

O J I B W E I N A A J I M O W I N

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



Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources Kelly Applegate (Left) presented the Water Over Nickel initiative launch held at the InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront, on Tuesday, March 13, 2023. He is joined by District II Representative Wendy Merrill, District I Representative Virgil Wind, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who was also one of the speakers during the program.

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

On Tuesday, March 14, 2023, during a presentation held in St. Paul, the Mille Lacs Band publicly launched a major initiative aimed at protecting Minnesota's water, land, people, and cultural traditions from the negative impacts of nickel mining. The Water Over Nickel campaign addresses the complex issues of balancing clean water and green energy needs facing the nation today and brings awareness to the risks associated with the proposed Tamarack Nickel Mine. The Band is asking Minnesota leaders and lawmakers to prioritize clean water over nickel.

The Band was also joined by national and local allies and experts, including Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Earthjustice, and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identifies metal



Commissioner of DNR Kelly Applegate and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin are joined by allies Kathryn Hoffman, MCEA, Esteban Chirboga, GLIFWC Climate Change Coordinator, and Amy Myrbo, environmental scientist Amiable Consulting.

mining, such as the nickel mining process in the proposed Tamarack Mine, as the most toxic industry in America. Talon Metals Corp is a base metals and mining company headquartered in the British Virgin Islands and is in a joint venture with Rio Tinto, an international mining conglomerate headquartered in the United Kingdom and Australia with a track record of environmentally damaging practices. Talon Metals claims that the nickel sourced from its Tamarack mine could be used in electric vehicle batteries, according to their website. Talon Metals' website also claims the mining techniques they will use are "responsible practices at every stage" and "should be carefully controlled." Yet, they have failed to provide the public with details to support those claims that it will engage in responsible mining practices.

WATER OVER NICKEL see page 9



Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of the DNR being interviewed by local KSTP News during the launch of Water Over Nickel.



Screenshot of Representative Melissa Hortman, Speaker of the House, signing the MIFPA recorded live at the House Chambers on March 13, 2023.

MINNESOTA PASSES LANDMARK LEGISLATION

MIFPA strengthens protections for Native American children and families involved in the state child protection system

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

On Thursday, March 9, 2023, the Minnesota House of Representatives unanimously voted to pass a bill into state law that made revisions to the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA). Essentially, the bill will codify into state law the protections of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). This law enhances state child welfare laws and strengthens protections for Native American children and families in Minnesota by intending to aid, "Native families and help tribes, counties, and government agencies by preventing the removal and disconnection of Indian children from their families, culture, and tribes," said Sen. Mary Kunesh, chief author of the bill, in a statement. The bill had passed in the Senate by a vote of 66-1 in February, and on March 9, House members voted 128-0. The bill was signed in House chambers at the State Capitol on Monday, March 13, during Sovereignty Day at the capitol. Governor Walz signed the bill into law on March 16, 2023.

ICWA was enacted in 1978, establishing minimum standards for the removal of Native children from their homes. Among other requirements mandating how courts and parties are to handle Indian child welfare cases, the law also prioritized placing children into homes of extended family members, and other tribal homes before non-relative or non-Native homes could be considered. The placement preferences in ICWA and MIFPA don't mean that a child must be placed in a Native home, but the process does recognize tribal sovereignty and defers to its authority. ICWA passed into law decades after the federal

MIFPA see page 5



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! I want to begin by reminding all Band members that I am hosting community meetings about possible changes to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe enrollment process on April 10, 2023. The first meeting that day will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in District II at the Assisted Living Unit in East Lake. A second meeting that day on enrollments will be held in the Urban Area from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the All Nations Church.

All Band members are welcome to attend no matter where you live, or even if you have already attended a meeting. I previously held the same meeting in District I and District III, and those meetings were also open for all Band members, no matter where you live. The purpose of these meetings is to share information regarding the MCT enrollment issue and to answer any questions people might have.

Please also mark your calendars for Thursday, April 20, 2023, when I will be hosting a day-long Band member conference at the new District I Community Center, open to all Band members, which will include breakout sessions focusing on four important topics. These topics will include MCT Enrollment, the Band Strategic Plan, the Net Revenue Allocation Plan (which determines how our gaming revenue is spent), and the Benefits of Becoming a Foster Parent or Family.

Each of these four sessions will cycle throughout the day so that Band members who wish to attend all sessions can do so. This conference is free for all Mille Lacs Band members and will include a light breakfast and lunch. Please watch for information from the Commissioner of Administration regarding the process of gaining approved leave from work for Band member employees. I'm very excited about this conference and encourage Band members to attend and learn more about these important topics.

March was extremely busy. Early in the month, I attended the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) meeting in Washington D.C. along with other Band officials and staff. The focus of this meeting was to share our legislative priorities as a region with Members of Congress and policy-makers, including the need to protect the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), clean water, and many other issues.

The Minnesota State Legislature has been in session, which means that the Government Affairs team and I have been spending a lot of time at the State Capitol representing the interests of our Band members and pursuing changes in state law that will benefit you, your families, and generations to come. Under Title IV of our Band laws, the Chief Executive has sole responsibility for conducting external relations with other governments. The Government Affairs team provides staff support to the Chief Executive at the state and federal levels.

This legislative session in Minnesota is shaping up to be the busiest and most productive legislative session ever when it comes to tribal issues. On March 9, I attended a meeting at Grand Portage with other Minnesota tribal leaders to discuss the sports betting issue that is currently before the state legislature. Although we are 11 sovereign tribal nations, many state legislative officials assume we should be able to speak with one voice, or that one of us as tribal leaders should be able to represent all of us.

That is not how the government-to-government relationship is supposed to work. As tribal leaders, we work extremely well with one another and respect one another's different positions on matters, so the expectation by some that we should all have the exact same position has made the sports betting discussion interesting, but we are all committed to making progress.

Over the past several years, allowing sports betting has grown in popularity. Allowing tribal operators to exclusively offer this new form of gaming in brick-and-mortar and mobile spaces is good for Minnesota. Tribal gaming professionals have been providing gambling-related entertainment without incident or scandal across Minnesota for close to 30 years, and Indian gaming is the most highly regulated form of gaming in

the country. Tribal operators are best positioned to introduce this new form of gaming in the state.

The Mille Lacs Band has been advocating for state authorization of tribally exclusive sports betting, and we have played a lead role in maintaining tribal exclusivity. The sports betting legislation continues to move positively through the legislative committees in the House and Senate, and we are hopeful for a positive resolution.

On March 13, I joined my fellow tribal leaders at the State Capitol on Sovereignty Day, sponsored by House Speaker Melissa Hortman. An article in this edition of the Band news covers this important event. Minnesota is one of the only states in the country where legislators come together to learn about tribal governments, our issues, and how to work well together.

On March 14, we launched a new campaign in St. Paul called "Water Over Nickel," which is an initiative to protect Minnesota's water, land, people, and cultural traditions from the negative impacts of nickel mining. National and local allies and experts joined the Band for this event, including Earthjustice and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA).

Water Over Nickel will raise collective awareness of the risks associated with the Tamarack Mine, a nickel mine proposed by Talon Metals Corp. The proposed mine is located just 1.3 miles from the homes of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community members at Round Lake, and near cultural sites, including Rice Lake and Sandy Lake. The surrounding watershed flows into the Mississippi River and St. Croix watersheds, putting critical downstream drinking water sources and natural habitats at risk. You can read more about this campaign in this edition of the Band news.

At the beginning of this legislative session, the Government Affairs team and I set legislative priorities for the Band. A critical topic that has been at the top of our legislative priority list has been our belief that we need the state law changed so that the Band no longer needs a cooperative agreement with Mille Lacs County to carry out law enforcement. On Sovereignty Day, I participated in a breakout session to explain to state legislators the reasons why it is so urgent that we get this legislation passed. Because this issue has impacted nearly every Band member in Minnesota, I want to spend time explaining the changes we are pursuing and our reasons why.

MN Statute 626.90 is the section of state law that established the requirements for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Police Department to enter into a cooperative agreement with Mille Lacs County to provide law enforcement coverage for the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation.

In the 1950s, Public Law 280 transferred federal criminal jurisdiction on most Indian reservations in Minnesota to the State. Thirty-five years ago, the Band only had one tribal police officer, and Mille Lacs County did not recognize his authority as a peace officer. Geographically situated at the farthest northern end of the county, Mille Lacs County usually took at least 30 minutes and sometimes hours to respond to calls for help on the Reservation. With a growing population, we had to do something.

In 1991, the Mille Lacs Band worked on a bill that became law: Minnesota Statute Section 626.90. It was the first law on a P.L. 280 Minnesota Reservation that provided that an Indian tribe could appoint peace officers and exercise state law enforcement authority. Under the law, the peace officers appointed by the Band had to be POST-certified and were paid by the Band. The officers would refer suspects accused of violating state law to the County Attorney for prosecution.

Section 626.90 states that the Band shall enter into a cooperative law enforcement agreement with the County Sheriff. The first such agreement was entered into in 1991, shortly after the law was passed. With one brief interruption in 2008, the law and this agreement worked well for the next 25 years.

Tribal and County police worked side-by-side up until 2016

when the Mille Lacs County Board unilaterally revoked our cooperative law enforcement agreement. The County Attorney issued an opinion stating that Band police officers could no longer enforce state law on our Reservation and that, if our officers attempted to enforce state law, they could be arrested for impersonating a peace officer.

The County was upset because we were applying for federal jurisdiction under the Tribal Law and Order Act, which fell within my duties to pursue as a means of protecting Band members from violent crime. This law allowed for our Solicitor General to prosecute violent crimes on the Reservation in federal court as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney (SAUSA), and for those found guilty to be sent to federal prison rather than state prison. This law is a significant exercise of tribal sovereignty and a way of deterring crime. The County was also upset that, during this process, the Interior Department wrote an opinion that supported its historical position that our Reservation never ceased to exist.

Prior to the county revoking the agreement, we had 32 highly trained police officers who knew our community. They were proactive in addressing criminal activity and provided law enforcement for Indians and non-Indians on our Reservation.

During this period when we were without a cooperative agreement between 2016–2018, the Band was in a public safety crisis. The extra deputies the County Sheriff assigned to the Reservation did not have the same knowledge of the community that our officers possessed and did not engage in the same level of proactive police work. New gang members began to appear on the Reservation, open-air drug use returned, and the Reservation became known as a safe haven for drug trafficking.

All of this took place in the midst of the opioid epidemic. We experienced unprecedented numbers of overdoses, some of which were fatal. Governor Dayton described the situation as a public safety emergency. By late 2017, things had gotten so bad that the Secretary of the Interior came to our Reservation to view the situation himself. After meeting with us and the County, he directed that the BIA assign law enforcement officers to our Reservation to try to improve public safety.

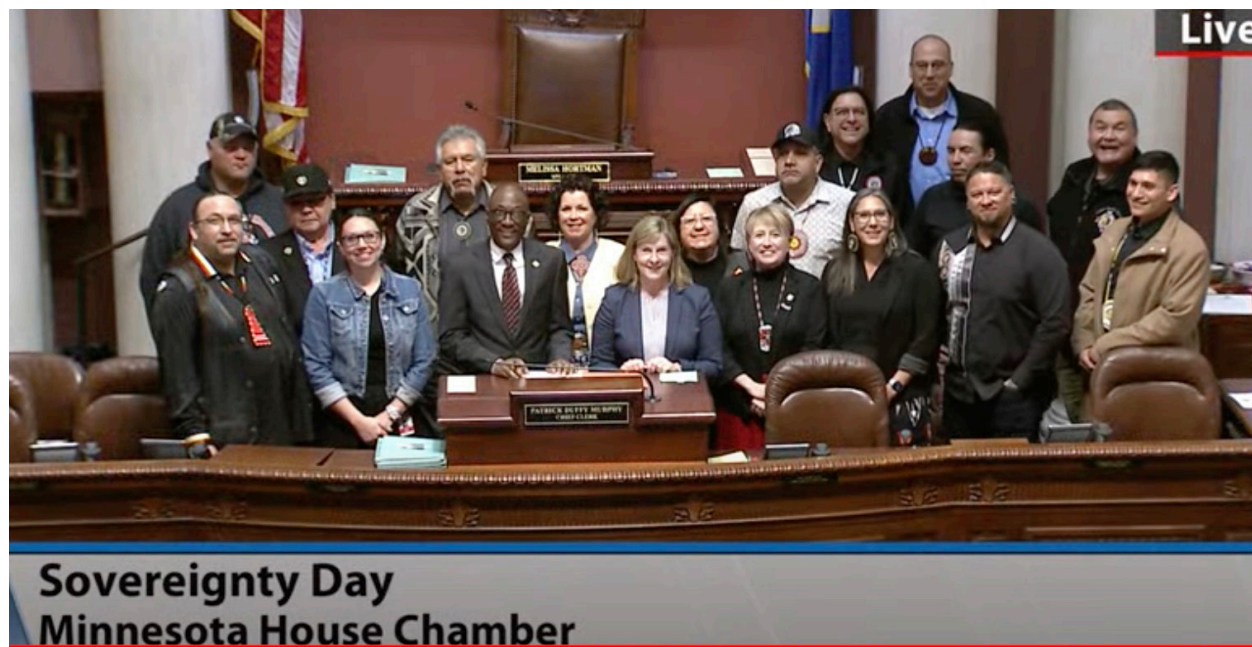
Although tribal police departments were in their infancy in 1991, our police departments have evolved over the past 30 years into sophisticated, highly trained, and well-funded law enforcement agencies. Many law enforcement agencies, including city police departments, county sheriffs, the state patrol and other state law enforcement agencies, and federal law enforcement agencies commonly exercise concurrent jurisdiction, with no requirement that they enter into cooperative agreements.

