



OJIBWE

INAAJIMOWIN

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



By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Roughly 30 Mille Lacs Band members and Mille Lacs Band government employees attended a hearing on Thursday, August 11, 2022, in U.S. Federal District Court in St. Paul before Judge Susan Richard Nelson in the lawsuit between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Mille Lacs County, et al. The hearing was held to grant or deny the Band summary judgment, leading to declaratory and injunctive relief. The Band wanted the court to rule that the County's restrictions on the Band's law enforcement authority were unlawful, declare what law enforcement authority the Band has, and prohibit the County from interfering with that authority.

After a lengthy 2-plus hours of hearing arguments from both sides, Judge Nelson instructed both parties to go back to the discussion table to try to come to a cooperative agreement on tribal law enforcement authority on Reservation lands. She directed the parties to report to her on the status of their discussions within 30 days. If the parties are at an impasse, the Judge will issue a ruling she said.

Marc D. Slonim, lead attorney for the Band, argued in support of the Band receiving summary judgment awarding declaratory and injunctive relief. Slonim argued that the Court had already found that the restrictions imposed by the County led to substantial injuries to the Band's sovereignty and a decline in law enforcement and public safety on the Reservation. He stated that the injunction sought by the Band is specifically designed ... to recognize and restore the Band's sovereign law enforcement authority, will prevent such injuries in the future, and is in the public interest.

Slonim argued that Joe Walsh, in his capacity as County Attorney, issued an opinion and protocol that stripped the Band's

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FALL HARVEST INFORMATION

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources will be sending in deer heads to be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease and as a thank you, you will receive a \$25 gift card. The heads can be brought to the licensing agent in your district. Tribal Declarations for special permit and youth, white tailed deer hunts occurring at Minnesota State Parks in the 1837 Ceded Territory in 2022 can be made through the licensing agents.

Licensing Agents:
 District I: LeRoy Day 320-532-7896
 District II: Steven Aubid 218-768-5316
 District III: Vanessa Gibbs 320-384-6240
 Wildlife Biologist: Jordan Williams 320-630-0522

The Fall Harvesters Workshop was held Tuesday, August 30 at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds with an invocation given by Joe Naquonabe Sr.

Waawaashekeshi (deer) was provided for feeding. Watch Facebook for updated fall harvest information as the workshop was held after press time.



Marc Slonim.

MARC SLONIM SET TO RETIRE AFTER 40 YEARS REPRESENTING THE BAND

Slonim will continue as legal counsel on the federal lawsuit

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Since the 1980s, Marc Slonim has worked alongside the Mille Lacs Band to tackle the greatest hurdles the Tribe has ever faced. Slonim is described as thoughtful, knowledgeable, collaborative, measured, responsive, incisive, and prudent. With his help, the Band won a case in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1999 ensuring Band members (and other Ojibwe signatories to the 1837 Treaty) the right to hunt, fish, and gather in the 1837 ceded territories.

Slonim and his firm have negotiated Band law enforcement agreements with surrounding counties; made tax agreements with the State; and argued and won every time the County objected to a Band fee-to-trust application. The County has not won on any of their objections.

Most recently, Marc successfully argued against Mille Lacs County in federal court that the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation had not ever been disestablished. On March 4, 2022, U.S. District Court Judge Susan Richard Nelson issued a definitive ruling on the status of the Reservation, stating that Court affirms what the Mille Lacs Band has maintained for the better part of two centuries, that the Mille Lacs Reservation's boundaries remain as they were under Article 2 of the Treaty of 1855.

After nearly 40 years of representing the Mille Lacs Band, Slonim announced his retirement as a partner from the law firm of Ziontz Chestnut, but he will continue representing the Mille Lacs Band in the current federal litigation until this case is completed.

On Thursday, August 11, a courtroom full of people watched

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MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! It is back-to-school time for our students young and old. It is hard to believe that the summer is nearly over. August was a busy month that began with a quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). We had important discussions with many Minnesota state commissioners and Governor Walz about state-tribal issues and ways that we can work together on a collaborative basis.

On August 9, I held a Zoom meeting with Mille Lacs Band Members to discuss the non-binding referendum held by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) regarding enrollment. After the meeting, I received feedback from many Band Members who said this meeting provided valuable information that was very helpful and interesting. This meeting included a presentation showing the results of the referendum and voter turnout data. It also included information about a study that Wilder Research completed for the MCT in 2013 that showed how each Band's populations might be impacted under various enrollment change scenarios. Commissioner Kelly Applegate provided an overview of the enrollment process.

Attendees were especially interested in information I shared regarding a 2019 discovery by the White Earth Nation. In a sampling of enrollment records, White Earth discovered 1,089 original allottees from White Earth, Mille Lacs, Leech Lake and Fond du Lac Bands of the MCT whose blood quantum had mysteriously changed between 1901 and 1941. These 1,089 people were listed as full-bloods in the 1901 Allotment List, but in the 1941 basic Membership Roll, their status had changed to mixed bloods. MCT staff confirmed that 89 of these people were Mille Lacs Band Members. It is possible that this could account for individuals whose blood quantum percentages today show odd fractions such as 23.99 percent MCT blood.

On Tuesday, September 6 at 10 a.m., I will be holding a second zoom meeting to provide this presentation again for anyone who missed the first meeting. Please mark your calendars for this date and watch for a meeting notification.

In this edition of the Inaajimowin, there is an important article about our federal court case against Mille Lacs County regarding whether or not Mille Lacs County interfered with the

inherent authority of tribal police to protect public safety of Band Members after the Joint Powers Agreement was revoked by Mille Lacs County in 2016.

On August 11, the Band's external counsel Marc Slonim argued for the Band in Federal District Court and provided ex-

"The Mille Lacs Band will always behave honorably in its arguments in courts, its statements and its response to the Judge's orders."

cellent and rational reasons for the Band's law enforcement authority currently provided for under federal law. As usual, the Band's arguments were logical and researched with great care. The County argued that there were issues that should go to a jury trial, and Judge Nelson seemed puzzled about what, exactly, the County thought those issues were.

The Judge noted that this was not a case that involved monetary damages and was wondering what questions the County would have if a jury were assembled. The County seemed to want the Band to prove that we were provided inadequate law enforcement between 2016 and 2018.

For many of us in attendance from the Band, this brought back difficult memories from that time when we had very frequent drug overdoses and lost so many Band members. The other matter the County brought up was the scope of the Band's law enforcement authority. Again, our Band attorneys provided the current state of the federal law, and the County disagreed. Because of the disagreements on the need for a jury trial and the scope of the Band's authority, the Judge suggested mediation.

Because the Judge made this request, the Band will at-

tempt one last effort at mediating in good faith. However, the County has not demonstrated in the past that it is capable of coming to agreement with the Band in mediation.

The Mille Lacs Band will always behave honorably in its arguments in courts, its statements and its response to the Judge's orders. We hope the County does the same, and if they don't, the Judge said she would decide herself. Meanwhile, our two lawyers continue to fight the eleven lawyers for the County. And the County taxpayers — the Band being the largest taxpayer — continue to foot the bill.

On August 12, the day following our federal court hearing, we held an event celebrating the work of Marc Slonim for the Band community. Marc has represented the Band for nearly forty years. He won our Supreme Court case recognizing our 1837 Treaty rights and continues to fight for our sovereignty and reservation. There is a nice article about this recognition in this paper.

Marc and his partners were friends to the Band before we had revenue to pay them. I recently saw a monthly bill from his law firm from 1989 in which the Band was charged \$29.55. I have joked that his rates have not gone up much since then. Although retired, he will continue to represent us until this case is concluded. We are very grateful for that.

Miigwech!



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tribal officers of all law enforcement authority on non-trust lands within the Reservation over Band members, tribal members from other tribes, and non-Indians, and prevented Band officers from investigating state-law violations on trust lands and Band owned fee lands within the Reservation.

The court ruled earlier, on March 4, 2022, that the boundary of the 1855 Reservation was still intact and had never been disestablished. While the County is likely to appeal that ruling, they said previously, the Reservation boundaries were not an issue before the court on August 11.

The issue at hand was whether a trial was necessary before the Court could issue declaratory or injunctive relief and the scope of any such relief. The Band would like the court to rule in favor of an injunction and gave a "persuasive argument in support of the injunction," Judge Nelson said. The County on the other hand, does not feel an injunction is necessary based on the fact that the county did not actually act on the protocol set forth by the County Attorney that stated Tribal Police officers could be

arrested and charged if they attempted to make any arrests or investigate state or federal law during that time period.

The County did not dispute the fact that Walsh did issue his opinion and the protocol. And while the county stood behind the opinion, Randy Thompson, attorney for the County, argued that no arrests of tribal officers were ever conducted.

There was no dispute by the county that the County Attorney did tell all of the officers to comply with the protocol, nor was there any dispute by the County that the sheriff took over all Tribal investigations and seized all evidence that had been collected by Tribal officers.

Judge Nelson questioned the legality of the county attorney opinion and protocol stating it, "raises [a] specter for acting illegally."

Slonim argued that the Band had met the burden proving injury and harm [to the Band] had been established and that the County had not disputed those arguments previously and were "not entitled to a second bite of the apple now," Slonim said.

Slonim cited there was a decline in public safety on the Reservation that caused the Band community irreparable harm. The County did not dispute that fact earlier, Slonim stated.

Thompson argued that the current agreement is working well for both parties therefore there is no need for the injunction. However, the judge pointed out that the current agreement will expire on the completion of this case.

Brett Kelly, attorney for the Mille Lacs County Sheriff disputed that the Band had been injured and told the judge he would prefer the case go to a jury trial. However, when asked by the Judge if he would be ready for a jury trial in 30 days, Kelly said he would most likely need more time to prepare for a jury.

Judge Nelson said she believed there was "room for a resolution instead of a trial" and suggested the parties hire a private mediator to address the issue of a cooperative agreement.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Q&A WITH LEGISLATIVE BRANCH STAFF

Get to know Joe Jensen

By DIBIKWE, VALERIE HARRINGTON-WIND, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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

My title is Legislative Staff Attorney. My primary duties are to draft legislation for the Band Assembly and to provide legal advice on the various questions that arise as we conduct government business.

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 value the increasing engagement with the public since we initiated the live-stream for Band Assembly sessions and public comment periods for major legislation. Providing the community with the opportunity to give feedback on critical reforms is necessary, and the responses are always helpful as we go about our own duties.

3. What motivates you working in the Legislative Branch?

I am most motivated by the chance to get real change passed into law, and it is gratifying to have a role in that process.

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

We have passed several major bills since I started in my position last November, and we have completely changed the way that the Legislative Branch operates to make all of our operations more transparent.

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

The Legislative Branch is the Band's lawmaking body. It is



Joe Jensen, Legislative Staff Attorney.

the genesis of the laws that govern the Band, while the Executive Branch is charged with enforcing the laws and the Judicial Branch is charged with interpreting the laws.

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

I encourage all Band members to be as engaged with the government as you can. View the live-streamed sessions, keep up to date with the posts on the Legislative Branch Facebook page, and regularly check the webpage for the Tribal Register for notifications of public comment periods and other news — all of these are resources that did not exist in the past and are examples of the Band Assembly's commitment to transparent decision-making.



