

O J I B W E

I N A A J I M O W I N

JANUARY 2022 | VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 1

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



By VIVIAN LaMOORE, EDITOR

They arrived bright and early on a brisk November morning to the shores of Mille Lacs Lake armed with chainsaws, trimmers, work gloves, brush hogs, and chippers. Crews from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources, representatives from MnDOT and volunteers from the Garrison area were present with a common goal. Their mission: to trim overgrown brush and clear decaying trees located at the south Garrison public access while recognizing the cultural elements of the area.

This project is more than an average cleanup. This project was approached with a focused view using a traditional cultural lens while emphasizing Anishinaabe values and the profound traditional connection to the land and the circle of life. The project is a collaborative partnership effort between tribal, local, and state governments in a very tangible representation of government-to-government relations. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the City of Garrison, and the Minnesota Department

of Transportation are partnering on the project.

In June of 2021, the Mille Lacs Band was approached by Garrison Mayor Loren Larson to discuss, in his words, the goal of beautifying the shoreline and the rest area/boat landing in south Garrison in an effort to attract tourism. MnDOT actually owns the land in the area and had been working with the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in identifying culturally sensitive areas around the lake, including the Garrison area.

The wide-spread area has a rich history of Dakota and Ojibwe villages. The location there in Garrison was the site of an Ojibwe village.

With the history and cultural sensitivity of the area in mind, Larson's approach was to respectfully request working with the Mille Lacs Band. The three entities worked together to find a solution and agree to move forward together in a manner

GARRISON see page 7



Senator Amy Klobuchar with members of Sherburne County and Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of DNR Kelly Applegate in Washington DC.

CONNECTING CULTURES

Protecting, restoring, celebrating sacred land

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, EDITOR

A 430-acre parcel of land is being sought after by Sherburne County to turn the land into a park for public use. Sherburne County is currently seeking funding for the project which has an estimated start-up cost of just over \$5,000,000 in Phase I. Phases II and III of the project are estimated to cost \$7,000,00 with funding to be acquired over the next several years. The County reached out to the various tribes of Minnesota, not for funding assistance, but rather for assistance with identifying the cultural resources and interpretation of the site's historic significance. The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources has agreed to assist with various cultural aspects of the project.

"What is significant about this project is that Sherburne County came to us, and invited us to the table at the beginning of the project, not seeking financial assistance, but seeking cultural resource assistance," said Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. "In the past or with other counties, we have only been contacted near the end of a project as somewhat of an afterthought. Here, we will be able to assist culturally, and positively from the very beginning."

The land is currently owned by a private landowner whose desire is to have the property preserved for public use. This land has a long history that makes the site meaningful to both Dakota and Ojibwe, whose ancestors still rest overlooking the lake. In the 1800s, the land was surveyed for cultural resources with 26 different mound groups identified on the location. Now over time there are only two remaining.

"As land passes through different ownerships, unfortunately, some people do not understand what they are or do not have respect for what they are, or are maybe even in denial of what they are," said Applegate. "There are many instances where

CONNECTING CULTURES see page 10

YOU'RE INVITED! STATE OF THE BAND WILL BE ONLINE JANUARY 11

Mille Lacs Band statutes require that on the second Tuesday of each January the Band Assembly will call a special joint assembly for the purpose of a State of the Band address. This year, pursuant to an executive order signed by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, the State of the Band will be a virtual event.

Much of the ceremony will be the same, including the flag ceremony, the National Anthem, and the invocation. In addition to the State of the Band Address, Band members will hear speeches from Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd and the Judicial Branch, as well as pre-recorded video statements from each of the Executive Branch commissioners.

A page on the website has been created for Band members to register, sign up for a gift, and find links to the broadcast. Go to <https://millelacsband.com/sotb>.

BRINGING GASHKIBAAGANAG BACK HOME — SEE PAGE 14

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! As the holiday season is upon us and we reflect on this past year, I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude to everyone in our Band community for their dedication and support during 2021. We again saw people going out of their way to help one another during the second year of the pandemic, even if it was to just bring some brightness and hope into someone else's day.

In the Office of the Chief Executive, December began with a board meeting of the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) on December 2. NAFOA has been the national go-to for providing much-needed guidance to tribal governments while navigating financial issues during the pandemic.

On December 7, I served on the Tribal Leaders Panel for a training session of state employees held by the Tribal State Relations Training group. Minnesota law now requires all state staff who work with tribal governments to go through a two-day training session. I answered questions asked by the attendees about how the state and tribes can work well together.

Later the same day, Commissioner Applegate and I held a consultation meeting with the Minnesota State Archeologist and the office of the Minnesota Commissioner of Administration, which is where the State archeologist falls within. This meeting was about cultural items that were unearthed during a utility company excavation on the reservation. Due to a misunderstanding of the Band's rights under federal law to care for any cultural artifacts found during these excavations, the State Archeologist took these items from one of our Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. This was wrong.

The federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is very clear that the state has no role when cultural items are unearthed on tribal lands. Unfortunately, that is not what state law currently says and Minnesota law is out of compliance with federal law. Under the federal "doctrine of preemption," which is based on the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, whenever federal and state law conflict, federal law rules over state law.

A positive result, however, is that the Band identified an area of state law that must be changed and which impacts all tribes in Minnesota, and now the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) is supporting the Band's position. In the mean-

time, we have demanded return of the objects and expect our Band THPO to receive custody of them in the near future, and we will continue to protect and defend our cultural history and sovereignty. This is actually a positive example of a state and a tribe working together to resolve conflicts.

On December 9, at the request of the Catholic Church, we hosted a statewide meeting at Grand Casino Mille Lacs between tribal leaders and leaders of the Catholic Church. The Archbishop of Duluth and the Archbishop of Crookston attended the meeting along with nearly all the tribes in the Minnesota. The Archbishop stated that the purpose of the meeting was to begin a dialogue between the Catholic Church and the

"I urge everyone to get their COVID vaccines or booster shot if you have not already done so. Vaccination continues to be the best hope we have of preventing hospitalization."

tribes. Church officials offered to open their historical records to tribes to begin a more transparent sharing of history. This project is happening simultaneously with Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland's Boarding School Initiative, which deals with federally-run boarding schools.

On December 14, a Special Meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) convened at the Band's Intercontinental Hotel in St. Paul. The agenda included a presentation from the Delegates working on the constitutional revision process that the MCT is currently engaged with. A group of Delegates requested that TEC support getting rid of blood quantum as criteria for enrollment and going to lineal descendency instead. Some of the other delegates, including the Mille Lacs Band delegates, did not support the TEC moving forward with this. Mille Lacs Band Member Al Olson informed the TEC that the Mille Lacs Band Delegates

have been taking a different approach, working on careful historical research about the origination of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and focusing on an examination of the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) to understand the history. He stated that until our delegates have reached a conclusion about the historical documents, they would be abstaining on any votes to amend the constitution.

I have also met with the Band Assembly several times in December to discuss and reach agreement on amendments to Title 16 of our Mille Lacs Band Statutes, which govern the Corporate Commission, as well as changes to Band law through the federal HEARTH Act that will make it easier for the Band to offer more housing/home ownership opportunities to Band Members in a more expedited way.

On December 17th, The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) held a special Executive Session meeting to discuss a number of topics with MIAC staff.

I have also spent time preparing for the annual State of the Band Address, which will again be on-line and live-streamed in a virtual environment on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. With the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 spreading fast, and which is said to be the most contagious variant so far, we had to take these steps to protect our elders and other community members. Band Members will still be able to view the live-streamed event and receive their gift by registering in advance. Information about how to register is provided on page 1 of this issue of the Inaajimowin.

Finally, I urge everyone to get their COVID vaccines or booster shot if you have not already done so. Vaccination continues to be the best hope we have of preventing hospitalization. In November, I sent a survey to elders requesting their opinion about vaccines for Executive Branch employees. If you are an elder and haven't already received a follow-up letter from me regarding the results of this survey and comments, please know that is coming soon.

I hope that everyone is able to participate in our live-streamed State of the Band Address on January 11. In the meantime, I wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season! Miigwech.

MINNESOTA AMERICAN INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) hosted its 33rd annual dinner on Friday, December 3, at the Mystic Lake Casino. After a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, more than 400 people, including representatives from the Mille Lacs Band, attended the event and awards show that highlights tribes, tribal leaders, and tribal entrepreneurs in Minnesota and beyond.

Joanne Whiterabbit, MAICC's Executive Director, spoke about the evening's event and requested an honor song by Spirit Boy Singers to be presented to Ernie Stevens, Jr. the National Indian Gaming Association's long-standing chairman.

HONORED BY MAICC

Ernie Stevens, Jr., National Indian Gaming Association Chairman, stands next to his wife during a ceremony at the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce 33rd annual dinner. Stevens was presented with an honor song.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

NAS STUDENTS EXPERIENCE BAND ASSEMBLY



Five 7th Grade Students from Nay Ah Shing School attended Band Assembly on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. The students were chaperoned by Kristy Vance and Megan Nelson.

"It's important for students to attend Band Assembly. It is important for them to learn and understand the three-branch system of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and knowing how it operates," said Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd. "Learning how Band bills are made into law and understanding the

transparency of tribal government is crucial for all Band members. Starting to learn at a young age is key."

The students were Fabian Sam, Edriaunna Nadeau, Hayden Nickaboine, Celine Morris, and Damien Churchill. The students were gifted copies of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes to take home presented by Secretary/Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, and District III Representative Wally St. John.



Students visiting Band Assembly were given the opportunity to practice calling the meeting to order.



District III Representative Wally St. John presenting a statute book to a student.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Band Assembly Bill 19-04-14-22: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revisions/transfers for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2021, and September 30, 2022. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Administration Policy Board on November 19, 2021.

Sponsor: District III Representative. Bill was introduced, read, amended, and approved.

Band Assembly Bill 19-04-15-22: A Bill amending Title 17 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes ("MLBS") to establish an Institutional Investment Committee to assist the Secretary-Treasurer in fulfilling her or his oversight responsibilities of all investment-related matters, to include monitoring the performance of the Band's investment assets.

Sponsor: District II Representative. Bill was approved with a waiver of the formal reading.

Band Assembly Bill 19-04-16-22: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the Legislative Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022.

Sponsor: District II Representative. Bill was introduced, read, amended, and approved.

On September 30, 2021, pursuant to 15 MLBS § 804 (b) 3, the Legislative Affairs Director submitted, on behalf of the District II Representative, a letter to Chief Executive Benjamin nominating Phillip Brennen and Maurice Benjamin to serve on the Department of Athletic Regulations. Nomination was taken from the table, Maurice Benjamin was approved, and with a roll call vote the nomination passed.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY SHELDON BOYD

There is one vacant Elder position on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Housing Advisory Board. According to 12 MLBS § 306(a)(6), the "Speaker of the Assembly shall select two (2) Elders and the Chief Executive shall nominate one of the two to the Band Assembly for confirmation to the Housing Board."

I am therefore seeking out Band Elders who are interested to serve the Mille Lacs Band in this capacity for a term ending June 30, 2022.

