from May 14 through May 30. The summer will then be catch-and-release, with an early July closure scheduled to help reduce hooking mortality. The DNR says anglers will have another one-fish limit from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30.

"We must continue to manage state harvest very carefully on Mille Lacs so we can provide as much angling opportunity as prudent while protecting the opportunities for the future," Brad Parsons, the DNR's fisheries section manager, said. "Two recent year classes show below average numbers of walleye, which means we need to factor in that fewer fish than normal will mature into spawning adults during the next few years." State and Ojibwe band leaders have agreed to a total walleye harvest of 135,000 pounds for this year, with 80,300 pounds of that for state anglers. *KSTP*.

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE WORKFORCE



Red Willow Estates

By MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

Housing shortages across the state of Minnesota, as well as in many areas of the country, have hit historic levels and show signs of worsening. As this crisis escalates, Baby Boomers continue to age out of the workforce; deepening labor shortages that have already challenged employers in every industry from the pandemic.

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) affordable housing projects started in 2018, when it certified and leased 28 townhome units in its first Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) project in Hinckley called Lady Luck Estates. The need was there in Hinckley to build quality, affordable housing options. That same need is ever-present for the Mille Lacs area, too.

In 2021, MLCV received a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) award from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. In February 2022, MLCV closed with equity investor RBC Community Investments to begin construction on its latest affordable housing development — Red Willow Estates — a new housing development located in the heart of the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy in Onamia.

When complete, the development will have 15 duplex buildings to house 22 two-bedroom homes and 8 three-bedroom homes, right off of Highway 169. Development amenities include a community garden, a basketball court, a playground, and an outdoor gathering area with grills and a fire pit, picnic

tables, and a covered shelter. Construction will begin Spring 2022, when road restrictions lift.

Leasing Information

Red Willow Estates will be managed by Circle Sage Property Management. Leasing will begin in fall 2022 and will continue until construction is complete in late spring 2023. Units at Red Willow Estates are open to anyone who meets income eligibility on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Interested applicants can complete a pre-application to determine eligibility. If eligible, the applicant is put on a wait list according to the date of their application. Pre-applications can be found at circlesage.managebuilding.com.

When selected, prospective tenants will be required to:

- Complete an application.
- Submit proof of identification for all members of the household (only U.S. citizens allowed).
- Submit proof of household income and assets, etc.
- Consent to release all relevant criminal information for each adult member of the family (criminal background checks and credits checks will be conducted).
- Submit an application fee to cover the cost of the background checks.

To learn more about leasing opportunities with Red Willow Estates, please contact Julius Aubid at jaubid@circlesage.com or 320-362-0973.



Benjamin. "It is our sincere hope that this decision will allow us to move beyond the need to fight with Mille Lacs County over our very existence; instead, we invite the county — and all of our local governments — to come alongside us and join with us in the fight for a better future for all of our communities for generations to come."

The Band filed a motion on February 1, 2021, asking the Court to rule that the Mille Lacs Reservation created in the Treaty of 1855 remains intact. Mille Lacs County also requested a partial summary judgment ruling that the Reservation no longer exists.

The lawsuit alleges that the County, County Sheriff, and County Attorney restricted Band police officers from exercising police powers within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation, in a manner that was inconsistent with federal law defining the Band's law enforcement authority. The Band is seeking a declaration clarifying its inherent law enforcement authority and preventing the County from taking any actions that interfere with that authority.

The Court had earlier agreed to defer motions on the scope of the Mille Lacs Band's law enforcement authority until the Court resolves the "issues relating to the status of the 1855 Mille Lacs Indian Reservation."

That ruling has now been made.

"There are important law enforcement questions that Judge Nelson has yet to decide," Chief Executive Benjamin wrote in a Facebook post on that date. "On the question of our Reservation, however, we have persevered. This is a moment in our history that I will never forget, and I wanted to share this good news with you, the Band members. In our hearts, we always knew this has always been — and will always be — our homeland. Miigwech to all Band members. Some of us have waited all of our lives for this news. Today is a good day. Miigwech!"

The ruling, however, has caused non-Band member county residents to ask the question, "What next?"

The County issued a statement that said, "We believe [the Court] reached the wrong conclusion. We expect to appeal this decision to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and that the case may ultimately land in the U.S. Supreme Court."

The County's statement also continued citing, "This will be a significant change for the many residents and businesses in the area that have, for over a century, been living with the shared understanding that their land was not on an Indian Reservation."

But the facts are the facts. The Band continues to attempt to ease the unnecessary fears of non-Band members by reaffirming the facts to the most frequently asked questions.

What does this mean for Band members? It means that their homelands have always existed and always will. It means that the Band will continue to have the right to self-govern what happens on Band lands without interference from the county.

What does this mean for non-Indian neighbors? Nothing — it is business-as-usual. The Band will always work to be good neighbors, just like other tribes do. Please see the FAQ page on the Mille Lacs Band website at <https://millelacsband.com/home/faq>.

To date, the County has spent over \$7 million of Mille Lacs County tax-payer's money to fund litigation in the lawsuit. Even without appealing this ruling, that number is sure to rise as the main body of the case has yet to be determined. If the ruling/case is appealed, and follows through to the Supreme Court, the litigation fees will continue to escalate, which could cost tax payers millions more. The Mille Lacs County Facebook page has over 155 comments on the subject of rising costs to tax payers who do not appear to be pleased with the County spending \$7 million, nor do they appear to be happy about the county spending more tax dollars to continue the fight on the boundary issue.

The County continues to defend its decision and intent to appeal Judge Nelson's ruling by posting on the County website, "Unless reversed on appeal, this ruling on the Mille Lacs Reservation's status increases the size and scope of 'Indian Country' within Mille Lacs County."

For neighbors who are worried about living in Indian Country, think about this: There are over 1,000 non-Indian people living inside the boundary of the Leech Lake reservation. Cass County and the tribe have an outstanding relationship. Part of the city of Cloquet is inside

the Fond du Lac Reservation, where there are allegedly more non-Natives than Fond du Lac members living on the reservation. The entire city of Palm Springs is on a Reservation, as is a large part of Tacoma, Washington. And nearly half of the state of Oklahoma is considered Indian reservation land representing various federally recognized tribes.

The County's statement concludes using words such as "potential impacts to residents who live, work, and do business in the 61,000 acres Judge Nelson held constitute the Mille Lacs Reservation." The word "potential" implies the *possibility* of impacts. However, for more than 20 years, the County has been unable to demonstrate any harm from the existence of the Reservation. On three occasions, including a ruling by Judge Nelson earlier in this case, federal courts found that the County failed to establish any such harm. The statement can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/mr295cw7>

"This ruling reaffirms what our ancestors fought for and understood and what we have always known — that our Reservation is our permanent home, that it was never lawfully disestablished or diminished, and that it will be our home forever," Chief Executive Benjamin said.

The case started out about law enforcement, and those questions are still before the Court. The case is not over. The boundary was one issue in the case.

"IN OUR HEARTS, WE ALWAYS KNEW THIS HAS BEEN — AND ALWAYS WILL BE — OUR HOMELAND."

— CHIEF EXECUTIVE MELANIE BENJAMIN

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OMB

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has a number of Band member checks that have not been claimed. Please visit the Mille Lacs Band website at <https://www.millelacsband.com/government/resources1/office-of-management-and-budget> to review the list to see if your name or a family member's name is on the list.

If your name is on the list, please contact OMB to verify that you have funds available to you. If you have a family member on this list, please have them contact OMB directly. There are a number of checks for deceased Band members. OMB is looking for the person or persons responsible for their estate. If the responsible person has the appropriate legal documents, OMB will release the estate check to that person only.

You may contact the following people: Dani Jo Harkness at 320-532-7592, Alyssa Comey at 320-532-8928, or Katy Radunz at 320-532-7471.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Two UP tribes involved in new project look at missing, murdered Native Americans: The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is asking for the public's help in gaining information for its recently created database to track and resolve cases of missing and murdered tribal members Michigan's Sault Tribe and Bay Mills Indian Community are among tribes in six states chosen to participate in a national pilot project addressing the missing and murdered Indigenous people crisis.

The rates of murder, rape and violent crime among Native Americans and Alaskan Natives are all higher than the national average. The crimes disproportionately impact Indigenous women, who are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than women of any other ethnicity.

"The project's goal is to help tribal communities create and implement a response plan that follows FBI guidelines on how victim services, law enforcement agencies, and media can better respond to a report of a missing Native person," said Joel Postma, Michigan's program coordinator in the U.S. Department of Justice. *Detroit News*.