Mic (Michael) Davis was sworn in as a GRA board member on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, by District I Associate Justice Rhonda Sam.



LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Band Assembly, August 3, 2022

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-02-65-22 (A Bill authorizing a budget revision for the Gaming Regulatory Authority for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022). The District Representatives also voted to approve Resolution 20-02-28-22 (A Resolution Adopting the FY 2022-2025 Mille Lacs Band Transportation Improvement Plan and FY 2022 Tribal Transportation Program Retained Services, and FY 2022 Referenced Funding Agreement).

Band Assembly, August 10, 2022

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-02-66-22 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-02-68-22 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the September 2022 Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act (TGWEA) Assistance Payment Program for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-02-29-22 (A Resolution Authorizing a Land Lease for Commercial Purposes to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures).

The District Representatives voted to approve both Mary Boyd and Jessica Churchill to serve on the Mille Lacs Band Housing Board.

Work session, August 15, 2022

Legal staff facilitated a work session for the elected officials and staff regarding proposed revisions to Chapter 1 (Gaming Regulatory Authority) of Title 15 (Independent Agencies).

Work Session, August 16, 2022

Legal staff facilitated a work session for the elected officials and staff regarding proposed revisions to Title 3 (Legislative Branch).

Band Assembly, August 17, 2022

The Speaker of the Assembly opened the formal public hearing for Title 3 (Legislative Branch) at 11:05 a.m. and closed the hearing at 11:20 a.m. There was no public testimony.

The District Representatives held a confirmation hearing for Housing Board nominee Ronald Smith. Mr. Smith gave an opening statement, then answered questions posed by the Representatives.

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-02-31-22 (A Resolution Ratifying the Joint Powers Agreement for Implementation of the Rum River Comprehensive Water Management Plan).

Work Session, August 18, 2022

Legal staff facilitated a work session for the elected officials and staff regarding proposed revisions to Chapter 4 (Tribal Employment Rights Office) of Title 15 (Independent Agencies).



REPORT A MISSING & MURDERED REFERRAL TO THE BIA MISSING AND MURDERED UNIT

MMU Website: <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ojs/missing-murdered-unit>

MMU Hotline Number: 1-833-560-2065

Email: OJS_MMU@bia.gov

Tip line Text keyword: BIAMMU and your tip to: 847411



Image Courtesy of Mille Lacs Band Member Alicia De La Cruz

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Burton, Johnson advance in Mille Lacs County Sheriff race: A Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office chief deputy will square off against a deputy sheriff in the Nov. 8 election for Mille Lacs County sheriff. Chief Deputy Kyle Burton was the top vote-getter in a four-candidate race for the right to be on the Nov. 8 ballot. Mille Lacs County sheriff's deputy Travis Johnson was the runner-up. The top two vote-getters in the primary election advance to face off in the November general election. Burton garnered 60.58 percent of the vote with 2,036 of the 3,331 ballots cast in the Tuesday, Aug. 9 primary election. Johnson had 799 votes, or 23.77 percent. Burton was the top vote-getter in each of Mille Lacs County's 25 voting precincts. Johnson was the top vote-getter in all but Hayland, Bradbury, and Milaca townships. Source: *Union-Times*.

Minnesota to offer free school meals to 90,000 extra students: Gov. Tim Walz, who is facing re-election in November, announced the measure on August 15, 2022. The State of Minnesota is expanding its free school meals program so that an additional 90,000 students will get them. More than 200,000 students on Medicaid will be automatically enrolled or re-enrolled to receive free school meals, as part of a USDA pilot program involving seven other states including Minnesota. Typically, parents have to apply for free school meals provided they have low enough income, or schools can "directly certify" a child for free school meals if they are recipients of other government assistance programs such as food stamps. Of the 200,000 who qualify under the new Medicaid automatic enrollment, Walz's office says 90,000 are not currently signed up for free school meals, but now they will be. Source: *Bring Me the News*.

New maps trace the geography of crime in Minnesota: Mille Lacs County ranks as third highest rate of violent crime in the state according to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Data indicates rising crime is not merely an urban phenomenon. Hennepin and Ramsey Counties lead the state in violent crime, for instance. But Mille Lacs, Clay, and Mahnomen counties — well outside the metro area — round out the top five. Mille Lacs and Mahnomen are home to American Indian reservations, which have long struggled with poverty and its associated challenges. Source: *Minnesota Reformer*.

St. Paul schools to allow Native American smudging ritual: The burning of sage and other Native American medicines — the cultural practice known as smudging — received its official blessing Tuesday for students and staff members across the St. Paul Public Schools, the state's second-largest school district. St. Paul broke new ground on the issue Tuesday, August 23. Supporters hope it could serve as a spark and inspiration for other school systems to follow, John Bobolink, supervisor of the district's American Indian Education Program, said Tuesday. Duluth Public Schools also took similar action in the spring. Ashlie Spears, an Anishinaabe student at Johnson High, said then that the practice helped her with her sobriety, and she advised students to take it seriously when they participate. "The medicine is real powerful," she said. "You have to smudge for the right reasons. You can't smudge because it's cool." Source: *Star Tribune*

AANJIBIMAADIZING SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Youth experience different careers within the Mille Lacs Band

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

The Ge-Niigaanizijig Summer Internship Program ran from June 13 through August 5 this summer with seven teenagers participating in the eight-week program. This program was open to teenagers ages 15 to 19 years old, giving them the opportunity to work alongside a career mentor currently working in a position that piqued their interest, choosing from a variety of career positions within the Mille Lacs Band. Rachel Boyd and Knute Peterson, Ge-Niigaanizijig Youth Facilitators, were placed to lead the program.

The interns were on the job with their career mentors from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Some of the interns had the opportunity to work additional hours with their mentor. "We tried to best match the interns with people in fields of work they had expressed interest in. In most cases we were able to do that," said Knute Peterson.

The interns attended career training classes each Monday put on by the Aanjibimaadizing Education department. Donita Odden developed the career training for the program and took the lead on educating the interns on a variety of subject matter. Jen Gabrio assisted in the presentation of the materials. Some of the subject matter covered included:

- Identifying wants and needs
- Developing a spending plan
- Financial literacy
- Banking 101
- Taxes
- Budgeting
- Job searching
- Choosing your path (military, higher education, trades)
- Dream job and its job description
- Job descriptions
- Applications
- Resume preparation

Each week featured a guest speaker who would match with the subject matter being discussed. Guest speakers included: Katy Radunz (OMB), Tony Pike (Military), Michele Berger (Higher Education), Craig Hanson (Trades), Virgil Wind (District I Representative), and Wendy Merrill (District II Representative). Each speaker was very knowledgeable in the subject matter they were presenting.

The interns worked in the Aanji Loop office or from home on a Community Service project each Thursday. "At the start of the program, we had set a goal for each intern to plan and execute a community service project. In the end, each intern did indeed plan for an event, but given the time restraint of the program, we only had time to put on just one event," Knute said. "The youth wanted to put on a Round Dance. They planned, prepared, and put on a round dance for the community."

The interns painted posters, planned a meal, brainstormed who would sing, MC, be the stickman, and who would cook. They learned about some of the costs for such an event. The day of the event, the interns began setting up at 9 a.m. and did not finish preparation until just before the event at 5 p.m.



Curt Kulk Jr. with intern Nigel Ladd Jr. at Health and Human Services.



District I Representative Virgil Wind leading one of the weekly meetings with interns.

And at 5 p.m., they put on their hairnets and gloves and began serving the meal.

They served until 6:30 p.m., when the singers started singing. Then it was clean-up time and working security until 10 p.m. "I believe this was a great lesson for the interns about all the hard work that goes into such a large event," said Knute. "It was a huge success!"

Along with this community service project, some interns had the opportunity to build dog houses for community members. They learned to measure out cuts, use a drill, use a chop saw, and use a jig saw. Two houses were built by these interns this summer. According to the veterinarian services program partnered with the Band, Mille Lacs Band is the only tribe in Minnesota and Wisconsin with a youth dog-house building and distribution program for tribal members.

In all, 14 Mille Lacs Band staff volunteered to be a career mentor for the program with seven youth participating. Participating in the internship program were:

- Theresa Weous: placed with Kayla Nelson, Nay Ah Shing Teacher, and Paula Hoffman, Oshki Maajitaadaa Teacher.
- William Boyd: placed with Carl Klimah, Fisheries.
- Kateri Bush: placed with Jan Manary, Health Services.
- Nigel Ladd Jr.: placed with Todd Moilenen, DNR, and Curt Kalk Jr., HHS Facilities.
- James Stensrude-Eubanks: placed with Stan Nayquonabe, Ge-Niigaanizijig Coordinator.
- Anthony Benjamin Jr.: placed with Tim Taggart, Ge-Niigaanizijig Fitness Coordinator.
- Andriah Anderson: placed with Jacqueline Redearth, Ge-Niigaanizijig Youth Mentor.

Ge-Niigaanizijig activities and regularly scheduled meetings are designed to inspire and motivate youth to embrace a traditions-based pro-social lifestyle free of chemicals, anti-social or risky behavior, promiscuity, and dependency. These activities are offered to all eligible Reservation service area youth from kindergarten through age 20.

See more photos from the Summer Internship Program at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.



William Boyd interned with Carl Klimah at DNR Fisheries Department.



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe honored the work of Marc Slonim at a special dedication on Friday, August 12, 2022. Front: Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Kay Slonim, Marc Slonim, District II Representative Wendy Merrill. Back: Secretary Treasurer-Speaker Sheldon Boyd, District I Representative Virgil Wind, Don Wedll, Tadd Johnson.

him brilliantly argue in federal court that Mille Lacs County interfered with the Band's sovereignty over public safety and law enforcement.

During a special recognition of Slonim's career with the Band held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on August 12, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin addressed the audience. "When I think about our strategy in the field of legal, it seems like we have always been a step ahead. I am happy to say we have always had the upper hand, and that includes any of the legal attacks that were put on us in every court. The reason I say that is because we probably have the best litigator in the whole country, and that is Marc Slonim and his firm."

Benjamin cited many of Slonim's accomplishments over the last four decades. "Marc is also responsible for the restoration of our homelands and protections of our land base. He has helped us get our lands into trust status for four decades and his help was needed every single time. Because every single time we would file an application to place our lands into trust, Mille Lacs County would file an appeal. And every single time over the last four decades, Marc would win. And he won on our behalf. He did this while providing us the wisest counsel on almost every important legal issue the Band has faced over the last four decades. Yesterday Marc did an outstanding job in Federal Court arguing that Mille Lacs County interfered with our law enforcement authority in a way that harmed public safety. So, his work with us is not quite finished. If the County decides to appeal the Reservation boundary victory, Marc has committed seeing us through the case to the very end no matter how long it takes."

In the 1980s after an Elder brought Chief Executive Arthur Gahbow and his advisor Don Wedll a copy of the 1837 Treaty, they became convinced the state of Minnesota did not have the authority to regulate Band treaty rights. Chief Executive Gahbow directed Wedll to file a lawsuit against the State of Minnesota. After much research, Wedll presented Marc Slonim, a young attorney, to the Chief Executive. "Marc wrote about a 100-page report as to how we should proceed," Wedll said. But in order to proceed, Wedll insisted the Band have at



Marc Slonim with his wife Kay. Kay is also an attorney and has supported the work of Marc throughout his career.

least \$500,000 saved up in a special litigation fund.