There is no reason to treat tribal police departments differently. The cooperative agreement requirement is not only unnecessary and offensive to tribal sovereignty, it is subject to abuse. We experienced this firsthand when Mille Lacs County revoked our agreement for purely political reasons. We attempted mediation, which ultimately failed, and we also sued the County for interfering with the exercise of our inherent and federally delegated law enforcement authority. While we won our lawsuit in federal court, that lawsuit did not change our authority under Section 626.90. The Federal District Court held that our Reservation has never been disestablished and that our officers have the authority to investigate violations of state law within the Reservation, but it did not change our authority under Section 626.90.

The underlying problem is the provision in Section 626.90 that requires the Band to enter into a cooperative agreement with the County Sheriff. The County used that provision to upend our law enforcement on our Reservation, and unless it is changed, it could do so again in the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE see page 5

MINNESOTA TRIBAL LEADERS ADDRESS STATE LAWMAKERS



**Sovereignty Day
Minnesota House Chamber**

Screenshot of the live broadcast of Sovereignty Day at the Minnesota State Capitol. Tribal leaders from across the state gathered to address state lawmakers and educate them on the sovereignty of each tribal nation.

Sovereignty Day at the State Capitol

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

The Minnesota State Legislature set aside regular business for the day on Monday, March 13, 2023, to celebrate 11 Minnesota tribal nations for Sovereignty Day. This was the second Sovereignty Day in the history of the legislature. The day is marked as a celebration of Minnesota sovereign tribal nations and also a day that gives lawmakers a chance to hear directly from Minnesota's tribal leaders.

Members of the House and Senate gathered to learn directly from each of the leaders of the 11 Minnesota tribal nations. Each leader had an opportunity to educate lawmakers on their individual tribe with a brief glimpse at their history and culture.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin described the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as "resilient, strong-willed people, as legislators, teachers, ceremonial people, as singers, as environmental people — that's who we are as the Mille Lacs Band," Benjamin said as she presented to the House. "We do what we do to protect ourselves. We do what we do to protect the land. And we also want to bring people into the Mille Lacs Band so you can learn about us. We are very proud."

Each individual tribe has their own unique government-to-government relationship with the state and federal governments, and each tribe has some unique issues they are facing, including land issues and nuclear power plants — issues that require tribal leaders have a seat at the table and "equal footing" with state and federal governments.

There were also breakout sessions covering issues that directly impact Minnesota's tribal nations, including public safety, tribal gaming, education, the environment, cannabis, and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) — an issue before the Supreme Court of the United States that could threaten Indian law nation-wide.

Days before Sovereignty Day, Minnesota lawmakers passed, nearly unanimously in the House and Senate, the

Minnesota Indian Family Protection Act (MIFPA). MIFPA sets into law provisions within ICWA to protect Minnesota Indian families and children. While the tribal leaders were gathered together, speakers took the opportunity to ceremonially sign the bill. From there, it was passed on to the Governor for his signature. (See story on page 1.)

During her presentation to the House, Chief Executive Benjamin gave a brief history of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and how the Band became known as such. She explained how land was taken from the Tribe through various federal government actions and by timber companies, and how the Mille Lacs County Sheriff burned tribal homes to the ground. She explained how Mille Lacs Tribal Leaders of the past said, "As long as there is one Mille Lacs Band member standing on this land, there will always be a Mille Lacs Band Reservation."

The Chief Executive also touched briefly on the three-branch government system of the Mille Lacs Band and also on the issue of enrollments and blood quantum policies that were put in place by the federal government.

"At the end of the day, we want the good life," Benjamin said in closing. "We want everyone [who] we represent to have a safe environment, good policy, good education; we want job availability, and good medical services for our people." She added that she carries the voices of the Mille Lacs Band members who elected her to office to talk about issues that matter to them, so that all Band members can have the good life.

"Today is a good day," Benjamin said. "A lot of these issues are really the same for every citizen in the state of Minnesota."

Secretary Treasurer Sheldon Boyd attended the historic Sovereignty Day as well as Band members Curt Kalk, U.S. Marine Corp Veteran, who carried the Mille Lacs Band flag at entry, and Jamie Edwards, U.S. Army Veteran who carried the Mille Lacs Band flag exit ceremony.



**Sovereignty Day - Key issues and priorities for tribes
Minnesota House Chamber**

MN House Monday, March 13, 2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE BENJAMIN SPEAKS AT STATE CAPITOL

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin is one of the 11 Minnesota tribal leaders speaking at the Capitol discussing key issues and priorities for their Tribe.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Band Assembly meeting March 15, 2023

District Representatives approved several bills including: Bill 20-03-12-23, Bill 20-03-13-23, Bill 20-03-14-23, Bill 20-03-15-23, Bill 20-03-16-23, Bill 20-03-17-23, Bill 20-03-18-23.

During the messages portion from the meeting, Chief Executive Benjamin spoke about the Water Over Nickel initiative. The WON campaign is aimed at providing education educating, "to our Band members and citizens of the State of Minnesota about our position on the nickel mine that is proposed in the Tamarac area in District II." As of the date of this printing Talon, the mining company, has yet to provide a plan on how the nickel will be mined and transported. "Before we can decide our next steps we need to see that," Benjamin said. (See story on page 1 of this issue regarding the launch of the initiative. Also visit WaterOverNickel.com for more information.)

Band Assembly meeting March 21, 2023

The Speaker of the Assembly convened the compromise hearing for vetoed Act 11-23 at 9:05 a.m. The hearing commenced with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and an opening statement from the sponsor of the bill, District I Representative Virgil Wind. The opening statements were followed by comments from District II Representative Wendy Merrill and District III Representative Harry Davis. Representative Merrill requested Chief Benjamin to summarize her letter that band members are unable to view. Chief Benjamin gave a summary of her veto letter. Following the comments there was further discussion and comments from the Chief and Representatives. The hearing was closed at 9:36 a.m.

Band Assembly Meeting March 24, 2023

The Speaker of the Assembly Pro Tem convened the compromise hearing for vetoed Act 14-23 at 3:41 p.m. The hearing commenced with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and an opening statement from the sponsor of the bill, District I Representative Virgil Wind. The opening statements were followed by comments from District II Representative Wendy Merrill and District III Representative Harry Davis. Following the comments there was further discussion on scheduling a workshop to continue compromise. The hearing was closed at 3:51 p.m. The Speaker of the Assembly Pro Tem convened the compromise hearing for vetoed Act 15-23 at 3:53 p.m. The hearing commenced with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and an opening statement from the sponsor of the bill District I Representative Virgil Wind. The opening statements were followed by comments from District II Representative Wendy Merrill and District III Representative Harry Davis. Following the comments there was further comments from Chief Benjamin and Syngen Kanassatega, Chairperson of the Board of Directors for Band Member Legal Services. There was further discussion and comments with the Chairperson and the District Representatives. Prior to closing the hearing there was discussion on scheduling a workshop to continue compromise. The hearing was closed at 4:26 p.m.

Please call the Legislative office at 320-532-4181 with questions.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Tribal leaders want to reclaim all of Upper Red Lake, a Minnesota walleye mecca: Red Lake Nation tribal leaders in northern Minnesota say they are going to the U.S. Department of Interior with a longstanding grievance over boundary lines in an attempt to bring all of Upper Red Lake under their control. It's far too early to tell if the strongly independent reservation can succeed in expanding its borders to include the eastern four-tenths of Upper Red Lake, where hundreds of thousands of state-licensed anglers fish for walleyes. But any sustained campaign by the Red Lake Band of Chippewa to restore tribal control over Upper Red Lake would become a blockbuster story for years to come in the Upper Midwest fishing world. All of Lower Red Lake and the western 60% of Upper Red Lake are inside the reservation and generally off-limits to state-licensed anglers. *Source: Star Tribune.*

In Warroad, concern mounts over Minnesota bills prohibiting the use of American Indian nicknames: Warroad Public Schools is one of a handful of Minnesota school districts that still has an American Indian school nickname, but some worry the "Warroad Warriors" name, tied to the town's history, is in danger of being erased due to a number of bills in the Legislature seeking prohibit the use of American Indian mascots at public schools. Henry Boucha, an Ojibwe hockey player who grew up in Warroad and played in the NHL, has advocated for Warroad's mascot to remain the Warriors before. He hopes lawmakers consider the history and importance of American Indian mascots to communities like Warroad before passing legislation that prohibits them entirely. A number of bills proposed by Minnesota lawmakers either focus on or have a section prohibiting the use of American Indian mascots in public schools. Senate File 548, was introduced by Sen. Mary Kunesh, D-New Brighton. *Source: Grand Forks Herald*

Despite mounting legal costs, Mille Lacs County plans to appeal ruling in tribal case: Dan Whitcomb says he thinks he knows just how much Mille Lacs County's legal fight with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe over its reservation boundaries has cost his large, extended family living in the county: about \$20,000 over the past decade. "That's generational wealth that didn't have to be taxed or spent, at least in my opinion," said Whitcomb, a Mille Lacs County commissioner from the Princeton area, who was elected to the board last fall. In late January, Whitcomb was the lone vote against the county appealing a recent federal judge's ruling in its lawsuit with the Mille Lacs Band. Over the last six years, the county has spent more than \$8 million in attorney's fees on the case. With an appeal, those costs will grow. Some lawmakers think the state should be on the hook for the county's legal costs, which Whitcomb said many people in his district oppose. *Source: MPR.*

Out-of-home placement costs dropped by \$1 million in 2022: Out-of-home placement costs are going down, as well as the number of children in placement, according to a report by Beth Crook, community and veterans services director. She said both the county and the Mille Lacs Band "have been doing a good job at putting services in place to ensure the safety of children while being maintained in their home. *Source: Mille Lacs Messenger.*

AANJIBIMAADIZING HELP FOR FOOD INSECURITIES IS A SNAP

Aanjibimaadizing is now SNAP certified

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

It is hard to focus and concentrate on work or school with hunger pains and a growling stomach. Yet so many community members, neighbors, family, and friends do so every day as households struggle with food insecurities. Making the household budget stretch far enough for food, medical bills, household utilities, and rent/mortgage payments is a challenge. To meet that challenge, oftentimes parents will skip meals so that their children have enough to eat; or families choose to pay for prescription medications instead of food; or there is an unexpected maintenance bill or auto repair that must be made instead of grocery shopping. There is no single root cause of hunger. Even for households where family members are working full- or part-time, their household incomes just do not stretch far enough to cover the grocery bills and other expenses, especially with inflation and skyrocketing food prices.

Aanjibimaadizing can help. Aanji is now an authorized administrator for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for all Mille Lacs Band member and first-generation descendant households who meet eligibility guidelines in Aitkin, Benton, Chisago, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, and Pine counties of Minnesota. SNAP is a federal program that helps Minnesotans with low incomes get the food that is needed for sound nutrition and well-balanced meals. SNAP benefits can be used to buy food, plants, and seeds to grow food for you or your family. The program provides support to help stretch the household food budget. It is not intended to meet all of the household food needs. It is a supplement. You can also use SNAP benefits at the Farmer's Market to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. They cannot be used to buy non-food items (such as paper products or household and personal hygiene supplies), alcoholic drinks, tobacco products, vitamins, medication, pet foods, foods eaten in the store, or hot ready-to-eat "deli" food.

Most food benefits are distributed through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), which is similar to a debit card. Each month, your EBT account is credited with your benefits. During the month, you use your card to purchase food at enrolled grocery stores or other authorized food sites. You swipe your EBT card through a point-of-sale terminal and the purchases are deducted from your account balance. You may authorize an additional person to use your EBT card.

The application process is fairly easy. Now that Aanjibimaadizing is a merit-certified administrator of the program through the state of Minnesota, you can stop in at any Aanji office and a case manager can help walk you through the process.

Anybody can apply, and it is easy to get started. The program is income-based. The amount of benefits you get is based on your income, expenses, and the number of people in your household. If you have questions about your eligibility, Aanji can help. You may be eligible for some benefits, even if you are working full-time. "The best thing to do is have us check to see if you are eligible," Aanjibimaadizing Case Worker Kaari Weyaus said. "The worst place you could be is right back where you started. Even if it is only a little bit, every little bit helps."

The application is also available online at mnbenefits.mn.gov.

Food insecurities are an issue for many families. "Nobody likes to talk about it, which is totally understandable, but let us help you," Weyaus said. "Even if you don't use the benefits right now, having them for some point when things are really rough is helpful. Everybody needs help sometimes. It is not going to hurt to try."

Becoming merit-certified is a long process to go through, said Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom. Aanji staff met with individual counties and other stakeholders to give many presentations and trainings.

"Now that we can administer this program ourselves, we no longer need to send people to the county," Wickstrom said. "It is a benefit to be able to come to our office instead of going to the county."

Aanji can even print and issue the cards directly at the District I office and have them delivered to outer districts within one to two days. In emergency situations, Aanji can get cards delivered within one day.

There are plans to also administer SNAP benefits in the Urban office within the next few months. i

FOOD INSECURITY FACTS

1 IN 6 NEIGHBORS

in Minnesota experienced food insecurity in 2021. That's 483,000 people.

1 IN 11 KIDS

didn't have regular access to the nutrition needed to thrive.

SENIORS

are the fastest-growing group of food pantry visitors.

53 MILLION PEOPLE

across the U.S. turned to the emergency food system in 2021.

ALL 50 STATES

are home to people facing hunger.

47%

Nearly half of our neighbors in Minnesota and Wisconsin — 47 percent — are relying on food assistance for the very first time.

\$17.25

Those facing hunger report needing an average of \$17.25 more per week to meet their food needs.