The Housing Board is responsible to advise the Commissioner of Community Development on housing matters; adopt, amend, and enforce housing policies; review and approve home loan applications; review eviction appeals; and perform other duties as outlined in 12 MLBS § 305 (formerly 12 MLBS 5). Housing Board members attend regular meetings once or twice per month and the occasional special meeting. Board members are compensated at the rate of \$250 per meeting but not to exceed \$500 in any given month.

If you are interested in being nominated for this position, please email Legislative Affairs Director Brianna Boyd at Brianna.boyd@millelacsband.com no later than Friday, January 7, 2022.

Sincerely,
Sheldon Boyd
Speaker of the Assembly

HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT PUBLIC HEARING

The Healing-to-Wellness Public Hearing was completed on December 8, 2021. Jill Thompkins from Tribal Court presented a PowerPoint presentation on the legislation. The comments will be reviewed and taken into consideration.

No action has been taken on the bill as this was a public hearing to accept comments on the legislation.



Public hearings were held in Band Assembly Chambers on December 8, 2021, regarding the Exclusions and Removals and Amendments to Title 5, Chapter 3, Healing to Wellness Court.



STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Minnesota confirms state's first omicron variant case of COVID-19: The Minnesota Department of Health on Thursday, Dec. 2, confirmed the state's first case of the omicron variant of COVID-19. Gov. Tim Walz in a statement called the variant's presence in Minnesota concerning but not a surprise. "We know that this virus is highly infectious and moves quickly throughout the world," Walz said. "Minnesotans know what to do to keep each other safe now — get the vaccine, get tested, wear a mask indoors, and get a booster." *Brainerd Dispatch*

Tensions high as residents weigh in on 2022 county tax increase: The increase is fueled by a lawsuit filed against them by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe over the policing and boundary lines of the reservation. To date, the County has incurred expenses of \$7 million related to the lawsuit, which has played a role in the depleting of Mille Lacs County's financial reserves. Also playing a role in the depletion of the County's reserves is the approximate \$2 million spent on the court-ordered out-of-home placements of children on the reservation. Non-reservation placements cost about \$1.5 million. While the county has seen a downward trend in costs related to the lawsuit the past few months, Hayes said it will take three years to replenish the County's cash reserves. *Mille Lacs Messenger*

National Guard to the rescue: Mille Lacs Health System is getting help from both the National Guard and teams from FEMA. *Mille Lacs Messenger*

Organizations honored for human services excellence: The Minnesota Department of Human Services is recognizing organizations that have partnered with the agency and done an exemplary job of providing access to food, health care and other assistance to Minnesotans in need. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe received award. *Red Lake Nation News*

New task force to help Stearns County crack down on sex trafficking. A two-year state grant will enable the task force to work full time on sex trafficking crimes. Stearns County — which says it has the highest volume of sex ads in Minnesota after the Twin Cities — will intensify its human trafficking investigations next year. The county will use a \$313,000, two-year state grant to convert a year-old sex-trafficking task force to a full-time operation beginning in February. *Star Tribune*

St. Cloud schools add Somali, Ojibwe to world language program: St. Cloud public schools next year will be offering Somali and Ojibwe to all students as elective languages. *Star Tribune*

Confirmed December tornadoes in Minnesota now at least 16: The number of tornadoes confirmed to have touched down in southern Minnesota on Dec. 15 is now at least 16. The number has increased in recent days as National Weather Service crews have completed additional surveys in the wake of the severe storms — including one more tornado touchdown confirmed Tuesday morning. Prior to this year, there had never been a confirmed tornado in Minnesota in the month of December. *MPR*

TRIBAL POLICE CHIEF RETIRES

'WARRIOR WOMAN' POLICE CHIEF SARA RICE RETIRES FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT

20 Years in Law Enforcement

After nearly 20 years in law enforcement and five years serving as chief of police of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Police Department, Sara Rice has announced her resignation and retirement from law enforcement in early December 2021. Her decision was driven by pressing health issues and a desire to spend more time with family.

"It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve and protect my own Band community and to lead the great men and women of the Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department, who in my opinion are the absolute best in the entire state," Rice said.

Agreeing with that sentiment was Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who gave all the credit to Rice, saying, "Chief Rice was and still is devoted to our community like no other chief of police I have ever known, and she did an outstanding job in her position. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude."

Benjamin appointed Rice chief of police in 2016. Rice was the first Mille Lacs Band member to ever serve in the role and has had an exemplary career of law enforcement service, including being the first tribal chief of police ever appointed by a Governor to the Minnesota Board of Peace Officers Standards and Training in 2018.

With a focus on community policing, Benjamin said that Rice made all the difference in building bridges between the Band community and the police force.

"The community has always trusted Chief Rice. She did a wonderful job leading us through one of the bleakest periods in our recent history," said Benjamin, referring to the two-year period when Mille Lacs County had revoked the Mutual Aid policing agreement with the Band.

"It was during that time that drug dealers saw the reservation as a 'police-free' zone," said former Solicitor General Tadd Johnson, who worked closely with Rice during that period. "They knew our police could no longer arrest suspects because the sheriff wouldn't book them and the county attorney wouldn't prosecute them."

Out-of-town drug dealers wreaked havoc in the Band community during this period and the opioid epidemic exploded; several dealers have since been successfully prosecuted in federal court.

"Chief Rice's leadership was both brilliant and strategic during this very difficult period," said Benjamin, who described a 2017 visit from then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke after the crisis had made headline news. Following a meeting with Band officials, Zinke conducted a ride-along with Chief Rice while she gave him a tour of the drug houses that existed at that time and talked about the impact on her community and her officers.

"I'll never forget that moment when Secretary Zinke



After nearly 20 years in law enforcement, and five years service as Mille Lacs Band Chief of Police, Sara Rice retires.

stepped out of that squad car," said Benjamin, "and he looked to his federal law enforcement staff traveling with him and said, 'Give her whatever she needs.' That was when we turned the corner from despair to optimism."

"Whether presenting to the federal government or the State, Chief Rice was our most authentic spokesperson, and I don't think she was even aware of how effective she was," Johnson said. "They didn't want to hear from the lawyers, they wanted to hear from Sara, and she was outstanding."

"In a moment in history when the Band needed a law enforcement leader, Sara rose above and beyond the occasion," Benjamin said. "It was her own community and family and friends who were being impacted by the crisis and her own officers who had served side-by-side with county officers who were now being threatened with arrest. She was every inch the Chief of Police and more effective than any other human being could have possibly been in the Chief of Police role for our Band at that time."

Before she decides what she will do next, Rice said her priority right now is to spend more time with her ailing mother and to fully recover her own health after recently battling COVID-19 and other health issues.

"While this is a sad day for our Band, I know that at some point in the future Sara will be back in another important role serving the Band in some capacity. She is a true Warrior woman. It's in her DNA to fight for a better future for our community. We wish her well as she takes this important time with her family," said Benjamin.



DECKING THE HALLS

Health and Human Services offices and hallways glow with holiday spirit making the season bright for clients, patients, and staff alike.

GRA UPDATE

RAFFLES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON BAND LAND

Over the years, the Gaming Regulatory Authority has been asked about conducting raffles on Band Land for fundraising purposes. We would like to remind community members why raffles are prohibited, and provide possible legal solutions.

BY DEFINITION, "GAMING" REQUIRES THREE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: CONSIDERATION, CHANCE, AND A PRIZE.

Basically, if a person pays to win a prize and the winner is determined predominantly by chance, that person is gaming. Standard raffles require entrants to purchase a ticket. The winning ticket is then drawn randomly and the entrant that purchased that ticket wins the prize. All three elements of gaming exist in a standard raffle. Therefore, raffles must be considered gaming.

Raffles are considered Class III gaming and must be conducted in conformance with a Tribal-State compact. The Band would have to enter into a compact with the State of Minnesota to allow raffles on Band land. No such compact currently exists. Therefore, any raffle taking place on Band land violates GRA.

Title 15 permits community charitable gaming. However, Title 15 only allows two forms of charitable gaming: pull tabs and bingo. Therefore, any raffle taking place on Band Land violates Band law.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Othan compacting with the state and amending Title 15, several options exist for charitable organizations seeking to raise money through a raffle.

1. Conduct the raffle entirely off Band land. IGRA and Title 15 only apply on Band land. IGRA defines Band land as all lands within the limits of the reservation and any lands held in trust.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

Therefore, raffles can take place outside the Band's reservation, so long as they do not occur on trust land. However, organizers would have to comply with applicable Minnesota laws. Minnesota raffle laws can be found here: <http://mn.gov/gcb/raffles.html>

2. Solicit suggested donations. Organizers could remove the consideration element of gaming by taking "suggested donations" instead of requiring participants to pay to play. This would require allowing people to participate without paying. Organizers should articulate that "no purchase is necessary" on the sign advertising the raffle. Organizers should also limit the raffle to one ticket per person, as non-paying participants would otherwise be able to take an unlimited number of tickets.

If you have any questions, please contact Interim Compliance Director Becky Majzner at 320-384-4807.

More information and contact numbers can be found at www.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. This month's virtual meetings are at 9 a.m. Thursday, January 6 and Thursday, January 20.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Native American confirmed as head of National Park Service: The U.S. Senate has unanimously approved the nomination of Charles "Chuck" Sams III as National Park Service director, which will make him the first Native American to lead the agency. *Associated Press*

BIA Launches New Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person's Website Dedicated to Solving Cases: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) announced on Friday the launch of its new website dedicated to solving missing and murdered cases in Indian Country. The website seeks to draw attention to unresolved missing and murdered Indigenous persons cases the BIA, Office of Justice Services, Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU) is working on and invites the public to help law enforcement solve those cases. *Native News Online*

Search for Indian boarding school records gets a boost: The U.S. Department of the Interior and the Minnesota-based Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition have signed an agreement to collaborate in the search for records of Indian boarding schools. *MPR*

Some U.S. Places Eliminate Use of Slur After Secretarial Order: Various sites are changing their names after Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland issued an order last month that established a process to review and replace derogatory names of the nation's geographic features that use the word "squaw." *Native News Online*

Justice Department Announces Funding Opportunities to Support Public Safety in Tribal Communities: The U.S. Department of Justice today announced the opening of the FY 2022 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation period. Also known as CTAS, the funding under this initiative is available to assist American Indian and Alaska Native communities in the areas of crime prevention, victim services, and coordinated community responses to violence against native women. *Justice.gov*

The Winter Solstice Begins a Season of Storytelling and Ceremony: Ojibwe (Minnesota Chippewa Tribe): Traditional storytelling is reserved for the winter months for many tribes. This was a practical choice given the fact that during the other season's, people were busy growing, gathering, and hunting food. It was in the winter, with the long dark evenings, the snow and wind blowing outside, that telling stories was a way to entertain and teach the children. Another reason is that many traditional stories contain animal characters. To be respectful, people waited until the winter when animals hibernate or become less active so they cannot hear themselves being talked about.

To have a storyteller tell you a story is like receiving a gift. To be respectful, a gift of tobacco is offered to the storyteller before the story begins. The storyteller will often take the tobacco outside and place it on the earth as an offering to the spirits of the story. *Native News Online*

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

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



District I Ge-Niigaanizijig youth made holiday tie blankets.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Above: Safe Native American Passenger (SNAP) training for Mille Lacs Band Family Services staff. For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.