"That was an extraordinarily high amount of money to put together," Wedll said. "Every year at the State of the Band, Art would say, 'I am directing Commissioner Wedll to litigate.' And I would say, 'I can't. Not until I put this money together.' And ultimately, in 1990, I was able to put this money together and Marc had the case ready to go. We proceeded to introduce that into Federal Court and began the long process of getting that resolved that ultimately accumulated in the Supreme Court."

Ultimately, it was the support of the Mille Lacs Band members themselves that allowed the tribal leaders and the legal teams to proceed so that they could enjoy these benefits. Wedll recalled a bit of history, citing a Band member named Ricemaker who lived down by Cove. He fought from 1862 through his death in 1894 trying to get the rights of the Mille Lacs Band acknowledged. "When he died," Wedll said, "the last sentence of his obituary was, 'I know, that at some point the Band's rights will be vindicated.' And that happened with Marc's work in making that all possible. That is something that everyone should appreciate and enjoy."

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd gave a message of friendship and humility. "With each season and generation, there are people who get up and speak for the Anishinaabe people here who speak to someone who can help us. Marc was like that. Marc Slonim took his turn and spoke for the Anishinaabe people here. A friend who was put in the right place at the right time. He got up and spoke for the Anishinaabe people and someone listened."

Slonim, a very humble man, took a few moments to express his gratitude.

"It is a unique privilege to be a lawyer and represent clients. It is more of a privilege to be able to represent an Indian Tribe — an Indian community in the United States. And it is ever more of a privilege to represent the Mille Lacs Band," Slonim said. "Your history — which I have become somewhat familiar with over the years — is just remarkable. I know every tribe has its own history and there are a lot of amazing stories out there, but the persistence of this Band from the earliest recorded history until today, the adversity the Band faced, and inter-Tribal fights with the Dakota, conflicts with other Ojibwe Bands, and fights with lumber companies who just could not keep their hands off the timber in this country and spent 50 years figuring out how to get it by hook or by crook, and they got it by stealing it. And then the settlers who did everything in their power to force the Band to leave their homeland. The history of Band leaders who said, 'We have a right to be here and we are not leaving no matter what.' It is just a remarkable story."

In conclusion, he said, "I look forward to the next chapter of the Mille Lacs Band. You have so much going for you. Like every community, you have challenges, and your ability to overcome challenges in the past gives me great confidence that you will overcome today's challenge. Thank you for the opportunity."

To that, Marc Slonim received an extended standing ovation from the audience.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Nicole Mann will be the 1st Native woman in space: NPR's Ari Shapiro talks with NASA astronaut Nicole Mann, a member of the Wailaki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes, who is going to be the first Native woman in space. She is officially mission commander on the SpaceX Dragon, she will be Expedition 68 flight engineer on the International Space Station, and she may even go to the moon. All of which means she will be going where no Native woman has gone before — to space. Nicole Mann is a Marine Corps pilot. She has a master's in engineering from Stanford and is now a NASA astronaut. Source: *NPR*

Supporters of the Indian Child Welfare Act send 21 briefs to U.S. Supreme Court: Supporters and opponents of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) have set the stage for *Brackeen v. Haaland*, a Supreme Court case that could overturn the Indian Child Welfare Act. In late August, individuals and organizations have filed amicus curiae briefs meant to advise the Supreme Court as it decides whether the constitutional challenges to ICWA have merit. The justices will hear oral arguments in the case on November 9. A total of 21 briefs have been filed in support of ICWA by the vast majority of federally recognized tribes as well as numerous Native advocacy groups, Indian law professionals, Congressional representatives, and child welfare advocates. In all, the briefs represent the support of ICWA from nearly 500 tribes, more than 60 Native organizations, 23 states and the District of Columbia, 87 members of Congress, over 30 Indian law professors, 27 child welfare and adoption organizations and others. Opponents of ICWA who filed amicus briefs include several legal organizations, the states of Ohio and Oklahoma, a Christian advocacy and ministry organization, and the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA). Source: *Native News Online*

Cherokee citizen, Rep. Markwayne Mullin, wins GOP nomination for US Senate in Oklahoma: U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), a tribal citizen of the Cherokee Nation, is poised to become the first Native American Senator since Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell retired in 2005. Mullin has clinched the Republican nomination for the open U.S. Senate seat in Oklahoma with a landslide victory. The five-term congressman beat former Oklahoma House Speaker T.W. Shannon on Tuesday with 65 percent of the vote in a runoff that was necessary because neither candidate received 50 percent of the vote in the June primary. Current incumbent Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) announced in February he would resign his seat, which set up the special election. Source: *Native News Online*.

President Biden announces student loan relief for borrowers who need it most: President Biden announced a three-part plan to provide more breathing room to America's working families as they continue to recover from the strains associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan offers targeted debt relief as part of a comprehensive effort to address the burden of growing college costs and make the student loan system more manageable for working families. Read more at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/24/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-student-loan-relief-for-borrowers-who-need-it-most/>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NE-IA-SHING CLINIC TO-GO

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

With a Cummins B6.7 liter diesel turbo engine, hydraulic brakes, and automatic transmission, this new mini-clinic on wheels will be ready to roll out Ne-la-Shing clinic services to the communities with nearly all of the clinic necessities. This mobile clinic was made possible through Indian Health Services federal COVID-19 funding. The new mobile Ne-la-Shing Clinic is planned to be able to roll out to Band communities late 2022 or early 2023.

The project began at the end of the summer in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services staff on the planning committee included: Greta Sorvik, Accountant; Jan Manary, Executive Director; Curt Kalk Jr., Facilities Director; Lisa Stangl, Lab Manager; and Jenna Kuduk, Health Services Director.

"I wish we would have had it for the first COVID-19 outbreaks but all items were back-ordered and there were a lot of checks and balances," said Kuduk. "We will be able to take it to all of the ALUs, solely for outreach, case management, clinic, disaster response, and more."

"There will be some lab testing availability and we will be able to draw blood to send back to the clinic for testing, and do simple tests like STREP test, COVID-19 testing," said Stangl.

Depending on what the needs are, HHS will be assigning a lead for each health care department. It could be home health care, case management, clinic work, lab work, or "if, for example, there is a hepatitis outbreak, we can go to a community and run tests on people in that community," Stangl added. "Bringing health care to the communities as the needs arise."

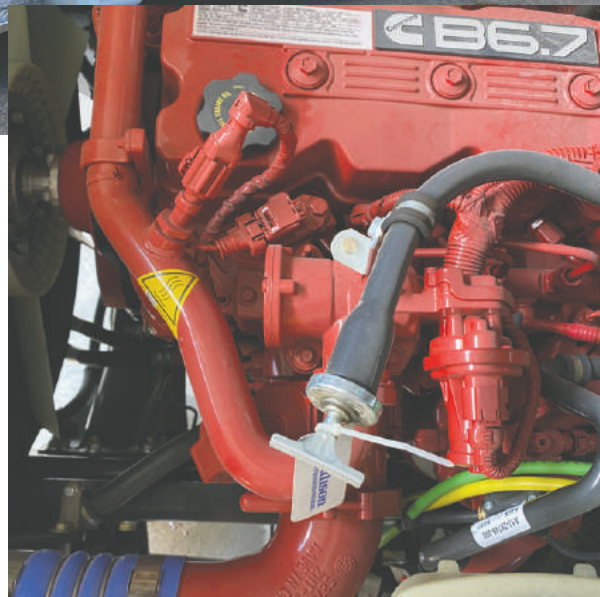
The mobile unit is a 2022 custom Freightliner S2C Turbo and will not require drivers to have a commercial driver's license in order to operate it. The clinic on wheels is equipped with two exam rooms, wheel chair lift, blood draw station with limited lab equipment, re-



TOP: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Ne-la-Shing mobile clinic with a huge 6.7 liter diesel engine is designed to bring health care to the communities. RIGHT: Ready to power the new mobile clinic with a Cummins 6.7 liter engine.

frigerator, restroom, consult room, automatic awning, front and back entrance, and on-board quiet generator to operate the equipment.

There is currently some discussion on what the unit should be called. One idea that has been at the top of the list is Mashkiki Jiigidaabaan, translated to Medicine Sled, said Kalk. Once that is determined, the Band logo and decals can be ordered and applied. The committee plans to have the unit available at the upcoming Health Fair. Watch for details on that coming soon.



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

LEARNING AND TEACHING TRADITIONS

By Perry Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band Elder

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

I grew up with a large family — there were 10 of us. In my younger years, we lived in Aitkin County. My dad worked as a lumberjack, and we built our own house on the Mille Lacs Reservation. In 1952, my dad was done with the timber work in Aitkin County, so we moved up to Ely.

Growing up, I did a lot of hunting with my dad. He taught me many things, including fishing, wild rice harvesting, and setting snares to catch rabbits. When my dad would come home from work, he would sing Ojibwe songs all night. We had a lot of chores to do when we were younger too, but they all made us better people.

We stayed in Ely until I was in my 20s, and then we moved back to the Mille Lacs Reservation. When I was younger, I didn't know much about the ceremonial powwows they had on the reservation. I learned that these were different from the traditional powwows we went to.

My parents were very traditional people. My dad urged me to attend the ceremonial powwows, but I was in my 20s and didn't listen to him. I was involved in alcohol when I was younger, and it wasn't until my older years that I realized what I was doing to myself. I was 48 years old when I decided to quit drinking and start attending the ceremonial powwows, which helped to straighten out my life. Now I'm part of the ceremonial drums here on the reservation, which we hold every spring and fall. My son and daughters are involved in the ceremonial drums too. I always tell them to listen to the drum and listen to Elders when they speak.

When we moved back to the reservation, I started working for the Band. I have worked for the Band ever since in all different departments. In 1983, I worked as a custodian at Nay Ah Shing Schools,

which I really liked. While working there, I started teaching the school kids how to sing in Ojibwe.

A friend of mine also helped teach the kids to sing, and we helped them start a drum group. The kids picked it up quickly. On weekends, we brought the kids to local powwows so they could sing and perform. We took them to local high schools, where they would perform for other students while we explained the drum group, the singing, and how the student group got started.

You don't have to know the Ojibwe language to be able to sing the songs, but you can pick it up by just listening to people sing them.

That's how I learned the Ojibwe language — by listening to my parents speak to each other in Ojibwe and by listening to my dad's songs. When I was younger, the Ojibwe language was all we spoke. I can still speak the language fluently, but there are some words that I can't say or are hard to remember. When I'm at powwows or with friends, I speak the language more often.

It's good to see kids getting involved again in Ojibwe traditions. In Lake Lena, the ceremonial buildings are always filled. I see kids excited to put on their regalia and dance at powwows. And the schools are doing a good job teaching the language and culture to our kids.

These youth need to learn our heritage and language, otherwise we are going to be a lost culture. My two grandchildren attend Nay Ah Shing School and like to learn the traditional Ojibwe ways. I think in the next 10 years or so, there will be even more young kids involved with our culture and speaking our language.

