

O J I B W E

I N A A J I M O W I N

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



OFFICIALS APPLAUD PLAN TO CHANGE DEROGATORY NAMES FOR PLACES

SECRETARIAL ORDER 3404 TO REMOVE OFFENSIVE WORD FOR WOMAN

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Mille Lacs Band officials are applauding the federal government's plans to change the derogatory names of places in Minnesota and across the nation. The U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland recently signed Secretarial Order 3404 that declares "S-word" a derogatory term against Indigenous women and implements a process for replacing the names of places with that term across the country.

Recently, Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Kelly Applegate participated in a consultation session with the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) regarding Secretarial Order 3404 to remove geographic names using an offensive word for "woman" (a Massachusetts tribe's word for "woman" that had been misappropriated and used derogatorily in English).

Commissioner Applegate feels this is a powerful and brave act that the United States is taking under the leadership of DOI Secretary Haaland. "Our ikwewag, our women, are the foundation of our communities, providing life, family, and stability even in turbulent times, creating sacred times and spaces for healing and joy," Commissioner Applegate said. "We must honor our women and their presence in all of our lives."

Replacing the "S-word" with an appropriate name that is respectful is important as a step in addressing the long-standing ills against Indian Country and are long overdue.

"For Anishinaabe people, our language has power; when the words of a tribal community are misused by others in a way that causes shame or harm, that pain is very real," said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "I am proud of the leadership of Secretary Haaland in protecting Indigenous language and honoring the legacy of Indigenous women everywhere."

"When this consultation opportunity came up, we thought

this was really important and wanted a seat at the table," Commissioner Applegate said. "I am glad from a Commissioner of Natural Resources standpoint and protector of culture, people, and our traditions and our ways, showing our respect for our people. It is important to me that this initiative follows through. They are leaving it up to the tribes to decide on appropriate names. We applaud the DOI in efforts to remove this derogatory name."

In the Band's service territory, there are two small lakes by Pine City, MN, where one is called Devils Lake and the other "S-word" Lake, which in the consultation session Commissioner Applegate recommended the two should be taken as a set, and that both lakes should have their names changed to Manidoons-zaaga'igan Giiwedonong, meaning North Little Spirit Lake, and Manidoons-zaaga'igan Zhaawanong, meaning South Little Spirit Lake. The team at the DNR constructed a powerful comment letter sent to the DOI by April 24, 2022, to reiterate Commissioner Applegate's recommendations.

Charlie Lippert, Mille Lacs Band DNR, explained that during the days of oppression of Native American faith, English speakers took any instance of "manidoo" and translated it as "devil" and not as "spirit" so that the Christian idea of the Christian God could prevail over the indigenous idea of a manidoo or spirit. In the case of Devil's Lake and S-word Lake, they are both shallow lakes immediately south of Cross Lake on the east side of Pine City. Devils Lake was named because of the insects (most likely mosquitos), which Ojibwe respectfully call manidoons, or little spirits. Thus, the northern of the two lakes was then called Devils Lake and its smaller "sister" lake to the south was called S-word Lake, having been translated from the

DEROGATORY NAMES see page 5

TRIBAL ELECTION PRIMARY RESULTS

Sheldon Boyd will serve second term as Secretary/Treasurer; Wendy Merrill to become new District II Representative

The Mille Lacs Band's primary election on April 5 determined Sheldon Boyd as the winner in the Secretary/Treasurer contest having received 56.29% of the votes from a field of three candidates. Wendy Merrill was elected District II Representative, having received 51.09% of the votes from a field of five candidates. The race for District III Representative will take place in the Band's general election on June 14, 2022.

Vote totals — Secretary/Treasurer

In accordance with Minnesota Chippewa Tribe election law, any candidate who receives more than 50 percent of the vote in the primary election is declared the winner. No general election will be held in this contest.

Wanetta Jo Thompson — 63 at 11.01%
Carolyn Marie Beaulieu — 187 at 32.69%
Sheldon Ray Boyd (incumbent) — 322 at 56.29%
Total — 572

Vote totals — District II Representative

District II includes Band member communities in Minisinaakwaang (East Lake), Sandy Lake, Minnewawa, and Chiminising (Isle). No general election will be held in this contest.

Wendy Megan Merrill — 70 at 51.09%
Thomas Lee Benjamin Sr. — 20 at 14.60%
Iyawbance Laprairie-Mushkoob — 6 at 4.38%
Daryl John Aubid — 4 at 2.92%
Michael Robert Aubid — 37 at 27.01%
Vote totals — 137

District III Representative

District III includes the Aazhoomog (Lake Lena) community near the St. Croix River east of Hinckley, as well as the Meshakwaad community in Hinckley.

There are only two candidates running for the position of District III Representative; therefore, there was no need for a primary. The two candidates will face off in the general election to be held on June 14, 2022. The two candidates are Wally St. John (incumbent) and Harry Davis (challenger).

The three positions up for election are part of the Mille Lacs Band Assembly, which is the Band's legislative branch. The Band Assembly consists of one Representative from each of the Reservation's three districts and the Secretary/Treasurer, who presides over the Band Assembly as Speaker. Enrolled Band members at least 18 years of age are eligible to vote for, and serve in these positions.

The Mille Lacs Band general election will be held on June 14, 2022.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH — SEE PAGE 7

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo, Band members. Like every other month, March was packed with back-to-back meetings. Just a few highlights from my calendar this month included attending the Governor's State of the State address, the swearing-in of the new U.S. Attorney Andrew Lugar, the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), the U.S. Department of Justice and several meetings with Band Assembly.

With technology, meetings can happen anywhere in the world at a moments notice. It is not unusual to find various commissioners and I attending meetings with the east coast beginning at 7 a.m. our time, or for meetings to be taking place up until 10 p.m. For myself, our commissioners and many of our staff, there is no such thing as an 8-to-5 work day or a five-day work week. Work happens on weekends, evenings, holidays, and whenever it is required to make sure the Band's business is done. These are very dedicated people who sacrifice personal time with their families nearly every day of the year — often even when they are on annual leave — to make sure the Band's business gets done.

I want to talk a little bit about the role of the Chief Executive when it comes to passing new laws for the Mille Lacs Band. In our three-branch division-of-powers government, the Mille Lacs Band Statutes define the roles of each of the branches. Two of the statutory roles of the Band Assembly include the duties to enact laws and to appropriate revenue. One of the statutory duties of the Chief Executive is to approve or veto any proposed law which passes the Band Assembly.

Making the decision about whether to approve or veto legislation passed by the Band Assembly is a very serious matter. After the bill arrives in my office, a thorough legal analysis is done by my internal legal support staff regarding how it will impact the Band. I also consult with other Band attorneys and exterior counsel when certain questions arise.

There are many reasons why I might have to veto legislation — even when I strongly support the idea of the proposed law. The most common reasons are issues with specific words

or language errors; conflicts with other Band laws; concerns raised by Band Members; conflicts with federal laws or constitutional concerns; and when there is a possibility that well-intended changes to Band laws being proposed could unintentionally create even bigger problems.

In one example, a proposed bill would have taken some of the decision-making authority away from the Mille Lacs Corporate Board, which is made up mainly of Band members, and substituted the Band Assembly as the decision-making body in

"IN THE END, WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING — PROGRESS FOR BAND MEMBERS."

certain business decisions. Legal analysis convinced me that this bill violated the division-of-powers principle at the foundation of our government. In the 1980s, Band members made the decision that the elected officials should not be involved in making business decisions. I vetoed this bill because I could not support this change.

I recently vetoed a proposed bill that rewrote Title 6, the Band's Ethics Code. I strongly support changes that will strengthen the Ethics Code, which is currently too weak, and I am happy the Band Assembly is working to improve it. One reason I vetoed this bill is because I felt it did not go far enough to strengthen the Ethics Code. There were also specific language concerns that prevented me from signing this version of the bill into law.

Just because the Chief Executive vetoes a bill does not mean the issue is dead, however. Our Band Statutes require the Chief Executive and the Band Assembly to meet together

in a Compromise Hearing within five days after a bill is vetoed. At a compromise hearing, the Chief Executive and the Band Assembly discuss the issues that are of concern in the proposed bill. If this happens, 15 calendar days are available to negotiate an agreement for the bill's passage into law. If an agreement cannot be reached during that time, no further action is allowed for 180 calendar days from that date.

For appropriations bills, which provide funding to Band programs and services, the process is a little different. When the Chief Executive vetoes an appropriation bill, a compromise hearing must be held within three calendar days. Negotiations begin between the Chief Executive and the Band Assembly on the fourth calendar day and continue until a compromise has been achieved.

In 44 of the 50 states, governors have some form of "line-item veto authority". This means that they can veto small sections of a bill that they view as problematic, but allow the rest of the bill to pass into law. Under Mille Lacs Band statutes, "sectional vetoes" are not allowed. The Chief Executive must veto the entire bill, even if there are just a few problematic areas.

I do not like to veto bills passed by the Band Assembly, and I know Band Assembly members certainly do not enjoy seeing their bills vetoed. But I also cannot sign into law any proposed bills that might cause problems later. We have outstanding legislative staff and attorneys who know how to write laws, but we also have outstanding Executive staff and attorneys with experience implementing laws who can identify problems with language and propose solutions that others might overlook.

The simple solution is for our attorneys and staff to spend more time together, working out differences before a bill is scheduled to be voted on. Problems could be avoided, and we would not have to devote so much time going back and forth in compromise hearings. In the end, we all want the same thing — progress for Band members.

Miigwech.

ANDERSON PRESENTS AT SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS EVENT

By [MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE MARY SAM](#)

Health and Human Services Commissioner Nicole Anderson, along with Minnesota Representative Ruth Richardson presented to students, staff, faculty, and administrators from across the State of Minnesota at the Annual Title IX Sexual Assault Awareness Month Lunch and Learn Conference, April 6, 2022. Focusing on the whys and hows of how stepping into courageous spaces around sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking within colleges and university settings and in our local communities, is long overdue. The event was titled 'Advocacy and Policy Change' where Commissioner Anderson stated advocacy and policy changes on every level are an urgent issue across the state of Minnesota.

Commissioner Anderson, who serves on the Minnesota Missing and Murdered Women's Task Force and Rep. Richardson, who introduced and helped pass legislation to form a Missing and Murdered African American Women's Task Force both discussed that part of the tragedy is that we do not even know scope of the problem when it comes to trafficking and missing and murdered relatives. Both noted that history, oppression, poverty, addiction, and more, play a role in creating and supporting the cycles that we are seeing that are impact-

ing individuals, families, and communities.

Commissioner Anderson said naming sexual violence, trafficking, and the number of relatives missing and murdered in a community and state takes risk, courage, and requires action — none of which are easy to do. Being comfortable talking about these topics opens the door to address the issues. The dark underworld of sexual exploitation-violence, has become a right of passage for both the victim and the abuser in some communities, many know it is occurring, but look the other way. Sadly, the crisis has become normalized, where we expect people like us to "just have these stories."

Both speakers talked about the limited resources in rural communities, not having a media platform to bring these issues to public view, and some pillars in the community who don't recognize or believe these are issues, even when there is clear documentation of sexual harassment, exploitation, violence, and the trafficking occurring within our own regions. Additional barriers include protecting family members and friends and the stigma's associated with the spectrum of sexual violence can keep people stuck and sick. Task forces have been set up to see the problems, but we need the task forces to make the policy level changes. Commissioner Anderson shared



that everyone should have the opportunity to be safe within their own community.

When asked what advice she would give to college students in attendance, the Commissioner advised them to risk, find their courage, be bold and don't give up. "We need you to play a key role in being part of the solution, advocating for policy change, on every level, in every community. Consistently use your voice. Your voice is powerful. We are the people to push the change forward. This cycle needs to end, this isn't okay."

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Q&A WITH LEGISLATIVE BRANCH STAFF

Get to know Kiana Morrison

By VALERIE HARRINGTON-WIND — DIBIKWE, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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

My job title is Assistant Band Assembly Clerk.

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

I have a unique job that I'm always excited to do. I get to learn the process of how the Mille Lacs Band government works and how the legislative body functions within. I like the people I work with. I believe in the work we're doing. I most value the fact that a lot of the actions we do help the Band as a whole and the work to streamline the legislative process.

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

I am motivated mostly by the fact that a lot of the work we do is to help Band members.

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

I am most proud of getting things updated and out to Band members so they can see and view ordinances and resolutions and actions that not just legislative but the Band as a whole have done. I'm happy we are now live-streaming meetings for members so they can view what goes into this branch. I think the more we get comfortable with things being documented



the better it is for all. We all started this process almost four years ago, and to see it come to life is nice.

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

I would describe the Legislative Branch to a Band Member as a governing body that works together with the Executive and Judicial branches to pass laws for the Tribe.

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

No.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

By HANNA VALENTO, REVISOR OF STATUES

The Band Assembly has always operated using legislative sessions and special sessions. However, the legislative sessions weren't as black and white as they are now. The intent of legislative sessions is to promote the production of draft legislation, which will amend the Band's statutes. The Band Assembly passed Ordinance 02-22 on October 22, 2021. It was then signed by the Chief Executive on October 25, 2021. The intent was to establish clear legislative sessions and authorize the Speaker of the Assembly to call special sessions.

3 MLBS § 18 specifies that there are two legislative sessions per year. The first session begins at the State of the Band, which occurs each January, running through the last week of April. The second session begins the second week of July running through September 30.

Band Assembly has historically called a session at the State of the Band, so we wanted to continue this tradition, making it the beginning of a session. We decided to end the first session at the end of April to give the elected officials two months (May and June) to meet with community members and work on draft legislation.

The second session begins in July to coincide with the MCT constitution for when elected officials are officially sworn into office. This session ends September 30 to coincide with the end of the fiscal year, giving the elected officials three months (October, November, and December) to work on draft legislation weekly and meet with community members as often as possible to push forward draft legislation that benefits the community.