CREATING A BETTER LIFE ONE PUNCH AND KICK AT A TIME

FIGHTING FOR CHANGE

By DIBIKWE, VALERIE HARRINGTON

What is a dream? Dreams are personal — it also depends on who you ask. And, more importantly, where you come from. For some, it could be a trip to a sun-kissed island, or that sports car. For others, a huge house with a swimming pool. All of us have a dream — big or small. Some of us, our children, our young people, our elders, and our families have very different hopes and dreams.

For some of us, a dream offers hope for the future. It builds strength and resilience to fight another day. It helps stop a feeling of isolation. It provides something to make everyday life more bearable. Above all, it inspires confidence, a sense of wellbeing, and it provides treasured memories that last long after the dream has come true. Those who find their dream are empowered, enriched, and able to see beyond their day-to-day routine. The experience helps them to focus on what they can



Montan Davis began training to be a MMA fighter to make himself a better person he said. He continues training, he added, to be a better father for his daughter.

do and often increases their drive and ambition to reach challenging and sometimes painful personal goals.

Our fellow Mille Lacs Band member Montana Davis is fighting for change and has reached a dream of his. As a child, he dreamed of training as an MMA fighter to learn how to protect himself from bullies. MMA is Mixed Martial Arts.

Montana grew up on the Red Lake Nation Reservation and the Mille Lacs Reservation. Growing up on the reservation, he didn't have many opportunities to achieve his dream. There weren't many fighters televised that resonated with him, but it was his dream to train in a gym and learn MMA.

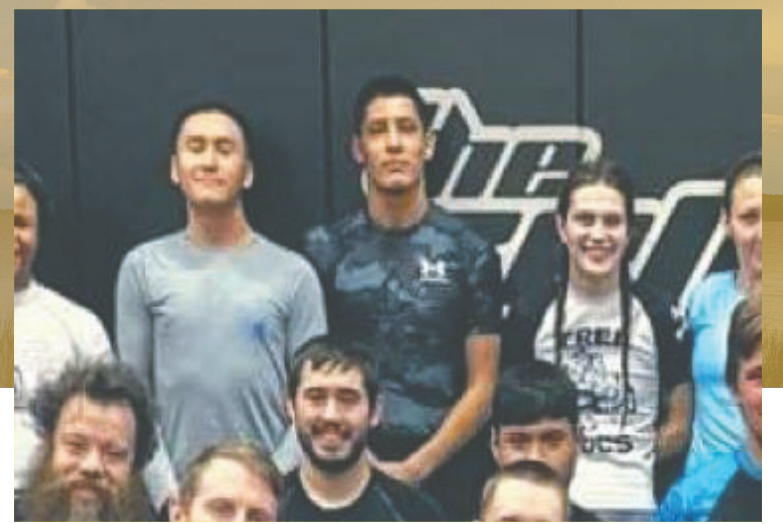
Despite the minimal opportunities to train on the reservation, he continued to dream. He watched UFC and studied all the fighters and he grew into much more than a fanatic: he wanted to train like them. In watching and learning he started to envision this as what he wanted to do. Unfortunately, he started making some poor choices and found himself in some legal issues. He never got into trouble before, and he quickly realized he needed help.

He sought that help and found himself living away from the reservation and a dream opportunity presented itself. He found The Cellar Gym, Minnesota's premier mixed martial arts training facilities.

He was drawn to the gym. He immediately had this destiny moment and gravitated toward it. He signed a waiver, took a tour and realized he found his home. He started training every day. He went to the gym everyday, and the only time he missed was when the gym was closed. He started to live his dream.

His excruciating training schedule consists of showing up every day, even when injured, and even when you have a bad day you commit to a warm-up of pushups, sit-ups, squats, burpees, and running. After warm-up it's drills, grappling, and kick boxing. The training took over his life.

"If it wasn't for the gym and all the people involved, I wouldn't be here. I look up to my training partners, team mates, coaching



Montan Davis (top row, center) is proud to be standing with a group of athletes also training at The Cellar Gym.

staff, front desk staff, and the owner of the gym. I thank all of them. They make me enjoy life way more," Davis said.

He wakes up and works on drill techniques and he practices at home. Any opportunity he has, he practices his training, as respect at the gym isn't given — it's earned. He has learned so much more than training.

He has developed his intelligence, will power, strength, personality, spirituality, mentality, physicality, and his commitment. He has become a different person, he speaks out more, shares his feelings, and is very humble showing humility. His respect and care for others is prominent: he respects people, is kind to others, and doesn't want to hurt anyone. His transformation is definitely a fighting journey and has made him a better person, father, son, brother, and friend. Now that he reached this dream, he continues on his journey because for everyone, your journey is your own. He continues to focus on his training and evolving his game. He also has a new dream of giving back to our community and coming back to open a gym so fellow band members and community members can have the opportunities he didn't have.

"I started to do this for myself and I continue to do this for my daughter," Davis said.

Dreams empower. Dreams bring joy. Dreams give hope. Have you ever thought about your childhood dream? If you want to live the life of your dreams you must stop running from your purpose. You were created to live a life of meaning and purpose, and the only way to be at peace with yourself is to live the life you were created to live.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

HUNTING: AN IMPORTANT WAY OF LIFE

By LEONARD SAM, MILLE LACS BAND ELDER

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

I started hunting with my dad when I was very young. At that time, I didn't have my own gun, so I tagged along like a puppy dog. When I finally got a gun, my mom would buy me shells and I would burn them up. Hunting started to grow on me. "I would hate to be an animal in the woods, son, because you kill everything," my mom used to say.

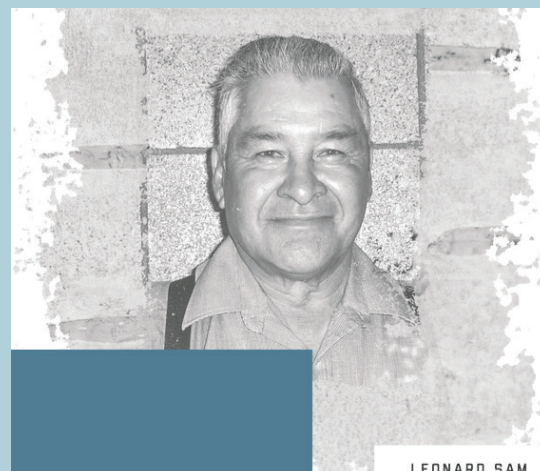
As I got older, I would hunt with my brother Earl. We had a lot of good times together. Once, we were out hunting and Earl shot a deer. We started to approach, and Earl said not to get too close to the deer because they kick hard. Suddenly I heard a thump. Earl's son Geno got too close to the deer and the deer knocked Geno down. I still remember that moment when I'm out in the woods today.

As I got older, I started to hunt by myself and eventually got very experienced. Back then, hunting deer and other animals was a way of life. We grew up in the woods and did a lot of hunting and trapping. I used to have my own trap line. I would always do trapping before I went to school. Back then, we didn't have a lot of time to sit around or play. We had to haul water, chop wood, and work hard. We didn't have much money, so hunting and trapping were ways to add to our income. Mostly, we trapped weasels, muskrat, or mink.

Now, under the Treaty of 1837, I hunt a lot on the treaty lands in Minnesota and Wisconsin. These are open to all Band members once they get a hunting license. I usually hunt with about six to eight guys. Hunting with a larger group is difficult. It's going to be hard for

me to slow down, and right now I try to get out to the woods as much as I can. It feels good, and I don't make hunting hard on myself. Sometimes I get my fourwheeler and go by myself. Often I hunt and give the animals to other people. As always, I put out tobacco and say a prayer before hunting or fishing.

I also hunt with my kids and other kids who don't have the opportunity to hunt with their dads. We hunt hard, sometimes from morning till night, and it's a good group effort. I took my kids hunting individually until they got old enough to hunt alone. When I see my kids hunting, it's great to be able to say I taught someone new skills. They look to me to lead them and it makes me proud.



LEONARD SAM



WORKING TOGETHER

DNR Woodlands Crew and volunteers from the Garrison area took a few moments for a lunch break and some laughs during the clean-up project at the Garrison landing. Top Row, left to right: Nathan Tulenchik, Jacob Horbacz, Jamaal Baird, Marvin Staples, George Morrow III, Elijah Staples, Richard Martin. Bottom row left to right: Jim Stigen, Azhibik Aubid, Jordan Williams, Daryl Aubid, Tim DeJonghe, Loren Larson, Sharon Ostrowski, Brian Schmaltz, Mike Marushrn, Tom Lovelace, and not pictured is Linda Havlicek.

GARRISON, from page 1

that would protect and preserve the cultural sensitivity of the area while removing brush and other items in the area so the shoreline would be more inviting to visitors.

The Band's DNR and the City of Garrison moved forward as joint-permit holders to work collaboratively to clean up the area and do so in a manner that would not disturb the grounds.

"The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources is greatly appreciative of the cooperative efforts between the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the City of Garrison to protect sensitive archeological areas while managing vegetation near the City of Garrison," said Kelly Applegate, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. "These types of projects benefit the area communities with respect to tribal sov-

ereignty, which is our goal as resource managers. We look forward to the continued partnerships into the future."

The first phase of the project began on November 30, 2021. Future plans include but are not limited to further clean-up from the bridge north towards the concourse. Garrison area volunteers and the Band DNR Woodlands crews worked together diligently to trim brush areas close to the shoreline in pre-selected areas with specific instructions, including protecting trees with a good root base to help protect against shoreline erosion, and managing the shoreline vegetation. Cutting trees of any size was kept to a minimum. Larger trees were only cut if they were decaying and the possibility of them uprooting and falling resulting in disturbing the grounds was imminent.

"My hope is this is the beginning of a great partnership working with the Band, and of course MnDOT," Larson

said. "This is a good joint effort that will hopefully solidify a relationship with the Band. When we all work together respectfully, we can accomplish so much more."

The Band DNR brought in machinery that included a brush hog, chainsaws, and wood chipper along with various other tools. The Band brush hog made for quick cleanup of large areas of brush that were blocking the view of the lake from the newly named Mille Lacs Scenic Byway, otherwise known as State Highway 169. Some of the larger branches were cut up and will be saved for ceremonial funeral uses. The smaller brush was put through the chipper and spread out on ground to naturally recycle.

"This is truly an example of how we can all partner anwork together respectfully in a way that benefits all," Larson said. "And have a little fun while we are at it."

GARRISON OJIBWE VILLAGE —

History tells us, there was a time — around the 1700s — when the Dakota and the Ojibwe all got along. Many villages dotted the shores of Misi-zaaga'iganing, also known as "Spirit Lake," from both tribes as they practiced trading furs, fish, food, and other supplies. They also participated in celebrations together, and often inter-married. As the European and French traders began edging in on the territory also wanting to trade items with the tribes, especially furs, the two tribes began to fight over the territory. Garrison was a location of an Ojibwe village. From the location, the Ojibwe could see the Dakota villages and keep an eye on what they were doing. Eventually, the Ojibwe drove the Dakota further south.

Garrison is considered a sacred village site for the Mille Lacs Band. Preserving the ancestral connection to the grounds is a priority for THPO. Every such site holds a spiritual correlation.



Members of the Department of Natural Resources Woodlands team saving larger logs to be used for ceremonial purposes.



Garrison Mayor Loren Larson discusses strategic operations with Mille Lacs Band DNR staff Jake Horbacz and Elijah Staples.