Although it's getting hard for me these days to participate in some Ojibwe traditions, such as hunting and fishing, I am able to still carry on other traditions, such as the Ojibwe language and songs.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

It's okay to talk about suicide and mental health issues. The Mille Lacs Band Mental Health Department can help.

Suicide is a problem that touches the lives of many Americans. Many of us may know someone, such as a friend, family member, or coworker who has attempted or died by suicide. Over the past two decades, suicide rates have steadily risen in the United States. Suicide is currently ranked 10th for cause of death among all ages.

It's important for you to know that suicide is preventable. With commitment and engagement in our communities, workplaces, and homes, together we can help reduce the number of suicides.

Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month — a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. The intent is to shift public perception, spread hope, and share vital information to people affected by suicide. The ultimate goal is ensuring that individuals, friends, and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

After years of advocacy and preparation, 988 is now available nationwide as the new number to contact for mental health, substance use, and suicide crises — a simple, easy-to-remember way for people to get help. This new number will allow people to quickly connect with support during a

It's Okay to Talk About SUICIDE

Thoughts of giving up and suicide can be frightening. Not taking these kinds of thoughts seriously can have devastating outcomes.

Suicide is NOT the answer.

If you start thinking about suicide, seek help. Call or text a crisis line or a trusted friend.

Make an appointment with a health care professional to talk about what you're thinking or how you're feeling.

Suicidal thoughts are a symptom, just like any other — they can be treated, and they can improve over time.

2nd Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for people ages 10-34.

46% of people who die by suicide have a diagnosed mental health condition.

90% of people who die by suicide have experienced symptoms of a mental health condition.

78% of all people who die by suicide are male.

4x Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth.

12x Transgender people are 12 times more likely to attempt suicide than the general population.

HIGH RISK POPULATIONS

If you are concerned about suicide and don't know what to do, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness

crisis, 24/7, no matter where they live.

It's okay to talk about suicide and mental health issues. The Mille Lacs Band Mental Health Department has therapists available to help. Please call the clinic to schedule an appointment. You are not alone.

HEALTH/ELDER BRIEFS

If you're in crisis, call the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at **988**

or for information and support, contact NAMI HelpLine by text, chat, email or phone: nami.org/help

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 p.m. (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245; password: Redroad.

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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

ELDERS NEEDED

Elders needed 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 share your memories, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

RED WILLOW ESTATES

RED WILLOW ESTATES COMING SOON

NEW AVAILABILITY:
Thirty new townhouse units are coming to Onamia, MN, right off Highway 169.

- Twenty-two two-bedroom units (1,218 sq. ft)
- Eight three-bedroom units (1,326 sq. ft)
- Playground/recreation, basketball court, BBQ and picnic area, and tenant gardens

FOR POTENTIAL RESIDENTS:

- Leasing will begin Winter 2022 and will continue until construction is completed in June 2023
- Homes will be rented based on affordability

CONTACT FOR LEASING INFORMATION:
Property Manager is available at jaubid@circlesage.com or 320-362-0973

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

CircleSage Property Management



BAND MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

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

Please submit your photos by November 4, 2022. Twelve winning photos will be featured in the Mille Lacs Band 2023 Calendar and receive \$200!

Submit photos to: news@millelacsband.com
See complete list of rules at millelacsband.com



MANOOMIN PRESERVATION OF FALL HARVEST

By MASHKODE-BIZHIKIGAHBAW, BENJI SAM

Autumn marks an incredibly valuable time of year in the Sam family because it marks one of the busiest and most important months to prepare for the winter to come. Harvest season is upon us and making grains, fruits, and vegetables last throughout the fall and winter.

All the hard work my mom and aunt put into the garden all summer is finally paying dividends in tomatoes, beans, squash, lettuce, peppers, cucumbers, and just about every other vegetable known to man. Those old ladies can really work — just like the generation before them — and will spend hours on end in the garden keeping plants clear of invasives, weeds, and critters. The art of food preservation in today's world takes a back seat to superstores, and there was once a time where we, our nation's first people, were at the forefront of food preservation, stewardship of the land, and resource management.

Since the beginning of time, native people across the country fought to preserve food in as many ways as possible to eat a balanced diet throughout the year. As we edge into fall, vegetables, fruits, herbs, spices, and natural medicines are all ready for picking, but a little extra care is needed. Traditionally fruits and vegetables were stored in food caches underground to keep away from critters and from turning rotten before freezing up. Many of these items were dried in the sun or over a fire prior to storage and later rehydrated in soups and rice to be enjoyed months later.

Today, many berries like blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb, and plums will either get thrown into the freezer whole or rendered down into jam to enjoy with toast all year long. This is the same time the apples begin to fall, in which we begin making applesauce and apple cider from our miniature orchard. My aunt and mom will take the lead on preparing tomatoes to make tomato sauce for spaghetti, soups, chili, and many other meals. Corn must also be shucked and frozen to last the winter, as does every other veggie from the garden — there is no shortage of responsibility come August and September in the Sam family.

Before fall arrives, the manoomin (wild rice) must also be picked by canoe, push pole, and handmade knockers before it can be laid out to dry, parch, thrash/jig, and winnow before it can be packaged. Fish and game meat, another staple to a balanced diet, was traditionally smoked, dried, or hammered



The Houle/Sam family garden boasts an annual return of many types of fruits and vegetables, including onions, peppers, corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, apples, and squash aplenty. It is imperative that each of these treats be utilized, leaving nothing to go to waste.

into a powder and mixed with rendered fat into what many today know as pemmican. This was the original "Cliff Bar" — packed with nutrient-dense calories to keep traveling hunters fed while looking to bring game back to the village.

Today, we spend most of our days vacuum sealing, freezing, canning, dehydrating, and labeling with dates, batch numbers, and spice mixes to know which food you are preparing to grab from the shelf. There is something so rewarding and wholesome about being able to sustain entire meals for days and weeks at a time without ever having to stop at a market to get by.

One of my biggest goals in life is not having to buy meat from the store and instead fill each day's protein from home-grown, harvested, butchered, caught, and prepared right from my own kitchen. Each fall as the ducks, grouse, turkeys, pheasants, and whitetails start to become easier to hunt, I can't help but think about the meat-packing days to come. After deer season, a group of our friends and family gather every year to process hundreds of pounds of meat together. My favorite part of

reaching into the freezer every morning for the night's dinner is being able to choose from steak, chops, roasts, ground burger, sausage, brats, kielbasa, summer sausage, canned deer meals, and many other cuts from one single animal as well as chicken, beef, or pork from which we barter our neighbors for.

Self-sustenance is not some easy feat to accomplish, and I would be lying if I said I could survive year-round without the grocery store, but it fills my heart with pride to know that I was raised with people from many generations around me who also value the land, plants, fish, animals, and water that give us life. So many pieces and hard work go into ricing, gardening, hunting, sapping, and gathering to be able to share around the family for the next year, but the reward is always worth it: Independence from the unhealthy chokehold that is the modern food industry.



Candace Sam, wife of Benji, and late father David 'Amik' Sam picking manoomin of leaves, stalks, and bugs prior to parching and thrashing. Preparation of wild rice the "Sam" way involves a team approach and takes days of drying, parching, thrashing, and cleaning to provide the best results.



All harvested meats are processed and packaged into meal-sized tubes to share around the family for the year to come.

EXPLORING CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE PASSIONATE ABOUT A CAREER IN NURSING

By MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM

Mille Lacs Band descendant, Cindy Dionysius is the great-granddaughter to the late Rose and Pete Skinaway from District II. Cindy currently serves as a nursing faculty member in the Nursing Program at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, Minnesota. She has been in this position since 2018. In addition to teaching, mentoring, and encouraging other Native people to consider nursing as a career, she also works at Riverwood Healthcare Center, in Aitkin in the infusion/oncology unit. Cindy grew up in Harvard, Illinois, after her mom (Shirley Evans, District II) moved there to raise a family with her dad. Moving to Minnesota, near McGregor, has inspired her to connect with community and share her passion of nursing.

Cindy's passion for nursing began as early as four years old. She recalls drawing pictures of what she thought a nurse, or a "helper" as she called them, looked like and others asking her what her pictures meant. She shared that her response always was "it's a nurse, I'm going to be a nurse someday." Coming from a family of helpers and caring for others remained a theme, passion, and eventually her educational goal. It is clear that her Anishinaabe roots led her to her career, where she has worked as an oncology, OB, Dialysis, ICU, burn unit, and neuro trauma nurse, and now an Indigenous nursing faculty member.

Why nursing as a career? Cindy believes nursing is an honorable profession that has many areas to care for different types of patients from birth to Elders. Nursing is a profession she was able to financially support her children as a single parent. Nursing gives Cindy a sense of pride and happiness to be able to care for those who are in need.

The rewards of nursing are making differences in the lives of people we care for. Nursing is a profession that is in great demand and jobs are plentiful. Nurse wages are good. Patients are grateful for the care.

Cindy shared her concern about the shortage of nursing across the state. "We need nurses that look like us, grew up like us, and can relate to us." Cindy welcomes anyone interested in exploring nursing as a career to reach out to her. She would be happy to support Band members and descendants along their educational and career pathway. Cindy encourages anyone interested in becoming a nurse to consider Central



Cindy Dionysius, Mille Lacs Band descendant, is passionate about nursing and is a faculty member in the nursing program at Central Lakes College in Brainerd.

Lakes College. It is a smaller college environment, inviting, friendly, has many support systems, and the employees and teachers really work hard to help students succeed. "Nursing programs are hard. Taking challenging classes, studying, clinical rotations, and passing your Boards (tests) is difficult. But, being in a smaller program like ours, with lots of supports in place, makes it manageable." If you are considering health care or nursing, you might want to start out taking a CNA course "just to get a feel for the work and field of study".

For more information on the Central Lakes College Nursing Programs, visit the CLC website at clcmn.edu. CLC offers a Practical Nursing Diploma (36 credits), Traditional Nursing Associate of Science Program (64 credits), and a Nursing A.S. Degree (advanced Standing) Program (64 credits). Cindy can be reached at 218-855-8133 or Cindy.Dionysius@clcmn.edu.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

GETTING IN THE SCHOOL GROOVE

School is back in session. But it is not too late to start some simple routines to help the school year go by a bit easier. From kindergarten to college, there are tips for everyone.

YOUNGER STUDENTS

Set up a Bedtime and Wake-up Routine

An important back-to-school tip for parents is to start a bedtime schedule. Preparing them for bedtimes will help them be on the right sleeping schedule and it will be one less worry for your family. Make sure they get 10 hours of sleep at night, otherwise they may feel cranky and tired, and remember they do not have coping skills as adults have.

Communicate with Your Child

It is important to talk with your children about their feelings and make them involved in a conversation. This gives them some sense of control. Do not ever embarrass your children or demean their feelings. Instead, ask them how you can help them in this transition, in making their first few weeks of school a pleasant beginning. Interacting with your child can make them more likely to follow a smooth outcome and go happily to school.

Have a show-and-tell dinner

Let your children share their favorite "moment of the day" at the dinner table. To get the conversation going, ask them, "What did you do today that made you laugh?"

OLDER STUDENTS

Set Your Goals

Write down your goals, priorities, and intentions on a piece of paper. Build habits that will help you achieve these goals. Visualize yourself reaching these goals or remind yourself of these goals as a way to stay motivated.