As mentioned earlier, when the Band Assembly is not in session, they will still be working. This will be a time where legislative staff and elected officials are meeting every day to work on draft legislation. It will also be a time for the elected officials to meet with their constituents to discuss proposed legislation and discuss ideas for new legislation.

Last, some may be concerned about items that need Band Assembly approval while the Band Assembly is not in a legislative session. The Speaker of the Assembly may call a special session in exigent circumstances, which allows business to be conducted if it meets the threshold.

Below is a visual of the legislative sessions.



LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Letter sent April 7, 2022

Dear Band Members and Band Employees,

The Legislative Branch is issuing this notice that, pursuant to 3 MLBS § 18, the Band Assembly's legislative session will end on April 30. This means that the Band Assembly will not be convening on a weekly basis until the next legislative session, which begins the second week of July. Therefore, please submit all items of business requiring Band Assembly action to the Clerk as soon as possible to ensure prompt action.

The Band Assembly may convene a special session between legislative sessions. However, under 3 MLBS 19, this may only be done if the Band Assembly finds that there are exigent circumstances that justify convening the session. Therefore, the best practice is to submit all items of business prior to the Band Assembly's final scheduled meeting on April 27.

Miigwech,

(Signed)

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly

Letter from Band Assembly dated April 20, 2022

Dear Band Members and Employees,

As we enter into the next legislative session of Band Assembly, which runs from the second week in July until September 20, 2022, we are seeking Band member input to guide our priorities. In the previous session, we received many responses, which were invaluable to use in the conduct of our duties.

If you are interested in providing input, please complete the survey [found on the website] and submit to legislation@millelacsband.com no later than 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2022. Please use "Public Survey" as the subject line. Band members may also submit completed surveys in person to the District I legislative office.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly

Virgil Wind, District I Representative

Marvin Bruneau, District II Representative

Wallace St. John, District III Representative

Wednesday, April 13, 2022: Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

10:00 a.m Formal Public Hearing: Title 25 Cleanup Bill. Formal Public Hearing was completed with an opening and discussion of the public comments. The hearing was completed and closed.

10:15 a.m Formal Public Hearing: Title 5 Court of Appeals Bill. Formal Public Hearing was completed with an opening and discussion of the public comments. The hearing was completed and closed.

Resolution 20-01-18-22: A Resolution in Support of the Band's Application for the Energy and Mineral Development Program Grant Through the U.S Department of the Interior Division of Energy and Mineral Development. Resolution was read and approved.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Sports betting's time may have come in

Minnesota: Legalization could wipe out a robust black market. Minnesota can wipe out what is now a multibillion-dollar black market on sports betting and transform it into legal, regulated industry that would benefit tribes — including poorer ones — and protect consumers while also generating funds for youth sports in disadvantaged areas. While there are many details to be worked out, the positives outweigh the negatives enough that the state should take this opportunity. Much has happened to upend the gambling landscape in recent years. In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a landmark ruling, struck down a federal law that had long prohibited most states from legalizing college and pro sports betting. *Star Tribune Editorial Board.*

In the courtroom and the skies, tribe carries on its challenge of the Line 3 pipeline:

The White Earth Band of Ojibwe says it has detected a half dozen other sites where aquifers may be damaged. Both Enbridge and the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) say they've done aerial checks of their own and haven't found any breaches beyond the three the DNR confirmed March 20, which spilled nearly 300 million gallons of groundwater — about what a city the size of Brainerd would use in a year. The state already fined Enbridge for that first breach, but the DNR is still working on comprehensive penalties for all three breaches. Meanwhile, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison is reviewing the first incident for potential criminal charges. White Earth tribal lawyer Frank Bibeau said they will share the new flyover information with Ellison's office. The images are also being presented in tribal court as evidence in the Band's groundwater legal fight with the DNR. *Star Tribune.*

Minnesota briefs: Three tribal nations get

\$4.2 million from feds: Three Minnesota tribal nations will split \$4.2 million in federal funding for projects ranging from support of public safety to small businesses. The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa will receive \$2.7 million for a new law enforcement and emergency management building. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will receive \$1.3 million for a business incubator and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa will receive \$157,000 to make upgrades to its community center. *Star Tribune.*

Full transcript of Gov. Walz's remarks for his State of the State address

[Gov. Tim Walz welcomed guests, including Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, before delivering his April 24, 2022 State of the State address.]

Madam Speaker, and Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Mr. President, and Members of the Minnesota Senate. Madam Chief Justice, Distinguished Members of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Chief Judge Segal. My fellow Constitutional Officers. Governor and Mrs. Dayton, welcome back. You are welcome any time these last two years. Distinguished Tribal Leaders, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and President Johnny Johnson of the Prairie Island Indian Community. To the Escorts in the Minnesota State Patrol and the Minnesota National Guard.

[Transcript can be found at: <https://mshale.com/2022/04/25/full-transcript-gov-walz-remarks-state-state-address/> Source: *mshale.com*

AANJIBIMAADIZING

TANF PLAN FOR NEXT THREE YEARS

Public hearing to be held Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Aanjibimaadizing will hold a Public Hearing about the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) portion of their 477 Plan on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 9 a.m. Those who wish to comment, but are unable to attend in person may participate via the Zoom link below.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the provision of Tribal TANF services under the proposed 2022-2025 477 Plan. Aanjibimaadizing administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. 42 U.S.C. 602(a) requires tribal governments to submit a TANF Plan to the federal Administration for Children and Families/Department of Health and Human Services. In accordance with this requirement, Aanjibimaadizing has prepared the MLBO 477 Plan October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2025, which includes our TANF plan.

Tribal TANF gives federally recognized Indian tribes flexibility in the design of welfare programs that promote work and responsibility and strengthen families. It is a cash assistance program for the neediest families and allows tribes to establish what benefits and services will be available and develop their own strategies for achieving program goals.

Stakeholders such as Tribal members, Tribal employees, partnering Tribal programs, and Tribal Elders can express their support, raise concerns, and offer considerations and ideas regarding the provision of services. All those having a vested interest in Tribal TANF in the Mille Lacs Band communities may attend the hearing and provide oral and written comments. The proposed Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Public Law 102-477 plan for October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025, can be viewed here: <https://aanji.org/public-comment>.

If you wish to make a public comment at the hearing, please make your request known by email to karen.pagnac@millelacsband.com. Each participant will be allotted 5 minutes to make their comments. Those unable to attend the meeting or wishing to submit comments in writing can do so at Karen.Pagnac@millelacsband.com.

Remote Access Information:

To join this meeting via Zoom, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 320 362 4139

Passcode: aanji

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION AT THE URBAN OFFICE

On Friday, April 8, 2022, Monte Fronk taught a first aid/CPR class sponsored by Aanjibimaadizing at the Urban Office. This course trains participants to provide first aid, give CPR, and use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in a safe, timely, and effective manner. This class is designed for anyone with little or no medical training who needs a course completion card for their job, regulatory (e.g., OSHA), or other requirements, or anyone who wants to be prepared for an emergency in any setting. Upon completion of all course requirements, participants receive a card which is valid for two years. Pictured are Aleah Walleette, Nia Greer, Darlene Barbour, Winona Spaulding, Rachael Ekholm, and Monte Fronk.



MEET THE NEW DISTRICT II REPRESENTATIVE

Wendy Merrill was elected as the new District II Representative during the primary election on April 5, 2022. She provides Band members with an introduction and goals for her 4-year term.

By **WENDY MERRILL**

Aaniin. Bebiskaneyaashikwe indizhinikaaz.

Wendy Merrill indigoo Misi Zaagaa'iganing indoonjibaa Chiminising dash noon goom indaa Migizi indoodem.

My young adult Band member life started out as a teen mom at the age of 17, as well as a teenage high school drop-out, but I worked very hard to work my way up.

My husband, Carlos Merrill, and I have eight children. They are: Amelio, Derek, Nevaeh, Carlos Jr. We added to our family by taking in our nieces Celleia, Brooklyn, and Rihanna, who we consider our own children. After my mom passed away last November, my husband and I also took in our nephew Landon. So altogether, we have eight kids.

My leadership experience includes: being appointed for the Gaming Regulatory Board as the Chair for four years; working in Gaming Regulatory Authority as a Manager; working directly in Legislative as the Director of Legislative Affairs under Sheldon Boyd; my executive casino experience in my current role as Assistant General Manager for Grand Casino Mille Lacs; coaching cross country for the Mille Lacs Raiders for five years; being on our local American Indian Policy Council Board since my youngest was in second grade; and lastly being a mom.

My education includes my AA degree from Central Lakes College, BA in Organizational Behavior from the College of St. Scholastica, Masters of Tribal Administration and Governance from University of Minnesota Duluth, and I am currently completing my MBA from the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management. I will be walking on May 16 but won't officially be done until this summer.

I worked really hard to break those generational barriers and I am very proud of that. I am also very proud to share my story. It was not easy to do but I am glad I had a supportive husband, friends, family, and community members.

Since December, I've been out activity campaigning in our community, meeting with Band members, and explaining why I was running for the District II Representative. I hosted a "Rally

to Vote" Roundy on April 3, 2022 and had a great turn out. I'm excited to get more community events going in Isle and East Lake areas.

I am extremely excited for this opportunity to serve the DII community!

I've met with Band members, local youth, and Elders through Zoom listening sessions, individual conversations, and my scheduled meet-and-greets in both the Isle and McGregor communities. There are definitely underlying themes of where we need to focus: jobs, safe housing, Elder care, preventive measures for our youth, transportation, community, and cultural support.

When I announced my candidacy, I mentioned that I was inspired by our current and past Mille Lacs Band leadership, and I believe now is the time for me to pick up the torch and set an example for the next generation. I want to make our communities a place to thrive, to be involved. I want to give a huge Miigwech to those who inspired me to run for office, those who gave me great advice and hope we can all work together to solve bigger issues we see every day.

I received feedback from a Band member who lives in another district that I wanted to share. They said, "At the end of the day, we are the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and I am confident in you. Wendy, you are a strong believer in unity. Even though you are running to represent District II, I'm sure you will be working with other district Reps to make us one united entity representing the people. It would be great to have our districts united and working together."

This captured the essence of my platform and what I am working towards. The legislative body works together for the people to promote the general welfare of all district residents. Under my leadership, I will be engaged, be present, and be your voice.

Thank you to everyone who voted for me. Every vote is important because it shows that the people have spoken.

Miigwech.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Oklahoma state officials resist Supreme Court ruling affirming tribal authority over American Indian country: It's unusual for someone to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit one of its decisions. It's very rare for that to happen almost immediately after the ruling was issued. But in the two years since the court's ruling in a key case about Native American rights, the state of Oklahoma has made that request more than 40 times.

State officials have also repeatedly refused to cooperate with tribal leaders to comply with the ruling, issued in 2020 and known as *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. Local governments, however, continue to cooperate with the tribes and show how the ruling could actually help build connections between the tribal governments and their neighbors. In the *McGirt* ruling, the Supreme Court held that much of eastern Oklahoma is Indian country under the terms of an 1833 treaty between the U.S. government and the Muscogee Creek Nation. Based on that treaty and an 1885 federal law, the ruling effectively means that the state of Oklahoma cannot prosecute crimes committed by or against American Indians there. Federal and tribal officials are the only ones who can pursue these cases. Together, these court decisions have closed a major legal loophole. Before these rulings, suspected criminals in eastern Oklahoma regularly avoided prosecution because police could not agree whether the state, tribal or federal government had jurisdiction over the land where the crime occurred. *The Conversation*.

Klobuchar, Smith report securing \$4+ Million for tribal nations: WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and Tina Smith, D-Minn., announced they secured \$4,199,000 for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

The Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Business Incubator will receive \$1.3 million to create a business incubator to help create and grow young businesses by providing them with necessary support and technical services.

"Small businesses are driving the rebirth of our economy after the pandemic and are responsible for creating two-thirds of all new jobs in the United States," said Melanie Benjamin, chief executive of the Mille Lacs of Band of Ojibwe. "With a focus on supporting entrepreneurs and showcasing their gifts, this business incubator project is a game-changer with the potential to spur the entire regional economy. On behalf of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe I would like to thank Sen. Klobuchar and Sen. Smith for supporting this critical project that will benefit east-central Minnesota."

"This federal funding will have a real impact for Minnesota's Tribal Nations," Klobuchar said in a news release. "From supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs to strengthening public safety infrastructure and increasing energy efficiency, these projects will address key issues impacting our Native communities on a daily basis. I am proud to have worked with Tribal leaders from across the state to secure the resources for these projects, and I look forward to seeing all the good they will do." *Brainerd Dispatch*

DEROGATORY NAMES from page 1

derogatory word for woman.

"I appreciate Secretary Haaland engaging this movement to respect women and roles played in our lives," said Susan Klapel, Executive Director of Natural Resources. "I remember my mom, Peggy Klapel (Dunkley), being very disgusted by the S-word and how freely and carelessly it was tossed about. I watch a lot of women in my life whom I respect, and I guess they really don't know. So many of the women I work with, fished with, hunted with, shopped with, cooked with, or even just sat around and had conversations over a cribbage board with, really may not understand how offensive the word is. And I think of Lori Piestewa who was killed in Iraq. She was the First Native American woman soldier to die in combat in 2003. I think besides my mother expressing her distain of the S-word, we tend to not think about it often unless it is right in front of us like a mountain (see sidebar on Piestewa Peak). Changing references to this derogatory the word provides all due respect for my mother, for Lori Piestewa, and for all women everywhere."

In the event that there are no other tribes commenting on other features in the area, but that are not necessarily in the Mille Lacs Reservation area, the DNR team has identified a few other features as having cultural reference based on cultural knowledge that exists. They also offered suggestions for such features but will defer to any other tribe who may have a stake in said features to ensure the proper dialect and/or language will be used.