Source: SecondHarvest.org

24TH ANNUAL TREATY RIGHTS CELEBRATION

The 24th annual Treaty Rights celebration was held on Friday, March 24, 2023, at Grand Casino Mille Lacs sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources. The celebration included a meal and vendors including the "Why Treaties Matter" display, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Natural Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota State Parks, National Weather Service, Midwest Tribal Resilience Liason, Smokey the Bear, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, craft tables, games for kids, and more. It is estimated that nearly 500 people attended.

There were \$3,000 worth of prizes for the raffle and then 12 pints of sap, two sugarbush packages, three rain barrels, and three compost bins. There were also two canoes for grand prizes with raffles. Each canoe was worth \$2,400. They were

each 17.5 foot, 1750C Grumman Double Ender.

The DNR also raffled two netting packages, which included the net, two buoys, and a life jacket.

Willow Shields, Father Hennepin State Park Manager, said the Minnesota DNR issued 163 free state park permits to Band members during the celebration. As a reminder, all tribal members from any Minnesota tribe can receive free annual permits for entry into all Minnesota State Parks.





The Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act was signed by Senator Bobby Joe Champion, President of the Senate, and Representative Melissa Hortman, Speaker of the House, in the Minnesota House Chambers during Sovereignty Day at the State Capitol with all 11 Minnesota Tribal leaders present. Governor Walz signed the bill into law on March 16, 2023. PHOTO: Screenshot of live recording.

MIFPA from page 1

government began a movement to assimilate Native children into the white America by removing Native children from their homes and placing them in boarding schools and with white adoptive families. MIFPA was adopted in Minnesota in 1985 as a supplement to the federal ICWA by referring to the ICWA within the statute rather than spelling out each of the protections and requirements separately. The new MIFPA law is now a standalone law that does not rely on ICWA as the law in Minnesota. It also added a severability clause that is not contained in ICWA, which means that if a provision or part of MIFPA were to be found, for example, unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable, that does not affect the validity of the rest of the statute.

ICWA is now facing challenges on the federal level as the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) is currently reviewing a case, *Brackeen v. Haaland*, that will decide the constitutionality of ICWA, (see story in the December 2022 issue of the *Inaajimowin*. <https://tinyurl.com/23fy5wbw>). So, if ICWA is ruled to be unconstitutional, that could leave Minnesota tribes and families with stripped-down protections left over in the state statute that do not refer to the ICWA as the law to follow. Native nations across the country are watching the case closely as the outcome has the potential for far reaching damage, not only to Indian child welfare, but to other areas of Federal Indian law as well.

Minnesota tribal leaders have been working on ways to strengthen and preserve the Indian child welfare laws in Minnesota for several years. The ICWA Advisory Council requested a work group be brought together of tribal attorneys, social service directors, and other stakeholders to review and recommend revisions to the Tribal State Agreement and then MIFPA. The work group was in the process of reviewing the Tribal State Agreement, but "Once we knew the Supreme Court was going to hear the *Brackeen* case, we shifted gears to focus 100 percent on revising MIFPA," said Angel Daher, Managing At-

torney for the Office of the Solicitor General and a participant in the work group.

The work group found sponsors for the bills that heighten the standards of MIFPA in Minnesota. Sen. Mary Kunesh authored the bill in the Senate (Senate File 667) with co-authors Senators Abeler, Wiklund, Hauschild, and Oumou Verbeten. In the House, Rep. Keeler signed on as an author (House File 1071) along with co-authors Representatives Becker-Finn, Kozlowski, Hortman, Pinto, Tabke, Freiberg, Stephenson, Hudson, Bliss, Greenman, Hemmingsen-Jaeger, and Agbaje.

Chief Executive Benjamin, along with other tribal leaders, testified in the House committee hearing. "House File 1071 ensures that all of the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act are expressly stated in Minnesota law to ensure continued protections for American Indian families and the 11 tribes in Minnesota," Chief Executive Benjamin said.

"Many of the policies that were created in an attempt to assimilate American Indian people and families failed or caused great harm," Benjamin said. "Boarding schools and the policies of removal and relocation of American Indian people disrupted our family structures and our cultural teachings and way of life. Every Native American family at Mille Lacs had a relative or Elder taken from the family and sent to boarding school." She added that standards included in MIFPA include: ensuring stability and security within Indian families; guaranteeing that tribal governments have a role in keeping Indian families together; and helping Indian children retain their cultural identity and heritage.

While the fate of ICWA remains uncertain until SCOTUS reaches a ruling, the passing of the revised MIFPA is a huge step forward for ensuring continued protection of Minnesota Indian children and families.

The full revised bill can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ycu4392e>.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

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



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE from page 2

In 2018, after a second year of mediation, we reached a new cooperative agreement with the County. However, the County insisted that it be a temporary agreement that will expire once our lawsuit ends. If Section 626.90 is not amended, the County will be able to again use the provision requiring us to enter into a cooperative agreement as leverage over us.

This is a serious concern. Mille Lacs County has spent over \$8 million fighting our lawsuit in its latest attempt to disestablish our Reservation, and they are attempting to appeal the Judge's decision which sided with the Band. There is every reason to think that, once the lawsuit ends, the County will continue to use the cooperative agreement to get its way on other jurisdictional issues.

It is time to end the cooperative agreement requirement in all the tribal law enforcement statutes. It is unnecessary, an affront to tribal sovereignty, and subject to abuse, as we have experienced firsthand.

Other tribes saw the problems that Mille Lacs incurred as a result of the County pulling out of its law enforcement agreement. Last year, Prairie Island was able to secure an amendment eliminating the cooperative agreement requirement for its police department. What I have been telling the State Legislature and the Governor is that it is now time to eliminate that requirement for Mille Lacs and every other tribe in Minnesota.

The Government Affairs team and I have worked closely with legislators in getting language introduced to change/amend the statute, similar to what was passed in 2019 for the Prairie Island Indian Community. The bill that emerged would change several sections of state law and recognize concurrent jurisdictional law enforcement authority for all tribes in the state, regardless of whether a cooperative agreement exists.

So far we have been successful, as bills have been passed in both House and Senate Committees, and those bills are waiting for final votes on the House and Senate floors. The Mille Lacs Band's Chief of Police and the Solicitor General gave strong testimony in support of the legislation, and we expect legislative action soon.

We have been working very hard on several other issues at the State Capitol as well, which I will discuss in the next edition of the Band news.

One of the ways that the Chief Executive carries out the duty of conducting external government affairs is by participating on boards that influence state or national policy in a way that can benefit tribes. As a member of the Leadership Council of the Federal Reserve Bank's Center for Indian Country Development (CICD), I attended an orientation meeting of the Board of Governors for the Federal Reserve Bank in Washington D.C. on March 27, along with fellow council members Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Fineday (Leech Lake) and Chief Financial Officer Jean Swift (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation).

The Federal Reserve Bank has prioritized pursuing initiatives that benefit Indian country, so it was exciting to have the opportunity to discuss ways that the Federal Reserve Bank can help with supporting economic development and investment in Indian country.

It has been a very busy but productive month, and I look forward to seeing Band members at our enrollments meeting in District II on April 10 and at our Band-wide Conference on April 20.

Miigwech!

APRIL IS NATIONAL FOOT HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

HEALTHY FEET KEEP YOU MOVING

By JACKIE GLUCK, MS, RDN Population Health Manager

PHOTO: ADOBE



One step at a time

Healthy feet help us to take care of ourselves and our families. We depend on them daily for standing, walking, and even dancing. April is National Foot Health Awareness Month, and research shows that approximately 20 percent of Americans experience at least one foot problem each year. These issues can be the result of an underlying health problem such as obesity, diabetes, or peripheral neuropathy. Follow these tips to keep your feet healthy!

1. Check your feet every day.
 - a. Look at your feet for red spots, cuts, swelling, blisters, sores, or other injuries.
 - b. If you have trouble seeing all angles of your feet, use a mirror or ask a family member to help you.

2. Wear shoes indoors and outdoors.

a. Avoid going barefoot and always wear socks with your shoes. Wear shoes that fit correctly and match your activity. Shoes should fit properly. They should not rub or pinch your feet.

3. Keep your feet clean and dry.

a. Thoroughly dry your feet and between your toes after bathing to reduce the risk of fungal infections. Apply lotion on the tops and bottoms of your feet, but not between your toes. Moisture between the toes can cause the skin to break down and lead to infection.

4. Take off your shoes and socks at your next clinic visit.

a. Alert your doctor of any problems with your feet. If you

have corns or calluses, ask your health care provider to trim them for you.

It is important to get foot problems checked and treated right away. If you experience a foot, ankle, or toe injury, don't try to treat it yourself. The more quickly you seek treatment, the better the outcome will likely be.

Call 320-532-4163 to schedule a visit with the podiatrist. Dr. Ryan provides care on the following days:

District I: Every Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

District II: Wednesday, April 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

District III: Wednesday, April 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET COMING TO MILLE LACS TRIBAL ECONOMY

On March 23, 2023 the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe was awarded a \$11.4 million grant from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) to construct a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe owned high-speed symmetrical fiber to the premise network that connects over 1,140 homes, 110 businesses, and 45 anchor institutions across the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy.

The project, which started well over 18 months ago, has been led by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Grants team and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV), in partnership with Consolidated Telephone Company (CTC), a telecommunications cooperative based in Brainerd. The project will help address critical infrastructure gaps by enabling technologically advanced, middle-mile fiber infrastructure across the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy to bring affordable, robust, high-speed broadband Internet to homes and businesses. The partnership between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and CTC demonstrates

the community minded spirit and ingenuity of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as they look to be the leader in solving the digital divide in rural Minnesota.

The project will install approximately 236 miles of fiber optic cable, connecting unserved businesses, tribal government holdings, and households. Ultimately this project furthers technology sovereignty and future-proofs the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for further expansion and economic development.

"This is an incredible award for the Band," said Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "The need for affordable and reliable broadband service became evident during the COVID-19 pandemic; we knew it was time to double-down on our efforts. We are dedicated in providing the much-needed connectivity for our Tribal members and surrounding communities, so they have the best access for education, telehealth, and economic growth. I'd like to recognize our grants director, Brittany Wind, and her team, as well as Beth



Gruber from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for their attention to detail, willingness to collaborate, and hard work in bringing this project across the finish line."

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

SPRINGTIME SUGARBUSHING

By KEN WEYAUS, SR., MILLE LACS ELDER

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

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

Here's how:

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

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

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

The sap from the trees you have tapped drips into buckets or birch bark containers under the spigots. Periodically, you check to see how the containers have filled up. How does the

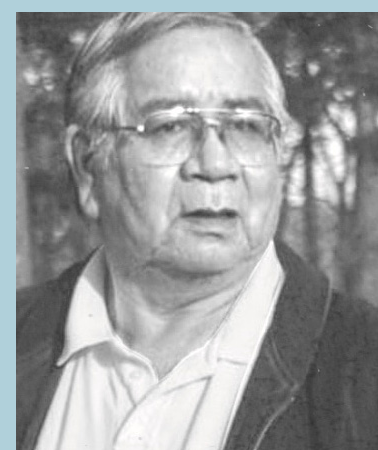
sap come out? It depends on the weather. It needs to be nice and warm. If it's too cold, the sap won't run. Some days, the buckets will fill up in half a day, other days it takes more or less time.

When the buckets have filled up enough, you take what's there and put it in a bigger container. When you have enough of these, you take the bigger containers of sap and put them into big iron kettles.

The Indians first got these kinds of kettles from fur traders. Then you start making the sap into maple syrup, maple candy, and maple sugar.

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

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



BOB AND WEAVE A FEW ROUNDS IN THE RING

Upper Midwest Golden Gloves Tournament is a step for Native boxers

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

"Any sport will teach you life lessons, but there is nothing like learning it in a boxing ring." ~ Tim Taggart Jr.

Boxing is a highly competitive sport that requires years of training, discipline, dedication, and the ability to focus and push through excruciating pain. "When you are getting punched and frustrated you get tunnel vision, it takes a lot to focus and figure out how keep going," said Tim Taggart Jr. "Just in like in life, if you are having a stressful day, sometimes you see tunnel vision, but you have to broaden that vision to keep going and keep pushing through the frustration. Boxing helped teach me that lesson."

Taggart has been involved in boxing as long as he can remember. He was a "Gym Rat" tagging along to the gym with his dad at a very young age. His dad, Tim Taggart Sr., had boxed in the military and then he started a boxing club on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Taggart Jr. had his first unofficial fight at 5 years old. It was a sparing match.

"There is video showing me me crying in the corner between rounds," Taggart said. "But then at the end of the fight when you hold your gloves up and people are cheering, you forget all of that. I remember thinking, 'Wow! This is cool! These people are cheering for me!'"

The family soon after moved to Rush City to be closer to Children's Hospital in Minneapolis for the health care of his sister. Taggart Sr. worked at Grand Casino Hinckley and he was introduced to Harry Davis. "So, we started going to Lake Lena to Harry's boxing club," Taggart Jr. said.

He was about 8- to 10-years old when he started out at that club. He entered his first USA Boxing tournament around 9 years old. "It wasn't about the cheering anymore. Now the goal was to get better than those guys," he said. "Harry had an established club and every weekend we were going to a different place. All the credit in the world goes to Harry and his crew, Wally St. John and those guys." He added that he looked up to the older, more established boxers in the club and dropped names of Weylin Davis, Jimmy Lafave, and George Lafave.

Taggart worked hard and totaled up 135 wins and 25 losses in his amateur career. He competed in Silver Gloves, Indigenous tournaments, USA Jr. Olympics, and one Golden Gloves tournament. After that, he entered a Tough Man contest and

received cash for his participation. Getting paid for boxing ended his amateur status and ability to compete in the Golden Gloves after that.