Manage Your Distractions

It's important to be diligent about how to manage time and resources, because they have a way of creeping up on us. Keep your phone on silent or turn it off when you are in school. If your phone rings while you are in class, it will be distracting to your learning.

Finding Resources

College students hesitate or delay asking for help for many different reasons. Take advantage of the resources offered by your school. Continue to look for ways to get help, because there is a lot of support available on campus. Resources such as career centers, counselors, library resources, tutors, and writing centers are available for all students to use.

Get Motivated

As a college student, there is only a limited amount of time at your school to gain whatever you want from it. You are the only one that has the power to make the most out of your education. If you can motivate yourself to excel in college, you will have a better chance at a career in your future.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.



HISTORY PHOTO

NOTE: This photo first appeared in the August 2012 issue of the Inaajimowin. Read the story of the District II flood on page 17 of this issue.

BACK IN TIME: Rick Benjamin, who works in the District II Assisted Living Unit maintenance department, delivered bottled water to Band members during the flooding in District II. He and Maurice Benjamin, who works in the District II public works maintenance department, built the temporary bridge shown in this photo.



MILLE LACS TRADITIONAL POWWOW

AS LONG AS WE HEAR THOSE DRUMS

STORY by MASHKODE-BIZHIKIGAHBAW,
BENJI SAM
PHOTOS by VIVIAN LaMOORE

Like a shot out of a cannon, the sound of that first drum beat cuts through the air with a bellowing echo as if our very own ancestors were there with us. Just feet from the water's edge on Mille Lacs, the lake that supports our very existence as a tribal nation, it's powwow time.

For centuries, it's been tradition to gather in song, dance, food, memory, and togetherness around the region to share gifts, teachings, and time with one another. The only difference now compared to the past is we now gather in a state-of-the-art arena with seating for a few hundred people, driving cars and trucks to a familiar destination close for some and far for others, and yet the power of those drums remains the same. There is a certain emotion that's almost palpable, the drums almost a pulse from Mother Earth herself, that can be felt the second you step into that arena.

That emotion can look and feel different to everyone in attendance. To me it brought me back to feeling like a child, remembering my parents tying my bells tighter between intertribals because I would dance so hard the leather bounds would loosen. Now bringing my own two-year-old daughter to dance somehow feels like life has drawn full circle.

Come Grand Entry time, we stand, together, to honor those veterans, Elders, loved ones who gave their lives, those who have taken that journey to the next life, and to those who still serve today in such a powerful display of culture, pride, and respect that always brings tears to my eyes.

For avid powwow-goer Darcie BigBear, she recalls being a child watching her mom, her idols, other women dance about the arena with pride and grace. "It seems that no matter what someone is going through, at the powwow, those hard times don't exist and the arena is a place for so much healing," Big-Bear said. "I love watching the Elders in the stands as we dance by and seeing the pride on their faces — that's what it's all about. There was a time where they weren't allowed to dance and here we are today singing, dancing, and passing these traditions on to our grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. It means everything to me."

For fellow dancer Luther Sam, powwow weekend gives him a chance to wear his honor on his sleeves. "I always have a sense of belonging when dancing side by side by my brothers and sisters," he said. "I know the songs and drum are the echoes of the past and I will always give the drums the best I can."

When asked about being someone young dancers can look up to, both BigBear and L. Sam spoke of how dancing and devotion to the arena has been a powerful pathway to solidify and affirm their sobriety. Walking the Red Road is often difficult, even more so if walking that path alone, and both BigBear and Luther believe it's important to know that the arena is a safe, fun, and fulfilling environment to enter and stay involved in.

But like all things in life, the celebration must come to an end, and the final chapter of each powwow is written in a quiet, empty arena with worn-down grass and the new memories of hundreds of beautiful dancers having just represented their own colors, their respective tribes, and their culture the best way we know how.

We are proud. We are still here.
We are Anishinaabe.



"It seems that no matter what someone is going through, at the powwow, those hard times don't exist and the arena is a place for so much healing." ~ Darcie BigBear.





NIGII-BAMI'AAWAAN • THOSE WHO RAISED ME GROWING UP WITH ELDERS

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

Gaa-tibaajimotawaajin (transcribed by) James Clark, Ozaawaanakwad

This week, Joe will be talking about an essential part of his upbringing. Joe remembers going to live with his grandparents when he was young and the values they taught him. Some of the things he wanted to note off the bat is that he never felt abandoned or unloved by his parents. He knew there was love and care put into how he would develop. Going to live with his grandparents, he felt they were always very strict, yet not the strict we've known in the media and life today.

The discipline that came from these Elders made sure that there was a mutual respect given by Joe and those who raised him. Eventually they knew that Joe had to head off to school. At the time, there were schools run by people of the church. His grandfather made sure to tell him, "don't pray." Joe didn't understand what they meant until he started at school. Off at school, there were different sets of kids that would pray every day and those who were deemed "heathen" for not.

These Elders were what we would call "traditional." They were always participating in ceremony — making it a priority in life. No matter what, they would be at the ceremonial dances, Mide, etc. They were able to make some money the same

way that countless Ojibwe people did a long time ago by making birch bark baskets and ricing.

Something Joe remembers vividly is when a Ceremonial Dance was taking place. An Ojibwe woman who was intoxicated came in screaming, "You're all going to hell!" This sparked noticing the difference between what can be categorized as the "traditionalist" and those who had been converted — not only from boarding schools, but society as well. At that age, it got Joe thinking that he's the same as those Christian counterparts, but he wasn't forced to practice anything — it was just part of their life. There was a noticeable difference in the fact that the crazy woman didn't know that Joe was growing up just fine, despite there being bad things going on within the Reservation. Even when asking his grandpa, it was brushed off never for it to be revisited.

Joe played basketball at the local gym on the weekends and it was always very busy. Before they played, the benches would come out and there had to be time for religious instructions. After that, they had to clean up the floor and the rest of the gym so that they could play. This was a local event that community

NOTES FROM JOE:

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

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

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

members would come and watch. During all these times, Joe would notice the development of modern things, such as "Indian time."

Joe then would go and listen to these Christian people and what they had to say. It made a lot of sense to him. He came home and told those people who raised him. They said "that's the same messages that they are giving to their people, as we are giving to ours." They continued, "however, we don't tell people that if they refused to come, or practice, that there is a bad place they're going. We only pray for them and wish them the best, never wishing ill."

His grandparents passed on when Joe was about middle school age. And to this day, Joe never had to figure out much when it came to Christian religion. Even when he got married to Rita, he knew that as long as they were doing what they were going to be taught, that those people's lives would be good.

A while later, when Joe got into the Army, he was getting his dog tags. "What's your religion?" they asked. He told them, "I am with the Indian religion/Ojibwe." They surprisingly asked, "You must've been with the Midewin?" That was shocking to Joe. It was comforting to get that put on their tags, knowing that those veterans that came before them could have set that in place. On top of that, the Elders told Joe that his clan would look over him throughout his life, even though back then Joe didn't think much of it. Even when in the Army, taking all those oaths, he noticed that the same indoctrination was happening as he had seen when he was younger.

And with that, Joe went to combat. He was ill-prepared for the things he had to do and the things he had seen and was only being told that, "It was the enemy, or you."

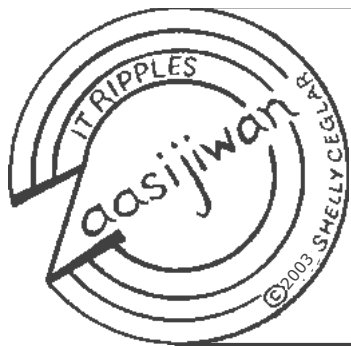
One day, Joe was in a bad firefight overseas. Many comrades died. Joe knew that it is not a good situation to be in. He began questioning where he was, his faith, and what happened if he died. It was comforting to know that if he passed, then he would head home to the place of his friends and relatives, and that if he lived, he would go home to the living people. Joe knew it was a win-win scenario. For a few seconds, he thought about those who tried to condemn the Indians and if there really was a hell. Joe asked, "God, if something happens, watch over me..." and then, again, "Manidoog, if something happens, watch over me."

That's the last thing he remembers about that battle. "You went over to the other side for a split second," Joe's uncle told him years later when they were trading war stories, "but the Manidoog pitied you and took care of you."

Years later, after a feeding of the ceremonial drum, there was an Ojibwe guy who was making fun of the way those Christian people pray. Later, that same uncle of Joe's said, "As long as their prayers come from their heart, that's what matters. I've worked for them, am friends with them, and am related to them. There are good people, but there are also bad ones." He went on to further explain, "We have those same people. As long as they stay true to their heart, we are no different."

Even to this day, Joe is the same way — the good and the bad. You cannot have good without the bad. You still have compassion for those on both sides of the isle.

Miigwech, mii iw.



Dagwaaging...

nimanominikemin. Manoominike-giizis izhinikaazo wa'aw giizis. Gaye, ingiw ininiwag wii-kiyosewag. Odayaawaawaan a'aw giyosewasimoon. Minising, owii-ozhitooaawaa i'iw akaadoowin. Dakaayaa, ganabaj wii-kimiwan. Giyosewininiwag owii-nooji'aawaa' ingiw waawaashkeshiwan, wii-pagami-ayaad, Gashkadino-giizis.

When it is Autumn...

we harvest wild rice. The Wild Rice-Moon (September) she is called this moon. Also, those men, they will go hunting. They have him, that hunting dog. On an island, they will build it that hunting blind. It is cool weather, perhaps it will rain. Hunters they will hunt for them those deer, when she will come to be, Freezing up-moon (November).

Bezhiq—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Gaawin—as in father
Gaye—as in jav
Jijman—as in seen
Adoopowin—as in moon
—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Idash—as in about
Nitam—as in tin
Qmaa—as in only

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

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

Verbs, Transitive, Inanimate (VTI)

Use VTI grammar patterns when verb action is directed to a non-living thing. Study this pattern that's used with verb root commands ending in -oon.

Biidoon!—Bring it!
Nimbiidoon.—I bring it. (nonliving thing)
Gibiidoon(an).—You bring it (them).
Obiidoon(an).—He/She brings it (them).
Nimbiidoomin.—We bring it/them.
Gibiidoomin.—We all bring it/them.
Gibiidoonaawaa(n).—You all bring it (pl).
Obiidoonaawaa(n).—They bring it (pl).

Niizh—2

Circle the 11 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Nindaabajitoonan niibowa aabajichiganan.
B. Dagwaaging, ninjijime. Nindayaan i'iw jiimaan.
C. Manoominikeyaan zaaga'iganing minwaabadiziwag ingiw bawa'iganaakoog.
D. Nitam nindaadaawe i'iw manoominike- mazina 'igaans.
E. Gaye nimbiidoonan inw manoomini-mashkimodan idash dibaabiishkoojigan.
F. Nandawishibeyaan nimbimwidoon i'iw zhiishiibanwii- baashkizigan.
G. Gaawin niwanenimaasii a'aw asemaa.