"As soon as we saw the opportunity to consult about this

issue, we said yes. I can't express enough how important it is for us to do this," Commissioner Applegate said.

PIESTEWA PEAK

Piestewa Peak was originally called Sq--- Peak. The name Sq--- peak came about in 1903 when a surveyor for the U.S. Government recorded that name on his field notes and map. For a long time, that name stayed, it wasn't until the recent past, that activists were successful in fostering negative public opinion about the then current name. In 1998, a couple of names were researched to replace the current name, both of which were rejected due to name similarities and insufficient evidence to support renaming it those.

Fast forward five years to April 2003, the Governor of Arizona proposed that the name be changed to Piestewa Peak in honor of Lori Piestewa, a fallen soldier and Hopi Indian who was killed in the Iraq War. This proposal was rejected because there is a five-year waiting period before naming a place after a deceased person. Long story made short, controversial votes were made and the name was officially changed.

(Reference: Website <http://www.tomjonas.com/squaw-peak/index.htm>)

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD

BECOME A LICENSED FOSTER HOME

By THE FAMILY SERVICES FOSTER CARE DEPARTMENT

It takes a community to raise children. We need your help.

The Mille Lacs Band Foster Care Department is holding a designated recruitment during the month of May 2022. In hopes to have great responses, Foster Care will be out in District I, II, III, and Urban during the scheduled district monthly meetings doing a brief presentation for all Mille Lacs Band members, family, friends, and participants.

The need for Mille Lacs Band foster homes has never been greater. While family placement is preferred, it is not always possible to place children with family. Our goal in the Mille Lacs Band Foster Care program is to keep children with their families in a Mille Lacs Band licensed home when the parents/guardians cannot provide a safe and nurturing environment. There are too many children in out of home placements in other county licensed foster homes. One of our biggest challenges in Foster Care is not having enough Mille Lacs Band licensed homes.

As a foster family, you will play a critical role as one of multiple people who will support the children and families. Foster parents support the children and provide support to the biological family members working on their case plans to get their children back.

Our purpose is to keep siblings together when possible. Siblings are often separated because there are not enough homes to place the children together.

Foster parenting has the potential to create a healthier, futuristic family dynamic. The children would have the opportunity to experience a safe and nourishing home environment. Foster families provide for teaching life lessons to encourage a healthy transition from youth to adulthood.

There are many benefits to becoming a foster parent. There is nothing more rewarding than to help shape and form a child, give them a voice, show them a loving and safe home, and instill cultural values and traditions.

The moments of reunification will be gratifying. You will have been a bridge for the parents and the children. You will have been a support person — a hero.

Learn more about fostering

Throughout the month of May at the regular community meetings in each district, members of the Foster Care department will be presenting facts and information on fostering. There, you will learn about the number of children who need your help. You will also learn about the different levels of care and the many ways a potential foster care provider can become an emergency, relative, respite, secondary, regular, specialized, medically fragile, infant, teenager, or permanency licensed home with a 120-day period.

In addition, there will be an explanation of guardianships and adoptions to be able to understand the differences between Emergency Guardianships vs. Regular Guardianships and explore the process of adoption.

You will also hear inspiring words from current foster parents who will share their reasons for choosing to become foster parents and why they continue to do so year after year. They will also offer pieces of advice for your journey to becoming foster parents.

The process to become a licensed foster home

During phase I, you will fill out the preliminary application paperwork, complete the process for fingerprinting for the Adam Walsh Background Study, and submit urine samples for every household member age 13-plus. There will also be a home study, and a home safety assessment. Home studies and home safety assessments in the application process are important to ensure it is a safe and healthy environment for the children.

In phase II, an orientation session is held in the Ne la Shing Clinic at 18562 Minobimaadizi Loop, Onamia, to go over the policies and procedures as well as the trainings that are required to become licensed such as first aid/CPR training, and car seat training.

Finally, in phase III, home safety assessments will be completed to ensure your newly licensed foster home has all safety checks approved and sleeping space/beds for foster children. We will also go over fire drills, emergency evacuation plans, and a floor map.



Your newly licensed foster home could expect any of the team members to frequently visit your home to ensure that the foster children are a good fit, and that your home remains a safe, happy home for our Mille Lacs Band children. Team members include but are not limited to:

- Mille Lacs Band Social Workers, County Social Workers, Foster Care Licensors, Case Aides/Transporters, Guardian Ad Litem, and QEW.
- Tribal Court Team Members: Tribal Judge, Tribal Peacemaker, OSG, and Band Member Legal Aid.

You can make a difference in the life of a child by becoming a Licensed Foster Care Provider. By signing up during the month of May and becoming fully licensed, you will also receive a gift card as a token of appreciation from Foster Care. To learn more about how to start your new journey today, please enjoy the presentations at your next community meeting in your district. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Foster Care team at:

- Connie Moose, Foster Care Supervisor, 320-362-0349, Connie.Moose@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.
- Twyla Sam, Licensor/Recruiter, 320-630-4613, Twyla.Sam@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.
- Candace Shaugobay, Licensor/Recruiter, 320-362-4744, Candace.Shaugobay@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.
- Jordan MacDonald, Licensor/Recruiter, 320-362-4734, Jordan.Macdonald@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.
- Chelsea Holmwig, Licensor/Recruiter, 320-630-5778, Chelsea.Holmwig@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

A MONUMENT TO LOYALTY AND SERVICE

By Don Wedll

In August 1862, the United States was nearly a year and a half into the Civil War and at the doorstep of two of the deadliest battles of the war. But here in Minnesota, then just four years into statehood and several hundred miles from the nearest battlefields, there were other tensions facing the military and the residents.

In 1853, the U.S. military had constructed Fort Ridgely to help keep peace along the Minnesota River near New Ulm, where settlers were moving into an area that once was home to Dakota Indians, who had been moved onto a nearby reservation. Later the fort became a training base for Civil War volunteers. By August 1862, the federal government's unkept promises to the Dakota people contributed to heightened hostilities, prompting the Dakota to attack Fort Ridgely.

While Fort Ridgely was at the epicenter of the Dakota Conflict, the troubles were much more widespread. Several Chippewa/Ojibwe bands also took up arms against non-Indians in Minnesota. Although this occurred separately from the Dakota Conflict, there was a joint effort to have it occur at the same time, and the results were similar for the Dakota and Ojibwe bands that took part. They were removed to new reservations, and their lives would never be the same.

But there was an important exception to the removal policy that resulted from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's loyalty and service to Minnesota and the United States during this conflict. There is a lasting reminder of gratitude to the Mille Lacs Band in the Fort Ridgely Cemetery. The monument — dedicated on August 20, 1914 — reads:

"Erected by the State of Minnesota in recognition of and to commemorate the loyal and efficient services rendered to the state by Chief Mou-zoo-mau-nee and the Chippewa

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

Indians during the Sioux outbreak and the Civil War."

So who was "Chief Mou-zoo-mau-nee?" He was one of the Mille Lacs Band's leaders at the time of the Dakota Conflict. When invited to go to war against the United States by a runner for Hole-in-the-Day, a Gull Lake chief, the Mille Lacs Band adamantly rejected the offer. In the Treaty of 1855, the Mille Lacs Band had agreed to live in peace and friendship with the United States.

Historical records show that Chief Mou-zoo-mau-nee directed more than 300 Mille Lacs Band warriors to help protect settlers who had sought refuge at Fort Ripley — near present-day Little Falls. The Mille Lacs Band warriors arrived at Fort Ripley prior to Hole-in-the-Day's troops, and helped successfully defend the people at the fort. Federal Indian affairs officials who were at Fort Ripley when the Band warriors arrived later wrote a note of gratitude to Chief Mou-zoo-mau-nee. The next year, when Chippewa bands were invited to Washington, D.C., to negotiate a new treaty that would remove them from their lands and resettle them elsewhere, the Mille Lacs Band was shown additional gratitude. Article 12 of the new treaty preserved the Mille Lacs Reservation, the reservation that is home to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe still today.

The monument at Fort Ridgely is a reminder of how the Mille Lacs Band helped prevent death and terror at another Minnesota fort, in sharp contrast to the hundreds of civilians, soldiers, and Dakota warriors who perished in battle or from disease as a result of the Dakota Conflict. Fort Ridgely is a state historic site; for more information, visit mnhs.org and click on "places."

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

YOU ARE NOT CRAZY — SOMETIMES, WE JUST NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, STAFF WRITER

If you have a broken leg, you would not hesitate to seek medical attention immediately. But what about when your anxiety is broken, or your stress is broken, or your ability to smile is broken? Do you seek mental health attention in those cases? The Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services is working hard to change the perspective of the community when it comes to overall health — physical as well as mental — by taking a holistic approach to health. The focus of the Mille Lacs Band Mental Health Department is evolving as the needs of the community are shifting. May is Mental Health Awareness month. Crystal Weckert is the Associate Director of Mental Health. She discusses the need to change the stigma surrounding mental health and some changes in the Mental Health Department.

“Normalizing talking about physical health and mental health and how they connect is something we often overlook,” Weckert said. “But we need to be thinking it is normal to talk about it.”

Emotional health often carries over to physical health. For example, blood sugars can really go crazy with high levels of stress. Weckert explained that for people dealing with diabetes issues, or blood pressure issues, when adding increased levels of stress, anxiety or depression, both physical and mental health issues can become unstable. Migraine headaches, ulcers, aches and pains can feel bigger. “Our bodies react in very physical ways sometimes. It is all connected,” she added.

Face it. Life can be stressful. Everybody can use somebody to talk to sometimes. “Therapists are nice because you can openly talk about what is going on without having judgement. When you talk with a family member, there are expectations that exist, and certain agendas. Navigating those agendas is where secrets and struggles tend to happen,” Weckert said. “Therapists typically don’t give you advice that you pick up or don’t pick up. Therapists are going to help you figure out what you want and how to get there. That is why it is important to talk to a therapist: so that you can have an unjudgmental sounding board and a safe place to work those pieces out.”

Often in society, we hear people say things like, “I am not crazy,” or “I don’t have mental illness,” or “I don’t need help.” Often, people avoid or delay seeking treatment due to concerns about being treated differently or fears of losing their jobs and livelihood. That’s because stigma, prejudice, and discrimination against people seeking mental health treatment is still very much a problem. But it is a problem that can have a solution. Simply talking about mental health in general will help eliminate some of the stigma, Weckert said. The first step is to begin to talk openly and honestly about mental health. That may seem simple on the surface, but it can be harder than it appears.

“As a society, we talk about stress and sadness, but we don’t necessarily talk about when these things don’t stop, or don’t go away. When the feelings are ongoing and they impair functioning, that is important to recognize. If you are saying things like, ‘I am so stressed or I have so much anxiety I can’t go to the grocery store, or I can’t go to work.’ But then people reply by saying, ‘just suck it up, just stop, just move on, stop dwelling.’ That makes everything even harder. When there are not a lot of understanding, there is not a lot of support. When there is not those understandings, or we don’t feel comfortable talking about it, people will stop talking about it. They think they can deal with it on their own and that gets really difficult. When people hold things in, and when things are secret, they grow.”

Talking about mental health with an understanding that it is normal to talk about it will help reduce the stigma. “When we can have open conversations and be honest with people about their struggles, the stigma will stop,” Weckert said.

Weckert used the example of Minnesota Nice. “I am going to ask you how you are doing, but I don’t really want to know



— I just want you to say what you are supposed to say: that you are fine and then we can both move on. Being open and honest is not what you expect. Next time you ask someone how they are doing, think about what you asked and be prepared for them to be honest. And if they are honest, you don’t have to have the answers, or give advice — just listen. Being open and honest about your struggles when someone asks you how you are doing can help other people realize they are not alone and can help decrease their struggles, too.”

Trauma-informed care is the new buzz phrase in mental health, Weckert said. “What that means is being aware that other people have trauma, that when I move through the world, I might run into someone who is traumatized in some aspect. They may be struggling or having a hard time. We train our front desk people to not say, ‘how are you doing today?’ Because our clients might not feel fine. Every time they have to lie about being fine, and say what they are supposed to say, it feels like more pressure and they may feel even worse, or less okay, because they had to lie to say they were okay. So be really aware of how we talk to people in general.”

Weckert suggested other ideas to help reduced the stigma. She said, “when you talk to people, use language that promotes mental health. Put yourself out there as being an open person, a caring person, a safe person. By supporting people, it lets people know that it’s okay to struggle and you support them and want good things for them, even if you don’t have all of the answers. We shouldn’t be afraid to let people know we are struggling.”

Trauma comes on all levels, and knowing that everybody experiences situations differently is important. Trauma means different things to different people. Everybody struggles. Everybody has difficulties. Having compassion for other humans is essential. And knowing that you are not alone is important, Weckert said.

“Our community has had a ton of losses for quite some time. Think about the opioid epidemic, a lot of deaths due to various reasons including natural, overdoses, COVID, etc., and suicides have increased,” Weckert said. She paused. “That wasn’t anything that we talked about in the past. Stigma around suicide is huge. If we suspect people died of suicide, we still cover those things up. It is hard to say, ‘My loved one chose to kill themselves.’ It is significantly easier to say it was an ‘accidental overdose.’ Knowing that this community has had a ton of loss is important and it is okay to have feelings about those things and talk about those things. Just recognizing that other people hurt too, that nobody is alone in those boats.”

RESOURCES

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Mental Health is here to help people with mental health issues before they become a crisis and to help maintain mental health stabilization once it is achieved. We are always happy to help support and we have a care line that can be reached at 320-674-4385.

If you or a loved one are at imminent risk, please contact 911 and ask for a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer.