AANJIBIMAADIZING TO OFFER MECHANICS TRAINING AND WEX PLACEMENTS CHANGING OIL, CHANGING TIRES AND CHANGING LIVES

By VIVIAN LAMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Let's face it: the need for auto mechanics is kind of like the need for doctors and nurses — everyone needs one at some point. Whether it is for a check-up, or a tune-up, everyone needs a mechanic.

The craft of auto mechanics is a skilled trade and right now, all across the United States, there is a high demand for skilled workers and a shortage of skilled tradespeople. Aanjibimaadizing is looking to change that for Mille Lacs Band members by opening a new training center for auto mechanics. The Aanjibimaadizing Garage is located in Onamia on State Highway 169 near the junction of State Highway 27 (across from the Super Stop).

Through the Work Experience program (WEX), Aanji clients will be able to learn the skilled trade of light auto mechanics including changing oil and changing tires. The Aanji Garage is being managed by Mille Lacs Band member David Sam Jr., the Aanji Fleet Manager, and White Earth Band member Mitchell Kadlec is the Lead Mechanic. Kadlec is a trained mechanic who will be doing the training and wrenching on vehicles as well.

The training provided will include, but not be limited to, light mechanical service, tune-ups, brakes, oil change, light suspension, scheduled maintenance, tire rotation, and more.

"David and Mitchell are a great team," said Tammy Wickstrom, Executive Director of Aanjibimaadizing.

Working on cars was something Sam enjoyed doing in his younger years. He loved working on his own cars and took auto mechanics while in high school. But after graduation, he decided he didn't really want to be an auto mechanic. "I was

thinking I didn't want to be all grubby anymore," he said with a laugh. At that time, he instead chose to attend college, earning himself a degree as an electronics technician.

After receiving his electronics technician degree, he took a few jobs in the field, and it wasn't long before he realized something was missing.

"I got bored working on electronics. I really missed working on cars," Sam said. "It is what I really like to do."

Maybe he missed the smell of clean fresh oil or maybe he missed the satisfaction of hearing the purr of an engine after hours of wrenching to get the timing just right.

"When I was young, I was always taking things apart to see how they worked," Kadlec said. As he grew a bit older, he started taking cars apart and putting them back together. His first car in high school was a 1964 Impala. "I was always working on it. Friends would come over and we would work on it together getting it to run," he said.

One of his friends' dads owned an auto repair shop and offered him a job. He started out changing oil and greasing and worked his way up to lead mechanic. He also learned diesel repair. "Oh, I can work on tractors, dump trucks, semis, you name it," he said. "Semis are my favorite."

He was doing well for quite some time, until he began making some bad decisions. "I got into a little trouble and things didn't work out so well for me," he said.

While getting his life back on track, he started taking odd jobs at factories and various other jobs. But just like Sam, something was missing. "I was always the most comfortable in a shop," Kadlec said.

"After my run with bad choices, I found my way back to the

shop. There is something about the shop environment that is addicting in a good way," Kadlec said. "I like the camaraderie with other mechanics, helping people, and working on things. It is a hands-on job where you get to see your accomplishment in the end when everything works. If everything doesn't work, then it is not the end, and you keep going until you get it right. Now I want to help others find their way back to a good job and life."

Helping people fix their vehicles while fixing their lives is the next step for both Kadlec and Sam.

Wickstrom said construction is nearly complete at the Aanji Garage with plans to begin operations in February 2022. The service bay has two vehicle lifts with pull-through garage door operations. The shop will start with servicing the Aanji fleet vehicles and then hopefully, eventually open it up to other Band department fleet vehicles as well. Keeping the service of vehicles in-house will save the Band a lot of time and money.

Training courses will be offered soon to WEX clients. A key piece of finding a job is making sure you have the necessary skills and knowledge. Clients interested in learning the trade of auto mechanics will be able to receive full training at this facility.

"Even for clients who do not necessarily want to be a mechanic, but just want to learn to work on their own vehicle, this program could be for them," Wickstrom added. "Having a good reliable vehicle is essential to obtaining and retaining a job. If you can do the work yourself, it puts money in your pocket."

The new training center will provide a valuable service to Band departments while teaching WEX clients valuable job skills as well as valuable life skills.

The Aanji Garage is 477 Grant-funded as a training and service center.

The Work Experience (WEX) Program is a 720-hour on-the-job work experience training program structured to promote self-sufficiency through the development of appropriate work habits and job skills.

Aanjibimaadizing has offices in the Urban Area, District I, District II, and District III. The offices are open by appointment. Clients can also call or email.

"There is something about the shop environment that is addicting in a good way. I like the camaraderie with other mechanics, helping people, and working on things. It is a hands-on job where you get to see your accomplishment in the end when everything works. If everything doesn't work, then it is not the end, and you keep going until you get it right. Now I want to help others find their way back to a good job and life."

— MITCHELL KADLEC



LIKE A FINE TUNED MACHINE

Mitchell Kadlec, left, and David Sam Jr., right, make a great team for management and mechanics at the new training garage.



MEET THE MECAHNICS

Mitchell Kadlec and David Sam Jr. at the Aanji Garage.

READY. SET. GO TO COLLEGE

Mille Lacs Band Education Scholarships

By MARY SAM, MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE

Starting college begins with one step — sometimes one of the scariest steps we will take. It's new, confusing, and involves lots of paperwork. Often times many of us don't have people in our lives that can show us, or walk with us to get through those first few steps.

Mille Lacs Band Scholarship and Career Counselor Michele Berger knows this first hand. Because of her own journey in education, she stated, "I wanted to become someone who I needed when I started school." Berger shared that she "wasn't aware that the Band could help me until my third semester of college. I want this to be different for others wanting to earn a college degree." Berger's personal mission is to be helpful, available, to know the answers to questions from Band members (including descendants) and to help others not to be saddled with enormous student loan debt. There is funding out there; we all need help locating grants and scholarships.

Although her life path had ups and downs, Berger made the decision that earning a degree was the road she needed to follow. Her mom was strict, expecting the kids to go to school and learn how to live in two worlds; a cultural world and to learn how to financially make it in the western world. She sees herself as a life-long learner and wants to gain as much experience as she can.

"Because of my college education and the connections I have made with so many people, leaders, and community organizers, I have so many new opportunities to get more broadly engaged in the region. My involvement helps me, my family, and our community. It feels so good to be giving back," Berger said. She added that she hopes more community members will reach out to her.

See the box below to learn about the steps to seek funding through the Scholarship Program. A few things to keep in mind:

- Full-time student status is 12 credits, but the program can help part-time students.
- If you are unable to complete a FAFSA due to a 'financial hold' talk with Michele to explore options. Work with the college you have the 'hold' at to work out a payment plan, discuss loan forgiveness or explore the option of a settlement.
- If you have an academic hold on your account, the Band can provide support to you, along with the college.

Berger shared a few tips that have helped her and other students. She stated that underprepared students tend to



Michele Berger.

struggle. Don't wait until the last minute to decide to go to school and get your paperwork in order. Get registered early and buy your books. She said that it is ok to not know what your major is going to be. It's ok to focus on your general education degree and give yourself time to explore career options and build your confidence as a student. Be prepared and ask lots of questions. It is okay to "not know" and it is ok to ask! Do your research on the college and try to determine which is going to be the best fit for you and for your family, as you are all in this together. Always know that you can call her, email her and lean on her for support.

As Berger continues to take classes to complete her second degree, still working full-time with students wanting to gain an education, her opportunities for service and leadership continue to open up across the region for her. When asked what the best advice was that she has received, she quoted a woman she met recently when volunteering in Brainerd to help establish the new Warming House Shelter who said "Put your skills and gifts to work where your passion lies." (Ann Hunnicut) Her personal advice which she tries to live by is to "remember my own self-care and to stay engaged with those that will support me."

Michele will walk along-side our students, being that person, she needed when she started school years ago.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

National Tribal Trial College, Press Release

NATIONAL TRIBAL TRIAL COLLEGE OPEN ADMISSION: 6-MONTH LEGAL ADVOCACY CERTIFICATE

Madison, Wisconsin — The National Tribal Trial College, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Law School and the United States Department of Justice, is now accepting applications for a free, six-month Certificate in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy. Now in its eighth year, this innovative and highly acclaimed legal education model addresses the critical shortage of attorneys in Indian Country and Alaska by training laypersons to litigate the most urgent legal needs: divorce, custody, domestic violence protection orders, child support, and victim rights.

In just six months, graduates master the legal skills necessary to practice law in Tribal Courts across the United States. No undergraduate degree is required to gain admission to this highly competitive program. Priority of admission is given to applicants with demonstrated experience serving American Indian/Alaska Native communities.

To date, 177 Legal Advocates from 72 tribes in 24 states have completed the rigorous 240-hour course. NNTC graduates have gone on to represent thousands of clients who otherwise would have no access to justice. "Our graduates are actually more qualified to provide legal representation in Tribal Courts than most attorneys", says the Dean of the National Tribal Trial College, Hallie Bongar White. "They can live and work in their own communities while completing the 20 week/200 hours of online study before completing a hands-on, 40-hour 'trial skills bootcamp' at the University of Wisconsin Law School. The faculty are Indian law and litigation experts with real-world expertise advancing safety and justice in Tribal courts."

For more information about the National Tribal Trial College and to access the application, please visit www.nttconline.org.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

NEED BASED SOURCE OF FUNDING NEW APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Find a school and a plan with an end result in mind. School must be accredited.
2. Apply and be accepted. Send acceptance letter to Michele.
3. Apply for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) early.
4. Send back your MLB Higher Education Application, class schedule, and bill for the current term, complete with your Tribal ID or at least enrollment number so it can be verified. Twelve credits is considered full-time. Anything less than that is part-time and MLB only pays tuition and books for that term.
5. You will receive approval and an award letter once the department determines you are compliant with all program guidelines and all documents are returned.

Questions: Call Michele Berger at 320-532-4775 or email her at MLB.scholarships@millelacsband.com.

Office: Old District I Community Center

Forms are available at: <https://millelacsband.com/government/resources/1/scholarship>



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

BAND MEMBER VETERANS HONORED IN HAWAII

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, EDITOR

December 7, 1941, was a day that would live in infamy and launch the United States of America into the second World War. More than 25 Mille Lacs Band members served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II from 1941 to 1945. Many Mille Lacs Band families moved to large cities to work in war-related industries.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, at roughly 7:48 a.m., the United States Naval Base in Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii, was surprised by a military strike by 353 aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service. As a result of the attack, 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded. All eight U.S. Naval battleships present on the base were damaged, and four were sunk. All but the USS Arizona were later raised. Also destroyed were 188 U.S. Naval aircraft.

Now 80 years later, Americans and people from all over the world gather at the naval base in Honolulu, Hawaii, on the anniversary of that infamous day to pay tribute to those whose service and sacrifice preserved freedom and liberty at home and abroad. This memorial event also honors U.S. veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Three Mille Lacs Band veterans were invited by the Trickster Cultural Center to attend and participate: Joe Nayquonabe, Sr., Army Tony Pike, Army, and Quintin Sam, Marine Corps. (Trickster Cultural Center is an organization engaging Native American Veterans and their continuing contribution to the U.S. military.)