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

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:
2. hunting blind
3. also
6. those
7. tobacco

Across:
1. It is cool weather.
4. canoe
5. I buy
8. he/she hunts
9. first

Niiwin—4

Verbs Transitive Inanimate

Biinitoon!—Clean something for someone!
Nimbiniitooon i'iw gitigaan.—I clean the garden.
Gibiinitooon iniw abwiin.—You clean them those canoe paddles.
Dakobidoon!—Tie it!
Odakobidoon i'iw wiigob.—S/he ties that inner basswood bark.
Aabajitoon!—Use it!
Dagwaaging nindaabajitoomin iniw nooshkaachinaaganan.
When it is fall, we use winnowing baskets.

—Nim
—Gi
—O
—Nin —min
o— —aawaa

Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

- ___dakobidoo___ iniw makizineyaabiin.
- ___biidoon i'iw manoominaaboo adoopowining?
- ___biinitoon ina iniw onaagaansan?
- Bijijinaago ___gii-aabajitoon___ i'iw abwewin.
- ___gii-piidoon makade-mashkiki-waaboo.

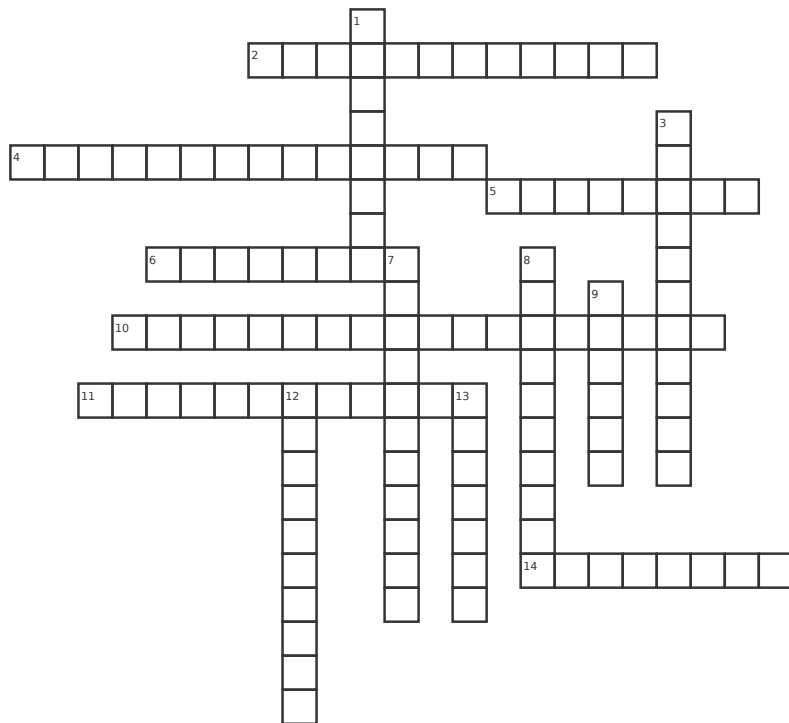
Translations:

Niizh—2 A. I have them many tools. B. When it is fall, I paddle and I have that canoe. C. When I go ricing at the lake, they are useful those rice knockers. D. First I buy it that little ricing-paper (license). E. Also I bring them those rice bags and scale. F. When I hunt ducks, I carry along that duck shot-gun. G. No, I don't forget him/her that tobacco.
Niswi—3 Down: 2. Akaadoowin 3. Gaye 6. Ingiw 7. Asemaa Across: 1. Dakaayaa 4. Jiimaan 5. Nindaadaawe 8. Giyose 9. Nitam
Niiwin—4 1. We tie them those shoelaces. 2. I am bringing that wild rice broth to the table. 3. You cleaned those, did you? those cups? 4. Yesterday they used that frypan. 5. She brought the coffee (black-medicine-liquid).
There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries

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AAZHAWAAKWASING WAATEBAGAA-GIIZIS 2022

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

1. My mother
3. Your grandfather
7. My grandfather
8. His/Her mother
9. Your father
12. Aaniin ezhinikaazonid iniw ____? = What's his/her younger sibling's name?
13. My father.

Across:

2. Aaniin ____ a'aw gishiime?(What's your younger sibling's name?)
4. Your relative.
5. Your mother
6. His/Her father
10. Those who must be my relatives.
11. My grandfather
14. Mii wa'aw _____. (This is my younger sibling.)

PAY IT FORWARD

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, our teachings, customs, and ceremonies are meant to guide our experience here on Earth. Our spiritual belief system is based on Manidoog who have great compassion for the Anishinaabe. When we are in need, the Manidoog provides us with guidance, gifts, and/or answers. There is a system at work. Our gratitude, belief, and offerings build up that system in order to generate the energy we need in the future. Imagine our ancestors with full belief and trust in the Manidoog. The energy that they generated in order to have a prophecy. The energy they needed to make their way across this continent. The energy they needed in order to have stories from the beginning of time. The energy they sent out to the universe has been guiding us throughout these tough centuries. The prophecies foretold our hardships, so they must have set out offerings on our behalf. It may be hard to imagine us being blessed due to what has happened. How it turned out is how it was meant to be.

There was prophesied a return to our way of life. Not saying that we are gonna climb back in the buckskin and wigwams, not all the time anyway, but our belief and trust in the Manidoog is going to return to us the cycle of energy where we will be saved. We are now in that phase. More of us are seeking the teachings, ceremonies, and customs that we have been given. The more of us that are a part of the system, the more impactful we will be. There are more people seeking our way of life. Our youth are seeking our language and teachings. There are more people taking part in Big Drum, Midewin, fasting, and seeking out names.

There are those too that have strayed so far away from our way of life. It may seem like we're further given the state that our Anishinaabe are in. Remember, it's a phase rather than a switch. Thirty years ago everyone on the Rez drank. Not all, but



plenty. Today, there are people that abstain and the ration is growing. There are more youth seeking out our ways and less of them are using. We can believe that shifts in the last 30 years are going to establish a new way of being for the next 30. Imagine the help our relatives are going to receive when they return from the stray.

What blessing do we want for our future ancestors? What kind of life would we want for them? What are we willing to do to make it possible? We all have a duty for our future people. We are so fortunate due to our ancestors and we should pay that forward. Our duty is to use what we were given in order to be Anishinaabe. Our way of life, our gifts from the wild, our teachings are all here to help us be who we are as individuals, which combined make us who we are as a people.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Who is who? Anishinaabe are relational to each other, in relations — Indinawemaaganidog! (In din nuh way mah gun nih dohg). The word "my" does not imply ownership. It implies relations. Knowing our relations is knowing ourselves.

Nindede = My father (Nind day day)

Nimaamaa = My mother (Nih mah mah)

Gidede = Your father (Gih day day)

Gimaamaa = Your mother (Gih mah mah)

Odedeyan = His/Her father (Oh day day yun)

Omaamaayan = His/Her mother (Oh mah mah yun)

Nimishoomis = My grandfather (Nih mish shoo miss)

Gimishoomis = Your grandfather (Gih mish shoo miss)

Omishoomisan = My grandfather (Oh mish shoo miss sun)

Mii wa'aw nishiime = This is my younger sibling. (Mee wuh ow nih she may)

Aaniin ezhinikaazod a'aw gishiime? = What's your younger sibling's name? (Ah neen ayzh zhin nik kaaz zod uh ow gih she may)

Aaniin ezhinikaazonid iniw oshiimeyan? = What's his/her younger sibling's name? (Ah neen ayzh zhin nik kaaz zo nid iniw oh she may yun)

Gidinawemaagan = Your relative. (Gih din nuh way mah gun)

Indinawemaaganidog = Those who must be my relatives. (In din nuh way mah gun nih dohg)

Woigoshkoz ina? Miigwech.

You can hear many words and sentences pronounced by native speakers at The Ojibwe People's Dictionary. Find them on the web at: ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.

The Ojibwe People's Dictionary is a searchable, talking Ojibwe-English dictionary that features the voices of Ojibwe speakers. It is also a gateway into the Ojibwe collections at the Minnesota Historical Society. Along with detailed Ojibwe language entries and voices, you will find beautiful cultural items, photographs, and excerpts from relevant historical documents. Whenever possible, it also provides examples of documents in the Ojibwe language.

The Ojibwe People's Dictionary has thousands of entries and audio, with more coming online each week. It is the goal to make The Ojibwe People's Dictionary a continually expanding resource for Ojibwe language and culture.

OSHKI-MAAJITAADAA — NEW START TOGETHER

NAY AH SHING SCHOOLS ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM SECOND GRADUATE

Nay Ah Shing Schools new Alternative Learning Program, Oshki-Maajitaadaa, which translates roughly to mean new start together, is proud to recognize the second graduate for the program. Theresa Weous worked very hard to complete her requirements for graduation and was presented her diploma at a school celebration luncheon on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

In a very emotional speech to those in attendance, Theresa thanked those who supported her through her journey. "And now I can officially say, I have graduated," she said. To her instructors, the school staff, and friends, she added, "I am going to miss you greatly."

Theresa is planning on attending Bemidji State fall semester.

Theresa is a wonderful role model for others who may wish to come back to school and finish their course work or for those students who are currently in high school but looking for an

alternative path to graduation. Each student in this program has an individualized graduation plan and schedule that is designed to help them find success, said Sarah Pylvanen, K-12 Interim Assistant Principal. "I also want to say how proud we all are of you. No matter what life threw at you, you never ever gave up. Even when you had doubts, you never let it get you. You always won," Pylvanen said. "So if you ever feel like, as you are moving forward, that stuff is getting too hard, remember the people who are here, and even if you are not here at school, we are all still here and you can reach out anytime."

Enrollment applications for the Nay Ah Shing Schools Oshki-Maajitaadaa program can be downloaded from the school's website or picked up at the Middle/High School office. Please contact the program teacher, Paula Hoffman, with any questions, NASS 320-532-4695 or cell 320-362-1918.



Theresa Weous.



K-12 Interim Assistant Principal Sarah Pylvanen, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, and Nay Ah Shing School Board Chair Kim Kegg, and K-12 Principal Lehtetia Weiss applaud Oshki-Maajitaadaa graduate Theresa Weous.



K-12 Interim Assistant Principal Sarah Pylvanen gifted Theresa Weous with a blanket.



HISTORY PHOTO FROM OCTOBER 2002

The Mille Lacs Band Traditional 36th annual powwow

The sun finally decided to come out during the powwow on Sunday and this traditional dancer needed his shades.



Theresa Weous proudly displays her high school diploma.

BAND MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS FROM THE URBAN DISTRICT TO LAW SCHOOL & BEYOND

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

Aarik Robertson grew up in South Minneapolis around the Urban District. His father was a file clerk at the University of Minnesota and his mother worked as an administrator in the Mille Lacs Band's urban office. Aarik was fortunate to grow up understanding his culture and the services and programs provided to Band members, as well as had parents that worked hard to provide for their family. He always knew he wanted to make a career championing the community that he held dear.

After high school, Aarik studied American Indian Studies with an emphasis on the Ojibwe language at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. His original goal was to become a history teacher. "I wanted to teach Native history to other Native students. I took a Native history class in tenth grade, and it really opened my eyes to what was lacking in my education," he says.

However, when he realized that the prerequisites and certification would take three years, Aarik made the decision to attend law school instead. "With law school being the same amount of time, it made sense to me," says Aarik. "There are many opportunities with a law degree. I knew I could work in the legal field or go into higher education after working five years." Aarik graduated with a law degree from the William Mitchell College of Law in 2015.