Please see a list of other important resources in the upper-right-hand corner of this page.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

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Canvas Mental Health provides crisis response and a mobile crisis team for residents of Chisago, Isanti, Pine, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs Counties. Please call 1-800-523-3333 to reach the East Central Crisis Response. A link to their website: <https://www.canvashealth.org/crisis-support/mobile-crisis-response/>

Crisis Line and Referral Services provides services to residents of Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena Counties. They provide services for people in crisis and before their problems become a crisis. Their numbers is 218-828-HELP (4357) or 800-462-5525. This link will take you to their website: <https://crisislineandreferralservice.org/about-crisis-line.html>

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI.ORG has very specific helplines that can help find resources in your area. Do not hesitate to reach out. Call the NAMI Helpline at 800-950-6264 to chat Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m., ET.

In a crisis, text "NAMI" to 741741 for 24/7, confidential, free crisis counseling.

If you or a loved one is at risk of suicide, please call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** at 1-800-273-8255 or text MN to 741741.

If you or a loved one is at imminent risk, please contact **911** and ask for a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

"THE REZ" NA MEETINGS

Narcotics Anonymous Meetings are held each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Aanjibimaadizing building.

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

PART I: SPORTS IN THE GAME OF LIFE

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

What is it that drives some students to succeed in either academics or athletics? Or both? Some youth spend hours in grueling practices and drills, and off-season training dribbling in hours of homework — sometimes squeezed in on a sports bus, late in the evening, or early in the morning all the while excelling in both sports and academics. Certainly, it takes a significant amount of skill, either learned or natural ability, and it takes rather large amount of brain power. Right? Or is it something else?

Deflecting shots on goal, or jumping hurdles and sprinting down the track, or sinking a 3-pointer at the buzzer — these things ignite a fire inside the hearts of athletes that explodes with passion. All for the love of the game.

Several Mille Lacs Band member and descendant students are using the successes of their athleticism and the lessons they learned on the court, on the track, and on the ice combined with their academic achievements as a springboard to college and hope to inspire the younger kids to pursue their own goals in athletics, academics, and beyond. Some Ojibwe students who have victoriously thrived in both academics and athletics include Joe Nayquonabe Jr., Roxanne Emerson, Aiyanna Mitchell, Celleia Simmons-Merrill, and Brea Sawyer.

Being a part of high school sports is not just a game. “Being a part of athletics prepares young people for the game of life as the skills are applicable across platforms such as teamwork, communication, skill development and working through adverse times on the playing field,” said Byron Ninham, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Interim Executive Director of Education.

Ninham is a former high school athlete himself hailing from Red Lake High School, home of the Red Lake Warriors, one of the greatest American Indian boys high school basketball teams to ever dribble a ball. Ninham recalls watching the older kids play game after game in front of cheering crowds with the stands filled on both sides of the court. He paid particular attention to one player who always excelled and averaged 30-40 points per game. That player was Joe Nayquonabe, Jr.

“The teams that Joe Jr. was a part of in Red Lake were legendary, and are still talked about today,” Ninham said.

Joe Jr. reflects back on his student athletic and academic career as the “best time of my life,” he said. Getting into sports was a “Family thing,” he added. His dad, Joe Nayquonabe Sr., strongly encouraged all of the kids to be active. He didn’t push one sport over the other, it was more about each of the Nayquonabe siblings were encouraged to try different sports and needed to find their own niche.



Basketball had always been a part of life for Joe, Jr. “Basketball was my main sport. Where I got lucky was my parents,” Joe, Jr. said. “My dad would run home [after work] and then the only thing on his mind was getting us to be active. That is what started the whole craze.”

But it was his mom who taught him how to shoot, he recalled. Every day after school, Joe, Jr. would go home, go for a run, and then “shoot 1,000 jumpers a day,” he said.

The turning point for Joe Jr. was that Joe Sr. enthusiastically brought him to every St. Cloud State home basketball game just to see a Band member play college basketball. That player was Band member Chad Germann, who is now a successful entrepreneur, CEO and founder of Red Circle Agency, Minneapolis.

During that time period, the Red Lake Warriors boys basketball team played a tournament in Crosby/Ironton. It was Crosby’s home court, but the crowd was 70 percent Red Lakers. “So, there were all of these Indians packed into this gym.



A glimpse into an article published in the February 12-14, 1999 edition of USA Today that still hangs on the walls of Red Lake High School.

You couldn’t even get in. All these people drove down from Red Lake. There were people sitting outside and sitting in their cars listening to the game on the radio. I had never seen that before.”

After finishing his 10th grade season at Onamia High School with a great season, he was hoping to hear from colleges, but he didn’t even get one letter, he said. “No college even knew who I was. I knew, in order for me to go to college and play basketball, I needed a bigger stage.”

After that, Joe, Jr. set his sights on becoming a Red Lake Warrior. Arrangements were made and he moved in with a family in Red Lake and attended school his junior and senior years at Red Lake, fulfilling Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) classes at Bemidji State his senior year all while playing the game he loved — basketball.

Joe received a full-ride academic college scholarship but turned it down because he wanted to play division II basketball. He soon learned that college ball was not as glamorous as his career in high school and shifted gears to concentrate on his academics. Joe, Jr. fulfilled his college education graduating from CLC with his two-year degree in one year followed by a BA in Business Administration while chasing various internships near universities including Washington, Virginia, U of M and St. Cloud State.

“I love to compete. I think that’s why I ended up in business. I want to win. I picked that up from sports and that is very much still in me,” Joe said. “That, and the idea of working within a team.”

His drive to win was amplified by his desire to see his team succeed. “It doesn’t matter how good you are individually. It didn’t matter how good I was. It mattered how good I could make the team around me.”

He reflected on a seventh grade basketball game when he scored 40 points. He was so excited about his personal score and could not wait to tell his dad about it. But, when he got in the car and told his dad, his dad was not so impressed. Joe Jr. said his dad looked at him and said, “Yeah that’s because you shot the ball every time you touched it. But what about the other kids around you. Their parents were there, too and want to see their kids do well. What about your team?” Joe Jr. paused and continued, “I carried that with me. To learn that at that young age — it’s not about you.”

Participating in sports as a student not only teaches the practice of discipline and teamwork, but students learn to be confident, learn communication skills, socialization, goal setting, Joe said. Teams become more like family and he applies those concepts of family and teamwork to his business mindset today. “Sports are amazing,” he said. “Because you can see results right away. If you put the work in, you will see results. That is the same in real life.”

Looking back now, Joe Jr. says high school and college sports are a great training ground for life because the stakes are really low. “It is not life or death. Sure, when you are in the moment, that is the biggest part of your life right then and there, but when you look back at the moments you thought were so critical, they really weren’t. Yet in those big moments,

they were all teaching you lessons for life.”

SUPPORT IN CLASSROOM AND SPORTS

Delivering support in the classroom and on the playing field as spaces for learning should always be a priority for educators, Ninham said. He fully supports athletics and academics both as tools that teachers, coaches, students, and families receive can last a life-time while maintaining their student lifestyle.

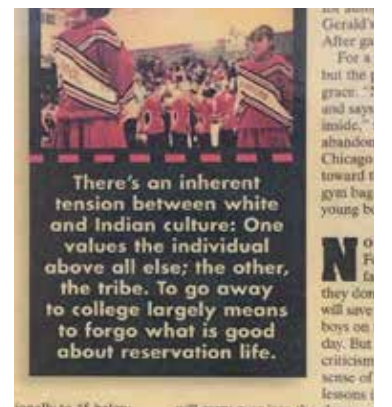
However, athletics programs for many tribal schools, including Nay Ah Shing, face inequities. Smaller class sizes in many tribal schools mean not having the ability to build a full team and compete at the same level as public schools. This often excludes some very talented athletes, or the students choose to attend public schools in order to participate in sports and/or be seen by college recruiters.

“Tribal communities have amazing athletes but sometimes lack the network to be seen at a higher level for exposure,” Ninham said. “This has changed over time with commitments from our local universities to connect with coaches and developmental programs but the lack of opportunity for our American Indian student-athletes persists as equity is not always available in rural communities.”

More recently the Mille Lacs area public schools began a co-operative agreement which extended to all sports between Onamia and Isle public schools with the Mille Lacs Raiders team name. Combining the two school’s sports programs allows for the assurance of having enough players for a full team and compete at a certain level.

Nay Ah Shing Schools seventh through 12th grade has reached out to the Onamia and Isle school districts regarding the processes for the Minnesota State High School League application to include Nay Ah Shing students, to be able to participate in Mille Lacs Raiders athletics. “It is a great opportunity that those districts created for the community,” Ninham said. “But at Nay Ah Shing, we are seeing the continued opportunity gap persist. We have asked the schools what we need to do to be included so that any of our students can have the same opportunities and hopefully all students can work towards playing under the lights together into the future.”

Nay Ah Shing schools have not received a reply from either the Onamia or Isle school districts regarding their inquiry.



A glimpse into an article published in the February 12-14, 1999 edition of USA Today that still hangs on the walls of Red Lake High School.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

PART II: STUDENT ATHLETES RISING TO THE TOP

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Roxann Emerson Onamia High School Class of 2021

College recruiters are beginning to seek athletic talent in rural schools, but they still have a long way to go. Even so, the long-shot odds of that happening paid huge dividends for Onamia High School class of 2021 graduate Roxann Emerson, when University of Minnesota Morris awarded her a college scholarship.

Roxann was a three-sport athlete, participating in track, volleyball and basketball. It was the support from the people around her that carried her through those years of practice and schoolwork, she said. Her support circle included her friends, family, teachers, coaches, and others. Her volleyball coach and track coach were huge supporters of her, she said. But Marsha Balder, her volleyball coach, was her biggest inspiration. "I give her credit. She has always been there for me no matter what. I can go to her for anything," Roxanne said.

Playing basketball since she was in fourth grade and volleyball since she was in eighth grade, she says they are a 50/50 split for her favorite sports with amazing memories in each. But one that sticks out in her mind is when she was first recruited by coach Steph Oyler to play volleyball "I remember my first game. I went to go pass and my shoe came off and I ate crap in the middle of the court. It was so embarrassing but I still played. I wanted to cry but I decided to just laugh it off. I just wanted to get up as fast as I could and keep playing. I honestly just love that sport," she added.

And then she started running. Track and field became her third sport during her sophomore year. They didn't have track during 2020 due to COVID-19. "So, I was surprised when I got the phone call," she said. That phone call was from the recruiter at University Minnesota Morris awarding her a track scholarship. Roxann is one of the lucky ones due to encouragement and support from her amazing coaches, she said.

Participating in sports will help in the future — no matter what you do, she said. "In sports you face a lot of challenges. There are going to be times where you get hard on yourself or you get injured and at a point you are going to want to get back on your feet and I you need to learn that in life. Like in basketball when you foul out — and I fouled out a lot — I would get so hard on myself saying things like, 'why did you do that, you know better than that.' But at the end of the day, the coach

would say, 'It's ok. Things happen. Don't think about it. Don't hang on to it. Move on.' Now at track when I am upset about my time, I move on and I tell myself I can do better. And I move on. I think that will follow me through life."

Her advice: "Grades are always first. Always do your homework. If you can, go to college. You go to college to get an education, but it is not just about that. It is about the experience — the friends you make, the experiences you have. So have the mindset that you can do anything, at any age."

Her biggest influence in life has been her dad, she said. "He has been there always. He was always at my games and always helping me out so that I can be better. When we got the phone call about me being recruited for track me and my dad looked at each other and both said, "What?" But we were both so proud. I don't need to hear the words, I can tell he is proud."

Aiyanna Mitchell Onamia High School Class of 2022

Aiyanna Mitchell is currently playing for the Mille Lacs Raiders girls basketball team and she has been billed as one of the top student athletes excelling as a three-sport athlete all while exceeding expectations in academics. Aiyanna will be graduating this June from Onamia High school with her high school diploma and simultaneously graduating from CLC with her two-year Associates degree as a PSEO student.

Up until her senior year, Aiyanna participated in basketball, (varsity squad since the sixth grade), track, and cross country. But her passion soars in basketball.

"I think the biggest reason I love basketball is because it is a team sport, and it has been in my family forever," Aiyanna said. She recalled watching her brother, Zac Green, Leech Lake, play basketball with a career high of 1,000 points. She said she wanted to strive to compete like her brother. But the biggest reason she loves the game so much goes deeper. "My dad played basketball and he was very good. My dad passed away when I was very young. I think that stuck with me. My dad was known for being so good and I just always remember that."

At 5-feet 4-inches tall, Aiyanna is a point guard for the Mille Lacs Raiders. She humbly stated In the last two years she has been the top scorer, top in assists, in steals and deflections. For track, she was happy to be placed in any area, "Wherever the coach needs me," she sai. She enjoyed pole vault, triple

jump and hurdles. She was also on the Raiders cross country team. Due to some health issues, she will not be participating in cross country this season and at the time of this writing it is unknown whether she will be able to compete in track.

For Aiyanna, she said that academics always comes before sports. But she humbly stated that academics has always been fairly easy for her. However, juggling three sports while finishing her high school and PSEO classes has been a bit of a challenge. Also during her junior year, she also held a part-time job on the weekends working as a basic care aide at Mille Lacs Health Systems.

"Sports teaches you commitment. Going to practices every day, and still getting your homework done. If you are not committed you are not going to do well. Just like in everything else, if you want to do well, you have to be committed."

Basketball is her favorite sport because it is more of a team sport. Whereas track, while it is still competition as a team, it is more of an individual sport. Basketball is learning to work as a team, becoming better as an individual for the good of the whole team. "Every single person on the basketball team has to do something in order for us to be good as a team. You have to be able to get along with everyone and you have to be able to understand each other in order for us to succeed. That will probably go with me into the future."

What's next for Aiyanna? She will be attending Bethal University in St. Paul with a "pretty good scholarship," she said. She will be pursuing nursing or speech pathology. She hasn't quite decided.

Her biggest influence in life has been her mom, Ferion Boisjolie, a Red Lake Band member (her dad is the late Tony Mitchell, Sr.) "She has always been a single mom and always been a strong woman. She always put us kids first," Aiyanna said.