This special WWII 80th anniversary commemoration is an



important reminder of that fateful day of the attack on Pearl Harbor. It also serves as “hope that from conflict and the devastation of war, peace and friendship can occur,” according to the website.

The theme of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade is “remembering our past while celebrating that once-bitter enemies can become friends and allies.” It was an honor for Pike and Quintin to represent the Mille Lacs Band veterans by carrying the Eagle Staff and the Mille Lacs Band flag respectively in the parade. Joe Sr. was honored by riding in a special trolley, reserved for combat-wounded veterans and family.

Special recognition was given to all Purple Heart recipients during a special ceremony at the event. Joe Sr. was honored with a Hawaiian lei and combat-wounded veteran ribbon for his service in Vietnam. Joe Sr. is a Purple Heart recipient.

“We were able to go on some tours while we were there, and what was interesting was going by that hospital,” Joe Sr. said. “That was the hospital they took me to when I got wounded in Vietnam. This time, I couldn’t go inside, but my sons, Joe and Pete, got to see where I had been. It was good for them to see that hospital.”

The Mille Lacs Band member veterans were also joined by other Native American veterans each representing their tribes in Michigan and Wisconsin. Pike said he was honored to be a part of this elite group and was somewhat surprised at the number of people who attend the parade. “There were people lined up ten-deep on each side of the street for the whole mile-and-half parade route,” he said. “The roar of the crowd when we marched by was incredible.”

The Trickster Cultural Center offered a few group-centered events such as site-seeing tours, luaus, and a few meals; however, travel and accommodations were the responsibility of each of the invited guests. District I Representative Virgil Wind’s office stepped in with support for the veterans.

“For me, one of the biggest things about the trip was being with other veterans and being a part of history,” Joe Sr. said. “We toured the USS Arizona memorial. Not only was it incredible viewing the sunken shipwreck, but as I read the names of those who had perished — it was very moving.”

Although there were some group activities, there was also time for individuals to explore the island and have some fun in the sun. Aside from the opportunity to march in the parade, Pike said some of his most enjoyable time was a special guided tour through a pineapple plantation and some Hawaiian Indigenous cultural grounds and learning more about the Native Hawaiian culture.

“I am not afraid to admit, up until then, I thought pineapples grew in trees,” Pike said, laughing. “I never knew they grew

from the ground.”

Pike’s biggest takeaway was experiencing the indigenous Hawaiian culture and learning of the historic similarities between the Native Hawaiians and the Native American Indians. He echoed the theme of the parade, recognizing the hope that peace and friendship is possible even after conflict and devastation.



CONNECTING CULTURES from page 1

they have been plowed over for agricultural uses, or land was used for other purposes.”

A Phase I archeological survey was done in 2020, finding 846 prehistoric artifacts on 140 acres of the site. It was recommended the parcel be considered part of a “larger cultural district significant to Native Americans over the past several thousand years,” according to Sherburne County.

The area is unique, Applegate explained. History has told the story that Dakota and Ojibwe were often at odds, often fighting over territory. This site appears to be a place of inter-tribal mingling between Ojibwe and Dakota, where ceremonies were done, where celebrations occurred, and where people were buried.

“Our ancestors chose areas of significant spiritual power to choose for burial sites. This site looks to have those qualities in it,” Applegate said. “It is not a site of war and conflict, but more of a site of peace and spiritual power, ceremonial power,

and a place of resting for our loved ones who have walked on.”

Sherburne County says that by making the land public, restoring and protecting the land begins a process of healing that recognizes the significance of a former village, burial grounds, and cultural site to those who have called this area their homelands for thousands of years. Sherburne County is “seeking active partnerships with local tribes interested in the project to explore ways to respectfully steward the land in order to offer meaningful experiences for visitors while preserving the site’s sensitive cultural resources.”

Sherburne County invited tribes to attend a meeting in Washington, DC, where they presented the project plan and budget, requesting federal appropriation for \$5 million. They are also seeking funding from state departments and the county will also plan to fund a portion. Commissioner Applegate was available to attend the meeting offering cultural assistance.

Being present at the beginning of a project such as this is invaluable to the Band, Applegate explained. Protecting areas

of cultural significance and sensitivity is the mission of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. “We are looking to create a potential partnership with the park,” he added. “Our Tribal Historic Preservation Office could be a manager and advisor on the protection of those areas.”

THPO is very protective of the sites with cultural significance. The wish of Sherburne County is to create interpretive and educational kiosks to make it a cultural experience, connect the cultures, and educating back and forth and showing respect.

It is a unique opportunity for the Band to partner with and collaborate in a respectful way with a county, Applegate said.

“Our THPO staff tell us that even after our ancestors have walked on, they are still teaching us each day. This is a prime example of that,” Applegate said. “The mutual respect that is coming out of this is almost like our ancestors are teaching us lessons of respect and thoughtful attention to our history and our ancestors.”

WINTER TRADITIONS PASSED ON GENERATION TO GENERATION

HUNTING, TRACKING, TRAPPING

By **BENJI SAM, MASHKODE-BIZHIKIGAHBAW**

As Biboon arrives and lays a fresh sheet of snow across the northland, a change in the season falls upon us Anishinaabe. The last of the fall tasks such as preservation of wild rice, submerging our birch bark canoes to last the winter, and preserving meat from a (hopefully) successful fall must be done before winter encompasses us in its frigid embrace.

Historically, winter meant travel from our People's fall camps into our wintering locations near ponds, lakes, and swamps that held many medicines, and land that held untouched populations of four-leggeds. As the first snow and deep freeze arrived, hunters prepared their traps, began scouting, and prepared to set lines for furs and food. Today, however, there are far fewer trappers and the skills of fur preservation is becoming a lost art.

Keenan Wind, a young Band member who grew up running trap lines with his grandpa, described trapping as a way of life when he was a kid. "It wasn't uncommon for us to run 100 or more traps in a set. Bobcats, fishers, mink, otter, muskrats, beaver, coyote, and fox helped keep food on the table and some extra cash in hand," Wind said, "but now we run closer to 40 traps at a time to keep the tradition alive." Wind, myself, and many other Anishinaabe would also run snare lines for waabooz, snowshoe hare, as part of becoming an adult who can provide for their family. Waabooz always present us a wonderful, high-protein meal, and their furs make for incredibly warm moccasin inserts or blanket lining.

With fresh snowfall, most animals become easier to track and can present additional opportunities to keep meat on the table. Marty Jennings, another young Band member who hunts religiously each fall and winter, describes snowfall and early winter as one of his favorite times to hunt.

"I remember my Uncle Don and my dad teaching me how to track a deer. You can learn a lot about an animal from its tracks," Jennings described. "We always seemed to have success after the snow and cold set in. Some of the best bucks I can remember have come late in the hunting season," he said.

While deer meat was a staple food for the Anishinaabe, we also needed to supplement our diet with dried berries, maple syrup/sugar, and Ogaa to survive the frigid Minnesota winters. Our people once carved holes in the ice and set nets and speared year-round despite multiple feet of ice. Pine boughs and slush in ice holes throughout the winter would help keep the ice from freezing over and would give them access to fish and water throughout the winter. Fish carry healthy fats and vitamins that kept us balanced. Both young men described winter fishing and spearing as an important way to provide for their families each year.

Knowing where our food comes from and sharing with those around us should always be a way of life for us Anishinaabe. After speaking with these young men about their upbringings, I am happy to know that some of our early winter traditions will stay alive to be passed down from generation to generation.



FIRST WAABOOZ

Benji Sam, age 6, holding his first Waabooz from his own snare line.



KEEPING TRADITIONS

ALIVE

Marty Jennings, at age 5, has been hunting and learning from his dad, Martin Jennings, since he could hold a rifle. Passing on these traditions at a young age helps keep them alive for generations to come.



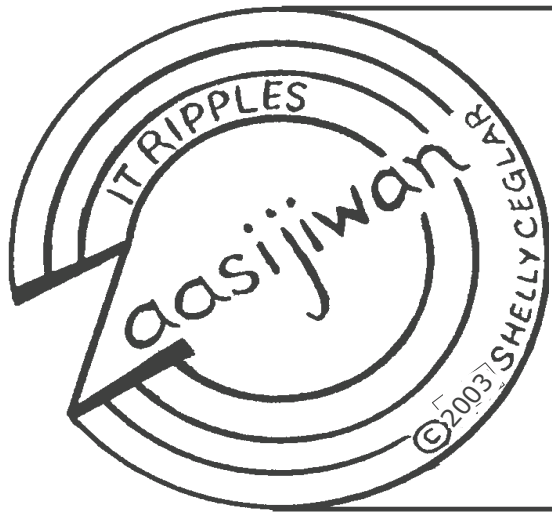
Keenan Wind, now age 21, began trapping with his grandpa at a young age, holding the first muskrat from last winter's trapping season.



Keenan Wind trapped many species including beaver, muskrat, mink, fishers, and otter. Pictured is his, "best otter ever," he said.



Part of what makes trapping such a desirable skill is being able to don your own fur hat while searching for more beautiful pelts each winter.



Biboong...

gashkidin omaa. Gashkidino-giizis wa'aw giizis. Ganabaj wii-kipagaakwadin i'iw nibi. Gemaa wii-pibagaakwadin i'iw nibi. Gego dwaashiniken! Gimikwendaan ina gii-twaa'ige yaang? Akwa'waad minwendam ningozis. Ningagwejim, "Aandi izhaayan?" Nakwetam, "Nindizhaa akwa'wewigamigong."

When it is Winter...

it is frozen here. She is the frozen over-moon this moon. Maybe it will be frozen thick that water. Or it will be frozen thin that water. Don't fall through the ice! Do you remember it? When we made a hole in the ice for water? When he tries spear fish through the ice, he is content my son. I ask him, "Where are you going?" He answers, "I am going to the fishhouse."

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Gaawin—as in father

Apane—as in jay

Wii—as in seen

Noongom—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O

Idash—as in about

Nibi—as in tin

Omaa—as in only

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

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

Preverbs

They are sounds spoken before the action words (verbs) to add clarity. Hyphenated to the verb.

bi—in the direction of the speaker, this way.

mino—good, nice

maji—bad

gichi—great, big, very

izhi—in a certain way, thusly

daa—should, could, would, might, can

endaso—so many, certain number

wii—future tense, want to

ga—future tense, definite

gii—past tense, did

Niizh—2

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

A. Mewinzha nibi, gii-nibiikaa. Gii-piinaad.

B. Noongom, gaawiin ganawenjigaadesinoon o'ow nibi.

C. Onzaam gimamoomin idash ginishwaanaajitoomin.

R A I Q

G A K I N A

N P S B N D Q

I A H R M A O P

N N W C E N N A L

G E T I W I K Y P O

O J G B I I W A N N D

D V A F Z W A W I I Y A

I N I I W A A G J B K C

N G I M A M O O M I N M

G A M E W I N Z H A E L

D. Ningoding gwaaba'ibiiyaang wiinad. Gaawiin giminikwesimin.

E. Gakina, awiiya, bemaadizijig, giinawaa giga-wiidookaagem.

F. Awanjish apane gidaa-paamendaamin o'ow nibi.

G. Noongom, zoogipon idash biivan.

Niswi—3

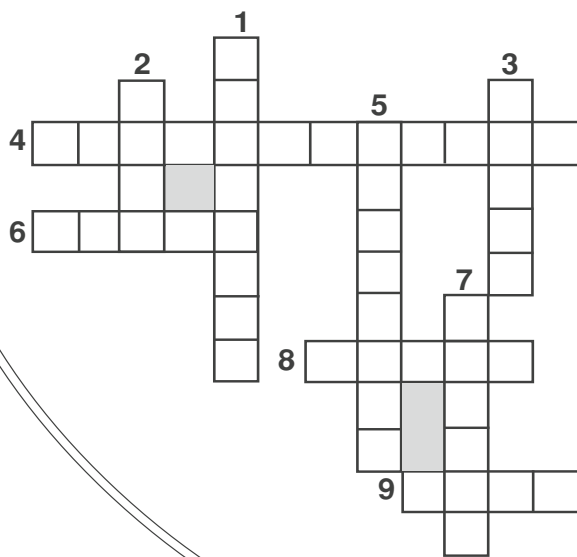
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. He/she answers
2. Here
3. Where?
5. My son
7. How/What way?