In all of those years he said, "It was such an honor to represent the Mille Lacs Band and my Tribe as well while boxing for the Mille Lacs Band boxing club. I have nothing but respect and admiration for Harry."

Most of his favorite memories of growing up included all of those boxing trips and training at the gym. Not to mention he has fond memories of the road trips across country with his dad. "We drove everywhere," he said with a big smile. "My dad was my coach and he drove, so that brought us closer, too."

Taggart entered college to study Criminal Justice and played football at St. Cloud State for 1.5 years. "While I was trying to find my place, boxing was always there. At about 20 years old I had my first pro fight. And I called Harry and asked for help."

His professional boxing career lasted a few years as he bobbed and weaved his way through different clubs and different states along the way. He had his last pro fight in 2013 that left him with 35 stiches over his eye. "A half an inch lower and I would have lost my eye," he said and he began to rethink his life choices. "I had just had a kid so I decided to change my career."

He went back to college to continue his criminal justice studies. But he never really left the boxing world. He went back to Meshakwad about three years ago to help out with the boxing club.

He came out of retirement last February and entered a fight he dedicated to MMIW. With the interviews leading up to the fight, he used his voice to draw attention to the issues facing Indigenous women. He figured whether he won or lost the fight, he brought attention to the issue. "I put myself in their shoes. Rounds last three minutes. Think of what women go through, sometimes for years. I can go three minutes to bring attention to them."

He said that was probably one of the best fights of his entire career. He won in the second round with a knockout, "Against a guy that was supposed to be way better than me with a 6-0 record," he said with a grin.

Taggart took a position at the District I Aquatic and Fitness Center where is the site manager as well as the personal trainer. He hopes to be able to start a boxing club at the center in District I.

Being part of the Golden Gloves tournaments was a huge



Tim Taggart Jr. is passionate about the sport of boxing at all levels. He is eager to inspire young boxers and assist as a personal trainer at the District I Aquatic and Fitness Center.

honor he said. "I encourage people to go see at least one. I just respect the game so much."

Golden Gloves of America Upper Midwest Golden Gloves Four Regional Tournament and Championship is coming to Grand Casino Hinckley April 14, 15, and 16. This will be a knockout event as the best up-and-coming boxers from around the Midwest will compete against each other in a three-day tournament to award the best fighter of each division the coveted Golden Gloves. Tickets can be purchased at <https://grandcasinomn.com/entertainment/goldengloves/>.



DONATE RED DRESSES FOR THE MILLE LACS BAND MMIWR RED DRESS PROJECT

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Victim Services Department is now collecting red dresses for the annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Red Dress Project. You can help. Please donate any size, any kind of red dress for use in this project to bring awareness to MMIWR. Drop off your donation at the Health and Human Services building, addressed to Kristen Allord. Your donation will make an impact.



PERFORMING ARTS

THE TALE OF TWO DALLAS'S

By MAAJIITAAZIIBIIKWE, MARY SAM



Two high school students are rising young performers with aspirations of life in the entertainment industry

Two young Band members living on opposite sides of the state have hopes and dreams of being on the big stage and entertaining the crowds. Both are sending a strong message to their young relatives to get involved, take risks, find their courage, find their voice, and follow their dreams.

Dallas Jennings, son of Martin and Mary Jo Nickaboine Jennings, will graduate from Bemidji High School in 2024.

Dallas Downey, son of Toya Stewart-Downey and Steven Downey will graduate from Hopkins High School in 2025. Both young men have performed in many school and community productions.

After moving from Onamia to Coon Rapids, Dallas Jennings leapt into the world of theater in Coon Rapids middle school and now Bemidji High School. Productions he has been involved in include "Shrek," playing Maurice in "Beauty and the Beast," "Cinderella," followed by the lead role as the King in "Game of Tiaras." He landed a lead role in "Alice in Wonderland," but the show ended up cancelling due to COVID-19. In his most recent role, he loved playing Martini in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

Dallas loves acting, "but the people in the plays are the best to be with," he said. "I love performing and getting into character."

Dallas is inspired by actor Johnny Depp. "He perfectly executes his roles and gets into character and it is just so fun to watch him."

When asked who he would love to meet and/or be in a movie with, he said, "I would love to meet Johnny, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Neve Campbell."

Balancing school with a 3.9 GPA, theater, working an internship, and family make for a busy life. In his spare time, Dallas is involved in ceremony, hunting, gathering, and the upcoming sugarbush season. Dallas' goals are both high and reachable and include getting further training in drama and theater and seeing himself as a famous movie star.

His mother Mary Jo is inspired by her son. "Dallas' ability to be who he is without reservations, aiming and achieving his personal and academic goals, motivates me as his mom, but

also [motivates] his younger sister."

As an urban actor, Dallas Downey performed in the Children's Theater Company production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and other school and community productions, including "Shrek," "Captain of the Guards," and "Matilda and Trunchbull." In "Legally Blonde," a Hopkins School District play, he was recognized by Spotlight Education Hennepin Theater Trust for his team's work where Dallas played in the lead role of Emmett. He is currently in the musical "Once on This Island Jr." for the Stages Theater Company in Minneapolis, where he plays Tonton Julian. Dallas shared that this is his favorite role so far, because "the character is brave, strong, and impactful. It's so fun to portray him in a unique multicultural and different way."

Dallas performs with the drum and dance group, Voice of Culture, in Minneapolis, which creates space to study and practice the arts to support mental health and wellbeing.

As an Indigenous and Afro person, Dallas shared that he loves connecting with both sides of his identity. His goal is to perform on Broadway one day and be a journalist who works to feature youth of color with inspiring, meaningful stories. While balancing school, theater, and family, he is a grass dancer.

"I love dancing and connecting to the Native side of myself. Every time I dance, I feel empowered. I feel the best part of my heart."

About her son, Toya said, "Dallas has never been afraid to try new things and take chances, which has been great to bear witness to as his parents."

When asked what advice they would like to give their young relatives, Jennings said, "Take risks and try out different things in life. You just might like it, just like I did. You will learn to believe in yourself."

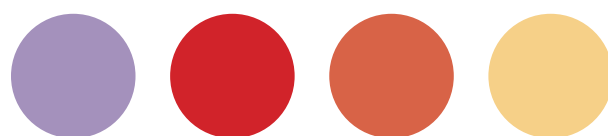
Advice from Downey is, "Be authentically yourself. There are so many people who want you for you. You are talented and know that you can reach your goals and dreams."



Dallas Jennings (Right Front) playing the role of Martini, in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." Photo courtesy of Bemidji Pioneer Press.



Dallas Downey (Right Front) playing the role of Tonton in the play, "Once on This Island Jr." Photo courtesy of Toya Stewart Downey.



APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

With Minnesota's "Hands-Free" law, it's illegal for drivers to read, send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign.

DISTRACTED DRIVING FACTS

Distracted or inattentive driving is when a driver engages in any activity that might distract them from the primary task of driving — and increases their risk of crashing.

Distracted Driving is Dangerous Driving

- More than 39,000 crashes were distracted driving-related from 2016-2020, contributing to one in nine crashes in Minnesota.
- In 2020, distracted driving contributed to 2,612 injuries and 29 deaths.
- Distracted driving contributes to 11 percent of crashes in Minnesota.

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

WATER OVER NICKEL

From page 1

“Nationally and globally, we are facing a clean water crisis caused by drought, pollution, infrastructure decline, and over-consumption,” said Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Commissioner of Natural Resources Kelly Applegate. “Minnesota is blessed with abundant clean water resources, and they are not to be taken for granted. While the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is concerned about the threat of climate change and determined to find solutions to slow its impact on our environment, in the case of the proposed Tamarack Mine, we are asking our leaders and regulators to prioritize clean water over nickel.”

The proposed mine is located just 1.3 miles from the homes of Band members at Round Lake, and near cultural sites, including Rice Lake and Sandy Lake. The area is rich with manoomin (wild rice), medicinal plants, and cultural resources that are already struggling to survive and adapt to the rapidly changing climate. The environmental impacts of the proposed mine will add yet another stress to the natural environment, Applegate said.

The mine could impact 1837 and 1854 Treaty Rights such as the wetlands, where manoomin grows, and fisheries used by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe.

“We want to make sure we protect that homeland for future generations and all of the shared resources that are there for all of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, other Anishinaabe, and all citizens of Minnesota who share that resource,” said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.

Talon announced last October they would be moving the nickel processing plant to North Dakota as a result of a \$114

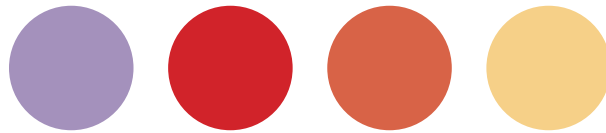
million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. But Talon still has not commented how they will address many of the other environmental concerns such as the disruption to the water flow, how the water will be treated, and the potential pollution concerns in addition to the hole in the Earth.

“Transitioning to a green economy is a complex issue and as such will require complex solutions. The idea that a green economy rests solely on nickel mining is a false premise, leveraged by groups who want to generate income at the expense of the planet,” Benjamin said.

Applegate said the Band is honored to have allies like MCEA and Earthjustice join in the Water Over Nickel initiative. The willingness of allies — including organizations like the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), who have signed resolutions voicing concerns about the proposed Tamarack Mine — to join the initiative speaks loudly that protecting clean water is an urgent and shared concern.

“We are the caretakers of a fragile ecosystem that is the heart of our culture,” Benjamin said. “It is not for sale. We are not for sale.”

For more information on the proposed Tamarack Mine, please visit the Mille Lacs Band website at <https://millelacsband.com/home/mining-impact> and <https://www.waterovernickel.com>.



EDUCATION BRIEFS

HIGH SCORE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Cyliss Lafave scored his 1,000th point in high school basketball on Friday, March 3, 2023. He is a Mille Lacs Band member and a 17-year-old junior at Hinckley-Finlayson High School. He is also on the B Honor Roll.



PET CLINICS OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE, MNSNAP, AND SECONDHAND HOUNDS

- Sunday, April 2 — Aazhoomog — Surgery & wellness
- Saturday, April 15 — Meshakwad — Wellness
- Sunday, April 16 — Meshakwad — Surgery & wellness
- Sunday, May 14 — Minisinaakwaang — Surgery & wellness
- Saturday, May 27 — Chiminising — Wellness
- Sunday, May 28 — Chiminising — Surgery & wellness

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

CEMENT MASONS MNDOT/TRIBAL 10 WEEK TRAINING

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

FREE TRAINING

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

COMPLETE THIS PROGRAM DEBT FREE!

LODGING & STIPEND

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

STIPENDS ARE AVAILABLE EACH WEEK!

TOOLS PROVIDED

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

PROVIDED TO YOU FREE OF CHARGE!

JOB ASSISTANCE

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

CONTRACTORS THROUGHOUT THE STATE!

WHAT TO EXPECT

- During the duration of the training you will learn both related and on-the-job technical training. Some of the topics covered will be:
- Highway Heavy Industry
 - Tool Introduction
 - Construction Math
 - Chemistry of Concrete
 - Layout/Setup
 - Concrete Repairs
 - Work Ethics
 - Safety Certifications

WHERE & WHEN

Cement Masons Local 633 JATC Training Center
2180 Old Highway 8 NW New Brighton MN 55112
Tuesday, May 30, 2023 through August 4, 2023 held Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

CONTACT YOUR TRIBAL AFFILIATION FOR YOUR NEXT STEP!

The Cement Masons, Plasterers & Shophands Local 633 Journeyman & Apprentice Training Trust Fund is offering a 10 Week Cement Masons Trade Orientation Training. The goal of this program is to train Native Americans from several tribal nations in the cement mason trade enabling them to qualify for apprenticeship with the Union and work on Mn DOT projects. This program is funded in whole as part of a \$500,585.00 grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Stipends are paid by Tribes/TERO.

GET READY FOR A NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Employee Rights Office is partnering again this year with MnDOT and Local 633 to provide a 10-week training opportunity in cement masonry to tribal members from our communities. Please contact Lori Trail, TERO Director, at 320-532-4778.



By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Exploring Egypt in an afternoon at Abinoojiiyag

On Friday, March 10, Miss Suzanne's second-grade class toured a museum, went on an archeological dig, painted Egyptian pendants, boarded a plane for a flight to Egypt, visited the tomb of Queen Hutepi, and indulged in an elaborate feast of Egyptian food before a return flight home for the day. They finished the tour in time to catch the school bus and/or be picked up after school to go home. That may sound like an adventurous day of learning, and that is exactly the plan during March's "Loving Letters and Literature Month" at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiiyag.

During the month of March, each grade celebrated by exploring different grade-appropriate books with activities surrounding the book. In Suzanne Terry's second-grade class they chose a book from the Magic Treehouse series called "Mummies in the Morning," by Mary Pop Osborne, a book of Egyptian exploration. The students read and studied the book learning homophone and vocabulary word skills. They learned a little bit about Egypt in a very adventurous way.

The museum tour involved using shovels and brushes to find treasures in archeological fashioned small sand fields (boxes) guided by Miss Livy, who gave a brief explanation of what an archeologist does. The students found Egyptian artifacts (small toys) and golden coins (chocolate candy) in the sand. They also painted Egyptian fashioned pendants.

The students then dressed in their Egyptian costumes ready to catch a flight to Egypt leaving from the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport with their (make believe) passports in hand with strict instructions not to lose the passports, or they would not be allowed back into the United States.

The students entered a classroom that had been set up

to simulate the inside of an airplane with rows of chairs and little windows. The front had large screen TV where Miss Suzanne had mapped out the flight pattern and route needed to fly from MSP to Egypt with stops along the way in New York, London, Paris, Greece, and finally Egypt getting their passports stamped in each country along the way. The trip included a video simulation of an actual flight to Egypt with commentary from the pilot and a view of the cockpit.