Celleia Simmons-Merrill Isle High School – Class of 2023

Celleia Simmons-Merrill has a very quiet demeanor but don't let that fool you. She is a rising star for the Mille Lacs Raiders Girls Basketball. She started playing on the varsity team in eighth grade with some playing time. And now she is

STUDENT ATHLETES see page 14



Roxann Emerson. Submitted photo.



Aiyanna Mitchell. Submitted photo.



Celleia Simmons-Merrill. Submitted photo.

FAMILY TRADITIONS SPRINGTIME TURKEY DAYS

By MASHKODE-BIZHIKIGAHBAW, BENJI SAM

Gichi-bine, wild turkey.



Springtime brings wonders that simply no other time of year can compete with. As the cold, dreary, dark, long days fade into spring it brings a wondrous time to be an outdoorsman. As we wrap up sugar camp and our piles of burning wood have dwindled, the sunlight sheds rays of joy into our lives and almost bring a new energy to the earth.

This time of year brings fish into the shallows, allowing our annual harvest of Ogaa and others to add to the annual foodbank that keeps our people fed. Green plants also begin to pop up across the region and soon we will be able to harvest leeks, mushrooms, fiddleheads, and many other spring new growth. But one of my favorite events this time of year that doesn't get enough appreciation is hunting of the wild turkey. It wasn't that long ago in our nation's history that the wild turkey was on the endangered species list.

Today, the wild turkey population is thriving, and their home range has spread across the Northland to bring more diversity to the ecosystem and give hunters, both new and old, the opportunity to give chase to a truly incredible bird.



Making new memories and sharing gifts of experience with the next generation is what makes the outdoors so special.

This spring, as like many others before, we took to the woods in search of a spring thunder chicken – a term coined by many hunters due to their incredible gobble that often breaks the silence in the woods.

These birds are keen and intelligent yet can be fooled into searching for a heartbreak, with eyes so sharp that they can spot even the slightest movement, and will spook into the next county if you aren't watching your step.

The excitement of a turkey hunt is sometimes hard to describe. From the highest of highs to the lowest of lows, these birds can get a heart racing in a hurry. Unlike other wild game in our region, turkeys are incredibly vocal, and communicating with these birds from a distance of half a mile is not abnormal. To most people, I describe turkey hunting as a physical game of chess, where every move is incredibly strategic and it pays off to think one, two, three moves ahead. That moment where a mature gobbler walks in at full strut with his fan held high and breaks into a thunderous gobble is a moment that I believe every outdoorsman should experience at least once in their life.

My oldest nephew, Logan (12), joined me for his second turkey hunt ever. There are a thousand teaching moments when you share the woods with the next generation. Teachings about life, strategy, planning, execution, struggle, and even death can be experienced in the woods. It is important that we carry on these traditions and teachings to help build stronger, understanding young generations of people who know how and why it is important to provide for themselves.

Logan has yet to harvest his first turkey, but is beginning to understand how to approach the woods and plan for a turkey. In camouflage from head to toe, we escaped to the woods before light hit the horizon to try to sneak in close enough to find him a bird. We set up a pair of decoys on the trail about a hundred yards from where I spotted a tom the night before and set the trap. Unfortunately, this bird already had a hen at his side and flew down away from competition.

After hearing him gobble for the last 30 minutes on his roost tree, our excitement completely halted, as the next time we heard him he was well off the property. The morning wasn't a total bust though, as we saw dozens of whitetails in the

fields and trail, and ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, and beavers all filled the air with their own languages until we decided to head home.

Fortunately for us, the turkey season is long and the birds will only become more aggressive and vocal as the sun brings new life to the Earth. If this is something you've never tried, put it on the list because without even taking a bird home we shared laughs, joy, and experienced the earth waking up — a time of day that our Elders believe is important to the Anishinaabe.

They say that experiencing the sun rise and physically touching the earth every day keeps us grounded and connected to the very place that gives us life. I don't know when I will be able to get my nephew back out in the woods this year, but it was great to be able to make that new memory and share some of what life has given me with the next generation.



Benji Sam and Logan did not harvest a turkey on this particular hunt, however, this is a fine example of a previous hunt by Benji.

MERRILL IS RECIPIENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN 40 UNDER 40

Mille Lacs Band member Wendy Merrill has been named as one of the 40 recipients of the Native American 40 under 40 award.

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (The National Center) announced the 2022 class of Native American 40 Under 40 award recipients. The Native American 40 Under 40 awards represent the best and brightest emerging Indian Country leaders. Every year, 40 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian leaders under the age of 40 are inducted in recognition of their leadership, initiative, and dedication, and for making significant contributions in their business and/or in their community.

"Inductees into the 2022 Native American 40 Under 40 Awards showcase the hard work, perseverance, and dedication that have come to define this prestigious award," said Chris James, President and CEO of the National Center. "The Native American 40 Under 40 represent leaders in tribal government, medicine, law, politics, activism, agriculture, Native cuisine, economic development, media, and many other areas. They are a reminder that Native American leaders are making a difference in every aspect of American life.."

In the letter of recommendation to The National Center, Joe Nayquonabe Jr., Beth Gruber, and Dustin Goslin wrote: "Wendy's story is one of Aakwade'ewin (bravery), Dabaadendziwin

(humility), and Zaagi'idiwin (love). When Wendy moved to the Chiminising community, as a recent high school dropout, she was 17 and pregnant with her oldest son. As she began building her family, in a rural Tribal community, she found a life of struggle and hardship. Her parents Melanie and Jeff Sam, who both recently walked on to the spirit world, taught her from an early age to work hard in life. So as Wendy encountered the life hurdles of raising a young family, she relied upon the wisdom of her parents to guide her forward."

After completing requirements for her GED, Wendy obtained an AA degree from Central Lakes College, a BA in Organizational Behavior from the College of St Scholastica, Masters of Tribal Administration and Governance from University of Minnesota -Duluth, and is currently completing her MBA from the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management.

"I am so very grateful and humbly honored to be a recipient," Merrill said. "I will not be able to attend the ceremony as I will be in Spain for my Global practicum travel for my MBA program."

Merrill will be graduating with her MBA this May and plans to spend time with her family before jumping into her role as District II Representative.



OGICHIDAAKWE OF GE-NIIGAANIZIJIG (WARRIOR WOMAN OF THE ONES WHO WILL LEAD)

CHEYANNE PEET IS LEADING THE WAY TO SHOW YOUTH THAT 'REZ GIRL' THINGS ARE COOL

By DIBIKWE, VALLERIE HARRINGTON-WIND



Cheyenne Peet, Miskwaanawadookwe, is the District II Ge-Niigaanizijig Coordinator for the Aanjibimaadizing Program. Aanjibimaadizing, which means “changing lives” in our Ojibwe language, is operated as a division of the Mille Lacs Band’s Department of Administration. The goals of the program are centered on their mission statement: “To assist our fellow Anishinaabe with education, training, work experiences, cultural participation, and support services to be prosperous and change their life.” Cheyanne is part of the Ge-Niigaanizijig team and she currently coordinates the activities for the Ge-Niigaanizijig. Aanjibimaadizing combined youth programming with Niigaan January 1, 2020. Ge-Niigaanizijig works to develop skills in the four pillars of youth programming: Ojibwe culture, community, career, and education. Regularly scheduled activities inspire and motivate our youth to embrace a traditions-based lifestyle free of chemicals, anti-social behavior, and dependency. Youth mentors provide programming in all districts, as well as Urban. These activities are offered to all eligible Reservation service-area youth ages kindergarten through 20.

Cheyenne ensures the staff are able to carry out the activities with the youth and makes sure they’re having good relationships with them. One of the biggest reasons she wanted to do this job is because she has a chance to build from a foundation with the Aanjibimaadizing program and search for experiences that might light a fire or set off a spark in the kids. Her focus is about trying different things because you never know what’s going to capture them. Cheyanne is constantly trying to figure out how to engage the youth in new things that may be scary and outside of their comfort zone and making sure day-to-day things are going well.

Cheyenne grew up attending youth programs, and when she was old enough to work in summer youth programs, she was placed with Community Youth Services, a similar program to Ge-Niigaanizijig. During her time, she recalls that she wanted to be like her aunt, who was the coordinator of the CYS program. When she was younger she said, “I’m going to be coordinator one day.” Even at a young age she knew her calling was to work with youth. Her aunt guided her to make her do things she didn’t want to and no matter how scared she was, she would guide her to do it. Every time she would do something new, she was proud of herself. Even today, she can hear her aunt telling her, “Just do it for me.” Cheyanne remembers those feelings all the time. She draws on her experiences of coming out of her comfort zone to bring that experience to the youth.

Cheyenne stated the leadership of Aanjibimaadizing is open

to the activities that they want to provide. Her supervisors are very supportive of the vision of the coordinators and mentors. She is able to adjust the agenda to the engagement needs of the area. They prefer the districts sync the activities, and although the districts all serve youth and are the same, there are differences in the interests of the youth. She encourages the mentors and youth to work with other districts because those are the people who they will work with in the future and those relationships will already be built. She likes to be involved in the community and has joined various committees to build relationships and gain support. Cheyanne wants the youth to be able to have that, too.

Working in Aanjibimaadizing gives Cheyanne the opportunity to give back to Mille Lacs. She said she wouldn’t be where she is today without Mille Lacs, and this is her way of giving back and working for her Reservation. She’s always had the mindset of “What can I do for the community?” Growing up and having the same lifestyles as the kids in the program today, she wants to be where she can have the most impact with the youth. She’s worked in other positions but has always known she wanted to work with the community. Her goal when she was younger was to go to school and come back and do her part — wherever that is. She’s worked with adults, families, and treatment centers, but working with youth has filled her heart more than she ever thought it would. She knows that is where she is supposed to be. She loves it. She loves waking up in the morning and although she’s not as hands-on with youth, she is involved with the planning of the youth activities. She knows she has a good crew to carry out the activities. She could work for hours so she has to cut herself off to get other things done. When she was younger she told herself that she would “never work a job I didn’t love. I always want to provide for my siblings and be a coordinator.”

Cheyenne values most knowing she is making an impact — even if it’s not something that is instant gratification, it’s a seed planting type of job. Sometimes that can be really hard but she knows the work she’s doing will have an impact in the future, whether she gets to see it or not. Being somebody the kids can turn to when they’re having a hard time, or they need that caring adult in their life, that’s what she values most about the job.

What motivates her besides the youth and giving back to the community is her family, her daughter, and herself. Cheyanne was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis (an autoimmune disease that causes muscle weakness) when she was 19 years old. Some of her family thought she shouldn’t work and recommended she stay home and collect disability. But she didn’t allow the

disease to take over her body. She found a way to coexist with it and she found strength and motivation to prove to herself she can live a productive life. She is the oldest of six, and although they’re all adults now, she is still their role-model, ensuring they stay on the path and she leads by example. She is a hero in our community and her family.

Currently, she is excited about the upcoming veterinary camp where the youth will get to experience hands-on how to care for an animal in various scenarios. There are not many clinics for animals on or near the Reservation, and she wants the youth to know the many types of jobs related to animals and what college and education is needed.

The biggest events that stick out for her are the healing events they provided. She helped have a healing-through-art event, and they had another event, Ginooji’izidomin, where she had facilitators come to discuss topics that relate to youth specifically. The event was all on cultural and healing.

Cheyenne is currently planning an upcoming event that will tie into the past events but also focus on mental health and suicide awareness. She recognizes the need for healing and the need for dealing and coping with mental health and suicide. Some topics are difficult, but are needed for our youth and community. We gain historical trauma from our ancestors, but we also gain strength and resilience from them as well. One of her goals is to work more and advocate more for the youth in the local public school to work through any past trauma and open up new opportunities to ensure our youth can identify with who they are and that they have a voice there.

For youth that may not know about the program, she would share that the program works to develop skills through activities that inspire and motivate the youth to embrace a traditions-based lifestyle free of chemicals, anti-social behavior, and dependency. She tries to stay under the four pillars and also have fun at the same time. The program is about getting youth involved and learning while going through all these different kinds of healing. That includes sometimes having difficult conversations that are uncomfortable for the youth but at the same time they’re healing, learning, and having fun. She hopes it is a place for youth to feel they have a purpose and that they belong.

Cheyenne recalls being young and having labels put on her that were not very positive. There was a stigma that if you live on the Reservation, you are no good. She would like the youth to recognize that there are good things that come from the Reservation and this is a good place to grow up. If all the youth went off to college and came back and worked as doctors, lawyers, and many good leaders in our community, that would be the most impactful. She hopes to use the program to help youth to be proud of who they are.

Cheyenne wants to make labels be conducive to who we are to have a more powerful positive impact on coming from the reservation. Oftentimes, we carry shame in our blood. Cheyanne wants to hopefully help erase that. It may take time, but it’s worth it. She said you can tell the hearts are really in the work of the youth workers and the program. She appreciates the leadership and the support of Carlos Merrill and Tammy Wickstrom; she says that’s a big part of what makes the job good, and enjoys being a part of a great team.

Miigwech, Cheyanne, for being such an amazing positive role-model doing “Rez girl things,” changing the labels, and making being from the Rez a positive statement.

NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH JR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

SUMMER 2022 JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS

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

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

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

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

OJIBWEMOWIN

JIIBENAAKENG

REMEMBERING OUR RELATIVES WHO HAVE PASSED ON

By Lee Staples Gaa-anishinaabemod Obizaan and Chato Gonzalez Gaa-anishinaabebii'ang Ombishkebines

This article was originally published in the May 2016 issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.