Before working for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV), Aarik was the president of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association. It is an organization that he is still active in today. For the last six years, he has acted as chair of the scholarship golf tournament.

In fact, it was at that very golf tournament that Aarik was approached by MLCV's VP of Strategic Growth Initiatives, Zach Atherton-Ely, about the prospect of joining the team. "Seeing the things that MLCV was doing over the years to be innovative and working to provide a better future for our Band members, I knew that I wanted to be a part of the organization," he explains.

As the Director of Strategic Initiatives, Aarik has his hand in multiple projects. One of the initiatives that he is heavily in-

involved with is SLOTCO, MLCV's latest startup, which aims to elevate tribal gaming. "Having the opportunity to jump in and use my law degree to focus on the organization's growth and other possible revenue streams is interesting to me," says Aarik.

In his short tenure with MLCV, Aarik has also taken the lead on the company's renewable energies projects, including the launch of the solar array in Hinckley. Since the activation in May, the solar array has already had the impact of over 35,000 trees being planted. Hinckley is just the beginning; Aarik sees a place for renewable resources in every place MLCV does business.

It is easy to see that sustainability is at the forefront of Aarik's priorities. "The decisions our ancestors made hundreds of years ago to set us up for success today. That is the same type of impact I want to make for our future generations," explains Aarik.

Aarik works diligently in his role at MLCV to leave a positive footprint, but his efforts do not stop there. "I never thought I could get paid to brainstorm cool business ideas and future revenue streams for our company, but that is a part of my job," he says. He acknowledges that his career would not be possible without an education, access to scholarships, and most importantly, the support of people that believed in him.

It is the same kind of support that Aarik wants to pass onto the next generation of Band members. "My advice to young Band members that are thinking about pursuing a college degree is to study topics that you enjoy. You are more likely to excel at those topics, which will open more doors for you such as graduate programs and career opportunities. You will find jobs in the field you are passionate about and that will create a happy balance between work and life," Aarik explains. "Also remember that you have a community that is here to support you."



AROUND THE RESERVATION

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out was held at the Mille Lacs Band Reservation on August 2, 2022. Tribal Police collaborated with several Band departments and local law enforcement and emergency services to connect with the community to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.



GRA UPDATE

Information on Fraud

GRA-promulgated regulations, our operating procedures, and our mission is to provide protection over the tribe's biggest revenue sources. Our casino operators and countless different industries face many of the same occupational fraud threats. Understanding fraud, its red flags, and its impact help us and casino operators prepare for and detect fraud. We hope you find the following statistics interesting and helpful as we do.

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) began sharing their annual report regarding the factors and tolls of occupational fraud in 1996. The intent of this information is to provide data about the costs, methods, and actionable insights for businesses. The 2022 Report to the Nations shared the following data on occupational fraud and abuse:

- Organizations lose 5% of revenue to fraud each year, with a \$1,783,000 average loss per case.
- Typical fraud case lasts 12 months before detection at a loss of \$8,300 per month.
- 42% of fraud schemes were detected by a tip and over 50% of tips come from employees.
- Presence of anti-fraud controls is associated with lower fraud losses and quicker detection.
- Fraud losses were two times higher at organizations without hotlines.
- Only 6% of perpetrators had a prior fraud conviction.
- Long-tenured fraudsters steal almost 3x more, are more likely to collude and take longer to catch.
- 85% of fraudsters displayed behavioral red flags of fraud, including:
- Living beyond means;
 - Unusually close association with a vendor or customer;
 - Excessive control issues, unwilling to share duties;

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

- Unusual irritability, suspiciousness, or defensiveness;
- Bullying or intimidation; and
- Recent divorce or family problems.

For more information on occupational fraud and abuse, visit the ACFE 2022 Report to the Nations: <https://legacy.acfe.com/report-to-the-nations/2022/>.

One of the express purposes of Section 1 of Title 15 – Gaming Regulatory Act is, "to provide a statutory basis for the regulation of gaming on Band Lands to ensure that gaming is shielded from organized crime and other corrupting influences, to ensure that the Band is the primary beneficiary of the gaming operation, and to assure that gaming is conducted fairly and honestly by both the operator and the player."

To report any Mille Lacs Band Gaming Enterprise fraud, please call 320-384-4519.

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. Meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

NEXT GENERATION

MARIANNE JOY NEISS

Jaime Sam and George Neiss welcomed baby girl Marianne Joy Neiss to their family on July 9, 2022. Marianne weighed 7 lbs., 9 oz. She joins several older brothers and sisters. This little cutie is adorable in her District I onsie!



ADRIANA LOUISE BUCKANAGA

Representative Virgil Wind and staff meet with Alyssa Enno and Bradley Buckanaga on August 8 and gifted them with a baby girl basket. The proud parents welcomed Adriana Louise Buckanaga, their first baby, on June 22, 2022, weighing 7 lbs., 2 ozs. We are happy to welcome Adriana to the District I Community. She is so cute in her custom made Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District I attire.

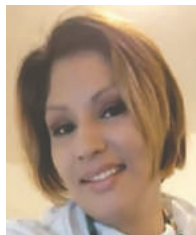


MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Aazhoowanang, Christina Marie Boyd

Aazhoowanang, Christina Boyd, 36-year-old resident of Onamia, Minn., passed away on July 24, 2022. Visitation was at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation, with Baabiitaw officiating. Interment will be in the Boyd Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Aazhoowanang, Christina Marie Boyd was born on June 13, 1986, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Donald Boyd and Deanna Sam. She loved spending time with her daughter, Raquel. Christina enjoyed listening to music, drawing, and journaling. She liked going to the casino and being with her family and friends.

Christina is survived by her daughter, Raquel; mother, Deanna Sam; sisters, Stacy Boyd, Priscilla Boyd, Alysia Boyd, Marissa Sam, Natasha Sam, Josie Sam; brothers, Clayton Boyd, Waylon Boyd, Delaney Boyd; grandparents, Delores Boyd-Hegland, Larry Hegland; and many loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Donald; niece, Kiley Jones; uncle, Kevin Boyd; grandparents, Charlie and Clara Sam.

Zhaagajiwiigaabawiikwe, Wanda Kay Misquadace

Wanda Kay Misquadace, "Zhaa-ga-jii-wii-gaa-ba-wiikwe," 65, of Big Sandy-McGregor, passed away Monday, July 25, 2022, at her home. She was born March 9, 1957, in Cloquet to Walter Misquadace and Agnes (Martin) Chief. Wanda graduated from Central High and enjoyed painting, coloring, playing on-line games, daily phone conversations with her daughter Samantha, and spending time with her family and friends. Wanda will be dearly missed by all who knew her.



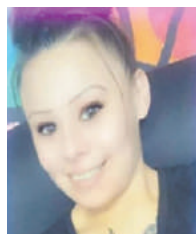
Wanda is preceded in death by her parents, Agnes Chief and Walter Misquadace; brothers, Walter, Jr., Bradley, and Bryan Misquadace and Keith Dahlberg; nephews, Wesley and Brandon.

Wanda is survived by her daughter, Samantha Misquadace of Cold Spring; brother, Brian Keith Pippitt of Faribault; sisters, Anita Misquadace of Big Sandy-McGregor and Yvonne Shabaish of Cloquet; step-father, Stanley Chief; many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Tribal Rites were held Thursday, July 28, at 10 a.m. at the East Lake Ceremonial Building in East Lake-McGregor with Vincent Merrill officiating. Visitation was at dusk on July 27 at the Ceremonial Building. Burial was in Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge Burial Grounds, East Lake-McGregor.

Miskwanakwadookwe, Vala Eagle

Miskwanakwadookwe, Vala Eagle, age 30, passed away on July 30, 2022. Visitation was at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Nazhike officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Bizaanakwadookwe, Diana Anderson

Bizaanakwadookwe, Diana Anderson, age 65, of Minneapolis, Minn., passed away on August 21, 2022. Visitation was at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Funeral Ceremony was at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment will be in the Bedausky Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Bizaanakwadookwe, Diana Marie Anderson was born on October 23, 1956, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Fred and Mary Jane (Bedausky) Anderson. She was excellent at playing pool and bowling. Diana was a member of the Commodore Breakers, a four-woman team from Minneapolis, who won the Valley National Eight-Ball Association championship. She was also a member of the Orange County Women's Bowling League, who won the State Championship in 1986. She enjoyed doing beadwork and baking. Diana liked to spend her time playing bingo and slots at the casino. She will be dearly missed.

Bizaanakwadookwe, Diana is survived by her brothers, Roland Anderson, Bruce Anderson Sr.; and her sister, Jackie Redearth; nieces, Nicole Anderson, Candice Anderson, Mary Jane Anderson, Casey Anderson, Chantelle Anderson, Chanelle Drumbeater; nephews, Marc Anderson, Miles Anderson, Jerome Anderson, Bruce Anderson Jr., Christopher Anderson, Brandon Anderson, Jeremy Drumbeater; and many loving relatives.

She was preceded in death by her partner, Ron Buggers Vilburn; parents, Fred and Mary Jane Anderson; brother, Robert Anderson, sister, Sandra Anderson; nieces, Rebecca Anderson and Shannon Anderson.

Donald Eugene Olson

Donald Eugene Olson was born in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, on May 27, 1952, to Alof and Dorothy Olson. Don and his family moved to South Minneapolis from the farm in 1964. He attended Seward Jr. High and South High, where he met and married his soulmate, Alice Barstow. Don was an entrepreneur, starting his career at Earmold Design (EDI) that led him to starting his own hearing aid business. He created the first Ready-To-Wear Hearing Aid. Don was a generous, compassionate, caring person. Not only did he employ his family and friends, he was known for his giving heart. He gave gifts to Toys for Tots and always made sure the teenagers got something too. His generosity led him to sponsoring a child through the Smile Foundation, St. Jude's Children's, and the list could go on and on. Don loved spending time with family and friends at their lake home in Osage, MN, that Don, Alice, David, and Diane built and shared for 30 years. He was very passionate about deer hunting and fishing. Don loved spending time with his grandchildren and attended all the hockey, football, soccer, archery, and wrestling tournaments. These were just some of the things he enjoyed with his grandchildren. Don also played a huge role in his first great-grandchild's life, Mecale. Don took care of him from 10 months old to 4 years old. They loved playing cars, reading books, and riding his bike to the park. When he wasn't spending time with his grandkids, he loved golfing, going to the casino and many powwows, and vacationing with his brothers and sisters.



Don lost his long battle with Alzheimer's on Thursday, August 11, 2022, at the age of 70. Don was preceded in death by his parents, Alof and Dorothy Olson, and brother Harold (Mick) St. Clair.

He is survived by his wife, Alice, daughters, Melissa (Lon), Ronda (Chuck), grandchildren, Matthew (Sammi), Andrew, Tristan, Shyanne, Kaytlyn, Angela (William), Jackson, great-grandchildren, Mecale and Baby McClay on the way, brothers and sisters, Andrew, Diane (David), Alof Jr. (Jackie), Debra, Dorothy Jean (Mark), Connie (Joe), God daughter, Rebecca, many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. He loved each and every one of you.