Biden's budget plan: Higher taxes on rich, lower deficits: President Joe Biden announced a budget blueprint March 28, 2022, that calls for higher taxes on the wealthy, lower federal deficits, more money for police and greater funding for education, public health and housing. Appearing at the White House with his budget director Shalanda Young, Biden said the proposal sends a clear message to the public about "what we value." He outlined a focus on fiscal responsibility, safety and security and investments to "build a better America." *Star Tribune*.

Sen. Smith's Bipartisan Bill to Help Tribes Pursue Justice for Crimes of Sexual Violence Signed Into Law: U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) — a member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee — announced that her bipartisan legislation, which will restore Tribal criminal jurisdiction over crimes of sexual violence committed by non-Native offenders on Tribal lands, was signed into law.

According to the National Institute of Justice, over half of all Native American women — 56 percent — and more than one in four Native men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetimes. And among those, almost all — 96 percent of women and 89 percent of men — were victimized by a non-Native offender. Yet, few survivors ever see justice.

The Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act aims to help survivors of sexual violence by allowing Tribes to prosecute cases of sexual violence, domestic and dating violence, sex trafficking, stalking, and obstruction of justice related to these crimes committed by non-Native perpetrators. *Sen. Smith Press Release*.

Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Releases Report on Native American Voting Rights: Vice President Harris announces additional steps in response to the to the President's executive order to promote access to voting. The President and Vice President have also forcefully called for changing Senate rules to prevent a minority of Senators from blocking action on this fundamental right from which all other rights flow. *White House Press Release*.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HONORED

HHS RECOGNIZED WITH CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health and Human Services American Indian Food Security Work Group has been selected as a 2021 Commissioner's Circle of Excellence Award winner. The awards recognize excellence among human services providers, counties, tribes, advocacy groups, and other organizations that work in partnership with Minnesota Department of Human Services to help people meet their basic needs so they can live in dignity and achieve their highest potential.

Carmen Kalk, Dean Reynolds, and their team continue to excel in locating, obtaining, and coordinating food services for the Mille Lacs Band communities. Meeting daily needs can be strenuous and difficult for families and individuals during challenging times. The Food Security group takes some of the pressure off to ensure the needs of the communities are met and that families and individuals feel safe and welcome through various programs and services.

"I am honored to receive this award, and am proud of Dean and his staff for going above and beyond during this pandemic," said Carmen Kalk, Executive Director of Human Services. "Although, it was more than just Human Services department who made this possible. I would like to give a shout out to all Mille Lacs Band employees and staff from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley who assisted Human Services."

Receiving state recognition is rewarding to the team at HHS. But the real rewards are collected every day. "The reason I like my job is, I like helping people and every day is different," said Dean Reynolds, Coordinator of Emergency Services. "There is a sense of accomplishment and being a productive part of the community every time we help somebody in need. In a way, I look at it as investing in the future of our community. By taking care of our people today, we ensure somebody will be there to



Food Distribution Staff, along with Carment Kalk, Executive Director of Human Services and Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health and Human Services took a few minutes to enjoy some spring sunshine with a photo op for recognition of the Circle of Excellence Award. Pictured are Carmen Kalk, Jessi Nayquonabe, Vanessa Weyaus, Nicole Anderson, Dean Reynolds in front. Not pictured are Jeff Aubele, Roberta Sam, and Dan Boyd. Miigwech to this incredible team your support to the community.

take care of our children and Elders tomorrow. Eventually we will be the Elders and would need the children of today to take care of us. Hopefully when that time comes, we will have people like Carmen and our team to keep our work going."

Commitment to providing excellent programs and services

is a team effort. "We could not do this alone so I would also like to acknowledge our team, Dan Boyd, Jeff Aubele, Jessi Nayquonabe, and although fairly new to our team Vanessa Weyaus," Reynolds said. "Without them we could not have served the community the way we did."

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

SPRINGTIME SUGARBUSHING

By KEN WEYAUS, SR., MILLE LACS BAND ELDER

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

The "sugarbush" is an English translation of the way the Ojibwe people describe the trees and the land where we make maple syrup and maple sugar in early spring. Sugarbushing usually begins in February or March, when there is still snow on the ground. We've been sugarbushing for a long time, and it's something we still do today and teach our children.

Here's how:

Traditionally, about 50 to 100 people would go out to the sugarbush camps. These were groups of families, and all of the family members would help out. The whole tribe wouldn't go sugarbushing because not everyone knew the process and some of them might accidentally waste the sap. So only the people who knew what they were doing would go out. This way, they didn't waste anything. The ones who didn't go sugarbushing would go hunting, and they would trade furs and meat for sugar cakes and syrup.

Usually the maple sap runs around about February or March. How much sap there is depends on how the winter was. Not much snow means not much sap.

The sap is not in the center of the tree — it is in the inner bark of the tree. Traditionally, our people would tap the maple tress with a hatchet. They would make a groove in the bark and fit a wooden spigot into it. Today, we use augers to drill holes before we put in spigots.

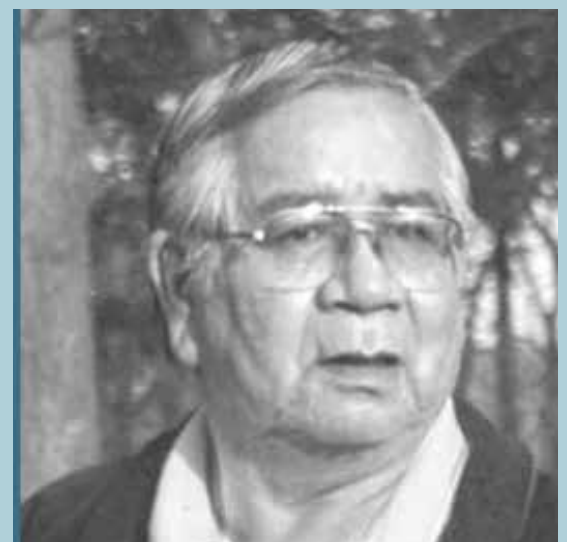
The sap from the trees you have tapped drips into buckets or birch bark containers under the spigots. Periodically, you check to see how the containers have filled up. How does the sap come out? It depends on the weather. It needs to be nice and warm. If it's too cold, the

sap won't run. Some days, the buckets will fill up in half a day, other days it takes more or less time.

When the buckets have filled up enough, you take what's there and put it in a bigger container. When you have enough of these, you take the bigger containers of sap and put them into big iron kettles. The Indians first got these kinds of kettles from fur traders. Then you start making the sap into maple syrup, maple candy, and maple sugar.

The process is done in three stages. First, the sap is boiled down to syrup. That takes about seven to eight hours. You can leave some of the syrup at this stage to use for cooking, sweetening tea, and other things.

Some of the syrup can also be put into birch bark containers that are shaped like ice cream cones. This hardens into maple candy that will last for years. During the third stage, the syrup can be put into a wooden trough. It is worked with a paddle and mashed down. You work it and work it until it becomes maple sugar. Sugarbushing lasts about a month. You don't boil the sap when it's raining, because the wet weather would just make it take longer to boil. You only do it on nice days.



SWEET NUTRITION FROM THE TREES

Maple syrup is packed with power

By JACKIE BRAUN, MS, RD, LD, DIABETES PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Concentrated Tree Sap to Maple Syrup

Sap is the blood of a tree, carrying nutrients from the soil to the branches when new buds form. When the sap is concentrated, typically through boiling or freezing, the water evaporates but the nutrients remain intact. The final end product is a sticky, sweet product known as pure maple syrup.

Powerful Nutrients

Pure maple syrup contains no additives and does not lose any nutrients during the refining process. When compared to other sweeteners, such as white sugar and honey, it contains similar calories and carbohydrates per serving. However, what sets it apart from refined sugar is its unique flavor and nutrient profile.

Maple syrup is a good source of manganese and riboflavin, minerals that support brain function, collagen production, and glucose metabolism. The sticky sweetener is also packed with phytochemicals containing antioxidant properties. Antioxidants are compounds that protect the body's cells against damage from free radicals (molecules produced when the body breaks down certain food or is exposed to pollutants such as tobacco smoke or radiation).

Although maple syrup has more nutrients and phytochemicals than refined sweeteners, it still contains about 65% sugar and should be considered as a source of "added sugar." Excess added sugar intake has been linked to an increased risk of obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity-related conditions. The 2015–2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend added sugars make up no more than 10 percent of



daily calories. For an average 2,000-calorie diet, that is a total of 50 grams of added sugar per day.