Across:

4. You remember it.
6. Always
8. He/she goes
9. Water



Niiwin—4

Preverbs (Prenouns, too)

Mino-bimaadiziwin.—The Good Life.

Gichi-mookomaan.—Big knife, One who carried a big knife (white person).

Aaniin endaso-diba'iganek?—How many units of measure? (What time is it?)

Maji-izhiwebizi.—Behave badly.

Izhaa.—He/she goes.

Bi-izhaa.—He/she comes.

Ningii-pi-izhaa.—I did come here.

*Initial vowel change occurs after question words and other.

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

1. Ni___-minikwen i'iw ___-nibi.

2. ___-ziibi gaawiin gaskadinzinoon biboong.

3. Aaniin ___-ayaayan noongom?

4. Wii-piindigeyan, gi___-naadinan iniw makizinan idash azhiganan.

5. Noongom ___-giizhigad. ___-giizhigad!

gichi—

mino—

gii—

ezhi—

*vowel change

daa—

maji—

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Long ago water, there was a lot of water. It was clean. B. Today, it is not taken care of this water. C. Too much we take it and we waste it. D. Sometimes when we draw water, it is dirty. We can not drink. E. All, everyone, human, you all, you all shall help. F. Diligently always we should take care of this water. G. Today it is snowing and it is a blizzard.

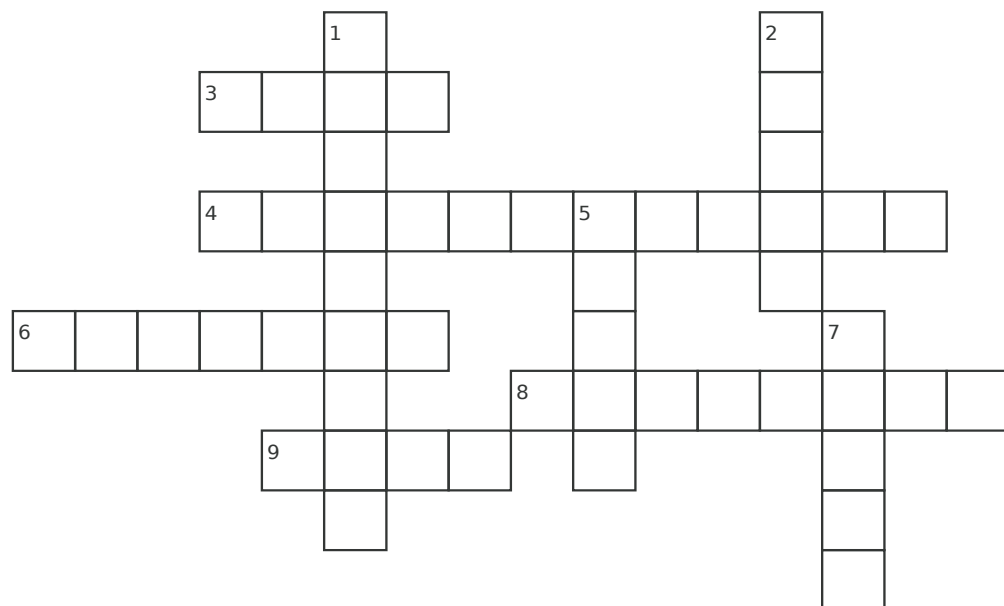
Niswi—3 Down: 1. Nakwetam 2. Omaa 3. Aandi 5. Ningozis 7. Aaniin Across: 4. Gimikwendaan 6. Apane 8. Izhaa 9. Nibi

Niiwin—4 1. I did-drink that bad-water. 2. Great-river does not freeze over when it is winter. 3. How or in what way thusly-are you today? 4. When you will-go inside, you should-fetch those shoes and socks. 5. Today it is a good-day. Good-day!

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries can be made to **MAZINA'IGAN**, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Winter 2003. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.

AAZHAWAAKWASING MANIDOO-GIIZIS



Down:

1. Mii onow __.(These shoes.)
2. Mii __ minik.(That's all for now.)
5. Mii i'iw __.(That is enough.)
7. Mii iwidi.(That way.)

Across:

3. Mii __.(That's where.)
4. Mii dash wenji-__.(That's why I speak ojibwe.)
6. Mii a'aw __.(This is my son.)
8. That is sufficient(thanks).
9. Mii __. (And then.)

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Using Mii. Like all Ojibwe words, Mii has great responsibility and authority. These three letters can change a concept, point in a direction and identify a situation. Sometimes all at once. It can be one of the most commonly used words. It has great expressive capabilities. It can share gratitude with Miigwech. It can identify quantity with Mii iw. It can continue on story with Mii dash. Use with care and be deliberate. This single word can change your whole story. It's a powerful form of "that".

Miigwech. = That is sufficient(thanks). (Mee gwetch)

Mii i'iw minik. = That is enough. (Mii ih iw min nik)

Mii dash __. = And then __. (Mee duh shh)

Mii gomaa minik. = That's all for now. (Mee go mah min nik)

Mii dash wenji-__ = That's why ___... (Mee duh shh wayn jih)

Mii imaa. = That's where. (Mee ih mah)

Mii a'aw ingozis = This is my son. (Mee uh ow in go zis)

Mii onow makizinan = These shoes? (Mee oh no muh kiz zin nun)

Mii iwidi keyaa. = That way. (Mee iw wid dih kay yah)

Mii dash wenji-ojibwemoyaan. = That's why I speak Ojibwe. (Mee duh shh wayn jii oh jib way mow yawn)

Use these at your own risk. You may have some fun. Miigwech.

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

New Year, new ...?

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, an adaptation to the current lifestyles has been evident. Think of the new choices we had to make in order to move from a place where we called home at the beginning of the migration. With new surroundings came new opportunities and the new opportunities brought forth an adaptive measure that allowed us to make the most of where we were physically. We talk a lot about trauma. New info comes forth from the discussions and new choices are then allowed. Anishinaabe have always been an adaptive people. Compassion from the Manidoog, very little has changed. They still have great compassion for us. They still ensure we have what we need and, occasionally, what we want if it aligns with our needs.

This modern world in which we live has brought about a great deal of opportunities, choices, and new info. During the winter season, we temporarily change from one year to the next. I wonder when the first Anishinaabe celebrated the new year as an individual? When did Anishinaabe as a people celebrate New Year's? It is a new concept to us as a people. For Anishinaabe, the new year was at the end of Winter. When new life started in the spring. We celebrated with the trees, the birds and nature. I think the first Anishinaabe was seemingly unphased by the concept of a new year. Our spirits were attuned to the seasonal change.

Does this mean we can not adapt? Gaawiin. As we adapt we need to hold on to a few certainties. Physically, we can celebrate a contemporary New Year as that is what is happening in the world around us. A new way to measure life and gain a sense of steam as we plunder forward into the uncertain future. Does this mean we should ignore the change of season? Gaawiin. How great is it that we have this awakening of life and we continue to celebrate it with our relatives in nature. We shall avoid thinking we are separate from nature since all of our ways of life are tied to it, traditional and contemporary.

As this new year starts, I encourage us all to make a resolution, do a countdown, kiss a lover. Set your mind into the gear



that will increase Bimaadiziwin. Honor the Manidoog. They are going to ensure our opportunities are available that contribute to our resolutions. It is still up to us to recognize and seize the moment. 2022 and any year after is an opportunity. Every season, every day, every hour, you catch my drift. The past can be the past but our way of life is past, present and future all in one. We learn from the past to apply in the present to make a better future.

2022 is the year of great responsibility. The society in which we live is going to change. They are finding out our grandparents were telling the truth about boarding schools. Our youth are speaking out. Our people are sobering up. Our languages are coming back. Our knowledge is being sought. Our families are seeking one another. Our nations are banding together. And, our relocated relatives are finding their way back. It is up to all of us to rebuild our culture with our experiences.

2022, New Year, New ___ is up to us. (You each fill in the blank.)

Miigwech.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS NOT TRADITIONAL

To report suspected human trafficking, call the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tip line: **1-866-347-2423**

If you are a victim and need help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: **1-888-373-7888**



BRINGING GASHKIBIDAAGANAG BACK HOME

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING YESTERDAY AND TODAY

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

The Gashkibidaaganag (Bandolier Bag) is an intricate beaded shoulder bag and an iconic piece of Anishinaabe art that holds meaning, honor, and respect. The woodland artists of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe became well known for their lively, creative designs dating back to the 1870s. The beautiful bags were highly sought after by neighboring Dakota tribes. So much so that they often traded a pony for a beaded bag, according to information found in "A Bag Worth a Pony," by Marcia G. Anderson.

The Gashkibidaaganag were traded and sold for hundreds of years. Because the artwork is so intricately beautiful, many of the bags have ended up in collections held by private citizens and museums across the country.

Often times, entire collections were sold, traded, or even stolen. Because the bags hold significant traditional and historical value, it is important to bring them back home whenever possible.

"The artwork tells a story," said Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. "It may be the legacy of family, or story of a moment in time that was significant to the individual for whom the bag was made."

Three years ago, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office was notified of a collection of very old bandolier bags and an assortment of other items that were possibly once property of Mille Lacs Band members. Under The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), museums, universities, or anybody holding, or curating, pieces of Native American culture, must create a list of those items and send them out to the tribes. It is up to the tribes to go visit the items and return them to where they belong.

"As Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, my job is to protect the air, land, water, our cultural history,

and of course our people, which is our biggest resource.

Applegate explained the THPO and Archives Departments perform an essential duty to reclaim pieces of historic value that have drifted away from the Band for various reasons. "Sometimes they were taken without our permission, or swindled out of us, or taken by grave robbing. At some point, some of these objects end up in museums. Tribes can apply to receive them back."

THPO was contacted by the Gilcrease Museum of Oklahoma. The Gilcrease Museum, also known as the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, is a museum northwest of downtown Tulsa, Oklahoma. According to the website, the museum is known for housing the world's largest, most comprehensive collection of art of the American West, as well as a growing collection of art and artifacts from Central and South America. The museum is named for Thomas Gilcrease, an oil man and avid art collector, who began the collection. He deeded the collection, as well as the building and property, to the City of Tulsa in 1958. Since July 1, 2008, Gilcrease Museum has been managed by a public-private partnership of the City of Tulsa and the University of Tulsa.