Mii dash o'ow noongom waa-ni-dazhindamaan, mii i'iw Anishinaabe ezhi-wiindang jiibenaaked awiya. Mii i'iwapii wiisiniwin ani-atood ani-mikwenimaad inow odinawemaaganan gaa-aanjikiinijin. Mii-go gaye giishpin inendang a'aw Anishinaabe mii-go gaye inow odayi'iimaan, maagizhaa gaye op-waagaansan, maagizhaa gaye biindaakwaan da-niindaa'apan inow odinawemaaganan gaa-wani'aaain.

What I am going to talk about today is what the Anishinaabe calls Jiibenaakeng. This is when food is put remembering our relatives that have passed on. If the Anishinaabe so desires items of clothing, cigarettes, or snuff can be sent to their relative that they have lost.

Gaawin ganabaj nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe ogikendanzin o'ow bakaan eni-izhi- gaagiigdong wiisiniwin naa-go anooj waa-niindaa'aad inow odinawemaaganan bimi-giizhigadinig. Ishke maa giizhiganikeyang giinawind, mii ingiw gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig niibaa-dibikokewaad. Ishke dash omaa ani- ganoodamaaged awiya, mii i'iw iwidi ani-apagizondamawind a'aw Manidoo iwidi eyaad genawenimaad gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaanijin biinish gaye ani- apagizondamawimind inow odooshkaabewisiman.

I think that a lot of our Anishinaabe do not know that there is a different way of talking when food and other items are put during the day for their relatives that have passed on. When it is daylight here for us it is nighttime over there for our relatives that have passed on. When someone does the talking for this feast he offers up the tobacco to the Manidoo and his helpers over there that takes care of our relatives.

Ishke dash o'ow giizhiganikeyang omaa akiing, mii i'iw ezhi-chiged a'aw Manidoo iwidi eyaad, obi-izhinizha'waan odooshkaabewisiman da-bi-naadinid i'iw wiisiniwin awegonen igo eni-atamawaad inow odinawemaaganan eyaanijin iwidi a'aw Anishinaabe. Mii dash ingiw oshkaabewisag obi-naadinaawaa

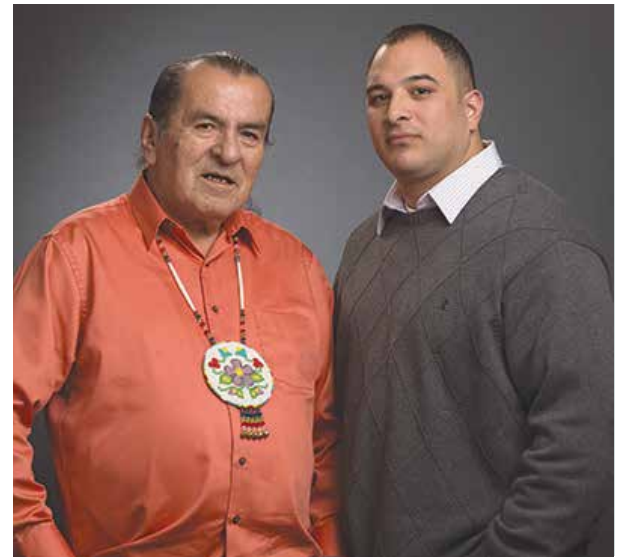
i'iw omaa a'aw Anishinaabe naanda'iwed. Ishke dash azhigwa giizhiganikeyang iwidi, mii iw ani- wiindamawind mekwenimind, mii dash gakina inow odinawemaaganan gaa-odisaajin bi-inish gaye gaa-odisigojin da-odaapinamowaad gaye wiinawaa i'iw wiisiniwin naa gaye awegonen igo naanda'iweng.

When it is daylight here on Earth for us, what that Manidoo over there does is send his helpers to come get the food and any other offering that Anishinaabe is sending to their relatives. It is the helpers that come to pick up the food that is being sent over there. When it is daylight over there, the relative over there is told that he/she is being remembered, along with that his relatives that were over there when he arrived and any that came later share in the meal with him and share any other items that were sent over there.

Ishke dash mii i'iw wenji-mikwendamaan ezhi-gaagiigdong a'aw nizigosiban Nechiyawaasangoban, mii a'aw gaa-pi-gaagiigdong i'iwapii bimi-giizhigak gii-atooyaang i'iw wiisiniwin, mii dash i'iwapii nigii-mikwenimaanaan a'aw ni-wawiinge-maamaayiban Ajidawaashiikweban. Ishke dash megwaa imaa ani- gaagiigdong a'aw mindimooyenyiban abinoojiinyag imaa gaa-ayaajig apii, mii dash

imaa gii-waabamaawaad awiya bi-zaagewenid aasamisagong. Mii dash gaa-izhi- wiindamawag a'aw nizigosiban, "Geget giwawiingez gaagiigdong." Mii dash imaa gii-wiindamawag, "Ingiw abinoojiinyag omaa eyaajig ogii-waabamaawaan awiya gii-pi-zaagewenid gii-mookinaagozinid imaa aasamisagong, mii inow iidog gaa-waabamaawaajin ingiw abinoojiinyag inow oshkaabewisag gaa-pi- izhinizha'igaazonijin da-bi-naadinid i'iw wiisiniwin.

The reason that I remember this talk so well is that we had asked my aunt Mary Benjamin to talk for the food that we put during the day remembering my biological mother Nancy Staples. While that old lady was talking the children that were there saw someone come through the wall. It was then that I told my aunt, "You sure do an excellent job in talking." I continued to tell her, "The children here saw someone appear and come through the wall. It must have been the helper that was sent over to



come get the food that these children saw."

Ishke nimbi-noondawaag iko ingiw Anishinaabeg ani-dazhindamowaad i'iw wiisiniwin achigaadeg maa bimi-giizhigak, mii imaa ani-dazhindamowaad azhigwa gaa-kiizhi-naabishkaageng i'iw wiisiniwin imaa echigaadeg, mii imaa booch eni-gaagiigdong da-nandodamaageng da-bi-azhenizha'igaadeg iniw boozikinaaganan maagizhaa gaye akikoog gii-atemagak i'iw wiisiniwin gaa-niinda'iweng. Gaawin niin i'iw akeyaa nigii-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoosin gaawin wiika nimbi-noondawaasiig Anishinaabeg i'iw akeyaa da-izhi-gaagiigdongaad.

I have heard Anishinaabe say that when food is put during the day, once everyone has finished eating the food that has been put that someone has to talk asking that the bowls or the kettles that were used as containers for the food be sent back to us. I have not been taught this nor I have not heard Anishinaabe talk in that way.

Ishke a'aw mindimooyenyiban Amikogaabawiikweban ingii-waawiindamaag, ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe ozhiitaad minawaa jiiibaakwaadang i'iw wiisiniwin gegoo igo menidoowaadak imaa wenjikaamagak imaa ozhiitaad. Ishke dash mii iwidi eni-izhaamagak i'iw menidoowaadak, mii dash i'iw ani- moozhi-toowaad ingiw gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig ani-gikendamowaad dash mikwenimindwaa. Ishke ninoondawaa a'aw Anishinaabe ani-dazhindang, bakadewag gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig. Gaawin sanaa ganabaj da- bakadesiiwag gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig. Gidaa-mikwendaamin Gaagige- minawaanigoziwining ezhiwiinjigaadeg iwidi. Gaawin da-minawaanigozisiwag giishpin bakadewaagwen iwidi.

OJIBWEMOWIN see page 13

NOODENDAM

JOE'S INSITE TO NOODENDAM (COURTING)

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

Gaa-tibaajimotawaajin (transcribed by) James Clark, Ozaawaanakwad

This month, Joe would like to give out some insight about courting. He sees a lot of families that remind him of a simple story told to him long ago. Joe speaks from the heart when he tells this as he only wants the best for our people now, and in the future.

When the young man begins courting a lady, he would come over and get to know her. They'd begin to learn about each other, beginning with the truth and honesty.

After a while they will know a lot of things about each other and gain experiences and trust together. No longer is it lust/affection, it's about maturity and what comes with it. When things are getting serious, they will get together at night, parents/guardians will be weary of this. Once they get intimate there is an obstacle in the way, the trust will start to lift that obstacle and the family continues to oversee the relationship. Spending a night together did not seem like a big thing long ago but it was trust not only from the family but from the partner herself.

Once this man is ready for the final step. He brought gifts (horses, rice, blankets) to the father of the girl. He will deliberate, by having a feast. Using the food that the young man gave them he would have the family over for a discussion. Anything the

family would have in favor or against him would come out at this time, whether it would have been talked about or not with the girl it'll come out.

If the family approves, then he is all set to marry her. They do this by inviting him back and having another feast, however, not having him back over is a sign that they were against giving her to him for life.

"Why did you bring gifts to her father?" people asked him.

"To prove to her father that I can provide for her, food, housing, and other essentials that a father wants to see to give permission for his daughter's hand," he said.

That story is a big thing even today, knowing that the daughters are going to be taken care of after they leave the home that they grew up in. To prevent everyone getting headaches and heartaches.

"To all families that have young girls in their life, we all want them to have the healthiest life they can have," Joe said. "It is our duty as a community to strive for healthy relationships for generations to come."

JOE'S DISCLAIMER

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

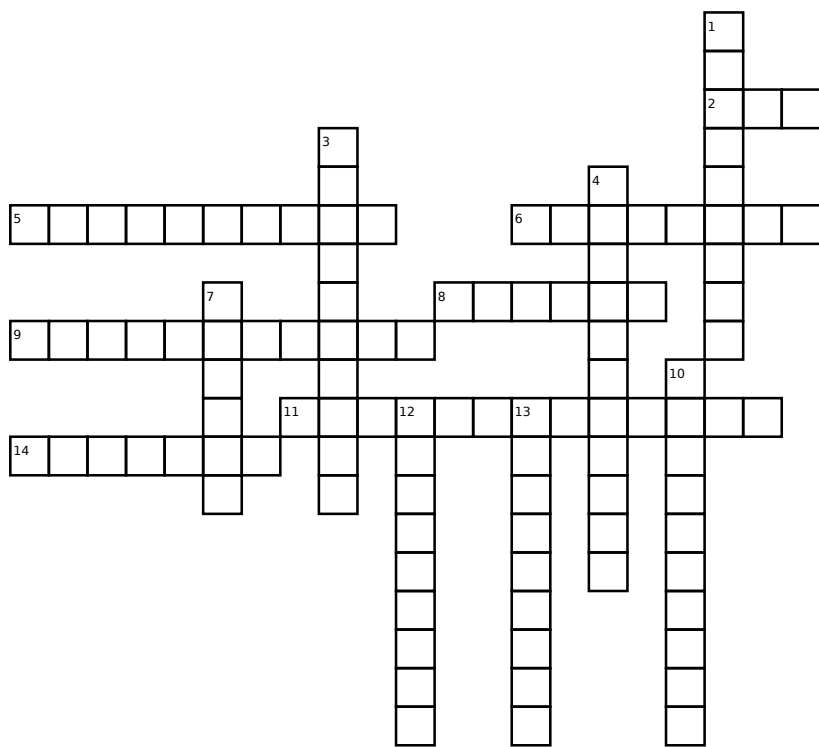
That being said, as Anishinaabe, we all experience life differently. This disclaimer is needed for all intents and purposes as the goal of this article is: to better equip our people who'd like to learn, and for topics people may not have the ability to ask an Elder about. If these teachings are not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

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

Miigwech "

AAZHAWAAKWASING ZAAGIBAGAA-GIIZIS 2020

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

1. Eat up all of it!
3. S/he eats up.
4. S/he eats quickly.
7. You eat it!
10. Eat up!
12. Start eating it!
13. S/he has eaten enough/is full.

Across:

2. You eat the living Being!
5. Let's eat!
6. You eat!
8. Gi-wii-___ ina?(Do you want to eat?)
9. ___ ina?(Are you full?)
11. S/he sneak eats.
14. S/he eats a light meal.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Eating can be expressed in different ways depending on what the situation is and what the items being consumed are identified as. Some items are animate while some are inanimate. This may be because of the different life energies some edibles contain. Or, it can just be one of those things that are left to the Manidoog to know.

Wiisinin = You eat! (Wee sin nin)

Miijin = You eat it! (Mee jin)

Amo = You eat the living Being! (Potatoes fall into this category) (Uh moh)

Jaagandan = Eat up all of it! (Jah gun dun)

Debisinii = S/he has eaten enough/is full. (Day bis sin nee)

Nawajii = S/he eats a light meal. (Nuh wuh jee)

Ginibanjige = S/he eats quickly. (Gih nib bun jig gay)

Giimoodanjige = S/he sneak eats. (Gee moo dun jig gay)

Gidaanawen = Eat up! (Gih dah nuh wayn)

Maadandan = Start eating it! (Mah dun dun)

Wiisinidaa = Let's eat! (Wee sin nid dah)

Jaaganjige = S/he eats up. (Jah gun jig gay)

Gidebisinii ina? = Are you full? (Gih day bis sin nee in nuh)

Gi-wii-wiisin ina? = Do you want to eat? (Gih wee wee sin in nuh)

Gidinwewininaan = Our way of sound

Miigwech.

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

OJIBWEMOWIN from page 12

That old lady Julie Shingobe had told me that when Anishinaabe prepares and cooks this food there is some sort of spiritual energy that comes out of this gesture of sending food over there. It is this spiritual energy that goes over to where our relatives are. It is this spiritual energy that they feel and tells them that they are being remembered. I have heard Anishinaabe say that our relatives over there are hungry. There is no way that our relatives are hungry over there. We have to remember that the place that they have gone onto is called "The Land of Everlasting Happiness." They would not be happy if they were hungry over there.

INTENTION AND THE PREDETERMINATION OF OUR LIVES

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe move about the world, they experience their intended path. Even when there seems to be a diversion of focus or delay of acts of what should be done, it is a mystery to us what the manidoog have in mind. Our ancestors had a sort of trust, a bit of which may have been met with some uncertainty of what the manidoog were guiding them to. Imagine the faith they would've needed to know that someday the lessons of their current status would come. Why would they be subject to such cruel acts? Why would they have intended for our ancestors to endure so much? Why would they intend for us to experience what we are today?