Arriving in Giza, they visited the inside of the tomb of Queen Hutpei who told the students her tale and invited them to stay in the tomb for a feast. Students sampled various Egyptian style foods before boarding the plane for their return trip for home.

Adventures in spearing

The Nay Ah Shing upper school students had opportunities to learn the craft of spearing with cultural guides Amanda Nickaboine-Meyer and George Morrow, with assistance from Rodney Berg. The students did not need passports for this adventure, but it appeared, they were equally engaged and had fun.

Spearing is a form of harvesting that takes a little bit of practice and a whole lot of patience. Along with the proper tools including a shelter, decoys, and spears. Students at NAS had a chance to experience an afternoon on the ice learning about spearing.

While they didn't actually see any fish on one sunny afternoon, the students certainly were engaged, learned, and had fun.

Please visit Inaajimowin.com/galleries to view more photos from these adventures learning activities. Watch for more exciting adventures from NAS schools in upcoming months.



NAS Students patiently jiggling the decoy while on a spearing adventure on Mille Lacs Lake.



Abi students participating in the archeological dig searching for treasures.



Sitting on the plane in a window seat with passport in hand, students await landing in Egypt.



Students listening intently to the tales of Queen Hutpei in the tomb before lunch.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest smoking rates in the U.S., but more than half of smokers want to quit

Quit Connections

know your options

Your path to quitting smoking

PATCHES, GUM & LOZENGES

Double your chances of quitting
Use nicotine to reduce cravings
Can buy in store

COUNSELING & SUPPORT

Can improve quit rates by 130%
Many options available: group, individual, telephone, internet
Counseling + Medication works better than either on its own

MEDICATIONS: ZYBAN, WELLBUTRIN, CHANTIX

Reduce cravings and withdrawal symptoms
Can be combined with a patch (Zyban and Wellbutrin)
Prescription only

NASAL SPRAY & INHALER

Use nicotine to reduce cravings
Nasal spray = sprayed in your nose
Inhaler = inhaled through your mouth
Prescription only

COMBINATION OPTIONS
Increase your chances of quitting

- + Zyban or Wellbutrin = 👍
- + Gum = 👍
- + Lozenge = 👍
- + Inhaler = 👍
- + Patch = 👍

TAKE ACTION! Talk to your doctor or nurse about what quit option works best for you.

For quitting options and support, join the Quit Connections Facebook group at: [Facebook.com/groups/quitconnections](https://www.facebook.com/groups/quitconnections)

THINKING OF QUITTING SMOKING?

Thinking about quitting smoking? Maybe you've tried before and just need some extra support. Keep tobacco and your breath sacred. Future generations need you strong and healthy. Reach out to the AI Quitline at 1-833-9AI-Quit or AIQUIT.com or call Sarah Larson at Health and Human Services at 320-532-4163 ext 2540 or email sarah.larson@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov to set up free cessation support with no pressure.



BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE EVENT AT A TIME

Sledding events create engagement and are a place to belong

By **MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM**

Building a community is an important step in healing our community. Preparing children to be active and engaged while playing, laughing, and working together was a theme for the District 1 Legislative Office, who hosted two back-to-back weekends of snow tubing and sledding on the south side of the new community center. When children feel seen, they feel like they belong. Belonging opens the door for children to work and laugh together. With this increased connection to community, our healing expands and we provide hope for the next generation.

About 500 kids and their families enjoyed tubing, sledding, and the warming tent where hot chocolate, snacks, and a light meal were served. Rosy cheeks, runny noses, chilly fingers, and toes at times did not stop the community from gathering.

District 1 staff set the tone for a great day, which included a message to all 15 event volunteers to “just have fun today.” Having fun while providing teachable moments was subtly woven into each day.

Through simple sledding events, kids (and adults) learned a great deal. Participants needed to be patient, as there were not enough tubes or sleds for the hundreds who arrived. This turned out to be one of those lessons. Children needed to learn to wait their turn and let younger kids, or those that were afraid, try in their own time. They needed to share sleds and climb the hill if they wanted to get to the top first rather than waiting for a lift from the volunteer snowmobile sled drivers. They had to make choices about working in teams, or going solo. Some built confidence, whether it was trying a tube, a snowmobile ride for the first time, or talking to someone they didn’t know, or even learning to ask for help. In these moments, they practiced relationship. They learned, practiced, and worked together — all skills that will help them at home, at school, and in the workplace.

“Today was about community, family, fun, and laughter, and building a sense of belonging, no matter who you are, where you work, what you believe, or where you are from,” said District 1 Representative Virgil Wind. “Prior to hosting so many of these awesome events, something was missing. Our kids weren’t playing. Our families are longing for opportunities to gather and build relationships. Our staff and many volunteers play a huge role helping our kids, helping our families, and our community heal. Days like these are some of the best days! Children are assets to our community, and when we invest in them, invest in us, we will heal.”

Kids rallied to talk Rep. Wind into grabbing a garbage bag and sliding down the hill. Witnessing a crowd of kids take turns to push him down the hill, all chanting, hollering, and laughing when they completed their mission, was inspiring to witness.

“Engagement is key to success,” said District 1 Office Manager Darla Roache. “Virgil knows how to be with and play with kids and expect them to be their best selves. We saw this today, last weekend, and at many of the great events we have been hosting.”

Witnessing our kids invite classmates and neighbors, Indigenous or not, to our community and have fun together is creating a pathway to increased engagement, pride, and improved relations around the lake.



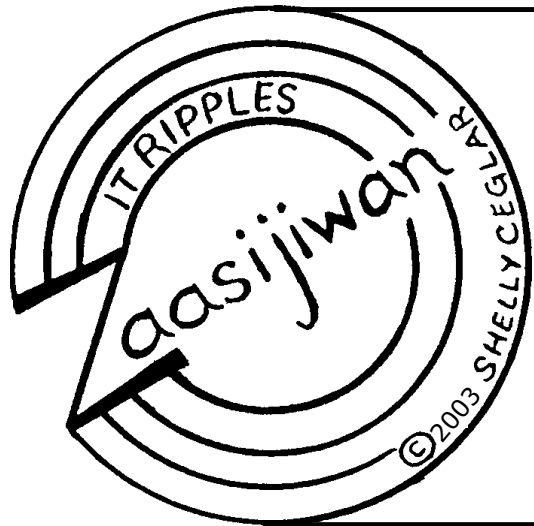
3RD ANNUAL ZIIGWAN ROUND DANCE

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023
2:00 TO 7:00 PM**

**NEW D1 COMMUNITY CENTER
18458 MINOBIMAADIZI LOOP ONAMIA, MN**

<p>DRUM HONORARIUM FOR THE FIRST 20 REGISTERED SINGERS</p> <p>HAND DRUM CONTEST 1ST. \$1,000 2ND. \$ 500 3RD. \$ 200</p>	<p>MASTER OF CEREMONIES REDWING THOMAS</p> <p>STICK MAN SKIP CHURCHILL</p> <p>INVITED SINGERS JOSEPH BENJAMIN JEREMIA CHURCHILL GABE" BUZZ "GAHBOW JR LES GAHBOW SCOTTY MATRIOUS GEORGE MORROW III</p>	<p>VENDORS WELCOME MEAL SERVED FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</p> <p>SPECIALS RIBBON SKIRT RIBBON SHIRT MEN & WOMEN SIDE-STEP BOY & GIRL SIDE-STEP</p>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR WITH ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT NICK CASH AT (320) 630-3332.
SPONSORED BY: OFFICE OF D1 REPRESENTATIVE VIRGIL WIND



Ziigwan—It is Spring

Aabawaa. Awesiiyag ondaadziikewag. Wii-kizhaawasowag.
 Goon da-ningizo dash wii-kimiwan. A'aw aandeg wii-piidwewidam.
 Makwag wii-koshkoziwag. Anishinaabeg wii-iskigamizigewag.
 Ginzhizhawiziwag. Gichi-aya'aag wii-manidookewag.
 Biboonagad. Mino-oshki-gikinoonowin!

(It is warming. Wild animals they give birth. They will protect their young.
 Snow s/he will melt and it will be raining. That crow will come speaking.
 Bears will wake up. Ojibwe people will make maple sugar.
 They are hard workers. Elders they will conduct ceremonies.
 A year (winter) passes. Happy new year!)

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Aandeg—as in father

Bineshii—as in jay

Zhiishiib—as in seen

Biboong—as in moon

—Short vowels: A, I, O

Idash—as in about

Imaa—as in tin

Opichi—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.

Diminutives

Adding these endings to nouns to mean young or small “-ns, -ens, -yens, -oons, -iins, or -ans” (*add the plurals after that)

- bear—makwa, cub(s)—makoons(ag)
- bird—bineshii, bineshiyens(ag)
- fly—oojii(g), oojiins(ag)
- crow—aandeg(wag), aandegoons(ag)
- robin—opichi(yag), opichiins(ag)
- kettle—akik(oog), akikoons(ag)
- paper—mazina'igan, mazina'igaans(an)
- shoe—makizin(an), makizinens(an)

Niizh—2

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

- A. Waawaashkeshiiyens gema gidiga akoons.
- B. Makoonsag gii-ondaadiziwag gii-piboong.
- C. NindoZHitoonan abinoojiyens-makizinensan.

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

D. Daga naazh a'aw akik idash akikoons iwidi waaka'iganing.

E. A'aw opichi odayaawaan niso-opiichiinsan wadiswaning.

F. Amikoons odamino agamiing.

G. Naasanaa! Ezigaans bimoodewag.

Niswi—3

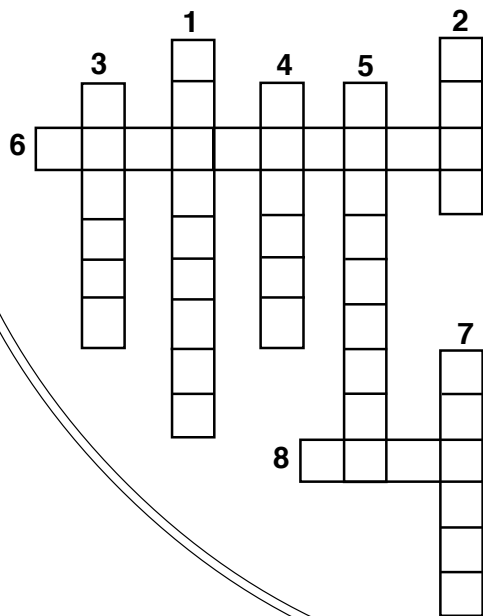
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. Duck.
2. And.
3. Crow.
4. Eagle.
5. Butterfly.
7. S/he is swimming.

Across:

6. Little shoe.
8. Porcupine.



Niiwin—4

Diminutive Usage

zhiishiib(ag)—duck(s), zhiishiibens(ag)
 migizi(wag)—eagle(s), migiziins(ag)
 oгаа(wag)—walleye(s), oгааans(ag)
 iskigamizigan(an)—supar camp(s)
 iskigamizigaans(an)—little sugar camp
 memengwaa(g)—butterfly, memengwaans(ag)
 gaag(wag)—porcupine, gaagoons(ag)

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

1. Niwaabamaa a'aw memengwaa_____.
2. Inashke! Gaag_____ ayaa gichi-miikanaang.
3. Bezbig zhiishiib_____ bagizo.
4. Niwii-pimosemin ina iwidi iskigamiziga_____ing?
5. Niizho migiz_____ bimisewag zaaga'iganing.

-iinsag

-ns

-oons

-ens

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. A young/baby deer or little spotted one (fawn). B. Bear cubs they were born when it was winter. C. I make them those baby moccasins. D. Please fetch that pail and little kettles there by the house. E. That robin has three young robins in the nest. F. Little beaver is playing on the shore. G. Look out! Little ticks are crawling about.

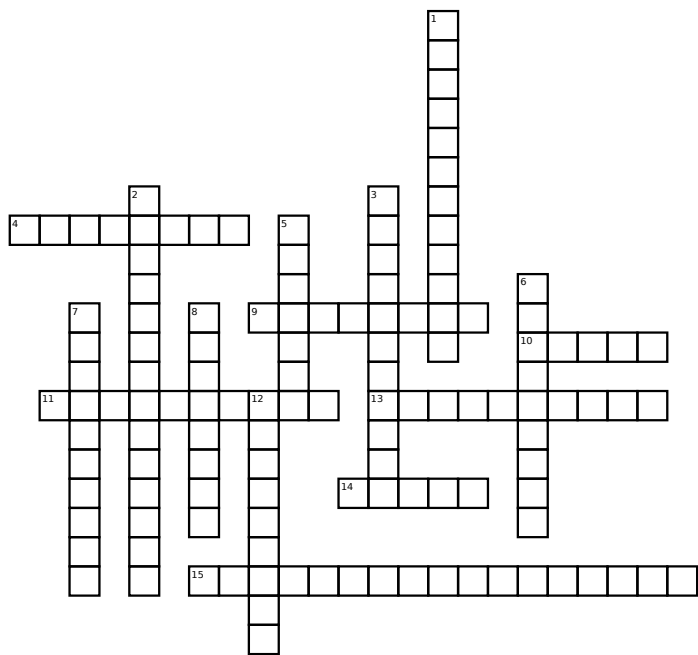
Niswi—3 Down: 1. Zhiishiib 2. Dash 3. Aandeg 4. Migizi 5. Memengwaa 7. Bagizo Across: 6. Makizinens 8. Gaag
 1. I see that little butterfly. 2. Look! A little porcupine is there on the highway. 3. One little duckling is swimming. 4. Can we walk there to the small sugar camp? (-ing is the locative (location, to the). 5. Two young eagles they are flying by the lake.