When choosing a syrup from the grocery aisle, be sure to look for the label that reads "pure maple syrup." Other "maple flavored syrup" can look very similar, but typically contains corn syrup and artificial maple flavoring and less of the antioxidant properties found in pure maple syrup.

The Bottom Line

As with any sweetener, moderation is key. Although maple syrup contains more antioxidants than other sweeteners, it is still considered an "added sugar." I recommend pairing maple syrup with nutrient-rich foods, such as a drizzle in plain yogurt, oatmeal, or butternut squash. Enjoy!

HHS/HEALTH/ELDER BRIEFS

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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

#MMIW AWARENESS DAY IS MAY 5, 2022

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT & RED DRESS DONATION REQUEST

Save the date! May 5, 2022, is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIW). The Family Violence Prevention Program will be hosting a powerful event in honor of MMIW Awareness Day on Thursday, May 5, 2022, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Mille Lacs Band Government Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. The event will leave a lasting impact. So please, save the date and plan on attending.

Event organizers are also asking for help from the community by collecting red dresses to be donated to the event. You can drop off red dress donations at Health and Human Service Family Violence Prevention Program, at the Women's Healing Circle, or at the front desk at the Government Center before April 25.

The dresses will bring awareness to MMIW. The dresses will be installed in a high-traffic area on the Mille Lacs Reservation Vineland area with the goal of reaching thousands with a powerful statement.

The National Information Crime Center, a federal agency, has documented more than 5,000 cases of missing Indigenous women. Experts say the real number is likely higher.

In the United States, homicide is the third leading cause of death among Native women ages 10 to 24, according to the Urban Indian Health Institute, and Native women are victims of murder more than 10 times the national average, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. "It is our intent to draw attention so that action can be made," said Kristen Allord, Mille Lacs Band Family Violence and Prevention Program.

Watch Facebook for more information as the event draws closer. Help bring awareness to the MMIW and honor the sisters, mothers, daughters, and nieces who never made it home.

Missing & Murdered Unit

Email OJS_MMU@BIA.GOV

Call **1-833-560-2065**

Confidential | Toll-Free | 24/7

Text Keyword **BIAMMU** and location to **847411**

Call, text, or email tips or referrals to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Missing and Murdered Unit to help with any information concerning a missing Indigenous person or homicides in Indian Country.

YOU CAN HELP.

Missing and Murdered Unit
<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ojs/missing-murdered-unit>

OPERATION LADY JUSTICE
<https://operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov/>

WOMEN'S HEALING CIRCLE IKWEWAG NOOJIMO' IWEWIN GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

Celebrating One Year

By MARY SAM, MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE

Founded by Asinikwe Sam, the Women's Healing Circle is celebrating one year of bringing Indigenous women from the area together, to learn and practice traditions and crafts, promote healing, and to support one another through life's challenges. Healing grief and loss has been a central theme for many involved. Breaking the cycles of trauma is a common goal for participants. In addition to a weekly gathering and other activities, members share events and promote daily messages to empower women and support healing via social media posts from Asinikwe.

Some of the members the group talked about why the Circle came together and the lessons learned this year that will help them continue to grow and heal. Given the significant issues with safety and trust in healing for women, this group aims to offer a safe place for local Indigenous women to gather. The members have been working hard on themselves and their families, and to help the community break the cycles of trauma so many were raised in or currently live in.

Many of the women talked about how stepping outside of, or away from, the current systems in place sometimes needs to happen in order to feel safe. They know that their voice matters. The group shared that relying on and trusting our teachings and finding common ground to proceed in a good way based on our collective family teachings (regardless of where each person is from) creates safety and hope. Trusting the power within has been rewarding and affirming for many of the women involved. They shared that sometimes the systems in place are not safe or welcoming. Sometimes those in positions of helpers may not be safe and the environment does not feel okay.

Although some women were raised in traditional families, some have not been, and some struggle to define what is traditional or who gets to define this for us — for the group. Many shared concerns around shaming and judgmental ways that humans sometimes put towards one another. Defining spirituality and healing based on our teachings, practicing humility,

"THIS STARTS WITH US. WOMEN ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR FAMILIES. OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ARE WATCHING AND NEED US."

— ASINIKWE SAM



Women's Healing Circle hosted the "Honoring those who didn't come home — Boarding School Survivors event in the fall of 2021.

and listening in a welcoming environment is helping women feel a sense of place, belonging, and personal safety. It is not uncommon to hear a Circle participant say, "Miigwech for listening to me," or "Miigwech for welcoming me." Asinikwe said, "We are growing and learning together."

Each week, the Circle gathers, starting with a smudge, and through a talking Circle they share about how their past week has been. The women listen, cry, laugh, and learn from one another in a solution-centered manner. Laughter and tears are two medicines of healing. There is much laughter. The group shares a light meal together, discusses upcoming projects and/or works on a craft project, participates in a self-care activity, and for some, ending the evening with a walk. Keeping their hands busy, while listening and learning, helps reduce fears about learning something new. Sewing and crafting has been a long tradition of our

mothers and grandmothers, which helped to create community.

The group has learned to make birch bark earrings, lanyards, star quilts, asemaa pouches, ribbon skirts, and more. A sense of community and safety has been created within this group.

The group hosted the "Honoring those who didn't come home — Boarding School Survivors" event last fall and has collaborated with the Men's Empowerment Group on projects as well as the District I office on a few events, including the New Year's Eve Sobriety Pow Wow.

The Women's Healing Circle hopes to serve as a voice of change and to create a safe place for women to gather, they said. They hope to teach, model, and create activities that support women being together, without competition, bullying, or judgement that can sometimes interfere with a woman's healing process. They hope to continue to collaborate on local events to lift up healthy changes in our community. They want to support activities that create solutions and support healing, even when the work is difficult. "This starts with us," said Asinikwe. "Women are the backbone of our families. Our children and grandchildren are watching and need us."



LEARNING TO SAVE MONEY ON SNACKS

The Building Native Communities financial literacy class through Aanjibimaadizing participated in an activity where they learned to plan and prepare snacks ahead of time instead of spending money at the convenience store.

"Women are brave and always have been. Women are often the first ones to stand up and speak up. We need to find balance as we are dealing with so many sad things in our lives, often. We still need to keep on living for our kids — our young people. They are watching us all of the time. We need, deserve to experience joy and happiness."

— Rose Robinson, Leech Lake Elder, Trainer for American Indian Minnesota DHS-ASAD, American Indian Programs

NAY AH SHING TREATY DAY POWWOW

Nay Ah Shing Schools celebrated Treaty Day on Friday, March 18, with a fun-filled powwow. Teachers, staff, family members, and students enjoyed dancing to the songs of the NASS Nay Ah Shing Singers and Red Willow singers. Be sure to check out many more photos on the Inaajimowin.com photo gallery. Please visit <https://www.inaajimowin.com/galleries>.



EDUCATION BRIEFS

NAY AH SHING SCHOOLS HAVE A NEW WEBSITE

Nay Ah Shing Schools are upgrading their website. The new website is easy to navigate and understand for students, parents, guardians, teachers, and staff. "What is cool about this website is students and parents/guardians have easy direct access to their student email, Seesaw, Google Classroom, Achieve3000, Smarty Ants, and Apex," said Sarah Pylvanen, Nay Ah Shing K-12 Interim Assistant Principal. "They can also see the school Google calendar in real time. There are direct links to each classroom, too. Teachers can post and send messages directly through the classroom link."

Each classroom has classroom-specific content to help students, and updated photos will help to engage the students. Teachers can each update their own classroom links and not have to rely on one person to do all of the school daily updates.

Parents/guardians can also find other resources such as forms, testing schedules, and the lunch menu.

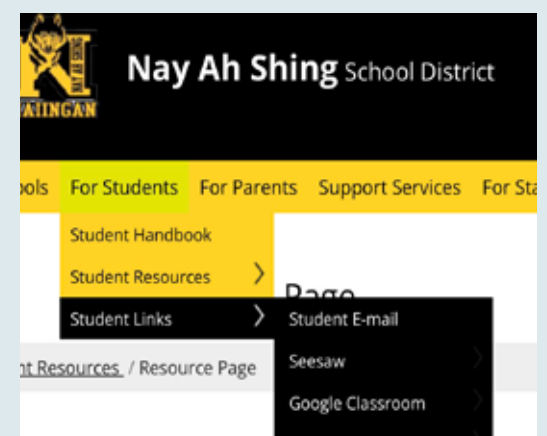
"We are continuing to evolve to ensure success in our students. This is just another example of how we are meeting the students where they are at," said Byron Nynham, Interim Executive Director. "That is a huge part of success."