Funeral service was at Washburn-McReavy Glen Haven Chapel, Crystal, Minnesota on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Christine Chiles officiating.



Honoring, Healing, Celebrating Men of Makizin Game



Makizin Tournament at Grand Casino Mille Lacs coordinated by David Sam, with 12 teams competing. This was the last tournament Dave, Elmer, Perry, and Larry played at together. Top: Damon Panek, David Sam, Jerry Ojibway, Larry Wade. Bottom: Allen Weyaus, Elmer Nayquonabe, Perry Benjamin.

By **MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM**

Last summer at this time, after the passing of yet another Elder who lived by the game of Makizin, Dan Wind decided to make time in his busy schedule to raise dollars to expand prize money for the annual Makizin Ataagewin Tournament to honor Elmer Nayquonabe, Perry Benjamin, Larry Wade, and David 'Amik' Sam.

David became sick with COVID-19 days before the annual traditional powwow in 2021 and asked his apprentice Randall Nickaboine to serve as the tournament director. Since David's passing, Randall will now step into the role as the Annual Makizin Ataagewin Tournament Director.

"I sure learned a lot of aspects of the game from these guys," said Randall. "A student of Dave's now became the teacher. He took me along to help teach kids. I sure miss these old guys a lot. They would all have been here and it's way different without them, not the same."

When asked about why it was important to honor these men and their teachings, Dan said he wasn't sure anyone else would honor these men and someone needed to do this. Dan hopes that the game will continue to make a comeback. "We need to teach the younger generation," he said.

Dan didn't play the game growing up, but knows of its importance in helping raise and heal men. Prior to the pandemic, the Mille Lacs tournament would attract 10 to 12 teams annually to our community. Mille Lacs late Elders played a role in inspiring and revitalizing the game across the state and in Wisconsin.

The group photo in this article was taken the last time the four "old guys," as they are lovingly referred to, played together. Additional photos provide a snapshot of the personalities of Elmer, Perry, Larry, and David. Prior to passing, David provided Makizin instruction all over Minnesota and Wisconsin, mentoring young teachers like Randall Nickaboine and grandson

Bazile Panek from Red Cliff. Watching the old guys play, laugh, tease one another, and share the game, teaching young men about healing and modeling healthy behavior with a competitive spirit has left an empty spot in the hearts of those who love the game.

Miigwech to Dan, Rosie Kegg, Chris Kegg, Leanne Benjamin, Legislative Branch, and the Mille Lacs Band DNR for their generosity, making and donating blankets to assist with the big prize money this year to honor these men.

About Makizin games returning to Mille Lacs, as interpreted by the late David Sam:

Makizin was banned by the U.S. government for generations. As a result, the game was forgotten in many communities. In recent years, the game had a resurgence, thanks in part to the late Mille Lacs Band Elder Fred Jackson. In the late '70s, Freddy struggled with alcohol and found himself in an American Indian Services halfway house in the Twin Cities, where David was the director. Dave realized that the traditional AA program was not reaching Elder Natives like Freddy, so he asked his senior counselor to seek a new way to work with Freddy.

Freddy told the staff that he remembered playing Makizin and loved the game. He inspired the game at the halfway house, and then the group would drive back to Mille Lacs once a week to play, engaging others to play the game and heal. It was Freddy's love of the game that resurrected the popularity of the game throughout the region and, most importantly, gave himself and others the courage to turn their lives around.

The men traveled to Red Lake, Roseau Reserve, and Manitoba, just to name a few places, to play the game. Makizin is still being played in Mille Lacs, Red Lake, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, Red Cliff, and Bad River, thanks to Freddy, David, Elmer, Perry, and Larry — all who loved the game.



In memory of the late Elders and Makizin players Larry Wade, Elmer Nayquonabe, Perry Benjamin, and David Sam.

HISTORY

BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2012

District II of Mille Lacs Reservation Declared Disaster Area

As the Inaajimowin reported last month, Band members living in District II of the Mille Lacs Reservation near McGregor experienced heavy rains that led to flooding in late June.

Due to the damage caused to property and infrastructure, the area was included in a federal disaster declaration by President Obama on July 6.

"A disaster declaration like this means that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will cover 75% of the costs related to fixing or replacing public infrastructure and other facilities that were damaged," said Monte Fronk, emergency management coordinator. "The Band is in the beginning stages of its formal damage assessment."

About 287 Band members live in District II (East Lake), including about 50 people who reside in the Band's Apple Orchard development, which was cut off during the flooding. Rick Benjamin, who lives in Apple Orchard and works in the maintenance department at the District II Assisted Living Units, used his two ATVs to help deliver food and water to his neighbors for three days. Maurice Benjamin from the District II public works staff also assisted in this effort.

"The roads into the development were completely flooded. Trails were our only option," Rick said. Rick and Maurice got their supplies from the East Lake Community Center, which served as the Band's command center during the flooding.

The road into the District II Assisted Living Units was also under water. The four residents were evacuated on ATVs, with help from Rick and the Band's natural resources and public works departments. They stayed at a hotel in McGregor for three days.

Most local residents had electricity throughout the flooding, but they were instructed to boil their drinking water as a precaution.

Emergency response

The recommendation to boil drinking water was one of the many communications that came from the Band's Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) to help Band members affected by the flooding. TERC was activated as part of the Band's emergency response plan for natural disasters and other crises.

Renee Johnson, program administrator for East Lake and an Apple Orchard resident, was at the community center throughout the crisis to help keep track of the trouble spots and direct conservation officers and others to District II homes.

"People who stopped by or called the community center were primarily seeking water, food packets, and information," Renee said.

Several Mille Lacs Band departments were part of the response effort during the flooding, and some are still working to assess and address damages. For instance:

- Public works, part of the Community Development

The information above is from the August 2012 issue of the Inaajimowin. Many back issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin are available at Inaajimowin.com. Click on "Inaajimowin Archive."

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

SEPTEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Melody Dawn Schmidt
 Larry John Sutton
 Lori Lynn Weous
 Lonnie Joseph Bellcourt
 Cordell Arlen Benjamin
 Cynthia Mae Benjamin
 Dennis Wayne Benjamin
 Joyce Marie Benjamin
 Julie Louise Benjamin
 Paul Wayne Benjamin
 Daniel Boyd
 Joanne Frances Boyd
 Robert Louis Boyd
 Rose Marie Bugg
 James Douglas Colstrud
 Jeffrey Anthony Cruz
 Raymond Allen Eubanks
 Lloyd Dale Evans
 Shirley Ann Evans
 Rina Margaret Fonder
 Roger Duane Garbow
 Bernice Bea Gardner
 Lisa Celeste Griffin

John Alan Grothe
 Loretta Lea Hansen
 Lisa Ann Haynes
 Carol Anne Hernandez
 Bernida Mae Humetewa
 Donna Lianne Iverson
 Kathleen Lorena Johnson
 Beverly Marie Jones
 Carmen Denise Kegg
 Kimberly Jayne Kegg
 Lauren Lynn Matrious
 Rodney Charles Matrious
 Todd Michael Moilanen
 Carol Jean Mojica
 Jacqueline Jean Moltaji
 Sherri Lee Monroe
 Sheri Ann Morrison
 Joseph Leonard Nayquonabe
 Laureen Jennifer Nickaboine
 Michael Pike DeWayne
 Alan Ray Premo
 Jane Yvonne Rea Bruce
 Bernadine Joyce Roberts
 Carol Ann Sam
 Karen Louise Sam
 James Shaugobay

Janice Arlene StandingCloud
 John Duane Stokke
 Charles W. Sutton
 Judie Erma Thomas
 Marty Russell Thomas
 Russell Harvey Thomas
 Arne Vainio
 Leonard Wayne Weyaus
 Donald Ray Williams

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

• Happy birthday **Husband** on September 14 love, Your Wife • Happy birthday **Ogimaa Binesiikwe Myla** on September 16 Love, Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle, Auntie Kate, GG, Papa, Rosie, Mila, Mike, Uncle Brad, Daph, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Braelyn, Eric, Waase, Payton, Tiny, Brynley, Gally, Bam, Binesiikwe, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taters, Guy, Auntie

Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Gram Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Jake, and Jarvis
 • Happy birthday **Brother** on September 17 Love your Sissys and Brothers
 • Happy birthday **Tracy** on September 29 Love, all your family • Happy Birthday **Raining "Goose" Nayquonabe** on September 20, from Mom Lacey, Maanan Beverly, Montie Andrea, Gramma Duece, Mike Allen, and All your We-ehs, and everyone who loves you! •

Chi Miigwech to the Legislative Branch for sending flowers and for all of the help during our family's difficult time after the passing of my husband Donald Eugene Olson. Sincerely, Alice Olson.

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 October issue is September 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.

SAVE THE DATE! Celebrate the 88th Birthday of Elder Lucy Hansen (Thomas) on Oct 22, 2022 in Hinckley. Further details to come.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send important information and breaking news updates directly to Band members. To be added to the email list, send us an email at news@millelacsband.com.

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/Assitant Commissioner: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Community Development: Tim Jackson: 320-362-4245

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

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Chief Executive's Office

Stephanie Dunkley: 320-532-7828

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

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

Band Assembly Inquiries

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

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

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

Aanjibimaadizing

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

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

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

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

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

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

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

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

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

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

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

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

Office of Management and Budget

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

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

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



BAND MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

The Band Member Photo Contest is coming up soon! The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is once again holding a photo contest for all Band members. We are looking for photos, taken by you, that represent the Mille Lacs Band people and places, culture, and tradition. Please submit your high-resolution photos by November 4, 2022. Twelve winning photos will be featured in the Mille Lacs Band 2023 calendar and receive \$200 for each winner! Submit photos to: news@millelacsband.com. Must be a Mille Lacs Band member or descendant. See the complete list of rules at millelacsband.com

DRUG TIP HOTLINE

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference. The Sunday Wellbriety ID is 601 532 2869 and the password is 456 267. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. Urban recovery groups meet Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 p.m. (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245; password: Redroad.</p>			<p>SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH</p> <p>In a crisis? Call or Text 988 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Government offices close at noon</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building See 18</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Labor Day Government offices closed</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>6</p> <p>First day of school! Welcome back students!</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP see page 7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building See 18</p>	<p>12</p> <p>District II Elder meeting ALU 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>DII Family Fun Night Minisinaakwaang</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building See 18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>21</p> <p>District II Community Meeting Chiminising 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Minisinaakwaang Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery See above</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building See 18</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana See above</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mick & Syngen Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad See above</p>	<p><i>Inaajimowin.com is updated regularly. Chcek out the photo galleries for tons of extra photos not included in the print edition.</i></p>



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



OSHKI-MAAJITAADA
GRADUATE

page 14

PRESERVING THE
FALL HARVEST

page 8

NE-IA-SHING CLINIC
ON WHEELS

page 6

GE-NIIGAANIZIJIG
SUMMER INTERNSHIP
PROGRAM

page 4

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 October issue deadline is September 15.

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

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

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

District II: 320-630-7666

District III: 320-630-2691

24 Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Batters Intervention: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

Elder Services: 320-532-7854

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

Food Shelf: 320-362-4672

Waivered Services: 320-362-0027

Heating, water, or other home-related

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

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

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

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

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