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 foreign language translation.

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AAZHAWAAKWASING IKIDOWINAN ISKIGAMIZIGE-GIIZIS 2023

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

1. You are ready.
2. Brush your teeth!
3. put on clothes.
5. Mii _____ ji-giizhiitaayan (It is time for you to get ready.)
6. _____ ina? (Are you awake?)
7. Put on your shoes!
8. Gidaa-_____ 'aa. (You should wake h/her up.)
12. Wake up!

Across:

4. Your younger sibling.
9. Wear it.
10. You should.
11. Your socks.
13. Eya' _____ (Yes, I'm awake.)
14. _____ gidaa-miijin (You should eat something.)
15. Wash your hands!

GOOKOOKO'OOG

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, we were given a way of life to live by. This way of life is what makes us Anishinaabe. There are beliefs, values and teachings that go with who we are as Anishinaabe. These may vary from community to community but in the end they are relative methods in ways to be Anishinaabe. There is responsibility that comes with this way of life. Sharing perspectives from our way of life and how we understand it. It has become quite the task lately. As we navigate our traumas and try to find a certain sense of commonality, we want to be able to help with maintaining our way of life.

We have lost our way of sharing. We lost our way of understanding each other. Who knows what else we may have lost. Our traditional methods of community organization is what held us together for many, many years. Get out to a sugarbush or another gathering of our people that is reflective of who we are. You will find and sense a connection greater than this physical world. A connection between the trees, winds, animals, and other Anishinaabe. Although there were some things that were lost, some things are still practiced today. But how do we share what we have learned that was shared with us?

Some we learned through "tough love." Maybe it was a series of shaming and negative reinforcement for us to get the lesson. Possibly there were some stares of condescension and other negwaabs that helped us get the meaning. Perhaps, we were able to get a lesson delivered in a way that the Manidoog intended for us. We may have learned from these methods or others and we attached an emotion to it. Remember when we learned with compassion. Those lessons are pretty strong and deep into our spirits. The lessons through tough love are more easily recalled due to our self preservation wiring.



When our people are read about in historical research, they talk about our compassion and diplomatic demeanor. We are a welcoming people while at the same time we are people steeped in tradition and customs. It is our tradition to be respectful. It is our custom to be sharing. We know when our mental anguish in these ways conflict with our spiritual prowess. Our traumatic disruption still echoes in how we come to know, be knowing, and cause others to know. A return to how our ancestors are is what our spirits seek.

A conscious effort was made by those to take away our way of life. The reactive measures our ancestors needed to do allow us to still exist. Now, we need to make that conscious effort to reinstate our way of life, to undo the reactive, protective measures that allow us this opportunity. All that we were given can be re-obtained through all that they saved for us. We must take those first steps and lay the foundation our future can rely on.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

When we awaken, we start a whole new day. Another day to use and build your language. We use similar words every morning as we start our day. We can use these repetitive statements to transition from English to Ojibwemowin. Practicing throughout the day with words that we commonly use, will give us opportunity to build on what we use everyday. Use the following terms:

Goshkozin = Wake up!

(Go shko zin)

Gigoshkoz ina = Are you awake?

(Gih go shkoz in nuh)

Eya' ningoshkoz = Yes, I'm awake.

(Ay yuh' nin go shkoz)

Mii azhigwa ji-giizhiitaayan = It is time for you to get ready.

(Mee uh zhig wuh jih gee zhee tah yun)

Giziyaabide'on = Brush your teeth!

(Gih zee yah bid day' own)

Gidaa- = You should.

(Gih dah)

Biizikonaye = put on clothes. (bee zik kone nuh yay)

Gegoo gidaa-miijin = You should eat something.

(Gay goo gih dah mee jin)

Biizikan = Wear it.

(Bee zih kun)

Gidazhigan = Your socks.

(Gih duzh zhig gun)

Giziibiigininjin = Wash your hands!

(Gih zee bee gih nin jean)

Gidaa-goshkozi'aa = You should wake up.

(Gih dah go shko zih' aah)

Gishiime = Your younger sibling.

(Gih shee may)

Babiichiin = Put on your shoes!

(Bub bee cheen)

Gigiizhiitaa = You are ready.

(Gih gee zhee tah)



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

SEGREGATION (BAKAAN INENDAMOWAAD)

February was Black History Month and I would like to talk about what it was like to live during the time of segregation. Upon graduating Onamia high school, I went into the Indian relocation act. The act that got Native people off their reservations and into the working class of big cities. I moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was trained to be a welder there. Shortly after completion of my training, I found work with a construction company in the city. Unknown to me, I was hired under the EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity), which meant companies had to integrate their work force with people of color (POC). As I got started working at the company, there was no hate shown towards me from my light skin counterparts. I could see however; my other colored counterparts were not working as hard as I was. Further upon observing my light-skin counterparts I could see their disdain towards not only POC, but [LGBQ] people, too. Bitterness and borderline hate that came out towards these groups of people that not only did we work with, but in life. I am unsure why I was not treated in such a similar manner. These light-skin people would invite me to certain activities on occasion. For example, I was invited to go to church with these people and I would gladly go. When I'd go to the service, I'd notice that these people were very dressed up. The service people gave was something I could understand, and how they treated not only each other but the buildings and grounds that belonged to them. Never while attending did I feel uneasy. After service, someone that I knew from work would typically have a good old cookout filled with brats and beer. After a while, I thought that these are good people who work for their money, treated people right, and were religious people. But something that did strike me was that the use of these derogatory terms towards POC would come out more and more, and when they would they would use them, it wouldn't be such a hard thing for them to say.

As time went on, I would hear them talk about us Native people, the stereotyping that we were lazy, drunk, welfare-ridden people. And when I looked back at home at the time, I indeed could see that these were some traits that fit many of our people. At the same time, these people in the cities that were giving me a reason to almost look down at my race, it was almost becoming an issue. Another issue is that I became slightly detached from our own religion, or what people can call my "Indianness" because these sermons that were given at church made sense.

Jumping to 1965 when I joined the military, I started to fight in Vietnam, while that was an experience of seeing all different kinds of pain and the horrible sights and understanding that war has no winners. One day, we were walking along and saw these pamphlets on the road. So, we picked them up and began reading, and they were deliberately set by our enemy; the words within would try and sway the thoughts of the soldiers of color. "Why fight for a country that doesn't care about you? You can't even drink out of the same fountain as them." That got me thinking about when I was younger and hearing about the racial discrimination in the south and all of the stories and protest that were happening even back then. When I finished reading those pamphlets it was like a lightbulb went off in my brain that I had begun buying into this mantra of my light-skin coworkers. Various propaganda back home in the states at the time was all about "anti-war" and how it wasn't right what we were sent over to do. All this combined made me question "where do I fit in here?" So I started looking back and that made me think I was okay within my place in life. I was a good worker and soldier, but where am I in this civil rights movement? I remember reading something in a book that talked about a sign that was posted just up in Cass Lake years ago saying "Indians need not apply" and for the first time I thought, "Am I not equal to these people I work with?" The self-evalu-

ating took a lot of time and energy. I thought, "Am I okay with using these stereotypes?"

Then in 1971, I met a non-Indian lady, and we had become pretty good friends. We started as two very different people, one Anishinaabe searching for his identify and one non-Native Catholic lady who was pretty set in her life and identity. In 1973, we decided to get married. If I do remember, some of her relatives were uncomfortable with her marrying me, but we were at the point where it didn't matter with what they said or felt. As I said in previous articles, I was struggling with alcohol then. Early on, she would talk to me about life, and some of the things that we need to do so that we can achieve a good life together. At first, I did not listen to her, probably because of my ego. Once I started to listen to her and the things she mentioned, everything made sense. Even though she was a very strong Catholic, she understood our culture in a way that I needed, and the rest is history. From our marriage came six children, 26 grandchildren, and as of this past summer, one great-grandchild. I am forever in her debt for setting me on that path, because without her, I wouldn't be here today. Even though she has passed, I know that she still watches over us.

Around the same time we were married, I was dealing with the war trauma that I went through. And as has been told in prior articles, that is when I started to get back into my spirituality. Speaking with the Elders long ago about things made me realize I was really struggling. Not only was I struggling, but I was learning about the oppression and struggles that we have been through as a people throughout history, something similar to how our POC friends went through. While visiting with these

Aaniin Anishinaabedog! Waabishkibines omaa. 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.

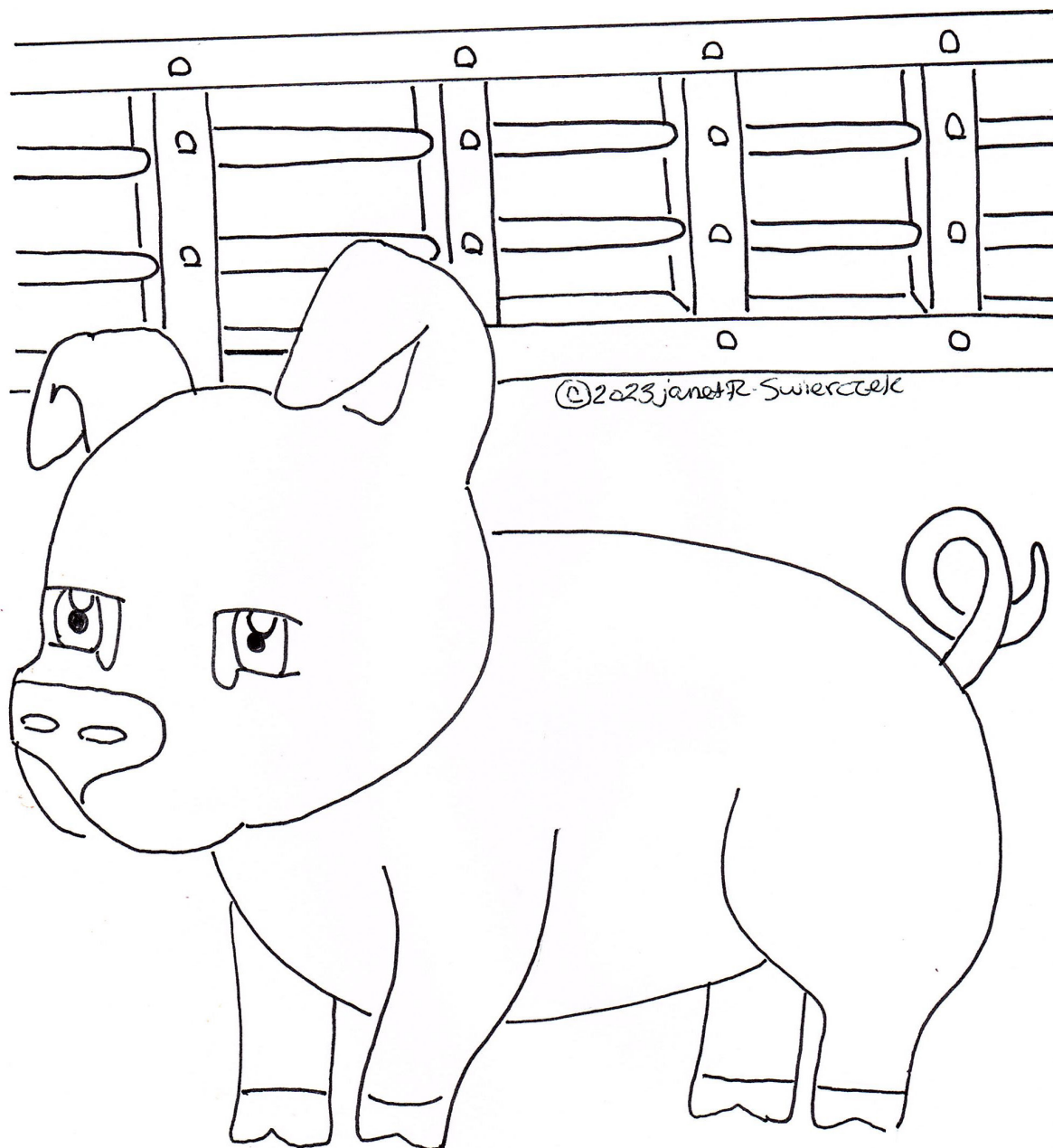
Any comments, questions, or further discussion, please feel free to reach out to me and I'd be happy to have a conversation. Miigwech.

Elders it really made me come to my senses and that really was a pivota I movement that if I hadn't done that, or taken that time, I wouldn't be where I am today.

One of the things that I learned from the Anishinaabe needs some backstory. When I worked for the construction company and other non-Native people, they followed policy to the T. And I bought into the law and order, but one day when I was working on the Reservation, we had let go of a Native employee because of policy which was not followed by this person. When I did that, I heard one of the older people I worked with say, "I heard they let her go" and another person said, "Yeah that's the white man way." When confronting the group, I said, "I hope that is not directed at me." They had nothing to say after I explained why we let her go. I realized later on that we should have been helping this person instead of firing them and forcing them to move on. Just some of the lessons that I learned while working here on the Reservation. So, I have lived in both ways, so to say, and am thankful for the way we get to live as Anishinaabe.

Miigwech, mii iw Indinawemaaganidog.

KIDS COLORING CORNER GOOKOSH, PIG By JANET SWIERCZEK, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



GRA UPDATE

EMPLOYEE GAMING LICENSE WAIVER PROCESS

Why do we need licenses from the GRA?

Band Law states that employees and vendors in the casinos must be licensed, “to protect the morals, good order, and welfare of Band members and other persons on Band lands and to preserve the honesty, fairness, and integrity of” gaming activities. The Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) makes every effort to get as many people licensed as possible for employment at the casinos, especially Band members. When the GRA Board denies someone licensure, it is because our background investigation led us to believe licensing that person would be a risk to our community members, casino patrons, or the integrity of the gaming enterprises.