While the new website is still in the construction phase, you can check it out and watch the progress by visiting <https://nas.ss20.sharpschool.com/home>.

MORE

Nay Ah Shing Tribal School was developed in 1975 as a result of community and tribal leaders' vision and desire to provide educational services for the reservation children. Tribal Leaders and Elders are continually working to further develop and enhance the school programs. Both the students and staff are required to follow the guidelines and policies established by the state of Minnesota, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Screenshots of the new Nay Ah Shing website.



GENERATIONS OF FAMILY TRADITIONS

By BENJI SAM, MASHKODE-BIZHIKIGAHBAW



Year in and out making sugar bush a family affair has been the top priority. Teaching and helping young children learn the importance of maple sugar, the hard working process, and togetherness is important to the Sam (Houle) family.

TAPPING SUGAR MAPLES

Each spring as winter lets loose its firm grasp on the northland, the memories of sitting around a fire under a star-filled sky and the low rumble of sap boiling fills my head. A teaching as old as time in Ojibwe history, Iskigamizigan is a family tradition passed down from generation to generation. From boiling down sap in birch baskets to the newest evaporators, maple sugar has always been something that helps us Anishinaabe stay healthy and grounded in our culture and physical well-being. With warmer days upon us, our tradition has not changed but may look a little different than in years past.

Our family, as well as many others from our tribe, has tapped the same area for the better part of the last 30 years. But this year, we needed to be fed prior to tapping our own trees after the recent passing of the head of our family, David Amik Sam. On behalf of the Sam/Houle family, I would like to thank the Mille Lacs Band DNR office for their hard work and dedication to our people for harvesting enough maple sap to feed our family, and many others, after a year of such tragic loss. These folks often work behind the scenes to provide wood, fish, deer, rice, maple sap, and many other things to our tribe to help feed mourning and recovering families in time of need, and they deserve a thousand thanks for all the hard work they do.

Tapping sugar maples with my father, many aunts and uncles, cousins, and friends has been an annual tradition for us as long as I can remember. Some folks hang buckets, and some hang bags, but the hard work remains the same. The daunting task of heading to the woods once, twice, sometimes three times a day to stay on top of the sweet, sweet sap is something that helps make this process so rewarding. My father used to love this time of year and I remember my grandma Betty could sit by the fire for days on end. It is difficult taking part in it without him for the first time in my life.

Back when I was in high school, it wasn't uncommon for us to tap 160-200 trees a year, and it almost became a full-time job outside of our everyday tasks. It never felt like a burden to me, I was just young and tried to do what I was told. This also became a year-round task as we tend to burn through wood



The late David "Amik" Sam tapping the same area of trees that our family has tapped for the last 100-plus years. Times have changed and we no longer use tin cans but our history stays close and reminds us to be thankful and appreciative every step of the way



Benji's niece, Star, loves sipping sweet sap directly from the tap, making the most of each moment in the woods.

as fast as you can notch and drop it. This year, we tapped just enough to replenish our own personal supplies for the year and to keep our family tradition alive.

While hanging taps this year, someone mentioned that my cousin Jon Houle and I are the old men of the family now and with that comes a lot of responsibility. We made the decision to retire a few of the old maples, grandfather trees I call them, and to set a few new taps in maples that have finally reached maturity. Using a team approach, we have been able to keep our tradition alive year in and out. It is so wonderful each spring

watching the number of children out in the woods to help. Our young family has grown to over a dozen children under the age of 12 between my own, my siblings', and cousins' children, and each of them help as much as they are able.

I look forward to a few spring boils where we have too much food around, laugh until we cry, throw each other in the snowbanks and mud puddles, and just be together as a family. While we may have downsized our overall operation this year, we have continued to grow our tradition of tapping sugar maples to keep our family medicine strong.



Boiling sap in a modern evaporator.

OSHKINIIGIKWE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

INSPIRING YOUNG OJIBWE WOMEN TO HARNESS THEIR SUPERPOWERS

ENCOURAGING SERVANT LEADERSHIP

The Oshkiniigikwe Leadership Conference for young women at Grand Casino Hinckley on Saturday, March 19, was a success. Oshkiniigikwe means “young lady” and the event was planned and designed entirely by young women with the goal of inspiring and supporting fellow Oshkiniigikwe as they discover and develop superpowers that will help them on their journey of servant leadership.

Nearly 160 young women attended the one-day conference that was packed with events and breakout sessions for a full day of superpower training. Breakout sessions inspired participants to write their own music, create their own video games, and sew a ribbon skirt. There were also virtual and augmented reality experiences available. In total, 14 speakers and workshop leaders provided content to educate and inspire the girls in attendance.

“Miigwech to all of the young ladies who attended the conference. It was great to mentor young ladies who volunteered to be a part of the planning committee,” said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. “As an Anishinaabe woman, it is my responsibility to share my knowledge, experiences, and trainings with others; and what a fun way to accomplish this ongoing mentorship. Our future will be in good hands with our young people.”

The keynote presentation was provided by Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, who captivated the audience with a powerful message and opened the floor to questions from the young ladies. She even called the young ladies to the front of the room so she could take a selfie with them.

Other event speakers included:

- Roxanne DeLille, a member of the Band River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Dean of Indigenous and Academic Affairs at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, who gave a talk about resilience as a young Anishinaabe woman and creating your own strength for success.
- Cecilia Fire Thunder, a nurse, community health planner, and tribal leader of the Oglala Sioux, spoke to the girls about their future as servant leaders to their communities, tribes, and themselves.
- The event emcee was Sarah Oquist, a Band member, attorney, and experienced business leader focused on leadership development coaching.

The event concluded with a Round Dance at the Meshakwad Community Center from 6 to 10 p.m. that was open to the public.

Chief Executive Benjamin is a member of the Young Women’s Initiative of Minnesota, which is a partnership between the Lieutenant Governor’s Office and the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota. The idea for the conference came about when Lt. Gov. Flanagan initiated a goal for members of the initiative’s council to go back to their communities and develop a leadership event that would inspire young women within their own communities. Chief Executive Benjamin dove into the project, recruiting strong Anishinaabekwe to become involved.

“I am proud of these young women for embracing the leadership abilities within them, and the opportunities that are before them,” said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. “In our culture, women have always served their communities. As I look at these young servant leaders, I think the future of the Band, and of all our Anishinaabe communities, looks very bright.”

More photos of the event and many beautiful photos from the Roundy at Meshakwad can be found in the photo gallery section at Inaajimowin.com.



OSHKINIIGIKWE CONFERENCE SPURS SUPERPOWERS, ENGAGES YOUNG LEADERS

On Saturday, March 19, nearly 160 young women attend the Oshkiniigikwe Leadership Conference where they were captivated by an inspiring speech by Minnesota Lt. Governor, Peggy Flanagan who ended her speech by taking a selfie with the attendees (above). The attendees also enjoyed activities such as sewing ribbon skirts, learning to create video games, learning to write songs, and were visited by country music artist Dave McElroy (below).



OJIBWEMOWIN NIIMI'IDING — A CEREMONIAL DANCE JOE'S GUIDE TO CEREMONIAL DRUMS AT MILLE LACS

Gaa-tibaajimod (told by) Joe Nayquonabe Sr., Waabishkibines
Gaa-tibaajimotawaajin (transcribed by) James Clark, Ozaawaanakwad

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 written. 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.

Introduction/Reasoning

People have come far and wide to tell me that they do not feel comfortable going to the dances, especially when they get there. It's like going to school. If you want to learn about the dance, you need to be there.

Process — How Joe Enters the Dance Hall

Find an open place to sit (some places are designated for members/female members/drum keepers/warriors (Ogichidaag)), dress appropriately for the ceremony ahead, and use your discretion, as this is sacred to us Anishinaabeg.

Around the drum there is aa Asemaa dish. Joe notices upon various people's entering the dance hall and then after ceremonial proceedings, they put Asemaa down (not required of all visitors).

After a few opening songs, the speaker will be announcing the beginning of the ceremonial proceedings, and then he will tell the

singers to begin the ceremonial songs that belong to that drum.

Each member of the drum has a designated song that they will dance to. Members give gifts after their song, which shows they are thankful and appreciative for their song. These gifts are given to whomever the members feel should receive it.

In addition, visiting drum members may choose to also dance along to those songs they were designated at their home dance.

After the ceremonial songs are completed, that is when they finish a bundle of gifts that will be set out for the members of the visiting drums. The tobacco dish will be set out for people to put their Asemaa down.