I think it is to make us stronger. Their energy is going to last longer than the short physical life we do have. I think the lessons that we are meant to learn are that of us as a society. As tough as it may seem, the atrocities of our ancestors built within us a sort of defense mechanism for our way of life to survive today and into the future. In our blood memory, they say, is the source of intergenerational trauma. But, I believe it is also the source of our intergenerational endurance. For whatever it was that happened, that made us stronger today. We may be in a sort of transition stage. The power has yet to come. Like when we get a vaccination, our arm is sore, we may feel a little sick or some actually come close to death. Can that be where we are? In the aftermath of a societal cultural vaccination? Our generational arm has a bruise, our generational body has a fever, our generational nervous system is on life support?

It's like our society is acting similar to a body with a vaccine. Some of our people are turned by the action and reject our ways. Some of us get encapsulated and unable to break out of it. While some of us build our cultural strengths to recognize the dangers and be ready should it ever happen again. It's the latter that will bring forth the strength needed to get our societal health and



wellbeing into balance. Either way, what we do now is for our next generation's benefit. If you want to know our language, what can you do to help them? If you know some teachings but want to know more, how can you ensure that our future knows as much as you want to know? Whatever we can piece together and maintain in our generation will be the foundation of the next. We all know something, and when that is shared, our future can know a bit more.

Whether you are deep in your addiction, an everyday worker or somewhere in between, your experience is going to have an effect on the next generation. Anishinaabe are going to help Anishinaabe no matter what. It doesn't need to be intended and it doesn't need to even be conscious. Our spirits guide us. Our spirits know the plan, but it's up to us to recognize we are playing out a scenario where our actions impact the future. Your choice is the kind of ripples you want to cause. Either way, we are going to cause them. Do so with spiritual intent to save our future people as they go about the world on their intended paths.

Miigwech

MILLE LACS TRIBAL ECONOMY SUMMIT **MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022**

By MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, along with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, invites you to join in a conversation about entrepreneurship in the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy.

Our fantastic lineup of speakers will engage the audience to build community energy around a shared vision of an inclusive, purposeful, and innovative tribal economy.

We welcome tribal and non-tribal entrepreneurs, business owners, and residents as well as public and elected officials of entities within the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy. The Mille Lacs Tribal Economy is defined as census tracts 9504, 9505, 7704, 9703, 9701, 9702, which includes the cities of Garrison, Onamia, Wahkon, Isle, Hinckley, Sandstone, Aitkin, and McGregor.

Anyone interested in making the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy a better place to live and work is welcome!

Monday, May 23, 2022

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center

777 Grand Avenue

Onamia, MN 56359

Registration is free! Register at <https://events.bizzabo.com/401192>, or contact Beth Gruber at 320-532-8810.

The Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Summit is proudly brought to you by: Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and Blue Cross Blue Shield.



STUDENT ATHLETES from page 9

is fulltime varsity finishing out the year with 216 total points.

This year she played as a forward, but started playing more as a guard. While she prefers the forward position, if it will help her team by stepping into the guard position, "I'll do it," she said.

Academically speaking she made the A honor roll last quarter. "I always put academics first."

Becoming passionate about the game, helped improve her performance. She loves basketball and hopes to continue playing into her senior year and beyond. "Doing well in school helps in sports because if you don't put in your time with homework, you can't play. Same for sports — you have to put in your time to be a better player. Teamwork is really what sports is all about. Teamwork helps you win games by working together. I think being encouraging to the younger girls to help them when I can and being humble at the same time, is important."

Celleia also works a part-time job weekends at the 1991 restaurant at the Mille Lacs Grand Casino. Combining her work, school and athletic experiences is preparing her for her future, she said. "It is all related in a way. It is all about teamwork, perseverance, determination, and problem solving."

As for college, she wants to play college ball. This summer she plans on giving a lot of time practicing as a guard. "If I want to play college ball, I would probably be a guard because of my height. But I have a lot of work to do to get better in that position."

Her culture and traditions are very important to Celleia. She and her family attend a lot of ceremonies, round dances, Big Drums, powwows, are all very important to her. "I try to bring the teachings into my everyday life and while playing basketball."

She started playing basketball in fourth grade. "Basketball was always something just for fun, but now I guess I am pretty good at it. I just love basketball. When I decided I didn't suck as much as I thought I did, I started to do better. One time I was playing 21 with my brother and I was so close to beating him. That's my goal. He is really good. So, I just want to beat him once," Celleia said laughing.

Her biggest inspiration has been, "Wendy Merrill. Her story is really inspirational. She was a teen mom, got her GED, went to college, got her masters, and District II Rep., and got 40 under 40. It takes time, but those steps and perseverance is important. She never gives up and she overcame all those obstacles." She added a shout out to Gal and Terry Oswald, "For working with me during the off seasons since junior high and coming and supporting me at my games."

Words of advice: "Just go for it. Even if you are scared, there is no harm in trying. You will never know unless you try. My un-

cle, Carlos Merrill, always says, 'it is better to say I did that! instead of sitting there wondering what could have been.'"

Breya Sawyer Brainerd High School Class of 2023

Breya Sawyer is a Junior at Brainerd High School. She is a three-sport athlete participating in soccer, lacrosse, and hockey. Of those three, one could say she may have ice flowing through veins as she eats, sleeps, and lives for hockey.

She started playing lacrosse around sixth grade, because her cousin and her dad both played the game, she said. She also enjoys soccer in the fall because it is fun and it helps keep her in shape before the hockey season.

Because that is where her heart is — on the ice playing hockey. She started playing hockey in the first grade and it soon became more than just a sport. As they say, "It is a lifestyle." And Breya agrees. As with any sport, it is demanding, time consuming and disciplined, she said. "Learning how to skate is hard for people," she said. "Then you have to learn stick handling and skating at the same time. You have to learn to balance speed and skills and that can be hard."

She worked on those skills from first through eighth grade. That is really when hockey became her passion. She started playing back-up varsity in the eighth grade. "I got to see what varsity was about and I loved it. It was harder, more challenging and it just seemed the wins were bigger." And bigger they have become as she has been playing as a starter varsity goaltender since her freshman year.

"I don't know why exactly. I just love it." The Brainerd/Little Falls Warrior girls hockey team was on their way to the state championship this past season with Breya as one of the goaltenders. They lost in the first round, but were happy and proud to have made it that far.

Being the goalie, she said, is a lot of pressure sometimes, but she tries to just concentrate on the game in front of her. In fact, she said she feels the "most comfortable" playing hockey as a goalie. She thrives in spite of pressure, accepting the challenge, and playing to win. And her stats proved it. She had 12 wins for the season with a 0.91 save percentage. By the numbers that is out of 536 shots on goal, she only let in 48 and racked up five complete shut-outs.

As a junior in high school, she also participated in the PSEO program this year and will again during her senior year. She has her goals set on attending college, but has not determined exactly what she will focus on.

Breya understands in order to play the sports she loves, she also must do well academically. For her that means a lot of studying and homework completed on the bus to and from games. "I squeeze it in whenever I can," she said. "If you don't do your homework and get good grades, you can't play. Those are pretty tough consequences. I don't want to risk that."

Learning the consequences of actions is part of what sports have taught her. "If you want to get better at something, you have to work at it — and practice. You have to work hard. You just have to put in the work to get better. That goes for life outside of sports, too. And I have learned teamwork. You all have to work together to be great team."

Her greatest influence in her life she said has been Olivia King, a 2019 graduate of Brainerd High School where she played for the Brainerd/Little Falls Warriors, and now in her junior year at U of M playing goalie for the Gophers. "Watching her play was outstanding. And She was always helping the other girls, too. She is just awesome."

Her advice: "Don't ever stop working no matter what team you make. Never give up your goals. Keep continuing to work towards those goals no matter what anyone says. Don't stop giving it your all."



Breya Sawyer, Brainerd/Little Falls girls hockey goaltender, 2022. Submitted photo.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

MAY 15 — 21

The annual EMS Week campaign, which recognizes the professionals who provide emergency medical services in communities across the country, takes place May 15 through 21 this year. The EMS Week campaign supports and strengthens the EMS community by honoring accomplishments and increasing awareness of the critical role of EMS.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is proud to work with a fine group of organizations throughout the area to provide emergency medical services to all of the citizens in the areas we serve.

Mille Lacs Band

Mille Lacs Health System EMS

Garrison FD First Responder

Pine Center First Responders

Hillman First Responder

South Aitkin First Responder

McGraff First Responders

GRA UPDATE Exclusion Review Process

The GRA wants to keep Band members informed of your rights. If you are excluded from Mille Lacs Band Gaming Enterprises, you have the right for your exclusion to be reviewed annually. To have your exclusion file reviewed, you must submit a written request to the GRA. You may contact Licensing Investigations Director, Daniel Klapel at 320-384-4469 for help with the process or use the "Request for GRA Board Review" form on the Mille Lacs Band/GRA website: <https://millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation>. Once the form is completed in full and returned to our office, your exclusion file along with your request will be presented to the GRA Board during a regular board meeting. You will receive notice of date, time, and location to attend this meeting and provide testimony.

Temporary Suspension of Exclusion Process

Exclusion shall never prohibit eligible voters of the Band from entering non-gaming floor areas of a Gaming Enterprise for the purpose of exercising voting rights or attending tribal political or community meetings held in the convention/meeting areas of the Gaming Enterprise. Nor shall exclusion prevent Band employees from attending mandatory work-related meetings in the convention/meeting areas of the Gaming Enterprise during work hours.

The Executive Director of the Office of Gaming Regulation and Compliance (OGR&C) may issue a temporary suspension of exclusion for reasons other than stated above. This means that if you are excluded and wish to be on property for an event, an emergency placement, or other critical need, you may ask for your exclusion to be temporarily lifted for a matter of hours or sometimes days. Reminder: this process also applies to Government Center departments hoping to emergency house excluded Band members for any length of time. Requests need to be in writing to the Executive Director, tkozumplik@mlbgra.com, and include name, date of birth, reason for request, location, date, and time frame you wish to be on any property of

DID YOU KNOW?

OMB HAS UNCLAIMED CHECKS

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has a number of checks that have not been claimed. Please carefully review the list below to see if your name, or a family member's name is on the list. If your name is on the list, please contact OMB to verify that you have funds available to you. If you have a family member on this list, please have them contact OMB directly. There are a number of checks for deceased Band members. OMB is looking for the person or persons responsible for their estate. If the responsible person has the appropriate legal documents, OMB will release the estate check to that person only. You may contact the following people: Dani Jo Harkness 320-532-7592, Alyssa Comey 320-532-8928 or Katy Radunz 320-532-7471.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

the Gaming Enterprises.

The Executive Director will forward the request for temporary suspension to the Corporate Commissioner and the General Manager(s) of the Gaming Enterprise(s), at which time Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and/or the Gaming Enterprise may comment, in writing, on the request for temporary suspension. The Executive Director will make a Recommendation either temporarily lifting the exclusion or denying the request by Compliance Recommendation. If the Executive Director makes a Recommendation in favor of the request for temporary suspension of exclusion, the temporary suspension of exclusion will take effect immediately.

For more information on exclusion processes, you may contact Daniel Klapel (320-384-4469) or Krista Tretter (320-532-8135).

More information and contact numbers can be found at <https://millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. This month's meetings are at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 5 and Thursday, May 26, via Microsoft Teams.

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

AROUND THE RESERVATION

MILLE LACS INDIAN MUSEUM EVENTS

Annual Memorial Day Powwow

Monday, May 30, from 12 to 4:30 p.m.

Free. Museum admission not included.

Families, staff, and community members come together in this social gathering honoring veterans past and present. Experience firsthand the excitement and joy of a contemporary powwow.

This event is sponsored by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The powwow is free, however museum admission is not included.

Open for the Season

Wednesday, June 1 through October 31

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday through Friday

Check out our newest exhibit, Misi-zagaa'iganii-ikwewag

"Women of the Big Lake," which highlights the contributions that Mille Lacs Band members Maude Kegg, Batiste Sam, Margaret Hill, and Cheryl Minnema have made to this site and the Minnesota Historical Society. Check out the objects on display and listen to them in their own words by watching the videos.

PET CLINICS SCHEDULED FOR ALL DISTRICTS

Mark your calendar for 2022 clinics!

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

Chiminising: May 2022. MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, May 21. Second Hand Hounds wellness Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, at District IIa (Isle) Chiminising Community Center.

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

POWOW SCHEDULE

Hinckley Powwow: June 17 to June 19, 2022

East Lake Powwow: July 15 to July 17, 2022

Mille Lacs Powwow: August 19 to August 21, 2022



AROUND THE RESERVATION

PET CLINICS IN DISTRICT III IN APRIL

Free pet clinics were offered to Band members in District III during the month of April. Both communities of Meshakwad and Aazhoomog were served. Special miigwech to MNSNAP and SRVS volunteers and students of veterinary medicine who made this possible. Pets received general care, including vaccinations, wellness exams, wormers, and love. The options were available for spay and neuter surgeries as well.



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Biidaanakwadookwe, Kacie Garbow

Biidaanakwadookwe, Kacie Garbow, age 36, of Onamia, MN, died on April 8, 2022. Visitation was at 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 11, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Nazhike officiating. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Biidaanakwadookwe, Kacie Garbow was born on March 17, 1986, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Beverly Kegg and Harvey Garbow. She loved to spend her time with her kids. Kacie en-



joyed coloring, arts and crafts projects, and being with family, especially Amy O'Brien and Keith Reynolds.