The GRA circulates regulations, including minimum criminal history requirements for licensure. All GRA regulations can be found on the Mille Lacs Band website at millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation/gaming-regulations-resolutions. Employee gaming license regulations are DGR 7 and DGR 7b.

In the table below is a summary view of the minimum criminal history requirements for employee gaming licensure detailed in DGR 7b.

The GRA Board has also established a separate set of minimum requirements, less stringent requirements, that an applicant can apply for via waiver. If an applicant can demonstrate sufficient rehabilitation since their charges, the GRA Board can elect to waive certain requirements to the standards outlined below. Sufficient rehabilitation is shown via a personal letter attesting to what you’ve done to get better (not required, but

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

highly recommended), proof of compliance with any court-ordered treatment or aftercare program, proof of efforts towards paying any fines, and three (3) notarized personal reference letters attesting to rehabilitation. Finally, the GRA Board requires attendance to your scheduled waiver hearing.

While the waiver process can be daunting, we are here to help. Please contact the GRA Licensing Offices with any questions you may have. Call Sally/Krista at 320-532-8253 (Mille Lacs) or Lori/Joleen at 320-384-4742 (Hinckley) for assistance.

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 millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom.

	Class A		Class B			Class C		
	Minimum Requirement	Waiver MLB ONLY	Minimum Requirement	Waiver Non-MLB	Waiver MLB	Minimum Requirement	Waiver Non-MLB	Waiver MLB
NEVER Crimes	No Gambling Crimes		No Gambling Crimes			No Criminal Sexual Conduct		
	No Criminal Sexual Conduct		No Criminal Sexual Conduct			~		
	No Fraud Crimes		No Embezzlement Crimes			~		
	No Embezzlement Crimes		~			~		
	No Misrepresentation Crimes		~			~		
Pending Charges	No Active Warrants		No Active Warrants			No Active Warrants		
	No Pending Charges		No Pending Charges			No Pending Charges		
	No Stays of Adjudication		No Stays of Adjudication			No Stays of Adjudication		
No Felony or Gross Misdemeanor Charges	Last 7 Yrs	Last 5 Yrs	Last 5 Yrs	Last 3 Yrs	Last Year	Last 2 Yrs	Last Year	Last 6 Mo
No Substantial Incarceration (> 365 Days)	Last 7 Yrs	Last 5 Yrs	Last 5 Yrs	Last 3 Yrs	Last Year	Last 2 Yrs	Last Year	Last 6 Mo

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!

Monday, May 22, 2023
9 a.m.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events and Convention Center

Sponsored by

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Summit May 22, 2023, at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events and Convention Center. Reserve your seat at the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Summit for FREE at <https://cvent.me/319yZQ>.

Ask Auntie



Boozhoo Auntie,

My daughter is in first grade and has some questions about sugar bush. As a dad I want to be able to answer my daughter’s questions, but these questions stumped me. I am a single father and could use some help from a woman’s perspective and I am embarrassed I don’t know anything about maple sugar sapping. Last year my daughter was able to attend the sugar bush camp and had the opportunity to help empty bags at the camp. During this time, she was excited to run around in the woods with her friends. It wasn’t until recently she was told that her class may be able to attend the sugar bush camp again when it’s ready. She is excited and her questions to you are:

1. When did people begin making maple sugar?
2. What is the whole process of making sugar and syrup?
3. Do the trees hurt?

Thank you,

Gaawiin ziinziibaakwad indede

Aaniin Nindoozhim and Nishimis,

Getting your question makes my heart melt and also makes me want maple sugar. I want you to know that it’s ok to not have all the answers. We don’t know everything even as a parent. There is no need to be embarrassed because there are many of our people who don’t know some of our ways and that’s okay. Even when we don’t know something physically, we really know spiritually; our culture is always inside us. Some of us don’t know how to spear, net, or harvest wild rice and it’s okay because we can always learn.

It’s believed our people have been processing maple sap long before colonizers arrived. There are stories of how the Ojibwe people got maple syrup. One story goes: At one time, the Ojibwe people were starving and the maple tree saw this and took pity on them. He said to cut one of his branches off and maple syrup would come out. The Ojibwe people then quit hunting and gathering any food, just eating maple syrup.

The trickster Nanaboozhoo saw this and poured a pail of water into the maple tree, diluting the syrup and turning it into maple sap. He said if you want to enjoy maple syrup, you have to work for it. In order to get one gallon of maple syrup, you must boil 40 gallons of the sap.

My papa used to say that the Creator gave us the trees so we can have syrup and food during the times we weren’t able to hunt or gather and he also said that the Creator didn’t want us to be lazy and to understand we have to work hard especially for the good things — he was referring to the maple sugar candy.

The entire maple sugar process can be quite easy and also very complex. The process varies by each person or family running their sugar camps. People do things their own way and can do it differently.

The process of sugar bush is about so much more than collecting sap to make syrup and sugar. It’s about all our relatives coming together after time apart during the winter and it’s about all the family working hard together and having fun. Our Elder Larry “Amik” Smallwood described his family’s sugar camp during his childhood in the 1950s: “Families would help each other and everybody would have a role. There was the wood cutters, the gatherers of water, the boilers, the food makers. It was really a lot of fun long ago.” It is also said maple sugar is a vital resource in preserving Ojibwe culture and sovereignty. Our elder Amik also noted: “We treat that maple syrup with respect. The same as we would wild rice. If you burn some, if you spill it, if you waste any unintentionally, you got to do a little tobacco ceremony for that because it’s a gift from the Creator.”

Lastly, I am confident in your daughter’s ability to recognize the spirit and life in a tree, and her question of whether or not the trees hurt. If you are able to take a walk around sugar bush camp and look at the trees, you can see the holes and how they are taken care of. The trees are well taken care of which to me shows the amount of respect that people and families have for our trees. There have been times I have driven by the camps and could see so many happy faces and people filled with excitement, also what is amazing is to see how some families have a ceremony before they start tapping the trees. For me, I don’t think the trees feel pain when our people are tapping the trees in a good way and taking care of the trees once they are done tapping. Our people believe everything has a spirit. My grandma used to say, “Don’t throw rocks — they have a spirit they have feelings.” I look at everything having a spirit and I try to respect everything the Creator gave us.

Sugar bush camps always need help, maybe you can join your daughter at camp and you can learn together. There are also many articles written by Elders on maple sapping. There are many resources out there, you could contact someone from the Department of Natural Resources Cultural grounds or someone in Education or you can ask an Elder in the community. I hope you both learn something from this as I learned from your daughter’s questions.

Happy sapping ziinziibaakwad indinawemaaganidog!

Auntie

Send your questions for “Ask Auntie” to news@millelacsband.com

AROUND THE RESERVATION

EARTH DAY IS APRIL IS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

Watch the DNR Facebook page for events related to Earth Day and the tree giveaway. Scan this QR Code for quick access to the DNR Facebook page.



POLAR PLINGE 2023

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures in union with its Grand Casino subsidiary, has been hosting the Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota since 2012. This year, Mille Lacs Tribal Police were happy to take the plunge. Jumpers from Tribal Police were Sergeant Dusty Burton and Dispatcher Madison Kelm.



MEKWENIMINJIG THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

NAAWIGIIZIS, FRANCIS CHARLES COLTON

Naawigiizis, Francis Charles Colton, 62, of Isle, passed away Sunday, March 5, 2023, at his residence. He was born March 24, 1960, in Cloquet to Roger Eric Colton and Angeline (Boyd) Wadena. He was retired, having worked as a garbage man for many years. Francis enjoyed working on cars, gardening, yard work, and fishing. He was a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Richard Boyd and Roger Colton.

Francis is survived by five sisters: Eloise Yanez, Mary Colton, Rosa (Robert) Colton, Alida Colton, and Jennifer Wadena; significant other, Sherrie Murphy; and many other special relatives and friends who mourn his passing.

Tribal Rites began at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 9, 2023, at East Lake Community Center in East Lake, McGregor, with Chato Gonzales officiating. Visitation was at dusk, 6 p.m., on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at the East Lake Community Center. Burial was in the Big Sandy Lake Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to leave a message of condolence.

MARYANN SHEDD

Maryann Shedd of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on Saturday, December 17, 2022, at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota at the age of 75. Maryann was born November 23, 1945, in Cass Lake, Minnesota, to Ambrose and Susan Schaaf. Maryann was raised in Ball Club, Minnesota, and she moved to Detroit, Michigan, at the age of 15. She graduated from the Patronage of St. Joseph School. During her time there, she worked as a medical and a dental assistant. She was also employed with the Detroit American Indian Center.

In early 2000, Maryann moved back to Minnesota to be closer to her family. She was known for her quick wit and sense of humor. She was an avid book reader and she loved checking out any thrift stores that crossed her path.

She loved traveling, visiting many states with her partner Bill Schultz, a truck driver, and they also went on many motorcycle rides together. She also enjoyed going to Las Vegas on trips with her nephews Kevin and Gram.

Maryann was preceded in death by her mother Susan, her father Ambrose, and sisters, Dolly Granger, Karen Applebee, and Nancy Arnoux, her brothers, Alexander and Ronald Schaaf, and her partner in life, Bill Schultz.

Maryann is survived by her children: Ronnie Mabe, Dee Ann Rugenski, and Carly Shedd, brothers Bill and Frank Schaaf, and sisters Susanna Schaaf, Marilyn Whitney, and Clara Kruse. Her grandchildren, Kyle, Corey, Kateri, Caleb, Adrian, McKenna, David, and Justin, and numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom loved her very much. There was no celebration of life, per her request.



MISKWAANAKWADOOKWE, TARA SMITH

Miskwaanakwadookwe, Tara Smith, age 39, of Onamia, Minn., passed away on March 7, 2023. Visitation was at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation with Obizaan officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Miskwaanakwadookwe, Tara was born on May 27, 1983, in Onamia, Minn., to Victoria Smith and Dale Wind. She liked to spend her time hanging out with friends, going to the casino, and listening to music. Tara enjoyed coloring, solving word puzzles, and being with her family.

She is survived by her mother, Victoria (Donald) Smith; son, Adam Carrigan Jr.; sister, Dannielle (Daniel) Smith; brothers, Travis Smith, Derek Smith Sr., and Tyler Wind.

Tara was preceded in death by her father, Dale Wind; brothers, Gregory Wind, Jason Wind; and her Aunt, Eloise Wind.



ISHKODAY, PATRICK SULLIVAN

Ishkoday, Patrick Sullivan, age 46, of Pierz, Minn., passed away on March 3, 2023. Visitation was at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 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, March 22, 2023, at the District I Community Center on The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment will be in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Funeral arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Ishkoday, Patrick was born on August 7, 1976, to Cindy (Sullivan) and Harold Davis Jr. He attended school in Pierz, Minnesota. Patrick liked to spend his time lounging at home, cooking meals, watching Netflix, and taking care of his loved ones — Taylor and his dogs. Together, the couple enjoyed camping and everything that went along with it, including setting up camp, grilling, and swimming. They also enjoyed taking their dogs to local dog parks, going on long car rides, and listening to music.

Patrick is survived by his loving spouse, Taylor Nei; parents, Blandy and Cindy Anderson; brothers, Stephen (Molly) Davis, Christopher (Lizzeth) Sullivan, Brandon (Jody) Anderson; sisters, Shannon Davis, Candice Anderson, Amanda Anderson; grandmother, Gloria Nickaboine; and many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harold Davis Jr.; brother, Cory Anderson; and nephew, Adonis Pagel.



GEKEK, RODNEY JAMES PENDEGAYOSH Jr.

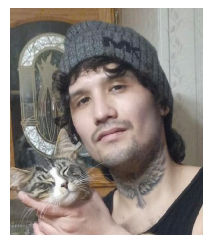
A funeral ceremony for Gekek, Rodney James Pendegayosh, Jr., age 25, of Isle, Minn., was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Chiminising Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation with Baabiitaw officiating. Visitation was at dusk on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at the Chiminising Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. Interment will be in the Gimiwun Burial Grounds.

Gekek, Rodney James Pendegayosh, Jr. was born on October 7, 1997, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Rodney Pendegayosh, Sr., and Kelly Pendegayosh. He graduated from Isle High School in 2016. Rodney enjoyed fishing and playing Xbox and PlayStation. Listening to music, playing basketball, and watching sports on television was how he liked to spend his time. Rodney enjoyed shopping, especially for shoes and clothes. He loved his family dearly and helped raise his little brother, JJ he also cared for his pets, Bundy and Smudge. Rodney will never

be forgotten and will always be loved by his family and friends, and will forever be remembered for his infectious smile and laughter.

He is survived by his loving daughter, Raelynn Pendegayosh; and parents, Rodney Pendegayosh, Sr., Kelly (Sheldon Boyd) Pendegayosh; brothers, Phillip Pendegayosh, Sheldon Boyd, Jr., Jameson Johnson; sisters, Selena Pendegayosh, Jacquelyn Pendegayosh Shandra White; grandmother, Rosalie (Herb Weyaus) Noonday; and many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandfather, Fred Noonday; great-grandmother, Rose Noonday; grandfather, Richard Pendegayosh; uncle, Robin Pendegayosh; grandfather, Raining Boyd; grandmother, Grace Clark; uncles, Lew Boyd, Leslie Boyd; cousin, Ricky Pendegayosh.



HISTORY

WEWINABI — Arthur Gahbow

Art Gahbow passed away on April 11, 1991. On the 25th anniversary of his death, Art's friend Don Wedll reflects on his legacy.