Once those bundles are completed, the pipe will be lit and prayers will be offered by a speaker for the bundles, the people in attendance, and those in need.

When setting Asemaa down (praying), people may put Asemaa down for those they wish the drums to protect/look over, Joe offers his Asemaa for the warriors, people dealing with addiction, and finally his Namesakes.

Once everyone who belongs to that drum puts Asemaa in, you can continue to offer (again, not required of all visitors).

Once those bundles are counted by number of visiting drum members present, they'll be divided up.

After that, the pipe man will begin to smoke the pipe and start to share with the people around the drum, and then visiting drum members, and if there's any left then the non-members.

Then the home drum keepers will distribute the bundles to the visiting members. If the keepers and members of the same drum are there, then they could open the bundles and distribute. Otherwise, you open the bundle at home and give to those that take care of the drum at a later time.

Once done, the speaker will talk about having dinner and getting ready for the social.

The second part begins with the lady's song. How do you know if someone wants to dance with you? They'll give you a

gift to dance. Once that dance is complete, you go back and give that person something to dance one more time (for example: material, money, blanket, or beadwork).

Once the night is danced away, then you begin to close with one last song.

Sometimes thanks and safe travels to visitors are given.

Conclusion

If you see me at the dance hall with an open seat, then come and sit next to me and I will let you know what is going on to the best of my knowledge during whichever part of the dance we are at.

People are having fears about not being able to speak/understand the language and also what is going on and the cultural protocol. The creator and drum are happy to see everyone there and it belongs to the Anishinaabe people. No shame for not yet knowing our language and culture, it belongs to all of us, not just a group. Creator understands.

Note from James Clark:

Joe would like to invite you to come to the drum that he and his nephew take care of. You will not be able to sit next to him as those are drum keepers' positions, but he will help you out and find someone that will be willing to tell you what is happening. It is okay not to know — it is understood why. Let's all work to change it.

Miigwech.

Offerings (Prayers)/Social Exchange

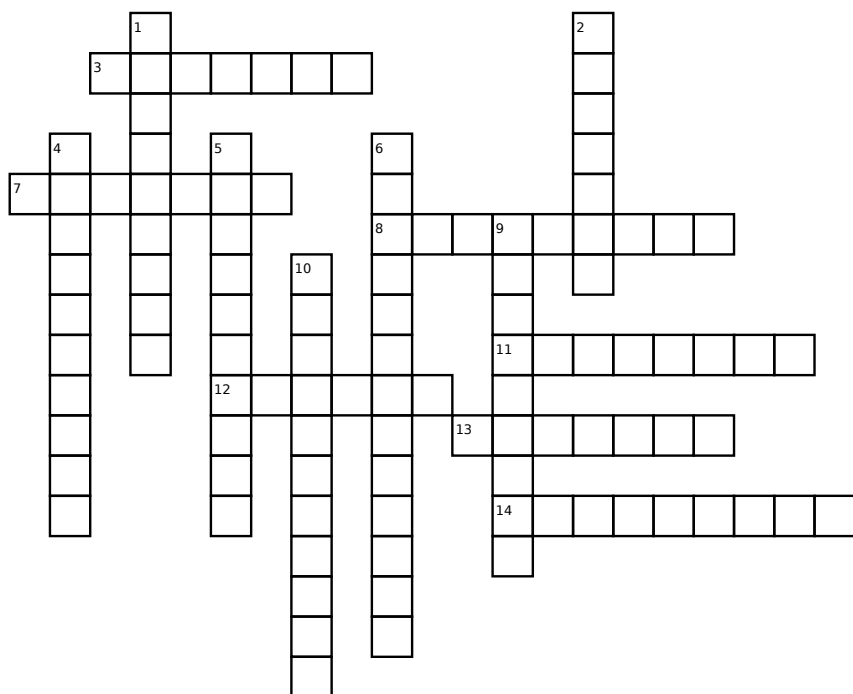
Tobacco (Asemaa), money (zhooniyaa), blankets (waa-booyaan), material (gidagiigin), not limited to only these items.

SPRING CEREMONIAL DANCE SCHEDULE

<i>Mic and Syngen</i>	<i>Mille Lacs</i>	<i>April 1 and 2, 2022</i>
<i>Andy and Steve</i>	<i>Mille Lacs</i>	<i>April 8 and 9, 2022</i>
<i>Lynda and LeAnn</i>	<i>Mille Lacs</i>	<i>April 15 and 16, 2022</i>
<i>Joe and George</i>	<i>Mille Lacs</i>	<i>April 22 and 23, 2022</i>
<i>Joe and Sheldon</i>	<i>Mille Lacs</i>	<i>May 6 and 7, 2022</i>
<i>Darrell and Skip</i>	<i>Lake Lena</i>	<i>May 13 and 14, 2022</i>
<i>Lee and Mike</i>	<i>Lake Lena</i>	<i>May 20 and 21, 2022</i>
<i>Tim and Tom</i>	<i>East Lake</i>	<i>May 27 and 28, 2022</i>
<i>Niib and Iyaabens</i>	<i>East Lake</i>	<i>June 3 and 4, 2022</i>
<i>Bob and John</i>	<i>Mille Lacs</i>	<i>June 10 and 11, 2022</i>
<i>Vince and Dale</i>	<i>East Lake</i>	<i>June 17 and 18, 2022</i>

AAZHAWAAKWASING ISKIGAMIZIGE-GIIZIS

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMEBER



Down:

1. Clear sky.
2. The sun rises.
4. The sun is setting.
5. The leaves bud.
6. It is a puddle.
9. Gisinaamagad _____. (It is cold outside.)
10. The rain stops

Across:

3. Rain
7. ____ agwajiing. (It is warm outside.)
8. Warming up in the sun
11. Mud
12. ___ ezhiwebak agwajiing?(What's it like outside?)
13. It is spring.
14. Major Storm

CREATING NEW

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

A great way to gain spiritual energy is to create it. We are often taught that when we learn a new skill or how to make a new item, such as a blanket or tool, we should gift that item out to someone rather than keep it. Learning a new skill generates humility. Quite a bit of energy goes into that first one — plenty of thinking and lessons. What you put into it you get back. They say to keep positive energy when creating things, and build the nerve to be patient. When you gift all that out, you receive back the lessons you put into it.

When items are received by our fellow Anishinaabe, they accept all of our gratitude and positive energy within that item that we put into it. They accept on behalf of the spirits utilizing their Anishinaabe spirit within. The Manidoog then see what you have put into it. All the energy, prayers, gratitude, patience, teachings, and lessons, and we receive them back in the form of bimaadiziwin.

As we go about and learn new things, the Manidoog see that we are out trying in this physical world of ours. They see that we are learning to build ourselves up, whether it be mentally, physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They see that we want to be better to do better. They will guide us as there have been prayers from our ancestors to be able to survive in a world they couldn't have imagined. But, they sent their prayers forward because they knew we would need them today. They gifted one another all the the teachings, items, tools, and customs knowing that someday we would seek them in the future.

It can be anything, big or small. Remember, a little bit goes a



long way in offerings. Whether it be a handcarved sumac maple tap, a star quilt, beadwork, lacrosse stick, or even a drawing or painting, gift them out. Ideally we would gift out the first one and any subsequent one after that should our spirits guide us to do so. When we all create and gift, we will generate energy that will carry on to our grandchildren's grandchildren. We can't even imagine the world they will grow up in but I am certain that they will need our energy from today.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Season change is a big deal for Anishinaabe. Spring is the beginning of an Anishinaabe New Year.

It's like the dawn of a new day. New possibilities come forth. It is definitely a good time to learn new Shinaabe words.

We can describe our world in ways that the English language cannot.

Our world view is held within our language.

Ziigwan = It is spring. (Zee gwun)

Zaagibagaa = The leaves bud. (Zah gih bug gah)

Azhashki = Mud. (Uh zhush kih)

Gimiwan = Rain. (Gim mih wun)

Nichiiwad = Major Storm. (Nitch chee wud)

Boonibiisaa = The rain stops. (Boon nib bee sah)

Aabawaate = Warming up in the sun. (Aah buh wah tay)

Mooka'am = The sun rises. (Moo kuh' um)

Mizhakwad = Clear sky. (Mizh zhuk kwud)

Bangishimo = The sun is setting. (Bung gish shim moh)

Waanzhibiiyaa = It is a puddle. (Wahn zhib bee yah)

Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiing? = What's it like outside? (Aah neen ezhih way buck ug gwuh jeeng)

Gisinaamagad agwajiing = It is cold outside. (Gih sin nah mug gud ug gwuh jiiing)

Aabawaa agwajiing = It is warm outside. (Aah buh wah ug gwuh jiiing)

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

MINOKAW TECHNOLOGIES JOINS THE MOMENTUM FAMILY

By Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

In late January 2022, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) entered into an agreement with Pennsylvania company, Momentum ECM, LLC., to purchase Minokaw VAR Services, LLC. (Minokaw Technologies).