She is survived by her children, Hayden Nickaboine, Cayleigh Nickaboine, and Rowan Nickaboine; loving niece, Maria; loving sissy, Natalia; mother, Beverly Kegg; stepfather, Gerald Nickaboine Sr.; brothers, Sean Garbow, Levi Kegg, Gerald Nickaboine Jr., Levin Nickaboine Damon Solis, Devon Solis; sisters, Erica Garbow, Darian Kegg, Jodi Nickaboine; grandmother, Joan Littlewolf; and many loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Harvey Garbow; grandparents, Maggie and Jesse Kegg, and Lillian Garbow; brothers, Grant Garbow, Sheldon Garbow, Jamie Solis; aunt, Maria Kegg; nephew, Dennis Solis; uncles, Ben, Dennis, Conrad, and Gerald Kegg.

Waas-Nungikwe Windy Salmon-Matrious

Waas-Nungikwe, Winifred "Windy" Salmon-Matrious, age 61, a resident of Webster, passed away on April 11, 2022. Wake was held on Wednesday, April 13th, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.. A funeral service was held on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 10 a.m. at the Lake Lena Community Center, with Skip Churchhill officiating. Internment followed at the Lake Lena Cemetery. Pallbearers were Charles Mitchell, David Robertson, Sage Robertson, Anthony Pike, and Peng Lin. Honorary pallbearers were the Matrious Family.



Windy was born on October 22, 1960, in Grantsburg to Marvin J. and Vivian (Matrious) Hemming.

Windy was an RN and also worked for Tribal Government. In her free time she enjoyed sewing, bead work, and making moccasins. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Kenny and Wayne; sister, Maxine and niece, Ira.

She is survived by her brother, Tim Matrious; along with several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Arrangements were entrusted to Swedberg-Taylor Funeral Home, Webster. Online condolences can be made at www.swedberg-taylor.com.

Gaagigegiizhigookwe Brenda Lee Beaulieu

Gaagigegiizhigookwe, Brenda Beaulieu, age 70, of Isle, Minnesota, passed away on April 24, 2022. Visitation was at dusk on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Obizaan officiating. Interment will be in the Woodland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Gaagigegiizhigookwe, Brenda Beaulieu was born on May 4, 1951, in Brainerd, Minnesota. She liked to spend her time playing bingo at the casino, cooking, and especially doing her



taste-testing during family gatherings. She loved her "cookies" and caring for her pets. Brenda will be dearly missed by all.

Brenda is survived by her grandchildren, Kay-Lee'anna, Earl III, Solis, Zenay, Rudy, Emilio; and her dogs, Boomer and Mikey; sisters, Cheryl Garbo, Cynthia Beaulieu, Patti (Jim) Jones, Michelle Beaulieu, Dawn Day, Stephanie Day, Cheyenne Beaulieu, Lorna Day, Janice Standing Cloud, Patricia Potter, and June Day; brothers, Simon "Buddy" Day Jr., Gerald Beaulieu, Jeffery Turk (Beaulieu), James Beaulieu, Jesse Beaulieu, Kelly Beaulieu; and many loving relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her son, Earl Monchamp Jr.; mother, Georgianna Day; fathers, James Beaulieu and Simon Day; uncles, Joe, Marvin, Merlin, and Fred Anderson; sister, Audrey Stately; aunts, Gloria, Viola, and Delores; special nephew, Donovan Davis-Deebo; and pets, Fifi, Coco, Abner, Gizmo, and Big Kitty.

GRADUATING IN JUNE? SEND US YOUR INFORMATION!

Many graduations will be announced during the month of June. To be honored in the June issue of the Inaajimowin, please send your name, along with the school you attended, degree earned, date of graduation and a graduation photo to news@millelacsband.com.

The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2022.



HISTORY

MEMORIAL DAY — GIMIKWENIMIGOOM

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May.

Native Americans serve in the U.S. Armed Forces at five times the national average. For a community that has persevered through decades of challenges, Native Americans have remained steadfast in their defense of the United States as members of the Armed Forces for centuries.

Band member Gina Davis submitted a photo she found while curating her family history. The photo is of her uncle Amik Eugene Davis sent to his mother. The heartwarming inscription on the back reveals the strength, courage, and honor of those who enter the United States military:

"To Mom, I hope you will like what I did. By joining the Army, I will protect all the people of the country the best way I can., but most of all I will fight for the Greatest people in my life, you, Mother, and all the Brothers and Sisters. Your Son, Gene Davis."

To those U.S. Veterans who have journeyed on, chi miigwech for your service. We remember you. Gimikwenimigoom.

The wall in the hallway at the Government Center portrays



Amik Eugene Davis, United States Army. The photo was allegedly sent to his mother while he was serving in the Army. He inscribed a message to his mom on the back of the photo.

the multitude of Band members who have served in the U.S. Military. Please take some time to visit the hallway and read the names of those who have bravely served.

The annual Memorial Day Powwow will be held at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on Monday, May 30, 2022. All are welcome to attend to honor our veterans. The event is free and open to the public.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY AND KINDERGARTEN DAY

Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 2022 at Nay Ah Shing Schools. Many kindergarteners had a great time celebrating. They read the book "Earth Day Everyday," by Lisa Bullard. Then, they talked about how they could help make a difference, before creating their art projects. After that, they even went outside and cleaned up their playground. Way to go, kindergarteners!

Special Congratulations to the Pawsitive Reward winners of April 22, Earth Day. Way to be respectful, responsible, and safe. See photo on front cover. Pawsitive Reward winners for Earth Day were: Jayde Sam, Harley Kars, Ayasha Mitchell, Crianna Morris, Minwaasinookwe Harrington, Annabel Shaugobay, Marcus Bugg, and Tanyah Nadeau. More photos can be found at <https://www.inaajimowin.com/galleries>.

National Kindergarten Day was April 21, 2022. Shout out to this sweet bunch of kiddos and their very special teachers. Thank you for bringing your kindness, energy, warmth, and laughter to the lower school every day.

Kindergarten provides children with an opportunity to learn and practice the essential social, emotional, problem-solving, and study skills that they will use throughout their schooling.

Kindergarten provides the building blocks of physical, social, and emotional development, as well as the basics of language, literacy, thinking, and cognitive skills.

What are the benefits of kindergarten?

- Kindergarten promotes language and cognitive skills.
- It promotes social and emotional development.
- It provides children with opportunities to learn independence.
- It promotes reading and math skills.
- It encourages a child's curiosity.

Miigwech to all of our kindergarten teachers that make this fundamental year amazing for our children.

Don't forget to join us for Kindergarten Round Up May 4 and get your children registered for the 2022-2023 school year. Remember the words of Robert Fulghum who wrote, "All I Ever Needed To Know I Learned In Kindergarten" published in 1989:

"Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sand box at nursery school."



NATIONAL KINDERGARTEN DAY APRIL 21, 2022

Shout out to this sweet bunch of kiddos and their very special teachers. Thank you for bringing your kindness, energy, warmth, and laughter to the lower school every day.

GIMIKWENIMIGOOM

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Along with those Veterans who have served in the U.S. Military whose names appear at the Government Center, Band members submitted names and information for loved ones. Not all information is complete, but is listed as submitted. Not all families submitted photos. Miigwech.



Kenneth L Wade Sr., Marines 1955-1959 DOB 12/8/1937; DOD 10/11/2021 (indigenous day)

Dale John Pindegayosh, Marine Corp, Late 60s to 70s. "American Indians. Fighting terrorism since 1492."

Larry Ivan Sutton, Army, Specialist Four HHC, 3RD BN, 8TH Infantry, 4TH INF DIV, USARV 06/03/46 to 07/23/67

Daniel W. Churchill, U.S. Army: 01/21/1971 to 01/12/1973; DOB: 12/11/1951 DOD: 9/22/1991.

Frank Shingobe Jr., U.S. Navy; "He was a proud Vietnam veteran." DOB: 08/09/47; DOD 10/05/13.



James Mitchell, Jr., U.S. Army: May 17, 1956 – April 29, 1959; DOB: 04/25/38 DOD: 10/13/03.



Rebecca T. Peel, US Army: 07/15/1986 to 03/31/2007; DOB: 03/10/65; DOD: 06/13/10.



Gregory A. Peel, U.S. Air Force: 06/8/84 to 05/03/2000 DOB: 06/14/66; DOD 07/28/20

Eugene Leonard Davis, 82nd airborne; DOB: 01/26/46; DOD: 07/20/14.

Names submitted through Facebook are:

- Frank Hill Sr- Army WWII
- Fred Noonday, Army WWII
- Simon day
- Charles Moose
- James Hanks Jr Army,
- David Smith Sr,
- Fred Smith
- Tony Weous
- James Clark
- Larry Smallwood
- Paul Sam
- Robert H. Weyaus
- Johnson Nayquonabe, Army
- Myron Vernon Garbow
- Lawrence Boyd Sr
- Leonard Sam
- Myron Vernon Garbow
- Robert H. Weyaus
- Lawrence Boyd Sr, "Naawakamig"
- Jim Ballinger

Gimikwenimigoom. We remember you.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

MAY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Stephanie Elaine Day
 Ronald Dean Davis
 Loral James Sam
 Brian George Pike
 Mary Ann Ailport
 Gina Louise Anderson
 Richard Dean Anderson
 Kathryn Ann Armstrong
 Alvina Mae Aubele
 Elisse Joanne Aune
 Thelma Emma Baker
 Gerald Duane Beaulieu
 Kim Alan Bengtson
 Robert Patrick Benjamin
 Wallace James Benjamin
 Maurice James Boyd
 Debra Ann Contreras
 Anthony Joseph Davis
 James Daniel Davis
 Virginia Joyce Davis
 Dale Wesley Day
 Edna Mae Day
 Winona Evens

Michael Joseph Fairbanks
 Beverly Gay Fairchild
 Lorraine Farah
 Sharlene Anita Fisher
 Dale Allan Garbow
 Geraldine Ann Germann
 Harry Lee Granger
 Cynthia Ann Guernsey
 Gary Lynn Haglund
 Gertrude Inez Hanson
 Delores Mae Hegland
 Robert Lewis Heinze
 Allen Wayne Hemming
 Terrance John Hendren
 John Paul Hill
 Molly Sam Judkins
 Clarabel Kruse
 Susan Marie Lane
 Cynthia Lee Lester
 Priscilla Joann Lowman
 Harold Duane Matrious
 Jeffrey Wayne Matrious
 Mitchell Lee Matrious
 Valerie Jean Matrious
 Dominic Walter Mayotte

Janelle Arlene Meehl
 James Roger Mitchell
 Michele Elena Mueller
 Arlyn Nickaboine
 Lorraine Marie Nickaboine
 Donald Eugene Olson
 Patricia Regguinti
 Warren Skinaway
 Victoria Lea Smith
 Eugene Raymond Staples
 Beverly K. Sutton
 John Sutton
 Judy Ann Swanson
 Russell Harvey Thomas
 Victoria Joy Verkennes
 Carl Leslie Weous
 Lorna Jayne Weous
 Herbert Weyaus
 Nancy Lee Wheeler
 Sarita Inez White
 Theresa Marie Williams
 Larry James Wind
 Ginette Marie Zustiak

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Jarvis** on May 5, love the Harrington Family • **Shelby** May 9, love the Harrington Family • **Sissy** May 12, love your brothers and sissys • **Taylor** May 19, love Dad, Adam, Papa Brad, Granny, Papa Kyle, Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Trinity, Galli, Bam, and Binesiiikwe • **Brynley** May 26 love Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Trinity, Galli, Bam, Binesiiikwe, Papa Brad, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor and Adam • **Mom** May 27, love Pie and Kevin • **Baby Girl** May 31 love mom • **Pie** May 31 love Myla, Mom, Dan, Kev, Gram Kim, Papa Brad, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce,

Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor Paige, Adam, Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Trinity, Galli, Bam, and Binesiiikwe

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 320-237-6851.

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

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

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Commissioners:

Administration: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Community Development: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

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

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Chief Executive's Office

Baabiitaw Boyd: 218-670-0745

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

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

Band Assembly Inquiries

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

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

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

Aanjibimaadizing

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

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

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

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

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

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

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

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

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

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

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

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

Office of Management and Budget

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

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

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please contact the Government Affairs office at 320-237-6851 or email news@millelacsband.com before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday. Send calendar items to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.

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

GRADUATING IN JUNE?

SEND US YOUR INFORMATION!

Many graduations will be announced during the month of June. To be honored in the June issue of the Inaajimowin, please send your name, along with the school you attended, degree earned, date of graduation and a photo to news@millelacsband.com. The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2022.

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
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RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM

Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference. The Sunday Wellbriety ID is 601 532 2869 and the password is 456 267. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. Urban recovery groups meet Tuesdays at 7 (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245; password: Redroad.

<p>1</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom.</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>3</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP see page 7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing</p> <p>Kindergarten Round-up</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Joe and Sheldon, Mille Lacs</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Joe and Sheldon, Mille Lacs</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Mother's Day Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom.</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>10</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing</p>	<p>12</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</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Darrell and Skip, Lake Lena</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Darrell and Skip, Lake Lena</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>18</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Chiminising Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Lee and Mike, Lake Lena Vince and Dale, East Lake</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Lee and Mike, Lake Lena Vince and Dale, East Lake</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p>	<p>23</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 Center</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Minisinaakwang Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Noon Closing Ceremonial Dance Tim and Tom, East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Tim and Tom, East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Memorial Day Government Offices Closed</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom</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>31</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>				



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UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

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 June issue deadline is May 15.

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

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

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

District II: 320-630-7666

District III: 320-630-2691

24 Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Batters Intervention: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

Elder Services: 320-532-7854

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

Food Shelf: 320-362-4672

Waivered Services: 320-362-0027

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

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

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

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



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



Nay Ah Shing School See page 17

**MEMORIAL DAY
VETERANS TRIBUTE**

page 17

**TRIBAL ECONOMY
SUMMIT**

page 14

**ATHLETICS AND
ACADEMICS**

pages 8-9

YOU ARE NOT CRAZY

page 7