The Gilcrease Museum supplied a list of items believed to be of Ojibwe origin. The Band's THPO and Archives officers contacted Skip Churchill, who reviewed the list and agreed to travel to Oklahoma to review the items in person.

Skip said, "if it still has life, we will bring it back to be useful. If it didn't have life, we will bring it back and bury it."

The group reviewed all of the items, looking closely at the beadwork in the gashkibidaaganags that resulted in confirmation as being Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Skip Churchill concluded the items had life and should be returned to the Band.



ABOVE:

The beadwork of the Gashkibidaaganag (Bandolier Bag) tells a story of an individual's life or moment in time. These bags are found in the archives of the Mille Lacs museum.

By reaching out and returning such items, the THPO and Archives departments are performing a very important service to the Band, Applegate explained.

"These objects come to us as a people," he said. "They don't come to just the DNR or the Archives department. They come to us — to the Band. They are going to be used again. The objects that have ceremonial life in them will continue to be used and refreshed. Revitalized as part of our living culture. They still have life."

The collection has recently been brought back home to the Band and included several gashkibidaaganags and a few other items.

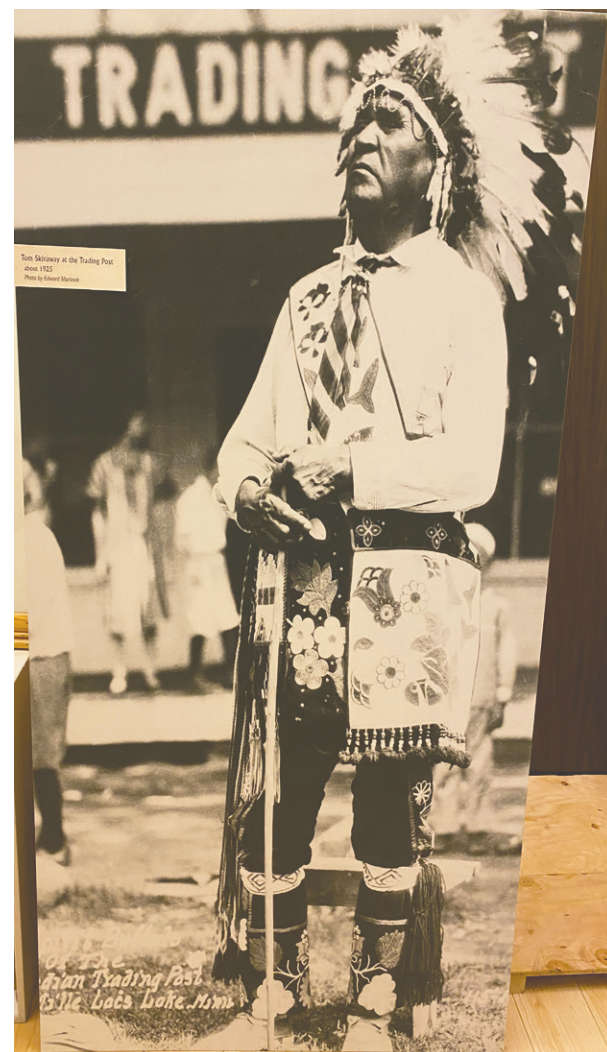
"As a THPO department, we think about our relatives and our ancestors who are not here. When something happens to our sacred sites, or our items, our ancestors are being hurt again. It is our responsibility to protect them and to protect our own people from seeing more abuses against us."

GASHKIBIDAAGANAG — BANDOLIER BAGS

According to the Minnesota Historical Society website, the gashkibidaaganag served as a valuable form of exchange and represented leadership and status within the community. The Ojibwe name comes from the word parts, gashk-, meaning "enclosed, attached together" and -bid, "tie it" The English word bandolier, defined as "broad belt, belt, or scarf worn over one shoulder and under the other" comes from the French word bandouliere meaning "shoulder belt" and traces back to the Spanish bandoera, the diminutive of banda "sash."

In general, women create the bags and men wear them. Anishinaabe people have made these bags for centuries, but it was particularly after the 1870s that Ojibwe artists became well known for their beadwork and woodland designs. This art form continues into the present day.

By 1870, with large-scale importation of inexpensive, ready-made European trade goods such as glass seed beads and wool fabric into the Great Lakes region, gashkibidaaganag emerged from the older shot-pouch tradition. Gashkibidaaganag had a wide strap worn over one shoulder and across the chest, with the pocket resting on the opposite hip. Women decorated both the pocket and the strap with intricate beadwork. The bags quickly became classic symbols for Great Lakes and Prairie tribes, each with their own distinct bandolier style. Native men would wear the bags for social dances or pow wows and for meetings with government authorities, thereby appearing in elegant dress while broadcasting their tribal identities to anyone who understood the intricate beadwork on their bag.



A photo taken of a photo at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. The caption at the museum says this is Tom Skinnaway from around 1925 in front of the Trading post. He is wearing a beautiful Gashkibidaaganag (Bandolier Bag).

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS FOR EVERY AGE

MAKING MEMORIES WITH THE SANTA BUS TOY DISTRIBUTION

The Community Santa Bus came to town on Saturday, December 18, 2021, just in time for the holiday. From the smiles and looks of pure excitement, the kiddos, families, and volunteers appeared to be genuinely grateful and appreciative.

Community residents and businesses from Isle, Onamia, Garrison and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe have been collecting toys and cash donations to purchase toys.

Volunteers helped to organize the donations of toys and cash, shop for toys, and the best part — distribute the toys.

Food items were also given away to those in need. In all over 245 kids were served.

Chi miigwech to the Onamia Vets Club, Onamia Fire Department, Nay Ah Shing Schools, Mille Lacs Area Social Concerns group, and extra thanks to Santa for taking time away from the North Pole to visit with kids and spread good cheer. It appears he ditched the reindeer and hitched a ride on a fire truck for faster delivery!



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

James Lucius Dakota — Mashkawigabow

Mashkawigabow, James Lucius Dakota, age 38, passed away on November 25, 2021. Visitation was at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 3, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Funeral Ceremony was at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Gisibaganeb officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Mashkawigabow, James Lucius Dakota was born on November 28, 1982, in Minneapolis, Minnesota to James Jayboy Donley and Ellen Dakota. He enjoyed watching football and basketball. James liked to spend his time fishing and being with his family. He will always be remembered for ability to cheer people up.

James is survived by his daughter, Karma Strong; sister, Jennifer Dakota; brothers, William Dakota, Aaron Banks; best friend, Natasha Garbow; nieces, Aliyah, Delicia, Tay' Lahna, Shayna, Kathryn; nephews, Jaelonte, Johnta, Levon, William; great-niece and nephew, Paris'Lee Dakota and Semha Swift; and many cousins, relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Benjamin John Kegg — Makadegwaneb

Makadegwaneb, Benjamin Kegg, age 55, passed away on November 30, 2021. Visitation was at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was at 10 AM on Friday, December 3, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Nazhike officiating. Interment will be in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Makadegwaneb, Benjamin John Kegg was born on August 11, 1966, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Jesse & Maggie (Mitchell) Kegg. He worked as a Wildland firefighter for the Mille Lacs Band DNR, as well as doing construction work building the casinos. Benjamin had a great sense of humor and loved to make those around him laugh and smile, especially while hanging with his nephew, family, and friends. He enjoyed going to pow wows, traveling, and playing poker. Benjamin liked to spend most of his time with family and looked forward to gatherings where he knew a large meal would be prepared out of love. He will be missed by all.

He is survived by his children, Casey Finnerty, Bennet John Martin Kegg, Bryce Kegg, Shawna Mitchell, and Trinity Kegg; his best friend & significant other, Sheila Neadeau; brothers, Richard, Marty, Robert, and Darrin; sisters, Victoria, Sandy, Rose, Jackie, Christine, and Beverly;

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Maggie Kegg; sister, Maria; brothers, Jesse, Jr., Jerry, Conrad, and Dennis; Grandparents, Martin & Maude Kegg, and Jenny & Sam Mitchell

Jason Arlen Wind Sr., — Nazhikegaabaw

Jason Arlen Wind Sr., Nazhikegaabaw, was born on December 5, 1973, in Onamia, MN. To Jacquelyn Benjamin and Dale Wind. He attended Nay Ah Shing High School. He was a very free-spirited person who loved to travel, watch sports, and listen to music. He loved to laugh and make jokes with his friends and family. Jason is survived by his six children, sons, Emanuel, Austin, Jason Jr., Bly; daughters, Jacquelyn, Jada; brothers, Travis Smith Sr., Derek Smith Sr., Tyler Wind, and Blaine Beaulieu; sisters, Danielle (Daniel) Smith, Tara Smith, and Shauna Beaulieu; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Jacquelyn Benjamin and Dale Wind; brother, Gregory Wind; sister, Cassandra Beaulieu; Uncles, Duane Wind Sr., and Clyde Wind.

Visitation was at dusk on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 6, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Interment will be in Springvale Cemetery, Fargo, North Dakota.

Bonita Marie Lucas — Binesi

Bonita Marie Lucas died on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at Essentia Health, St. Mary's in Duluth. She was 67 years old.

Funeral services were held at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at Aazhoomog Community Center. Visitation was at dusk on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 also at the center.

Eloise Wind — Ishkaabaniikwe

Ishkaabaniikwe, Eloise Wind, 63-year-old resident of Onamia, MN passed away on December 12, 2021. Visitation was at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 17, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Funeral Ceremony was at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 18, 2021, at the District I Community Center with Baabiitaw officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Ishkaabaniikwe, Eloise Betsy Wind was born August 8, 1958, in Onamia, Minnesota to Sonny and Dorothy (Sam) Wind. Eloise worked serving the Mille Lacs Band in many capacities over the years, retiring in 2020. She enjoyed spending time with family, especially her grandkids, laughing and making jokes. She could always be found with a smile on her face and a wise crack for whoever she would see. She enjoyed bingo and keno.

She is survived by her daughter, Brittany (Owen) Wind; grandchildren, Diamond, Silas, and OJ; brother, Larry Wind; sister, Joyce (Ray) Trudell; lunch partner, Michael Quinn; many nieces, nephews, cousins, great-nieces, great-nephews, and we'ehs.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sonny & Dorothy Wind; brothers, Virgil Wind, Clyde Wind, Dale Wind & Duane Wind.

Frances Davis — Ozhaawashkogaabawiikwe

Frances Davis, 88-year-old resident of Onamia, Minnesota passed away on December 18, 2021. Visitation was at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at the District I Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Funeral Ceremony was at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at the District I Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Obizaan officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Frances was born on December 18, 1933, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Annie (Dorr) and Henry Davis Sr. She loved her job working at the Nay Ah Shing Clinic where she was employed for over forty years. Frances also served on the Nay Ah Shing School Board for many years. She enjoyed going to the casino to play bingo and going on family trips. Frances liked to spend her time making blankets and attending ceremonial dances. She was Midè and a Big Drum member. Frances loved her little pets, especially her dogs. She will be dearly missed.