Minokaw Technologies is a technology company that specializes in the sale, support, and development of enterprise content management software, specifically Laserfiche. Minokaw Technologies was launched by MLCV in 2015 under the leadership of Ned Weizenegger and Lance Dutcher, who previously worked in the information systems department at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The necessity of Minokaw Technologies came from continuous requests by Laserfiche for Ned and Lance to consult with other tribes and install and support the Laserfiche software.

Since 2015, Minokaw Technologies has added over 30 clients from states across the country, including Alaska, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Washington, and New York to name a few. Their clients range from tribal governments and casinos to non-tribal cities and health care systems. The pandemic created a sense of urgency for many tribes and governmental organizations to streamline their systems, automate, and move into the digital era. Due to this rapid increase in demand, Minokaw Technologies was faced with an interesting problem.

"We had to figure out how to grow the business the right way," says Dustin Goslin, vice president of business and economic development for MLCV and former chief executive officer for Minokaw Technologies. "As with most startup ventures, Minokaw had some volatility during its initial years. We worked to identify growth opportunities, and as a result deter-



Minokaw and Momentum receive Winners Circle awards.

mined we were at a pivotal moment in the business lifecycle to sell to Momentum." Goslin said it was the single best path to provide Minokaw with the necessary resources to continue to scale the business as it enters its next phase of growth.

Throughout the past year, MLCV has been working on a new strategic plan that includes three pillars of work, including building community and the tribal economy, building opportunity and leadership capacity, and building wealth and finan-

cial capacity. The sale of Minokaw Technologies represents a huge step forward in the execution of the plan. "The private equity industry has long embraced the idea of investing capital [money] strategically in business ventures, improving the profitability, then selling that business for a gain," says Joseph Nayquonabe, CEO of MLCV. "We are excited to bring this type of thought process to the Mille Lacs Band, and greater Indian Country, as a means to deliver growth."

The sale closes the Minokaw Technologies chapter for MLCV and opens the door to other new opportunities. "We want to take all the great things we've learned and mastered through launching this small business and do the same in other places where the ceiling is higher and our competitive advantage is greater," said Nayquonabe.

As a part of the sale, Associates of Minokaw Technologies have moved to the Momentum family and now have access to Momentum's expansive expertise and support operations.


"Our people are one of our most important assets," Goslin said. "Throughout this process, we wanted to make sure the Minokaw team was taken care of and landed in a good spot. The success story of Minokaw is not just about the economics; rather, it is more about how our MLCV culture energized talented people, like Ned and Lance, to take calculated risks on good ideas."

Please visit <https://momentumecm.com/> or contact Dustin Goslin at dgoslin@mlcv.com for any questions or comments.




Taking a moment to pose for a photo op during the Round Dance at Meshakwad, Saturday, March 19, following the Young Women's Leadership Conference.

THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS...



DISTRICT I
VINELAND - Saturday April 23 through Friday, April 29
 Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Transfer Station located at 43188 Timbertrails Road. Please follow directions of staff that work this event as we try and make unloading safe and quick as possible.


DISTRICT III:
LAKE LENA: Saturday April 30 to Friday, May 6.
 Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center and at the Cull de sac at Wise Owl.

DISTRICT II
EAST LAKE, MCGREGOR, MINNEWAWA, SANDY LAKE AND ISLE - Saturday, May 7 through Friday, May 13.
 Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the East Lake Maintenance facility for District II and Isle Community Center for District IIA.

HINCKLEY: Saturday April 30 to Friday, May 6.
 Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Earthworks building located on Hwy 48, 2 miles east of Hinckley Casino

PROHIBITED ITEMS:
 LIQUID CHEMICALS, PAINTS, OILS, OIL FILTERS, FREEZERS/REFRIGERATORS FILLED WITH ROTTEN FOOD AND BOATS. MAKE SURE ALL LOOSE GARBAGE IS IN BAGS.

Elders:
 Please call 320-532-7448 before the week of your scheduled District Clean-Up to be placed on the Pick-Up list. Please leave a message including your name, address, and phone number.



STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL DAY IS APRIL 7

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK: APRIL 4–8, 2022

The Department of Public Safety and the National Weather Service will be promoting general weather safety and emergency preparedness to Minnesotans during April 4–8 for Severe Weather Awareness Week.

This annual public education event is designed to remind individuals, families, businesses, schools, and institutions that it's essential to plan ahead for Minnesota's severe spring and summer weather. An informed, involved community is more resilient to disaster. Being prepared helps reduce the risks and costs of hazardous weather events.

An easy way to get prepared is to participate in the state-wide tornado drills on Thursday, April 7, at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. They will provide an excellent opportunity for citizens to prepare their homes, families, neighborhoods, and communities.

Prepare Your Family

Create or update emergency plans with your entire family so everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Ensure everyone has up-to-date contact info and knows what to do.

Practice your family plan during the tornado drills. Have everyone build a family emergency kit together.

Check with places your family spends time, such as schools, workplaces, markets, or sports facilities to learn what their emergency plans are.

Share the plans for these areas with your entire family and talk about what you would do if your family was not together during a disaster.

Weather Alerts and Warnings

- Severe weather warnings are issued by the National Weather Service.
- Know the terms and what they mean.
- Warning sirens are operated by each county.
- Personal weather alerts — Many cell phone apps and local media outlets and internet sites offer free local personal weather alerting services.
- Wireless Emergency Alerts — Sent by authorities to all cell phones in specific area to warn of a dangerous situation or critical information.

Weather Warnings

Dangerous weather or event is occurring or imminent. Likely significant threat to life or property.

- Take protective action immediately.

Weather Watch

Weather conditions are favorable for a hazardous weather event.

- Stay alert to changing conditions.
- Make alternate plans.
- Be aware of possible shelter or evacuation routes.

Weather Advisory

Less hazardous weather conditions or less specific locations. Weather may still pose significant safety risk or travel problems. Situations are possible that could threaten life or property.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

SPRING CLEAN-UP

District I — Vineland

Saturday, April 23, through Friday, April 29.

Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Transfer Station located at 43188 Timbertrails Road. Please follow directions of staff that work this event as we try and make unloading as safe and quick as possible.

District II and IIA — East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake, and Isle

Saturday, May 7, through Friday, May 13.

Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the East Lake Maintenance Facility for District II and Isle Community Center for District IIA.

District III

Lake Lena: Saturday, April 30 to Friday, May 6.

Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center and at the cul de sac at Wise Owl.

Hinckley: Saturday, April 30, to Friday, May 6.

Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Earthworks building located on Hwy 48, 2 miles east of Grand Casino Hinckley.

PET CLINICS SCHEDULED FOR ALL DISTRICTS

Mark your calendar for 2022 clinics!

Aazhoomog (Lake Lena): April 2022. MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, April 2. Second Hand Hounds (SHH) wellness Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3. District III Community Center.

Hinckley: April 2022. MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, April 16. SHH wellness Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17, at Meshakwad Community Center.

Minisinaakwaang (East Lake): May 2022. MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, May 7. SHH wellness Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8, at District II East Lake Community Center.

Chiminising: May 2022. MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, May 21. SHH wellness Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, at District Ila (Isle) Chiminising Community Center.

The annual District I SIRVS Clinic will be held the second weekend in November.



GRA UPDATE

HOW TO ASK FOR REVIEW OF LICENSURE

The Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) wants to help Band members who may not be comfortable in applying for casino positions due to their criminal history. GRA Licensing Employees are always happy to assist Band members with questions regarding their background. Band members who have faced licensing issues in the past are encouraged to contact our staff about eligibility and options. Don't hesitate to reach out for confidential assistance:

Mille Lacs: Sally at 320-532-8253 and Krista at 320-532-8135

Hinckley: Lori at 320-384-4742 and Joleen at 320-384-4774

You can find Employee Gaming License Background regulations on the GRA page of the Mille Lacs Band website, see "Gaming Regulations and Resolutions" for DGRs 7 and 7a. If you would like to have the Board look at a previous licensing action, please use the "Request for GRA Board Review" from the GRA page.

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government estab-

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

lished to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises. More information and contact numbers can be found at

<https://millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA.

GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Microsoft Teams. This month's meetings are at 9 a.m. on April 7th and April 21st.

AROUND THE RESERVATION ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP IS A GOOD TIME FOR A FRESH START

The first spring flowers may soon start poking through the freshly thawed ground and the first robins have made their return flight back to their summer habitats. It is time to shake off the winter blues and begin a fresh start with spring cleaning inside and out.

This is a good time to go through the inside of the house and start to reorganize and clear away clutter that seems to multiply over the winter months. To make the project easier, it may be helpful to sort items into four categories: 1) trash, 2) give-away/donate, 3) store for next year, and 4) put away in rightful place. Even the young children can join in the effort by having adults assign the kiddos with an age-appropriate assignment. Why not open the windows and play some music to make the tasks more fun?

After the cleaning is done, it is always fun to bring out bright fresh spring decor to give the home a nice refreshed look and feel.

Outside, there are always items that got left behind last fall and didn't get picked up before the snow started piling up. Sometimes it is a great surprise to find an item that hasn't been seen in a very long time. It is almost like magic when the snow melts and POOF! There is the dog toy that was thought to have been lost forever!

Spring cleaning can even help with health benefits. The physical act of cleaning might help reduce stress by letting the mind concentrate on something other than the average stresses of the day. The low-intensity physical activity of doing household chores for even 30 minutes can be beneficial. Did you know that vacuuming, mopping, or scrubbing the floors for 30 minutes can burn around 100 calories for the average adult?

Once items are cleaned up and organized into the categories, it is considered a good idea to get rid of it as soon as possible. The give-away/donate pile has been given away or donated. The store-for-next-year items have been neatly tucked away. The daily items have been put in rightful places. Now all that is left is the trash/throw away pile. That is where Public Works can help.

Public Works has once again organized the Annual Spring Clean-up for each district. See page 14 for dates, times, and locations for each district.

Last year, in 2021, Public Works collected tons of trash. In fact, the total for all three districts was roughly 825,000 pounds of trash, which is 412.5 tons of trash.

Think about this: the average adult male Alaskan moose weighs roughly 2,000 pounds, so that much trash would be equivalent to 412 adult male moose and one yearling.

Looking at it another way, a 1979 Volkswagen Beetle weighed in at 2,000 pounds. That would be equivalent to about 412 VW Bugs parked in a parking lot. Now, imagine all 412 of them are all yellow with flowers painted on them.

No matter how you look at it, that is a lot of trash.

In addition to the tonnage of trash, there were also a lot of other items picked up. Collected from all three districts, there were a total of 1,217 tires, 608 TVs/computer monitors, and 644 mattresses.

These numbers have doubled in the last three years. That is a good indication that community members are working hard to clean up around their homes. Miigwech to all who help to make the Reservation a cleaner place and Miigwech to Public Works crews for supporting the efforts.

MEKWENIMINJIG THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Charlotte Caldwell, II (Pasosa)



Charlotte Caldwell, II (Pasosa), 46, of McGregor died Monday, March 7, 2022, at Riverwood Health Care Center in Aitkin. She was born October 6, 1975, in Minneapolis to Daryl Teller and Charlotte Caldwell, I. She attended school in Siren, Wisconsin. Charlotte was united in marriage to Michael Aubid September 29, 1996, in East Lake, Minnesota. She was a member of the Menominee Nation. She was a loving mother and always cared for and helped her family and friends. She was preceded in death by her 2 siblings: Leon Caldwell and Maybann Teller.

Charlotte is survived by her husband Michael Aubid; parents Daryl Teller and Charlotte Caldwell; children: Jordan Buffalo, Charlotte Caldwell, III, Julius Aubid, Animikence Aubid; eight stepchildren: Tina Morrison, Jean Martin, Michael Aubid, Jr., Yvonne Aubid, Charles Aubid, Ziibens Aubid, Anang Aubid, Ceewan Aubid; three brothers and sisters: Cheyenne Caldwell, Daryl Teller, Jr., Talon Bedeau; and many special grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Visitation was at dusk on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at the East Lake Ceremonial Building in East Lake, McGregor. Tribal Rites were at 10 a.m., Friday, March 11, 2022, at the East Lake Ceremonial Building. Burial was at the Rice Lake Refuge Burial Grounds in East Lake, McGregor. Arrangements were with McGregor Funeral Home of McGregor.

Ikwe'ee Angeline Marie Eagle



Ikwe'ee, Angeline Marie Eagle, age 58, of Onamia, Minn. died on March 18, 2022. Visitation was at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Eagle, Sr. She enjoyed reading, drawing, and going to the casino. Being with her family, and caring for her dogs was how Angeline liked to spend her time.

Ikwe'ee, Angeline Marie Eagle is survived by her children, Bradley Sam Jr., Jeff Sam, Lesley Sam, and Bernadette Sam; her significant other, Mahlon Barnes; sisters, Rosella Eagle, Pamela Eagle, Shelia Benjamin, and Janice Dorr; brother, Roy Eagle; grandchildren, Tre'von, Victoria, Quincey, Maria, Cana, Xyler, Faith, Novah, Ariana, Dehlina, Isaac, Skylah, and Danni-ka; and many loving relatives.

Ikwe'ee, Angeline Marie Eagle was born on October 30, 1963, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Delores (Weyaus) and Melvin

She was preceded in death by her parents Delores (Weyaus) and Melvin Eagle Sr.; brothers, Melvin Eagle Jr., Brian Eagle, and Jim Dorr; sisters, Anabelle, Melvina, Victoria, and Robin; and her nephew, Thomas Eagle.




CEMENT MASONS MNDOT/TRIBAL 10 WEEK TRAINING

Sponsored by the Cement Masons, Plasterers & Shophands Local 633 Journeyman & Apprentice Training Trust Fund & The Minnesota Department of Transportation









FREE TRAINING

THERE IS NO COST TO YOU. THE MNDOT GRANT WILL HANDLE ALL EXPENSES.....

COMPLETE THIS PROGRAM DEBT FREE!

LODGING & STIPEND

HOTEL ROOM WILL BE PROVIDED DURING YOUR TRAINING SESSION.....

STIPENDS ARE AVAILABLE EACH WEEK!

TOOLS PROVIDED

ALL TOOLS THAT ARE NEEDED TO START YOUR CAREER AS A CEMENT MASON.....

PROVIDED TO YOU FREE OF CHARGE!

JOB ASSISTANCE

WE WILL ASSIST WITH JOB PLACEMENT THROUGH LOCAL 633.....

CONTRACTORS THROUGHOUT THE STATE!

WHAT TO EXPECT

During the duration of the training you will learn both related and on-the-job technical training. Some of the topics covered will be:

- Highway Heavy Industry
- Tool Introduction
- Construction Math
- Chemistry of Concrete
- Layout/Setup
- Concrete Repairs
- Work Ethics
- Safety Certifications

WHERE & WHEN

Cement Masons Local 633 JATC Training Center
2180 Old Highway 8 NW New Brighton MN 55112

Monday, May 23, 2022 through July 29, 2022, held Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

CONTACT YOUR TRIBAL AFFILIATION FOR YOUR NEXT STEP!

The Cement Masons, Plasterers & Shophands Local 633 Journeyman & Apprentice Training Trust Fund is offering a 10 Week Cement Masons Trade Orientation Training. The goal of this program is to train Native Americans from several tribal nations in the cement mason trade enabling them to qualify for apprenticeship with the Union and work on MNDOT projects. This program is funded in whole as part of a \$224,340.00 grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH JR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

SUMMER 2022 JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS

Calling all Native American Youth (ages 15, 16, & 17): join our team at Grand Casino Mille Lacs!

We're on a mission to develop a strong team of future Native American Leaders, which is why we are offering various employment opportunities this summer. Now is your chance to jumpstart your work experience, gaining knowledge and skills in areas of interest to you, by learning about Grand Casino operations.

Our goal is for you to succeed, which is why we will guide you throughout your career with us by offering training and development opportunities that match your future education and career interests. We strongly believe that connecting who you are with what you love will keep you moving forward.

If you're interested in more information, please contact Lana Oswaldson – Band Member Recruitment Manager at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Email LOswaldson@grcasinos.com or call 320-532-8202.