(This article was originally published in the May 2016 Inaajimowin.)

Don Wedll Guest Writer

What do you say when asked to write about someone who was your leader, boss, teacher, colleague, we'e (godfather) to your son, nii jii and friend? How do you describe the importance he had in your life? There is one thing that he always was, and that was "Anishinaabe." He thought about that a lot and what it meant. For him it meant that you could not ride the fence; you had to pick. You could not say, "I'll use this way because it is easier." He had long-term dreams for the Mille Lacs Band. He was a good man.

One personal task he had was to leave Mille Lacs in a better place than when he took over as leader. He saw many changes as the Band's leader. He became the Tribal Chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and lost that position. He saw Band businesses fail and his leadership challenged. He saw groups form to overthrow the Band Government. But he held true to Anishinaabe ways and fought to make things better. In his last days as leader, he had set the Band on a path to continue to make progress, and he never gave up.

Wewinabi, Arthur Wesley Gahbow, was born April 26, 1935, on the Mille Lacs Reservation in Minnesota. While living with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Gahbow, he attended the Vineland Elementary School and Onamia High School. He joined the United States Army and had a four-year military career, which included a two-and-a-half-year tour of Germany. He returned to the Minneapolis area where he worked as a carpenter until the early 1960s. He was a fluent speaker of Ojibwe and always stated it was his first language. Because of his language skill he taught classes at the University of Minnesota Duluth and assisted in the preparation and development of an Ojibwe language book for the Vineland Elementary School.

On June 10, 1972, he was elected chairman of the Mille Lacs Reservation Business Committee. He was an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe/Mississippi Bands. He was in the second level of the Mide'win and was a drum owner. He belonged to four other ceremonial drums. He was elected Tribal Chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and served until 1980. From 1972 to 1991, he was the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Art grew up with his grandparents and his grandfather Dick Gahbow, who was one of the leaders at Mille Lacs before the Indian Reorganization Act form of government took place. He stated that he got to listen to the old men talk about the Reservation and the political processes they were dealing with. He learned traditional Band leadership by observing how these old men thought and how they dealt with problems. All of this became important after he took on the leadership role at Mille Lacs. It was his guide for how he dealt with issues and responded to crises. Over and over these voices of the past would show him the choices to make.

In 1974 I did not know who Arthur Gahbow was. I had applied for a job on the Mille Lacs Reservation to teach math, and he was the person I was supposed to contact about the job. He was always gone when I called the number to contact him. After numerous calls I felt sure he did not want to talk to me because nobody could be in so many different places. But between being the Chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and then Chairman of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, he was very busy. I got a call in early August that I had been hired to teach math on Mille Lacs Reservation. I quit my job and head-

ed over to work for Chairman Arthur Gahbow. The first year I only met him in passing. He continued to be very busy trying to make things work better.

In 1975 the high school students at Onamia walked out because of racial issues they faced in the school. Chairman Gahbow supported the students and moved to try and improve their education. He directed the setting up of a high school on the Reservation. Everyone on the Reservation worked to make the new school work. This was his first major task after taking office in 1972. Then things started developing in the educational area. By 1978 the Bureau of Indian Affairs had funded what was called a Bureau Contract School. The new school was called "Nay Ah Shing."

Financial problems were also starting to occur for the Band, mostly due to national inflation. By 1980, an economic depression had hit the country and Mille Lacs was experiencing its effects.

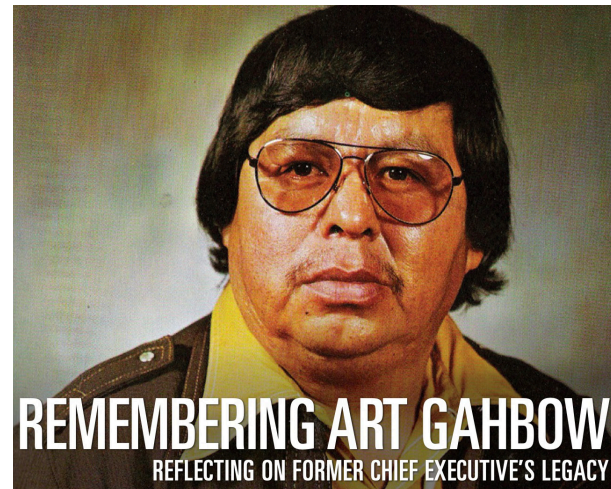
Chairman Gahbow — along with Doug Sam, Leonard Sam and Henry Davis — saw that the problems needed a larger fix than just money. A structural change was needed. They realized that a Reservation Business Committee was not a Band Government and that poverty and oppression were taking a toll on the community. The Band's treaty rights were being ignored, and many dreams were being destroyed. As Chairman he had to lead the way out, and he got support from the old men. He would also go over and talk with Maud Kegg to get her opinions on issues.

He saw that Band businesses were subject to many factors, but the Band Government was not the best way to run them. He saw the need for a strong Band Government. The other leaders at Mille Lacs agreed and supported the direction, people like Doug Sam, Henry Davis, Marge Anderson, Julie Shingobe and George LaFave. The Band Elders also supported his efforts.

The first step was to reorganize the Band Government — not to consolidate his or the chairman's power but to distribute the power. This was done through the development of the Band Assembly, the Band's Court of Central Jurisdiction and the establishment of Commissioners. With this basis, the Mille Lacs Band Government grew and was better able to perform the functions of a Tribal Government.

He also dreamed of having the state of Minnesota recognize the Band's rights under treaties. He took great steps to have that happen. In 1979 he got the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to establish a hunting and fishing code for the Mille Lacs Band. Then he was arrested trying to create a case to litigate the Band's rights. He directed the publishing of histories of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Mille Lacs Band's History. The Band established a Natural Resources Department, and he got the Wisconsin Bands to recognize Mille Lacs' rights to hunt, fish and gather under the 1837 Treaty. He pushed to have the state of Wisconsin acknowledge the Mille Lacs Band's rights, and he established a relationship with the Seattle law firm that was the best in litigation of treaty rights issues. Finally, in August of 1990 his dream of stopping the State's interference with the Band's hunting, fishing and gathering rights was submitted into Federal Court.

Arthur Gahbow gave the first State of the Band Address in 1984. This address led Tribal Governments across the country to give State of the Reservation addresses and strengthen their



Art Gahbow's birthday is April 26, 1935. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is proud to celebrate his leadership each year with a holiday in his honor. This year, the holiday will fall on April 28, 2023.

governmental status.

In 1985 he took a stand against the state of Minnesota's position to require the waiver of Band's rights in order to receive state monies. This led to the passage of a State Law stopping the State administration from waiving the Band's sovereignty.

He, along with the Band Assembly, established a Band Court system, the establishment of the Band's flag and publishing of Band Law. This was done over the objections of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He, along with the Band Assembly, developed a series of Band laws to govern and regulate activities on the reservation and within the Band's jurisdiction.

In 1987, at the invitation of Red Lake Nation Chairman Roger Jourdain, he attended a meeting in Kansas City on Tribal sovereignty and Self-Governance. Though the Band had limited resources, he drove to Kansas, stayed in a low-cost hotel and listened and supported the ideas presented. This meeting led to a symposium on tribal sovereignty held in Philadelphia and the start of a new federal policy of Self-Governance. Through his leadership Mille lacs became one of the first seven tribal governments to enter into compacts with the United States Government. The idea that tribal governments would be self-governing and direct their own funding was a fundamental belief of Chairman Gahbow. Through this he wanted an independent corporate structure to operate and develop businesses on the Reservation.

One event that David Matrious from District III organized was a meeting with David Anderson, Lyle Berman and Chairman Gahbow. The meeting was about the building of a Casino at Hinckley. This and future meetings led to the development of Grand Casinos — a successful economic tool for creating employment, making money and helping to support Mille Lacs Band members.

Arthur Gahbow would never have thought that his life would be part of all the things Mille Lacs now enjoys. He would not look at what he did as a model but would have told the young people that what he did was a little bit and that they could do so much more.

In his personal life he enjoyed living — from riding on a motorcycle listening to Indian music to meeting with the President of the United States. He drove a black truck with a bug screen that stated "Aut'ee Gahbow" because sometimes he was called that by the old people. He loved to visit, sing, and go to powwows. The drum and ceremonies were his guide throughout his life. If he could fish or hunt, he was happy. He pushed hard to get to use the Band's treaty rights and would have been so proud of the Band members using them.

At work he treated everyone fairly, but he required you to do your job. He did not care if you were red or white, but that you did your job. That was the first requirement. He loved all his children and tried hard to support them. He tried always to make time for them. In the end he left Mille Lacs a better place. He set a standard and would be so proud of the Mille Lacs Band.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

APRIL ELDER BIRTHDAYS

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

Darryl Vernon Jackson
James Brian Jones
Leroy Duane Kegg
Raymond Kegg
Victoria Jean Kroschel
Glenda Marie Landon-Rosado
Laura Ann MaCLean
Louis Kevin Merrill
Gregory Allen Mishler
Karen Nina Moe
Bonita Louise Nayquonabe
Russell Daniel Nayquonabe
Donald John Nelson
Gloria Jean Nickaboine
Sherry Marie Nielsen
Dianne Renee Olsen
Penelope Ann Olseth
Jamie Ernest Pardun
Ricky Harold Pardun
Gregory Allen Pawlitschek
Elaine Mary Rea
Solita Efigenia Reum
Richard James Reynolds
Laurie Jean Rogerson
Lorraine Diane Sam

Denise Fay Sargent
Ruth Anne Schaaf
George Augustus Sharlow Jr.
Perry Don Skinaway
Debra Ann Smith
Rodney Wayne Smith
Ruth Helen Stafford
Marvin Lee Staples
Walter Charles Sutton Jr.
Carmen Marie Tyler
Gail Marie Tyson
Brandon Lynn Vainio
Robert Duane Wakanabo
Deanna Louise Weous
Eloise Alice Yanez

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy 16th birthday **Aiva Lea Doust!** Love, Dad • Happy birthday **Woody!!!** On April 15 to **Richard James Reynolds** from all your sisters, Robin, and children. • Happy birthday

Bam on April 14, Love mom, dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Binesiikwe, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, and Adam. • Happy birthday **Binesiikwe** on April 16, Love mom, dad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, and Adam. • Happy Birthday **Aiva** on April 26, Love the Harrington family.

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

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

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

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

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

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

ELDERS NEEDED!

The Inaajimowin is seeking Elders to tell their stories for a new Moccasin Telegraph series as well as to preserve video and audio in the Mille Lacs Band archives for future generations. If you are willing to participate in a video interview to share your memories, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.



FREE CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Carbon monoxide detectors are available at each community center and Urban Office for no cost to Band members with privately owned homes.

According to the CDC, every year, at least 430 people die in the United States from accidental CO poisoning. Approximately 50,000 people in the U.S. visit the emergency department each year due to accidental CO poisoning.

So, keep your family and yourself safe by checking to make sure your smoke detector and CO detector work on a monthly basis, and ensure they continue to work by changing their batteries every six months. And if you need a CO detector, stop in at your District Community Center to get one today. Together, let's keep each other safe.

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.



IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181
Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430
Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Chief Executive's Office
320-532-7484

Commissioners:

Administration: Sam Moose: 320-630-2607; Assistant Commissioner: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643, or 763-260-0164
Community Development: 320-630-7643, or 763-260-0164
Education: Niiyogaabawiiikwe, Brooke Mosay Gonzalez: 320-362-4245
Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475
Health and Human Services: Nicole Anderson: 320-364-9969
Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

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

Public Works

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: 320-362-4672
Family Violence Prevention 24/7 Crisis Line: 866-867-4006; or Kristen Allord: 320-630-2677
Elder Advocate: 320-630-4395

Other frequently requested phone numbers

Court Administrator
Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

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

Band Assembly Inquiries

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

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

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

Aanjibimaadizing Case Managers

District I — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case Management: 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus: 218-316-2437, Rosa Sam: 320-364-3187; Julie Peterson: 320 290 8729; Camille Smith: 320-982-0836
District II/IIa — Winona Crazy Thunder: 320-364-3049; Autumn Ballinger: 320-674-0655; Mary K Boyd: 320-630-1307
District III — Renee Allen: 320-591-0559; Kathy Nelson: 320-630-2671
Urban — Winona Spaulding: 612-360-7219

Office of Management and Budget

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

Enrollments: 320-532-7730

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. regularly held in the Aanjibimaadizing building is temporarily being held at the 17222 Ataage Drive location while Aanjibimaadizing is under construction.</p> <p>Send your sugar bush photos to news@millelacsband.com for a chance to have them published in the next issue of the Inaajimowin.</p>						<p>1</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mick & Syngen - Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>District II Open Gym Both Centers Noon to 6 p.m.</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>3</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>4</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP see page 7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Steve & Andy - Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Steve & Andy - Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Leann & Linda - Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Leann & Linda - Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>17</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>18</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Chiminising Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Minisinaakwaang Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Statewide Tornado drills at 1:45 & 6:45 p.m.</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance George & Joe - Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>d</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance George & Joe - Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Earth Day</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Chiminising Ziigwan Youth Pow Wow 1 p.m. & 7 p.m. Grand Entry</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24</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>25</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>District I Community Meeting District I New Community Center</p> <p>Art Gahbow actual birthday</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5-8 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Bob & John - Mille Lacs</p> <p>Art Gahbow Day Government Offices, HHS, Districts, Clinics, & Schools Closed</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Bob & John - Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>Community Briefs</p> <p>CRR — As part of the Band's Community Risk Reduction 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.</p> <p>Safety is a 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.</p> <p>Men's and women's Healing 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!</p>					



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



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 Inaa Jimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195. The May issue deadline is April 15.

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

**Community Support Services:
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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INTERNET COMING
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