Frances Davis is survived by her sons, Michael Davis, Cheyenne Davis Sr., Louis Davis, Richard Davis; daughters, Mitzi Davis, Winnie Davis, Gina Anderson, Louise Davis; grandchildren, Jewel Davis, Kirstie Davis, Tristan Davis, Sahen Davis, Franny Davis Jr., Wahwahtay Benaisii, Keith Boswell, Christopher Boswell, Marlow Davis, Ricki Boswell; great-grandchildren, Loyn Deyhle, Mercedes Deyhle, Davis Deyhle, Login Deyhle, Destanie, Anderson, Shyla Lussier, Jordan Anderson; and many other great-grandchildren; Deb Northrup, and many loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Annie (Dorr) and Henry Davis Sr.; sons, Richard, Harold, Donovan, Marlin, and Loren; daughter, Kateri; brothers, Harold, Henry, Marvin, and Arthur; sisters, Viola, Marge, Virginia; grandchildren, Winston, Shane, Cheyenne Jr., Dallas Sr., Tina, and Charrisa.

Brianna Sipma

Brianna Sipma, 38-year-old resident of St. Paul, MN passed away on November 30, 2021. Visitation was at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment will be in the Woodland Burial Grounds.

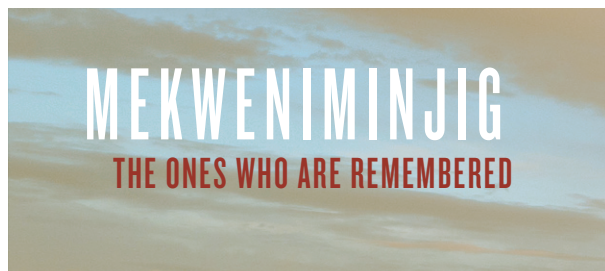


Brianna Louise Sipma was born on August 11, 1983, in Willmar, MN to Vern Sipma and Vanette Bush. She attended and graduated from New London Spicer High School and then went on to St. Thomas where she pursued a business marketing degree. Brianna was employed by Target Corp., VStar Productions, and was currently at IBM. She loved animals, especially her dog, Phin. She liked to spend her time shopping, going out to eat, and watching TV.

Brianna is survived by her mother, Vanette; brother, Daniel Sipma; sisters, Raina Sipma, Alicia Willer; aunts, Beverly Jones Bush, Edith Bush, Arvilla Sipma; uncles, Terry Bush, Loren Sipma, Wayne Sipma, Calvin Sipma, Ronald Sipma, Rodney Sipma, Delwin Sipma, and George DeGroot

She was preceded in death by her father, Vern Sipma; aunt, Sharon Todd; grandparents, Ray and Catherine Sipma.





George Ben Jackson Sr

George Ben Jackson Sr., 70-year-old resident of Onamia, MN passed away on December 16, 2021. Visitation will begin at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 19, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 20, 2021, at the District I Community Center with Baabiitaw officiating. Interment will be in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



George was born on August 16, 1951, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He lived and worked in the metro area where he would remodel homes. George was a MN Vikings fan who enjoyed being with his family and friends. He looked forward to BBQ cookouts, playing at the casino, and socializing at Geno's Bar & Grill. George served his country in the United States Marine Corps. and will be missed by his family and friends.

George is survived by his children, Anthony Wildey Sr., George (Tara) Jackson Jr., and Dawn Siquina; brother, Darryl Jackson; sister, Marilyn Gurnue; and 17 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred Jackson and Abbie Jekey; sons, Shawn Jackson, Rickey Wildey; and his brother, Dennis Jackson.

MEKWENIMINJIG

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



AANJIBIMAADIZING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

Do you need help paying for child care? Please contact Aanjibimaadizing to see if you qualify. Child care assistance helps parents or guardians pay for child care. Aanjibimaadizing can pay child care centers, family child care providers, or family, friends or neighbors (FFN) that provide child care. Child Care assistance is not available in the Urban area at this time.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Apply to become an Aanjibimaadizing client to see if you qualify for services. Applications can be found online at <https://aanji.org>. Once completed, applications should be submitted to a Case Manager or Rose Wind at rose.wind@millelacsband.com.
2. The Case Manager will give you a child care assistance application that must be completed with your child care provider.
3. You will be notified if you qualify for assistance. If you qualify, you will be notified the amount of your monthly co-payment to the child care provider. Monthly co-payments are determined by household income and size. Aanjibimaadizing will pay the rest of the child care bill when the monthly calendar or child care invoice is submitted. Payments are made once a month. Please allow 7-10 days for processing payment.
4. Please contact a Case Manager below for assistance.

District 1- Candace Benjamin-Director 320-362-0014 candace.benjamin@millelacsband.com
District 1-Rosa Sam 320-364-3187 rosa.sam2@millelacsband.com
District 1-Kaari Weyaus 218-316-2437 kaari.weyaus@millelacsband.com
District 1-Julie Peterson 320-290-8729 julie.peterson@millelacsband.com
District 2-Winona Crazy Thunder 320-364-3049 winona.crazythunder@millelacsband.com
District 2-Autumn Ballinger Office-218-768-5330 autumn.ballinger2@millelacsband.com
District 3- Renee Allen 320-591-0559 renee.allen@millelacsband.com

Please note:

1. You must be working or attending school full-time to qualify for child care assistance.
2. There is an annual limit of \$6,000 for child care assistance.
3. Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) care providers may be required to take classes related to child safety.

KEEP OUR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES SAFE THROUGH ACTS OF LOVE

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) launched the Act of Love campaign in summer 2020 to depoliticize masks while encouraging American Indians and Alaska Natives to #wearmask to keep loved ones safe from COVID-19. Protecting elders, healthcare workers, and Native youth are Acts of Love.

Learn More: nihb.org/covid-19/act-of-love

National Indian Health Board

NIHB Act of Love Campaign: Keeping Tribal Communities Safe

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) launched the Act of Love Campaign in summer 2020 to depoliticize masks while encouraging American Indians and Alaska Natives to #wearmask to keep loved ones safe from COVID-19. Protecting elders, healthcare workers, and Native children and youth are acts of Love. If you have received the COVID-19 vaccine, continue to show Acts of Love by wearing a mask, keeping your distance, and washing your hands to keep our Tribal communities strong and thriving.

NIHB encourages Tribal members, friends, family, partners, supporters, funders, and allies of Tribal health and Indian Country to share your masked selfie with NIHB or order your own NIHB Act of Love mask today!

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

JANUARY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Mark Raymond Anderson
 Garland Dean Barnes
 Michelle Lynne Barnes
 Debra Lou Bellamy
 Mary Anne Bellonger
 Karen Marie Boyd
 Edith Ruth Bush
 Alida Belle Colton
 Ronald James Crown
 Leroy Henry Day
 Lorna Jean Day
 Bonnie Jean Dorr
 Gary Lee Dorr
 John Charles Dowell
 Dora Ann Duran
 Joseph Ellsworth Edgington
 Denise Le Rae Fahrlander
 Michael Gerard Gagne
 Ella Reine Garbow
 Joseph Gordon Hendren
 Rose Marie Holmquist
 Katherine Ann Jackson

Charles Ted Johnson
 Patty Jo Johnson
 Robert Wayne Johnson
 James Ernest Kalk
 Gene Kegg Darrin
 Marty Kegg
 Richard Duane Kegg
 David Henry Kost
 Lucille Kuntz
 Carmen Marie Lone
 Leslie Madelyn Lopez
 William Joseph Losh
 Priscilla Joann Lowman
 Gloria Jean Lowrie
 Curtis Lee Martin
 Temperance Yvonne McLain
 Michael Samuel Merrill
 Jodell Marie Meyer
 Cora Lucille Nelson
 Diane Lynn Nickaboine
 Rosalie Ann Noonday
 Steven Lee Pawaush
 Karen Lynne Pike
 Shelley Ann Pindegayosh
 Michelle Louise Pomerleau

Patricia Marie Potter
 Dora Ann Sam
 Elaine Bernadette Sam
 Henry Sam
 Robbin Lee Sam
 Robert James Sam
 Tracy Lynn Sam
 Brenda Jean Sayers
 Ruth Ann Shaugobay
 Bonnie Shingobe-Neeland
 Jewell Fay Skinaway
 Steven Ralph St. John
 Joseph Alex Staples
 Kathleen Marie Vanheel
 Lori Ann Vinz
 Kenneth LaVerne Wade
 Brian Kelly Wind
 James Edwin Wind
 Nancy Lee Wood

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Adam Parker** on

January 15 with love from Dad, Missy, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Uncle Dan, Myla, Pie, Kev, Auntie Randi, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Brad, Auntie Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Trinity, Bianca, Henry, and Binesiikwe • Happy birthday **Worm** on January 20 with love from the Harrington Family

ELDERS NEEDED!

The Government Affairs Department is seeking Elders to tell their stories for a new Moccasin Telegraph series as well as to preserve video and audio in the Mille Lacs Band archives for future generations. If you are willing to participate in a two-hour video interview to share your memories,

please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.

Chi Miigwech!

We would like to extend a Chi-Miigwech to Darla Roache for all the hard work and great follow through on the gift card donation project for the Mille Lacs Band children in foster homes. Without her dedication this wouldn't have happened!

Family Services Team

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, or 763-260-0164

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: 320-282-9165

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

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please email news@millelacsband.com before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday.

Send calendar items to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.

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



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS NOT OUR LEGACY

To report suspected human trafficking, call the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tip line: **1-866-347-2423**

If you are a victim and need help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: **1-888-373-7888**

BLUE CAMPAIGN
 One Week One Victim, One Month One Freedom

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>BAND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS</p> <p>Band Assembly meetings are open to the public at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays. Can't get to the meetings in person? You can log in to the Band member portal and watch the livestream from wherever you are. Visit the website for more information or call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181 with questions.</p> <p>Women's Healing Circle meets every Tuesday at 5:30 pm.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR WELCOME TO 2022</p>
<p>2</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>3</p> <p>Government Offices Closed - New Year Break</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>5</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>6</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>7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>9</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>10</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.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>12</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>13</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>14</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p>
<p>16</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>17</p> <p>Government Offices Closed - CIVIL RIGHTS DAY</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Third Wednesday (check):</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>20</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>21</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p>
<p>23</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>24</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Cente</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7</p>	<p>27</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>28</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p>
<p>30</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>31</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Cente</p>	<p>CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!</p> <p>Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in <i>Ojibwe Inaajimowin</i>. For stories of 500 words or more, compensation is \$400. The deadline for stories is the 15th of each month. If you have a story to submit or would like more information, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-495-5006.</p> <p>VISIT THE WEBSITE!</p> <p>Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services.</p>				

Do you need sobriety support? Search **Mino Miikana (A good path)** on Facebook!

Watch "The Woodlands: The Story of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe" at <https://youtu.be/p29pYy0kW3g>

Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services.

Play "Growing Up Ojibwe: The Game" at <https://glifwc.itch.io/growing-up-objibwe-the-game>



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



HONORING VETERANS

BAND MEMBER VETERANS PARTICIPATE IN PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL PARADE. See page 10

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 February issue deadline is January 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.

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

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



RETURNING
GASHKIBIDAAGANAG
page 14

WINTER TRADITIONS
OF TRAPPING
page 11

FIGHTING FOR
CHANGE WITH MMA
page 6

SPIRITUAL
CONNECTIONS
page 1