5th Annual Chiminising Ziigwan Youth Powwow April 30, 2022

Sponsored by Marvin Bruneau, D2 Rep.
Feast Sponsored in part by Indian Education Committee

HOST DRUM: LITTLE OTTER

MC: "NAZHIKE" BRADLEY HARRINGTON

HEAD DANCERS: Ian Bearheart, Jasmine Schwensen

CONTEST SPECIALS

Jaylene White Memorial

Youth Team Dance

1st: \$300 2nd: \$200 3rd: \$100

ROUND DANCE

Ribbon Shirt

Ribbon Skirt

3 Person Hand Drum Contest

1st: \$500 2nd: \$400 3rd: \$300

GRAND ENTRY 1PM & 7PM

ROYALTY CONTEST 4PM

FEAST: 5:30PM - 6:30PM

Dancers and royalty contestants **MUST** be in full regalia at registration and Grand Entry

Registration: 11:00AM - 12:30PM

First 5 drums registered will receive pay

CHIMINISING COMMUNITY CENTER

2605 Chinimising Drive, Isle MN 56342

For more information contact:

Cheryl Miller (320) 630-6870 or

cheryl.miller@millelacsband.com



BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2012

Gaming Expansion Bills Stalled in Legislature

Gaming expansion discussions have heated up recently in the Minnesota Legislature. In March, Senate committees heard bills related to both electronic pull tabs and racinos (slot machines at the state's horse tracks). While the bills have not advanced through either committee, the threat to the Mille Lacs Band and Grand Casinos will continue to exist for the remainder of this session and beyond.

15 years ago — 2007

Band Members Celebrate Anniversary of Treaty Rights Victory

On March 24, 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Mille Lacs Band retains the right to hunt, fish and gather in East Central Minnesota. This decision ended the Band's nine-year legal battle to have its 1837 treaty rights recognized by the state of Minnesota.

To commemorate the eighth anniversary of the decision, the Band held a treaty feast at the District I Community Center last month. Approximately 100 people attended. They enjoyed a drum group performance and heard comments from emcee Curt Kalk, the Band's Commissioner of Natural Resources, and Don Wedll, Long Range Planner.

"The Band had to take action to preserve the rights your relatives and ancestors wanted you to have," Don said. "We knew we were right and we knew we could prove we were right. And we did."

Mille Lacs Band Holds its First Pro-Am Boxing Event

The Mille Lacs Band Boxing Commission held its first professional boxing event on Saturday, March 17, at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events and Convention Center. Commissioners are (left to right) Gary Davis, Jeff Boyd, Wallace St. John, Ron Davis, Dean Staples, and Mike Christenson, who were on hand for the event along with District III Representative Harry Davis.



20 years ago — 2002

Construction Training Program To Begin

The Mille Lacs Band Corporate Commission and several Band programs, including AmeriCorps, the 21st Century Family Learning Program, the Adult Education Program, and the Labor Pool Program, are collaborating to offer a new program to Band members called the Construction Training Program.

The purpose of the program is to teach Band members construction skills. No previous construction experience is necessary.

The information above is from the April 2002, 2007, and 2012 issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin. Many back issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin are available at inaajimowin.com. Click on "Inaajimowin Archive."

Free Event & Open to the Public

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

APRIL ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Roland Lee Anderson
Susan Mary Antonelli
Dorothy Ann Aubid
Alicia Faye Barnes
Terry Louis Beaulieu
Myron Jay Benjamin
Donivon Leroy Boyd
Wayne Theodore Boyd
Debra Lynn Ceballos
Sharon Lee Chavarria
Raymond Charles Daly
Connie Lynn DeMarsh
Wesley Dorr
Kathleen Marie Earth
Dana Rachele Fahrlander
Nancy Mae Foster
Denise Renee Foxx
Duane Wallace Haaf
Gwendolyn Marie Hanold
Douglas Happy
Bryan Lloyd Holm
Darryl Vernon Jackson
James Brian Jones
Leroy Duane Kegg
Raymond Kegg

Victoria Jean Kroschel
Glenda Marie Landon-Rosado
Laura Ann MaClean
Louis Kevin Merrill
Gregory Allen Mishler
Karen Nina Moe
Bonita Louise Nayquonabe
Russell Daniel Nayquonabe
Donald John Nelson
Gloria Jean Nickaboine
Sherry Marie Nielsen
Dianne Renee Olsen
Penelope Ann Olseth
Jamie Ernest Pardun
Pardun Ricky Harold
Gregory Allen Pawlitschek
Elaine Mary Rea
Solita Efigenia Reum
Richard James Reynolds
Laurie Jean Rogerson
Lorraine Diane Sam
Denise Fay Sargent
Ruth Anne Schaaf
George Augustus Sharlow
Perry Don Skinaway
Debra Ann Smith

Rodney Wayne Smith
Ruth Helen Stafford
Marvin Lee Staples
Walter Charles Sutton
Carmen Marie Tyler
Gail Marie Tyson
Brandon Lynn Vainio
Robert Duane Wakanabo
Deanna Louise Weous
Eloise Alice Yanez

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please contact the Government Affairs office at 320-237-6851 or email news@millelacsband.com before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

Happy birthday **Bam** on April 14, Love mom, dad, Daphne, Braelyn,

Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Binesikwe, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, and Adam.

Happy Birthday **Aiva** on April 26, Love Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie and Myla.

Happy birthday, **ya old chook!** May this year be your year to shine. Love you xox, Robyn.

Mary Birthday, **Merry!** I'm looking forward to seeing all six lakes some day. Love, Chamukaman (note: the "Mary" and "Merry" are backwards intentionally)

Happy 7th Birthday **EllaMarie Flores** on March 21! We love you so much! Love, Mom, Dad & T-Man.

Happy Birthday **Grandma Mary**

on March 26th! We love you! Love Terry, Kelly, Ella & T-Man!

Happy Birthday **Lucille Bugg** on March 14th! Love Auntie Kelly, Uncle Terry, Ella & T-Man!

Happy birthday **Marcus Bugg** on March 16th! Love Auntie Kelly, Uncle Terry, Ella & T-Man!

Happy birthday **Brielle** on March 13th! Love Auntie Kelly, Uncle Terry, Ella & T-Man!

ELDERS NEEDED!

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

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

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

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Commissioners:

Administration: Peter Nayquonabe: 218-670-0745; Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Community Development: Tim Jackson: 320-362-4245

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

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Chief Executive's Office

Stephanie Dunkley: 320-532-7828

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

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

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

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

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

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

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

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

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

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

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

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

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

Office of Management and Budget

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

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

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



ROUNDY AT MESHAKWAD

Following the Young Women's Leadership Conference in Hinckley on Saturday, March 19, 2022, Meshakwad hosted a round dance to celebrate. Please see more photos of the Roundy at Inaajimowin.com.

DRUG TIP HOTLINE

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference. The Sunday Wellbriety ID is 601 532 2869 and the password is 456 267. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. Urban recovery groups meet Tuesdays at 7 (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245; password: Redroad.</p> <p>Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 4 - 8. Statewide Tornado Drill is Thursday, April 7.</p> <p>APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH</p>		<p>1</p> <p>DISTRICT I Tribal Election Candidate Forum Secretary/Treasurer</p> <p>DI Community Center 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mic and Syngen Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mic and Syngen Mille Lacs</p> <p>Pet Clinic Aazhoomog (Lake Lena) 8 a.m.</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p> <p>Pet Clinic Aazhoomog (Lake Lena) 8 a.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRIMARY ELECTION</p> <p>See page 3 for polling places</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Andy and Steve Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Andy and Steve Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Lynda and LeAnn Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Lynda and LeAnn Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p> <p>Pet Clinic Meshakwad (Hinckley) 8 a.m.</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p> <p>Pet Clinic Meshakwad (Hinckley) 8 a.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Third Wednesday District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>21</p> <p>DIIA Chiminising Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Joe and George Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Joe and George Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Art Gahbow Day</p> <p>Art Gahbow's birthday. Government Office Closed.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Last Wednesday first aid/CPR</p> <p>DI Aquatic and Fitness Center Call Kristina Abear, 320-532-8998 to register.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>DII Minisinaakwaang Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Chiminising Ziigwan Youth Powwow</p> <p>Registration: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. First 5 drums registered will receive pay</p>

VISIT THE WEBSITE! Inaajimowin.com is updated regularly with news, photos, events, and information. Please check out the new photo galleries!

O J I B W E

I N A A J I M O W I N

ISKIGAMIZIGE-GIIZIS 2022 | VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 4

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KEY RULING IN
LAWSUIT
page 1

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 May issue deadline is April 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: For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, sexual assault, or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.

Domestic violence: (c) 320-630-2499.

Women's Shelter: 866-867-4006.

Batterers' Intervention: 320-532-8909.

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: Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444; 800-709-6445, ext. 7588; Family Violence Prevention: District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 866-867-4006.



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